

Mullavilly News

www.mullavilly.armagh.anglican.org

The Magazine
for Mullavilly
Parish

November 2006

Madonna and Child

The big celebrity story of the moment concerns Madonna and her attempt to adopt the child, David, from Malawi. It is certainly good that, for a change, a celebrity has sparked off a debate which can inspire and challenge rather than draw us into the trivia of life. The big question is "Is it ever right to adopt a child from overseas?"

The main argument against the practice seems to be that it is wrong to remove a child from its culture. The assumption is that culture is something that is inherited—it is in our genes. A moment's thought will tell us that this cannot be the case. Our "culture" is the lifestyle in which we are brought up or which we choose. You were not born a Presbyterian or a Church of Ireland or a Roman Catholic—but you learned that particular ethos according to the way in which you were brought up. Likewise, you acquired a working class culture or a "society" culture depending on your upbringing. Thus, David will grow up with a "London" culture and that will be no better or worse than a Malawian one, just different.

Should Madonna have adopted a child from Britain or America in preference to an African? There is no good argument to suggest that she should. A child in need of love is the same wherever they are. You cannot argue that, because there are lots of lonely people in Britain, we should only choose British friends or that so many in our home towns are not Christian and therefore we should not take the Gospel overseas. Besides, where do we draw the line—that we should only adopt from within our village, or our county. These boundaries are totally artificial.

For me, the big question is "Why did Madonna need to adopt David?" David already has a family and a father. He was in an orphanage because his father could not look after him, but he was not abandoned. Could Madonna not have helped them financially, allowing David and his siblings to have an excellent education and opportunities, good housing and healthcare? She already has two children and a busy lifestyle which requires a nanny so why has she taken this route? I hope that it is not just a cynical exercise to enhance or change her image as she gets older, or as a means of justifying her wealth ("I help little children").

There are many good reasons for adopting a child at home or overseas and we all know someone with a success story to tell. However, I hope that an adopted overseas child will not become the latest celebrity fashion accessory. We will remember David and his family circle in our prayers as a reminder of the needs of many families throughout the world and as a challenge to ourselves. Whilst we may be critical of Madonna, perhaps we ourselves have chosen to do very little to help struggling families at home or overseas.

Our Archbishop

As you know, the Most Revd RHA Eames will retire at the end of December. At the diocesan Synod, the parishes of the Diocese presented him with cufflinks and a cheque. Christine Lady Eames was given jewellery. On your behalf, the Select Vestry contributed £200 towards this gift.

Contacting the rectory

Home	028 3884 0221
Mobile & Text	07989 743545
Office & Centre	028 3884 1918
Sam Black	028 3834 3267
email	mullavilly @btinternet.com
post	89 Mullavilly Road Tandragee BT62 2LX Or 10 Ash Tree Hill Tandragee BT62 2LH

WELCOME

A number of new families have started worshipping in Mullavilly this month. We are delighted that they have chosen to make Mullavilly their spiritual family and they can be assured of a very warm welcome.

It will have been difficult to spot any new faces during October as there have been so many visiting families with the baptisms, but now that we settle back into a "normal" routine, we hope that you will soon get to know these families. Remember, Mullavilly is the parish where you are a stranger only once.

The Magazine for Mullavilly Parish

DATE	FLOWERS	CRECHE	SCRIPTURE	NOTES
Nov 5th	Ivy Money Penny	Elaine Neill Yvonne Neill	Jonathan Harper	11am Holy Communion
Nov 12th	Edith Willis			REMEMBRANCE 11am Family Service
Nov 19th	Evelyn Shortt	Gladys Shortt Amanda Stewart	Ian Howard	11am Holy Communion
Nov 26th	Carol Overend	Judith Wilson Tanya McKittrick	Leslie Irwin	11am Holy Baptism 7pm Holy Communion
Dec 3rd	Jean Hawthorne	Nicola Wilson Mandy Wright	Natalie Magowan	11am Holy Communion

Refreshments after the family service will be served by Valerie Milne, Mavis & Anita Vennard

November

- Tues 7th 8pm Select Vestry
 Tues 14th 8pm Church21 Discussion
 Tues 21th 8pm Mothers' Union Visitors' Night
 Thurs 16th Celebration of Archbishop's ministry in Cathedral with Archbishop of Canterbury
 Fri 17th start of "The Fridge" Youth Club
 Thurs 23rd 2pm Ramblin Rose (NB change of time/date)
 Tues 28th 6pm School Parents Group Craft Fair
 Mon 27th 11:15am Holy Communion at Rathowen
 29th/30th Clergy Conference at Manor House, Fermanagh

The Antique Fair raised a total of £1900 last month. Our thanks go to Dynes and Edythe Turkington for their hard work and to all those who helped them with this successful annual event.

Baptism Anniversaries

November:

Nathan Rafferty (1st); Ashley Neill (3rd); Adam Neill (3rd); Marianna Neill (3rd); Matt Creighton (3rd); Zara Vennard (4th); James Conn (4th)

From the Registers

Baptism:

Oct 10th: Benjamin Alexander, son of Mark & Nicola Roberts
 Oct 17th: Jamie Ian, son of Paul and Wendy Milligan
 Oct 24th: Adam Robert, son of Robert and Kellie Thompson

Marriage:

Oct 7th: Carolyn Suquan Hor and John Houston
 Oct 14th: Pamela Hylands and Derek Currie

They shall not grow old as we that are left grow old; age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the

Do you remember Samuel Borete? Samuel stayed with us in May 2005 whilst attending a mission conference in Armagh. He is a tutor at the Bishop Alison Theological College in Arua, Uganda. We presented him with money to buy a bicycle for his family, along with other gifts but sadly we never heard from him after his departure.

This month, both Alan and Margaret Neil, and Mark and Elaine Bleakney, received letters from Samuel. The following is the text of the letter to Alan and Margaret:

“It was great to enjoy your hospitality and all the gifts that you generously gave to my family and I. May the Good Lord continue to watch over you.

I must apologise for taking slightly over a year to get in touch with you. Please accept my apology. This was so due to the fact that, upon our return from Ireland we, as a family, was struck with a lot of difficulties and troubles which were beyond our control. That, of course, with death of close relatives, taking care of sick relatives and the like.

However, I did manage to send a letter of thank-you to the vicar and to the whole of God’s people at Mullavilly Parish. That letter included the photo of the bicycle which the parish donated generously to my family and I for God’s work. But since there was no feedback, might be the letter did not reach him. In case he did not receive it, may I know that from you so that I can do it again.

I would like to thank you for the school materials, bags, my address book, the towels, the lovely meals, the travelling bag and the Mothers’ Union gifts to my wife. I do not want to stop without thanking that Catholic Christian woman who, without telling her name, did also give to us generously.

I would like to thank all the people. Please could you kindly send to me again the parish address so that I can send again my thanks and appreciation to the vicar and all the parishioners.

My wife has joined me in sending her greetings to all.

Samuel Borete

I also had written to Samuel in June 2005 but that letter also seems to have disappeared. I have now written again and it is good to renew the contact.

You may remember that Gerald, Geoff and myself visited the Bishop Alison Theological College in 2000. The college is part of the Church of Sudan, but because of the civil war, it had been forced to locate itself in Uganda. The students and staff were all refugees and their situation was difficult and sad.

I am pleased to report that they are now rebuilding the College on their former site in Yei, not far from Billy and Jenny Smith. The plan is to move home in 2008. CMS have asked us to consider placing the emphasis of our support on the work of the College as Billy and Jenny are now reasonably well supported through the United Nations and other agencies. At our last Select Vestry meeting, the treasurer reported that we had completed the commitment to Billy and Jenny and the Vocation Training Centre which we made as part of the Parish Centre development scheme so now would be a good time to review the situation.

It was wonderful to have Billy and Jenny with us last month and to tell us about the success of their work. They are still lacking in practical teaching resources and would welcome skilled trades people to visit for a few weeks to pass on their skills. Joiners, plumbers, builders etc are in great demand in a rapidly improving situation with schools, hospitals and homes being rapidly rebuilt to cope with the flood of returning refugees. If you think you have the time and skill to offer at the Training College, let me know and we can make the appropriate enquiries.

The Harvest season is one of the highlights of the year in Mullavilly. This year it was particularly memorable because of the singing of the choir—they were outstanding. They also had the opportunity to sing in St James’ Church in Moy and the parishioners were very impressed. Also, the attendance at our own services was high. With 308 people at the Family Service, we were almost at our capacity of 325! I wonder did the church wardens count the dog?! (and the mouse)

Receipts for Donations

It is our practice to send out a statement to all our envelope subscribers at the end of October, detailing the amount you have given so far this year. If you think there is a discrepancy in these figures please contact any of the recorders for further information. Our thanks are due to this team who give up their time weekly to carefully record your subscriptions. They are David Maginnis, Simon Shortt, Gillian Bleakley and Mark Bleakney.

If you would like to be part of this scheme, either by envelope or Standing Order, please ask Ian Milne for details. Also, there are a few envelopes which are coming in that are not linked to a name on the recorder's database! If you don't get a letter, this is the most likely reason. Let us know who you are so that the computer can be updated.

Finally, the rector has no access to the records so please don't ask him for information—he won't know the answer!!

This month at the Rectory?

The roof is almost complete and the external block work is finished. The chimneys have been rebuilt and properly flashed. The inside is now starting to look like the plans!

Financially, the next of visitation is taking place to collect the remaining responses to the appeal. Almost half of the parish responded over the Harvest weekend and further responses continue to arrive. Remember, Standing Order is the easiest way to support the project. There has not been an enthusiastic response to interest-free loans. If you think you could help reduce the overall cost of borrowing please contact Robert Jennett for further details.

A Long Weekend in Sligo

The Over 55 and Ramblin' Rose are combining this month for an afternoon of coffee and scones etc on November 23rd at 2pm onwards.

They are also planning a trip away in June. The trip will involve a three night stay at the Yeats' Country Hotel in Ross's Point, Sligo with B&B and 3 evening meals. The coach trip will include a visit to Belleek Pottery on the way there and Sunday worship with Liz McElhenny in Calry Parish Church, along with a variety of excursions on the Friday and Saturday. The approximate cost, with a full coach, will be £195. If you would like to register an interest in this trip or invite a friend to come with you, contact Alan Neill at the Ramblin' Rose or beforehand.

Youth Fellowship go to Kilkeel

Unbeknown to a lot of parishioners, the 14th October not only marked the annual Antique Fair at Mullavilly but also a significant date for the Youth Fellowship. It was our inaugural trip to Kilkeel which was very kindly organised by Amanda Stewart. A dozen made the trip to the seaside town and on arrival it was more than agreed that food was priority on the list of things to do. Afterwards we settled into our Church Hall lodgings for the night, gratefully supplied by Christ Church, Kilkeel, and once we found our bearings a bit of adventure was on the cards. Let it be known that 7 is (so far) the record for the amount of people squeezed into a phone-box and sleeping bags can be used for various activities, including football.

It was an enjoyable evening's company and rest assured sleep was the last thing on most people's minds. However, the tiredness did eventually kick in and everyone got their fair share of shut eye before an eventful Sunday.

We woke in time to fit in a Sunday morning stroll before Church, which was quite impressive for a group of young people. It just so happened to be the Family Service at Christ Church that morning and it was being led by the Praise Band's organist, for the very last time. It was a significant occasion which may have been a sad one for the local congregation but any sign of this was drowned out by the joyous singing and the dancing in the aisles, must be something in the sea air! Everyone present agreed, it was a very enthusiastic, enjoyable service with the family values kept right at the heart.

Once again, thanks to Amanda everybody enjoyed a much anticipated dinner and the boys insured nothing went to waste! The weekend was finished off with a relaxing stroll along the beach to walk off those extra pounds gained at dinner time and one of us even got our feet wet. In summary, thumbs up all round! Kilkeel may find itself being invaded by teenagers from Mullavilly a few more times in the future.