Harvest decorations in St Mary’s Church, Killarney

O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the Lord your God (Joel 2:23)
NENAGH CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Wednesday 12th - Sunday 16th December
at St Mary’s Church, Nenagh

Admire the trees
Enjoy amazing Afternoon Tea (€5)
Purchase seasonal produce & craft items
Enjoy scheduled events & prize raffle
Admission €5 (accompanied children free)

Carol Service on Sunday 16th at 4 pm – all welcome

For more information call or email:
086 820 6514 or lisadrum66@gmail.com

Opening times:
Wednesday 1:00 - 6:00 pm
Thursday 1:00 - 6:00 pm
Friday 1:00 - 8:00 pm
Saturday 10:30 am - 6:00 pm
Sunday 10:30 am - 3:30 pm
(followed by the Carol Service)

Supporting FOCUS IRELAND

Lunchtime Concerts
November/December 2018, 1.15pm

Wednesday 7th November
David Howes (bass)
Music by Handel, Hahn, Keel and Strauss

Thursday 8th November
Academos and members of the Irish Chamber Orchestra
Music by Albinoni and Tchaikovsky

Wednesday 14th November
Sarah-Ellen Murphy (mezzo-soprano), Peter Barley (piano)
Music by Sibelius, Berlioz, Duparc and Elgar

Wednesday 21st November
Helen Hancock (soprano), Irina Dernova (organ)
Music by Handel, Bononcini and J.S. Bach

Wednesday 22nd November
John O’Shea (guitar)
Music by Rodrigo

Wednesday 5th December
Sinziana Mircea (piano), Adrian Mantu (cello)

For details on all of the musical events held in Saint Mary’s Cathedral please log onto www.saintmaryscathedral.ie
Bishop Kenneth writes - Primary Schools

I never cease to be impressed by our primary schools in the diocese. All eleven schools are places of creativity, joy and exuberant energy and we must pay tribute to the excellence and dedication of our teachers and boards of management who deliver such schools.

I had the opportunity recently to say this directly to the principals of our schools who attended a training day organised by the Diocesan Board of Education. I joined them for about an hour at the beginning of the day and we talked about what is distinctive about their schools, the pressures they are under, and pressure on numbers.

When we speak about the ethos of our schools, words like “inclusive” and “diverse” come up quickly. We speak of an atmosphere of respect, love, integrity and a focus on the individual child. These aren’t simply good marketing slogans – they are a description of the goals and aims of each school.

Church of Ireland primary schools have two purposes – to provide an education within a specific ethos to Protestant children in an area, and also to offer choice within the primary sector. This means that schools don’t simply provide an education for our children. If we wish our children to grow up with a respect for and appreciation of diversity in society, then our schools should be places which include and welcome a variety of backgrounds – other Christian, other faiths and no faith – within the pupils. This isn’t simply a matter of filling additional places if we don’t have enough Protestant children; it is a central part of what our schools are.

Church of Ireland schools represent our church’s commitment to diversity within the primary education system in our country. Up to a few decades ago the only choice available to parents in most communities was a Catholic school or a Church of Ireland School, so our schools were essential to ensure some diversity. Now the choice for parents is far greater, with Educate Together and Gaelscoileanna becoming more common. But the principle of diversity of choice remains, which make our schools as important as ever.

The Principals spoke with me about the pressures caused by that choice. Parents now want to know about extra-curricular activities and options in a school before committing their children to a school, and they are very happy to “shop around.” Smaller schools, as most of our schools are, find this difficult and have to balance these extra activities with the requirement and expectations that in the end the core curriculum has to be delivered, and delivered well, if our young people are to be properly prepared for the next stage in their education at second level and beyond.

I know something of the time and commitment that chairs and members of Boards of Management put into running their schools. It is on these boards that responsibility for finance, compliance with the many regulations required, HR issues and a myriad of responsibilities fall, and they too rise to increasing pressures magnificently. They also deserve our thanks and our support.

Occasionally, parishioners have the opportunity to visit their former school, and to note “how much it has changed.” Thank goodness for these changes, which have kept our schools at the forefront of modern education, but also remember our teachers, especially the principals, and the Boards of Management who achieve and sustain this, and as opportunity arises, give them our genuine and wholehearted support.

Kind Regards
+ Kenneth

The Rt. Revd. Kenneth Kearon,
Bishop of Limerick & Killaloe,
Kilbane House, Golf Links Road,
Castletracy, Limerick V94 X0EF
Tel: +353 (0)61 333635
Email: bishop@limerick.anglican.org

Diocesan Calendar

To place an entry please email the Editor at jpc_sanders@iol.ie

Sun 11th November, 3pm Mothers’ Union 16 Days of Activism Vigil, Richmond terrace, Henry St, Limerick (speaker: Deirdre Barrett, Adapte House Women’s Refuge). All Welcome!

Wed 14th November Finance Committee

Fri 16th – Sun 18th November UDYC Autumn Adventure Weekend (with other dioceses), Lilliput Outdoor Adventure Centre, Lough

Thu 22nd November Joint Property Committee & Glebes Committees 6.45pm, followed by Diocesan Council 7.30pm

Sat 24th November UDYC Annual Christmas Dinner with Fundraising Raffle, Fitzgerald’s Woodlands House Hotel, Adare (18+)

Sat 24th November, 10am-2pm Limerick City Parish Christmas Fair

Sun 25th November Mission Sunday

Sun 25th November, 4pm Installation of Rev Liz Beasley & Rev Jim Stephens as Canons, St Mary’s Cathedral, Limerick

Sat 1st December GFS Christmas Craft Day,

Sat 1st – Sun 2nd December UDYC Secondary School Overnight Trip to Dublin

Sat 29th December UDYC Mega Christmas Day Trip to Dublin (10+)

See also the diocesan website www.limerick.anglican.org/calendar.

UNITED DIOCESE OF LIMERICK, KILLALOE, ARDFERT, & CLONFERT
DIOCESEAN COUNCIL FOR MISSION

MISSION SUNDAY PROJECT 2018

Mission Sunday 25th November

This year the Diocesan Council for Mission has decided to concentrate on mission at home. Bearing in mind the current situation with regards to the ‘homeless crisis’, especially among families and young children, it was agreed to donate all the proceeds from Mission Sunday 2018 to:

The PETER McVERRY TRUST

We hope that in March/April 2019, Fr Peter McVerry will be able to attend one of our Mission Evenings, not only to receive our donation, but more importantly to bring us up to date on the work of the Trust.

Further details, posters etc, will be sent to parishes nearer the time.

Thank you for your support
Editorial

Stewardship of God’s Creation

Last month I drew your attention to the Mission Evening in Adare on 16th October where Rev Andrew Orr was to speak on ‘Stewardship of God’s Creation’. Well, he came, he spoke, and he gave us a compelling overview of the environmental issues facing us, of the theological and Biblical reasons why care for creation must be a central part of our Christian witness, and of the many things we can all do in parishes to make this a reality. A short report is at page 7. It was a little disappointing, however, that more were not there to hear and learn from him.

There is of course much good stewardship work going on in individual parishes, but we hear little about it in the wider diocese. We should communicate this, so that we can encourage and learn from each other. What out there has a good story to tell about efforts to promote biodiversity in their churchyard, often the last piece of natural grassland in the parish? Who can tell us success stories about energy efficiency improvements in churches, rectories and church halls? Which schools can tell us what they have done to achieve their green flags, and the impact it has made on staff and students?

As Newslink Editor I am planning a new monthly column – ‘Stewardship of God’s Creation’ – to encourage such communication. And I cordially invite everyone with a good story to tell to submit short articles with pictures to be printed in it – I hope and pray that I will be so overwhelmed with copy that the column will run and run!

Parishes that are leaders in stewardship might consider applying for an Eco Congregation Ireland award to give due recognition of their efforts, as many in neighbouring dioceses already have – Newslink will be delighted to celebrate their successes.

God bless, Joc Sanders, Newslink Editor

The Church of St John the Baptist
Eyrecourt

150 years
Service of Thanksgiving
Evening Prayer
Saturday 24th November 3.00 pm

Speaker
The Venerable Wayne Carney

We also welcome our Bishop
The Rt. Revd. Kenneth Kearon

Clergy please robe in Church Hall
(Library)

Everyone very welcome, and to reception after

Newslink

Newslink is the diocesan magazine for the United Diocese of Limerick, Killaloe & Ardfort, which also includes the historic dioceses of Aghadoe, Clonfert, Emly, Kilfenora and Kilmacduagh. For further information about the United Dioceses see the diocesan web site: www.limerick.anglican.org.

Newslink also covers Methodist Midlands and Southern District Circuits within the boundaries of the Church of Ireland Diocese.

Editor

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

Please note: names and addresses of contributors must be given, and all letters printed will include name and address unless otherwise agreed with the Editor. All material dealing with parish/circuit matters must first be cleared with the Minister concerned.

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Deadlines

The next issue will be for December 2018 & January 2019, published for Sunday 2nd December.

All material must reach the Editor by Friday 16th November 2018 before 6.00pm, by email only, unless otherwise agreed.

Late material cannot be guaranteed insertion.

NEWSLINK ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR 2018
(UNCHANGED from 2017, for 10 issues February - December, part year pro-rata)

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Individual copy by post €45
Collected from printer in bulk €30

(contact: Lawson Kirkpatrick, 39 Westfields, Clare Road, Ennis, Co. Clare. Email: lsmkirkpatrick@outlook.com)

NEWSLINK ADVERTISING RATES FOR 2018
(UNCHANGED from 2017, full page is A4 portrait, half page A5 landscape etc)

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Rate per annum = €37 (10 issues) - part year pro-rata
Prayer Corner

Partners in Prayer - November 2018

Each Sunday in November
Church of Ireland: The Diocese of Cork, Cloyne & Ross and Bishop Paul Colton.

4th November, 4th Sunday before Advent, Green
Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of Ceylon, Rt Revd Dhiloraj Ranjit Canagasabey, Bishop of Colombo & Rt Revd Keerthisiri Fernando, Bishop of Kurunegala.
Diocese: In the octave of All Saints, we remember your servants departed who have formed our faith, and we pray that we may share with them the joys of your eternal kingdom.

11th November, 3rd Sunday before Advent, Green
Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Iglesia Episcopal de Cuba and Rt Revd Griselda Delgado Del Carpio, Bishop of Cuba.
Diocese: As we commemorate the end of the 1st World War, we pray for peace at home, and peace between all nations.

18th November, 2nd Sunday before Advent, Green
Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church in Bermuda and Rt Revd Nicholas Dill, Bishop of Bermuda.
Diocese: We pray for the Brexit negotiators from both our European Union and the United Kingdom, that the decisions they make may be for the common good.

25th November, Kingship of Christ, White
Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Lusitanian Church (Portugal) and Rt Revd Jorge Pina Cabral, Bishop of the Lusitanian Church.
Diocese: On this Mission Sunday we pray for the homeless in our dioceses, and the agencies seeking to relieve their distress, in particular the Peter McVerry Trust.

2nd December, 1st Sunday of Advent, Violet
Church of Ireland: For our United Dioceses of Limerick & Killaloe and Kenneth Kearon our Bishop.
Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Reformed Episcopal Church of Spain and Rt Revd Carlos López-Lozano, Bishop of the Spanish Reformed Episcopal Church.
Diocese: As we prepare to celebrate the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ, we proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom, and pray for God's blessing on our endeavours to teach, baptise and nurture new believers.

The hermit and his blackbird

I need to watch the sun, to calculate the hours that I should pray to God. But the blackbird who nests in the roof of my hut makes no such calculations: he sings God's praises all day long.

I need books to read, to learn the hidden truths of God. But the blackbird who shares my simple meals needs no written texts: he can read the love of God in every leaf and flower.

I need to beg forgiveness, to make myself pure and fit for God. But the blackbird who drinks with me from the stream sheds no tears of contrition: he is as God made him, with no stain of sin.

Solomon In All His Glory

Still I see them coming, coming In their ragged broken line, Walking wounded in the sunlight, Clothed in majesty divine.

For the fairest of the lilies, That God's summer ever sees, Ne'er was clothed in royal beauty Such as decks the least of these.

Tattered, torn, and bloody khaki, Gleams of white flesh in the sun, Raiment worthy of their beauty And the great things they have done.

Purple robes and snowy linen Have for earthly kings sufficed, But these bloody sweaty tatters Were the robes of Jesus Christ.

By GA Studdert Kennedy, aka 'Woodbine Willie', Anglican priest, poet, and army chaplain in World War 1

At break of day

A prayer poem based on Psalm 46, and in particular v5 – ‘God will help her at break of day’:

Waking, anxious and afraid, Knowing all that must be done; Sense of dread and taste of fear, How can I fulfil my call?

Turning, then again to God Inward glance and eye of faith; Refuge strong and present help, Why would He desert me now?

River flowing, life of God Fills my heart with confidence; Trusting him and leaning hard, Finding grace, I carry on.

by Tony Horsfall
A View from the Pew by Salters Sterling
– We need better communication

Last month I focussed “Togetherness” on the possibilities of worshipping together in defined areas of our United Diocese now and in an enlarged future. For November I want to develop the building of “Togetherness” to embrace a continuing sense that I have that our Church at diocesan level needs to do more to share with all the People of God what has been decided in the various diocesan councils, synods and committees.

My concern in this area arises from a conversation I had recently with Bishop Kenneth. I enquired from the Bishop how the implementation of the Hyland-Linney Report was going. The Bishop replied that the Report’s recommendations were well on the way to being implemented. I was taken aback – totally – and really didn’t know how to respond. Bishop Kenneth elaborated by saying that most of the recommendations were relating to the clergy. In a way, that compounded my confusion and since that conversation I have been returning time and again in my mind to ask is this how I should have read the Report? Did I not read it correctly? In the end of the day are the clergy the most important part of the church after all? Was the whole movement in the second half of the 20th century to re-establish an understanding of church as the entire People of God, the Laos (laity), whose togetherness constitutes the composition of the whole ministry of the Body of Christ – was that in some way wrong? Those questions haunt me, and that haunting has given rise to other questions.

My understanding of “the called-out people of God” is that a) there is but one service which is to be the eyes and ears and mouth, the hands and feet and heart of the person of Christ in our world in our time; and b) that that ministry belongs to all who have been baptised into Christ. It is my further understanding that there are two sacraments given to create and sustain the “called out people of God” in their ministry – Baptism and Eucharist – and that it is to secure the sanctity of these two sacraments but most particularly the Eucharist that a separate “set apart” ministry has developed over the centuries. In the case of baptism provision has often been recognised that it is of full efficacy whoever performs it providing that it is administered in the name of the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In addition to these two sacraments the ordinance of instruction in the faith has been traditionally confined to the set apart ministry. My question is are we inadvertently creating layers of ministry – with the best of intentions – to provide for the worship needs of a scattered people, with the unintended consequences of creating a kind of hierarchy of ministries, that will in the end of the day undermine the responsibility of the whole people to be responsible for and undertake the whole ministry.

It is not just our United Dioceses that needs to consider this matter if it is worthy of consideration. It is the whole Church. By sharing this VIEW FROM THE PEW with you, I do not mean to be critical of Bishop Kenneth arising from my conversation with him. Far from it. As I perceive him at work he is doing an excellent job. Rather my intention is to stimulate a conversation about the shape of the church in the immediate decades to come that is faithful to the teaching of Jesus and to the understandings of Paul and John and Peter as appropriate for our time. We are an increasingly educated people. We don’t require the support of “set apart” ministries provided that the opportunities to learn are available to us within the wider church. We can organise and conduct liturgy as well as and sometimes better than the “set apart” ministry. Some of us are trained as teachers for our daily work. Others of us function as organisers and administrators for earning our living. Still others - nurses, care assistants, mothers and even fathers - have the core understandings that constitute pastoral care. Wouldn’t it be quite wonderful if these skills which are around the place in great abundance were to be harnessed to the making of community in the body of Christ, I ask myself?

We need to know and understand what is going on and how we can contribute to the building up of the People of God. Which brings me back to my beginning. We need to find a way of communicating better what the vision of the Church is for our time, how that vision is to be implemented, and what all our roles are in its implementation.

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**NENAGH CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL**

Wed 12th - Sun 16th December at St Mary’s Church, Nenagh

*for details see page 2*
The Five Marks of Mission – 4: “Transform”
By Archdeacon Wayne Carney, Chairperson of the Diocesan Council for Mission

We continue to look at the Five Marks of Mission; this month looking at the fourth Mark, which is “Transform – To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind, and pursue peace and reconciliation.”

To many of us, that will seem rather ‘pie in the sky’. How do we, as individuals, as a parish, as a Diocese, ‘transform unjust structures of society’? Surely that’s a matter for the Oireachtas, if not the EU or the United Nations. But transformational changes in society cannot be brought about by legislation alone – they begin by transformation in the hearts and minds of individuals and institutions, which lead to a gradual change in society. It was individuals such as William Wilberforce, inspired by his Christian faith, who successfully campaigned to have the slave trade abolished in the British Empire. It is certainly true that, over two millennia, the Church’s record in justice issues has been mixed at best, but in recent years Christian leaders and mission agencies have been in the forefront of working for justice, peace, and reconciliation, in Ireland and around the world.

But before we take credit for making the world a better place, we had better look closely where that world is headed. In the last few years, there have been a number of places where public opinion has begun to move away from support for justice and reconciliation, and brought racism, discrimination, and violence back to being acceptable to some people – including some holding high public office. And when leaders begin to go down that road, people who may have harboured such thoughts privately begin to speak – and act – with impunity. We see the results in an increase of hate crimes, and in elections where candidates make racist statements – and, sometimes get themselves elected because of it. And we see it on the Internet, where racism and hatred are increasingly observed in the comments sections of websites, and where any who may disagree with such remarks are labelled as ‘snowflakes’, ‘libtards’, or worse.

What can we do about this? Well, let’s return to the 4th Mark of Mission. Leaving aside the ‘transforming of unjust structures’ for a moment, let us look at the other parts of the statement. “Challenge violence of every kind.” – which means not just physical violence, but verbal and emotional as well. If we experience hatred or discrimination directed against us or against others, we need to speak out against it – and, if possible, report it. Such behaviour is illegal in this country. More importantly, it is also contrary to what our Lord commanded us to do: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself’. It was so appropriate that when Jesus told the parable of the Good Samaritan as an illustration of his commandment, the hero of the story was a foreigner. The 4th Mark also tells us to ‘pursue peace and reconciliation’ – in our society, in our community, in our parish, in our family. Be peacemakers. In a conflict, try to understand the other person’s point of view. If you want someone to change their behaviour, don’t argue, just ‘love them into it’.

If all Christians tried harder to love their neighbours, we would indeed begin to transform unjust structures in our society, a little bit at a time. And let us not forget that there are still a few unjust structures in the Church that we need to work on. May God’s love transform us, that through us, he may begin to transform our world.

Stewardship of God’s Creation
Report by Joc Sanders

Rev Andrew Orr, Chairperson of Eco Congregation Ireland, was invited by the Diocesan Council for Mission to speak on this theme at the Ecumenical Mission Evening on Tuesday 16th October in Adare.

He began by identifying the environmental issues facing us, including air and water pollution, climate change, habitat loss, soil destruction and desertification. Humans have put increasing amounts of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, leading to rising temperatures globally and climate change. Here in Ireland we are experiencing more frequent extreme weather conditions. Today tens of millions of people are threatened by what some scientists are describing as ‘climate genocide’.

Some have blamed the Judaean-Christian interpretation of Genesis for encouraging a view that creation is there for human beings to exploit. But there is a better way of thinking Biblically, he said. He pointed to passages of scripture which call us to care for creation, not abuse it. Care for creation is not optional but an integral part of living the Gospel, reflecting the Trinity of God the creator, Jesus the first-born of creation, and the Holy Spirit animating all creation.

Andrew then turned to the many things that can be done in parishes to be better stewards of creation. The Eco Congregation Ireland website (http://ecocongregationireland.com) has many useful resources to get started, including an environmental check-up, and examples of what different parishes have done. The Eco Congregation Awards scheme provides recognition of parishes’ achievements, and the Climate Justice Candle travels around Ireland helping to raise awareness.

In the discussion that followed, Canon Patrick Comerford also pointed to USPG resources including the booklet ‘Faith in a Changing Climate’ which can be downloaded from their website (http://www.uspg.org.uk/climate). There is much good work already being done in individual parishes, and Bishop Kenneth suggested that the best way to make real progress across the diocese would be for leading parishes to seek an Eco Congregation Award for it.
Diocesan Organisations

Girls Friendly Society

BORRISOKANE & CLOUGHJORDAN BRANCH
The leaders collected leaves, twigs and cones for the girls to look at and touch as part of their Exploration badge. The girls made leaf rubbings using crayons in a variety of colours. The results were very effective. For the next meeting group met at Knocknacree Woods, outside Cloughjordan. All enjoyed a walk and leaders pointed out the different types of trees, some plants and flowers to the girls, again as part of their Exploration badge. Some girls have begun work on their Craft competitions while other girls have started working on their Bible Study work. There is lots of variety and everybody is busy. The branch was delighted to welcome Rev. Terry Mitchell when he came to visit them and appreciates his support very much.

NENAGH BRANCH
Girls and leaders enjoyed decorating the GFS Harvest Window in St. Mary’s Church on 6th October. On Saturday, 20th October girls enjoyed doing their crafts and finished the meeting with a Halloween Party – all suitably dressed. New members always welcome – please contact Rose Langley 087-6758896

DIOCESAN FUN DAY
Fun day was held on Saturday, 29th September in Cloughjordan.

UP COMING EVENTS
- Children First Training – by now all Leaders/Helpers/Members of GFS should have completed the Training. Please bring your certificates to Council meeting in October.
- Diocesan Training for all Leaders, helpers and prospective leaders has been arranged. Sylvia Quinn, former All Ireland President, will come to Birr on Saturday, 10th November where she will advise on the GFS Handbook, data protection procedures and much more. This is a wonderful opportunity for all involved in GFS to keep up to date with the increased paper work involved but you will also enjoy a lovely get together. Lunch will be provided. Full details available after Council Meeting. Thanks to Birr branch for hosting this very important event.
- Christmas Craft Day will take place in Corbally Church, Roscrea on Saturday, 1st December. Details to be finalised at Council Meeting. Please contact Branch Leaders for details.
- Diocesan Prize day & Service 2019 is due to be held in Roscrea on 30th March 2019.

If you wish to contact Killaloe President please email Rose at killaloepresidentgfs@gmail.com (note new GFS President Email address)

Mothers’ Union

“STEPPING OUT IN FAITH”
Getaway Weekend – 12th/13th October 2018, Cavan
This year’s MU Women’s Getaway Weekend was held in Cavan and the Diocese was represented by Diocesan President, Lucy Kavanagh together with Jackie Eastwood & Margaret Ollett from the Ballinasloe Branch.

Following an excellent dinner Friday evening and a hearty breakfast, the day started with a talk by Heather Forster, wife of Archdeacon Andrew Forster, entitled “In his shoes”. Based on the story of Hannah (1st Samuel) and life’s experiences Heather emphasised the need to take everything to God in prayer and make him our first port of call. She said we should trust and believe in God and work for Him with faithfulness. Up on our feet next and an opportunity, for the first time for some of us, to attempt line-dancing with Mary Wray. We all did remarkably well and had lots of fun.

MUOLA was the next topic considered by the 100 delegates with an emphasis on the importance of good listening skills. We heard about a
number of valuable projects being undertaken by the various Branches represented both at home and abroad. Next to speak was Archdeacon Andrew Forster, Rector of Drumglass Parish in Dungannon who admitted that he had been advised early on that he should “always keep in with the Mothers’ Union”. He used maps to represent the milestones in his life and reflected on how scripture could help us with our spiritual and emotional journeys.

Finally, we listened to Foot Health Practitioner, Ruth Watson, who gave sound advice on foot care. With a final word from outing All Ireland President, Phyllis Grothier, the day concluded, and we all hit the road for home.

Next year’s Getaway Weekend will be held on 18th/19th October in Armagh.

BALLINASLOE BRANCH

A Helping Hand

Isn’t it amazing what can be going on in a community that you know nothing or very little about. The October meeting of the St John’s Branch of MU learnt about the work of a dedicated team of the Galway Simon Community based in Ballinasloe.

Aisling Higgins from the Bridge Resource Centre, Ballinasloe outlined their role in helping the homeless and, in particular, their aim to prevent homelessness for individuals and families in the locality.

Loneliness, fear and sometimes addiction can lead to vulnerability and the Resource Centre provides a drop in facility for on-going support, advice and maybe just a cup of tea and a chat for those who need it. Aisling outlined situations where, with liaison with other agencies and negotiation, the Galway Simon had resolved potential cases of homelessness.

To support the valuable work of the Resource Centre our branch will undertake a project to supply shoe boxes filled with shower gel, toothbrush, toothpaste and other essentials to help those in need locally. Members are looking forward to the November meeting when they will be joined by Vera Harte for a Christmas Flower arranging demonstration.
FUTURE EVENTS

Autumn Adventure Weekend
Our Autumn Adventure Weekend will take place this year at Lilliput Outdoor Education Centre, Lilliput, Mullingar, from Friday 16th to Sunday 18th November 2018. This adventure weekend will be for all those attending secondary school. There will be transport to and from the event from Adare, Limerick, Birdhill, Nenagh, Moneygall & Roscrea.

During the weekend the following fabulous activities will be on offer: Worship & Teaching- we are delighted that a team from International Justice Mission have agreed to be lead and facilitate our times of Worship and Teaching throughout the weekend; Small group times for fun, exploration, discussion and prayer; Icebreaker Games ; Outdoor Adventure Activities including some of the following Kayaking, Assault Course, Climbing Tower, Abseiling, Archery, Night Line, Gladiator Bubble Soccer, Laser Game, Open Canoeing, Orienteering, Hill Walking, Raft Building, Man Hunt; Gorge Walking, Stack ‘m’ High, Team Building Games etc.; Disco;Open Fire conversations, chat and song; Lots of good food and a little bit of sleep!!!

The cost is £100 per person or €90 per person if more than one from same family attending this event or Junior Weekend. Finally for those participating in International Exchange Trip the cost is only £50. Final Date for receipt of bookings is Monday 12th November 2018.

Annual Christmas Dinner Dance
Our Annual Christmas Dinner Dance will take place on Saturday 24th November 2018 at Fitzgerald’s Woodlands House Hotel, Adare, Co. Limerick commencing at 8.30 pm until late. Entertainment will be by Dj Joe. Tickets will cost €25 and can be bought from committee members. Please note that neat dress is essential. This is an Over 18’s event. Tickets must be booked by Wednesday 21st November.

Secondary School Overnight Trip to Dublin
On Saturday 1st & Sunday 2nd December, UDYC hope that as many as possible in secondary school and upwards will travel firstly to Dublin with Cork Diocesan Youth Council for a number of activities. In the evening the group will travel to Clontarf Church to join the CYD Christmas Worship Service & Party with Disco. The group will stay overnight in parish centre in Clontarf and after church on Sunday will return to home. There will be transport from/to Limerick, Nenagh, Moneygall, Roscrea & Portlaoise. The cost for transport, activities, food and accommodation is €50 each. The closing date for bookings is Monday 26th November 2018.

For more information on any of our events or activities, please contact Edward (087) 290 7553 or myself. Email: udyc@limerick.anglican.org or our UDYC Facebook page.

Until next month,
Grace Langley Mobile: 087 6776279

Diocesan Council for Mission
Once again it is that time of year when the members of the Diocesan Council for Mission decide on the project for Mission Sunday 2018, which this year will be held on Sunday 25th November.

In 2017 we collected for installation of water tanks to schools in the Diocese of Swaziland, and in so doing raised almost €6000, to which must be added a donation from the pupils of Oxmantown School, Birr of €1200 - well done boys & girls & staff!! This brings the total amount collected to over €7,000, which our Treasurer will be sending off by the end of Oct, with a letter requesting that the pupils of Oxmantown School be kept in touch with their peers in the schools in Swaziland who receive a water tank.

Heavenly Father, you are the well spring of life,
The eternal source of living water.
Inspire your Church to passionately work,
To provide that basic need of clean water and sanitation,
For all of your children.
(USPG Prayer Diary Oct 2018.)

This year, we decided to concentrate on mission at home. Bearing in mind the current situation with regards to the ‘homeless crisis’, especially among families and young children, it was agreed to donate all the proceeds from Mission Sunday 2018 to the Peter McVerry Trust, a charity which is doing good work at the ‘coalface of the crisis’.

We hope that in March/April 2019, Fr Peter McVerry, in person, will be able to attend one of our Mission Evening's, not only to receive our donation, but more importantly to bring us up to date on the work of the Trust.

Dorothy Brislane (Communications Officer)
David Frizelle (Secretary)

MISSION EVENING REPORT
See page 7.

Children’s Ministry Network

REMEmBRANCE DAY RESOURCES FOR USE WITH CHILDREN
Lots of resources on-line...these are recommended:

Barnabas for Churches have produced an All-Age Service ‘Ribbons for Remembrance’ complete with short talk and activities. There is a useful introduction outlining the concerns and sensitivities that arise when children are involved in Remembrance of war.
https://www.barnabasinchurches.org.uk/ribbons-for-remembrance/

BBC Whole school assemblies have useful background material - discretion advisable: some material not immediately suitable.
https://downloads.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/ww1/ww1_assembly_pack_primary.pdf

Messy Church have an extensive collection of activities and ideas using the format of activity, key verse, talk about it. Activities include making a peace sculpture, making a peace wall, making edible poppies, messy memos, turn weapons into tools, plenty of talk ideas.
https://www.messychurch.org.uk/resource/messy-remembrance

For Little children BBC have produced a sweet little animation featuring a rabbit and a butterfly http://www.childrenandyouth.co.uk/children/remembrance-animation-kids/

More information is available from Revd. Jane Galbraith, email galbraithjane@gmail.com, mobile 087 382 5336.

Continuing Ministerial Education

SELECTING HYMNS AND MUSIC
The choice of hymns, canticles and music is often a difficult task for clergy and readers alike. To help develop skills and confidence in this area, the Revd Rod Smyth of Nenagh and Ms Rosemary Smyth are
leading workshops for clergy and readers at Saint Mary's Rectory in Askeaton, Co Limerick, on Monday 12 November next.

Rod and Rosemary hope to tackle the thorny problems faced by people who have difficulty in selecting hymns for Sundays, and advising about appropriate hymns for Baptisms, weddings and funerals.

How do I select appropriate hymns that reflect the theme of the readings, the sermon and the season? Will they be able to sing them? How do I avoid being repetitive? How do I find hymns that meet the spiritual needs of people throughout the parish? How do I introduce new material? Should we be singing the psalms and the canticles?

This programme is offered in two sessions: from 11 am to 3.30 for day-time participants, and from 7 pm to 9.30 pm for people in ministry who are also in secular ministry.

Tea/coffee/biscuits are provided, but participants are asked to bring sandwiches.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Last month, the workshops looked at planning and resources for marking Remembrance Day and the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I. The resources presented at those workshops are available at this link: https://cmelimerick.blogspot.com/2018/10/a-workshop-on-preparing-for-remembrance.html

Meanwhile, Canon Patrick Comerford publishes online resources every Monday morning that are suitable for clergy and readers planning services the following Sunday. These are available online at: https://cmelimerick.blogspot.com/

Diocesan Guild of Readers

DIOCESAN READERS' SERVICE

A service of Choral Evensong for the Diocesan Guild of Readers was held on Sunday 21st October 2018 in St Mary’s Cathedral, Limerick. The sermon was given by the Archdeacon of Cork, Ven Adrian Wilkinson, on the text ‘In his name the gentiles will hope’ (Matthew 12:21). He spoke of the importance of the ministry of diocesan readers, and urged them to bring the Gospel of hope to the congregations they serve. The choir under the leadership of Peter Barley greatly enhanced the worship, singing Stanford’s canticles in B and the anthem ‘The Spirit of the Lord’ by Elgar. At the end of the service Bishop Kenneth made a presentation to Hon Grania Weir and Col Edward Buckingham to mark their retirement after many years of service as diocesan readers. All then partook of delicious light refreshments.

MINISTRY CONFERENCE

Sadly, the Ministry Conference, organised by the Guild for clergy and readers on the theme ‘Ministry among young adults 18-35’, had to be cancelled for insufficient interest. We hope that some other opportunity can be found to address this important topic in future.

SCHOOL NEWS

St. Nicholas’ National School, Adare

We are very fortunate to have lovely trees around the school and at the moment the leaves are spectacular. We look forward to a visit from Geoff Hunt next week when we will explore the trees, their leaves and seeds. It is the perfect time of the year for such exploration.

Thank you to all the pupils who sang so beautifully at the Harvest Service in St Nicholas’ Church. This year the pupils sang ‘Thank You Lord’ and as usual the church was decorated beautifully. Everyone retired to the school hall afterwards for a cup of tea, some delicious cakes and the auction for charity. This year €374 was raised for the Irish Cancer Society.

Senior pupils had an exciting visit to Adare Library recently when they learned about the 1916 Rising and the War of Independence through costumes and armoury from that period. It really brought it to life.

At the moment we are enjoying Book Week in school when we concentrate on the joy of reading. All classes have made trips to our local library and we are enjoying lots of reading and listening to wonderful stories. Each classroom has organised a writing/theatre/colouring competition with the junior classes colouring beautifully, the middle room writing stories and the senior room creating poems. We will have Dress Up Day when pupils and staff dress up as their favourite book character. That always results in some interesting photographs!

Pupils have been filling up some wellington boots with coins in aid of some local children’s charities. This is organised by Limerick 95FM.

Pupils enjoyed some fun Maths classes during Maths Week in October and swimming classes finished up on the 26th.

St. Mary’s National School, Nenagh

Those autumn days are quickly disappearing and winter is upon us!

A hive of activity continues as we progress through the school term. We are delighted to have Speech and Drama classes for the boys and girls throughout the month of November and running into December. Preparations will commence in November for our Christmas pantomime. It’s hard to believe that we are mentioning the end of the year already! The boys and girls are participating in the local Credit Union Art competition and, also, using their artistic talents to make cards for the Irish Cancer Society.

Senior pupils had an exciting visit to Adare Library recently when they learned about the 1916 Rising and the War of Independence through costumes and armoury from that period. It really brought it to life.

At the end of October, we were sad to hear that Ms Sally Morrissey will be leaving us as she has secured a permanent teaching position. However, we wish her well as she moves onto pastures new. We would like to take this opportunity to welcome Ms Liz Callery to the staff for the months of November and December. Ms Cavanagh will return in January to the school following her maternity leave.

We look forward to exciting and busy time in the forthcoming weeks!
St. Cronan’s National School, Roscrea

St. Cronan’s National School, Rosemount is as busy as ever this term welcoming a fresh new look in the front and back hallways, thanks to a very successful Summer Works Scheme which has provided new toilets throughout – including a wheelchair accessible toilet and entrance ramp.

The End of Summer Fete was a wonderful day filled with fun and entertainment. The sun shone and there was something for everyone from face painting to pony rides, from skittles to unpredictable white mice.

Pupils from 4th – 6th class enjoyed the Diocesan Service in St. Mary’s Cathedral in Limerick. 6th class pupils hosted the North Tipperary Hospice Coffee Morning and raised an impressive €320.00. Bank of Ireland’s Education Officer, John Lillis, guided pupils in setting up virtual companies before pitching their ideas to a panel of Dragons. Our young entrepreneurs went on to set up mini companies and are producing some amazing creations which will be for sale at our Christmas Party on December 21st.

Pupils have enjoyed soccer and rugby this term and tennis and dance lessons are planned for next term.

We are very fortunate to have the musical talents of Rosemary on board again this year. Parents enjoyed a musical treat at Our Harvest Assembly and preparations are well under way for our Christmas Carol Service which will take place in the church on December 13th. Come along and join the celebration!

Kiltallagh National School, Castlemaine

Having thoroughly enjoyed the wonderful celebrations of our recent 80th anniversary, all in Kiltallagh school community share a common enthusiasm, hope and positivity as we welcome and embrace this our ninth decade in education here in our beautiful school in the heart of the rural village of Castlemaine, Co. Kerry.

A surprise visit from the Ice Cream van

It’s been a hive of activity here in Kiltallagh in recent weeks with the children fully immersed and engaged in a diverse range of enjoyable educational activities and initiatives.

We’ve been busy....
• Baking scrumptious ‘Kiltallagh Crunchie Cakes’ & chocolate brownies;
• Participating in Cumann na mBunscoil 2 teacher football competition;
• Visiting St Mary’s Cathedral in Limerick for a Primary Schools Diocesan Service;
• Visiting Kerry County Museum for a spooky stroll through the medieval streets of Kerry;
• Preparing for our very own Presidential Election;
• Enjoying the wonderful and insightful weekly assemblies of Rev’d Ann-Marie and Rev’d Isabel;
• Getting active in our weekly Zumba lessons!
• Enjoying a surprise visit from the ice-cream van!!
• Exploring the world of robotics

This year in Kiltallagh we are delving further into the whole area of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) all of which are such critical disciplines in modern day society.

In conjunction with the Department of Computing at the Institute of Technology Tralee, through the VEX Robotics programme, we are embarking on an exciting journey where the students will be challenged to design, build, programme and drive their very own robot!

So plenty of exciting times ahead in Kiltallagh!

Robot makers

Oxmantown National School, Birr

NEW POLICIES
The Data Protection Policy and the Whole School Plan for Integrated Learning through Play “Aistear” are available to be viewed on the school website www.oxmantownns.com

The families and friends collected a total of 500kg of clothes for the clothes collection, thank you everyone.
Every Tuesday the children from 1st to 6th class go swimming at Birr Leisure Centre for 8 weeks.

HALLOWE’EN
The staff and pupils came to school in Hallowe’en costumes Thursday 25th October. Each pupil was asked to bring €1 to donate to fund past pupil Jessica Pyle’s charity school trip to Uganda.

The school will be closed on Friday 26th October for polling day and mid-term and will reopen on the 5th November.

**Rathkeale No2 National School**

We had an interesting day studying the trees around the school and churchyard with a local Heritage in Schools expert, Geoff Hunt recently. Geoff is a regular visitor to our school and the pupils always find his workshops interesting and enjoyable. We all got to learn about the importance of trees to us and hopefully everyone will be able to recognize some of our more common species. We discovered twelve different species of trees in our environment.

The senior pupils took part in a workshop with the education officer of Clean Ireland Recycling recently about recycling. This was an excellent opportunity to revisit recycling and what we should and shouldn’t put into the recycling bins. They are working on designing a bin lorry for the company’s competition.

Tom Neville TD visited our senior classroom for a question and answer session with the pupils. The pupils had prepared questions to ask him and he was questioned on all sorts of topics from his role as a TD to the presidential election and issues affecting us locally as well as nationally.

Our visits to the local library in Rathkeale have recommenced every fortnight.

We’re glad to report that Irish Water has lifted the “Do not drink” notice on the water in Rathkeale. Pupils have been very careful to bring in their own water for drinking for the past couple of weeks. We thank Irish Water and Limerick City and Council for their regular visits with bottled water throughout the time the notice was in place.

Preparations are well under way for a fundraising Tommy Fleming concert in Holy Trinity Church on December 8th. Tickets are limited and are on sale in Rathkeale House Hotel at €30.

We’re all looking forward to our annual fancy dress up day on Friday before we close for midterm. Pupils have been working on designing their costumes for the past few weeks and we anticipate the usual high standard of creative designs.

**Glebe National School, Aughrim**

The children of The Glebe N.S. Aughrim thoroughly enjoyed their trip to the Babaró Theatre Festival on Friday 19th October. They attended a wonderful performance of “Black Beauty” at the Town Hall Theatre, Galway.

Acting Principal Mrs. Bernie Glennon also enjoyed a very informative Training Day at the Woodlands Hotel, Adare on Tuesday 16th October. It was a great chance to meet all the Principals of our community of schools. Many thanks to all involved.

Congratulations to our own school Principal Mrs. Lisa Fenton, her husband Eoin and their son Tom on the birth of baby John on 11th October. We were delighted with the wonderful news and we wish them well. We are still awaiting good news from our other teacher on maternity leave Ms. Waters. We look forward to hearing from her soon.

We take this opportunity to welcome their two replacements, Mrs. Orla Delaney and Ms. Alison Bonner to our school. We are delighted to have them on our staff for the year.

We looked forward to an interesting day on Tuesday 23rd October when we welcomed Mark Molloy to the school to talk to us about this year’s Green Flag Energy Project.

Following that it as full steam ahead to celebrate Halloween, with one of the best decorated schools in the area thanks to Ms. Bonner!

**Villiers School**

**RUGBY UPDATES**

Our first year boys are training well and have played a few blitz games in many cases for the first time, well done so far.

Our u15 boys have had an incredible start to the season in the McCarthy Cup B beating Rockwell College, Crescent Comprehensive and Ardscoil Ris. They are now top the league with big matches against cork giants PBC and CBC on the horizon.

Our junior boys travelled to Wales with the senior squad and got more game time.

Our senior boys have been very busy playing six games to date against very strong opposition. Very early season losses have strengthened their resolve and this was seen recently when they defeated St Patrick’s Shannon and Bantry in convincing fashion. They play against a combination of Waterford schools next week in the senior A qualifying system in Thomson Park. We wish them well in a difficult fixture.

**HOCKEY**

Junior, Senior and Minor girls hockey teams played in a hockey blitz against Mount Mercy in Cork. A great effort was put in by all the teams. The Senior Boys team played a hard fought match against Bandon Grammar.

**SOCCER**

The girls’ soccer team played Nenagh in a friendly. Well done to everybody and looking forward to what looks like a promising season.

**TY**

The annual TY Villiers Fashion Show is celebrating 30 years with the Hilary Thomson Agency. This year it was held on Tuesday 23rd October and as ever it was a glamorous occasion. The TY Community Group who are taking part in a mission trip to Uganda next Easter held a sponge throw fund raiser which was great fun for everyone (maybe except the teachers who gallantly offered to have sponges thrown at them!)
I asked recently in assembly, 'who are our friends and how do we treat them?' I wanted everyone to consider what it means to be a friend by using the friendship of Jesus and Peter. In Matthew 14 Jesus walks on water and Peter bravely steps out of the boat. However, Peter loses faith in his friend and begins to sink. Peter also says he will never leave Jesus but then he very firmly denies ever having known Him in the first place. Bit of a troubled friendship to say the least. However, if we look at this from Jesus’ perspective we discover that when Peter became frightened of the wind and the waves, Jesus reaches out His hand and takes hold of him and brings him to the safety of the boat. No matter what Peter did and said at the end, Jesus forgives him. Jesus and Peter had a close friendship. Peter had been very privileged by seeing many miracles and hearing many amazing things. However, he still messed things up and caused a rift in their friendship. Despite this, Jesus never stopped loving Peter. He forgave him and restored him to the position of leader among the disciples.

As a Christian I believe that God’s love for people is unconditional. This means that when any of us does something wrong, God still loves us and he always will. Jesus’ friendship with Peter is a challenge to us. It is an example of what true friendship can be: real friends love unconditionally; real friends help each other; and real friends say sorry and forgive. A school can be a good place to learn about unconditional love. In the school family, we can learn that mistakes can be forgiven, that a new start is always possible and that respect, care and love are important. Christians believe that Jesus showed us what true friendship looks like – it is unconditional, it forgives and it thinks of other people. It is kind, compassionate and loving, and it keeps no record of wrongs. What one thing could you do today to offer the free, precious gift of friendship to somebody? Who do you need to make friends with again because, like Peter, it has all gone wrong?

Prayer: Dear God, Thank you for our friends. Please help us to be good friends to other people. Please help us to treat others with respect. Please help us to look out for people who are struggling to make friends and to take the time to care. Amen.

Until next Time,
Blessings, Peace and Friendship
Chaplain Jackie McNair

NEWS FROM THE VILLIERS SANCTUARY
Greetings once again from the Villiers Sanctuary. Life, as ever, is hectic and it can sometimes feel like there is no time to pause. Everyone is eagerly awaiting mid-term as we try to come to terms with the pace of life here. So hopefully all will take the time to breathe and spend some down time with loved ones.

THE TY COMMUNITY GROUP took over the school for a Wellbeing Day and invited guest speakers in to talk to all of the student body on matters like diet, wellbeing, positive mental health, addiction and how to deal with stress and anxiety. An incredible day, lots of work and effort went in to organising this day and I am really proud of the Community gang for all their effort in making this such a success.

CHRISTIAN UNION meets every Tuesday and Thursday at lunchtime here in the Sanctuary and lots of plans are currently being made as to how the prayer and worship can be introduced as an everyday item in our busy lives.

THE SVP GROUP are busy putting together a ‘sock, hat and scarves’ drive. The aim is to get everyone to bring in any hats, or scarves or maybe a new pair of socks so that they can put it all together and present it to SVP to help the homeless and those less fortunate this winter. Great work guys, keep it up.

Harvest services continued this month. Ruth O Hagan gave the address to congregation at Mountshannon harvest and she looked at the theme of being thankful and also expanded the meanings in the Irish language of being grateful. There is such depth in language and always does not translate directly with the true depth of meaning. Ruth joined the church at Mountshannon in the last year and our thanks to her for taking up the challenge put to her by the rector to deliver the address at the Harvest service. All appreciated the treats and tea afterward and to all who prepared it for us to share.

The Revd Edna Wakely was the preacher at All Saints Castleconnell harvest service this year. She spoke about our fears we may have, and how the worrying about the future robs us of the peace we could have today. There is a new parish priest in Castleconnell Fr. Willie Teehan and so it was wonderful that he made the time to be with us at the harvest service together with Fr Tom Whelan. The smell of freshly baked bread radiated from the altar and the spread after was delicious and it was great to have so many of the wider Castleconnell community share in the day with us. Our thanks to all who prepared the church and the spread of eats for us.

Clonlara Church on Friday 19th was the last of the 5 harvest services in our group of parishes. This is always an alternative service from the conventional harvest service which does make a welcome change from the usual harvest hymns etc when you having 5 of them in the group. The Kiltenanlea choir under direction of Rhonwen Hayes sang a Zulu song - “Sin njay “ The meaning of which is surmised by the words : ’We are who we are because of prayer. Motivated inspired women and mothers pray’, Bright Blue Rose - Irish Ballad, Love Call Me Home – Scottish song by Ewan Mc Cil, Stand Up – Scottish Pop Song, I Will - The Beatles. The congregation sang the hymn Seek ye first the kingdom of God with great gusto! The church was decorated by the local school with pieces of art work they specially did for the harvest. The local beaver group made artificial fires which were placed around the church. Fiona decorated the entrance porch and Pippa had her mother who was visiting from UK did a beautiful flower display. This was indeed a community effort and that we can have this harvest each year in a church where we have no congregation. The church is in use and long may they continue the good work they do to keep the building going.

The Kincora Trad fest kicked off again on 12 October in St Flannan’s Cathedral with this year theme ‘The West awake’! Our thanks to Deidre Scanlon for another excellent programme.

Bryan Brislane was nominated for the Clare Older Person of the Year Award and our good wishes to him for being recognised in the community and nominated for the work he does to promote the cathedral in Killaloe and welcoming the tourist. There have been so many complimentary things said about Bryan and his passion he has for bell ringing and faithfully managing the conducted tours. Bryan received a certificate of recognition at an event held at the Woodstock Hotel in Ennis on 25 September.

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
On Sunday 21 October our long serving Diocesan reader Grania Weir retired from this role and at a service in St Mary’s Cathedral at a gathering of lay readers Bishop Kenneth thanked her for the work she has done as a lay reader in the diocese. Our thanks and appreciation to her for her life and work here in our Union of parishes.

Notice of upcoming event at Clonlara Church on 17th November when there will be a WW1 exhibition from 2-4 pm of artefacts and at 4 pm WW1 centenary celebration and all are welcome.

Wedding of Sarah Dempsey and David Egan

Baptism
Best wishes to Tristan Francis O’Leary, who was made a full member of Christ’s Church by his baptism in Birr Church on the 20th of October. Tristan’s parents are Monica Barnwell and Niall O’Leary, and he has a big brother, Harry. Archdeacon Carney conducted the baptism and celebrated the Eucharist which followed.

Harvest Services
Many thanks to our Harvest preachers, the Revd Paul Fitzpatrick in Lockeen, Fr Tom Hogan in Birr, Mr David Frizelle in Dorrha, and the Revd Rod Smyth in Lorrha. Thanks, too, to all those who decorated the churches so beautifully, and those who provided the refreshments after the services. It was especially pleasant for us to have the opportunity to get to know Fr Tom Hogan, the new Parish Priest in Birr. All in all, we had a great Harvest season this year!

St Ruadhán’s Church Lorrha
One year after running a successful fundraising fashion show, St Ruadhans Church Lorrha are glad to report phase 1 of the restoration project is nearing completion. This phase included removing, restoring and replacing all the steel windows. This work was professionally carried out by “APL Stained Glass” Crumlin Dublin under the guidance of our conservation architect M/s Gerry Mc Manus and in conjunction with the “Built Heritage Investment Scheme”. It is lovely to see all our windows fully glazed and draught proof again. Also disabled access to the Church is greatly improved with the laying of a new tarmac path from the road.

Birr Group of Parishes
Birr, Lorrha, Lockeen, and Dorrha
Rector: The Venerable R. Wayne Carney
Archdeacon of Killaloe & Clonfert
The Rectory, Birr, Co. Offaly
Tel: 057 912 0021 Mob: 087 786 5234
Email: mapleire@gmail.com
Parish Facebook: www.facebook.com/BirrGroupOfParishes

Prayers
In our prayers we remember Norman Alexander, Theo Dillon, Betty Eades, Harry Edge, Pamela Edge, Tom Hayes, Pam Reid, and baby Saoirse.
REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Remembrance Sunday falls on the 11th of November this year, which is the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Armistice which ended the First World War. Some 35,000 Irish soldiers were killed, from all parts of the island and from all religious traditions. Since Birr Church has, since before the present building was built, had a connection with the Crinkle Barracks and the Leinster Regiment, it seemed to be imperative that we do something special to mark the day. As a result, on the 11th of November, we will have an ecumenical service at 3:30 pm in the church in Birr, the only service in the group that day. The Birr Choral Society will lead us in singing, and we hope to involve children from the parish and Oxpontown School. It is inspiring that, in Birr, Remembrance Sunday commemorations are no longer seen as Protestant gatherings, but as times to reflect on the loss of so many young lives, and as reminders to do all we call to make peace, between nations, in our communities, and in our homes.

Roscrea Group of Parishes

St Burchin’s Church Bourney, Christ Church Corbally, St Molua’s Church Kyle, with St. Cronan’s Church Roscrea
Rector: Canon Jane Galbraith
St. Cronan’s Rectory, Rosemount, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary, E53X466
Tel: 0505 21725 Mob: 087 382 5336
Email: galbraithjane@gmail.com

HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICES

Many thanks to all those in all of our four churches for making the celebrations so meaningful with splendid hospitality and decorations of fruit, veg, flowers and ... leaves making a colourful splash this year. It is wonderful to see friends and neighbours to swell our numbers. Our special preachers this year were Andrew Coleman from Christian Aid, Revd. Dr. Patricia McKee Hanna and Revd. Lesley Robinson.

Congratulations to Jason Patterson and Alison Abbott who were wed in St. John’s Church Edgeworthstown, Co. Longford on Saturday 13th October 2018. Jason is churchwarden and parish Reader in Christ Church Corbally, where this new family will settle down.

Congratulations to Nigel Pearson and Michelle Thompson who were wed in The Church of the Annunciation Bansha, Co. Tipperary on Saturday June 9th 2018. Nigel and Michelle are living in Portlaoise. St. Molua’s Church Kyle are looking forward to a new sound system due to generous grant aid from Laois County Council. With so many good Singers in Kyle, a new ‘backing group’ who ‘keep up’, will be much appreciated. Many thanks Laois Co. Co.

St. Cronan’s Church Tower Works on the pointing of the high parts of the tower are complete. Thanks are due to Tipperary County Council for their generous grant aid enabling us to make a good start on the stonework of the building. The next job is replacing all the damaged stone louvres. This work should be completed by the end of the month, by which time it I hoped, proper thanks and celebrations will take place, for works completed so far.

Remembrance Sunday 2018. Plans are in progress to have a Single Group Service on Nov. 11th. in St. Cronan’s Church Roscrea at 10.45 a.m.

Nenagh Union of Parishes

Nenagh, Templederry, Ballymackey and Killodiernan
Rector: Rev Rod Smyth
The Rectory, Church Rd, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary.
Tel: 067 32598, Mob: 087 970 6479
Email: rsmyth6582@btinternet.com

On Friday 28th September, a beautiful sunny day, the staff, pupils and parents of St Mary’s No. 2 National School assembled at the front of the school for the ceremony to mark the raising of the school’s new Green Flag. The guest of honour was Mrs Rae Croft who raised the flag and then dedicated the tree-carved ‘owl sculpture’ outside the school. The sculpture was funded by the late Mr Denis Croft, husband of Rae, and was sculptured from a tree which had to be felled for health and safety reasons. A fitting memorial to a much-loved parishioner who contributed so much to school life.

On Sunday 7th October, in St Mary’s Nenagh, there was a Harvest Eucharist. A large congregation of 90 people gathered in the church which had been most beautifully decorated for the occasion. During the service the choir sang a post communion motet, ‘All Things Bright and Beautiful,’ by John Rutter. After the service refreshments were served at the rear of the church and there was a terrific ‘buzz’ as parishioners chatted merrily over their cuppa.

On Sunday 21st October at the United Family Service in St Mary’s, we welcomed the Sakalas family from Amsterdam for the baptism of their son, Liam Dermot. On this occasion, the Rector was assisted by Father Des Hillery from St Mary’s of the Holy Rosary, Nenagh.

Preparations for the annual Nenagh Union Christmas Tree Festival are well underway. The festival will run this year from Wednesday 12th until Sunday 16th December, with the Community Carol Service at 4pm on 16th. This festival has become a very established
The Clergy Conference was again held jointly this year between the dioceses of Tuam, Killala and Achonry and the dioceses of Limerick and Killaloe, in the Dunraven Arms Hotel, Adare, Co. Limerick.

The programme and details were prepared by Canon Liz Beasley, Dean Gary Paulsen and Dean Alistair Grimason; the guest speaker this year was Scott Evans, the Church of Ireland Chaplain to University College Dublin.

The theme for the conference was ‘Our Ancient Future’. Scott invited reflection on parish and community ministry in 2018. He explored the importance of emotional intelligence (‘muscle memory’, in his phrase), deep community and applicable wisdom to communicate and embody the Christian message in our changing culture.

In a set of relaxed, but challenging, discussions, Scott asked participants to look at their ministry models and try to define Church of Ireland ministry in Ireland – particularly in rural areas, typically small, close communities where everyone knows each other. The emphasis was on the significance of relationships, in welcoming, creating a sense of belonging and building friendships – in all of which, sincerity and shared experiences are key. Engagement in the dark and difficult times was as important, if not more so, than in the light, where celebration may sometimes be superficial.

A lasting image for many was that of the embers of a log fire, where the smouldering logs are covered with a blanket of ashes – but which only need those ashes blown away in order for the small flames to burst back into life.

In his address during the closing eucharist in St Nicholas’ church, Bishop Patrick Rooke reminded us that all we do – in ministry, in worship, in our church buildings themselves – must lead people, whoever they may be, to Jesus Christ.
On Saturday 6th October thirteen of us gathered in the nave of the ruined Cathedral of St Brendan the Navigator, Ardfert for a pilgrim walk organised by the Community of Brendan the Navigator, led by Archdeacon Simon Lumby with the assistance of Sylvia Thompson of the Tralee International Resource Centre. The cathedral dates from the 12th century, but it is on the site of the monastery established by Brendan the Navigator in the 6th century. From there we walked to Tobar na Molt (Wethers’ Well), the reputed site of Brendan’s baptism by St Erc, about 10km there and back.

Simon and Sylvia led us in prayer in the cathedral before we set out. We also sang the hymn ‘This day God gives me’ unaccompanied to the tune ‘Bunessan’ - we did pretty well, I think! Then we set out on the road through the charming village and out into the country, walking two by two and chatting, getting to know each other.

About half way to the well we stopped to gather our thoughts. Simon reflected on a cottage overgrown with briers, and Sylvia read to us ‘The hermit and his blackbird’ (see page 5) from Mary Shanahan’s book ‘In honour of nature’.

I spoke briefly about my own back-to-front pilgrimage. Exactly a week before, I had been at St Brendan’s Cathedral, Clonfert – once the site of another monastery founded by Brendan, the place where he died, or as the early Irish monks would have called it, the place of his resurrection. A large stone outside the great hiberno-romanesque entrance is reputed to mark his grave. After his Christian birth in baptism at Wethers’ Well, Brendan’s travels were guided by God to his place of resurrection at Clonfert. I had travelled his path in reverse over a single week.

We returned from Wethers’ Well to the cathedral the same way that we had come. After a brief time of prayer in the cathedral, we finished the day with tea or coffee and packed lunches in the Community Centre opposite, where all agreed that it had been a most worthwhile and spiritual day out.
Family Fun Day at Clonfert

On Sunday 30th September 2018 a crowd of people of all ages came to Clonfert Cathedral & Clonfert Community Centre for the Family Fun Day organised by the Diocesan Council for Mission.

The day began with an uplifting Holy Communion in a packed St Brendan’s Cathedral. Dean Gary Paulsen presided; Rev John Godfrey preached (amusing children of all ages with his imitation of Monty Python’s Black Knight to illustrate the Gospel reading – Mark 9:38-50); and Rev Charles McCartney engaged the children in the prayers of the people. Isabel Finney played the organ and the congregation sang lustily such old favourites as ‘Praise, my soul, the King of heaven’ and ‘Glorious things of thee are spoken’.

After the Service it was time for a hot homemade soup, lots of excellent brown bread, rolls and sandwiches in the Community Centre, followed by fabulous deserts and tray bakes. From lunchtime to 6pm there were plenty of activities for young and old to enjoy: Giant Slides, Gladiator, Rodeo Bull, Connect 4, Jenga, Obstacle Course, etc.

Some joined in the Car Treasure Hunt prepared by Keith Robinson, Banagher – that certainly was a challenge even for those that join such activities on a regular basis. There was much friendly rivalry, with the top four places awarded to the Armstrong family from Kinnitty, the Harte Family with Mark assisting from Aughrim, the Newton Family from Aughrim, and the Corrigans from Adare.

Many others joined Dr Christy Cunniffe for a most enlightening tour of Clonfert Cathedral and its grounds, including the Yew Walk and the ruined Bishop’s Palace. Christy, a local man and a true enthusiast, brought the place to life with his encyclopaedic knowledge. The cathedral was an important focus of pilgrimage from the 12th to the 15th century as the burial site of St Brendan – Christy encouraged us to imagine the grey stone and carvings richly painted in its heyday.

The day concluded with a Barbeque and more food at the Community hall. The Diocesan Council for Mission committee sincerely thank all those that participated and everyone that helped in so many ways to make the entire day such a success. They also are due our thanks for organising it. We are looking forward already to the next one ....
The Evergreens

On Wednesday, 19 September, in the O’Brien Chapel in St. Mary’s Cathedral, we held our opening meeting of The Evergreens – a group for retired people. Despite the wild stormy weather, 30 people turned up, nearly half of them men. Some people met up who hadn’t seen each other for 50 years, so there was a great deal to talk about. Afternoon tea was served to the enjoyment of all.

People filled out questionnaires and as a result we have decided to meet monthly on Tuesdays from 2 pm to 4 pm, on:

- Tuesday, 20 November and
- Tuesday, 18th December.

Anyone requiring a lift should contact Oliver Deegan at 086 204 3296 or 061 635 367.

Grateful thanks to the committee who worked hard to make the occasion the success that it was. (Rev’d Edna Wakely).

Nenagh Union of Parishes continued from page 16

part of the run up to Christmas in Nenagh town. If you haven’t been before, make a special effort to attend this year – you will not regret it! For details see advertisement on page 2.

It was with great sadness that the parish learned of the death of Mr John Randall, on Thursday 11th October, late of St Conlan’s Nursing Home, Church Road, Nenagh. John died at a good age, having outlived the biblical three score years and ten by another score or more. In his homily, the Rector told the congregation that, John Steinbeck once wrote that ‘the effectiveness of a man’s life can be measured by the depths of the wounds that his death leaves on others.’ John’s death, of course, hurts most for his family, and his many friends. But we worship a God who heals wounds gently, leaving a scar that is a reminder of love given and received. John was a much-loved parishioner who will be greatly missed. He is survived by his wife Elspeth and his two daughters, Debbie and Julie.

Cloughjordan & Borrisokane Group of Parishes

Cloughjordan, Borrisokane, Borrisnafarney and Ballingarry.

Rector: Rev Terry Mitchell
Modreeny Rectory, Cloughjordan, Co. Tipperary
Tel: 0505 42183
Mob: 087 203 9333
Email: terrym438@gmail.com

STONE OF JORDAN

On the evening of 4th October Mr. Ramsey Khoury, the Honorary Consul of Ireland in Jordan, and Mr. Joe Geoghan, the Honorary Consul of Jordan in Ireland, presented The Stone of Jordan to representatives of the local Churches on behalf of the people of Cloughjordan. The stone was blessed to honour and celebrate the historical links between Cloughjordan and the Kingdom of Jordan.

It is believed that the name for Cloughjordan concerns the original Anglo-Norman Manorial settlement and the then resident Knight, DeMarisco. Written tradition holds that De Marisco went to the Holy Land and brought back with him a stone from the River Jordan, to use in the construction of his Castle - present day Cloughjordan House.

Contact was initiated with the Jordanian Authorities with a view to building on this story. As part of this process, a few months ago the Jordanian Government sourced a stone from the River at Bethany Above Jordan, the baptismal place of Christ. This Stone of Jordan was then conveyed to Ireland courtesy of the Irish Government jet.

Another historical connection relates to the time of the local Ó Carrolls chieftains in Cloughjordan and their preference for wine imported from the Lebanon-Jordan region.

GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE

On Monday the 15th of October representatives from the local churches were again asked to share in a blessing, this time in the opening of the Garden of Remembrance. This was to honour the memory of Thomas MacDonagh, a resident of Cloughjordan and signatory of the Declaration of Independence in 1916.

Thomas MacDonagh’s great granddaughter was present at the opening and she recounted memories of his childhood, in particular his fondness in walking in Knocknaarea Wood where some of his poems are displayed.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

Harvest Thanksgiving Services were celebrated in the months of
September and October. Thank you to all those who contributed to the services and the suppers/lunches in celebration of the abundance of God’s provision. Mr. Clifford Guest spoke on the support we find in times of need, Rev. Rod Smyth highlighted the historical precedents of the service itself, Rev. Stephen Neil gave thanks for all the blessings he had shared in while ministering in this Group of Parishes and Rev. Patrick Towers reminded us of the spiritual benefits of a good walk.

WHIST DRIVE
A reminder that the Whist Drive will be held in the Borrisokane Hall on the 14th of November at 8:15pm.

Shinrone Group of Parishes
Shinrone, Aghancon, Kinnitty and Dunkerrin
Rector: Vacant
Parish Website: shinrone.blogspot.ie

Priest-in-Charge: The Revd. Canon Ruth Gill
Kilgolan House, Kilcormac, Birr, Co. Offaly. R42 HT20
Phone: 05791 35341: email: ruth_gill40@outlook.ie

CHURCH SERVICES
Kinnitty at 10 a.m.
Aghancon at 11.30 a.m.
Dunkerrin at 9 a.m.
Shinrone at 10.30 a.m.
Holy Communion in Dunkerrin & Shinrone on the first Sunday of the month and in Kinnitty & Aghanon on the second Sunday of the month.

COMMEMORATING THE CENTENARY OF THE END OF WWI 1918-2018
An ecumenical ceremony of remembrance will be held on the 11th November in St. Mary’s Church of Ireland, Shinrone. This will be of interest to many in the locality and especially the Kenny family as they remember Cecil Kenny. Thanks to members of Shinrone Heritage Committee who have headed up the organising of the event.

CONCERT
The musical concert in Aghancon Community Hall was a great success and many thanks to all those who performed on the night. The proceeds went to Offaly Special Olympics Family Fund and to Aghancon Church.

BAPTISM
Harriet Primrose Warner, baby daughter of Mary and Shawn, was welcomed into the Christian fellowship on Sunday, 21st October in Kinnitty Church. It was a very happy ceremony and Harriet is wished every blessing.

Harriet with her parents and Godparents after her baptism in Kinnitty on Sunday 21st October.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICES
Three of the Harvest Thanksgiving services have taken place. Dunkerrin will be held on the 28th October. The three churches looked beautiful with flowers, fruits and vegetables in all their autumnal splendour. Many thanks to the speakers, Dr. Humphrey O’Connor, Offaly Hospice who spoke in Kinnitty of the work they do, stressing that palliative care isn’t just confined to those with cancer but other health issues as well. The Revd. Canon Isaac Delamere in Shinrone and Fr. Kieran Blake, in Aghancon both spoke about the fragility of the environment and our responsibility to take care of our world. We look forward to meeting the Revd. Denis Sandes when he comes to preach in Dunkerrin on the 28th October.

Accredited by the Adoption Authority of Ireland

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Funded by TUSLA Child and Family Agency

INFORMATION AND TRACING SERVICES
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Arabella House, 18D Nutgrove Office Park, Rathfarnham,
Dublin 14 (01) 216 6300 info@here2help.ie

Funded by HSE Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme
Funded by TUSLA Child and Family Agency
Fr. Kieran Blake, PP Kilcolman, who preached at Aghancon Harvest Thanksgiving Service.

MOTHERS’ UNION
George Blackwell gave a very interesting talk on his trip to Uganda in 2017 where he, along with other members of the staff of Villiers School, went out to work on a building project for Zest4Kidz. On Thursday morning, 22nd November, Garda Declan Ganley will give a talk on security.

Drumcliffe Union with Kilnasoolagh
Ennis, Kilfenora, Spanish Point, Kilnasoolagh and Shannon
Vacant
Priest-in-Charge: Very Rev Maurice Sirr
Tel: 061 277 372, Mob: 087 254 1121
Email: msirr@iol.ie
Parish website: www.churchofirelandclare.com

BELFAST HALF MARATHON
On Sunday 23rd September 2018 almost 4,000 participants set off on a 13.1 mile journey from Ormeau Park Belfast in a bid to complete the largest Half Marathon event in Northern Ireland, the 6th Deep River Rock Belfast City Half Marathon. Among the participants were Gloria and John Logan of Drumcliffe parish. Both in their seventies, they cut a dash in the sunshine of the event and managed to complete in 3 hours and 14 minutes. Not a record breaking attempt but satisfying none the less. This is their second time of participating. Congratulations to both.

Gloria & John Logan after completing the Belfast Half Marathon

NEWS OF OUR STUDENTS
In Drumcliffe parish, Sophie Gibbons, daughter of Tim and Miriam, is entering her 2nd year at U.C.D. Sophie is studying Economics and Politics. She has also been awarded the job of ‘Residential Assistant to Incoming Students’. Well done to her. Sophie’s brother Scott is starting his second year in St. Flannan’s College, Ennis.

Meanwhile, Sophie Hanna is going into her final year at University College Cork where she is studying History and English. She intends taking up a career in teaching when she graduates.

Jessica O’Connor, daughter of Meave, is entering her final year in N.U.I.G. while her brother William is going into 2nd year in Civil Engineering, also in Galway.

In Kilnasoolagh parish, Fina Wurm, daughter of Ekki and Michelle, is in her final year in Cork doing her BMus. She came back in August from Vienna where she spent her Erasmus year at the University of Music and Performing Arts. Her sister Alanna finished her studies in Psychology at UL last year and is presently doing her Masters in Gender and Equality at the London School of Economics. Nicole Dickerson, daughter of Julie and Clinton is at Durham University in the UK studying Sociology and her brother Brendan is completing a Masters in Marine Sciences at Cork University. James Larkin, son of Tom and Hazel Good-Larkin, is completing his leaving Cert at Villiers School and has been appointed head boy this year. His brother Aidan is currently in transition year at Villiers and has many exciting trips planed, the first being an International Exchange Trip to Romania with UDYC.

Well done to all our hard working students.

RECENT DEATH
The funeral service of Mrs Adelaide McEvoy, Ennis, formerly of Knocknamana Heights, Clarecastle, aged 90, took place in St Columba’s Church, Ennis on Sept 26th. The funeral service was conducted by Archdeacon Wayne Carney followed by cremation in Newlands Cross Crematorium Dublin.

Physiotherapy and Podiatric assessment and treatment
Frank Sheahan
B.Sc. (Hons) M.I.S.C.P M.C.S.P. MICPO (Podiatry)

Tel: 061 349222 Fax: 061 345181
Corbally Medical Centre, Corbally Road, Limerick.

www.limerickphysiotherapyclinic.com
NOMINATION

Congratulations to Kilnasoolagh member Edwin Bailey on recently being nominated for the Clare Older Person of the Year Awards. Edwin received the nomination for his work with Clare charities including Newmarket-on-Fergus Community Centre, Obair Newmarket-on-Fergus, Parish Organisations CE Scheme, Polio Support Ireland and also for his involvement with the IPF Audio Visual Group. Edwin is parish secretary and reader at Kilnasoolagh church.

HARVEST SERVICES

By the time this Newslink edition is circulated we will have had our Harvest thanksgiving services in our group. St Columba’s event was on Friday night 26th of October with guest preacher Fr. Tom Ryan PP, newly appointed parish priest of Ennis. A native of Ennis he has been parish priest of Shannon for the last 11 years. Kilnasoolagh Harvest was on Sunday 28th at 4pm with guest preacher Archdeacon Wayne Carney.

Clonfert Diocese

Aughrim & Creagh Unions of Parishes

Aughrim, Ballinasloe, Ahscragh, Ardrahan, Clontuskert and Woodlawn

Rector: Rev. John Godfrey
The Rectory, Aughrim, Co. Galway.
Tel: 090 967 3735 Mob: 087 900 8085
Email: reverendjohngodfrey@gmail.com
Parish website: www.aughrim.clonfert.anglican.org

October is an important month in the wider Ballinasloe area, as the town welcomes tens of thousands of visitors for Europe’s oldest horse fair. This year’s fair was opened by President Michael D. Higgins and his wife Sabina on Sunday 30th September, marking the start of a week-long carnival of country life, which included country markets, a dog show, fashion show, vintage rally, funfair, fireworks, and family entertainment. It is significant that the churches still play a prominent role in that iconic cultural event, with the rector joining Fr Bernie Costello at the official launch event.

We offer our warmest congratulations to Mary Sinclair of Glan Church who celebrated her 90th birthday this month, and to Valerie Thorington of St Catherine’s Church on the occasion of her 80th birthday. The parish joins with the community of The Glebe National School in offering their congratulations to Lisa & Eoin Fenton on the birth of their son John – we wish them every blessing.

Over the last month, we have completed the series of harvest thanksgiving services in each of our six churches. On Friday 12th October Father Kevin Reynolds (Ahscragh) and Fr Christy McCormack (Fohenagh) helped to lead an ecumenical harvest service in St Catherine’s Church, Ahscragh. The support which we received that evening from our friends and neighbours was a source of great encouragement. Warm hospitality was enjoyed after the service with a bountiful harvest supper served in the beautiful setting of the church. On Sunday 14th October the Aughrim harvest was celebrated during the family service in Holy Trinity Church. It was wonderful to see so many young families come together for that from the four corners of our parish unions. A fine harvest supper was enjoyed afterwards on a sunny Sunday afternoon in the Rectory Coach House. It was great to see children playing on the lawn, families taking tours of the Rectory Garden Project and everyone going home with a share of the bountiful crop of tomatoes which continues to flourish there. The final harvest of the season was held in Ardrahan Church on Friday 19th October. The soft lighting of a crisp evening showed off the warmth of the autumn colours to great effect there. A lovely harvest supper was shared afterwards in the Sunday school building. There is so much hard work that goes into preparing for those special services. We are most grateful to all who decorated our churches so beautifully, to those who led music and readings, and to those who helped to prepare our harvest feasts. Those collective acts of devotion are a fitting harvest offering, as we joyfully give back to God symbols of his rich gifts in our lives.

In Ardrahan Church, a new Communications Team was formed this month to help to shoulder some of the administrative duties which have been so ably performed for many years by Ardrahan parish secretary Shirley Dooley. We welcome Zoe O’Dea, Ailve McGovern and Sue Clarke to those new roles. Preparations are currently underway for a new Sunday Afternoon Concert in Ardrahan Church at 3pm on November 18th – the latest in a series of entertaining concerts there showcasing the remarkable range of musical talents in the local community.

We look forward to the baptism of Rowan Walker in St Catherine’s Church Ahscragh on Saturday 10th November. Remembrance Day will be marked with a special service of Holy Communion in St John’s Church Ballinasloe at 10am, at the Family Service in Aughrim at 11.30am and at midday in St Catherine’s Church, Ahscragh on Sunday 11th November.
The season of Harvest has past through again and peace descends for a short time as we brace ourselves for Advent and Christmas.

Harvest has been eventful in the group led in by Portumna who set the bar, Eyrecourt followed with Canon Trevor Sullivan in fine form and of course known to all. Banagher had been planning for some time for a variety concert on the Harvest weekend with the musicians staying over and leading the praise for our Harvest. It was great to welcome Bishop Kenneth to Banagher and I often reflect on the words of institution “Mine and Thine”.

Remembrance has special significance this year to our whole world as we dwell on the sacrifice of so many in the Great War. My Grandfather was taken prisoner on 2nd July 1916 at the Somme. Only 24 soldiers survived out of the Battalion and Grandad spent the rest of the war as a prisoner labouring in the German coal mines.

Harvest in Ardrahan

Clonfert Group of Parishes
Clonfert, Banagher, Eyrecourt, and Portumna
Priest in Charge: Rev Charles McCartney
The Rectory, The Hill, Banagher, Co. Offaly. R42T935
Mob: 087 709 4468
Email: dunroamin.mccartney@btopenworld.com

The season of Harvest has past through again and peace descends for a short time as we brace ourselves for Advent and Christmas.

Eyrecourt will celebrate 150 years with a special Evensong on Saturday 24 November @ 3.00pm. Archdeacon Wayne as a previous Rector will preach and again Bishop Kenneth will join us for the celebration. We look forward to many returning for the afternoon and all are welcome to a reception after in a local community hall (see advert on page 4).

Thank you to all who helped during the Harvest season, its great getting together in preparation but there is a little extra commitment needed to be part of the clean up.

In the middle of all this we had a great 3 days away for our Clergy conference in Adare and lots of challenge.

In closing, Bishop Kenneth has encouraged us to increase visibility of Clonfert Cathedral. The Diocesan Council for Mission joined with the Diocesan Youth for a great fun day around the Cathedral – see report with photos on page 19. We began with a well filled Church and Dean Gary Celebrated Holy Communion, Rev John Godfrey preached and Charles led the prayers. Edward pulled the whole day together with lots of food / entertainment and Keith finished us off with a car treasure hunt. Dr Christy led a large party on a very engaging tour of the Cathedral and grounds. Just as I send in these notes we look forward to the Galway Architecture at the Edge Festival including Clonfert Cathedral this year. Dr Christy will be in attendance and our own volunteers. The Council has provided us with a musical quartet for the afternoon.

How can I finish? just to say thank you for a great month in Clonfert Group.

Limerick Diocese

Limerick City Parish
Saint Mary’s Cathedral, Saint Michael’s, Saint John’s Abington
Dean: Very Rev Niall J Sloane
The Deanery, 7 Kilbane, Castletroy, Limerick.
Tel: 061 310 293
Email: dean@limerick.anglican.org
Curate Assistant: Rev Edna Wakely
50 Ballinvoher, Fr Russell Road, Dooradoyle, Limerick
Tel: 061 302 038
Email: ednawakely@hotmail.com
Curate Assistant: Rev Paul Fitzpatrick
St Mary’s Cathedral, Bridge St, Limerick V94 E068
Tel: 061 338 697, Mob: 089 498 0495
Email: paulfitz1000@hotmail.com
Website: www.lcp.limerick.anglican.org
Newslink Distributor: Gillian Cheatley

FROM THE DEAN ~ ALL SAINTS / REMEMBRANCE-TIDE
This year we will be having a special time of remembrance during the morning service on Thursday 1st November; when amongst others we remember those who have died in the last year. We often commemorate loved ones with objects of all sorts. If you would like to consider donating a gift to Limerick City Parish for the glory of God and in memory of a loved one please speak to the Dean.

DEAN’S CLINIC
The Dean will hold a clinic in the Cathedral from 7-8pm on 23rd October.
DIARY FOR THE MONTH - NOVEMBER 2018
4 Remembrance Sunday, The Cathedral
      Ministry Training Evening, The Cathedral
10 Whist, St Michael’s Church Hall
11 100th Anniversary of the end of WW1
11 Sunday School/Godly Play, St Michael’s Church Hall /St John’s, Abington
11 Mothers’ Union, Richmond Terrace
13 Select Vestry, The Cathedral
14 Ministry Team Meeting, Askeaton
14 Villiers Remembrance Service, The Cathedral
      City Christmas Lights turned on
18 Mission Sunday
18 Evensong, The Cathedral
20 Lunchtime Talk & Tour, The Cathedral
20 The Evergreens, The Cathedral
22 Diocesan Council, Adare
24 November Sale, Villier’s School
25 Sunday School/Godly Play, St Michael’s Church Hall /St John’s, Abington
30 Deadline for Community Awards

CHRISTMAS SALE
The annual sale will be held on Saturday 24th November. The usual stalls will be present along with the grotto for a very special guest! All are very welcome to join us in Villier’s School from 10am – 2pm.

FROM THE COMMITTEE:
A significant part of our fair is the annual Raffle and tickets are now on sale. If you would like to buy tickets please contact Elizabeth Stanley in Abington, Craig Copley Brown in St Mary’s Cathedral and Tracey Lyttle/Gillian Cheatley in St Michael’s Church. The key part of this event is the advertising and promotion and to this end we ask all parishioners to spread the word to their family, friends, neighbours, colleagues and promote the fair in any way possible. Please contact Tracey Lyttle on 086-6486197 or traceylyttle@gmail.com or Elizabeth Stanley on 086-2687123 or lizbthstanley@gmail.com for further information or to offer your services. Volunteers will be welcomed with open arms.

ST MARY’S 850TH
For the last quarter of the year a number of events will be held as we continue our 850th anniversary celebrations. Please consult the relevant brochure or visit www.cathedral.limerick.anglican.org for more information.

HARVEST
Many thanks to our Choirs, Music Directors, the boys & girls from Saint Michael’s School, and the Flower Guilds who decorated our Churches with artistic flair and all who enhanced our worship during this autumn season. Our preachers were warmly received, and we thank them for their inspiring reflections! As we journey through the season of Harvest may we take time to pause each day to give God thanks for ‘all good gifts around us’.

BLESSING OF PETS
Despite the inclement weather, a significant amount of people, dogs and a chicken arrived in St Michael’s for a blessing service on Saturday 13th October. It was good to have representatives of Limerick Animal Welfare with us. Thanks to Curates for organizing a very meaningful and though provoking service.

40 THOMAS ST LIMERICK
TEL: 061 - 414967
FAX: 061 - 415365

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Limerick
CHILDREN’S MINISTRY
We are grateful to the leaders of our Sunday Club who have organised a wide range of events and activities for the coming months. Children who wish to remain in church can avail of the Children's packs at the back of the church and/or follow along in our Parish Communion services with the 'I can join in the Holy Communion Service' booklets.
Children are always welcome at our services and junior activities!

THE EVERGREENS
The Evergreens will meet monthly on Tuesdays from 2 pm to 4 pm, on: Tuesday, 20 November & Tuesday, 18 December. Anyone requiring a lift should contact Oliver Deegan at 086 204 3296 or 061 635 367.
Grateful thanks to the committee who worked hard to make the occasion the success that it was.

AN ABHAÏNN
The Autumn edition is now available. The deadline for submissions to the next edition is the 15th November.

ST MICHAEL’S HALL
For booking enquiries please contact the Hall Manager, Suzi Eckhardt.

HOSPITAL VISITING
The Clergy would appreciate being told if parishioners are in hospital, going into hospital, are being transferred or if they have been discharged, and will be pleased to offer pastoral support. A selection of prayers is available from them or in the Church porches.

FROM THE REGISTERS
Our sympathy and prayers are with all those who have been bereaved: John St George and his family on the death of his nephew, Darragh.

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

HARVEST FESTIVALS
We have had some great Harvest Festivals this season. The first was at St. Nicholas, Adare, where parish and St. Nicholas National School combined for a packed church and a service filled with lots of singing. (We went with short sermon and more singing.) We have a tradition of auctioning off the produce brought forward by the students, with the proceeds going to a charity. Usually the Vestry chooses the charity. This year the students had been given the choice the previous morning at their assembly, and they chose the Irish Cancer Society.

Our other two harvests were at Kilpeacon and Kilmallock. The one at Kilpeacon, which is considered a joint service of our parishes, was moved from a Sunday morning to a Friday evening. This was so that we could invite our Roman Catholic neighbours at Crecora R.C. Church (part of the Raheen/Mungret/Crecora Parish). Together we had had the idea last November, after a much-enjoyed joint service at the Catholic church, to continue the tradition this year. Fr. Richie Davern was the preacher. Afterwards, we risked having the refreshments in the Gate Lodge at Kilpeacon — the weather had been treacherous the day before — but we had a balmy evening and people stood around with the tea and cakes in the church grounds. Many thanks to the people of Kilpeacon Church for being such excellent hosts to our neighbours and to all who brought refreshments on the night.

Clergy Conference
The annual diocesan clergy conference this year was held in Adare, held jointly for the second year with the clergy of the Diocese of Tuam. The conference was held at the Dunraven Arms Hotel, but we were delighted to host the clergy for the closing Eucharist of the
conference. We wondered how often two bishops have led worship in the church! Many thanks to Olivia Gardiner, Churchwarden, for setting up for the Eucharist.

REMEMBRANCE DAY
We are all aware that Remembrance Sunday is coming up in November, that 11th November is on a Sunday this year, and this is the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I. We plan to observe it in all our parishes that Sunday. In addition, on the Friday evening, 9th November, as our Second Friday event, we will have an evening of poetry, Scripture, and both sacred and secular music in commemoration of Remembrance Day and the end of the war. It will be held in St. Nicholas, Adare, at 7.30pm.

Kilpeacon Harvest Altar

Rathkeale & Kilnaughtin Group of Parishes

Rathkeale, Askeaton, Castletown & Kilnaughtin
Priest-in-Charge: Rev Canon Patrick Comerford
The Rectory, Askeaton, Co. Limerick.
Mob: 087 663 5116
Email: revpatrickcomerford@gmail.com

Autumn and harvest are turning towards Remembrance in November. Soon, Advent brings us towards expectation of the peace, promises and hopes of Christmas.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY:
The 100th anniversary of the Armistice that brought an end to World War I falls on Sunday 11 November. The Remembrance Sunday Service at 11 a.m. on 11/11 in Holy Trinity Church, Rathkeale, is a united service for the group of parishes, with a time of silence and commemoration at 11 minutes past 11.

This includes a short Parish Eucharist (Holy Communion 2), and Sunday School facilities are available for children.

RATHKEALE HARVEST:
The visiting preacher at the Group Harvest Thanksgiving Service in Holy Trinity Church, Rathkeale, this year was the Revd Michael O’Sullivan of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church, Cork (Cork Unitarian Church). The traditional Harvest Auction in Rathkeale No 2 National School was conducted by Councillor Adam Teskey with characteristic panache and good humour.

The funds raised at the Harvest this year are being donated through the Bishops’ Appeal Fund to relief work in Indonesia following the recent earthquake and tsunami.

A MOTHER’S JOURNEY:
The recent ‘clothes swap’ evening in the Rectory (28 September) was a fun evening and raised over €500 towards building children’s playgrounds in remote rural villages in Morocco.

MINISTRY MISSION AND HOSPITALITY:
The clergy and readers in the diocese are being encouraged to find ways of working closer together in Ministry, Mission and Hospitality, in identifiable areas or districts. A number of meetings have taken place in both the bishop’s house and the dean’s office in Limerick. Priests and readers in Co Limerick are being invited to a ‘Ministry Lunch’ in the Rectory in Askeaton on Wednesday 14 November. Our neighbours, the Revd Liz Beasley (Adare) and the Revd Jim Stephens (Tralee) are being installed as canons in Saint Mary’s Cathedral, Limerick, on Sunday 25 November.

SUNDAY SCHOOL IN RATHKEALE:
Shirley Sheahan began new Sunday School activities in Holy Trinity Church, Rathkeale, on Sunday 9 September. All children in the Group of Parishes are welcome at Sunday School in Rathkeale on the second and fourth Sundays of the month.

THE LIAM MCCARTHY CUP:

Father Sean Ó Longaigh, Parish Priest of Askeaton, and Canon Patrick Comerford lift the Liam McCarthy cup with Willie O’Meara of the winning Limerick All-Ireland Hurling team
The Liam McCarthy Cup was brought to Askeaton recently on 30 September by members of the winning Limerick All-Ireland team as part of the Ninth Memorial Day organised by EasGeithneCumannLúthcleas Gael (Askeaton GAA).

Earlier in the day, the cup was in St Mary’s Church (RC), Askeaton, for the Memorial Day Mass. When the cup was brought to the GAA Field, near the Rectory, Canon Patrick Comerford and Father Seán Ó Longaigh, Parish Priest of Askeaton, lifted the cup with Willie O’Meara, who plays full-back on the Limerick winning team and on the Askeaton team.

A little earlier, as part of the celebrations marking the 150th anniversary of the discovery of the Ardagh Chalice and the Ardagh Hoard in West Limerick, the Sam Maguire Cup was brought to the Culture Night in Ardfert on 21 September.

MINISTRY TRAINING AND EDUCATION:
The next Ministry Training and Education day takes place in the Rectory, Askeaton, on Monday 12 November, looking at how to select hymns and music for church services. This is being led by the Revd Rod Smyth (Nenagh) and Ms Rosemary Smyth, and is open to all priests and readers in the diocese. The October training day in the Rectory looked at preparations for this year’s Remembrance Day commemorations.

NOVEMBER SERVICES:
- Thursday 1st November (All Saints’ Day): 11 a.m., the Eucharist (Holy Communion), Saint Mary’s Church, Askeaton, followed tea/coffee in the Rectory.
- Sunday 4th November (Fourth before Advent): 9.30, the Eucharist (Holy Communion), Saint Mary’s Church, Askeaton; 11.30, Morning Prayer, Saint Brendan’s Church, KIlnaughtin, Tarbert.
- Sunday 11th November (Third before Advent, Remembrance Sunday): 11 a.m., Holy Trinity Church, Rathkeale: Remembrance Day Service, followed by Holy Communion. This is a united service for the group of parishes, with a time of silence and commemoration at 11 minutes past 11, on 11 November.
- Sunday 18th November (Second before Advent): 9.30, Morning Prayer, Saint Mary’s Church, Askeaton; 11.30, the Eucharist (Holy Communion), Saint Brendan’s Church, KIlnaughtin, Tarbert.
- Sunday 25th November (The Kingship of Christ): 9.30, Morning Prayer, Castletown Church; 11.30, the Parish Eucharist (Holy Communion), Holy Trinity Church, Rathkeale (with Sunday School).
- Saints days in November: 1st - All Saints’ Day; 30th - Saint Andrew.

Dingle Food Festival: took place on Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th October including demonstrations in St. James Church on both days with collections in aid of the St. James Restoration Project.

A UNITED HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE was held in Ballyseedy church on the 14th October. The service began with the delivery of fruit and vegetables by Ross Sugrue as he drove his tractor and trailer to the top of the church. It was lovely to see a full church and the young parishioners taking part in the service. We heard a thought-provoking talk on how each of us can play our part in preserving the precious resources of the earth given by local ecologist Sylvia Thompson.

ST. JAMES, DINGLE: We were treated to a very special evening of Celtic flavoured hymns, together with lively jigs and reels inspired by St. Brendan the Navigator and based on the book by Tim Severin. All the way from America, the ‘Singing Pilgrims’, Jeanne Page and Natasha Coffey and friends, provided a wonderful evening of song, music, story-telling and reflections, and all for the benefit of St. James Restoration Fund. Singing Pilgrims’ songs are personal expressions of the path they have walked and their story is woven into the fabric of each tune.
SYMPATHY: We express our sympathy to Michael and Sue Latchford on the death of Michael's first cousin Frank in Dublin and to Arthur and Elizabeth Parkinson of Kilflynn on the death of their sister Frances McAdam in Wexford. Frances together with her husband, children and grandchildren were regular visitors to Kilflynn.

SCHOOL SERVICES: The children from the school joined the Wednesday morning Holy Communion service on Wednesday 3rd and interacted with Rev Jim in a discussion on one of the original environmentalists, St. Francis of Assisi, and enriched the service by their presence.

On the 24th October the school children were joined by pupils from CBS with their Principal, Denis Coleman, and some staff members for the mid-week HC. This visit to the church is a long-standing tradition on the Wednesday after Harvest Thanksgiving.

PALATINE GROUP VISIT
A group of nine with Palatine ancestry visited the parish on the 29th September. The group included visitors from Canada, Dublin and Limerick and they met with parishioners of Tralee and Dingle who also share Palatine ancestry. The day trip included the morning service in Tralee followed by a light snack in the parish center. In the afternoon the group visited Ballyseedy and Ballymac Churches.

They finished with dinner in Ballyseedy Castle, formerly home of the Blennerhassett. It was to the Blennerhassett estates that many Palatine families were settled in. To this very day their descendents contribute to the life of the various parishes in this part of Kerry.

One of the other things that came up was our ignorance of the quantity of fresh water in the world and the implications of its misuse for humanity. Just 2% of the world is covered in fresh water, but only half of that is available to us as the rest is locked up in glaciers and permanent – we hope! – icecaps. But while we blow our nose and flush the tissue away with 10 litres of clean water, which is now destined to become polluted water as it passes through the local treatment plant, do we stop to consider that every 19 seconds a child under the age of five dies because they've no access to clean water.

Harvest decorations at St Mary's

We really need to cotton onto the reality of climate change, global warming (which may drop average winter temperatures in Ireland by up to twenty degrees Celsius) and the effects that our lifestyles are having on the planet. But first, we need to understand how it works and the importance of all living things. What the world needs is what I call forest think. Forests exist only because everything within the forest is in harmony and nothing is wasted. It may be hard to believe, but if a single tree suffers the mycorrhizae other trees will automatically know this because they are all interconnected with things called – long almost invisible rootlets. So the other trees decide whether to intervene or not. If the affected tree is old and can be replenished from its own seed the other trees let it die, yet if it is suffering from a lack of, say, iodine, they will literally "loan" it to the affected tree receiving it back once it has fought off whatever caused the deficiency in the first place.

Harvest headpieces by Cathy Troth
Another example of how nature works is much simpler to understand if we think about the stubbly marram grass that grows on sand dunes on the beach. This is a harsh environment and only plants that thrive in salt water will survive so marram is ideal, right? Wrong! It cannot tolerate any salinity whatsoever and survives because its micro rhizomes can bring fresh water to each plant from as far away as 6 kilometres.

Nature, it’s gas isn’t it? It is, but we need to start understanding how it works because we are destroying it without realising what the most vulnerable natural species on the planet is; and that species is, you’ve guessed it, us!

Kilcolman Union of Parishes
St Michael’s, Iveragh Road, Killorglin
& St Carthage, Kiltallagh Road, Castlemaine.

Priest-in-Charge: Rev Isabel F Keegan, FJ, MA
Mob: 085 853 2431, Email: revkireland@gmail.com
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KILTALLAGH 80TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
Every room was decorated, displaying the gradual unfolding of the last 80 years of educational history taking place at Kiltallagh School. Our Head teacher, Paula Ni Bhriain, and Caroline Cronin, and Shirley Corcoran had organised some really interesting historical displays. But the ones that seemed to take a lot of people’s attention and mine, were the diagrams of trees in the long corridor.

One of the trees linking pupils and teachers
Each tree had a trunk leading up to the names of each pupil who attended the school during a certain period of time which formed the leaves, below the roots were labelled with the names of the teachers during that period also. What drew my attention were the excited groups of adult past pupils gathered around the charts representing their year, to reminisce, laugh together and exchange memories and news.

At the 80th anniversary celebrations of Kiltallagh NS
Paula reminded people that the school like any other has had good times and bad, but that now as we can witness the children are cared for in a very holistic manner. In his sermon Bishop Kenneth referred to this also. Facts he said might be important but they are not the bed rock of educating the whole person. People learn best when happy, and encouraged to fulfil their whole personality, something which Isabel and I have witnessed during our weekly visits to the school. But then too as adults don’t we all realise that we function best when treated with dignity, warmth, good humour and respect.

A few days later the school were invited to take part in a special service for the schools in the diocese, and Kiltallagh loved every moment.

Not long after our last Baptism service, more requests have been coming in. So we look forward to the further privilege of welcoming new youngsters into the Christian community and to welcoming them and their parents back for another special occasion on Mothering Sunday next year. Hopefully one day they too will swell the ranks of youngsters who begin their education in our own Church of Ireland School at Kiltallagh.

Kenmare & Dromod Union of Parishes
Kenmare, Sneem, Waterville and Valentia
Priest-in-Charge: Rev. Michael Cavanagh
St Patrick’s Rectory, Kenmare, Co. Kerry.
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Email: michael.cavanagh@eircom.net

October is a time of change – daily, as far as the weather in South Kerry is concerned. Only hours after storm Callum, we enjoyed the gorgeous light and warmth of St Luke’s Little Summer (look it up). Things are settling down again into the rhythm of the seasons – shades of gold and orange as you drive past the roadside trees, the last of the blackberries, the hint of frost on the windows first thing in the morning, the wonder of the stars on a cloudless night, schoolchildren wondering how long until Christmas – and the church Harvest Thanksgiving decorations reminding us of everything for which we should be thankful. It is so easy to take God’s provision for granted. To address that, in the service we were challenged to give of ourselves – with whatever unique God-given gifts we possess. St Matthew makes sure we do not allow our preoccupations (worries, as sometimes translated) to prevent us from seeking and then doing the work of the Kingdom. We leave that worry at the foot of the cross, and get on with what’s important without their burdens. Preparations continue for the Community Armistice commemoration – entitled ‘Kenmare remembers – Together’. At 3 o’clock on the afternoon of November 11th 2018 , the town of Kenmare will be remembering what happened exactly 100 years ago on that day. After four years of World War, and 7 million civilians and 10 million
military personnel killed, an armistice was signed between the various opposing sides. That doesn't mean that the war ended. Armistice actually means that a formal, but temporary, agreement has been signed by the various sides to stop fighting – basically a cessation of hostilities while an attempt is made to negotiate a lasting peace. And as we now know, for a number of reasons, that peace ‘lasted’ little over 20 years, and was followed by an even more vicious conflict that killed 50 to 55 million more, both civilian and military.

The violence didn’t even end then – in the last 100 years, the world has never known a day when people of different nations have not waged war with their neighbours. The tragedy deepens when conflict is between countries who once enjoyed peaceful co-existence; made even worse by unforgotten memories, guilt and refusal to forgive between people from countries who are notionally at peace.

My Grandad was killed in WWI – as were the Grandparents of so many people in this town, of many different nations. They may have fired the shot that killed him. Or perhaps it was the other way round. Are we blind, or merely just stupid, not to realise that in war there is never a ‘lasting’ victory? At some time in the future, we know we shall be reconciled. Why not now? Are we powerless to help bring about the peaceful world we dream of for our children and our children’s children?

I believe not. On the Anniversary afternoon, we shall hear music, poetry and readings in Irish, German, French, Polish, Dutch, English, Russian and possibly more. It will not be a religious service, nor a military parade. Just people from different birth countries, children, the young and those not so young, singing and listening. Together. And we will join hands and show the world that irrespective of country, language, creed, culture and colour, we are one.

As I write this we, as a circuit, are preparing for our Prayer Room / Coffee Morning / Cake Sale / Charity Christmas Card Fair / Toy Sale in November. It sounds like a lot to be putting on at one time and it may seem strange at first glance to have a Prayer Room at the same time as all those other activities. Yet why should it be strange to be setting aside a special time of prayer in the midst of other activities. Should prayer not always be a part of everything we do? Actually I believe it usually is, however it is often the hidden activity, the thing we do quietly at the beginning or end of an endeavour.

The reason for such an assortment of activities on one day stems from a directive we were given at conference 2017, where we were instructed to hold a 24/7 prayer room in each church. When we planned this last year it coincided with a time we usually have our Christmas Fair. Bringing these two together was something that God made beautiful. People who came to the church for the coffee morning etc., stayed and visited the church where different prayer areas were set up. Not only did they stay to pray, many went down the village afterwards and told others to come up and pray. And then asked us when we were doing it again. And so we committed to holding the event again this year!

Prayer as the focus, not as the hidden activity. Shouldn’t that always be the case?
• Friday/Saturday 16th/17th November 2018
Unite with us for a Quiet Day of Personal Prayer & Reflection for ourselves, our community, and our world in Adare Methodist Church
• Beginning Friday evening @ 8:00pm with an Ecumenical Service of Worship and Prayer the Church will be open for private meditation & prayer until midnight Friday and from 8:00am Saturday. Our day will close on Saturday evening with a service of Praise & Thanksgiving @ 8:00pm
• The Church Hall is also open for Coffee Morning / Cake Sale / Charity Christmas Card Fair / Toy Sale Saturday morning 10:30am – 12:30pm.

Christ Church Limerick,
united Presbyterian & Methodist and
Christ Church Shannon, joint Methodist, Presbyterian and Church of Ireland

Minister: Rev. Vicki Lynch
The Manse, 15 Aylesbury,
Clonmacken, Limerick.
Tel: 061 325325 Mobile: 086 8292073
Email: vickilynch@eircom.net

Sometimes you have to say goodbye! October was the last month for two of our longest serving Christ Church - Central Buildings workers.

Patrick has been mentioned often. In fact, he wrote last month’s notes. He’s been managing the gallery and wider community project for a few years now but has decided to go back to his ‘real’ career of graphic design. We did manage to persuade him to keep a connection with us though, and remain on our management group. There is no escape! We had a lovely gathering for him on his last day with plenty of ‘regulars’ turning up to say a farewell. Patrick’s artistic gifts have been a great asset as have his patience, resilience and compassion.

Patrick’s last teatime

Hassan left us too. Hassan has been a weekly volunteer in our Failte Isteach programme - free, walk-in English conversation classes - almost since the beginning; Hassan was hugely popular as a tutor. His multilingual talents and wonderful good humour meant that his table was full to overflowing at times. He will be missed.

Hassan’s last day

So, we wish Hassan and Patrick every blessing on their new adventures.

A few years ago, we tested the water in the Limerick churches community to see if we could gather the resources to set up a Street Pastor service in the city. Unfortunately, we couldn’t get enough ‘buy-in’. David Hoey who leads Street Pastors in Cork City came to Limerick to give us information when we were exploring the idea. I still get a regular update of the work in Cork.

Cork Street Pastors are also losing a long-term volunteer, Maggie, who I’m sure will also be greatly missed. I thought you might like to read an extract of one of the recent reports from the Cork City streets. It’s worth mentioning that while the team walks the city streets, there is a prayer team, with whom they are in regular contact, praying into the situations they encounter. David writes –

A few teenage girl friends were in difficulty and arguing with each other. We assisted and helped calm them, but it was obvious that although they put on flip flops and agreed to stay together, it was not looking good for them. Sometime later we met them again. Their situation and condition had deteriorated. We remained with the girls, talking and calming them until the mum of one arrived. She cut through the arguing and crying by threatening to call the Gardaí if they didn’t go home with her in her car, about a 10k trip away. Immediate response, calmed and hugging each other, they all headed off home together... Job done!

It all sounds very ordinary doesn’t it; flip flops for high heels and a calming voice or two and of course the prayers, but there are many, many thankful young and vulnerable people and parents and friends who have been very glad that they were there. Cork Street Pastors gained the Lord Mayor’s Community and Voluntary Service Award a few years ago, and have now been nominated for the 32 county Pride of Place Awards in the category of community wellbeing initiative. They are respected by the emergency services and community alike. It would be great to offer such a service in our city, wouldn’t it?
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
Website: www.irishmethodist.org/kerry

The Lighthouse MILLSTREET
Sunday Service 6.30pm
Bible Study Tuesday 7.30pm

KILLARNEY
Sunday Service 11am including Sunday School
Soul Food Bible Study Friday 11am followed by Drop-in lunch 12pm
Parent and Toddler (term time) Tuesday 10am
Kids Ministry Club as arranged

THE GATEWAY KENMARE
Sunday Service 11am Including Sunday School (preceded by tea/coffee)
Prayer Meeting Wednesday 9.15am
Bible study Wednesday 10am
Drop in for coffee Wednesday 11am
Contact Rev Karen Spence for further information.

North Tipperary Methodist Circuit

Minister: Rev Shannon DeLaureal
The Manse, The Mall, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary
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Email: shannon.delaureal@irishmethodist.org

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

On Friday 5th October 2018, we celebrated the 150th Anniversary of Borrisokane Methodist Church. The Borrisokane Gospel Choir offered soul-stirring music all throughout the service. We sang hymns to God thanking him for his faithfulness for the past 150 years and also for his provision in this year’s Harvest. Rev. David Cooper preached about “The Unchanging Message and Mission of God.” David and his wife, Helen, resided on this circuit 50 years ago and he had led Borrisokane’s Centenary Anniversary Service. Our opening hymn was “And Can It Be,” which is often viewed as the Methodist Anthem! We concluded the service with the hymn “This, This Is the God We Adore,” which was also sung as the final hymn at the Centenary Service. How fitting it was for the Coopers to return on such a special occasion. They were warmly received and many folks took a walk down memory lane with them. They stayed the entire weekend and he preached at morning Sunday worship in Roscrea and then on Sunday evening at Cloughjordan’s Harvest. What a blessing it was to have David and Helen back with us! We give thanks for their ministry on our circuit and their continued ministry in active retirement in Belfast.

MEETINGS & EVENTS IN NOVEMBER:
Friday 9th November at 8pm in Shinrone – Faith Mission Meeting
Wednesday 28th November at 7:30pm in Shinrone – Circuit Executive Meeting

Methodist Modern Art Collection – at the Royal Hibernian Academy Ely Place, Dublin 2, November 16th – December 21st 2018. This exhibition provides a unique opportunity to experience something of the power of art to proclaim the message of salvation. It should be regarded as a major resource for proclamation, mission and evangelism.

SPECIAL ASSOCIATED PROGRAMMES:
• Sunday 18th November – Eamon Mallie will lead a ‘walk through’ of the exhibition at 2:30pm at RHA.
• Sunday 25th November – Gesa Thiessen will reflect on Faith, Imagination and Modern Art at 2:30pm at RHA.
• Wednesday 5th December – Fr. Mark Patrick Hedermann, OSB, will consider the Advent and Christmas themes in the Collection at 6pm at RHA.

For more information, please see website: http://methodistartdublin.ie

Boys’ Brigade – We will meet this month in Roscrea Church Hall on Fridays 2nd, 16th, and 30th November. If you’re interested in joining, please contact our captain Alison Hayes, at 086 6030225, for more information.

Faithfully,
~ Rev. Shannon
A short story from the Bible

The Roman invaders had given the job of collecting their taxes to local Jews who also overcharged, so they were doubly hated.

Jesus walked past, and said

Matthew left everything and went with Jesus.

Matthew had his tax office by Lake Galilee.

Follow me

Matthew held a big feast and invited his friends so they could meet Jesus.

The Pharisees saw Jesus eating with them.

They were other tax collectors and bad people.

They grumbled to Jesus’ disciples.

Jesus heard them and said

Why is your teacher eating with all those bad people?

Who needs a doctor, healthy people or the sick?

Try reading ‘Keeping rules doesn’t make up for not having kindness.’ *

Hosea was talking about people who looked like they were following God’s rules but were bad inside.

I have come for the people who need my help.

*Hosea 6:6
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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

Weekend bus service - Killaloe, Ballina, Nenagh, Borrisokane, Birr, Roscrea.