

Mullavilly News

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The Magazine
for Mullavilly
Parish

July/August
2007

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June has not been a happy month in the parish and community, particularly for parents and young people. Our sympathy and prayers remain with the families of Stuart Fletcher, Wayne Browne, James Topley and Lee Walker. We have witnessed first-hand how a whole community can suddenly become hysterical and it has been a lesson to us all on how we should react to hearsay and rumour. Our little community of Laurelvale has grown in maturity through this experience and, once we realised what was happening, we have responded with dignity in the face of international media interest.

It is vital that we continue to grow and mature in our relationships with one another even after this crisis has apparently passed. We can do that by getting our routine back on track and by looking forward with hope, encouraging one another. On the Jeremy Vine Show (BBC Radio 2), a leading Belfast psychiatrist, Dr Ramon Capur, was asked what he thought was the solution to the problem. He responded, not with any great complicated theory, but by saying that the cycle could be broken by simply injecting something positive into the system. This is something which is so simple—inject something positive into our community, into our families and into the lives of individuals. Russell Vogan of the PSNI is doing something positive for the teenagers with an activity programme running through the summer. Parents have been doing something positive by taking an interest in their children's lives and spending more time with them. I have been so encouraged by seeing the way in which many parents have been able to talk with their children over the past month and also at the maturity that our young people have shown in their grief.

This summer, we must allow the light of Christ to shine like the brightest sunshine into our darkness. With the light of Christ, even darkness is not dark! "Creation", a ministry team specialising in youth issues and headed by Dr Arthur Cassidy, will be helping your church to shine that light. They will be present in Laurelvale on Friday nights from midnight offering tea and coffee and friendship to everyone and advice and support to the anxious. This is not about shining the harsh light of judgement, but about shining the gentle warm light of love and support and friendship where it is needed. It is a light that each of us can shine 24/7 in our own situations.

In the autumn, our youth activities will open with renewed enthusiasm and vigour. "The Fridge" will open immediately after Russell's programme finishes and the Youth Fellowship will officially recommence on Sept 2nd—though it may continue unofficially through the summer!

On a day to day basis through July, the Revd Sam Black will be covering the routine pastoral work of the parish, leading worship and preaching. During June, I was unable to undertake the routine round of visits of the housebound, but Sam will undertake that over the summer. For pastoral issues arising out of the deaths of Stuart, Wayne, James and Lee, the Revd John McClure will be available. John is an experienced counsellor in the issues surrounding suicide and young people and has been a tremendous support over the past few weeks. Please phone him if you have any concerns or anxieties. His number is listed on this page.

St Paul encourages the church of Colossae with these words:

"Since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us in to the kingdom of the Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."

May God's tent cover us and may we know his blessing this summer.

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SUMMER FLOWERS

July 1st: Betty Beattie
July 8th: Ann Rafferty
July 15th: Susan Ferguson
July 22nd: Pauline Jennett
July 29th: Carolyn Mayes
August 5th: Jean McClelland
August 12th: Thelma McCrory
August 19th: Ivy Moneypenny
August 26th: Evelyn Shortt
Sept 2nd: Carole Overend

SCRIPTURE READERS:

5th August Colin Patterson
12th August Adam Pearson
19th August Alice Patterson
26th August Mark Doyle
2nd Sept Rebecca Milne



At the end of June, Bill Kerr retired from his responsibility of reading Scripture at the 9:30am Service. Bill has been the regular reader for 60 years, since first qualifying as a teacher. Many people have since told me how much they enjoyed listening to his voice and the clear way in which he delivered the word of God.

As a token of appreciation, Bill was presented with a devotional book on "The names of Jesus" and Maureen with a bouquet.

From the Registers:

Baptisms

June 3rd Jonathan, son of Colin and Gail Stewart
June 10th Lucy Jayne, daughter of Gary & Jeanette MacDonald
June 17th Kerrie Louise Suzanne, daughter of David & Lisa Gibson
June 24th Jamie, son of Kenny Clarke & Clare Coates
Mia Cherie, daughter of Michael Crowe & Kim Reid
Oliver Michael, son of Michael Crowe and Kim Reid

Marriage:

June 28th David Blair & Dana Beale

Burial:

June 20th Amelia Patterson, Laurel Park
June 30th Vera Blevins, Rose Park

BARBECUE

Thank-you to Emo and David Overend for the hard work which they put into organising the end of season barbecue. Together with a large team of helpers, the evening flowed successfully with an excellent attendance and superb food. Together with our own parishioners, we were able to welcome a large number of visitors, and we were privileged to share the evening with a number of young workers from Poland and Slovakia.

The total raised was £2,200

BE A GUEST!

Don't forget to visit a local church when you're on holiday. If you spot any good ideas, share them when you get home again. Was the church welcoming, especially if it was in a foreign language? Did you get a newsheet? Did anyone speak to you or did you try to speak to anyone?

We love to welcome visitors to Mullavilly and it is encouraging for us that they make the effort to find us. So likewise, we should do our best to support the church in the places where we spend our holidays, whether its in Kilkeel or Katmandhu!