

# Mullavilly News

[www.mullavilly.armagh.anglican.org](http://www.mullavilly.armagh.anglican.org)

To Know Christ  
and to make  
Him known

October 2009

***Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month***



If you have ever attended a funeral in Mullavilly, then you will be familiar with the text above. John is describing his vision of heaven as a glorious city. The city is watered by the “water of life” which has its source in the God our Father and Christ our Saviour. That water feeds the tree of life growing on the banks and that tree bears twelve crops—one each month. In other words, the crop from the tree of life, watered by Almighty God, is continuous.

In our own natural cycle in this part of the Western world, there is only one crop each year, and after that crop is harvested, there is a period of rest.

Sometimes that fallow period can last throughout the next season so that the land can recover.

Thus we have two very different life cycles. One which produces fruit and then needs a rest, and one which produces fruit constantly. The first is a description of our “earthly life” and the second is a description of the kingdom of God.

As children of the Kingdom of God, it is the latter image which should be our model for life. Nourished by the water of life from the throne of God, you and I should be constantly bearing fruit, no matter what season we are living in. We do not give up. We do not stop bearing fruit.

Of course, there are times when we become physically tired or weak but that does not mean we also become spiritually weak. It is a great blessing to me to minister frequently to people who are weak in body but nevertheless incredibly strong spiritually. These are people who are drinking from the water of life. Our team of 90 year olds, of which Eva Patterson is the latest member, continue to bear fruit through ministries of prayer, encouragement and example. Those who are seriously ill continue to bear the fruits of love, joy, peace, and the light of Christ is reflected in them. Why? - Because they draw their nourishment and refreshment from the water of life.

It is part of my ministry (a major part) to encourage you to drink from the water of life and to bear fruit. In our garden this summer, we have had success and failure. A shrub which was dying (the one that has a lovely blue flower in May) was taken out of its pot and planted in the ground. Amazingly, it is now blossoming in October! It has a new life. However, the pumpkins in the vegetable patch rotted away because they were flooded for most of August. I can see the same in the “Parish Garden”. A little encouragement and a fresh start can draw new life from someone who is struggling or has even given up in their faith whilst others can fall away and stop bearing fruit because they’re planted in the wrong place or become overwhelmed by their situation.

We must be on our guard—for ourselves and for others—lest we stop bearing fruit. There is no retirement, no holiday, no winter in our service to God. When your circumstances change, when you move house, go to university, get a new job or lose your current one, when others let you down or when life just gets hard, our source of refreshment, strength and renewal is the throne of God and of the Lamb, from which flows the river of the water of life. Thus we continue to bear the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness and self-control (Galatians 5). May your harvest be fruitful.

## Contacting the rectory

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**HARVEST THANKSGIVINGS:  
FRIDAY OCTOBER 9th at 8pm**

## To Know Christ and to make Him known

DATE	CHURCH MICE	FLOWERS	SCRIPTURE	NOTES
Oct 4th	Ann	Valerie Milne	Jean McClelland	11am Holy Communion
Oct 11th		HARVEST		11am family Service & Harvest
Oct 18th	Pauline	Daphne Milligan	Rebecca Milne	11am Holy Communion
Oct 25th	Jonathan	Margaret Neill	Brett Hannam	11am Holy Baptism 7pm Holy Communion
November 1st	Joanne	Carol Overend	Ian Howard	11am Holy Communion

The Scripture readings for each week can be found in the Prayer Book. We are currently using the "B" series. The material for Church Mice, which usually matches the readings, can be found at [www.sermons4kids.com](http://www.sermons4kids.com)

### Baptism Anniversaries

An incomplete list was published in error last month—our apologies. The presentation of cards is intended as an encouragement to our children. Sadly, quite a number of cards are not collected at the family service. We would love you to be there so that we can acknowledge our continuing support of the children in the church.

Cards will be presented at our family service on October 11th to **Annie Whiteman (1st); Benjamin Roberts and Adam Thompson (3rd); Tommy McCallen (4th)**

### **2010 FLOWER FESTIVAL**

**May 13th-15th**

This will be a major event in our calendar for next year. Volunteers are needed for publicity, sponsorship, administration, catering and hospitality. Some of these tasks are already underway and your help is important. Contact Julie Magowan for more details.

## **COUNTRY AND GOSPEL CONCERT**

Proceeds in aid of Parish Development Fund and Southern Area Hospice

**WEDNESDAY 18th NOVEMBER 2009**

Artists include TONY KERR, BARRY DOYLE, PAUL DONNELLY, MARGARET JOHNSTON and MARY McKEE, with backing from BREAKAWAY and compere TERENCE McKEAGUE

Tickets are on sale now from David and Emo Overend, Shortt's Shop, Vestry Members and Winnie's, Portadown.

## CHURCH CHIT CHAT

**THURSDAY 1st:** Another chance to view the Nooma DVD which vividly gives meaning to our understanding of living in Christ, the name of Yahweh and our intimate relationship with God.

**THURSDAY 8th:** No Meeting—Harvest Decorating all day and Thanksgiving on Friday night.

**THURSDAY 15th:** A follow up on the themes presented at our harvest services by the guest preachers. What did you learn? How were you inspired? How were you changed?

**THURSDAY 22nd:** Scripture Study. Continuing to look at some of the less well-read epistles which are short and “to the point.”

**THURSDAY 29th:** a half-term break!!

### Aart and Geesha—our partners in Uganda

The following is the latest email from the Den Breejen family. If you haven't been keeping up to date, Aart and Geesha, with their three children, Anne, Ruben and Jan, are from the Netherlands and are now working with CMS Ireland at the Vocational Training Centre in Arua. This Centre was originally linked with Mullavilly 10 years ago through Billy and Jenny Smith. You can read the family blog and view photographs at [www.cmsireland.org](http://www.cmsireland.org) and you can encourage the family by email to [belfastoffice@cmsireland.org](mailto:belfastoffice@cmsireland.org). Our diocese of Armagh is also linked with the diocese of Madi/West Nile which includes the town of Arua. The diocese will be sending a small team there in the near future to help establish the link and the relationships. CMS are also planning a larger open team to visit the Den Breejen's and this will include some people from Mullavilly. If you have a particular interest in their work or a skill that you could encourage in the students for a few weeks, please let me know. As you can see from the email, the areas of interest are women's craft, motor mechanics, administration, hospitality, joinery, health care and just straightforward friendship and encouragement..

*“Greetings to all our friends...*

*The guesthouse on Jericho compound is still providing some income for the Vocational Centre as guests come and go, mostly for a short stay of one night. Hopefully, with time more people will stay for longer periods and it will hopefully significantly supplement the income for the VTC .*

*The crafts are going fine, we recently sold another batch to Bananaboat, the craft shop in Kampala. Mas is selling them in the Netherlands at our home church as well. I hope they are selling at the CMS Ireland with Yvonne and Jenny. The HIV affected mothers at Arua Hospital, are producing table linen and are also still doing fine with the production of napkins, table runners and the like.*

*The new Mechanics Instructor is also providing a maintenance service for cars for income generation for the VTC, which is good for the VTC and the students. "Our own" car has major problems and is currently in Kampala for repair.*

*The Library Rachel established is going on well, Doreen is keen to open it and she is there daily after lunch for the students who borrow the books.*

*Anne Fleur is fine, number 4 in her class., she finds reading and writing in Dutch now more difficult than English she says. We've moved to the crafts room for her afternoon Dutch classes. The local kids found the lessons more interesting than Anne Fleur and the distraction was too much. Ruben is doing all right at the Nursery and Jan Lucas is a happy chap as ever.*

*Aart is getting the generator going again, as we've had no power for a week. The batteries have done a good job but will need to be recharged very soon.*

*Greetings to all the folks and know that we're together in prayer, Geesje and also greetings from the rest of the den Breejen family in Arua.”*

## October Dates

October 8th	9:30am onwards. Decorating church for Harvest
Friday 9th	8pm Harvest Celebration with Canon Bill Adar
Sunday 11th	7pm Harvest celebration with Canon Colin Moore
Tuesday 20th	Diocesan Synod
Tuesday 20th	8pm Mothers' Union

Also in October, the rector will be preaching at several Harvest Festivals. These are Belleeks (N'townhamilton) on Friday 2nd, Articlave and Castlerock (for Dianne Matchett) on Sunday 4th (am) and Loughgilly on Sunday 18th (pm). Sam will be on leave for the first 2 Sundays of October and therefore Canon Brian Blacoe will be the preacher and celebrant on October 2nd.

### Opportunities for Service

- Sunday School continues to be our main focus of concern as we have only four teachers at the moment (three after Christmas). In particular, we need class "assistants" who, whilst not responsible for teaching, will be able to support the teacher with activities etc.

This is a suitable role for a committed young person (post-confirmation) or adult.

- Additional assistance is required for the Church Mice. A "manager" is needed simply to ensure that the weekly material is available (including sweets) and that the leader for the day and their assistant are available. The Church Mice also require assistants to accompany them and be a support to the leader. This is suitable for 16+ including grandparents.
- The Rainbow group have hit their maximum permissible membership which has sadly meant that some girls have had to be placed on a waiting list. In order to prevent disappointment, the leaders need extra weekly support from a few adults. Could you give them 90 minutes each Monday?
- As Alannah has started university, we also have room for someone to play the piano or organ on one Sunday evening each month. This usually involves about 4 hymns but canticles etc are not necessary.

## CONFIRMATION 2010

This information is reprinted as it read "2011" last month. All candidates should make themselves known to me as soon as possible if they wish to be confirmed next Spring.

Confirmation candidates for 2010 must start attending the Youth Fellowship if they have not already been attending. Candidates should be starting either Yr 10 or 11 or above in school. The candidates' commitment to confirmation should also be reflected in their attendance at worship. It is important that parents encourage their teenagers by their example and thus allow the greatest opportunity to understand the Christian faith. Youth Fellowship meets each Sunday and joins with Thomas Street Methodist on the last Sunday of each month. Make sure Jonathan has your mobile number in case of last minute changes.

Since the last magazine, we have celebrated three baptisms. These were Olivia Davis, daughter of Paul and Kelly and sister of Ben. Paul and Kelly have recently moved back to Portadown from England. Kelly is a grand-daughter of the late Pearl Smith of Ballylisk. On Sept 27th, Mason Fletcher, son of Wayne Fletcher and Donna Kearny, and brother of Ellie, was baptised at the morning service and Will Shortt, son of Simon and Rachel Shortt and brother of Rebekah and James was baptised in the evening. May God's blessing be on all these children and their families.



**COMING TO MULLAVILLY ON DECEMBER 12th**  
**PANTOMIME—Cinderella**  
**With the Markethill Players**  
**Mark it in your diary now!**

