

CROSSROADS

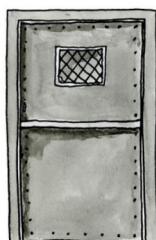


Christmas and New Year 2022-2023



Listen! I am standing at your door and knocking.

Revelation 3:20



Dear Friends	2 Used Stamps	10 Daring to Hope	17
Mothers' Union	3 J-Club News	11 Corinth in Crisis	18
St. Andrew's Union	4 December	11 Read the Bible in 2023	18
Christmas at Killaney	5 Reaching out	12 Christmas Boxes	18
Christmas Reflections <i>begin</i>	5 Community Carols	12 Parish Register	23
Christmas at St. Ignatius'	6 90 years	13 Rosters	26
We need you!	9 December - January	14 Website & Contacts	27
Ukraine	10 Denis	16 2022: A year in Pictures	28

St Andrew's Killaney | St Ignatius' Carryduff

Dear Friends

I hope you haven't allowed yourself to reach the point where you think everything new is necessarily inferior to everything old!



When you watch the Repair Shop, as clearly our new monarch does, you get the impression that the old-fashioned way of doing things, the skills which named people 'smiths' and 'wheelwrights', or identified them as 'lamplighters' or 'coopers', was always best. But then, of course, we don't employ many in the health service these days to use leeches to cure illness, nor do many landlords send small children up narrow chimney stacks.

The experience God wants his people to enjoy includes a sense of newness every morning.

No matter how many Christmases we have lived through or experienced, the next one, the new one, always has an attraction as a venture into unknown territory. Every new year brings a promise of a fresh start, even if it is only an accident of mathematics that makes it happen on that particular day rather than one somewhere else in the 365 available to us.

What 'new thing' has God in store for you, and what 'new thing' will you do this year and next?

I do not recommend new year's resolutions, but I do recognise the value of daily resolve. It is a lot simpler to give up some idle pursuit when we are well refreshed, not on the day we recover from the late nights and excessive eating, which accompany the season before us.

But every day is a new day, and we can at least try to start this one better than we did the last!

Lamentations 3 22 Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.

23 They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

24 I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for him."

We sometimes allow our weaknesses and frailty to define our days. But the prophet, Jeremiah, as he lamented his lot in this challenging book full of complaints, admitted that God's love and God's compassion must be allowed to redefine our futures. They are **new every morning**.

As we face an exciting or challenging season, whatever it is for you and me, let us lean on God's revealed majesty, and rely on his faithfulness. When all around us let us down, chiefly the person that each of us is inside, let us look to God, our Heavenly Father, who made himself known to us in the incarnation of his Son, and equips his children each day with a measure of his Spirit to go forward with hope in him.

As you read your bible (each day?) and ask God's help (each day?), and offer him thanks (for the health and strength you still enjoy), make this new year one where you look forward to each day in which grace is new every morning. May you, and those you love, enjoy a blessed and holy Christmas, and a grace-filled New Year.

Stephen

Mothers' Union

Our Christmas Meeting is on Thursday 1st December in the Mitchell Room at 8.00 pm. Please come along and join us for a light supper, some Christmas music and a bit of "craic". Don't forget that all important Secret Santa gift!



Our first meeting of 2023 (can you believe it!) will be on Thursday 5th January at the usual time of 8.00 pm when we will be joined by Dr Richard Tubman who will talk about his work in Vietnam.

We were delighted to host The Mothers' Union Diocesan Overseas Evening in St Ignatius' on November 7th. The speaker was the MU Worldwide President, Mrs Sheran Harper. Sheran gave us an amazing and, at some stages, a harrowing account of the work of the Mothers' Union around the world.

The MU focus is on 3 main issues - literacy, gender-based violence and climate change. The aim of the literacy and financial programme is to train volunteers who can then run literacy circles in their own towns and villages. 200,000 men and women have availed of this programme, enabling families to be more self-sufficient and to better manage their finances. Gender-based violence is a menace the world over. Sheran shared stories of how the MU has helped build fences to protect the girls in a remote village from violent miners, and of the " Boys to Men" Programme", which helps young men deal with the psychological effects of witnessing violence in their homes, thus preventing a repeat of this in future generations.

The effects of climate change are being felt most by isolated communities in the Indian and Pacific Oceans, where the MU is offering practical help to prevent the islands from disappearing altogether!

In 2022 the MU helped improve the lives of 1.9 million people. In 2023 they plan to help 2.9 million. A big task but as Sheran says, "With God, nothing is impossible!"



Mrs Sheran Harper with Vera, Stephen, and Jenny after the Diocesan Overseas Evening.

St. Andrew's News

Rosters

Flowers:

December - Alison Gray

January - Eileen Earney



Cleaning:

December - Brian & Lyn McNeill

January - Alison Gray and Anne Mannis

The Carol Service is on Sunday 18th December, at 3.00 pm, and we are looking forward to having a cup of tea afterwards in the Hall.

Thank you to all who filled shoe boxes with Christmas gifts for children. 30 were sent from Killaney.

St Andrew's Sunday Club

Sunday Club meets at 12.00 noon during Sunday Worship. The programme is suitable for children of primary school age and consists of Bible teaching, followed by crafts and other interesting activities. Of course, a few treats are included!

We are grateful to the team for their dedication and for making Sunday Club enjoyable for the children.

During December we will meet on 4th and 11th. On Sunday 18th at 3.00 pm there is a Christmas service of readings and carols. We hope all the Sunday Club children will come, along with their families. Each child will receive a Christmas gift.

Sunday Club will reopen on 8th January.

New Year Bells

*For hope shall brighten days to come,
And memory gild the past!
Bells ring out the old and bad -
Ring in the new and good.*

Christmas doesn't come from pockets, it comes from the heart. It is not about gifts but rather the love from your family and friends.

Merry Christmas.

A person's most useful asset is not a head full of knowledge, but a heart full of love, an ear ready to listen and a hand willing to help others.



Christmas at Killaney

Lighting the Community Christmas Tree at St. Andrew's, Killaney

Come to St Andrew's Church before 5:00 pm on Sunday 4th December to enjoy some carols led by our visiting brass band, some refreshments from our team members and a little gift for the children who come. The Christmas Tree, now in its third or fourth year, stands in the grass lawn in front of the church to let people, who live in Boardmills and travel through the district daily, know that the church building they pass by houses a community that celebrates the birth of our Saviour, and wants to share that good news with our neighbours. Everyone is welcome.



Combined Carols at St Andrew's

The Christmas Message in readings and carols

On Sunday 18th December at 3:00 pm, members of St Ignatius' Church have been invited by members of St Andrew's to join them in a celebration of the Christmas Message with hymns and readings. This is the first time that we have had a combined carol service, and this year we meet in the smaller of the two churches and look forward to enjoying a full congregation and some lovely refreshments afterwards.

On **Christmas Day** a **short celebration of Holy Communion at 9:30** will include a spot for children whom we hope will attend in good numbers as part of our celebration of Jesus' birth.

Reflections on the Christmas Story

Scattered through this seasonal edition are some reflections on the Christmas story by Tony Horsfall, a former OMF missionary to the Far East, and now retreat leader and author based in Yorkshire.

Matthew 1:18

Joseph's dilemma

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about. His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit...."

It is not clear at what point Mary told Joseph the news of her pregnancy, but when she did, it came as a bombshell. What should he do, knowing the child was not his? Could her story be true? He was however, a righteous man, and he sought God for direction rather than acting impulsively. God spoke to him through a dream, confirming that the child was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and this gave him the courage to stand by her, and take her as his wife. It was a brave decision, but he now knew that the child would be the One to save people from their sins.

It is easy when we have difficult decisions to make to be impetuous or hasty, but the best decisions are made slowly and with prayer. When you

Christmas at St. Ignatius'

Christmas Wreath-making

On Monday 5th of December 2 sessions of Christmas wreath-making are taking place in the church hall at Carryduff. The first is at 10.00 am and the second is at 7.00 pm. The idea is that all the equipment is provided, some skilled guidance is given on the different ways that you can create your own personal creation, and then you bring it home! The cost is £25, which includes refreshments and your wreath with all the trimmings. In order to ensure we have the right amount of resources, you need to book this. Please do so using the forms in the Jeremy Taylor Chapel at Carryduff, or by contacting Vera Lowry, by phone or by messaging her on 07449629276. We have reached the maximum spaces at the evening session: still a few available at 10:00 am. Please book as soon as you can.

The Wednesday Lunch

Wednesday 7th December at 12.15 pm

The midweek fellowship looks forward each year to the opportunity to put on a Christmas Lunch for themselves, their guests and friends in time for Christmas. It has all the usual flavours and all the usual excitement, and we have invited children from Carryduff Primary School to join us to sing some of their wonderful music and to help us sing a carol or two as well.

There is no charge, as such, for the lunch as we normally have raised enough during weekly refreshments over the year. The last two years have seen a break in these routine donations so, if you would like to make a contribution this year, please do so.

Scouts Carol Service

Sunday 11th December at 6:00 pm

As Scouts prepare for Christmas they organise a Carol Service in the local community. This year the service features members of the different sections participating in reading, drama and music, designed to tell the story in a fresh way.

We look forward to a great evening, followed by light refreshments in the hall. We wish the Scouts, their families and their friends a very happy Christmas.

You are invited to Christmas with Cadenza

Monday 12th December at 7:30 pm

Cadenza Choir directed by Michael McCracken

Admission at the door: £12 | Children under 12: free

Includes light refreshments

We thank Dr Michael McCracken for his offer of holding the concert here for local people to enjoy.

The Nativity Service

Sunday 18th December at 10:00 am followed by Festive Refreshments

Our Christmas Service for the whole congregation this year takes place on the morning of 18th December in Carryduff Church. We look forward to hearing the reading of the Christmas Story by children from J Club and Sunday Club, and we look forward to seeing them enjoy refreshments afterwards. The children will be presented with the Bibles provided by M.U.

In the afternoon, we have been invited by St Andrew's to join them in a Combined Carol Service in Killaney at 3:00 pm.

Leave some room for more refreshments afterwards too, as the folks at Killaney like to put on a special spread at Christmas time.

Midnight Communion

Saturday 24th December

Refreshments at 11:00 pm, service begins around 11:20 pm

We gather in St Ignatius' as Christmas Day arrives and share the annual reminder of the good news of Jesus' birth. A drink of hot chocolate or a cool soft drink, with maybe a shortbread or mince pie will give us a chance to catch up with one another before having fellowship around the Lord's Table.

Christmas Communion

Christmas Day at 8:30 am

Our weekly early communion will take place DV, as usual at 8:30 am on Christmas Day.

The Christmas Morning Family Gathering

Christmas Day at 10:30 am

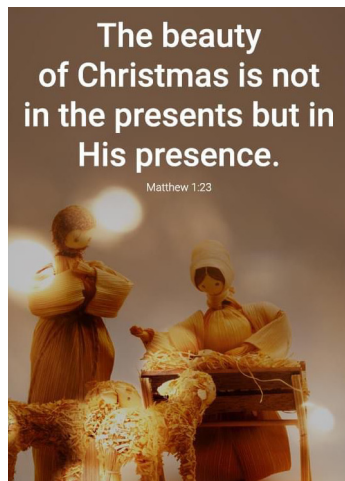
Our regular Christmas Morning service takes place at the slightly later time of 10:30 to accommodate the demands of a busy day. See you all then!

Midweek Communion Changes

There will be no Midweek Communion on Wednesday 28th December, and the following week the midweek service will DV take place on **Friday** 6th January, the Feast of Epiphany, at 10:00 am.

Thanks

We thank all who have contributed to the Christmas events in both our churches. Your generous spirit has enriched us all year by year. See you there!



Smile Lines

Seasonal smiles

Children's version of the Christmas story

- When the three wise guys from the east side arrived, they found Jesus in the manger.
- When Mary heard that she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta
- Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.
- What do you call Santa's helpers? - Subordinate Clauses.
- What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire? - Frostbite.
- A little boy rushed home from school and said excitedly: "I got a part in the Christmas play!"
- "What part?" asked his mother.
- "I'm one of the three wise guys!"
- Any astronomer can predict with absolute accuracy just where every star in the universe will be when the clock chimes midnight on Christmas Eve. He can make no such prediction about his teenage daughter. - Anon.

Did you know?

The online version of this magazine uses no paper, does not need recycled, and is available throughout the two months of its lifespan on your phone tablet or computer?

At this season we always produce printed versions for everyone, to help people in your homes who do not receive a digital copy, to see what's happening. If you are such a person, why not sign up for your own copy? If there are five people in your home the five digital copies cost... what is five times nothing? . . nothing at all.

You can sign up for the other people interested, if they ask, as they will still have complete control over their name on the online list.

Oh! And the digital copy has linked sections which direct you to more information on line too! Try clicking the Table of Contents on page one!

Matthew 1:22

Long-awaited Immanuel

All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means 'God with us')... And Joseph gave Him the name Jesus.

The plan of salvation is intimately connected to the Old Testament, and was the fulfilment of prophecies made long ago. God was sending His Son into the world that we might be saved. God is with us – this astonishing, mind-blowing truth underpinned Joseph's straight-forward trust in Him. Today as you get on with your life, pray that the wonder of knowing that God is with you will never be far from your awareness.

We need you!

Carryduff Vestry is continuing to identify the extent of the renovation work needed to preserve our church and hall facilities into the future. The proceeds from the recent Harvest Appeal have been added to our "Fabric Fund" and we have now turned our attention to other fundraising efforts.



A Fundraising Committee has been formed (Tanya Adams, Victoria Frazer, David Nevin and Keith Shaw), but we need your help to make our plans for a programme of events over the next 3 to 4 years a reality. Vestry members have agreed to concentrate on a small number of events during 2023, which we hope will appeal both to parishioners and the wider community - these include a Film Night at the Tudor Cinema in Comber and a Christmas Tree Festival.

And where do you fit in to all of this? We hope that you will want to support us in whatever way you can - whether by attending yourself and encouraging others, or offering us your time and talents and, most importantly, enthusiasm for our plans. In order to spread the load, it would be great if you would let us know how you could contribute to helping make these fundraising efforts happen -

- could you get involved with the advance publicity (distributing flyers/ selling tickets)?
- how about helping to set-up for an event?
- could you do some baking for us?
- would you serve refreshments?
- will you welcome people at the door?

If the answer to any (or all) of these is "YES", please put your name on the relevant list or lists on the Blue Boards, which will appear in the Jeremy Taylor Chapel soon. It would be our intention to then bring together a group of willing participants, as we begin to develop and plan for each event, which will be coordinated by the Committee Members.

We look forward to providing new opportunities for fellowship among parishioners and with those in the local community, while at the same time, building up the Fabric Fund to tackle the very necessary work which will need to be carried out in our church and hall buildings in the future..

"Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain" (Psalm 127:1)

Ukraine



An update from our Ukrainian correspondent.

A massive supporter of the Ukrainian people, David Greer, is in the final stages of preparing to make his second trip to Ukraine. David will be travelling to the war-torn country in the coming weeks with communication apparatus, water

pumps and much-needed medical supplies.

When the war broke out, David had satellite equipment in his garage and set about planning to get it over to Ukraine to help people in the border regions.

When the infrastructure was destroyed in the early stages of the conflict, a lot of people were separated from their loved ones. When residents were fleeing the country through the neighbouring borders, records were very sparse and were being recorded on paper, rather than electronically. Now, the re-established satellite connection is allowing records to be kept digitally, along with a photograph of the person, and this is helping to reunite families who had lost their relatives.

The focus of this visit is to supply water purification tablets and village water filtration systems. As the conflict has continued, water pumping stations have been attacked and people, especially in rural parts of the country, have no access to clean drinking water. The water is stagnant, and people are becoming ill.

To date, David has tablets to purify over two million litres of clean drinking water. He also has 12 water pumps of different sizes, but his goal is to take 20 pumps. David will be taking supplies of medical aid, off-the-shelf medication, dry foods, baby products and personal hygiene goods for children. Some of these were donated by parishioners and friends of St Ignatius'.

David has raised almost £7,000 to support the people of Ukraine via an online fundraising page. If you'd like to donate, please visit <https://www.gofundme.com/f/ni-support-for-ukraine>

Thank you.

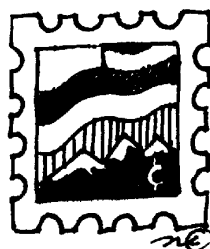
Jenny (*on behalf of Marina from Ukraine*)

Used Stamps

Both churches are collecting used stamps for use by charities to raise funds. All donated stamps in both churches will go for the benefit of The Leprosy Mission.

Please leave a minimum of 1 cm margin of paper around the stamps and leave your collection in the boxes near the wardens' tables in each church.

Thank you.



J=Club News

December

J Club

We are meeting on just two Fridays this month.

- Friday 2 Pantomime at Carryduff Community Church
We will meet at the church hall at 6.45 pm.
Friday 9 Nativity Rehearsal & The gathering Drum

J Club Plus

Sunday 18 December at 10.00am
Nativity play and Christmas Party

Both J Club groups and Sunday Club will be retelling the Christmas story. Afterwards, everyone, including members of the congregation, will be invited to a Christmas party in the hall.

Please bring the whole family to this special Christmas service.

J Club groups will close on that day and reopen on Friday 6 January at 7.00pm.

Leaders' Christmas Lunch - date to be confirmed

We wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a peaceful new year.

Luke 2:1-7

Bethlehem

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world... so Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped Him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

This is perhaps the most familiar picture we have of the Christmas event—but remember what was happening. This was no ordinary child. In Jesus, God became a human being and dwelt among us, perhaps the greatest miracle (and mystery) of all. As you visualise the scene again, let worship arise in your heart: 'From heaven you came, helpless Babe, entered our world your glory veiled'. Emmanuel, God with us! The Servant King, worthy of all our adoration and love.

LORD God, in this season please help me to live in the wonder of your upside-down Kingdom, where your love for us compels you to become helpless, vulnerable & dependent. May your Kingdom come in & through my life today.

Reaching out with our Monthly Offering for Mission envelopes

We thank all those who regularly give gifts to the outreach fund operated by Carryduff parish. Each year, the vestry determines which organisations will benefit from these, sometimes suggested by parishioners and supported in the past.

In 2023, as in 2022, we will give a regular sum to the six major organisations we support, in quarterly instalments, and complete the subscriptions to all at the end of the year. The six receive around 80% of the donations given, and the remaining receive small sums drawn from the remaining 20%. We will not know how much each cause will receive until members have made their donations each quarter. A white envelope is included with the FWO envelopes and you can use these to contribute to these worthy and vital causes.

As a rough guideline (rounded up), the causes supported and the proportion they receive will, DV, be as follows:

• CMSI (Olo Diocese)	24%
• SAMS	12%
• Intercontinental Church Society	12%
• Christian Aid	15%
• Bible Society NI	9%
• Habitat	9%
• SU NI and St Petersburg	8%
• International Justice Ministry	6%
• Christian Blind Mission	3%
• Love for Life	2%
• The Larder	2%

Community Carols



Carryduff Connect Community Carols

Lough Moss Centre 4:00 pm Sunday 11 December.

The children from some local schools will be represented by their choirs at this year's Community Carols, organised by the Connect Clergy in the area.. Refreshments are available afterwards for any who would like them. Seeing the huge gymnasium populated by people welcoming Jesus with the Christmas Message will also do your heart good.

Why not invite your friends to come to your place for lunch, and then bring them to the service, or invite them to come home for refreshments afterwards?

90 years

Broadcasting the Royal Christmas Messages

This year we shall have our first Royal Christmas Message from King Charles III. He follows in a tradition that spans three generations.

It was 90 years ago, on 25th December 1932, that the first Royal Christmas Message was broadcast on radio. King George V addressed the nation live from Sandringham. A quarter of a century later, on 25th December 1957, the Christmas message by Queen Elizabeth II was televised for the first time.

King George V had been asked to broadcast a Christmas message in 1922, but at the time he felt that radio was for entertainment, and therefore not suitable. Ten years later, after a visit to the BBC, he was persuaded otherwise, and agreed to do it as part of the inauguration of the new Empire Service (now the World Service).

The time chosen was 3:00 pm because it was the best time for reaching most countries in the Empire. In fact, the first message started five minutes late and lasted only two and a half minutes, but it made a massive impact and established itself as a regular Christmas Day event.

Edward VIII never delivered a Christmas broadcast, but King George VI continued the tradition, using it to encourage people during the second world war. Queen Elizabeth II broadcast her first Christmas message in 1952, again from a room at Sandringham, and five years later agreed that her Christmas message could be televised – live. She proved to be a natural broadcaster.

But times changed, and in 1960 the message was pre-recorded from Buckingham Palace, which meant that it could be sent to Commonwealth countries for broadcast at a convenient time. However, the 3:00 pm UK broadcast continued every year – except 1969, when the Queen wrote a message instead, believing that the Royal Family had received enough exposure with the TV documentary *Royal Family*, which had aired in the summer.

But the tradition was resumed the following year. The Christmas message is now also available each year as a podcast and can be seen through Facebook and YouTube. King Charles III is expected to give his first Christmas message this year.

Smile Lines

New Year's Eve is coming soon...

The bagpipes are the missing link between music and noise. - E K Kruger

The inventor of the bagpipes was inspired when he saw a man carrying an indignant asthmatic piglet under his arm. Unfortunately, the man-made sound never equalled the purity of the sound achieved by the pig. - Alfred Hitchcock.

Bring not a bagpipe to a man in trouble. - Jonathan Swift.

December

27 November

Advent 1

(Purple)

- 8:30 Early Communion in Carryduff
Romans 13:11-14 Matthew 24:36-44
- 10:00 Celebrate at Ten in Carryduff
2 Corinthians 8:1-9
- 12:00 All-Age Worship with Sunday Club in Killaney
2 Corinthians 8:1-9

30 November

Wednesday

- 10:00 St Andrew's Day Midweek Communion
- 7:30 A Mind of their own at Dundonald Baptist
by Care for the Family. Visit cff.org.uk/moto Tickets £7

4 December

Advent 2

(Purple)

- 8:30 Early Communion One in Carryduff
Romans 15:4-13 Matthew 3:1-12
- 10:00 Parish Communion in Killaney
Romans 15:4-13 Matthew 3:1-12
- 12:00 Parish Communion in Killaney
Romans 15:4-13 Matthew 3:1-12
- 5:00 Community Christmas Tree Lighting at Killaney

7 December

Wednesday

- 11:30 Midweek Communion in Carryduff
Isaiah 40:25-31 Matthew 11:28-30
- 12:15 Christmas Lunch (please sign up) in Carryduff Hall

11 December

Advent 3

(Purple)

- 8:30 Early Communion in Carryduff
James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11
- 10:00 Sunday Morning Worship in Carryduff
Isaiah 35:1-10 Psalm 146:5-10 Matthew 11:2-11
- 12:00 Sunday Morning Worship in Killaney
Isaiah 35:1-10 Psalm 146:5-10 Matthew 11:2-11
- 4:00 Community Carols in Lough Moss Centre
- 6:00 Scouts Carol Service in Carryduff

14 December

Wednesday

- 10:00 Midweek Communion in Carryduff
Isaiah 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25 Luke 7:18b-23

18 December

Advent 4

(Purple)

- 8:30 Early Communion in Carryduff
Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-25
- 10:00 Nativity Service and Refreshments in Carryduff
- 3:00 Combined Carol Service at Killaney

21 December

Wednesday

- 10:00 Midweek Communion & Mince Pies in Carryduff
Zephaniah 3:14-19 Luke 1:39-45

24 December

Saturday

(White)

- 11:00 Midnight Communion in Carryduff

25 December

Christmas Day

- 8:30 Early Communion in Carryduff
- 9:30 Christmas Communion at Killaney
- 10:30 Christmas Morning Worship in Carryduff

January

1 January	The Naming of Jesus	(White)
8:30	Early Communion Numbers 6:22-27 Luke 2:15-21	in Carryduff
10:00	New Year Communion Numbers 6:22-27 Luke 2:15-21	in Carryduff
12:00	New Year Communion Numbers 6:22-27 Luke 2:15-21	in Killaney
6 January	Friday The Feast of the Epiphany	
10:00	Midweek Communion 1 John 3:7-10 John 1:35-42	in Carryduff
8 January	Epiphany 1	(White)
8:30	Early Communion Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 3:13-17	in Carryduff
10:00	Sunday Morning Worship Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 3:13-17	in Carryduff
12:00	Sunday Morning Worship in Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 3:13-17	Killaney
11 January	Wednesday	
10:00	Midweek Communion Hebrews 2:14-18 Mark 1:29-39	in Carryduff
15 January	Epiphany 2	(White)
8:30	Early Communion 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 John 1:29-42	in Carryduff
10:00	Sunday Morning Worship Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 40:1-12 1 Corinthians 1:1-9	in Carryduff
12:00	Sunday Morning Worship Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 40:1-12 1 Corinthians 1:1-9	in Killaney
18 January	Wednesday	
10:00	Midweek Communion Hebrews 7:1-3,15-17 Mark 3:1-6	in Carryduff
22 January	Epiphany 3	(White)
8:30	Early Communion 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 Matthew 4:12-23	in Carryduff
10:00	Celebrate at Ten 1 Corinthians 1:10-18	in Carryduff
12:00	All-Age Worship with Sunday Club 1 Corinthians 1:10-18	in Killaney
25 January	Wednesday The Conversion of Paul	(White)
10:00	Midweek Communion Acts 9:1-22 Matthew 19:27-30	in Carryduff
29 January	Epiphany 4	(White)
8:30	Early Communion Corinthians 1:18-31 Matthew 5:1-12	in Carryduff
10:00	Sunday Morning Worship Micah 6:1-8 Psalm 15 1 Corinthians 1:18-31	in Carryduff
12:00	Sunday Morning Worship Micah 6:1-8 Psalm 15 1 Corinthians 1:18-31	in Killaney



Awakening

The coming of the Christmas season ignites in me a beacon of hope. We will be celebrating the arrival into our world of a new dawn. The child born in Bethlehem over 2000 years ago was – and still is – destined to be the redeemer of our often fractious and difficult world.

This could be a time of great awakening. I wonder what you might think of my poetic musings on the possibility of a more gracious age to come.

Awakening

I have been dreaming of an age to come,
A good age when men of diverse heritage
Will be together as one.
We should get ready,
Not with tinsel and fairy lights
But with a quiet sense of preparation,
For an Advent will come,
A quiet awakening heralded by a bright star
In a clear and dark blue sky.
It is the dark blue of deep contemplation
As the raucous movers and shakers of our age
Fade into that obscure mediocrity
Where they belong.
The deep red rage of tribal carnage
And of the blood of conflict
Will give way to a new shared dawn
With grace to renew our world,
For this old and fractious age is dying.
A new age is coming to birth -
A stable age, quietly manged into life.

All of this was prompted some years ago by a personal reflection on the real spirit of Christmas.

Denis Carson

Poem from "Reaching Out" 2016

Daring to Hope

Demanding and thought provoking series continues

We have been discovering what the language of lament means in the words of the Bible. In each of the first few (of 5) sessions, those present have been able to ask the unthinkable questions which spring to mind when life goes wrong. It has been strangely difficult at times, yet inwardly rewarding, to enter into the struggle of putting into words our desires and longings for help from God.

We thank all who are attending for making the event worthwhile for others, as much of the programme involved sharing our own thoughts and reflections in conversation together.

The Living Room at the Hub

Mondays and Fridays between 10:00 am and 1:00 pm

Just started on 21st November is a twice-weekly opportunity to meet in the comfort and warmth of the Hub beside the Library, to enjoy refreshments together.

With the cold weather arriving and costs of heating rising, it makes sense to warm each other up with a bit of chat in warm surroundings. The project will develop as take-up rises.

We are looking for groups of 2/3 volunteers from the parish to help offer a welcome as part of a roster, involving five churches in the community.

If you would like to help, simply by being there to chat and make others feel at ease, please come along. The Hub also is the location where the Storehouse Foodbank is situated, and you may like to invite someone who could benefit from that as well.

Luke 2:8-12

The Shepherds arrive

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

The first visitors are not VIPs but humble shepherds who have been summoned by an angelic visitor. For those who have eyes to see, there hidden in the manger beneath the blankets, is the Son of God, the one sent by the Father to be the Saviour of the world. Very few of those crowded into Bethlehem that night were aware of what was happening. Only those with faith could recognise the arrival of the long-awaited Messiah. It is the same today.

Lord, I pray for eyes to see where the glory of Heaven touches earth. May I be alive today with the truth that the Saviour, rescuer, King Jesus has been born 'to us' and that there is joy in this for all people. May my life reflect that glory even in a small way in my interactions with people, so that in this Christmas season the good news of great joy will be known.

Corinth in Crisis

Sermon themes for Sundays in January

1 January: The Naming of Jesus

What a great way to start the New Year: in God's house around God's Table. Some special congregational prayers will be used as a way of enabling us to commit the year ahead to the service of God for the sake of the community.

8 January

We are pleased to have Bishop Alan Abernethy lead worship at Carryduff on Sunday 8th January at both the 8:30 am Communion and 10:00 am services. We look forward to having Alan back in the parish as he now has retired from the duties of Connor Diocese, which he led for 12 years.

15 January: CORINTH in CRISIS

A clash of cultures, A city of contrasts, A community in crisis. 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

22 January: CALLED to be CHURCH (briefer sermon at Celebrate at Ten)

Called to be an apostle, a holy people, and to be people in fellowship with Christ. 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

29 January: CRISIS of the CROSS

Compromised, Conflicted and Crossed Out 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

5 February: CONTRAST between WORD AND WORLD

The weakness and wisdom of the world versus the folly of the cross 1 Corinthians 2:1-12,13-16

Read the Bible in 2023 Bible Society Reading Guide

Included within (most of) the print versions of this magazine are copies of a daily Bible Reading Guide, provided for the year ahead by the Bible Society in Northern Ireland.

We hope that at least one of you in your family circle or household will attempt to begin (or continue) a daily reading habit so that you give God an opportunity at the heart of your day to speak to you.

If you would like spare copies, they are also available on the church porch tables. There is no charge.

Thank you to our distributors for delivering the materials.

Christmas Boxes

Some 90 boxes, 60 from Carryduff and 30 from Killaney, were delivered to the collection centre at Knockbreda on Monday 14 November. It is hoped that some of this year's gifts will warm the hearts of children in Ukraine. We await news of the distribution later in 2023.

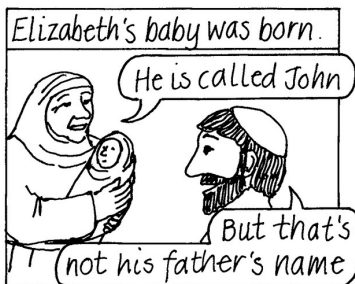
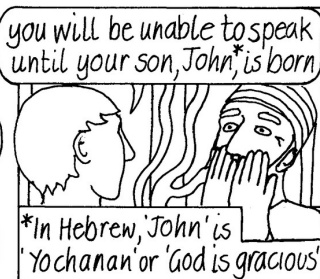
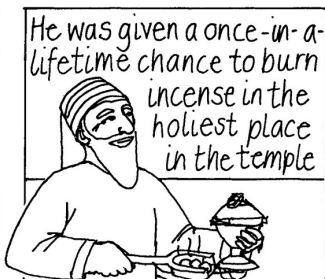
Thank you to Denis and Dave - a good name for a double-act(!) - for promoting and delivering the project this year, and to the many people who kindly prepared the boxes at home. Operation Christmas Child is a ministry of Samaritans Purse.

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Luke ch.1 verses 1-25 & 57-80

The Romans had invaded Israel and still ruled it. Zechariah and Elizabeth were an old childless couple living in the hill country.



Luke 2:13-15

Angel hosts

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.'

The darkness of the Judean hillside was lit up by the appearance of a great angelic choir; messengers sent to herald the birth of the Saviour. Their song breaks the stillness of the night, first in praise of God for his act of mercy in sending the Son, and then in proclamation of the peace the child will bring to earth. The shepherds now decide to do the unthinkable -leave their flocks, and head off into town to see the new born King. Such is the drawing power of the Saviour.

Sometimes there are things we too must leave behind if we are to follow his call, but whatever sacrifice is needed, it will be worth it just to find him for ourselves.

Smile Lines

Christmas card

Richard, my husband, and I had a hectic Christmas holiday schedule involving work, care of parents, driving of teenagers, shopping, and all the required doings of the season. Running out of time, I asked a local printer to simply print our name on our Christmas cards, to save me signing each one.

Soon we started getting cards from friends signed 'The Modest Morrisons', 'The Clever Clarks', and 'The Successful Smiths'. This baffled me until I looked again at our card. I had posted out a hundred cards neatly imprinted with 'Happy Holidays from the Rich Armstrongs'.

Good home

After the christening of his baby brother in church, young Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, "That minister said he wanted us to be brought up in a good Christian home, but I want to stay with you guys."

Lord's Prayer, updated

I had been teaching my three-year-old daughter, Caitlin, the Lord's Prayer. For several evenings at bedtime, she would repeat after me the lines from the prayer. Finally, she decided to go solo. I listened with pride as she carefully enunciated each word right up to the end of the prayer. Then she implored: "and lead us not into temptation but deliver us some e-mail."

US elections

Edward Hale, while chaplain of the U.S. Senate, was once asked if he prayed for the senators. He quickly replied, "No. After getting to know the senators, I pray for the people."

Presents

December is the month when the children begin to discuss what to get Dad for Christmas. Some insist on getting him a shirt, others a pair of socks. But the argument always ends in a tie.

God in the Arts

Preparing the Way By *The Revd Michael Burgess*

This month's drawing is 'The Virgin and Child' by Raphael (1483-1520). Raphael was a talented artist from a very early age, but this drawing belongs to a time when he was in Rome from 1510-12. The finished painting is known as the Mackintosh Madonna, after its last owner.

This drawing, or cartoon, was the first stage in creating that work: it is in black chalk with heightening marks of white. When an artist made an initial drawing like this, he would then prick the cartoon with holes and then sprinkle charcoal powder over the drawing to reproduce the design on the canvas below. The pinholes on this drawing are still clearly visible. Sadly the final painting has been damaged through time, but here in the cartoon we see that first stage: a sensitive and balanced picture of mother and child: Mary warm and caring, Jesus laughing and alive.

During Advent we think of the preparations God made for the birth of the Saviour. We celebrate God's work of creation and how He chose a people for His own. Within that people He looked for a holy remnant and then, finally, a loving heart in the assent of Mary to be the mother of our Lord. These preparatory steps were as vital for our salvation as the artist moving from idea to sketch to the finished work.

Each stage is important; each stage a revelation of life and love. Vasari wrote of Raphael that in his paintings 'the flesh palpitates, the breath comes and goes, every organ lives, and life pulsates everywhere.' Even this preliminary drawing displays that life and vitality. It is a life we celebrate at Christmas in the birth of a child who turns to us, as he does in this work, as a sign of joy and love.



Luke 2:16-20

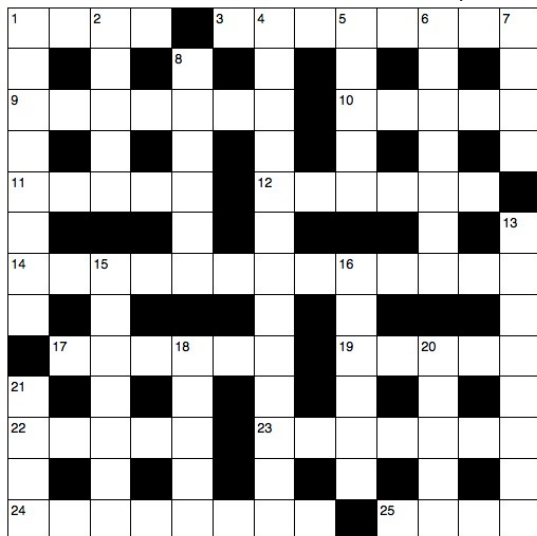
Mary ponders

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ... Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen...

The shepherds became the first evangelists, proclaiming the good news... That was their response, and it should be ours too.

But for Mary there followed a time of reflection. Exuberant witness and quiet contemplation are not opposites. They are in fact good companions in the spiritual life.

Thank you, LORD Jesus, that you are still found when we search for you. May I be willing to share the discovery I've made with others at this time. But I also want to know you better in my inner life, too. Please give me that balance of active following and heart-pondering reflection, especially in this Christmas season.



Across

- 1 'How long will you — your face from me?' (Psalm 13:1) (4)
- 3 'Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the — he bore' (Hebrews 13:13) (8)
- 9 Posh sin (anag.) (Romans 8:15) (7)
- 10 Solemn pledges (Matthew 5:33) (5)
- 11 Italian term for full orchestra (5)
- 12 'For he who avenges blood remembers; he does not — the cry of the afflicted' (Psalm 9:12) (6)
- 14 Prescience (1 Peter 1:2) (13)
- 17 Where a Hindu holy man lives (6)
- 19 'If he found any... who belonged to the Way, whether — — women, he might take them as prisoners' (Acts 9:3) (3,2)
- 22 Fragrance (2 Corinthians 2:15) (5)
- 23 Vine hen (anag.) (Jonah 1:2) (7)
- 24 Precious stone decorating the twelfth foundation of the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:20) (8)
- 25 'Will you keep to the old path that evil men have — ?' (Job 22:15) (4)

Down

- 1 'Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with — — ' (Numbers 20:11) (3,5)
- 2 'You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, " — — murder"' (Matthew 5:21) (2,3)
- 4 One of Paul's many hardships endured as a servant of God (2 Corinthians 6:5) (13)
- 5 'We ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, — inwardly' (Romans 8:23) (5)
- 6 Changed (Daniel 6:8) (7)
- 7 'My yoke is — and my burden is light' (Matthew 11:30) (4)
- 8 Recoil (Revelation 12:11) (6)
- 13 'O Lord, you have — me and you know me' (Psalm 139:1) (8)
- 15 ' — to me the joy of your salvation' (Psalm 51:12) (7)
- 16 Express sorrow (Isaiah 16:7) (6)
- 18 'Then he said to Thomas, " — out your hand and put it into my side"' (John 20:27) (5)
- 20 'God has said, " — will I leave you; — will I forsake you"' (Hebrews 13:5) (5)
- 21 Son of Onam and brother of Shammai (1 Chronicles 2:28) (4)

Answers on page 24

Parish Register Christian Funerals

I am the Resurrection and the Life

17 November William (Bill) Clarke Beckett, Ballynahinch.

*Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord:
they are blessed indeed for they rest from their labours.*

Remembering

Bill Becket was born William Clarke Beckett on 14th May 1935, the eldest of the four children of Foster and Ellen Beckett from the Donegall Road in Belfast. He is survived by his sisters Ann Pat and Paula, and his children Neill and Lindsay and their daughters Eva and Cara.

He served as an electrician with the Belfast Corporation which later became the Housing Executive for which he worked throughout his career becoming a grants officer, a building inspector and then a senior member of staff.

He retired in 2008.

He engaged with the life of the Boys' Brigade as Captain in Down Parish, serving for some thirty years, and was a faithful member of the Loyal Institution, being honoured to be entitled to a 50 year medal as a member.

A large congregation attended his funeral in St. Andrew's, Killaney and joined with the family for refreshments afterwards.

We extend our sympathies to Bill's large circle of family and friends, and especially Audrey, on this, their time of sorrow.

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

You are welcome to avail of the services of the church when the need arises, especially when you have been able to become part of the church family before the need occurs.

If you have had a child in the last few months or years, and would consider asking God to play a part in his or her life, with your help as parents and godparents to them, then ask for baptism. **Get in touch** with the rector, Stephen Lowry. 078 345 84932. Adults too are welcome to consider this step.

If you are planning to join in marriage and seek God's help to make your union strong and filled with his love, then **get in touch**. Marriages are usually arranged a long way in advance, but four weeks notice is probably as short as time as is allowed by law these days.

Times of great sorrow come to all of us, and it is great to know that there is a place and there are people who can help us bid farewell to our loved ones in the setting of a church or religious service in Funeral Home or Crematorium. It means *so much more* when the place and the people are known to you and your loved one.

If you sense that time drawing near, please feel free to **get in touch** with us. We will do what we can to help.

Poignant Remembrance Service

With young people sharing the silence

After several years of rather quiet acts of remembrance, we were pleased to be able to welcome back uniformed organisations, with their leaders and families, to take part in the annual service of remembrance on 13th November 2022. It was good to have so many young people present to experience the solemnity of the day and to help them understand the futility of war and the awfulness of losing so many young lives with all their skills and potential. For us, who are further on in life, it was a reminder of the sacrifice paid by the thousands of young men and women in the cause of freedom and peace.

We thank the members of the scouts and the guide movements for their attendance and their support of the whole congregation in this significant act. We were accompanied in both Carryduff and Killaney by David Gill on the pipes, Elizabeth Mahood on the trumpet, and Michelle Hudson on the organ. It was a significant moment to be singing “God save the King” at such an event for the first time in living memory for most of us.

Parish Distributions

We are grateful to the members of both parishes who spend time each month or each season distributing magazines and news items about the activities of our parishes. In particular, those who have gone out to new homes and areas to deliver the brochures published of late, as well as the special invitations to events at Christmas and Harvest.

The “Welcome” brochures are available in the church porches to enable you to invite your neighbours to come to your parish anytime. Your invitation will help people find the welcome we all seek to proffer in our two churches, St Andrew’s and St Ignatius’.

Calling all Tablecloths!

“Where are all the linen tablecloths?” came the cry from the kitchen! They seem to have done a disappearing act. If you have borrowed or kindly taken a tablecloth home to wash, could we ask that you return it as soon as you can? Alternatively, if you have a white linen tablecloth that needs a new home, we would be delighted to take it off your hands. Many thanks!



ACROSS: 1, Hide. 3, Disgrace. 9, Sonship. 10, Oaths. 11, Tutti. 12, Ignore. 14, Foreknowledge. 17, Ashram. 19, Men or. 22, Aroma. 23, Nineveh. 24, Amethyst. 25, Trod.

DOWN: 1, His staff. 2, Do not. 4, Imprisonments. 5, Groan. 6, Altered. 7, Easy. 8, Shrink. 13, Searched. 15, Restore. 16, Lament. 18, Reach. 20, Never. 21, Jada.



Mouse Makes

HAPPY
CHRISTMAS!

Read the Christmas story
in **Luke 2:1-21**.

Answer the questions, colour
the picture and colour one
star each day until Christmas.

Where was
Mary's baby born?
Why were Joseph
and Mary there?

What did
Mary dress
her baby in?

Where did
Mary lay
her baby
and why?

Why were the
shepherds
afraid?

What good
news did
the angel tell?

What
did the
shepherds
do after they
had seen the
baby?

Who
appeared
praising God,
what did they
say?



G L
 J O Y
 M R C
 S A Y G P
 O N V O J
 G B A B Y N G O O D A B L F
 V O S H E P H E R D S A V I O U R
 D A Y T M A R Y N E N F R R O
 S C H R I S T E P G L T D
 A L A I D R W H E O H
 E P R A I S E L C
 H E I V A L L S K
 E E A N I G H T O L D
 S M C N D E C R E E B
 E A E I S I G N
 E T D E

ALL • DECREE • JOSEPH • DAVID • BETHLEHEM • MARY • BIRTH • SON • LAID • MANGER
 INN • SHEPHERDS • FLOCK • NIGHT • LORD • GLORY • GOOD NEWS • JOY • DAY
 SAVIOUR • CHRIST • SIGN • BABY • GOD • PEACE • ANGELS • GO • SEE • TOLD • PRAISE

Rosters

Readers and Other Rotas December - January

Dec	8:30 am Epistle	10:00 am Lessons	12:00 pm Lessons
4	Mary Hewitt	Joan Clayton	Gary Crothers
11	Joan Clayton	Marlene Moore	David Gill
18	Edward Darling	J Club	Adrian, Amanda, Laura
25	Caroline Taylor	Raymond Scott	Marie Mack
Jan			
1	Raymond Scott	Denis Carson	Anne Mannis
8	David Patterson	Joan Nevin	Annie Kirkpatrick
15	Patricia Darling	Trevor Dunlop	Gillian Grant
22	Ken Fletcher	Anna McConnell	John Kirkpatrick
29	Edward Darling	Fiona Ellis	Terry Barbour
Dec	Flowers	Refreshments	Screens
4			Maureen Kealey
11	Norah Brown		Andrew Thomas
18			Fiona Ellis
25			Jenny Montgomery

I heard the Bells on Christmas Day

I heard the bells on Christmas day
 Their old familiar carols play,
 And wild and sweet the words repeat
 Of peace on earth, good will to men.

I thought how, as the day had come,
 The belfries of all Christendom
 Had rolled along th'unbroken song
 Of peace on earth, good will to men.

And in despair I bowed my head:

'There is no peace on earth,' I said

For hate is strong, and mocks the
 song

Of peace on earth, good will to men.'

Then pealed the bells more loud and
 deep:

'God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
 The wrong shall fail, the right
 prevail,
 With peace on earth, good will to
 men.'

Till, ringing, singing on its way,
 The world revolved from night to
 day

A voice, a chime, a chant sublime
 Of peace on earth, good will to men.

By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

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:	Cedric Adams Raymond Scott	
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:	Marie Mack Adrian Cousins	
Verge:	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 is the February Edition.

Please submit copy by Monday 16 January to killaneyandcarryduff@icloud.com for publishing on Friday 27 January at 2.00 pm

2022: A year in Pictures



Partnering with Bishops Tandema and Moses through CMSI



Helping refugees from Ukraine, giving 90 Christmas Gifts, and Lenten Appeal,



Supporting Children, Families and Mothers' Union Members



Celebrating a Jubilee and Remembering our Queen

Thank you for reading the Christmas and New Year edition of Crossroads

