President Higgins visits
St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick p.16

Carrot washer presentation p.18
Diocesan Synod 2014 p.18
Volunteering in India p.21
WW1 commemorated in Roscrea p.22
Archdeacon Carney Writes p.3
Prayer Corner p.5
Diocesan Synod Election Results p.6
Máirt's Musings p.7
Restoring Relationships p.33
Children's Page p.34

including Methodist District News p.31

- Where these CityOne dinghies were displayed
I am presently reading Philip Yancy’s latest book, “Vanishing Grace: What Ever Happened to the Good News?” Yancey, a renowned American Christian writer, is looking at the cultural warfare going on in the United States between evangelical Christians and so-called ‘liberals’ over abortion, gay rights, politics, gun control, and almost everything else. His premise in the book is that evangelical Christians are losing the war; rather than converting people to their cause (and, they think, thereby saving their souls) they are turning people away by their harsh words and angry rhetoric — away from the Church, away from God.

While the situation Yancey portrays is almost entirely an American one, it still has connections with our present situation in Ireland. In the US, ‘unchurch’d’ people have little use for Christians who seem to spend all their time telling others how to behave. The Christians they do pay attention to – the ones who are truly building God’s Kingdom – are those who preach the Gospel by their deeds, not just their words. Those who work in inner-city slums, those who support others in need, those whose congregations reach out to make a difference in their communities out of genuine love, not just a desire to ‘convert’ people – these are the ones who are changing people’s negative attitudes about Christianity. Yancy describes them as showing grace – Christian love which is not dependent on getting anything back.

No one can deny that Ireland is daily becoming more secular – and, in large measure, more anti-Christian, or at least anti-Church. In the Church of Ireland, we have not escaped the prevalent disillusionment with organised religion brought on by scandals and abuses in our sister church. By and large, we are not attracting many people to our congregations, and members are leaving or dying off faster than we can replace them. Can we take Yancy’s suggestion, and give our communities the gift of grace?

SHOWING GRACE

There are examples, right in our own United Diocese, of parishes which are doing just that: showing grace, and building God’s Kingdom. In the Tralee Group of Parishes, a parish-run soup kitchen and food bank feeds the hungry, provides companionship to the lonely, and shows the love of God to a community hard-hit by the recession. In Kenmare, a Men’s’ Shed and a Kids’ Shed each bring people together for a common purpose and provide opportunities for camaraderie, sharing of skills, growth, and learning. There are other examples of parochial involvement: in ecumenism, in Birr; tourism, in Killarney, Limerick, and Killaloe; fundraising for charity, in Roscrea; environmental awareness, in Cloughjordan; and music, in many of our parish groups and unions; and other initiatives which are underway. Across our Diocese, many of our people are actively involved in local charities, caring for others, raising money, helping the neediest members of society. All of this reaches out to people who don’t regularly occupy our pews on Sunday, and reaches out for their sake, not the sake of the parish.

There is, however, more to do. In the view of many people who are members of other denominations or of none, our parishes seem like private clubs that have little to do with their communities, little to do with the real world – and little to do with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They’re wrong, of course, but in many places we haven’t done a very good job of showing that they’re wrong – of showing that the Gospel values we believe in can make a difference in our troubled world.

MISSION SUNDAY

Our Mission Sunday this year, on the Reign of Christ, 23rd November will once again be raising money for Luyengo Farm in Swaziland, as we hope to complete our commitment to pay for the reservoir which had to be built to maintain the water needed for irrigation. The farm is now producing carrots, lettuce, beetroot, pigs, and other commodities which are being sold in Swaziland and South Africa, and providing money for the AIDS relief and feeding stations run by the Diocese of Swaziland as well as local employment. Of the money raised in each group of parishes on Mission Sunday, 80% will be sent to Swaziland to help pay for the reservoir. The other 20% will be returned to the group of parishes to be given to local mission work in the parish or the community. Before Mission Sunday, each group or union should decide what local project could use the money – or, indeed, use it as seed money to start up an initiative which will exhibit the grace of God to their community.

The traditional goal of Mission Sunday has always been raising money for overseas mission. This year, 20% of the Mission Sunday collection from each Group or Union will return to their communities. All the money collected should be sent to Mr David Frizelle, Secretary-Treasurer of the Board of Mission, along with the name and address of where the local mission money is to be sent. I hope your giving will be generous on Mission Sunday – after all, 20% of very little is even less. Remember to have a meeting ahead of time for those in your Group or Union who are interested in mission, to decide the organisation or initiative you’re planning on funding. And remember, what you’re doing is being what Philip Yancy calls a ‘Grace-Dispenser’ – giving of your bounty so that your community sees the grace of God. May God’s Spirit be with you in all your mission endeavours.

Yours gracefully,
Wayne Carney
Editorial

- How to respond to Ebola?

People are increasingly frightened by media reports about Ebola. What are the facts, and how should we respond?

A good free online course is available to learn about the basic facts and test your knowledge – just Google ‘understanding Ebola Alison course’ – it took me less than half an hour.

Ebola is a virus endemic in West Africa. In humans it is highly contagious from contact with body fluids of the sick, but does not spread through droplets in air like ‘flu. The incubation period is 21 days and up to 70% of people who catch it die – those most at risk are family members and health care workers caring for the sick.

Ebola is out of control in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea. 10,000 have been infected so far, each new case currently infects around two people, and 10,000 new cases a week are forecast by December. Experience in Nigeria, now free of the disease, shows the epidemic can be stopped, but only if each sick person infects less than one other. This requires a) isolating and treating the sick, b) tracing and monitoring their contacts, and c) educating people at risk. Unfortunately rudimentary health care systems in the affected countries have been overwhelmed, so they cannot do this by themselves. Among other things, they need protective equipment, field hospitals, and trained doctors and nurses, both to work in them and to train local people.

We will probably see some Ebola cases in Ireland before this epidemic is over, most likely among returning missionaries and aid workers, as in the US and Spain. But we should not panic, since our well-developed health systems will minimise the risk of transmission. And in the medium term, research will surely produce effective vaccines and new drugs to control Ebola.

We should respond first with prayer, as Church leaders in West Africa, including Anglicans, have asked. But we must also take action to halt the epidemic – it is a Christian duty, and also in our own interests.

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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/circuit matters must first be cleared with the Minister concerned.

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Editor

In addition to news from parishes, schools and diocesan organisations, the Editor is delighted to receive articles and letters for publication, as well as suggestions as to how Newslink may be improved.

Newspaper is printed by Davis Printers,
Unit 6, Crossagala Enterprise Centre, Ballysimon Rd, Limerick

Diocesan Calendar
(for updates see Diocesan website - www.limerick.anglican.org)

Wed 5th November, 1.15pm-2pm
Lunchtime Concert, St Mary’s Cathedral, Limerick

Fri 7th – Sun 9th November
UDYC Junior Weekend, The Durrow Centre, Durrow, Co. Laois

Sat 8th November, 8pm
Whist Drive, St Michael’s Church Hall, Limerick

Sat 8th November, 8.30pm
Whist Drive, Shinrone

Sun 9th November, 7.30pm
Service of Re-Dedication & Harvest Thanksgiving, Kinnitty Church

Mon 10th November
Mothers’ Union: Sylvia Crawford ‘Supper Bites’, Moneygall New Hall, all welcome

Sat 15th November, 7.30pm
UDYC Fellowship Group, Kilmurry Church, Castletroy, Limerick

Sat 22nd – Sun 23rd November
UDYC 24-hour Multi-Activity Event, Muckross Youth Venture Centre, Killarney

Sun 23rd November – Mission Sunday
Sat 29th November, 10.30am – 12 noon
Meet Up for separated & divorced – Kilmurry Church, Castletroy

Sat 29th November, 2.30-5pm
GFS Diocesan Christmas Craft Day, Birr (€5 per girl)

Saturday 6th December
UDYC Annual Christmas Dinner Dance, Woodlands House Hotel, Adare, Co. Limerick

Thu 11th December, 11am
Mothers’ Union: Carol Singing at Clover Lodge Nursing Home, all welcome

Sat 20th December, 7.30pm
UDYC Fellowship group, Kilmurry Church, Castletroy

Sat 24th January 2015, 2.30pm
Service of Ordination and Consecration of the Revd Canon Kenneth Kearon as the new Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe, in Christ Church Cathedral Dublin
Prayer Corner

Partners in Prayer – November 2014

Each Sunday
Church of Ireland: The Diocese of Cork, Cloyne & Ross and Bishop Paul Colton
Companion Dioceses: The five Dioceses of the Protestant Church of Anhalt, Germany
Our Diocese: Revd Canon Dr. Kenneth Kearon, our Bishop Elect and Archdeacon Wayne Carney the Archbishop’s Commissary during the episcopal vacancy

2nd November – 4th Sunday before Advent, Green
Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Iglesia Episcopal de Cuba, and Rt Revd Griselda Delgado Del Carpio
Our Diocese: The UDYC Junior Weekend in Durrow next weekend, prayering for all leaders and participants.

9th November – 3rd Sunday before Advent / Remembrance Sunday, Green
Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Bermuda and Rt Revd Nicholas Dill
Cofi/Our Diocese: Remembering all those who from this diocese who lost their lives through war and violence and we pray for all those currently serving overseas in our armed forces on peacekeeping duties

16th November – 2nd Sunday before Advent, Green
Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Lusitanian Church (Portugal) and Rt Revd José Jorge De Pina Cabral
Our Diocese: The Diocesan Council meeting on Thursday in Adare – for wise stewardship of the resources of our Church.

23rd November – Sunday before Advent / The Kingship of Christ / Diocesan Mission Sunday, White
Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Reformed Episcopal Church of Spain and Rt Revd Carlos López-Lozano
Our Diocese: For our ongoing link with Swaziland through US and also the projects chosen for local outreach through the Board of Mission

30th November – 1st Sunday of Advent, Purple
Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Parish of the Falkland Islands and Rt Revd Nigel William Stock
Our Diocese: At the beginning of a new Church year we pray for a fresh sense of vision and purpose for this United Diocese

Meditation for November
by Rev Michael Cavanagh

gods and God
You tell me of your god of beauty,
and you ask what are my beautiful names for him?
Your god being in the mind, mine alive,
he may claim silken names; but they are only words.
My own words might not sound as soft,
but often truth is not so pleasing to the ear as lies.
You tell me of your god of calm and peace,
of trees and open hills, of silver rivers,
not just in warm and slipper’d ease
but through the hurting days.

Prayers during the Ebola epidemic

Pray for those suffering from Ebola and for their family and friends.
There is no known cure for Ebola, but people who are diagnosed and seek skilled medical treatment early have a chance to recover.

Lord Jesus, you healed bodies, minds, and spirits during your ministry. We ask your healing power to be manifest to the girls and public health researchers around the world strive to contain the outbreak and save lives. Aid agency staff in West Africa are working with government and community authorities, including religious leaders, to spread accurate information about Ebola and what to do about it.

In Your mercy, Lord, inspire and enable all those who labour to end the spread of Ebola. May their actions bear fruit in healthy lives and communities. We ask for your wisdom to fall on those who seek a cure for the disease. Protect caregivers from contracting the virus themselves.

Deadlines
The next issue will be for December 2014/January 2015, published for Sunday 7th December.

All material must reach the Editor by Friday 21st November 2014 before 6.00pm, by email only to newslink@limerick.anglican.org, unless otherwise agreed.

Late material cannot be guaranteed insertion.
1. Clerical Member of the Representative Church Body: The Rev Dr Patricia McKee Hanna


   LIMERICK KILLALOE ARDFERT
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   The Ven R.W. Carney
   The Rev M.R. Cavanagh
   The Rev E. Wakely
   The Rev R.M. Gill
   The Rev M.J. Hanley
   The Rev Dr P.E. McKee Hanna
   The Rev L Green
   The Ven S.M. Watterson
   The Rev C.R. Hanna
   The Rev Canon R.C. Hanna
   The Rev E. Beasley
   The Rev F. Stanley
   The Rev M. Blackwell
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   Mr D. Dempsey
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3. Supplementary List:

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   Mrs J. Griffin
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   Mr D. Lewis
   Mr D. Dempsey
   Mr T. Lyttle
   Mr L. Armstrong
   Mr P. Whyte

The first three names on the Clerical and Lay lists are summoned to participate in all Episcopal Elections in the Southern Province of the Church of Ireland.

The Diocesan Secretary thanks the Returning Officer, Mrs. Margaret Groves for her assistance in preparing, sorting and counting of the voting papers for this year's Diocesan Synod.
Máirt’s Musings – What does it take to raise a community?
by Rev Máirt Hanley, Kilcolman Union

I have a social theory. I’m not sure whether I have shared it with ye here before, but I’m getting to that stage in life where I keep repeating the same stories to my children, so you’ll just have to bear with me.

This is about what a society needs, or maybe what a community needs. They say it takes a community to raise a child, but what does it take to raise a community? I tend to think back to my childhood in the South East of England. When I was small there were relatives, most of whom lived a long way away. Then there were my parents’ close friends, then neighbours, then the church community and lastly there were the regular people. What I mean by the last group is people like the butcher my mum went to – he knew the cuts she liked and they would chat about how things were once or twice a week when she went in. When I was small there seemed to be quite a lot of life that happened in the orbit of these regular or good acquaintances. The pressures of everyday life were spread broad.

My memory of the early 1980s was that a lot of those relationships started to disappear as we moved home to where there were a lot more relatives. However as we went back to visit family who were still there, it seemed to me that more and more of life’s pressure seemed to be balanced on fewer shoulders. Church was just where you went on Sunday morning. You may not know those who lived on your street as your paths might never cross. And what was worse was that good friends might not live anywhere near. So all of the burden of day to day life seemed to rest just on the shoulders of immediate family and that, I would argue, is not healthy. It is into such situations that people spoke the well-worn phrase about it taking a village to raise a child; I’m sure much to the annoyance of my well-frazzled sibling who would have been grateful just for a bit more help. Looking back with the benefit of hindsight and the experience of raising my own children I have sympathy both with the people stating the cliché and with my fuzzled sibs. I also have another perspective, to do with parish communities. Just as I feel it takes a range of people with various types of connection to bear the weight of life for an individual, so it takes a variety of individuals with various levels of connection to carry the life of a community. Whether that community is a village or a faith community or even some sort of club, you need to have a variety of people with different levels of connection to keep the whole thing healthy. There will always be those who are at the centre of things working hard, those who are regular but can’t give quite as much

Things to consider...
A chicken crossing a road is really poultry in motion.

Every calendar’s days are numbered.

Once you’ve seen one shopping centre, you’ve seen a mall.

Some people are living way beyond their seams.

Putting on weight is the penalty for exceeding the feed limit.

The best medicine for rheumatism is being thankful it isn’t gout.

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Recent works include: Rathkeale Parish Church, Buttevant Parish Church, Former Jesuit Church Limerick.

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Address: Gurranes, Ballineen, Co. Cork
Email: odonovanorgans@gmail.com
www.odonovanorgans.com
Girls Friendly Society

Birr Branch resumed on Tuesday 16th September with cupcake decorating, getting in a little practice for the Diocesan Cupcake party on Sat 20th, which was enjoyed by all. This year we have 24 girls and we had our opening Service on Sunday 5th October. Thanks to Archdeacon Carney and to all the girls who participated in the service. They are continuing their fortnightly meetings and have started on their diocesan craft and bible study work and also working towards their PE and Exploration badges. Looking forward to lots of fun and fellowship in the year ahead.

Cloughjordan Branch visited Knocknacree Woods as part of the Science & Nature badge, enjoying a walk in beautiful autumn sunshine while collecting leaves and nuts, and sampling juicy blackberries on the way! There are various routes which can be taken and excellent pathways throughout the woods. It was a lovely afternoon outing on their doorstep. They are doing some art work for the Science & Nature badge and Craft work has also begun.

Nenagh Branch meets on appointed Saturdays from 11am to 1pm in the Back Vestry of St. Mary’s Church, Nenagh (NOT the School). They look forward to lots of fun, fellowship and friendship in the branch. New members are most welcome. This year they are working on their Music badge with the assistance of Canon Marie and their Nature badge.

Roscrea Branch is up and running again after the summer holidays. They are delighted to have two new girls and hope they will enjoy the activities. They were delighted to be asked to take part in the World War 1 Commemoration which was held in St Cronan’s Church. Three girls carried the Banner in the procession. This was a very special occasion for Roscrea town and church. Cloughjordan and Nenagh Branches wish to thank Tipperary Education and Training Board for grant assistance for the year.

MEMORIES OF WORLD COUNCIL IN WALES JULY 2014
by Grace Healy, Cloughjordan Branch

We were met at Dublin airport early in the morning for the flight to Cardiff by GFS President, Sylvia Quinn, and took a taxi to Swansea University, the venue for World Council.

The opening service was held in the gorgeous Brecon Cathedral. The college choir sang beautifully during the service. We visited the Welsh Parliament and the Welsh Museum of Life. A delicious meal was provided by Felinfoel GFS Branch, and accompanied by some amazing singing by a local choir.

On Thursday we had a craft session and we all got some great new ideas to bring back home. That night was the ‘Skit night’ and the Irish demonstrated Irish dancing and sung some traditional songs. The next World Council is taking place in Australia in 2017 and the Australians used this opportunity to put on a very impressive display inviting all delegates to Australia.

International Day on Friday saw many visitors and we all received gifts from the stalls of all the countries represented. On Sunday, the closing ceremony took place in St Mary’s Church in Swansea.

During this service, Val Gribble was commissioned as the next World President. This was followed by a magnificent closing banquet. I really enjoyed my time at World Council and left with amazing memories and new friends. These memories include the Welsh Male Voice Choir, the Welsh Folk Group, morning and evening worship, walks on the beach, meeting delegates from around the world and learning about the work GFS is doing in many lands.

World Council was a wonderful experience and many thanks to all those who helped make it so enjoyable for me.

UPCOMING EVENTS
Diocesan Council Meeting in St. Mary’s Church, Nenagh on Thursday, 13th November at 8 pm.

Christmas Craft Day is scheduled to take place in Birr on Saturday, 29th November. 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 in June.

Christmas Tree Festival – GFS will take part in the Christmas Tree Festival in Nenagh.

Boys' Brigade

NENAGH 1ST COMPANY

We did it! All our fantastic boys (with a few catch-ups here and there) have completed their “Cycling Proficiency” badge! They flew through the set questions for the theory test, amazed us with their skill and care for the cones test and impressed us with their great behaviour and safety when we took them out for a group ride down the Nenagh Bypass!! They have worked hard for this badge, there has been lots of practice – but it has been great fun, I think they would all agree. It would not have been remotely possible to have executed it so well without the help of local cycle shop owner and sportsman, Peter Moynan. We owe him a huge thank you. He has been guiding us every step of the way with his expertise and experience. Thank you too to Eva Moynan for helping with the ride! Peter will be coming back to make the badge and certificate presentations to the boys in late November – and to receive his own, shhhhh!

Thanks also to Patsy Farrell who put the boys through their paces in a basketball training session – loads of fun and useful skills training that we will store for future use!
So, to the future, the "Roll n Bowl" trip to Portlaoise time has come around again! This was such a good night last year and we have eleven very excited boys looking forward to it this year. The younger boys will enjoy a good bounce around themselves in Jump n Gyms the following week and then we break for half term, before we start all over again with Sports Day!

Our meeting dates for the rest of this term are: October 17th Roll n Bowl, 23rd Jump n Gyms, November 4th & 18th, December 2nd & 9th (the 9th being the Christmas party)

**Mothers’ Union**

A wonderful time was had by the members of Adare, Limerick and Kilcornan branches at our Harvest Supper and raffle which was held in Embury Close, Adare in October when almost €700 was raised for overseas. We enjoyed a meal of chicken a la king followed by several different desserts, all prepared and served by members of MU. This was followed by a very "different" and funny sketch of Cinderella. A huge "thank you" must go to all those who donated items for the raffle, who brought food and who helped on the evening, to all those who attended and especially to Simon, in Embury Close who is a whiz kid with the dishwasher! It was great to get together with so many members of MU and, hopefully, this will become an annual event.

Congratulations to Kilcornan Mothers’ Union who are celebrating 40 years of MU with a service of thanksgiving on 22nd October what the guest preacher is Rev’d Jane Galbraith.

**United Diocesan Youth Council**

**MAD DAY BY MAUD EADIE**

On the 27th of September a group of young people met in St. Nicholas’s School, Adare for a fun filled day with old friends and to meet new ones. The day began with worship and we were joined by the Reverend Liz Beasley for an energetic and enjoyable time. After a quick break the group split in half - one group headed to Wendy’s wonderful art workshop and the other group stayed inside for Damian’s prayer workshop. After delighting in colouring with the children, we all headed outside for a chance to stretch our legs and enjoy a relaxing lunch, all thanking God that we had some beautiful sunny weather to bask in. The groups then switched workshops and we went inside for some reflection with Damian. To the delight of the kids we were able to dissolve our prayers in some water (and later I heard Damian compared to a magician). A quick break was taken after the workshops ended and then Team Challenges, put together by Henry, Emma and Valerie, ensued. There was tight competition for first place but one team won in the end and bagged themselves bragging rights as well as some delicious treats. The day finished as it started, with worship led by Damian and we were joined by some of the participants’ parents before we said our goodbyes.
FUTURE EVENTS

JUNIOR WEEKEND 2014
Friday 7th – Sunday 9th November 2014 - Durrow Centre, Knocknagarry, Durrow, Co. Laois. 10-13 year olds. If you haven’t booked and would still like to come please call or text Edward at 087/2907553.

UDYC FELLOWSHIP GROUP
The group that comes together continue to have great evenings but it’s a real pity that more people do not come along each evening. The next group meetings are scheduled for Saturday 15th November & 20th December at Kilmurry Church Arts & Community Centre, Castletroy, Limerick from 7.30 pm – 9.30 pm. This year the group will be open to all persons attending secondary school and upwards. A bus will operate to and from meetings serving Birr, Roscrea, Moneygall & Nenagh. Booking is essential for bus by contacting Edward at 087 2907553.

24 HR MULTI ACTIVITY OVERNIGHT SLEEPOVER 2014
Saturday 22nd November – Sunday 23rd November 2014 - Muckross Youth Centre, Muckross, Killarney, Co. Kerry
3rd-6th Class National School.

This event will incorporate the very best of UDYC Multi Activity Day’s and Junior Weekends. The event will take place at Muckross Youth Centre from 3.00pm on Saturday 22nd November and ending at 3.00pm on Sunday 23rd November. The programme will include exciting worship workshops with drama, art, prayer, discussion, games, discovery and of course with ever popular worship songs. The group will also join and share with a local parish for worship on Sunday morning.

There will be lots of fun and games, a super TEAM CHALLENGER incorporating a scavenger hunt, table quiz, charades, cheerios on a string, relay races, raging river challenge, largest free standing structure construction, jigsaw challenge, etc. We will also have some good food including a pizza tea. Saturday evening will conclude with a mega disco with party food. It’s going to be MAD craic!

This weekend is for National School children from 3rd to 6th class. There will be return transport from Roscrea, Moneygall, Nenagh, Limerick & Adare. The cost of the weekend will be €30 or €20 extra for return transport from all locations. The €30 covers all activities, accommodation, food and transport throughout the weekend. Please note that the closing date for bookings is strictly Friday 14th November 2014.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER DANCE
Our annual Christmas Dinner Dance will take place on Saturday 6th December 2014 at Fitzgerald’s Woodlands House Hotel, Adare, Co. Limerick commencing at 8.30 pm until late. Tom Freeman and DJ Joe will provide the entertainment. Tickets cost €25 and must be pre booked by Tuesday 2nd December. It is hoped that a group from Cork Diocesan Youth Council will join us for the evening and also many others from throughout the country as well as many from throughout our Diocese.

CHRISTMAS DRAW
UDYC have organised a fundraising draw to raise funds for UDYC. The cost of the lines are €2 each or three lines for €5. The 1st prize will be €300 cash, 2nd prize €200 cash and 3rd prize €100 cash.

The draw will take place on Saturday 6th December at Dinner Dance. We really would appreciated where possible getting as many volunteers as possible to sell tickets and also we really do hope that everyone will help by buying lines.

JUNIOR & SENIOR DAY TRIPS TO DUBLIN
Our Senior Day trip for 13 plus year olds to Dublin will take place on Sunday 28th December with the Junior Day Trip for 10 – 13 year olds taking place on Tuesday 30th December. Full details on both trips in next month’s magazine.

For more information on any of our events or activities, please contact Edward (087) 2907553 or Damian on 087/2274663, Email: udyc@limerick.anglican.org or visit our website (http://udyc.ie/) or our UDYC Facebook page.

Until next month,
Maud Mobile: 087 9959581

Church of Ireland
LIMERICK AND KILLALOE
DIOCESAN BOARD OF MISSION
********
AN INVITATION TO A MISSION EVENING
WEDNESDAY 12TH. NOVEMBER
THE WOODLANDS HOUSE HOTEL, ADARE
AT: 8.00 P.M.

- THINKING OF MISSION IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY .......... A CASE STUDY
BY:- SALTERS STERLING.

- Carrot Washer for Luyengo Farm…. a progress report.


- Everyone, (irrespective of Christian denomination),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
MISSION SUNDAY 2014

SUNDAY 23RD NOVEMBER

The Diocesan Board of Mission has decided that Mission Sunday collections be divided as follows:

80% - to the Board of Mission to pay down debt incurred to construct the reservoir at Luyengo Farm, Swaziland.

20% - for Mission within your local community

Parishes should send all Mission Sunday money collected to:
Mr David Frizelle, Curraduff, Camp, Tralee, Co. Kerry
along with the name and address of the project or agency where they want their local contribution sent.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

SCHOOL NEWS

St. Nicholas’ National School, Adare

Thank you to all the pupils who sang so beautifully at the Harvest Service on September 26th. A special thanks to the pupils in 1st and 2nd classes, under the guidance of Mrs. Hales, for making the lovely props and to our busy bees, Caireann and Tobi. Millie Halpin and Arthur Cussen, two of our 5th class pupils, accompanied us on guitar. Everyone retired to the school hall afterwards for a cup of tea, some delicious cakes and the auction for charity.

Busy Planting Bulbs

Thanks to our green-fingered school secretary, Jayne, with great help from the Infant pupils, our pots have been planted with daffodil, crocus and tulip bulbs. It promises to be a colourful Spring in the school yard!

Mad Hair Day

Pupils in 1st to 6th classes have been enjoying swimming classes at Askeaton Leisure Centre for the past eight weeks and the lessons finished up just before mid-term break.

The school participated in the “Fill the Wellie” campaign, sponsored by Limerick 95 FM, when children from around the county collected all their small change in specially designed wellies. The money raised was given to The Ark in University Hospital Limerick and CARI.

At the moment we are preparing for Maths Week in school. Teachers and pupils will take part in lots of “fun” Mathematical activities such as Maths trails, a baking morning and a Maths Art Day.

Pupils recently held a Mad Hair Day in school. There were some colourful and unusual hair styles so well done to the pupils for their creativity.
St. Mary’s No.2 National School, Nenagh

"Upon the apple-branches, An icy film is caught,
With trailing threads of gossamer, In pearly patterns wrought”

-Evaleen Stein, November Morning

It has crept up upon us, this time of fires and rain and frosty mornings. After a wonderfully mild autumn, we are suddenly bundled into coats and wondering at the shortening of the days. Thank goodness for the bright colours and excitement of Halloween. Our pupils delighted in the stories of the púca, the quest for the ring in the báirín breac and the agonising wait to don their costumes.

On Friday 24th October, we participated in Trick or Treat for Temple Street, an afternoon of costumes, stories and Halloween related activities. Pupils wore their costume to school and baked some spooky treats in return for a donation of €2. All proceeds collected will be given to Temple Street Hospital.

A clothing collection for National Council for the Blind took place at school on Wednesday 22nd October. Clean and dry clothing was bagged up and left in the Croft Hall.

Sixth class went on a trip to Nenagh Arts Centre on 14th October for an afternoon of Science. Eirgrid presented a fantastic show on electricity. The pupils learned how to harness it, use it wisely and even had some hair-raising fun with a Van de Graaf generator.

Rugby and tennis coaching continues, with Soccer ‘kicking off’ in November.

The Scholastic Company will be bringing their Book Fair to St. Mary’s on November 20th. The children will have access to the shelves throughout the day and parents are invited to peruse the collection from 2.30pm.

Here is a fun fact for the season that’s in it –

The biggest pumpkin in the world topped the scales at a whopping 1,446 pounds, or 655.89 kilos. It was weighed at a pumpkin festival in Ontario, Canada in 2004.

Oíche Shamhna shona daoibh go léir, go mbeidh morán spraoi agaibh, a chairde!

St Michael’s National School, Limerick

In St. Michael’s the Senior classes go on trips in the autumn. How blessed we were this year with summer like weather for our organised days away! Fifth and sixth classes headed up to the Activity Centre in Killaloe and spent a memorable day participating in a variety of water sport activities. Reading reports that were written as a follow up activity in copy books about the trip delighted us greatly. Best School Trip ever was the consensus! Wonderful opportunity for all pupils to spend time together doing something very different from the usual school subjects.

Third and Fourth Classes set off to the Burren for their School Tour on a beautiful bright autumn day amidst much rain! With Ms Stevenson as tour guide and lots to find on the way, the journey to the Birds of Prey Centre near the Aillwee Cave was soon over.

Together with Mrs Morrow and Mrs Robinson, they learned many interesting facts about forest crafts and skills as they walked with Mike and saw the charcoal burner. Watching the eagle, falcon and barn owl flying in action was fascinating and there were many other birds to see in the centre also. On to Caherconnell Ring Fort and the Poulnabrone Portal Burial tomb where the children explored some more before heading home to Limerick.

We have been extra busy doing Art as part of our weekly assembly. St Michael was celebrated on Sunday 28th September and drawings in Ontario, Canada in 2004.

Oíche Shammha shona daobh go léir, go mbéidh morán spraoi agaibh, a chairde!

Rathkeale National School

Firstly we’d like to welcome our new junior infant pupils, Aaron, Benny, Jodie and Sarah. By now they have all settled down well into school life. We’d also like to extend a warm welcome to our shared learning support teachers, Mrs Agnes Lenihan and Mrs Eileen Curtin and to Sandra Leahy who has joined the Board of Management.

Our green school committee is working very hard at the moment, preparing for our fourth green flag. We’ve had a visit from Angela, our co-ordinator and are expecting her again for our renewal visit in November. On her last visit, Angela carried out another survey with the pupils from 1st to 6th class on how they travel to and from school. As our catchment area is so vast it would be very difficult to coordinate a Walk to School Day so we have decided to focus on the safety element of transport. We had a visit from the RSA (Road Safety Authority) Education Officer recently for a workshop on road safety and the junior pupils have taken part in the RSA Seatbelt Sherriff programme. Our committee also organised a “Bling your Socks or T-shirt” competition. The idea was to decorate a pair of socks (representing walking) and display them on/attach them to an old T-shirt. We congratulate all the pupils for their efforts and are pleased to announce that Isobel in 6th class won the prize.

Before Hallowe’en break we had a visit from a member of the gardaí to highlight some of the dangers associated with Hallowe’en. We also had our annual fancy dress competition on Friday 24th October. As in other years we encouraged the pupils to be creative with their costumes and to avoid shop bought ones.
There will be a Safe Guarding Trust training evening in the school on 19th November beginning at 7pm. This training is open to parents who wish to help out with school activities and to anyone else in the neighbouring parishes who need training.

Anyone seeking additional information should contact Michelle in the School Office to arrange to meet with Ms Storey. Note that grants and bursaries are available to support people in our community attend Villiers and we will be happy to assist families with these applications.

EDINBURGH BOYS HOCKEY TOUR
Our u14s and u16s travelled to Edinburgh on tour from Thursday 9th October to Sunday 12th October. Our Minors played Stuart Melville College with a 4-1 win and our Juniors won 2-1 in a hard fought contest. Our Minors also played Inverleith Hockey Club and came out 4-0 winners. The Juniors played their final match on Saturday morning against Edinburgh Academy School and came out on top in a comfortable 4-0 win.

On Saturday we visited Edinburgh Dungeons, Edinburgh Castle and The Royal Mile. The boys finished with a little shopping in the evening. All in all a very successful and enjoyable trip by all. We look forward to returning again in two years time.

GERMAN EXCHANGE
Twenty one German students aged 14–15yrs recently arrived from Freiburg for a week’s stay with us and experienced Villiers School life and much more during their visit. They were taken on a historical walk of Limerick city, visited the Cliffs of Moher, Ailwee Caves and experienced some Irish music and dance before they returned home. A return visit to Germany is set for March 2015.

News from the Villiers Sanctuary
Villiers has been a busy place in recent times. As well as the day to day activity we have also had our prize day celebrations and our first open day both of which proved to be wonderful occasions. The school year is moving rather rapidly and midterm is suddenly upon us. However, there are a number of exciting events appearing on the horizon, one of which I am really looking forward to.

That is the Remembrance Service in St Mary’s Cathedral on 12th November at 7.30. This is an occasion that has quickly established itself as one of great importance. It is an opportunity to come along and reflect, and possibly achieve a sense of peace and healing for anyone who has had to deal with grief and loss. I am really excited this particular year as some very good friends of mine, Ronan and Joanne Johnson have agreed to come along and join in our worship and play some music for us. Ronan would be better known for being the voice of Spirit Radio for many years and as the singer/songwriter for a worship band called Emmaus. I would urge people to come along not just for the liturgy and all that it offers but also to meet both Ronan and Joanne as they are two of the most spiritually gifted people that I have the pleasure of knowing. So hopefully I will see you on the 12th!

Last year I also had the privilege and honour to teach confirmation classes in Villiers and the plan is to do the same in the near future. So if there is anyone interested in taking up the class then please let me know.

Peace and blessings to all until next time
Chaplain Jackie McNair
The harvest services took place in 3 of our churches viz. Castleconnell, Mountshannon and Killaloe. Fr Tom Whelan was the preacher at the service at Castleconnell Fr James Grace at Killaloe and Joc Sanders, one of our Diocesan readers, at Mountshannon.

Each in their unique way emphasised the season and the sense that we can pause and have a time of thanks, not only the bounty of the earth but for one another and the fruits in our own lives. In very symbolic way Joc bought some honey from his own crop of bees. In each of the churches people put in a lot of effort and love in cleaning and decorating with fruits, vegetables, flowers and other symbols. Some had bread and wine on the altar and candles reminding us of this very significant part of our liturgical life, of Christ’s love for us. It was also a lovely touch when they put up a little name board on our grass lady decoration viz. Vera our churchwarden who was in hospital and could not be with us at the harvest service. We did manage to send her a picture via mobile technology on the day. We give God thanks that she is out of hospital and fulfilling her duties that she does with great dedication.

It is always an enriching experience when we have guests preachers at such occasions as harvest as congregations can get used to a style and way of preaching of the local ministry team and to have a new voice and a new way of delivering the message brings with it a freshness. The harvest at Tuamgraney took place on 26 October and Fr Donagh O’Meara of Tuamgraney was the preacher.

Castleconnell is hosting the Autumn Series of Concerts which began on 28th October, continuing on 20 November at 8.00pm in the church. A reminder to people about Tuamgraney Church service on 4th Sunday of the month we usually have a Eucharist service. The harvest on 26 October at 4.00 pm and Eucharist on 23 November the feast of Christ the King at 9.30am. This church is lovingly cared for by the people of Mountshannon Church mostly, and although it is a physical and financial burden the history and record of it being the oldest church in continuous use for church services is maintained.

I would appeal to anyone reading this article if you are able to give an annual monetary contribution it will help to keep this place of worship going.

The Advent Service in Killaloe Cathedral will be on the first Sunday of Advent the 30th November at 4.00pm. Everyone is most welcome to attend as we start the new liturgical calendar year. We will give you an update of carol services in the next issue of Newslink. It is sometimes a shock to the system to realise that another Christmas is nearly upon us. The shops already carry stock of Christmas decorations and we begin planning the Christmas church services.

Birr Group of Parishes

Birr, Lorrha, Lockeen, and Dorrha

Rector: Venerable R. Wayne Carney
Archdeacon of Killaloe & Clonfert
The Rectory, Birr, Co. Offaly
Tel: 057–912–0021 Mob: 087–786–5234
Email: mapleire@eircom.net

Assistant Priest: Rev. Ruth Gill
Kilgolan House, Kilcormac, Co. Offaly
Tel: 057–913–5341 Mob: 087–948–4402
Email: ruth_gill40@hotmail.com

SERVICE TIMES
A reminder that the regular Sunday services in Birr will be starting at 11:30 am until the time change in the spring.

PASTORAL
It is good to see Arthur Jackson up and around again after his stay in hospital. Our prayers are with Joan Fairbrother and her family on the death of her mother, Rebecca Thackaberry. And we keep John Reid in our prayers, as he works with the aid agency Concern in the midst of the difficult situation in Sierra Leone in West Africa.
HARVEST SERVICES
By the time this appears, all our Harvest Thanksgiving services will be over. Thanks to all our preachers this year: the Revd Edna Wakely (Assistant Curate in Limerick City Parish), who preached in Birr; the Revd Janet White Spunner, in Lockeen; and theological students Barbara Buckley in Dorrha, and Damian Shorten in Lorrha. Many thanks as well to those who looked after decorating the churches and providing refreshments. Good music, thoughtful sermons, and lovely decorations made for a Harvest season that was most enjoyable.

SUNDAY SCHOOL
The children of the Sunday School decorated the church in Birr for Harvest – boys doing one side (tractors) and girls the other (flowers and fruit), before going up to the Rectory for a pizza party. Many thanks to the parents who helped on the day. After a recent meeting, we discovered that our Sunday School teachers are an imaginative lot. Some of their ideas we are implementing: we are getting a small banner for the Sunday School, so that one of the children can carry it to lead the children out of the church in an orderly procession. We now have a bell in the vestry, wirelessly connected to a bellpush in the sanctuary, so that the celebrant at Holy Communion can let the Sunday School know when to prepare to return to the church. And we are getting a folding table for the vestry (most of the children are now too big for the infants’ table we are using now); it can be folded away when we need the vestry for visiting clergy. In November, our Family Service, normally on the second Sunday, will be on the first Sunday, All Saints, with Remembrance Sunday the following week on the 9th.

Parish News continues on p.15
President Higgins visits St Mary’s Cathedral, Limerick

St Mary’s Cathedral was honoured on 29th September to welcome the President of Ireland Michael D Higgins and Mrs Sabina Higgins, following the conferral ceremony at the Milk Market earlier in the day, when the President, who had been born in Limerick, was the first to receive the Freedom of Limerick, under the newly formed City and County Council. The President specifically requested to visit St Mary’s later that afternoon, in order to see the exhibition of the CityOne performance dinghies in the nave. These iconic boats, were part of the City of Culture, to honour (in the O’Brien millennial year) the contribution of Conor O’Brien (died 1952) who was a round-the-world yachtsman, an author, and also an architect. The rood screen at the Lady Chapel was his design.

Brother Anthony of Glenstal Abbey introduced the exhibition to the President, before an assembled audience, which included the local AK ILEN boat builders, the designers, and many young people who had been involved in the project, learning traditional wooden boat building skills to pass on to a new generation. The stunning and iconic sails were the result of an international design competition, with contributions from all over the world. The President, with the Dean, and Gary MacMahon (AK ILEN) who had worked closely with Brother Anthony on this project, met members of the cathedral staff and the boat builders and crewmen. At the request of the crew members, the Dean blessed the boats in the nave.

After signing the cathedral’s Visitors’ Book, the President continued on his tour of Limerick to St John’s, our sister Roman Catholic Cathedral, where he met with many of those who had been instrumental in organising musical and cultural events for the City of Culture programme 2014. Peter Barley, Director of Music at St Mary’s Cathedral, represented the cathedral at that gathering, in the light of the magnificent performances of Noyes Fludde in March, which involved children from many different schools, including some from disadvantaged backgrounds which made the project a city wide event, which opened new horizons for many of the children involved.

We're Moving!

Christian Aid Ireland
Canal House
Canal Road
Dublin 6
Tel: (353) 01 496 7040
Email: dublin@christian-aid.org
Web: www.christianaid.ie

President Michael D Higgins signs the Visitors’ Book
Opportunities Unlimited

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  - 5 Sciences
  - Economics, Accounting & Business
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  - Dedicated 1 to 1 Study and Career Advice

- **We also offer:**
  - 5 & 7 Day Boarding options
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  - Easy access to campus situated at the M50 & M4 junction, close to Dublin City and Airport

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The King’s Hospital

**Headmaster:** John D. Rafter
B.A.(Mod), B.Sc., HDipEd.

For more information please call or visit us - or if you prefer - we will travel to meet with you. Please contact 01 643 6564 or email: enquiries@kingshospital.ie

www.kingshospital.ie
One of our diocesan contributions to the Luyengo Farm project has been to commission a carrot washer. This is a machine for washing carrots on an industrial scale as the farm produces rather more carrots than one could wash in the average kitchen sink, and they do need to be washed in order to sell in the supermarkets. So David Frizelle, our intrepid secretary and treasurer to the Board of Mission managed to "persuade" two students studying Agricultural Engineering at IT Tralee to help design and build the washer. Various sponsors and supporters were also recruited to provide the materials and IT Tralee gave use of their facilities.

On Friday 3rd October the Luyengo Farm Carrot Washer was officially handed over to Archdeacon Wayne Carney, Chair of the Board of Mission and Archbishop’s Commissary.

The best way to tell the story is to hear from the two students who made the carrot washer their project.

Brenda O’Sullivan writes:

My name is Brenda O’Sullivan aged 28 from Tralee Co. Kerry. I am in my fourth year studying for a BSc (Honours) in Agricultural Engineering Management at IT Tralee. For my third year I had to undertake a major project in either design or manufacturing. I had some ideas but was unsure of what to do, when my project supervisor approached me with a specification sheet for a carrot washer for a farm project in Africa. I was extremely interested and wanted more information about the farm and its need for a carrot washer. My class mate John Doyle was also interested and we decided to work on the project together.

We had our first meeting with Dave Frizelle, who spoke of the farm’s situation and their current method of washing carrots - a cement mixer. After that meeting I knew there was no other project I wanted to get involved with as much as this one, knowing it was for such a great cause. There would be a long road of research ahead in finding the most suitable structure for the carrot washer. The climate and usage had to be taken into account and the quantity that needed to be washed daily. We also wanted the washer to be simple and straightforward to use and easy maintain, so that if any new parts or repairs were required that they could be easily sourced in Swaziland. We were in contact with the farm manager to make sure we could build a design that best suited his requirements for the farm.

The design of the washer changed many a time during the design process, but in the end we truly believe the best design was manufactured for the Luyengo Farm project. It is a completely new design and able to deal with other types of vegetables too, such as potatoes, beetroot, and parsnips making it a universal washer for all vegetable types.

This project was an amazing experience. We knew our efforts would benefit Luyengo Farm in such a wonderful way, and no other project could have given us such meaningful experience. To see it completed has left both John and me lost for words.

I would like to thank everyone who was involved, without whose help, time and patience throughout the year success would have been impossible. I hope it means as much to the Luyengo Farm project as it does to both John and myself.

John Doyle writes:

I was honoured to get this opportunity to design and manufacture a carrot washer which would benefit the lives of so many people. I didn’t have to think twice about taking it on as it was for a great cause and I was only too glad to help.

I knew from the word go that to design and build such a machine would take time and effort. As it would be used to enhance so many lives I wanted to give it my uttermost attention – it would not just become my final year project, but the constant focus of my thoughts as I worked tirelessly over many days and nights on it. Now looking at the finished product I know it was all worthwhile.

I would like to thank Linda Chambers and her team for giving me this opportunity so early in my career. They have done an amazing job and for me to get the chance to help them was an honour. I would also like to thank the staff members in the Agricultural Engineering Department of the IT Tralee for their professional assistance throughout the year. I would also like to thank the advisers and the main sponsors who gave of their time and resources.
Diocesan synod 2014 was held in Villiers School and presided over by Archdeacon Wayne Carney, acting as the Archbishop's Commissary. Beginning with the usual Eucharist, it was a busy and business filled event. The Ven. Robin Bantry-Whyte and the Ven. Gary Hastings gave Synod a presentation on the current process of exploring episcopal ministry in the Church of Ireland (see page 20). Archdeacon Wayne then addressed the Synod as its President – see the http://tinyurl.com/PresidentsAddress for the full text. He took as his theme the Gospel reading chosen for the day from Matthew chapter 9 about the labourers in the harvest. We are, he said, called to be the labourers in the Harvest. He spoke of the many changes in our diocese over the last year, with many moving within, returning to or coming for the first time, to our diocese, including the retirement of Bishop Trevor and the arrival in January of our new Bishop, Dr Kenneth Kearon. Synod also stood in silence in tribute to the late Canon George Flynn, who died suddenly in September. He concluded with these words of encouragement:

“The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few.” Yes, we are few. But, if we continue to be faithful, few can make a difference in our parishes, and in the wider community – a difference which can change lives. But, we need more labourers. Yes, that could mean more parishioners – and that’s a difficult one for many of us. But it also means, with the help of the Holy Spirit, getting more enthusiasm, more excitement about who we are and what we can do to build God’s Kingdom. The first thing, as Jesus reminded us, is to ask “the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.”

PRESENTATION TO LORNA GLEASURE

One member of the diocesan team who has laboured long and hard is Ms Lorna Gleasure, our long time diocesan treasurer. With the increasing work load and complexity associated with the work of treasurer and her own recent injury, Lorna has retired as treasurer and the work has been handed over to a team of accountants. It says something for Lorna’s hard work that it takes a whole team of professionals to replace her. Mr Andrew Eadie paid tribute to Lorna and presented her with a gift on behalf of the Synod.

SWAZILAND

Synod was also treated to a presentation on the Luyengo Farm project by Ms. Linda Chambers of US Ireland. Much development of the farm has taken place since we started our support for the project, and despite some setbacks caused by very unusual weather, the farm is growing and developing well. As well as a range of vegetables now being sold in the markets and supermarkets of Swaziland and South Africa there are now pigs. The farm now employs about thirty people. As each person with a wage supports about twelve family members that means that farm is now indirectly supporting about 300-400 people. That means children are able to go to school, elderly people are able to get medical treatment, and young families are able to stay together in difficult times. A carrot washer has been designed and built by members of our diocese and students from Tralee IT - it was handed over to US Ireland formally on Friday 3rd of October and all Linda and Jan have to do now is work out how to get it to Swaziland (see report on page18).

BUSINESS

As 2014 is a triennial year the usual elections were held to General Synod, Diocesan Council, the Episcopal Electoral College etc – see page 6 for the results. The after lunch session of Synod dealt with all the usual reports, from finances to tree cutting. Happily our diocese ended the year with an excess of income over expenditure of €84,000, but unhappily this was caused by some long vacancies. The normal practice is to budget for a “full house” and while we have not had a full complement of clergy for some years for one reason or another, we may hope and pray that all the vacancies will be filled in the coming year. If we achieve this there may well be a deficit in the finances, which will mean that we will all have to work harder to ensure that there is an appropriate ministry provision for all the diocese.
THANKS
Thanks are due to the many people who worked so hard to make our Synod possible, Yvonne the diocesan secretary, Mrs. Margaret Groves the Returning Officer, the technical support people and Villiers School for hosting us.

Next year, God willing our synod will meet under the presidency of our new Bishop. In the meantime let us all be faithful labourers in the harvest.

The Commission on Episcopal Ministry & Structures

Ven. Robin Bantry-Whyte and Ven. Gary Hastings gave a presentation on the work of this Commission, established by General Synod 2012 to make ‘proposals on provision of episcopal ministry and structures adequate for the needs of, and compatible with the resources of, the Church of Ireland’, with a focus on the mission of the church. Since then the Commission has reviewed previous studies, worked on the role and functions of bishops, their training needs and election arrangements, and prepared a paper on ‘Vision & Principles’, copies of which were provided to members of Diocesan Synod and can be obtained from them. General Synod 2014 extended the life of the Commission for 2 years, asking that it bring recommendations to General Synod 2016 and consult with Diocesan Synods – the latter was the purpose of their presentation.

Members of Diocesan Synod were asked to discuss and answer some questions about the role of Bishop in small groups, and to take away a short questionnaire, to complete and return via the Diocesan Secretary.

The Church of Ireland will make important decisions in the next two or three years in response to the Commission’s recommendations, which are likely to have great implications for our United Dioceses.

St Mary’s Church of Ireland, Nenagh
Sunday 14th - Sunday 21st December
2—8 pm

NENAGH
CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Groups of 8 or more welcome—pre-booking essential.
For more information call 089 4901511 or email nenaghchristmastreefestival@gmail.com

Admire the trees, take afternoon tea, purchase some seasonal produce and enjoy some of the scheduled events.
Admission €3 (accompanied children free)
‘Knowledge is power. Information is liberating. Education is the premise of progress, in every society, in every family.’ (Kofi Annan)

Boarding the flight at Dublin Airport last July, I had no idea what to expect. Having checked sky-scanner several times, I knew it would take me almost 36 hours to get to Agartala, the nearest airport to our hub. From there I had estimated that my journey to Kumarghat would take another two to three hours. After that, I was clueless. Google Images offered nothing to the naturally curious mind. Four flights and almost ten thousand kilometres later, I was on the brink of experiencing something amazing, heart-breaking and unforgettable.

This summer I was one of twenty six Irish teachers who travelled to the north east of India with Global Schoolroom, as a tutor on a University College Dublin/Assam Don Bosco University Guwahati accredited teacher education programme in Northeast India. Centred in ten different hubs we were scattered in twos and threes across three states. Kumarghat, Tripura was my ‘home away from home’ for the course of the programme. Here, at Holy Cross School, we trained thirty-six teachers for two weeks. We guided them through the various facets of education: philosophy; psychology; methodologies; special educational needs and classroom management. All participants were extremely receptive and interested, and the oppressive heat was the only force which inhibited learning. The tin roof of the school coupled with the regular power cuts didn’t help. Nonetheless we powered through.

For many, lesson planning was the biggest obstacle. The notion of involving students in the learning process or developing and using resources was all very new. For most, a lesson was effectively a lecture; the teacher does the talking and the students passively listen. Not surprisingly, many claimed to have classroom management issues. Nevertheless, we would have been naive to think that they could exploit all of our advice. The two weeks we spent travelling to their individual schools and observing their teaching exposed the difficulties they have; yet still, we were impressed.

We soon became ‘celebrities’ in the area. Going for walks in the evening, people stood open-mouthed as we walked by. The children were the ones who were particularly welcoming. Their homes were primarily shacks with mud floors, but this didn’t prevent them from smiling. Wherever we went, people wanted to know where we were from. Although we were strangers, we were welcome in their homes and we became accustomed to the satisfying cup of chai. Education was one of the main topics of conversation in these homes. The children enjoyed going to school while their parents were aware of its importance.

Some people complain about the state of our roads, yet our boreens are far better than the national highways we traversed in Tripura. Carefully observing the speedometer when travelling, I noticed that our driver rarely exceeded 50km/h. A journey which should take half an hour takes almost three times that, and the Indian teachers who participated on this programme had to make such gruelling trips each day. Furthermore, many of these teachers had young families to return to and feed after a long day’s training. Many have commended me for volunteering in India; however, these teachers deserve the commendation for sacrificing their time so that they can deliver a better quality of education to the students that they teach.

Changes in teacher-pupil ratio concern all teachers. We worry about the ratio being increased as we want our students to get the best education they can. We all know what larger class sizes mean. Imagine being the teacher with seventy-two students aged six and seven years old. Imagine trying to teach these students a new concept whilst trying to cater for all their varying needs.
Imagine a classroom without air-conditioning with sixty students. Imagine trying to teach an ICT class without any computer as the power has gone for the fourth time that day. These situations are an unfortunate reality. It was easy to see where things could improve. This was our brief I suppose.

Nonetheless, imagine hundreds of smiling faces everywhere you went. This is what greeted us in each of the schools we visited. Here the children always seemed happy and were eager to engage in conversation. In one school, I was made feel like a celebrity as attaining my autograph seemed to be the most valuable thing to the smiling faces in front of me. It didn’t matter what my name was; a mere squiggle sufficed. I thought for a second of signing ‘Diego Maradona’ for one student. Given the fact that I’m neither the man himself nor have any similar footballing abilities, I opted not to. I realised it didn’t matter who we were; we were famous.

I left Kumarghat on August 1st and while I looked forward to going home, I was about to miss this place very much. It was truly enriching and a privilege to work with the Indian teachers. They were most receptive, and their willingness to embrace new ideas and methodologies was amazing. There was a sense of satisfaction when the ideas explored in the teaching phase were implemented in the classroom and I also learned much from this programme. After leaving our centre, I travelled to Delhi, and here, I saw abject poverty. Scenes from Slumdog Millionaire became real, where whole families reside on a street corner or under a bridge; where children perform cartwheels in the middle of a busy road in the hope of getting a few pitiful rupees. Having spent a month training teachers, I could not but wonder about the better lives that these children could possibly have if they were spending their time learning as opposed to begging. My time in India proved that knowledge is power; that information is liberating. I went to India to teach. I did and I also learned so much.

Unforgettable.

World War 1 Commemoration in St. Cronan’s, Roscrea

Tuesday 30th September 2014 was a red letter day to be long remembered in the life of the parish and community of Roscrea. St Cronan’s Church was the venue for a commemoration of all those Roscrea people who fought and died in World War 1, combined with a service of thanksgiving for the coming together of so many people from diverse backgrounds a century later.

The ecumenical service was conducted by representatives of the three local churches and Mount St. Joseph’s Abbey, with Adrian Hewson as preacher. It was preceded by a most colourful and dignified procession into the almost full church by many organizations all paying tribute to the fallen in the centenary year of the outbreak of World War 1. Flags, banners and uniforms enhanced the great sense of occasion. Organizations present included the Order of Irish National ex-Servicemen, the United Nations, the Limerick Branch of the Royal British Legion, and the Irish Guards together with local and parochial organizations. The music was provided by the 24 strong Seattle Police Pipe and Drum Band who walked in full uniform in procession into the church. Special guests included a state senator from Washington, the chief of Seattle Police, the President of the Irish–Seattle network and the Irish Consul to Washington, while local representatives included Michael Lowry T.D and Councillor Smith together with the Vice-President of the World Methodist Council Gillian Kingston and Roscrea’s only Resident to climb Mount Everest, Martin Byrne.

The emotional occasion of remembrance included a symbolic offertory procession, the silence, the reading of the roll of honour, the act of remembrance and appropriate scripture readings and prayers. The honour for St. Cronan’s of hosting such an international occasion of music, colour, pomp and pageantry cannot be underestimated. Parishioners related to two different American Presidents participated in the service. Favourable comments have been received from all across the world. The church and grounds looked immaculate with appropriate flags and decorations, the organist and choir were at their best, and thanks are due to all who put Roscrea on the map for all the right reasons.

Parading through the streets of Roscrea

Parading through the streets of Roscrea
continued from p.15

Roscrea Group of Parishes
Roscrea, Bourney, Corbally and Kyle
Vacant
Priest in Charge: Ven. Wayne Carney
The Rectory, Birr, Co. Offaly.
Tel: 057 - 9120021 Mob: 087 – 7865234
Email: mapleire@eircom.net

APPOINTMENT
The Archbishop’s Commissary, Archdeacon Wayne Carney has appointed the Rev. Jane Galbraith as Rector of the Roscrea Group of Parishes. Details of the Institution to be announced at a later date. The parish offers congratulations and best wishes to Rev. Jane, and have an opportunity of meeting her at a Healing Service in Roscrea on November 2nd.

HOLY BAPTISM
St. Cronan’s Church on September 21st 2014. Evan Louie McKelvey, son of Philip and Nikola (nee Evans), The Rev. Ruth Gill conducted the service and Adrian Hewson was preacher. It was a very happy occasion, and we all wish Evan and his parents well.

THE SICK
Eddie Clare has spent some time in St. Vincent’s, Doreen Roe has been in Portlaoise Hospital recently while Raymond Clarke was also in Portlaoise in the late summer. Each patient has been a cause of concern for their families but happily the news overall is good and we wish them well. November H.P.U. will be in the context of the Healing Service, November 2nd.

BEREAVEMENT
Our parish has been greatly shocked and saddened by the sudden passing of Canon George Flynn, Rector of Aughrim and Creagh Unions and our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Gwyn and all the family circle including Rev. Lesley Robinson. A double bereavement in two weeks has evoked the heartfelt sympathy of all. Rev. George and the family were at worship in Roscrea just 10 days before his passing, and he was a regular visitor to the parish in times past. His cheery presence will be long remembered.

PAROCHIAL ORGANISATIONS
All are in full swing again for the autumn: GFS, BB, Youth Club and Mothers’ Union, and meetings are held regularly. The Mothers’ Union had their opening service on October 1st in St. Cronan’s and it was good to see all the familiar faces back busy planning their 2014/2015 schedule. New members always welcome to all the organizations and best wishes for another season.

FUND RAISING
Parochial fund raisers have been hard at work in both Roscrea and Corbally and their results have been excellent. Results of a busy summer: BBQ: €18,500, Corbally Social Evening: €6,400, Roscrea 5 day shop: over €3,000, Animal Quiz €985 and Kiinnitty Social Mountain walk €665. Total of almost €30,000 in just 3 months for the Group.

The Corbally Social Evening was a most enjoyable occasion with good food, a generous raffle and a spacious dance floor, and the organizers are to be congratulated. Vivienne Wallace and Heather Evans and their supporting team transformed an empty shop into an “Aladdin’s Cave” within hours in aid of the Shoe Box Appeal and parochial funds, while Evie Lupton did trojan work with the raffle. Business was brisk with queues forming at times. Thanks to all who helped and supported.

HARVEST THANKSGIVINGS
Amidst various fundraising and other activities spiritual matters of course took priority in the Group with the Harvest Services. Well decorated churches and good attendances were once again the order of the day. Corbally with the Rev. Victor Fitzpatrick as preacher, and Roscrea with the Rev. Bruce Hayes as preacher were both in the context of the Holy Communion while Bourney with Fr. Michael Harding P.P. as preacher was a community Harvest Service. Many thanks to all who decorated, and provided refreshments.

FR. TOM CORBETT
In celebration of Fr. Tom Corbett’s Golden Jubilee and in recognition of his retirement, St. Cronan’s congregation is joining with Roscrea Methodist Church in hosting a liturgical reception in his honour on Sunday, 23rd November, in St. Cronan’s at 7.00p.m., followed by a reception in the Methodist Church Hall. This will be a unique occasion, and everyone is welcome to attend, and also we welcome back Rev. Lesley Robinson as preacher.

Nenagh Union of Parishes
Nenagh, Templederry, Ballymackey and Killodiernan.
Rector: Canon Marie Rowley–Brooke
Tel: 067 32598 Mob: 085 – 147 4792
Email: canonmarie@me.com

A new venture for the Nenagh Union this autumn was the holding of a Commemoration of the Faithful Departed Service at Lisbunny, the Council Cemetery in Nenagh. 48 folk attended this, so it obviously meets a need in people to have an opportunity to come together and remember, both as families, and as community, loved ones who have departed this life. We hope to offer this service as an annual event.

Our Harvest season is now ended. We welcomed Rev’d Dr Patricia McKee Hanna, Church of Ireland Chaplain to the University of Limerick, to Killodiernan as our Guest Preacher. The weather was so good that we enjoyed the refreshments afterwards outside – almost a picnic! Many thanks to all who baked and brought.

Templederry welcomed Adrian Hewson, Diocesan Reader in Roscrea, as Guest Preacher. Adrian mentioned that it had been nearly twenty years since he last visited Templederry to preach – far too long! As always, many thanks must be paid to all who decorated the churches so beautifully.

Back in 2007 Joc Sanders from the Nenagh Union was licensed as a Diocesan Reader. And now we have another one! It’s great news to report that Audrey Clarke-Gordon will be licensed as a Diocesan Reader on Sunday 16th November, at 3.00 pm in St Mary’s by Archdeacon Wayne Carney. There will be no other service in the Union on that Sunday as every parishioner of course will want to come and share in this joyful service, and there’ll be refreshments afterwards. If you’re reading this, you’re invited as well!

Newslink readers will have had an opportunity of reading about our forthcoming Christmas Tree Festival in last month’s edition. Please also note our advertisement in this edition! We hope folk may wish to travel together to visit the Festival, and stay for Afternoon Tea! There is a huge amount of interest from potential exhibitors – if you’d like an Exhibitor’s Information Sheet and Entry form, please send us an email at nenaghrchristmastreefestival@gmail.com or phone 089 4901511. Entries to be received by Friday 14th November.

But of course, before Christmas we have the season of remembrance in November, particularly poignant as this year we reflect on the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War. We shall be holding our usual Act of Remembrance at the Memorial in Ashe Road, Nenagh, on Saturday 8th November, at 10.55 am, and a full Act of Remembrance at the service in Killodiernan Church on Sunday 9th November, at 12.15 pm. Both these occasions offer an opportunity often not available elsewhere for the wider community to remember family members who died not just in the two World Wars, but in conflicts worldwide since then.

Finally, congratulations to Sharon Gloster and Robbie Nevin, who have announced their engagement.
Cloughjordan & Borrisokane Group of Parishes
Cloughjordan, Borrisokane, Borrisnafarney and Ballingarry.
Rector: Canon Stephen Neill
Modreeny Rectory, Cloughjordan, Co. Tipperary.
Tel/Fax: 0505 – 42183 Mob: 087 – 2328172
Email: stephen.neill@gmail.com
Parish website: www.modreeny.com
Stephen’s blog: www.paddyanglican.com

HARVEST 2014 - Thanks to all who contributed to the preparations for this year’s harvest services. After such a good year it was a joy to be able to celebrate a truly plentiful harvest. A special word of thanks to our organists and church decorators, tea makers and bakers, readers, wardens, our visiting preachers and all those who attended and participated.

BAPTISM - Priya Lyn Williamson Donnelly, daughter of Seamus and Tracey was christened on 27th of September in Borrisokane Church. The godparents were Ava Brophy Williamson & Liam Donnelly and Priya was welcomed into the fellowship of the Church by family and friends.

WEDDINGS - Congratulations to Hazel Cavanagh & Joe Dervan who were married by Canon Stephen and Fr. Bernie Costello on 3rd October in St. Nicholas’ Collegiate Church in Galway. Hazel was accompanied by her five sisters as bridesmaids. The newly-weds had a guard of honour on exiting the church from Joe’s hurling teammates from Ballinasloe and the weather cleared up just in time to allow the guests walk from the church to the hotel on Eyre Square, via Shop Street, where a great night of celebrations was enjoyed.

Best wishes to David Goulding and Aisling Palmer who are to be married in St. Kieran’s Church in Cloughjordan on 8th November and to Gary Hayes and Karen Pierce who are to be married in St. John’s Church in Kilkenny on the 29th November.

ACCIDENT - It was a shock to hear of the serious road accident in which Errol, Valerie & Scott Harvey of Borrisokane Parish were involved. After a week in hospital in Dublin and nursing some broken bones it is a huge relief that the family are home and recovering from their ordeal. We wish them a full and speedy recovery.

BILLY GOULDING APPEAL - Billy is a two year old parishioner who has been in Temple Street Hospital since late July following his sudden collapse. He was ultimately diagnosed with transverse myelitis which is a rare (1 in a million) autoimmune condition whereby the body turns on its own nervous system. There are many triggers and can affect any age. The doctors believe Billy contracted a virus. His body fought it, by producing antibodies which killed the virus. Normally, these antibodies die off, but in Billy’s case, they turned on his healthy nerve cells in his spinal cord and this is what caused the swelling and paralysis. Billy is facing a long rehabilitation and his parents Eileen and Victor are constantly by his bedside. Plans are in place for a fundraising event in early January and details will be published in the next issue of Newslink. In the meantime your prayers are asked for Billy and his parents.

Shinrone Group of Parishes
Shinrone, Aghancon, Kinnitty and Dunkerrin
Rector: Canon Michael Johnston (on sick leave)
Priest-in-charge : Canon Marie Rowley-Brooke
Tel: 067 32598
Mob: 085 147 4792
Email: canonmarie@me.com

Canon Michael is currently on sick leave. He would like to thank everyone most sincerely for their prayers and for the ‘get well’ messages he has received. Please continue to keep him and Evelyn and the boys in your prayers.

Kinnitty Church’s re-roofing is nearly complete and on Sunday 9th November at 7.30pm there will be a service of re dedication with harvest thanksgiving. This has been a major project. About 60% of the original slates have been used and iron gutters replaced. Kieran Kealey the building contractor has done an excellent job. Thank you. Next year the windows?!

Shinrone’s annual fete had the addition of a ‘Fun Dog Show’, and the whole event was a great success, made all the better by the wonderful weather. The total raised was €7,320.70, a great result.

Huge thanks to all who worked so hard and supported the event especially parish friends, Joe Bergin, Lorraine Malone and John Brown who ensured that we had great prizes for our canine friends and kept the ‘show’ running smoothly. The dogs all received a blessing before the event began.

MOTHERS’ UNION
The opening service of Holy Communion was held in Shinrone Church, followed by a meeting in Cloughmoyle School.

TIMBER/FUEL/FODDER AUCTION - to be held in Moneygall on Saturday 22nd November in aid of Borrisnafarney/ Templeharry parish

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- Mobile – Philip 087 6874775

Philip@jjryanundertakers.com – www.jjryanundertakers.com
On 10th November Sylvia Crawford will demonstrate ‘Supper Bites’ in Moneygall New Hall.

There will be Carol Singing with the residents of Clover Lodge Nursing Home on 11th December at 11am. Everyone is welcome at these events.

HARVESTS

There was a full church for Aghancon’s Harvest Festival at which Rev Janet White Spunner was the preacher and celebrant. Tea in the hall afterwards was as good as it always is! Aghancon’s September Whist Drive was held in aid of the repairs to Ettagh Graveyard. We had a good crowd and as a result we made approx. €1,000.00, which included a raffle and donations.

Drumcliffe Union with Kilnasoolagh

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

Rector: Rev. Chancellor Robert Charles Hanna

The Rectory, Bindon Street, Ennis, Co. Clare.
Tel: 065 – 6820109 Mob: 086 2167040
Email: bobhanna@eircom.net

Parish website: www.churchofirelandclare.com

ONE TO GO

Congratulations to Mrs Anna McCrum who celebrated her 99th birthday with family and friends at Cahercalla Community Hospital when a little moment of hymn singing seemed just the thing for a lady whose life was spent in choral singing.

SONGS OF PRAISE

The Rev Philip Knowles, Dean Emeritus of Cashel and besides that, well-known figure in Church music circles, kindly has undertaken this popular hymn format on Sunday 16th November 7.00pm. Please come and enjoy this hymnal sing-a-long which is a fundraiser for renovation work on Kilnasoolagh Church. (As was the earlier Harvest collection)

ALL SAINTS-SAMHAIN

The October Bank Holiday weekend ushers in through its special gateway of light and darkness and its thin separation of both. As it happens the solemn recall of momentous tragedy touching our own kith and kin such as World War 1 (leading subsequently to much more conflict) is remembered around this time (Nov 11). This year, prior to the Armistice ceremonies, art and the artist comes into our lives to emphasise its nearness and our fragility. We speak of a remarkable exhibition of ‘heads’ mounted in St Columba’s Church, Drumcliffe from Bank Holiday Monday 26th October until after Remembrance tide.

Artist Mrs Holly Mullarkey from Annaghdown, Co Galway, is sharing her work in ceramics with us and Ennis Cathedral, from out of her own personal involvement and passion with WW1 history as a tribute to a family forbear. Likely they will still be in situ when a concert of songs from around 1914-18 will be performed by Clare classical sopranos Edel O’Brien and Helen Houlihan, interspersed with drama and poetry from the Front. Local playwright Laura Mulcahy has written a short play for the occasion and local actors will perform the readings. That date is Friday November 21st and proceeds will go to the funding of the WW1 Memorial to Clare’s 700 dead (approx) which is designated for the new Peace Park near Glor Theatre in Ennis.

Prior to that, Irish Times journalist and broadcaster Mr Patsy McGarry will give the keynote Address at the Armistice Day Service in St Peter-Paul Cathedral, Ennis (Tuesday 11th Nov. 7.30pm).

BISHOPS APPEAL

The focus on Bishop’s Appeal and its call on us to assist the victims of the Ebola virus tragedy, already claiming thousands of lives in West Africa, and likewise the Christian Aid commitment to the unfolding war on the borders of Syria, Iraq, Turkey and Lebanon, reminds us of the ever-present reality of conflict and suffering.

HARVEST

The collection at the Friday night Harvest in Ennis went to Christian Aid and thanks to all who made that event the vibrant occasion it was, built around the visit of preacher Dr Johnston McMaster from the Irish School of Ecumenics, Belfast. Local Senior Citizens Aid and thanks to all who made that event the vibrant occasion it was, built around the visit of preacher Dr Johnston McMaster from the Irish School of Ecumenics, Belfast. Local Senior Citizens Aid and thanks to all who made that event the vibrant occasion it was, built around the visit of preacher Dr Johnston McMaster from the Irish School of Ecumenics, Belfast. Local Senior Citizens Aid and thanks to all who made that event the vibrant occasion it was, built around the visit of preacher Dr Johnston McMaster from the Irish School of Ecumenics, Belfast. Local Senior Citizens Aid and thanks to all who made that event the vibrant occasion it was, built around the visit of preacher Dr Johnston McMaster from the Irish School of Ecumenics, Belfast. Local Senior Citizens Aid and thanks to all who made that event the vibrant occasion it was, built around the visit of preacher Dr Johnston McMaster from the Irish School of Ecumenics, Belfast. Local Senior Citizens Aid and thanks to all who made that event the vibrant occasion it was, built around the visit of preacher Dr Johnston McMaster from the Irish School of Ecumenics, Belfast. Local Senior Citizens Aid and thanks to all who made that event the vibrant occasion it was, built around the visit of preacher Dr Johnston McMaster from the Irish School of Ecumenics, Belfast. Local Senior Citizens Aid and thanks to all who made that event the vibrant occasion it was, built around the visit of preacher Dr Johnston McMaster from the Irish School of Ecumenics, Belfast. Local Senior Citizens Aid and thanks to all who made that event the vibrant occasion it was, built around the visit of preacher Dr Johnston McMaster from the Irish School of Ecumenics, Belfast. Local Senior Citizens Aid and thanks to all who made that event the vibrant occasion it was, built around the visit of preacher Dr Johnston McMaster from the Irish School of Ecumenics, Belfast. Local Senior Citizens Aid and thanks to all who made that event the vibrant occasion it was, built around the visit of preacher Dr Johnston McMaster from the Irish School of Ecumenics, Belfast. Local Senior Citizens Aid and thanks to all who made that event the vibrant occasion it was, built around the visit of preacher Dr Johnston McMaster from the Irish School of Ecumenics, Belfast. Local Senior Citizens Aid and thanks to all who made that event the vibrant occasion it was, built around the visit of preacher Dr Johnston McMaster from the Irish School of Ecumenics, Belfast. Local Senior Citizens Aid and thanks to all who made that event the vibrant occasion it was, built around the visit of preacher Dr Johnston McMaster from the Irish School of Ecumenics, Belfast. Local Senior Citizens Aid and thanks to all who made that event the vibrant occasion it was, built around the visit of preacher Dr Johnston McMaster from the Irish School of Ecumenics, Belfast. Local Senior Citizens Aid and thanks to all who made that event the vibrant occasion it was, built around the visit of preacher Dr Johnston McMaster from the Irish School of Ecumenics, Belfast. Local Senior Citizens Aid and thanks to all who made that event the vibrant occasion it was, built around the visit of preacher Dr Johnston McMaster from the Irish School of Ecumenics, Belfast. Local Senior Citizens Aid and thanks to all who made that event the vibrant occasion it was, built around the visit of preacher Dr Johnston McMaster from the Irish School of Ecumenics, Belfast. Local Senior Citizens Aid and thanks to all who made that event the vibrant occasion it was, built around the visit of preacher Dr Johnston McMaster from the Irish School of Ecumenics, Belfast. Local Senior Citizens

KILNASOOLAGH

Truly inspiring was the homily from Mr Salters Sterling, stalwart in Birr Parish but roving source of energy and wisdom within and outside the wider church (!), for the Harvest there on a Sunday afternoon. Nigel Bridge and Maretta O’Hehir were (once more within the Group events) key artists and Mr Ciaran O’Gorman and the Clare Music Circle generously fulfilled their annual role

Signing the contract for the new roof for Kinnitty Church
in leading the hymn singing. Both harvests were completed with splendid suppers!

BAPTISMS
Twins Nathaniel Eyre and Natalie Christine, children of Norman and Karen Ievers received Holy Baptism in Kilnasoolagh a mere few hours before catching a plane from nearby Shannon, heading ultimately to Jerusalem where their parents reside. Their late paternal grandfather Norman Ievers (Snr), a former RAF World War 2 officer was linked with Kiffinaghty (Sixmilebridge) Parish, now defunct, but the family home of Mount levers is still a base for the family on their annual return.

Among the sponsors was Mr Jackie McNair, diocesan reader and Villiers School Chaplain and his wife Andrea, who are neighbours at Mount Callan. Mr McNair gave the address, expertly linking Jewish Custom, including circumcision, with Christian baptism, much appreciated by the young parents who are both Christian.

Mrs Judith Ironside who drove the successful fundraising campaign over the Summer to cover the restoration of Christ Church, Kilfarboy (Spanish Pt) spire.

Clonfert Diocese
Aughrim & Creagh Unions of Parishes
Aughrim, Ballinasloe, Ahacsraagh, Ardrahan, Clontuskert and Woodlawn
Vacant
Preist-in-Charge: Canon Stephen Neill
Tel/Fax: 0505 72183
Mob: 087 232 8172
Email: stephen.neill@gmail.com

CANON GEORGE
We are all still trying to come to terms with the Death of our late rector Rev. Canon George Flynn or Rev. George as he was so affectionately known. It was so sudden a departing that it brings home to everyone how we know not the day or the hour. His message to us all this last seven years was to come together in prayer and fellowship with each other and we would achieve many things. Let us at this time think of these words of his and look forward to the future with confidence. A bus left Aughrim on Sunday the 12th Oct to visit his grave at Annatrim, Co Laois, especially those who were away at the time of his funeral. We attended their Harvest Thanksgiving service and afterward the Rector The Rev. Ian Poulton led a short service of prayers and reflections at the graveside. Then we were kindly treated to tea, buns and cakes etc and of course the chat with the parishioners of that area.

On Monday evening the 22nd September Archdeacon Wayne Carney held a memorial service in Ardrahan Church at which all parishes were well represented and on Thursday the 25th September Father Bernie Costello held a Memorial service in the Chapel of Portiuncula Hospital, again all parishes were represented. Both of these services were both uplifting and healing. Thanks is also due to Michael and Brid Tailor and to the catering staff of Portiucula for the refreshments they provided after both these services.

Two weeks previous to Reverend George’s death his mother in law Mrs Gladys Gill died at the Rectory where she had resided for the past year. Gladys was laid to rest in Mounthrath Churchyard after her funeral service which Canon George officiated. Our thoughts and Prayers are with Gwyn, Reverend Leslie and Isobel and their families at this time.

Our harvest services were held in Clontuskert on the 7th September when Martin O’Duffy gave a very simple uplifting address, and Aughrim was held on Sunday 28th September when the preacher was the former Dean of Cashel Dean Philip Knowles and while the congregations wasn’t that big at either venue the quality of singing was very good. The usual cuppa was enjoyed at both places afterwards. Thanks to all concerned.

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

We are pleased to say that the work being done on the windows in Clonfert Cathedral is almost completed. They have been painted inside and out, this has made a big difference to the appearance of the Cathedral especially outside. It is good to see this historic and valuable building being so well maintained. Work has also started on the boundary wall which was damaged in the storms.

There was a great gathering in Christ Church Portumna for the Harvest Thanksgiving Service. Several visitors were there and gave much praise for the appearance of the church. The ever warm and welcoming interior was enhanced by the beautiful harvest decorations. Rev. Patrick Towers conducted the service which was followed by afternoon tea. It was lovely to see so many people there to enjoy it.

A new cooker arrived for St Pauls’ Hall Banagher just in time for the Harvest Thanksgiving Service. The guest speaker was Rev Clodagh Yambasu, Minister of the Birr Methodist Church. Lots of produce was displayed in the church giving a very autumnal feel, after the service a sumptuous tea was laid out including HOT sausage rolls,( thanks to Val and the new cooker). 41 people were there to enjoy the feast in the warm and dry of the recently painted hall. It was a good time for a chat and catch-up.
Congratulations to The Rev’d Jane Galbraith on her appointment as Rector to Roscrea; and also to the Rev’d Dr. Patricia McKee Hanna, who will move to Tralee in the new year, to work in the parishes and with Tralee IT and the hospitals.

To Jenny (nee Mullane) and Mark O’Gorman, who were married in St Mary’s Cathedral on Friday 26th September by the Dean, assisted by Pastor Justin Gearing;

To Sylvia and Gordon Brickenden on the arrival of a new great-granddaughter, Lilah;

To Kevin Beck (Caretaker St. Michael’s) who received a Gold Merit Award for work with Caherdavin Tidy Towns Community Group;

To Callum Morrow who was selected for the U18 Munster Hockey Squad and his brother Craig Morrow who was selected for the U16 Munster Hockey Squad.

BEREAVEMENTS
Our sincere sympathy to Pat Mulcahy (Bellringer) and family on the death of his mother, Elizabeth Mulcahy who died on 17th of September.

St. Michael’s Church celebrated their Patronal on 28th September, which was very well supported. The children of St Michael’s NS produced some stunning art work with St. Michael, the Dragon, and hordes of beautiful angels all around the church. One pupil produced an icon of St Michael which we are delighted to be able to keep in the sanctuary. Shannon captured the essence of St Michael’s story, with the fiery sword, a defeated Satan under his feet, the scales of justice, and Michael’s wings of gold. Make sure you see the icon, next time you visit St Michael’s Church.

LIMERICK CITY PARISH AUTUMN FETE
A very success Autumn Fete took place on Sat 18th October. Thanks to all who supported the event whether as a helper, a donor, or a buyer. Thanks to Villier’s School for the venue and especially Jackie McNair who was the Villier’s coordinator for the day. To date €5,750 has been raised but the money is still coming in so a final figure is not available.

The raffle (with a total of 21 prizes) was a great success and the main winners were — Trailer of Logs – Philip; €150 Parkmajic voucher – Deirdre Russell; Original painting by Patsy Pomeroy – Pat Hayes, Power Washer – Anne Johnston and hampers were won by Derry Twomey, Maureen Creedon, Mabel Cruz & Seamus Madden. Thank you to all those who donated raffle prizes — too many to mention.

A sincere thank you to all who decorated our churches for the Harvest – they were looking splendid.

Harvest in St Michael’s Church - Pupils of St Michael’s School joined the congregation and performed three songs during the Harvest Eucharist, which was organised and celebrated by the Curate, and the Dean spoke to the children about thankfulness, drawing on her experience of real hunger and poverty in Swaziland. The fruit and vegetables were donated to McGarry House (home to some of society’s most marginalised and socially excluded individuals), St. Patrick’s Vincent de Paul Hostel for men and Thomond House (Women’s Shelter) who were all very grateful for same.

WHIST DRIVES
St. Michael’s Church Hall on Saturday 8th of November @ 8pm
St. Michael’s Church Hall on Saturday 6th December @ 8pm with super Raffle – we welcome your support.

ART COMPETITION
The co-operation of the teaching staff of St. Michael’s NS, to accommodate an Art Competition, where the pupils designed posters for the Autumn Fete was very much appreciated. The Dean and the Curate judged them all. They were on display in the Church for the Harvest Festival and they were on display during the Autumn Fete at Villiers School. Prizes for the winning posters will be awarded later in the term.

OUTREACH IN THE CITY.
The Dean and the Curate visited St. Vincent de Paul’s HQ last month to find out what the local needs were here in Limerick. Their real need is non-perishable food items, and toiletries, for women, men and children. To this end, there is a box in St. Mary’s Cathedral (near the Glentworth Chapel) into which parishioners can place items. Why not buy an extra tube of toothpaste or pasta when you are shopping, to think of those on our door step who are genuinely needy. When full, the box will be delivered to St. Vincent de Paul’s for distribution. Your co-operation would be appreciated.

MEET UP for Separated and/or Divorced People. Join us for coffee and a chat in the Arts and Heritage Centre, Old Kilmurry Church, Castletroy. This will take place on Saturday 29th November and Saturday 27th December from 10.30am to 12 noon.

CATHEDRAL MUSIC – Many thanks to Peter Barley for organising two sessions in the cathedral for Music Leaving Cert students. Over 700 students came from the city schools and from Galway, Middleton and Cork. With a tutorial with piano (Stuart O’Sullivan) and orchestra, the Mozart Piano Concerto No 23 in A Major was expounded in detail, and followed by a full performance of the piece. The benefit for the students for their exams is immense, and we are proud that the cathedral music department is able to reach out to so many schools and to all those budding musicians of the future.
auctioneer Kieron Brislane and his helpers Burton Smith and Christy Sherlock. A great time was had by all, and the auction proceeds, about €300, benefit the new playground in the Adare Recreation and Community Complex.

The church was filled for the Kilmallock Festival, a service again focused on the children and joined by various members from the surrounding community. Afterwards, the adults chatted and ate treats, while the children all played together in the newly refurbished Coote Hall next door to the church.

Harvest in Kilpeacon

The festival in Kilpeacon took place at the usual Sunday service time. This one was a family service, with the children acting out one of the Scripture stories and leading prayers of thanksgiving. The unique feature of Harvest in Kilpeacon is that the Sunday school children decorate the deep window-sills, each one according to a different theme, such as the hedgerow, the sea, farm machinery, and so on. They were truly a delight!

Children in Kilpeacon Church

In the past couple months, the Group has also sent off with good wishes several students who completed their Leaving Cert and are now pursuing further education. We continue to welcome them home whenever they are here, but wish them well in their new endeavours!

We look forward to the following events in the coming months:
11 Nov – Mother’s Union meets in the Rectory
19 Nov – Safeguarding Trust training in Rathkeale
30 Nov – Joint service in Adare; Advent Lessons and Carols, 11.00am
21 Dec – Carol Service, Kilmallock, 12.30pm, followed by Christmas dinner in the Deebert House Hotel for the entire Group at 2.00pm
21 Dec – Carol Service, Adare, 7.00pm
28 Dec – Carol Service, Croom, 11.00am

And we especially look forward to the celebration of the 200th anniversary of St. Nicholas’ School. The celebration will include the launch of a book about the School by parish member Barbara Bingham, entitled, 40,000 Roll Calls Later: The Story of St. Nicholas’ National School. The celebration will be on Friday, 5th December; the exact time and more details are still being worked out. But all past pupils, parents, and parishioners should save the date and plan to join in the festivities!
preacher was Rev’d Jane Galbraith.

Our parishes also celebrated together with our sisters and brothers in the Roman Catholic and Methodist communities at the Community Harvest held in Holy Trinity Rathkeale. The local Roman Catholic Parish Priest, Fr. Phonsie was the preacher. Earlier in the week Rev’d Keith had preached in St. Mary’s Roman Catholic Church at their Harvest Mass. This marks an important moment in the journey for us all in Rathkeale, as we work together to be witnesses to what God has done, is doing and will do in the world through Jesus Christ. We pray that our harvest this year will be part of a growing unity amongst us, a unity which will one day embrace us all in the one Kingdom of God.

**Ardfert Diocese**

**Tralee & Dingle Unions of Parishes**  
**Tralee, Ballymacelligott, Ballyseedy, Dingle, Kilgobbin and Killiney**

Rector: Ven. Sue Watterson  
Archdeacon of Limerick, Ardfert and Aghadoe  
45 Liosdara, Oakpark, Tralee, Co. Kerry  
Tel: 066 719 3416 Mob: 087 689 2025 Email: smwatt1@gmail.com  
Associate Priest: Rev. Jane Galbraith  
Tel: 066 713 0780 Mob: 085 145 0804  
Email: galbraithjane@gmail.com  
Parish Office: St. John’s Parish Centre, Teach an tSolais, Ashe St., Tralee. Co. Kerry  
Tel: 066 712 2245 Email: tralee@ardfert.anglican.org

The School Year got off to a great start, and the children were welcomed into Church last week for a Blessing of their School Bags. Rev Jane reminded the children that each time they carry their bags and lunch boxes, they will be reminded of God’s goodness to them – and his provision for them. Each child was given a ribbon with a bell to tie to their school bag, with a line which read ‘The Lord is my Shepherd’.

Remembrance Sunday is November 9th, and our service will be at 10.45am as usual. Final details have yet to be confirmed but it is hoped that there will be a parade to the church, which will later continue to St. John’s R.C. Church in Castle St, and then on to the newly erected cenotaph in Ballymullen. In the evening there will be a concert in ‘our’ St John’s when the chamber choir Opus ‘96 present a ‘Commemoration of World War 1’ with special guests Oileán and poet Mr Sean Lyons at 8pm. In the second half of the programme Opus ‘96 will sing the Faure Requiem. Tickets €10.

A forward notice to December, the Children’s service will be on Sunday 14th December at 10.45am - in Church - The children will perform their play and Sunday Cub and BB will also be involved. Archdeacon Sue has heard that there will be a special visitor in the hall after the service!

Congratulations to Rev Jane on her appointment as Rector to the Roscrea Union of Parishes. Jane has worked hard in her twelve months here and has built up good relationships in the hospitals as well as in the congregations. Her involvement in BB and in the school has also been greatly appreciated. Jane you will be missed, not least by the people of Kilgobbin, we wish you every blessing for the future in your ‘own’ parish.

**Killarney and Aghadoe Union of Parishes**

Killarney, Aghadoe and Muckross  
Priest-in-Charge: Rev. Simon J Lumby  
The Rectory, Rookery Road, Ballycasheen, Killarney, Co. Kerry.  
Tel: 064 66 31832 Mob:086-8703997  
Email: killarney@ardfert.anglican.org

**MORE SONGS ABOUT BUILDINGS AND ...**

The work on the South Transept has paid dividends already with a marked improvement in the level of dampness remaining in the wall. Apart from the usual thank you to Andy for being so tenacious in ensuring the critical aspects of the work were completed to satisfaction, we also owe him a debt of gratitude for securing much needed funding. Thanks to Andy’s resilience, Kerry Co. Council and the Dept. of the Environment issued us a cheque for €9,750, which amounts to a sizable proportion of the cost.

**ST MARY’S ON THE INTERWEB!**

At the Select Vestry meeting in late October agreement was reached to go ahead with a proposal to develop a new website, coupled with a re-branding exercise. It is hoped that this will see increased numbers of visitors to the church in the coming years.
ALL SAINTS
On Saturday November 1st we will have a special Evening Service in St Mary’s. The significance of All Saints in a Christian context is that it celebrates the spiritual linkage between the living and the dead. Inevitably there’s a pre-Christian linkage to the ancient Irish festival of Samhain. This marked the end of Harvest and was a mid-way point between the autumn equinox and the winter solstice. It was the time of the year to bring cattle down from summer pastures and animals were slaughtered and salted for winter use. But whatever about the practical traditions, the importance of the spiritual has, to a degree, been swallowed up by the modern “trick-or-treat” mentality. This Evening Service of Worship is our attempt to return to what’s really important.

OTHER SERVICES
On Sunday November 9th we remember those who died in a special Service of the Word for Remembrance Sunday. Andrew Eadie will preach and it is hoped that all parishioners make the effort to attend. On Sunday 30th November Lynda will have the Sunday School children highly involved in the Jesse Tree Service. Jesse was the father of David (composer of the Psalms) and therefore the root of the tree culminating in the birth of the Messiah. First mentioned in the Book of Isaiah it prophesises the birth of Jesus: “And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots”.

Kilcolman Union of Parishes
Kilcolman, Kiltallagh and Glenbeigh
Priest-in-Charge: Rev. Máirt Hanley
20 Knocklyne, Sunhill, Killorglin, Co. Kerry.
Mob: 087–619 4733
Email: rev.hanley@gmail.com
Parish Website: www.kilcolman.ardfert.anglican.org

So a busy month over, we have had the sale of work, a visit from some four legged friends and a German service for the Lutheran community, this is what some of our parishioners thought:- first Eric Champ,

Our Kilcolman Union and Kiltallagh School annual Sale of Work was held in the Killorglin CYMS Hall again this year on Wed 15th October. Though the day started wet & windy and the forecast was not favourable, it improved and dried up for us. The teachers and Pupils who normally helped were not able to attend this year but thankfully the doors opened at 12 noon. Our thanks go also to all those who provided the stock, the bakers and makers with whom it would not work. This year will generate an income similar to last year or maybe even a little more. Could this be another sign of national recovery? Should we tell Enda? Maybe not. However the Parish Select Vestry and our Treasurer are very thankful for this support and wishes to thank everyone who had anything at all to do with creating this result. It is a major income generator for the Parish as well as being a super social event in town.

‘OH YE OF LITTLE FAITH’, by Shauna Moroney
On Sunday 5th October, in conjunction with St Francis’ Day, we held a pet service much to Rev Mairt’s apprehension beforehand. He had visions of mayhem in the church. But us Sunday School teachers were very confident everything would be fine! There was a turnout of between 8 – 10 dogs from an Alsatian to a basset hound, from whippet to springer and cocker spaniels and various in between. The dogs were very very well behaved with only one bark (truly only one bark) in the middle of the service. Rev Mairt began his sermon ‘Oh ye of Little Faith’ because he was humbled to say he did fall into that category today. He was very pleasantly surprised (and relieved) how well behaved and calm all the dogs were. Just in case Rev Mairt upset the calm and tranquillity during the service, he decided to stay well clear until he realised that all was good and then at the end, he came down amongst the pets to give all a blessing. All pets, children, parishioners and a relieved reverend enjoyed the service.

LUTHERAN SERVICE, by Matt Murphy
The Lutheran Service for October was held in St Michaels Church of Ireland, Killorglin on Saturday 18th at 1.p.m. The service was conducted by Dr. Gesa Thiessan and assisted by Barbara Irgang-Buckley in leading the congregation with the selected Hymns. This year the congregation was rather small in numbers (12) due to some illness and a few apologies for being unable to attend. After the service we enjoyed the traditional ‘kaffe und kuchen’ in the Church Hall with the atmosphere of a small family occasional get-together.

Kenmare & Dromod Union of Parishes
Kenmare, Sneem, Waterville and Valentia
Priest-in-Charge: Rev. Michael Cavanagh
St Patrick’s Rectory, Kenmare, Co. Kerry.
Tel: 064 664 8566 Mob: 087 1606312
Email: michael.cavanagh@eiroom.net

The whole Christian community in Kenmare shared in the Celebrations of the 150th Anniversary of the building of Kenmare’s Roman Catholic Holy Cross Church. A superbly organised programme of events included a number of historic walks around the parish, a celebration Mass, the publication of a beautiful hardback book and many others; the culmination of the year will be an ecumenical hymn service on Advent Sunday, when the singing will be led by a number of the choirs participating in the Kenmare Choral Festival. We are very blessed that relations between the different denominations in the town have always been extremely friendly and mutually supportive, and we pray that this will continue for the next 150 years and beyond.

The church harvest festivals were extremely well attended, the churches especially well decorated with autumn produce, including many bunches of Kenmare-grown grapes – it is clear that this part of the world has the potential to become the wine capital of Europe’s Westernmost Kingdom. Special harvest banners were produced by both the Kids’ Shed and Praise n’ Play to finish off the decorations. As a response to the commercialised tattfest called Halloween, a joint family Christians Together service on the 31st celebrated Light in music, play, drama and song, reinforcing the message that we have no need to live in darkness – and that light is not only much more fun, but still shines even when the clocks have gone back for Wintertime.
Methodist News
Adare & Ballingrane Methodist Circuit
Minister: Rev Bill Olmsted
Methodist Manse, Rathkeale Rd,
Adare, Co. Limerick.
Tel: 061 396236
Email: william@olmsteds.net

While we did not get our material in for last month it was a busy one. Our Sunday school session in Adare began and we had a service of blessing for the three teacher for this year. We had several visitors from the US and Canada at our service in both Churches. One of our members got married in Mountmellick and several of us went to County Laois for the service.

Most of all we had many of us who went to the Ploughing Championships to help in the Methodist Church in Ireland booth. They served through the 3 days to help hand out free tea, coffee and biscuits.

Another highlight was a party celebrating the 90th birthday of our Ballingrane organist, Cathleen Connaly, seen here with some young friends.

It has also been the season for Harvests – 2 in Adare, one Sunday and one Monday. In Adare the Community Choir sang and almost €500 was raised in an auction of the decorations. In Ballingrane we also had 2 services and raised almost €600. All proceeds go to world hunger relief.

Our Methodist Women held there first meeting with 22 attending the meeting with the programme being an introduction to our new minister!

Looking ahead our President – Rev Peter Murray - will be visiting our circuit on November 9th.
It has been a busy start to our Autumn. We hope God continues to keep us busy for Him.

Christ Church Limerick,
united Presbyterian & Methodist
and Christ Church Shannon, joint
Methodist, Presbyterian and Church of Ireland
Minister: Rev Vicki Lynch
The Manse, 15 Aylesbury,
Clonmacken, Limerick.
Tel: 061 325325 Mobile: 086 8292073
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‘Of One Heart’
A CHRISTIAN GATHERING
Marking Limerick’s Year as City of Culture
The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they had everything in common.
Acts 4:32

A few months ago some of us got together and thought about a Christian gathering that would be part of our City of Culture year. An evening of worship that would perhaps remind us and others that Christian culture is very much part of this city; very much part of this land. Limerick is a City of Churches we know, but now there are so many different expressions of Christian community and fellowship thriving here and we wanted to be able to worship together.

This gathering was never meant to be in Christ Church or even in a church but that was the way it worked out. Some wondered if it would be big enough but one of our group pointed out that it is rather wonderful to have a venue well filled and very nice to be in a situation where people have to go searching for more chairs; and that was the way it was! Certainly Christ Church was blessed, and crowded in the best possible way.

Sharing the sign of peace was ‘awesome’ as one young person said, as people, despite the squeeze, moved from one end of the church to the other to shake hands and share names, and yet we still managed complete silence as we enjoyed the aftermath of greeting each other in the name of Christ.

During these last months of preparation there was one particular meeting that really stands out in my mind. We sat together, Christians of quite different traditions, talking, sharing, getting to know each other and simply enjoying just that. There was a wonderful feeling in the room. Afterwards we all spoke about it to each other. We felt we really had experienced that sense of one heart and mind, working together to bring about the night; no one claiming it for themselves but holding all ideas and suggestions in common – giving and receiving freely and with genuine hope.

MEET UP
Are you Separated or Divorced?
Join us for coffee and a chat in the Arts and Heritage Centre, Old Kilmurray Church, Castletroy.
Last Saturday of November & December: 10.30am – 12 noon
We were very thankful and delighted that Fr Peter McVerry agreed to come and speak to us. I’m sure many know that in the 1970s Peter McVerry as a young priest went to live in a disadvantaged part of Dublin. He described the experience as a complete culture shock which changed his attitudes, revealed his own prejudices, opened his eyes to what is happening in our very divided society and called into question his understanding of God. A ministry intended to last a few years became a lifelong commitment. And the Peter McVerry Trust is a testimony to that ministry.

I really believed that when Peter spoke at the service we received his message with one heart, and hopefully it further inspired us to embrace the same challenge that all followers of Christ have accepted since the beginning; to put faith into action; to live in solidarity with the poor and the marginalised and with each other; and encouraged us to embrace and accept the richest offer; that we can become truly a blessing to each other and a blessing to the people and communities of our city.

Our Of One Heart gathering was a wonderful evening with great music, spirited singing, beautiful prayer and real warmth. God is good.

Killarney, Kenmare & Millstreet Methodist Churches
[part of the Cork South & Kerry Circuit]
Minister: Rev. Laurence Graham
10 Flesk Grove, Killarney, Co. Kerry.
Tel: 064 6631613 Mob: 087-2745044
Email: laurence.graham@irishmethodist.org
Web site: www.irishmethodist.org/kerry

KILLARNEY Methodist Church East Avenue, Killarney
Sunday Services. 9 and 11am (inc. Children’s’ programme at 11)
Prayer meetings Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 8am – 9.00am
Bible Study Meetings Wednesday 8pm (Term Time)
Friday 10am Drop in for coffee each Friday 11am – 12pm
Parent and Toddler Group. Tuesdays 10 a.m. – 12 pm
Women’s Fellowship 2nd Monday of the month 10.30 am
KENMARE “Gateway” Gortamullin, Killarney Road, Kenmare.
Sunday Service. 11a.m. (preceded by coffee, inc. Children’s’ programme)
Weekly Bible Study/Fellowship meetings. Tuesdays at 8pm,
Wednesdays at 10am
Drop in for coffee each Wednesday 11am – 12.00 p.m.

MILLSTREET
Services every Sunday evening at 6.30 p.m. Meeting in “The Lighthouse,
Town Square, Millstreet.
Bible study every Tuesday at 8 p.m. in “The Lighthouse” Centre on the
town square. Entitled “Step by Step Bible Group” this group is open to
anyone who wants to know more about the Bible and grow in their faith.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
• Gneeveguilla Home Fellowship group on 5th and 19th November
  at 8pm.
• Our meetings in Dingle continue at the following times – Gairdin
  Mhuire Day Care Centre, Green Street, Dingle on the 30th November
  at 7.30pm and at 14 Cluain Na Fiadh, Deerpark. Lispole on the 27th
  November at 7.30pm and BeenBawn Cottage, Binn Ban, Dingle on
  the 13th November at 7.30pm.
• In Castlesidland everyone is welcome to join us on the last Monday
  of each month meeting at 7.30pm in An Riocht, Craigeens, Castlesidsl.
  This is the health and leisure club located beside the athletics track
  in Castlesidland. Our November meeting is scheduled for Monday
  24th November.
• “No Biscuits” ladies lifestyle group meet on the last Monday of
  the month. The November meeting is scheduled for Monday 24th at
  11am.
• Men’s Breakfast meeting in Killarney at 8.30am on Saturday 29th
  November.

Laurence is on sabbatical until the end of January. This will be a time
of reading, prayer and reflection as well as a chance to walk some of
the Kerry hills. Also for two and a half weeks of this time he will lead a
mission trip in Haiti. The building element of this trip will be to refurbish
an accommodation block at a Methodist teacher training college in
Port-au-Prince. The team also hopes to take some children’s holiday
Bible clubs in various churches and there are some medical people on
the team who will be running short term clinics. The team will also be
accompanied by Rev. Peter Murray, the President of the Methodist
Church in Ireland and he along with Laurence will lead some seminars
for preachers in Haiti. These seminars will also afford us an opportunity
 to learn about the mission of our sisters and brothers in Haiti. We have
much to learn from the folks in this church which is growing rapidly even
in the midst of difficult circumstances. Please pray for Laurence and
family during the sabbatical and also for all of the team of people who
will be continuing the work of our churches during this period.

North Tipperary Methodist Circuit
Minister: Rev Shannon DeLaureal
The Manse, The Mall, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary
Tel: 0505 21670 Mobile: 085 1920 808
Email: Shannon.deлаureal@irishmethodist.org

November, for me, is always a month of remembrance. As the Church, we remember our “Saints” on or near the first Sunday; we remember and give thanks for those Christians who have gone before us, who have shaped and inspired us, and who now rest from their labours. Two very close family members of mine passed away during the month of November, years ago, and years apart from each other. However, I find many days in November are spent remembering them and reflecting on how their witness, faith, and life continue to impact me today.

And as an American, on the 11th November (Armistice Day) I join you in remembering all the veterans (American and Irish) who currently serve or have served in the armed forces and give thanks for their loyal service. Our country’s servicemen and women and their families intimately know the personal high cost of freedom.

As we near the end of November, it’s good for us to remember and to anticipate hearing and re-enacting the church’s salvation story of how God sent His Light into the world’s darkness. Let us be people who remember . . . and give thanks to God Almighty.
SUNDAY SERVICES
You’re invited to the “Remembering” place on Sundays:

10:15am – Borrisokane
11:30am – Cloughjordan on 1st & 2nd Sundays
10:15am – Cloughjordan on 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays
11:45am – Roscrea
7:00pm – Shinrone

WEEKLY BIBLE-STUDY
Adults are invited to attend a weekly ecumenical Bible-study with Rev. Shannon on Mondays at 8pm in the Borrisokane Vestry and Thursdays at 8pm in the Roscrea Vestry. All are welcome.

ST. CRONAN’S BOYS’ BRIGADE (ROSCREA)
The company has resumed and here are upcoming meeting dates in the Methodist Hall at 7pm.
14th November – Crafts and games
28th November – Family Table Quiz
BB caters for boys between Senior Infants and 6th class. New members are welcome.

ST. CRONAN’S YOUTH CLUB (ROSocreA)
Our joint CoI/Methodist youth club will meet on Saturday 22nd November at 8p in the Methodist Church Hall for a coffee evening with entertainment. Contact Rosie Gee at 086 1973311 if you have any queries. Cost is €2/head/night.

Restoring Relationships
by Sarah Bevan

Sarah is one of the counsellors working on behalf of the Church of Ireland Marriage Council. She, together with the other counsellors, offers both marriage preparation courses and couple counselling. Details can be found on the Church of Ireland Marriage website: www.towardsmarriage.com

In forming an attachment with a partner we all hope and even long to experience a happy, secure and loving relationship. Unfortunately for many however this is not what is ultimately experienced. The relationship which seemed to hold so much promise at the beginning ends up a source of disappointment, hurt, confusion and misunderstanding.

It often seems a powerless place to be: stuck we can’t see how to change the familiar patterns so toxic to our relationship. “If only my partner would change, things would be better” many lament. Yet so much power to change does lie with us. We have 50% of the relationship we share together.

Good communication is key. A conscious response instead of a reflex knee jerk reaction is needed. Taking responsibility and making amends for what we can work out we may have done to cause hurt to our partner or for what our partner challenges us with is important. Even if there is only a part, a grain of truth in what we can identify with that is being communicated to us, take ownership of and responsibility for that. Our partner is much more likely to feel heard, understood and responded to in a way that allows the emotional intensity to be reduced.

If we ourselves need to challenge our partner then how we communicate is the key to our success. Complain not criticise, if possible. Owning how we feel and what we need. Using “I” statements is potentially far more effective than the more commonly used “you are; you always; you never”. Owning how we feel and what we need in this way leaves our partner more likely to stay connected to us and hear us rather than either withdraw from us or attack back in defensiveness. A potentially destructive episode can be avoided and our partner may actually be motivated to do things differently in the future.

Most of us have a habit of challenging our partner about what they don’t do enough of for us or do to irritate or annoy us. We don’t however in equal measure share our appreciation of those things our partner does that we feel good about. Challenging ourselves to be mindful of opportunities to express our appreciation is a useful way of opening our minds to the positive experiences we have in our relationship. It also potentially reinforces those things that feel good; as our partner hears us affirm them he/she is more likely to repeat them.

Doing little things we know our partner appreciates is also useful; we do for them what they feel good about and loved because of and so connection is enhanced.

Making regular space to share some quality time together is also very important. Most couples start out spending time having fun together and this can wane over time as life’s demands take over. Going out for a meal, going for a walk, doing some gardening, playing a sport, having a weekend away, whatever it is as a couple that you enjoy and allows you to connect in each other’s company is very relationship enhancing.

Perhaps it is consciousness that counts after all, the more we practise new ways of moving in our relationship the more we reinforce them and over time it comes more naturally. With all of this we influence ourselves and model something healthy for our partner. In essence we ultimately facilitate the restoration of our own relationship.

SPECIAL EVENTS AND SERVICES

MCI Child Protection & Sunday School Training – everyone who works with children/youth under the age of 18 in the church is encouraged to attend this training on Saturday 15th November from 2–6pm in Portlaoise Methodist Church. Please contact Rev. Shannon or the Child Protection Officer in your church if you can attend.

United Service on Sunday 23rd November – Everyone is invited to a United Service at 7pm at St. Cronan’s, Church Street, honouring Father Tom Corbett and his ministry. Reception will be in the Methodist Church Hall.

Preachers’ Meeting and Service on Wednesday 26th November – All lay and ordained preachers on the surrounding Methodist circuits and groups of Col parishes are invited to a Preachers’ Meeting with Full Communion Service at Shrinone Methodist at 8pm. Spouses are invited.

November blessings to you and yours,
Rev. Shannon DeLaureal

God bless
Thora Hird told this story on a BBC1 programme ‘Praise Be’ about a little girl saying her prayers: “God bless Mummy, God bless Daddy, God bless my brother Tommy, God bless Granny – and God look after yourself; ’cos if anything happens to you, we’ve had it!”
Jesus is coming! Christmas is near! ADVENT is the time before Christmas when we celebrate the arrival of JESUS, God’s son, our Saviour.

We remember God’s promise to the world, God’s message to Mary, God’s love for us and God’s promise come true.

Mouse Makes

Countdown to Christmas by colouring in one candle each Sunday in ADVENT

The Promise
Read Isaiah 9:6-7

The Message
Read Luke 1:26-38

The Gift
Read John 3:16

The Saviour
Read Luke 2:1-20

ADVENT

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North Circular Road, Limerick
Telephone: (061) 451447 / 451400 Fax: (061) 455333
E-mail: secretary@villiers-school.com Web Site: www.villiers-school.com

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- Modern facilities.
- Comprehensive Transition Year Programme with wide ranging opportunities.
- Varied and multi-cultural society.
- Protestant ethos.
- Reasonable fees.
- Grant assistance, bursaries & scholarships available.

Bursaries & Discounts
In addition to the SEC and other grants available Villiers School offer the following assistance with fees:
Hannah Villiers Bursary, Governors’ Bursary, Villiers School Bursary. Sibling Discounts.

Scholarships
Four Academic Scholarships, currently €1,000 per year, are awarded based on the results of the scholarships exams set each May for students entering Form I. These are awarded to the best Day Girl, Day Boy, Boarding Girl and Boarding Boy.

Prompt Payment Draw
All families who pay before a specified date each semester are entered into a draw for a refund of their net fees for that semester.
Please contact our School Bursar for specific information on all our grants, scholarships and bursaries. All enquiries are dealt with in the strictest of confidence - bursar@villiers-school.com