Every leaf speaks bliss to me, fluttering from the autumn tree…

Emily Brontë
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www.whs.ie
Following the celebrations of Harvest and its theme of thanksgiving, the month of November introduces a Season of Remembrance. The first of November begins with the Festival of All Saints’ Day, the day we celebrate our oneness with the whole church, the body of saints, throughout the world and down the centuries. Different from our individual remembrance of individual saints like St Patrick or St Matthew, heroes of our faith, All Saints’ Day focuses on the ordinary individual, people who have lived often very ordinary lives and yet were faithful.

In some Christian calendars the 2nd November is All Souls’ Day or the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed, when we remember those who have died, especially those we have known. In the Anglican Calendar the 3rd November is often a day of commemoration of Richard Hooker (1554-1600) the great Anglican theologian and writer who did so much to shape Anglicanism in the 16th century, after the Reformation.

For so many November is dominated by Remembrance Sunday, when churches remember those who died in two World Wars. The First World War in particular had a devastating effect on most Church of Ireland parishes and congregations, as witnessed by the long lists of mainly young men and some women who were killed over a few short years.

Next year (2016) that Remembrance will be set in the context of a wider remembrance of those who died for the cause of Irish freedom in 1916 and on other occasions.

Why remember? Shouldn’t we just let the past fade away? Why remember saints? Wouldn’t we be better celebrating the living?

In church we don’t remember in order to celebrate the past – we remember for the sake of today and to shape our future. Remembering, or more accurately, commemorating, brings the examples of the past before our eyes so that we can learn from the heroes of our faith – the saints – and great leaders and thinkers. It reminds us of the hosts of very ordinary people who, in very different times and contexts, were faithful in their own day and generation.

We remember war and the fight for freedom and for a better world, in order that we can appreciate the human cost in suffering and lives lost, and so value the freedoms and benefits we enjoy today in community and society.

November is a month to pause, to reflect, to remember and commemorate – to learn from our past for the sake of today and tomorrow.

With all good wishes.
Sincerely,
+Kenneth
The Rt. Revd. Kenneth Kearon
Bishop of Limerick & Killaloe
Rian Roe, Adare, Co. Limerick
Tel: + 353 (0)61 396244
Email: bishop@limerick.anglican.org

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**Rev Jane Galbraith appointed a Canon**

Bishop Kenneth is delighted to announce the appointment of the Rev Jane Galbraith to the Joint Chapter of the United Dioceses of Limerick & Killaloe. Canon Galbraith’s installation will take place later.

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**Diocesan Calendar**

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

Tue 3rd Nov, 8pm Mission Evening, Woodlands Hotel, Adare
Thu 4th Nov, 2-5pm Spiritual Tourism Conference, Killarney Park Hotel. Bookings: rector@churchofthesloes.ie
Fri 6th – Sun 8th Nov UDYC Junior Weekend, Castledaly Camp & Conference Centre, Athlone, Co. Westmeath (10-13)
Fri 6th Nov, 7.30pm Ardrahan Church fundraising concert with Marine Institute Choir, Labane Church Choir, Mavee Cairney, Acaffles & Eileen Fleming-Gaie
Mon 9th Nov, 8pm Mothers’ Union – Gillian Kingston on the Camino Walk in Spain, Aghancon Hall
Fri 13th – Sat 14th Nov UDYC Streetreach Limerick, St Mary’s Cathedral, Limerick City (14+)
Sat 14th Nov, 8.30pm Whist Drive, Shinrone
Sat 21st Nov, 11am–2pm Limerick City Parish Christmas Fair, Villiers School, Limerick
Sat 21st Nov Mothers’ Union Diocesan Trustee & Council Meetings
Sat 28th Nov Clery & Parish Treasurers Seminar, Woodlands House Hotel, Adare
Thu 3rd Dec, 7.30pm Diocesan Council, Woodlands Hotel, Adare
Thu 3rd Dec, 11am Mothers’ Union Carol Singing, Clover Lodge Nursing Home, Shinrone
Sat 5th Dec UDYC Annual Christmas Dinner Dance, Woodlands House Hotel, Adare (FY & upwards)
Editorial - Living simply

We need to live more simply. If we don’t we are lost – as individuals, as a society and as a species. Our civilisation’s addiction to economic growth and ever greater consumption is destroying God’s Earth and making the poor poorer – unless this changes our children’s children will face a dire future. We need to learn to trust that God our Father in heaven, who knows what we need, will faithfully give us enough, so that we can stop grasping for more.

‘Consider the lilies of the field’, says Jesus, ‘how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field... will he not much more clothe you – you of little faith?’

Jesus is not saying we should not work for our living, he is telling us we must get our priorities right. ‘Strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness’, he says. God’s righteousness is found in his unconditional love for all his creation, including each one of us. To be righteous ourselves we must imitate God’s love. Jesus has told us to love God, and love our neighbour as ourselves. This surely is what it means to ‘strive first for the kingdom of God’. We must strive – that is, work hard – to show our love by replacing over-consumption with self-sacrifice, greed with generosity, wastefulness with a spirit of sharing. This is about not simply giving things up, but giving things away. It is a way of loving which moves away from what I want, to what God’s world needs.

God knows what we need and God works in and through us to provide it for one another. If we join together to show our love for one another like this, God will give each and every one of us enough – though maybe somewhat less than our foolish desires. Let us live simply, so that others may simply live.

God bless, Joc Sanders

Honorary Degree for Bishop Kenneth

On 20th October 2015 Bishop Kenneth Kearon was conferred with an honorary degree at the annual convocation of Berkley, the Episcopal Seminary at Yale, in New Haven, Connecticut, USA. He will also deliver the annual Pitt Lecture. We hope to have a report and a photo in the December/January issue of Newslink.

Five Marks of Mission

The Five Marks of Mission are an important statement on mission which expresses the Anglican Communion’s common commitment to, and understanding of, God’s holistic/integral mission:

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
3. To respond to human need by loving service
4. To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth

Newslink

Newslink is the diocesan magazine for the United Diocese of Limerick, Killaloe & Ardfoirt, which also includes the historic dioceses of Aghadoe, Clonfert, Emly, Kilfenora and Kilmacduagh. For further information about the United Dioceses see the diocesan web site: www.limerick.anglican.org.
Newslink also covers Methodist Midlands and Southern District Circuits within the boundaries of the Church of Ireland Diocese.

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.

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.

Contact details:
Joc Sanders
Turravagaun, Dromineer,
Nenagh, Co Tipperary
Tel: 067 24987 Mob: 087 699 6775
Email: newslink@limerick.anglican.org

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Deadlines

The next issue will be for December 2015 & January 2016, published for Sunday 6th December.

All material must reach the Editor by Friday 20th November 2015 before 6.00pm, by email only, unless otherwise agreed.

Late material cannot be guaranteed insertion.

NEWSLINK ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR 2015
(unchanged from 2014, for 10 issues, new subscriptions pro rata)
Delivered to pew in bulk €37
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Collected from printer in bulk €30
(contact: Peter Schutz, Ardhu, Castletroy, Co. Limerick,
Email: peterrschuetz@gmail.com)

NEWSLINK ADVERTISING RATES FOR 2015
(unchanged from 2013)

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Prayer at Remembrance Time

Loving Father,
When we watch the news or read the papers, we can feel overwhelmed by the tragedy of lives lost or affected by war or terrorism. And our Remembrance Day Services and anniversaries just seem to emphasize that continuing suffering. Help us Lord, to switch our focus from what self-centred people do in their pursuit of power, to what you have done in Jesus, who gave his life so that the brokenness of creation might be restored to wholeness - and that we might have your peace in our hearts, even while the world rages about us. Help us to remember the important thing – to put our trust in Jesus, your Son.
In his name, we pray. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

The Five Finger Prayer

Before you eat your main meal, count off your fingers, giving thanks for all those who together brought the food to your table:
1. God the giver of life
2. farmers who brought the harvest from land or sea
3. food processors who added variety and longevity
4. distributors and retailers who made it available
5. the person in your household who shopped for and prepared the food

A Sonnet for St Luke

His gospel is itself a living creature
A ground and glory round the throne of God,
Where earth and heaven breathe through human nature
And One upon the throne sees it is good.
Luke is the living pillar of our healing,
A lowly ox, the servant of the four,
We turn his page to find his face revealing
The wonder, and the welcome of the poor.
He breathes good news to all who bear a burden
Good news to all who turn and try again,
The meek rejoice and prodigals find pardon,
A lost thief reaches paradise through pain,
The voiceless find their voice in every word
And, with Our Lady, magnify Our Lord.


Letter from OPOS

Dear Editor, I am writing to Newslink to ask if parishes in Co. Offaly who are making plans to support charities over Christmas would remember us please. We offer financial support not only to families who have suffered bereavement but also where a relationship has broken down. Any contributions we receive go straight to where they are needed as our overheads are virtually nil. During the boom times we were able to give very generous grants but since those days are gone, we have had to make severe cutbacks (as have many charities – a hidden consequence) and to try and manage our finances responsibly. Thankfully, we were warned in time that we should spread our finances more broadly, which we did, but if things keep going as they are, we won’t be able to survive without more help. The grants we provide, while not huge, are comparable with other voluntary sources. May I take this opportunity to thank those parishes that have supported us in the past and hope they will continue to find some way of continuing to do so?

Yours etc., Ruth Gill, Secretary/Treasurer
SURPRISE, SURPRISE, the vista from the pew has changed radically. St Brendan’s, Birr, is being painted preparatory to celebrating our bicentenary in 2016. Health and Safety require a total scaffolding so there is no possibility of continuing to worship in it while work is in progress. We are now worshiping in the Methodist Church. Arranging to do so has been a most wholesome experience of itself.

A small group of lay and clerical persons from both congregations met to plan what would happen. From the beginning we were made to feel most welcome by our Methodist hosts. We were to be much more than just greatly honoured guests. We were to be family for as long as we were with them. So it wasn’t to be a question of just using the premises at a convenient time. Nor was it to be the Church of Ireland joining in Methodist worship.

COMMON WORSHIP
It was to be, and it is, common worship Sunday by Sunday, in the Methodist tradition one week and in the Anglican tradition the next covering both eucharistic and non-eucharistic worship. In the context of this degree of graciousness any possible difficulties simply disappeared. On any particular Sunday the leadership of everything from meeting and greeting to reading and preaching and celebrating and stewarding and serving and playing resides with those in whose tradition the worship is. Envelopes were created to ensure that no one lost out financially in the operation. It is the most elegant exercise of parity of esteem and practice.

As I write we have had two Sundays of this experience. What have we learned? A very great deal. The pews in both churches are equally uncomfortable! Together both worshipping communities only just begin to make up a decent congregation and that would still be the case if the largest Anglican numbers managed to be present on each Sunday. The hymn singing does express the sustained joy and exuberance of the Christian Gospel. The Anglican eucharist loses nothing from being celebrated in a more informal atmosphere, deep reverence still surrounds the communion. There are varieties of Word-centred services. The Methodist premises with Church, Vestry, Hall, Toilets and well equipped Kitchen, all en suite, are much more conducive to creating fellowship than the Church of Ireland plant. We are truly welcome and childhood memories of attendance at Sunshine Corner give to some a strong sense of being comfortably at home. And the Harvest Home is going to be a shared thanksgiving.

REJOICE IN TOGETHERNESS
In the context of the themes of recent Views from the Pew, how does this experience relate? Well as a welcoming Church it tells us just how easy it is to be welcoming when grace abounds. As the Friends of a Prophetic Jesus it tells us that the word made flesh can and does happen when we are obedient disciples. Could things go wrong? Yes, they could but does that matter? No it doesn’t so long as we learn. Failure is one of the great teachers in all of life. So we are free to try doing things differently. The things that we normally do can be done as well and even better in a new environment. Being faithful is a grand adventure and quite often it is good to let go and let God. Methodists and Anglicans are part of the same faith family. Let’s rejoice in our togetherness and celebrate it in all our diversities as we prepare to wait in joyful hope for the one who is to come.

Advent Advent-ure next time!

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Diocesan Organisations

Girls Friendly Society

BIRR BRANCH
Birr branch continue to work on their crafts and bible study. The junior girls are doing crafts: necklace, button picture and earmuffs, depending on their ages; the senior girls are working on their bible study. After Christmas the groups will swap over.

On Tuesday 13th October girls prepared for their Opening Service which is on Sunday 18th October at the Methodist Church. The girls took part in the readings, prayers and other jobs to do during the service such as carrying the GFS banner, collecting and assisting with communion. Thanks to all the girls who took part in the lovely service.

CLOUGHJORDAN BRANCH
While some girls were working on their crafts other girls were busy with badge work. This year’s badges are: Dance, Discovery & Science, and GFS Knowledge. Crafts were completed for Hallowe’en with great excitement and enthusiasm. It’s wonderful to see the girls helping each other with these seasonal crafts and enjoying such friendship and fun.

NENAGH BRANCH
On Saturday, 17th October girls helped to decorate St. Mary’s Church for the Harvest Service which was on Sunday, 18th October. The GFS window was decorated on the theme of Owls and girls had great fun making their owls and bats.

Upcoming meetings will be held on Saturday, 14th November and 5th December.

Please contact Rose Langley 087-6758896 for more details.

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Nenagh GFS and their beautifully decorated window
UPCOMING EVENTS

First Aid Training - 2nd night of Part one of course was on Wednesday, 21st October in Oxmantown School, Model School Rd, Birr. Date for Part 2 of course is to be confirmed.

Teenage Night hosted by Roscrea Branch took place in the Methodist Hall on Wednesday, 28th – full details next month.

Diocesan Council Meeting will take place in the Rectory, Birr on Thursday, 12th November at 8 pm. This is the first meeting for our new officers so we hope everyone will be there to support them in their new roles in GFS. We wish Norma Jean Carney, President; Michelle Armitage, Secretary and Linda Gill, Treasurer, every success and support for the next 3 years.

ROSCEA BRANCH

Registration night was held on Friday, 2nd October. As members attend 8 different schools we commenced the year with ice-breaker/ getting to know each other games.

On Friday, 9th October Bible Study syllabus began and, for the final 40 minutes, there was a Yoga Class with Siobhan O'Leary, Yoga Teacher, from Nenagh. Leaders also took part. Everyone departed GFS refreshed and ready for the week-end.

Tara St Leger has joined as junior leader as part of her Gaisce President's Award. Rev. Jane Galbraith is assisting Tara to choose action songs for the girls to perform. Their first choice was from the new Hymn Book and the girls loved it.

Teenage Night takes place in the Methodist Hall on Wednesday 28th October 7-9 pm. This year Roscrea branch is hosting a talk on Cyber Bullying, followed by refreshments. Teenagers from all branches in the Diocese are invited and all are welcome to bring a friend.

Rev. Jane Galbraith has come to the rescue with regard to the storage of Art & Craft supplies. This had become a dilemma when the branch had to vacate the Temperance Hall. She has very kindly allowed the storage of boxes in the Rectory and for this we are extremely grateful.

GFS branch meetings will take place in St Cronin’s National School on Friday 6th, 13th, 20th November & 4th December. Time: 7.00 -8.30 pm. New members Age 4 plus always welcome. Enquiries please phone Karen St Leger, Branch Leader, 0872302791.

Diocesan Leader First-Aid Training Course with Ollie Hayes, Occupational First Aid Instructor.

The first of two nights training commenced on Wednesday 14th October in Oxmantown School, Birr. The training covers basic first aid, AED (Defibrillator), CPR and adult & child choking. This is a brilliant hands-on course with certification which is valid for two years.

Thank you to Betty Delahunt, Diocesan Training Secretary, for organising this important training for leaders, helpers and friends of GFS.

ROSCEA BOYS' BRIGADE

Roscrea BB is back in action after our summer break. We are pleased to welcome many new members once again this year, and wish our recent graduates well on their journey through secondary school. We enjoyed a great evening recently in the company of Cloughjordan Circus Club, where we all got involved in trying out some circus skills such as juggling, uni-cycling and the like!! Our Junior section members are looking forward to linking up with many other BB members from the Midlands region on Oct 16th, for an evening of fun at Portlaoise Roll ’n Bowl. We also have a large group of boys attending an open day at the Garda College in Templemore during the mid term break. Thanks once again to all the leaders and parents who help make it happen.

 Mothers' Union

WITH SYMPATHY

It was with great sadness we heard of the passing of Joan Miller just ten days ago. Joan had served on many committees in Mothers’ Union, both at Branch level and on Diocesan Trustee and Diocesan Council. We shall miss her most helpful ways and her cheerful smile. Our sympathies to her daughters and her extended family on their loss and we will remember them in our prayers.

Limerick City and Askeaton branches were guests of Adare branch for the opening service of Holy Communion in St. Nicholas which was celebrated by the rector, Rev. Liz Beazley. The inspiring address was given by Rev. Alison Seymour Wheatley, Rector of Templemore. We look forward to joining with our neighbouring branches again later in October for a Harvest Supper hosted by members in Limerick. This will be a fund-raiser for the work of Mothers’ Union Worldwide and we in Limerick also look forward to our annual Afternoon Tea Party for Indoor and former members in November.

Members have been saddened by the death of our Indoor Member Berta Callender who was a member of Limerick Branch for many years and we offer our sympathy to her daughter Joyce (Bond) and sons Frank and Alan and their families.

“A Time for Everything” was the title of the Young Women’s mini week-end on 9th and 10th October and it was a shame that no younger women from this diocese attended as it was a fun-filled event which, nonetheless, provided much food for thought as well as some really tasty desserts prepared and sampled during a demonstration of “Satisfying Sweet Treats”. This combined with a talk on Prayer, a presentation about the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence and a very practical talk on Leadership Training - which was assisted by characters from Winnie the Pooh – made for a most enjoyable and informative conference.
United Diocesan Youth Council

MADD DAY 2015 – report by Ciara Fitzell, Leader
In Cloughjordan on September 26th, a great group of enthusiastic participants came together from all over the diocese for a fun packed day. The day began with ice-breaker games, followed by drama workshops where the participants had to put themselves in the shoes of those who don’t always have life so easy. We also took a tour of the Eco Village. It was very interesting to learn about this different eco-friendly lifestyle. Rev. Jane led our biblical workshop which was centred on the story of Ruth. The story was studied in a very unique way with lots of little activities. Afterwards we all headed to Roscrea Leisure Centre for a swim, followed by a delicious meal in the Gourmet Gallery. The day drew to close with our worship session in which the children helped by painting their own rainbows and displaying them at the top of the hall. I thoroughly enjoyed the day being present as leader and I think it’s safe to say the participants and fellow leaders felt the same.

MADD visit to Eco Village

MADD hard work

MADD messy at times

TAKING A LEADING ROLE – report by Sophia Levie
On Friday the 2nd of October eight enthusiastic leaders-in-training arrived at Clare Care in Lahinch for round two of ‘Taking a Leading Role.’ We began the evening with a delicious dinner made for us by Rachel Davis who kindly joined our group as chef and led us in great worship times. That evening at our training session we discussed the different styles of leadership and what each style can provide to a group. After some delicious mugs of hot chocolate and some late night chatting we all tumbled into bed exhausted trying to catch a few hours’ sleep before the early start next morning.

Saturday was a busy day commencing with worship and the second session of training where we were split up into two groups. We had to set up a profile for a youth group already existing or make up a new group. By doing this exercise we got a great insight into what setting up and running a youth group entails and all the factors that have to be taken into consideration. After lunch we all headed outside, with one group going to catch some waves at the Lahinch Surf School, while the others strolled along the beach. The weather was perfect for surfing and was enjoyed immensely by all.

We returned back to the centre refreshed ready for another session of training. After dinner we were joined by two more participants who brought our number to ten. We continued in small groups with our exercise of running a youth group, and had to plan out activities and a calendar for the full year. We then got to present our ideas to the other groups and give each other constructive criticism and helpful ideas.

Sunday afternoon we went around Lahinch. Some of our group decided to give a go at swimming in the icy ocean, while others went for a jog or stroll along the beach, or simply sat and relaxed along the seashore. We returned to the centre for a delicious lunch and then finished up our last session of training. Once our bags were packed we all departed for home again tired but happy with the enjoyable weekend.

Of course thanks have to be given to our leaders Valerie Walker, Rachel Davis, Maud Eadie and Edward Hardy for making this weekend possible.

FUTURE EVENTS
Junior Weekend 2015
Friday 6th – Sunday 8th November 2015 at Castledaly Manor & Conference Centre, Moate.

Fellowship Group
The committee met recently to plan for the future of the Fellowship Group. We look forward to the group meeting again commencing on 3rd Saturday in January 2015 in Limerick. The group is scheduled to meet on the 3rd Saturday of each month going forward. Full details in December magazine.

StreetReach Limerick
StreetReach returns to UDYC calendar of events Friday 13th – Saturday 14th November 2015. The theme will be “Called to serve... at home and around the world”. On Friday evening, the group will assemble at St. Mary’s Cathedral, Limerick at 7.30 p.m. for some exciting worship, games, food, and an introduction to the activities planned for Saturday. After spending the night at Travelodge Castletroy, the group will return again to the Cathedral for worship. For the remainder of the daylight hours the plan is to participate in a range of StreetReach activities in order to make small differences for people of all ages in communities of Limerick City. These activities will include cleaning, gardening, conversations, giving, random acts of kindness and much more. On Saturday evening after food and worship everyone will return home at about 9.30 p.m.

Participants can be collected at 7pm Friday 13/11 and returned at 10pm, on Saturday 14/11 at Limerick Train & Bus Station. Cost
€40, covering all activities, accommodation, food and transport throughout the weekend.

Annual Christmas Dinner Dance
Saturday 5th December 2015 at Fitzgerald’s Woodlands House Hotel in Adare commencing at 8.30 pm. The entertainment will be by DJ Joe. Tickets €25. Neat dress essential. Transition Year upwards.
Further Information or Ticket Bookings from Edward Hardy at 087 290 7553.
Tickets must be booked by Tuesday 1st December 2015.

Fundraising with UDYC
Unfortunately the cost of running the UDYC programme in 2014 was much greater than the income, resulting in a deficit. A number of fundraising events have already taken place during 2015 and we have appreciated the help and support of many to date. We have received many personal donations and to these people we are really grateful. If any parishes or other individuals would like to make donations please contact Edward Hardy at 087 290 7553.

For more information on any of our events or activities, please contact Edward 087 290 7553 or Henry 086 223 5755, Email: udycc@limerick.anglican.org or visit our website http://udycc.ie/ or our UDYC Facebook page.

Until next month, Sophia, Mobile: 087 133 9996

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**Diocesan Board of Mission**

**MISSION SUNDAY 2015**

**SUNDAY 22nd NOVEMBER**

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

- At least 60% - to two projects in Palestine, namely the Al Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza City and Kids4Peace a project set up in response to concerns about the future of children in Israel & Palestine. Both projects are run by the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem.
- At least 20% - for Mission within your local community. This figure can be increased to 40%, especially if there are refugees from Syria/Iraq requiring assistance within your area.

Parishes should send all Mission Sunday money collected to the Secretary/Treasurer of the Diocesan Board of Mission: **David Frizelle, Boston Lane, Riverstown, Birr, Co. Offaly** along with the name and address of the project or agency where they want their local contribution to be sent.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

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**Children’s Ministry Network**

**BUILDING BLOCKS 2015**

Applications are now being accepted for Building Blocks 2015, the national Children’s Ministry Training Day, to be held on 14th November at St Andrew’s College, Booterstown Ave, Blackrock, Co Dublin. The cost for the day is €35. You don’t want to miss out on this opportunity to be equipped for the coming months.

Come along for inspiration, resources, take home ideas, an excellent key note speaker, fantastic workshops and creative prayer and craft spaces. Participants will be able to choose two seminars, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, from the following:

- Learning Styles and Children – Julie Currie
- Games that point to Jesus – Neil Douglas
- ‘Just Kids’: engaging children in global justice, children living in poverty & the role of the local church – Elke Köke
- “Let everything that has breath praise the Lord”: engaging children in church worship – Aisling McCormick
- ‘Moving on Up’: bridging the gap – Amy McCrea
- DIY Programme Planning – Tammi Peek
- ‘All Inclusive?’: including everyone, whatever their ability – Mark Arnold
- Fathers, Fatherhood & Faith – Basil Good
- Drama: Acting in Faith – Rev Elaine Murray
- Crafts with a Message – April Gunn

You can download the application form from www.cm.ireland.anglican.org/building-blocks-2015/ OR email Lydia dublin@buildingblocks.ie to ask for a form to be posted.

For further information contact our diocesan Children’s Ministry representative, Rev Jane Galbraith on 087 382 5336, Email galbraithjane@gmail.com.
SCHOOL NEWS

St. Nicholas’ National School, Adare

Thank you to all the pupils who sang so beautifully at the Harvest Service in St Nicholas’ Church. This year the pupils sang a very lively song. Everyone retired to the school hall afterwards for a cup of tea, some delicious cakes and the auction for charity.

Thanks to our green-fingered school secretary, Jayne, our pots are ready for Autumn planting and the Infant pupils have been busy filling them up with lots of bulbs.

Two student members of our Green Schools’ Committee, Marie Butler and Arthur Cussen, along with pupils from the other primary schools in Adare, took part in a photoshoot in Adare Park to celebrate Adare’s wonderful result in the Tidy Towns’ Competition.

We look forward to welcoming past pupil Samantha Shorten back to school in November. Samantha is in third year in the Church of Ireland Training College and she will teach in the senior classroom for three weeks.

Sewing classes for 1st to 3rd class pupils begin after mid-term break so no doubt the pupils will create some lovely projects under Nora’s guidance.

Soccer training

Infant Classes with their coin-filled wellies for local charities

At the moment we are enjoying Book Week in school when we concentrate on the joy of reading. All classes have made trips to our local library and because the weather has been lovely the senior pupils have taken the longer route to the library, along the river walk.

St. Marys No. 2 National School, Nenagh

“Even if something is left undone, everyone must take time to sit still and watch the leaves turn.” Elizabeth Lawrence

After a wonderfully mild autumn, the frosty cold mornings have crept upon us. Life is never dull in school and the school is a hive of activity.

Congratulations to Mrs Quin and her husband Alan on the birth of their son Aaron. We hope that all are doing well and send them our best wishes.

We are delighted to welcome Josephine Gloster and Shannon Morrison to the school. Both of whom will be completing work experience in the school during this school term. We would also like to welcome Amy Atkinson, a student from the Church of Ireland College of Education, who will be completing her Teaching Practice in St. Mary’s during the month of November.

On Monday 19th October, we had our school Harvest Festival, a celebration of the entire wonderful world God has created for us.

Long Term Church Working Group

This new group established by Bishop Kenneth met at Woodland’s Hotel in Adare on September 30th 2015. The members are: Maud Eadie (Killarney), David Frizell (Birr), Eleanor Walker (Croom), Canon Liz Beasley (Adare), John Jarvis (Castleconnell), Kieran Sparling (Limerick), David Tough (Tralee), Heather Persse (Cloughjordan) and Edward Hardy (Banagher).

At the meeting the Bishop referred to his presentation at Diocesan Synod, where he had indicated the creation of a Long Term Church working group. It was noted that as communities of faith we have a responsibility to express and deepen our faith and also to share our faith with others. At present only 11.7 % of people declaring themselves as Church of Ireland in the national census attend church in our Diocese on a Sunday. Taking on board this statistic, there is scope for improving what we do already, i.e. for traditional church “done better”. We should also be prepared to try new things, and if these don’t work, not to see them as failures. In terms of sharing our faith with others, we should also look at how we relate to our local communities and how we can make faith relevant to those around us.

It is hoped that the Long Term Church Working Group will help the Diocese take on board these challenging questions about our future as church and noted that the members of group would hopefully be ‘people with different eyes’. The group very much realise that they will need to keep in touch with parishes and clergy, share ideas and information, build on what is already in place, and look afresh at our ministry and mission. The group towards the end of their first meeting undertook a brainstorming session with many exciting ideas emerging. We hope to be able to report on progress on some of these ideas after the next meeting of the group scheduled for Wednesday 11th November 2015.

Edward Hardy
(Group Co-Ordinator)
We gave thanks for the wonderful Autumn time, the golds and browns that surround us.

Junior and Senior Infants visited Nenagh Library where they were entertained by Derek Mulveen, a well-known author, on the 15th October. A very enjoyable morning was had by all.

Soccer coaching continues until the end of October and Drama classes will commence in November.

During the week commencing the 19th October, the boys and girls participated in Science week. Great emphasis was placed on the Strands of the Science Curriculum throughout this week and the activities concluded with a Mad Scientist Day on Friday 23rd October, where the boys and girls were encouraged to dress up as a Mad Scientist!

Many thanks to:- .... Paddy Fitzpatrick who continues the weekly tag rugby training with 3rd – 6th Class pupils. We are very grateful to Paddy, and to the IRFU for the kind invitation to a tag rugby blitz in which our pupils enjoyed taking part at Nenagh Ormond Rugby Club.

.... And to Mr. Dooley and Mr. Casey from St. Michael’s N.S. for inviting pupils from 3rd to 6th Class to Gaelic football training over recent weeks. Our 3rd & 4th Class pupils were defeated by Toomevara in their opening match but played very well on the day. 5th & 6th Classes defeated Toomevara in their match and progressed to the North Tipperary Semi-Final against Moneygall on Monday 12th October. This was another great match; Cloughjordan played their heart out, but lost out on the day.

We are delighted to welcome Wendy Bailey and Mary McGuinness who have commenced delivery of a four week programme, “Healthy Eating Shouldn’t Cost the Earth”, an eating exploration in relation to environmental issues, with our Fifth & Sixth Class pupils.

Thanks also to Joanna Parkes who continues to work with 3rd – 6th Classes as part of the Artist in School Scheme. including a very interesting and educational trip to Cloughjordan’s Heritage Centre.

October would really not be October without Wendy’s visit to the infant classroom! What fun we had, learning about pumpkins, discussing how to carve it, scooping it out, illuminating it with tea lights and about fire safety. Wendy’s pumpkin cake went down a treat in all classrooms and staffroom, with not a morsel left! We are very grateful to Wendy for all that she did, and to Pat and Wendy for kindly giving us the pumpkin.

Cloughjordan No. 1 National School

The school was honoured by a visit from Lieutenant Niall Wilcox and Private James Power from Sarsfield Barracks, who formally presented a National Flag and copies of the proclamation at a special ceremony in school attended by pupils, parents and staff. Lucy Fitzgerald (4th Class) and Cathal England (3rd Class) accepted the national flag and Ruairi Ó Brolchain (6th Class) accepted the copies of the proclamation on behalf of the school. Lt Wilcox and Pt Power answered many questions from the children, giving us an insight into life in the Defence Forces. We now know, among other things, how to drive a tank, how many people fit in a tank and how comfortable the Defence Forces uniform is!
Our hardworking School Garden Committee continues to lead the development of our school garden. Thank you very much to Joy and Wendy who creatively used the abundant supply of tomatoes from our garden and delivered freshly made pizzas to our school, with “one for everybody”! The pizzas went down a treat!! The school garden received some welcome plant donations which have all been planted and are being cared for by our enthusiastic gardeners.

Catherine Flaherty, Road Safety Promotion Officer with the Road Safety Authority, visited all classrooms to reinforce all elements of road safety including walking, cycling, travelling by public transport, being a passenger and the practising of safe road behaviour in general. The Road Safety Authority, in partnership with the ESB, sent High Visibility Vests to school, and “Going to School” leaflets for infant pupils.

This year we will, once again, be supporting the “Trick or Treat for Temple Street” and the “Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal”.

We are, once again, participating in the very popular “Christmas cards for Schools” initiative. Each child’s designed a unique Christmas Card last month and will receive a free sample of his/her card early in November together with an order form, which can be used to buy packs of cards. Thank you very much to Mrs Crawford for all her work with this initiative. We look forward to receiving the printed samples from Listowel Printing. We have many very talented artists in our school!

Kiltallagh National School, Castlemaine

We have had a few busy weeks in Kiltallagh NS as you can see from these photos. Best regards from all in Kiltallagh NS.

St John’s National School, Shannon

St Johns N S are proud to erect their first green flag and the second Active Schools flag. Our entry in the Sherkin Island Environmental Awards achieved a win and St Johns NS was also commended by the Shannon Tidy Towns Committee.

More importantly the children wrote to welcome Dr Kearon as our new PATRON and were rewarded by his attendance at our Sports Day which made it a wonderful occasion. Despite our one-teacher status, all our children achieved over the 70th percentile in mathematics and over the 80th percentile in English this year. We also enjoyed a historical tour of the Burren taking in Kilmacduagh monastic settlement, Poulnabrone dolmen, Castleconnell fort and Dysert O’Dea castle.
We had sad days too in Shannon and extend our condolences to Mrs Queally, our former Principal on the death of her husband Tom RIP.

**Villiers School**

**BOYS LIVERPOOL HOCKEY TOUR**

We have just returned from our bi-annual boys hockey tour to Liverpool. We visited the Beatles Museum, Liverpool Football Club and played minor and junior matches v Caulday Grammar School and Neston Hockey Club. The trip provided an opportunity for fringe squad players to get plenty of game time. Overall a very enjoyable trip and special thanks to both Declan O’Brien Mike Kearns and Alan Whisker for all the organising and supervision.

**TY FASHION SHOW**

Our annual TY fashion show took place on 21st October in the Radisson Hotel on the Ennis Road. Clothes from top retail outlets in and around the city were on show. We always enjoy this spectacular show each year. Proceeds from the raffle went towards both Ian’s Trust and the TY Uganda trip in conjunction with ‘Zest4Kidz’.

**GIRLS HOLLAND TOUR**

A group of fifty girls accompanied by six staff have just headed off to Holland on a hockey tour. Both juniors and seniors travelled, played matches and took part in three training sessions each day under the guidance of professional coaches. Matches were against Den Bosch HC, De Hopel HC, and Neuen HC.

**OPEN DAY**

It was wonderful to meet with so many prospective students and their parents on the Open Day. Ms Storey gave a short talk about Villiers, followed by a tour of the school, and an opportunity to meet with students and teachers. We are now enrolling for the 2016-2017 academic year. If you are interested in your son/daughter coming to Villiers please contact the School office to arrange a personal appointment with Ms Storey.

**PRIZE DAY**

One of the key dates in our School calendar is Prize Day. This year Prize Day took place on Friday 2nd September where our Guest of Honour was our Past Pupil and Minister for Education and Skills Jan O’Sullivan. Prize winners were many and varied and we were delighted to see over 200 students step onto the podium to receive their prize from the Minister. The prestigious O’Mahony Prize for top Leaving Certificate results went to Hugo Carr and Maeve Higgins. Sincere congratulations to all our winners and to all our students in all their endeavours.
Welcoming the Stranger

Jay Butcher from the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity puts the argument for welcoming the migrants.

Mass migration is a feature of our time. Elections are fought over it, newspaper headlines whip up hysteria, and politicians try to avoid blame and responsibility alike. Yet the sprawling community of people living in ramshackle tents in the Jungle just outside Calais presents an opportunity for Christians to shift the discussion.

The Early Church’s hospitality – sharing homes, possessions, and worshipping together across social and ethnic divisions – marked them out in the culture of the day. The letter to the Hebrews reminded believers of the welcome Abraham and Sarah gave to three travellers in Genesis 18, and told them to ‘not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing so some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it’ (Hebrews 13:2). If any person could be a messenger from God, then every person should be welcomed, valued and treated with generous hospitality. 

All this, together with Jesus’ own example and call to love our neighbour, makes a compelling case. We might well relate to the example of receiving people into one’s house, but what happens when borders are involved? Or when it becomes difficult to tell refugee from migrant?

We become fearful of refugee flows that might overwhelm limited resources and interrupt our valued ways of life. Yet throughout Exodus, Leviticus and Deuteronomy, we see God regularly telling his people that they should ‘not mistreat or oppress a foreigner’, for they themselves ‘know how it feels to be foreigners, because [they] were foreigners in Egypt.’ Passages like these mean that making room for ‘strangers’ has always been a key part of the Judeo-Christian tradition.

The current problem won’t be solved overnight. The 3,000 inhabitants of the Calais Jungle make up around just 0.015% of the global refugee population. Each one carries the image of the Creator. Our challenge, as Christians, is to remember that we too were strangers, yet Christ welcomed us generously. So, sacrificially, we are called to do the same.

On Sandymount Strand

On the 13th of September a large group of Irish people came together on Sandymount Strand, Dublin to spell out their welcome to refugees in this photo.

The event was organised by an NGO coalition including ActionAid Ireland, Comhlámh, Christian Aid Ireland, Community Workers’ Co-operative, CORI (Conference of Religious in Ireland), Crosscare Migrant Project, Dóchas, Enar Ireland, Immigrant Council of Ireland, Irish Missionary Union, Irish Refugee Council, Mayo Intercultural Action, Mercy International Association, Migrant Rights Centre Ireland, Oxfam Ireland, Trocaire, and World Vision Ireland. See www.facebook.com/irishRefugeeCo/videos/1008455082538455/ for an aerial video.

Church of Ireland
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TUESDAY 3rd NOVEMBER 2015

THE WOODLANDS HOUSE HOTEL, ADARE
AT: 8.00 P.M.

- MISSION IN PALESTINE
  (WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE
  EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF JERUSALEM)

- Update on Mission Sunday 2015, 22nd November

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St Mary’s Church of Ireland, Nenagh Union of Parishes

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Care for Creation
The COP21 Climate Change talks in Paris

Over the next few weeks we will all be hearing much more about the COP21 climate change talks to be held in Paris between 30th November and 11th December. Archdeacon Andrew Orr, chair of Eco Congregation Ireland writes to explain what they are and why they matter.

COP21 comes from the phrase ‘Conference of the Parties’ – the 196 states and regional organizations party to the first-ever international agreement on climate change, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The first COP was held in Berlin in 1995, the year after the Framework came into force and three years after it was agreed upon at the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992.

The Kyoto Protocol, currently the world’s only legally binding climate deal, was signed at COP3 in 1997 in Kyoto, Japan. Based on the concept of ‘common but differentiated responsibility’, the Kyoto Protocol places targets on emissions for developed countries only (and that is only if you accept the protocol – you can also opt out, like Canada has done). At the time, these countries were amongst the biggest emitters but today the Kyoto Protocol covers only 11% of global emissions, leaving out critical actors like India, China and the US (which has not ratified the protocol). The targets under the Kyoto Protocol expire in 2020 – just five years from now. In the meantime, emissions, carbon pollution and of course, global temperatures continue to rise. For example, did you know 2014 was the hottest year on record in 135 years of record keeping, and 2015 will almost certainly be hotter again?

The shift and growth in emissions explain the urgency that surrounds the upcoming COP21 in Paris. It is time the world agrees upon a universal climate agreement to ensure we steer the planet away from a course of unprecedented climate catastrophe. COP21 is expected to be the world’s largest climate conference ever, with 50,000 delegates expected to converge in the French capital between 30th November and 11th December 2015.

While expectations are high, the truth is we are in a better place than ever before with remarkable progress (and consensus) made in recent years on climate science, a greener economy and climate action. Changes of government in Canada and Australia have produced leaders much more sympathetic to taking action. Of course, religious leaders have also urged action: not least Pope Francis in his recent encyclical “Laudato Si”.

However, this is not the time to become complacent. Climate finance, technology transfers and global consensus are still contentious issues even after months and months of negotiations. To succeed, we need ambition. Ambition from countries to set significant climate plans that will help steer the planet away from a 2°C temperature rise. We need ambition from world leaders to pave the way for climate history, and ambition from businesses to create innovative public-private partnerships that can tackle climate change. We also need ambition from individuals, to realize that each of us has the power to help change climate change.

What might happen if the talks don’t succeed and global temperatures rise more than 2 degrees C? In Ireland we would experience warmer, drier summers in the East but milder and much wetter winters in the West. Crops like potatoes might not be growable in the East without irrigation. Grass might grow a little better but cattle won’t be able to go out as early because of wetter fields. Flooding such we experienced in recent years would be even more frequent. But in the Developing world it would be much more catastrophic. Already the lack of rainfall in sub Saharan Africa is a problem. 50 Million people in Bangladesh live less than 1m above sea level. Imagine the world’s refugee problem if 50 million people became homeless?

Eco Congregation Ireland would love to see more parishes take action to combat climate change and to encourage the members to do the same in their daily lives. This would include simple things like doing an audit of waste and energy use in the church, having a “Walk to Church Sunday”, encouraging parishioners to support local farmers in independent shops, reducing food waste (in Ireland we throw away one third of what we buy) encouraging car pooling, turning down the thermostat in church and home, installing insulation in churches and halls and much more! For lots of good ideas to reduce your climate footprint see ecocongregationireland.com. After a couple of years of action your parish could apply to join with lots of others to become an Eco Congregation!

So, please pray for the success of the COP talks that we might have a binding, sustainable agreement; and let us become the answer to our own prayers by taking action as individuals and communities. There will be a National Ecumenical Prayer Service for the COP 21 talks, in the presence of the President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, in St. Theresa’s Church, Clarendon St, Dublin 1 (off Grafton St) on Wednesday 25th November at 7.30pm.

Delegates at a preparatory Climate Change Conference in Bonn

We thank our advertisers for their support - please quote Newslink when contacting them.
Kilgobbin Service of Welcome for Rev Phyllis Jones

It is always good to welcome a new priest to the diocese, and this last couple of months we seem to have been doing a lot of that. On Thursday 8th October we celebrated the arrival of Phyllis Jones as Assistant Priest in the Tralee and Dingle Group of Parishes.

Phyllis was formally presented to and commissioned by Bishop Kenneth and given a warm welcome by the Church of Ireland community of the Dingle Peninsula in a very special service held at Kilgobbin Church, Camp. The preacher was a close friend, The Rev Janis Moore, also from the Salisbury Diocese. Rev Janis spoke of their friendship and travels together. Basing her sermon around Luke 4:16-21 she also spoke of the call to ministry in the Tralee and Dingle Group which Phyllis has experienced. Phyllis has been called and sent to “preach the Good News” to this local community. In responding and moving to Ireland she brings with her many deep spiritual qualities and gifts, the Spirit of the Lord is upon her. We too need to respond to our calling and join with her in this ministry.

Phyllis and her husband, Keith, come originally from Bournemouth, where she has lived and worked for most of her life. She was ordained in 2005 in Salisbury Cathedral and was a self-supporting priest in St. Marks, Talbot in the diocese of Salisbury. She is not entirely without Irish connection. Her son Martin decided that Co. Kerry was where he wanted to live some 20 years ago and five years ago her daughter, Samantha, married an Irishman and now lives in Ballyheigue. Phyllis was granted special permission to solemnise their marriage in Kilgobbin Church. Phyllis and Keith have been back and forth to the Tralee and Dingle Group many times and are very much “at home” already in the Rectory at Camp.

We rejoice to welcome Phyllis and pray that God’s blessing will be upon her work and the work of the Church of Ireland community in the Dingle Peninsula.

100 Years and still singing!

We don’t have too many Centenarians to celebrate, so Mrs Anna McCrum’s 100th Birthday party on October 22nd was not to be missed. Even more so because she is a once off. When she joined her family and friends in singing St Patrick’s Breastplate she was merely doing what she loves most and does best for over 90 years: choral singing!

St Columba’s Church in Ennis has just updated the plaque to mark her cherished first place in the choir stalls for the Big 100. Only in the last couple of years since she entered Cahercalla Nursing Home has the former Anna McKenzie not turned out on St Patrick’s Day to sing her beloved Breastplate. It was sung as part of the celebrations, with her three sons, Derek, Norman and Samuel, under the accompaniment of organist and close family friend Nigel Bridge plus Rector Canon Bob Hanna and choir pals from St Columba’s and Ennis Cathedral.

Not far behind that thin veil no doubt, singing with his fine base voice, was her late husband Leslie, a towering figure in choral music as well as parish and diocesan life. Often as a courting couple and later as husband and wife they trekked to choral practises and festivals all over the diocese. They were the last of that remarkable breed who made Church of Ireland worship so special.

Poignantly, Anna testifies to falling back on hymns deeply embedded in her memory from childhood during difficult moments in her frail health.

Many Happy Returns to you, Anna!

Centenary Congratulations to Mrs Anna McCrum

Dear Editor, May I, courtesy of Newslink, send my congratulations and best wishes to Mrs Anna McCrum as she approaches her 100th birthday.

Having been involved in church music in Killaloe Diocese during the 70s and 80s, I know that Mrs McCrum could always be relied on to be there whenever a choral event took place. Even then she was quite rightly proud of her years as a choir member! I hope the birthday will be very happy – and musical.

Yours etc., Pem Stanley, Ballycotton, Co Cork.

We in Newslink join with Pem Stanley and many other old friends to congratulate Mrs McCrum on her centenary, and to thank her for her dedication to church music.
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Full range of extra curricular activities
Help send Rev Janet to the Arctic!

Each year the Swedish outdoor clothing company Fjällräven organise a husky sledding marathon of 300 km across the arctic tundra, Norway to Sweden, camping in the snow at minus whatever degrees. It’s called the ‘Fjallraven Polar’ – to find out more, just google it. Participation is by invitation – and Rev Janet White Spunner wants to be one of the ‘chosen ones’!

Janet writes:
“20 people are chosen from all over the world, 2 from each of 10 groups of countries. One of those 2 is the one with the most Facebook ‘likes’/votes. Fjällräven choose the other. So I will need all the Friends I can contact. The voting portal is from 18th November to December 12th.
“I hope to have my entry up on 18th November on the Fjällräven Polar Facebook page and the link on my Facebook page. If anyone wants to send me a ‘friend’ request, I’m easy found – I think there’s only Janet White Spunner!
“’The entry consists of a short video, which I can guarantee anyone will enjoy, and a 400 character profile – that’s very short – which includes my reason for wanting to be chosen: “At 78 I want to prove that age is only a number!” I’ve already checked there’s no upper age limit.

“Although there’s no need to have been husky sledding before, I have been twice. It’s a most exhilarating experience – and the best ever adrenaline rush!
“Maybe I can be chaplain to the group!!!”

Husky sledding – Rev Janet in the driving seat!

Killaloe Diocese

Killaloe & Stradbally Union of Parishes

Killaloe, Castleconnell, Clonlara, Mountshannon and Tuamgraney.
Rector & Dean: The Very Rev. Gary Paulsen
The Deanery, Abbey Road, Killaloe, Co. Clare
Tel: 061-374 779
Mob: 085-764 0533
Email: abbeydean2@gmail.com

Clonlara Church Harvest was held on 27 September with a great turn out of around 150 people. Fr Pat Greed who is the local parish priest was the preacher on the day. We are grateful to him and his community for supporting us in getting the church building to be used and not fall into total disrepair. There was a great sense of community gathered to give God thanks for always providing for us. The church was beautifully decorated with people bringing fruit and vegetables and the local market group also suppling a lot of the produce. There were two beautiful paintings of farm scenes on display by a local artist. There was tea and eats provided afterward. A big thank you to all who cleaned and prepared for this day and a special thanks to Philippa Keogh and her family have moved into the area and are very keen that the church be used and went through a lot of effort in inviting people, community organisations and getting posters up around the village. €430 was collected which will be used for repairs to the church.

Mountshannon had their harvest service on 4th October. It was a small gathering of people as many other local events were taking place on the same day. The effort put into preparing the church is always a feast for the eye with beautiful floral decorations all over the church and in every window. The sense of the beauty of creation was beautifully displayed and served as a wonderful reminder to us of diversity in Gods nature. It is always a good to see the regular visitors to the church at harvest festivals visit again.
Killaloe Cathedral harvest service was on 11 October. Here too a great deal of work and effort went into preparing the church for the harvest service and a fine spread was set for us to enjoy after the service. A big thank you to all who went to great lengths to highlight and celebrate the harvest festival. The collection will be going to the Bishops’ Appeal for the refugee crises.

**Birr Group of Parishes**  
*Birr, Lorrha, Lockeen, and Dorrha*  
Rector: The 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  
Parish Facebook: www.facebook.com/BirrGroupOfParishes

**WORSHIPPING WITH THE METHODISTS**  
Our Birr congregation is continuing sharing worship with the Methodist congregation until approximately the end of this month, to allow the interior of our church to be repainted. They have graciously allowed us to continue our way of doing things on our Sundays, which will alternate with theirs. The schedule is as follows:

1st Sunday – 10.15 am Church of Ireland Holy Communion  
2nd Sunday – 12.00 noon Methodist Holy Communion  
3rd Sunday – 12.00 noon Church of Ireland Family Service  
4th Sunday – 12.00 noon Methodist Morning Service

Our Sunday School continues every Sunday except when there is a Family Service. There are refreshments after the service on the 1st Sunday, when the service is earlier.

**200 YEARS IN LORRHA**  
On Sunday the 4th of October, a service of Harvest Thanksgiving at St Ruadhan’s Church in Lorrha was combined with a special celebration to commemorate the Bicentenary of the present church. Bishop Kenneth...
Roscrea Group of Parishes
Roscrea, Bourney, Corbally and Kyle
Rector: Rev Jane Galbraith
St. Cronan’s Rectory, Rosemount, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary, E53X466
Tel: 0505 21725 Mob: 087 382 5336
Email: galbraithjane@gmail.com

From the Registers: Myra Edith Stanley was laid to rest in the churchyard, after a large gathering attended her funeral in St.Cronan’s Church, Roscrea on Wednesday October 14th. Myra will long be remembered with great love and gratitude for the many aspects of church she took part in and enjoyed right up to her death. Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.

Inadvertently omitted from mention last month and with apologies, remedied this time; is mention in regard to the Service of Thanksgiving to God for the gifts towards the renovation and restoration of the windows of St.Cronan’s. The photo is of Hazel Stanley, her daughters, Jean and Hazel and their families standing by the window renovated to the glory of God in memory Jean’s husband George Stanley.

Three November Meetings
Tuesday 3rd hurry to the Methodist Hall ...and bring a full sized pair of scissors; that is the only information available!
Monday 9th in Aghancon Hall another of our very popular area meetings will take place, the speaker will be Mrs. Gillian Kingston. Saturday 28th we are invited to take part in the All-Ireland Prayer Vigil in St. Mary’s, Limerick, against gender violence, this will be of interest to those who took part in our Lenten discussion on the same subject. Details from Heather Evans.

Nenagh Union of Parishes
Nenagh, Templederry, Ballymackey and Killodiernan
Vacant
Priest-in-Charge: Rev Lucy Green
Tel: 062 79941 Mob: 087 667 0425
Email: lucygreen06ie@yahoo.co.uk
Diocesan Readers:
Joc Sanders 087 699 6775, joc_sanders@iol.ie
Audrey Clarke Gordon 087 742 8901, audreyclarkegordon@hotmail.com

Services
St. Mary’s Nenagh: 11am 1st, 2nd, 3rd (Family Service) & 4th Sundays
Templederry: 9.30am 1st, 2nd & 4th Sundays
Killodiernan: 12.15pm 2nd & 4th Sundays
5th Sundays: 11am United Service, rotating between churches

Harvest Thanksgiving
In October we have been giving thanks for the Harvest. Killodiernan was first on Sunday 11th October, led by diocesan reader Joc Sanders. The church was beautifully decorated, and a large congregation including many visitors sang the lovely harvest hymns with great gusto, with Sylvia Crawford playing the organ and the choir who sang the psalm. Local care centres are no longer able to accept the harvest produce, so these together with all the floral arrangements were auctioned, ably conducted by Adrian Gordon assisted by his son Ross, with the proceeds going towards parish funds.

Explorations with the Bible continue in the Rectory. We are sharing with our Methodist folk, material prepared by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, entitled Hospitality and Sanctuary for All, originally used for Racial Justice Sunday 2015. All sections are self-contained so people can join in when they can. We look forward to further sharing and exploration.

Mothers’ Union opened the season with a service of Compline during which Madalene Hodgins was admitted to membership.

Nerine lilies welcome all to St Mary’s Harvest
St Mary’s, Nenagh followed on Sunday 18th October with a Family Harvest led by diocesan reader Audrey Clarke-Gordon. The school children have been part of the decorating team in St Mary’s for many, many years and this year was no exception. However, we had the added pleasure of the GFS window. Girls made owls and bats – brightly coloured to light up the night sky. It was great to get the children’s interpretations of this much loved event in our church calendar! Thank you to Audrey for assisting girls with the decorating. Brian Brislane played the organ - he has also very generously been giving of his time to rehearse the choir during our vacancy. The service was followed by a lovely harvest lunch in the church. Well
done to everyone involved in the wonderful Harvest celebration. The Templederry Harvest Service on Sunday 25th October will have taken place by the time you read this, led by Rev Lucy Green, with Fr Willie Teehan PP of the Roman Catholic parish preaching – and no doubt many of his parishioners joining with ours to give thanks to God. Such ecumenical sharing is a long tradition in Templederry, and a great blessing to us all.

Harvest lunch in St Mary’s

Pumpkin and marrows in Killodiernan

All the harvest collections are going to the Refugee crisis through Bishops’ Appeal.

CONGRATULATIONS:
... to Peter and Natasha Clarke on the birth of their son, Andrew – a little brother for Hollie and Eve.

WHIST
Whist Drives take place in the Lecture Hall, Nenagh on the first Friday of the month. The Christmas Whist Drive on 4th December promises to be a great occasion with extra raffle prizes ahead of the Christmas festivities.

RECTORY RENOVATIONS
The work continues – at present the exterior walls are being insulated and the new windows and doors installed.

NENAGH CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL
The Committee is busy, busy, busy! The chosen charity which the Festival is supporting this year is Aras Follain in Nenagh, which supports those amongst us who are most vulnerable. Among many other things it provides these people with a nice dinner on Christmas Day.

Cloughjordan & Borrisokane Group of Parishes
Cloughjordan, Borrisokane, Borrisnafarney and Ballingarry.
Vacant
Priest-in-Charge: Rev. Ruth Gill
Kilgolan House, Kilcormac, Co. Offaly
Tel: 057 913 5341 Mob: 087 948 4402
Email: ruth_gill40@outlook.ie

Congratulations to Emma, daughter of Robert and Hester Stanley and George McAdoo who were married in Borrisokane Church on the 17th September. Their ceremony was conducted by the Revd. Stephen Neill assisted by the Revd. William Buchanan from Co. Monaghan. We wish Emma and George God’s blessing in their new home in Co. Monaghan.

Many thanks to all those who made the Harvest Thanksgiving services such joyful celebrations – the churches looked wonderful. We are very grateful to those who came to preach; Adrian Hewson who stood in for Charlie Wallace, the Revd. Jane Galbraith, Canon Ian Poulton and the Ven. Revd. Wayne Carney. Thanks too, to the organists for providing music; June Chadwick, Betty Powell, Evelyn Hodgins and John Armitage. In Cloughjordan, Sunday School children brought harvest offerings for distribution afterwards.

AUCTION
An auction will be held in Cloughjordan on Saturday, 7th November at 1.30 p.m. There will be lots of turf, firewood, hay, straw etc. also a cake stall and teas and a monster raffle at 3.30 p.m. Raffle tickets are in circulation @ €5 each or a book of five for €20.

MOTHERS’ UNION
A service of Holy Communion was held in Borrisokane on the 5th October to mark the beginning of the new season. Afterwards, the
programme was planned. There will be a meeting on Monday, 9th November in Aghancon Community Hall at 8 p.m., when Gillian Kingston will give what promises to be a very interesting talk about the Fr. Peter McVerry Trust.

THE THURSDAY VARIETY CLUB
The Club next meets on the 5th November in Cloughjordan Methodist Hall at 2.30 p.m., when Evelyn Hodgins and Iris Hayes will share their expertise in doing crochet and maybe they’ll have some help from friends?

BUSHY PARK NURSING HOME
There will be a short service of Holy Communion on the first Thursday of every month at 3.30 p.m. Some friends and relations have been coming along and an invitation is extended to others who would like to join us. Please contact the Revd. Ruth beforehand.

TABLE TENNIS
The season is taking off! The juniors are already up and running with a great number coming along to play while the seniors are putting up two teams for the Ossory and the Midland Leagues.

FUEL & FODDER AUCTION
This fundraiser for Borrisnafarney will be held at 2 p.m., in the hall, Moneygall on Saturday, 21st November – all welcome.

PRAYERFUL THOUGHTS
Are with those known to us who are ill, Bob Kelly, Buddy Powell and Pamela Armitage. We pray that God will give strength and peace to all those who are ill or anxious at this time.

BAPTISM
The Baptism service for Henry Ian Dennison will take place on the 22nd November in Borrisokane.

AS A MATTER OF INTEREST
An ecumenical Harvest Thanksgiving service was held in Borrisokane Methodist Church with the Revd. Shannon Delaureal, Fr. Tom O’Halloran and the Revd. Ruth took part and the Borrisokane Gospel Choir sang a couple of pieces. Also, Borrisokane Community College held their opening service for the new school year where the Revd. Ruth had the pleasure of meeting with Mr. Matthew Carr, Sr. Norah and Fr. John Donnelly as well as some of the staff and students!

Shinrone Group of Parishes
Shinrone, Aghancon, Kinnitty and Dunkerrin
Rector: Canon Michael Johnston (on sick leave)
Priest-in-Charge: Archdeacon Wayne Carney
The Rectory, Birr, Co. Offaly
Tel: 057 912 0021 Mob: 087 786 5234
Email: mapleire@eircom.net

We are delighted that our rector, Canon Michael is now able to take the two services in the group every Sunday, but Archdeacon Wayne Carney is still priest in charge and should be called on for all queries. Currently Dunkerrin has a service at 9am every Sunday. 2 Sundays are covered by Canon Michael and the other two by Derek and Amanda Grant, to whom our thanks. The other churches currently are scheduled for 2 Sundays each. Please see the parish newsheet for details.

Harvest Festivals have been arranged for all the churches:
- Shinrone and Aghancon will have happened by the time these notes are published.
- Dunkerrin is on All Saints’ Day, Sunday – 1st November at 7pm when the Reverend Jane Galbraith will be the preacher.
- Kinnitty is the following week, Sunday – 8th November, also at 7pm when Paul Fitzpatrick will be the preacher.

The regular Thursday morning Eucharist continues in Clover Lodge at 10.30 am. This is attended by both residents and non residents. We are very grateful to Reverend Tom Kingston for looking after this, and to John Armitage for bring his keyboard and voice and leading us in both familiar and less know hymns. Thank you both. This service is very much appreciated by the ‘regulars’. Do come and find out what you’re missing!

Coffee is served in Cloughmoyle School after the service. Big thanks to Richard Abraham for looking after this.

Our sincere sympathy to three families in the parish on their recent bereavements:
- To Alma and her family on the death of her husband, Victor who had been living in Kinnitty. His funeral took place in Kilkenny Cathedral.
- To Pam Reid and her family , on the loss of her sister Margaret Sweeney.
- And to Bobby Lewis and family on the death of his sister, Betty. May you know God’s presence with you to comfort and give you strength. Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.
The Mothers’ Union held their season’s opening service in Shinrone and arranged their winter programme at a meeting afterwards.

Whist evenings continue in both Aghancon Hall and Cloughmoyle School. Thank you to everyone who supports these events.

Drumcliff 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

PROFESSOR STEVEN ELLIS, Head of History and Humanities at University College Galway, is a devoted Anglican, Synodman and Diocesan Reader who is taking a keen interest in the latest conversation between our diocese and the Church of Ireland Commission on Episcopal Boundaries.

One reason is that he is a near neighbour, but it is not because his Diocese of Tuam is mentioned as a possible part of a new jigsaw plan should we be incorporated into a larger Western unit. It is because he is a genuinely interested and benevolent friend of our Group parishes, regularly tripping down the highway from Galway on a Sunday to preach in Drumcliffe or Kilnasoolagh.

Steven has built up a warm rapport with worshippers who value his passion for worship (Anglican style) and his thoughtful and informative sermons (not surprisingly says you!)

We learn that he approaches, at Christmas, his last days as Professor at UCG and wish him and his wife much joy with extra- time together for family and other pursuits...including Church. He is a parishioner of St Nicholas’ Parish, Galway City and manages time in his busy schedule to service the Galway region as well as ourselves. As an academic he is going out with a flourish. He has been awarded from UCG the President’s Award for Research Excellence 2015, Established Researcher Award, in recognition of his distinguished publication records as a historian of Early Modern Ireland.

He has published two books this year, one launched recently entitled: Defending English Ground War & Peace in Meath & Northumberland, 1460-1542 (Oxford University Press, 2015). Another due out in early 2016 is written in collaboration with Christopher Maginn, namely: The Tudor Discovery of Ireland (Four Courts Press, 2015). Steven was due to preach on All Saints’Day (Nov.1) in St Columba’s Church, Drumcliffe (11.30am) and later at special Celtic Vespers for Samhain in St Fachnan’s Cathedral Church, Kilfenora, 4.00pm.

KILNASOOLAGH

Harvest Thanksgiving was late this autumn (Friday evening 7.30pm, 30th November) due to factors beyond our control, but held promise of much richness with guest speaker being Mr Fred Carney, a retired Missioner who in recent years has been building up spiritual practise in and around Ireland’s premier religious site at Clonmacnois. On Holy Saturday last he oversaw the National Pilgrim Paths Day at the centre and later in September The Clonmacnois Summer School, with its title The Golden Age of Medieval Irish Monasteries. Mr Carney has in recent years worked ecumenically with Canon Trevor Sullivan, Ms Clare Besynoe, and top Anglican writer Rev Simpson, to name just a few.

BATTLE OF BRITAIN

The Rector presided over a memorial service on 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain at the graveside of former Sixmilebridge parishioner Norman Lancelot levers who fought in that momentous battle of the skies as a squadron leader. Norman levers lived and died at the historic Mount levers and his heroic past was known to very few. Behind the event was the Royal British Legion Branch, whose representative Mr Kevin Milligan gave a moving and most informative eulogy. Norman’s wife Bride attended. Missing was his only son Norman Jnr who lives in Israel, with his American wife Karen and twins Nathaniel and Natalie who were baptised in Kilnasoolagh in Autumn 2014.

PRAYERS

Among the sick we remember Judith Ironside, Spanish Point who broke an ankle, and John Pennel, Corofin.

Mr Stephen Fletcher from London, Bishop Kenneth and Canon Bob in front of Christchurch, Spanish Point, during the Bishop’s recent visit.

Clonfert Diocese

Aughrim & Creagh Unions of Parishes

Aughrim, Ballinasloe, Ahasceagh, Ardrahan, Clontuskert and Woodlawn

Rector: Rev. John Godfrey

The Rectory, Aughrim, Co. Galway.

Tel: 090 967 3735 Mob: 087 900 8085

Email: reverendjohngodfrey@gmail.com

Parish website: www.aughrim.clonfert.anglican.org

FUNERAL

The funeral service of Johanna Kolano was held in St John’s Ballinasloe, on September 28th. We extend our heartfelt condolences to her family and loved ones.

WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS

The last month has seen our new rector complete his first ‘tour of duty’ around our six churches. His first service in each parish was marked with great warmth and welcome, with friends and family coming from near and far to show their enthusiasm and affection, making each service a very special occasion. The warmest of welcomes was also afforded to him from our diocesan clergy team at their annual conference in Dingle, which ran from October 12th to 14th. Meanwhile, there were fond farewells from his last posting, with a send-off from the Tuam Killala and Achnory clergy team on September 24th, and a farewell party in the Galway Bay Hotel with parishioners from Galway and Oughterard on October 16th.

CULTURAL EVENTS

On September 23rd, the Persse Family Gathering was launched with a talk in Loughrea Library by local historian Gerry Daly on ‘The Persse
Family of Roxborough. Those celebrations culminated on September 26th with the rededication of Killinane Graveyard, by Archdeacon Wayne Carney, Fr Joseph Roche and our new rector, following nine years of careful restoration work there by the Kilchreest Castledaly Heritage Group.

On October 3rd, Europe oldest horse fair returned to Ballinasloe, as 80,000 visitors, plus many more equine guests, filled the streets of the town with life and colour. The rector was thick of the festivities, dining at the Three Fairs Dinner on October 3rd and at the Ballinasloe Horse Fair lunch on October 4th, before joining civic dignitaries on stage in St Michael’s Square as singer Mike Denver officially launched the fair.

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Harvest Thanksgiving services have been held in recent weeks in Ardrahan, Woodlawn and Glan churches. Many thanks go to all who worked so hard to decorate these churches for those special events. It is a joy to see our parishes so beautifully adorned and thronged with thankful worshippers. Harvest is a special opportunity for us to offer hospitality in our churches, and we are indebted to all who make that welcome so warm and inviting. Harvest Festivals also took place in St Catherine’s Ahascragh on October 23rd, in St John’s Ballinasloe and Holy Trinity Aughrim on October 25th.

MOTHERS’ UNION
St John’s Mothers’ Union hosted a cake decorating demonstration by Jennifer Wakefield on Oct 12th. Their next meeting is on Nov 9th, where the rector will give an address on ‘the spiritual life.’

FUNDRAISING
Ardrahan Church will host a fundraising concert at 7.30pm on November 6th, including music from the award-winning Marine Institute Choir, the Labane Church Choir, Maeve Cairney, the Acafellas and Eileen Fleming-Gaie. On November 14th they will also be having a sale of work and jumble sale in Kinvarra Community Centre, from 1pm to 4.30pm. Your support is most welcome.

Clonfert Group of Parishes
Clonfert, Banagher, Eyrecourt, and Portumna
Vacant
Priest in Charge: Very Rev. Patrick L. Towers
Tel: (090) 9684547. Mob: (086) 8140649
Email: towers.patrick@gmail.com

RTE’s SUNDAY MISCELLANY, a delightful mix of music and musings with commissioned work and submissions, was broadcasted most successfully from Portumna Church and gave much pleasure to so many people throughout the nation.

HARVEST & BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS IN PORTUMNA
Sunday October 4th was the day Portumna celebrated their Harvest Festival and coincided with the Feast of St Francis. The Service commenced with the Blessing of several pets and their owners before proceeding to the Harvest. We gave thanks for the live music and the skill of Carol Underwood upon the Organ; for amazing flower arrangements and for the many splendoured baking by so many to bring before us a tea of delight. The Parisian Macaroons, especially the Lemon and Lavender flavourings were hidden but once discovered they were a treat. I found four of the macaroons on the back seat of my car when I arrived home and was not sure whether this was due to petty larceny on my behalf, rather like taking home unused shampoo and soap from one’s hotel room, or had been placed there by a kindly cup-cake fairy. If the latter I hope it was one I had previously blessed. Whatever; “attractively delicious” was the verdict. I now have the recipe!
HARVEST IN BANAGHER
We were particularly grateful to Mrs Delahunt for kindly playing for us upon this occasion. Usually Mrs Isabel Finney plays at the harvest but she is recovering from a period of time in hospital, both in Ballinasloe and Galway. We wish Isabel a full and speedy recovery. We adjourned to the Hall for a sound Harvest tea of great animation and enjoyment. Once again to the valiant church decorators and bakers: “Thank you all very much indeed”.

RECTORY
Opposite the Church lies the Rectory. Great work has been given to the tidying of the garden: thank you so much for all the efforts in bringing order back to the garden.

VAL’s MOVIE NIGHT.
The Movie Night proved very popular last year as an event to raise church funds. We will repeat the night (though not the movie!) later this month. I will bring details to you of both the movie and the date later.

ELIZA LODGE
The monthly service in Eliza Lodge Nursing Home which is open to the parish continues and we look forward to Eucharists there on Wednesday 18th November & Wednesday December 16th.

ELYECOURT
On Sunday October 11th we rejoiced in a crowded Morning Service that commenced with the Baptism of Luke Mason Stoddart, son of Niall and Trish and brother of Adam with godparents Caroline Mooney, John Gill and Donald Austin that then seamlessly morphed into the Blessing of The Marriage of Eoin and Natalie. As Luke in his lovely long christening robe was carried throughout the church for all to sign him with the cross so the Praise Hymn took up. The main doors opened as Canadian born Natalie in her lovely white wedding dress was escorted down the aisle by her father to be greeted by her Irish husband Eoin. Neither the Baptism party nor the Marriage party had met before but the Service embraced everyone to make for a definitely remarkable and certainly a very happy occasion for parents, relatives and friends. We wish Luke, Eoin and Natalie well as they embark on their respective new journeys in the different stages of their lives.

Harvest in Eyrecourt will be happening after these notes are submitted but we are at the moment looking forward to that event on Sunday October 25th at 7pm.

CLONFERT CATHEDRAL
Advent Sunday Holy Eucharist @ 11am (5th Sunday in November)
based musicians, a good number of whom are on the staff of the Limerick School of Music.

If you weren’t able to be there, it is not too late for this year as we are repeating the presentation on Wednesday 18th November in the cathedral at 12 noon. Please call Anne Donegan on 086 157 1582 if you would like to book.

WHIST DRIVES: Saturday 7th November - Villiers Square @ 7.30pm Saturday 14th November - St. Michael’s Church at 7.30pm with a Raffle. Entry €6 per person. Everyone very welcome.

CATHEDRAL CHOIR NEWS: Congratulations to former member of the choir Lauren Hannon who has been awarded a prestigious Choral Scholarship in Galway where she is studying. This means she will be singing as a member of Mark Duley’s choir in St. Nicholas Collegiate Church.

MUSIC GROUP
Rev’d Edna encouraged the formation of a Music Group at St. Michael’s Parish Church, Pery Square, Limerick. To date the group includes Sheila Allen (clarinet) Lucy Allen (‘cello) Greg Ramendik (violin) accompanied by organist, Irina Dernova. The additional instruments greatly enrich the worship Sunday by Sunday. It is hoped that more people will join the group as time goes by.

HARVEST FESTIVALS
A very sincere thank you to all those who decorated our churches for the Harvest.

On Sunday 20th September, Fr. Loughlin Brennan, PP Murroe & Boher was the preacher at the Abington Harvest Festival.

On Sunday 4th October, The Rev’d Patrick Towers was the preacher at the St. Mary’s Cathedral Harvest. The vegetables were donated to Brother Stephen Russell Home who were very grateful for same.

On Sunday 18th October St. Michael’s Church celebrated their Harvest Festival. This took the form of an informal Family Service. St. Michael’s National School Choir participated by singing “Think of a world without any flowers”, “Somebody Greater than you or me” and “Lord of the Harvest”. Their drums band “21 Beats of Banter” opened the service with “Harvest Time”. The Sunday School children read the lessons and led the prayers. Dean Sandra 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), who were indeed very grateful for same.

DON’T FORGET OUR CHRISTMAS FAIR in Villiers School on Saturday 21st of November from 11am to 2pm: WANTED: Plants, Pots of chutneys, jams, etc., Christmas puddings, mince meat, Good as new Bric a Brac (no electrical items), unwanted gifts, once loved Christmas decorations, candles, books, games and good quality toys, Bottles of all sorts and Donations of non-perishable items to make up hampers for Raffle are invited. Collection boxes will be in the churches from Sunday 25th of October. All donations and all volunteers welcomed with open arms. You can contact either Elizabeth Stanley 086-2687123 or Tracey Lyttle 086-6486197 and we can arrange if necessary to pick up your donations.

Adare and Kilmallock Group of Parishes
Adare, Croom, Kilmallock & Kilpeacon
Rector: Canon Liz Beasley
The Rectory, Adare, Co. Limerick.
Tel: 061 396227 Mob: 087-7199750
Email: revlizadare@gmail.com

HARVESTS
The parishes have enjoyed another season of Harvest Festivals. As is tradition, the season began with the Adare Harvest, which happens on a Friday evening and includes the children of St. Nicholas’ National School, who sang a lively song as part of the service and brought offerings of fruit, vegetables, flowers, and beautiful cakes, all arrayed in front of the high altar. After the service everyone went upstairs to the hall for refreshments and the auction of all the offerings. Proceeds were designated for the Limerick Marine Search and Rescue Service.
The Harvest Festival in Croom, for the parishes of Adare, Croom, and Kilpeacon, took place on a Sunday morning on 4th October. Unlike the other Harvests, it was a Holy Communion service, with the Rev. Jane Galbraith preaching. The final Harvest service of the year was in Kilmallock on Sunday afternoon, 18th October. The children of the parish brought forward offerings. The Rev. Marie Rowley-Brooke was the guest preacher.

![Kieran Brislane auctioning vegetables following Adare Harvest Festival](image)

DEATHS
We offer condolences to families in our parishes who have suffered loss in the past few weeks. First to Helen Alfred of Adare, on the loss of her mother, Joan Millar. Joan died on Saturday, 3rd October. Her funeral was held at the Castletown Church, part of the Rathkeale Group of Parishes, on 7th October. She was buried in the church’s cemetery, next to her husband.

Just a week later, Berta Callender died, on Saturday, 10th October. Her funeral was held at her parish, the Kilpeacon Church in Crecora, conducted by her son-in-law, the Very Rev. John Bond of the Diocese of Connor. She was buried at St. Mary’s Cathedral, Limerick, with her husband, who died 32 years ago. Our condolences to Berta’s son Allan and the whole family.

TOURS
With the tourist season winding down, the guided tours of St. Nicholas, Adare, have stopped until the spring. In the off-season, however, we are taking further steps to make the visitor’s experience even better next year.

Adare was not the only parish conducting tours, however. On Wednesday, 30th September, the Kilmallock Women’s Group — a group of local women who meet at Coote Hall, next to the Kilmallock Church — came to the church for a tour, at their request. Member of the Group and local historian Barbara Bingham told the story of the church’s history and described how the special kneelers at the altar rail were made by a group of teens from Kilmallock and other parishes in the Group several years ago. Then Rector Liz Beasley fielded questions from the group of women about the Church of Ireland. All had a fascinating discussion about similarities and differences in practice and belief of the Roman Catholic Church and the Church of Ireland, and Anglicanism in general.

We thought October was going to busy and it was. We celebrated our harvest on 16th October in Askeaton raising over €500 for Christian Aid and our mission giving. Alas we were unable to welcome The Rev’d William Olmsted, who was ill in hospital. Our prayers are very much with William and his family.

We were deeply saddened by the deaths of two of our parishioners, Trevor Shire and Joan Millar. Trevor was a quiet hard working farmer and a select vestry member. He will be missed and our prayers are with his brother Lowell and sister Ann and the wider family. Everyone knew Joan Millar, long time Mothers’ Union member. Over the years Joan not only contributed to the life of the Mothers’ Union in the Rathkeale and Kilnaughtin Group but also held many MU Diocesan posts. She was a whirlwind of activity, and contributed a great deal to the Diocese and parish. Our prayers are with Helen, Jennifer and Daphne, her daughters, Joe her brother and her wider family.

After all the sad news it was good to hear of the safe arrival of baby Ruby, daughter of Sandra and Garret Teskey, granddaughter of Raye and John Teskey and great-granddaughter of Ruby Graham. Welcome baby Ruby.

Rathkeale & Kilnaughtin Group of Parishes
Rathkeale, Askeaton, Kilcornan & Kilnaughtin
Rector: Rev. Dr. Keith Scott
The Rectory, Askeaton, Co. Limerick
Tel: 061 – 398647 Mob: 087-2885169
Email: rathkeale@limerick.anglican.org

Ardfer Diocese
Rector: Archdeacon Susan Watterson,
Teach an tSolais, Ashe St, Tralee, Co. Kerry.
Tel: 066 719 5416 Mob: 087 689 2025
Email: tralee@ireland.anglican.org

Ralph & Dingle Unions of Parishes
Tralee, Ballymacelligott, Ballyseedy, Dingle, Kilgobbin and Killiney
Rector: Rev Phyllis Jones.
The Rectory, Camp, Co. Kerry. Details later.

Thank you to everyone who helped decorate our churches for the Harvest Festivals, they looked amazing. The first this year was in Camp – the church was standing room only with people squeezed into the back porch and front pews. This was an opportunity to say farewell to the preacher David Frizelle and his wife Joy, who have now moved to Birr, where I am sure they will both be just as greatly appreciated as they are in Tralee and Camp and Dingle.

Andrew Eadie preached at St John the Evangelist Tralee, and told of Harvests he knew as a child in school in Killarney. Jim Stephens will preach in Ballyseedy where the joint congregations look forward to meeting with him again. Thank you to all who brought gifts of food for the soup kitchen and Arlington House, and toiletries for the refugees. The suitcases will be taken to Cork next week.
Gerhardt Maritz has agreed to take over the Youth Club programme for 2015/16 for which we are grateful. Thank you again to Linda and Denise for all they have done over the years. Watch this space.

There is a slight change in Tralee Sunday Club routine in that the children now go straight into Teach an tSolais with their group rather than leaving the church service during the first hymn. Before the end of the service they come into church to their families where they share with the congregation the things they have been learning in their group. The first Sunday of each month will be a Family Communion both in Tralee and Ballymac. The past few weeks have been a little out of sync due to holidays and sickness and shortage of people power, but we shall be back on track this month.

Welcome to Rev Phyllis and Keith Jones who are well settled into Camp Rectory now. After the Service of welcome in Camp, Phyllis was able to meet up with other clergy colleagues in Dingle at the Clergy Conference. Every blessing to Keith and Phyllis as they come among us.

The Annual General Meeting of KPH will be held at 8pm in Teach an tSolais on Tuesday 3rd November, this will be followed by a short business meeting concerning grant allocations. All are welcome to attend the AGM.

Looking further ahead to November 13th we have our Table Quiz in The Ashe Hotel at 8pm, why not put a team together? Raffle Prizes and Door Prizes are urgently needed. Please contact Mrs Margaret Groves.

The Book Club will meet again at the end of November, the date has yet to be arranged. Yvonne Blennerhassett’s choice for this time is ‘Tuesdays With Morrie’ by Mitch Albom.

Even further ahead on Sunday December 6th, we hope to have a liturgical welcome for the Bishop to the Diocese of Ardfert. It has taken some time to arrange this in order to be sure that the Dean of Ardfert Sandra Pragnell could be present, we shall also be joined by our school children and of course there will be a special visitor after the service.

Kilcolman Union of Parishes

Kilcolman, Kiltallagh and Glenbeigh
Vacant
Priest-in-Charge: The Rev Jim Stephens
Kilderry, Milltown, Co. Kerry
Mob: 087 052 9107
Email: stephens.j@temmler.eu or stiofain.s@gmail.com

SERVICES
Kiltallagh 9.45 am (except the 1st Sunday HC at 7pm)
HC 1st & 3rd
MP 2nd & 4th
Killorglin 11.00 pm
HC 2nd & 4th
MP 1st & 3rd

SALE OF WORK.
For the first time the parish held the sale of work on a Saturday - previously it was held on a Wednesday afternoon. This originated in former times when Wednesday was a half day and Killorglin was largely an agricultural town. This is now a thing of the past so it was decided to try Saturday and thankfully it worked out well. Its success is a credit to all those who give of their time, skills and resources so generously. Many thanks to those who moved tables and prepared the hall on Friday evening and again on Saturday morning, to all those who baked cakes and buns and all types of goodies such as jams and chutneys, to those manned stalls, served teas and especially to those who took time off work to help on the day, to those who counted the money and stayed back to dismantle and clean the hall and to all who helped in so many other ways. The sale of work always inspires me as I marvel at the way people come together and naturally pick up where they left off last year. While the money raised is important, so too is the social and community building aspect of the event.

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The well attended parish sale
PRACTICAL WELCOME

In addition, therefore, we decided to prepare a practical welcome. God (and government) willing, people will arrive on our shores in the next few weeks and months, looking for the opportunity to live in freedom, see their families grow and learn in a society that is tolerant of difference, with justice for all and a recognition that we are one family under God. We need to prepare our welcome, and so we decided to start building that welcome today. In the knowledge that there is not one of us who could not go upstairs and pack a full suitcase that would provide everything we would need as we arrived in a new home, we filled suitcases of welcome as part of our Harvest. In addition to clothes, toiletries, and the things we ourselves would find useful, those suitcases contain something far more important. They send a message in the name of what we believe; whoever receives them will know that, whoever they are, from whence they have come, they are loved.

But in itself, that is only part of the issue – there are many homeless people in this country, who are equally in need – so as well as the Suitcases project, our Harvest collection raised over €1100 for the Simon Community in Cork. We start Phase 2 of our Growth Action Planning (GAP) programme next month – based on the principle that ‘just because we can’t do everything, it doesn’t mean we should do nothing’. The same is true for all we do in Jesus’ name – and in a sense, the reason we look to grow is to be better able to give.

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@eircom.net

Despite the Summer break, quite a lot has been going on. The Charlie Chaplin Festival in Waterville at the end of August was again a very great success, culminating in community and church coming together in a Festival Service – this seemed particularly appropriate, the church having been used a number of times during the week for various events.

Our Harvest festivals saw both Sneem and Kenmare churches beautifully decorated, perhaps not quite with the normal harvest display of flowers and produce – although there was certainly much of that too. We have all been moved by the pictures and stories of families of refugees desperate to find a place of safety, and, as a nation that has itself known famine and diaspora, we look forward to welcoming people to the safety of our shores. Words are cheap; simply using our voice to get on the backs of those in power who can make the choice to do the right thing, as opposed to the politically expedient thing, is certainly necessary and worthy – but our voice is small and easy to pass off with platitudes.
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
Email: vickilynch@eircom.net

We had a lovely Harvest Service this year with a very welcome visit from Rev Brian Anderson, the President of the Methodist Church in Ireland. Everyone enjoyed his preaching which certainly came from the heart – no small feat when you’re on your third service of the day and the previous one was in Kenmare. But the thing I think we all enjoyed the most was that Brian really enjoyed it all too! He really became part of our fellowship for the evening and along with the children and young people and all the rest of us had a great time of fellowship and food after the service. It’s really encouraging when a visitor tells you that you’re a ‘vibrant community’ and their visit will go down as one of the ‘highlights of my year’. We all know that church can seem a little challenging in these times where people are choosing other ways to spend their time and be community but it’s good to stop and remember what we’re about – Let the peace of heart that comes from Christ be always present in your hearts and lives, for this is your responsibility and privilege as members of his body. And always be thankful. Colossians 3:15

You may have noticed that CB1 is open again. We put in a coffee dock with the help of funds from the KBC Bright Ideas grant. It’s going really well. Limerick artist Geraldine Sadlier was the first to exhibit in our newly appointed space and her pictures certainly caught people’s attention; lots of Limerick scenes for people to recognise and talk about. We have exhibitions right up to the end of the year and are now taking bookings for next year. Any artists out there who are currently hiding their light under a bushel? Come and speak to Anna or myself and we’ll book your group a show off what you can do with them. All the clothes – and are putting together an evening in our buildings and we’ll have the Unity Gospel Choir Limerick entertaining us…and a surprise lead by Dr Peter Carroll, lecturer at University of Limerick as a complex that goes from Georgian to Art Deco through the three dimensional model of the church and Central Buildings, unique in Limerick we’re been involved in collecting for a variety of charities and good causes. From dropping off a bag of clothes in Killarney for the Simon Community to collecting used postage stamps in Millstreet. Other efforts required a little more energy including a sponsored cycle from Clonakilty to the Gateway in Kenmare to raise funds for garden spaces within the church grounds in Kenmare and Clonakilty.

Some Millstreet members entered a fun walk/run raising funds for Millstreet Community Hospital. A couple of people raised money for Christian Aid by taking part in the Sheep Head hike and some climbed Carranorehill to raise funds for Temple Street Children’s Hospital. It is good to raise our awareness of these worthy causes and to focus on something ‘outside’ of regular church life!

The group that meets in Dingle was involved in an outreach in Dingle town in September. The group meeting in the Ballybunion area has begun to meet twice a month. The twice monthly meetings in Gneeveguilla resumed after a summer break. The Castleisland group hosted a ‘Barn Meeting’ welcoming Hugh and Marie from Adare along with Maurice and Joanne from Manchester.

KILLARNEY METHODIST CHURCH EAST AVENUE KILLARNEY
Sunday services at 9am & 11am (including a programme for children at 11am) Communion at both services on the 1st Sunday of the month Prayer meetings: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 8pm & Friday 10am Bible study: Wednesday 7.30pm & Friday 10am Drop in for coffee: Friday 11am – 12pm Parent & Toddler: Tuesday 10am – 12pm

GATEWAY AT KENMARE, GORTAMULLIN, KILLARNEY ROAD, KENMARE
Sunday service: 11am coffee from 10.30am (incl. a programme for children) Bible study/fellowship: Tuesdays 8pm & Wednesdays 10am Drop in for coffee: Wednesdays 11am – 12pm Youth club: 2nd & 4th Saturday 7pm – 8.30pm

MILLSTREET AT THE LIGHTHOUSE, TOWN SQUARE
Sunday service: Weekly at 6.30pm Bible study: Tuesdays 7.30pm Open to anyone Drop in: Thursdays 9.30am – 12.30pm

Dingle: Bible study: 2nd Thursday of each month in BeenBawn; also the last Thursday of each month in Lispole, and the last Sunday of each month meeting in Gairdin Mhuire Day Care centre, Green Street, Dingle.

All welcome

Castleisland: meeting for Bible study on the last Monday of each month at 7.30pm in An Rioncht, Cragens, Castleisland. All welcome

‘No Biscuits’ ladies lifestyle group meets on the last Monday of each month at 11am
North Tipperary Methodist Circuit  
Minister: Rev Shannon DeLaureal  
The Manse, The Mall, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary  
Tel: 0505 21670  Mobile: 085 1920 808  
Email: Shannon.delaureal@irishmethodist.org

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

In the United Methodist Church, “All Saints” Day is the 1st November or the first Sunday in November. This is a day for remembering the saints, with the New Testament meaning of all Christian people over time and place. We celebrate the communion of saints as we remember those who have passed on, both from the Church universal and from our local congregations. We remember their Christian example, their love for God and His Church, and the love they shared with us. Over the first two Sundays in November, we shall remember our saints in worship by lifting up their names out loud, thanking God for them, and then joining together in the sacrament of Holy Communion. As we feast at the Lord’s Table, may we have hope that this is a foretaste of what is to come . . . feasting at the heavenly banquet with those who have gone before us, all by the grace of God. May we live with the hope, that our God, Three-in-one, will be our most generous host.

Faithfully,  
Rev. Shannon

MWI Fundraiser – Handbags & Gladrags Sale – Everyone’s invited to Roscrea Methodist Church Hall on Friday 13th November to do some Christmas shopping! Handbags, scarves, belts, and other accessories will be sold. Funds will support MWI’s ministry. Opening times: 10am-12:30pm; 2-4pm; and 7-9pm. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Healing Service – Shinrone Methodist Sunday 15th November at 7pm  
You’re invited to come to this prayer service where we will pray for healing and wholeness of individuals and the world. Holy Communion will be celebrated and for those who desire, anointing of oil.

St. Cronan’s Boys’ Bridge – The company will meet in Roscrea’s Methodist Church Hall on Fridays 6th and 20th November at 7pm.

St. Cronan’s Youth Club – This secondary school-aged youth club will meet on Saturday 21st November from 7-9pm in Methodist Church Hall, Roscrea. €2/youth. Any questions, please contact Rosie Gee at 086 1973311.

Methodist Midlands & Southern District Synod

Report by Rev Shannon DeLaureal, North Tipperary Circuit

The ministerial session of the Midlands & Southern Synod met in Mitchelstown, County Cork, on Thursday 10 September in the Fir Grove Hotel. Before our afternoon session, we met for our monthly morning Spectrum gathering. We had a delightful and inspirational guest speaker, Glynn Langston, who is an educational consultant for the visually impaired. He shared the joys and challenges that he has experienced in life and ministry as a visually impaired person. May God continue to bless him and his work with Braille Outreach Worldwide.

Later the Rev Bill Mullally, our district superintendent, opened the ministerial session with devotions highlighting the fact that our Lord Jesus Christ had been a migrant and relating this to the current migrant crisis in Europe. A main item of business followed, namely the interviewing of a ministerial candidate from the Portlaoise Circuit. We are happy to report the candidate was approved and will be moving on to the next stage of the candidating process.

The representative session took place two days later in Gurteen College, County Tipperary, on the afternoon of Saturday 12 September – a beautiful autumn day. The Rev Bill Mullally welcomed those attending the synod for the first time: the Rev Karen Spence, newly stationed to the Kerry Circuit and three lay members who had come Kilkenny, Killarney and Cloughjordan. Mr Mullally then led devotions on the President’s theme of ‘Living as aliens in a strange land’ saying that God calls us to be a travelling people and to welcome the stranger. His devotion prepared our hearts and minds to look at the nature of the multi-ethnic church, a discussion led by the Rev Dr John Parkin and his wife, Liz.

The Parkins helped us explore our own ethnicity through the categories found on the Irish census. We realised that labels of ethnicity can conjure up images that aren’t always accurate. We considered reasons why people move to/from Ireland and discovered how words shape our ideas and feelings about others. In a fun exercise, we listed the different countries from which people on our circuit and communities have come: Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, Hong Kong, Thailand, Pakistan, Germany, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Nigeria, Philippines, Indonesia, India, Bangladesh, Slovakia, Togo, South Africa, Zimbabwe, United Kingdom, Canada, America, Cameroon, and the Congo. What a list!

Mr Parkin noted that in a multi-ethnic church it’s not possible to satisfy everyone all the time when it comes to styles of worship. Exploring different ways of praying and different styles of song is helpful. He emphasised that one of the most important things is for people to get to know each other by having social contact and eating together.

The Rev Clodagh Yambasu, District Home Mission Ministerial Secretary, encouraged us all to consider attending Inspire retreats that are now scheduled for our district. After other routine business was taken care of, Mr Mullally closed the Synod with prayer.

We look forward to meeting again on 19 March in Bandon, County Cork.

Newslink is grateful to the Methodist Newsletter for permission to reprint this article, and we thank Harold Baird and Lynda Neilands for their assistance.
THE FOUR CANDLES OF ADVENT

The **Prophecy** Candle reminds us God’s prophets foretold Jesus’ birth. The **Bethlehem** Candle reminds us Jesus, our Saviour, was born in an ordinary town among ordinary people. The **Shepherd’s** Candle reminds us that the first to worship Jesus were the Shepherds. The **Angel’s** candle reminds us that it was the angels who announced the birth of Jesus and will be with Him at his return.

ADVENT starts this year on 29th November, it is the time before Christmas when we celebrate the arrival of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

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1. **THE PROPHECY CANDLE**
   Isaiah 9:2-7

2. **THE BETHLEHEM CANDLE**
   Micah 5:2-4

3. **THE SHEPHERD’S CANDLE**
   Luke 2:15-20

4. **THE ANGEL’S CANDLE**
   Luke 2:8-14

Colour in one candle each Sunday in ADVENT and countdown to Christmas.
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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