

CROSSROADS

St Ignatius' and St Andrew's Magazine - September 2024



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Stephen writes

A lot has happened recently!

A new government, little girls stabbed as they danced, an uprising of violent protest in cities across the country, attacks on police rising, and a new presidential candidate in USA. What a lot has happened since our last edition! In response to such things our brothers and sisters in South Sudan often use a phrase in their worship and in their conversation:



God is Good All the Time.

All the Time God is Good.

What they have faced in recent decades has been much worse than anything we are experiencing at the moment, with violent overthrows of duly elected governments, terrorist attacks on homes and villages, some of which are totally destroyed, and recurring periods of drought to make basic life almost impossible. Yet they say: "God is Good all the time!" I admire their faith, their courage, their tenacity and their downright stubbornness in the face of their trials. I want to learn from them, as we face the many issues before us with trust in God. Are they right? Is God good? All the time? Many people ask these questions about God.

What sort of a God is he?

The God who welcomes the stranger

God defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt. Deuteronomy 10:18-19

The God who affirms good government

For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. Romans 13:3-4

The God who rejects violence

The Lord says, "My people do one evil thing after another, and do not acknowledge me as their God. They all mislead their friends, and no one tells the truth; they have taught their tongues to lie and will not give up their sinning. They do one violent thing after another, and one deceitful act follows another." Jeremiah 9:3,5-6

The God who sacrifices for the good of all.

God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because, in his forbearance, he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus. Romans 3:25-27

If you look these verses up in your bible, or click on the text, you can read more of what God's Word teaches us.

In response, we need to be more like Christ in our approach to the stranger, to the ruling government, and to the perpetrators of acts of violence. We need also to pray for the parents and families of Alice Dasilva Aguiar, nine, Bebe King, six, and Elsie Dot Stancombe, seven, who were stabbed at the dance class they were attending.

Here is one more section to encourage you a little more: it doesn't apply directly to the horrors of Southport or the violence on our streets, but it gives us a new direction for our hope in a time of despair.

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Olympic Triumph?

I enjoyed many of the sporting exploits portrayed on TV this summer, especially the Olympics. To see young people from Northern Ireland win gold medals after years of training, and many teams gathering multiple medals in their various pursuits was fascinating. Well done, every one of you!

After having seen parts of the opening ceremony I was not inclined to watch the closing event: hopefully, it was not open to such criticism as the first, and certainly not as likely to cause the eye strain that the rapid onslaught of old images of sporting triumph caused me! But in a world where people of faith are being consistently marginalised and mocked, an abiding image in the opening ceremony of the recent Olympics in Paris had the potential to mar the event.

It was a short scene where Drag Queens played the part of a group of people sitting around a table to receive bread and wine. It pretended to be an example of diversity in a post religious age. In effect, though, it represented our Lord, the Son of God, as chief party animal amongst self-absorbed seekers of thrills.

For many Christians the image was profoundly offensive, and for others it was, at least, a questionable and ill-chosen way to treat the religious history of Paris with its Sacré-Cœur and Notre-Dame at its ecclesiastical heart.

Imagine if such scenes were performed to mock USA or Russia or some of the other world faiths!

What I loved to see was the determination of athletes, both before and after competing, as they made gestures which revealed an inner prayer had been offered and answered. Despite my Protestant discomfort, it was good to see people 'blessing' themselves as they emerged from the track.

From across the globe the same quiet faith was portrayed, and to God be the Glory!

Church Flowers

Sometimes the kind people who donate money for (or give actual) flowers to display in church will ask "Can I pass them on to parishioners or friends who are in need of encouragement or thanks?" "Of course you can!" Please let those arranging the flowers that month know, and they will do their best to assist you.

I am very taken with the ingenuity and skill which some of you use as you display

the flowers; I encourage fellow worshippers to join me in thanking personally both the people who donate flowers, and those who arrange them each month. If you would like to donate flowers, please contact Elizabeth, Vera, Deirdre or Joan in Carryduff, and Anne in Killaney. Details from the Wardens' Tables.

Parish September Prayer Time

As we look forward to Confirmation Sunday, a proposed Alpha or Christianity Explored type outreach, and recall the needs of people in our community who are currently ill or in hospital, we are going to meet each Wednesday in September at 7:00 pm in the Mitchell Room for prayer. I hope you will come.

There will be a short introduction and then a time of prayer. We welcome contributions from parishioners who wish loved ones and friends to be prayed for at the gathering.

You may like to come along to express the need, and join the prayers, or to complete a form at the back of both churches to add names to the prayer list.

Is there an easier way? Probably! But going to "all that trouble" reflects both your faith and determination to gather others around your prayers.

Lesson Reader Volunteers

At each of our services members of the congregation read either the lessons or the epistle. Many of those reading enjoy the experience, but there is room for more.

If you would like to read, or start reading again after a lapse because your name has accidentally slipped off the lists, then contact Marie Mack in Killaney and Jenny Eralp in the office at Carryduff.

I know that it was when I started taking a specific role in services that my own experience of worship was enriched.

NOTE: Every so often, a reader says "the reading is taken from" whichever book they are reading. Please don't! When you have finished speaking the reading is still where you found it. "A reading from" is quite enough!

Three questions

It has been great over the summer to hear members of the congregation answer three quick questions: what changes have happened recently? what challenges are you facing? and what truly cheers your heart? Thanks to Keith for organising most of them and thanks to each of you for taking part.

And finally...

This season is a significant one for the parishes as we build on past successes and seek to develop fresh opportunities for ministry and service:

The 'Sunday Clubs' resume in September with a good team of leaders: they need children to make it worthwhile. Who can you invite? Whose children could you bring to sit with you prior to Sunday Club each week? Have you an artistic or craft skill that the team could use to help enhance their teaching?

The 'Roof Project' at Carryduff reaches a critical stage this month as proposals are made ready to put to LCC Council and Historic Buildings to get approval for the

planned work. If successful, tenders will be drawn up and, hopefully, contractors found to remove the tiles, repair the leaks, refashion the hoppers that carry the water from the roof, and other ancillary work that we need to do to make our building fit for purpose for the next generation.

The 'Teddy Bear Nativity' team is inviting members of both parishes to help with setting up, decorating and supporting the exhibition from its creation on 12 December, through its display on 13-15 December, and in supporting the hospitality on offer to those who come, and local groups taking part (choirs etc). A 'Breakfast' will be held soon to support young people living in Peru, who are given breakfast and Bible resources. Read the news sheets as this event is finalised.

An Alpha type 'Introduction to Christianity' is planned shortly. We need you to invite, and bring along a friend or two who would be interested in finding out what the course entails. This is not only for church goers but, more importantly, for those who are only curious at this stage to find out more.

More people at church each week breeds enthusiasm

More prayers each day breeds optimism

More publicity breeds awareness and

More passion for Christ breeds new disciples!

Are you willing to be part of it? Then 'See you on Sunday'!

Stephen

Bible Week

Down & Dromore's annual Bible Week will run from Tuesday 27 August to Friday 30 August in St Saviour's, Dollingstown.

Our speaker this year is Bishop Stuart Bell. *Tales of the Unexpected – A fresh look at four parables.*

The parables are stories from Jesus which "still cut into the soul, slice away our concealments and address the deepest needs of humanity in every generation." Don't miss it!

- Tuesday 27 August: Unvarnished realism (Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43)
- Wednesday 28 August: Unfinished business (Luke 13:1-9)
- Thursday 29 August: Unfair grace (Matthew 20:1-16)
- Friday 30 August: Unforeseen consequences (Luke 15:11-32)



Freedom Sunday Preacher

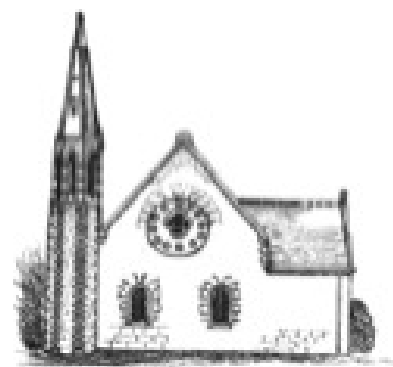
Hannah Elliott, Ireland Director of IJMUK, is coming to our churches on 22nd September to tell us about International Justice Mission, one of our annual charities in Carryduff. We look forward to hearing from her.

Killaney Notes

Flowers: Jennifer Knox

Cleaning: Adrian & Sandra Cousins

- I hope you all had a nice summer break. The children will be looking forward to meeting their friends at school and the younger ones to starting.
- We will get back to normal at Church. Our monthly cup of tea, when we get together for the company and chat, will begin in September.
- Thank you for supporting the Ballynahinch food bank; you are all very generous and kind.
- Visitors who came to Church all remarked how lovely the Church and grounds are. Thank you to Raymond and all who help look after it.



**Raise your words, not your voice,
It is rain which grows flowers, not thunder.**

These lines were written many years ago and are still true today:

If a child lives with encouragement,
He learns to be confident;
If a child lives with tolerance,
She learns to be patient;
If a child lives with fairness,
He learns what justice is;
If a child lives with love,
She learns that the world is
A wonderful place to be.

In the nineteenth century, women in America were not expected to hold strong political views. If they did, they had to keep quiet. Lucy Stone rebelled against this. Coming from a traditional Massachusetts family she shocked society by speaking out on women's rights. When she openly opposed slavery she was urged not to get involved. She gave this answer:

"If in this hour of the world's need I should refuse to lend my aid, however small it may be, I should have no right to think myself a Christian."

When slavery was finally abolished it was thanks to courageous spirits like Lucy.

Ballynahinch Foodbank

Report to Killaney 1 APRIL - 30 JUNE 2024

Ballynahinch Foodbank continues to meet the calls on its services, thanks to the generosity of many churches, schools, individuals, sports clubs and associations. Without this support we could not provide food help to those seeking our assistance, particularly as food prices continue to increase.

In the three months ended 30 June 2024 we distributed 193 parcels which provided 5,328 meals for 592 adults and children, together with toiletries and household cleaning items.

The Foodbank volunteers thank all those who provide support with donations of food or money. Your support is vital to the ongoing work of the Foodbank and is very much appreciated.

Mothers' Union & Friends



Would you believe it- another Mothers' Union year is about to begin!

Our opening service will take place in Church on Thursday 5th September at the normal time of 8pm. This will be followed by refreshments and a good old natter. At this meeting I will be taking orders for 2025 diaries, Christmas cards and gifts. You should have received the latest MU Shop brochure in the post so please take a look in advance of the meeting. There are some lovely cards and gifts.

Mothers' Union Big Sing

During 2023/24 The MU has had a number of 'Big Sings' across Ireland. These raise funds for 'Mums in May'.

The Down & Dromore Big Sing takes place in St Finnian's on Sunday 8th September at 7pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The All Ireland Big Sing will be held on Saturday 16th November at 2pm in St Patrick's Parish Church, Ballymena. Saintfield Parish MU is organising a bus to the event. It would leave Carryduff mid- morning and depart Ballymena at around 5pm. The cost of the bus would be £7.50. Please let Vera or Jenny know if you would like a place.

What's your favourite Hymn?

The music we play before worship services has several purposes. . . .

- It can introduce a new tune – when we have played it for a number of times you will recognize it when the hymn is used in worship and you can join in with hearty singing!
- It can help quieten our thoughts as we approach God and help us focus on His love and goodness to us all.
- It can bring to your memory a significant moment in your life when that hymn was used – maybe your wedding, confirmation, the funeral of a friend or a time when you felt God being very close. These “memory moments” can bring great comfort as we recall the words of the hymn writer and their special meaning to us.

Speaking of hymn writers, The Right Rev Timothy Dudley-Smith [one of the best] went to be with his Saviour on 12th August. He penned over 400 hymns and we use some of his words in regular worship “Tell out my Soul the greatness of the Lord” is one. [More about that another time.]

If you would like to tell us **your favourite hymn**, write it on a note with your name, pass it to us at the organ/piano, and listen carefully before Sunday worship. We can all come closer to God through a good hymn, and by listening or singing from our hearts.

Brian & Helen

Diocesan Training

I hope you are interested in one or more of these training courses available in the next few months. There are too many to describe in detail, but, if you would like to find out more, contact Stephen at the Rectory or by email/text, and he will pass on further information to you. There is no obligation to attend just because you asked for info!

- **SMALL GROUP LEADERSHIP TRAINING COURSE:** A 3 evening course on how to be an effective group leader -useful for anyone who would like to lead a home group or at the bible study. 3rd, 4th and 5th Sept.
- **WELCOME TRAINING EVENING** (3 date choices available): A fun and interactive evening for anyone who would like to learn different ways a church can be more welcoming -open to parishioners of all ages who have a heart for welcome. 10th, 11th and 12th Sept.
- **YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S LEADERS RESOURCE EVENINGS** (2 date choices available): An evening of fellowship and practical resourcing for your youth and children's leaders. 18th and 19th Sept.
- **BIBLE TEACHER INFORMATION EVENING:** A Zoom session to introduce the new Commissioned Bible Teacher/Catechist course and other training options such as Diocesan Reader and Evangelist training courses. 25th Sept.
- **INTRODUCTION TO PROMOTING GENEROSITY:** An introductory evening on resources that will help church members and leaders promote generosity in their parishes. 3rd Oct.
- **CHRISTIANITY / HOPE EXPLORED TRAINING SESSIONS:** We're welcoming Jubi de Silva, the International Training Director for Christianity Explored, to provide training on how to effectively run these 2 courses. 2nd Oct.
- **INTRODUCTION TO WORSHIP - FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH:** This exciting new training is aimed at children aged 10-16 yrs and will introduce the basics of participating and also leading in worship. 5th Oct.
- **DIOCESAN BIBLE COURSE - 1 YEAR COURSE** (1st module): A 1-year version of the Bible Course involving 3 modules of 10 weeks each. It's open for people of all backgrounds as no prior learning is needed. Wednesdays from 9th Oct.
- **INTRODUCTION TO PASTORAL VISITING -FOR LAY PEOPLE** (3 date choices available): This invaluable training roadshow will introduce church members to the principles and practice of pastoral visiting as well as basic Adult Safeguarding. 14th, 15th or 16th Oct.

Thank you for considering these opportunities.

Confirmation

As promised, we have three September meet-ups for those considering confirmation and/or renewing baptismal vows (in October).

We will meet on Tuesdays (10, 17, and 24 September) at 7:00 pm in the Church at Carryduff. The 24th is the day for deciding to go ahead.

Church services on 15 September "Where will my faith take me?" and 22 September "Faith in action!" also include materials especially honed for confirmees.

Thanks to all who have spoken to me about taking part in the confirmation event on 13 October at 7:00 pm.

If you are an older adult considering a public renewal of Christian vows, there is still time to let me know. You may wish to do this as a reflection of your renewed commitment to Christ in recent years, and/or as a sign that you want to identify with the denomination to which you now belong.

Send Stephen a text or make a call to find out more. 07834584932

J Club / J Club Plus

J Club (P1-P5) will reopen on Friday 6th September at 7.00pm, finishing at 8.15pm.

J Club Plus (P6 and up) will reopen on Friday 13rd September at 7.00pm, finishing at 8.30pm.

A number of changes have been put in place for the start of the new season. These concern J Club rules, volunteering, membership fees, and J Club Sundays. Details are contained in the letter to parents.

New volunteers are needed to assist on a monthly rota basis. Volunteers are also needed to assist with the weekly sign-in at the welcome desk from 6.45-7.15pm.

New members are very welcome. When the maximum number is reached, a waiting list will come into effect.

All information will be found on the Carryduff Parish J Club Groups fb page.

Keith Shaw

Harvest Appeal

Carryduff's Harvest service is due to take place on Sunday 6th October. Our appeal this year takes us in a new direction. Rather than giving the parish our money to refurbish kitchen or toilets, replace carpets or windows, we are looking outwards.

The diocesan 'Suitcase Project' has been developing for the last year to become a welcoming community for asylum seekers and refugees who have been forcefully dislocated from their communities, and come from countries that are closed to the Gospel. By giving practical care and emotional support, the Project is showing God's love and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. Its ministry is even more vital as extremists have increased their attacks and abuse directed towards individuals and families from overseas. It has become difficult, also, for people who have been here for generations to go about their daily business safely.

The Select Vestry has decided to give the Harvest Appeal towards this ministry to help in the work of hospitality to which we are called by Christ.

The envelopes are being distributed with **next month's magazines**, and you are asked to consider carefully how to give. Marking this (or any) envelope with your name or a FWO number helps us claim Gift Aid on your donations.

Thank you.

[Celebrations as new bicycles arrive in Maridi](#)

One hundred new bicycles purchased by parishes in Down and Dromore have arrived with their owners in our link diocese of Maridi in South Sudan. Their arrival was cause for celebration and thanksgiving as Bishop Moses and his clergy gathered in the Cathedral compound. The County Commissioner was also present.



Bishop David had launched a fundraising appeal following his visit to Maridi and the realisation that a lack of suitable transport was the biggest obstacle to ministry that Bishop Moses' clergy faced. At Diocesan Synod we were able to announce a fantastic £36,782.32 raised by 63 parishes – enough to purchase 100 bikes for priests and 10 motorbikes for the archdeacons who visit multiple parishes. The motorbikes will arrive later this month. All of the new transport has been purchased in the country. In a short video message Bishop Moses said:



“We are so grateful to the Diocese of Down and Dromore and to Bishop David. Thank you very much from the Diocese of Maridi. Today we are celebrating, and you have kept your word and you have given us support in the ministry. The priests in the Diocese of Maridi today have received bicycles. This is a great support that is the real partnership. I thank all of you – all the parishes which have contributed - for giving these bicycles to the Diocese of Maridi.

“We pray that the partnership between the Diocese of Maridi and the Diocese of Down and Dromore will continue, not only in the form of things, but in our fellowship.”

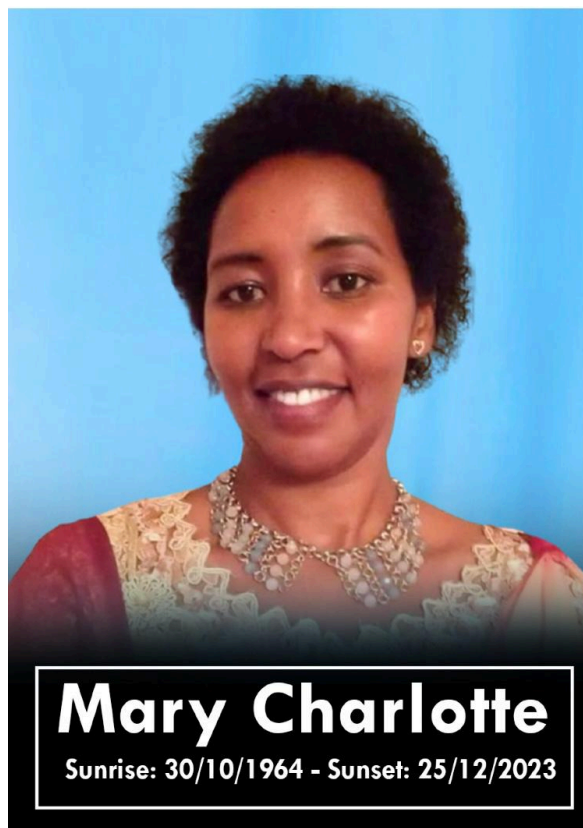


Mary Munyangaju

Many years ago Jerome and Mary Munyangaju came to Ireland, sponsored and supported by The Council for the Church Overseas in cooperation with Knockbreda Parish Church. Their ministry was designed to help believers here understand the world of overseas mission and to help the church develop a better grasp of how we can help. Their home nation Rwanda experienced the most dreadful period of instability, and the couple sensed God's call drawing them back to serve at home. They founded Bird of Paradise Ministries in Rwanda (BPMR), and began to build a ministry toward the elderly there. It has been supported by a shop in Downpatrick to which some of you may have contributed goods.

Mary passed away recently, and her friends here decided to hold a Thanksgiving Service for her life and ministry. Everyone is welcome to attend.

A Thanksgiving Service for the life and ministry of Mary Charlotte Munyangaju 30.10.1964 - 25.12.2023



in Knockbreda Parish Church on Monday 2 September at 7.30pm
followed by refreshments and fellowship
There will be a thank offering to be used as a bursary for those seeking
qualifications in elderly care in Rwanda
Everyone is welcome

Calendar for September**Sunday 25 August Trinity 13****(Green)**

- Ephesians 6:10-20 John 8:31-46 The truth shall make you free
- 8:30 Early Communion in Carryduff
- 10:00 Celebrate at Ten in Carryduff
- 12:00 Sunday Morning Worship in Killaney

Tuesday 27 August

- 7:45 Diocesan Bible Week in St Saviour's Dollingstown BT66 7JR
A fresh look at four parables with Bishop Stuart Bell.
Unvarnished realism (Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43)

Wednesday 28 August

- 10:00 Midweek Communion in Carryduff
2 Thessalonians 3:6-10,16-18 Matthew 23:27-32 with refreshments
- 7:45 Diocesan Bible Week
Unfinished business (Luke 13:1-9)

Thursday 29 August

- 7:45 Diocesan Bible Week
Unfair grace (Matthew 20:1-16)

Friday 30 August

- 7:45 Diocesan Bible Week
Unforeseen consequences (Luke 15:11-32)

Sunday 1 September Trinity 14**(Green)**

- James 1:17-27 John 8:48-59
- 8:30 Early Communion ONE
- 10:00 Parish Communion in Carryduff
- 12:00 Parish Communion in Killaney

Monday 2 September

- 7:30 Select Vestry in Carryduff

Wednesday 4 September

- 10:00 Midweek Communion in Carryduff
1 Corinthians 3:1-9 Luke 4:38-44 with refreshments
- 7:00 Parish Prayer Time in Mitchell Room
45 minutes of spoken and silent prayer

Thursday 5 September

- 8:00 Mothers' Union & Friends Opening Service in Carryduff Church
followed by refreshments and a chat

Friday 6 September

- 7:00 J-Club Re-opens this week in Main Hall

Sunday 8 September Barnabas Aid Sunday**(Green)**

- James 2:1-10 John 9:1-11
- Sunday Club starts today Carryduff at 10 Killaney at 12
- 8:30 Early Communion in Carryduff
- 10:00 Sunday Worship Preacher Neville McCormack in Carryduff
- 12:00 Sunday Worship Preacher Neville McCormack in Killaney
- 7:00 MU Attends the Down and Dromore Big Sing in St Finnian's Church

Monday 9 September

19:15 Cubs Re-open in Main Hall

Tuesday 10 September

7:00 Brownies & Guides Reopen in Main Hall and Mitchell Room

7:00 Confirmation Preparation in St Ignatius' Church

8:00 Killaney Vestry *please note later starting time* in Killaney

Wednesday 11 September

10:00 Midweek Communion in Carryduff

1 Corinthians 7:25-31 Luke 6:20-26 with refreshments

7:00 Parish Prayer Time in Mitchell Room

45 minutes of spoken and silent prayer

7:30 Bowling Club re-opens
You are welcome, even if you have never bowled before!

Thursday 12 September

7:30 Scouts Re-open this week in Main Hall

Sunday 15 September Trinity 16

(Green)

James 2:14-18 John 9:24-34 Where will my faith take me?

8:30 Early Communion B in Carryduff

10:00 Sunday Worship in Carryduff

12:00 Sunday Worship in Killaney

Tuesday 17 September

7:00 Confirmation Preparation in St Ignatius' Church

Wednesday 18 September

10:00 Midweek Communion in Carryduff

1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13 Luke 7:31-35 with refreshments

7:00 Parish Prayer Time in Mitchell Room

Sunday 22 September Freedom Sunday

(Green)

Psalms 1 John 10:7-15 TBC

8:30 Early Communion

10:00 Celebrate at Ten in Carryduff

Preacher Hanna Elliott IJM.

12:00 Sunday Morning Worship in Killaney

Preacher Hanna Elliott IJM.

Tuesday 24 September

7:00 Confirmation Preparation in St Ignatius' Church

Wednesday 25 September

11:30 Midweek Service and Lunch in Carryduff

7:00 Parish Prayer Time in Mitchell Room

45 minutes of spoken and silent prayer

Friday 27 September

2:00 Macmillan tea/ Coffee afternoon to 4pm in St Ignatius' Hall.

Sunday 29 September Trinity 18

(Green)

James 5:13-20 John 10:22-30 Jesus asserts he is God

8:30 Early Communion in Carryduff

10:00 Sunday Worship in Carryduff

12:00 Sunday Worship in Killaney

The Church under attack *part 3*

barnabasaid

Christians around the world suffer in many ways and most are persecuted or discriminated against because of their Christian faith. Others suffer because of the extreme poverty they face as a result of natural disasters. For 30 years **Barnabas Aid** has served the persecuted and suffering Church. Practical aid given by Christians, through Christians to Christians, is at the heart of Barnabas Aid's work.

Food and water for the hungry; medicine and shelter for the sick and those who have lost their homes; care for the families of those imprisoned for their faith; education and counselling for Christian survivors of war and conflict, are some of the ways in which BarnabasAid is helping our suffering brothers and sisters in Christ.

On **Sunday 8th September at 10.00 am and 12.00 pm** we are pleased to have Neville McCormack join us for Sunday Worship. Neville works full time for Barnabas Aid and will give us an opportunity to hear more of how the Church is responding to the needs of the Christian community we serve in our troubled world.

Raymond Scott

Weekly Refreshments will Support Pakistan's Christians

During the past few years we have enjoyed refreshments after the morning service in Carryduff. There is no charge but folk have been generous and have left a small amount in a little dish each week. Some time ago it was decided to donate the money to the appeal for a new corn mill in our link diocese of Olo in South Sudan. The target was reached at the end of August and the Select Vestry agreed to direct the weekly contributions to a new appeal - the link Diocese of Multan, Pakistan. Bishop David has asked parishes in Down and Dromore to consider ways in which they could help Bishop Leo Paul advance the Gospel in his diocese by supporting projects he is trying to set up.

Pakistan is a large country comprising 229 million people of whom 96% are Muslim. Only 1.8% of the population are Christians and they live under threat from a national blasphemy law, the contravention of which could result in life imprisonment or death. Many male Christians are forced to take low paid, dangerous jobs; false accusations are a constant threat and can lead to anything from job loss to mob violence. Women and young girls are vulnerable to sexual assault, abduction and forced conversions.

Bishop Leo seeks to build up the diocese through community development, education, primary health care, empowerment of women, encouragement of micro finance schemes, children and youth work development, and training of lay leaders and clergy at their Bible School.

The link with Down and Dromore will increase our understanding of the persecuted church and enable more informed prayer by individuals or in groups. Financial and any other form of support will be carefully managed in consultation with Bishop Leo to avoid any increased risk to our brothers and sisters in his diocese.

The gardener and the Vine

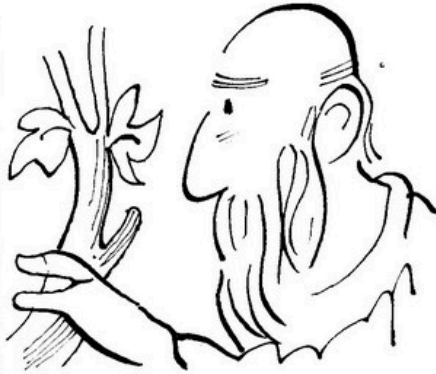


JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONCE HE TOLD HIS FRIENDS ALL ABOUT A GARDENER.

THE GARDENER'S JOB WAS TO CARE FOR THE VINES



HE WOULD LOOK AT EACH BRANCH CAREFULLY..

... AND IF IT WAS PRODUCING GOOD FRUIT, HE WOULD CARE FOR IT AND NOURISH IT.



IF IT WAS PRODUCING BAD FRUIT...

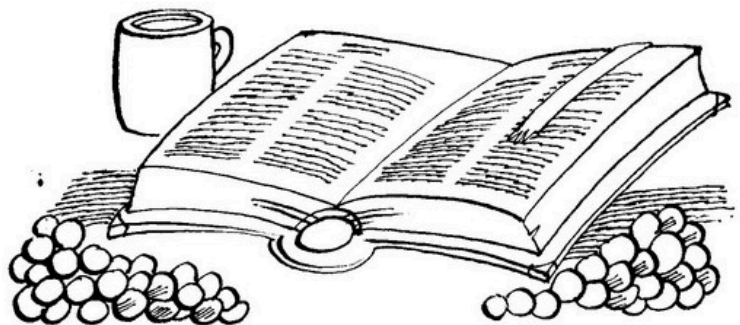


...OR NO FRUIT AT ALL...



... THEN THE GARDENER WOULD CHOP IT OFF, AND BURN IT IN THE FIRE!!

JESUS WANTED HIS FRIENDS TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS - THAT'S LIKE THE VINE BEARING GOOD FRUIT.



YOU CAN READ THIS SPECIAL PARABLE IN JOHN'S GOSPEL, CHAPTER 15.



Need or Greed

Some quite random thoughts have been passing through my head over the past few weeks. For example the impact of strike action by Aer Lingus pilots, resulting in the grounding of 52 flights. Then, more recently, there has been a substantial IT outage which, for a short time, caused an almost world-wide grounding of aircraft. All this was bad news, undoubtedly, for some, but just a little snippet of good news for the natural environment.

However, the amount of fossil fuelled air travel on an average day is frankly enormous. If you were to cast your eye over the “Plane Finder” page on your i-Pad or your lap top, you might be astounded to see the enormous amount of daily air traffic flying over both Europe and the United States. What damage we, in our generation, are doing to the natural environment.

Almost all of this has emerged within our lifetime. I note, for example, that the first non-stop flight across the Atlantic occurred in 1919.

Then, on another tack, I cannot get out of my head the enormous – and ever increasing – damage we are causing by the felling of whole forests of deciduous trees. Isn’t this, just like the deluge of air traffic, characteristic of an all-consuming contemporary mindset? What other damage might we be doing? Isn’t large scale mechanised farming practice causing alarming and probably irreversible consequences for the natural environment? When did you last see a hedgehog, a badger or a hive of honey bees?

We need to care about these things. We may, of course, argue that much of what is being done is in response to quite legitimate human need – or, perhaps, that should be human demand! Yet there can be no doubt that there is a substantial element of greed – both corporate and personal – driving much of this damage.

In a recent feature for New Daylight (helpful booklet of bible reading notes) the priest and evangelist Naomi Starkey, drawing on the text of Revelation, writes “.... The great River Euphrates drying up brings to mind ongoing news stories about the climate emergency. Because of humanity’s greed and irresponsibility, eco-disasters are now horribly commonplace.”

I wish it were otherwise. We need to develop a more respectful mindset. As the psalmist reminds us: “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it (Psalm 24 v.1). On that front it would be encouraging if the influential movers and shakers on the world stage could take on board the approach of Christian Aid and its subscribers. In a recent Christian Aid leaflet we read that “Throughout the 2010s you helped us campaign at UN Climate talks for the biggest polluters to pay for causing the climate crisis and the subsequent loss of life, land and culture around the world.”

My random thoughts did, however, include the local and very positive observation that The Woodland Trust had recently obtained £536,000 from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The main outcome of this has been the planting of 250 acres of new woodland in the Faughan Valley area and, with the help of volunteers, the forging of a 35Km. trail network for visitors to enjoy it.

I guess that’s enough random thoughts for one day.

Denis

REMEMBER THE DATE

Concert in St. Ignatius', Carryduff



Cadenza Choir Concert
Friday 18th October at 7.30pm
At Carryduff Parish
Light Refreshments included

Tickets £12.50 each

Available from Keith, Jenny, Fiona, Victoria or Raymond.

Smile Lines

Church Notices that didn't quite make it...

- A talk on drugs will be given at the next Mothers' Union meeting. This will be followed by a Bring and Buy Sale.
- A sudden gust of wind took all who were at the ceremony by surprise. Hats were blown off and copies of the vicar's speech and other rubbish were scattered over the site.
- The Rector is on holiday this month. Local clergy will be celebrating with us all the Sundays that he is away.
- Don't allow anxiety to kill you. Let the church help.
- Don't miss the Young Wives' Victorian evening next month. It will be a fun night and some of the women will wear clothes.

Permission

Extract from an official letter notifying residents of a new boundary road: "It is hoped to take the new by-pass through the old cemetery, provided we can get permission from the various bodies concerned."

Eating out

After the fall in the Garden of Eden, Adam was walking with his sons Cain and Abel. As they passed by the ruins of the Garden of Eden, one of the boys asked, "Father, what's that?"

Adam replied, "Boys, that's where your mother ate us out of house and home."

Cucumber

A small boy asked his mother for a cucumber to take to Junior Church. A slightly puzzled mother complied. Later she asked what it had been used for. "Sorry, mum," he confessed. "I got it wrong. We were supposed to bring a newcomer."

Golf

"I play Second World War golf," one clergyman confessed to another. "You know – out in 39 and back in 45."

Diocesan Synod in Brief

This year's Diocesan Synod met in St Mark's Dundela on Thursday 20 June where we were hosted by the rector, Canon Helene Steed and her team.

Bishop Leo, Multan, Pakistan

The guest preacher at Holy Communion was the Rt Revd Leo Paul, Bishop of the Diocese of Multan in Pakistan.

Preaching in English, his third language, Bishop Leo brought warm greetings from Multan and thanked all those who had hosted him and his wife Honey.

In his sermon Bishop Leo challenged us to go out with the gospel. "Even the disciples wanted to settle down, but Jesus wanted to send them out. As God's chosen people it is our privilege to have the living work of being fishers of men. God has called us to share this living grace."

Synod business and presentations

The Ven Mark Harvey was elected as a member of the Representative Body of the Church of Ireland for the next three years. The Synod also voted to adopt the revised Diocesan regulations.

The Report of the Diocesan Council was proposed by Revd Adrian Dorrian (Hon Clerical Sec, Down) and seconded by Mrs Diane Ruddock (Dromore).

The report was very warmly received, and work and ministry of the diocese spoken of very positively by a variety of contributors.

David Manning clearly and skilfully presented a healthy Statement of Diocesan Accounts which were adopted by Synod.

The Suitcase Project

Tim Burns who leads "The Suitcase Project" spoke. On this World Refugee Day Tim spoke movingly about the plight of newcomers and invited churches and individuals to engage with the project, which is now based in East Belfast.

Domestic Violence MU

June Butler also spoke about the issue of domestic violence and what Mothers' Union is doing to equip and raise awareness among churches.

CARE

Finally, we heard from Ian Bingham who is the Head of CARE Northern Ireland. CARE have many resources to help churches engage with and think Christianly about politics and big issues facing society today eg, assisted suicide. Ian is also available to speak and may be contacted at ian.bingham@care.org.uk

Before Bishop David closed Synod with a scripture reading and prayer, Archdeacon Jim Cheshire thanked him for leading the diocese in such a gospel-focused and hope-filled way.



Parish Register Christian Funerals

I am the Resurrection and the Life

16 July Elizabeth Ann Rivington, Banbridge. *Burial of Ashes*

29 July James Austin Browne Gibson MBE, Moneyreagh. *Cremation.*

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

In Memory

Austin Gibson, of Moneyreagh, was born in Ballygowan. Following his mother's early death he was raised by his father and a family friend whom he called Auntie Browne.

Austin was a pupil at Down High School before studying Physics at Queen's University. He then began teaching, at Armagh Royal, then Down High, followed by Richmond Lodge and Victoria College. He was made Deputy Head at Victoria.

He was married to his childhood sweetheart, Muriel Craig. They lived first in Queenside, Carryduff for 8 years, then Sloanes Avenue for over forty years. They had a daughter, Kathryn, who, with Richard, gave them two grandchildren, Amy and Jack. Austin spent much of the early years of his retirement caring for Amy and Jack.

Outside of the specific demands of work, Austin served on Victoria's Board of governors for several decades. He initiated a number of Army Cadet Corps, and introduced the much-loved Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme to each of the schools and corps with which he was associated. He also served as a JP in Castlereagh.

The family had a long time connection with St Ignatius' Church from when Rev Good was our much loved rector. He moved to Moneyreagh some 13 years ago. In the last six weeks of his life his health deteriorated significantly and he passed away on 22nd July this year. In the days following, your many messages paid tribute to him, as they described him as a true gentleman. It was well deserved for that is what he was.

His Cremation Service and Funeral Service took place with over 100 attending to pay their respects to this much loved gentleman of faith in our Lord, a dignity in living, a life of service and a warmth of friendship which many will miss.

Elizabeth Ann Rivington (nee McKeague) has died. Ann resided in Banbridge in recent times, after living for many years in Gambia. Her ashes were buried at St Andrew's Churchyard near those of her late mother, Mrs Elsie McKeague. We extend our sympathy to her husband Foday, her son Mo, and her brother David, at their time of loss.



Macmillan Tea/Coffee afternoon

Friday 27 September

From 2pm to 4pm

In Carryduff Church Hall

Please come and bring your friends to support this very worthwhile cause.



easyfundraising

Are you an online shopper? Do you have friends & family who shop online?

If so, we've registered Carryduff Parish Church on Easyfundraising and you could be supporting our cause at the same time. Easyfundraising is the UK's biggest charity shopping site with over 7,000 brands who will donate part of what you spend to us, at no extra cost to yourself.

Sign up using the link below to become a supporter.

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/carryduff-parish-church

Access your brand's website through the Easyfundraising website, www.easyfundraising.co.uk, or the app each time you shop online to make your donation count.

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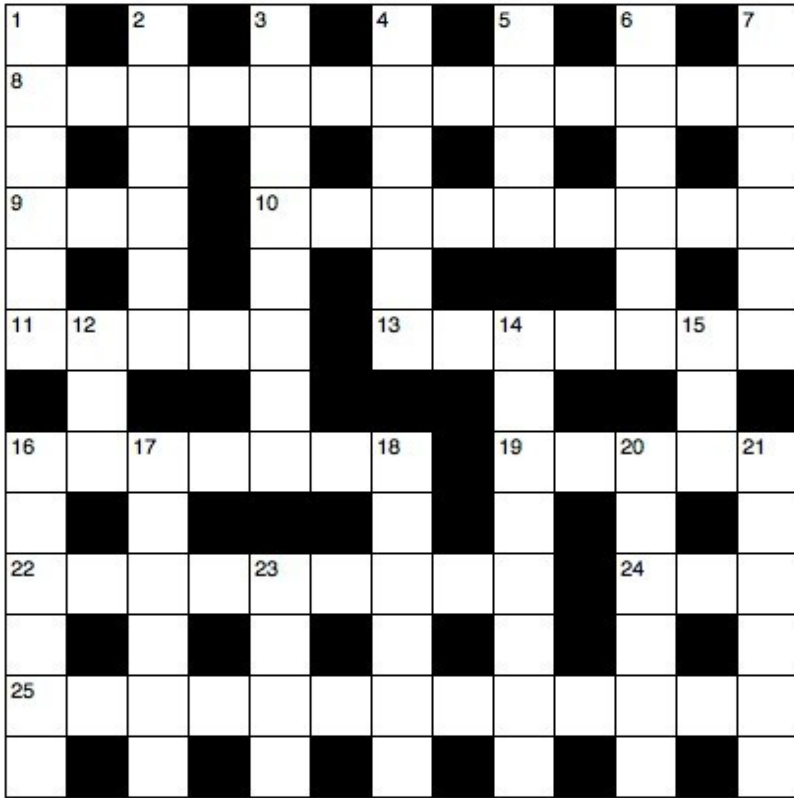
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Across

- 8 Where the ark of the covenant was kept for 20 years (1 Samuel 7:1) (7,6)
- 9 One of the parts of the body on which blood and oil were put in the ritual cleansing from infectious skin diseases (Leviticus 14:14–17) (3)
- 10 Uncomfortable (3,2,4)
- 11 ‘Yet I have loved Jacob, but Esau I have — ’ (Malachi 1:3) (5)
- 13 Where Paul said farewell to the elders of the church in Ephesus (Acts 20:17) (7)
- 16 ‘Jesus bent down and — to write on the ground with his finger’ (John 8:6) (7)
- 19 Prophet from Moresheth (Jeremiah 26:18) (5)
- 22 Comes between Exodus and Numbers (9)
- 24 and 2 Down ‘Then Elkanah went home to Ramah, but the boy ministered before the Lord under — the — ’ (1 Samuel 2:11) (3,6)
- 25 There was no room for them in the inn (Luke 2:7) (4,3,6)

Down

- 1 Rough drawing (2 Kings 16:10) (6)
- 2 See 24 Across
- 3 Underground literature (including Christian books) circulated in the Soviet Union (8)

- 4 Lo, mash (anag.) (6)
- 5 The Bible’s shortest verse: ‘Jesus — ’ (John 11:35) (4)
- 6 ‘Can a mother forget the baby at her — and have no compassion on the child she has borne?’ (Isaiah 49:15) (6)
- 7 Can be seen in a dying fire (Psalm 102:3) (6)
- 12 ‘Send me, therefore, a man... experienced in the — of engraving, to work in Judah and Jerusalem’ (2 Chronicles 2:7) (3)
- 14 Second city of Cyprus (8)
- 15 United Nations Association (1,1,1)
- 16 One of the women who first heard that Jesus had risen from the dead (Mark 16:1) (6)
- 17 Braved (anag.) (6)
- 18 — of Evangelism, outreach initiative in the 1990s (6)
- 20 ‘Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and — in their own sight’ (Isaiah 5:21) (6)
- 21 ‘Neither — nor depth... will be able to separate us from the love of God’ (Romans 8:39) (6)
- 23 What Jesus shed in 5 Down (4)

Rosters September

Readers	8:30 am Epistle	10:00 am Lessons	12:00 pm Lessons
1	David Patterson	Trevor Dunlop	Viona Crothers
8	Edward Darling	Cedric Adams	Florence Coulter
15	Jonathan Wright	Maureen Kealey	Adrian Cousins
22	Ken Fletcher	J Club	Laura Cousins
29	Mary Hewitt	Karen McConnell	Fiona Chew

	Flowers	Refreshments	Screens
1	Ella Ferguson	Jenny & Evelyn	Andrew
8	Gladys Boles	Fiona & Maureen	Maureen
15	Helen Burke	Stephen & Susan	Jenny
22	Victoria Frazer	J Club & Sunday Club	Fiona
29		Victoria & Charlotte	Raymond

**FIRST COMBER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FLOWER FESTIVAL**

Arrangements by NIGFAS
(Northern Ireland Group of Flower Arrangement Societies)

“BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD”

**CELEBRATING 380 YEARS OF
CHRISTIAN LIFE AND WITNESS**

FRIDAY 9TH MAY – SUNDAY 11TH MAY 2025

Friday 9th May **11am – 9pm**
(Opening Service at 11am)

Saturday 10th May **10am – 9pm**

Sunday 11th May **2pm – 5pm**
(Closing Service at 6.30pm)

All Day Coffee Shop, Lunch and Evening Meals are available
and large parties can be catered for.

For further information or to make a reservation
Please contact: Sandra 07779 757729
Church Email: office@firstcomber.com



ACROSS: 8, Kirriath Jearim. 9, Toe. 10, Ill at ease. 11, Hated. 13, Milletus. 16, Started. 19, Micah. 22, Leviticus. 24, Eli. 25, Mary and Joseph. DOWN: 1, Sketch. 2, Priest. 3, Samizdat. 4, Shalom. 5, Wept. 6, Breast. 7, Embers. 12, Art. 14, Limassol. 15, UNA. 16, Salome. 17, Adverb. 18, Decade. 20, Clever. 21, Height. 23, Tear.

Website & Contacts : Killaney and Carryduff

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

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

Facebook: KandCd at the Crossroads

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Gift Aid Secretary:	Regis Calard	
Flower Rota:	Anne Mannis	028 9751 0089
Cleaning Rota:	Marie Mack	028 9751 0350

Carryduff:	Cedric Adams	079 1953 7402
Wardens:	Sammy Barratt	
Co Honorary Treasurers	{Deirdre Shaw,	079 1713 8452
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Sexton:	Fiona Ellis	
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Parish Panel:	Our Parishes ensure that children and their leaders will experience a safe and secure environment.	
:	Stephen Lowry	078 3458 4932
:	Marlene Moore	077 4028 9358
:	Bill Connor	079 6772 5635
:	Susan Creber	077 1312 3835

Next Edition is the October Edition.

Please submit copy well before September 18th to killaneyandcarryduff@icloud.com for publishing on Friday 27th September. Thank you to our distributors and compilers for your help.



Mothers' Union and Friends gather for a coffee morning in July. At the event members enjoyed some new tea sets generously donated to the group. We thank Jenny and Vera for organising the morning, and send good wishes to those who were unable to attend through holidays and illness. See page 7 for further news of the group's activities.

If you have photographs of current events please send them to the office or team and we will consider using them in the future.