



# CROSSROADS



**St Andrew's Killaney**

**St Ignatius' Carryduff**



**February 2019**

## Dear Friends

When I start thinking of February I always remember the *anxiety* of Valentine's Day. What was it like for you? (Or, for our younger readers, what IS it like for you?)

The heartache of wondering whether the person of your dreams would have even noticed that you existed, and would bother to send a card, was truly awful. And when a card did arrive how could you be sure it was from the person of your dreams?

For many of us though, the *real* issue was the disappointing fact that we hardly *ever* received any card or greeting whatsoever!

Forgive me, if I am judging your life story harshly, but did you ever think that the efforts you made to catch a suitable partner's eye were a little bit wasted? Scribbling your initials behind the stamp, creating a pseudonym which would lead your sweetheart to think of you, composing a verse with allusions to the day when, or the place where you met?

Somehow, it was a bit of a roundabout way of doing something which pure courage could have cut through so easily. But we were afraid weren't we? Of rejection, of being mocked, of losing their friendship when they realised we wanted something more?

The best remembered and most well know bible verse is a kind of Valentine message from God to us: You know it well.

*God loved [insert your name] and all the world so much, that he gave his only Son [that is, Jesus] that whoever believes in him will not perish but have everlasting life.*

Quite a message from God directed to each one of us, isn't it?

The message has already been sent to us: dare we open it and respond?

Make sure to tell your divine lover, our Lord Jesus, that we are returning his love this month and every month.

See you Sunday?

Stephen

*PS: The February 14 date had one saving grace, it happened to be in the same week as my birthday, so when people asked, Did you get any cards today?" I nearly always could reply quite honestly, "Yes, several". It felt good.*



# Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

The Mothers' Union kicked off 2019 in great style with a visit by The African Children's Choir.



What a blessing to have these marvellous young people with us. The Church was filled with the most joyful singing. They set us a wonderful example - they have so little, yet are overflowing with happiness and contentment!

Our second meeting of the year will be on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February at 8pm when we will be joined by Gordon Hunt from the Carryduff Historical Society.

The society was formed in 2000 and its objectives are the study and encouragement of public interest in the history, folklore, archaeology and antiquities, of the region in and around Carryduff. I am sure Gordon will have lots of interesting facts to share with us.

We look forward to seeing you then.

The Larder is a community-run foodbank off the Newtownards Road in East Belfast.

Initiated in January 2013, The Larder provides food for around 50 people every week. The Larder began when a resident of the Mersey Street area in East Belfast visited St Christopher's Church, then a community centre, and asked for some food. The centre volunteers immediately prepared a parcel of food and within three days had set up a process for the individual to receive food donations. Before they knew it, the project had grown into a significant community-based foodbank.

Over the Christmas period The Larder was blessed with donations of food. However, the end of January and start of February bring much leaner times. The Mothers' Union would like to gather donations to help restock The Larder.

Please bring any donations of non-perishable food stuffs, toiletries and nappies etc to our meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> February and we will arrange for them to be delivered to Mersey Street.

Many thanks  
Jenny Montgomery



## Morning and Evening Prayer on a Sunday

Those familiar with services in Killaney and Carryduff will know that we use a mixture of forms through the month, though most by far are taken directly from the Book of Common Prayer. The variety helps keep our minds stimulated when at worship; the familiarity helps us worship with understanding.

For most of us the balance is healthy and we enjoy it, even if only to a certain extent!

Recently, the Church of Ireland has produced an order of service which takes us in a fresh direction for Sunday worship. It has been added in a minor revision of the 2004 prayer book, recently published by Canterbury Press. It is not yet available online so you may have to come to a church service to discover more about it. The existing services are drawn from a pattern of daily prayer which existed in monastic life back in the years before the Reformation. The services we use combined several elements of those services and we have had a fairly consistent pattern despite several prayer book revisions in our land.

The new service breaks away from this historically based daily pattern and establishes a shape more appropriate for Sunday worship, morning and evening. I am still exploring the new service and look forward to sharing it with you in worship during February. With frequent use, the service will become familiar to us all and then we can determine its value or otherwise in the long term patterns of worship in our parishes. Our first use will be on January 27 at 6:30 pm and we will use the order several times in the evenings of February.

## Word Alive

It only takes one or two new members to enrich a group and we are delighted that over the years fresh faces have come along to Word Alive to bring their insights and enjoy the stimulus of conversation and informal teaching around God's word.

We meet in the Rectory each Tuesday night at 8:00 pm. You do not need a personal invitation, but, if you want one, have a word with Robin, Marlene, Liz, Caroline, Vera, Jeannie, Raymond or Stephen, and you will receive it! During February we will be sharing bible passages from the previous Sunday's services as a way of enriching one another.

Themes will be:

5 February	Luke 2:22-40	The insights of the saints
12 February	Luke 5:1-11	The call to be fishers of people
19 February	Luke 6:17-26	The hazards of wealth: the hopes of the poor
26 February	Luke 6:27-38	How to love your enemies

## Revision of the General Vestry Lists

**D**uring February the voters' list for parish elections is revised and updated. Anyone who has moved house, joined or left the parish, stopped making contributions or reached the age of 18 is involved in this revision.

If you would like to update your membership of the list or to join the list for the first time, please complete the forms in the churches or from wardens during February.

An official opening date and the closing date for the revision is marked for January 27<sup>th</sup>, and March 4<sup>th</sup> (Carryduff) and 5<sup>th</sup> (Killaney). The closing time is 7:30 but please do not leave your application that late.

Should I sign up? Yes, probably.

Each year some members of the select vestry step down, or because of illness decide not to let their names go forward.

They are still voting members though, and so can influence the new vestry. When a name is proposed to serve in any capacity, they are given the opportunity to decline.

Over the years no one has been 'forced' to serve who has been unwilling to do so.

Your service even for a year or two can bring fresh ideas into the mix.

It is important than the vestry never becomes a closed shop as, with such a mentality, a parish can quickly die.

## Graveyard Charges

**T**he Diocesan Council, at its January 17 meeting, approved the amendment of fees applicable to Killaney Churchyard. In effect, this raises the fee for allocation of a grave space for a subscribing parishioners of St Andrew's to £600, and to non-subscribers and non-parishioners to £1500. This is effective immediately from 17th January 2019.

The rise in cost reflects planned improvements to the paths around the graveyard, the provision of concrete bases for future graves in the expanding area used, and for repairs to the surrounding walls and perimeter of the grounds. Rises also reflect the cost of allocated grave spaces in council facilities.

## Criminal Damage

**P**olice were contacted to report on criminal damage done to the exterior of St Ignatius' halls on Old Year's night.

There was great dismay by the 20+ worshippers who came on New Year's Day to celebrate Holy Communion. Thankfully the damage, though extensive, did not compromise the overall safety of the building, though major replacement of downspouts and repairs to roof tiles broken in the enterprise were necessitated. If anyone knows who had been loitering around the back of the halls on the evenings around Christmas they may like to inform the local police. We thank the vestry and Mr Trevor Johnston for their speedy actions to repair the damage.

## Reading a lesson at worship

Many people - who are competent readers - find the thought of speaking from a lectern in church terrifying. It is a combination of nerves, reverence, mild panic and uncertainty.

When you think of it, reading a bible passage at the heart of a service of worship to Almighty God is a big thing. It is no wonder people are anxious!

Yet, what we sometimes do not realise is that everyone who reads lessons feels, or has at one time felt, the same way. But they have decided to "get over it" and "get on with it"! What about you?

Perhaps you can step outside your comfort zone and dare to say: "I will try it, a few times!"

That is all we ask. If, having read three times over several months, you find it is too much, or you really struggle, then you can pat yourself on the back and say, "I tried". If, however, by the third

attempt, reading brings you joy and satisfaction as you have overcome your nerves and become accustomed to the process of reading in church, then you will have the opportunity to become a regular reader.

In St Andrew's one or two readers can read each week at 12:00, while in St Ignatius' opportunities to read take place at 9:00 am, 10:30 am and 6:30 pm. In addition, we will offer you the opportunity to read on Wednesday mornings at the midweek fellowship. Passages for reading are generally printed in this magazine and the page numbers on the weekly news sheet.

Please be daring and consider this an invitation to join the team for three 'goes'. As is being taught at January's Sunday Special: "Be strong, do not be afraid." Ideally, all age groups should be represented on our lists of readers. Our oldest reader is currently 95, and our youngest(?) is almost 90 years younger!

### Midweek Fellowship Lunch

On the 4th Wednesday of most months we hold a simple meal in the Church Hall at Carryduff. It includes soup and sandwiches with occasional extra treats. The food is supplied free of charge so there is no particular cost to those who come.

If you wish to make a contribution, it will be absorbed into funds and used for the Christmas Meal later in the year, and occasional expenses, tea and coffee etc.

February's lunch is due to take place on Wednesday 27th February.

A short service of Communion takes place at 11:30 am, and the meal follows.

Sign up to let us know you are coming, either by phoning/texting Stephen 078 345 84932 or completing the list in the Jeremy Taylor Chapel.

## Hospital Visits

**D**id you know that Stephen visits one or more of the local hospitals like the Ulster, the Royal and the City *every week*?

Often, too often, he finds after a series of visits to one parishioner that another member of the church family has been in an adjacent ward for several days or even weeks. Out of a sense of kindness, the individual or family hasn't wanted to be a bother, so has held back informing him of the spell in hospital. It is a misguided sense if it means you are denying yourself or your family member the privilege of pastoral support and prayer during the spell in hospital. That is one of the key reasons Stephen is here.



Send a text to him, or leave a message on 078 345 84932, letting him know you or they are in a hospital. Virtually everyone finds the short call from someone other than the immediate family a welcome level of support. If he fails to be a help, he 'obeys' requests not to call back. (He cannot recall this happening, though sometimes a parishioner makes a specific request not to call with them over a weekend or the like)

## Thank you for your gifts

**B**ishops Appeal has been supported by both parishes during December and donations lodged since then have been gathering up. At the recent vestry meetings the figure amounted to £687 in Carryduff and a further sum from parishioners in Killaney too.

Your donations to the **Freewill Offering accounts and other subscriptions** for 2018 have been closed now and the Hon Treasurers are drafting their financial reports for the year ended.

It is too early at this stage to collate a checked list of donations but, collectively, you have given generously to the work of the Kingdom through your parish churches. We appreciate this in each of you.

*Fresh sets of weekly envelopes are available, or donations may be given by standing order to either church. In some cases you will be assigned a FWO number even though you do not receive a set of envelopes to use. This makes it easier to record donations and to claim for Gift Aid from donors who have signed up for this.*

## **St Andrew's, Killaney**

### **February Rosters**

**Cleaning:** Betty Green, Eileen Earney

**Flowers:** Lyla Earney

**W**e thank all who contributed to the Christmas Experience at Killaney this year. Special thanks to Florence and Alison and all who assisted in the decoration of the church. We thank Anne and her team for providing delicious refreshments at the Carol Service.

### **A sincere thank you to:**

- Florence and Alison who decorated the Church for Christmas; it was lovely as usual.
- Raymond and Johnny for organising the tree.
- Terry and Peggy for the very attractive arrangement in the porch.
- The knitters for their great handiwork for seafarers.
- And to all who supported and gave to the Shoe Boxes and the Food Bank.

### **Don't be afraid...**

Don't be afraid of the year,  
Don't be afraid to begin,  
Just open your mind and open your heart,  
Let love and hope enter in.

Don't be afraid to let go,  
Saying "Goodbye" to the past,  
Seek for a rainbow and search for a star  
And keep a few dreams, hold them fast.

Don't be afraid to be glad,  
Tears are not only for sorrow,  
Welcome the future and step through the year –  
Look for the sunshine tomorrow.

## **Bible Reading Guide 2019**

With this copy of the magazine you may receive a copy of a Bible Reading Guide for 2019. Start today, and use this locally produced guide to help you read the bible regularly. It is free of charge.



# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

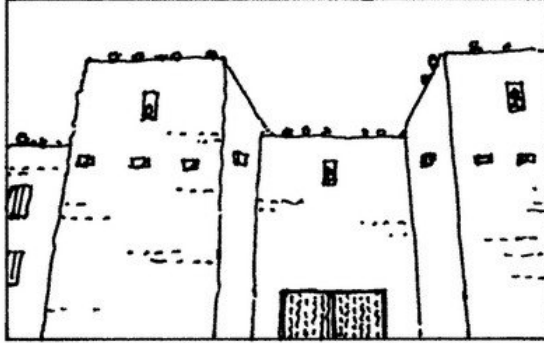
It can be read in the Bible in  
Joshua chapter 6 verses 1-27

Joshua led the Israelites across the  
river Jordan. They camped near the  
town of Jericho and prepared to fight.

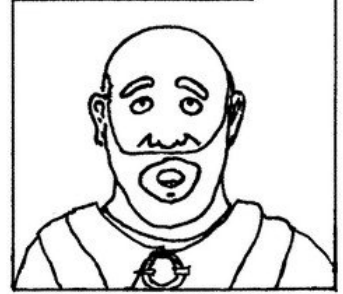
The people in Jericho  
locked the town gates.



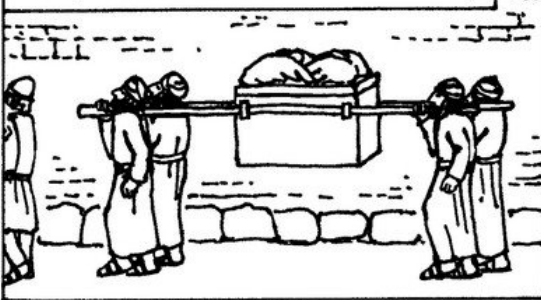
They thought they were safe.



God told Joshua  
what to do.



On the first day, the priests  
carried the sacred chest,



they blew trumpets,  
and walked round  
Jericho once.



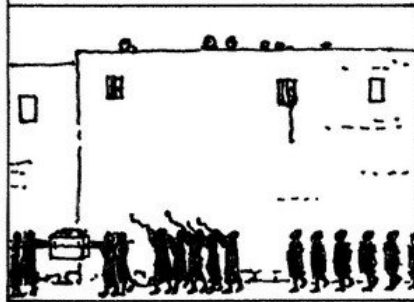
The army followed  
not saying a word.



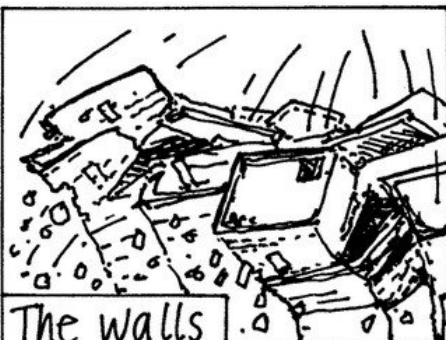
They did this  
for 6 days.



On the 7th day they  
walked round 7 times.

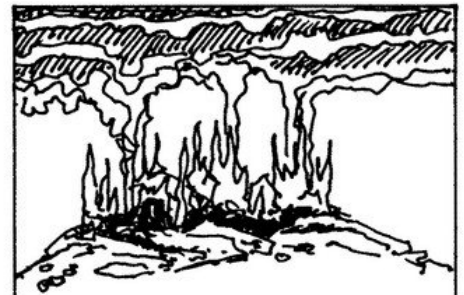


The army gave a victory shout!



The walls  
of Jericho collapsed.

The army rushed into  
the town and  
captured it.



Jericho was destroyed.

## **J Club Kids**

**T**he programme for the new year is well under way. We had the '4 the win gaming' evening, which are group of about a dozen men and women who travel around from church to church across Northern Ireland, reaching out to children and young people with the love of Jesus through games and board games activities.

We had a wonderful evening and a very challenging message for the children / leaders at the end.

As always, each week we have lots of group activities, craft and baking, etc bringing the evening to a close with worship in the church building.

A special week of the month is J Club Sunday for the children, with them taking part in our All Age Worship Sunday, followed by refreshments and a special outing.

Please continue to keep praying for our work and outreach as we share the faith of Jesus Christ with the children of our parish and community.

Liz & Karen

## **J Club PLUS**

**T**his is a group of about 16-18 teenagers who have been faithful members of J Club Groups for a number of years.

It is a privilege to share in their journey from being children to being teenagers.

We work hard to keep our young people travelling with us in faith and to continue having good relations with them. This requires us to ensure we have right the programmes/events in place.

From January the members of the PLUS GROUP are very keen to participate in a Sunday morning service each month by assisting with welcoming, lifting the offering and serving refreshments, etc. Afterwards, they will have lunch before enjoying some fun in the hall or at another venue.

Please pray and encourage our young people as they take this new step of faith.

On the 8-10th March they will be attending the Diocesan weekend away at Castlewellan Castle, which is a key event each year for them.

They share with us on many occasions the wonderful times they have enjoyed on past trips.

The leaders and young people are already planning their end of term special day out and shopping trip. Last June we had a wonderful day trip to Glasgow and this year, God willing, it will be LIVERPOOL!

This will be the first time in 15 years of J Club that we will experience flying to a venue together.

Exciting times ahead!

Rebecca & Katie

## Technoference

**W**e've all seen them: mothers engrossed on their mobile phones and ignoring their children nearby.



But now research has found that children whose parents are addicted to their phones are significantly more likely to have behaviour problems.

The problem is called 'technoference'. It is when the everyday relationship between parent and child is constantly disrupted by a digital or mobile device, including during face-to-face conversations, meal-times and play-times.

Technoference causes children to display a range of behavioural problems from sulking, whining, and emotional distress, to hyperactivity and tantrums. Sadly, it often gets the child nowhere.

One health expert in Manchester said:

*'Around Manchester you can see unbelievable attempts by children to communicate with the adult they are with, but who remains oblivious to them.'*

## Your child's personal data is everywhere

**T**he sheer amount of personal data that children and their parents are giving away about themselves is staggering.

Consider this:

*Children aged 11 – 16 post on social media on average 26 times a day*

*By 13, a child will have about 1,300 pictures and videos of themselves posted online.*

*By 18, the average child will have posted online nearly 70,000 times.*

Anne Longfield, the Children's Commissioner, warns that children's lives are being 'datafied' on a huge scale, as their personal information is collected by a series of smart toys, smart speakers and even school apps. □

'We need to think about what this means for children's lives now, and how it may impact on their future lives as adults. We simply don't know what the consequences of all this information about our children will be.'

## Calendar for February

### Sunday 27 January

- 9:00 Holy Communion TWO in Carryduff  
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a Luke 4:14-21
- 10:30 Sunday Special & Lunch in Carryduff  
followed by Bread of Life Lunch, project with BSNI in Peru.
- 12:00 Sunday Special with refreshments for BSNI in Killaney  
4:16-21, 28-30
- 6:30 Sunday Evening Prayer in Carryduff

### Tuesday 29 January

- 8:00 Word ALIVE! in The Rectory

### Wednesday 30 January

- 10:30 Midweek Fellowship Communion in Carryduff  
Hebrews 9:15-28 Mark 4:1-20

### Friday 1 February

- 7:30 Friday Nite Live with SAMS in Craigavon Civic Centre

### Sunday 3 February

### Epiphany 4 (White)

- 9:00 Holy Communion TWO (for Presentation) in Carryduff  
Hebrews 2:14-18 Luke 2:22-40
- 10:30 Parish Communion in Carryduff
- 12:00 Parish Communion in Killaney  
1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Luke 2:22-40
- 6:30 Sunday Evening Prayer in Carryduff  
1 Chronicles 29:6-19 Acts 7:44-50

### Monday 4 February

- 7:30 Select Vestry in Quin Room

### Tuesday 5 February

- 8:00 Word ALIVE! in The Rectory

### Wednesday 6 February

- 10:30 Midweek Fellowship Communion in Carryduff  
Hebrews 12:4-7, 11-15 Mark 6:1-6

### Friday 8 February

2:00 - 4:00 & 5:15 - 8:00 Blood Transfusion Service  
in St Joseph's Hall

### Sunday 10 February

### 4 before Lent (Green)

- 9:00 Holy Communion TWO in Carryduff  
1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Luke 5:1-11
- 10:30 Service of the Word in Carryduff
- 12:00 Service of the Word in Killaney  
Isaiah 6:1-8 Luke 5:1-11
- 6:30 Sunday Evening Prayer in Carryduff  
James 5 Matthew 5:13-20



## **Tuesday 12 February**

7:30 Select Vestry Killaney in Hempton Hall  
8:00 Word ALIVE! in The Rectory

## **Wednesday 13 February**

10:30 Midweek Fellowship Communion in Carryduff  
Psalm 104:11-12, 29-32 Mark 7:14-23

## **Thursday 14 February**

7:00 Sunday Special prep meeting in The Rectory

## **Sunday 17 February**

### **3 before Lent (Green)**

9:00 Holy Communion TWO in Carryduff  
Jeremiah 17:5-10 Luke 6:17-26  
10:30 Morning Prayer TWO in Carryduff  
12:00 Morning Prayer TWO in Killaney  
1 Corinthians 15:12-20 Luke 6:17-26  
6:30 The Lord's Supper in Carryduff  
Hosea 1:1-11 Matthew 5:21-37

## **Tuesday 19 February**

8:00 Word ALIVE! in The Rectory

## **Wednesday 20 February**

10:30 Midweek Fellowship Communion in Carryduff  
Psalm 116:10-17 Mark 8:22-26

## **Friday 22 February**

11:00 Magazine Assembly Team in Jeremy Taylor Chapel

## **Sunday 24 February**

### **2 before Lent (Green)**

9:00 Holy Communion TWO in Carryduff  
Revelation 4 Luke 8:22-35  
10:30 Sunday Special in Carryduff  
12:00 Sunday Special in Killaney  
Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-25 Luke 8:22-35  
6:30 Sunday Evening Prayer in Carryduff  
Matthew 6:25-34

## **Tuesday 26 February**

8:00 Word ALIVE! in The Rectory

## **Wednesday 27 February**

10:30 Midweek Fellowship Communion in Carryduff  
James 1:19-27 Mark 9:38-41

## **Coming Soon**

**T**he Clergy Quiet Day in Carryduff this year is due to take place on Shrove Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> March.

It has been our practice in recent years to use this major event as a reason for a quick spring clean of the halls and grounds. Your assistance in maintaining the high standard of our halls is appreciated.

## Clergy Quiet Day 2019

**O**n Tuesday 5th March we will once again be hosting the Clergy, Diocesan Readers and full time Parish staff to this event.

The day starts at 9.30am and continues until approx 4.00 pm. The big task of the day is the catering for morning coffee, lunch and afternoon tea. During the month of February a blue board will be displayed in the JTC displaying ways we need YOUR help.

From setting up the night before, donating items of food, assisting at one of the three serving times, to simply washing up or putting away the tables and chairs or helping in the church car park, every role is very important to ensure the event runs smoothly.

A generous gift is given to church funds for hosting the event. If you have never helped before, would you consider offering your help this year?

It is always a wonderful day and a good opportunity to catch up with our former rectors!

We encourage both parishes to offer their help. It will be greatly appreciated.

For extra information please speak to Keith or Stephen

### **Killaney & Carryduff host the African Children's Choir**

**O**n Thursday 3rd January we had the wonderful privilege of hosting the African Children's Choir for the 3rd time; they performed to a full church, putting on a wonderful concert to parishioners and guests.

The children were able to mingle after the concert during refreshments, before heading off with their host families for the night and a morning full of fun. It was encouraging to see a member of the audience, who was at the last concert in Carryduff, now involved as a volunteer with the tour crew.

THANK YOU :

*To Liz and her team for making them their evening meal.*

*To everyone who attended the concert.*

*To George for assisting with their arrival on Thursday afternoon.*

*A big thank you to all our hosts for warmly opening their homes, making them meals and doing some special things with them, which they will remember for years to come.*

It was an extra special occasion for one host who had the privilege of having two boys in the choir, who had returned for the 2nd time.

Thank you one and all



## MOVIE MOMENTS

Nick and Carol Pollard from EthosMedia.org share thought-provoking reflections on the latest films.

# Rediscovering joy and wonder

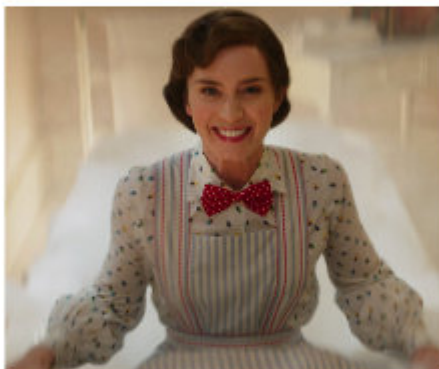
Children have a natural sense of joy and wonder. But, as Mary's magical umbrella says in *Mary Poppins Returns*, 'grownups forget, they always do.' Why is this? And how can that joy and wonder be rediscovered?

In this long-awaited sequel, Michael Banks, the young son in the first film, is now grown up with children of his own. Tragically his wife has died, and his life is falling to pieces. 'The magic vanished since you went away' he sings to her memory. He has abandoned his hope of becoming an artist and taken a mundane job at the bank.



When his youngest son brings Mary Poppins home, saying 'I was flying a kite and caught a nanny', Michael's immediate thought is that he cannot afford her. But Mary is undeterred, she is on a mission once more to save the Banks family.

At first the children are sceptical but, when she takes them on a fantastical underwater adventure through the bubbles of their bath, they realise that Mary is no ordinary nanny. And this is no ordinary sequel. *Mary Poppins Returns* takes these adventures deeper than the first film. They don't just provide a spectacular visual and musical treat, they also provide opportunities for the children, and us as the audience, to reflect on important life lessons. In her upside-down repair shop, Mary's cousin Topsy invites them to look at life from a different perspective. In the magical music hall Mary sings 'the cover is nice but it's not the book... so open



it up and take a look.' In the spectacular dance routine by lamplighters, Mary's friend Jack teaches them to look up for a light to guide them home.

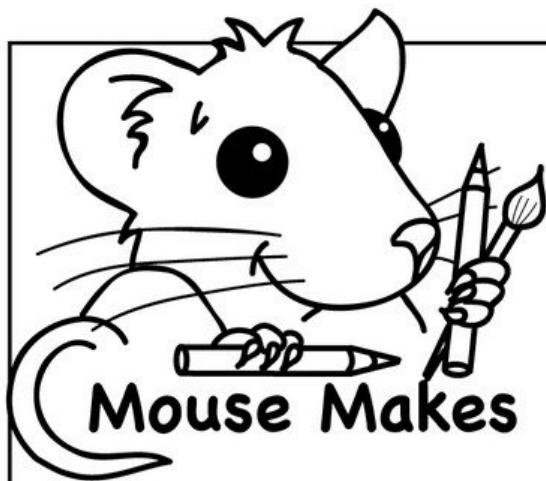
This beautiful sequel will undoubtedly reawaken the joy and wonder many of us experienced in the first film. But, perhaps its extra depth and meaning might also reawaken our joy and wonder in life. If we, like Michael, have become worn down by the cares and worries of this world, perhaps we also need to rediscover what it means to look through the eyes of a child.



**ETHOS  
MEDIA.org**

EthosMedia.org provides free resources to help people explore spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues through the latest feature films.





## WHAT IS LOVE?

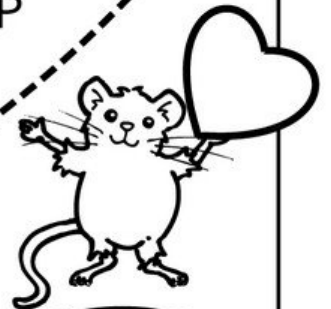
Cross out every other letter to find the Bible verse, then look it up.

OHNKEWJLOSHCNP  
CGHUADPBTFEKRA  
FJOMUORD  
VWEURDSKEV  
TOEGNP

## God's love is...

Change each letter to the letter before it in the alphabet.

"Hpe mpwfe uif xpsme tp nvdi  
uibu if hbwf ijt pomz tpo tp  
uibu fwfszpod xip cfmjfwft  
jo ijn nbz opu ejf cvu  
ibwf fufsobm mjgf."  
Kpio 3:16



## How does God show he loves us?

Look at this in a mirror!

God showed His love for us  
by sending his only Son into  
the world, so that we  
might have life  
through Him  
John 4:9

## HOW LONG IS GOD'S LOVE?

Cross out all the xxx to find out!

xxGxixvxexxtxhxaxnxkxsxxtxoxxtxhx  
exxLxoxrxdx,xfxoxrxxHxexxiixxsxg  
xxxxoxdx,xxHxixsxsxxtxeaxxdx  
fxaxsxtxxlxoxvxeexnxdxu  
rxxexsxfxoxrxxexvxxexr.  
xpxsxaxxlmxx  
1x3x6:1

"The steadfast love of  
the Lord *never* ceases"  
Lamentations 3:22







## Reliable Witnesses

**T**here they were, minding their own business – minding their sheep – when they were startled by a blaze of light (see Luke 2 v.8-18).

Luke's account of the birth of Jesus is full of significant and colourful detail. He is a good writer. In the first place his narrative makes clear that the child destined to be our redeemer will be born to a simple peasant woman. This is a crucial issue. Later we read that the birth takes place in the most humble of circumstances. There is nothing fashionable or up market about it – quite the opposite. The Saviour of the world is born in a stable and laid down to sleep in a feeding trough. It couldn't be more basic.

Then an even more unlikely surprise occurs. This special birth, however humble and unspectacular, ought not to be kept secret. It needs to be made known; it needs reliable witnesses – and what surprisingly unlikely witnesses they were. As Luke tells us: "There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night." It was these men who came to the stable and became the first to see the infant Jesus lying in the feeding trough.

Luke then tells us that

*"when they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about the child. And all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them."*

Why shepherds? Why not members of the priestly establishment of the day?

The key issue here is that shepherds represent the humble, ordinary person. They are part of the "all people" to whom and for whom the Saviour is born. This is very graphically expressed by the writer David Winter (an honorary Canon of Christ Church, Oxford). He refers to them as "a group of scruffy, smelly shepherds bedding down with their sheep on the hills above Bethlehem."

These were simple folk with no axe to grind. One might argue that people of much greater social significance – the priestly establishment of the time, the movers and shakers of society – were too much preoccupied with the things of this world to recognise the wonder of what had just happened. They might have had their own self-regarding agendas, perhaps even an inclination towards what we now know as "fake news."

*Paul puts this graphically where he writes "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world (Ephesians 6 v.12)." Shepherds, on the other hand, were just ordinary decent folk. They would be much more reliable.*

Then there is something even more significant about these witnesses. It was for people like them that the Saviour came. Jesus brought an enduring message of hope and redemption for the ordinary man in the street, for the socially disadvantaged – for the likes of shepherds, fishermen, tax collectors, prostitutes and marginalised communities.

Throughout His ministry Jesus embraced all these people. In modern parlance he “hung out” with shepherds, fisherman and tax collectors. He gave to women a status that was previously denied them. He brought good news, forgiveness and redemption to the rural poor as well as to the urban rich; to Jew and Gentile alike. Nowhere in the Old Testament (or anywhere else) could you find such a gentle, inclusive and loving wisdom – and it was a group of ordinary blokes – shepherds minding their sheep – who were chosen to be the first witnesses.

Denis Carson

## **Smile Lines...**

### **Why teenagers worry**

One teenager was talking to another, 'I'm really concerned. My father slaves away at his job so I'll never want for anything, and down the years has set aside thousands of pounds so that I can go to university. And my mother spends every day washing and ironing and cleaning up after me. She even takes care of me when I'm sick.'

The other teenager said: 'Sounds perfect – so what are you worried about?'

The first teenager replied: 'I'm afraid that one day they might try to escape.'

## **Flies**

A woman walked into the kitchen to find her husband stalking around with a folded newspaper. 'I'm hunting flies,' he muttered. 'So far I've got three males and two females.'

Intrigued, the woman asked how he could tell them apart. Her husband replied: 'Easy. Three were on my tin of beer, and two were on the phone.'

## **Be my Valentine**

Young man: Do you love me?

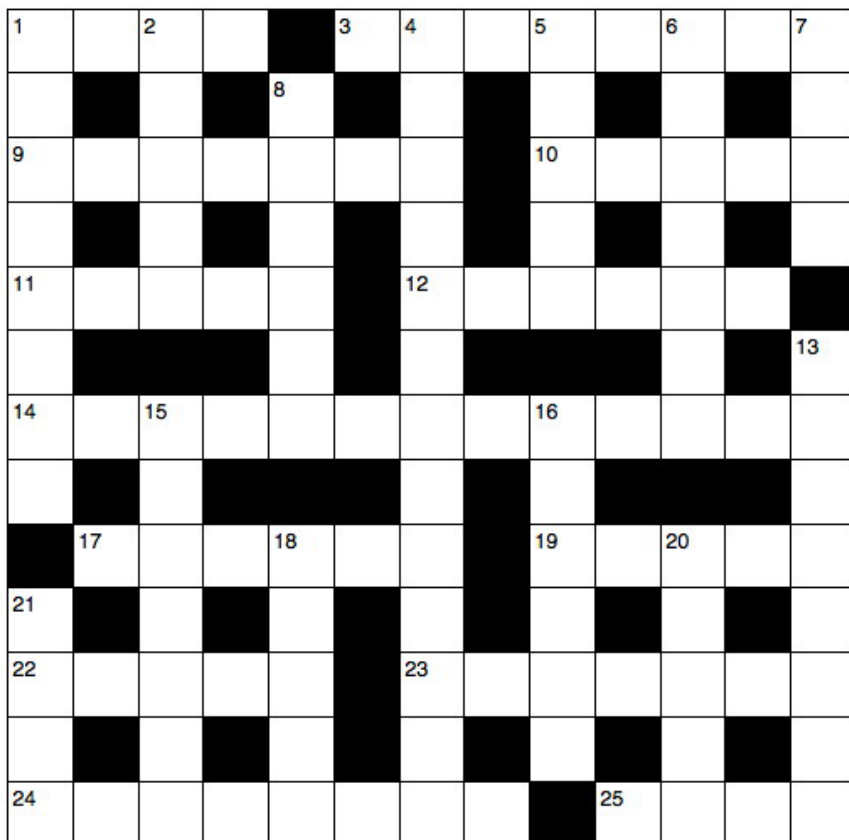
Young lady: Yes.

Young man: But can you live on my income?

Young lady: Certainly. Though - what will you live on?

## **Student**

A college student wrote a letter home, and it said in its entirety: 'Dear Dad and Mum, please write soon, even if it is only a few pounds.'



### Across

- 1 Salary (Isaiah 19:10) (4)  
 3 Question Jesus asked of those healed of leprosy, 'Were not all ten — ?' (Luke 17:17) (8)  
 9 Wide, elevated level area of land (Joshua 13:9) (7)  
 10 'So you also must be — , because the Son of Man will come... when you do not expect him' (Matthew 24:44) (5)  
 11 '[He] said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He — — , and his hand was completely restored' (Luke 6:10) (3,2)  
 12 'Who has gathered up the wind in the — of his hand?' (Proverbs 30:4) (6)  
 14 Not born again (13)  
 17 'Again and again he — the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins' (Hebrews 10:11) (6)  
 19 Mails (anag.) (5)  
 22 'He — — here; he has risen' (Matthew 28:6) (2,3)  
 23 Defeated (Judges 20:43) (7)

- 24 Soldiers' quarters (Acts 21:34) (8)  
 25 'Pillars of marble' were how the Beloved described those of her Lover (Song of Songs 5:15) (4)

### Down

- 1 Totally destroyed (Genesis 7:23) (5,3)  
 2 What the Philippian jailer was told to do with his prisoners Paul and Silas (Acts 16:23) (5)  
 4 Object of ridicule (Job 12:4) (8-5)  
 5 In most years, the month in which Easter falls (5)  
 6 For example, Caesarea, Joppa, Tyre, Sidon (7)  
 7 '[Jesus] was in the desert for forty — , being tempted by Satan' (Mark 1:13) (4)  
 8 'Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power — to our God' (Revelation 19:1) (6)  
 13 Mend dots (anag.) (8)  
 15 Purifier (Malachi 3:3) (7)  
 16 Attacked (1 Samuel 27:8) (6)  
 18 The good Samaritan to the innkeeper: 'When I return, I will reimburse you for any — expense you may have' (Luke 10:35) (5)  
 20 How Matthew described the crowds who followed Jesus (Matthew 4:25) (5)  
 21 For example, one of 25 Across (Judges 19:29) (4)

**Crossword Solutions: page 21**

# Parish Registers

## Christian Funerals

*"I am the Resurrection and the Life", says the Lord.*

18 December	Derek Hanna, Church Road, Newtownbreda
27 December	James (Jim) McCarrison, Church Avenue, Carryduff
7 January	Ruth McKernan, formerly Ballywalter.

*Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord*

**Derek Hanna** was, formerly, a school teacher in Downpatrick High School. He was a great lover of grand opera, and valued a huge collection of music and literature, associated with his love of music.

Following his childhood in the Donegall Pass area of Belfast, he had moved to Saintfield, and latterly to Knockbreda where he and his wife, Carol, and their children, Stephen and Julie, enjoyed living in a family home rich with the beauty of nature all around it.

At his funeral in Killaney Parish Church the role of Christ as Teacher formed the focus of the sermon. Derek's life time of service to the community, both in school and latterly with Chest, Heart and Stroke Association, was also remembered with gratitude. We extend our sympathy to Carol and the family in their loss.

**Jim McCarrison** had been out touring with his caravan just a few days after attending worship at St Ignatius'; and a few days before he took seriously ill and was taken into hospital. These two loves, caravanning and his church, characterised the quiet gentleman we knew at St Ignatius'.

His greatest love was his family. Watched by them, and lovingly cared for by the medical profession in Belfast City Hospital, he was brought back from the brink of death, and made comfortable for the remaining weeks of his life. He battled for as long as he could, then slept quietly away just as Christmas approached. We extend our sympathy to his son, David and daughter, Dawn, and their families.

**Ruth McKernan** of Ballywalter was brought to Belfast Crematorium for her funeral service on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

Despite recent years of poor health, her long and spirited life was recalled by her family, and tributes were paid. She had strong roots in Methodism and raised her family to value the faith of Christ both in the Church of Ireland and Methodist churches nearby, wherever she and her late husband, Billy, lived.

We extend our sympathy to her surviving children and family circle.



# Rosters for February in Carryduff

	9:00 Readers	10:30 Readers	6:30 Readers	10:30 Prayers
3	Mary	Maureen Kealey	Vera	Keith
10	Ken	Fiona Ellis	Elizabeth S	Raymond
17	Patricia	George Buchanan	Joan	Denis
24	Raymond	J Club	Jeannie	J Club
	10:30 Displays	10:30 Welcome	Flower Donors	Arrangers
3	Dave N	John & Agnes Morrisey	Ken Ellis	Joyce
10	Jenny	J Club PLUS	Maureen Kealey	Elizabeth J
17	Fiona	Tony & Evelyn Anderson	S Rutledge	Joyce
24	Dave J	J Club Team	Joan Clayton	Joan
	Refreshments Team		Communion Assistants	
3	Lorna & Francis		Keith and Marlene	
10	Young People			
17	Sandra & Ann			
24	Norma & Olwen			
<p>The Rosters are to help team members. If any day printed is not suitable, please get in touch with the team leaders, Stephen, Elizabeth, Jene, Keith 07901935205 and Joan (whoever originally asked you to do the the task) A Master list is on the Jeremy Taylor Chapel noticeboard and, if you amend any dates, then please also make changes there.</p> <p>You can simply phone/text Stephen, if that is easier for you, using 078 345 84932</p>				



A cabbie is a fare-minded person.

A closed mouth gathers no foot.

A dentist and a manicurist fought tooth and nail.

A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.

A job at the nursery can lead to a budding career.

A man said his credit card was stolen but he decided not to report it because the thief was spending less than his wife did.

## Crossword Solutions

ACROSS: 1, Wage. 3, Cleansed. 9, Plateau. 10, Ready. 11, Did so. 12, Hollow. 14, Unregenerated. 17, Offers. 19, Islam. 22, Is not. 23, Overran. 24, Barracks. 25, Legs.

DOWN: 1, Wiped out. 2, Guard. 4, Laughing-stock. 5, April. 6, Seaport. 7, Days. 8, Belong. 13, Oddments. 15, Refiner. 16, Raided. 18, Extra. 20, Large. 21, Limb.

## **South American Mission Society Friday Nite Live 2019**

You are warmly invited to this annual event in the Craigavon Civic Centre on Friday, 1st February at 7.30pm.

This is an opportunity to meet the new Mission Director, Revd. Stephen McElhinney, and Mission Partners, and to hear updates on the work of SAMS, which is one of the Christian societies we support in Carryduff.

For further information please contact Marlene Moore (07740289358).

## **Christmas Reflections**

Since the publication of Crossroads in November last year we have enjoyed a whole series of Christmas celebrations in both parishes and in our homes and family circles. We hope our readers had a refreshing and enjoyable season.

We started with the Scouts who organised an outdoor service in the car park. Numbers were about half of the previous year's attendance, presumably due to the change in location and uncertainty about the weather. A simple cheerful and friendly service was followed up with refreshments in the hall.

A visit by Carryduff PS Choir to the Midweek Fellowship's Christmas Lunch rounded off a very successful and well-attended event.

The Lough Moss community carol service followed on the next Sunday, and we were greeted afterwards by Mayor Uel Mackin as he received a cheque (£690.00) for the Children's Cancer Fund from the appreciative audience.

The Christingle in Killaney marked our children's event for the season. Carryduff held their Festival of Lessons and Carols a week earlier than normal to allow members from both parishes to attend a similar event, a week later, with the NI Concert Brass Ensemble featuring in St Andrew's.

Though the absence of children from Killaney's Christmas morning communion was a disappointment, they were made up for with good numbers at the Christmas Morning Service in Carryduff. We may re-jig timings to help the children of Killaney mark Christ's birthday this year.

The Mothers' Union Dinner in Ivanhoe Hotel, a wonderful dinner in the Temple Golf Club, parties for various youth groups, and the late-night communion on Christmas Eve made sure a good celebration was held.

Keith tells us elsewhere of the exciting African Children's Choir who visited on 3rd January to start the new year with a shout of praise.

Both churches were tastefully decorated for the season and the efforts of donors and decorators were much appreciated by all who attended. Thank you to all who participated, organised and supported the events.

# Contacts Page

See service times, current news sheets, all magazines and recent news at:  
**killaney.down.anglican.org & carryduff.down.anglican.org**  
Facebook: KandCd at the Crossroads - Twitter #KandCd

## The People

<b>Rector:</b>	Stephen Lowry, 700 Saintfield Rd, Carryduff BT8 8BU stephenlowry@me.com	078 345 84932  028 9081 2342
<b>Diocesan Readers:</b>	Marlene Moore mrm-moore@hotmail.co.uk Keith Shaw keith_shaw@live.co.uk	028 9081 4896  07901 935 205
<b>Office:</b>	Jenny Eralp killaneyandcarryduff@icloud.com	028 9081 3489
<b>Carryduff</b>	Joan Clayton	
<b>Wardens:</b>	Raymond Scott	
<b>Honorary Treasurer:</b>		028 9081 4579
<b>Gift Aid Secretary:</b>	Fiona Moore	
<b>Honorary Secretary:</b>	Joyce McMeekin	
<b>Sexton:</b>	Fiona Ellis	
<b>Freewill Offering:</b>	Susan Creber	028 9263 8798
<b>Hall Bookings:</b>	jandr.mcmeekin@btinternet.com	
<b>Killaney</b>	Marie Mack	028 9751 0350
<b>Wardens:</b>	Alison Gray	
<b>Vergers:</b>	Florence Coulter	028 9263 9133
<b>Honorary Secretary:</b>	Colin McClintock	
<b>Covenants:</b>	Viona Crothers	028 9751 9637
<b>Flower Rota:</b>	Anne Mannis	028 9751 0089
<b>Cleaning Rota:</b>	Marie Mack	028 9751 0350

## Parish Panels:

The Parish Panels seek to help ensure that children and their leaders experience a safe and secure environment in their youth work.

<b>Panel Members are</b>	Stephen Lowry and	
<b>Carryduff</b>	Marlene Moore	028 9081 4896
	Joan Nevin	028 9751 9366
<b>Killaney</b>	Florence Coulter	028 9263 9133
	Bill Connor	028 9263 9873

**Next Magazine** is the March Edition

Please email content to Stephen or Marlene by Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Make up Team 22<sup>nd</sup> February at 11.00 am

## African Children's Choir Visit

