

Mullavilly News

www.mullavilly.armagh.anglican.org

FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA

The president of the United States has now completed his first week in office and there is a feeling that the world is going to change. His focus, he claims, will be on the economy. He has also committed to closing Guantanamo Bay and to the dawn of a new era based, not on power, but on conciliation. It is almost as if he has come into the political scene as a lesser form of messiah, shining a light into the darker recesses of the corridors of power, casting a mantle of peace over the international conflicts, and "restoring" the United States as a beacon of hope.

I had always hoped that Barak Obama would win the presidential race. I would probably lean towards the political philosophy of the democrats and I feel that Mr Obama brought out the best of that philosophy. His writing, his speeches and his general demeanour made him a leader that people would want to follow. I wish him well and pray that he may

"All we need for a happy life is property"

have the wisdom, the perseverance and the courage to live out his goals and change the world.

Nevertheless, despite all Mr Obama's messianic qualities, he

is not the Messiah and has never claimed to be! There are times when we need to be reminded of that simple fact. It might not always be in relation to someone as powerful as the president of the United States, but perhaps some other leader or partner, a notion or dream that we have put our trust in, which, because it is "of this world" will eventually come to an end.

The financial crisis is an indication of the failure of something in which we put our hope and trust. For the past many years, we have been led to believe that all we need for a happy life is property. It was a secure investment, it would be our pension, it would give us a regular income. A whole new genre of TV grew up around the idea that we could have our place in the sun. It was a fast, easy foolproof way to success—the new age had come, we put our trust in it, and it failed.

In our personal relationships, we often create people who are going to be our personal salvation. A parent might set their child up on a pedestal, or a teenager (or adult) might tumble head over heels for someone who is going to lead into "happy ever after". And then the pedestal crumbles, the person in whom we have invested our future disappoints or disappears and our dreams turn to dust.

There is only one Messiah in whom our trust is secure and that, of course, is Jesus, the Son of God, the Prince of Peace, the Light in the darkness. We can have our special relations, and our political interests and our business drives and our commitments to a vast array of ideas, but Christ is over all these things. There is none greater. Mr Obama will be president for 4 years and possibly 8 and then someone else will come along to be the most powerful person in the world. He will come and he will go, but the Word of God, shown to us through the love and salvation of Jesus, will remain forever.

To Know Christ
and to make
Him known

February 2009

Contacting the rectory

Home	028 3884 0221
Mobile &	07989 743545
Office &	028 3884 1918
Sam	028 3834 3267
email	mullavilly @btinternet.com
post	89 Mullavilly Road Tandragee BT62 2LX

FROM THE NET!

"God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage"

"When you get to your wits' end, you'll find God lives there"

"God loves everyone, but prefers spiritual fruits to religious nuts"

"People prefer the front of the bus, the middle of the road and he back of the church."

"It is easier to preach ten sermons than to live one."

To Know Christ and to make Him known

DATE	CHURCH MICE	FLOWERS	CRECHE	SCRIPTURE	NOTES
Feb 1st	Tanya	Pauline Jennett	Elizabeth Harper / Joanne Milligan	Ian Howard	11am Holy Communion
Feb 8th		Carolyn Mayes			11am Family Service
Feb 15th	Brian	Muriel Bebe	Christine Neill Elaine Neill	Robert Chapman	11am Holy Communion & Baptism
Feb 22nd	Margaret	Jean McClelland	Yvonne Neill Gladys Shortt	Elaine Bleakney	11am Baptism 7pm Holy Communion
March 1st	Ann	Thelma McCrory	Amanda Stewart / Judith Wilson	Brett Hannam	11am Holy Communion

Refreshments after the family service will be served by Valerie Doyle, Evelyn Shortt & Amanda Stewart

Flowers are re-distributed each Monday morning within the parish. If you have a particular person in mind for one of your bouquets, please let Roberta Rafferty know or leave a note under the vase.

February

Tues 17th 8pm Mothers' Union
Thurs 19th 8pm 2010 ideas meeting
Wed 25th ASH WEDNESDAY
Wed 25th 8pm Country & Gospel Concert

Baptism Anniversaries

February: Emily McMullen (2nd)

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 25th. Throughout the 6 weeks of Lent, Holy communion will be celebrated each Tuesday morning at 10:30am, followed by tea in the Parish Centre.

There will also hopefully be a weekly evening event, the details of which will be published in next months magazine.

I will be away from February 8th to 14th (Monday to Saturday). In an emergency, please contact Sam.

From the Registers

Baptisms

January 4th

Neve Sarah, daughter of Geoffrey & Suzanne Stothers

Nathan Alexander, son of Wayne & Clare Corbett
Charlie, son of Robert & Kelly Thompson

Zack Kenny, son of Kenny & Elaine Milligan
Anthony Robert, son of Tony & Roberta Garner

January 11th

Miles Robert, son of Nicholas & Bronia Burnett

Burials

December 16th: Mary Milligan, Ballyknock

January 20th: Edith Wright, Brackagh

I don't normally comment in this magazine on births, marriages and deaths other than to list the records. However, we have, in December and January, laid to rest our two longest parishioners who have been part of Mullavilly Parish their whole life. Mary Milligan of Ballyknock was with us 96 years and Edith Wright of Brackagh for 99 years. We are thankful to God for their long presence with us and the unique examples which they have left us.

Mullavilly Parish Church Presents

Country & Gospel Concert February 25th



8pm

ARTISTS INCLUDE

Kevin Kearney

Ann Moore

Bonnie Stewart

Box Car Brian

**Backing Band:
Breakaway**

**Compere:
Kenny Archer**

Admission

£10

Proceeds in aid of Rectory Development Fund

Tickets available from Ballylisk Car Sales, Select Vestry
Members and & David Overend

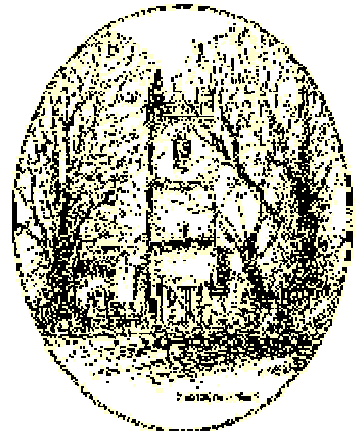


07769 940321

028 3884 1582

THE 2010 TEAM

Next year, the Church will be celebrating the 250th year of its consecration. I hope it will be a very full year with lots of exciting "extras" in our programme. To get started, the Select Vestry are pulling together an "ideas" team that will hopefully provide some vision and enthusiasm. Already under discussion are the publication of a history book, a flower festival, a restoration of the clock, a partnership with a Ugandan project, a photograph album of all our families and a hand-written bible (or portion) in which everyone has written a little bit. The initial vision team is open to anyone who would like to kick start 2010. Our first brainstorming meeting will be on Thursday 19th in the Parish Centre, 8pm - 9.30pm.



CMS MISSION TEAMS

Four members of our Youth Fellowship are taking part in mission partnership trips this summer. Jonathan Harper, Rachel Doyle and Rebekah Hampton (Diamond Parish), are going to Kajiado, Kenya, with the Church Mission Society Youth team. Elizabeth Harper will be travelling to Burundi with an all-age team, also through CMS. Rebecca Patterson will be returning to a project in Kenya. These are life-changing experiences for our young people and you will have ample opportunities to support them with the finance of this trips and the projects in which they will be involved. Jonathan, Rachel and Elizabeth all serve in the church in a variety of ways through Sunday School and children's and youth ministry and they are worthy of your support and encouragement. Rebecca Patterson, now a student in Glasgow, continues to be active in the local church there. Watch out for publicity concerning coffee mornings, garden parties and sponsored events and give our young people encouragement as they step out to explore Christian ministry in th bigger world.



The first coffee morning, hosted by Jonathan and Elizabeth will be held at:

The Rectory
on
Saturday February 28th
10:30am and onwards

Could History Repeat Itself?!

Jim Wright brought my attention to an item in the News Letter recently about a court case between a teacher in Mullavilly School and the rector! The case was held in Markethill Quarter Sessions on January 6th 1869 between Mr George McDonald and the rector, the Revd Dr Charles Henry Groves. From what I can gather, Mr McDonald believed that the rector had promised him an increase in income as a teacher and also a salary for being a Sunday School teacher. He wanted to recover £12 "being for two year's salary for teaching and instructing the children of the Sunday at the defendant's request...and for work, labour and services done and rendered by the plaintiff as a school-master for the defendant at his request".

Dr Groves testified that "I have a good deal of experience and I have never heard of Sunday School teachers being paid." With regard to the work as school master he explained that he had said to Mr McDonald and his daughter that "I was unwilling to hold out to them any inducements beyond those contained in the appointment, but I was sure if they conducted themselves properly the emoluments would be increased".

In conclusion, according to the 1869 article, "His Worship did not think there was a specific contract proved, and as the services were such as were not usually paid for..., he would dismiss the case on the merits."

We hope that none of the current volunteers are expecting a salary, but you can be assured that I really do appreciate the time and effort you give - please don't take me to court!

