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The King’s Hospital

Headmaster: John D. Rafter
B.A.(Mod), B.Sc., HDipEd.
Bishop Kenneth writes

Those of you with school going children will know that there is a great “beginning a new school year” feeling in the month of September, as family life settles down to a more organised pattern after the freedom of summer.

There is also a beginning of a new year feeling in the diocese with a number of events planned for September.

In July I appointed Revd Simon Lumby as Archdeacon of Limerick, Ardfert and Aghadoe, and he will be installed as Archdeacon at Evensong on Sunday 18th September at 5.00 p.m. in St Mary’s Cathedral. All are invited to join him in this celebration, and all clergy and Diocesan Lay Readers are invited to robe.

After that service Diocesan Lay Readers will elect a chair for the new Diocesan Guild of Lay Readers, which was one of the recommendations of the Ministry Conference in June.

On Saturday, 24th September, the Director for Women in Church and Society in the Anglican Communion, the Revd Terrie Robinson, will lead a workshop on “Gender Justice – still an issue” in the Kilmurry Hotel from 2.00 – 5.00 p.m. Terrie writes: ‘As Christians we have a vision of a world renewed and restored where women and men, girls and boys are free from fear, exclusion and prejudice. This workshop will explore the role of the Church in ensuring that our being gendered is experienced as gift rather than danger, a source of life and hope rather than oppression or fear, as something to be received gratefully from God, rather than experienced as a source of strife’. These are big subjects to address, and Revd Terrie Robinson (a former colleague of mine from London) is a fascinating speaker. We are fortunate to have her visit – so do please mark this date in your diary.

Also in September we will welcome Revd Rod Smyth to the diocese as Rector of Nenagh. His institution will be on Friday 16th September at 8.00 p.m. in St Mary’s, Nenagh. I know Rod and his wife Rosemary will receive a warm welcome from us all.

So a busy month ahead for our parishes and diocese and lots of new beginnings.

With all good wishes,

+Kenneth.

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

Thu 15th September, 8.15pm Whist Drive in Aghancon Hall
Fri 16th September, 8pm Institution of Rev Rod Smyth as Rector of Nenagh, St Mary’s, Nenagh
Sat 17th September, UDYC Fellowship Group Richmond Terrace, Henry Street, Limerick. All secondary school students from 7.30pm to 9.30pm
Sun 18th September, 5pm Installation of Rev Simon Lumby as Archdeacon of Limerick, Ardfert & Aghadoe, St Mary’s Cathedral, Limerick
Sat 24th September, 2.30pm – 5pm GFS Fun Day, Birr
Sat 24th September, 2–5pm Workshop: Gender Justice, Kilmurray Hotel, Limerick
Fri 30th September, 8pm Musical Evening, Aghancon Hall (proceeds to St Luke’s cancer & church funds
Sat 8th October, Multi-Activity Day, Birr outdoor education centre, Birr Co. Offaly. 3rd to 6th class national school
Sat 15th October, UDYC Fellows UDYC Fellowship group Richmond Terrace Henry Street Limerick, All secondary school student from 7.30pm to 9.30pm
Saturday 29th October to 31st October, Anois, Wilson’s Hospital School, Multyfarnham, Co. WestMeath, Secondary School upwards
Sun 30th October, 1.30pm Sunday Lunch in Aghancon Hall
Fri 4th November Aghancon Parish host Brendan Shine in County Arms Hotel, Birr

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Lunchtime Concerts at St Mary’s

1.15pm in St Mary’s Cathedral, Limerick

Wednesday 14th September
Sinead Fitzpatrick (soprano), Peter Barley (piano)

Wednesday 21st September
Joanne Harding (soprano), Peter Barley (piano)

Wednesday 28th September
Peter Barley (organ)

Including music by J.S. Bach, Vivaldi, Franck and Widor

Thursday 20th October
Academos

Special performance courtesy of Irish Chamber Orchestra Management

Free admission - retiring collection in aid of the Companions of St Mary’s Cathedral Music
One of the joys of a holiday for me is to experience new and unfamiliar places, including churches and different liturgies. I’ve done a bit of that this summer.

In July I attended the week-long Dalgan Summer School entitled ‘Finding God in Creation’, organised by the Columban Ecological Institute. Led by Dr John Feehan of Birr, this explored the glories of creation as expressed in his native County Offaly. We gathered and named wildflowers and examined their intricate beauty under the microscope. We pond-dipped in the Lough Boora wetlands, and tried to identify the amazingly diverse microscopic invertebrates that live there. We explored the geology of the Slieve Bloom Mountains. But the highpoint was the ‘pilgrimage day’ when we climbed Arderin, at 527 metres the highest Slieve Bloom peak, from which you can see 14 counties – I was rather shocked by how unfit I was, but I made it! The pilgrimage concluded in Glenafelly, in sight of a prehistoric standing stone known as Fiddler’s Rock, with an open-air RC Mass at which Protestants were made very welcome. I am left stunned by the diversity of what God has created through evolution over geological ages – praise be to God!

At the end of the month two of us made a whistle stop tour of the North of England, where we experienced something of the variety of Church of England churches and spirituality.

We visited York, where we explored the grandeur of the largest medieval cathedral north of the Alps. We took in an Evensong sung by the visiting Hogan Ensemble – Gray’s Magnificat in F minor, Holst’s Nunc Dimittis, and an anthem by Harris. It was magnificent, of course, but as part of the congregation we were little more than observers – there wasn’t even one congregational hymn! I prefer to take part when I worship.

We visited Lindisfarne, a place of pilgrimage ever since St Aidan was sent from Iona to establish a monastery there, invited by the Northumbrian King Oswald to convert his pagan people. The Community of St Aidan & Hilda, a dispersed, ecumenical body drawing inspiration from the lives of the Celtic saints, have their main house there. We attended Mid-day Prayer with them – a short, but moving service using their own liturgy in which we could join in. And Ray Simpson, the Founding Guardian and an old friend, was kind enough to treat us to lunch afterwards.

And we stayed in Grasmere in the Lake District. Among many other delightful things, we went to well-attended Sunday Holy Communion in traditional language in the Grasmere parish church. The church is dedicated to St Oswald – the same Northumbrian King who invited Aidan to Lindisfarne, who founded the first church there in 642. In the grounds are the graves of the poet William Wordsworth and his family. The church is permanently open, visited by many tourists when there is no service, and everything is well signed. It is a good example of the kind of Spiritual Tourism that Rev Simon Lumby is encouraging us to develop.

God bless, Joc Sanders
To bring new life to the land,
To restore the waters,
To refresh the air.

We join with the earth and with each other:
To renew the forests,
To care for the plants,
To protect the creatures.

We join with the earth and with each other:
To celebrate the seas,
To rejoice in the sunlight,

A prayer in union with creation

This prayer was published by Pope Francis in his encyclical Laudato Si’. It is a prayer for inspiration to take up the commitment to creation set before us by the Gospel of Jesus. What better time to use it than during the month of September – Creation Time?

Father, we praise you with all your creatures.
They came forth from your all-powerful hand;
they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love.
Praise be to you!

Son of God, Jesus,
through you all things were made.
You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother,
you became part of this earth,
and you gazed upon this world with human eyes.
Today you are alive in every creature
in your risen glory.
Praise be to you!

Holy Spirit, by your light
you guide this world towards the Father’s love
and accompany creation as it groans in travail.
You also dwell in our hearts
and you inspire us to do what is good.
Praise be to you!

Triune Lord,
wondrous community of infinite love,
teach us to contemplate you
in the beauty of the universe,
for all things speak of you.

Awaken our praise and thankfulness
for every being that you have made.
Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined
to everything that is.

God of love, show us our place in this world
as the channels of your love
for all creatures of this earth,
for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.

Enlighten those who possess power and money
that they may avoid the sin of indifference,
that they may love the common good,
advance the weak,
and care for this world in which we live.

The poor and the earth are crying out.
O Lord, seize us with your power and light,
help us to protect all life,
to prepare for a better future,
for the coming of your Kingdom
of justice, peace, love and beauty.
Praise be to you!
Amen.

We join together
as many and diverse expressions of one loving mystery,
for the healing of the earth and the renewal of all life.

To sing the song of the stars.
We join with the earth and with each other:
To recreate the human community,
To promote justice and peace,
To remember our children.

To bring new life to the land,
To restore the waters,
To refresh the air.

We join with the earth and with each other:
To renew the forests,
To care for the plants,
To protect the creatures.

We join with the earth and with each other:
To celebrate the seas,
To rejoice in the sunlight,
On the matter of a new language I want to share something of the wisdom of St. John, he of the Gospel, who writes ‘if ye do these things ye shall know the doctrine’. John is telling us that starting with the death of Jesus, which only he of all the disciples witnessed close up - along with the three Marys - and after following the risen Lord faithfully for some fifty, possibly, sixty years, that he has come to understand that to do is to know. And he is further telling us that the doing with Jesus almost always involves new horizons of experience. The lesson for our time, as for all time until the end time, is that there is a call for the Church to be in focus with the kingdom. And so I believe that the new language will only be given as we do the new things. What might these new things be? I started last time with new forms of ministry. I want this time to begin to look at new forms of community.

On the matter of a new language I want to share something of the wisdom of St. John, he of the Gospel, who writes ‘if ye do these things ye shall know the doctrine’. John is telling us that starting with the death of Jesus, which only he of all the disciples witnessed close up - along with the three Marys - and after following the risen Lord faithfully for some fifty, possibly, sixty years, that he has come to understand that to do is to know. And he is further telling us that the doing with Jesus almost always involves new horizons of experience. The lesson for our time, as for all time until the end time, is that there is a call for the Church to be in focus with the kingdom. And so I believe that the new language will only be given as we do the new things. What might these new things be? I started last time with new forms of ministry. I want this time to begin to look at new forms of community.

Last time the View from the Pew dealt with some of the issues which relate to changing patterns of ministry with which our Diocese could be involved in the not too distant future. When it arrived on the Editor’s Desk he acknowledged its receipt with a cryptic comment to the effect that we may well need a new language to speak and write of such things. I didn’t reply but I did ponder the issue specifically in the context of the closing remarks of my article which indicated that I would turn to the matter of things ecumenical in my following piece. So here goes in an exercise to attempt to cover both matters.

Instead of bread from the breakfast table and wine from supper the night before we make our way to the chapel where we pray for forgiveness, listen to God’s Word, sing Her praise and give thanks as Bread is broken and Wine poured, knowing that we do the will of the One who is in All, through All, with All and above All. Myself, I think there is some kind of parable there on the road to a greater community, wider fellowship and certainly to a new Language. The language of LOVE.

By the way, those of us who could had a great lunch with our Methodist Friends on Sunday 3rd July last as a Thank You for their hospitality while our church was being painted.
Care for Creation
Creation Time - 1st September to 4th October

Churches in Ireland will join Christians throughout the world in celebrating Creation Time from 1st September until the Feast of St Francis on 4th October 2016. It is an opportunity for Christians of all traditions to reflect on the wonder and mystery of God’s Creation and to choose better ways to relate to the living earth, ways that reflect God’s ways of justice and peace.

Creation Time is promoted by Eco-Congregation Ireland (ECI) - an inter-church project that encourages churches to take an environmental approach to worship, lifestyle, property and finance management, children’s and youth work, community outreach and contact with the developing world. Eco-Congregation Ireland has prepared some resources for use in worship in the Irish churches during Creation Time 2016. You can download them from http://goo.gl/Lq3B1i. ECI is offering these suggestions but churches and faith communities are free to produce their own or adapt these to suit their tradition or context.

In 1989 the Ecumenical Patriarch suggested that 1 September, the first day of the Orthodox Church’s year, should be observed as a day ‘of protection of the natural environment.’ Ten years later the European Christian Environmental Network (ECEN) widened this proposal, urging churches to adopt a Time for Creation stretching from 1 September to the feast of St Francis on 4 October and this was endorsed by the 3rd European Ecumenical Assembly in Sibiu, Romania in 2007, which recommended that the period ‘be dedicated to prayer for the protection of Creation and the promotion of sustainable lifestyles that reverse our contribution to climate change’.

Since 2008 Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) has compiled a programme of resources to encourage and assist churches to observe Creation Time. These include suggestions on a variety of ways in which churches, groups and individuals could choose to focus on a creation theme at this particular time of the year. Worship material for Creation Time 2016 comes from an ecumenical writing group, with contributors from the Church of Scotland, the Scottish Episcopal Church and the United Reformed Church. This year’s material follows the theme, ‘Followers of Jesus, Caring for Creation’, emphasising the readings from the Gospel of Luke which appear in the Revised Common Lectionary in September. These are available on the Eco-Congregation Scotland website http://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/materials/creation-time/.

For further information, see www.ecocongregationireland.com.

God and Mammon

We human beings have a special responsibility to care for God’s creation. The ecological crisis we face - climate change, the degradation of natural ecosystems, and species extinction - has brought the importance of our responsibility into sharp focus. Most Christian traditions now recognise that care for creation is a Christian imperative.

Orthodox Patriarch Bartholomew has challenged us saying,

‘For human beings ... to destroy the biological diversity of God’s creation, to degrade the integrity of the earth by causing changes in its climate, by stripping the earth of its natural forests or destroying its wetlands, to contaminate the earth’s waters, its land, its air, and its life – these are sins’.

Last year Pope Francis published his encyclical ‘Laudato Si’, on Care for Our Common Home. In it he quotes Patriarch Bartholomew approvingly, and he appeals for

‘a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet ... a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all’.

It is a remarkable document, well worth reading - a gift not just to Catholics but to Christians of all traditions.

And of course our Church of Ireland, along with the rest of the Anglican Communion has committed itself to the 5th mark of its mission in the world:

‘to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth’.

The challenge has been laid down, and now it is up to Christians of all traditions to work together – and with people of goodwill from other faiths and none – to care for and cherish the Earth, the Garden of Eden that God has given us.

no one can serve two masters
This is the context in which Jesus’s words in Matthew 6:24-33 speak to me.

‘No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.’

Our society’s single-minded pursuit of wealth in a consumer market economy is surely at the heart of the ecological crisis we face, which threatens our very civilisation. We have a choice to make: either we serve wealth – continue business as usual - and face destruction; or we serve God by changing our lifestyles to live simply without waste, protecting the environment, and generously supporting those in need.

Jesus understands very well that fear for the future is the greatest barrier to making lifestyle changes, so he tells his followers not to worry, because God looks after his creatures.

‘Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ... Consider the lilies of the field, 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—if you of little faith? We must not be afraid of making lifestyle changes. Our heavenly Father is faithful and knows what we need. If we ‘strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness’ he will give us all that we need – just somewhat less than our greedy desires.

Joc Sanders, Nenagh Union of Parishes
Dear Editor,

Thank you to Ven Wayne Carney for replying to my letter. He raised some points in relation to my comment concerning Baptism. I hope I might be allowed to respond?

I disagree that to advocate adult baptism is to say God isn’t present at infant baptism. For my daughter’s first Christmas present (she was 5 months old), I had carefully selected a beautiful cuddly toy dog – and lovingly wrapped it in Christmas paper. When I gave it to her she ripped open the package, threw away the dog and played with the wrapping paper (much to my bewildered amusement). If someone offers you a present and you do not receive it – to whom does it belong? I’m not saying of course that I kept the toy from her – but I had to wait until she was ready to receive it before I could give it to her again.

God is absolutely present but an infant isn’t capable of ‘repenting’ and has nothing to repent from. With salvation, God gives it freely to anyone who will receive it, but we have to respond by faith in order to actually receive it. We don’t automatically receive it because others have accepted it for us – why do we think this works for baptism?

I don’t believe adult baptism is absolutely necessary, but I believe it is a good thing. I think its function is to help our faith to become effectual (perhaps by emotionally and psychologically letting go of old things and taking on the new). My principal rationale though is – if it was good enough for Jesus... I think what The Church needs is more people who have effectual faith – and it is God working through and around them that will attract people to Church – as was the case in the early Church.

Yours etc.,
Jonathan Pyle, Birr, Co. Offaly.

Editor: Further correspondence on this topic is closed.
DIOCESAN SYNOD OF THE UNITED DIOCESES OF LIMERICK, KILLALOE & ARDFERT

ELECTION RESULTS 2016
1. Lay Member of the Representative Church Body: Mr. R. Benson

2. DIOCESAN COUNCIL 2016-2017
Chairman: The Bishop.
Ex-Officio Member: The Diocesan Secretary

LIMERICK
The Very Rev. S. A. Pragnell
The Rev. Canon L Beasley
The Rev. Dr. K. Scott

KILLALOE
The Ven. R. W. Carney
The Very Rev. G. A. Paulsen
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Ms. D. Powell
Ms. M. Groves
Mr. A. Eadie
Ms. M. Groves
Mr. A. Eadie
Ms. M. Groves

The Diocesan Secretary thanks the Returning Officer, Mrs. M. Groves for her assistance in preparing, sorting and counting of the voting papers for this year's Diocesan Synod and also for her assistance in the election of the Finance Committee.

FINANCE COMMITTEE - Elected by Members of Diocesan Council - 2016
Chairman: The Bishop.
Ex-Officio Member: The Diocesan Secretary
Ms P Mason will attend meetings, as appropriate, as representative of Peevers, Slye Cotter.

The Ven. R. W. Carney
The Ven. S. J. Lumby
The Very Rev. G. A. Paulsen

Mr. R. Benson
Mr. K. Brislane
Mr. A. Eadie
Mr. E. Hardy
Mr. P. Schutz

Ms. Margaret Groves
Returning Officer

Ms. Yvonne Blennerhassett
Diocesan Secretary.

September 2016
Ministry Conference on 29th June 2016

Report by Very Rev Tom Gordon

A diocesan day of reflection on ministry was held in the Woodlands Hotel, Adare on Wednesday 29th June 2016, 10.30am-4pm. The consultation consisted of a group of around thirty people drawn from clergy and lay readers from across the diocese. The consultation included input from Archdeacon Gordon Linney, Canon Cecil Hyland and the Very Revd Tom Gordon. An important part of the work of the day was a presentation on ministry, worship and church structures prior to group discussions from which a number of key issues were addressed.

The FIRST part of the discussions identified the following key issues in terms of diocesan strengths and weaknesses:

**STRENGTHS:**
- Strong sense of community and belonging
- Highly committed core of workers both at diocesan and parish level
- Clear appreciation of the liturgical heritage of Anglican worship and prayer
- Rich embrace of diversity in both ministry (clergy and lay) and at the wider community of the church’s life
- Warm ecumenical relationships and inter-church co-operation
- Prominent role of women in ministry
- Self-understanding of the Church of Ireland as a welcoming and open community
- Clear willingness for change
- Positive experience of diocesan events such as family days etc
- Prominent and positive role of the Church of Ireland in the community
- Sense of ‘ownership’ of the church’s identity and tradition
- Rich resource of parish buildings

**WEAKNESSES:**
- Poor structures of communication
- Occasional tensions and disconnectedness between diocesan sub-groups
- Tendency to ‘tribal’ identity with corresponding implications for openness as a church
- Frequent lack of church social spaces in terms of worship and parish cohesion
- High demands of closed buildings
- Parish and diocesan functions fall on small number of committed workers
- Time pressures on social interaction from such things as multiple Sunday morning services and travelling distances
- Weak connections between parishes and the wider sense of the diocesan community
- Complex relationships between secondary schools and maintaining teenagers’ connection with the parish
- Committees overly clericised
- Sense of ‘deficit’ in spiritual formation (prayer, study, resources, scriptural reflection etc)

The SECOND part of the day identified a number of concrete actions as an initial response to the strengths and weakness articulated in the earlier discussions. These were as follows:

a. Establish an effective diocesan network of communications which includes social media, lay reader and clergy contacts etc
b. Set up working group to consider more effective means of diocesan administration with (i) greater focus on mission and outreach, (ii) professional property management, (iii) exploring how innovation creative responses can be accommodated within the Constitution
c. Provide a programme of diocesan retreats and quiet days for clergy and laity
d. Initiate a consideration of lay pastoral ministry and related training needs
e. Form a Guild of Lay Readers to strengthen diocesan support and provide continuing ministerial development
f. Provide means accessing resources in relation to study and spiritual formation
g. Develop links between St Mary’s Cathedral and the parishes in such events as choir tours to parishes for Evensong, parish visits to cathedral etc

Where does the Church of Ireland stand on Abortion?

by Rt Rev Kenneth Kearon

It is clear even at this stage that one of the controversies on the political and social agenda this autumn will be the issue of abortion, as proposals for the repeal of the 8th Amendment to the Constitution are considered. That amendment inserted into the Constitution the following Article:

"The State acknowledges the right to life of the unborn and, with due regard to the equal right to life of the mother, guarantees in its laws to respect, and, as far as practicable, by its laws to defend and vindicate that right." (Article 40.3.3)

It was inserted into the Constitution in 1983 after a bitter and socially divisive public campaign and referendum. At the time, there was widespread opposition to the move within the Church of Ireland and other protestant churches in the Republic, not because Anglicans favoured abortion, but because they saw it as too simplistic an answer to a complex issue, and the use of the Constitution in this way was too blunt an instrument for an issue as complicated as abortion and the termination of pregnancy.
As with many social and moral questions there is no "official line" within Anglicanism, and each person must decide in conscience where they stand on such issues and how they will vote, if it comes to a vote. Conscience, however, should not be confused with an emotional response or a gut reaction – we speak of an "informed" conscience, and we each have a responsibility to inform ourselves on an issue, taking into account our faith traditions (e.g. Christian respect for the sanctity of human life, biblical perspectives) and what our church has traditionally said on the issue, and what others in the church are saying today, as their perspectives will be important also. Do we understand the issue differently? Have we new or better information today? These are some of the ways we inform our conscience, but in this end we must each make our own decision in conscience before God.

a. Traditionally the Church of Ireland rooted its response to abortion in the Lambeth Conference statement of 1958, which expressed opposition to abortion “except in cases of strict and undeniable medical necessity.” That’s an old statement, made 68 years ago, and we must remember just how much our understanding of the process from conception to birth and of embryology has deepened and changed in the intervening years. We are also much more aware of just how destructive violent acts such as rape or incest can be to the victim, and how intolerable it can be for some to have to carry a pregnancy which might ensue from such acts.

Yet despite the datedness of that statement it still captures some important principles which recognise that abortion is not just akin to contraception and should only be considered in exceptional cases, while also recognising that such cases can arise and do exist, and that we do have to address them.

b. To say life begins at conception is in my opinion too simplistic. Very significant numbers of fertilised ova are never (naturally) implanted in the womb; of those that are many do not survive for long – do we consider them to be deaths of people? We don’t usually regard a pregnancy which doesn’t last long as the death of a child – a better description might be to say it is a “loss of hope,” or the possibility of new life which was not realised. A former Archbishop of York explained it this way:

“Biological processes are not amenable to the sharp distinctions that lawyers like to make. It seems to me that the conceptus is neither simply a thing nor simply a person. It is an organism on its way to becoming a person….. The process of creation is a process of interactions going on during a period of development.”

Abortion is a very serious issue, and if after all the discussions and Dail debates ahead of us, we as citizens are asked to vote on the issue, then we must ensure we decide responsibly and in an informed way.

USPG takes a fresh look

USPG takes a fresh look at its work in Ireland and around the world

Press Statement on behalf of the Right Revd John McDowell, Chair, USPG Ireland and USPG Northern Ireland, issued 5 August 2016.

The oldest Anglican mission agency on these islands is taking new steps forward in Ireland as the name of USPG returns in a new format. For over 300 years, the USPG family of mission societies has been sharing God’s love through practical action, and seeing lives transformed, working hand-in-hand with the culture and context of Church partners around the world. At its annual conference this year, USPG agreed to a new emphasis on its historic branding and well-known initials. USPG now stands for United Society Partners in the Gospel. The new emphasis reflects USPG’s commitment to working in partnership with the Anglican Churches on these islands and Churches throughout the world.

With an enhanced Church of Ireland presence on the Trustees and the Council of USPG, USPG Ireland is reshaping its work in Ireland to build on these new opportunities.

“This is an exciting new phase for USPG in Ireland,” said the Chair of USPG Ireland, the Right Revd John McDowell, Bishop of Clogher. “For over 300 years we have been sharing God’s love through practical action, and seeing lives transformed. Now USPG is taking a fresh look at its work and we are looking to new opportunities to develop these commitments.”

The work of USPG Ireland and USPG Northern Ireland is being integrated into the main work of USPG, and Bishop McDowell said this promises to deliver wider engagement in mission for partner dioceses and parishes in the Church of Ireland.

“Our programmes make a deep impact because they are run by local churches that are embedded in the communities they serve – communities that have often been overlooked,” he said.

Bishop McDowell paid warm tributes to Linda Chambers whose work with the society is coming to an end after working with USPG Ireland since 2001.

“Linda has brought the work of USPG to every diocese in the Church of Ireland. She was frequently accompanied by her husband Jan, who shared her total commitment to the society’s work,” he said. “We wish to thank her especially for her pioneering work with the Anglican Church in Swaziland, the al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza, in India with the Dublin University Mission to Chota Nagpur, and in Zambia.”

Bishop McDowell also thanked the former board members of USPG Ireland and USPG Northern Ireland.

USPG was recently named by the Diocese of Europe as the mission agency to support its work with refugees in Greece and southern Europe. Meanwhile, USPG is producing new Harvest, Advent and Lenten resources, including a study guide on discipleship, entitled ‘Living an authentic life’. As USPG restructures in Ireland, these resources are being made available to dioceses and parishes throughout the Church of Ireland.

For further details or comments please contact either:
Revd Tim Harford, Director of Communications, by telephone on +44(0)20 7921 2200 or by email at timh@weareus.org.uk in the USPG office, London.
or:
Revd Canon Patrick Comerford, USPG Ireland board member and a Trustee of USPG on +353 (0) 87 66 35 116 or by email at revpatrickcomerford@gmail.com

Editor: those in the United Diocese who know them will wish to join with the Newslink team in wishing Linda Chambers and her husband Jan every blessing for the future.
FAMILY FUN DAY is on 24th September in Birr – 2.30 to 5pm – All Welcome. Please contact your Branch Leader for further details.

Prepared this year by GFS Sierra Leone, on the theme ‘Seek the Lord while he can be found’ (Isaiah 55:6)
History of GFS in Sierra Leone. GFS was established at the Cathedral of St George, in the Anglican Diocese of Freetown in 1966, and is celebrating 50 years of existence this year. It has since expanded to various Parishes, with twenty-five active branches. By God’s grace, more Branches are expected to be inaugurated in some distant parishes outside Freetown. Effort has been made to establish GFS within the Bo Diocese which is still in the initial stage. Follow-up actions are in the pipeline.
Freetown, the capital city of Sierra Leone, is a peninsular with beautiful beaches among many natural resources. Sierra Leone is a small country on the west coast of Africa with a population of about 7 million (according to recent census). Its national colours are green, white and blue.
English is the official language, and Krio is the lingua franca. There are many other languages and ethnic groups around the Country.
If any Branch wishes to hold a prayer service in their local church for the GFS World Day of Prayer please contact Rose Langley for the service sheet.

GFS DIOCESAN COUNCIL MEETING, Back Vestry of St. Mary’s Church, Nenagh on Wednesday 9th November at 8pm

DIOCESAN CHRISTMAS CRAFT DAY will take place in Cloughjordan on Saturday, 26th November at 2.30pm

Branches have not yet opened after the summer break. We look forward to many meetings of friendship and fellowship over the coming year.

Mothers' Union
On Tuesday 9th August, members of Adare, Kilcornan and Limerick Branches got together to celebrate Mary Sumner Day with a visit to the fabulous gardens of Phil Boyce, Mount Trenchard, in Co. Limerick. Phil showed us around her gardens which are packed with every kind of plant and shrub that you could wish to have. Along the way she gave up many tips for our own gardens and we came away with pockets full of seeds to plant at home. Following our visit we refreshed ourselves with tea and scones at The Old Stand restaurant in Shanagolden. Lucy Kavanagh, DP, filled us in with the many events planned for next year when Mothers’ Union celebrates 130 years in Ireland, no mean achievement! Margaret Schutz, Branch Leader, Limerick, gave us a run down on upcoming meetings for the Autumn.

SEMINAR ON GENDER VIOLENCE:
On 24th September the Revd Terrie Robinson, Director for Women in Church & Society in the Anglican Communion, has been invited to come to Limerick to give a seminar on the issues of Gender Violence and Gender Justice. As you are aware Mothers’ Union carries out a lot of work in this area and is trying to raise the profile of these important issues at home and abroad and I invite our members, or anyone interested in this matter to make a special effort to attend.
I also want to note that MU will be holding our Vigil on Gender Violence in St. Brendan’s Church in Birr in November. Further details to follow.

Lucy Kavanagh, Diocesan President.
worship during the week was the Olympics and running God’s race. During worship we learnt about four men Paul/Saul, Peter, Stephen and Philip. Also during the week, the children started a Discovery book which had a page for each day for three months. They were told they could keep them and finish them, then send them back to Edward Hardy to receive a prize and Discovery Book 2. The week was action packed with a variety of activities beginning with Bay Sports in Athlone which included activities such as kayaking and a huge water inflatable. Other activities ranged from karting, splatball (less painful version of paintball), rock climbing, caving and bowling. The food was created by Eleanor Walker which everyone thoroughly enjoyed. The camp ended on Saturday and the children left happy, having made new friends and thinking more about God with their Discovery books in hand.

Jason Walker

WEDDINGS & LEAVING CERTS
Congratulations to Jenny Wilson & Scott Cooper who got married in Borrisokane Church, Co. Tipperary on Saturday 2nd July 2016. Also Congratulations to Damian Shorten and Amy McCrea who got married on Saturday 13th August 2013 in Riverstown Church in Co. Sligo.
Finally congratulations to all those on their achievements with recent Leaving Cert examinations with particular congratulations to two UDYC current committee members Laura Cooke and Sophia Levie on achieving superb results.

FELLOWSHIP GROUP
We look forward to Fellowship Group future meetings on Saturdays 17th September, 15th October, 19th November & 17th December from 7.30 pm – 9.30 pm. The group will meet at Dining Room, Basement Richmond Terrace, Henry Street, Limerick City. The group welcomes participation from everyone attending secondary school.

For more information on any of our events or activities, please contact Edward (087) 2907553 or Oscar on (086) 2476327, Email: udycc@limerick.anglican.org or our UDYC Facebook page.

Until next month, Sophia, Mobile: 087 1339996

SCHOOL NEWS

Editor: The schools remain on holiday, and we have received no notes from them. When I asked myself how best to fill the space we had reserved, it occurred to me that there could be no better way than to let Jesus speak to us. On page 15 he does so in the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12), taken from The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language translated by Eugene H Peterson – I hope you find them as fresh and compelling as I do!

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

Sarah Elizabeth Hanna was baptised at the Cathedral in Killaloe on 10 July daughter of Mark and Selina. Sarah was so relaxed as she was passed from arm to arm and seemed amused by what was happening and curiously looked around and smiled while the water was being poured on her head,. It is clear that nothing in life is going to upset her in the future, all one can say is.. "what a pleasant baby".

Beverley Hartigan was married to Turlogh Herbert at All Saints Castleconnell on 15 July. They ensured that enough clergy were present at the altar. Fr Tadgh Herbert travelled from Brazil, local pp Fr Brendan Kyne, Canon Aisling Shine came from Dublin, and Dean Gary made sure the knot was tied securely. Music with Peter Barley on organ, Liadan Carty on the harp and the beautiful voice of Owen Gilhooly enhanced the liturgy. We wish them a happy life together.

Beverley and Turlogh

Sarah Elizabeth at her Baptism
The Carice singers visited the Cathedral once again this summer on the 14th August. They started off the Eucharist service by singing “Love of Love and Light of Light” [W H Harns] in the ante chapel of cathedral before processing. During the Eucharist they sang “Tye Missa Euge Bone” and anthem was Delius’ “Ave Maria”. They also gave a short recital to those who wanted to stay after the Eucharist. We were privileged to have their voices enhance our worship and we look forward to their visit next year.

TUAMGRANEY Church has been opened for visitors during the week days this summer and we hope this can be done every year and grateful to people who volunteer their time to see that this is possible.

MOUNTSHANNON Church saw many visitors this summer and it is always nice to have them and to have relatively full church when the local congregation is small in number. A dedicated group of people make sure there is a cup of tea and a warm welcome each week and visitors so much appreciate the hospitality and the chat after the service.

CLONLARA community continue to work away at cleaning and painting the church and we are grateful to neighbours and friends who give of their time so willingly to restore this beautiful church. A wedding will take place there on 10 July next and thanks to the local congregation at Castleconnell this will be possible. So much can be done with little resources if people are just willing to make the effort. Many thanks.

THE CHAMBER PHILHARMONIA COLOGNE played again this year at the Cathedral in Killaloe. Talented and gifted musicians played to a packed cathedral and to a standing ovation and it looks like their visit is becoming an annual event. The Autumn series starts again in Castleconnell once a month from August to November this year, the first of the series started on 30 August. Your support is always valued.

FLOWER FESTIVAL

What can one say about the magnificent Flower Festival held in Birr Church on the August Bank Holiday weekend? The carriages and bicycles decorated with flowers in front of the church brought the first visitors in, but from then on it was word of mouth in the town, the county, and beyond, that kept the church filled with happy sightseers enjoying the floral displays surrounding the historical artefacts that told the story of St Brendan’s Church and the town of Birr. We are so grateful to Richard Haslam and Ethel Mitchell, who orchestrated the entire festival, along with the many people who contributed individual displays, those who acted as stewards, those who worked long hours in the tea room, the organists who filled the church with music for much of the time... and then the opening service, with Brian Kennedy giving glimpses into the stories behind the exhibits, interspersed with musical pieces sung by the Birr Choral Society. It was an event which will be talked about for years to come. See photographs on page 17.
You are blessed, says Jesus!

The Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12), taken from The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language translated by Eugene H Peterson.

When Jesus saw his ministry drawing huge crowds, he climbed a hillside. Those who were apprenticed to him, the committed, climbed with him. Arriving at a quiet place, he sat down and taught his climbing companions. This is what he said:

“You’re blessed when you’re at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule.

“You’re blessed when you feel you’ve lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you.

“You’re blessed when you’re content with just who you are—no more, no less. That’s the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can’t be bought.

“You’re blessed when you’ve worked up a good appetite for God. He’s food and drink in the best meal you’ll ever eat.

“You’re blessed when you care. At the moment of being ‘care-full,’ you find yourselves cared for.

“You’re blessed when you get your inside world—your mind and heart—put right. Then you can see God in the outside world.

“You’re blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. That's when you discover who you really are, and your place in God’s family.

“You’re blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution. The persecution drives you even deeper into God’s kingdom.

“Not only that—count yourselves blessed every time people put you down or throw you out or speak lies about you to discredit me. What it means is that the truth is too close for comfort and they are uncomfortable. You can be glad when that happens—give a cheer, even!—for though they don’t like it, I do! And all heaven applauds. And know that you are in good company. My prophets and witnesses have always gotten into this kind of trouble.

The Sermon on the Mount, Károly Ferenczy

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Birr Flower Festival 29th July - 2nd August
Lets Celebrate - Commemorating 200 years of St Brendan’s Church of Ireland and its role in the community of Birr in the intervening years.
This year the Church of Ireland Youth Department in co-operation with Tearfund sent six youth leaders (Edward Hardy, Rachel Davis, Tracey Pierce, Wendy Walker, Alec Perrott and Sophia Levie) from across Ireland to travel to Cambodia and work with the Christian group The DOVE Project for two weeks from the 28th of July - 10th of August.

Arriving in Phnom Penh we were welcomed by Brian, Vysal and Ramon who we would be working with in DOVE. While volunteering with DOVE, we would be working closely with students from their Onyx Programme, a programme which teaches young people on social and economic issues in Cambodia, helping them to think freely and become emotionally and spiritually healthy Christian leaders who can encourage and empower others in their communities. DOVE also provides Drop-in centres for any youth wishing to learn English.

On our second day in Cambodia we met with DOVE and their Onyx students to do social justice fieldwork in the city. We visited eviction areas where slums had been torn down so that government and business buildings could be built there. Brian told us that the evicted were carted out to the countryside and given a bag of rice and a piece of blue tarp each to survive with no further help. We then travelled to Beoung Kak Lake which in the last ten years has been destroyed and filled in by the government so it can be developed. Almost 4000 people have had their homes demolished with little or no compensation. The day gave us a huge insight into the social injustice in the country. One had to merely look from one side of the road to the other to see ornate embassies on one side and poverty on the other. What surprised me was how little the students themselves knew of what was going on in their own city. They were shocked and angry and it really showed us with how much injustice and deception their government rules. The rest of our first weekend in Cambodia was spent acclimatising to the extreme humid temperatures, exploring the city highlights and meeting DOVE staff.

Monday the 1st was a day of extreme emotions for the team. We visited the Toul Sleng prison and genocide museum. The horrors that were committed there are indescribable and it had a massive impact on the team. We were all left very shaken afterwards. However, that evening our spirits were lifted when we got to teach our very first class at the DOVE Drop-in-centre. The students were all so eager and enthusiastic to learn, fun was had by all. Probably one of my most favourite moments of the whole trip.

Tuesday the 2nd we left Phnom Penh for DOVE’s satellite office in the town of Kompong Thom. Here we were introduced to the more rural side of Cambodia and we really got to experience traditional Khmer cuisine which featured the occasional chicken feet soup! We were well looked after there by Seila, Minea and Chumno the coordinator of Kompong Thom. We got really stuck in to teaching while there. We split ourselves into three groups so we could give the students a wide array of classes in English, Art and Music. It was so rewarding teaching these kids and Wendy and I were delighted when we heard them perform the songs we taught them. While in Kompong Thom we got the chance to explore ancient temples from the 7th Century, spend time playing games with our students and have dinner with the Onyx Alumni who patiently tried teaching us traditional Khmer dance.

On the 5th of August we said a sad farewell to Chumno and left for Kompong Cham. While there we travelled with Sarady our co-ordinator and her Onyx students to do streetreach in a poor fishing village. We clipped and painted the children’s nails, the boys got their hair trimmed and all the children had their hair washed and deloused as the poor things were crawling with headlice. The whole team found it such a rewarding experience, we were providing such basic needs but it was so effective and very much appreciated. In my opinion the one thing that really struck the whole team is how grateful, and polite the Cambodian people are. We were shown nothing but kindness and manners where ever we went. They are truly a nation of smilers!

To put down in words the story of our trip to Cambodia is something I think each member of our team has been struggling to do. We have seen such moving and amazing things and met with such inspirational people. We were especially blown away by the strong faith of the youth, we were in awe whenever we saw them pray and some of the testimonies they told us were truly moving. Some of the youths have given up everything for God – some were turned out of their homes by their families for being Christian – but their faith did not waiver and only became stronger. Words can’t describe justly our incredible experience, but I hope that this gives you at least a glimpse of what our adventure was like.
UDYC Summer Photos

Summer Madness 2016

Junior Summer Camp 2016

8 cousins go to summer camp

Camp was great!

Karters at Summer Camp

Having Fun

Concentrating

The Washing Up still has to be done!
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CLOSING DATE FOR SEPTEMBER 2017 ENTRY IS 1ST OCTOBER 2016
It was a long time in coming, but when it came our way—after Cavan, Sligo and Derry—in the significant year of ‘16, the Fleadh fitted like a glove onto Clare, Ireland’s premier musical county, and into the historical and intimate streetscape of Ennis.

The weather at times did put a dampener on things, but unforgettable scenes were a plenty, with crammed thoroughfares, artists young and old fiddling or squeeze-boxing with wonderful and amusing spontaneity at shopfronts, corners and alleyways, perhaps with a hat or bucket at their toes. They helped make up the 7,000 competitors who qualified for this all-Ireland and international event, with judging taking place in a myriad of locations, including our own St Columba’s Church, centrally sited in Ennis.

Serious entertainment was aired with traditional stars such as Clare-raised Martin Hayes, a fiddler of international renown, and the Kilfenora and Tulla Ceili bands, in an especially constructed Dome and secondary tents, as well as the Glor Theatre. TnaG television broadcast daily from their own special campus with solo artists and group sessions.

Littered liberally were merchandise stands and snack shacks in addition to regular but overstretched restaurants, pubs and cafes. Shop fronts were spruced up, traffic flows redesigned and multiple carparks and camping sites created to great effect.

President Michael. D. Higgins officially opened the Fleadh. Another Clare-raised figure he has for all his many pursuits and interests never been far away from the culture behind the Fleadh Cheoil. In his address he alluded to the authentic traditional music history of Clare and seminal names such as Mrs Crotty, Willie Clancy, Martin Hayes and Tony Mc Mahon. He also heaped praise on Ennis becoming the first Green Fleadh.

Local bard, sadly recently deceased, Robbie McMahon produced the doggerel ‘Fleadh down in Ennis’ for a previous festival in 1977 which got another airing at the 2016 Opening.

Labhrás Ó Murchú , Director-General of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann and a retired member of Seánad Éireann, explained that in addition to its cultural mission the Fleadh has a strong social message: “Here we see young and old without reference to class distinction or political partisanship, working in partnership for the good of all”.

In Clare the Church of Ireland has been working with Comhaltas Ceoltóirí for several decades, during which time two redundant church buildings, in Ennistymon and Kilrush have been transferred for use as Traditional Culture Centres. It has been an honour for Drumcliffe Group Select Vestry to put St Columba’s Church at the disposal of Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann Inis 2016. Roll on 2017 for a repeat performance in Ennis.
Roscrea Group of Parishes
Roscrea, Bourney, Corbally and Kyle
Rector: Canon Jane Galbraith
St. Cronan’s Rectory, Rosemount, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary, E53X466
Tel: 0505 21725 Mob: 087 382 5336
Email: galbraithjane@gmail.com

NO NOTES RECEIVED

Nenagh Union of Parishes
Nenagh, Templederry, Ballymackey and Killodiernan
Vacant until 16th September
Priest-in-Charge: Rev Lucy Green
From 16th September Rector Rev Rod Smyth, St. Mary’s Rectory,
Church Road Nenagh Co. Tipperary.
Tel: 067 32598 Mob: 087 667 0425
Email: rsymth6582@btinternet.com.

We look forward to welcoming our new rector – Rev Rod Smyth – and his wife Rosemary to the Nenagh Union on the 16th September. The Institution Service will take place in St Mary’s Church, Nenagh at 8pm, with refreshments afterwards in the Croft Hall in the Primary School.
We also express our sincere thanks to Rev Lucy Green for looking after all our pastoral care during the vacancy. There will be a United Service of Thanks in St Mary’s at 11am on Sunday 11th September, followed by a bring-and-share meal, at which we may convey our own individual thanks to Rev Lucy.
Welcome to Lily Mai Colbourne and Alex Elizabeth who were baptised in St Mary’s during the summer.
Condolences to Lynn Kelly and her family on the recent death of her father – Stuart Whitten. Lynn’s parents moved to Nenagh a few years ago but unfortunately Stuart did not have the best of health and was in Bushy Park Nursing Home for quite some time – and also to Selina Powell and Hilary Moynan whose families suffered bereavements during the summer.
Golden best wishes and congratulations to John and Betty Powell for their 50th Wedding Anniversary. Congratulations also to Amanda Lewis and Michael Carroll on the birth of their baby daughter Sophie Michaela. And congratulations to those who took part in the various agricultural shows – especially to Hilary Moynan who won the maximum number of prizes in the home baking section of Nenagh Show and Alice Hayes on winning first prize for her craft work.

HARVEST FESTIVALS
Killodiernan – 11am, Sunday 25th September
Templederry – 7pm Sunday 2nd October
Nenagh – 11am, Sunday 16th October

Well Done to all who recently received their leaving certificate exam results and the best of luck for their years ahead. Also, good luck to all who are beginning a new term in a new school – especially to those younger members of our parish who have just begun in our Primary School.
The annual ecumenical service of thanksgiving for the Lough Derg Regatta was held on Sunday 14th August. Lessons were read by Alan Algeo on behalf of LRYC and David Meredith, Commodore of LDYC. Brian Brislane played the organ. Diocesan Reader Joc Sanders led the service and preached on the theme of ‘care for creation’. Numbers were a little down on recent years, no doubt because the Regatta finished on the Friday rather than the Sunday and so many were deeply involved in arrangements for the Optimist National Championships.

Cloughjordan & Borrisokane Group of Parishes
Cloughjordan, Borrisokane, Borrisnafarney and Ballingarry.
Rector: Rev Terry Mitchell
Modreeny Rectory, Cloughjordan, Co. Tipperary
Tel: 0505 42183

Enjoying the Birr Flower Festival - Grace (Borrisokane) Amy and Sarah Jane (Nenagh).
Lily Mai with her parents - Marie Clarke and Leslie Colbourne and sister Emma.
Alex with his Godparents - Amy Slatter, Matt Reddick and Natalie Joachim.
FROM THE REGISTER we record the death of Bob Kelly. He passed away peacefully on the 7th of August after struggling for some time with his health. He will be remembered as a loving husband and friend, who faithfully served as a Parish Reader for 22 years. His sense of humour and commitment to his calling will be remembered by all, as many people came to pay tribute to him.

He was buried at the Templeharry Church on the 10th August. Hermione, his wife would like to thank all those who have helped in different ways and the many messages of condolences, which have been a great encouragement at this difficult time. May Bob rest in peace and rise in glory.

CONGRATULATIONS to Leslie and Alison Austin on the birth of Lily on the 7th of July and to the proud grandparents.

We also extend our congratulations and prayers to Stephen and Diane Landy as their twins, Beth and Ben were baptised on the 24th July.

Congratulations also to Jenny and Scott Cooper who were married on the 2nd of July, in Borrisokane by Revd. Elizabeth Robinson. Gordon Harding and Linda Clarke were married on the 29th of July in a combined service at Terryglass, with Fr Michael Cooney and Revd. Terry Mitchell officiating.

We wish you all God's richest blessing in the years ahead.

Borrisnafarney Church held it’s FETE on the afternoon of the 16th of June. It was well attended with a wide variety of items being sold on the day, as well as a number of lucky draw prizes. Thank you to everyone who helped to make the day a success and thank you to the community for your support.

A MEGA-JUMBLE SALE was held in the Methodist Hall in Cloughjordan on the same day. The purpose was to raise funds for the Red Cross in support of the migrants. Thank you to Sharon Davis from Ballingarry who helped with the organisation - 2225 euros was raised.

Karen Gillespie and her family would also like to share their appreciation and gratitude to all who supported the COMMUNITY WALK. This was in aid of raising funds for a visit to South Africa, to help learn and share in projects particularly related to HIV-Aids alleviation. They visited a number of these projects in both Johannesburg and Durban. The money raise will be donated in support of these projects. Karen hopes to share her experiences when she returns.

CONGRATULATIONS to Mrs Donna Cavanagh on her appointment to No. 1 National School, Cloughjordan. This is a substitute appointment for 26 weeks. We are delighted that she will be joining the school community and we look forward to the contribution she will make, not only to the school, but also in the lives of the children she will be teaching. Congratulations again on your appointment.

Shinrone Group of Parishes
Shinrone, Aghancon, Kinnitty and Dunkerrin
Rector: Canon Michael Johnston
St Mary’s Rectory, Church Road, Shinrone, Birr, Co. Offaly
Tel: 0505 47164 Mob: 086 608 6567
Email: shinrone@killaloe.anglican.org
Parish Website: shinrone.blogspot.ie

MOTHERS’ UNION
The opening service for the new season will be held on Thursday, 6th October at 8 p.m. in Aghancon and will be followed by a meeting to plan for the year ahead.

MUSICAL EVENING
A musical evening will be held in Aghancon Community Hall on Friday, 30th September. Among those taking part will be Roscrea Community Choir and Ian Callinan for what promises to be an enjoyable evening of music. Proceeds will go to church funds and
the Friends of St. Luke’s Hospital.

CHURCH SERVICES
Many thanks to those who are helping out with services in all four churches - with time, a regular schedule will emerge! It is also appreciated that people are available to have the churches open and ready to welcome those attending.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING
It hasn’t been possible to have arrangements ready in time for Newslink but hopefully, details will be in the next newsletter out on the 5th September.

Drumcliffe Union with Kilnasoolagh

Ennis, Kilfenora, Kilkee, Spanish Point, Kilnasoolagh and Shannon
Rector: Rev. Chancellor Robert Charles Hanna
The Rectory, Bindon Street, Ennis, Co. Clare.
Tel: 065 – 6820109 Mob: 086 2167040
Email: bobhanna@eircom.net
Parish website: www.churchofirelandclare.com

FLEADH CHEOIL NA H’ÉIREANN INIS 2016
See page 21 for a report with photos.

It was good to have Mrs Grainne Weir take worship at Kilnasoolagh in August when Ennis parishioners agreed to join their neighbours there and allow for Fleadh music in St Columba—piano and piano accordion competitions. Her presence was all the more special since as a member of the Inchiquin–O’Brien family she has long links to Kilnasoolagh.

With the Spanish Point mobile home chaplaincy bookings depleted significantly this year we appreciated the ministry of Kieran Sparling from Limerick, and also Dean Emeritus Maurice Sirr, Dr Steven Ellis (Galway), Stephen Fletcher (London), Canon Trevor Sullivan and Rev Dr Patricia McKee–Hanna. Happily, Stephen Fletcher was able to catch the grand Finale of the Fleadh, with the mammoth Cherish the Ladies (American group and guests) concert in the AeroDome, a stunning climax to a surreal week in Ennis.

Thanks from the Rector to Tim Gibbons, Lawson Kirkpatrick and Una Collison for support work in St Columba’s during the Fleadh. Tim and Miriam’s superb work on the external floral displays and grass cutting prepared us excellently for the huge exposure of Fleadh Week. We all were impressed with the courtesy, appreciation and efficiency of the powerful team of Comhaltas Volunteers who used the church premises.

Extensive electrical work under Health and Safety regulations had to be undertaken for on-going public events. Thanks to our Hon Secretary John Donovan for overseeing the work by O’Keefe Electrical Ltd. Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann have offered to partly cover the cost of the work.

Baby James William Patrick Doherty, was introduced into the Christian Church in Holy Baptism at Kilnasoolagh on Sunday 17th July (1.00pm). He is the third child of Kevin and Joanne who live in Newmarket-on-Fergus and grandson of Mrs Catherine Doherty-Louer.

PRAYER
Please support through your prayers Mrs Jackie Reid who is going through a most difficult period of ill-health. We join her close family, husband Douglas, sons Alex (California) and Nicky and sister Ms Evelyn Mayston. Also Ms Anna McCrum in Cahercalla Hospital.

Holy Trinity Aughrim

PARISH DIARY
On July 1st the rector was pleased to be invited to the open day of the Tope (Training Options and Personal Education) Rehabilitative Training Centre. The pride of the young students who train there was exhilarating, as was their excitement at the opportunity to sing with Mike Denver, who officially opened the centre.
Canon Ruth Gill led Holy Communion in Woodlawn and Aughrim on July 17th, and on July 24th Dean Maurice Sirr led services in Ballinasloe and Ahascaugh whilst the rector was on holiday. We are most grateful to them for doing so, and to Reverend Patrick Towers and Canon Trevor Sullivan for providing pastoral cover over that period.

On July 31st our parishioners came together for a united service in Ardrahan Church, led admirably by the young people of the parish, followed by a parish picnic in the walled garden of neighbouring Coole Park.

On August 6th the rector had the privilege of welcoming Father Gerard Geraghty and the congregation of St Catherine’s Church, Aughrim to Holy Trinity Church. Our neighbouring Roman Catholic parish has just begun a major renovation project on it’s own church building, so Holy Trinity Church will be hosting their weekly 7.30pm Saturday evening Mass and other occasional offices over the coming months. It is heartening to know that this gesture of hospitality will allow their pattern of prayer to be maintained in the heart of the village during the unavoidable upheaval that accompanies building work. As we marked the beginning of that new arrangement, the joy and excitement of our guests was palpable, as was the goodwill and generosity of our own flock. Sincere thanks go to all whose good work helped to prepare for their arrival. We wish our guests every blessing over the coming months, and are ever mindful that it is we who are blessed by their presence in our church.

On August 7th the rector was invited to preach at an outdoor remembrance service held in the old graveyard in Taughmaconnell, led by Father Sean Nealan, on the site of the old Church of Ireland church there. The local community is restoring the graveyard and chronicling the details of the graves there. A large crowd supported the event, for which they were rewarded with torrential rain and howling wind. That’s the Irish summer for you!

The autumn term fast approaches, with the children of the Glebe National School returning on September 1st. We look forward to welcoming our new students then, and congratulate Mrs Nicola Waters on her appointment to the position of Resource Teacher there.

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

ROUND UP OF SUMMER NEWS
Bishop Kenneth and his wife, Jennifer, were made very welcome at Clonfert Cathedral when he arrived to celebrate the Holy Eucharist on Sunday 31st July. The Group Parish Eucharist was well attended and the weather permitted a walk through the extensive grounds of the old Bishop’s Palace. The Parish arranged a luncheon for the Bishop and his wife at the Shearwater Hotel in Ballinasloe following the service, with 30 parishioners attending.

The Rectory is currently being updated in anticipation of a future clerical resident. We are encouraged in this by the good news coming out of Nenagh Parish of a new Rector being appointed to a superbly renovated Rectory.

The Parish barbecue was a great success thanks to the hard work of preparation and serving of a great range of barbecued food. Many thanks to all who came and who prepared this annual event.

Congratulations to Edward Delahunt on his award of Life Membership of the IFA. A proud achievement.

WELCOME TO THE AUTUMN SEASON
Dates and Times for Harvest Festivals:
Banagher – Sunday 25th September at 4pm
Portumna – Sunday 2nd October at 4pm
Eyrecourt – Sunday 23rd October at 7pm

Congratulations to all those students whose recent examination results have led them onto the next phase of their lives. Best of luck to all those returning to their schools and especially to those starting school for the first time.

Apologies for the brevity of these notes, I am writing them from memory in a foreign land with a foreign computer and a foreign lady typing the notes!

Limerick City Parish
St. Mary’s Cathedral, St. Michael’s and Abington Churches
Dean: The Very Rev. Sandra Pragnell
(on compassionate leave)
The Deanery, 7 Kilbane,
Castletroy, Limerick
Tel: 061-338697 Mob: 087-2658592
Email: sandrapragnell@eircom.net
Curate Assistant: Rev Edna Wakely (on sick leave)
Priest-in-Charge: Rev Marie Rowley – Brooke
Mob: 085-147 4792
Email: canonmarie@me.com

LIMERICK CITY PARISH
Please continue to hold Dean Sandra and Rev’d Edna in your prayers.

BEREAVEMENTS - IT WAS WITH REGRET we learned of the death of Hazel Oakley who died peacefully in the care of Thorpe’s Nursing Home on Saturday 6th August 2016 and our sincere sympathy is extended to Hazel’s very wide circle of friends and family.

HOLY BAPTISM: On Sunday 7th August, in St Mary’s Cathedral, we welcomed Beatrice Caroline Elizabeth McCarthy into the worldwide Christian family through baptism. Beatrice was brought by her parents Thomas McCarthy and Carrie Benes who are presently living and working in Sarasota, Florida, USA.

CONGRATULATIONS to Gillian Johnston, eldest daughter of Noreen and Niall who graduated on 23rd August with a BA in Law and Accounting from the University of Limerick. Very best wishes to Gillian for continued success.

ST. MARY’S CATHEDRAL NEWS: A small group from St Mary’s Cathedral visited St Canice’s Cathedral, Kilkenny, on 19th July, on a fact-finding mission - it was a most successful occasion and we came back with plenty of new ideas! On the 31st of July, Andrew Ellerker, who was caretaker in St Mary’s Cathedral for 27 years, retired. On 4th September there will be a
presentation to him following the regular Eucharist at 11.15 am in
the Cathedral, at which Very Rev’d Maurice Sirr will preside.
At Choral Evensong on 18th September Bishop Kenneth will install
Rev’d Simon Lumby as Archdeacon of Limerick, Ardfert and Aghadoe.
Please note the earlier service time of 5pm for this.

DIOCESAN REVIEW - Members of the congregations of St. Michael’s
Church and Abington Church met separately on Saturday 6th
August to welcome Archdeacon Gordon Linney, who was visiting
Limerick as part of the Diocesan review initiated by Bishop Kenneth.
Good and open discussions on the practical challenges of falling
numbers and diminishing resources in a large parish area took place
at both Church venues, followed by refreshments. On the following
day, Archdeacon Gordon preached at HC service at Michael’s
Church and then both presided and preached at the HC service
at Abington Church. The parishioners of both churches would like
to thank Archdeacon Gordon for his time and interest in visiting
both churches and listening to the views expressed by those who
attended the meetings.

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS: The long wait is now over
and we extend congratulations and best wishes in their future
endeavours.

CHRISTMAS FAIR: is taking place in Villiers School on Saturday
12th of November. We will welcome contributions of plants, cakes,
jams, preserves, books, bottles, unwanted gifts, bric-a-brac (no
electrical). Please keep us in mind when “Spring cleaning” your
house and/or garden. Tracey Lyttle 086-6486197 and Elizabeth
Stanley 086-2687123 welcome offers of goods and novel ideas for
stalls and will take them off your hands anytime.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICES 1N LCP
The first of the LCP Harvest Festivals will take place on Sunday 11th
September at Abington, at 4.00 pm, - everybody welcome.

WORLD DEBUT OF IRISH YOUTH GUITAR ORCHESTRA
A ‘first’ was experienced recently at St Mary’s Cathedral in that a
capacity crowd of over 200 music-lovers witnessed the world debut
of the Irish Youth Guitar Orchestra.
34 young guitarists were joined by the Dublin Guitar Quartet for an
intriguing piece called Music for Ghosts by Brian Bolger. They also
performed more traditional fare by Holst and Warlock.
The whole performance was a revelation. The subtle sound world of
a multitude of guitars really took the listener right into an intimate
musical listening experience, and the spiritual atmosphere of the
medieval cathedral was a wonderful setting for the concert.
Topping off the bill was the Grammy-award winning Los Angeles
Guitar Quartet, who were simply stunning. Watch out for next years’
concert!

SELWYN COLLEGE CHOIR COMMEMORATE 1916 ANNIVERSARIES
We were delighted and privileged to welcome the chapel choir of
Selwyn College, Cambridge to St Mary’s in mid July. They were on a
short tour of Ireland and presented a special lunchtime programme
of choral music in the cathedral to mark the centenary of the Easter
Rising and also the Battle of the Somme. They chose very appropriate
music, which was beautifully performed to a full cathedral of around
200 listeners.
We are pleased to report that this performance was recorded and
will be broadcast on RTE Lyric fm at around 7pm on Thursday 29th
September.

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

Lots of things have been happening in the Adare & Kilmallock
Group this summer, in the midst of everyone’s summer holidays. We
mentioned in the last issue a few that were coming up, as summer
started.

BAPTISMS
We have been blessed with two baptisms, both in Adare. On 31 July,
Cassian Cosby, son of Alexander and Emily Cosby, and grandson of
Robert and Diana Williams, was baptised, accompanied by friends
and family from Ireland and much farther afield. Then on 14 August,
the extended Gardiner and Walker families gathered in Adare for
the baptism of Samuel Gardiner, son of David Gardiner and Severine
Cauchois, and grandson of Nuala Gardiner. We welcome both
Cassian and Samuel into the Christian life.
SPECIAL EVENTS
On Sunday, 3 July, the weather unexpectedly broke from days of drizzle to give a truly spectacular day of sunshine and gentle breezes for the second annual “Fourth of July” barbecue at the Rectory. We had food from the barbecue, supplemented by lots of good side dishes and desserts. The children played games, and the adults sat and chatted, and even had to put on sunscreen — not a usual practice around here, perhaps!

Enjoying Adare BBQ

On 16 July, a number of members of the Kilmallock parish, adults and children, gathered at the church to give it a good clean. We marveled afterwards at how much better everything looked. A hearty thanks to all who came out to help.

SPECIAL SERVICES
We have been having Morning Prayer in Adare Church on Thursday mornings for some months. We continued the practice into the summer, but changed the service to be a Service of the Word, with a focus on prayers for healing and for travel. The reason is, requests left on the board in our Prayer Corner often are prayers for healing, left by visitors to Adare. We include a portion of these petitions in our services. In July, we shifted the service to the evening, at 7.00pm, to allow more people to attend. Often the prayers follow a particular theme, such as prayers from the Celtic tradition, or from St. Augustine of Hippo, since the church was originally founded as an Augustinian friary, and Augustine wrote some great prayers.

In anticipation of the announcement of Leaving Cert results on 17 August, we had a worship service on the evening before, at the home of William and Sylvia Cooke, from Kilpeacon. Among our parishes, we had seven students this year taking the Leaving Cert and three taking the Junior Cert. Recognising that this is a very stressful time for students and their families, we had a Communion service with prayers not only for good results but also for guidance in making the decisions that come next.

And, best wishes and blessings to all our students, of all ages, as school starts up again.

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

I read a sign recently which said “You know it is summer in Ireland because the rain is warmer” It might well have been wet, but we have had our share of things to do, even when the rain was falling. William Langford and Karen O’Rourke became Mr and Mrs in St. Mary’s Askeaton on Saturday 9th July. The very next day Jack Kealey was baptised in Holy Trinity Rathkeale.

In case you missed it Rev’d Keith Scott managed to be in two places at once on Sunday 14th August. The usual round of services in the Rathkeale and Kilnaughtin group while also preaching for CMS Ireland during the RTE service at 11:05. Star of stage and screen. We have events coming up in the autumn, not least our Harvest Service, which this year will be in Holy Trinity Rathkeale. Watch this space for details.
On Sunday 26th June we bid a reluctant farewell to our Rector, The Reverend Susan Watterson, affectionately known as Sue. We were blessed to have had her loving ministry, even though her time among us was all too short. The full church for her final service of Evensong in St. John the Evangelist Church of Tralee, was testimony to the high regard we had for her. The Choral Evensong was enhanced by the wonderful choir from St. Mary’s Cathedral, Limerick, and the Reverend Jane Galbraith who was the Officiant. A lovely appreciation of the breadth of Sue’s Ministry was given by Fr. Sean Hanafin of St. John’s Church, Castle Street. He spoke of them working closely, her valued commitment to the Meet the Neighbours group who meet 3 or 4 times a year to share in discussion, prayer and fellowship, and of their chats over a cup of coffee.

Much of what he said was echoed later by Michael Latchford who spoke of the work Sue had accomplished in so many areas; our school and the Soup Kitchen to name just a few. A gift from all spoken earlier in the day of how Tralee took care of ‘our own’. We for the commitment of so many people in the parishes. She had everyone for their generosity, for the support she had received and blessings, especially good health, in her retirement. Sue thanked presented by Mona Butler and we pray that Sue will enjoy many school and the Soup Kitchen to name just a few. A gift from all spoke of the work Sue had accomplished in so many areas; our

Sue Watterson

CHURCH SERVICE SEPTEMBER 2016

Why is it that we, as a society, can ignore the plight of these children who have known nothing other than war, hunger, displacement and massacre in their short lives? Have we not understood that even as an infant Jesus made it plain that children have to be protected? Sometimes, as in the case of the new-born Jesus when Mary and Joseph escaped with Him to Egypt, people have to cross borders – they have no choice. Why is it then that many of us object to the millions of people who have been displaced by war being given sanctuary in the West? Why are we not screaming to “let them come”? Why are we not telling our TDs and our Councillors that they, like us, have a duty to do something for our fellow human beings regardless of their country of origin, religion or colour?

Perhaps it is because we are not ready to be Christians in the first place; that is a people following the teaching of Christ rather than just being members of a Christian church. Let the haunting image of Omran do what it will to each of us; but let each of us at least take the time to pray for all of the innocents, siblings and parents who will die today unknown to us because of the misguidance and
Rev Simon competing in the Ring of Kerry Cycle

**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 first Sunday at 7pm Holy Communion

HC 1st & 3rd

MP 2nd & 4th

Kilorglin 11.00 pm

HC 2nd & 4th

MP 1st & 3rd

**BAPTISM**

Clodagh Ellen daughter of Neil and Arlene Stephens was baptised during the morning service in Killogllyn Church on the 31st July. Clodagh is a little sister for Alexander and the ninth grandchild for Joe and Dorothea Stephens of Kilderry.

**FAREWELL**

We say farewell to Suzy and Liam Doherty and their twin sons Daragh and Andrew as they move to Sydney for a year or so. Liam who works with Fexco in Killogllyn is availing of an opportunity to work on a Fexco project in Australia for the next year. We wish them every good wish and we will be looking forward to hearing news of their experience when they return.

**BIRTH**

Congratulations to Natalie Moriarty and Aiden O’Connor of Tullig Killogllyn, on the birth of their daughter Amanita in July.

**Kenmure & Dromod Union of Parishes**

*Kenmare, Sneem, Waterville and Valentia*

Priest-in-Charge: Rev. Michael Cavanagh

St Patrick’s Rectory, Kenmare, Co. Kerry.

Mob: 085 853 3173

Email: michael.cavanagh@eircom.net

Is Summer over? Did it actually happen? Perhaps not if the weather was anything to go by, but the Summer traditions certainly did. Sneem’s annual ‘Friendship Day’, despite rain of an intensity that had people looking for sources of Gopher wood, was a great success as always – plants, lunches, games, face painting, Live music, cake, more cake and even more cake being part of the tradition – but this year with the added attraction of the official opening ceremony of the Church Shed, the green, white and orange ribbons being cut by local celebrities Sean, James and Sam O’Sullivan.

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Enjoying Kilcolman Garden Fete 2016

GARDEN FETE

The garden fete was held in the grounds of St Michael’s, Killogllyn after the morning service on the 31st July. We were blessed with a fine afternoon and with many enthusiastic people who worked hard to prepare the site, assemble the stalls. All the food stalls sold out very quickly and this is a reflection of the quality of the produce and the reputation of the various bakers and cooks that we are blessed to have in the parish. We appreciate and thank all those who gave of their time, talent and resources to ensure that this community building and fund raising event was a success. It is always good when people come together and run a good event, if funds are raised it is an added bonus.

Clodagh Ellen with her parents and brother Alexander following her baptism.
Praise n’ Play sailed around the Bay on their yearly voyage on the Wild Atlantic, providing the Kenmare Bay Resident Seals an opportunity to observe the growing population of under-four-year-old humans with their Mums accompanied by the Pn’P Heroes. Choppy seas, but warm weather and a picnic under an azure sky (well, not quite, but at least it wasn’t raining.)

And now we look forward to those final long, long Sundays after Trinity – a time of Harvest Thanksgiving, rejoicing in the blessings we have received and with grateful expectation of blessings yet to come. In many ways, September is a Month both of farewells and new beginnings, and we pray especially for young people unfolding their wings and preparing to fly – and what’s to stop us looking to see if our own wings could take us to new and undiscovered places? The Christian life is never about arrival, but instead is one continuous (and often hair-raising) journey in the sure knowledge that the best is yet to come. As the song says – Open your eyes, but don’t let go of my hand…

I am looking forward to getting to know the people and the area here, praying that God will bless His ministry.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Methodist Women in Ireland (MWI) hold the first meeting of the season on Friday 2nd of September @ 8pm in Embury Close Hall where the speaker will be the new minister, Rev. Ruth Watt.
- Circuit Executive meeting will be held in Adare Methodist on Tuesday 6th of September @ 8pm.
- The Midlands and Southern District Synod will be held in Gurteen Agricultural College on Saturday the 10th of September.
- As stated in our services for September we look forward to celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the Methodist Church in Ballingrane on Saturday the 17th of September where we will be joined by members of Irish Palatine Association (they are in the area for a holiday from the 9th–19th Sept.). Our special speaker for that celebration is the Rev. Bill Mullally who is President of the Methodist Church in Ireland.
- Our circuit harvest celebrations begin in Adare on Sunday the 25th September with a united family service in the morning @ 11am followed by tea. We welcome the Roman Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of Limerick, Bishop Brendan Leahy, to speak at our evening service followed by our Harvest supper. Special music will be provided by the Holy Trinity Abbey Choir.

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SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>4th Sept</td>
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<td>Ballingrane 11:45 am Holy Communion</td>
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<td>25th Sept</td>
<td>11:00 am</td>
<td>United Circuit Service</td>
<td>Harvest Supper @ 7:30pm</td>
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I am delighted to have arrived on the Adare and Ballingrane Methodist Circuit. I am very thankful to all for the welcome I have received, not just from the Methodists but from all whom I have met in and around the area. I come most recently from the Lisbellaw, Maguiresbridge and Tempo Methodist Circuit in Co. Fermanagh and...
We’re delighted to announce that we have our new Youth, Children’s and Family Worker! Sean, Mary his wife and their children are returning to Ireland after many years of mission work in Asia; particularly in Thailand and Indonesia. Both Sean and Mary have great experience in children’s and youth work having both worked in schools and in church ministry. Before moving to Ireland Sean was chaplain in a school in West Java. Their life goal is to reach out to youth and children in the community, both church and beyond, with a passion for bringing the Bible to life in a way that’s both fun and inspiring. The whole family is now settling into Irish life after growing up together in a very different setting. Toby has joined the music group and Roseanne is helping in Sunday School. We feel really blessed that God sent us the Roys family and look forward to working together.

We were pretty busy in Central Buildings over the summer. Like last year we decided to keep Fáilte Isteach – our free language classes – going. The volunteer tutors are fantastic and have developed an excellent and very relevant service for the community.

Christ Church was on RTE Radio in August. You might have heard us! It’s always a challenge to shape a service that a diverse group of listeners can enjoy and want to keep listening to! We hope we managed it. It certainly was varied both in the music and the voices that led the preaching, reading and prayers. It’s very encouraging to have people, including young people, who will volunteer to do the best they can and make themselves quite vulnerable to bring God’s message of love and hope to Ireland and maybe beyond. Thanks and well done to Josephine Masawi who preached for the service.

Killarney, Kenmare & Millstreet Methodist Churches
[part of the Cork South & Kerry Circuit]
Minister: Rev. Karen Spence
10 Flesk Grove, Killarney, Co. Kerry.
Tel: 064 6631613
Email: karen.spence@irishmethodist.org
Web site: www.irishmethodist.org/kerry

Lay Pastoral Assistant: Suzie Gallagher
Kenmare Lay Pastoral Team: Ed and Jean Richie
Tel: 064 6620580
Killarney, Kenmare and Millstreet Methodist Churches
(part of the Cork South and Kerry Circuit)

The Lighthouse MILLSTREET
Sunday service 6.30pm
Bible Study Tuesday 7.30pm
Drop in Thursday 9.30am – 12.30pm

KILLARNEY
Sunday services 9am and 11am
Prayer meetings Tuesday and Thursday 8am – 9am
Bible Study Friday 11am
Parent and Toddler (term time) Tuesday 10am
The Giving Space monthly as arranged on Saturdays

The Gateway KENMARE
Sunday Service 11am (preceded by tea/coffee)
Prayer Meeting Wednesday 9.15am
Bible study Wednesday 10am
Drop in for coffee Wednesday 11am
Youth Club second and fourth Saturday 7pm – 8.30pm

Contact Rev Karen Spence for further information.

July and August have been busy months across this part of the circuit.

In Kenmare, Christians Together met and ‘prayer-walked’ around the town in early July. The purpose was to pray for the town, the businesses, people they met and to see and hear what God would want them to see and hear. Sharing together afterwards some of the comments included the observation of the number of closed shops, so this would inspire us to pray for the well-being of the town; others noticed the number of tourists and were prompted to
pray for them as they walked; the spiritual history of the town was noted and thanks was given for it; this was just a taster of what will hopefully become a more regular prayer walk.

In Killarney, FAB Fridays have been a fun time for all ages to learn together about the Fruit of the Spirit. Each week focused on a different fruit. Object lessons were amazing, and messy at times but great ways to learn. A short talk highlighted the theme and a song had a new verse added to it each week with actions that were the equivalent of an aerobic workout. There were craft ideas for all ages. Each week finished with sharing lunch together and enjoying further fellowship.

The Lighthouse in Millstreet opened its doors every Thursday through the summer and participated in a garden fete in Drishane Castle which is a direct provision centre for asylum seekers. The members of the Lighthouse had a cake stall and all money raised went towards funds for school books for the children in Drishane.

When I think of Autumn, I think of the season of vibrant colour in the foliage and flowers. I think of cool breezes, warmer clothing, and shorter days. I also think of endings and beginnings.

Summer has now come to an end. Lazy days without structure and school are gone. Bright nights and long days are gone. And as a circuit, we said our final goodbyes this summer to a dear church member, Irene Armitage, who was 91 years old. She had been a Local Preacher on our circuit and her ministry was much appreciated. We extend our deepest sympathies to her daughters, June and Pearl, and their families.

Autumn is also a time of beginnings and celebration. School is back in session! I believe parents near and far are tickled pink that children and youth are no longer “bored” with nothing to do. The growing season is now complete and it’s Harvest time! Farmers again have much work to do in bringing in the Harvest. All around this island, folks are gathering, giving thanks to God for the abundance of the earth, sea, and sky and enjoying a nice Harvest feast.

However, in August, back in America, my home state of Louisiana experienced unprecedented flooding from torrential rain storms. At the time of my writing this article (mid-August), there are 13 dead, 40,000 homes flooded and 30,000 people rescued. Weather experts are calling this a once-in-a-1000-year storm where thirty inches of rain fell within three days. Being a sub-tropical area, there are new worries that the West Nile and Zika viruses will spread due to massive mosquito breeding exacerbated by the flood waters. In the midst of the destruction, loss and hardship, God’s comforting and helping hand is seen. My dear friend and colleague, Rev. Susie Thomas, whose own church flooded, posted the following on Facebook:

“The devastation, the devastation . . . the kindness, the kindness. Offers of help . . . and so many small acts of compassion and kindness amid the wreckage. In the Lord I’ll be ever thankful, in the Lord, I will rejoice. Look to God, do not be afraid, lift up your voices, the Lord is near. ‘ Jacques Berthier.”

I dare say hope is not lost . . . but the road to recovery will be long. May God grant Louisiana an unexpected harvest filled with hope for the future, love expressed through practical help, and faith that routine and normalcy of life will return.

Faithfully,
~ Rev. Shannon

MWI DISTRICT RALLY
Sunday 11th September at Birr Methodist 12pm @ 4pm
Everyone is invited to the annual MWI rally. Karen Gillespie from Cloughjordan Methodist Church will share her experiences of her mission trip with the MCI to South Africa this past August. Lunch at Dooley’s Hotel at 1:15pm. Cost - €20/person. Afternoon meeting from 2:30-4pm back at Birr Methodist where Karen will continue to share her experiences with us. Please contact Effie Armitage at 067 27797 to book your place for lunch by 7th September.

SPECIAL HARVEST SERVICES:
Sunday 18th September at 7pm in Roscrea Methodist with The President of the Methodist Church in Ireland, Rev. Bill Mullally, preaching.

Sunday 25th September at 7pm in Shinrone Methodist with Rev. Tom Kingston preaching.

Friday 30th September at 8pm in Borrisokane Methodist with Rev. Clodagh Yambasu preaching.

Sunday 2nd October at 7:30pm in Cloughjordan Methodist with Rev.
"Praise with us the God of grace!
To His feet thy tribute bring;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King.

Praise him for His grace and favour
To our fathers in distress;
Praise Him, still the same as ever,
Slow to chide and swift to bless.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Glorious in his faithfulness.

Fat her like, He tends and spares us;
Well our feeble frame He knows,
In His hands He gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes.

Angels in the height, adore Him,
Ye behold him face to face;
Sun and moon bow down before Him,
Dwellers all in time and space;
Praise Him! Praise him!
Praise with us the God of grace!

This stately poetic paraphrase of Psalm 103 was written by Henry
Francis Lyte (1793–1847).

He had been a brilliant theological student at university in Dublin,
with a gift for versifying. After graduation he moved to Taghmon in
County Wexford to serve his curacy. It was here, when he was about 25,
that Henry had a religious experience which would transform his life. A close friend of his, another clergyman, had fallen ill, and
was clearly dying. Henry went to visit him. The friend was not as
distressed as Henry had imagined he would be. Instead the friend
confessed that he had been re-reading the New Testament, with an
eye on eternity, and had made a great discovery. There was no need
to rely on religious duties and formalities and good deeds to gain
peace with God. Instead, we can trust completely in the mercy of
Christ and his saving power.

Henry was sophisticated and had been very formal in his ministry.
But this encounter with his friend’s faith at death’s very door, made
him reconsider his faith. He wrote later that his dear friend ‘who
died happy in the thought that there was One who would atone for
his delinquencies’ made him ‘study my Bible and preach in another
manner than I had previously done’. And soon after this hymn
appeared, in 1834.

Lyte rejoices in the majesty and wonder of the living God, who in
turn loves us. He captures the measure of the Psalm in enduring
lyrics, which combine time, eternity, God and man all swept up into
one embrace. Its last verse summons all of the created order to join
in a great act of joyous praise – surely a preview of eternity!

Christian Aid Harvest Appeal

- Share your harvest with our global neighbours in need

When harvest time comes, churches across Ireland take time to
give thanks to God for Harvest time, and praise Him for providing
all we need to feed our families. We also share our plenty with
our neighbours in our local community who have little. This
harvest, Christian Aid is asking churches in Ireland to support our
global neighbours whose harvest is increasingly affected by the
consequences of climate change.

As we celebrate God’s bountiful creation, we stand with local farmers
like Rodah, who lives in Kalawani village, in Eastern Kenya. Christian
Aid is helping rural communities like Rodah’s to grow plentiful food
that will last through the leaner seasons. For the people of Rodah’s
rural village, harvest has become an increasing struggle as the arid
conditions make it difficult for crops to thrive. The rains are erratic
and unpredictable, and as the impacts of climate change intensify,
the situation is getting worse. Every day, Rodah walked up to 10
kilometres to get water, just to try and keep her crops alive. Her
two jerry cans weighed 18 kilograms – the same as two car tyres.
Despite her backbreaking efforts, Rodah’s harvest was never enough.
She could not afford to feed her family and send them to school.
Consequently, she couldn’t afford to send her children to school.

Since local Christian Aid partner, Anglican Development Service East
(ADSE), started supporting poor families in her village, everything
has changed. ADSE built a sand dam, which keeps precious water
from the river close to the community, so they are able to nurture
their land, grow their crops and earn an income. With her earnings,
Rodah has been able to buy water pipes and a pump, and her farm is
flourishing. And now she is now able to send her children to school.

The sand dam also helps bring a better harvest for farmers like
Rebecca Muli, from Kathungu village. She harvested a very heavy
bunch of bananas. The bananas will fetch around 2500 shillings
(Euro 0.65) in the local market. If she can get transport to the city,
it will fetch twice as much.

The sand dam has transformed the entire community, who have
been introduced to drought-resistant seeds that will grow even
if the rains don’t come. They have learned about special farming
techniques, such as drip irrigation, which makes water go a long
way.

For harvest resources or more information on how your church can
get involved this harvest time, visit www.christianaid.ie/harvest or
contact Christian Aid: tel 01 496 7040 or email Dublin@christian-
aid.org

Rodah stands in her maize garden which is ripe for harvest

Rebecca’s heavy bunch of bananas

With your support, through giving, acting and praying this harvest
time, you could change the lives of thousands of people like Rodah
and Rebecca and sow the seeds of transformation.

- €38 could provide drought-resistant seeds, such as cowpeas
  and mung beans, for fourteen farmers
- €190 could provide a day’s essential agricultural training for
  five people; and
- €580 could pay for a skilled labourer to construct a sand dam,
  providing water for the whole community.

Contact: Tel: 01 496 7040. Email: Dublin@christianaid.org
A short story from the Bible

Crowds of people now came to hear Jesus, so he used stories to teach them; those who really wanted to learn would work out the meaning.

It can be read in the Bible in Mt. 13:3-8, Mk 4:1-9, Lk 8:4-8

A farmer went out to sow a field of corn. Some seed fell on the path and some on to rocks. Some fell among thorn plants and some fell on good soil.

The seed that fell on the path was eaten by birds... but it had no water so it dried out and died.

The seed on the path was eaten by birds. The seed that fell among the thorns grew well to start with. The seed that fell on the rocks sprouted...

Jesus explained to his disciples what it meant. Some people don’t even listen to what he says.

But in the good soil the seed grew well and gave a fantastic harvest! For some it is the best thing ever!

But soon they move onto another ‘best thing.’ Some listen gladly... But some hear what Jesus says and learn from it, but then worries and busyness take over.

and that makes all the difference!
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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