



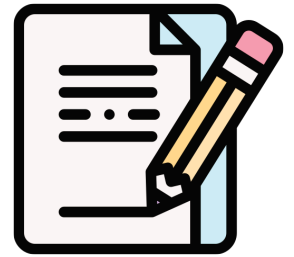
# CROSSROADS

Christmas and New Year 2024-2025



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## Dear Friends



### Try something new!

Are you a "We always do this at Christmas" person, or a "What will we do this year?" type? Can I suggest that you try something new?

The pressure you put on yourself to do the same thing year after year only helps remind you that it is taking more out of you. Does someone invite you to have Christmas Lunch with them, for a change? Say yes. Are you fed up with the same tree in the same location, yet again? Do without it, and make a candle arrangement instead with non-flammable decorations.

There is a risk that the traditions get more numerous and more strenuous each year, but fail to provide any great sense of either the joys of family life, or the meaning of the season. Choose your traditions carefully.

Where does church-going rank in your list of must-dos for Nowell? I remember I felt very grown up when I first attended the 8:00 am Christmas morning service at Willowfield, and sat and sang with the choir. The Christmas Eve Midnight Communion at St Nicholas' in Carrickfergus ( I think) was another first for me.

Certainly my favourites included the Lessons and Carols through the years, and, of course, Christmas Morning family services. One of the 'mistakes' we made in the church office (not this one) one year was to advertise the service at 10:30 instead of 10:00. Imagine my surprise when there was a 40% increase in attendance! We had (accidentally) tried something new, and it bore great fruit.

In US culture, at least according to the movies, there is always a Children's Christmas Eve service in the early evening: I do not think I will live long enough to see it happen here in Northern Ireland, but it strikes me as a good way to relate the goings on of the home with the meaning of the season.

So try something new this year, why don't you. It may become a new tradition, or at least a pleasant change, and allows the next generation to hold on to what means a lot to them, and invent a better way for the future.

Did I mention the meaning of the season? No? That is the problem with Christmas! Everything else going on can crowd out the shepherds, the manger, the Saviour: maybe dropping some 'nice enough' stuff, will give us space to remember Jesus, the Christmas Present who can transform our hopes. He is called God's 'Indescribable Gift'.

Have a Christmas that honours the King.

**Stephen**

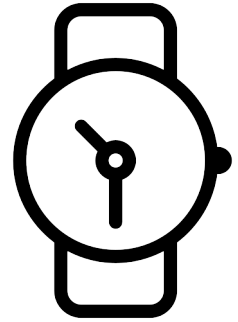
### Parish Prayer and Bible Study

The Parish Prayer 45 event is moving to Parish Prayer 30, and is going to take place in January on Tuesdays at 7:30, followed by the Parish Bible Study, both in the rectory. ***Why not try something new?***

## Change of Service Time at Carryduff

From Sunday 5th January 2025 our Sunday Morning service at Carryduff will begin at 10:30 am. The vestry has decided to introduce this (possibly temporary) change for two reasons: first, to enable those who find coming to church on a winter morning at 10:00 am a little too early; second, to enable our Sunday Club to grow by enabling parents to drop off children when they are not coming to worship themselves.

We hope that several people will take advantage of the new time and, if so, it may become the norm!



## Sunday Club Drop-off

Parents who wish to leave their children at church prior to Sunday Club are invited to do so at 10:15 on a Sunday morning.

Bring them into the hall and let the leader know you are there. Come back to pick them up at 11:30 when church and Sunday Club are over.

The children will come into church with the Sunday Club leader for the first few minutes of the service.

This is a new venture for us, and we hope this will help you as parents to enable your children to attend every week for Sunday Club, whether or not you are attending on that particular Sunday.

Please let us know what you think.

## The Nativity presented by Teddy Bears!

Our community efforts this season at Carryduff reaches a highlight at a three-day Nativity in the church and halls.

The event features several choirs, a mass of some 14 Christmas Trees, a Craft Fair in the Hall, and refreshments served. We are raising funds for our Fabric Fund - to repair the church roof. Half of the donations at the door will go to the Fabric Fund, and half for Magherally Parish to use to help cover the cost of the displays.

The 19 Craft Stalls will be operating on Friday and Saturday only.

The event concludes with the annual Combined Carol Service featuring the congregations and readers from Killaney and Carryduff churches.



**Babies and Toddlers getting ready for the Teddy Bear Nativity. Who knew you could make Christmas decorations out of paper plates and children's feet ?!**

*Help needed: see following page . . .*

## Advent/Christmas Themed Services

### 1<sup>st</sup> December

5:30 pm Lighting the Community Christmas Tree at Killaney

### 8<sup>th</sup> December

6:30 pm Scouts Carol Service at Carryduff

### 11<sup>th</sup> December Wednesday

11:30 am Wednesday Fellowship Christmas Communion

12:15 pm Christmas Lunch

### 15<sup>th</sup> December Teddy Bear Nativity Weekend

10:00 am Celebrate Service J Club Nativity Special

6:30 pm K&Cd Combined Carol Service at Carryduff

### 22<sup>nd</sup> December

10:00 am Carols at Ten at Carryduff

12:00 pm Christingle Service at Killaney

### 24<sup>th</sup> December

8:00 pm Christmas Eve Communion at Carryduff

### 25<sup>th</sup> December

9:30 am Christmas Morning Communion at Killaney

10:30 am Christmas Morning Family Service at Carryduff

## More volunteers are needed – could you help?

Preparations are well advanced for our forthcoming Teddy Bear Nativity and Craft Fair fundraiser which has been planned for the weekend of 13-15 December. Refreshments will be served on all three days from the Mitchell Room and, while we are pleased with the offers of help so far to provide buns/traybakes, more will be very welcome to provide hospitality for those attending – if you are able to help, please add your name to the list on the blue board in the Jeremy Taylor chapel.

We are also short of volunteers to serve refreshments and keep the tables stocked with sweet treats throughout the weekend (in 2-hour slots) – again, if you could assist in this way, please sign up for a suitable slot(s). In fact, why not come and enjoy the whole event for yourself and then stay on for a couple of extra hours and help us to create the festive atmosphere for others?

## Loughmoss Community Carol Service

On Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 4:00 pm the school choirs from Millennium Integrated, Carr and Carryduff Primary Schools will perform carols at Lough Moss community centre. The speaker this year is our rector, Stephen, and he would appreciate your prayers to enable him to communicate God's Christmas gift in the few short minutes available! "I didn't know what I was missing!"

This, as far as we can gather, is the largest carol service of the year in our community, and we look forward to seeking great support from across the neighbourhood. A cash collection will be taken up for Storehouse, the food bank situated beside the Library in Carryduff. The service is organised by Connect Clergy.

## Killaney

### Flowers:

December Alison Gray  
January Rosemary Davies

### Cleaning:

December Alison Gray & Anne Mannis  
January Marie Mack



### Stamps

Should you have any used stamps, would you please put them in the box at the back of the Church. They are sent to Bransby Horse Rescue & Welfare. They appreciate getting them very much. Thank you.

### Thanks

Thank you to all who provided flowers, cleaned the Church, provided food and helped in any way; it is very much appreciated.

You are also very generous with your support to Ballynahinch Food Bank.

-

### ALWAYS REMEMBER

The greatest gift you can ever give is not found under your Christmas tree, it is found in the hearts of your loving family and true friends.

### THE NEW YEAR

In the New Year be grateful that God has given you victory over many things this past year.

### A SPECIAL RECIPE

Take understanding, love and care;  
Add tact and patience, then with flair  
Mix faith and trust, a tender smile,  
These gifts that make life so worthwhile,  
And weigh upon the scales of life,  
The special joys of man and wife.  
This recipe will then ensure  
True happiness will long endure.



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

On Sunday 1st December at 5:30 pm we will be lighting the Boardmills Community Christmas Tree outside St Andrew's Church. Each year a gathering of neighbours and friends from the area come for some carols and prayers outside the church. We appreciate the help our neighbours give as they attend the event in good numbers and join the start of our festive season at Killaney. Thanks to all who provide the light refreshments too!

## MU and FRIENDS

A big 'thank you' to Stephen Creber for talking to us about his travels on The Great Glen Canoe Trail at our November meeting. Although I wasn't able to attend, I heard it was fascinating and very entertaining. [See report later in this edition.](#)

Where has this year gone ? Can you believe we're making Christmas plans already? Our **Christmas Meal will be held on Thursday 5th December at 7pm in Eight South.** If you would like to come and haven't already put your name down, please let Jenny or Vera know. The cost is £30. Everyone is most welcome.



[Next Meeting:](#) Imagine if your community had no roads and little access to the outside world. How would you or your family reach a doctor if you were sick or injured? How would you receive an education or access job opportunities? This is the reality for millions of people. MAF is a Christian mission organisation that uses planes to overcome these barriers. Their pilots and personnel deliver relief workers, doctors, pastors, school books, food, medicines – everything that can only be safely and speedily transported by air. Why not come along and hear more about MAF on **Thursday 9th January** at our usual time of 8pm ?

The MU fees for 2025 will be due in January. This year they are £30.

## [The Big Hymn Sing](#)

Last month four of our members joined with members from Saintfield, Knockbreda, and St Finian's to travel to Ballymena where the 'Big Hymn Sing' was held in St Patrick's Parish Church. It was the climax of this year's project for the 'Mums in May' fund, which was set up in 2012 to support those "whose family life has met with adversity". On arrival, there was time for some Christmas shopping and lunch before we headed for the church, which quickly filled up with MU members from Armagh, Connor, Down and Dromore, Derry and Clogher dioceses. The afternoon's singing began with 'To God be the glory' and the programme continued unannounced. All the hymns were well known and were interspersed with the Bible reading and prayers. The Clare Chorale, comprising fifty members, sang two lots of three pieces, and the address was given by the Archbishop of Armagh, The Most Revd. John McDowell. The event was the last opportunity for June Butler to speak to a large gathering of MU members before stepping down as the All Ireland President at the beginning of next year. In her remarks she gave a personal introduction to the closing hymn, 'Guide me, O thou great Jehovah'. Before playing the last verse, the very competent organist changed the key, up by a semitone, which lifted the singing to a new level. What a wonderful 'note' on which to end a truly inspirational and memorable afternoon!

'Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to Thee'

## Midweek Christmas Lunch

### WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP

The dictionary definition of FELLOWSHIP is 'friendly association, especially with people who share one's interests' and that is exactly what the Wednesday Fellowship is!

Every Wednesday at 10am there is a Celebration of Holy Communion followed by further fellowship over a cup of tea/coffee.

In addition, each 4th Wednesday of the month we have the Church service at 11.30 followed by a lunch.

However in December things are different! We have a CHRISTMAS LUNCH.

**Date**

**Wednesday 11th December**

**Service**

**11.30am**

**Lunch**

**12.15pm**

We would love you to come and join our friendly group!

So, on Wednesday 11th December, members of the parish and friends are warmly invited to attend the lunch. We would appreciate knowing in advance how many are coming so that we can lay the right number of places at nicely decorated tables and, also purchase the food without creating waste. The usual forms are near the Churchwardens tables.



## First Aid Training

### for individuals and groups

If you are involved in a church activity, whether in the hall or church or outdoors, you may be interested in some First Aid training. Each group meeting needs to have some access to first aid, and the simplest way is to have one (or two) member(s) of each group trained for the purpose. The Select Vestry will pay for people to be trained specifically to help fellow members of their groups.

We have up to 12 available spaces. The training will take place on 13th and 20th January 2025 from 7:30 to 9:30 pm in the Mitchell Room. We need a minimum of six people, up to a maximum of 12. Please contact our health and safety officer, Mrs Joan Clayton, directly, or contact the Hon Sec, Sandra Thomas. Contact details on page 23



## J Club and J Club Plus

November 30

Fundraiser Christmas shopping trip to Dublin (fully booked)

December 6

Christmas Party & Take Away

December 15

J Club Celebrate Sunday

The Teddy Bear Festival, nativity celebration and special surprise Christmas activity.

J Club will meet again when it reopens on Friday 10th January 2025.

**We wish everyone a safe, happy Christmas and God's blessing in the New Year.**

## Friday Night Live 2025

*SAMS Ireland, the South American Mission Society, is holding its annual Friday Night Live event on 31st January 2025 at 7:30 pm in Annaghmore Church hall. The event is called **What's the Difference ?** Marlene will tell you a little bit more about what you expect at this event...*

Marlene writes.

As a supporter of SAMS, I have been going to Friday Night Live for a number of years. Until comparatively recently, it was held in the Craigavon Civic Centre where the main hall was full, before moving to Annaghmore Parish Centre which also attracts large numbers. The atmosphere is warm and welcoming and has a 'family' feel about it. It is an occasion to meet folk I haven't seen for a long time but, more importantly, it is a great opportunity to hear about what God is doing in South America; videos, interviews with indigenous church leaders, and reports from local church members here, who have spent their summer holidays helping struggling churches that are supported by SAMS, to make mission come alive.



*The event takes place at Annaghmore Church of Ireland, 53 Moss Road, BT62 1NT  
Visit SAMS Ireland by clicking the title of this article: news will be updated soon.*

## **Supporting Others**

We thank all in Carryduff Parish who regularly give gifts to support others through our monthly mission offerings. Each year the vestry decides which organisations to support.

Six organisations receive quarterly donations, with the remainder receiving a yearly donation.

In 2025, the causes we will support, and proportions are listed below.

CMSI (Olo Diocese)	24%
Barnabas Aid	15%
Intercontinental Church Society	12%
SAMS	10%
Bible Society NI	8%
Habitat	8%
International Justice Ministry	6%
SU NI and St Petersburg	8%
The Suitcase Project	3%
Love for Life	2%
The Larder	2%
Friends of the Cancer Centre	2%



## Donations to Carryduff Parish Church

Supporting the church by Standing Order saves you finding cash or cheques to pay each week or month to the church funds.

Three accounts are available for you to use:

- **The General Account** – for salaries, insurance, heat and light
- **The Mission Fund Account** – to support outside organisations that extend our mission locally and overseas.
- **The Fabric Fund** – to accumulate funds for major projects e.g. to repair/replace the church/hall roofs.

Details are listed below:

Account Name: **Carryduff Parish Church** (*same for all accounts*)

General Account Number: 41000675      Sort Code 95-02-58

Mission Account Number: 81050192      Sort Code 95-02-58

Fabric Account Number: 40070068      Sort Code 95-06-79

Standing Order forms are also available to take to your own Bank for set up if so desired. Freewill Offering envelopes continue to be available for those who prefer to use them.

Any new parishioners who wish to avail of Freewill Offering envelopes please speak to Susan Creber.

Thank you in advance for your generous support.

**Deirdre Shaw/Sandra Thomas**

## What is Gift Aid?

Gift Aid allows charities to claim an extra 25p for every £1 you give. It does not cost you any extra.

If you have recently started to donate to the Church via standing order/envelope giving, and are a taxpayer, you may wish to consider completing a declaration to allow the Church to benefit by claiming Gift Aid on your contributions.

Blank forms are available for completion in The Jeremy Taylor Chapel. Completed forms can be given to the Honorary Treasurers at any time.

For existing members, if you are unsure if you have already completed a Gift Aid Declaration, please speak to Sandra Thomas who can confirm if a form is already held.

It may be the case that members have now started to pay income tax and we would encourage you to sign up for Gift Aid.

Members who have previously signed Gift Aid forms while paying income tax must inform the honorary treasurer if they no longer pay income tax. A note on the collection plate to this effect will be sufficient: please mark it 'Gift Aid Notice.'

## St Ignatius' Bowling Club

The Club has started off the season well with up to 16 players on the mats each Wednesday evening from 7.30pm. We are open to both ladies and gents, novices and Internationals (we dream!) and are always looking for new members to join our ranks.



After over TWENTY years as our illustrious Chairman, Tony Anderson, has stepped down from the position. We would like to take this opportunity to say a massive 'THANK YOU' to Tony for all the hard work and enthusiasm he has put into the club for all those years.

This all means we have a new person at the helm.

*"Who?"* I hear you ask.

Well, come along any Wednesday evening & find out . . . or use the Spoiler photo!

### Susan Creber



### Christmas play

The Sunday School Christmas play was in full swing when the teacher prompted: "And what was it that guided the Wise Men from the East?" Right on cue, the pre-schoolers turned their large white letters to face the audience. However, the last four children in the lineup had somehow reversed their sequence, and so the answer was:

CHRISTMAS RATS.

### Christmas shopping

It was Christmas and the judge was in a benign mood as he asked the prisoner what he was charged with. "Doing my Christmas shopping early," replied the man. "Why, that's no offence," said the judge. "How early were you doing it?" "Before the store opened," replied the defendant.

### Sign for Christmas

An old country preacher wanted a sign that told people driving on the nearby dual carriageway about the miracle of Christmas. So he sent a short message to the general store in the village.

This story picks up at the sign-making company and the astonished clerk who received the message. The message that she read was: "Unto us a child is born, 6 ft long and 3 ft wide."

### Christmas carols

One night as Christmas approached, some friends decided to go carol singing. A man answered the door of one house, and gasped as they launched into the opening lines of the first carol. Within half a minute, he looked stricken. Soon tears were welling up in his eyes. The carollers sang and sang, and the man looked very moved by what he heard. One caroller ventured: "I understand - our singing reminds you of your happy childhood Christmases."

The man looked at her with misery in his eyes. "No," he whispered back. "It's just that I am a musician!"

## Year End Calendar

### **Sunday 1 December Advent Sunday**

**(Violet)**

*1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 Luke 21:25-36*

- |       |                                    |              |
|-------|------------------------------------|--------------|
| 8:30  | Early Communion ONE                | in Carryduff |
| 10:00 | Parish Communion                   | in Carryduff |
| 12:00 | Parish Communion                   | in Killaney  |
| 4:00  | Lough Moss Community Carol Service |              |
| 5:30  | Community Christmas-tree Lighting  | in Killaney  |

### **Tuesday 3 December**

- |      |   |              |
|------|---|--------------|
| 7:00 | Brownies & Guides last meeting before Christmas | in Main Hall |
|------|---|--------------|

### **Wednesday 4 December**

- |       |  |                  |
|-------|--|------------------|
| 10:00 | Midweek Communion                                  | in Carryduff     |
|       | Isaiah 25:6-10a Matthew 15:29-37 with refreshments |                  |
| 7:00  | Parish Prayer 45                                   | in Mitchell Room |

### **Thursday 5 December**

- |      |                       |                |
|------|-----------------------|----------------|
| 7:30 | Mothers' Union Dinner | in Eight South |
|------|-----------------------|----------------|

### **Friday 6 December**

- |       |                 |                                    |
|-------|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| 10:30 | Open for Prayer | in Carryduff Congregational Church |
|-------|-----------------|------------------------------------|

### **Sunday 8 December The Second Sunday of Advent**

**(Violet)**

*Malachi 3:1-4 Luke 3:1-6*

- |       |                     |                        |
|-------|---------------------|------------------------|
| 8:30  | Early Communion     | in Carryduff           |
| 10:00 | Sunday Worship      | in Carryduff           |
| 12:00 | Sunday Worship      | in Killaney            |
| 6:30  | Scout Carol Service | in St Ignatius' Church |

### **Wednesday 11 December**

- |       |  |                     |
|-------|--|---------------------|
| 11:30 | Christmas Communion and Lunch                      | in Carryduff        |
|       | Isaiah 40:25-31 Matthew 11:28-30 with refreshments |                     |
| 7:00  | Parish Prayer 45                                   | in Mitchell Room    |
| 8:00  | Men's Choir Practice                               | in Carryduff Church |

### **Friday 13 December**

- |       |  |              |
|-------|--|--------------|
| 12:00 | Teddy Bear Nativity Festival until 8:00 pm | in Carryduff |
|-------|--|--------------|

### **Saturday 14 December**

- |       |  |              |
|-------|--|--------------|
| 10:00 | Teddy Bear Nativity Festival until 6:00 pm | in Carryduff |
|-------|--|--------------|

### **Sunday 15 December The Third Sunday of Advent**

**(Violet)**

*Philippians 4:4-7 Luke 3:7-18*

- |       |  |              |
|-------|--|--------------|
| 8:30  | Early Communion                                    | in Carryduff |
| 10:00 | Sunday Worship                                     | in Carryduff |
| 12:00 | Morning Worship (no hymns) at Killaney             |              |
| 12:00 | Teddy Bear Nativity and Refreshments until 5:00 pm | Carryduff    |
| 6:30  | K&Cd Parishes Combined Carol Service               | in Carryduff |

### **Wednesday 18 December**

- 10:00 Midweek Communion in Carryduff  
Isaiah 45:6b-25 Luke 7:18b-23 followed by refreshments  
7:00 Parish Prayer 45 in Mitchell Room  
7:30 Bowling's last night! in Main Hall

### **Sunday 22 December The Fourth Sunday of Advent (Violet)**

- 8:30 Holy Communion in Carryduff  
Hebrews 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-45  
10:00 Celebrate at Ten in Carryduff  
Readings from the Nativity Story  
12:00 Sunday Morning Worship in Killaney  
Readings from the Nativity Story

### **24 December Christmas Eve**

- 8:00 pm First Communion of Christmas in Carryduff

### **25 December Christmas Day**

- 9:30 Christmas Family Service with Communion in Killaney  
10:30 Christmas Family Service in Carryduff

### **Sunday 29 December The First Sunday of Christmas (White)**

- Colossians 3:12-17 Luke 2:41-52*  
8:30 Early Communion in Carryduff  
10:00 Sunday Worship in Carryduff  
12:00 Sunday Worship in Killaney

### **Tuesday 31st December**

- 11:30 pm Watchnight Service in Carryduff

### **Wednesday 1 January**

- 10:30 New Year's Day Communion in Carryduff  
Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:15-21

### **Friday 3 January**

- 10:30 Open for Prayer in Carryduff Congregational Church

### **Sunday 5 January The Second Sunday of Christmas (White)**

- Jeremiah 31:7-14 John 1:10-18*  
8:30 Early Communion ONE in Carryduff  
10:30 Parish Communion at 10:30 in Carryduff  
12:00 Parish Communion in Killaney

### **Tuesday 7 January**

- 7:00 Brownies Resume in Carryduff Church Hall  
7:30 Parish Prayer 30 in Rectory  
8:00 Bible Study Fellowship in Rectory  
Cuppa at 8. Study until 9:15

### **Wednesday 8 January**

- 10:00 Midweek Communion in Carryduff  
Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12 with refreshments  
7:30 Bowling Club Resumes in Carryduff Church Hall

### **Sunday 12 January The First Sunday after the Epiphany (White)**

*Isaiah 43:1-7 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22*

- 8:30 Early Communion in Carryduff  
10:30 Sunday Worship at 10:30 in Carryduff  
12:00 Sunday Worship in Killaney

### **Tuesday 14 January**

- 7:00 Guides resume  
7:30 Killaney Vestry in Killaney  
7:30 Parish Prayer 30 in Rectory  
8:00 Bible Study Fellowship in Rectory

### **Wednesday 15 January**

- 10:00 Midweek Communion in Carryduff  
1 Samuel 3:1-10,19-20 Mark 1:29-39 with refreshments

### **Sunday 19 January The Second Sunday after the Epiphany (White)**

*1 Corinthians 12:1-11 John 2:1-11*

- 8:30 Early Communion in Carryduff  
10:30 Sunday Worship at 10:30 in Carryduff  
12:00 Sunday Worship in Killaney

### **Tuesday 21 January**

- 7:30 Parish Prayer 30 in Rectory  
8:00 Bible Study Fellowship in Rectory

### **Wednesday 22 January**

- 11:30 Midweek Communion and Lunch in Carryduff  
1 Samuel 17 (excerpts) Mark 3:1-6

### **Sunday 26 January The Conversion of St Paul (White)**

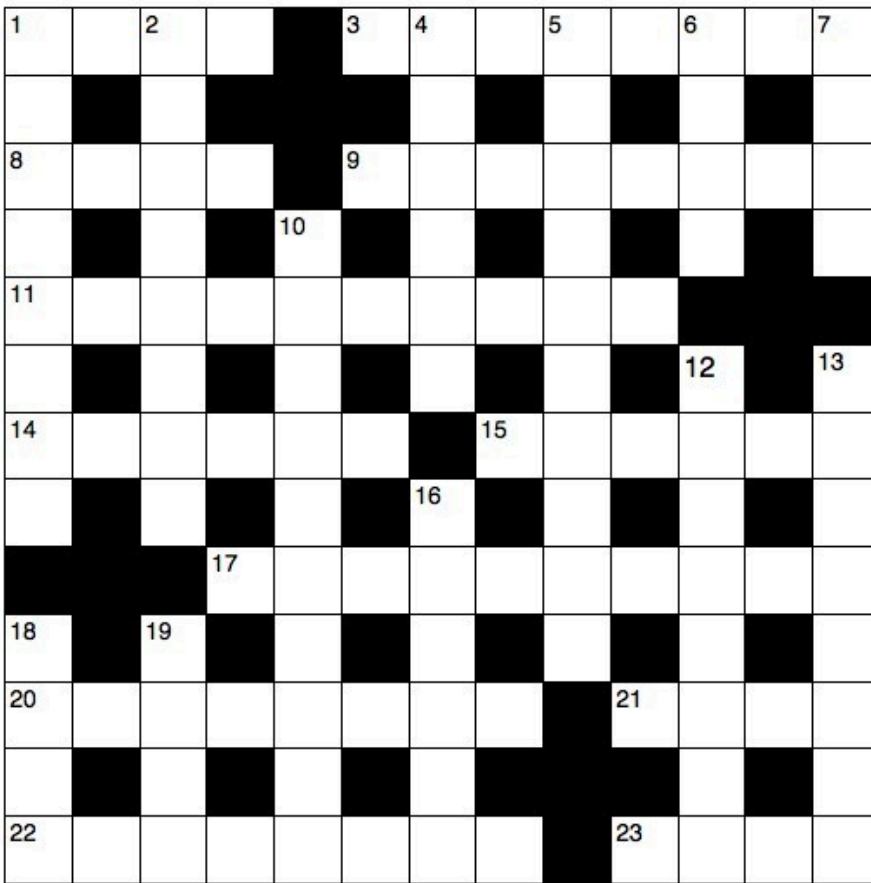
- 8:30 Early Communion in Carryduff  
Acts 9:1-22 Matthew 19:27-30  
10:30 Celebrate at Ten Thirty! in Carryduff  
Acts 9:1-9 Acts 9:10-22  
12:00 Celebrate at Twelve! in Killaney  
Acts 9:1-9 Acts 9:10-22

### **Tuesday 28 January**

- 7:30 Parish Prayer 30 in Rectory  
8:00 Bible Study Fellowship in Rectory

### **Wednesday 29 January**

- 10:00 Midweek Service in Killaney  
2 Samuel 7:4-17 Mark 4:1-8



**Across**

- 1 'The blind receive sight, the — walk' (Luke 7:22) (4)
- 3 Got (Philippians 3:12) (8)
- 8 Leave out (Jeremiah 26:2) (4)
- 9 Castigated for using dishonest scales (Hosea 12:7) (8)
- 11 Weighty (1 John 5:3) (10)
- 14 'Now the serpent was more — than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made' (Genesis 3:1) (6)
- 15 'Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot — God' (Romans 8:8) (6)
- 17 Because Israel lacked one of these, tools had to be sharpened by the Philistines (1 Samuel 13:19) (10)
- 20 In his vision of the two eagles and the vine, this is how Ezekiel described the latter (Ezekiel 17:8) (8)
- 21 Rite (anag.) (4)
- 22 Nine gigs (anag.) (8)
- 23 'The eye cannot say to the — , "I don't need you"' (1 Corinthians 12:21) (4)

**Down**

- 1 'Flee for your lives! Don't — — , and don't stop anywhere in the plain!' (Genesis 19:17) (4,4)
- 2 Principal thoroughfare (Numbers 20:19) (4,4)
- 4 'The tax collector... beat his — and said, "God have mercy on me, a sinner"' (Luke 18:13) (6)
- 5 'The zeal of the Lord Almighty will — this' (2 Kings 19:31) (10)
- 6 'The day of the Lord is — for all nations' (Obadiah 15) (4)
- 7 Specified day (Acts 21:26) (4)
- 10 Deadly epidemic (Deuteronomy 32:24) (10)
- 12 Roman Catholic church which has special ceremonial rights (8)
- 13 Tied up (2 Kings 7:10) (8)
- 16 In his speech to the Sanhedrin, Stephen described Moses as 'powerful in speech and — ' (Acts 7:22) (6)
- 18 'Although he did not remove the high places, — heart was fully committed to the Lord all his life' (1 Kings 15:14) (4)
- 19 Tribe (Deuteronomy 29:18) (4)

[Answers on page 22](#)



## Well Worth A Visit

There is a very absorbing feature in John's record of the gospel story that recently grasped my attention. The text I have in mind states: "They tried to seize Him, but he escaped their grasp. Then Jesus went back across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptising in the early days. Here He stayed.....(John 10:39-40)."

It seems to me that Jesus was being savagely pressurised by the authorities and felt a need to simply withdraw for a short while to a haven of peace. My impression is that he chose to return to a place which had been important to Him in preparing for his ministry. It was the place where He had been baptised – perhaps a place where He could find refreshment and reassurance. It was, in simple terms, a place of significance to Him – a place well worth a visit.

There can be no doubt that many of us can recollect a place (or person) that has been significant in shaping our view of life. Perhaps there was a particular incident in the past or a particular place that has been important or encouraging in your personal faith journey. Do you, I wonder, think that such a place (or person) would again be well worth a visit?

I have strong recollections of an old school friend from my teenage years who was an influential figure in my faith journey – and it was good to meet up with him again after so many years.

Then there was a very particular place which, undoubtedly, made a strong impression on me. I have in mind here the barren and amazingly silent landscape of the [Sheshymore plateau in Co. Clare](#). This is a magical place I first came across during an amateur creative writers residential weekend - and I have returned several times since.

The main feature of Sheshymore is the extraordinary peacefulness and sense of undisturbed silence about the landscape. I was completely captured by this; it seemed like an amazing place for silent pilgrimage. Later I wrote a short poem in which I tried to convey the calm and silent wonder of this landscape. My concluding thoughts were:

“.....No-one else is around  
But the bare limestone rock is gentle underfoot.  
There is no loneliness here,  
Only a warm and welcoming solitude.”

All this prompts me to wonder if there may have been a place (or person) in the past that made a significant impact on your life. It may not have been the river Jordan, but it might still be well worth a visit.

**Denis**

## Bible Reading in 2025

I try to make a plan a few weeks before the new year, to enable me to read certain sections of the bible during the incoming year. I try to decide if I want to focus on the gospels, read sections of Old Testament history, or, maybe, read short sections of the books that capture God's wisdom best. What do you *like* to read? More importantly, what do you **need** to read?

As I need to be able to preach the whole bible, I make a point of reading it through from start to finish some years. I like to use a scheme written by Robert Murray McCheyne. I may rise to the challenge in 2025! Stephen.

*To find out more, those of you who are reading this on a digital device can click the following [link](#)*

If you would like to read this every day, then either download a printed version, or add it to your daily calendar. Alternatively, I can provide/create personal copies for you. Let me know at [carryduff@down.anglican.org](mailto:carryduff@down.anglican.org) or [killaney@down.anglican.org](mailto:killaney@down.anglican.org)

On the next page you can see what McCheyne's plan looks like for January.

### The Everlasting Turkey

On the first day of Christmas my true love said to me  
I've bought a big fresh turkey and a proper Christmas tree.  
On the second day of Christmas much laughter could be heard  
As we tucked into our turkey – a most delicious bird.  
On the third day of Christmas people came from just next door,  
The turkey tasted just as good as it had done before.  
On the fourth day of Christmas came relations young and old  
We finished up the Christmas pud and had the turkey cold.  
On the fifth day of Christmas, outside the snowflakes scurried,  
But we were nice and warm inside, and had the turkey curried.  
On the sixth day of Christmas, the Christmas spirit died.  
The children fought and bickered – we had the turkey rissoles  
fried.  
On the seventh day of Christmas my true love he did wince  
When he sat down at table - and was offered turkey mince.  
On the eighth day of Christmas, the dog had run for shelter,  
For he'd seen our turkey pancakes and the glass of alka-seltzer.  
On the ninth day of Christmas, by lunchtime dad was blotto,  
He knew that bird was back again, this time as a risotto.  
On the tenth day of Christmas we were drinking home-made  
brew,  
Anything to help us face that steaming turkey stew.  
On the eleventh day of Christmas our lovely tree was moulting,  
And with chilli, soy and oyster sauce, the turkey was revolting.  
On the twelfth day of Christmas we had smiles back on our lips,  
The guests had gone, the turkey too – WE DINED ON FISH AND  
CHIPS.

### Paper, online, both?

A number of you have said that you like to have both online access and paper copies of each magazine. Some have been reluctant to ask for an online link in case they lose their paper copy. If you always get both versions, do nothing. But if you sometimes get only an online link, there is no need to worry. Please let Jenny in the office know "I want both email and printed versions of the magazine" by leaving a message on the office phone, or email the church office to let us know. In trying to reduce paper waste we do a number of smaller deliveries during the year, and, very rarely, an online-only update. Thank you for your patience.



# MCHEYNE DAILY READINGS 2025

Day	Reading 1	Reading 2	Reading 3	Reading 4
Wed Jan 1st	Genesis 1	Matthew 1	Ezra 1	Acts 1
Thu Jan 2nd	Genesis 2	Matthew 2	Ezra 2	Acts 2
Fri Jan 3rd	Genesis 3	Matthew 3	Ezra 3	Acts 3
Sat Jan 4th	Genesis 4	Matthew 4	Ezra 4	Acts 4
Sun Jan 5th	Genesis 5	Matthew 5	Ezra 5	Acts 5
Mon Jan 6th	Genesis 6	Matthew 6	Ezra 6	Acts 6
Tue Jan 7th	Genesis 7	Matthew 7	Ezra 7	Acts 7
Wed Jan 8th	Genesis 8	Matthew 8	Ezra 8	Acts 8
Thu Jan 9th	Genesis 9-10	Matthew 9	Ezra 9	Acts 9
Fri Jan 10th	Genesis 11	Matthew 10	Ezra 10	Acts 10
Sat Jan 11th	Genesis 12	Matthew 11	Nehemiah 1	Acts 11
Sun Jan 12th	Genesis 13	Matthew 12	Nehemiah 2	Acts 12
Mon Jan 13th	Genesis 14	Matthew 13	Nehemiah 3	Acts 13
Tue Jan 14th	Genesis 15	Matthew 14	Nehemiah 4	Acts 14
Wed Jan 15th	Genesis 16	Matthew 15	Nehemiah 5	Acts 15
Thu Jan 16th	Genesis 17	Matthew 16	Nehemiah 6	Acts 16
Fri Jan 17th	Genesis 18	Matthew 17	Nehemiah 7	Acts 17
Sat Jan 18th	Genesis 19	Matthew 18	Nehemiah 8	Acts 18
Sun Jan 19th	Genesis 20	Matthew 19	Nehemiah 9	Acts 19
Mon Jan 20th	Genesis 21	Matthew 20	Nehemiah 10	Acts 20
Tue Jan 21st	Genesis 22	Matthew 21	Nehemiah 11	Acts 21
Wed Jan 22nd	Genesis 23	Matthew 22	Nehemiah 12	Acts 22
Thu Jan 23rd	Genesis 24	Matthew 23	Nehemiah 13	Acts 23
Fri Jan 24th	Genesis 25	Matthew 24	Esther 1	Acts 24
Sat Jan 25th	Genesis 26	Matthew 25	Esther 2	Acts 25
Sun Jan 26th	Genesis 27	Matthew 26	Esther 3	Acts 26
Mon Jan 27th	Genesis 28	Matthew 27	Esther 4	Acts 27
Tue Jan 28th	Genesis 29	Matthew 28	Esther 5	Acts 28
Wed Jan 29th	Genesis 30	Mark 1	Esther 6	Romans 1
Thu Jan 30th	Genesis 31	Mark 2	Esther 7	Romans 2
Fri Jan 31st	Genesis 32	Mark 3	Esther 8	Romans 3

## The Great Glen Canoe Trail

At our November meeting of MU we welcomed Stephen Creber to talk to us about a canoe trip he and some friends known as the “Aughnacloy Mountaineering Club” had made in the spring of this year.

Stephen has been involved in camping since his days as a boy in BB in St. Jude’s and was encouraged by his family’s love of the outdoors. His love of outdoor pursuits continued throughout his teaching career and even now in retirement he is still encouraging and enabling young people to develop their skills.

A visit to a coffee shop where a copy of a book about the “Great Glen Canoe Trail” led to their adventure.



The following two years were spent preparing for the trip in all sorts of weather in Strangford Lough and in Co. Fermanagh. In May 2024, the group set off from Fort William along the Caledonian Canal for a 95km trip which would take them all the way to Inverness. Stephen told us about the equipment they had to carry on the trip and even brought along one of the tents they used as well as the bags they used to keep their clothing and sleeping bags dry - very important when you are camping!

Each day they paddled along a stretch of the canal enjoying the beautiful scenery they passed. The canal traverses several lochs along the way, including Loch Ness.



Regular stops involving coffee shops and tray bakes were deemed a “vital” part

of each day. They spent the nights at camping areas, set up for travellers, along the canal. At the end of the week the four canoeists were very pleased to spend the last night in a

comfortable bed before heading home.

Following the success of the trip, the group are planning their next adventure, this time along the River Spey, in May 2026. Anyone care to join them?



## Parish Registers

### Holy Baptism

27 October Frank James Chew, St. Andrew's, Killaney  
*As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.*

### Funeral Services

*I am the Resurrection and the Life*

31 October Shirley Cousins, Ashdene Road, Moneyreagh  
2 November Joan Patricia Nevin, Moyra Crescent, Saintfield  
9 November Jean Bullock, Queensway, Carryduff  
16 November Simon Ferguson, Ballykeel Road, Boardmills

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

**Mrs Shirley Cousins** passed away after a period of illness. She had been planning to celebrate her son's wedding in St Andrew's but was so ill that the wedding was postponed. A few weeks later, she died peacefully in the Hospice at Knock. Shirley was a devoted wife and mother, and her well attended funeral in Comber reflected the high esteem in which she and her family are held in the community.

We extend our sympathy to her devoted husband Brian, to her sons Jonathan and Chris, with Katie and Briega, and her granddaughter Olivia.

**Mrs Joan Nevin** had been a member of St. Ignatius', Carryduff, for over 50 years. She and her husband Dave were weekly attenders during most of those years, and both served their fellow parishioners and clergy throughout that time.

Joan had been member of Mothers' Union for 44 years, serving most happily as Secretary of the branch. She arranged the lesson readers for Sunday morning and evening services, and served as a member of the Parish Safeguarding Panel. But her greatest gift to the "community of friends", as she described the parish, was her friendship, companionship, love and kindness.

She bore her illness with immense faith and a steady nerve, attending church even while seriously ill. It was with great sadness that we gathered in the church with her husband Dave, son Michael, daughter Clare, & seven grandchildren, to bid her farewell.

**Mrs Jean Bullock** and her late husband Tom were members of Carryduff Parish since their arrival from Belfast in 1962. Jean worked at Somerset Clothing on Dublin Road as a young woman and, following her mother's illness, looked after her dad and brothers like "an angel". She married Tom Bullock after a short courtship and set up home first in Melrose Street, then at Queensway. Tanya, Mark and Kim followed and a neighbour's daughter Liz completed their happy home.

With life at the caravan in Newcastle, working in the garden there and at home, looking after the dogs, supporting her children and grandchildren, she practised her growing faith in Christ as an example to all. We extend our sympathies to her family.

It was a privilege to support the family and many friends of **Mr Simon Ferguson** at his funeral in Killaney. Simon's daughter's school friends formed a guard of honour as he was carried into and out of the church. As an avid Liverpool fan for the last twenty years, it was fitting that "You'll never walk alone" concluded the service in Church. We extend our sympathies to his parents and sisters, to Carla, and to Leona with their daughter Sophie.

# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Luke chapter 2 verses 1-7

The Roman Empire charged the countries it had invaded taxes, based on the number of people and what they earned.

Emperor Augustus gave orders that all people in the Empire were to be registered so they could be taxed.

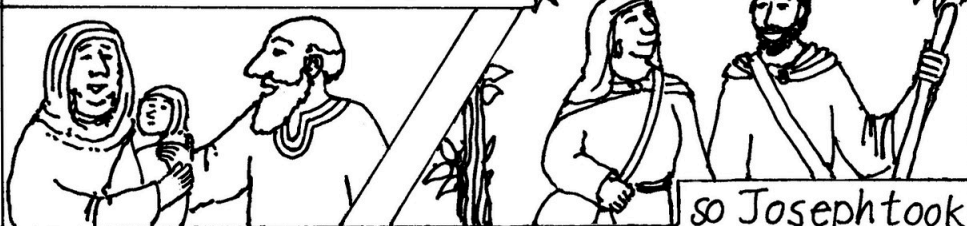


This census was before Quirinius became Governor of Syria\* (\*whose own census started riots - Acts 5:37)



When the order came, Mary and Joseph were living in Nazareth.

But Joseph was descended from King David, who had been born in Bethlehem...



so Joseph took Mary to Bethlehem to stay with his family.

Come and meet everyone!



A normal home in Bethlehem.



While they were staying there, Mary's baby was born.



So they made a snug bed for Jesus in one of the mangers.



## Suitcase Project

The Suitcase Project was officially launched on Tuesday 5th November by Bishop David. Special guests joined volunteers and other Church leaders at its base in East Belfast. Aware of the difficulties faced by arriving asylum seekers and refugees, the diocese established the project to offer welcome and support and, through words and deeds, to help newcomers meet Jesus.

Archdeacon Jim Cheshire hosted the evening and began by welcoming Noah Bartlett from European Christian Mission. Noah gave us a biblical basis for why it's so important to welcome the newcomer in our midst: we will know Jesus more deeply through encountering people whose lives bear more resemblance to Jesus' life than do ours; and we will become the Church that Jesus died to create. Noah's contribution was followed by a panel discussion, with representatives from three organisations who are working with newcomers in Northern Ireland: the founder of Acacia Path, Nathaniel Jennings, OMF UK & Ireland Intercultural Ministries Director, and Patrick Purdy, Northern Ireland Coordinator for Welcome Churches.

Tim then shared how the Suitcase Project has begun to support people in a variety of ways. On Monday mornings a Conversation Café meets in the Emmanuel Centre, giving newcomers a chance to practise and develop their English. Looking ahead, he outlined some of the opportunities open to the project in the Emmanuel Centre and some hopes for the future.

- Working with a local school to develop homework clubs for students and English language classes for their parents.
- Opening a drop-in support centre where people can come to receive support around housing, benefits, documents and more.
- Hosting a drop-in evening for social opportunities.
- Longer term, regularly serving food and having communal meals.
- The possibility of a Globe Cafe event.

“We hope that through these connections we will have the opportunity to pray with people, to share the transformative power of the Gospel of Jesus with people and to walk a journey of faith with them. We hope also that through this process people would be connected with local churches and be welcomed into their family.”

If you would like to support the work of The Suitcase Project either by volunteering or giving, contact Tim Burns by email [tim@thesuitcaseproject.org.uk](mailto:tim@thesuitcaseproject.org.uk)



## Rosters December and January

Readers	8:30 am Epistle	10:00 am Lessons	12:00 pm Lessons
1	Mary Hewitt	George Buchanan	Gillian Grant
8	David Patterson	Cedric Adams	Annie Kirkpatrick
15	Edward Darling	J Club	
22	Ken Fletcher	Sunday Club	Thomas Cousins
24	8.00 pm (C)	Helen Mulholland	
25	10.30 am (C)	Sandra Thomas	9.30 (K) Helen Penge
29	Jonathan Wright	Karen McConnell	Viona Crothers
5	Keith Shaw	Joan Clayton	Johnny Gray
12	Edward Darling	Fiona Ellis	Regis Callard
19	Mary Hewitt	Cedric Adams	Adrian Cousins
26	David Patterson	J Club	Florence Coulter
	Flowers	Refreshments	Screens
1		George & Jene	Andrew
8	Norah Brown	Ann & Harriett	Maureen
15	Teddy Bears	J Club Helpers	Jenny
22	Rev Edwardson	Jan Erwin	Fiona
29	Liz Maginn	Beatrice & Karen McConnell	Raymond
5	<i>Please sign</i>	Victoria & Charlotte	Andrew
12	<i>up in</i>	Susan & Stephen	Maureen
19	<i>Jeremy Taylor</i>	Fiona & Maureen	Jenny
26	<i>Chapel</i>	J Club Helpers	Fiona

**ACROSS:** 1, Lame. 3, Obtained. 8, Omit. 9, Merchant. 11, Burdensome. 14, Crafty. 15, Please. 17, Blacksmith. 20, Splendid. 21, Tier. 22, Singeing. 23, Hand.  
**DOWN:** 1, Look back. 2, Main road. 4, Breast. 5, Accomplish. 6, Near. 7, Date. 10, Pestilence. 12, Basilica. 13, Tethered. 16, Action. 18, Asa's. 19, Clan.

**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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:	Raymond Scott	077 1876 9566
:	Gillian Grant	
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<b>Killaney:</b>	Adrian Cousins	077 3198 7183
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<b>Verger &amp; Graveyard</b> pt	Florence Coulter	077 8756 3851
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<b>Gift Aid Secretary:</b>	Regis Calard	
<b>Flower Rota:</b>	Anne Mannis	028 9751 0089
<b>Cleaning Rota:</b>	Marie Mack	028 9751 0350

<b>Carryduff:</b>	Cedric Adams	079 1953 7402
<b>Wardens:</b>	Sammy Barratt	
<b>Co Honorary Treasurers</b>	{Deirdre Shaw,	079 1713 8452
:	{Sandra Thomas	078 5519 3341
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<b>Honorary Secretary:</b>	sandrathomas64@sky.com	
<b>Sexton:</b>	Fiona Ellis	
<b>Freewill Offering:</b>	Susan Creber	077 1312 3835
<b>Hall Bookings:</b>	Sandra Thomas	078 5519 3341
:	sandrathomas64@sky.com	

<b>Parish Panel:</b>	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 February Edition.**

Please submit copy by January 15<sup>th</sup> to killaneyandcarryduff@icloud.com for publishing on Friday January 24<sup>th</sup>

Thank you to our distributors and compilers for your help.

# CARRYDUFF PARISH CHURCH

The Christmas story told through

## Teddy Bears



**Fri 13th December 12pm - 8pm**  
**Sat 14th December 10am - 6pm**  
**Sun 15th December 12pm - 5pm**

including a

## Craft Fair

on Friday/Saturday

**REFRESHMENTS EVERY DAY**



**Entrance by Donation**