



CROSSROADS

February 2025



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Dear Friends



Winter is a time of waiting.

The dark mornings still take a long time to brighten up. The chilly nights show no sign of giving way to warmth. The tired, drab foliage of last year's garden remains limp and withered, even if it ought to have been tidied and cleared weeks ago. The grass has that skinny, wilted look which makes spring seem far away.

The joy of the season, as autumn was portrayed in Robert Frost's "My November Guest", is that relationships remain fresh, fruitful and faithful even through the darkest days and the duller seasons.

The relationship that the (often misspelt) prophet Habakkuk had with God, was one where dismay and disappointment made no difference whatsoever to his trust. Many times I look to his words to remind me of faith surviving in times of darkness. I hope you try to have the same rising confidence in God, when life around you seems to be sinking fast.

Here is what he said: (As you read them, think to yourself "What are the markers of 'failure' in my life, that I can ignore, as Habakkuk did when nature failed to produce its crops?")

Habakkuk 3:17-18

For though the fig tree doesn't flourish,
nor fruit be in the vines;
the labour of the olive fails,
the fields yield no food;
the flocks are cut off from the fold,
and there is no herd in the stalls:
yet I will rejoice in Yahweh.

I will be joyful in the God of my salvation!



When we were children, wise parents advised us of the value of waiting; they encouraged us to plan, to save, to look forward to the gift, the holiday, the treat. Few expected anything great to happen straightaway. Waiting made the moment all the richer.

Today's children, and, more often than not, their child-like cash-rich parents, expect to see their desires met within moments: an extra day's wait for a parcel to arrive is almost seen as an act of cruelty!

So, as we await the end of a war, the recovery of an economy, or the return of a distant normality to a health service, let us determine that God will still be our Saviour and in him we can rejoice.

For those of you who do not really understand what all of the above means, come with me to the grieving family of a saint who has gone to glory, and see how that faithful life has sown seeds of hope in their family, which helps the sun shine on the darkest day.

Wishing you as long a winter as you can endure, and as short a winter as you truly desire.

Stephen

Mothers' Union & Friends



Our February meeting, weather permitting, will be on Thursday 6th at our usual time of 8pm in the Mitchell Room.

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

This month we will be having a Fire Prevention and Protection officer from the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service joining us.

He will be telling us what steps we can take to prevent fires at home and how we can keep ourselves safe in the event of a fire.

It will be well worthwhile to come along.

Enrolled members, please don't forget your 2025 fees of £30 are due.

Thank you.

Pakistan - Diocese of Multan

The second zoom prayer meeting between our diocese and that of Multan took place on Monday, 20th January - the scheduled date had to be changed as Bishop Leo is going to the USA in February. The meeting was a great way to begin the working week. Although we live thousands of miles away, it was as though our friends in Multan were sitting in the next room. As we prayed together, the sense of God's presence was palpable.



Prayer requests from Multan include the following:

- For safety for the clergy, diocesan staff and their families, and for the resources they need for effective leadership and communication, and to sustain Bible schools and discipleship programmes.
- For the Christian education of young people that they would grow in their faith; for all young people who cannot find employment.
- For frail, elderly people who are ill and need care and who do not have the same government support that we enjoy.
- That 'land grabbers' will be prevented from encroaching on church premises, and that others will resist supporting them for their personal gain.
- For evangelism within the low caste Hindu community in desert areas.

Thank you to all who support the diocese of Multan by your prayers, and generous giving during refreshment time after the Sunday services in Carryduff.

LARDER>EAST

Building an Inclusive, Resilient Food Community in East Belfast

LARDER>EAST is a community food hub with a mission to ensure everyone has access to high-quality, affordable food. Founded in 2013, it began as a food bank and has since grown into a thriving, membership-based model. Originating from a faith community's desire to tackle food insecurity, LARDER>EAST has expanded its efforts to address the systemic issues that lead to food poverty.

The hub operates on a membership model, embracing the inherent worth of all members - over 300 people from diverse backgrounds. By offering two types of membership - Samson, for those facing financial hardship, and Goliath, for those more economically stable but committed to supporting an equitable food system - it aims to bridge economic divides and build genuine community connections.

LARDER>EAST provides high-quality fresh produce, milk, eggs from pasture-fed hens, tinned goods, and a range of dried items from its refill section. Addressing food poverty is just one part of the puzzle; LARDER>EAST seeks to improve health, through good food, social isolation through community and connection with the land through our community garden.

Believing in the power of food to bring people together, LARDER>EAST works to strengthen food security by maintaining short supply chains with local producers. This supports local economies, reduces waste, and creates a space for solidarity, collaboration, and mutual respect. These values are at the heart of the organisation.



In response to the economic inequalities in East Belfast, where the gap between affluent and struggling communities is wide, LARDER>EAST offers a local solution. Through shared resources and the simple act of food sharing, it demonstrates that a more inclusive, resilient food system is possible. If you believe in good food, community, and justice, **LARDER>EAST** invites you to join the movement.



A busy programme is planned from February to June and it is hoped to join in the diocesan youth weekend in March. We endeavour to make each evening enjoyable & interesting by providing sports activities, workshops, crafts and Bible teaching. Each month we include a special item and there is at least one annual outing.

Please continue to encourage your grandchildren and children to attend the monthly Celebrate at 10:30 Service. We meet at 10:15am and finish at 12:15pm.

Urgent Prayer Request

For various reasons a number of leaders and helpers have decided to step down from J Club. We are grateful for the help and support they have given, some for a number of years. It is essential that we provide a safe environment for the children who come to J Club, so we need more leaders. As things stand, we are unable to enrol new members. We are asking you to pray as we seek a way forward for our two clubs.

Killaney News

Flowers: Lila Earney

Cleaning: Adrian & Sandra Cousins

I wish everyone a happy and healthy 2025 and look forward to seeing you on the fourth Sunday of the month when we have a cup of tea after Church.

You will be made welcome!



CHANNEL FOR THY PEACE:

Lord grant me that I may seek to comfort
Rather than be comforted,
To understand than be understood,
To love than be loved,
For it is by giving that one receives
And by forgiving that one is forgiven.



TODAY, TOMORROW, FOREVER

Do not look forward in fear to the changes in life;
Rather look to them with full hope that as they arise,
God, whose very own you are, will lead you safely through all things;
And when you cannot stand it, God will carry you in His arms.
Do not fear what may happen tomorrow;
The same everlasting Father who cares for you today will take care of you every day.
He will either shield you from suffering or will give you unfailing strength to bear it.
Be at peace and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginings.

Car-ride

A teenager who had just received her provisional licence offered to drive her parents to church. After a hair-raising ride, they finally reached their destination. The mother got out of the car and said in a quiet but fervent voice: "Thank you!" "Anytime," her daughter replied.

As the woman slammed the car door she said, "I wasn't talking to you. I was talking to God."

Taste

A woman wasn't feeling well and went to A&E. The nurse asked her: "Have you experienced a sudden loss of taste?"

"No," admitted the woman sadly. "I've always dressed this way."

2025 Easter Vestry Revision

To become a member of the General Vestry, the electing body of the parish, and so to take part in the election of office bearers at the Easter Vestry Meeting, parishioners need to ensure they are on the List of Vestry Members.

The list will be **opened for revision on 1st February 2025** and will be **closed on 1st March 2025**. Forms of application to join the list or to amend your status from being a resident or an accustomed member or vice versa will be available in the churches at the Wardens' Tables before and during this time.

The Easter Vestry meetings are planned for **Sunday 23rd March. 10:30 am in Carryduff, 12:00 pm in Killaney**. A short act of worship will open the meetings, and elections of select vestry members will take place. This is the most important meeting in the life of the parish every year and you are encouraged to make yourself available that Sunday to attend.

Ash Wednesday 5 March

The later date of Easter this year (20 April) means Lent starts in the first week of March. It *could* be five days later, but that would be rare. We will be starting a series of short Lenten Services on Wednesday evenings in St. Ignatius', Carryduff.

Ordained Local Ministers

All over Ireland, except in Down and Dromore, a local ministry known as Ordained Local Ministry is in place. It seems to be a combination and development of Lay Reader ministry and Non-stipendiary ordained ministers.

The key differences are that the Ordained person has a call only to their own parishes, rather than a ministry in other churches. Although a very different ministry, it reflects the way Parish Readers are only active under the direction of their rector, while Diocesan Readers can also serve in the diocese under the management of the diocese.

In Down and Dromore the focus seems to be on new ministries in new church-plants, rather than in widening the numbers of those serving as ordained people in existing parishes.

Area Deanery News

Our parishes are part of Dufferin Area Deanery. Our local Church of Ireland clergy meet every 6 to 8 weeks for fellowship, sharing of ideas, and, importantly, some very good coffee! The deanery covers Comber, Kilwarlin, Drumbeg, Hillsborough, Killinchy, Drumbo, Saintfield and our own Killaney and Carryduff!

The Rev Elaine Pentland has been appointed the new priest-in-charge of Kilwarlin Upper and Lower, and is due to be introduced at a service on 28th March at St John's Church. Elaine is currently curate at Willowfield Parish, and was welcomed to the area deanery at its most recent meeting.

The Rev Willie Nixon's recent move to Banbridge leaves Drumbeg currently vacant. Please pray for this local parish as it seeks leaders to further the kingdom in their locality.

Smile Lines

Church service

An auntie took her very young niece to church. When they returned home, her parents asked how it had gone. The little girl replied: "Well, the minister prayed, and I prayed. The minister sang, and I sang. The minister spoke, and auntie brought me home."

Visit

The new vicar was doing the rounds to meet his parishioners. At one house where he knocked, a woman inside called out: "Is that you, Angel?"

The vicar hesitated and then called back: "No, but I'm from the same department."

Cow and choir

From a Cambridgeshire local newspaper in January 1900: 'WANTED – a steady respectable able man who can look after a garden, milk a cow, and sing in the church choir.'

Chocolate

A lovely heart-shaped box of chocolates was received on Valentine's Day by a young student from her new boyfriend. On the enclosed card was the inscription: "To Helen, with all my allowance."

Experience

"Dad," asked little Ted, "what does a man's better half mean?"

"Usually," his father said, "she means exactly what she says."

Wedding dress

When my sister Andrea got married, she asked to wear my mother's wedding dress. The day she tried it on, Mother's eyes welled with tears. "You're not losing a daughter," I reminded her in time-honoured fashion. "You're gaining a son." "Oh, forget about that!" she said with a sob. "I used to fit into that dress!"

Lion

A Sunday school teacher was telling her youngsters about Daniel and the Lion's Den. To illustrate the lesson, she drew a picture of Daniel standing, brave and confident, with a group of lions around him. Suddenly, one little girl started to cry. The teacher said, "Don't cry. The lions are not going to eat Daniel."

Snuffling back the tears the girl replied: "That's not what I'm crying about. That little lion, over in the corner, isn't going to get anything to eat."

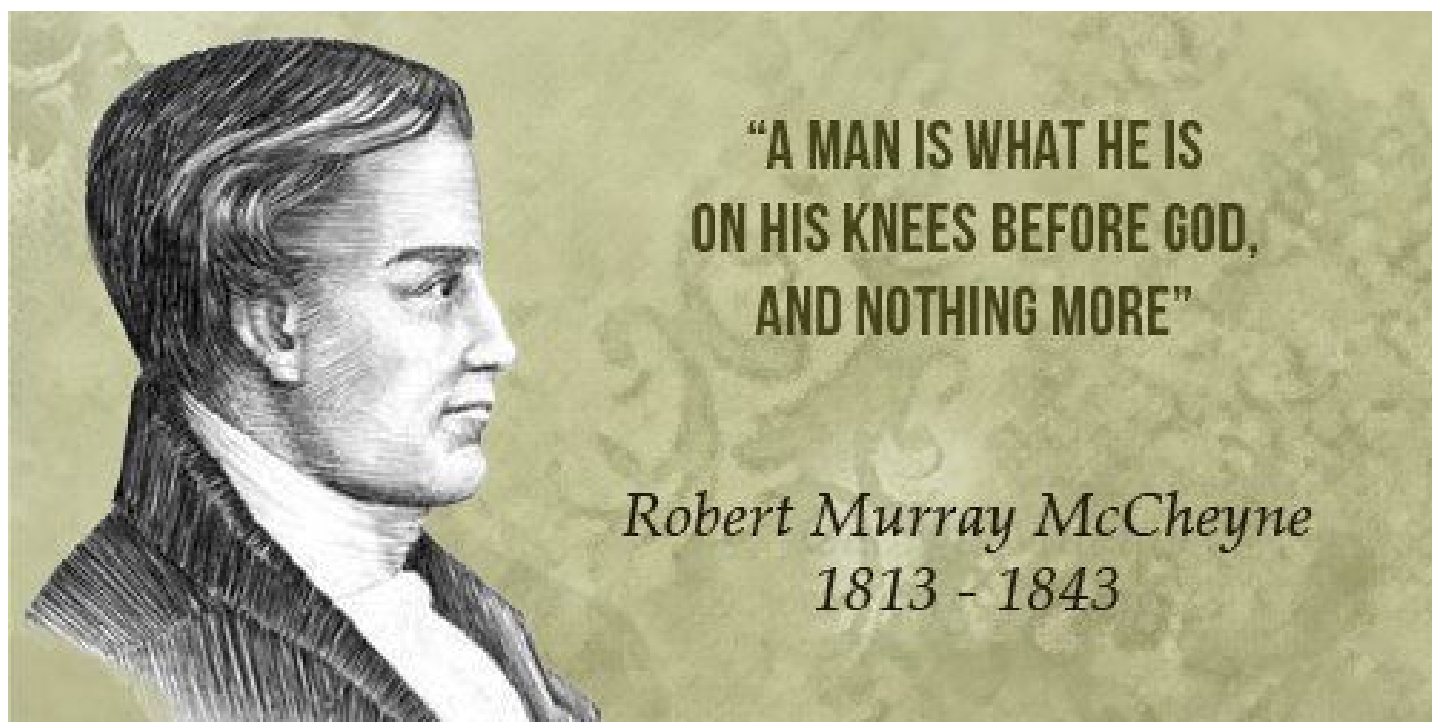
Boots

My young daughter needed new boots. When her friend arrived one morning in a lovely pair of new boots, I asked where she had got them. "At the store," she answered.

"Which one?" I asked patiently.

She looked confused, and then down at her boots. "Both of them," was her reply.





Robert Murray M'Cheyne

I first heard the name, Robert Murray M'Cheyne, several decades ago when a much-loved uncle told me how greatly he admired this godly man whose love for Jesus, and his selfless devotion to his congregation set him apart from his contemporaries and those of a later era. In the last edition of Crossroads, Stephen mentioned him when he included M'Cheyne's Bible reading plan for January. This prompted me to buy a copy of Robert Murray M'Cheyne's biography, written by his close friend, Andrew Bonar. Written in the style of the early 1800's, it was not an easy read!

Robert Murray M'Cheyne was born in Edinburgh in 1813 and was one of five children. From an early age, he showed great promise, excelling in school and, later, in university. In addition to his academic achievements, he was a poet, a nature lover and an enthusiastic musician. Like many young, middle class men of his day, he enjoyed drinking and partying, with little regard for the consequences. When he was eighteen a family bereavement changed his life forever. His eldest brother, David, whom he adored, died at the age of twenty seven. This affected Robert deeply; he found neither comfort nor help in the company of his friends, nor in the lifestyle he had once enjoyed.

David's Christian faith had puzzled and, at the same time, influenced Robert, and now, in his grief, he searched for God. He wrote, "I lost my loved and loving brother, and began to seek a Brother who cannot die". In Matthew's Gospel we read, "Ask and it will be given you; seek and you will find..." In due course, Robert found the peace he had longed for when he accepted that he needed God's forgiveness, and, in faith, turned to Christ, who had paid the penalty for his sins

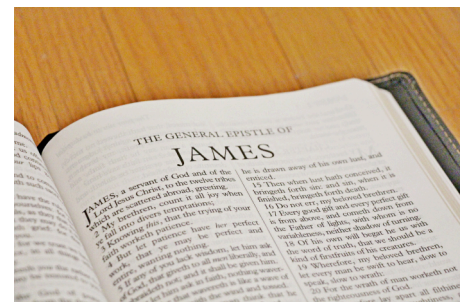
Paul writes in Romans 5:1, **‘Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ’.**

Turning his attention to completing his degree in theology, Robert was accepted for ordination in the Scottish Presbyterian Church. He spent the next few years as an assistant to various ministers, preaching and giving pastoral care to the many who lived in poverty, the sick and the dying. Typhus was rife and cut short the life of both children and adults who had no resistance to its devastating effects. In 1836 Robert was ordained for the parish of St Peter’s in Dundee. A new church had been built to accommodate the town’s growing population. It was a difficult and challenging charge with 4,000 on the parish register.

Rising early each day, Robert spent two hours in prayer and Bible reading before breakfast. Mornings were spent preparing sermons, Bible studies and material for the many meetings he took. Afternoons and evenings were given to the pastoral care of his ‘flock’. He cared little for his own comfort and need to rest, and never ceased to be concerned with his parishioners’ spiritual apathy and their need for Christ. At the same time, he was acutely aware of his own shortcomings and his dependence on the Holy Spirit. Exhaustion and the constant demands made on his time and energy took a toll on his health, causing him to have frequent bouts of sickness.

After six years of giving himself tirelessly to the people he loved, and with no reserves of strength, he became ill with typhus fever; within a few days he had passed into Christ’s nearer presence. He was two months off his thirtieth birthday. At his funeral there were almost 7,000 people who loved him because of the person he was, Christlike and selfless.

**Two centuries later his legacy lives on.
Marlene Moore**



Zoom Prayer

A number of our prayer partners and study group members have been using a Zoom call to engage - from home - in the weekly prayer and study time.

Details of the way to link to the Zoom group are on the calendar for February 4th when it next will be used. If you would like a clickable link, please text Stephen or any other member (whom you know attends).

Roof News

Five years on from the Quinquennial report which raised the issue, we have reached the point where an application for approval from the Council for replacing the tiles on the roof of the Sanctuary, and related works, has been submitted.

We thank Jenny and the team who have supported her in her role to help us reach this stage, including John Mulholland who has assisted the vestry in this matter.

Calendar for February

Sunday 26 January The Conversion of St Paul

(White)

- 8:30 Early Communion C in Carryduff
Acts 9:1-9 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 10 Hollygate Park
- 8:00 Bible Study Fellowship in 10 Hollygate Park
Cuppa at 8. Study until 9:15 No Zoom this evening

Wednesday 29 January

- 10:00 Midweek Service in Carryduff
2 Samuel 7:4-17 Mark 4:1-8 with refreshments

Saturday 1 February

Opening of General Vestries for Revision

Sunday 2 February The Presentation of Christ

(White)

- Hebrews 2:14-18 Luke 2:22-40
- 8:30 Holy Communion ONE in Carryduff
- 10:30 Parish Communion in Carryduff
- 12:00 Parish Communion in Killaney

Tuesday 4 February

- 7:30 Prayer and Study in Rectory
- 8:00 Bible Study Fellowship in Rectory
Cuppa at 8. Study until 9:15
To join by ZOOM, use Meeting ID:789 0922 6923 Passcode:663517

Wednesday 5 February

- 10:00 Midweek Communion in Carryduff
James 1:2-7 Mark 6:1-6a with refreshments

Thursday 6 February

- 8:00 Mothers' Union & Friends in Mitchell Room
NI Fire Service: all welcome

Friday 7 February

- 10:30 Open for Prayer in Carryduff Congregational Church
For all local Christians to pray together

Sunday 9 February The Fourth Sunday before Lent

(Green)

- 8:30 Holy Communion A in Carryduff
1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Luke 5:1-11
- 10:30 Sunday Worship in Carryduff
Isaiah 6:1-8 Luke 5:1-11
- 12:00 Sunday Worship in Killaney
Isaiah 6:1-8 Luke 5:1-11

Tuesday 11 February

- 7:30 Parish Prayer 30 in Rectory
- 8:00 Bible Study Fellowship in Rectory
- Cuppa at 8. Study until 9:15 on Zoom (see 4th Feb)

Wednesday 12 February

- 10:00 Midweek Communion C in Carryduff
- James 1:9-12 Mark 7:24-30 with refreshments

Sunday 16 February The Third Sunday before Lent

(Green)

- 8:30 Holy Communion B in Carryduff
- 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 Luke 6:17-26
- 10:30 Sunday Worship in Carryduff
- Jeremiah 17:5-10 Luke 6:17-26
- 12:00 Sunday Worship in Killaney
- Jeremiah 17:5-10 Luke 6:17-26

Tuesday 18 February

- 7:30 Prayer followed by Bible Study Fellowship in Rectory
- Cuppa at 8. Study until 9:15 on Zoom (see 4th Feb)

Wednesday 19 February

- 10:00 Midweek Communion in Carryduff
- James 1:13-18 Mark 8:22-26 with refreshments

Sunday 23 February The Second Sunday before Lent

(Green)

- 8:30 Holy Communion C in Carryduff
- Revelation 4 Luke 8:22-25
- 10:30 Celebrate at Ten Thirty! in Carryduff
- Luke 8:22-25 followed by refreshments
- 12:00 Celebrate at Twelve in Killaney
- Luke 8:22-25 followed by refreshments

Tuesday 25 February

- 7:30 Prayer followed by Bible Study Fellowship (final) in Rectory
- Cuppa at 8. Study until 9:15 on Zoom (see 4th Feb)

Wednesday 26 February

- 11:30 Midweek Communion and Lunch in Carryduff
- James 1:19-27 Psalm 15 Mark 9:38-40
- Please let us know you are coming for lunch

Friday 28 February

- 11:00 Magazine Assembly Team in JTC

Saturday 1 March

Closure of applications for General Vestries

Sunday 2 March The Sunday before Lent

(Green)

- 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2 Luke 9:28-36
- 8:30 Holy Communion in Carryduff
- 10:30 Parish Communion in Carryduff
- 12:00 Parish Communion in Killaney

Wednesday 5 March Ash Wednesday

(Purple)



No Ear May Hear

We are already in the season of Epiphany, when our thoughts are directed towards the coming of wise men to greet and celebrate the infant Jesus. There is a great significance in this. The wise men were the first Gentiles to become aware of the coming into our world of the Son of God.

It seems that everything in our present time frame has happened too quickly. The season of Advent, when we looked forward to the birth of Jesus, appeared to go by in a flash. Did we really prepare, in a truly spiritual sense, for the coming of Jesus? Maybe we were all far too much caught up with the secular excesses which seem to have overtaken much of the real meaning of the Christmas season. Did we, in our fast moving and noisy age, genuinely hear the true message?

One of our best loved Christmas hymns reminds us: “How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given....” There was no flourish of trumpets and, indeed, “no ear may hear His coming.....”

Surely this is a message which stretches beyond the Christmas season towards a Second Advent i.e. the second coming of Christ. Are we ready for that? Would we ever hear any signs of it? The text of the hymn states that, although no ear may hear His coming “...in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive Him, still the dear Christ enters in.” I infer from this that some Wise Men might always have anticipated a second coming.

So when might it happen, and how could we become aware of it? This was a crucial issue which the disciples raised with Jesus. “Tell us.....when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age? (Matt.24 v3).”

Jesus’ reply was thoughtful and cautious. He warned that there would be many false prophets who might lead them (and us) astray. We cannot know: Indeed no ear may hear of the second coming; yet Jesus spoke of three types of event (or signs of the times) which would precede His return – wars, famines, earthquakes (Matt. 24v. 7-8).

We could argue that these things are alarmingly present in our age and that “all these things are the beginning of birth pains (Matt. 24v. 8).” Yet, all of these have happened in previous times. Indeed there is a lengthy history of “wars and rumours of wars” and of false prophets proclaiming that “the end is near.”

We ought not to believe them. All we know – and, indeed, can know – is that Jesus will return at a time which we cannot predict. No ear may hear; we have no advance knowledge. Yet, in heart and mind, we should always be ready. As St. Matthew expresses it “.....you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him (Matt. 24 v.44).”

Denis Carson



Save the date

On **Friday 28th March** at 7.30
we will be bringing you our Spring Concert.

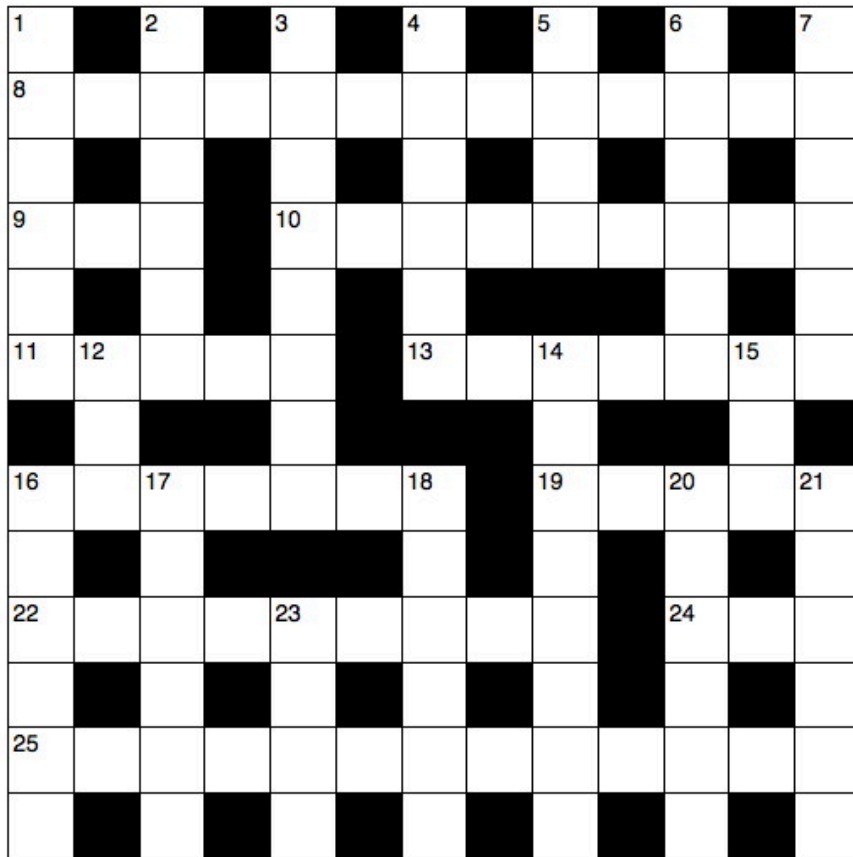
We are delighted that **Ballygowan Community Voices** and the **Harry Ferguson Memorial Pipe Band** will be joining together to bring you some gospel music, songs from the shows and jazz, along with some contemporary music. In fact something for everyone!

Cost will be £12 per person and this will include light refreshments.

To book your tickets speak to Keith, Fiona, Victoria, Raymond or Jenny.

We look forward to having your company for what promises to be an entertaining evening. (you might even recognise a few faces in the choir!!)





Across

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

Down

- 1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)
- 2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)
- 3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)

- 4 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but — him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)
- 5 One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)
- 6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)
- 7 God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ' — salt to — your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)
- 12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)
- 14 'All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8)
- 15 The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)
- 16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)
- 17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)
- 18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)
- 20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)
- 21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (Genesis 8:5) (6)
- 23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)

Thanks for Christmas events

To labourers, worshippers, visitors, decorators, participants, supporters, card-writers and donors. From the great crowd who came to light the Christmas Tree outside St Andrew's at the start of December, to the worshippers who saw the old year out on the last day of the year, we enjoyed a good Christmas together.

Both churches were decorated, one with an abundance of foliage, flowers, candles and crib, the other with the addition of 12 Christmas Trees to go with the Teddy Bear Festival Weekend. When all were taken down, the churches resumed their usual beautiful simplicity, but the decorations were nice while they lasted!

The music this year was special with great singing inside at Killaney to escape the cold wet weather outside as we lit the tree, and the joy of having our Combined Carol Service in Carryduff for the first time. The church, with the help of the Teddy Bears, was well-filled. Thank you to our musical maestros, singers and lesson readers for these special occasions.

The Scouts asked for a Carol Service as is their wont, and we thank them for continuing this practice. It is good that those who seek to be prepared in life, make life better as they seek God's help.

The Christingle made its return to St Andrew's to a good attendance, and Christmas Day was special in both parishes with good numbers worshipping Christ as we recalled his birth in Bethlehem.

This year we added a Watch-night service to the range of services, and the quietness of St Ignatius' as we sang, read, and prayed through the midnight hour was a blessing to those who attended. The traditional New Year's Day Communion was a fitting conclusion to the season's activities.

The Teddy Bear Nativity Festival: *See back page for photos*

The weekend of the 13-15 December was a very busy one at St Ignatius' Carryduff, as we opened our doors to visitors and friends, old and new from both the local community and further afield to enjoy a Teddy Bear Nativity, along with a Christmas Tree Festival and Craft Fair.

Music was an important part of the event, with carols on the organ and the three local school choirs with their seasonal singing. The children, with their parents and grandparents, then enjoyed the nativity scenes set out around the church, not forgetting the zip-wire teddies which were not to be missed!

Sincere thanks goes to all those who willingly gave of their time in very many ways, both in the week before and over the weekend, to provide an opportunity for others to take a few moments to quietly reflect on the true meaning of the Christmas season in different ways, perhaps for the first time, in the middle of all the usual busyness of December.

Some other highlights - we had a number of repeat visitors to the nativity scenes; many children went home with more than one of the soft toys which had been kindly donated; stallholders were pleased with purchases, and customers with their Christmas gifts, tired legs were rested while catching up with friends and enjoying the festive refreshments provided and served by many volunteers.

What started as an idea for a fundraising event for the church roof also became an opportunity to welcome people of all ages across the local community, and to establish contacts on which to build, going forward.

The Suitcase Project

*We received a letter from the diocese regarding the Suitcase Project
Carryduff and Killaney Harvest Donations*

I am writing to ask you to pass on our gratitude for the donation of £1990.00 to support The Suitcase Project.

Thank you for partnering with the diocese, Tim and the volunteers, as we seek to demonstrate God's love in such a way that asylum seekers and refugees will want to find out about the Christian faith for themselves.

Updates on The Suitcase Project and other diocesan church plants are regularly provided on the diocesan website, e-zine and social media. Church plant newsletters are now published three times each year on the church planting page of the diocesan website.

<https://www.downanddromore.org/about-us/church-planting-in-the-diocese>



Party time at the Suitcase Project



Parish Registers

Holy Matrimony

30 December Katie Maginn and Ben Fry, St. Ignatius', Carryduff
Those whom God has joined together, let no one put asunder.

Funeral Service

I am the Resurrection and the Life
2 January Sarah Rutledge, Bannview Road, Banbridge
*Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord:
they are blessed indeed for they rest from their labours.*

In memory

Sarah Rutledge, neé Lovell, grew up in Manse Road, Carryduff, one of nine children.

She and her dear husband, Cecil, lived most of their married life on the same road, and from their marriage in March 1954 were members of Carryduff Parish, and, later, also founder members of St Ignatius' Church. Sarah, known as Sadie for most of her life, began work in the post office in Rosetta, then moved to Ardenlee PO, before buying her own Moneyreagh Office and, finally, Clandeboye Road Office in Bangor. She retired in 1990.

Family members who worked with her over the years could see her excellence with business and people. But her fellow sub-postmasters and mistresses expressed their admiration for her as they elected her President of the United Kingdom Sub-postmasters Federation.

She was a founder member of the Mothers' Union which met in the rectory here in the early sixties. She supported her family's activities practically and willingly as the opportunities for them arose, and she delighted in them all.

Her faith in God was epitomised by the way she read her bible every day, and studied it with the help of Daily notes right up until a few weeks before her death in hospital.

We sympathise with Bryan and Evelyn, her 8 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren, her many remaining close friends in the parish and district, and thank God, with them, for such a wonderful mother, friend and godly woman.



Rosters February

Readers	8:30 am Epistle	10:30 am Lessons	12:00 pm Lessons
2	Jonathan Wright	Trevor Dunlop	Johnny Gray
9	Mary Hewitt	Tanya Adams	Vera Lowry
16	Edward Darling	Denis Carson	Norman May
23	Ken Fletcher	J Club	Brian McNeill

	Flowers	Refreshments	Screens
2	Ann Stewart	Helen & Norah	Andrew
9		Jackie & John	Maureen
16		Sandra & Andrew	Jenny
23		J Club (Joan & Geraldine)	Fiona



Things to Remember

The older you get there is less peer pressure.

You are never too old to become younger.

Wrinkles only indicate where smiles have been.

Calculate your age geologically to prove you are really young.

You can enjoy repeats on TV, because you don't remember seeing them before.

Remember the good times, count your blessings and not your birthdays.

Age is really mind over matter, if you don't mind, it does not matter.

ACROSS: 8, Cross-examined. 9, Ash. 10, Apocrypha. 11, Sci-fi. 13, Typical. 16, Visited. 19, Offer. 22, No account. 24, RAC. 25, Sovereign Lord.
DOWN: 1, Oceans. 2, Hopini. 3, Islamist. 4, Exhort. 5, Omar. 6, On spec. 7, Add all. 12, CBI. 14, Plotting. 15, Awe. 16, Vanish. 17, Starve. 18, Daub it. 20, Furrow. 21, Recede. 23, Cure.

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	
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:	Marlene Moore	077 4028 9358
:	Bill Connor	079 6772 5635
:	Susan Creber	077 1312 3835

Next Edition is the March Edition.

Please submit copy including holiday dates by 19th February to killaneyandcarryduff@icloud.com for publishing on Friday 28th February

Thank you to our distributors and compilers for your help.

food.gives Table Quiz

on 15th February, 2025 7:00 pm
in Carryduff Parish Church
*Answer questions and help us send
a container of food to Lebanon.*
More info/registration:
ireland@barnabasaid.org

