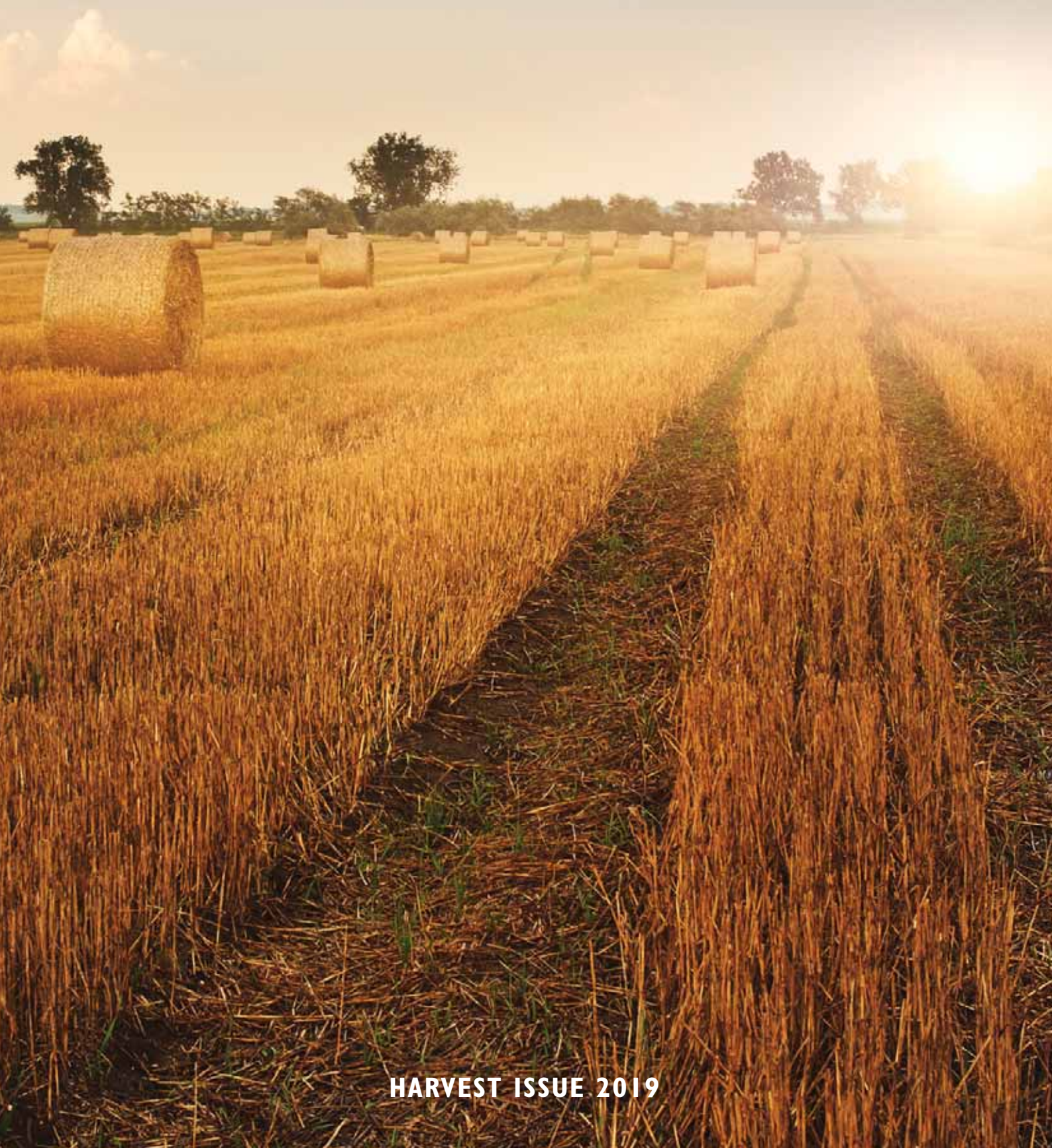




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DIOCESE OF TUAM, KILLALA AND ACHONRY



HARVEST ISSUE 2019



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tidings

HARVEST ISSUE 2019

The magazine of the Church of Ireland
Diocese of Tuam, Killala and Achonry

www.tuam.anglican.org

COPY DEADLINE

All submissions for the Summer Issue of Tidings, including advertisements, must be in by **8th November 2019**

VIEWS EXPRESSED

Views expressed in Tidings are those of the contributors and are not necessarily the views of the Editor or the magazine committee.

DIOCESAN MAGAZINE

All advertising enquiries should be directed to: Mitch Commane
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DESIGN & PRINTING

Design: Amanda Moore Design
Printing: KPS Colourprint Ltd
Knock, Co. Mayo



THE BISHOP WRITES . . .



The implications of Brexit, whether deal or no-deal, are dominating the news at present. One-hundred-and-fifty years ago, the all-important issue of the day was not Brexit, but Disestablishment – the Disestablishment of the Church of Ireland.

The 26th of July marked the 150th anniversary of the giving of Royal Assent to the Irish Church Act. Its importance was that it would bring about the separation of the Church of Ireland from the State and the Established Church of England. The Act was passed in the first government of Prime Minister William Gladstone who, in his efforts to draw in the majority Catholic community, had made Disestablishment an important part of his election manifesto. It came into force on 1st January 1871.

The new legislation meant the Church of Ireland could no longer collect tithes from Irish people. Other annuities, rents, fees and revenues would also no longer be paid. Representation of the Irish bishops as Lords Spiritual to the House of Lords at Westminster would end and effectively, the Protestant Ascendancy culture which had dominated Ireland for centuries would be dismantled.

Naturally enough, Church of Ireland members, from Archbishops down, were outraged – they feared the end had come. How would the Church of Ireland survive? The Church would effectively have to start with a new Constitution, a new General Synod, a new administrative and governance body.

But survive it did and, after a few turbulent years, the Church of Ireland emerged stronger for its' new independent status. To a large degree, it was unburdened of much of its surplus wealth and property. It was liberated and freed up to concentrate on the important priorities and over the intervening years it has changed further, responding to the needs of the day, yet always maintaining its traditional ethos and beliefs.

Perhaps as we look back at this time, and reflect on the faith, courage and generosity of our forebears, we might take hope. Discouraging as the future may seem in the political sphere, but also in Church life and perhaps even in our own individual lives, often the reality can be quite different. So, take heart and go forward in faith!

And on a parochial level, the Aughaval Group will become vacant on 30th September as Canon Val Rogers retires after ten years in post. I take this opportunity to pay tribute to him and his ministry among the parishioners of his four parishes. Aply and loyally assisted by Josie, they have become well-known figures in the Westport community. They will not be too far away based at their retirement home in Newport and I wish them every blessing for a long and happy retirement together.

+Patrick



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SEPTEMBER

Mon 30th Senior Clergy Meeting, Bishop's House, Castlebar, 10.30am

OCTOBER

Sun 6th Service in Claremorris, 12noon

Mon 7th Wednesday 9th Clergy Conference, Adare

Sun 13th GFS Enrolment Service, St Michael's Ballina 11.30am

Thurs 24th Diocesan Glebes Committee Meeting, Bishop's House, 10.30am

Thurs 24th Diocesan Finance Committee Meeting, Bishop's House, 12noon



NOVEMBER

Sun 3rd Service in Claremorris, 12noon

Thurs 7th Diocesan Council Meeting, Claremorris, 2pm

Thurs 7th Diocesan Board of Education, Claremorris, 4pm

Fri 8th Diocesan Schools' Service, Tuam, 11.30pm

Mon 18th RB Week, Dublin

Sat 23rd Service in St Patrick's Cathedral to mark the start of Disestablishment



DECEMBER

Sun 1st Service in Claremorris, 12noon

Sun 1st Diocesan Advent Carol Service, Killala, 4pm

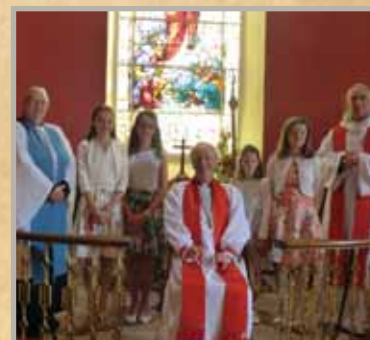
Sun 1st Galway Advent Procession and Service, St Nicholas' Galway, 5pm

Sat 7th Galway Christmas fayre, St Nicholas' Church 11am

Wed 11th RB Meeting, Dublin, 2pm

Sun 15th St Paul's NS Nativity Service, Collooney, 4pm

Sun 22nd Galway Civic Carol Service, St Nicholas' Galway, 4pm





DIOCESAN ORDINATIONS IN TUAM SEPTEMBER 15TH 2019

A great crowd (I have never seen the cathedral so full) came together to witness the ordination to the diaconate of Maebh O'Herlihy, Carole Reynolds and Karen Duigan whose biographies are given on the next page. Presiding was our bishop, Rt. Revd Patrick Rooke. The Revd Canon Dr. Maurice Elliot, Director of the Church of Ireland Theological Institute was the guest preacher. Diocesan clergy, readers and ordinands were also in attendance along with clergy from other denominations, many from the candidates' home parishes and people from all over the diocese.

The service was a wonderful celebration, not only for the newly ordained but for the diocese as a whole and we welcome Karen, Maebh and Carole to their new roles.

A very big thank you goes to all who provided the refreshments after the service and especially to the team at St Mary's who, as usual, were wonderful hosts.



DIOCESAN ORDINATIONS

Carole Reynolds



Carole was born in Dublin, the youngest of three children. On leaving school she trained as a dental nurse. She married Michael in 1981 and they have three children, Sam, 36, Emma, 33, and Phillip, 31. At present Sam and Emma are living in New Zealand

and Phillip lives in Kent, England.

At present, Carole is employed by National Parks and Wildlife Service in Connemara National Park, Letterfrack as Education Officer. Her job involves travelling to primary schools in Galway and Mayo informing them about all aspects of our natural biodiversity, Irish mammals, birds, butterflies etc. During the summer months when the schools are closed, she runs children's activities in the park and also takes guided bogland walks.

In 2014, Carole became a member of the select Vestry in St. Mary's, Roundstone and was commissioned as a Diocesan Reader in May 2017.

Maebh O'Herlihy



I was born and educated in Dublin and moved to Brussels, Belgium in 1973 and lived there for twenty one years. My daughter, son and grandson still live in Brussels. While there I studied Theology and Catechetics in Louvain University and was R.E. teacher in the European

Schools. I was also one of the early parishioners in a newly planted English speaking community which in turn was part of a group of nine ecumenical Christian churches working together. I completed further studies in Psychology and Counselling in Belgium and the UK and was a Counsellor in the European Schools. While in Brussels I was involved in the

Direction of Retreats, training of Sunday School teachers, and the Healing Ministry of the Church. In addition, I was President of the English speaking World Day of Prayer Committee and European President of a world-wide Alumnae Association working in the area of human rights in many countries. I returned to Ireland and have lived on Achill Island for the past nineteen years. Since moving here I joined the TKA Diocese of the Church of Ireland and have completed further studies in Theology, in Galway, St. John's College, Nottingham, Church of Ireland Theological Institute and Edgehill College/Queens University. I was a licenced Diocesan reader and am now an ordained deacon co-ordinating our Centre of Spirituality, The Sacred Path.

Karen Duigan



I have been married to Liam for 23 years and have two daughters – one just finished in college and the other just starting. I farm a small herd of Angus cattle and am also a part-time secretary.

I accidentally became a Parish Reader about 10 years ago when one Sunday morning nobody turned up to take the service and it seemed like a good idea at the time. But once I came under the eye of the then Bishop Richard Henderson there was no escape for me! I trained as a Diocesan Reader, being one of the first under the new training course run by the Church of Ireland Theological College and an English university.

I've enjoyed travelling for the past number of years meeting people in all the different parishes and helping wherever I've been needed. It has been 'fun' and I sincerely hope it will continue to be.

I've reached ordination in a very roundabout way but I believe God has a sense of humour and my ordination is the culmination of a lot of pushing and prodding by Him. I've listened and am happy to put the rest of my life doing what He has asked me to do.

TKA DIOCESAN ALTERNATIVE PATHWAYS

As a diocese we have been pursuing the idea of Fresh Expressions of church which we have termed 'Alternative Pathways' for the last couple of years and much progress has been made since we began the journey along with the dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough and Connor.

We have succeeded in producing the DVD 'Within and Without' which shows some of the good things happening in our diocese. The longer version (40mins) was shown at Diocesan Synod and since then a shortened version (15mins) has been produced for use in the parishes and should be doing the rounds over the summer.

In addition, we have begun our Centre for Spirituality, 'The Sacred Path' under the guidance of Maebh O'Herlihy who is organising retreats and quiet days for people from around the globe.

Our final goal was to have an 'alternative pathway' in every church within three years. In order to facilitate this we produced a leaflet which was distributed at Synod, the details of which are on our diocesan website. As a consequence, we asked parishes to tell us what they do that is somewhat different from the norm and these were broken down into events (things that happened periodically), initiatives (things that happened more regularly and not always on a Sunday) and networks (things where people from different parishes, groups and unions come together). Below are just a few highlights (the extensive but not exhaustive list can be found on our website) with some explanation if necessary.

We encourage you all to have a go at something, it may work, it may not, but have a go and find out what does work!

Events

Flower festivals

Community Barbeques and eating together in general

Blue Christmas – a service for those who find Christmas difficult

Commemoration of Funerals – giving those who have been bereaved an opportunity to remember them and engage with the church once again.

Concerts, music festivals and other cultural events that bring in the wider community

Initiatives

Messy Church – church for all the family, activity, craft and food

Knitting Group – bringing people together with a mutual interest

Culture Club – finding out what people like and are moved by in film, literature and music

The Sacred Path – our centre for spirituality

Ecology Group – bringing people together to care for and sustain God's creation

Networks

Churches Together in Ballina Projects – an ecumenical way of taking church to the community

Ordained Local Ministry – raising up people to serve the church locally

Mother's Union – a local, diocesan, national and international well established network



MOTHERS' UNION DIOCESAN NEWS

All Ireland plans are in place to produce a Mothers' Union cookery book which will raise funds for the organization. The idea is that recipes will be collected from members and they will be professionally presented and published in a cookery book to include some short devotions, poems, graces and quotations from scripture. It is intended that the books will be sold at approx. €5 per copy and that they will be launched at the Triennial Training Conference next March. A sub-group has been formed to review the submissions and even perhaps test some of the recipes!

Each diocese is asked to provide for consideration for inclusion in the cookery book:

Fifteen recipes – five each of starters, main courses and desserts;

Each recipe submitted should be accompanied by a photograph of the finished dish – this should be presented attractively and the photograph of good quality (easy these days with cameras on most phones!).

Each must be “tried and tested” by and preferably originate from a member – an entire recipe must not be taken from any other source (that would be breach of copyright!)

The intention to include some Irish recipes has been expressed and also some vegetarian and vegan recipes.

TKA's 15 recipes and good quality photographs should be submitted to the MU office at St Michan's, Church Street, Dublin 7 no later than 31 October.

In the meantime please contact your branch leader for more information. Interested members are invited and encouraged to submit their individual recipes for consideration.

Some members will be looking forward to the “Getaway Weekend” 18th/19th October at Armagh City Hotel. Please check with Mary Bourke
Tel no: 086 3800085 for any availability.

A meeting of the MU Diocesan Council is scheduled for Saturday 9th November, in the Parish Centre, Castlebar, 10.30am

The 16 Days of Activism Event (against Domestic Violence, in all its forms) will be held at The Parish Centre, Castlebar on 23rd November, 10am-1pm. Note, it is planned that this event will include information on the work of Mothers' Union Worldwide.

“And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work”
(2nd Corinthians 9 v 8)

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BALLINA CHURCHES TOGETHER

Ballina Centre of Mission

bctballina@gmail.com

Tel: Emma Rodrigues 087 4347612



The BCT bucket collection on the 21st June in Ballina town saw approximately 12 BCT volunteers and committee members collecting for the day outside the shops. We raised a magnificent €1660. We had the bus parked in the centre of town and had many visitors for cups of tea and biscuits. This all happened the same day the Rank Trust from the UK came to see the project. They were impressed with the bus and our work.

The little white box for the Big Blue Bus appeal raised over €3000, we are still receiving boxes back for this. Thank you to all who helped and have supported us.

On June 27th Marian attended the Irish Council of Churches - Irish Inter-Church Meeting at Benburb Priory, near Armagh. It was very informative and was good to make new connections and to share about the bus outreach and our work in Ballina.

We were invited to forogies 'band in the stand' on the 13th of July this is forogies largest musical festival in the West of Ireland. However, due to our church army training and my (Emma) commissioning and volunteers away, we couldn't go. We do hope we get invited for next year!

The 16th of July was my commissioning service in Sheffield into the office of Evangelist in the Church of England. I was commissioned by the Bishop of Dorking



Jo Bailey Wells. It was a very joyful occasion with family, colleagues and friends following two years of study in Sheffield. As I (Emma) finish my travels to Sheffield, my husband Robson will start his training as an evangelist in training with Church Army along with Dylan (Marian's son). They both begin on the 19th September in Sheffield.

The bus outreach has been busy over the summer through our work in Millview and Greenhills estates. We were recently invited to Oaklawns estate on the Killala road by a traveller family who attend the bus during weekend 'drop in' times.





We took part in the Crossmolina festival on 18th of July. This was our first time invited for this event. We had lots of visitors on the bus for the evening up until 11pm.

Our weekend 'drop in' times at Penney's car park has grown in number over the summer. We are seeing more men and women visit regularly, who enjoy the hymn singing and banter on the bus. One man said he prefers to come to the bus than go to the pub because we listen and talk to him, he feels part of something.

The work with Syrian community in Ballina is ongoing. Marian with a BCT volunteer has been visiting and encouraging a Syrian family to integrate more into the community.

Our prayer group and bible study groups have started again after the summer and Marian's pastoral visiting with the foodbank and St Vincent de Paul.

There will be 9 of us attending the Alpha training day in Longford on the 7th September in preparation for the Alpha.

Ballina Churches Together is running an Alpha course at St Mary's Secondary school Ballina, beginning on Thursday 26th September 2019 (10 weeks) but just come along any Thursday. The meal is included and everything is totally free. For catering purposes, please indicate if you plan to attend, either by email or text - Thank you!

bctballina@gmail.com or call Emma: 087 434 7612
Emma Rodrigues and Marian Edwards



Editor's request ...

If you enjoy TIDINGS then we would be most grateful if you would consider making a modest contribution towards our production costs. I am pleased to say that our advertising revenue goes a long way to covering these overheads but if you feel you could help then please send a cheque payable to TIDINGS MAGAZINE to me c/o The Rectory, Ballisodare, Co. Sligo, F91 K525 or make an online donation to:

TIDINGS MAGAZINE IBAN: IE97 BOFI 9037 7962 3565 04
Many thanks – Revd Dr. Andrew Ison - Editor



TKA YOUTH

A group of 7 young people from the Dioceses of Tuam, Killala and Achonry recently travelled to Inverness as the first stage of a youth exchange. TKA is linked to the United Diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness in the Scottish Episcopal Church and this exchange was part of the strengthening of this link. The young people flew from Dublin to Inverness and stayed at The Steading, a diocesan building which stands in the back garden of the Bishop's house! He was a most gracious host, and the youth team in the diocese there had worked hard to ensure our trip was successful, engaging and fun.

We spent our time together learning about each other's cultures and churches and exploring the ways in which we are the same and ways in which we are different, both in our rural context and in our church context. The two dioceses have much in common geographically and it was good to share the frustrations, and also the strengths which our particular situation can bring. We visited the Highland Folk Museum, the battlefield at Culloden and Inverness Cathedral, where the combined group of young people led worship. We also found time to have fun with highland games and a trip to the local go-karting track.

The young people thoroughly enjoyed themselves and all have said that they learnt a lot during their time there. There is no doubt that new friendships were formed, both amongst the young people and the leaders, with plans for a return trip from the Scottish contingent in the near future.



Below are some of the comments from the young people who went on the trip:

Thank you so much for bringing us on this trip it was an amazing experience. I really enjoyed the trip, the food was delicious and the day trips were great especially the go karting! I learned so much about Scottish culture and history and it was lovely to meet



people with similar beliefs as us in other countries and I hope I can see them again in the future. Sarah Clarke



The travel was quite good, the plane being small was memorable. The food was also very nice and it was accommodating of Jane [the Bishop's wife] to cook for us every day. The visit to the Highland Folk Park was a good way at the beginning of the trip to highlight the similarities between the Irish people and Scottish people. To be honest, the Culloden battlefield visit was the best bit as there was so much history. The karting was also very good and a nice way to round off the trip. The service in the cathedral in Inverness was also pretty good. The leaders from both countries were all overwhelmingly nice and friendly and it was just great to meet some young people who are in a diocese with similar problems to ours. Jacob Craig

I really enjoyed the trip to Inverness it gave me a chance to meet new people with similar beliefs as me it also was a chance to travel to a different country and experience the culture. Lewis Craig

I thought the trip was a great experience. I felt that I learnt a lot about the Scottish culture and about their religion. It was great to meet new leaders and new friends that are the same age as us. Overall I enjoyed my time in Scotland and learnt a lot over the few days. Grace Hodgins

I found the trip to Scotland very interesting learning about our different cultures and the similarities we have. I enjoyed getting to know the Scottish people and learning about the history of the area that we stayed in. Siobhan Hodgins



I enjoyed the trip overall. It was God to meet up with people from the youth group. The leaders and participants were all very friendly and helpful. The karting was great fun and got very competitive. It was nice to see the culture of the Scottish people and their food was somewhat strange to start off, but we got used to it. It was a good trip overall and I would encourage others to go on another trip like this one. Gary Moore

I personally thought the Inverness trip was brilliant because I made a lot of new friends and learnt how to bond with people from other parishes that I didn't



know. I learnt that bonding with new people is a challenge but if you all work together as a group it makes things a lot easier. I really enjoyed spending my few days in Inverness with my own friends along with making new friends along the way. I really enjoyed the fun I had with my leaders as well they were very down to earth and they were always there if you needed someone to talk to. Thank for giving me the opportunity to attend the trip with you. David Taylor

Date for the diary

Schools service - Friday 8th November at 11.30am
Speaker: Anthony Njoroge from Nairobi Cathedral

KAJIADO DIOCESE IN KENYA

Oltiasika Ground Water Tanks Roofing Project

Ronnie Briggs of CMS has informed us that the concrete roof on Tank 2 has now been completed, and that work on Tank 3 is about to begin.



He writes, "We will be going to Oltiasika shortly to remove the support posts and formwork from the tank and carry out the final pieces of work, and that will be it completely complete! We may not get the rains this season but hopefully we'll be ready for the next lot. After these rains are over we will begin the process for the third and last tank. This has been a very successful project and the impact will remain there for many years to come."

We are very grateful to all who have contributed funds to this project, and not least to the Diocese of Tuam, Killala and Achonry. Please continue to pray for the blessing of rain as many parts of the Diocese are suffering severe drought again.

Other updates & prayer requests:

1. Visitors and visas: Please pray for the Bishop of Kajiado - Gaddiel Lenini (right) – and another partner from Kenya - Antony Njoroge (Youth and Community Leader connected to UDP, Nairobi) - who are both applying for visas to visit Ireland/N Ireland in September. Bishop Gaddiel is hoping to come for 1 month - based at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute in Dublin - for sabbatical



studies. Antony is coming for a 3-month placement (funded by the Bishops' Appeal Harman Scholarship) & hopes to be based in a number of UDP link parishes. Antony's application, however, is currently 7 weeks behind schedule due to repeated delays with his passport. Bishop Gadiel has accepted an invitation to speak at the TKA Diocesan Synod in Tuam on Saturday 21st September and in St Nicholas' Galway the following day. Subject to his arrival, Antony will speak at the Annual Schools' Service, also in St Mary's Cathedral in Tuam on Friday 8th November at 11.30am. It is hoped that both gentlemen will also be speaking at Ignite (see below) – why not come along and meet them?

2. CMSI annual Ignite conference held on Friday 13th and Saturday 14th September in Dromantine, Newry – a brilliant event with about 150 attending on the Saturday (around 50 usually come for the Friday night as well & stay over). There will be a chance to meet & hear from Bishop Gaddiel & Antony.
3. Pray for Maggie Briggs as she is still recovering from the back injury she sustained in the car accident last year. Give thanks for the large Limavady Grammar School Team who visited from 28 June – 16 July. Pray for the team as they visit Oloosuyian Girls Secondary School for fellowship, sharing and to help with a new Kitchen/Dining Room building project.
4. Pray for three major Diocesan commissioning days over July and August - the Kenya Anglican Men's Association, the Mothers' Union and the Kenya Anglican Youth Association. Each commissioning day forms the climax of a week-long programme of activities.
5. Pray for Ronnie & Maggie as they prepare to come back to Northern Ireland later in the year, that the right time for this would become clear. Pray for Ven. Naftaly Lemooke (Department of Development Coordinator) as he balances this role with his new position as Vicar of Holy Trinity Parish Kitengela – a large congregation of 600. Pray for Rev Paul Dukai who has been appointed to assist Naftaly as Planning & Development Department Programme Officer.

Roger Thompson
(Partnership Coordinator for Kenya, Nepal & Zambia)
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GALWAY CHOIR TRIP

It was in the early hours of Wednesday morning, after the festivities of Eastertide, when the Parish Choir and several guest singers took to the air in a skein of airlines bound for the majestic and ancient city of Istanbul. Arriving at our destination, choir robes and all, we commenced a several-day visit rich in history, culture, cuisine and plenty of merriment.

Of course, it was not all about sight-seeing, shopping, and dining. We had been invited to sing at the beautiful and serenely-located Crimea Memorial Church, or Christ Church Istanbul. The church whose fair façade is matched by an equally decorative and colourful interior was constructed between 1858 and 1868 to commemorate those who died serving in the British forces during the Crimean War. Having remarkably



survived the many changes that Istanbul and Turkey would undergo in the subsequent century the church became moribund in the 1980s but reopened its doors in the early 1990s with the support of Tamil refugees who sought shelter there. It is now under the chaplaincy of the Reverend Canon Ian Sherwood who works tirelessly and ceaselessly to ensure its survival,

both as a place of worship and as a place of refuge. Indeed, the hospitality and warmth shown to us by Fr Sherwood, and the somewhat Edenic church grounds and vicarage, will, I'm sure, be a lasting and cherished memory for many if not all of us.

It was in such tranquil and amiable conditions that we set to work rehearsing for the Saturday evening's concert and the Sunday morning service, helped along it must be noted by the vicarage cockerel and several feline participants. The concert, spanning the liturgical year from Advent to Easter and including music from Dubra, Guerrero, Howells, and many more, was a positive success and thoroughly enjoyed by all who came to listen. The Sunday service was also very well received, not least by the choir who were treated to a beautiful display of incense and liturgical singing in the style of high Anglicanism.

We would like to express our greatest gratitude to all those who helped make this trip possible; to Bridget-Ann Walsh for the hard work and time she invested in organising accommodation and travel, to Brian Thornton for getting us safely to our accommodation, to Dottie Knauer for ensuring we never got lost, to Maria Tuohy and Finn Garvey for being so kind in transporting the choir robes, to Maureen Rabbitt who produced stylish little bags for our robes, to the Select Vestry for their financial and clerical support, and of course to the choir and its director Mark Duley for their dedication, enthusiasm, and passion. Finally, we would like to sincerely thank Fr Ian Sherwood and the community of the Crimean Memorial Church for their support and hospitality.



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PARISH NEWS



ACHONRY GROUP

St Crumnath's Cathedral, Achonry
St George's, Tubbercurry
Rathbarron

Priest in charge: Revd. Peter Norman
Tel: 071 9181685

E-mail: peternorman1959@gmail.com

Whilst many of us wonder where the summer has gone or if we blinked and it passed us by, the autumn has crept up on us with colder mornings and the evenings beginning to noticeably draw in. It is that time of year when we think about Harvest Festivals. With the changing climate and weather patterns becoming more unpredictable bringing in the Harvest may well become more challenging. Whilst giving thanks for the produce we have we can pray too that the human race will do more to look after the very planet on whose survival we depend. Harvest reminds us that we work in partnership with God; that we are stewards of creation; that we have a responsibility towards future generations to care for what God has created.

August was a busy month. The first Sunday saw the Sunday School children at Rathbarron taking part in the service by reading lessons and reading the prayers –

and very good at reading they were too. Each child was also presented with a book appropriate to their age.



Back in August we had a service of Confirmation in Rathbarron where four of our young people were confirmed by Bishop Patrick – two from each of our churches. This was a very good and happy occasion with refreshments afterwards. Two of the candidates read the lessons and the other two were involved in bringing up the bread, water and wine to the altar during the offertory hymn.



The two new glass cruets used were then blessed by the Bishop as they had been given in memory of the late Doris Clarke (a faithful member of Rathbarron church) and one of them was carried up by her granddaughter Karen alongside the two candidates for confirmation.

If you're not familiar with the bread and wine being brought up to the altar then its' significance lies in the fact that these gifts represent our lives and our work. In some liturgies this is expressed by prayers which refer to these gifts as that 'which earth has given and human hands have made' (of the bread) and 'fruit of the vine and work of human hands' (of the wine). The bread and wine through the action of the Eucharist are transformed into the body and blood of Christ whose life we receive in this sacrament. Our lives are united with the life of Christ, given back and taken out into the world. The water added to the wine also symbolises the coming together of our life and the life of Christ as well as being a reminder of the water and blood which flowed from the side of Christ as he hung on the Cross.

On the Sunday following the confirmation, Tubbercurry held a BBQ in the old school room and grounds of the church. Despite the threat of bad weather all went well and the rain held off until later in the afternoon. The food, as always, was well prepared and there was plenty of it so no-one went home hungry. Many thanks to all involved in the hard work that events like this demand if they are to be a success.

Finally, our prayers and best wishes to Karen Duignan who by the time you read this will have been ordained deacon. Karen has been a faithful member of Rathbarron church as well as a diocesan reader. We hope to still see her from time to time in Rathbarron as and when her new duties as a curate allow.



AUGHAVAL GROUP

Holy Trinity, Westport
Christ Church, Castlebar
Turlough
St Thomas', Dugort
Rector: Canon Val Rogers
Tel: 098 25127

The wheel of life has kept turning in its ordinary, special and primal ways since Tidings' last issue:

Items from the remarkable ordinary

Understated loving: Let every parish officer, volunteer and assistant, please step forward for a bow and a flourish of trumpets for steady and gifted service of God in His people. It all goes on so reliably, loyally and modestly.

Mid-West Radio Service: Marguerite and Nick, Richard, Helen, Archie and myself, together with several organs, orchestras and choirs, squeezed into MW's studio in August for a joyful Holy Communion.

Craftsman's art and music's measure:



Eoin and Edith Rohu gave Holy Trinity a piano when moving to Canada last year. After the tuner's magic, how sweet was Michele Gill's music on it for our hymns recently! And while on music, don't forget the Westival concerts of October 25th, 26th and 27th.

Westport workers at rest: Jim, Kathleen, Steve & Tom

Events we

must say were special –

Maebh O'Herlihy's ordination: Easily the most special event for Achill and our entire group recently was Maebh's OLM ordination as deacon. We are thrilled and proud, and will support her life and ministry strongly in prayer and affection. God bless Karen and Carole too, her dear classmates.

Thanksgiving and farewells

My last services as rector came wrapped within our harvest services this year.

My retirement letter to Bishop Patrick in June said, "When interviewed I promised to serve ten years or thereabouts, God willing. I will be two months short of the ten years when I wind up if God spares me till then. The Church of Ireland is a great joy to me. I love the people of these parishes, and the people and clergy of this diocese, as does Josie. You and the other priests have been the best of friends and colleagues, accepting, trustful, forbearing and encouraging. I am honoured to have served in TKA under both Bishop Richard and yourself, and wish you and your dear family long life and happiness" – to which Bishop Patrick responded generously. The clergy and their spouses put on a great farewell for us in north Sligo. Josie and I will live our retirement outside Newport.

A particular thanksgiving – for Josie. I'm not surprised, but am more delighted than ever, at how Jo has loved, welcomed and served our people. As for her kindness to me, Proverbs says it all: "A good wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels. The heart of her

husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life".

Then the eternally primal: Death saddening and new life delighting us –

Death: Just before our last issue, Ellen Pierik of Turlough and Valerie French Kilroy of Holy Trinity died. Since then Marie Gannon of Dooagh died in June, as did Steve Davis of Westport and Achill Sound in August. We commend these dear people to God and pray for their families.

Marriage: Billy Joe Pierik married his dear Diane recently. Tamasin Day-Lewis married John Brennan. Oliver Fair will marry his lovely Cora soon. Bless them all!

Birth: Jillian Bourke's two little boys, Patrick and John, arrived safely in late August, for which thanks be to God. May God bless them and their parents, Jillian and Jonathan.

Hooroo, with all blessings and thanks: Val Rogers



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BALLISODARE GROUP

Holy Trinity, Ballisodare
St Paul's, Collooney
Emlaghfad, Ballymote
Rector: Canon Dr Andrew Ison
Tel: 071 9133217
Mob: 089 2221483
rev.andrew.ison@gmail.com
www.ballisodare.achonry.anglican.org

Summer has for once been a quieter time in the Ballisodare group with everyone being able to relax rather than having to deal with too many pressing issues even if there is always something to deal with. On the other hand though, as with most of the country, we were not able to get out into the sunshine, most of us have been kept busy cutting grass which has really been enjoying the weather.

Ballisodare Branch Mothers' Union

As activities begin, after the summer break, the following plans are in place for the Mother's Union:
26th September, 8.00pm, exploration of a Bible story, Holy Trinity Hall, Ballisodare
24th October, 8.00pm, "Listening" with Julie Ison, Emlaghfad Church, Ballymote
21st November, 8.00pm, Craft Activities, The Reading Room, St Paul's Church, Collooney

Announcements

We are pleased to have celebrated two golden wedding anniversaries over the summer within just a few days of each other. Willie and Dolly Loughed from Holy Trinity, Ballisodare parish and Noel and Noelle Carter from St Paul's Collooney parish. Congratulations to them and all the extended families that were able to celebrate with them.



St Paul's School

At the end of August St Paul's school commenced the new school year with the addition of twelve new pupils, mostly but not exclusively infants (The photos are courtesy of the Sligo Champion). This takes the number to well over 60 pupils. We wish all the new students a very happy academic year.

Registers

On September 13th we interred the ashes, in Holy Trinity graveyard, of John Sweeney who died in England on January 31st just a few days before his father, who was buried with his pre-deceased wife Elva





on February 15th. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the remaining Sweeney family.

Harvest Services

Friday 27th September, 8.00pm at St Paul's Church, Collooney

Sunday 29th September, 4.00pm at Emlaghfad, Ballymote

Friday 4th October, 8.00pm at Holy Trinity, Ballisodare



GALWAY & KILCUMMIN

Collegiate Church of St Nicholas
Kilcummin Church,
Oughterard
Rector: The Very Rev Lynda Peilow
Tel: 091 521914
Email: rector@stnicholas.ie

Good Wishes – We send our love and good wishes to our dear friend Val Rogers and his wife as they prepare for retirement. Canon Val has been our rural dean and rector of Westport. We also assure his parishioners of our prayerful support at this time of vacancy. We also assure Maebh, Carole and Karen of our prayerful support as at this time of writing they are preparing for their ordination in Tuam Cathedral on 15th September.

Kilcummin News

We send our good wishes to all preparing for ordination and most especially to Carole Reynolds. Carole has led worship as a Diocesan lay reader in our church for some years and we wish her the very best as she takes up this new duty with special responsibility for St Mary's Church in Roundstone.

On Friday 30th August, those brave enough to venture out in the wind and rain, were treated to a wonderful evening of music and song by Pat Hargan and Grace Kiely. We thank them both for their first visit to Kilcummin Church and for doing so at short notice. Our parishioners are now small in number and, consequently, it is necessary to hold such events, always mindful of the fact that the local community here has been most supportive over the years. Funds raised went towards the upkeep of the church.

St Nicholas' Collegiate Church News

Every Wednesday at 10.30am There is a service in the side Chapel.

Every Thursday—10.30am—Chatty Crafters meet in the side chapel. Everyone welcome to chat over a cuppa and craft.

Brown Owl Retires— We say thank you and happy retirement to Catherine Moore Temple who has stepped down as Brown Owl after many years. The brownies and ladybirds and their families are hugely grateful to Catherine for her time, energy and work through the years. A presentation was made at the end of year school service.



Graveyard Clean up – One rainy Saturday in August saw a happy gathering of hard workers who made a start on tidying up the graveyard. From the weeding, gathering up broken glass, cutting back shrubs and ivy, sweeping up dirt and unblocking drains a beautiful space began to emerge. Whilst it is a start there is always more to be done! Work finished over breakfast rolls and tea! Well done everyone.

Galway Bay FM – We welcomed Lisa Regan and Katie Finnegan and the team From Galway Bay FM this morning who broadcasted live from the church on Thursday 22nd August.

Welcome Desk – Thank you to all who helped out at the welcome desk through the Summer Season. It has certainly been busy!! This year as an experiment on some days we counted the number of visitors through the doors and in a six hour period there were about 1000 on some days. It is important to us that all who come through the doors receive a warm welcome and thank you to the team who certainly ensured this.

Wedding Bells – Congratulations to Camilla Löfqvist and Gary O’Connell who celebrated their wedding on 20th June, and to Sarah Murphy and Gary Heppell who were married on 24th August. We wish both couples every joy and happiness.

Sunday 29th 11.00am: As you may know St. Nicholas' will be celebrating our 700th birthday in 2020. A sub-committee of the Select Vestry have been working very hard for a long while now putting together a year-long programme of events to mark this prestigious occasion. As part of the service on 29th there will be a special presentation to bring all parishioners up-to-date on what is planned and indeed there will be an opportunity on that day for all to volunteer to become involved in helping with the organisation of the various celebrations which are being planned.

Limerick Guests - Our Bell-Ringing Friends from St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick visited us on Saturday 6th July - the bells rang out across Galway City and stories and ideas were shared.

Harvest Thanksgiving – Friday 4th October at 7pm, followed by a potluck supper.



Date for your diary – Saturday 7th December - Christmas Fayre.



KILLALA

St Patrick's Cathedral, Killala
St John's, Ballycastle (Dunfeeney)
St Mary's, Crossmolina
Priest-in-charge: The Revd Jennifer McWhirter
Tel: 096 60829
revjkmcwhirter@yahoo.co.uk

Evenings are drawing in. The air smells of turf fires and ranges freshly re-lit after the summer. Spiders' webs are everywhere. Temperatures are dropping and the air is crisper. All signs that autumn is almost upon us. I love autumn, the colour, the crispness, the



cosyness of a roaring fire in the grate. And as the seasons wind down towards winter and hibernation, all things in church return to 'normal' after the summer. I'm pleased to say that autumn this year will bring a new venture for Killala Union - the start of a Sunday School in Killala Cathedral during the 10.00am service on the 4th Sunday of each month. This Sunday School is for the whole Union and so any children from any of the three parishes are very welcome to attend. This is in addition to the Family Service in Crossmolina for everyone on the 1st Sunday in each month. I look forward to seeing the children there.

MU afternoon tea

It seems so long ago, but the Killala/Kilmoremoy Mothers' Union branch enjoyed their annual afternoon tea at the rectory in Ballina on Wednesday 19th June. Everyone who was there enjoyed the afternoon and much tea was drunk and buns eaten!

Dates for the diary

Sunday 29th September - United Worship with Kilmoremoy Union in Ballina Arts Centre at 11.00am

The services in Ballycastle and Killala will be swapped the last 2 Sundays in October so Killala will have a service on the 3rd Sunday, 20th October, and Ballycastle will have a service on the 4th Sunday, 27th October. This is to facilitate the visit of the Bishop to Ballycastle and Crossmolina on Sunday 27th October.



Harvest services

Sunday 29th September - St Patrick's, Killala at 8.00pm
Preacher: Canon Michael Last, Moray, Ross and Caithness

Sunday 6th October - St John's, Dunfeeny at 8.00pm
Preacher: Mr Matthew Topley

Sunday 13th October - St Mary's, Crossmolina at 8.00pm
Preacher: Revd John Farr



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Rector: Ven. Stephen McWhirter
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www.kilmoremoy.killala.anglican.org



New beginnings are a time most associated with spring and yet as the summer draws to a close and the nights lengthen so it seems we are full of new beginnings. As I write this I've just dropped Kizzy off for her first full week at National School. She enjoyed her first few days last week and is full of the excitement of new

friends and learning. In the Diocese we look forward to the ordination of three candidates to the diaconate, and in the Kilmoremoy Union most especially to the ordination of Karen Duignan. Karen will join us from Sunday 22nd September as Curate in Kilglass and Easkey Parishes. We look forward to having Karen with us and welcome her into the family of Kilmoremoy. Karen will be responsible for worship in Easkey and Kilglass and in her duties of pastoral care will also be visiting around the homes of the parishes in the coming weeks and months. Although we are delighted to see people offering themselves for the ordained ministry I am very aware of Peter's teaching about the priesthood of all believers! We all have a part to play, and many do, from the very youngest who share their own simple prayers in family worship to those who serve and look after the church, every function and ministry is important.

A fond farewell to Val and Josie Rogers as they prepare to retire at the end of the month. Val has been a good friend to us and we wish them both every blessing and happiness in the future. I also look forward to working with the people of the Aughaval Group over their time of vacancy.

New Service Times

From the beginning of September our service times for the Kilmoremoy Union have changed. This change is only able to happen due to the introduction of the Revd. Karen Duignan as our deacon and the commitment of our own Parish readers and ordinands. These new times are as follows:

St Anne's, Easkey	10.00am
Kilglass Parish:	10.00am
Killanley, Castleconnor	10.00am
St Michael's, Ballina	11.30am

Parish Register

Christian Burial
Aldridge, John Beauclerk, Ewell UK, formerly Mount Falcon, 9th August 2019 aged 88. Interment of Ashes in St Michael's, Ballina. Service conducted by Ven. Stephen McWhirter.

Dates for the Diary

Harvest Services

St Michael's - Ballina, Friday 27th September at 8.00pm.
Guest preacher: Canon Michael Last, Moray, Ross & Caithness

Kilglass Parish, Friday 4th October at 8.00pm.
Guest preacher: Canon Horace McKinley

St Anne's - Easkey, Friday 11th October at 8.00pm.
Guest preacher: Revd. Karen Duignan

Killanley - Castleconnor, Friday 18th October at 8.00pm.

United Worship - Sunday 29th September, Ballina Arts Centre 11.00am



STRAIDE PARISH, FOXFORD & CLAREMORRIS

Priest-in-charge: Canon Andrea Wills
Tel: 094 9256403; Mobile 086 261 7572
Foxford: 10.00 a.m. every Sunday
Claremorris: 12 noon in McWilliam
Park Hotel – 1st Sunday of the month
andrea.wills@gmail.com

Thank you to everyone for the help and good wishes after my hip operation in June.

We welcomed some lovely visitors to Foxford Church over the summer and they so enhanced our worship.

On Saturday 3rd August there was a very special concert in the Cultural Centre in Swinford during the Siamsa Sraide Festival performed by the Hamilton Flute Band from Derry which is one of the oldest bands in Northern Ireland. This year is special as the town of Swinford celebrates 250 years. The Musical Director of the band, Ben McGonigle was an organ scholar at St. Columb's Cathedral in Derry and is organist and choirmaster of Christ Church in Derry. We were treated to an evening of exceptional music with friendship and fellowship and the following day the band marched down the main street in Swinford. Most of the band are members of the Church of Ireland and the forging of friendships and relationships between two very different traditions is so welcomed and encouraged and the Swinford Siamsa Sraide Festival committee are to be congratulated for arranging this.

The Hamilton Band is very proud of its links with the history of World War I. This was of great interest to me having just returned from a trip to the Fields of Flanders in July. When war was declared in 1914 every eligible member joined up. They became part of the regimental band of 10th Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. Their first deployment was in the Somme in 1916. Their original base drum dating from 1856, was used on the battlefields as a communion table. This drum is now in St. Columb's Cathedral.

Baptism:

On 17th August I was pleased to join Fr. Padraig Costello in the baptism of Sophia May daughter of Yvonne Morrison from St. Mary's Parish, Kilmacshagan, Dromore West and Christopher Dempsey of Cashel, Foxford in St. Michael's Church in Foxford. She is welcomed with joy into the Christian faith.



Wedding:

On Saturday 31st August Beverley Stafford and Mitch Commene were married in Foxford Church, a very special day among close family and friends. It was the first wedding in the church for seven years and it was nice that parishioners also came to the service to support them. We wish them God's richest blessings.

**Funeral:**

Albert Harker's funeral took place in Foxford Church on 26th June followed by cremation in Cavan. He had just celebrated his 93rd birthday. A gentleman to his fingertips, he endeared himself to his neighbours when he came to live some years ago with his daughter Carol in Culmore, Foxford. We send our sympathy to his children Ian, Lesley and Carol and the wider family circle.

Claremorris:

Claremorris services, once a month, continue to be well supported and in September we welcomed a new family from Ballyhaunis who are originally from Nigeria. David and his family are very much in our prayers as they prepare for the arrival of a new baby. They need our support.

June's Café in Kilkelly held a Garden Party in August in aid of Mayo/Roscommon Hospice. A very happy day, despite the showers, opened with prayers and speeches. June Elliott has also started a cookery school.

Harvest:

The Harvest Thanksgiving Service will be held on Sunday 20th October at 7.00 pm. The preacher will be Dean Alistair Grimason who has a special affinity with the River Moy!

**OMEV GROUP**

Christ Church, Clifden
St Thomas', Ballinakill
St Mary's, Roundstone
Interim Priest: Revd Elaine Dunne
Tel: 091 21147
elainedunne@oceanfree.net
www.omevgroup.ie

Omev Union of Parishes have enjoyed a busy summer under the oversight of Rev. Elaine Dunne.

A coffee morning was established early in the summer as a social event to bring parishioners together, especially those living in outlying areas. These gatherings have been held on the first Friday of the month in Foyles Hotel in Clifden. They have been very well attended and are a welcome addition to the social calendar of the parish.



Isobel Marinot-Wood organised a fundraiser walk on Saturday 3rd August. The walk was kindly led by professional guide Lesley Emin who took the small but energetic group to the top of Cashel hill. The weather remained fine in spite of a bad forecast and so all were able to enjoy the spectacular 360 degree view of the Twelve Bens and Maam Turks from the summit. Funds raised were donated to the ongoing restoration and works at Omev Union of Parishes and a donation was also made to the local St. Vincent de Paul.

Bishop Patrick Rooke visited Moyard and Clifden on Sunday 14th July and Roundstone and Errislannan on Sunday 4th August this year. Baby Maximilian Charles Pettigrew was baptised by the Bishop in Moyard on 14th July.

A jumble sale was held at Clifden Town Hall by the parish on Sunday 18th of August, which was well attended by all of the community. Gary Brow's garden produce raffle prize stole the show while the addition of a games corner this time round was a great success.



The parish enjoyed a barbeque after the Sunday service on the second Sunday in September and a quiz night on Friday 11th October in Mullarkeys bar, Clifden. The 42nd Clifden Arts Festival which begins on September 18th, has an exciting programme of events this year including nineteen concerts to be held in Christ Church, Clifden.

Roundstone

The Roundstone Vestry think that they have at last found and cured the leak over the pulpit, which had been causing damage to the ceiling and nearby window for many years. The simple solution of someone getting up into the roof space on a very wet

day, revealed the actual source of the leak, which had evaded discovery for so long. There are plenty of other problems to be solved, but this had been particularly annoying, as it was so visible to the congregation. Other works will now progress as time and money permit.

David Simpson was buried in the church grounds after a funeral service in Dublin. His family have had a house in Murvey for many years, in the place where a Canadian mining company have applied for a prospecting licence which may lead to an open cast mine, an odd thought on the Wild Atlantic Way. These are worrying times for many parishioners but it has brought much of the community together.

The Ordination to Local Ministry of Mrs Carole Reynolds took place in St Mary's Cathedral, Tuam on Sunday the 15th September. Carole has been taking services in all the churches in the Omev Group, and elsewhere in the Diocese, for several years, and is well known locally. We are very lucky to have someone so devoted to her calling available to us in Connemara.



SKREEN GROUP

Skreen
Christ Church, Dromard
St Mary's, Kilmacshalgan, Dromore West
Acting Priest in Charge:
Canon Noel Regan
Phone: 071 9166253
Mobile: 086 8875714
Email: revnoelregan@hotmail.com

The autumnal feel has arrived a little earlier than we would have liked. The persistent rain means the evenings are closing in. Young people are already back to school, meetings commence and so the cycle starts all over again. However it has been a wonderful spring and summer with many people visiting our shores. Farmers are very understandably protesting about cattle prices but God through nature has done his part. On farms it has been an abundant year with a plentiful supply of fodder for the winter. For those of us of a certain vintage and who have a memory of the joy of the harvest, the changing colours of the leaves and the smell of autumn it is nostalgic. We instinctively feel the need to give thanks and are drawn to our churches decorated and the distinctive aroma of fruit

and flowers as they mingle to give us a sense of the wonder of nature and God's great promise to us "that while the earth remains seed time and harvest shall not fail"

Bishop's visit:

On the 9th June we were delighted to have Bishop Rooke visit all three churches in the group and to celebrate Holy Communion in Dromore West. These visits are a reminder of the important role the chief shepherd has as a unifying force in the Diocese and as a Father in God.

Bereavements:

On June 24th Mrs Violet Johnston passed away from this earthly life in St. John's Hospital, Sligo. Violet was a gracious gentle lady who lived out her life quietly and peacefully among her neighbours. She was totally dedicated to the care of people who were ill, not only in her professional career as a nurse but also in later life in the community. People would call to her home for dressings and advise on medical matters. A great historian and genealogist, she was a fountain of information on relationships, not only within the family but also in the wider community. To her son, Peter, her daughter-in-law Martina, grandchildren Luke and Beth and the wider family we extend our sincere sympathy.

The death occurred on the 2nd July of The Very Rev. Dr. Philip Knowles, retired Dean of Cashel. Philip had been a rector of Manorhamilton for many years and was known to so many both locally and nationally because of his musical ability and as organist and choir master. His funeral service and internment took place at Cashel Cathedral.

Baptism:

On Sunday 28th July Caoimhe Leigh, daughter of Dean and Helen Connaughton of Dromore West was baptised in Skreen Church.

Wedding:

On the 15th August St. Mary's Kilmacshagan was the setting for the wedding of Caroline Harte and Robert Martin of Rathbarron. It was so nice to see the church so beautifully decorated and also packed to capacity for this very happy occasion. The reception was held in The Radisson Hotel, Rossespoint Road. We wish Robert and Caroline every blessing as they journey together through life.

Retirement:

Canon Noel and the parishioners of the Skreen Group were invited to a celebration to mark Fr. Michael O'Hora's golden jubilee as a priest and also his retirement from full time ministry. The evening commenced with a Eucharist/ Mass at which Canon Noel was invited to read the Gospel. Everyone was made most welcome and presentations were made at a reception in the community centre. Many spoke of his twenty three years of dedication to the parish and of his pastoral care and genuine love and gentleness of all in the community.

Parish lunch

On Sunday 4th August the annual parish lunch was held in the Skeen/ Dromard community centre. This event has a reputation of being an enjoyable social event but also a fundraiser for the parish. An excellent meal was served which was attended by people from the surrounding area and neighbouring parishes. A sincere thank you to all who helped by supplying food and in the general organising of the event.

Stokes Lecture Sunday 11th August:

Professor Peter Lynch of the school of Mathematics at University College, Dublin delivered a most informative lecture on Sir George Gabriel Stokes and his mathematical genius. Close on ninety people from a very wide area attended. Professor Lynch presented Canon Noel Regan on behalf of Skreen Parish with a signed copy of a new publication entitled George Gabriel Stokes' life, science and faith. There is a very strong feeling among students young and old that this man's brilliance needs to be recognised here in Ireland and especially in Sligo. For over fifty years he held the chair in Cambridge University, once held by none other than Isaac Newton and more recently by Stephen Hawking. This gives us some idea of his importance in the field of science. A superb supper was served by the parish for everyone in the church hall.



TUAM GROUP

St Mary's Cathedral, Tuam
St Mary's, Cong
St John the Baptist, Aasleagh
Rector: The Very Revd Alistair Grimason
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Thank You

The Dean would like to thank all those who led worship and covered for pastoral emergencies while he was on holiday in France. You know who you are. Your help was greatly appreciated.

In memoriam

It was with great sadness and not a little shock that we in Cong learned of the death of Alex Findlater on 30th May. Alex was thrown from a horse while on holiday in the Punjab and never quite recovered from the head injury he sustained in that accident.

Nonetheless, no one quite expected it to result in his tragic death. Alex (described in his obituary as 'the last of the merchant gentlemen of Dublin') and his wife Trish had lived at Lisloughrey, Cong for quite a number of years and were regular attenders at St. Mary's. The Dean being on holiday, Canon David Williams led a short prayer service at Alex and Trish's home. The funeral service was held in Stillorgan. We extend to Trish and all the family our most heartfelt prayers and sympathy.

Baptisms

The Dean baptised two children in Cong over the summer period. Abby Rose Mullin, the Dean's granddaughter, was baptised on 4th August. Emma Lily Kee was baptised on 1st September. Emma's parents, Elizabeth and Edward, had been married by the Dean in Cong 3 years ago so it was a real pleasure to baptise one of the next generation of that family. May God bless the little ones and their families in the coming years.

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Wedding

Gillian Grimason and Tony Gannon were married in St. Mary's Church, Cong on Friday 23rd August. The service was shared between The Dean (whose daughter Gillian is) and the groom's uncle, Fr. Peter Gannon PP of Claremorris. So all in all it was quite a family affair! God bless the couple with many years of married bliss.

Aasleagh

The summer in Aasleagh is always a special thing. The evening services of the Word and Eucharists have a very particular 'feel' to them. For those who get enthusiastic about these things, numbers attending were up on previous years. More importantly, the worship of the Lord God Almighty continues in this beautiful place. We welcomed the Bishop to his outpost at the head of The Killary on 11th August when he celebrated the Holy Mysteries and preached. And a lovely supper was provided for the whole congregation in the home of John and Bernie Clesham. The Dean would like to go on record to express his thanks to both John and Bernie who do so much to keep the Church of St. John the Baptist in good order: not just during the summer but year round.

St Mary's Cathedral

During the summer months St Mary's Cathedral opens its' doors to visitors on a daily basis. This involves the attendance of members of the cathedral family every day to keep an eye on things and welcome those who drop in. Our thanks to all those who offer this ministry to visitors and tourists. A special mention in dispatches must go to Jarlath Canney who does more than his fair share for the daily rota. This year he went above and beyond in moving pigeon 'mess' from the inside of the tower. Respect to Jarlath!

Harvest Services

The Harvest Thanksgiving Services in the Parish are as follows:

Tuam, 6th October at 4.00pm.

Cong, 13th October at 4.00pm

NB There will NO morning services in either Church on the days of their respective Harvest Services.

Retirement

Our friend, neighbour and Member of the Chapter of St. Mary's Cathedral, Revd Canon Val Rogers, will be retiring at the end of September. We wish him and his wife Josie many happy and stress free years of bliss, joy and relaxation.



HIDDEN POVERTY AND HARD CHOICES

The General Grant applications that arrive to our offices every day continue to portray a stark reminder of the poverty that remains close to the surface in the lives of too many Irish families. The word itself, 'poverty', often conjures up old-fashioned and inappropriate images of a Dickensian society that forced children up chimneys to clean them and marched the poor off to the indignity of the workhouse, but what is today's reality? The parameters of poverty in the 21st century have changed considerably and yet it remains as pervasive and destructive as ever.

So what is poverty and how is it measured? A key aspect of evaluating poverty must surely relate to the ability to provide a home or accommodation of some sort, to eat wholesome and nutritious food, to clothe the family and at least on some level, participate in society. It can manifest itself in simple ways like the inability to switch on your heating or to prevent your children from attending birthday parties or school events due to the cost.

The above seems so simple, reasonable and undemanding yet remains an unrealistic prospect for many people who continue to struggle in life for the basics.... and struggle is the word.

I speak to so many individuals who have simply 'run out of road' on finances, stressing over whether to pay the rent, utilities or food but not having enough to cover all of them. Life ends up being a constant worry about whether the car will break down as well as health concerns and other unexpected costs that will result in the necessity to make more hard and difficult choices.

In conversations, people have described to me, often in a faltering and emotional narrative, how poverty is like walking in a dark circle – you are trying to move but you're getting nowhere and you cannot see how things will change. Poverty can be a dark place. There is an absence of light.... and an absence of hope.

From a safe, secure and comfortable vantage it can be tempting to blame people for their circumstances; the result of laziness, indifference or a history of poor choices. I can only speak from experience when I say that the vast majority of cases I come across are about people in situations that would have been difficult for anyone to avoid. Almost one in 10 Irish children live in consistent poverty – each living in a low-income home. None of this is their fault.

Poverty has an adverse impact on families but perhaps most cogently on children. It is one of the greatest threats, putting at risk their opportunities for a good education, physical and mental health as well as their social and emotional well-being, often exacerbated when families resort to so-called 'payday' loans or moneylenders where interest rates are astronomical.

Protestant Aid is a relatively small organisation but the applications we receive span the spectrum of life as they outline issues, some that most of us could not imagine let alone encounter. Conversations take place and despite being over the 'phone, the agony of poverty can often be palpable. A few words we received in an email told their own story.... (some details changed for confidentiality).

'We came to Protestant Aid when we had exhausted all our resources and options, when we could no longer put food on the table or pay our utility bills – a hard and dark period in our lives. The constant stress of poverty left us broken. Our physical and health suffered. Our children were our primary concern as we saw them doing without so much. We applied to Protestant Aid for assistance, hoping and praying for a result. What it feels like to be given aid is relief. The relief of being believed that we are trying, that we are worthy of respect and help. That in the darkness there is kindness and light. Relief that there is some grace to allow us to navigate this period of uncertainty. Your belief in us and your humanity and respect for us as people and as parents was something that was precious to us.

I wake up wanting to do better - to show my gratitude and that the belief in us is well founded. We shall never forget your kindness and your ability to help us when no one else could – you help real people with real problems and your generosity is given with such grace.'

The thanks belong not to us but to our donors who themselves give with such grace and kindness. Without them our task would be impossible and our motivation impeded. For every cry for help we receive there is another voice we hear in our daily work, a voice of kindness, generosity and compassion – that of our donors. In a dark world of need and despair, they are a shining light and we are grateful to them for the hope they allow us to provide.

Geoff Scargill
Head of Charitable Services
Protestant Aid
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This is Sligo Grammar School, a Church of Ireland co-educational boarding and day school situated in the heart of Sligo Town, on the banks of the Garavogue River, a stone's throw from Lough Gill and Yeats' Lake Isle of Inisfree. The setting beautifully combines the easy pace of country life with the buzz of a small but vibrantly cultural urban centre

The school takes full advantage of all the beautiful North West coast has to offer. As well as going on field trips to experience the history, geography and ecology of the area, students are encouraged to make use of the river, lake and ocean through timetabled and extra curricular activities. We have a kayaking club and a rowing club, while surfing is part of our TY programme. Other sports offered include rugby, hockey, soccer, basketball and athletics.



Sligo Grammar School offers over 20 subjects at Leaving Cert. level with consistently excellent academic results. In 2018 over 60% of our students were offered University places both at home and abroad.

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Sligo Grammar School offers a rounded education which values all intelligences. We pride ourselves on our friendly, family atmosphere. The wellbeing of our students is important and our pastoral care team includes a Transition Year, Junior and Senior School Co-ordinator, Guidance Counsellor, Chaplain and Matron.



Bursaries, scholarships and grants are available.

Contact the school for details at: admin@sligogrammarschool.org or phone 071 9145010 and visit us at www.sligogrammarschool.org

Headmaster: Mr. Michael Hall M.Sc B.Ed