

Issue 60 / Easter 2020

# n:vision

Transforming Community, Radiating Christ

## ROMA DOWNEY

ON BOXES, BUTTERFLIES  
AND BELIEF...

IT'S GOOD TO TALK - HOW  
COUNSELLING CAN HELP

POLYTUNNELS IN NEPAL

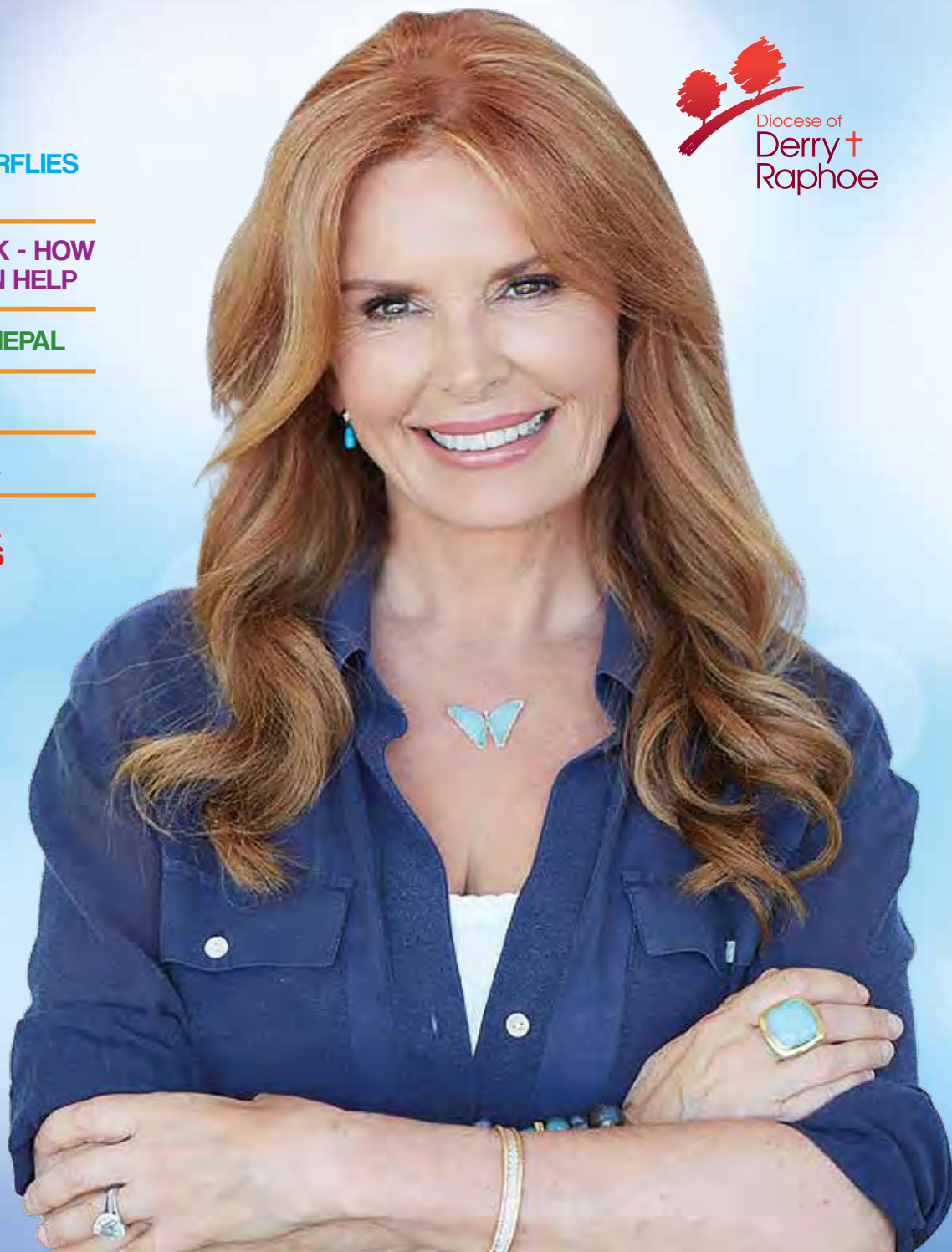
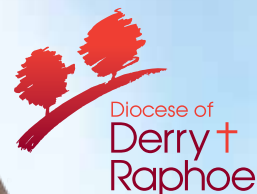
DAMS IN KENYA

WELLS IN UGANDA

PLUS MAHAJANGA  
CALLING, CJ NEWS  
AND LOTS MORE!

“  
WHY ARE YOU  
LOOKING FOR THE  
LIVING ONE IN A  
CEMETERY? HE  
IS NOT HERE, BUT  
RAISED UP!”

LUKE 24:6  
THE MESSAGE





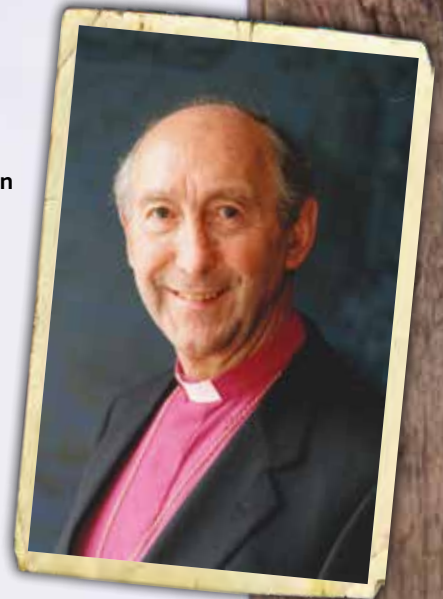
## Tribute to Bishop James Mehaffey

**The Rt Revd Andrew Forster - who was consecrated Bishop of Derry and Raphoe in December 2019 - said that at a time when Churches were often being depicted as part of the problem in Northern Ireland, Bishop James Mehaffey and Bishop Edward Daly had become part of the solution.**

"I am deeply saddened by the news of the death of my eminent and much-loved predecessor," Bishop Forster said. "I never had the privilege of serving under Bishop James, but I was well aware of his reputation. How could I not be? He was a towering figure within the Diocese of Derry and Raphoe in particular and the Church of Ireland generally, and recognition of his achievements transcended diocesan and denominational boundaries.

"A great many of us were struck by - and, indeed, influenced by - his close friendship with Bishop Edward Daly. A great many more of us benefitted as a result of that friendship, even if we didn't know it at the time.

"During the worst of times in our history, when Churches were often being depicted as part of the problem in Northern Ireland, Bishop James and Bishop Edward became part of the solution. The seeds of reconciliation they helped sow eventually brought forth a rich fruit. The two bishops' example - their joint example - of Christian witness, was and continues to be an inspiration to those of us who follow in their footsteps.



"Bishop James was a man of great faith and remarkable foresight. His gentle nature belied an inner strength that equipped him perfectly for the role of Bishop. His clergy were blessed by his care and concern for them and for their families, and touched by his wider concern for all people in the Diocese. He was a gifted pastor and a faithful follower of Christ.

"I offer my deepest condolences to Bishop James's beloved wife, Thelma, to their daughter Wendy and son Tim. When the family's grief subsides, they will have the consolation of recalling a long life well-lived. "In the meantime, we give thanks to God for Bishop James's long and faithful ministry."



# Editor...

In this first issue of 2020 n:vision is on the move again, both at home, across our Diocese, and away, visiting foreign parts.



As we journey around Derry and Raphoe our readers can admire the witness of our members as we learn about various ministries, events and projects which demonstrate the generosity and commitment of so many people at work building up the Kingdom of God here. Abroad we travel east, west and south as we read uplifting reports from our adopted Mahajanga Diocese in Madagascar, stories about wells, dams, football friendship, a medical lifeline and an inspiring story from a young woman finding uncomfortable fulfilment among the polytunnels in Nepal. And we stroll down Hollywood Boulevard and get a sense of Roma Downey's deep Christian faith as reflected in her films and in her life as an original Derry Girl.

As this issue of n:vision is being distributed around our Diocese we are still on our hopeful Lenten journey towards the joy of Easter. Regrettably the Covid-19 virus is very much amongst us. Our Church has wisely implemented precautionary guidelines to reduce the risk of transmitting the virus. We must follow best medical, governmental and Church advice as we seek to protect our neighbours and ourselves while we strive to witness Christian hospitality to all.

Since the release of our previous issue of n:vision the Diocese of Derry and Raphoe has a new episcopal leader who was consecrated bishop on 8th December 2019. We welcome Bishop Andrew and his family and we pray for God's blessing on his work here as he travels throughout the diocese and familiarises himself with the vibrant Christian community which is the Diocese of Derry and Raphoe.

We have a new Archbishop! Congratulations to the Rt. Revd. John McDowell, Bishop of Clogher, who was elected by the House of Bishops as the new Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland on 11th March 2020. Congratulations also to Peter Cheyney who was promoted to the role of Church of Ireland Press Officer in January 2020.

We are pleased that n:vision is allowed to carry the FSC and recycling logos. This means that the paper used has been sourced from sustainable forests and is suitable for recycling in the blue bin (Northern Ireland) or green bin (Republic of Ireland) but please do your own form of recycling first by passing n:vision on to neighbours, friends and local outlets (libraries, waiting rooms etc).

Have a joyful Easter!

**Rev Katie McAteer, the Editor**  
E: [kmcateer51@gmail.com](mailto:kmcateer51@gmail.com)

## In this issue...



04 BIBLE COMMENTARY

05 BISHOP ANDREW WRITES

06 ROMA DOWNEY AN ORIGINAL DERRY GIRL

10 DRY REPORT

11 DAMS

12 DOES COUNSELLING WORK?

15 MAHAJANGA CALLING

18 POLYTUNNELS

19 WELLS

20 BUILDING HOPE AND CONFIDENCE

21 THE MUSTARD SEED

22 A DAY IN THE LIFE

23 MEDICAL LIFELINE

24 DIOCESAN MANOEUVRES\*

62 AND FINALLY...

*\*Diocesan Manoeuvres - articles will feature those appointments or moves occurring between the last issue of n:vision and 3 weeks prior to issue date of current n:vision. Up-to-the-minute news of clergy and lay appointments, moves and other announcements may be found through the Diocesan Facebook page and website [www.derry.anglican.org](http://www.derry.anglican.org)*



*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. (Psalm 23 v 4)*

# Bible Commentary...

**All of our lives are filled with a range of emotions... anger, peace, grief, desire, hope, broken-heartedness, gratitude, pain, joy, delight, fear, confidence, loneliness, love, sorrow, regret and many more.**

It is all part of being human that we have highs and lows, and sometimes we feel that we are in a shadowy, dark and unwelcoming place. I have, over the last 5 years been privileged to minister to and with people on the banks of and above Lough Swilly (also known as the Lake of Shadows). Many times in a week I approach the Lough along the main road and as I do I watch its waters ebb and flow. It shows a range of states that in some ways can mirror human emotions.

As I see the Lough, I am also aware of the hills that surround the valley containing the Lough. Hills, because of their vantage points, have, over the centuries, held physical enemies. Life today can hold other enemies too - high expectations of ourselves, the pace of life, aspects of social media, isolation

and more. These modern day enemies can heighten the negative emotions that we feel in the ebbing and flowing of our lives. Shadows too can dominate our lives. On these occasions we can hold on to the comfort and hope that is in the verse "*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.*" (Psalm 23 v 4).

The hope and comfort comes first of all in knowing that we are walking through the valley. We do not dwell in the valley of the shadow but walk through it.

Secondly, every shadow needs light to make it a shadow. There is light shining even though we may not see it as we are moving through the dark valley. Thirdly, the rod and staff of God will guide and defend us no matter how long we walk or how dreary the way is through the dark valley. We can confidently rely upon the word and promise of God. I love this verse and find it very

comforting because it teaches us that, as we travel through the valleys and experience the negative emotions that are the inevitable outcome of daily living, we should not be afraid of the valleys or of being lost. We need not fear any enemies there because God our Shepherd is there to guide us and accompany us. We are not alone.

As we travel through the valleys of life we can then eventually begin again to feel the positive emotions such as confidence and comfort, hope and joy. We are not walking this life without others. Take time to be with God and others. As our lives ebb and flow let us intentionally take time to talk and listen to God and others and remember that, as we walk THROUGH the inevitable valleys of this life, God is with us, guiding and protecting us, until the shadows gradually give way to the Light of Christ which shines in this life and for all eternity.

**Rev Judi McGaffin**

# Bishop Andrew writes...



**The past few months have, to say the least, been momentous for the Forster family! It is, for us, a time of new beginnings as I settle into my new role as Bishop and we get to know the North West a little better. Thank you for the warmth of your welcome for which we are sincerely grateful.**

I have thoroughly enjoyed being out and about around the diocese. I have visited parishes which have a deep desire to know God and to make Him known. I have been both deeply touched and humbled by your kindness and friendship. You have made a new Bishop feel very much at home!

This edition of n:vision will arrive with you in the midst of the season of Lent and just before the great celebration of Easter. Lent

reminds us of Jesus' 40 days of testing in the wilderness. The temptations that assailed him were focussed around pride, power and materialism. His temptations vividly demonstrate to us that he understands how we are tempted and that he knows all about the pressure to give in.

The writer of the letter to the Hebrews reminds us; 'We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathise with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are - yet without sin.'

Sometimes our image of God is of one who is far removed from the daily struggles of life. Yet Lent reminds us that God understands our stresses, strains and temptations because in Christ He not only

witnessed life, He experienced life. We can be honest with God about our struggles because He knows and He understands.

As we journey through Lent the message of the cross becomes closer and clearer. That incredible and age old message of God's love shown in Jesus, how He identifies with our struggles and pain and offers forgiveness and hope.

The Prayer Book urges us to 'observe a Holy Lent.' My prayer is that, as we journey towards Easter morning, each of us will draw closer to God and will be blessed by a deeper understanding of His amazing unconditional love.

***In Christ,  
+Andrew***

# Roma Downey the original Derry Girl...

**Roma Downey grew up in Derry City, Northern Ireland. She lived in a row of terraced houses on a street that links the Bogside to the Creggan. She was the youngest of six kids and before deciding to become an actress, she thought she would be an artist.**

Roma attended art school in Brighton and Drama school in London and worked at the famous Abbey Theatre before moving to America in the late 1980's. There she became most famous for her starring role in the long-running hit television show "Touched by an Angel". Roma is currently President of LightWorkers Media, the faith and family division at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios, as well as an award-winning TV and film producer and the New York Times bestselling author of "Box of Butterflies".

Her faith has always been important to her and in her career as producer Roma has brought the life of Jesus to the screen multiple times. She has produced for TV or cinema some of the most epic stories in the Bible. In 2013 she successfully produced "The Bible" series for the History Channel, a 10-part series which had over 100 million viewers in the USA alone. She produced the feature films "Son of God" and "Ben-Hur", "Little Boy", and "Woodlawn". Roma also executive produced Bronagh Gallagher's hit "A Bump Along The Way" and the recent Netflix series "Messiah".

Roma received an education at St. Eugene's Primary School and then later at Thornhill College in Derry. Her birth name was "Rose" and her middle name "Mary". It was from those her Mum took the "Ro" and the "Ma" and gave her the name "Roma".

"Growing up in Derry in the 1970's things were crazy. It wasn't your typical backdrop, but in spite of all the troubles I had a happy enough childhood. I missed my Mammy of course but I had a great Dad and we came from a great community.

I had a fun bunch of friends, many of whom I am still in touch with! We were the original Derry Girls. We would not let a bomb scare get in the way of a Friday night at the Point Inn! I think we all became experts at guessing which part of town gunfire had occurred, or where the latest bomb scare was. We just wanted to be able to get on with our lives like normal teens."

Nowadays, Roma says she has come to the realization that everything, the successes and the losses, were all a gift. "It's all part of the wider journey" she says. "There's a Mary Oliver poem where she writes that someone she loved once gave her a box full of darkness, and it took her years to discover that this, too, was a gift. That idea speaks to me very deeply. I would not be where I am without my faith, no question. I wouldn't have endured my teenage years; I don't know how I would have gotten through my mother's death as a young child, or my Father's death when I was in college, if I didn't believe the promise I would see them again. My faith has been a source of great joy; it has held me up; and rocked me to sleep on nights when I thought my heart was going to break."

Being from Derry is very important to Roma. She says, "It's my north star; it's my compass. As a woman who lost both parents very young, part of my life's ambition was



Photographer Credit: John Russo  
Hair & Makeup Credit: Mara Capozzi

to live the best life I could to honour the memory of Maureen O'Reilly and Paddy Downey. I have tried to do that. When I received a star on the walk of fame on Hollywood Boulevard a few years ago I accepted it for everyone who had ever come to America with a dream in their heart, just as I had. I imagined my Mum and Dad and what they might have said if they had been there that day. No matter how many years have passed, I still miss them. I thought of my home town that day as well. I don't know if anyone from Derry has ever been honoured with a star before, but I proudly dedicated it to the people of Derry."

**Despite Roma's demanding producing career, a few years ago she decided to write a book, a spiritual memoir called "Box of Butterflies". It is a beautiful, full colour book filled with encouragement and hope, assuring us of God's comforting presence in our lives.**

Ever since she was a little girl, Roma has seen butterflies as a reminder of God's presence. They have appeared to her in moments when she needed encouragement and acted as a reminder that she is never alone. In this deeply personal book, Roma shares stories from her life, alongside quotes, poems, scripture, and artwork. Each grace-filled chapter of this beautiful book covers topics such as courage, strength, gratitude, love, and kindness.

Reminiscent of the popular television series, "Touched by an Angel", this book's central theme is that there is a God who loves you, and that even in your most difficult moments, He is by your side. Although you may feel alone, you are never truly alone. The subtle butterfly theme reminds us that the wonder of God's love and kindness is sometimes reflected in the gentle whispers of his creation and that we all have the power to transform from simple caterpillars into exquisite butterflies.

Written in a way that encourages you to "dip in and out" of its flowing content, this inspiring book invites you to return to its pages again and again, as life brings new challenges or you find yourself in need of new inspiration. "It's not just my story, it tells how at some crossroads in my life God was already there, although I didn't always know that, or it didn't always feel that way. Nobody gets away with a life that doesn't include suffering, you know? To love is to be

vulnerable, and I experienced the trauma of love-loss so young. I was only 10 when my mum died and I know it's a long time ago but it shaped the person I became."

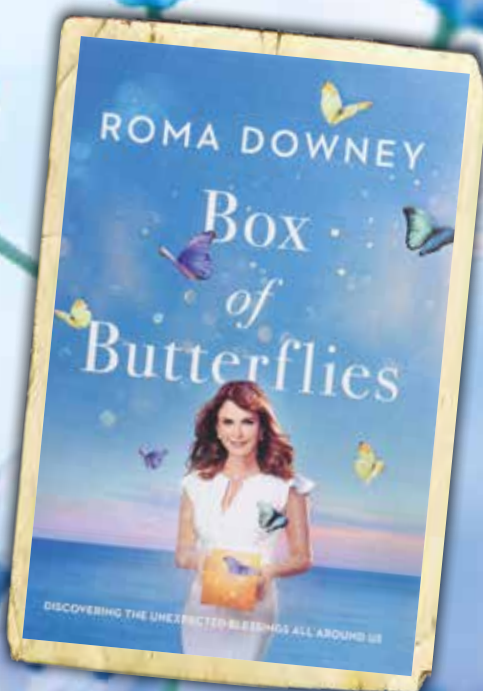
Roma's inspiration for the book came from a quiet moment as a child when she was visiting her mother's grave with her dad and a butterfly appeared, "That could be your mother's spirit" her father told her. Roma recalls "It was a comfort to me at the time to think that her spirit could still be

somewhere nearby." Since that time Roma has associated butterflies with her mother's spirit, with the idea that she's somehow nearby and watching over her, and that God is with her every step of the way. Roma has designed her book to be a comfort to others. Her hope is to provide encouragement and inspiration in the same way that the butterfly has been to her!

**Publisher: Howard Books (2018)**  
**ISBN13: 9781501150937**

# Book Review

## Box of Butterflies...





Many thanks to the many Diocesan Magazines for supporting our Annual Armchair Christmas Quiz. Entries were up this year - over 200, with 140 correct! Thanks to the generosity of so many people we made well over €1500. The proceeds go to two charities, Christian Aid and Bishops' Appeal. This year money will be going to the Ebola crisis in Africa, providing medical aid, social support and hygiene equipment and training, and also the Philippines. Shelter, water, hygiene kits and food are being provided for over 14,300 families in 3 provinces following typhoon Mangkhut.

**These are the winners:**

**1st Mary Thompson, Borris-in-Ossory, Co. Laois; 2nd Liz Cromer, Toomevara, Co Tipperary; 3rd Elaine Langley, Thurles, Co. Tipperary; 4th Eveleen Deverell, Geashill, Co. Offaly**

**Prizes for "Having a good shot!"**

**1st Ben Armitage, Cloughjordan, Co. Tipperary; 2nd Charlotte Lewis, Portlaoise, Co. Laois; 3rd Jean Lynch, Malmesbury, UK.**

The clues giving most trouble seemed to be "Laws on Med Island" Lawson Cypress, and "Vital for D-day, which should probably have been "Vital after D-Day". Mulberry was the floating harbour used to supply the armies in the early days of the invasion! Thanks again for your support, and God Bless.

- |   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1. You could fly this!                  | <b>PLANE</b>            |
| 2. Sounds like a pelt!                  | <b>FIR</b>              |
| 3. Computer Tree?                       | <b>APPLE</b>            |
| 4. All burnt out:                       | <b>ASH</b>              |
| 5. Rules on Med Island:                 | <b>LAWSON CYPRESS</b>   |
| 6. Lonesome Highlander:                 | <b>SCOTS PINE</b>       |
| 7. Extra ill:                           | <b>SYCAMORE</b>         |
| 8. Capitals of Oman, Austria and Kenya: | <b>OAK</b>              |
| 9. Fire on Hill:                        | <b>MOUNTAIN ASH</b>     |
| 10. Senior Citizen:                     | <b>ELDER</b>            |
| 11. Learner under bridge?               | <b>LARCH</b>            |
| 12. Like a writer:                      | <b>ASPEN</b>            |
| 13. Lady's name:                        | <b>HAZEL</b>            |
| 14. Sounds well liked:                  | <b>POPLAR</b>           |
| 15. Vital for spinning:                 | <b>SPINDLE</b>          |
| 16. Vital for D-Day:                    | <b>MULBERRY</b>         |
| 17. Duo:                                | <b>PEAR</b>             |
| 18. Sugar <i>PLUM</i> Fairy             | <b>PLUM</b>             |
| 19. Funny with Hardy!                   | <b>LAUREL</b>           |
| 20. Smart Scandinavian:                 | <b>NORWEGIAN SPRUCE</b> |
| 21. Coloured timber:                    | <b>REDWOOD</b>          |

# Armchair Christmas Quiz Answers





# NEWS FROM MAHAJANGA

## Stormy Weather in Mahajanga

*A Letter from Sarah Speers in Mahajanga. Her husband, Rt. Rev. Hall Speers is Bishop of Mahajanga who has featured in previous issues of n:vision. Sarah writes regular emails to family and friends in Ireland and England. We received this earlier this year:*

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the many kind wishes we have received over the Christmas period.

Several people have asked that I update you about Cyclone Belna which was approaching the north west coast of Mahajanga in December. We did not realise the danger we were in until it was too late to escape. All means of travel were completely booked up by others seeking to flee. We were faced with the prospect, not only of the devastation and risk to life caused by a hurricane travelling at more than 100 miles an hour, but also with the likely aftermath of being cut off for who knows how long because of power lines down and impossible travelling conditions. And I was booked on a plane leaving Mahajanga for the capital, and an ongoing flight to London, on the day the cyclone was due to strike.

There was no choice except to sit and wait. I regretted not getting away earlier to the capital out of the reach of the storm. I thought of the cost of the flight if I did not manage to get it. I thought what bad luck this was since this was the first tropical cyclone on the west coast of Madagascar since 2014. And I also thought if the end was nigh at least Hall and I were together. It was a terrifying experience. The path and speed of the cyclone remained unpredictable.

Finally, Belna made landfall the day before my scheduled departure and 100 km west of Mahajanga, leaving a trail of 80% damage, killing 5 people and making 1400 homeless. We had torrential rain and high winds but miraculously escaped the eye of the storm. To my amazement and relief normal life was resumed the next day. My flight departed on time at 8am as though nothing untoward had happened. I caught my plane to London and the hours spent waiting in airports en route, not to mention the long haul of the time in the air, were softened by my immense gratitude that I was still alive and on my way home. I was delighted when Hall brought forward his return to the UK in order to be back in the Indian Ocean in time to attend the consecration of the new Bishop of Mauritius in February. Hall joined me for the New Year.

We had a very pleasant social time and I caught up with several programmes on TV and films at the cinema. My mother would express concern that I am in danger of getting square eyes!

The months of 2020 and the years ahead will pass quickly. Let us hope that progress will be made to slow down the effects of climate change, which are only too apparent in the extreme natural phenomena which are occurring increasingly frequently.

Our good wishes to you all, Sarah.

# DRY Report

By Simon Henry, National Youth  
Officer, Church of Ireland  
Youth Department

It was my privilege to lead, for the second time, Derry and Raphoe's Confirmation Day in the Acorn Centre in Londonderry. For me Confirmation is a crucial time for faith development in young people and it is essential that the church at large should be encouraging candidates to think seriously about their faith as they enter their teenage years, when so much else can shape opinions and be an influence on our young people.

It is the time for our Christian faith to "take wings" and we all must do as much as we can to point our young people to Jesus as Saviour and to realise that they are standing up and being counted for Christ as they make those declarations of faith before the Bishop, their families and friends at the Confirmation Service. The day itself was a mixture of talks, interaction, games and, of course, the most essential element to any teenage gathering... pizza! It was great to lead three sessions relating to Confirmation and the cornerstones of faith, and to get chatting to the youth of Derry and Raphoe over the course of the day. Our first session looked at "What is Confirmation?" - the who's and what's of Confirmation, how did we arrive here at this stage on our faith journey, how it relates to taking our faith seriously, and how it brings a focus to the promises and declarations each candidate will say before God. Our next session focused on prayer, and how essential it is for our Christian journey and how it develops a real and active living

faith with God. We looked at what Jesus said about prayer in the Bible and how best we can have a daily rhythm of prayer that is part of our everyday life. Our final session covered the Bible, our role in the Church and service - three very important aspects of any believer's walk with God! We looked at the Bible, how it came together, how it is not merely a textbook but the living, active Word of God, and how we can best study it and get to grips with it in the modern age. We also talked about our role within church as "adults" in faith post Confirmation and how it was important to note that Church is a community of believers who exist to serve God, and it really isn't "about us". We finished with a call to action - real faith is active and living. Serving God inside and outside of church is a way of life - Confirmation isn't just getting your "Christian passport"!

It was wonderful for me as National Youth Officer to be part of such an important day for Derry and Raphoe's young people and to see the enthusiasm of clergy and volunteers who make events like these happen. The DRY Board members are in great health and have a real passion and commitment (as well

as an excellent programme of events to get young people to attend) for ensuring young people in their care grow to know Jesus. Whatever you can do, as you read this, to support the work of the DRY Board, whether prayerfully or practically, please encourage them and the young people in all that is happening, and continue to pray for the Confirmation candidates across the Diocese.

## Coming up in Derry Raphoe Youth

On the Move the BIG Weekend 24th - 26th April in Donegal and Laghey. Plans are already underway and the team have been prayer walking around the area as God leads us forward. Please do partner with Derry Raphoe Youth in this outreach to the community in our Diocese: come and visit the area and pray, send a group of young people and leaders from your church or even visit us over the weekend. Full information and forms should be with clergy and leaders in parishes as you read this. For any information please contact [dryboard123@gmail.com](mailto:dryboard123@gmail.com)



DRY Invites at Raphoe Cathedral

DRY Invites at Raphoe Cathedral



CHRISTIAN AID REPORT FROM LISA FAGAN

# Faith fought drought to bring her fields to life

christian  
aid

**Without water, Faith Muvili and her husband Steven couldn't grow crops. Without crops, they didn't have enough to eat or sell. Hunger was a reality. Sending their children to school an impossibility.**

Faith's fields used to be dirt and dust. Ongoing drought in Kenya meant next to nothing grew. Water was scarce. But now Faith grows crops that are lush and green thanks to a nearby dam. Her local community got together to build the sand dam with the support of Christian Aid's partner Anglican Development Services Eastern (ADSE).

The dam gives Faith's community, in Mathea Village, Makueni County, Kenya, resilience in times of drought. While the rains remain irregular, a dam means that when the rain does fall, the community can collect every last drop. A water source like this gives people like Faith a chance to not just survive but thrive.

Faith says; 'My life has changed because where I was going to fetch water was a long way. I no longer go that distance to get water. Now we are fetching it just near here. The sand dam has helped us because we are getting water, as are many families in the village. Everyone is growing vegetables.'

Faith grew such a plentiful crop of tomatoes that she sold enough to pay her children's school fees and buy two cows. With water she can keep the cows healthy so that they can help plough the fields on her farm and provide nutritious milk for her family.

Drought is still a threat to Faith as the climate remains uncertain and unpredictable. It is unjust that people like Faith are battling the worst of a climate crisis they did not create. But for now, she at least has the tools she needs to adapt. With the dam, her fields stay green and her family has a hopeful future. During Lent, Christian Aid called on churches and individuals to stand alongside communities

like Faith's who are on the frontline of the climate crisis. Through fundraising we can help others adapt to the impacts of climate change through initiatives like sand dams, but we also need to pray and act to reduce the emissions that are causing the climate crisis. Christian Aid has produced a range of helpful resources to encourage congregations to give, act and pray for climate justice.

Christian Aid is also launching a Year of Prayer in 2020, which individuals and churches can sign up to, to play their part by praying during a time-slot as part of a continuous chain of prayer for climate justice throughout this pivotal year, as the world's attention focuses on our response to climate change.

As we look ahead let's come together with those like Faith around the world who are standing up against climate change. Together we must stop this climate crisis.

# Does Counselling work?

That really depends! It may be a bit like asking, "do antibiotics work?" Well, yes, provided you have the correct antibiotic for your condition, you take them in accordance with the medical advice and, most importantly, you actually take them. Antibiotics don't work against viruses and counselling is not required every time a person faces a challenge in life.

So, what is 'counselling'? At its simplest level, counselling is two people, meeting as equals, within a safe and confidential space, and where one is there to listen to the other; and it is the counsellor who is there to listen. A counsellor is a trained listening ear. Perhaps you have never thought about the effort it takes to listen to someone, to actually listen, rather than simply hear what they are saying. A counsellor is trained to listen - which begins with learning how to keep quiet - but not just to listen to what is said but also what is implied, suggested, hinted at or apparently avoided. Some describe it as listening for the 'base line' not just the melody.

Of course, if all the counsellor did was listen then it would be at least a curious experience and quite possibly a frustrating and irritating experience. What might happen next would depend on the method of counselling the counsellor chooses to employ but, irrespective of the methodology, there are some basic principles.

*The counsellor is not there to 'fix' the situation or the individual. They meet as equals; the counsellor has training but is not gifted with special powers.*

*The individual sets the agenda. A counsellor will not drag information out of people nor coerce them into divulging secrets. The individual decides what they want to talk about and how much they want to talk about it.*

*The individual makes her or his own decisions. A counsellor will not compel someone to take a particular course of action. Together the individual and counsellor may discuss options and suggestions, but the final choice always rests with the individual - and doing nothing*

*is always an available option. Therefore, the consequence of any decision will always rest with the individual.*

A very useful question to ask is, "when might someone benefit from counselling?" Everyone would benefit from having a good, honest, heart-to-heart chat with someone who will listen but that does not mean everyone needs counselling. It is the person who cannot function properly in life, for whatever reason, who may benefit from counselling.

Might Christians ever need counselling? Are they not supposed to be filled with the Spirit and in no need of human intervention? A study of the Bible shows some very spiritual people experiencing what would today be classified as mental health issues. So yes, Christians may need this type of help the same as everyone else. And there are many trained counsellors who are Christians available to offer that help. Counselling does 'work', but it is not a 'one-stop shop' with the answer to every ill. It is one of a range of interventions that may help a person in need.

## *What is "Christian Guidelines"?*

Christian Guidelines (CG) is a professional counselling organisation currently based in Bangor, County Down, which offers free counselling services for adults in a variety of locations throughout Northern Ireland. The organisation is affiliated to the Association of Christian Counsellors (ACC) and the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP), and it conforms to the ethical frameworks of these governing bodies. CG is a charity and is entirely funded by donations from supporters. It receives no funding from local or central government. CG is not aligned to any specific denomination and its staff and volunteers are interdenominational.

The name 'Christian Guidelines' was specifically chosen to convey the message that this counselling organisation has a Christian ethos which informs all the work that it carries out, and that it does not seek to enforce solutions upon people. Rather

it seeks to provide appropriate support and guidance for those facing particular challenges in life.

From its inception Christian Guidelines has been guided by God's Word. Nothing is done within the organisation which would be contrary to the principles contained in the Bible. Its services are available to anyone, irrespective of their faith position. Faith is not mentioned unless it is specifically introduced to the counselling process by the client. The day-to-day running of CG is overseen by a Management Team. Bishop Ken Clarke has held the position of President since the formation of CG. CG receives over four hundred requests for counselling per year and, at any one time, in excess of ninety counselling processes are ongoing.

Most of the counselling is carried out in Bangor but we are currently able to offer counselling in Greater Belfast, Ballyclare, Larne, Coleraine, Ballynahinch, Omagh, Clougher and Enniskillen. It is hoped that

in the near future counselling may also be available in Ballymena, Cookstown and Banbridge. Every counsellor within Christian Guidelines holds, at least, a Level Four Diploma from a recognised training provider who is registered with a governing body. It is the desire of Christian Guidelines to provide a competent and confidential counselling service throughout Northern Ireland, one with a specifically Christian ethos and one which is delivered free of charge so as not to exclude those who would not otherwise have the means to pay.

---

*Editor's note - The Derry and Raphoe Diocesan Board of Social Responsibility invited **Ian Stewart** of Christian Guidelines to meet with the Board to brief them on the work of Christian Guidelines.*

---



# Derry & Raphoe Diocesan Ministry of Healing Responds

**A retired director in the Northern Bank once said to me 'There are three parts to communication: communicate, communicate, communicate!'**

When you are involved in some diocesan ministries it can be easy to think that everyone knows what is going on. In my experience this is often not the case! The Derry & Raphoe Diocesan Ministry of Healing Committee want as many people in the diocese to know what has been happening and what is planned for the future. The present Diocesan Ministry of Healing Committee consists of Rev Paul Lyons (chair), Rev Carmen Hayes, Mr Brian Seaton, Rev Heather Houlton, Rev Katie McAteer and Mrs Gillian Millar.

Following some discussion the committee agreed to gather information about (1) what and where healing ministry is presently available in the diocese and (2) what help do parish leaders need and how could the Ministry of Healing Committee help?

Once this information was received the Committee considered the feedback. Thank you to those who replied.

What did we learn? Presently in 12 parishes there is a **healing service and/or prayers for healing**. It was suggested that this information about healing services and/or prayers for healing to be made available on the diocesan website so that people would be aware of what is happening near to them and could avail of the ministry.

The responding clergy asked the Committee to consider two requests:

- 1. Some parishes asked for the Committee to offer Prayer Ministry Training to equip people to pray for people's healing.**
- 2. Some parishes asked for a Committee member to preach at a healing service and/or provide prayer ministry.**

Responding to the first request the Committee has planned a Prayer Ministry

Training day on **Saturday 6th June** (10am -3pm) at the Diocesan Centre. We are grateful to the Rev Heather Houlton and Rev Paul Lyons who will lead the training. More information about the training day will be communicated to the clergy.

Secondly any Committee member asked by parishes to speak at a healing service will be accompanied by some of those who will attend the prayer ministry training day. As the Committee continues to plan for the training day and the development of the Ministry of Healing in our diocese we would ask for your prayers for God to direct us and for the clergy and church members to support us.

If you would like to know more about the Diocesan Ministry of Healing please do not hesitate to contact any member of the Committee.

**Rev Paul Lyons**  
**Tel: 028 7084 8774**  
**Email: revpaul.lyons@btinternet.com**



# Mission and unity

# Mahajanga Calling...

**The Diocesan Board of Mission and Unity is launching a new project this Easter to help a 'son of the Diocese' in his efforts to build up God's Church in one of the world's poorest regions. 'Mahajanga Calling' will offer parishes a way of offering practical help to Rt Rev'd Hall Speers as he leads the Church in north-west Madagascar.**

Bishop Speers heard his own personal 'call' from Mahajanga just over a year ago, while back home in the Parish of Urney where his mother had just died. An email informed him he had been elected Bishop of Mahajanga, a diocese seven times the size of Wales but with only eight priests.

Although he and his wife, Sarah, had been missionaries there, decades earlier, he had retired from active ministry. "It just seemed such a direct call of God," Bishop Speers told n:vision previously. "It just felt like God was saying, 'You've run out of excuses, man.'"

The Bishop is a brother-in-law of the Rector of the Taughboyne Group, Rev Canon David Crooks, who appealed at the last Diocesan Synod for help for Mahajanga. If our Diocese could support 'Nets for Nigeria' and, more

recently, raise £60,000 for Butere, it could do something for Mahajanga, he suggested. "We should give him from our resources the support that would lift his diocese out of misery and poverty."

Bishop Speers says in some parts of Mahajanga the Anglican Church is vibrant but elsewhere it is in a very poor way. He himself has trekked two days there and back through dense jungle to lead a Confirmation Service. One remote church, which had a congregation of 80 three years ago, collapsed because its leader died and no one told the Diocesan leadership. The church hadn't had a service for two years.

"One priest I have has got 13 churches," Bishop Speers says, "and they have to be visited by foot, which means you can't do more than one church on a Sunday. So, if you do a simple calculation, how often are those churches going to have a Holy Communion, a Eucharist?"

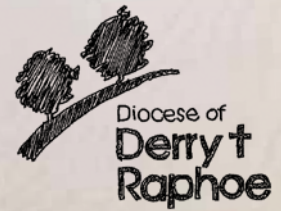
When asked how people here could help to develop the Church in Mahajanga, the Bishop said: "I know it sounds too simple but it's not - it's pray for us. Pray that we will remain faithful in our own way and our

people will find that their faith builds them up in the face of adversity.

"In the last six months, I've done a few little projects. For example, one was buying a rice field for a very poor parish that had little or no cash income, so that the rice from those fields would both help the priest to live quite simply but also help the community. So, it's food and fellowship in this case and, quite bluntly, putting the food first. The Malagasy keep reminding you, if your stomach's empty it's funny what your mind does."

The chairman of the Diocesan Board of Mission and Unity, Rev'd Canon Paul Hoey, said the 'Mahajanga Calling' initiative will run from Easter 2020 until June 2021. "In the next few weeks we will be outlining practical ways in which parishes here will be able to help Bishop Speers - a son of the Diocese - to strengthen and grow the Church in Mahajanga. We hope to do it in a sustainable way, that will enable parishes there to become self-sufficient. We have a plan in mind: our own '3 R's', if you like: Rice, Rectories and Resources. So, I'd encourage parishioners here to listen out for more news of 'Mahajanga Calling'."

# Diocesan noticeboard!



THE FIELD SCHOOL  
**FAMILY FUN DAY**  
AT CASTLEBERG PARK SCHOOL

Tug of War  
Fancy Dress  
Swing Boats  
Throw the Wellie  
Great Derg Bake Off  
Bean Bag Competition  
Lislaird Highland Dancers  
Burger Stall  
5-a-side Football - Boys/Girls  
and lots more

**SATURDAY**  
**30 MAY 2020**  
STARTING @ 100 PM

All proceeds to  
Derg Parish Church Funds

In aid of St. Ninian's Church, Convooy

**COUNTRY AND GOSPEL CONCERT**

In St. Ninian's Hall, Convooy,  
Thursday 16th April 2020  
at 8.00pm

Artists Include  
Tony Kerr • Eugene O'Dornan • Kenny Archer  
Jordan Mogey • Patricia Maguire  
Backing Band  
William Mawhinney & Chris Dallet

Admission - €15 / £12  
Contact 085 1123241 for more information

Church of Ireland  
Parish of Lower Badoney with  
Greenan present:

**A Festival of Flowers**

"The Church's One Foundation"

In Lower Badoney Parish Church, Gortin

Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May – Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> May 2020

**Opening Hours:**  
Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2:00pm – 8:00pm *Opening Ceremony* at 2:00pm  
Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> May 10:00am – 8:00pm  
Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> May 12:30pm – 8:00pm  
Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> May 10:00am – 6:00pm *Closing Service* at 7:30pm

Refreshments served in Church Hall  
Group Catering available by arrangement.

For further information, or to book catering, please contact:  
Audrey Laughlin on 07944644240 or email  
audrey30@hotmail.com

Come along to view the wonderful floral arrangements  
throughout this beautiful church.

All proceeds towards the New Church Hall Fund

**SEEDS**  
Children's Ministry  
PLANTING THE SEEDS OF BELIEF AND FAITH

**Family Fun Day!**

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2020  
11:00am – 3:00pm  
Oakfield Park, Raphoe  
€5/€5 per child, adults free

Come along for:  
Games  
Story  
Train Ride  
Fairy Walk  
Maze

Parishes must book in  
advance with numbers.  
For a booking form  
email  
kirsty@derryandraphoe  
.org



## Derg Valley Ambassadors tour to Kenya...



Plans are well under way for the Derg Valley Ambassadors tour to Kenya in June 2020. The tour members are Rev Peter Ferguson, Mark Gillen, Gary Clarke, William Orr, Gareth Orr, Conrad Kee, Andy Baird, Jamie Logue, Ami Hemphill, Sheryl Hamilton, Wendy Forbes and Gillian Montgomery. We will meet up with Robert Cuthbert, Ambassadors Director in Nairobi. The group will travel on Sunday 7th June (after church!) and will return Thursday 18th June. Sheryl Hamilton from Killeter Parish is one of the tour members. She says: "When I first applied to go on the Derg Valley Ambassadors Football tour to Kenya 2020, I was a little anxious as I wasn't sure if I would make the team. Once I got word that I was accepted to join the group, I was nervous and excited; excited about what was to come and about all of the new people that I was going to meet, but nervous as I wasn't sure what to expect and what my role within the Ambassadors would be. This soon changed after our first meeting as everyone was extremely friendly, welcoming and encouraging us to share our faith through the love of football. I was also quite apprehensive when it came to the fundraising as I worried that I wouldn't be able to fundraise enough but the local and wider community has been very supportive and helpful. This has made my journey so far very motivating and enjoyable".

By Gillian Montgomery

## SAVE THE DATE

Bishop Andrew Forster and Rev David Skuce will lead a Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Holy Land 18th - 26th March, 2021.

If you'd like more information please contact Rev David Skuce 074 9136187 (prefix 00353 from NI)

Pilgrims boat on the Sea of Galilee



View of the Western Wall, Jerusalem



# The Christmas Story

Telling the Christmas story through various handcrafted creative pieces.

**Monday 23rd -  
Sunday 29th  
November 2020**

**Kilcronaghan Parish Church**  
3 Wood Road, Tobermore,  
Magherafelt, BT45 5QJ

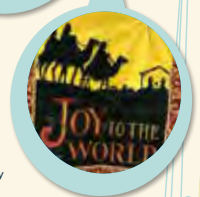
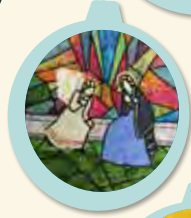
Monday	2pm - 6pm
Tuesday	11am - 5pm
Wednesday	3pm - 6pm
Thursday	6pm - 9pm
Friday	12pm - 8pm
Saturday	11am - 7pm
Sunday	3pm - 6pm Followed by a Closing Service @ 6.30pm with Favourite Christmas Carols

Morning coffee and afternoon tea available Monday to Friday.  
Morning coffee, lunch afternoon tea and evening meal available on Saturday  
Afternoon tea available Sunday 3pm - 5pm

**Note: Booking essential for Lunch and Group Catering**

Jennifer Evans (Catering)  
028 796 42766 jenniferevans1964@gmail.com

Hilary Richardson  
07791545190 hilary473@btinternet.com



## Creevagh House Garden

### Open GARDEN 2020

63 Letterkenny Road  
Londonderry/Derry BT48 9XQ.

will be open on  
**SATURDAY**  
**16th May**  
10.00 am - 6.00 pm  
Admission £5

Tours of Creevagh Camp,  
USA WW11 Hospital

#### Other Attractions

Flower arranging demonstrations  
Plant stall  
Book stall  
Craft stall and Activities  
Children's activities  
Musical entertainment.  
..... and much more!

All day teas

All proceeds in aid of  
Saint Columba's Cathedral



# Out of my comfort zone...



The end of school means lots of questions like "What are you going to do?" "Where are you going to study?" "What are you going to study?". For me, I knew that university wasn't in God's plan for me at this time. So I took a year out and began to research the countless opportunities that it would bring.

I looked into volunteering and found Raleigh International and ICS (International Citizen Service). Raleigh is a sustainability charity that works in Nepal and Tanzania. They focus on building sustainable livelihoods and sanitation. I was placed in Nepal on a livelihood project, where we collaborated with the local community to build polytunnels to help stabilise local income. We also taught the local kids group about leadership skills and the importance of young people in society.

Nepal's economy is supported by an agricultural society. As a result, one of our main goals was to assist the villages to

stabilise their incomes by teaching them the skills to build and manage a polytunnel.

The structure of a polytunnel will last around 3 years and it will ensure that a family has a supply of food for 12 months of the year. Our team partnered with a local organisation called Goretta Ghorka which helped us to run training sessions with the local community. Training sessions are crucial to making the project sustainable because it means that the village acquires the skills to teach future generations.

Whilst we were out there I saw the true impact of relationship. Although the UK volunteers could not speak Nepali to their host families they were still able to build relationships within the village of Dwadi Swara. One of the most memorable moments for me was during the festival of Tihar. Our team was invited to celebrate Bhai Tika with our friends and host families in the village. Bhai Tika is all about blessing the family for the next year. Essentially, the

people, who had only known us for a few weeks, accepted us into their families. It was at that moment that I was reminded of the way God invites us to be a part of his family regardless of our background.

Taking this opportunity to travel halfway across the world forced me to step out into the unknown. Although it was terrifying I knew that God was calling me to do something different. In 2 Corinthians 2:5, Paul writes that we must walk by faith and not by sight.

In the summer of 2019 someone told me that this would be a year of really finding my foundation in God. Before I left for Nepal it was a time of uncertainty, in terms of where God was leading me. What I am sure of though is that God was pushing me out of my comfort zone so that all I could rely on was his love alone.

*Laura Miller*



# Changing Lives, Building Hope...



**Fields of Life is a non-denominational Christian International Development Organisation with over 25 years worth of experience of working in East Africa.**

We work in Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan seeking to work with partners in providing sustainable community development to bring about positive change through the provision of quality education, clean water and other community-based programmes.

WASH incorporates our water and health promotion projects, bringing clean water closer to communities by tapping into groundwater, drilling wells, protecting springs, harvesting rainwater, providing water filters, improving access to sanitation and promoting good hygiene. Over the years we have been amazed by the great work of Dorothy who has been a faithful supporter of Fields of Life and shares our passion for bringing safe clean drinking water to communities in East Africa. Having an open garden is a great way for the local

community to come together, for Dorothy to showcase her gardening talents and raise lots of money for Fields of Life water projects. Here is just one story of how this event has transformed the lives of Kierwa community in East Africa!

In 2017 Kierwa community received a life changing well! In Kierwa, located in Tororo District in the eastern part of Uganda, consumption of contaminated water was a way of life. Several children had died due to drinking dirty and unsafe water. Furthermore, the community had been walking 2km to access water from an over-congested town council well. This new well, funded thanks to Dorothy's fundraising efforts, is transforming lives. The community no longer spend many hours walking to access water, nor do they live in fear of water-borne diseases. This well has undoubtedly saved lives. Now, the community, particularly women and young girls (who commonly have the role of collecting water) can spend time working or going to school. This is more than just a well. The community received

sanitation and hygiene classes in a bid to stop preventable diseases and illness. The well also has a dedicated Water User Committee as part of a Community based Maintenance System for water sources. Each committee has five women and five men to help promote gender equality. They oversee the day-to-day operation and maintenance of the well. In order to carry out this role effectively, they were given three days of training with follow-up thereafter. This is a community well run and cherished by the local community. There is still a great need for safe clean water, a fundamental basic human right, even though 663 million people live without clean water today. In 2020 this is not acceptable. At Fields of Life we are passionate about bringing change by giving access to life changing and lifesaving clean water for all in East Africa.

*We would love you to support Dorothy's Open Garden event @ Sea View Garden, Salthill, Mountcharles, Co Donegal. June 19th, 20th and 22nd 2-6pm. Details from 00353 (0) 749735350.*

# 2020 Theme: Building hope and confidence...

Jacqui Armstrong, Diocesan Mothers' Union President writes...

2020 has heralded the start of a new triennium and many branches have new officers. The Diocesan team has many new members on board.

"Building hope and confidence" is at the heart of our Mothers' Union call to support individuals and families to transform their lives. As we visit branches we are so encouraged and inspired by the MU stories of the fun and the joy members have had as they meet together and share ideas and practices in their outreach activities.

Over the Spring a number of community events are being held across the diocese - these include a Praise event, Brunch, a Passover meal, a Fun evening and Guest tea - look out for the event near you.

In the background members, parishioners and friends support practically and prayerfully our many and varied outreach projects, including:

- *MU Diocesan Prayer Circle*
- *Comfort Teddies*
- *Neonatal knits - tiny hats, jackets, booties, cots for tiny tots etc.*
- *Fiddle Blankets/ Muffs*
- *Drain Carry Bags for breast cancer patients*
- *Hospital Emergency Packs*
- *Highlighting Domestic Abuse and Gender Based Violence*
- *Supporting Foyle Women's Aid and Donegal Domestic Violence Services*
- *Supporting MU Overseas and local community projects.*
- *AFIA - (Away From It All) Days out for Families experiencing duress*
- *Triennial Family Fun Day - coming up next in June 2021*
- *Supporting our youth in partnership with DRY.*

Your help is very much encouraged and appreciated. If you feel drawn to getting engaged in or availing of any of these continuing ministries please contact Kathleen, our Diocesan Secretary, at secretarydandmothersunion@gmail.com.

In March we welcomed our Worldwide President, Sheran Harper to Ireland. Sheran hails from Guyana and, believe it or not, Sheran has Irish connections! Her husband played cricket professionally in Belfast and a family in Derry have grandchildren attending her family Nursery and Crèche in Guyana. Sheran is an inspirational speaker and a wonderful ambassador for Mothers' Union and the Anglican Church.

Sheran's prayer in 2020 is that "together we walk in hope and confidence, trusting each other, loving each other - as together we build the hope and confidence of families and communities everywhere - always reaching forward as God's hands and feet and reflecting a life filled with purpose and meaning, grace and love, peace and joy."

## Upcoming Events in Derry & Raphoe:

### Area Outreach events:

Omagh - Sat 4th April Brunch in Lislimnaghan Parish Hall, Omagh  
Donegal - Sat 18th April Guest Tea, Stranorlar Parish Hall.

### Overseas Meeting:

Wednesday 22nd April, Drumachose Hall, Limavady, 8pm. Speaker: June Butler, All Ireland MU President.

### Summer Celebrations:

Saturday 16th May Laghey Parish Church 3pm. Speaker: Bishop Andrew Forster

**Mothers' UNION**  
Christian care for families  
Diocese of Derry & Raphoe

Global Local

**Through prayer, campaigning and volunteering**  
our members bring about positive changes worldwide and in their own communities

Engaging with Parish and Community

Grounded in Faith & Prayer

**16 DAYS**  
Shining a light on Domestic Abuse and Gender Based Violence

Away From It All (AFIA) Family Fun Days

Worldwide Literacy and Financial Education Programmes

Diocesan Projects Helping Those in Need

For further information  
[www.derry.mothersunion.ie](http://www.derry.mothersunion.ie)  
Mothers Union Derry & Raphoe  
[www.mothersunion.org](http://www.mothersunion.org)

Derry and Raphoe Mothers' Union  
Registered with The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC00834  
Registered Charity Number 20007331  
(Charity Regulatory Authority)

Saturday 30th May St Peter's Church, Londonderry 3pm. Speaker: Bishop Andrew Forster.

# The Mustard Seed...

**In March 2017, *The Mustard Seed*, a volunteer-run tea room, prayer space and bookstall, opened in Donegal town as the first Christian community tea room in southwest Donegal. It is open every Thursday and Friday from 10am to 2pm. In our tea room local crafts are displayed for sale. There are also many books available, either to borrow or to buy.**

The Mustard Seed was an idea stemming from Opportunity 2016 and was established as an offshoot of the Donegal Group of parishes. It received a grant from the Church of Ireland Priorities Fund which has helped enormously. It provides a homely atmosphere and the cheerful volunteers compliment this with a warm welcome to all who frequent it. In the tea room locals and visitors together enjoy generous teas and coffee, with delicious fresh baking. We offer scones, breads, soups sandwiches and, of course, a variety of cakes and tray bakes. We also provide gluten-free products. We do not charge for any of the above, but provide an Honesty Box inside the tea room in order that customers can choose how much they want to pay. We get a huge amount of community support, but people from all over the globe have visited us. Many people in the community find the Mustard Seed a safe place to come and meet up with others. Those that live alone or who find themselves on the fringes of society come

here and always find a friendly face. I really think the Mustard Seed has strengthened the sense of community in Donegal.

It is our responsibility to find ways of serving the needs of others. The Mustard Seed has many challenges and relies on the donations of others to keep it open. However, it works on an honesty system. We are very aware that everyone's financial circumstances are different and that no one should feel that they are excluded, for whatever reason. There are upwards of 60 customers who visit the Mustard Seed weekly while others use the space provided for small meetings outside of opening hours. The Mustard Seed has hosted many charity events for the local community such as cake sales, coffee mornings and vintage teas. It has also held private birthday parties. Many other groups such as Gam Anon Group, Alpha, Games Nights, Swap Shop, Craft classes, bereavement courses and Bible study, also use the premises as a meeting place. Grown from something very small, the Mustard Seed has developed and become a huge success thanks to all the hard work of the volunteers who keep the wheels turning. Starting small has provided us with a huge platform to work on and learn from, developing new ideas as we grow.

However, this does not mean that we lack significance but rather allows us space to learn how to expand in the right way without losing our vision. When anyone enters this place, our aim is to express to each and everyone that they are unique and special, and that God loves them just as they are. The Bible teaches us to love our neighbour as ourselves and so there are no boundaries which would exclude anyone. This is what we hope to achieve here at the Mustard Seed.

A survey was carried out recently and customers were asked their views on this homely place. Here are some we would like to share with you:

*"A restful and refreshing place to visit"*

*"It's a great place to meet people and as a volunteer I get to contribute something"*

*"I have made so many friends and I am not as lonely anymore. It has made a big difference to my overall wellbeing"*

*"I don't feel as depressed as I was because I now have somewhere to go"*

The Mustard Seed has been a huge step of faith which owes its success to all those who are involved in the day-to-day running, especially to all the volunteers that give their time to serve the needs of others. There is a huge willingness out there to help one another with great enthusiasm. This is very encouraging and motivates us to grow while finding new opportunities along the way. It is certainly making a difference to the wider community of Donegal.

**Louise Bustard, Parish Administrator  
Donegal Group of parishes**



*A Day in the life of a...*

# Funeral Director



**My name is Terence McClintock and I have been working as a Funeral Director for ten years. My funeral premises are in Convoy Co. Donegal.**

Anyone who works with people will understand that it is difficult to describe a typical day in the life of a Funeral Director because, while death is often expected, no one can predict when exactly it may happen. As a Funeral Director I may be called upon day or night when someone has passed away. Death is a distressing and emotional experience for a family. My aim is to offer guidance, reassurance and support to them at this difficult time, as we together arrange a funeral that is a fitting tribute to the life of their loved one. When the family contact and advise me of a death I will go and meet with the family members to offer my sympathy and begin planning the specific details of the funeral service, wake and burial or cremation. I will explain the process as sensitively as possible, being mindful that the relatives are experiencing personal shock and grief.

A great deal of effort and care goes into planning the funeral, making sure that everything happens where, when and how it should, as I aim to respond to the needs and requests of the family. I will also try to establish if the deceased person had any final wishes which should be carried out. For example, if they worked with or had a love of horses, a

horse drawn carriage could be provided. It is also my responsibility to provide information in relation to choice of colour and style of coffin.

With much dignity I will then take the deceased person into my care to initiate and complete the embalming process. The family requests will be carried out respectfully with due care in relation to dressing and presentation of their loved one in the coffin. Families generally wish to take their loved one to their home for a wake. However, if they wish to have the wake at our funeral premises, this can be facilitated.

Throughout the wake I remain in close contact with the family. I feel this is a very important part of my services, and I find that families really appreciate this contact and support. Often it's in providing practical support, for example, water boilers, chairs, condolence book and stand, also arranging floral tributes and coffin sprays, contacting and liaising with the clergy in order to arrange specific details for the funeral service. This aspect of the funeral process frequently provides great comfort to the family. I also arrange preparation of the burial plot and then afterwards completion of the grave area. I recognise that death is a difficult process for families and it is my deep ambition to support them through this experience as sensitively and compassionately as I can.

*Terence McClintock*

# ARCLIGHT EXPEDITION

**An intrepid pair of students returned to St Andrews University, after cycling the length of Africa from Cairo to Cape Town introducing an innovative medical device to help in the fight against preventable blindness and deafness.**

Developed by the School of Medicine, the Arclight is a low cost, solar powered diagnostic tool designed specifically for use in low income countries.

Alex and Merlin set off in October 2018 on a tandem bicycle. Through North Africa they encountered problems with police, bandits and tribal conflict, before climbing through the notorious highlands of Ethiopia. At the half-way mark in the town of Arussa on the northern edge of the Masai Steppe the boys were brought to an abrupt halt. Merlyn had suffered severe physical damage due to long hours in the saddle and was ordered off the bike. Alex located a company in California that manufactured an outdoor exercise bike propelled while in a standing position. The company agreed to send two bikes so that their journey could be continued. He also located a company who agreed to supply two bike trailers for their luggage. Their next training session was to be at a hospital in Odoma on the southern edge of the Masai

Steppe over 300 miles away. They decided to have the bikes delivered to Odoma and prepared to walk across the Steppe. They had a blacksmith build a cart to their specification with a cage on top. Into the cart they loaded their belongings and into the cage several live chickens. There weren't going to be any supermarkets on the way and few villages. They then hired two Masai warriors to lead them along the paths. This was probably the most exciting part of the journey. The Masai lit fires at night to deter prowling lions. On the way they dined on chickens and wild roots dug up by the natives. Three weeks and over 300 miles later they arrived in Odoma and continued their journey across the Kalahari and Namib deserts, reaching the west coast of South Africa and eventually their destination in Cape Town. Perhaps the most graphic illustration of the benefit of the Arclight was a case of a young doctor who used it in an outlying village on a blind woman. The doctor diagnosed cataracts. The woman was taken to hospital and returned a few days later to see her grandchildren for the first time.

The expedition was supported by the University of St Andrews, Scientific Exploration Society, and world record holding endurance cyclist Mark Beaumont. The boys particularly wish to thank the Parish and people of Dunfanaghy for their support and especially



the Rector, Rev David Skuce for his marathon effort in "feeding the 5,000" over seven days and raising the amazing total of €2,900.00.

Web: [www.arclight-tandemafrika.com](http://www.arclight-tandemafrika.com)  
Alex McMaster, University of St Andrew's



# Diocesan Manoeuvres!



## Rev Nigel Cairns

### Congratulations on your Institution as Rector of St Augustine's Church.

#### **Please tell our readers a little about a person (living or dead) who has had an influence on your ministry.**

There are many people who have influenced my ministry, and they have enriched me in so many and varied ways - the late Canon Noel Moore, various Sunday School teachers, the Very Revd William Morton, my various placement training clergy and those with whom I studied in Dublin. But the one person who stands out as shaping my ministry has to be my training rector, Revd Robert Boyd. Robert has guided my curacy years with grace, knowledge, a good measure of common sense and an ample portion of good humour. Robert 'walks what he talks' and I have enjoyed learning from him within the context of Glendermott Parish.

#### **What is the best advice you've been given?**

I've received much good advice over the years and I would struggle to pinpoint the 'best.' But, in relation to ministry, there is one that always sticks in my mind. The words used were in relation to balancing the administrative role a cleric might have with the need to keep pastoral visiting as a high priority. 'Less paperwork and more legwork' was the exact advice!

#### **What do you think are the top three responsibilities of leading a parish in the 21st century?**

The 21st century may have particular challenges for leading a parish, but I believe every era from the past to the present (and no doubt into the future too) has brought, and will continue to bring, its own unique context for the gospel. But at the heart of it all I'm not sure that the responsibilities are any different. For me, they are to proclaim the gospel in words and actions; to lead God's people in public worship; to pastor the congregation with compassion whilst also being outward looking in mission. The responsibilities could be summarised in a phrase used by a good friend of mine. He said, 'Do the ordinary things well, and leave the extraordinary things to God.'

#### **What excites you about St Augustine's story of ministry and mission in the city?**

There are so many aspects about the ministry of St Augustine's that excites me. Having read Hazel Philson's book, 'The Little Church on the Walls,' I am particularly excited about the historical

significance of the site generally and about the approaching 1500th anniversary of Columba in particular. I am also enthused by the already comprehensive mission and outreach that goes on in terms of tourist ministry and the links already formed with the Heritage Venue Group. There is, of course, mission to be done within, and I am looking forward to encouraging discipleship and spiritual growth within the congregation, connecting with the wider population associated with the church, and generally journeying alongside the parishioners and getting to know them.

#### **If you had a time machine what era would you like to visit and why?**

If I could leave 'the troubles' to one side, I would like to go back to the mid 1980's. I think this was an era where there was sufficient creative wisdom and inventive skill to make life comfortable, but insufficient advancement to make it complicated!

#### **What is your favourite Easter Egg?**

Lindt milk chocolate (extra large)!



# Brian Robinson

## Congratulations on your Commissioning as a Diocesan Reader.

**Brian, please tell our readers something about your faith journey to your Commissioning as Diocesan Reader.**

About ten years ago on a lovely summer's evening, I sat on the concrete steps of a church chatting to the Rector, just a few feet from an open grave. In the midst of the chaos that was my late father-in-law's wake and funeral preparations, there was a moment of calm, a moment of peacefulness and a sense of normality. That evening was the beginning of a wonderful journey that has led me to where I am today. I had always believed that there was a God, a creator, a greater being, but my true journey into my spiritual faith began that evening. In my heart, I truly believe that God used that evening to change my life from what it was then to where it is now, and that He used the Rector that evening as a conduit to guide me on the first step to today.

**Please tell us a little about a person (living or dead) who has had an influence on your life.**

My (now retired) Rector Rev. Canon David Ferry - he and I used to have some great chats at the Rectory when I was assisting with admin etc. but those 5 minute conversations were never 5 minutes! David - and my great friend Cecil Ross who sadly was called home last year - were both first class mentors during my course.

**What book are you reading at the moment and why would you recommend it?**

To be honest, I am not a great "casual" reader, more of a "reader by necessity". I am currently using a great wee study guide as part of our

Bible Study Fellowship "The I Am Sayings of Christ" by Douglas Connelly. It certainly helps the reader think more about the person of Jesus. I also enjoy "The Bible Speaks Today" series "The Message of ...." By John Stott - a great commentary-type resource for background for sermon preparations.

**What's the best advice you've received?**

Don't volunteer to answer Katie McAteer's questions for n:vision! Seriously though - remember to make time for family and self. I work full-time in Coolkeeragh, as well as being a Diocesan Reader. There is a considerable amount of time taken up with Parish duties during our current vacancy so "time out" is important to prevent "burn out".

**If you had a time machine what era would you like to visit and why?**

The Sermon on the Mount - that initial teaching by Jesus must have been an amazing experience for all those who were there. Imagine hearing Christ setting out His stall for the first time, directly from the great Teacher Himself - His own words - not the recording by Matthew - God's own vision for mankind brought to us by God's own Son.

**If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be and why?**

I suppose I could say that I wish this journey could have begun earlier - and in better circumstances - but God knows the plans He has for us. I know the changes that have happened in my life over the last ten years and can't help but wonder where the journey may have led me, had the timing been different!



**Who would you like to be locked inside a church with and why?**

This has happened accidentally (thanks Margaret)... I'd like to be with Harry Ferguson - the engineer who invented the tractor three-point linkage, and the first man to fly in Ireland (actually in my home Parish on Magilligan Strand in 1909). I had the privilege of getting to see the replica "Ferguson Flyer" plane test flight a couple of years back. I would love to hear his thoughts on the changes in farming and engineering since his death in 1960.

**What is your favourite Easter Egg?**

It has to be Cadbury's Creme Eggs!  
How do you eat yours?

# Diocesan Manoeuvres!

## Eleanor Craig

### Congratulations on your Commissioning as a Diocesan Reader.

**Eleanor, please tell our readers something about your faith journey to your Commissioning as Diocesan Reader.**

From an early age I was aware of the call of God on my life. From about the age of 30 I wrestled with God trying to persuade God and myself that somehow He had got the wrong person. I was much too young, too busy and didn't have the skills that were needed. I was aware that there was a great cost involved and a leaving of some kind, whether it's our ambitions, sin or the comforts of the world, to follow God. I thought I was good at rationalising why it was bad timing to respond but as the years past my excuses ran out and God's call became stronger! Finally, I submitted and came to realise that the best part of leaving my old life was that I got to journey with Jesus. So I started training to be a Diocesan Reader.

**Please tell us a little about a person (living or dead) who has had an influence on your life.**

The person who had the greatest influence in my foundational years had to be my father (Robert Cromie). He modelled to me God's love and the importance of belonging to church and the church family at Dungiven Parish Church. I was blessed as a teenager to have the guidance of Rev Stewart Downey who was both gifted and

inspirational in encouraging and pastoring. It was in those years that I became aware of Jesus as my personal Saviour.

**What book are you reading at the moment and why would you recommend it?**

The book I'm reading is written by Derek Prince. It is very much related to my personal experience. We all have valley and mountain top experiences and this book has proved valuable to me as I've recently experienced a valley experience with my husband's health. The title is "Life's Bitter Pool". Often what we see as disappointments are God's appointments with us. It is only as we respond in faith that we discover God's purposes in these valley experiences and that He is truly a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path.

**What's the best advice you've received?**

Best advice is to remain joyful! Happiness is a choice in our life and everything else is a matter of perspective. In the times we live it is so important as Christians that we truly enjoy Christ and the fellowship of His people.

**If you had a time machine what era would you like to visit and why?**

I would probably like to visit 22nd century to



see how our creative God continues to support His Church and how it continues to form and grow with the many diversities and pressures that it has experienced and will yet experience. We are assured that God's people, the Body of Christ, will always be.

**If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be and why?**

Probably with hindsight I would have wished I responded to God earlier in my life. Therefore the one thing I would change is to be child-like in my faith, rather than rationalise God's calling.

**Who would you like to be locked inside a church with and why?**

The person that I would like to spend time with would probably be Billy Graham, the great influential evangelist of the modern day in order to find out what made him so successful as an evangelist.

**What is your favourite Easter Egg?**

It would have to be Galaxy chocolate.

# Rev Rosemary Diffin

## Congratulations on your Institution as Rector of Kilcronaghan, Ballynascreen and Sixtowns.

### **Please tell our readers a little about yourself, your family and your journey to Kilcronaghan, Ballynascreen and Sixtowns.**

Originally from East Belfast, I moved to live in Co Armagh when I married Ronnie. We have been happily married for almost 42 years now and were blessed to have 5 children and to date 5 grand-children. (One more on the way). I came to faith in Christ at the age of 17 while living in Belfast, but it wasn't until after I married Ronnie and we moved to live in Richhill, that my faith began to lead me to serve God in my local church. Sunday school, Junior Badminton, Youth Club, Youth Fellowship, GFS, Mothers' Union, Select Vestry, you name it, I was there. Eventually I came to recognise that God was calling me to serve Him in the ordained ministry. After much prayer, I went forward for training and was accepted in 2010 to train full-time, so off to Dublin I went! I was ordained Deacon in September 2012 in St Anne's Dungannon. In 2013, (in Down Cathedral) I was ordained Curate Assistant to Seapark Parish (Banbridge). In 2015, I was appointed Bishop's curate and subsequently rector to the parish of Kilmore and St Saviour's Dobbin, where I have enjoyed serving for the last 4 ½ years. Now I am looking forward to getting to know the people of Kilcronaghan, Ballynascreen and Sixtowns!

### **What are you passionate about in ministry?**

When I came to faith in Christ, one of the passages that spoke to me was John chapter 1. The opening twelve verses still evoke an emotional response in me. However, it was verses 35-42, that gave me a real passion for

mission. Here John records how Andrew responds, with curiosity, to the testimony of John the Baptist, and then goes on to become a follower of Jesus, and we read that: The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus. (John 1:41-42). Those words, "And he brought him to Jesus" summarise my passion in ministry, for I long to see more and more people coming to faith in Christ, so that they become more fully alive as they live in the overwhelming Grace of God.

### **How do you chill out?**

Reading, walking and cycling are my favourite forms of relaxation. Ronnie and I often go on walking holidays together, and there is nothing quite like spending a good 7 hours in the Mourne Mountains, although rumour has it there is now "nothing quite like spending a good 7 hours in the Sperrin Mountains"

### **What is your favourite food; music; holiday destination?**

I have been heard to announce, "I make the world's best lasagne" I love anything by Rend Collective and have an ambition to play the "Jingling Jimmy" used in "Build Your Kingdom Here." My favourite Hymn is Amazing Grace. My favourite holiday destination is St Paul de Vence near Nice, especially around March.

### **What book are you reading at the moment and why would you recommend it?**

At the moment I am reading 'Journey to the Empty Tomb' written by Paula Gooder. It is an exceptional read, very accessible, thoroughly



biblical and thought provoking. My bedtime reading is, 'Taken at the Flood' by Agatha Christie who needs no recommendation.

### **If you were locked in a church who would you like to have with you and why?**

Around 10 years ago Ronnie and I were trapped in the lift at the top of the Eiffel Tower. As the maintenance crew worked on the lift, it gave a sudden jolt and dropped a half floor. Before I could scream, Ronnie looked at me and said, "at least the family will be able to identify you - they'll spot the lipstick". By the time I had stopped laughing the lift was up and running again. So I would definitely want Ronnie to be with me if I were locked in a church!

# Diocesan Manoeuvres!

## Rev Johnny McFarland

### Congratulations on your Institution as Rector of Urney with Sion Mills.

**Please tell our readers a little about a person (living or dead) who has had an influence on your ministry.**

When I was a teenager I was deeply influenced by a young curate who came to serve in our home parish of St. Brigid's, Glengormley. His name was the Rev. Guy Taylor. He was an unconventional cleric - a biker who played lead guitar in a Christian blues band. He was hugely popular with all of our young people. He was also a great encourager. His encouragement led me to volunteer to go on a work party to Uganda with CMS in the summer of 1988. That experience helped me to realise that being a follower of Jesus Christ was the greatest thing anyone could do with one's life. Sadly, Guy tragically drowned the following summer. The legacy of his ministry continued and it was my privilege and honour to be a part of that legacy and to watch many more young people in the parish come to faith in Christ and to grow in their faith because of the amazing example this young curate, this young disciple of Christ, left for us to follow.

**What is the best advice you've been given?**

When I turned 18, my wife-to-be, bought me a Bible. On the inside cover was written these words. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Do not lean on your own understanding. In

all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your path." Proverbs 3:5, 6. Jacqui, my wife, may not have realised it at the time, but those words have been the most solid advice I have ever heard. They have helped me through the darkest of times and they have provided both of us with valuable light when the future was uncertain. I would commend these words to anyone.

**What do you think are the top three responsibilities of leading a parish in the 21st century?**

I read somewhere recently that the old gospel is brand new to every generation. The problem facing everyone in the 21st Century is the same problem that has been faced by every generation. The heart of the human problem is the problem of the human heart. The way I see it, the most responsible thing for any Christian leader to do is to remain faithful to the One who called him or her. A Christian leader must pray and lead others to do three essential things:

A - Acknowledge that we are sinners in need of a Saviour.

B - Believe the Good News, that Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins.

C - Confess our faith in Jesus before others. This may seem simplistic but I believe this simple model is the pattern we see in the



early Church. It is a pattern that I have seen the Holy Spirit work many times since my own conversion.

**Do you have a favourite charity and why?**

The Martin Residential Trust. This Trust is a loving residential home in Glengormley that has been caring for people with profound learning disabilities since the 1980's. I had the privilege of working there with one of my brothers for a couple of years. The way that the residents are cared for is truly inspirational.

**Did you give anything up, or take something on, for Lent this year?**

I have never really practised this tradition. I remember reading in 'The Imitation of Christ' by Thomas à Kempis, that if we manage to weed out one vice per year, we would be doing well.

**What is your favourite Easter Egg?**

Cadbury's Caramel. I loved the old advert; 'Take it easy with Cadbury's Caramel'.

# News for the pews...

## Raphoe, Raymochy & Clonleigh

Dean Arthur Barrett



### Raphoe Cathedral Restoration Project 2020

Phase 1 of the Raphoe Cathedral restoration project is scheduled to begin in April 2020. This first phase will see the replacement of the entire cathedral roof, including new slates, timbers, gutters, downpipes and drainage works, along with repair of stonework, and restoration work at the top of the tower. We are so very grateful to all those who have supported the on-going fund-raising efforts, and who continue to do so. We are looking forward to a unique concert to be held in St. Columb's Cathedral, Londonderry, on Friday 13th March, which will be a real feast for the ears (if that is possible?!).

### Bible Reading Marathon

Prior to the commencement of the restoration works, everyone is invited to join us in reading God's word, out loud, non-stop, from beginning to end, in a Bible Reading Marathon, which will take place from Sunday 5th April (Palm Sunday) at 8.00pm to Thursday 9th April at 8.00pm.

You can come to read at a particular time, or chose to read your favourite passage from scripture. Either way, to book your place, please email [dean@raphoe.anglican.org](mailto:dean@raphoe.anglican.org), or phone/text 085 8833856.

### Easter Vestries Meetings

Clonleigh - Monday 23rd March - in the Hall  
Raymochy - Tuesday 24th March - in the church  
Raphoe - Tuesday 31st March - in the Cathedral Hall.

### Confirmation

Six young people from Raphoe Cathedral were Confirmed by Bishop Andrew Forster on Sunday 8th March 2020. We continue to keep them in our prayers during this important time in their personal faith development, and as they continue their faith journey: Beth Freen, Ellie Carson, Natasha Parke, Jack Browne, Joshua Devine, Jamie Spence.

### Easter Draw

The annual Raphoe Cathedral Easter Draw will take place on Saturday 28th March, with tickets being sold by all parish families. The Draw will

take place during a Coffee Morning and Cake Sale, from 10.00am to 12.00pm.

### Raymochy Fund Raiser

Raymochy Parish will be holding a 'Ball Run & Afternoon Tea' on Saturday 9th May in Manorcunningham, to help raise much needed funds for the church. 'Balls' can be purchased from any Vestry Member.

### Funeral

The funeral took place of Jim Bonar in Raymochy Parish Church on Friday 14th February 2020. Jim was a long-serving member of the parish and the Select Vestry and, along with his late wife Doris, was deeply committed to his parish church. He will be sorely missed in our parish family, and the wider community.

## Convoy, Monellan & Donaghmore

Rev Canon William Long  
Tel: 074 9101817



### Spring

With touches of spring in the air and birds loudly singing, one's step quickens, and we all look forward to longer days, milder temperatures, and things growing again in the good earth. For a Church person this means Lent, Holy Week and Easter. What a blessing the Church year is to us, bringing our thoughts around regularly to the great festivals and encouraging us each year to ponder anew our Saviour's time on earth; His blessed ministry and his offering of himself on the cross for our salvation.

### Holy Baptism

We welcome:

November 16th Braxton Bear William Harper-Gordon (Convoy)

January 26th Logan Daithi Brown (Convoy)  
*"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it" Proverbs 22:V.6.*

### Christian Burial

Sad to say, since the time I wrote our last parish notes, there have been three deaths among us. We remember with thanksgiving the following dear parishioners:  
November 12th William Pollock (Convoy)

January 21st Maggie Watson (Convoy)  
February 14th James Wilkie (Convoy)

Mr. William Pollock was a kind and friendly person. Willie had great respect for the church. Our prayer times were precious to him as he placed his faith in God's love and in the communion of saints.

Mrs. Maggie Watson was a dignified lady and a dedicated church supporter all her active life, a life which encompassed almost 100 years. We mourn her passing from this scene of time and look forward to being reunited with her in the splendour of heaven.

Mr. James Wilkie loved the church where he worshipped with his wife Elsie, Sunday by Sunday. James was a man of faith and he is now relieved from his discomfort and suffering. Heaven was a definite reality for James as he maintained his faith in the Love of God.

We offer heartfelt condolences to those left to mourn each of these our departed believers in Christ. May God comfort them.

### Holy Week & Easter

*Holy Wednesday:* 8pm St. Anne's Church

Monellan: Evening Prayer  
*Maundy Thursday:* 8pm St. Patrick's Church  
Donaghmore: Holy Communion and Service of Divine Healing  
*Good Friday:* 11am St. Ninian's Church,  
Convoy: Holy Communion  
8pm St. Ninian's Church, Convoy:  
Evening Prayer

### Easter Day:

10.30am Family Holy Communion:  
Combined Service (Donaghmore and  
Monellan) in St. Anne's Church, Monellan  
12 Noon Family Holy Communion:  
St. Ninian's Church, Convoy  
The Family will be incomplete without you

### Easter Vestries

Before the General Easter Vestries meet, now is the time for prayerful reflection on the part you can play in the life of our church.  
Donaghmore: Monday, April 20th at 8pm  
Monellan: Thursday, April 23rd at 8pm  
Convoy: Monday, April 27th at 8pm  
Do please plan to be present.

### Quote

*"There is no prayer so blessed as the prayer which asks for nothing"*

## Stranorlar, Meenglass & Kiltcevogue

Rev Adam Pullen  
Mobile 087 7547880  
Email: adam.pullen@googlemail.com



### Messy Easter!

This Easter we are inviting children with their families to join us on Holy Saturday 11th of April 10am - 12pm for Messy Easter. For details see our website and Facebook.

Thinking about it the first Easter was messy! Messy from our perspective. Jesus

messed up the trade in the Temple, throwing over the tables. The arrest and trial of Jesus was very messed up. The accusations and evidence against Jesus was false and trial at night was illegal, so the whole set up against Jesus was messy. The crucifixion was messy, to put it politely; not a pretty sight might be a better description. Then after Jesus' death the state of the Church, the believers

were in a mess and yet from these messy beginnings the Church, to which we belong, began. So I believe a messy Easter is actually appropriate. The beginnings of the faith and of the Church were very messy from a worldly point of view and yet perfectly ordered by God the Father. God brings good out of the messy world.

*Continued on page 35...*

**DON'T FORGET YOU CAN PULL OUT MY SPECIAL PAGES FROM THE MAGAZINE!**



Hey there friends, it's great to be back with you all again. I have been very busy; I am sure you have too.

# CJ News

NUMBER 22

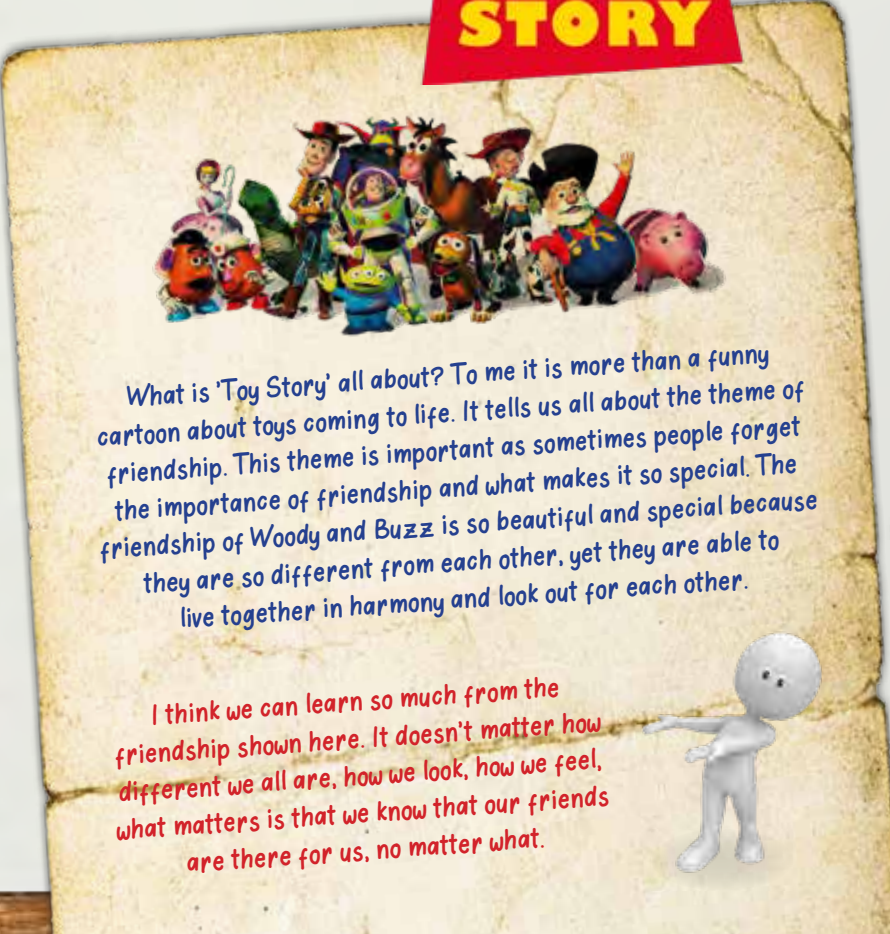
As I was watching my movie while having my duvet day inside out of the cold and rain I thought to myself these toys can teach us so much. I just think Buzz and Woody are great.

It is great to see better weather on the way after all the different storms we have been having. I stayed inside and decided to keep myself busy watching my favourite movies.



## TOY STORY

Rebecca came to visit. We both love movies; our all-time favourite has to be 'Toy Story'. What about you?



**FRIENDSHIP IS HAVING A GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH SOMEONE WE CALL A FRIEND. FRIENDS HAVE RESPECT FOR EACH OTHER**

What is 'Toy Story' all about? To me it is more than a funny cartoon about toys coming to life. It tells us all about the theme of friendship. This theme is important as sometimes people forget the importance of friendship and what makes it so special. The friendship of Woody and Buzz is so beautiful and special because they are so different from each other, yet they are able to live together in harmony and look out for each other.

I think we can learn so much from the friendship shown here. It doesn't matter how different we all are, how we look, how we feel, what matters is that we know that our friends are there for us, no matter what.



Jesus is a friend to us and wants us to know that, no matter what, he is there for us. Isn't this a wonderful thought?





At this time of the year, we reflect on the journey that Jesus made during his lifetime. The journey that eventually led Jesus to die on the cross on what we know today as Good Friday.



As Jesus grew and started his work among people he showed that he was truly a friend to many around him. He healed the sick, he preached God's word while he taught and encouraged those around him.



However, not everyone that he met on his journey was a friend to him. In fact, Jesus made many enemies as he completed God's work here on earth, enemies that wanted to be rid of him.

"Remember me," Jesus told them, "when you eat the bread and drink the wine. I am going to live with my Father in heaven, but I will be with you wherever you go." Jesus was letting them know that they could still rely on him to be there.

Jesus knew that he had only a short time left. The Thursday before he died, Jesus invited the disciples, his followers, to have supper with him. It was their last meal together. He showed them great friendship.



On Friday, soldiers arrested Jesus and nailed him to a cross. Jesus said to God: "Father, forgive them. They know not what they do." When Jesus died, his friends placed his body in a cave and covered the cave entrance with a rock.



On Sunday, a friend of Jesus named Mary Magdalene went to the tomb. The rock had been rolled away! The tomb was empty! An angel appeared and said: "Peace be with you. Jesus is risen from the dead!"

Jesus came back to visit his friends. He told them to teach about God's love. "Tell the people," said Jesus, "to believe in me even if they can't see me." And then Jesus went up to heaven to live with his Father.



I think that Jesus, through his actions, is very clearly telling each one of us that "You've got a friend in me."



# Toy Story



Isn't this brilliant!

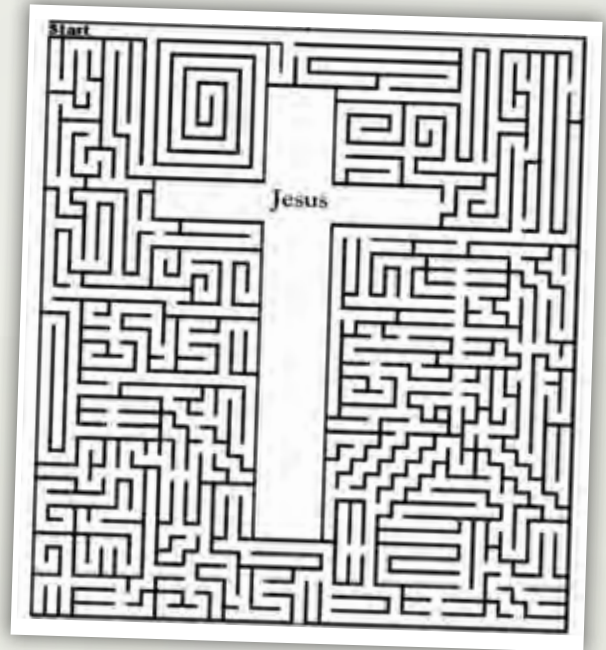
'You've got a friend in me  
You've got a friend in me  
If you've got troubles, I've got 'em too  
There isn't anything I wouldn't do for you  
We stick together and can see it through  
'Cause you've got a friend in me  
Yeah, you've got a friend in me.



Let's colour!



Can you find your way to Jesus?



Design an Easter Egg.  
Think about the theme  
of Friendship.



**CHALLENGE:**  
GET SOME JELLYBEANS  
AND SHARE THE  
JELLYBEAN STORY  
THIS EASTER TIME



## RICE KRISPY EGGS

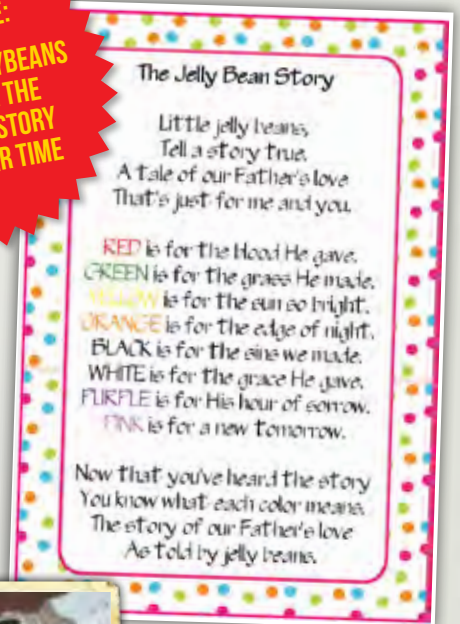
### Ingredients needed

- 1 tablespoon of butter
- 1 1/2 cups of mini marshmallows
- 3/4 cup rice Krispies
- 2-3 drops of food colouring

### Instructions

1. melt butter in small saucepan over medium heat - add marshmallows
2. Stir until melted
3. Add food colouring
4. Remove from heat and add rice krispies
5. Let cool, mould into egg shapes
6. Add Jelly Beans

[www.almostsupermom.com](http://www.almostsupermom.com)



# CJ CHATS WITH BISHOP ANDREW...



During Bishop Andrew's move to our Diocese I was delighted that he took some time out to talk to me and share some information about himself and his family, so we can all get to know him a little bit better. Come and take a look...



**What are you most looking forward to when you join us in our Diocese of Derry and Raphoe?**

*I am looking forward to meeting people and hearing stories of what God is doing in their lives and in His church.*

**Tell us about your journey to become our Bishop?**

*I had a discussion a few months ago with some people, from the diocese, who asked me to consider allowing my name to go into the Church's election process. After a lot of prayer, thought and discussion with close friends I began to believe that it may be the right thing. At the end of August, I was appointed as Bishop and now I am really looking forward to getting to know you all.*

**How do you relax in your free time?**

*I like walking my dog especially on the beach. I'm looking forward to getting to know some more beaches in Donegal!*

**What are your hopes for the future?**

*I hope as a diocese we will continue in our great aim of 'Transforming community & Radiating Christ.' I believe God has exciting times ahead for all of us!*

**NAME:** Andrew James Forster.

**FAMILY:** Married to Heather, three children, Hannah, Patrick and Megan.

**BEST BOOK:** The right answer is always the Bible! I love reading and always have a book on the go!

**MY HERO:** From sport, Rory Best; from history, Winston Churchill; from the Bible, Moses.

**PETS:** Benna, a little mongrel dog!

**HOBBIES & INTERESTS:** Watching rugby and walking Benna.

## EASTER MESSAGE FROM BISHOP ANDREW...

*Easter Sunday is such a happy day! It tells us, loud and clear, that Jesus is alive and that every day through faith in Him we can experience His love and help in our lives. Have a great Easter and enjoy all your eggs!*

+Andrew



## Happy Easter!

Contact me on email  
[cj@derryandrapphoe.org](mailto:cj@derryandrapphoe.org)

This is a lesson that we could well remember at this time of uncertainty and fear over the present and the future; trade talks between the UK and EU that are going to change how things are, however they conclude; a spreading virus, leading to change, even in our ways of worship. As followers of the risen Christ we need to remember our hope, our faith and trust is in Jesus. He is the best, indeed the

only, foundation that cannot and will not be shaken by the messiness of the world, then or today. We face tribulations and challenges, yes, but we are not alone or abandoned. He says He will be with us to the end of the age.

Therefore this Easter, wherever you find yourself, go along to a church near you, where we will share the hope that we have in Jesus who died on the cross for us and is risen.

*John 3:16-17 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."*

Happy Easter, Rev Adam Pullen

## Donegal, Killymard, Lough Eske & Laghey

**Rector: Venerable David Huss, Archdeacon of Raphoe**

**Tel: 074 9721075**

**Email: [donegal@raphoe.anglican.org](mailto:donegal@raphoe.anglican.org)**

**[www.donegal.raphoe.anglican.org](http://www.donegal.raphoe.anglican.org)**



It was a privilege to welcome Bishop Andrew to our services on Sunday 26th January and he was able to meet a great number of our parishioners. We continue to pray for the Bishop, his wife Heather, and their family as they settle into our diocesan family in Derry & Raphoe.

From 24-26th April our Group of Parishes will host the Derry and Raphoe Youth weekend 'On the Move' which will involve a team of 20 or more young people coming to Donegal to spend the weekend serving the community in practical ways. These teenagers will travel from across the diocese and hit the ground running as they fan out into Donegal Town and Laghey to pick litter, paint fences, tidy gardens and do whatever else needs doing around our area. It will be great fun!

Our Easter Vestry dates are (all at 8pm)

Mon 20th April Lough Eske

Tue 21st April Donegal

Mon 27th April Killymard

Thu 30th April Laghey

All parishioners are invited and encouraged to attend these annual meetings. They are also the time for us to elect People's Churchwardens and Glebewardens, Secretaries and Treasurers, and Select Vestries. Every three years we also elect Parochial Nominators and Diocesan Synod persons. Parochial Nominators are involved in the appointment of a rector when a vacancy occurs in the parish. Diocesan Synod persons attend the annual Diocesan Synod held in October. They can be further elected to represent the Diocese on the General Synod which is a three-day event usually in Dublin or Armagh.

### Holy Week Services

Wednesday 8th April 8pm in Donegal Methodist Church (Preacher Stephen Richmond)

Thursday 9th April 8pm in Donegal Presbyterian Church (Preacher David Huss)

Good Friday 10th April 11am in Donegal Parish Church (Preacher John Montgomery) and 8pm in Killymard Parish Church

Easter Day Services (12th April)

Dawn Service in the Old Abbey, Donegal Town (time to be confirmed)

8.30am in Lough Eske

9.30am in Killymard

10.45am in Laghey

12.00noon in Donegal



## Drumholm, Kilbarron & Rossnowlagh

Rev Canon Brian Russell

Tel. 0749734025

Email: [brianrussell117@gmail.com](mailto:brianrussell117@gmail.com)



### Churches Together

The annual Women's World Day of Prayer services were hosted by St. Brigid's Chapel, Ballintra and The Rock Chapel, Ballyshannon. We thank the ladies there for their hospitality and friendship and we thank our own ladies who read at these services.

### Junior Bakers

Congratulations to the pupils of the Robertson N.S. who helped their mums with the provision of the home baking on sale for school funds at the school on Sat 29th February.

### Well Done

The members of St. Anne's Sunday School, Ballyshannon have picked up their awards for their participation in the Postal Bible School. Many thanks to the friends in Co. Cavan who produce the teaching booklets, and to our Mums who oversee the meetings in the St. Anne's Hall on Sunday mornings.

### Confirmation

We welcome Bishop Andrew Forster to Drumholm Parish on Sun. 5th April to

confirm seventeen people in their Christian faith. All will be welcome back to their home churches to receive their first Holy Communion on Easter Sunday 12th April.

### Welcome

To the young families who have recently presented infants for Baptism. Jason & Shelley Finlay brought baby Jayden to Drumholm and Kane & Michelle Fenton brought baby Maddison from England to join her cousin baby Ben, son of Martin & Jessica Gallagher for a double Baptism in St. Anne's Church, Ballyshannon.

### Condolences

We extend our sincere sympathies to the McCrea family circle of Ballintra following the death of David. We thank all those close to David and all his carers when he was at home and the staff of Mullinsole Nursing Home for their help and kindnesses given to David over the past difficult years.

### Lenten Fellowship

Esther Russell will be leading those who attend the Wednesday evenings through Lent

in Bible Study and discussion commencing 4th March in St. Anne's Hall at 8pm with the other venues being St. John's Hall, Rossnowlagh and The Rectory, Ballintra in succession.

### Charitable Giving

Thank you to those card holders who will be preparing to take up the annual collection this spring for the work of the Donegal Protestant Orphan Society. Please meet them at your door with your usual kindness and generosity.

### Music

It is great to have the support of Louise Edgar, Daphne Elliott, Karen Doherty and Tanya Lipsett to lead us in our praise and worship in the three churches and with the assistance of Zara Leslie. For setting the pace and ensuring we keep in tune, thanks again ladies.

## Inver, Mountcharles, Kilaghtee & Killybegs

Bishop's Curate: Rev Lindsey Farrell

Tel: 074 973 6013

Email: [lindseyfarrell@btinternet.com](mailto:lindseyfarrell@btinternet.com)



### Inver Group

*'Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these.'* Luke 12:27

The Spring flowers are beginning to bloom as we slowly emerge from the cold grip of Winter and its endless battering storms. Spring is a very special time of year. New life is bursting forth, and we begin to feel

the seeds of hope stirring within our hearts again; hopes of new beginnings, new strength and brighter days to come. Spring flowers provide glimpses of fresh colour against the dark pastoral landscape. Spring is a time when we too have the opportunity to commit again to Jesus Christ. Lent marks that period of denial and penitence when we are encouraged to feel our need of God. But it is also a period which is provided by God for us to prepare for the year ahead. As we commit to a period

of abstinence or denial, our ability to resist the temptations of this world are put to the test. As we grow in our resistance to these temptations, we are better equipped to face the challenges and tests that lie ahead. This is God's way of preparing and strengthening us, just as Moses was given 40 days and nights in preparation for teaching the people the Commandments and the Law, and Jesus was given 40 days and 40 nights to prepare for his ministry. Spring is a period

of renewal. It provides an opportunity to Spring-clean both our homes and our lives of the negative clutter that takes hold, and which very often inhibits our spiritual growth. As we move through the season of Spring, may we take this opportunity to shake off those negative shackles that have been holding us back. May we renew our relationship with God. May we re-engage with his Word and begin a new habit of regular reading of our Bibles. May we commit to memory some precious words of Scripture. May we use this time of preparation well, as we draw close to God, and in so doing, may we open ourselves to the many possibilities that God has already prepared for us. Like those beautiful Spring flowers, may we stand firm and proud,

even on the darkest day, strengthened by the mighty hand of our Creator.

**Spring Plans in Inver Group:**

St Peter's, Killaghtee Car Boot Sales for the Year Ahead: Easter Monday 13th April, Monday 4th May, Monday 1st June and Monday 3rd August.

**Run Walk Cycle:** Takes place on Friday 26th June at Inver School - more details to follow.

**TICKETED EVENT**

**"Authentic Vintage Tea"**

Saturday 21st March 2020 at 2pm  
St Peter's Church of Ireland, Killaghtee - Church Hall. *Limited seats available.*

Tickets €15 per person - available from Vestry Members and online. Vegan/ Vegetarian & Gluten free catered for.

*Treat your mother to an early Mothers Day present or The lady of the house to a luxury afternoon tea.*



**Ardara, Glencolumbkille, Glenties, Inniskeel & Lettermacaward**

Bishop's Curate - Rev Robert Wray  
The Rectory, Lackegh, Portnoo, Co. Donegal  
Email: robert\_wray@talktalk.net



**Gweedore (Carrickfinn & Bunbeg) & Templecrone**

Bishop's Curate - Rev Liz Fitzgerald  
Tel. 074 953 1043 Email: ea.fitzgerald@btinternet.com



It is Springtime. There is a stretch in the evenings and an anticipation for warmer weather and even a bit of outdoor time. This morning when I came in from walking the dogs, I started a bit of tidying in the back yard. I was clearing our planters to get ready to replant. I was in real "throw it out" mood. I was prepared to save the best. As I turned around one rather tatty planter, hidden from sight was the first colour of spring - beautiful mini-daffodils. I don't know why I should be surprised. God is our great creator and provider. What I do reflect upon is my impulse to discard things that I thought were dead and useless, but which had burst into new life

as the darkness of the winter months disappear. We are in a time of reflection and repentance. True repentance is about doing a U-turn; turn our back on the temptations and sin and trappings of this modern world; do a complete turn around and look toward our Lord as our Saviour and redeemer. We need to look at our relationship with God and turn it around to see what surprises there are for us - and embrace the love and forgiveness, hope and joy that he brings. Let us not discard things which we think are dead and useless. As we look to the suffering of the cross, let us rejoice in he who died for us, and now lives in the glory of our risen Lord. And we will be assured that as we turn to the Lord,

he will surround us with his gracious love and mercy.

**Holy Week Services**

Wednesday - Evening Prayer in St Patrick's Parish Church, Bunbeg.  
Maundy Thursday - Holy Communion in St Crone's Parish Church, Dungloe.  
Good Friday - reading of the Passion in St Andrew's Church, Carrickfinn.

There will be a celebration of Holy Communion on Easter Day in each of the churches at the usual time.

## Dunfanaghy, Raymunterdoney & Tullaghobegley

Rector - Revd David Skuce  
Rural Dean  
Kilmacrennan East & West Rural Deanery



### Parish Register

Funeral - St. Paul's, Raymunterdoney, 25th February, 2020 Jim Montgomery, Lower Dunmore, Falcarragh. We would like to extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends on the death of Jim Montgomery on Saturday 22nd February, 2020. Jim spent the last three years at Lake House Nursing Home, Dunfanaghy and the family appreciated all the care and attention that Jim was given.

Our services over Christmas and the New Year were well attended and a great sum of money was raised along with the money for 'The Arc Light Appeal'. Donations were made to the various charities below:  
Bishop Appeal - €1242.47  
St Vincent dePaul - €335.02

Br Kevin Crowley Homeless - €1020  
Children Ward Sunday School - €355  
D.P.O.S. - €1,268.50  
Total for Arclight - €2,900

The money raised by the Sunday School, went towards toys for the Children's Ward, Lettickeny University Hospital. Just before Christmas members of the parish gathered at Lake House Nursing home to sing carols and present gifts to the residents in the home. These were greatly appreciated.

### Thank You

Not just at high festivals and special occasions, but all the year round, we are most grateful to all who arrange flowers in our churches. Your generosity is deeply appreciated. We would also like to thank Mary

Duggan very much indeed, for all the work she did for our parish over the last two years while she worked on the C.E. scheme.

### Services

As we approach the changing of the clock, it will be good to be able to attend services from Sunday 5th April in both Ray and Kilult.

### Meals

In the last week of April/May, the Rector will be hosting three course meals at the rectory to raise funds to go towards the interactive screens which were brought for Holy Trinity National School, Dunfanaghy. A suggestion donation of €15.00 would be greatly appreciated. To book a place please phone 074-9136187.

## Clondehorkey, Cashel & Mevagh

Priest in Charge: Rev Canon George Irwin  
Tel: 028 81659531 Mob: 07444642760  
Email: wgirwin@btopenworld.com



### THE VICTORY OF THE CROSS

The earthly ministry of Jesus, ending as it did in death upon a cross, appeared foolish to many and incredible to many of those who regarded themselves as the upholders of orthodox religion. But to the first disciples who realised on Easter Day that Jesus had risen, what had been seen as the symbol of defeat had become the symbol of a great victory. All the courage and dedication and suffering had been vindicated. In their experience of the risen Lord they had the assurance that "God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself" and opening up the way to eternal life and salvation. The Christ who was nailed to the cross had passed through the grave and gate of death to a glorious resurrection. But the

resurrection was not just an event in the past; it was for them and it is for us an ever-present reality. And in that reality lies the assurance that death as the last enemy of humanity has been swallowed up in victory. So as we gather on Easter Sunday - and on every other Sunday - to celebrate the resurrection we can re-echo with conviction the words of the early Church: "Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again. Hallelujah!"

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday, 1st April: 8.00pm - Mevagh General Easter Vestry in the Hay Hall, Carrigart.  
Thursday, 2nd April: 8.00pm - Clondehorkey General Easter Vestry in Parish Centre, Ballymore.

The Annual General Easter Vestry is the annual business meeting of the Parish and it is very important that parishioners make every effort to attend.

HOLY WEEK - Meditations on the Passion  
Palm Sunday, 5th April: Services at usual times with focus on Holy Week.

Wednesday in Holy Week, 8th April: 7.30pm - Service at Ballymore  
Maundy Thursday, 9th April: 7.30pm - Service at Carrigart  
Good Friday, 10th April: 7.30pm - Service at Cashel  
Easter Day, 12th April: Services at usual times.

## Clondevaddock, Rossnakill, Portsalon & Leatbeg

Priest in Charge: Revd David Griscome  
Tel: 074 9192811



*Dear Parishioners,*

By the time you get this n:vision we will be on the eve of Holy Week, the week when we remember the giving of the life of the Son of God. In our services in Leatbeg on the 8th April, Portsalon on the 9th and Rossnakill on the 10th April, we will remember the conquering of sin and death through the sacrifice of God's Son.

On Easter Day beginning at Portsalon pier at 7am, followed by the usual services at the usual times, we will celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus and his victory over

sin and death. In his Resurrection he has given us new life and it is with grateful thanks that together as the family of God we rejoice in the new life God has given us.

### **Please note future events:**

14th April. Memorial Service for Mrs Mary Hurley. Rossnakill at 2pm.  
19th April. Praise night in Tamney hall at 7pm.  
20th April. Easter AGM. Tamney Hall at 8pm.  
26th April. Confirmation Service with Holy Communion in Rossnakill at 4pm.  
30th April. Retirement of Rev David Griscome. I wish to take this opportunity to thank all

the members of Clondevaddock Parish who over the last 4 years have supported me in my ministry in the parish. Last year (2019) I celebrated my 30 years of Ordination of which 22 years have been spent in Derry and Raphoe. I shall continue to help out in the diocese and will continue to pray for God's guidance for the future of Clondevaddock parish.

Thank you once again.  
God Bless, David.

## Tullyaughnish, Kilmacrennan, Killygarvan & Glenalla

Rev Canon Harry Gilmore  
Tel. 0749151013 Email: [tkkgparishes@hotmail.com](mailto:tkkgparishes@hotmail.com)



### **Holy Week and Easter**

Maundy Thursday 9th April Holy Communion in Glenalla at 7.30pm  
Good Friday 10th. April Kilmacrennan at 10am and Ramelton at 11am  
Easter Day 12th April Holy Communion in Rathmullan at 9.15am, Kilmacrennan at 10.45am and Ramelton at 12.15pm.

### **Confirmation**

This year's confirmation service will take place in Ramelton at 7pm on Thursday 21st May, The Ascension Day. Everyone is encouraged to be present to support the young people on this very important day in their lives. As an experiment, since the confirmation is on a weekday, there will be a service of Holy Communion and preparation the previous Sunday at 10am in Kilmacrennan. This will be the only service on that Sunday in the group. The idea is to give us all, including the young people

and their families, a time to worship together and to think about our own baptismal and confirmation vows.

### **Safeguarding Trust**

The parish panel at the moment is Sara Martin, Margaret Stewart and the Rector. Our thanks go to Alan Gillespie, who has stepped down after many years of devoted work on the panel. His constant attention to detail was greatly appreciated. By the time these notes are published we hope to be able to announce his replacement(s). The Safeguarding Officers can provide advice and support in all matters of child and adult safeguarding. Please don't hesitate to speak to them!

### **Summer Events**

We are at the moment finalising the summer events in the parishes and full details will be available in the bulletin. We always have a busy summer programme so please note the dates

when announced and let others know about them also.

### **Farewell**

We are saying farewell shortly to Revd. David Griscome, the Bishop's Curate of the Clondevaddock churches. No stranger to many people in our parish, he has been a part of the life of the diocese, first of all in his Church Army days and then as a clergyman for many years and almost everyone has met him at some time or another. We wish him all the best in the future and many happy years of retirement.

### **Thank You**

Many thanks to all those who do so much work in all the parishes, often quietly and without fuss. Your sterling effort is greatly appreciated.

## Conwal Union with Gartan

Rector: Revd David Houlton



Christmas 2019 in Church Hill and Letterkenny was the usual feast of plays, services and concerts: At the beginning of December St Columba's Church Hill hosted carol singing by the children of Glendowan (RC) school as a part of the annual Church Hill Christmas Fayre, followed a few days later by a Carol Service which included the nativity play by our very own Gartan (CofI) National School; then in Letterkenny there was the Conwal Singers excellent Christmas Concert, the annual Carol Trail around the town centre's five denominational churches, and the very well attended Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. Finally, Christmas morning started in Church Hill with Midnight Communion, and finished in Letterkenny with the Traditional and Family Christmas Communion Services. Conwal also offered its hall to a kind group which provides dinner for those who otherwise would be alone at Christmas.

A week later Church Hill started the year with another refreshing Dip! About 40

people, including Rev David Houlton, again took to the waters of Gartan Lough - with many more onlookers. The weather was again good, though not as perfect as New Year's Day 2019. Generous amounts of soup and tea were provided by parishioners to warm up those from all communities who took part. Sponsorship for the Dip was in aid of St Columba's Church.

Now winter is passing and Lent is upon us. So, after giving thanks for our mothers at special Family Services, we will again be remembering, with gratitude beyond words, Him who gave His life for our sins and will raise us to new life in Him forever:

### Holy Week and Easter Services (April 5th - 12th) at Conwal Parish Church, Letterkenny, and St Columba's, Church Hill

Sunday 5th: 10.30am Palm Sunday Service at Conwal  
12.30pm Palm Sunday Service at Gartan  
Monday 6th - Wednesday 8th: 7.30pm Compline at Conwal

Wednesday 8th: 10.30am Holy Week Communion at Conwal  
Thursday 9th: 7.30pm Maunday Thursday Service at Conwal  
8.30pm Maunday Thursday Communion at Gartan  
Friday 10th: 10.30am Good Friday Service at Conwal  
7.30pm Good Friday Service at Conwal  
Sunday 12th: 10.30am Easter Day Communion with Egg Hunt at Conwal  
12.30pm Easter Day Family Communion with Egg Hunt at Gartan.

Finally, we congratulate those who have been baptised (Jack, Danny, Evan, Eryn and Hollie). Please pray for the candidates from both parishes to be confirmed by Bishop Andrew on 26th April, and remember with us those who have recently departed this life: James Tease, William (Bill) Grant, and Brenda Friis (whose funeral was at St John the Baptist RC Church, Carrigart).

## Taughboyne with Craigoish, All Saints & Killea

Rev Canon David Crooks

Tel: 074 914 0135 Mob: 00447871974658

Email: dcrooks@eircom.net



Miss Maisie Vance died peacefully at her home in Gortree on 5th December aged 78 years. She was a quiet, unassuming lady, respected by us all. We sympathise with her brothers Lexie and William at this sad time. The death of Sydney Borland after a lengthy illness, has brought great sorrow to his family, his many friends, and to All Saints' Parish. He died peacefully on 1st February. He had been a faithful member of the Select Vestry, and Rector's Church Warden for many years. As a builder, he was always more than willing and ready

to carry out repairs at the Rectory and our churches and buildings. We sympathise deeply with Joan, his wife of nearly forty eight years, with his daughter Kerry, her husband Drew, and the two grandchildren, Harry and Jack, and with his son Gary and his wife Jill. Sydney's Funeral Service in All Saints Church was one of the largest in recent memory - a tribute to the esteem in which he was held far and wide. He will be greatly missed, and fondly remembered.

We also offer our condolences to Mrs Sharon

West on the death of her Father.

Seven young people are preparing for Confirmation on the Feast of Pentecost, Whitsunday 31st May at 11.00am in All Saints' Church. They are Rachel Browne, Ellie Cox, Sam Coyle, Alan Devenney, Rachel Jeffrey, Natasha Moore and Rachel Porter. These are very intelligent young people, who have been well taught in Sunday School. For that, we thank our Sunday School Teachers, Mrs Davina Devenney and Mrs Frances Moore. Please keep these



young people in your prayers. We shall look forward to welcoming our new Bishop, the Rt. Rev'd Andrew Forster on what will be his first visit to the parish.

All the details for Lent, Holy Week and Easter are on a news sheet which you will

receive shortly. This also contains details of arrangements for the Annual Easter General Vestry meetings when our Church and Glebes Wardens and Select Vestry are elected. This being a triennial year, we also elect Diocesan Synodsmen, Parochial Nominators and Supplementals.

I wish you all a miserable but spiritually developing Lent and a happy and joyful Easter. There will be a short Bible Study and devotions after the midweek Lenten services - you will be welcome to participate.

## Fahan Upper and Lower

**Bishop's Curate: Rev Judi McGaffin**  
**Tel: 07834561433**

*"Cherishing and connecting with all God's children"*

We are a people who are aware of the seasons of the year. The winds and hailstones are whipping around the shores of Lough Swilly as the winter is contemplating turning into the spring. There are signs of new life in the gardens and roadsides as snowdrops, crocuses and daffodils slowly poke their colourful heads through their green curtains. We are aware of the seasons of the Church too and we look forward to moving from the celebration of Christmas, slowly and thoughtfully through the penitential season of Lent towards new life in the resurrection... and onward to live out our Christian faith as a resurrection people. As we travel from one season to another we thank God for what has gone before and seek to build on all that we have learned and done. Part of our prayer week promises made last autumn required us to knit and we formed a knitting group of novice and experienced knitters.

On a Friday night there is lots of clicking of needles and tongues and cups as squares are knit and crocheted together to make blankets for the premature baby units and hospices!

We have journeyed through the wonderful season of Christmas when we celebrated the birth of Jesus with Carol singing, a lively nativity play in our Sunday school, a local community concert celebrating a Celtic Christmas, and many and varied services not only in our churches, but in the wider community too.

In preparing through Lent for Easter we will be thinking through Bible study about some of the lessons that we can learn about exile, wilderness-waiting, being part of a bigger picture, love, virtue and new beginnings through the film Casablanca.

Preparation is also underway as we as a church community support our confirmation candidate this year. As he moves into a new season of his Christian life, we pray for him and his family and friends.

St Mura's has had a long association with the School of Nursing at Ulster University Magee through the Nightingale nurse Agnes Jones who lived in Fahan and where she is buried. This year again St Mura's hosted a service

of celebration of Agnes' life and work, attended by current nursing students and staff from the university as well as many friends from our local community.

This year St Mura's Parish Church in Fahan will celebrate 200 years of being on its current site (the Church of Ireland has had a presence on or near the current church for 400 years). We opened the celebrations with a Service of Thanksgiving at which Bishop Andrew preached. At this service we also celebrated our patron saint - St Mura - and Bishop Andrew launched a book about the history of the parish, written by our organist Mrs Anne Moore. There will be various events throughout this year of celebration.

As we move into what we hope is better weather in the spring the parishioners of Christ Church Buncrana are limbering up for a 5k walk and run and if they are not all too exhausted by this they will be hosting a flower festival in the early autumn!

All events in both churches and other community events will be advertised on our Facebook pages.



## Moville, Greencastle, Donagh, Malin & Culdaff

Vacant

Rural Dean Canon David Crooks  
Tel: 074 914 0135

Mob: 00447871974658  
Email: dcrooks@eircom.net

### Parish Registers

Samuel Neil, son of Andrew and Kate Norris was baptised in St Columb's Church, Moville on Sunday 27th October 2019. Gareth Thomas, son of Gary and Nicole Smith was baptised in Donagh Parish Church on Sunday 24th November 2019. Crawford James, son of Crawford and Michelle Norris was baptised in Moville Church on 30th November 2019.

Mr Robert Crowe died after a long illness on 8th February aged 87 years. His Funeral Service in Donagh Parish Church was led by the Rev'd Mervyn Peoples, who had been ministering to the family in his latter days. To him, and to Rev Heather Houlton in Letterkenny University Hospital, and the staff of Carndonagh Community Hospital, for their care and attention, the family will always be grateful. We sympathise

deeply with his wife Annie, his sons Alan and Ronald, and his daughters Lorraine and Pamela. Robert was for many years a faithful member of Donagh Parish Church, serving on the Select Vestry, a Church Warden, and a loyal member of the Parish. Though he had lived across the water for some years, the call of Inishowen brought him and Annie home, where they were to live together for so many happy years.

Every good wish and congratulations to Karen McLucas and Richard Allen who were married in Cloncha Parish Church on Saturday 23rd November 2019.

A rota for all the Services for March and April, giving details for Easter Day, as well as dates and venues of the four Annual Easter General Vestry meetings, is now in circulation. Rev Mervyn Peoples is very kindly

organising a series of Bible Studies for Lent in the Rectory, details of which will be circulated. Please make every effort to participate, especially as Rev Peoples is coming a long way to lead them. Further notices will be published in due course. As Rural Dean for Inishowen, I would like to take this opportunity to say sincere thanks to those who are leading Services during the vacancy. They are Mrs Maureen Williams on the first and fourth Sundays each month, Canon Stanley Johnson and Rev Mervyn Peoples who celebrate the Holy Communion on the second and third Sundays respectively. They in turn greatly appreciate the participation of the Parish Readers. I also wish to thank most sincerely, the Church Wardens and others who have been of invaluable assistance. These people make the performance of my duties much easier.

## Christ Church, Culmore, Muff and St. Peter

Rector: Venerable Robert Miller,  
Archdeacon of Derry  
E rector@cccmsp.org  
H 028 71352396  
Website: www.cccmsp.org  
Facebook Page: CCCMSP  
Our Vision: Transforming Community, Radiating Christ.



Rev Katie McAteer, Pastoral Director  
E pastoral@cccmsp.org  
M 07813 885145



Mrs Angela Dobbins  
Parish Administrator  
E administrator@cccmsp.org  
O 028 71358925

### Vision Verse for 2018-2019

*1 John 3 verse 18 'let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.'*

The season of Lent is a time in the church year that I find helpful in my own walk with God. It is a time to reflect on who God calls

you to be, a time to ask God how He is calling you to follow Him. The quiet and reflective nature of this season in the Church's year helps give space and quiet in the middle of what are often very busy lives.

I'm reading a book about the 24/7 Prayer

movement called PUNK MONK. I would recommend it. One of the comments the writers make is that we do not measure our mission and ministry enough in decades. Perhaps this struck a chord with me because I have now been in CCCMSP for ten years in January past. I have spent some time

reflecting on those years and giving thanks for the calling God has given me to be Rector. I believe that each of our four parishes have an important role in our respective communities. This role has been crafted by God for us. The New Testament speaks of the 'Good works that God has prepared in advance for us to do...' These will not be burdensome, but they will be challenging! I want us to have a focus on prayer in this year to seek out what God has prepared for us.

As the Church seeks to respond wisely to the coronavirus we have been left with the question of how do we greet each other; how do we welcome one another? I think that this is a very good question to ask. The handshake is an accepted, normal greeting but isn't it easy to reach out with the hand and not with the heart. Let's take this challenge as an opportunity to consider the welcome we give and receive in our parishes and not only on a Sunday but throughout the week.

All are welcome to Thornhill Ministries, Culmore Road (BT48 8JF) on Easter Day at 7am for a Dawn Service (followed by refreshments) hosted by our group of parishes and Thornhill.

Yours in Christ,  
Robert+



## St. Augustine's, Londonderry

Rector - Revd Nigel Cairns

Friday 21st February was a night of firsts in the little church on the walls, built on the site of St Columba's first monastery: Bishop Forster's first Institution as bishop; Rev Canon Paul Whittaker's first Institution as Rural Dean; and Rev Cairns' first incumbency. The readings were read by the new Rector's wife and by Rev Ken McLaughlin, who assisted with ministry during the vacancy. Huge floral bouquets were presented on behalf of the congregation to Mrs Alison Cairns, to the Rural Dean's wife, Carol, and to the Bishop. Afterwards the congregation crossed to the parish hall - the Old

Schoolhouse - for a splendid supper prepared by members of the parish.

The congregation has given the Cairns family a tremendously warm welcome, and this has been reciprocated with an 'open house' at the rectory for crepes and pancakes on the evening of Pancake Tuesday. The event was very successful and was well supported and enjoyed by all.

The remainder of this year and, perhaps some of next year too, has been designated as a time to connect or reconnect with the Lord,

with church, with community, with faith and with the new Rector and his family. To that end an ambitious REConnect 20/21 Lenten programme is underway, promising 'something for everyone' ranging from informal and contemporary mid-week meetings to penitential, healing and Holy Communion services. The usual rhythm of Monday evening prayer meeting and Tuesday morning Holy Communion will also continue throughout Lent and into the summer term.





## Leckpatrick & Dunalong

Canon Paul Whittaker: Rector and Rural Dean

Tel: 028 71880397

Mob: 07770691560

Email: revpaul07@btinternet.com

When this edition of n.vision is ready for distribution we will have celebrated our first year in our new parishes. It has been a fantastic year as we have got to know a lot of new people; we have made quite a few changes in our worship; I have visited every home in the parish and we have communicated God's love to those who have been bereaved. Thank you, Lord for your grace and mercy.

### E100 Bible Reading Challenge

The challenge is in full flow and when this edition is distributed we will have moved on to the New Testament passages. It has been a wonderful journey so far.

### Lent Services

Our Lent services will continue to alternate between the two parishes on Wednesday nights at 7.30pm. The Rector will be looking at the 'I Am' sayings of Jesus. All Welcome!

### Dunalong Country Concert

We had another great night with a variety of artists in the Fir Trees Hotel Strabane and had a great meal out before the concert with our Mothers' Union.

### Joint Service

The next 'Joint Service' for the two parishes will be on Sunday 29th March in Dunalong at 10.30am.

### Dedication of a New Banner

A service of dedication for the Bready

Branch of the Apprentice Boys will take place on Saturday 18th April in Dunalong Church at 6.30pm. The parade will leave Bready Primary school at 6pm. All Welcome!

### Leckpatrick Luncheon Club

The Luncheon Club members are having a day away to Hillsborough Castle on Thursday 14th May. The day will conclude with an evening meal in the Silver Birch Hotel Omagh.

### Coffee Evenings

We are delighted to announce two coffee evenings in the Old Rectory 4 Laurel Road on Wednesday and Thursday 20th and 21st May. We are indebted to Gareth and Julie-Ann Patterson for opening up their magnificent home and gardens to raise funds for the parishes.

### Widows and Widowers

The Rectory family will once again open up their home for two days, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons the 2nd and 3rd of June. The Rector will conduct a quiet Communion service in memory of loved ones and finish with afternoon tea.

### 'Don't give up on doing the right thing'

*"Let us not get tired of doing what is right, for after a while we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't get discouraged and give up"* (Galatians 6:9 TLB).

If things don't happen right away or when you think they should, that doesn't mean you

should quit. You need to be diligent and have endurance. The Bible says, "Let us not get tired of doing what is right, for after a while we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't get discouraged and give up" (Galatians 6:9 TLB). Is there something you feel like giving up on? Maybe it's your marriage. It seems like it's just dead and going nowhere. Maybe it's your career. You've tried and tried to make a difference, and it just isn't happening. Maybe you feel like giving up on a dream or a goal—or even yourself. Here's an important thing to know. A thousand years before you were born, God knew that you would be reading this today, so God could have me say this to you as a friend: Don't give up. The tunnel may seem extremely dark right now, but there is always a light at the end. It may be just around the corner! You are known by God, loved by God—and you have a purpose that God designed you uniquely to fulfil. Don't think what you're doing doesn't matter.

Don't give up on doing the right thing. Don't think anyone would be better off without you. Those are lies from the mouth of the Devil himself. Remember what God has said about you. Remember that he wants to bless you. Don't give up. Look up to God. Find a spiritual family—a church—to help you through the tough times. Meditate on God's Word for encouragement. Most of all, don't give up on God. He will never give up on you!

## Donagheady

Rev Dr Robin Stockitt

Tel: 028 7139 8017

Email: [stjamesdonagheady@gmail.com](mailto:stjamesdonagheady@gmail.com)



### Donemana Men's Breakfast

On Saturday 1st February we held our first Men's Breakfast. It was an extraordinary success. Having no idea how many men might turn up we purchased enough bacon and eggs for an estimated 60 people. We

invited Bishop Andrew to come and speak. In the end closer to 80 men turned up and there was some frantic cooking and serving going in the kitchen. Bishop Andrew spoke movingly about his journey to become a bishop and there was plenty of good craic all round.



## Camus-Juxta-Mourne (Strabane)

Rector - Rev John White

*Our Vision... 'Preach the Word... be shaped by the Word'.*



### Tales of the unexpected...

You know how you can build up a picture of something in your mind. I have read passages such as Matthew 27:28-31: *And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. 29 When they had [a]twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" 30 Then they spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head. 31 And when they had mocked Him, they took the robe off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him away to be crucified.*

I have seen the films, 'The Passion of the Christ', 'Jesus of Nazareth' and 'The Greatest Story Ever Told'. Yet, nothing prepared me for seeing what we commonly call the Via Dolorosa for real. The Way of Sorrow. It was not what I expected.

This is the road that Jesus walked as He made His way to the Cross. The road He walked up from His prison to His crucifixion - bloodied and beaten, dragging His cross. I don't know why but I expected it to be quite a wide road. It's not. It's a narrow path, very narrow and very crowded. And, to cap it all, along the way, there's a shop with a red and white

Coca-Cola sign. That I didn't expect. But hey - it's the twenty-first century. And anyway, they wouldn't have given Him a drink of Coca-Cola back then. It's the road He walked for you and me. Suffering so you could be set free. The Via Dolorosa. And if we want to follow Him - it's the path we have to take. Narrow. Painful. The road to the cross.

Nothing could ever prepare you to experience what Jesus went through to bring us salvation. Only a loving God is capable of such great love. Only such a God is worthy of our worship and love.

## Urney and Sion Mills

Rector

Rev Jonathan McFarland



Recently I was watching a programme about the growing problem of loneliness in our society. It is a terrible plight which affects all ages and is closely associated with anxiety, depression and other mental health issues.

I am always encouraged by the fellowship that each week is shared when we gather for worship in our parish of Urney. Often we have tea or coffee after the services in both churches, and the warmth and friendship that is expressed is

wonderful. As I watched the program, I got the sense that God was calling us to play our part in the parish to address the issue of loneliness. I talked it over with others and we decided

*Continued on page 46...*

Continued from page 45...

to open our church hall, every Wednesday between 10am and 12 noon. We decided this little venture will be called 'Café Hope'

Our first day of service was Wednesday 5th February and we can see already that it is proving to be popular. We don't charge for the refreshments - we simply provide an honesty box for those who wish to make a donation. Already, I can see that people

appreciate a safe space to come and chat and simply meet up with others.

In church recently we were studying The Beatitudes and as we continue with The Sermon on the Mount we see clearly that the Lord wants us to let our light shine before others.

Café Hope is one of the ways our parish wants to reach out to the community and to show

people the love of God. Someone said to me that it doesn't cost much to buy some teabags and a jar of coffee. The friendships and fellowship that these simple things generate are absolutely priceless.

God does big things when we are faithful with the little things.

Yours in Christ, Jonathan

## Derg & Termonamongan

Rector - Rev Peter Ferguson  
Tel: 028 8167 1362



Curate -  
Rev Naomi Quinn  
Tel: 028 81671440



It was with mixed emotions that I announced in Derg and Termonamongan that Rev Naomi had answered God's call to the appointment as rector of the Ballygawley group of parishes. We are delighted and happy for Naomi to see her develop her ministry in the Church and in her own parish. However, we are of course sad to see her leave parish ministry with us all. It does not take me to say what a blessing, example and friend in Jesus Naomi has been to us all. Naomi sensed God's call to the Derg under the leadership of Bishop Ken and Rev Alan Peek in 2012. I pay tribute to them for playing their part in bringing Naomi to the Derg as part of God's call. Naomi quickly settled in and

became "part of the furniture." Naomi will be dearly missed by us all. In n:vision I would like to especially pay tribute to Naomi's contribution to our Rural Deanery and wider Diocese. Naomi has regularly provided pastoral and services cover in our Rural Deanery. In Derry Raphoe Youth and on the board, Naomi has faithfully served in so many ways. From sleeping on church hall floors at On the Move to enjoying a chat over hot chocolate late at night at Summer Madness or on a D.R.Y weekend, Naomi has influenced and impacted so many. Thank you Naomi.

As we enter Lent and this time of reflection and preparation for Easter we look forward to our Impact Castlederg churches together at

Easter events. This is a powerful time when we come together and share the good news of Jesus in our community in practical ways. There will be something for everyone, so come along and get involved and let the hope of Easter lift us all. Plans are coming together all the time for our Derg Valley Kenya Tour 2020 with Ambassadors Football. Once again I am humbled by the support of so many, as we need home and away support. It is so encouraging to see God work mightily in this project in the Derg Valley to use football to bring Christian hope to others, not just in Africa but here too.

## Drumclamph & Clare, Langfield Upper & Lower

Rev Robert G. Keogh

Tel: 028 8167 1433

Email: rgkeogh@utvinternet.com

<http://www.drumclamph.derry.anglican.org>



### Holy Week Services

Monday 6th April Langfield at 8:00pm,  
Thursday 9th April St Andrew's Clare at  
8:00pm, Good Friday Langfield at 7:00pm  
and Drumclamph at 8:30pm.

### Easter Sunday

St Andrew's Clare at 9:30 am, Langfield  
10:45 am and Drumclamph at 12:15pm.

### Concert in Lower Langfield Church Hall

A grand variety opening concert for  
the completed renovations to Langfield  
church hall took place on Wednesday  
4th December. The concert was very well  
attended with many local artists taking  
part. The concert raised £2200-00 and  
we are very grateful for the large grant  
of approximately £360,000-00 from the  
Department of Education which was  
obtained via the youth club. The hall has  
been finished off to a very high standard  
by our contractors Lowry Bros. Everything

is the latest state of the art with modern  
kitchen facilities, sound and heating systems,  
fire and burglar alarm systems and LED  
lighting. The hall is very well decorated.  
Its colour scheme is very uplifting. A very  
big thank you to all the parishioners who  
supported and fundraised for this project.  
Also those who gave of their time in applying  
for grants and other work that was done  
behind the scenes.

### Confirmation Classes

The confirmation classes will be resuming  
after Easter on Tuesday 21st April in Langfield  
from 8:30 to 9:15 pm. We remember the  
confirmation candidates in our prayers as  
they prepare for confirmation; Jordan Aiken,  
Rio Burke, Darren Davis, Joshua Dennison,  
Jordan Ellis, Brodie Gallagher, Jay Hannan,  
Lara Law, Harvey McCanny, Ellie McCaskie,  
Shelby Moore, Emily Nethery, Hannah Rankin,  
Jack Rankin, Katie Walker, Bailey White, Taylor  
Vaughan and Alanis Young.

### Drumclamph Gospel Concert

The Drumclamph Gospel Concert was  
hosted by Leslie Matthews, Bernie &  
Patricia Maguire on Sunday 1st March. The  
concert was well supported by many people  
from all the local churches and everyone  
had an enjoyable time of worship. The  
concert has raised £955-00 for parish funds.  
After the concert there was fellowship over  
a cup of tea in the church hall. We thank  
everyone for their support and work that  
was done behind the scenes in organizing  
the concert.

Not long before she died in 1988, in a  
moment of surprising candour on television,  
Marghanita Laski, a well-known secular  
humanist and novelist, said, "What I  
envy most about you Christians is your  
forgiveness; I have nobody to forgive me."

## Edenderry & Clanabogan

Rev Canon Robert Clarke Rural Dean

Tel: 028 82245525

Email: rw.clarke@btinternet.com



### They Missed Him

They were looking for a lion; Jesus came  
as a Lamb, and they missed Him. They  
were looking for a warrior; Jesus came as  
a Peacemaker, and they missed Him. They  
were looking for a king; Jesus came as a  
Servant, and they missed Him. They were  
looking for liberation from Rome; Jesus  
submitted to the Roman stake (The Cross of  
Calvary), and they missed Him. They were  
looking for a fit to their mould; Jesus was  
the Mould-Breaker, and they missed Him.

### Will You?

I wish all my readers a very meaningful, blessed  
and happy Easter.

### Good Friday

Our United Service for Good Friday this year  
will be held in Edenderry Parish Church. The  
Service will begin at 8.00p.m.

### Easter Day

On Easter Day the Service of Holy Communion  
in Edenderry will be held at 8.30am, as per

tradition. In Clanabogan, a Service of Holy  
Communion will begin at 10.00am.

### Easter General Vestries

The annual Easter General Vestry for  
Edenderry will be held in the Parish Hall on  
Tuesday, 21st April, beginning at 7.30pm. In  
Clanabogan, the annual Easter General Vestry  
will be held in the Parish Hall on Wednesday,  
22nd April beginning at 8.00pm.

*Continued on page 48...*

Continued from page 47...

### The Ten Commandments For Marriage

1. *Thou shalt not take thy partner for granted.*
2. *Thou shalt not expect perfection of each other.*
3. *Thou shalt be patient, loving, understanding, kind and true.*
4. *Thou shalt tend the garden of love daily.*
5. *Thou shalt take great care that thy partner's trust shall never be violated or diminished in any way.*
6. *Thou shalt not forget thy wedding vows, remembering especially those important words "For better or for worse".*
7. *Thou shalt not hide thy true feelings. Mutual love provides a bright sunlit room where things of the heart can be discussed freely and without fear.*
8. *Thou shalt always respect each other as individuals. Degrading words and a sharp tongue cause grave distortion. Endearing terms ennoble, lift up and engender peace.*
9. *Thou shalt give thy marriage room to grow. Both partners should be willing to face the future together with confidence and trust; today is a better day for them than yesterday, and tomorrow will find them closer still.*
10. *Thou shalt, through all thy days, reverence God thy Creator, never forgetting that it is He who made you one.*

## Drumragh & Mountfield

Vacant

Curate - Revd Sean Hanily



We are in a season of change here in the parishes of Drumragh with Mountfield – Revd Linton has departed and will be sorely missed. Many of us were delighted to be able to travel to his institution in Ballyward, which was a lovely occasion for the Linton family. We continue to hold them in our prayers.

We are also in a season of change, especially in St Columba's, as the builders have arrived on site and the scaffolding has gone up! After several years of planning and preparation, not to mention all of our fundraising efforts, this is very welcome to see. We pray for God's blessing on the work that will take place on our church building over the coming months. The building work

is testament to the hard work of so many people within the parish. Many, many people have been involved in various ways.

But of course, we are not merely restoring our church building for the sake of maintaining an historic structure. We are restoring it in the faith and hope that the Lord is going to bless us with growth in the months and years ahead.

Our Lenten services have been an uplifting time and we have seen new faces come through the doors. Let us rejoice each time we see a new face sitting in a pew - and make a special effort to make those new faces feel welcome; and to help point them to the Lord. How wonderful and marvellous it would be if new faces felt like

old faces after a short time – that they would easily become part of our church family. I ask you to pray for this.

As we continue to journey through this season of Lent, we are always conscious of where Lent leads us - and when we arrive at Passiontide and Easter Day, let us celebrate with a renewed sense of zeal and vigour this year. It has been said that we, as Christians, are an Easter people living in a Good Friday world. Let us then, while acknowledging the Good Fridays in our world, live as an optimistic and joyful people with our hearts and minds clearly set on the wonderful news of Easter and the resurrection of Jesus Christ.



## Cappagh & Lislimnaghan

Rev Canon Derek Quinn  
Tel: 028 8224 2572  
Email: derekquinn2@aol.com



### The Church In Ireland

Numerous articles have been written about the disturbing and dramatic decline in church attendance in Ireland over recent years. It almost looks as if for most people living in 21st Century Ireland God has become irrelevant. Churches are being closed, seminaries are nearly empty, and while things are not as bad within the Church of Ireland, successive surveys have shown that the number of attending members is slipping. We are living on an island which, rather than being the 'Land of Saints and Scholars', is now a mission field. Thankfully all is not doom and gloom, for the citizens of countries to which Ireland once sent missionaries are now living here and sharing the good news of Jesus with the inhabitants of this land. Years ago we sent Bibles to communist Romania - now

the largest church in the Republic of Ireland is the Romanian Pentecostal Church. Ireland sent missionaries to Africa - now the Nigerian Redeemed Church of God has more than one hundred churches throughout Ireland. God is at work and it is important that each one of us, as members of the Church of Ireland, the ancient church of this land which stretches back to the time of St. Patrick, plays our full part in re-evangelising our beautiful country. The harvest is plentiful, and the time has come for us to start reaping. People may have changed but God hasn't. He is the same yesterday, today and forever, and with Him leading and guiding us we can be totally assured that we are on the victory side.

### Easter

Some shops have been selling Easter eggs and cards even before the Christmas stock was

removed, and for many Easter is little more than another commercial occasion or a break from work or school, but for followers of the Crucified and Risen Lord throughout the world, Easter is a time of joy and celebration. It is a reminder that at Calvary Jesus defeated death and sin and opened up the way to heaven to all who believe in Him and receive Him as Saviour and Lord. Salvation is God's free gift to us but let us never forget that our salvation cost Jesus everything. Such love surely demands a response from us.

### A Closing Thought

When God says, "Come," He goes out to meet us. When He says, "Go," He goes with us!

## Ardstraw, Baronscourt, Badoney Upper & Lower and Greenan

Rector - Rev. Ivan Dinsmore  
Tel: 028 8166 1342



### Baptisms

Baronscourt Parish Church, January 5th 2020: Quin William Patrick Moore, son of Kyle and Amanda Moore, 2 Fairmount Avenue, Omagh.

Ardstraw Parish Church, January 26th 2020: Mattie Edmund Hill, son of Ian and Linda Hill, 16 Forthill Walk, Newtownstewart.

### Weddings

February 22nd at Upper Badoney Parish Church Jordan Campbell, 25 Bradkeel Road, Plumbridge and Jayne Crumley, 10 Cavanlee Road, Strabane.

### Funerals

December 27th 2019 at Ardstraw Parish Church. Lily Rutledge, late of 1 Hawkes Crescent. Burial at Cappagh Parish Churchyard, following service in Ardstraw Parish Church.

January 14th 2020 at Ardstraw Parish Church. Hazel Moore, late of 7 Bessie Bell Court, Newtownstewart. Burial in the Churchyard, following service in Ardstraw Parish Church.

January 31st 2020 at Ardstraw Parish Church. Myrtle Stewart, late of 1 Bessie Bell Court, Newtownstewart. Burial in the Churchyard, following service in Ardstraw Parish Church.

February 9th 2020 at Lower Badoney Parish Church, Gortin: Ayden Joseph Moore, son of Jason and Veronica Moore, 4 Corrickbeg Road, Newtownstewart.

### Gortin and Greenan Flower Festival

Plans are underway for a Flower festival in Lower Badoney Parish Church, Gortin, in aid of the New Hall Building Fund for Lower Badoney and Greenan Parish Churches. The event will run over 4 days, from Friday 22nd May 2020 to Monday 25th May 2020. The theme is 'The Church's One Foundation' and will have a number of displays around the

*Continued on page 50...*

Continued from page 49...

church to portray this. Refreshments will be provided in the hall opposite the church, and we hope to attract a large number of visitors, who will be making the most of the Spring Bank Holiday Weekend. Plans for the new hall have been submitted for planning permission. We are now waiting for planning approval.

#### Mothers' Union

Mothers' Union opened their New Year and triennium with a lunch in the Derg Arms Castledearg. Thirty members and friends attended along with the Rector, Rev Dinsmore. Ruth Baxter, branch leader, welcomed all in attendance and read a 'note' from the Diocesan President on 'Building Hope and Confidence.' A delicious meal

followed and everyone enjoyed an afternoon of fun and friendship. Entertainment included a Pass the Parcel game, Ruth read a poem 'Smart Phone, Dumb User' and Evelyn Pinkerton recited our old time favourite ballad 'Betty's Cow'. The Rev. Dinsmore closed the afternoon with a message of Hope and Confidence and with the words of the Grace.

## Kilcronaghan, Ballynascreen Tobermore & Six Towns

Rector - Revd Rosie Diffin  
Tel: 028 7962 8823

Email: [kilcronaghan@derry.anglican.org](mailto:kilcronaghan@derry.anglican.org)  
Web: <http://kilcronaghan.vpweb.co.uk>



I write this less than a week after my institution as rector of Kilcronaghan, Ballynascreen and Six Towns, so I am still quite fascinated by the beautiful view from the Rectory. As I look towards the Sperrins sprinkled with snow, the view is interrupted by the array of budding daffodils, a reminder that new life has been waiting in the wings throughout the dark days of winter, ready to burst forth. A reminder also that, as Christians, Easter is a time when we celebrate that God's plan to bring new life and light out of darkness, has been revealed to us in the glorious death and resurrection of Jesus. Easter is one of those remarkable times in the Christian calendar, when we are drawn to look towards that cruel instrument of torture and death, the Cross of Christ, and in it find a symbol of remarkable hope and grace. It is a time when we remind ourselves that there was nothing accidental about any of the events which took place on that week we call Holy Week.

In Luke 9:51 we read: "As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem." That Jesus would resolutely set out towards Jerusalem for us is a truly remarkable thing. It tells us that we are so precious to God that Jesus determined to endure His Cross, to die for us, so that we "would not perish" so that we could know the hope of "eternal life." (John 3:16, 17)

Through Jesus' death and resurrection, we have a truly unique hope. For we can move beyond the tragedy of Golgotha, as we hear the words of Jesus echoing in our hearts: "It is finished" (John 19:30). It is finished because Jesus has triumphed over sin, Satan, and death. We place our hope in the death and resurrection of Jesus, not in the sense that we hope or wish for something to come true - our hope is much more substantial than that. Placing our hope in the death and resurrection of Jesus comes from faith: faith as we trust in God's promises; faith that Jesus' resurrection is our own "living

hope" and trusting in the promise of "an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading" (1 Peter 1:3-4), we find hope.

Stuart Townsend describes the hope that is ours in Christ in his song: There is a hope. *There is a hope that burns within my heart, That gives me strength for every passing day; A glimpse of glory now revealed in meagre part, Yet drives all doubt away: I stand in Christ, with sins forgiven; And Christ in me, the hope of heaven! My highest calling and my deepest joy, To make His will my home.*

Easter causes us to hope; to hope that one day we would be raised up with Christ just as He was raised from the dead (Romans 6:4). Easter causes us to hope in the promises of God that, in Christ, we find: forgiveness, freedom from the past, the power of the Holy Spirit to help us, and best of all, the promise of eternal life!



# Desertmartin and Termoneeny

Rector - Rev. Mike Dornan  
Tel: 028 7963 2455  
Email: mikedornan@gmail.com

### How do you cope with grief?

One of the greatest privileges and responsibilities of ordained ministry is to be invited to share in the most significant moments of people's lives. The joy of conducting the wedding of a young, or not so young couple, as they enter into a new chapter of their lives, a time full of hope and expectation. The joy of celebrating new life in the form of the sacrament of Baptism. The joy of preparing young people for Confirmation as they explore their faith. Then there are the much more challenging times, those points in life that mark radical and frequently unexpected changes in direction of life, sometimes consisting of unwanted endings. This frequently involves illness or death, but equally it could be the loss of a relationship, a home or a job.

I have observed that people react in very different ways in these more challenging circumstances. Some seem to be able to come to terms with the new realities of life and find ways of coping and rebuilding their lives. This is usually with the help, support and encouragement of a network of family and friends, each drawing strength from the other as they share the pain of grief and loss, while at the same time holding each other up. There seems to be a pathway of hope to the future through sharing and rebuilding together. I had the opportunity to be part of such a moment on Wednesday 19th February, in Draperstown at a cross-community Service of Remembrance for the families

and friends of the victims of suicide. The church was full with several hundred people, each with different experiences and understandings of suicide and loss, yet drawn together through the sharing of reflective songs and music, together with memories of the lost and words of hope for the future. There was a palpable sense of God's healing presence in that place, in the midst of pain and suffering.

However, some take another path which frequently leads to even more pain and destruction, frequently lashing out at the very people trying to support those struggling with their grief in its many forms.

Psychologists have identified a five-stage process in processing grief and this is illustrated below.



There can be serious consequences if one gets stuck in any of these stages - the most obvious being Denial and Anger. But perhaps the most dangerous stage is Depression, which can lead to serious mental health issues or worse. This can happen when we intentionally or

unintentionally isolate ourselves from those who seek to support us. The consequences of which for all parties can be catastrophic. Sometimes, we have to step back from those we wish to support, to give them space to process their grief in their own way, never forgetting the potential for further trauma if stuck too long without professional help.

All too often we hear in the media people stating that only "their experience or truth" matters. No one could possibly understand or be helpful. We need to encourage anyone in this place to seek God's healing and peace. A number of organisations offer a listening ear, e.g. Lifeline, available 24/7 - 0808 8088000.

I close with Jesus' own words; *27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.* (John 14:27)

Rev Mike.



## Christ Church Castledawson

Rev. Colin Welsh Rural Dean  
Tel: 028 7946 8235  
Email: colin.welsh@talktalk.net



Hello all. It's hard to believe that we're into Spring and thinking about Easter-time already. Doesn't time fly? Where have the last three months gone? Reflecting on this made me realise that nothing remains static; life moves on, everything changes, seasons come and go. There is really only one constant, and that is, the Love of God.

As we approach Holy Week and the highlight of the Christian calendar, Easter Day, I am reminded once again of just how much God loves us, by sending his Son, the Lord Jesus, to suffer and die for us. As a father myself I ask, "would I be willing to sacrifice my child so that someone else could live?" I believe the answer would be, "no way!" How could God have contemplated such a thing? The only answer, is that He must really love us! Yes, he does, and sometimes we need to be

reminded of what Jesus went through for you and me, and what His Father had to endure also. Such Love!

What is our response to this love?  
What should we do in return?

I'll leave you to ponder these questions. During the months of March and April we have many opportunities to focus on what it means to be a follower of Christ. First of all, as we continue the season of Lent we remember our fallen state, (for we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Romans 3:27) and our constant need of repentance and assurance of forgiveness.

Then during Holy Week we can appreciate Christ's final Journey to the Cross. (But he endured the suffering that should have been ours, the pain that we should have borne'

Isaiah 53:4) This is closely followed by Easter Day or, as I once heard it called, 'Victory for Jesus Day.' The day when our Lord and Saviour defeated Death itself. Jesus rose from the dead effectively giving the assurance of eternal life for all who believe. ('Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved, Acts 16:31)

I hope you will join with us at our activities during Holy Week culminating in our Easter Celebration Services either early on Easter Morning by the river, or at our Easter Family service. Holy Week activities and service details on our parish website [www.webchristchurch.com](http://www.webchristchurch.com)

Have a reflective Lent and a blessed Easter.

Colin

## St. Tida's, Parish of Ballyscullion, Bellaghy

NSM in Charge - Revd Brian Hassan



During Lent Ballyscullion Parish will engage in the Christianity Explored (CE) course. This is a study of the Gospel of Mark aided by short video presentations compiled by the CE team based at All Souls Church Langham Place, London. This is a dynamic Anglican church which sits firmly on the evangelical wing of the Church of England. It is designed as an introduction to Christianity for people with no previous faith background. For people of faith it is a great way to grow and learn in an interactive way. It is much more than a Wednesday night Bible study and I am

looking forward to facilitating it and growing in my own faith.

March and April will be a busy time with Christianity Explored, Easter Vestry, Men's Group, Young at Heart Club and GB Display. I also would like to mention a Night of Praise and Worship at Castledawson Church of Ireland Halls on Friday 27 March at 7.30pm. This is under the banner of Co Londonderry Grand Orange Lodge but is open to all and no Orange regalia will be on display. Rev Colin Welsh and his praise band will be providing the music and I will be the link man, carrying

out interviews during the event. It is an informal evening of praise and worship; it is not a church service! All welcome.

### Diary Dates

Each Wednesday during Lent Christianity Explored 7.30pm Church Hall.  
Young at Heart Club every other Tuesday morning 10.30am Church Hall.  
GB Display 20 March Bellaghy Presbyterian Church Hall 7.30pm.  
Men's Group Thursday 26 March 7.30pm Church Hall, talk on Royal British Legion Act of Remembrance.

Palm Sunday: Procession of Palm Crosses & Passion Narratives 11.30am.  
 Maundy Thursday 9 April Institution of the Lord's Supper 8pm.  
 Good Friday 10 April Seven Last Words of Christ 7pm.

Easter Day 12 April Easter Celebration and Holy Communion.  
 Easter Annual Vestry Tuesday 21 April Church Hall at 7.30pm.  
 Men's Group Thursday 23 April Talk by Dr Rev Paul Baillie on Mission Africa.

Royal Black Preceptory Divine Service Sunday 10 May at 11.30 also VE Day Weekend.  
 Ascension Day 21 May Holy Communion 7.30pm.

## Maghera & Killelagh

Rev'd Terence Kerr  
 Tel. 028 7964 2252  
[www.magheraparish.co.uk](http://www.magheraparish.co.uk)

### Bishop Andrew leads his first Confirmation Service in the parish church of St. Lurach, Maghera

On Sunday 2nd February 2020 our Parish Church was privileged and honoured to welcome Bishop Andrew and his wife Heather our Confirmation Service. Of course Bishop Andrew had organised many confirmations previously as a Rector, but, in this case, it was his very first occasion in which he led the service in the role of Bishop. The service was well attended and incorporated contemporary worship led by Sophie Shields. The proceedings were very dignified, yet personal, as he asked each candidate individually to affirm their allegiance to Jesus Christ. We praise God for Bishop Andrew's challenging, yet uplifting, sermon based on "The Beatitudes". All of us in Maghera and Killelagh wish him every blessing in his new Episcopal Calling.



### Bicentennial Celebrations

At St. Lurach's in 2020, we are celebrating our Bicentennial (200th Year) Anniversary in our current church building. St Lurach's has historical credentials dating back to 1000 AD. Many of you will be familiar with the ruins of the Old Church in the grounds of the Rectory, where, incidentally, a Crucifix was found that is the oldest religious artefact in the Ulster Museum. For us in Maghera the Confirmation Service started our Bicentennial Celebrations. My parishioners are organising many events including a service that will be broadcast on BBC Radio Ulster, a Mission in Holy Week led by Bishop Andrew at which our speakers will describe how they came to faith - see picture for details. On Thursday 23rd April, as a fundraiser, Jackie Fullerton will interview local soccer stars Kenny Shields, his son Dean and Alfie Stewart. Everyone is

cordially invited to come and join us in our celebrations both in social evenings and especially at our Mission where Christ's Name will be glorified.

Yours in Christ's Service  
 The Rev Terence P Kerr



## Errigal & Desertoghill (Garvagh)

Rector - Rev. Carmen Hayes  
 Tel - 02929558226

### ON THE MOVE!

It is official, a move has definitely taken place for I'm now writing notes for Errigal and Desertoghill. However, in order that this move could happen, the Rector who had been here also had to be on the move

to pastures new. I'm hoping he wasn't the guy I read about recently. This man announced to his congregation that he would be leaving their church. After which there was a good deal of crying and lots of kind words spoken. Then as the Rector was talking to one woman who

had expressed her sadness at his leaving, he consoled her with these words: "Oh, don't feel bad. I'm sure our nominators will come up with a much better replacement." To which she replied, "Oh, that's what they

*Continued on page 54...*



Continued from page 53...

said the last time. In fact, that's what they say all the time. But it never happens!"

Yes, I do hope that wasn't Garvagh, for on the 12th September 2019 I was instituted as the new Rector of St Pauls and Moyletra; a move that came pretty much out of the blue. The decision to make that move was one of the hardest ones I've ever had to make - purely because I did love and care for the people in Kilcronaghan and St Columba's very much indeed.

I believe with all my heart that God had called me to make that move. However, I was quick to discover that the right thing to do, is rarely the easy thing to do, for it was so difficult to say those goodbyes. Then I remembered the words my big sis had said to me on the night I was instituted in Kilcronaghan and St Columba's as I was saying my good-byes to all those lovely people from St Mark's Portadown.

For here's what she said (as sympathetically as she knows how to be) "Dry your eyes, and go into that kitchen, for in there you'll find all the same ladies, only they'll have very different faces!" And it goes against the grain for me to admit this, but she was right then and she's right again.

I've been in the parish five months now (apart from six weeks when I travelled around the world) and as I get to know the folks here, they are just the same, with all the different personality types, that I am looking forward to working alongside, as together we discover the plans God that has for them as individuals and for us as a Parish in this little part of his Vineyard!

Friday 6th March was a proud day for Garvagh Parish stalwart, Helen Livingston, as she watched a blue plaque being unveiled on her local church to commemorate the woman who introduced the Women's Institute to

Northern Ireland. Dorothea Florence Macausland, who worshipped in St Paul's for many years prior to her death in 1970, formed Northern Ireland's first Women's Institute branch in the village in 1932. Her achievement was marked by the Ulster History Circle with the erection of one of its celebrated blue plaques on the east wall of the local church. Mrs Livingston, who arrived in Garvagh two years after Mrs Macausland's death, has written her predecessor's life story for posterity and had campaigned for many years to have Mrs Macausland's memory honoured publicly.



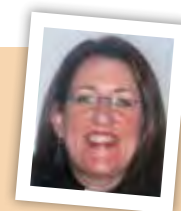
## Kilrea, Tamlaght O'Crilly Upper & Lower

Rector: Rev Gary Millar



## Aghadowey

Rev Louise Crawford-McCafferty  
Tel: 07890745359  
40 Brone Road, Garvagh BT51 4EQ  
Email: [louisecrawfordmccafferty@yahoo.com](mailto:louisecrawfordmccafferty@yahoo.com)



Dear Friends in Christ,  
We have some wonderful celebrations in life, and when we speak about life there is no better celebration of LIFE than EASTER. Certainly there is a lot of fun around Christmas with the sparkle and Santa, and who can forget those nativities!! But is

laughter at Easter possible? I can't be talking about Lent or Holy Week and laugh or even Easter Sunday and the Resurrection ... Laugh?! Well... In the Middle Ages, it was an Easter Sunday tradition to tell a joke during the homily. Called the risus paschalis (the Easter laugh), it was supposed to recall how God

had tricked the devil and gave us the last laugh over death. Of course, those medieval jokes soon turned to pranks and eventually got too rowdy. In the 17th century, Pope Clement X outlawed the risus paschalis altogether.

St. Gregory Nyssa also wrote an Easter homily called "The three-day period of the Resurrection of Christ." In it, he said, Christ purposely concealed His real identity from the devil when He died. So Satan, thinking Jesus was just another dead human being, swallowed the bait and took Jesus into hell. Too late, Gregory said, Satan realised his mistake. By then, he had admitted the Light of Christ into the dark, infernal abode. That meant that Satan had destroyed his own kingdom. The power of God prevailed, even in hell, and God had the last laugh. As you gather together to worship our Risen Lord this Easter remember to smile, give thanks, and maybe laugh at the

preacher's jokes (even occasionally)!

Remember that on Easter Sunday our Lord did indeed prevail. He gives us the offer of a new life in Him. We are blessed to be loved so much that God did indeed give His only Son that we might be saved.

**Services for Holy Week and Easter are:**  
Holy Week Wed-Friday 8th -10th April 8pm  
Easter Sunday 12th April 11am Holy Communion.

I would like to thank the Rev. Irene Lyttle for caring for St. Guaire's while I have been recovering from surgery. God bless.

### For the jokers out there

What do you call a mischievous egg?  
*A practical yolker!*

What happened to the egg when he was tickled too much?  
*He cracked up!*

What happened to the Easter bunny at school?  
*He was eggspelled!*

God bless you.  
Have a wonderful Easter time.

## Camus-Juxta-Bann (Macosquin)

Rector: Rev Paul Lyons  
[www.camus-juxta-bann.org](http://www.camus-juxta-bann.org)



*'With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all.'* Acts 4v33

During my studies for the ordained ministry I experienced a new way of learning called theological reflection. It involved taking the time to reflect on what I believed and how it applied to a pastoral situation. I found these reflections challenging and helpful at the same time. It exposed me to the experiences and beliefs of other people which sometimes challenged my own beliefs, yet this helped me grow in life experience and to discover more about God. It is a number of years since I left theological college but the habit of reflecting on what I, and the Church, do and think has remained with me.

During Lent and Holy Week this year we

are invited to consider the question, "What is God doing amongst us?" At our midweek Lent services different members of the church will be sharing their answer to this question. We look forward to hearing what God is doing amongst our adults who've been attending a mid-week Network Course and an International Justice Mission bible study. Also, we'll hear from the leaders in the Youth Fellowship and KFC (Kids For Christ) as to how God is moving amongst our children and young people.

In Holy Week I encourage parishioners to make the commitment to journey through this special week together. It will be a time of discovery and blessing.  
Holy Week at St Mary's  
6th April Monday 7.30pm 'What does God want to overturn...?'  
7th April Tuesday 7.30pm 'What does God want to reveal...?'

8th April Wednesday 10am Holy Communion 'What does God want to forgive...?'  
9th April Thursday Agape Meal 6pm Minor Hall 'What does God command...?'  
10th April Good Friday 7.30pm 'What does God love...?'  
Easter Sunday 6am Dawn Service. 9am Holy Communion. 10.30am Family Communion with a special treat for our KFC children.

The great Church leader John Wimber once said, "The meeting place is the learning place for the market place." As we pause amongst the noise and busyness of life may we discover more of what God is doing in one another's lives and what God is calling us to be in the days ahead.

Wishing you and your family a very joyful Easter, Paul.

## Killowen (Coleraine)

Rev. Donard Collins

Tel: 028 7034 2629

Email: [killowencoleraine@btinternet.com](mailto:killowencoleraine@btinternet.com)

[www.killowenparishcoleraine.co.uk](http://www.killowenparishcoleraine.co.uk)



*"May we show Christ's love + teach his Word."*

### Teens go Horse-riding

We are thankful for the continuing work among Teens in the church. Over half term, Killowen Teen Girls had a great time together at a local horse-riding centre. Despite the stormy weather, we enjoyed a trek and even learned how to canter! We are so thankful for the opportunity to spend time with the young people in our parish.

### Reading the Bible

We recently completed a three-week series on 'How to read the Bible for ourselves'. Parishioners spent three Monday evenings thinking about how we can better handle God's word. We explored principles of biblical observation, interpretation and application. This was a fruitful time together and encouraged us all in the importance of reading the Bible for ourselves.

### Junior Church

We are thankful for God's on-going help in our children's ministry. We have recently

completed a series on David. We thought about how Jesus is God's chosen, perfect King from David's line and how Jesus has come to rescue his people. The only right response to God's chosen King is to love, trust, serve and obey him. The children have really grasped the concepts of sin, repentance and forgiveness. As we approach Easter we will be learning more about Jesus as King through the eyes of Peter, one of Jesus' closest friends.

### Holy Week and Easter at Killowen Parish

#### Lent Services

Wednesday evenings during Lent at 7.30pm in Killowen Parish Church.

We warmly invite you to join us in our Holy Week and Easter services.

#### Holy Week services

Monday 6th April–Friday 10th April at 7.30pm.

Easter Sunday Services 9am, 11am and 6pm.

### Upcoming events for Seniors

Thursday 7th May 2020 at 2pm  
Dementia Care.

Thursday 4th June 2020 at 9am  
(leaving from Church Hall) Day-away together.

### Men's Group Events

Wednesday 22nd April 2020 at 10am  
(leaving from Church) Hezlett House Guided Tour.

Tuesday 19th May 2020 at 8am  
(leaving from Coleraine Train Station) Day to Lisburn Irish Linen Centre.

Tuesday 16th June 2020 at 8am  
(leaving from Coleraine Train Station) Guided Tour NI Football Ground.

## Castlerock, Dunboe and Fermoyle

Rector - Rev Chris MacBruithin



During Epiphany, we dedicated ourselves to praying for a fresh vision for the parish. On 25th March, we met to share with one another what God has been saying to us about who we are and where we're going. Bishop Andrew has licensed our five new parish readers. McCall Gilfillan, Pamela McIntyre, Debbie Moore, Liz Mullen and Liz Routledge have become part of our ministry team, helping to lead us in prayer and worship. We are so thankful for their willingness to use their gifts in both churches. The Easter holidays are just around the corner, and we are delighted to welcome back many

of our seasonal parishioners. Each afternoon during Holy Week, together with Castlerock Presbyterian Church, we are holding Messy Church as we 'Journey to Jerusalem'. On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week, at 7.30 pm in Christ Church, we look forward to a series of talks on 'The Art of Easter' by local artists, including our own potter McCall Gilfillan and sculptor and painter Sara Cunningham-Bell. This year, Christ Church Castlerock turns 150 years old. To celebrate, we are busy getting ready for the Flower Festival 'Lord, for the Years' on 22nd-24th May. The artistic director is Chelsea

gold-medal winning Elaine Taylor, so it will be quite the spectacle! Speaking of flowers, we're starting to see primroses in the hedgerows around Castlerock and Articlave. In ages past, young men presented these to girls as a sign of first love (primrose being the 'first rose' or 'primula'). They are a good reminder to us to return to our first love (Rev. 2: 4), to the Lord Jesus. And then there's the daffodil - lying in the ground and then bursting forth in its glory. When we see this humble perennial, may it remind us that Christ has risen, and that we can share in his eternal life. Alleluia!





## Drumachose, Limavady

Rev Canon Sam McVeigh    Mobile: 0788 976 9412  
Tel: 028 7776 2680        Email: mcveigh\_family@yahoo.co.uk

### Theme - pictures of Christ through artists

During his Passion, when Christ hung on the cross, five wounds were inflicted upon his body. His hands and feet were pierced by nails and his side was pierced by a lance. From these wounds the precious blood and sacred water was shed. The physical signs of suffering, the wounds of Christ, suggest pain, agony, torment and torture, but yet they are collectively described as glorious, not dirty or infected, not smelly or disgusting, not offensive or awful; but glorious. The wounds of Christ really are glorious and they show us the sufferings Christ bore for our sins. They also demonstrate the pain and agony of the cross and the reason for the Incarnation. Christ became man and died for our sins; and it can be argued that his wounds are our wounds and represent humankind. Christ died for the sins of all and he shows us through his Incarnation the way to the Father. Like Jesus, all of us are wounded

in different ways yet all of us are precious in the eyes of God. Our own wounds, be they physical, mental or emotional can help us unite ourselves to Christ – the wounded one. We live in an imperfect world and we should be sensitive to the wounds of others and continue to become more Christ-like in our thoughts, words and deeds, despite how difficult that can be.

May we all praise and bless the wounds of Christ, because it is by these holy and glorious wounds that we, as God's people, are redeemed and saved. Without the wounds of Christ, his Passion and Death would not have happened and therefore Christ's Resurrection would not have taken place. It is through his Passion and Resurrection that Christ as the Saviour of the world has set us free.

### Services in Christ Church

Palm Sunday - 5th April 2020  
Monday in Holy Week - 6th April 2020  
8.30am Holy Communion 1

10.30am Holy Communion  
11.30am Family Holy Communion 2  
7.30pm Evening Prayer  
6.00pm Evening Prayer

Tuesday in Holy Week - 7th April 2020  
Wednesday in Holy Week - 8th April 2020

10.30am Holy Communion  
10.30am Holy Communion  
7.30pm Evening Prayer  
7.30pm Evening Prayer

Thursday in Holy Week - 9th April 2020  
Good Friday - 10th April 2020

7.30pm Holy Communion  
10.30am Litany and Ante-Communion

7.30pm The Way of the Cross  
Easter Sunday - 12th April 2020  
8.30am Holy Communion 1  
11.30am Holy Communion 2  
6.00pm Holy Communion 1 (Said Service)



## Tamlaghtfinlagan & Myroe

Rev Canon Harold Given Rural Dean  
Tel: 028 7776 2743  
Email: jrgiven77@gmail.com

Having celebrated Holy Communion under the new instructions, I have to confess that I felt it very strange. As I am one of the lovers of the old HC service, we had no problem with not sharing the peace, but receiving in one kind and not shaking hands at the door afterwards was strange and disturbing.

As we have just begun the journey through Lent we are reminded again that we are

going to die and to be prepared to meet our Maker. I cannot help thinking that every night we go to bed and pray "Now I lay me down to sleep, and pray the Lord my soul to keep" and succumb to the little death and awake in the morning to a foretaste of the resurrection with thanksgiving for the gift of a new day.

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame

the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him; grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might now and in all eternity. Amen

Christ is risen... alleluia.

## Balteagh, Carrick, Tamlaghtard and Aghanloo

Vacant

Rural Dean Canon Harold Given

Tel. 02877762743

E. jrgiven77@gmail.com

## Dungiven & Bovevagh

Rev Mark Loney

Tel: 028 7774 1226

Email: rev.loney@btopenworld.com

Mob: 07720 321 283

www.dungivenbovevaghparishes.com



*'Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up' Galatians 6 v 9*  
[www.dungivenbovevaghparishes.com](http://www.dungivenbovevaghparishes.com)

### A Thought for Lent

*Let Your name, not mine, be praised. Let Your work, not mine, be magnified. Let Your holy name be blessed, but let no human praise be given to me. You are my glory. You are the joy of my heart. In You I will glory and rejoice all the day, and for myself I will glory in nothing. All seek their own interests. You, however, place my salvation and my profit first, and turn all things to my good.*  
(Thomas A Kempis)

I have been slowly rereading *The Imitation of Christ* by Thomas A Kempis. It wasn't done with any prelude to Lent in mind. This devotional of 600 years standing is

characterized by an emphasis on the 'interior life' and withdrawing. It is certainly not a one-evening read, but worth the struggle. Indeed it might be as hard to read as the content is to practise. It's the sort of devotional that probably gets better every time you go back to it.

The work emerged during the transition between the Catholic Church of the middle ages and the Reformation. Critics say that A Kempis exalts introspection above evangelism, or has no time for doctrine. I would say he sets out to show that these things in isolation do not make for a complete Christian.

*What good does it do to speak learnedly about the Trinity if, lacking humility, you displease the Trinity? ...I would rather feel contrition than know how to define it. For what would it profit us to know the whole Bible by heart and the*

*principles of all the philosophers if we live without grace and the love of God?*  
(Thomas A Kempis)

Yet there is a time for everything as Ecclesiastes tells us. Times for doctrine, times for reaching out, times for looking in, times for just enjoying God.

The Imitation of Christ helps me recognize my limitations. It reminds me "*Without me, you can do nothing*" (John 15:5). I have licence to seek closeness with God for the sake of God alone, who gives me everything I need.

Poverty of spirit is the key that unlocks the power of the Holy Spirit; who guides us to have pure hearts. I would much rather be striving with that any day.

## Cumber Upper, Cumber Lower, Banagher and Learmount

Rector: Rev David Slater

Tel: 028 7133 8214



## Faughanvale

Rector: Rev Canon Paul Hoey

Tel: 028 7181 2462

Mob: 00447712873322

Email: [dphoey@btinternet.com](mailto:dphoey@btinternet.com)

[www.faughanvale.derry.anglican.org](http://www.faughanvale.derry.anglican.org)



It's almost 10 years since I walked the Camino - 420 miles across N Spain to the wonderful city of Santiago de Compostela. For me, and I discovered many others, it was a journey from brokenness to wholeness. I met so many people along the way who were doing the walk in the hope that it would help them come to terms with loss of various kinds and to overcome various life challenges. Somehow, as we shared our brokenness with each other along the way we did find a degree of healing.

It seems to me that there is a lot of brokenness in our society today and that our churches are not always seen as places for the broken to come and find healing. Perhaps a first step towards changing that perception is having the courage to own our brokenness with each other.

After Jesus' death his disciples were utterly

broken people, devoid of all hope. The news of his risen presence transformed their lives. We don't have to go walking in Spain to find wholeness and hope.

### Some dates for the diary

Palm Sunday 5 April 11am We look forward to Bishop Andrew joining us to dedicate some beautiful new windows in our Parish Room, used for smaller services. The JAM children will take a special part in the service.

Maundy Thursday 9 April 7pm Commemoration of the Institution of Holy Communion at the Last Supper.

Good Friday 10:30am Hot Cross Bun Service - for all, but children especially welcome.

Easter Sunday 7am Dawn Service at the Vale Centre, Greysteel.

11am Easter Eucharist

**Fashion Show** at the White Horse Hotel

Friday 15th May 7:30pm. Clothes for women,

men and children, including bridal wear and mother of the bride wear. Good variety of local shops. Compere - Pauline Hunter. For more information or tickets call 0771287332.

And finally... 5 things you've never heard people saying in church:

- Great! It's MY turn to sit on the front pew this week!
- I was so enthralled, Rector, I never noticed your sermon lasted 40 minutes
- I love it when we sing hymns I've never heard before!
- Since we're all here 15 minutes early, let's start the service now
- Rector, would you mind if we doubled what we give in the collection every week?

## Clooney

Rector - Revd David McBeth

Email: [allsaintscloney@btinternet.com](mailto:allsaintscloney@btinternet.com)



Lent is often known as the season of reflection. Another opportunity for us to reflect on our own Spiritual lives. This year our focus during Lent was "inner renewal". Lent is not a time of discouragement or sorrow but rather a time when we rejoice that God is a God of refreshment, of new life, of new beginnings. And these promises are not empty ones but are full of the power that comes from Christ who comes back to life in the resurrection. Lent provides all of us with an opportunity to deepen our spirituality and renew the discipline of prayer, fasting and almsgiving which lie at the very heart of Christian living.

### Holy Week

We would like to invite parishioners from other churches to join us during Holy Week for our Week of Prayer. The church will be open for prayer from 10am until 8.30pm each day. Each day will begin with a service of Holy Communion at 10.30am, the Laying on of Hands for healing at 3pm and the traditional Holy Week service at 7.30pm. In the church there will be 10 areas laid out retelling Jesus' journey to the Cross. The Children's Easter Holiday Bible Club also takes place during Holy Week, Monday to Wednesday from 1.30pm-4pm.

### 75th VE Day Celebrations

As All Saints Clooney Church is a Garrison Church, several events have been organised for the 75th VE Celebrations. All are welcome.

8th May 75th VE Day Anniversary Celebration Service All Saints Church at 2pm.

8th May 75th VE Anniversary Supper Dance All Saints Centre 7.30pm

9th May 75th VE Anniversary Afternoon High Tea All Saints Centre 2pm with a variety of guest musical performances.

*Continued on page 60...*

Continued from page 59...

10th May Royal Naval Association Battle of the Atlantic Commemoration Service 11am All Saints Church with the Royal Marines Military Band

#### Other planned events

May 22nd Comedy Play and Comedy Night, All Saints Centre

June 13th Coffee Morning at the Rectory 10am -2pm.

July 20th Curtis Magee Concert and variety of guest artists, All Saints Centre 8pm

August 17th -22nd Holiday Bible Club, All Saints Centre

September 6th – 27th Back to Church Month  
September 16th Country Music Night, White Horse Hotel

October 4th Harvest Celebrations at 11am.

Guest Speaker Bishop Andrew Forster

October 11th – Sunday 18th Mission Week.

Guest Speaker Bishop Andrew Forster.

#### Valentines Night Wedding Extravaganza

On Valentines Night the parish hosted a Wedding Extravaganza in Lisneal College. "O WHAT A NIGHT" we had. The school assembly hall was totally transformed into a wedding venue by Ultimate Touches from Dungiven.

20 tables in the hall were all beautifully decorated by those hosting them. 20 wedding dresses dating back to the 1950's right up to the present day were modelled. Our youngest model was 16 and our eldest model was in her 80's. There was a surprise wedding when the bride reluctantly married the groom much to the laughter and enjoyment of all the guests. The night ended with entertainment by Hudson Blue. The Wedding Extravaganza raised over £3000 for the Extension Fund.

## Glendermott & New Buildings

Rector - Rev. Robert Boyd

Tel: 028 7134 3001



We have been travelling through the Lenten period looking at the work of God in the life of Jonah during our mid-week services. These services will lead us into Holy Week when we will look at the Cross through the eyes of Jesus.

Holy Week services will take place on: Tuesday 7th April at 7.30pm in Newbuildings

Wednesday 8th April at 7.30pm in Glendermott

Maundy Thursday - 10.30am Holy Communion in Glendermott  
7.30pm in Newbuildings

Good Friday 10th April 7.30pm in Glendermott

As a parish we have said goodbye to the Revd. Nigel Cairns as Curate. Nigel was

a real blessing to the parish during his time with us and we were blessed by his ministry. We had a farewell event for Nigel and the family in the Canon Kelly Hall on Sunday 9th February when gifts were given to him and his family. We wish Nigel, Alison Megan and Matthew every blessing in their new roles in St. Augustine's.

The Easter General Vestry meeting will be held in the Moore Hall on Thursday 2nd April at 7.45pm. We welcome parishioners to come along to this important meeting at which a new Select Vestry will be elected along with various office holders. We pay tribute to all who have worked so hard in various roles over the past year and we thank them for their welcome ministry amongst us.

Recently we reopened the Scout Group within the parish. At present the Beavers are meeting on a Friday night 6.30 – 7.45pm in the Parish hall and we are in the process of

opening the Cub Pack after Easter. We are of course not only looking for young people, but also leaders to help us deliver the programme. All help will be grateful received. Have a word with the Rector if you are in a position to help out. We congratulate our former Scout Leader and parishioner, Trevor Blair who was awarded a Silver Wolf for his long service to Scouting within the County.

As we travel through this time of reflection during Lent and Holy Week we look forward to celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday morning. May you all have a blessed Easter Season.



## Templemore, Derry Cathedral

Dean Raymond Stewart

Tel: 028 7126 2746

Email: deanofderry@stcolumbs.net



The Rev Canon John Merrick

Pastoral Assistant



### Holy Week and Easter in Saint Columb's Cathedral

Sunday 5th April The Sixth Sunday in Lent / Palm Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion (Order One)

11.00am The Passion of our Lord - A Liturgy of Readings, Hymns and Anthems for Palm Sunday

4.00pm Choral Evensong

Monday 6th April Monday in Holy Week

7.45am Holy Communion (Order One)

10.30am Morning Prayer

7.30pm An Order for Compline

Tuesday 7th April Tuesday in Holy Week

7.45am Holy Communion (Order One)

10.30am Holy Communion (Order Two)

7.30pm An Order for Compline  
Wednesday 8th April Wednesday in Holy Week

7.45am Holy Communion (Order One)

10.30am Morning Prayer

7.30pm A Ministry of Healing Service

Thursday 9th April Maundy Thursday

10.30am Morning Prayer

7.30pm Sung Eucharist of The Last Supper

Friday 10th April

Good Friday 10.30am The Litany

2.00pm 'An Hour at the Cross' - Meditations on the Passion of our Lord

3.30pm Readings and Prayers at the graves

of Archbishop William and Mrs Cecil Frances Alexander at the City Cemetery

7.30pm A Liturgy of Hymns, Anthems and Readings on the Passion and Death of our Lord

Saturday 11th April Easter Eve

10.30am The Litany and Ante Communion

Sunday 12th April Easter Day / The First Sunday of Easter

8.00am Holy Communion (Order One) with hymns

11.00am Festival Choral Eucharist

(Order Two)

The Presiding Minister and Preacher Right Reverend Andrew Forster, Bishop of Derry and Raphoe

4.00pm Festival Choral Evensong.

### A Prayer in the Time of the Coronavirus

**Almighty and All-loving God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
we pray to you through Christ the Healer  
for those who suffer from the Coronavirus  
Covid-19 in Ireland and across the world.**

**We pray too for all who reach out to those who  
mourn the loss of each and every person who  
has died as a result of contracting the disease.  
Give wisdom to policymakers, skill to healthcare  
professionals and researchers, comfort to everyone  
in distress and a sense of calm to us all in these  
days of uncertainty and distress.**

**This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our  
Lord who showed compassion to the outcast,  
acceptance to the rejected and love to those to  
whom no love was shown.**

**Amen.**

**Archbishop Michael Jackson  
Dublin & Glendalough**



And finally...

# there's music in the air...



**The acclaimed musical trio, The Priests, brought the curtain down - metaphorically - on a triumphant day of musical celebration marking the formal launch of St Columb's School of Music in Londonderry last month.**

The school, at No. 1 St Columb's Court, in the shadow of St Columb's Cathedral, is the brainchild of two former choristers, Nicky Morton and Louis Fields, who want to give young musicians in the North West the same chance they had to follow a career they love.

Hundreds of music lovers and supporters of the School defied Storm Ciara, on Saturday 8th February, to attend the two concerts in the Cathedral which launched

the School of Music formally, and in style, showcasing emerging young local talent alongside established, 'big name' performers. The occasion prompted a return to the Cathedral by Nicky's parents, the former Dean of Derry, Very Rev'd William Morton, and Mrs Rosemary Morton.

The lunchtime concert saw the young vocalists and instrumentalists of the Foyle College Jazz Band perform on their own and then alongside one of Ireland's most accomplished jazz pianists, Scott Flanigan, on a specially erected stage at the front of the church.

The evening gala concert was opened by last year's BBC Northern Ireland School Choir of the Year, the Thornhill College Chamber Choir. They were followed by the renowned pianist Ruth McGinley, who performed a number of solo pieces, before accompanying the Derry-born tenor George Hutton, and finally The Priests on a variety of sacred and popular pieces, as well as ballads.

Louis and Nicky say the new school will give all young musicians in the local community an opportunity to develop their skills under the watchful eye of some of the region's best teachers. "This is a great time to be interested in music," they said, "and an even better time to be learning it." The

school already has a significant outreach programme and aims to provide "a dynamic and supportive environment" in which young musicians will be able to discover their talents and flourish.

The two friends say the school, which opened last June, builds on the legacy of UK City of Culture 2013. "Being an integral part of the community, we have worked with schools, colleges, cathedrals and churches, giving us a unique understanding of the needs, the communities and the culture in the city. This was done individually as private music teachers. Since then, we have opened our doors as an official enterprise and a single musical entity.

"Our School of Music is an opportunity to expand the amount of musical learning and teaching in the city and further afield. Our doors are open to anyone and everyone, whatever their age or denomination, and there are no special requirements to join."

The School's founders will also be adding new dates to the local arts calendar. The School, which is self-funded, will be running three concerts a year: one at Christmas, featuring local choirs and the school tutors; an annual gala concert with guest artists and international musicians; and a final concert featuring the school's own students.

*Paul McFadden*



Thornhill College Choir

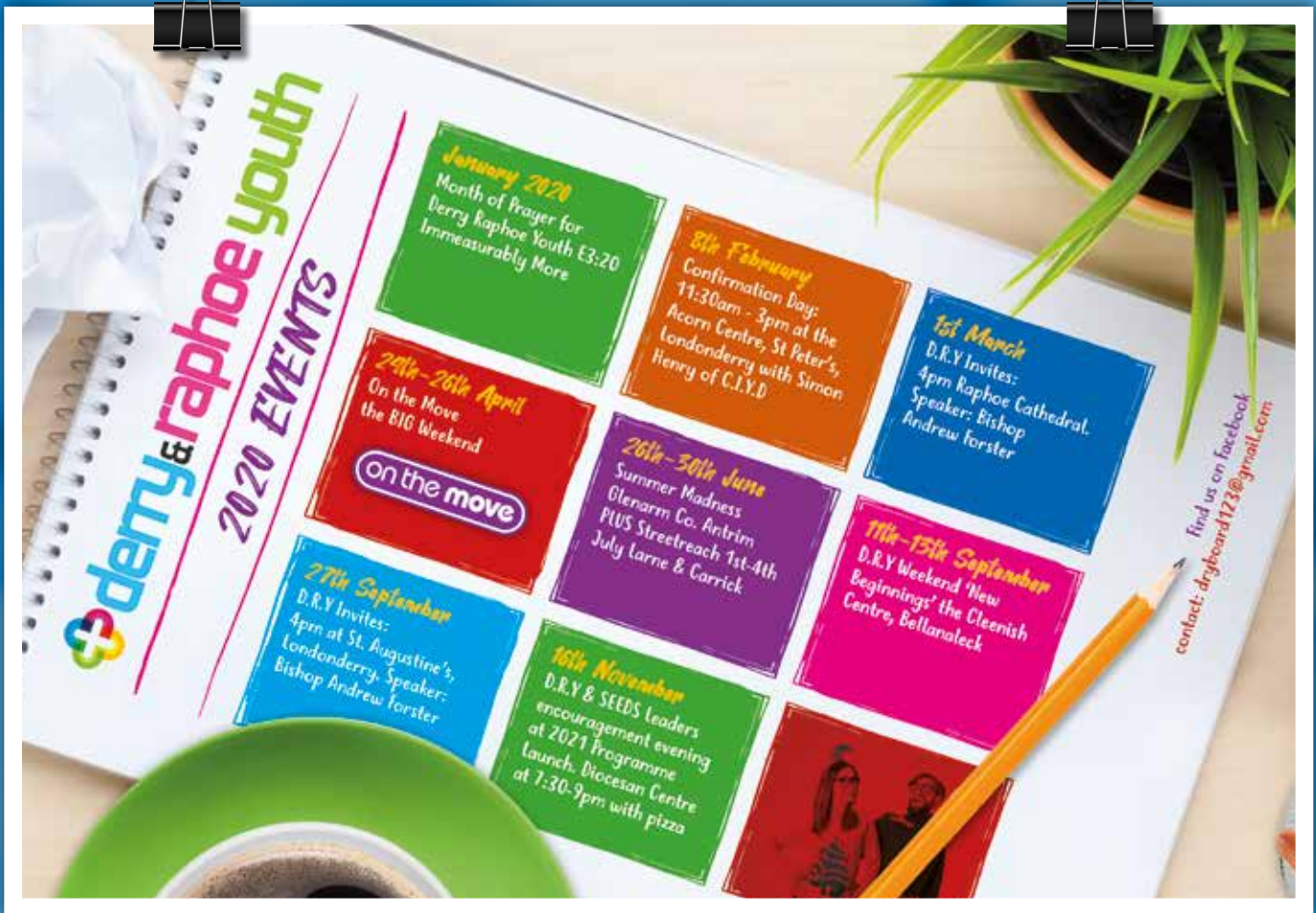


Foyle College Jazz Band



Nicky Morton (L) and Louis Fields (R)

Photographs by  
Martin McKeown



**n:vision Magazine**, Diocesan Centre, 24 London Street, Londonderry BT48 6RQ

Articles must be with the editor no later than **12noon on Wednesday 27th May 2020.**

Editor: [kmcateer51@gmail.com](mailto:kmcateer51@gmail.com) or c/o The Diocesan Centre, London Street, Londonderry BT48 6RQ

Parish notes must be with the assistant editor no later than **12noon on Wednesday 3rd June 2020.**

Assistant editor: [revpaul07@btinternet.com](mailto:revpaul07@btinternet.com)

**THE DEADLINE IS NON-NEGOTIABLE**

Magazines will be available for collection on **Friday 26th June 2020.**

*Disclaimer: Views expressed in n:vision may not be those of the Church of Ireland, the Editor, or the Diocesan Communications Team.*

