

CROSSROADS



December 21 – January 22.....	1	SNATCH Teaching	7	I just can't wait	16
Mothers' Union	3	Albany Diocesan Link Ends	8	Registers	20
Killaney News.....	4	Memorial Service Carryduff....	9	Remembering	20
Christmas Boxes	4	J Club Kids	10	Lesson Readers:	22
Christmas Communions.....	5	Services Dec 1 to Jan 31	11	St Ignatius' Gift Day	22
MISSION FOCUS.....	6	Strength in Weakness!	15	Website & Contacts	23

St Andrew's Killaney and St Ignatius' Carryduff

Dear Friends

An unexpected Christmas.

An unpredictable New Year.

A year and a bit ago we imagined that “everything would be back to normal” by Christmas. A second Christmas is almost upon us, and yet . . . normal it is not! Hopefully though, we have adjusted enough of our expectations to make the best of an imperfect festive season.



It makes me think of when Mary and Joseph were told the unexpected news that she would bear a child, to be known as the Son of God. Life would never be normal again. Politics then broke in, as an emergency measure to force every citizen to travel to their family’s ancient hometown made a quiet birth at home impossible for Mary. National tensions then arose as foreign dignitaries appeared in Bethlehem and created a whole storm of controversy, dragging in Herod the local king. Threatened murder then drove the new parents to flee as refugees for a season in Egypt.

Dangers, untravelled paths, international tensions, competition for attention from leaders who were upset . . . it all sounds a little like the world of 2020-2021.

A lesson we can learn from Mary and from Joseph is their willingness to obey what they perceived to be God's will for them: “And Mary said ‘Let it be to me according to your word’” and “When Joseph woke from his sleep he did what the Lord commanded him.”

We probably do not need the sort of visions and dreams Mary and Joseph were afforded to discover God's will for them. But we do need open ears and eyes to hear and see what God teaches us in his word and through his people.

The caution of this last year has been suffocating at times, but it has not choked the life out of our community. The limitations of this episode have reminded us of how important to us are our relationships with one another and with the church community. The proffered aids to survival in all this have strengthened the Christian conviction that we are never self-sufficient, but need divine help daily.

We enter the season of the Nativity of our Lord with hope stirred once more, and our longing for Christ to rule in our land and lives all the more deeply felt.

May he be present in your homes and hearts as you love one another and worship him this Christmas tide.

Stephen Lowry

Mothers' Union

Many thanks to Keith for coming along to chat to us at our November meeting. It was very clear from his talk that he felt a strong calling from God to be involved in Youth Ministry. It was interesting to hear how the J Club has developed and changed



over the years and to understand Keith's plans for its future. While Covid has meant changes for the J Club, these are all now seen as positive changes with the children leaving each Friday night with a strong Christian message. It is Keith's hope that J Club will be able to provide each child with a Bible, suitable for their age, in 2022. The estimated cost is approximately £400. This is where Mothers' Union can help. We would like to fund raise early in 2022 to help raise the money required to purchase the Bibles. Get your thinking caps on ladies! I know we can walk a fair distance but what other fundraising ideas are there?

Our Christmas meeting is on **Thursday 2nd December at 8pm**. Come along and join us for one of Mary's entertaining quizzes, a cuppa and a mince pie. Instead of bringing each other a small Christmas present, Vera and I thought it would be nice to make a donation to **Tearfund's Afghanistan Appeal**. They are raising money to provide food packages for families who are struggling to feed themselves and their children. I hope you agree that this is a very worthwhile cause.

If you had ordered an MU diary, please bring along the £4.50 to cover the cost.

Mothers' Union Diocesan Advent Carol Service

St Ignatius' Church will host the Annual Diocesan Carol Service on **Wednesday 8th December at 7:30 pm**. Because of continuing restrictions on the number of people we can accommodate in the building, members, unfortunately, need to book a seat. However, we do need a small number of helpers to facilitate the visitors on their arrival - so members of our branch should please speak to Jenny to offer their help. Perhaps a dozen places have been reserved for members from here.

To book a place please give your name in advance to Jenny or Vera. There is a limit as to how many can attend.

Killaney News

Rosters

Flowers: December Alison Gray
 January Eileen Earney

Cleaning: December Brian & Lyn McNeill
 January Alison Gray, & Anne Mannis



Memorial Service

All who attended the Memorial Service in St Andrew's thought it was a pleasant, personal and calming service.

Thank you to David Gill who, on his bagpipes, played a moving lament called "Going Home" in memory of those who passed away. He then played "Amazing Grace".

Those remembered were:

George Scott
David McKeown
Frederick May

Belle Gracey
Edmund King
Ronnie Knox

Christmas Boxes

30 boxes were sent from the Church for Samaritan's Purse. Thank you. Wishing you Peace, Health and Happiness in the coming year.

My friend Sheila, who teaches in Sunday school, asked one of her pupils:

"Now tell me truthfully, Craig, - do you say your prayers before eating?"

"No," he replied. "I don't have to. My mother is a good cook!"

Doesn't this prove that, no matter how serious or light-hearted the question, an honest answer is always the best one to give?

Father, hear our prayer at Christmas,
Help us share the love You send,
Reaching out across the nations
Greet a stranger as a friend.
Thank You for the faith of Christmas
And the comfort we have found,
Knowing those who've gone before us
Once again will gather round.

As we share the cards and greetings,
Candles burning, clear and bright,
Help us reach the lost and lonely,
Bring them in to love and light.
Thank You for the hope of Christmas,
All our doubts and fears dispel,
In our hearts we know the meaning
Love is endless, all is well.

Christmas Communions

Stephen writes:



It is wonderful when disappointment turns to joy, and we were delighted that last year's Christmas Eve Communion at Carryduff, rescheduled at 8:00 pm last year to enable cleaning to happen between services, turned out to be as popular a time as ever. For that reason we will celebrate our joy together at the same time this year.

Home Communions are still unfortunately restricted, but where suitable precautions are able to be put in place, without diminishing the sensitivity of the service, we will try to arrange them. This may be due to serious illness or simply the length of time since we have been able to share together. Get in touch with me 028 9081 2342. Indicating for whom the communion visit is requested.

On Christmas Day at Killaney we have a family service including a Holy Communion celebration at 9:30 am. As I have to be at Carryduff at 10:30 it will be a short service overall. Children may like to bring a small gift they have received. . . .

Church Communion Services at Christmas

It has been wonderful to watch how parishioners of St Andrew's and St Ignatius' have willingly and quietly accepted the necessary adjustments to the process of receiving communion at the churches in recent months. This process will probably continue through Christmas and into the New Year at least. There are two significant changes. Our diocese has instructed us to offer consecrated wine in separate glasses. While some churches have used juice and wafer in repacked pouches, this did not seem to me to be in adherence to the principle of consecrating wine and then distributing it. The remedy was to obtain shot glasses (10-15ml) and pour consecrated wine into them before making them available for communicants to lift and drink the wine immediately, or to take them back to drink the wine whilst seated in their pews. The assistance of the wardens and readers in this novel process has been appreciated all round.

Many of you make an annual trip to come to communion at Christmas-time, and I want to assure you that with careful queuing, followed by an unhurried reception of bread (via a wafer) and wine (via the little glasses), we seek to make your gathering around the Lord's Table as meaningful as possible.

For any who are still uncomfortable with the slightly larger numbers at main services (60-75 in Carryduff and 20-35 in Killaney), midweek and early communions are also on the calendar where numbers are smaller.

Details of all services are on the Calendar Page.

MISSION FOCUS

SAMS Ireland

Mission Focus this month is on The South American Mission Society Ireland.

SAMS has been supported by our parishes by one means or another for many years. Its work is carried out in South America and other connected countries. The work here is supported through a Lurgan based office headed up by Rev Stephen McElhinney. Working part-time there, Claire Holmes has taken up the post of Mission Development Officer: who better than a former mission partner - in Paraguay - than Claire to help steer the movement through these new times?

Two events are planned for the New Year.

Parish Visits

Stephen, following in the path of Bishop Ken Clarke, has visited South America and he will provide up-to-date and lively information about the work and how best we can continue our support. This is on Sunday 23rd January at St Ignatius' at 10:00 and St. Andrew's at 12:00 pm

UNMUTED: Friday Night Live

Plans are well under way for SAMS Ireland to host another **Friday Night Live** after a break last year. This annual event is scheduled for 4th February 2022 at 7:30 pm.

"Unmuted A VOICE FOR MISSION" is the intriguing title of the event.

SAMS' work is mainly focussed on South America, and stories from there, Bible teaching, worship and refreshments all add together for an enjoyable and informative evening.

Booking is essential, using eventbrite or by phoning the office 028 3831 0144. Those online may click here or scan the image, or visit friday-night-live-2022.eventbrite.co.uk to sign up. Covid requirements in place at the venue, Craigavon Civic Centre, will be followed.



Giving to Missions

You are encouraged to find a mission agency that gets you excited and interested by their work, their values and the regions in which they work, and to support them financially, prayerfully, and practically where possible.

Many have online and in person prayer gatherings, projects that seek individual supporters, and opportunities to meet mission workers face to face. To support mission generally in the parishes let the vestries know which agencies you wish to see supported by church funds. Your donation will be much appreciated.

SNATCH Teaching Programme

Malachi

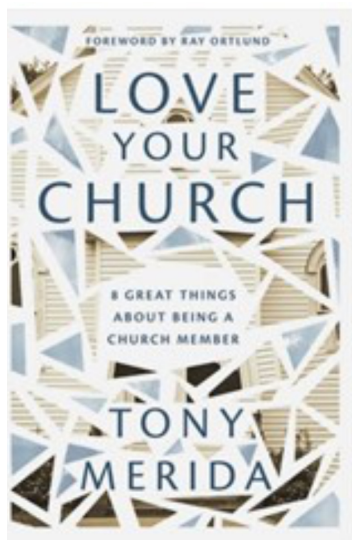
During November we have been studying Malachi on Sunday Nights at Church. The message of Malachi proved a challenging message to everyone: to all worshippers, to all people involved in covenantal relationships (like marriage), and to those who behave towards God as if he were answerable to them rather than their being answerable to him!

The fourth of these talks concludes on Sunday 28th November at 7:00 pm. Bring a bible. In December we take a break from these Sunday Night teaching sessions.

Love Your Church: *order your copy of the book!*

How do you love your church - and why? On Sundays - through January and February - we will be using a book called "Love Your Church" to think about the ways we can demonstrate our love for church! It promises to be a searching series, presented using short videos, sermons, discussions and an opportunity to read the book as you go. Thanks to the Good Book Company this and some other excellent books are available for people probably just like you, the people who seek to love God, grow as individuals, and be part of a community that works!

To purchase the book at a reduced rate, or to buy one for a friend at Christmas, use a sign up form at church or [click on the church website](#) to express your interest. You can, of course, buy one yourself but it may cost you several pounds extra. First orders will be placed in early December: don't miss it. Hopefully we can get it for you for a fiver or less. Planned dates are as follows:



- 9 January Belonging: Ephesians 2:19-22
- 16 January Welcoming: James 2:1-13
- 30 January Gathering: Acts 20:7-12
- 6 February Caring: Galatians 6:1-10
- 13 February Serving: Romans 12:1-8
- 20 February Honouring: 1 Peter 5:1-5
- 27 February Witnessing: 1 Peter 3:13-17
- 6 March Sending: Acts 11:19-26

Albany Diocesan Link Ends

Bishop David and a representative of Albany Diocese have issued a joint communication:

Our Dioceses have enjoyed a joint link for over twenty years. This is quite remarkable as most other similar links do not continue for such a long period of time. Our link has brought many benefits and blessings to both dioceses over the years. Life-long friendships have been forged. These life-long friendships will continue into the future, but the time has come in both dioceses to bring the formal aspect of this diocesan link to an end. This will enable both dioceses to pursue new partnerships that will enable them to meet their respective missional and ministry challenges for the next season.

We give thanks for all that has been achieved through our diocesan link in years past and pray God's richest blessing upon each other as we move forward

**Bishop David McClay
On behalf of the
Diocese of Down & Dromore**

**Mtr. Kathy Alonge-Coons
On behalf of the Diocese of Albany
Diocese of Albany**

11th November 2021

This link has been a source of great friendship and interaction between two very diverse communities of people, and has richly blessed my own experience of the world wide church. My first experience was at an evening meal held in the local golf club where rectors receiving visitors met the visiting delegation from Albany. It is hard to believe that the event occurred 20 years ago.

Subsequent involvement led us to develop a three way tie with Maridi diocese and hence Bishop Justin (now Archbishop) appeared at my Institution to Killaney and Carryduff. I am grateful for every interaction since.

Stephen

YEARNING: Poems in search of meaning By Raymond Fox

Our former rector, Canon Raymond Fox, has recently produced a book of poems in aid of the **THE ROWAN** the regional sexual assault Referral Centre for Northern Ireland.

They offer support for children young people, women and men who have experienced sexual violence and abuse, recently and in the past. For help contact 0800 389 4424 24 hours 365 days a year

Book on Sale for £10:00 at our churches. Profits to support the Rowan after production costs. Available to collect..

Memorial Service Carryduff

It was with some uncertainty that we all heard about the memorial service, which Bishop David McClay was encouraging us to hold at the end of October. As it turned out, it was a service which brought many families and individuals together in the peace of a Sunday afternoon.

Some 16 of our members have passed away since the beginning of the pandemic in 2020, and several other family members and friends were remembered, making a total of 20.

A short tribute was given for each person, mostly by Stephen, with the help of Alex and Jenny in a few circumstances. For some a photo was available on display, along with the names and an approximate date of their death or funeral.

This was a measured and quiet time, which allowed individuals present a moment to remember their loved ones and friends in silence.

Hymns, readings and prayers - led by Parish Reader Jenny Montgomery and Stephen - gave us the opportunity to turn memory into thanksgiving and praise, and the overall tone, though solemn, was not sombre but, rather, hopeful.

We hope that those whose family member was remembered will be comforted by the sense of gratitude expressed to God for their valued lives. If you chose not to attend, or missed out on the advanced notice in previous magazines and weekly service notices, be assured your loved ones were well remembered by those present.

Florence Frazer	Martin Bedwell	Cecil Rutledge
Louis Latimer	Arthur Newberry	Stephen Kennedy
Jill Devenney	Alan Campbell	Robin Sweetnam
Madge Boyd	Rebecca Graham	Don McConnell
Florence Bradley	Irene Bell	Ronnie Hanlon
Elizabeth Dunning	Eleanor Hanlon	Ellie Killops
Dorothy Lowry		Frances Hill

A prayer

Saviour Christ,
in your suffering on the cross
and by your glorious resurrection,
we find the promise of new life:
Be with us in our grief as we mourn those we have lost
and keep us firm in the promise
that you, O Lord, are the way and the truth and the life. **Amen.**

J Club Kids

The month of November was a busy one at J Club Kids.

These are the bible characters we learned about through creative baking, crafts, fun and games :

Samuel, one of the great prophets in the Old Testament and his mother Hannah.

- -God heard Hannah's prayer
- - Samuel heard God's Call - after He called 3 times.
- - Samuel appointed David, who would be a faithful servant with the right heart.

Programme for December

3rd - Pantomime at Carryduff Community Church

10th - Nativity recording & Christmas Crafts

MESSY CHRISTMAS

Come and join us for some messy festive fun on Sunday 19th December, with J Club & Sunday School combining together. This is a special event for children.

9.30am - Nativity with J Club children and parents

10.00 am - Breakfast & Christmas messy crafts

11.00 am - Aunt Sandra's candy factory messy workshop.

We are looking forward to an exciting morning!

Sign up for details on the J C FaceBook page.

Prayer requests for December :

We encourage you to pray for all the children involved in the virtual nativity and taking part in our MESSY CHRISTMAS event. Please do pray for the team that they will have some rest during the Christmas break.

It was a great pleasure to talk to the Mothers' Union at their November meeting about our Children's Ministry.

J Club will be closed for the Christmas holidays. Friday 14th January - J Club reopens.

We wish all our parishioners and friends a very happy Christmas and a blessed New Year.

Keith Shaw

Services December and January

1 December Wednesday (for St Andrew's Day)

(Purple)

10:00 Midweek Communion
Romans 10: 12-18 Matthew 4: 18-22

at Carryduff

5 December Advent

(Purple)

Readings Philippians 1:3-11 Luke 3:1-6

8:30 Early Communion

at Carryduff

10:00 Parish Communion

at Carryduff

12:00 Parish Communion

at Killaney

Philippians 1:3-11 Luke 3:1-6

5:00 Lighting the Christmas Tree

at Killaney

Bring your friends and neighbours

With Brass Ensemble and Christmas Refreshments

8 December Wednesday

(Purple)

10:00 Midweek Communion

at Carryduff

Readings Isaiah 40:25-31 Matthew 11:28-30

7:30 Mothers' Union Diocesan Advent Carols

Please book your place with Vera or Jenny

12 December Advent

(Purple)

Readings Philippians 4:4-7 Luke 3:7-18 (all services)

8:30 Early Communion

at Carryduff

10:00 Morning Worship

at Carryduff

12:00 Morning Worship

at Killaney

15 December Wednesday

(Purple)

10:00 Midweek Communion

at Carryduff

Isaiah 45: 6b-8, 18, 21b-25 Luke 7:18b-23

19 December Advent

(Purple)

Readings Hebrews 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-45

8:30 Early Communion

at Carryduff

9:30 Nativity with J Club children and parents

10:30 Family Carol Service **NOTE LATER TIME**

at Carryduff

3:00 Lessons and Carols

at Killaney

7:00 Carols by Candlelight

at Carryduff

22 December Wednesday

(Purple)

Readings 1 Samuel 1:24-28 Luke 1:46-56

10:00 Midweek Communion

at Carryduff

24 December Christmas Eve

(White)

8:00 pm Christmas Communion

at Carryduff

Readings Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14

25 December Christmas Day

(White)

9:30 Christmas Communion

at Killaney

HC Readings Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14

10:30 Christmas Morning Worship

at Carryduff

Reading Luke 2:1-14

26 December St Stephen's Day

(White)

10:00 Holy Communion

at Carryduff

HC Readings Acts 7:51-60 Matthew 10: 17-22

12:00 Morning Worship

at Killaney

Reading Acts 7:51-60

1 January Saturday New Year's Day

(White)

10:00 New Year Communion at

Carryduff

HC Readings Numbers 6:22-27 Luke 2:15-21

2 January Christmas 2

(White)

Readings Ephesians 1:3-14 John 1:10-18

8:30 Early Communion

at Carryduff

10:00 Parish Communion

at Carryduff

12:00 Parish Communion

at Killaney

6 January THURSDAY The Epiphany

(White)

HC Readings Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12

10:00 Midweek Communion

9 January Sunday after The Epiphany

(White)

8:30 Early Communion

at Carryduff

HC Readings Acts 8:14-17 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

10:00 Morning Worship

at Carryduff

12:00 Morning Worship

at Killaney

Theme Belonging: Ephesians 2:19-22

7:00 SNATCH: Sunday Night at Church

at Carryduff

Read Ephesians 2:18-3:19 in preparation

12 January Wednesday

(White)

10:00 Midweek Communion

1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20 Mark 1:29-39

16 January Epiphany 2

(White)

8:30 Early Communion

at Carryduff

HC Readings Isaiah 62:1-5 John 2:1-11

10:00 Morning Worship

at Carryduff

12:00 Morning Worship

at Killaney

Theme Welcoming: James 2:1-13

7:00 SNATCH: Sunday Night at Church James 2:1-13 at Carryduff

19 January Wednesday (White)

Readings Psalm 144:1-2,9-10 Mark 3:1-6

10:00 Midweek Communion

23 January SAMS SUNDAY (White)

Readings 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 27-31a Luke 4: 14-21

8:30 Early Communion at Carryduff

10:00 Morning Worship at Carryduff

12:00 Morning Worship at Killaney

10 and 12 With Rev Stephen McElhinney of SAMS Ireland

7:00 SNATCH: Sunday Night at Church at Carryduff

Read Nehemiah 8:1-10 in preparation

26 January Wednesday (White)

Readings Habakkuk 3: 17-19 Mark 4: 1-20

10:00 Midweek Communion

30 January Epiphany 3 (White)

8:30 Early Communion at Carryduff

Readings Hebrews 2: 14-18 Luke 2: 22-40

10:00 Morning Worship at Carryduff

12:00 Morning Worship at Killaney

Theme Gathering: Acts 20:7-12

7:00 SNATCH: Sunday Night at Church at Carryduff

Read Hebrews 12:18-29 in preparation

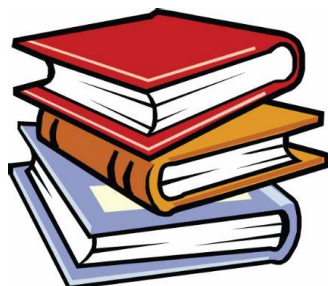
Buy them books

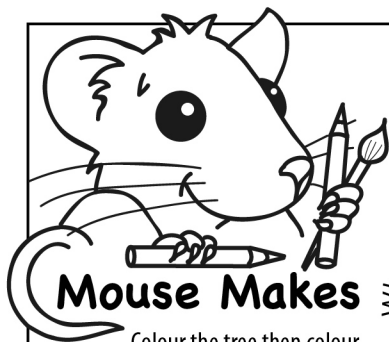
Buy your children some books for Christmas. It seems that more books in your home in childhood can help stave off dementia in later life, according to a recent study.

It found that children who are exposed to the written word from a young age, form more resilience against degenerative processes which can lead to Alzheimer's.

Nurturing our brain in our early years boosts our 'cognitive reserves', as intellectually stimulating activities like reading create extra connections in the brain. That acts as a long-term buffer against cognitive decline in later life.

The study was done at the School of Public Health at the University of Haifa in Israel.





Colour the tree then colour
in one star each day until Christmas.
Leave the large star at the top of the
tree to colour in on Christmas day!

What's on the Christmas Tree?

Presents at Christmas
under the tree,
A red Christmas stocking
waiting for me,
But what really is Christmas,
What is it about?
Just look and the Bible
and you will find out!
It's about **JESUS**
- the best present of all,
JESUS our **Saviour**,
God's gift to us all!

A STAR
shows the way
to Jesus
Read
Matthew 2:1-12

ANGELS
bring messages from God
Read about
Gabriel's message in *Luke 1:26-38*
Read the
shepherd's story in *Luke 1:26-38*

**LIGHTS
AND CANDLES**
remind us that Jesus
lights our way to God
Read *Luke 2:29-32*

PRESENTS
remind us of God's
special gift to us ... **JESUS!**

"For God loved the world so much that He
gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes
in him may not die but have eternal life." *John 3:16*



Strength in Weakness!

In the second of his two letters to the fledgling church community in Corinth, the apostle Paul makes some quite striking observations. We become aware of the personal cost of his missionary endeavours. He writes of hardship and suffering but, above all, of his unshakeable faith.

To put this in context, we are in the early years of the Christian church. The faith community in Corinth (and elsewhere) is small, insecure and seeking to survive in a largely dark pagan society within a world dominated by Roman conquest. Yet Paul urges the emerging Christian community in Corinth to be filled with the Holy Spirit, and to shine as lights – to be strong in their weakness.

In the circumstances of the first Century Mediterranean region this is a bold and courageous challenge. Why, we might well ask, should anybody believe in something – Christian faith – that cannot be seen or touched or proved? In propagating it Paul, himself, had experienced considerable difficulties including imprisonment and physical pain.

All this had tested him severely. Yet he had maintained his faith. Thus he writes: “To keep me from being conceited...there was given to me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me (2 Cor 12 v.7).”

What is this “thorn in the flesh” to which he refers? He may well have been alluding to some physical weakness or, perhaps, to his brutal experiences of imprisonment. However, he came to accept that it was God’s means to keep him humble. He tells the Corinthians that he had pleaded three times with the Lord “to take it away from me.....” Yet there was no response! The really crucial issue is that the message from the Lord was: “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness (2 Cor 12 v.9).”

This is an astounding revelation. Paul accepted it – the power of faith and the success of his missionary effort was not, in the long run, anything to do with the influence of Paul himself. With conspicuous humility he writes: “That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong (2 Cor 12 v.10).”

Paul’s personal grit and resourcefulness has demonstrated, not only to the emerging church community in Corinth, but to Christian communities ever since, the concept and the wonder of strength in weakness. It is a great lesson for each and every one of us – and it was brought firmly to the front of my mind by the experience of being admitted to hospital in severe pain a few weeks ago. Hopefully all is now well again, but it is as nothing in comparison to Paul’s brutal experience as set out in his message to the Corinthians.

On a more seasonal note, we might acknowledge that the essence of strength in weakness is captured by the influence of a child born to a humble mother in a stable in Bethlehem.

Denis Carson

Advent: I JUST CAN'T WAIT

Waiting is not popular in our culture, when so much can be obtained simply at the press of a button! Advent, when we wait for the coming of Christmas, is also an opportunity to learn what it means to be waiting for the promised return of Jesus. He says: 'It's like a man going away: he leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. Therefore, keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back' (Mark 13:34-35).

We live between Jesus' first and second comings and this parable reminds us of the need to watch and wait, as disciples living faithfully for Him. It reminds us of two kinds of waiting: passive and active. Imagine you're at the railway station, awaiting the arrival of a train. On the platform a man is asleep, as he thinks there is plenty of time before the train arrives. He is passively waiting. There is also a small boy on the platform who is excited about the train coming. He can't sit still and constantly looks down the track to see if the train is coming. He is actively waiting, for he expects the train to arrive at any moment.

Advent gives us a choice: how will we wait for Jesus' coming? Passive waiting doesn't require much attention on our part. We can live our Christian life pre-occupied with our own concerns, rather than looking to God. However, active waiting involves an eager expectation, as we await Jesus' return or simply look to him coming to us today. All we want is to be found faithful as His disciples. There is nothing more important than being ready to meet our Master!

Following our Memorial Services in the last month you may find these words *helpful. They are written by someone who recently lost their wife. . . .*

When someone you loved is dead

That it helps to talk about your loss and the person you have lost. Sharing helps you to put things together in your mind, and is healing in itself.

Don't be afraid of pain, and don't anaesthetise it or avoid it – acknowledge it, face it, and you will heal more quickly.

That crying is normal, even for men, and it is a healing part of the grief process. Don't be afraid of this, even in public.

It may surprise you, to discover which people draw near to you in your grief, and who steps away. Appreciate those who come closer, without judging those who hold back.

Not everything people say to you about grief and your response will be helpful. Decide for yourself what is important for you, and let the rest go.

That grief may expose some of your inner fault-lines, but don't be afraid of this – learning more about yourself is a gift that comes with grieving.

No-one grieves perfectly. Following the death of your loved one, you will make mistakes, bad choices, and errors of judgement. This is normal, so forgive yourself.

That hope will rise again within you. The human spirit, in combination with God's grace, has its own remarkable resilience.

Don't be afraid to live again. God has a good purpose for you, and a plan for your life.

That your faith is an asset, not a liability. When you are tempted to be angry with God, remember that He is an ever-present help in time of need. Lean on Him.

That you have a part to play in your grief journey, so don't be passive and allow it to overwhelm you – begin to do what you can to rebuild your life.

Be kind

Try to be kind to each other this Christmas: many of us could do with some gentle encouragement. Depression and anxiety have risen by more than a quarter since the pandemic, according to the first global estimate of Covid's impact on mental health last year. The reduced interaction of people, the increase in isolation, coupled by high infection rates, were the cause of more than 125 million extra cases of depression and anxiety disorders in 2020.

The findings, published in the Lancet, reported that globally, depressive disorders have increased by 28 per cent, and anxiety by 26 per cent.

Be kind to your neighbour

This Christmas, why not make an extra effort to be kind to your neighbours? It seems that neighbourly distrust has grown more than fivefold since the summer of 2020, with one in five of us now saying that relations in our community have soured.

On the plus side, there are still 25 per cent of us who report greater trust in our neighbourhoods. But on the debit side, now 22 per cent of us, up from just 4 per cent, have reported a deterioration. The research was carried out at University College London (UCL), who found that one in five of us now feel less cohesive with our neighbours, feeling that we have fewer shared values with them. As one researcher put it, "Much has changed over the last 18 months, with limits to our freedom, how we interact with each other, and changes to how we shop and travel. Perhaps these restrictions have caused some to feel less satisfied with life in their community."

Proverbs 11:12 advises: 'Whoever derides their neighbour has no sense, but the one who has understanding holds their tongue.' Proverbs 27:10 advises: 'Do not go to your relative's house when disaster strikes you—better a neighbour nearby than a relative far away.'

A Very Special Baby

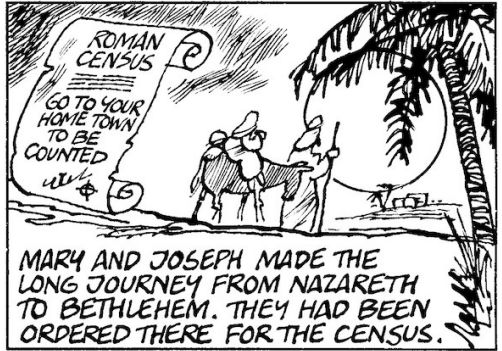
JESUS WAS BORN ABOUT 2,000 YEARS AGO IN THE SMALL TOWN OF BETHLEHEM, NEAR JERUSALEM.



AN ANGEL HAD TOLD MARY SHE WOULD HAVE A VERY SPECIAL BABY.



...YOU MUST CALL YOUR BABY JESUS



MARY AND JOSEPH MADE THE LONG JOURNEY FROM NAZARETH TO BETHLEHEM. THEY HAD BEEN ORDERED THERE FOR THE CENSUS.

BUT THE TOWN WAS FULL



THE ONLY SHELTER THEY COULD FIND WAS A STABLE...

...WHICH IS WHERE JESUS WAS BORN.



SHEPHERDS IN FIELDS NEARBY RACED TO SEE THE BABY



AN ANGEL HAD TOLD THEM WHERE JESUS HAD BEEN BORN.

WISE MEN CAME FROM THE EAST. THEY TOO WANTED TO SEE JESUS. THEY HAD BEEN GUIDED BY A STAR.



THEY BROUGHT GIFTS OF GOLD, FRANKINCENSE AND MYRRH.

BUT MARY, JOSEPH AND BABY JESUS SOON HAD TO ESCAPE TO EGYPT...



...AS KING HEROD WANTED JESUS DEAD!!

Three simple tips for staying argument free in your family this Christmas

For many of us, the lure of a 'perfect' Christmas lurks in our subconscious. Advertisers play into this desire for serving the best food, the home looking super cosy and festive and everyone wonderfully 'suited and booted'.

The reality of Christmas is, of course, always different. It often involves anxiety, tensions and arguments in between the stockings and the crackers.

The pressures may be even greater after last year's Christmas in lockdown and the threat of shortages this year. So here are three simple tips to help you avoid some of the stress and have a happier time as a family this Christmas.

Firstly, share - and maybe reset - some of your expectations with family members. It's so easy to go on autopilot, and play the usual roles at Christmas, whatever they look like in your family. This often leaves one person - often Mum - carrying the burden of it all.

Instead, sit down for a few minutes with your other half and talk about your expectations. What would both of you like your celebration to be, and what don't you both want to happen? Having this kind of simple conversation gets a lot into the open and will enable you to plan together and share ideas too.

Secondly, be proactive. If you're the one who generally organises and does the shopping, wrapping, cooking etc, be proactive and ask for help and support. You may have to accept that others do things differently, and maybe not up to your standards, but a team effort gets everyone involved as well as spreading the load (even sulky teens will usually do their bit when asked).

If you're the partner of the chief organiser, then be proactive in offering support. Tip: instead of saying: "Do you need any help?" (Where the answer is often "I'm ok...") Ask: "What can I do to help today?"

Thirdly, deal with the little things before they become big things. Our natural ways of handling conflict often work against us, and instead make conflict worse. Conflict avoiders will try to avoid awkward conversations and get prickly and defensive. The rhinos will charge in and shout. Whether you're more like a hedgehog or rhino in an argument, try instead to nip problems in the bud by recognising your own rising feelings and finding positive solutions together: "I'm feeling upset about ...what can we do differently?"

Christine Daniel is a speaker and blogger for FamilyLife UK, developer of the Toucan Together resource. Toucan Together is a relationship wellness app for couples that covers friendship, intimacy, resolving conflict, love language, and money management. Visit it at www.toucanttogether.com

Registers

Holy Baptism

14 November Lucy Hope Johnston, Ballynahinch (in St Andrew's)
As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord

Christian Funerals

30 October Frances Hill, Baronscourt Avenue
3 November Henry Steele, Queenside
23 November Arenee Henderson, Killynure Crescent
"I am the Resurrection and the Life" says the Lord.

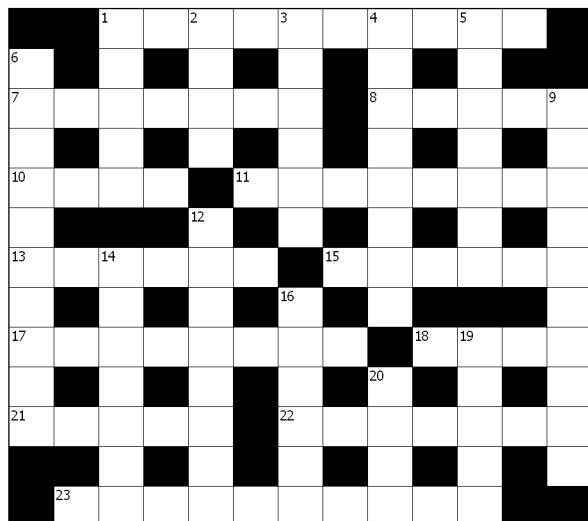
Remembering

Dr Frances Hill was remembered with gratitude at St Ignatius' Church by her many gathered friends and devoted family circle. Frances had suffered a short illness before she died and her death came as a considerable shock to many. Her career and her family were both important to her, and her espousal of the role of women in education and society were a constant in her teaching and actions in Queen's University, and as she raised her two daughters. Each member of the family, along with a lifetime friend from primary school and a colleague from Queen's Business School contributed to the detailed and illuminating eulogy on the day. Her drive and intelligence, combined with her constant sparkle and fun, made Frances a wonderful person to know. Her continual care for her late parents had prevented her from attending worship for some years, but it was a great honour to have her remembered at the church where she brought her children up to encounter the faith.

We sympathise with Brian, Sonia and Rob, and Lucy in their loss.

Mr Henry Steele passed away recently, following a brief period in hospital. His death was not anticipated as he was recovering well, and we sympathise with his family in their sorrow. Henry was a happy and fulfilled marine engineer who truly enjoyed his work at the docks at Belfast. He was a devoted husband to his dear wife, their daughter and grandchildren. As we thank God for him, we remember Eileen, Rosemary, Kyla, Roseanna and Sarah in their loss.

The funeral party for **Mrs Arenee Henderson** made the short journey from her family home to St Ignatius' Church for a heart-warming service of thanksgiving for her life. Her husband, Mike, was supported by Arenee's sisters, Donna and Gail, who paid loving tribute to her in the service, and her brother Stephen, with members of the Weatherall family. Arenee and Mike had known each other since she was 11 years of age, and their marriage and children were a source of blessing to her every day. She was a faithful worshipper in St Ignatius' from when the couple together joined the parish early in their marriage. While disliking the limelight, she was diligent in standing by her husband in his community service, and served as Mayoress of Castlereagh during her husband's time as Mayor. We thank God for her faith, and pray for all who were present at her service, that they may share the hope in the Lord that comforted Arenee so much during her final days. We express our sympathy to Michael, Michael Junior, Diana, Natasha, along with their loved ones and Arenee's five grandsons.



Across

- 1 Provisional meeting place of God and the Jews (Exodus 25:9) (10)
 7 David's third son, killed when his head got caught in a tree during a battle with his father (2 Samuel 18:14-15) (7)
 8 They ruled much of the west coast of South America in the 15th and early 16th centuries (5)
 10 Small deer of European and Asian extraction (4)
 11 Seized control of (Numbers 21:25) (8)
 13 Terror (Luke 24:5) (6)
 15 First World War heroine shot by the Germans in Brussels, Nurse Edith _____ (6)
 17 Stormy (8)
 18 A bitter variety of this, together with lamb and unleavened bread, was the Passover menu for anyone 'unclean' (Numbers 9:11) (4)
 21 Arson (anag.) (5)
 22 How John Newton described God's grace in his well-known hymn (7)
 23 Habitation (Isaiah 27:10) (10)

Down

- 1 '_____ and see that the Lord is good' (Psalm 34:8) (5)
 2 'The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as _____ as a lion' (Proverbs 28:1) (4)
 3 One of the exiles, a descendant of Parosh, who married a foreign woman (Ezra 10:25) (6)
 4 He escaped from Nob when Saul killed the rest of his family and _____ joined David (1 Samuel 22:19-20) (8)
 5 City and lake in Central Switzerland (7)
 6 'Offer your bodies as living _____, holy and pleasing to God' (Romans 12:1) (10)
 9 Pouches carried by horses (Genesis 49:14) (10)
 12 One who accepts government by God (8)
 14 Aromatic substance commonly used in Jewish ritual (Exodus 30:1) (7)
 16 He asked Jesus, 'What is truth?' (John 18:38) (6)
 19 Are (Romans 13:1) (5)
 20 'You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will _____ his people from their sins' (Matthew 1:21) (4)

Answers page 18

Lesson Readers: December and January

Day	8:30 am Epistle	10:00 am Lessons	12:00 pm Lessons
5 Dec	David Patterson	Maureen Kealey	Raine Calard
12 Dec	Keith Shaw	Susan Creber	Fiona Chew
19 Dec	Edward Darling	George Buchanan	3:00 pm Service
26 Dec	Service at 10:00	Joan Clayton	Vera Lowry
2 Jan	Mary Hewitt	Marlene Moore	John Kirkpatrick
9 Jan	Raymond Scott	Jenny Montgomery	Gary Crothers
16 Jan	Joan Clayton	Fiona Ellis	Glen Crothers
23 Jan	Ken Fletcher	Denis & Preacher	Preacher
30 Jan	Patricia Darling	Cedric Adams	Bill Connor

St Ignatius' Gift Day

Sunday 6th March 2022 is our proposed Gift Day to help towards the cost of repairing and cleaning the paint work around St Ignatius' Church. The Select Vestry seeks to identify specific costs we face each year, which need an extra dose of generosity from parishioners and friends, if we are to continue the routine ministry and mission of the church without constraint.

The new open appearance, as people pass the church building, adds weight to the need to improve the façade of the building. This work has been in anticipation for over a year as we await the completion of the planned road developments (announced in autumn 2019!). As that day approaches, we wish to hold a Gift Day to make this possible.

As readers will recall, we had no envelopes or formal appeal at Harvest in 2021, so this Gift day will give an opportunity to help meet the considerable cost of redecorating the outside of the church building. Envelopes will probably be issued with a future issue, but, if you wish to support the project now, please place your gift in an ordinary envelope marking it, 'Gift Day 2022', and include your name for Gift Aid/Receipt purposes.

ACROSS: 1, Tabernacle. 7, Absalom. 8, Incas. 10, Roes. 11, Captured. 13, Fright. 15, Cavell. 17, Cyclopic. 18, Herb. 21, Sonar. 22, Amazing. 23, Settlement.

DOWN: 1, Taste. 2, Bold. 3, Ramiah. 4, Abiathar. 5, Lucerne. 6, Sacrifices. 9, Saddlebags. 12, Theocrat. 14, Incense. 16, Pilate. 19, Exist. 20, Save.

Website & Contacts

See service times, current news sheets, all magazines and recent news at:

<https://carryduff-killaney.down.anglican.org>

Facebook: KandCd at the Crossroads - Twitter #KandCd

Rector:	Stephen Lowry, 700 Saintfield Rd, Carryduff BT8 8BU stephenlowry@me.com	078 345 84932 028 9081 2342
Diocesan Readers:	Marlene Moore mrm-moore@hotmail.co.uk Keith Shaw keith_shaw@live.co.uk	028 9081 4896 079 0193 5205
Parish Reader:	Jenny Montgomery	
Office:	Jenny Eralp killaneyandcarryduff@icloud.com	028 9081 3489
Carryduff Wardens:	Joan Clayton Jenny Montgomery	
Honorary Treasurer:		028 9081 4579
Gift Aid Secretary:	Fiona Moore	
Honorary Secretary:	Sandra Thomas	
Sexton:	Fiona Ellis	
Freewill Offering:	Susan Creber	028 9263 8798
Hall Bookings:	Sandra Thomas	
Killaney Wardens:	David Gill Florence Coulter	028 9263 9133
Verger:	Florence Coulter	028 9263 9133
Honorary Secretary:	Colin McClintock	
Covenants:	Viona Crothers	028 9751 9637
Flower Rota:	Anne Mannis	028 9751 0089
Cleaning Rota:	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.	
Panel Members are	Stephen Lowry and	
Carryduff	Marlene Moore	028 9081 4896
	Joan Nevin	028 9751 9366
Killaney	Florence Coulter	028 9263 9133
	Bill Connor	028 9263 9873

Next Edition

Please add content by Wednesday 12th January for the February Edition

J Club Fun!

Our J Club Kids enjoy all sorts of creative activities at their weekly Friday Night gatherings.

Here we see hearts, glasses, and crowns a-plenty, with drawings to illustrate the stories their leaders have been teaching them.

This essential and rewarding work comes from the great care and dedication shown by Keith and his team of workers. We thank them for their work on behalf of our children and community.

One goal mentioned by Keith, as he shared his vision for the work, was the provision of suitable bibles for the different ages of children present. We wish him well, and perhaps one or two readers will offer to join those already wanting to support this cause!



PIC•COLLAGE