

# Mullavilly News

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The Magazine  
for Mullavilly  
Parish

May/June 2006

## “HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS”

**D**espite knowing for a year that a flit was inevitable, the “moving house” experience seemed to hit like a high speed train! There was just too much packing to be done. Despite our attempts to live a life which wasn’t focussed on material possessions, it was amazing how much could be accumulated over the twelve and a half years since we moved in. Much of it was “stuff” that hasn’t been used in years, but might come in useful one day—when the grandchildren come to visit! And, of course, there were boxes of school books which might be browsed through in years ahead or might even be valuable if any of the children should become famous.

The move was made much easier by the small army of parishioners who turned up to help. Although we had to do the packing ourselves, we had plenty of assistance in cleaning the new house, carrying boxes and furniture. It all helped in keeping the stresses to a minimum.

Now that we are moved in to Ash Tree Hill, we need to fall into a new routine. I have no study, so everything must be administered from the Parish Centre. The schools are just that vital few minutes further away in the morning and I can’t just nip home for something I’ve forgotten on a Sunday morning.

Nevertheless, 10, Ash Tree Hill has quickly become our home for the time being: a place to be together with family; a place of love and safety. Home is not so much a set of rooms which we own or mortgage, or the place where we surround ourselves with our things, nor even the place where our ancestors lived. Home is where we are safe, either on our own or in the bosom of loved ones. It can be the mansion you have built in the countryside, the terrace house in the street, or even the caravan at Cranfield. Home is where you want to be at the end of the day.

Spiritually, our home is in the presence of God in the mansions prepared for us. That is where we set our hearts and it is there that we long to rest “at the end of the day.” In that heavenly home, we won’t have any of the accoutrements that we have collected along the way—there will be no tow bar on the hearse or pockets in the shroud. We won’t need an army of helpers to carry our stuff and we won’t be caring about the size and number of rooms.

But we do need to be prepared. We cannot bring our sinful baggage with us so we must offload it and break our links with it. We can only do that through Christ. He is the Saviour—the one who saves—the one who leads us to a place of safety. He takes the rubbish, the bad stuff, and transforms us so that we have the freedom to move with him to heaven. The cords of sin and death that encompass us have been broken by Christ and, in Him, we are free to go home.



May God bless you in your earthly home so that it is a reflection of your heavenly home. May you find in Christ the safety and the love which you desire.

### Contacting the rectory

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Sam Black	028 3834 3267
email	mullavilly @btinternet.com
post	89 Mullavilly Road Tandragee BT62 2LX Or 10 Ash Tree Hill Tandragee BT62 2LH

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DATE	FLOWERS	CRECHE	SCRIPTURE	NOTES
May 14th	Hilary Beattie			
May 21st	Maureen Milligan	Pauline King Jacqui Moore	Ian Howard	11am Holy Communion
May 28th	Roberta Rafferty	Julie Magowan Joanne Milligan	Leslie Irwin	7pm Holy Communion
June 4th	Ann Robinson	Karen McClelland Christine Neill	Natalie Magowan	11am Holy Communion
June 11th	Geraldine Thompson			11am Sunday School Prizes
June 18th	Doreen Toal	Elaine Neill Yvonne Neill	Carolyn Mayes	11am Holy Communion
June 25th	Heather White	Gladys Shortt Amanda Stewart	Helen McClenaghan	7pm Holy Communion
July 1st	Leona Whiten			10:30am Holy Communion

Refreshments after the family service will be served by :  
 May: Amanda Stewart, Amanda Kerley, Natalie Stewart, Georgina Stewart  
 June: Geraldine Thompson, Wendy Hazley, Judith Pentland, Mandy Close

## Dates for May & June

### May

9th - 11th Church of Ireland General Synod  
 Tues 16th Christian Aid Quiz (Mullavilly)  
 Wed 17th Christian Aid "Food for Thought" (Ballymore)  
 Mon 22nd 11:15am Holy Communion in Rathowen  
 Tues 23rd 8pm Church21 Seminar  
 Thurs 25th 10am Ramblin' Rose (Party for Parkinson's)  
 Tues 30th 8pm Church21 Seminar

### June

Thurs 8th 55's bus trip to North Donegal  
 Sat 10th wedding blessing of Lisa Wright and David Gibson  
 Fri 16th wedding of Laura Prentice and Michael Burns  
 Sun 18th 6:30pm ordination of Diane Matchett in Lisburn Cathedral  
 Sat 17th wedding of Lydia Wilson and Murray Inglis  
 30th-4th Summer Madness

## **Baptism Anniversaries**

### **May:**

**1st: Raymond Neill, Fiona Mayes**

**3rd: John Neill, Cain Nelson**

**4th: Hannah Milligan**

### **June:**

**2nd: Abbey Mardell, Jonathan Conn, Molly Willis**

**3rd: Seth Bennett**

**4th: Zoë Rafferty, Rebecca Milligan**

From the Registers

Baptism:

April 9th, Jake Peter, son of Simon and Julie Nelson

Marriage:

April 22nd, Gillian Hor & Neil Carey

Burial

March 30th, Elsie Dennison (St Mark's Portadown)

April 8th, Edward Gerald Thompson (cremation)

April 14th, Edmond Alexander Wright (Armagh Free Presbyterian)

## **The Annual Easter Vestry**

***At the Annual Easter Vestry the following appointments were made;***

<b><i>Rector's Churchwarden</i></b>	<b><i>Valerie Doyle</i></b>
<b><i>People's Churchwarden</i></b>	<b><i>Mary McKee</i></b>
<b><i>Rector's Glebewarden</i></b>	<b><i>Jackie McIntyre</i></b>
<b><i>People's Glebewarden</i></b>	<b><i>Alan Neill</i></b>

***Select Vestry Members: Julie Magowan; Jean McClelland; Valerie Milne; Margaret Neill; Roberta Rafferty; Brett Hannam; Robert Jennett; Gerald Kerr; Sam McIntyre; Ian Milne; Bobby Quinn; Leslie Stewart.***

***Robert Jennett was subsequently elected Honorary Secretary and Gerald Kerr as Honorary Treasurer.***

***The following is an abridged version of the rector's comments:***

The work of the Select Vestry has been primarily occupied over the past year with the preparations for renovating the rectory. This decision was reached just a year ago, on the basis of a consultation with the parish. This consultation highlighted that, despite the economic advantages, the current site of the rectory should not be sold and that an extensive improvement to the rectory should be carried out.

Plans drawn by McAdam & Stewart were accepted and submitted to the diocesan council for approval. The diocesan architect expressed his approval overall, especially on the decision not to sell the site, (and build in the field), but he did show concern about the plans themselves and they were not initially approved. Thankfully, after discussion and compromise, amended plans were passed, and planning permission was granted just prior to Christmas. No contract for the work has yet been offered, despite the intention to begin work in May, but hopefully that will happen very shortly. Thus, in preparation, we are vacating the rectory and moving to temporary accommodation at Ash Tree Hill.

If I have any concerns about the project, they must lie with the fund-raising. The incoming Select Vestry will have to focus immediately on plans to raise sufficient income and to make parishioners aware of their responsibility.

Financially, the parish remains in good general health. We have met all our obligations to the Church as a whole and have continued to support Billy and Jenny Smith in Sudan. We were delighted to play host to Samuel last spring as part of the CMS Mpower project in which both Alan Neill and Elaine Bleakney participated. The Select vestry have been supportive of ministry in the parish and I was delighted to be able to welcome Sam Black as an honorary assistant. He has already been hard at work on the doorsteps in the village and has proved his worth on Sundays.

We have also embarked as guinea pigs on the Church21 programme of parish development. This project seeks to assist parish growth, not just financially, but primarily spiritually. Although we have only had three introductory meeting priors to the major conference in September, I have benefited hugely from the input of all those who have taken part. We have looked at a number of issues and given full and frank opinions. I look forward to the next three meetings in May and then to the implementation in the autumn and winter. Everything will be on the table: our use of liturgy, service times, Sunday School, parish activities, the role of the rector, the function of the Select Vestry, our pastoral care. I hope it will be an exciting time.

As always, I want to thank those who have helped the Select Vestry with their tasks of managing the Fabric, Finance and Furnishing over the year. David and Carol continue to be a huge asset in keeping our buildings and grounds in excellent order. Many others have "done their bit" in maintenance and all those who have generously supported the parish financially are greatly appreciated, even though public thanks would be inappropriate. You know who you are, even if I don't! Your giving is part of worship, which is why it is symbolised in every service.

So we shall not be idle in the year ahead. There is work to be done and a job for everyone. We breezed through the Parish Centre project in hindsight and I'm sure, despite my anxiety, we shall tackle the rectory project with equal enthusiasm. It is visionary and long-sighted and indicates a healthy support for the ordained ministry of the church and those who respond to that calling. In return, I pray that my successors and I will be worthy of your support in our service to you, the people of God.

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### **Over 55 Trip (open to all ages!)**

Seats are still available for the coach trip to Co Donegal on June 8th. The trip will include the usual array of coffee stops and a visit to the Famine Village. For further details and booking, please contact Alan Neill on 38840663

### **PARTY FOR PARKINSON'S**

The Ramblin' Rose coffee morning on **Thursday May 25th** will also be a fund-raiser for the Parkinson's Society. Parkinson's Disease affects many people, including at least three of our own parishioners. For their awareness campaign this year, the Parkinson's Society are launching their "Get it on time" project. This campaign focuses on the importance of accurate timing of medication, especially when patients are not in control of their own medicines, such as in hospital. Accurate timing is vital for the control of symptoms as the nervous system can become spasmodic or rigid very quickly.

Your support at this coffee morning will help with continuing research to ease this condition and to support those who are living with it.

**The General Synod of the Church of Ireland** returns to the City Hotel, Armagh this year. Historically, the event has normally been held in Dublin but costs and transport difficulties have encouraged the location to move to Armagh. Interestingly, representatives from North Dublin found that they could get to Armagh quicker than to a Dublin location!

The Synod is the governing body of the Church of Ireland and is made up of 2/3 lay people and 1/3 clergy. Each dioceses elects a number of representatives and this year, Helen McClenaghan, Tony Forbes, Alan Neill and Leslie Stewart and the rector will be attending as elected diocesan representatives.

Please remember the three day synod in your prayers from May 9th-11th.

### **Bowling Club Success**

Congratulations to our Bowling Club who have been promoted to the "A" division following a successful season and an exciting final match. At their AGM before Easter, tribute was paid to their treasurer, Mr Bobby Jennett, who announced his retirement. Bobby has been treasurer for many years. Jackie Wright continues as captain, Colin Money-penny as secretary and Betty Wright was chosen as the new treasurer.

During the season, the club received national press attention when one of the rinks scored the maximum of 8 in a single end. The rink comprised Heather Beresford, Linda Milligan, Andy Thompson and Colin Money-penny.

### **Choir hits the high notes**

Tribute must be paid to our choir following their singing over the Easter weekend. Whilst the choir always maintain a high standard, the music which they provided on Good Friday and Easter Day was exceptional and I have received wonderful feedback from all who were present. Well Done!

**Calling all those who have recently been confirmed and youth fellowship:**

**SUMMER MADNESS Friday June 30th- Tuesday July 4th. Contact Amanda Stewart 38841961**