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Dear Friends

I want to share with you my **concerns** and **hopes** for our parishes through the medium of this letter.

Many of you who have the opportunity to read this never come to worship, some through illness, of course, but many, through indifference to the mercies of God. I think that must rank as a **concern**! If we become people who no longer want to thank God or cry out to God for help, then we have perhaps lost sight of him. To meet with others is a public declaration of our need of his help.



Lots of you **love** to come to church, and we are surrounded on Sundays by people who make this their top priority for the week, and others who make it one of their aims. I think that gives me **hope**! To live a balanced God-fearing life, is to plan our days and weeks to include what is important to God, and to us and our families, so that we can give ourselves wholeheartedly to our work and witness. To meet in the company of worshippers is a declaration that we require one another's support on the journey.

Some of you were former team members, serving in various roles that were significant to you and the people you served, but you have given up. We are all **concerned** when that happens! Although we can reach a stage in life when it is good to let go of a responsibility, it is disappointing if we make the decision through mere indifference. Was it, perhaps, that you felt unacknowledged in your role, or passed over when a greater responsibility could have been yours? Everyone experiences these things at some stage in life, but we mustn't let that be enough to stop us using our God-given abilities in the church and community!

There are dozens of people across our churches who continue to look for ways to help, and who are unceasing in their prayers and support for our life in St Andrew's and St Ignatius' Churches. You give me **hope**! Your desire to see people comfortable and settled during their time at worship or in the halls is matched with your desire to honour God in the loving and compassionate way you do these things. This is a source of great joy for all who receive that ministry from you, and we are all indebted to you and our heavenly Father, for equipping you to serve.

We have come to the time of year when our vestries meet to nominate and elect office-bearers for the year ahead. I hope that you will appreciate how important your faithful service means to all of us, even if we sometimes forget to say thank you clearly enough! I look forward to seeing God equip you in your roles, and that we make him the priority in the way we serve one another and worship together.

Stephen

April Magazine

In order to free up team members to prepare and take part in Holy Week Services, and to ensure delivery takes place promptly, the April edition will be published on Friday 22nd March. Our usual contributors and roster organisers need to submit content for April events to the office by Wednesday 13th March. Thank you.

Mothers' Union & Friends

Please join us on **Thursday 7th March at 8pm** when we will be joined by Rev Corrina Heron.

Corrina is the minister of Dunmurry Presbyterian Church. Her talk is entitled "Reflections of Christ at the Checkpoint". Corrina has spent some time in Palestine and has attended a conference at Bethlehem Bible College.

Corrina became minister of Dunmurry Presbyterian in May 2017. She is married to Scott and they have 2 young children and 4 grown up children. When she is not serving at church or playing with the kids, Corrina enjoys all things Spanish including tapas and salsa! A great believer in church being like a spiritual family, she is keen to help people of all ages and backgrounds connect with the church and come to know the Lord.

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families



Confirmation

We hope to present young and older people for confirmation this summer. If you have reached a point in your life where you want to make a public declaration of your faith in Jesus, and your desire to have his help as you face the future, then this is for you.

There are several groups of participants at such a service:

- People, like you, who want to dedicate their lives publicly, perhaps following a time of distance from the church and faith, or after finding Christ and wanting to profess it.
- People, like you, who have never been confirmed with the laying-on-of-hands and who would like to express their faith in this way as part of their membership of the church.
- People, perhaps younger, who are wise enough to understand what it means to be a Christian, and who desire to declare their intentions publicly.

Everyone present is encouraged to take part. Bishop David McClay is planning to visit several churches as he does a series of confirmations, and we hope he will be able to lead the service in Carryduff. We are awaiting "confirmation" of a date!

If you haven't yet indicated your desire to take part in any of the above ways, please get in touch with Stephen. To avoid clashing with university (or school) exams the small number of preparation classes, particularly for younger members, will take place soon.

Wee Men's Group

We hope to have the Wee Men's Group helping to lead us all in praise at a service over the Easter period.

If you have an interest in singing, and would be willing to help swell our numbers, please speak to Brian up at the organ after Church next Sunday morning, if this could be you.

Don't worry if you are not a strong singer, or can't read music, we would still love to have you in our wee group.

Brian Mulholland



Killaney Notes

Flowers: Viona Crothers

Cleaning: Sandra Cousins

Adrian Cousins



CHURCH CLEANING

We would like some people to join the cleaning team. The church is cleaned twice a month, for both the 2nd Sunday in the month and the last Sunday. It would be very much appreciated if you gave some of your time to keep our lovely church looking so well. Please speak to Marie Mack.

The Ladies' Fellowship finished on Thursday, 22nd February. A sincere thank you to Jennifer Knox who organised it.

REFRESHMENTS

Refreshments this month will take place after the Easter Vestry, on Sunday 10th March. Everyone, as always, is welcome!

ST PATRICK'S DAY BLESSING

May your troubles be less and your blessings be more and nothing but happiness come through your door.



HAPPY EASTER

The Easter feeling does not end,
It signals a new beginning.
Nature, spring and brand new life,
Friendship, peace and giving.
The spirit of Easter is all about,
Hope, love and joyful living.

What is love?

Love is Silence—when your words would hurt
Love is Patience—when your neighbour's curt.
Love is Deafness—when a scandal flows.
Love is Thoughtfulness—for others' woes.
Love is Promptness—when stern duty calls.
Love is Courage—when misfortune falls.

From Osbeck, K.W. (1996) Amazing grace: 366 inspiring hymn stories for daily devotions.

Easter Vestry Meetings

St. Andrew's, Killaney

Sunday 10th March at 12:00 noon, beginning with a short service.

St. Ignatius', Carryduff

Sunday 17th March at 10:00 am, beginning with a short service.

Everyone is welcome to attend worship, and the meeting which follows, on our Easter Vestry Sundays. The hymns, readings and prayers will set the tone for a celebration of the year that is past and the election of new office bearers for the year ahead.

The business of the meeting is quite simple but forms a well-known pattern:

Minutes of Previous meetings (*taken as read usually*) by Secretary

Introduction by Rector

Presentation and Reception of Financial Report (*copies available before the meeting*)

Appointment of Auditor(s)

Elections and Nominations

Church Wardens

Glebe Wardens

Select Vestry (up to 12 additional members, elections take place if more than 12 are proposed/seconded at the meeting.)

Counting of Votes

Refreshments

Announcement of Results of Elections

Thanks and Closing Prayer

We hope you will all attend, only registered members may actually place votes.

Join the

Down Cathedral Volunteer Team

We are very blessed with a dedicated Cathedral staff and superb volunteers. We are always looking to expand our team of volunteers, who help with everything from welcoming tourists to staffing the shop.

With tens of thousands of visitors each year, we are looking for people who would be interested in joining our amazing team. It can be once a week, biweekly or a morning per week; we would love to hear from you.

Please prayerfully consider joining us as we start to welcome people from all corners of the world this Spring.

Down Cathedral belongs to our whole diocese and community and we would be delighted to have a conversation with potential volunteers from beyond our own Parish Group.

If you are interested, please contact us at info@downcathedral.org

You will be invited to have a conversation with one of our clergy team. Volunteers will be asked to undertake an Access NI disclosure.

We look forward to hearing from you.



SAMS Ireland

It was a cold damp February when two of us set off for Annaghmore Church Hall where Friday Night Live was held. A good number of supporters from both sides of the border filled the room and it was a delight to have two friends from Santiago in Chile, Marcos Zavala who is a volunteer working in Derryvolgie Parish near Lisburn, and Rev Max Diaz who works mainly with students. It was he who gave the address in superb English.



The theme of the evening and for the year is:

'Rooted: Standing Firm, Spreading Hope'.

Everyone has a part to play, and everyone has to play their part.

The evening was taken up with snapshots of the seven countries where SAMS has an interest. Using short videos and reports, we heard how the local churches are growing and the problems they face.

One report highlighted Alex Deane's work in the vast dry area of the **Chaco in northern Argentina**. For 43 years Alex has worked with geologists and water engineers to provide much-needed water. To date, 85 wells have been dug, water is piped across the land, resulting in a doubling of harvests and the creation of employment. The improved quality of the food produced has resulted in better health and provided an income for families.

Down and Dromore diocese has established a link with the **Diocese of Santiago** in which new churches are being planted. We are learning from them and their commitment to the Scriptures and dependence on the Holy Spirit. It is hoped that an interchange between the churches of the two dioceses will bring mutual encouragement and growth.

The vicar of Saintfield Parish spoke about its vestry's decision to have a link with **El Redentor Church in La Paz in Bolivia**, where Pastor David is the leader. A long-term relationship is envisaged through 'face-to-face meetings and collaborative projects'.

Rev Max rounded off the evening with a few thoughts, based on Colossians 2:6,7. A sound bite summed up what he said - Walk well!

Victoria and Marlene

To support SAMS Ireland, please contact Victoria or Marelene, or get in touch with them at their NI base

1 Irwin Crescent, Lurgan, Craigavon, Northern Ireland, BT66 7EZ Tel: 028 3831 0144

Email: office@samsireland.com

A graphic-rich introduction to the work of SAMS is available at their site www.samsireland.com If reading this online, please [click here](#) to be taken directly to a fascinating 15 minute prayer link, led by Rev Stephen McElhinney



Suitcase Project

Imagine you were one of our ancestors in Ireland who was forced to flee this island by poverty, famine, or any of the violent phases which have taken place in our history. You become one of the millions of Irish emigrés to populate North

America, to work in the Liverpool dockyards, and help to build Victorian London.

In recent decades the tables have turned. The Celtic Tiger made Dublin the place to which new migrants made their way, and the renowned generosity of Ulster ensured new workers thronged to serve in our developing service industries as well. The incoming migrants often are seeking asylum, which adds further complications to their ability to settle in our community.

How would you feel if you were a Syrian, an Afghani, or a Ukrainian exile arriving with barely more than the clothes on your back and a few personal possessions to show for your life-time of education, labours and home?

The biblical narrative indicates that, from the earliest days, God calls his people to welcome newcomers into their society, and to integrate into new societies when they, themselves, were in exile. God wants the family of faith with Christ, the seed of Abraham, the father of faith, to bless the world.

The Suitcase Project has been set up by the Diocese of Down and Dromore to create a network of support and care for newcomers, and, maybe, the family they bring with them in their unplanned exile.

What is the extent of *The SUITCASE Project* ?

The project aims to

- **Connect** with newcomers as individuals, offering them respect and security as they enjoy a safe space offered to them.
- **Assist** people as they face cultural barriers and language difficulties, thus enabling them to access services on offer.
- **Share** the faith in Jesus Christ, which motivates the compassion which underlies the project, integrating people, where they are willing, to the message of the bible and community in the local church.
- **Equip** both members of churches to serve asylum seekers and refugees and to raise up volunteers to help with projects taking place.

Tim Burns (tim@thesuitcaseproject.org.uk) is developing and expanding this project as funds, supporters and prayer support build up. He is keen to hear from any who are willing to help in the project so that we become a diocese and a community of local churches who have the well-being of newcomers at their heart.

Emmanuel Hall in Roslyn Street in Belfast BT6 8JJ is the hub for the work and, already, English as a Foreign Language is being taught, conversational English gatherings are taking place, and liaison with the various government support agencies is being developed so they are in the best position to help.

The finance is being handled by the diocese and donations can be directed to the Diocesan Church-planting Fund, using the code **DOASR01** to ensure you are supporting this particular outreach of the diocese. The account details are

Bank Transfer: AIB (NI) Account No: 17028762
Sort code: 93-80-92 Use this **Identifier: DOASR01**

J Club Groups

During February we welcomed 3 new members to J Club. It is not our policy to advertise as we are delighted that both groups have reached their full capacity. Having said that, we have an urgent need for new leaders and helpers so that we can provide a safe environment for everyone. Several parents have offered to help and they are undergoing a safeguarding trust check.

The highlight of February's activities was an evening with Killaney's 'Queen of Pancakes' baker, Viona Crothers. Needless to say, the children enjoyed learning how to make pancakes and, more importantly, eating them!

Plans are beginning to take shape for our weekend away in May, the details of which will be announced in April's magazine. We anticipate having 25 teenagers and 10 leaders on the weekend. The preparation and cost are considerable.

We would encourage members of our church family to pray for everyone involved - young people, leaders, activity coordinator, and the diocesan youth worker who will lead the Bible teaching.

The group is organising a fundraiser and parents will pay the remainder of the cost. Financial support from church members would be much appreciated.

Members are asked to check the J Club fb page for details of Palm Sunday's celebrations and Good Friday's service.

Keith Shaw

Sunday Morning Refreshments



Sunday morning refreshments after our worship service play a part in the ministry of the church. It is an opportunity to get to know people, especially new members, and to give a warm welcome to visitors. If you normally go straight home after the service, I would encourage you to stay a little longer and join us for a cuppa and a chat.

We wish to thank Jill McPeak who organised the rota for the refreshments. She ensured that it was well managed and ran smoothly. Sadly, Jill is no longer able to continue in this roll. We are grateful for her meticulous work and wish her every blessing in the future.

Soon I shall be making out the rota for April, May and June. If a Sunday does not suit you, please swap with someone else, as is the norm. If you no longer wish to be on the rota, please let me know.

If you would like to offer to help with serving the refreshments, please contact me. The duties involved are not too onerous. We would be delighted to include you on the 'team'.

Keith Shaw



The Moravian Church and the Church of Ireland

I recently heard, in a conversation with a friend, of a new welcome development being introduced to the two churches in the headline.

For some years conversations have been going on between the Moravian Church and The Church Of Ireland to create a connection, which would reflect mutual respect, mutual shared ministries, and a willingness to work together for the sake of the gospel.

The Armagh agreement, as it is entitled, is being ratified at events held on Monday 18th March in Ballymena and Gracehill.

While this seems a little bit remote, since the nearest Moravian Church is some miles away from us in Killaney or Carryduff, it is a sign that the church which we love is open to conversations with, and connections to, yet another church. This is a good thing and it reflects the somewhat similar link we share with the Methodist Church.

The event in St Patrick's Ballymena, at 1:30 pm on 18th March, will involve ratifying by a service of worship, the principles agreed in the Armagh statement, that a properly ordained Moravian or Anglican minister, can fully conduct worship in churches of the alternative denomination. While the two churches will continue to function together, there is a tighter bond in pursuit of the glory of God being introduced.

Members of the Mothers' Union and friends have visited Gracehill in the past, a Moravian Settlement in Co Antrim. There are also churches in University Road Belfast, Cliftonville, Ballinderry and Kilwarlin.

For reference see:

[The Church Times](#)

[The Moravian Church in Ireland](#)



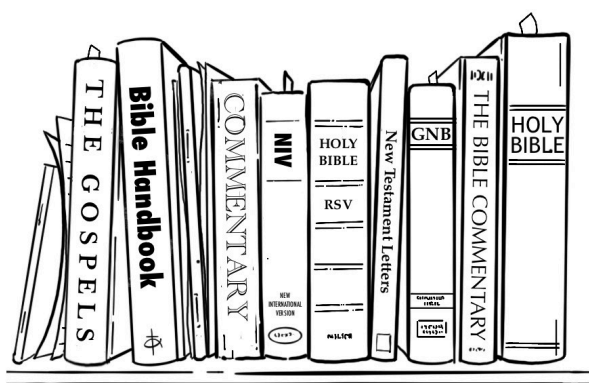
Easter Lilies

In Carryduff, churchgoers have the opportunity to donate the cost of a lily for use on Easter Day in the Church. It has been a delightful and simple gift which has had the impact of awakening a sense of hope in our hearts with the arrival of the Day of Resurrection.

In addition, several of those donating one or more lilies have been able to give it in memory of someone, if they choose, and this has enabled us who share the Easter Hope to rejoice with the saints who have gone before us.

To donate a lily, please make a suggested donation of £10 to cover the cost, with a little to spare, by completing the form in St Ignatius' church or by leaving a message with the wardens or any of the ministry team members.





Book Notes

I've been reading a book lately called **Taking back the Culture** by *Preaching the Kingdom*, whose main message is that preachers should be encouraging people to build up the kingdom of God.

The author's concern is that churches want people to be saved, but are not then teaching them to use their new status in Christ to make the world a better place, as many disciples in the past have done.

I was surprised to read how many of the ideas, discoveries, therapies, causes, and sources of excellence were originally developed by believers. I was inspired by the author's advocacy that business must be done well so that, as a result, each worker will be able to do their best, as a reflection of Christian principles in the workplace.

As is always the way, I didn't agree with everything the author wrote, but making the pulpit a powerhouse for Christian impact on the world around us for the sake of the kingdom has not fallen on deaf ears.

This short book is available on amazon: see

Search [**Taking Back the Culture by Preaching the Kingdom.**](#)

Full disclosure, it is written by a friend, Roger Dunlop. You may borrow my copy if you like!

Stephen

17th March: St Patrick, beloved apostle to Ireland

St Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. If you've ever been in New York on St Patrick's Day, you'd think he was the patron saint of New York as well... the flamboyant parade is full of American/Irish razzmatazz.

It's all a far cry from the hard life of this 5th century humble Christian who became in time both bishop and apostle of Ireland. Patrick was born the son of a town councillor in the west of England, between the Severn and the Clyde. But as a young man he was captured by Irish pirates, kidnapped to Ireland, and reduced to slavery. He was made to tend his master's herds.

Desolate and despairing, Patrick turned to prayer. He found God was there for him, even in such desperate circumstances. He spent much time in prayer, and his faith grew and deepened, in contrast to his earlier years, when he "knew not the true God". Then, after six gruelling, lonely years he was told in a dream he would soon go to his own country. He either escaped or was freed, made his way to a port 200 miles away and eventually persuaded some sailors to take him with them away from Ireland.

After various adventures in other lands, including near-starvation, Patrick landed on English soil at last, and returned to his family. But he was much changed. He had enjoyed his life of plenty before; now he wanted to devote the rest of his life to Christ. Patrick received some form of training for the priesthood, but not the higher education he really wanted. But by 435, well-educated or not, Patrick was badly needed. Palladius' mission to the Irish had failed, and so the Pope sent Patrick back to the land of his slavery. He set up his see at Armagh and worked principally in the north. He urged the Irish to greater spirituality, set up a school, and made several missionary journeys.

Patrick's writings are the first literature certainly identified from the British Church. They reveal sincere simplicity and a deep pastoral care. He wanted to abolish paganism, idolatry, and was ready for imprisonment or death in the following of Christ.

Light the Beacons

St. Patrick's Day 17th March 2024 Services

At 7:30 pm in Carryduff and 8:30 pm in Killaney a short prayer service and beacon lighting event will be held inside and outside our churches.

The beacons will be lit by lanterns obtained from a special service on Saturday 16th March at Down Cathedral. Representatives from our parishes are invited to make their way forward during the service to receive oil to fuel the torches they will be given.

Fire pits (as yet to be sourced) will be lit to serve as beacons (weather permitting) outside the churches to symbolise the light of the Gospel being lit in parishes all around the diocese.

If you would like to represent Carryduff Parish or Killaney Parish at the service, let Stephen know.

Bishop David writes:

Our annual St Patrick's Day celebrations are held in Saul and Down Cathedral on **Saturday 16th March**. The theme for 2024 is, *Light the Beacons*, and our speaker is The Rt Revd Jill Duff, Bishop of Lancaster. The preacher at Saul will be Revd Canon Bill Press and Revd David Legge will lead the Prayer Pilgrimage.

The day will follow the usual pattern culminating in the wreath laying at St Patrick's grave and a complimentary 'Picnic in the Pews'.

Our focus over this St Patrick's Day weekend is on praying for a rekindling of the fire of faith that Patrick lit in Ireland almost 1600 years ago. As part of this, I will light a symbolic fire at the end of the Festival Service and representatives from each church in the diocese will take a torch and a container of concentrated paraffin oil back to their church. Each church will in turn, light a beacon at a special prayer service on Sunday evening 17th March.

A fire should burn outside every one of our church buildings on that night. With beacons lit, we'll be asking God to light the fire of the gospel in Ireland and in that local church context once again.

Schedule at Downpatrick



9.15am Holy Communion at Saul

Preacher: Revd Canon Bill Press, Rector of Knockbreda

10.15am Prayer Pilgrimage from Saul to Downpatrick

11.45am Festival Service in Down Cathedral

Preacher: The Rt Revd Dr Jill Duff, Bishop of Lancaster
Lighting of symbolic beacon and wreath laying ceremony at St Patrick's grave

1.00pm Complimentary 'Picnic in the Pews'

Calendar for March

28 February Wednesday

(Purple for all of Lent)

11:30 Midweek Communion and Lunch in Carryduff

Please let us know you are coming for lunch

7:30 Lent Service in Carryduff

Essence of Prayer Approaching God who is holy. Jude 17-25

3 March Sunday Lent 3: x

All services: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 John 4:1-10

8:30 Early Communion ONE in Carryduff

10:00 Parish Communion in Carryduff

12:00 Parish Communion in Killaney

6 March Wednesday

10:00 Midweek Communion in Carryduff

Deuteronomy 4:1.5-9 Matthew 5:17-19

with refreshments

7:30 Lent Service in Carryduff

Essence of Prayer: Approaching God who is King Jeremiah 10:6-10

7 March Thursday

8:00 Mothers' Union & Friends in Mitchell Room

With Rev Corrina Heron.

10 March Sunday Lent 4 Mothering Sunday

8:30 Early Communion in Carryduff

2 Corinthians 1:3-7 John 4:9-30

10:00 Mothering Sunday Service in Carryduff

2 Corinthians 1:3-7 John 4:9-30

12:00 Worship followed by Easter Vestry in Killaney

2 Corinthians 1:3-7

13 March Wednesday

10:00 Magazine Materials to Office (early publication this month)

Midweek Communion in Carryduff

Isaiah 49:8-15 John 5:17-30

with refreshments

7:30 Lent Service in Carryduff

Essence of Prayer: Approaching God who wills our good Luke 11:5-10

16 March Saturday

11:45 St Patrick's Day Festival Service in Down Cathedral

17 March Sunday St Patrick's Day

8:30 Early Communion B in Carryduff

2 Corinthians 4:1-6 Matthew 5:13-16

10:00 Worship followed by Easter Vestry in Carryduff

2 Corinthians 4:1-6

12:00 Sunday Worship in Killaney

John 4:9-30

7:30 Beacon Lighting at Carryduff in Carryduff

8:30 Beacon Lighting at Killaney in Killaney

18 March Monday

1:30 Service to mark the Armagh Agreement
in St Patrick's Ballymena and Gracehill Churches

20 March Wednesday

- 10:00 Midweek Communion in Carryduff
Daniel 3:14-20,24-25,28 John 8:31-42
with refreshments
- 7:30 Lent Service in Carryduff
Essence of Prayer: Approaching the God who gives 1 Timothy 6:17-21

22 March Friday

- 11:00 Magazine Team
- 7:00 Ballyclare Male Voice Choir Concert in Carryduff
Ballyclare Male Voice Choir presents four sessions of four pieces, sacred and others, with refreshments for half hour mid event, in aid of Fabric Fund. £12.50

24 March Sunday Palm Sunday

- 8:30 Early Communion in Carryduff
Psalm 118:1-2,19-29 Mark 11:1-11
- 10:00 Celebrate at Ten in Carryduff
John 4:31-44
followed by special refreshments
- 12:00 Sunday Morning Worship in Killaney
John 4:31-44

25 March Monday of Holy Week

- 7:30 Youth Evening in Church in Carryduff

26 March Tuesday of Holy Week

- 7:30 Holy Week Service in Carryduff

27 March Wednesday of Holy Week

- 10:00 Midweek Communion in Killaney
Note the venue.

27 March Wednesday of Holy Week

- 7:30 Holy Week Service in Carryduff

28 March Maundy Thursday

- 6:30 Maundy Thursday Meal in Carryduff Church Hall
A community meal reflecting the actions of Jesus at the Last Supper.

29 March Good Friday

- 10:30 Good Friday Morning All Age service in Carryduff
- 7:30 Good Friday Service to be confirmed

31 March Sunday Easter Day

(White)

- 8:30 Breakfast Communion in Carryduff
Acts 10:34-43 Mark 16:1-8
*Early Communion is followed by toast & tea in Carryduff hall
Those coming to the following service, at 10:00, please come to the hall and start by 9:30 at the latest to enjoy a cuppa before worship. All welcome.*
- 10:00 Easter Communion in Carryduff
Acts 10:34-43 John 5:25-32
- 12:00 Easter Communion in Killaney
Acts 10:34-43 John 5:25-32



Greater than Fantastic

We are now in the season of Lent – that forty day period between Ash Wednesday and Easter Day – when we should, perhaps, think more deeply about the nature of our response to Christian faith.

A redemption has been won for each of us at immense personal cost. What words of genuine sincerity and gratitude might we use to acknowledge the blameless life, sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus Christ? It was all on our behalf, and we would do well to recognise that Jesus (and everything that He did) was real. He was the absolute and only begotten Son of God; God in human form. Nevertheless, He was opposed by many self-important influential people, cruelly crucified - and yet rose from the dead within three days.

There is no fantasy about it. All of this really happened. These are amazing, verifiable, historical facts – an objective, visible sequence of events.

Then, after He had appeared in His resurrected body, He gave The Great Commission to His disciples to declare the message of personal salvation to all of us ever since. This, too, is historically verifiable.

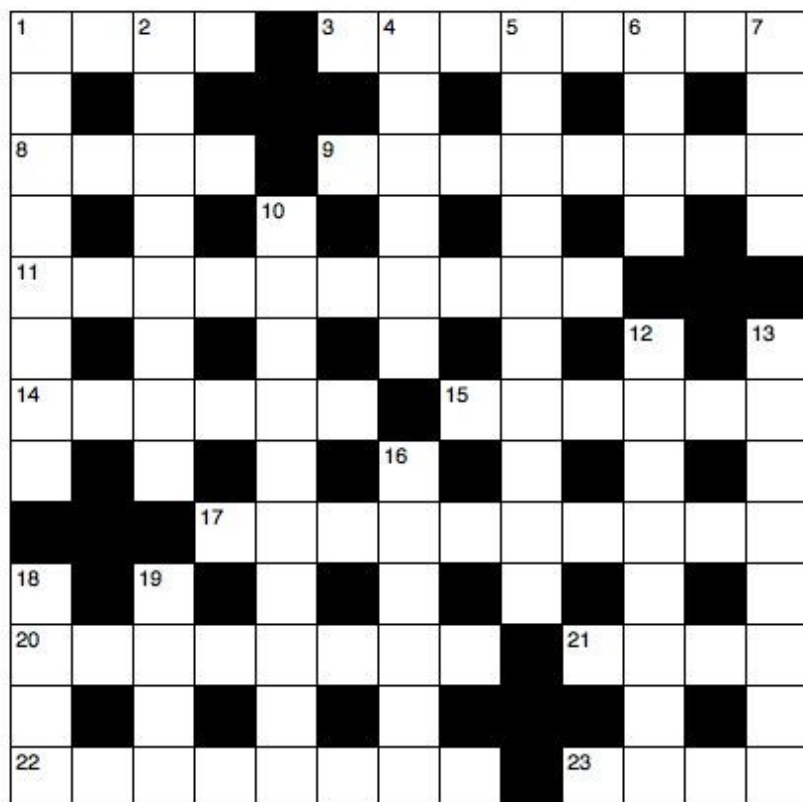
It may seem controversial on my part to resist referring to all this as fantastic. This is simply the wrong word, and a word that has become greatly misused in everyday speech. Thus, for example, a few days ago I happened to watch one of the many cookery programmes currently on television. I wasn't really paying much attention to it but still couldn't avoid hearing the frequent use of a particular word. That word was "fantastic" and, in the course of a forty five minute programme, the presenter repeated it eleven times. The same thing happens in sports commentaries and in celebrity chat shows.

Of course it is nonsense. The word properly relates to fantasy i.e. something that is not based on a realistic character or setting. In short, through constant misuse, the word has become whimsical, ridiculously cheap – even meaningless. So, how could I describe the miracles of Jesus, which were truly amazing - or His Easter resurrection or His saving grace – as fantastic when, in modern popular speech, the same word is used to describe a deep pan pizza and a bottle of coke?

The distinguished contemporary Christian writer, John Stott, has a very clear view of the reality of Easter. He writes: "The resurrection, precisely because it was a decisive, public, visible act of God, within the material order, brings us firm assurance in an otherwise insecure world."

I wouldn't argue with Stott. To my mind, all of this goes well beyond anything that could be described as merely fantastic. I would be more than content to think of it as incredible, amazing, glorious and beyond comparison with anything else in human experience.

Denis Carson



Across

- 1 Made from the fruit of the vine, symbol of the blood of Christ (4)
 3 'You are to set an ambush behind the city. Don't go very far from it. All of you be on — — ' (Joshua 8:4) (3,5)
 8 Seep (4)
 9 Celebrated by Jesus on the night of his betrayal (Luke 22:15) (8)
 11 One of the supposed sites of Christ's burial place in Jerusalem (6,4)
 14 'A city on a hill — be hidden' (Matt 5:14) (6)
 15 He inherited Elijah's mantle (2 Kings 2:12–13) (6)
 17 Where Jesus prayed 'Not as I will, but as you will' (Matthew 26:36, 39) (10)
 20 'Only in his home town and in his — — is a prophet without honour' (Matthew 13:57) (3,5)
 21 Sail (anag.) (4) 22 How Jesus was punished before his crucifixion (Matthew 27:26) (8)
 23 Eye sore (4)

Down

- 1 Can't grow (anag.) (5,3)
 2 A servant girl to Peter, 'You also were with that — , Jesus' (Mark 14:67) (8)
 4 Well-being (Proverbs 3:8) (6)

- 5 Pentecostal denomination, — of God (10)
 6 One of the 'obvious' acts of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:19, 21) (4)
 7 'I preached that they should repent and — to God' (Acts 26:20) (4)
 10 ' — — , the world will not see me any more, but you will see me' (John 14:19) (6,4)
 12 He betrayed Jesus: Judas — (Luke 6:16) (8)
 13 Jesus to Peter: ' — — of my sheep' (John 21:16) (4,4)
 16 The centurion said, 'Surely this man was — — of God' (Mark 15:39) (3,3)
 18 Baked bread (Mark 8:14) (4)
 19 'Blessing and honour, glory and power, be — Him' (Handel's Messiah) (4)

Answers on page 22

Carryduff Parish Church Receipts and Payments Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

		UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	ENDOWMENT		
		FUNDS	FUNDS	FUNDS	TOTAL	TOTAL
	NOTE	2023	2023	2023	2023	2022
RECEIPTS		£	£	£	£	£
FWO/Plate		£66287.16			£66287.16	£59495
Mission			£9272.96		£9272.96	£8552.73
Gift Aid		£11,505.61			£11505.61	£11933.68
Fund Raising	Note 1	£4199.20			£4199.20	
Use of Hall	Note 2	£5616.00			£5616.00	£5700.00
Special Collections	Note 3		£3363.00		£3363.00	£12104.31
Legacies					£0.00	£550.00
Gifts & Subs	Note 4	£8940.00			£8940.00	£10872.39
Killaney contribution	Note 5	£9,591.27			£9,591.27	£9589.16
Printed material		£452.50			£452.50	£367.10
Bank Interest		£166.77			£166.77	£144.54
Sundries	Note 6	£1,235.37			£1,235.37	£341.65
Fabric Fund			£5,933.45		£5,933.45	£957.00
Organisations Receipts	Note 7				£15014.23	£12315.09
Total Receipts		£107993.88	£18569.41	£0.00	£141577.52	£132923.04

Payments Notes:

Note 1 – Fund Raising

Belfast Community Gospel Choir concert £3969.20 Christmas Tea £230 **Total £4199.20**

Note 2 – Use of Hall

Baby Sensory £1512 Scouts £1000 Brownies £300 Belvoir Support Group £528 Cadenza Choir £600 Birthday Parties £434 Bowling Club £150 Repair Café £163 Killynure Community Association £216 Westie Club £180 Retirement Association £258 Baby Bloom £65 Diocesan events £220 **Total £5616**

Note 3 – Special Collections

Bishops Appeal Turkey £1144 Maundy Thursday Shelter NI £262 Olo £200 Harvest Appeal £1757 **Total £3363**

Note 4 – Gifts & Subs

Bequests £5000 Private Swims £2000 Donations £1500.00 Funeral/Baptisms £440.00 **Total £8940.00**

Note 5 – Killaney Contribution

Rectors Salary/NIC/PAYE **Total £9591.27**

Note 6 – Sundries

Tea/Coffee £1034.81 Christian Aid £175.58 Other £20.00 NIE Wayleave £4.98 **Total £1235.37**

Note 7 – Parish Organisations Receipts

The organisations and income they generate are as follows:-

1 J Club	£7514.45
2 Golf Society	£5574.98
3 Babies & Toddlers	£ 301.60
4 Wednesday Fellowship	£ 658.20
5 Bowling Club	£ 130.00
6 Mothers Union	£ 835.00
Total	£15014.23

		UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	ENDOWMENT		
		FUNDS	FUNDS	FUNDS	TOTAL	TOTAL
	NOTE	2023	2023	2023	2023	2022
<u>PAYMENTS</u>		£	£	£	£	£
Salaries	Note 1	£47961.36			£47961.36	£44904.96
Diocesan Exps		£12358.10			£12358.10	£11722.06
Church Running Costs	Note 2	£16898.44			£16898.44	£19923.96
Church Maintenance & Repairs	Note 3	£7437.25			£4317.25	£5914.73
Rectory Costs	Note 4	£1320.05			£1320.05	£1426.48
Charitable Donations	Note 5		£14572.50		£14572.50	£12529.78
ADMIN COSTS	Note 6	£3736.36			£3730.36	£4292.55
Sundries	Note 7	£3163.87			£2947.11	£963.29
Parish Organisations Payments	Note 8				£14947.99	£11865.36
Total Payments		£92875.43	£14572.50		£122395.92	£113543.17

Expenditure Notes

Note 1 – Salaries

Rectors salary/Locomotory expenses/NIC/PAYE - £44975.28 Other salaries - £2986.08 **Total £47961.36**

Note 2 – Church Running Costs

Oil £3354.57- Cleaner Costs £2809.10 - Electric £6067 - Insurance £3337.22 – Alarm Maintenance £770.18 – Vestry phone £467.98 – Cleaning expenses £16.00 Water rates £76.39 **Total £16898.44**

Note 3 – Maintenance & Repairs

Emergency Light £360 - Speaker System upgrade £3120 - Roof repairs £200 R Jackson £420 Hall Door repair £595 Ground Maintenance £560 Candles/Linens £213.53 Kitchen Supplies £165.12 Sound system £1080 Cherry Picker Hire roof survey £723.60 **Total £7437.25**

Note 4 – Rectory costs

Oil £537 Rates £783.05 **Total £1320.05**

Note 5 – Charitable donations

CMSI Olo £2260 Christian Aid £1533.50 SAMS £1211 ICS £1211 Bible Society NI £931 HFHNI £931 IJM £686 Scripture Union NI £398 Scripture Union St Petersburg £398 Christian Blind Mission £398 The Larder £288 Friend of the Cancer Centre £288 Love for Life £288 Bishops Appeal Turkey £729 Shelter NI £262 J Club Plus £300 CMSI Olo Mill Project £1800 Music for Life £360 Earl Haig Fund £300.00 **Total £14572.50**

Note 6 – Administration Costs

Office supplies £883.24 Accountants Fee £720 CCLI £679.28 Gazette £315 BRN £207.90 Data Developments £406 Bank Fees £254.96 Licences £159 Software £110.98 **Total £3736.36**

Note 7 – Sundries

BCGC Concert £2640 RBL wreath £22 stamps £71.54 Refreshments £93.57 Gift £100 Mandate amendment £20 Funeral Catering £196.76 Payment to Killaney £20 **Total £3163.87**

Note 8 - Parish Organisations Payments

1 J Club	£6923.21
2 Golf Society	£5654.00
3 Babies & Toddlers	£138.80
4 Wednesday Fellowship	£652.50
5 Bowling Club	£124.34
6 Mothers Union	£1455.14
Total	£14947.99

Killaney Draft Financial Report will be incouded under separate cover later

Annual Report for 2023

This is a draft of part of the Trustee's Report to be presented in March, 2024

Ministry

Throughout the year the parishes seek to provide a pastoral presence through the ministry of the rector, readers and volunteers. We pay tribute to Mrs Marlene Moore and Mr Keith Shaw, our diocesan readers and Mrs Jenny Montgomery and Mr Raymond Scott our Parish Readers. We thank all who read lessons, manage screens, welcome worshippers, serve refreshments and tidy the buildings after worship.

The Parish Magazine - CROSSROADS - is made freely available to all. It is published and printed from the church office and we are indebted to Mrs Jenny Eralp for its production. A version is added to the church website in easily readable pdf format. We thank all who contribute, edit, distribute and read the magazine.

Our services have been accompanied throughout the year by both Mr Brian and Mrs Helen Mulholland as they combine talents to worship God with us each Sunday. It has been great to have them on the team and to see a new organ donated by several generous people, and then installed in St Andrew's. The Combined Carol Service at St Andrew's drew a large congregation from both parishes and the surrounding district.

During the year in Carryduff our new co-treasurers and the finance team have been developing the use of a new parish database. We look forward to its complete implementation in due course.

The parishes continued to donate food and essentials to support people in need: Carryduff donates to The Larder in Mersey Street while Killaney supported Ballynahinch Foodbank. Both parishes joined to fill over 100 shoe boxes with Christmas gifts for children overseas, as organised by Samaritan's Purse. We thank Mr Denis Carson who initiated and managed this process for many years.

Churches

Our two parishes follow different patterns of donations to local and external causes, seeking to support the international Christian community in its mission wherever it serves. To this end we support local charities and have donated funds to Olo Diocese to help them provide a mill to help local people grind meal safely adjacent to their homes, so avoiding a potentially perilous journey for the women of the community to prepare food for their families.

A diocesan programme enabled members of a SOMA team to spend a few days in our parishes in June, and we are indebted to them for their ministry so freely given to us. God uses ordinary people in wonderful ways, as they open their lives to his unique call upon them.

A visit from the leaders of the church in Olo, Bishop and Mrs Obed Andrew Tandema, was a highlight for us in 2023.

The Fundraising Team in Carryduff organised a number of events, including special refreshments after worship to mark the King's Coronation, and the Harvest, to enable funds to be raised for the Fabric Fund. A much anticipated visit by Belfast Community Gospel Choir was ably promoted and organised. We ask Mr Keith Shaw, who spearheads the fund raising group, to pass on the Trustee's thanks to members of his team inside and outside the vestry.

Church Halls and Property

Killaney has appointed a Hall Team to encourage more widespread use of the facility and we have been pleased to see a small number of groups in the community using this from time to time. We encourage more to apply.

Carryduff's halls are used 14 times per average week, and external groups from e.g. the diocese, use them from time to time. A choir trains in the church regularly.

The Bell Tower at Killaney has required some interior maintenance and the final repairs to windows have been completed. The weekly volunteer cleaning has enabled the building to be ever ready for use to assist in e.g. time of joy or sorrow. The graveyard path project reached a critical point at the end of the year and we anticipate extensive work taking place in the first part of 2024. This is for the safety, convenience and appearance of the graveyard for all users. The lighting in the church was making great demands on our electricity supply and all the lights in use have been replaced with more modern fittings and lower wattage bulbs. We are indebted to our wardens, glebe wardens and Hon secretary for managing these important projects.

In Carryduff the Fabric Fund is supported monthly by individual envelope donations allowing a significant start to be made on anticipated roof repairs. This will be a major item throughout 2024 and further ahead. A grant, to help survey the roofs, was organised by Mrs Jenny Montgomery for whose diligence we express our appreciation. We also value the efforts of our glebe wardens, Mr David Nevin and Mr Mark Rourke, as they manage and assist in routine and emergency maintenance. The diligence of both the vestry Property Committee and the Health and Safety group has ensured that any potential hazards are removed. We pay tribute to our member Mrs Joan Clayton for her H&S co-ordinating role.

Note to report:

With the exceptionally early dates of Easter Vestry Meetings this year, the vestries have not been able to approve and send any Financial Statements for auditing.

There are a number of legal assertions that the document above needs to declare, and these have been omitted from the brief excerpts from the final reports.

At the Easter Vestry meetings in March, this report will be referred to but not read in full. We hope the summary above is helpful.

w	u	n	j	e	r	u	s	a	l	e	m	h	o
o	f	p	g	v	v	h	a	p	v	x	f	a	r
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h	p	c	s	g	t	d	i	y	g	r	i	m	i
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f	x	d	l	t	p	r	o	b	l	e	m	x	c
h	o	s	a	n	n	a	g	a	j	y	l	f	p
g	u	w	c	a	n	z	t	v	x	f	a	l	n
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everyone
sacrifice
thieves
stalls
Jerusalem
visitors
problem
God

den
priests
Hosanna
shekels
drove
upsetting
killed
Jesus

place
crowds
prayer
worship
special
secretly
animals
Temple

PARISH REGISTER

Holy Baptism

4 February Katie Jill Marian Hegarty, Lough Road, Boardmills. In Killaney
As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord

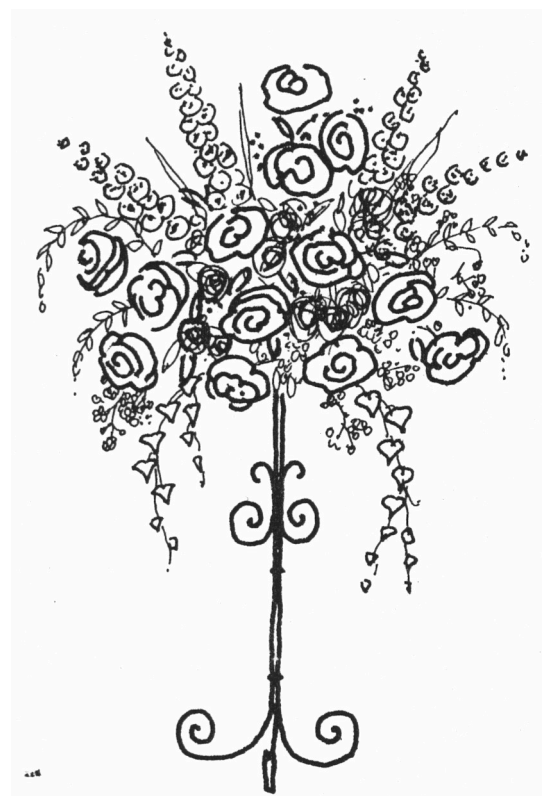
Looking for the Resurrection

An old couple are driving down the motorway when the wife gets a call from their daughter. 'Mum, there's a car driving the wrong way down the motorway!' The wife warns her husband that there is a lunatic on the motorway. Her husband, clutching the wheel in terror, replies: 'One lunatic? There are dozens of them, all headed straight for us!' What we see is determined by our perspective on life.

In the Nicene Creed we say: 'We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.' In the gospel accounts of the Resurrection, there is a lot of looking and seeing. Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Salome went early to the tomb. They saw the stone rolled aside and inside the tomb a young man dressed in white said to them: 'Don't be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him...He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see Him' (Mark 16: 6,7).

Like the women, we would probably have been left 'trembling and bewildered' by what we saw that morning. Had the body been taken? Was the young man an angel or deceiver? Was Jesus raised to life again, or was this an elaborate hoax?

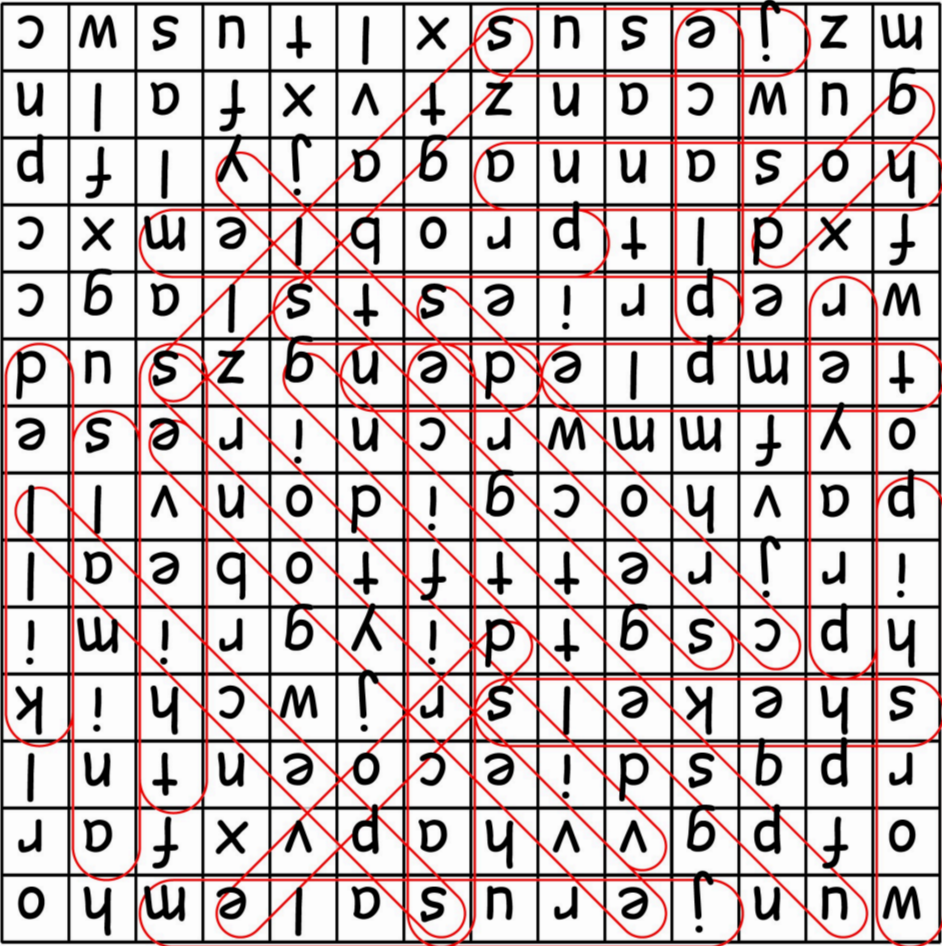
Easter gives us a choice. We can approach life looking for disappointment, fear and despair. Or we can look for resurrection and find not just an empty tomb, but encounter the living Christ. He continues to meet us in our daily lives, bringing new hope, forgiveness of sin, healing and wholeness and the assurance of His presence through the darkest of times. God invites us to see our lives differently and look for Christ's resurrection life at work in our lives and the people around us.



Rosters March

Readers	8:30 am Epistle	10:00 am Lessons	12:00 pm Lessons
3	Mary	Jim Gibb	Vera Lowry
10	Caroline	Sandra Thomas	Annie Kirkpatrick
17	Edward	Tanya Adams	Jane Todd
24	David	J Club	Brian McNeill
31	Raymond	Denis Carson	Betty Green

	Flowers	Refreshments at Carryduff	Screens
3		Ann Stewart & Harriet Fraser	Andrew
10		Beatrice & Karen McConnell	Maureen
17		Jan Erwin & Jenny Montgomery	Jenny
24	Pamela Trotter	Tanya Adams & Elizabeth Johnston	Fiona
31	Easter Day Lilies	Vera Lowry & Ryan Shaw	Raymond



ACROSS: 1, Wine, 3, The alert, 8, Ooze, 9, Passover, 11, Garden Tomb, 14, Cannot, 15, Elisha, 17, Gethsemane, 20, Own house, 21, Lisa, 22, Flogging, 23, Style.

DOWN: 1, Wrong act, 2, Nazarene, 4, Health, 5, Assemblies, 6, Envy, 7, Turn, 10, Before long, 12, Iscariot, 13, Take care, 16, The Son, 18, Loaf, 19, Unto.

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

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 Readers:	Jenny Montgomery Raymond Scott	
Office:	Jenny Eralp killaneyandcarryduff@icloud.com	028 9081 3489
Carryduff Wardens:	Cedric Adams Sammy Barratt	
Co Honorary Treasurer:s	Deirdre Shaw, Sandra Thomas	078 5519 3341
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:	Adrian Cousins David Gill (Acting)	0773 1987183 0781 5498638
Verge:	Florence Coulter	028 9263 9133
Honorary Secretary:	Colin McClintock	0782 5337705
Covenants:		
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	077 8756 3851
	Bill Connor	028 9263 9873

Next Edition is an *early* April Edition.

Please submit copy by March 13th to killaneyandcarryduff@icloud.com for publishing on Friday 22nd March . Thank you to our distributors and compilers for your help..

You are warmly invited to a
CONCERT
with



BALLYCLARE MALE CHOIR

Including instrumental Pipe & Drum

In St Ignatius' Parish Church

On Friday 22 March 2024

At 7.00 pm

(doors open 6.30pm)

£12.50 pp includes light refreshments

Tickets available : contact 07901935205