

Mullavilly News

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HARVEST 6th & 8th

Harvest is the traditional time for saying "Thank You" to God. The earliest biblical record of such a season can be found in Deuteronomy 26, which was probably written about 600BC and based on even more ancient writing. In it, the people are instructed to take some of their harvest and present it before God in an act of worship. The suggestion is that "You shall set it down before the Lord your God, and worship before the Lord your God; and you shall rejoice in all the good which the Lord your God has given to you and your house, you, and the Levite, and the sojourner who is among you." Later, we read that the gift is to be given to "the Levite, the sojourner, the fatherless and the widow that they may eat within your towns and be filled." The Levites were the clergy of the time and, like today, were supported by the giving of gifts. The sojourner is the traveller, the migrant who might be passing through temporarily, and the widows and the fatherless represent all those who are in need or lacking support.

So Harvest is not just another church service. It is a time to assess what we have and engage in thanksgiving. As with all worship, the thanksgiving needs to be accompanied by action which, in the case of thanksgiving, should be an act of generosity.

So what can you do this Harvest month?

First, take a look at your life and all your assets and be thankful to God. You may well have a mortgage and finance arrangements etc, but along with that you have a house and material goods in it. You may also be enjoying good health and have the ability to take part in leisure pursuits. Perhaps your health is not so good but it is sufficient to keep you going. You might also be the recipient of the love of parents, children and friends and you most certainly have the love of God Almighty.

Second, with all that you have, find the time to come to worship and acknowledge the blessings that have been lavished upon you.

Third, reflect your thankfulness with generosity. Financially, you can direct your offering through the church. Every year we pass on thousands of pounds to various mission agencies, including the work of Billy and Jenny Smith in Sudan as well as maintaining the ministry of the church in Mullavilly. Or perhaps you could support a particular need directly, perhaps a charity that is close to your heart. You could give your time to a charity shop or use your skills for a few hours in the church or elsewhere. You can also pass on a considerable amount of love to those who need to be loved, both in word and in deed. You can reach out to the lonely, the anxious, the foreigner and "sojourner" with a word of kindness. Why? Because Jesus has reached out to you.

I trust that "Harvest" will be a moment of worship, a time of thanksgiving, and

HARVEST DECORATIONS

The church will be decorated for Harvest on Thursday 5th from 10am. We would appreciate all the usual symbols of flowers, fruit and vegetables as well as a few more unusual things which you might like to display. The flowers and vegetables are redistributed on the following Monday and help is always appreciated for that particular privilege.

The Magazine
for Mullavilly
Parish

October 2006
Pazdziernika 2006

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HARVEST WORSHIP

Friday 6th

8:00pm Evening Worship

Guest Preacher:
Archdeacon Stephen
McBride, Antrim Parish.
(Stephen's father made
the tile of Mullavilly Church
which hangs in many of
our homes)

Sunday 8th

9:30 Holy Communion

11:00 Family Service

7:00 Evening Worship

The guest preacher in the
evening is The Revd Paul
Dundas, rector of Christ
Church, Lisburn

The Magazine for Mullavilly Parish

DATE	FLOWERS	CRECHE	SCRIPTURE	NOTES
Oct 1st	Carolyn Mayes	Wendy Hazley Gwen Kane	Rebecca Milne	11am Holy Communion
Oct 8th	HARVEST TEAM			HARVEST 11am Family Service & baptism
Oct 15th	Muriel Bebe	Pauline King Jacqui Moore	Elaine Bleakney	11am Holy Communion & baptism
Oct 22nd	Jean McClelland	Karen McClelland Christine Neill	Robert Chapman	AM: The Smiths 7pm Holy Communion
Oct 29th	Thelma McCrory	Julie Magowan Joanne Milligan	Ian Howard	
Nov 5th	Ivy Money Penny	Elaine Neill Yvonne Neill	Jonathan Harper	

Refreshments after the family service will be served by Amanda Kerley; Amanda, Georgina & Natalie Stewart.

September

Thurs 28th 8pm PARISH SUPPER
Fri 29th 8pm rector at Milltown Harvest

October

Sun 1st 7pm rector at Christ Church, Lisburn Harvest
Thurs 5th 10:00am decorating for Harvest
Fri 6th 8pm Harvest Thanksgiving and supper
Sat 7th wedding of Carolyn Hor & John Houston
Sun 8th Harvest Services
Thurs 12th 10:30am Ramblin' Rose
Fri 13th rector and choir at Moy Harvest
Sat 14th antique Fair
wedding of Pamela Hylands and Derek Curry
Tues 17th 8pm Mothers' Union
Thurs 19th 3pm Over 55 Club
Tues 24th Diocesan Synod
Mon 23rd 11:15am Holy Communion at Rathowen

Baptism Anniversaries

October:

Tommy McCallen (1st); Grace Copeland (2nd); Chloe Stewart (3rd); Matthew McKitterick (3rd); Dylan Crawford (4th)

From the Registers

Baptism:

Sept 3rd: Hannah Eve, daughter of Dale and Sharon Mardell
Sept 10th: Lucy Ellen, daughter of Allan and Glenda Gough

Burial:

Aug 25 Sherelle Christine Duke (Thomas St Baptist)
Sept 13 Robert Alexander Kerr (St Mark's, Portadown)

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; his love endures for ever.

CHURCH21

The rector, Jean McClelland, Julie Magowan and Kerri Shortt recently spent a weekend in Dublin with representatives from parishes across Ireland. The aim of the conference was to examine ways of developing our parishes and preventing stagnation. The guest speaker, Ian Coffey, is a Baptist pastor in a large English-speaking church in Geneva and has researched the features of successful and growing churches throughout England.

Church21 is an experimental process of development and Mullavilly Parish has been privileged to be included. Other local parishes are Annaghmore, St Columba's Portadown and St Mark's Armagh. Over the next year, we will be looking at a variety of projects and selecting one which will be of benefit to the parish. Our facilitator in Mullavilly will be Bishop Ken Clarke.

During the conference, we looked at a variety of projects undertaken by other parishes. These included a community centre in the church crypt, developed by Liz McElhinny in Calry Parish, Sligo; English language classes for migrant workers in Lisburn Cathedral; a visiting team in Portstewart; and a drop-in facility in Clonakilty, Cork.

As part of this development, we will need to look at many aspects of our ministry. This will include the timing and arrangement of our services and the style of worship and music; our communication and publicity, including this magazine; the possible creation of a parish visiting team; the use of technology and PowerPoint in worship; the provision of CD recording for those unable to attend; and further development of parish readers. These are only a few pointers and I'm sure there are many more! All of these issues will have the potential to either cause enormous division or create an enthusiasm which will unite us together in action!

Thankfully, Ian Coffey advised us that the best way to eat an elephant was "one bite at a time"! As a symbol of this point, each parish was given a jig-saw piece from an elephant which is to be kept in a prominent position in the church for the next year as a reminder of our task. It will be returned next year and the representatives will be able to show what particular project they have embarked upon and how it has developed.

The first step that we will be taking will be to arrange a meeting between Bishop Clarke and a cross-section group of parishioners. This "development group" will include a cross-section of parishioners from our three services, our organisations, and hopefully some who do not attend worship at all (yet!) From that, we will find a clear direction and select which particular bite we will chew first.

If you would like to be part of this initial consultation, or if you have any suggestions about areas which need developed, do please let any of the four people mentioned above know about it.

Above all, remember the project in your prayers. Although "Mullavilly Belongs to You" has been our slogan for recent development programmes, we must never forget that this is the Church of Christ and it is His work and ministry which we are serving.

RATHOWEN FIRE

Just before printing this magazine, there was a fire in the kitchen of Rathowen Home. The staff and emergency services did an excellent job evacuating the residents. At the moment, the 18 residents are in Craigavon and Mullinure hospitals and a few are with family. Please remember them at this time of disruption in their care and we can assure the staff of our appreciation of the care that has been given and of our support as they work in a difficult situation to reopen the home.

Thirteenth Annual Antiques & Collectables Fair



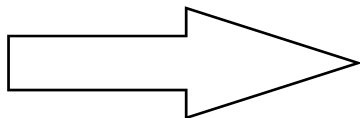
PARISH SUPPER

Thursday 28th

Launching the Rectory Renovation Appeal Buffet Meal followed by information and entertainment.

All parishioners should have received an invitation. If you haven't, don't worry, you're still welcome. To help with catering numbers please contact Ian Milne on 38840675

Don't forget to help out at the Antiques Fair. We always need people to help with teas and in the kitchen, on the door and car park and with helping the traders to load and unload at the beginning and end of the day. If you can help in any way, please let us know.



An Event not
to be missed

To be held in

Mullavilly Parish Centre

Mullavilly, Tandragee (nr Ballyisk Car Sales)

on

Saturday 14th October

2006 10:30am-4:30pm

From 10.30am to 4.30pm

Leading Antique dealers from throughout Northern Ireland will be exhibiting their wares and items on display may be purchased.

Admission £2.00

Light Refreshments
Convenient Car Parking

What's happening at the Rectory?

So far, the garage walls are up to gable height and block work is continuing on the family room. The tiles are off the roof and this is in the process of being re-felted.

Regarding the appeal, invitations have been sent out to the supper and information evening and visitors are now calling to follow up that invitation. After the supper, there will a further visit to follow up the appeal.

Note from the Rector:

As a beneficiary of this project, I am deliberately not getting directly involved with the fund-raising.

However, I am extremely appreciative of the hard work of the Select Vestry and visitors involved in this project. It is very humbling to know that parishioners are willing to provide this standard of accommodation for myself and my family and to build a house that will be an asset to the parish and an encouragement to those who minister here, for many years ahead.

With many thanks,

Brian

Visitors from Sudan

Billy and Jenny Smith, our partners in Sudan, are currently home for a six-month furlough. They are scheduled to be with us on October 22nd in the morning. There will be an opportunity to meet Billy, Jenny and family after church with a traditional pot-luck lunch. The usual "rules" apply—bring something and eat something! If you can't stay for lunch, there will still be tea and coffee after church.