



CROSSROADS

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Dear Friends

We all like to use categories for people: we recognise everyone is unique, but we try to sort them into groups, based on nationality, gender, interests, personality traits, and even wealth or status come into play when we think of others. Yet, it is very dangerous as we can very quickly assume that all the worst traits of the worst person in that category are typical of all members of that group.

If you have ever *thought* that **all** of those people are **the same**, then we are guilty of that fault. Only getting to know the individual, and spending time to do so, can break through that narrowness of outlook.

Racism is just one of the forms of prejudice that is prevalent in society today. The word prejudice means pre-judging and it sneaks up on us unaware every time we presume a person's character is the same as another member of that group of people.

"They are all the same" is a dangerous untruth that followers of Jesus must avoid thinking or stating.

Back in the bible, in Paul's short letter to Titus, he warns of such prejudicial talk coming from one of the prophets in Crete, and asks that they be silenced:

They must be silenced, because they are disrupting whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach—and that for the sake of dishonest gain. One of Crete's own prophets has said it: "Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons." Titus 1:11–12.

I hope you will help me if ever I speak words of prejudice where I categorise a 'sort of people' together and speak ill of them.

I hope you will be cautious lest you do the same.

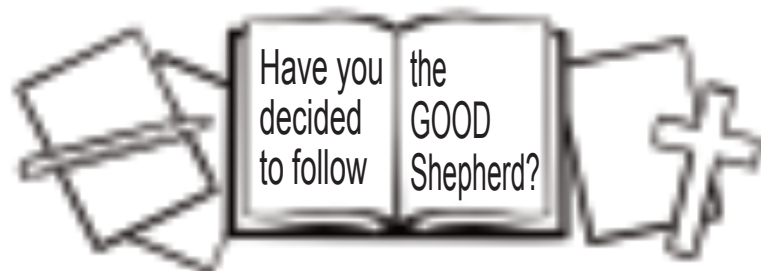
In the rest of the magazine, I will include some 'categories' which are used to define Jesus' followers. I wonder how many of you will happily apply these 'labels' to yourself? Let me know.

Stephen

Our Cover Picture is by Joe Pregadio

Disciples, *like sheep*, need to **find** and **follow** the Good Shepherd if they are to live fruitfully and arrive safely.

Have you found Christ yet?



Mothers' Union

It was wonderful to have so many of our friends along on a cold, windy January night to hear Richard Tubman talk about his experiences volunteering with "newborns Vietnam".



Richard is a retired Consultant paediatrician who has made 5 trips to Vietnam. The infant mortality rate in Hanoi is 21.5 deaths per 1000 live births. The primary focus of the charity is to strengthen the capacity and skills of neonatal intensive care units, and to provide the support required to develop local guidelines and protocols for neonatal care that are affordable and will provide a solid foundation for improved care. Central to this, is the need to tackle the critical shortage of health workers. There are too few doctors and nurses and the training is inadequate. There is generally 1 nurse to every 8 very sick babies. In the UK this is normally 1-1. The mortality rate of babies admitted to hospital with infection is almost 50%.

This is where Richard's skills and experience come in. His main role is to train the existing staff to a much higher level so as more babies will survive.

So how can we help?



There is very little heating in hospitals and tiny babies can get very cold very quickly, so Richard fills his suitcases with hats, cardigans and blankets for new born babies. If you have any knitting skills, get those needles out!!

Any donations will be very welcome and can be given to Vera or Jenny.

At our meeting on **Thursday, February 2nd** we will have a representative from **Street Ministries Belfast** to tell us about their work with the homeless, asylum seekers, people with addictions and mental health issues. We look forward to seeing you then.

PS -MU fees of £27 are now due.

Please give these to June, Jenny or Vera.

Thank you



From St. Andrew's

Rosters
Flowers: Lila Earney
Cleaning: Betty Green
Eileen Earney

FREE First Aid Information evening

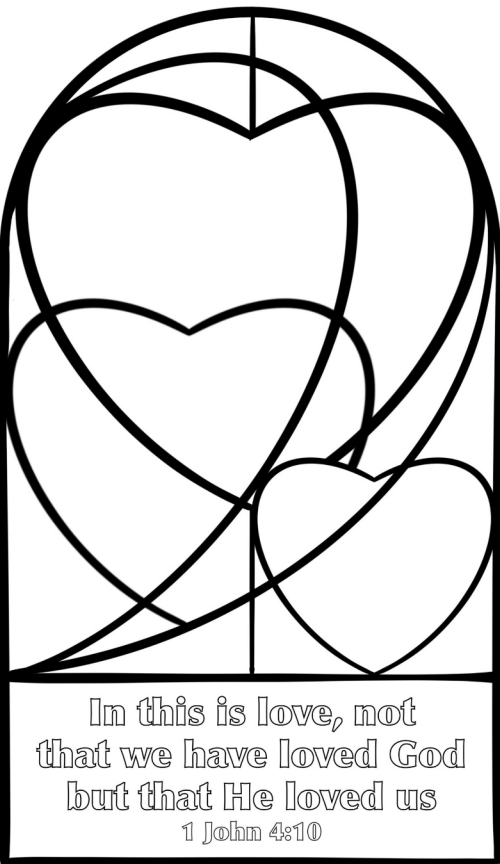
St Andrew's Church, Killaney Community Hall
Wednesday 1st February 2023: 7.00pm - 9.00pm
Contact Chris: 07866 88093 as limited places available



The Ladies' Friendship Group meets in the Church Hall on Thursday mornings at 10.00 am. Come and enjoy the company and a chat with a nice cup of coffee. Everyone is welcome.

When the electrical supply is more secure we will be able to resume tea and coffee before church each week. Say hello any Sunday from 11:30 in the Hall!

- It is a joy to meet up with a good friend. It makes the glad heart even lighter, and can even make a dull day seem the brighter!
- Friends are quiet angels who lift us to our feet when our wings have trouble remembering how to fly.
- Slander not, but speak kindness. If thou art provoked, speak not at once.



In this is love, not
that we have loved God
but that He loved us
1 John 4:10

Don't forget to say. . .

Thank You, Lord, for the good times,
The happiness and fun,
The days of laughing in the rain,
Or lazing in the sun.
The times of looking forward
With not a care in sight,
The days when all our plans and schemes
Could set the world alight.

And even when the doubts and fears
Came knocking on our door,
We faced them all, with help from You,
And learned to smile once more.
The years were far too precious
To waste or to regret,
So thank You, Lord, for the good times,
I never will forget.

SAMS IRELAND

On Friday, 3rd February at 7.30pm, SAMS is hosting Friday Night Live, the annual get-together in Annaghmore Parish Hall. Co Armagh.

This is a great opportunity to hear the latest news from South America. Pastor Esteban and Bishop Morrison, both from Chile, are the special guest speakers. Last autumn, the Director of SAMS Ireland, Revd Stephen McElhinney, spent time in Argentina and Uruguay. He saw at first hand some of the projects which the mission supports, and he will share with us the problems faced by the churches in Latin America as well as the good news of how God "is at work ...bringing news of great hope, joy and forgiveness".

The theme of the evening is 'Enlarge-Expand-Extend' and it promises to be an interesting and engaging event. Some parishioners have signed up to go. If you would like to join us, please speak to Marlene Moore or Victoria Fraser.



Ash Wednesday Services.

On Ash Wednesday, 22 February 2023, we have two services planned.

At 10:00 am our regular Wednesday Service is moving to St. Andrew's, Killaney so that parishioners of our parishes can share the delight of worship in that beautiful place.

We hope to be able to provide a cup of tea afterwards in the adjacent Hempton Hall which was refurbished last year. Please make an effort to join with fellow worshippers from St. Ignatius' and St. Andrew's at Killaney.

At 7:30 pm the Ash Wednesday Service from the prayer book will help bring us all to our knees in confession and reflection. You are very welcome. In preparation, you may like to read elements of the service on page 338 or link to [here](https://tinyurl.com/2knnasez)

Could anyone accuse me of being a ... Christian?

The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch. Acts 11:26.

Everton-ian, Liverpudl-ian, Christ-ian! A single supporter of Everton, who gives the club a good name or a bad one. A resident of Liverpool, who represents their city well or badly. An agent of the Christ who serves as a mini-version of the Saviour in daily life, sometimes well, often poorly.

We will not be thought of as Christians if we distance ourselves from Christ by our silence, our disobedience or our lack of love for others.

Do we realise, day by day, that as church-goers, people think we are Christians and our responsibility is that they think well of us as mini Christs?

Bible Study at the Rectory

Several parishioners, including some of those who have arrived recently in the parish, have been asking about the Parish Bible Study. I hope that you are as excited about the possibility as they are, and as I am.

In recent years we have tried to meet on Sunday nights, but in February we are resuming our Tuesday Night gatherings in the rectory at 8:00 pm each week. If you haven't been before, then you will be interested to know that we meet, read a portion of the bible, ask and answer a few questions about what we are reading and give one another opportunities to explore what God may be saying to us today in those sacred words.

While sometimes a prolonged introduction is needed, e.g. when we start a new book, often we start talking about the verses very quickly. It is always interesting to discover how each person 'gets' the message of the passage, and we leave with a wider and deeper perspective than we had when we arrived. The cuppa is a key opening moment as we get to know each other again, and get to know new people who come. There is room enough for about a dozen people, but if and when it gets larger, we will make space in the church halls. Keen members may like to do a bit of preparation (when they know the passage) but this is not necessary for everyone else.

Bible study starts on Tuesday 7th February at 8:00 pm. You will be made very welcome. Themes are taken from Galatians.

Hospitals

While life in hospitals could not be described as normal, access to wards by visitors, including clergy, is much easier than it has been in recent years. Clergy are still restricted though by a lack of information.

If you, or a member of your family, is admitted to hospital, and you/they are willing to receive a visit from your rector, please get in touch with Stephen by message or phone call to 078 345 84932. It will be his privilege to spend some moments with you and to pray with you during your time in hospital.

When the patient is discharged please also try to pass on a message so as to avoid a fruitless journey to the ward afterwards.



J - Club News

February

J Club/J Club Plus

When J Club and J Club Plus resumed after the Christmas break two new members joined. Each Friday evening we have an average of 50 young people. Because the leadership team is now smaller the membership has had to be limited.

The **Jigsaw Programme**, which we are using, is a great Bible teaching resource.

During February we meet on Fridays 3rd 10th 17th from 7.00pm to 8.30pm.

Sunday 26th February - Celebrate at 10.00 am - J Club Service

All Age Worship with refreshments and activities to follow in the hall.

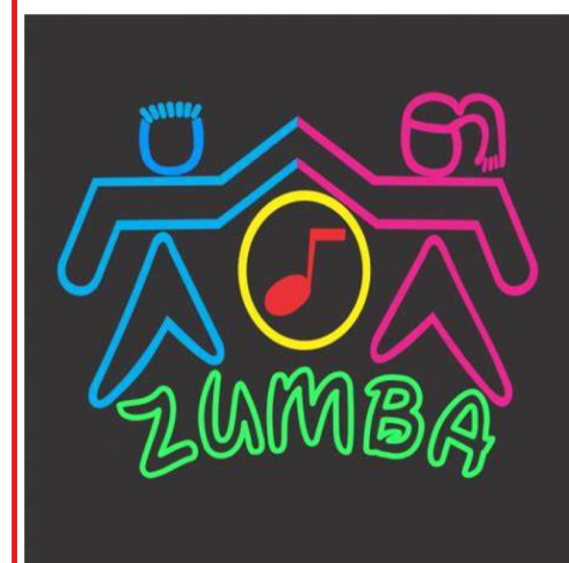
Everyone is warmly invited.

Night Away

Phillip and Liz are planning to take a group of J Club Plus members to Slievemoyle Cottages in Castleward for an overnight stay. This would be an opportunity for Bible teaching, fellowship and lots of fun together.

It is also hoped to hold a special event for all children of J Club and the parish before the end of term. Keep watching out for details.

Keith Shaw



Help raise money for
Ukraine by joining the
St Ignatius Zumbathon!

Saturday 25th March. (Time tbc)

St Ignatius Church Hall, Carryduff.

Please come along and
enjoy the fun and the refreshments
provided.



Could anyone accuse me of being a ... Seeker?

“Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness.”

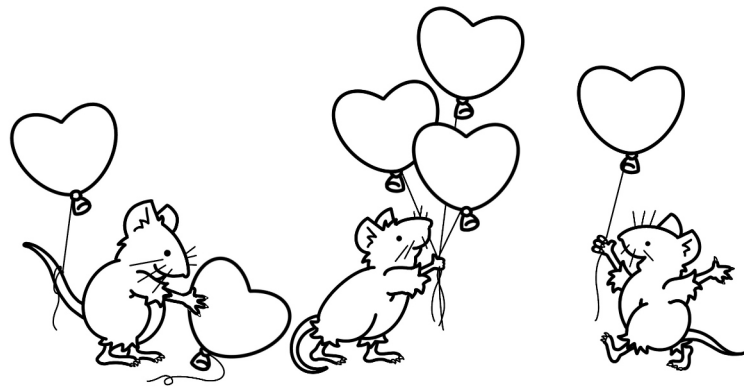
To be like Jesus, we need to be alert for opportunities to bring in kingdom values to our homes and communities. This involves recognising injustices, challenging untruths, promoting the good of the weak, and searching the scriptures to see what God says on each matter. We often think of “seekers” as outsiders looking in, and such people are welcome to come inside.

Do we behave like people who are seeking after the truth, or are we a little careless these days?

With Valentine’s Day in mind...how do you define love?

A group of 4-to-8-year-olds was once asked: 'What does love mean?' The answers they gave were surprising for their depth of insight....

- “When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love.” *Rebecca - age 8*
- “When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth.” *Billy - age 4*
- “Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne and they go out and smell each other.” *Karl - age 5*
- “Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your chips, without making them give you any of theirs.” *Chrissy - age 6*
- “Love is what makes you smile when you're tired.” *Terri - age 4*
- “Love is when mum makes coffee for my dad and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is OK.” *Danny - age 7*
- “Love is when you kiss all the time. Then when you get tired of kissing, you still want to be together and you talk more. My Mum and Dad are like that. They look gross when they kiss.” *Emily - age 8*
- “If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate.” *Nikka - age 6* (We need a few million more Nikka's on this planet)
- “My mummy loves me more than anybody. You don't see anyone else kissing me to sleep at night.” – *Clare, aged 6*
- “Love is when mummy gives daddy the best piece of chicken.” - *Elaine - age 5*
- “Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day” *Mary Ann - age 4*



God in the Arts

With the Revd Michael Burgess looking at “ Christ in the Wilderness – Scorpions’ . It now hangs in a private collection.

Forty Days and Forty Nights

At the end of this month we enter the season of Lent: those 40 days when we follow Jesus into the wilderness and prepare ourselves to celebrate His Easter victory. In the last century an artist called Stanley Spencer planned to create a series of 40 paintings, each depicting a day in the wilderness. In the end he completed nine, one of which is this month’s painting from 1939: ‘Christ in the Wilderness – Scorpions.’ It is held in a private collection.

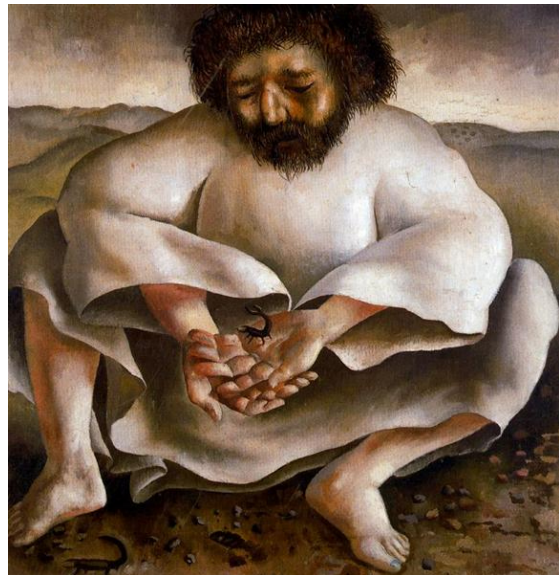
Stanley Spencer lived and worked in the village of Cookham in Berkshire. The village and the local countryside were the setting for many of his paintings, and the village’s inhabitants his models. Through their everyday life he was trying to glimpse and convey the transcendent. ‘Angels and dirt’ he called it: the divine seen in the ordinary. So, in a painting of Christ carrying His cross, Jesus has the face of the local grocer.

Another villager modelled for this ‘Jesus in the wilderness’: a strong, hefty, broad figure. This is a great contrast to the Christ of stained-glass windows who often seems too good to be part of our world. Here is real life: a large man filling the canvas with His head, His hands and His feet. This figure of Jesus comes as a shock: a very human model, ordinary with nothing handsome or special about Him, apart from His tunic which seems to sprawl and undulate like the hills around. Here is a Jesus born into this world and one with this world.

There are two focal points in the painting – the neat, little scorpion and the massive, unkempt head contemplating each other. One is life in all its hefty reality; the other a tiny creature able to squeeze that life out by one swift flick of its tail. Jesus is shown in the wilderness pondering the life and ministry called of Him by God – a life and ministry that will take Him from the countryside into the towns and villages and take Him also to the death of Good Friday. Will He find the strength and renewal to embrace that ministry during His time in the desert?

During Lent as we follow Jesus, we seek to live for God. That may mean dying to all that separates us from God. He has a ministry, a calling for each of us. As we contemplate that calling in this season of Lent, we may find it is a calling that leads us through these 40 days to life and Easter life – we may find it a journey that calls us to die to self to find our God.

Image:<https://www.wikiart.org/en/stanley-spencer/christ-in-the-wilderness-the-scorpion>



February Services

29 January	8:30	Epiphany 4 (White) Early Communion	in Carryduff
	10:00	Corinthians 1:18-31, Matthew 5:1-12 Sunday Morning Worship	in Carryduff
	12:00	Micah 6:1-8, Psalm 15, 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 Sunday Morning Worship	in Killaney
1 February		Micah 6:1-8, Psalm 15, 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 St Brigid	
	10:00	Midweek Communion	in Carryduff
3 February	11:00	1 John 1:1-4 John 10:7-16 Funeral Jeannie Cotter	in Carryduff
5 February		Third Sunday before Lent (Green)	
	8:30	Early Communion	in Carryduff
	10:00	1 Corinthians 2:1-12, Matthew 5:13-20 Morning Worship	in Carryduff
	12:00	1 Corinthians 2:1-12, Matthew 5:13-20 Sunday Morning Worship	in Killaney
6 February		1 Corinthians 2:1-12, Matthew 5:13-20 7:30 Carryduff Select Vestry	in Quin Room
7 February	8:00	Bible Study	in Rectory
8 February	10:00	Midweek Communion	in Carryduff
12 February		Second Sunday before Lent (Green)	
	8:30	Early Communion	in Carryduff
	10:00	Romans 8:18-25, Matthew 6:25-34 Morning Worship	in Carryduff
	12:00	Romans 8:18-25, Matthew 6:25-34 Sunday Morning Worship	in Killaney
14 February		Romans 8:18-25, Matthew 6:25-34	
	7:30	Killaney Select Vestry (if required)	in Hempton Hall
	8:00	Bible Study	in Rectory
15 February			
	10:00	Midweek Communion	in Carryduff
19 February		Psalm 14:10-17 Mark 8:22-26 Sunday before Lent (Green)	
	8:30	Early Communion	in Carryduff
	10:00	Romans 1:16-17, Matthew 7:21-29 Morning Worship	in Carryduff
	12:00	Sunday Morning Worship	in Killaney
		Romans 1:16-17, Matthew 7:21-29	
21 February	8:00	Bible Study	in Rectory
22 February		Ash Wednesday (Purple)	
	10:00	Ash Wednesday Communion	in Killaney
	7:30	2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10 Matthew 6:1-6, 16- A Service for Ash Wednesday	
26 February		2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 First Sunday in Lent (Purple)	in Carryduff
	8:30	Early Communion	in Carryduff
	10:00	Romans 5:12-19, Matthew 4:1-11 Celebrate at Ten	in Carryduff
	12:00	Matthew 4:1-11	
Tuesday 28		All Age Service	in Killaney
	8:00	Bible Study	in Rectory

God in the Sciences

Fearfully and Wonderfully Made

Every person who ever lived was once a sperm and an egg. Those two cells fused together, and in nine months they turned into a living, breathing, human being. Each of us emerged from this same embryonic development process, which is highly complex and organised, but variable enough to turn out a unique individual every time.

If you like order – such as neat piles of stationery, or tidy colour-coded files – you will enjoy this story. One of the most important stages of an embryo’s development is when each section of the body, from head to rump, takes on its identity. Each part is told what shape to take, and which limbs or internal organs to grow: legs or arms, lungs or kidneys, and so on.

The most beautiful part of this body-patterning process is that it brings the dimensions of time and space together in such a neat way. The DNA instructions for the procedure, known as genes, are organised in the order in which they are needed during development which is also the order in which they appear on the body. No other sets of genes are known to be arranged in such a tidy pattern.

So, as the embryo develops, the tissues near the head end activate the first sets of genes. Those active genes then make all the proteins needed for that part of the body to grow and develop in the right way. The tissues just below the head then switch on the second set of genes, and so on. A wave of activation passes down the embryo, specifying each section of the trunk in turn.

The Wisconsin-based developmental biologist Jeff Hardin often quotes Psalm 139 to express the wonder of embryonic development. The Psalmist did not understand how this process happened, but he knew that it was a marvellous thing. “For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb...your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.”

The story of the tidy genes brings out the hidden beauty in the very early stages of embryonic development. The more biologists get to find out about how we came to be born, the more we can say, “I am fearfully and wonderfully made”!
by Dr Ruth M. Bancewicz,

Could anyone
accuse me of
being a ...

Servant

“I am among you as one who serves.”
Luke 22:27

To be like Jesus, we each need to have a “servant-heart”. Whether in an official role in a church or not, we are all called to serve one another. It is not an option, but a privilege to serve.

In the bible the word usually translated “servant” is the word used for a slave. That makes the question even harder to answer with a “yes!”

What does being a slave to Christ mean? Serving the underserving, loving the unlovely, helping without judging?

Who can you serve in Christ’s name today? Whether helping someone to cross the road, or weeping with those who weep in times of sorrow, Jesus asks us to follow him as servants.



Archbishops

Every year, on the first day of January, there is a five minute slot on BBC1 devoted to the Archbishop of Canterbury. It is a rare and priceless event. How often do we see or hear a prominent figure in the Church on our television screens? By contrast, how often do we see a whole host of celebrity chatterboxes going on about things which, let's be honest, don't really matter?

It was good, even refreshing, to hear Archbishop Welby reminiscing about the humble and godly example of our late queen. Then he went on to make several thought provoking comments about giving and receiving daily care. There are lots of people, both at home and abroad, who are in need of – and often receive – daily care.

Significantly, he made he crucial point that “caring is a life giving thing.” We need to value and take care of people in need; not least since Jesus placed such value on the life and well being of every single person. In real terms, the Archbishop made it clear that “caring and loving is a privilege.”

Carers are wonderful. Why work as a carer? It is neither an easy nor a well paid job. Besides, as the Archbishop reminded viewers, care homes are struggling with rising costs. In effect our care system is on its knees. We, as a Christian community, need to rise to this challenge – no-one should be treated as a burden.

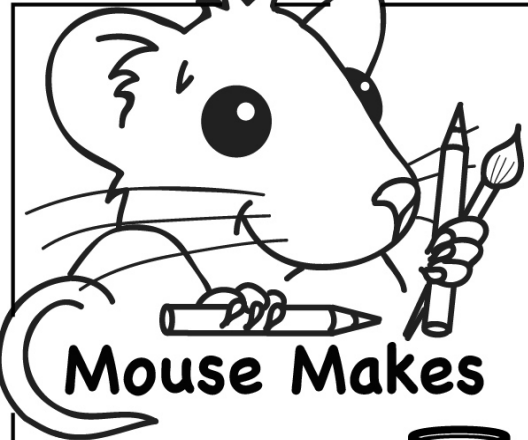
All this presents to us an issue that is right at the heart of current everyday life. Our Christian calling invites us to respond – and the Archbishop managed to say all of this in a five minute sound bite!

It's only a short step from that to the observations of the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Rowan Williams, as reported in the Christmas issue of Radio Times. He draws the attention of readers to our “instinct to adore, to worship.....”. but, he warns, that this can go seriously wrong – be careful about who or what you worship. Referring specifically to our Christian faith he made the crucial statement that “only one reality is worth adoring – the inexhaustible generosity that made all things, and is beyond words and ideas.” Worshipping the real God can set us free.

In these observations Dr. Williams comes close to the present Archbishop's emphasis on our duty of care for others. I am really taken by his sparky remark about carol services that “if we still hang around the church doors to hear the Christmas stories and songs, it has something to do with our hunger for freedom and dignity.....”


There is much food for thought in these expressions of faith by two distinguished Archbishops. We really need to hear them more often in the public square – and what they say provides a great stimulus for genuine New Year Resolutions.

Denis Carson



What was the special meal Jesus was preparing to eat?

Matthew 26:18



What did Jesus take, bless and break?

Matthew 26:26


What did Jesus give thanks for and share?

Matthew 26:27

What did Jesus say this represented?
His _____
Matthew 26:27-28

What did Jesus say this represented?
His _____
Matthew 26:26


Jesus instructed his disciples to continue to break bread and share the cup “in _____ of me.”
1 Corinthians 11:24-25

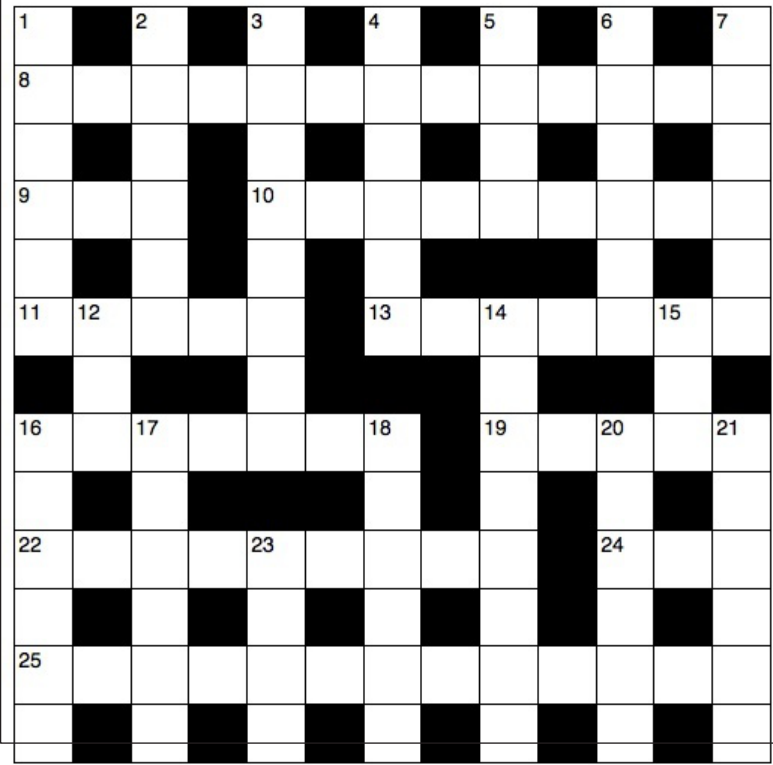


SUPPER
LAMB • LORD
DISCIPLES
TOGETHER
EVENING
ROOM • JAR
WATER • TWELVE
JESUS • CHRIST
NIGHT • TOOK
THANKS
BLESSING
BROKE • GIVEN
COVENANT
DRINK • EAT
FORGIVENESS
SINS • HOLY
COMMUNION
EUCCHARIST

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

Find the words from the questions too!





Across

- 8 Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8)
9 'Burn it in a wood fire on the — heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)
10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)
11 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)
13 Clay pit (anag.) (7)
16 Went to (John 4:46) (7)
19 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to — your bodies as living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) (5)
22 David's plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down: 'On — — let them escape' (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)
24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1) 25 How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)

Down

- 1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)
2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)
3 Specialist in study of the Muslim religion (8)
4 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but — him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)
5 One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)
6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)
7 God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ' — salt to — your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)
12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)

Did you know?

2023 World Day of Prayer is in 1st Saintfield Church on Friday 1st March

- 14 'All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8)
15 The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)
16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)
17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)
18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)
20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)
21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (Genesis 8:5) (6)
23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)

Answers on page 18

Christmas at Killaney

Over 50 people gathered at dusk to enjoy the start of Christmas at St Andrew's. A beautifully lit tree was at the centre of the event with music provided by seven members of NI Brass. Mulled punch, shortbread and sweets for the children followed the short service. A highlight was the opportunity to see inside the church where lavish displays featured on each window ledge, and every available space.

Thanks to all who prepared the tree, the refreshments, the music, the welcome and the church for the occasion.

Our Combined Carol Service took on a whole new 'feel', firstly, as we sat in the darkened church signing carols with the piano accompaniment, the church being lit by phone torches! Despite the cold air there was a wonderfully warm atmosphere as the readers retold the story of the Nativity and Nadine sang two solos!

Secondly, it was wonderful to have both parishes assembling in the same place for this sacred act of worship.

The Vestry has, since, being investigating the cause of the electrical breakdown.

Christmas at Carryduff

A beautifully decorated Christmas Tree shone light over worshippers during December.

At the local **Community Carol Service** at Lough Moss, over £600 was raised to help Storehouse, our local foodbank. It is good to hear that more people feel able to make use of its facilities to help them through times of need. It is based at the Hub beside Carryduff Library.

The annual **Scouts Carol Service**, accompanied by Helen and Brian Mulholland, involved both children and leaders reading the lessons as they reflected on the presents God gave us that first Christmas.

Christmas with Cadenza. 120 people were present as Cadenza Choir and Saintfield High School Choir presented a range of Christmas music to great approval from the audience, and then served refreshments. We congratulate the two choirs and their directors for their rich variety of music with a seasonal flavour.

Christmas Eve and Morning brought services to help us greet the arrival of the Lord's Nativity, and it was good to see numbers attending begin to rise after several difficult years.

Could anyone accuse me of being a ... Believer?

"I am the resurrection and the life... Do you believe this?" *John 11:25-26*

To be like Jesus, we need to try to understand the stories and teaching of the bible and build our lives on what they say. Believing involves both head and heart, and, if we are anything like his early followers, our belief will grow as we keep following Jesus. Like in a marriage we entrust ourselves to someone else, confident that they will turn out to be even better than we already know on our wedding day!

Do we trust God for the big things while we grow in faith in the little things? Or do we want everything clear from the get-go?

Parishes’ Registers

Christian Funerals

*I am the Resurrection and the
Life*

28 November	Florence Aileen Bell, Church Road, Castlereagh
13 December	Rachel (Renee) Mayne, Cairnshill Court, Beechill.
20 December	William (Billy) Stranaghan, Doon Park, Carryduff.
20 January	Meryl Greer, New Mossley, Belfast.

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

Remembering

Florence Aileen Bell was from Greyabbey, Co Down. Her professional career included bookkeeping and management of a knitwear factory and managing a family-owned catering business, both in Newtownards. She and her husband, John Bell, met when they were still teenagers living in the village.

They were blessed with two children, Patricia and Joyce. When Aileen and John retired, they moved to Church Road in Castlereagh, and there they had only a brief time together before John died.

From their earliest days, John and Aileen had been keen bowlers, both indoors and outdoors, and Aileen was very successful in the clubs at Greyabbey, Saintfield, and Shaw’s Bridge, and she was at a time North Down Champion Bowler. Aileen was also a keen reader, baker, and an expert in the garden. She reluctantly gave up driving aged 92, after a lifetime of travelling.

Aileen was a devout and committed worshipper and bible reader, and she appreciated the wonderful ministry of the parishes to which she belonged over the years. She was a woman of indomitable spirit and genuine and sincere faith, and it has been a privilege, I think, for all of us to have known her and to have spent time with Mrs Aileen Bell.

Renee Mayne was from Oldpark Road, Belfast. She was a civil servant and spent much of her life caring for her family, alongside her work. She moved to Cairnshill Court after the turn of the Millennium.

She took great care to refurbish her new home to a high standard. At that time she began attending St Ignatius’ Church, here in Carryduff, and expressed appreciation at how welcoming and friendly members of the congregation were.

Her recent contribution had been through the Retirement Club which meets in our hall, and when able, she was a frequent attender there. A small number attended her funeral which took place at Roselawn Crematorium.

Billy Stranaghan, who passed away after some years of ill health, had been cared for in Carryduff Nursing Home. He leaves behind his wife, Wilma, and their four children, Kim, Mark, Alison and Ian, and his grandchildren.

Raised in Belfast and having attended Harding Memorial Primary School, Billy began work at Belfast Tab, later part of BT, and enjoyed many years of skilled service wherever he was sent to work.

He was a strong minded man, who provided well for his family, and he was richly blessed with family members who were devoted to him. His stroke when aged 70 led to him leading a much quieter life, having provided well for his wife and family in their lovely home in Carryduff.

We sympathise with Wilma and their children upon their bereavement. The service was held in St Andrew’s, Killaney, and the burial was at Dundonald Cemetery.

Meryl Greer, a much loved mother to Lyndon, was born in Glasgow and moved with her parents and sister, while still a child, around 1932 - to live in Dunkeld Gardens, Oldpark Road. Meryl went to the nearby Girls’ Model School, and later went on to study at a secretarial school. After finishing and completing the course, she had gained top marks in shorthand and as an able touch typist.

When she and her husband moved to Queensfort Park in Carryduff they were made very welcome by Dean Good in St Ignatius’. Meryl left Carryduff in 1965 to move to the Glengormley area with her son, and resumed her career, now as assistant to the director of the Belfast Chamber of Commerce. She passed away quietly in January after some years of declining health.

We sympathise with Lyndon, her neighbours and friends, several of whom joined with the congregation at her funeral. Her motto was “To Thine own self be true”, a challenge to be true to your word and to fulfil your obligations in life. She was buried at Roselawn Cemetery. We thank God for her memory.

*Could anyone accuse me of being a ...
Follower?*

“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” *Mk 1:17.*

The way the early disciples started to understand Jesus was by following where he walked, listening while he talked, and learning as he taught. To be followers today, we need to spend time with Jesus in reading the gospels and asking for his Spirit’s guidance, as we try to do what Jesus would do.

Do we follow whatever and whoever is popular and acceptable today, or do we try to follow the One whose path led him to a cross?

February Rosters

Reader	8:30 am Epistle	10:00 am Lessons	12:00 pm Lessons
5	Mary Hewitt	Joan Clayton TBC	Florence Coulter
12	Joan Clayton	Marlene Moore TBC	Gary Crothers
19	Edward Darling	Raymond Scott TBC	Colin McClintock
26	Caroline Taylor	J Club	Bill Connor

	Flowers	Refreshments	Screens
5	Ann Stewart	Susan Creber & Jill McPeak	Raymond Scott
12		Fiona Ellis & Sammy Barratt	Maureen
19	Vera	Vera Lowry & Jill McPeak	Andrew
26		Norah Brown & Jill Crowe	Fiona

Could anyone accuse me of being a ... Disciple?

Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.” *Matthew 16:24.*

A disciple is a person who is learning to follow Jesus day by day, studying his teaching and applying it, modelling his love in their relationships to others, and being willing to do the hard work in the kingdom.

You are not really a disciple if you are closed to the voice of God in the bible, or disregard his leading in your heart. Some of the early disciples, like Peter, Thomas or Judas, showed themselves to be weak, dubious, or disobedient. But those who became and remained faithful, like Peter and Thomas, overcame their weaknesses and doubts and went on to serve as good disciples.

If you and I are doing nothing more than playing the part of a disciple, but are not willing to follow disciplined lives ourselves, and all it costs, then we are not going to be very useful to God. Who would want to be useless?

To be like Jesus, we need to live disciplined lives of prayer, learning, and worship, and engage with whatever other disciplines help us grow more like Jesus.

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:

Gift Aid Secretary:

Honorary Secretary:

Sexton:

Freewill Offering:

Hall Bookings:

Killaney Wardens:

Verger:

Honorary Secretary:

Covenants:

Flower Rota:

Cleaning Rota:

Parish Panels:

Panel Members are Carryduff

Killaney

028 9081 4579

Fiona Moore
Sandra Thomas
Fiona Ellis
Susan Creber
Sandra Thomas
Marie Mack
Adrian Cousins
Florence Coulter
Colin McClintock
Viona Crothers
Anne Mannis
Marie Mack

028 9263 8798

028 9263 9133

028 9751 9637
028 9751 0089
028 9751 0350

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

028 9081 4896
028 9751 9366
028 9263 9133
028 9263 9873

Next Edition is the March Edition.

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Some of the teachers and volunteers with their Christmas Wreaths

