

Mullavilly News

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The Magazine
for Mullavilly
Parish

September 2008

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SEASON PREMIER

Family Service 11am
September 14th

**FEATURING INTERVIEWS WITH PARISHIONERS ABOUT THEIR
SUMMER TRIPS AND GUEST SINGER/SONGWRITER,
MARK FERGUSON**

It was good to get back to Canada this summer and meet up with a few friends and familiar places. Thanks to Heather's organisational and internet skills, everything flowed like clockwork. All the accommodation bookings were in order, the directions were perfect, the car-hire was better than expected with a leather-upholstered 4x4 upgrade. No luggage was lost, nothing was stolen and nobody needed to visit casualty.

However, there was one day for which we hadn't prepared! On our first full day without travelling, we decided to spend a relaxing few hours floating down the Au Sauble River in Michigan. As we were going to be in inflatable tubes, we thought it best to bring nothing with us, even though it was going to be a 4-hour trip. The sun-cream was liberally applied at the beginning and off we went. The first two, and maybe three hours, were wonderful. But then the 3 children caught a slightly faster current and Heather and I got left behind. Our progress was slow and it got slower as the wind began to blow upstream. Having just had a haircut, I could feel my scalp begin to burn, and because I was sitting in the tube, the shins were burning too. Eventually, we met with a couple in a motor boat, whose engine had flooded and they were paddling downstream. They offered us a tow, but they were having as much difficulty with the breeze as we were. Exhausted, we finally reached our destination and three anxious teenagers. The next day, we were all shivering with heatstroke. Some of us could barely walk as our shins were about to split open and my head burst into a thousand blisters which ran down my face and formed disgusting scabs! For two weeks, our skin was coming off in large sheets, despite the gallons of moisturiser that were applied.

What might the moral of the tale be, for the purposes of a church magazine? Perhaps it is that the family should always stick together to help in times of need, or perhaps that it is always important to be prepared for whatever may lie around the next corner.

Perhaps the best moral is "Don't just go with the flow". We were in difficulty because the flow took us into the reeds and the wind blew us backwards. The church can get into difficulty because it gets pushed around by popular changes in society and hasn't the strength or the will to hold its own course. Individual Christians can have the same difficulties. We might well set out with a clear vision of where we are going, but peer pressure, financial worries, ambition, temptations and self-interest can all impact on us to blow us in the wrong direction or impede our progress. As a result, we become over-exposed to the things that harm us—the greed, the lust, the bitterness. Don't go with the flow, expecting everything to be easy. Make an effort with your Christian life and set your face to following where Jesus leads.

Psalm 119:105 Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

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From the Register:

Baptism:

June 8th Amy, daughter of Mark and Tracey Overend

August 3rd Lucas James, son of Gareth and Tracey Fry

Marriage

June 5th Jonathan Elliott and Lesley Palmer

Aug 22nd Elaine Gamble and Garry McKee

Burial

July 30th Pearl Joyce (St Mark's, Portadown)

Sept 9th Stanley Milligan (ashes)

Diary Dates

1st—4th 55 Trip to Co Donegal
 Tues 9th 8pm Select Vestry
 Wed 10th wedding of Mark Kerr & Amanda Wilson (Moy)
 Thurs 18th wedding of Emma Henry and Denver McCrory
 Tues 23rd rector speaking at Nursing College

Baptism Anniversary Cards to be presented on 14th:

1st: Amy Segon; Ellie Fletcher; Lacey Foster.
 2nd: Lucy Wright; Hannah Mardell; Lucy Gough
 3rd: Levi Robinson
 4th: Allia Wylie; Louise Wright; Cameron McClelland

Full Attendance Sunday

This was a wee bit poorly attended last year (264 people through the day) but this year, being slightly later, we should do better! You have a choice of three services. The 9:30am service is traditional and devotional without music, the 11am is informal and child-friendly (see front page) and the 7pm is peaceful and simple. Each service lasts between 45-60 min. Make an effort and you might start a habit! We'd love to see you.

SUNDAY ROTA

DATE	FLOWERS	CRECHE	SCRIPTURE
Sept 7th	Roberta Rafferty	Elaine Bleakney Valerie Doyle	Brett Hannam
Sept 14th	Ann Robinson		Mark Doyle
Sept 21st	Geraldine Thompson	Jane English Susan Hannam	Heather Harper
Sept 28th	Doreen Toal	Wendy Hazley Gwen Kane	Jonathan Harper
Oct 5th	Heather White	Pauline King Jacqui Moore	Ian Howard

The Institution of the Revd Dianne Matchett to be rector of Castlerock will take place on Friday 26th September at 8pm. Diane spent the last year of her training with us in Mullavilly and we wish her every blessing in her new ministry.

"Not every question can be answered by Google":
spotted on a church notice board by David and Gladys Shortt whilst Banff, Canada.

"THE AMBASSADOR"

The new diocesan magazine will have its 1st edition on 7th September. The magazine, edited by the Revds David Gillespie (Moy) and Gerald Macartney (Milltown), will be a full-colour 32-page production with features and contributions from every corner of the diocese, including Mullavilly. This a new and exciting step forward for the diocese and I hope that the circulation will increase within the parish from the present low numbers. As part of the new format, I have been asked to write a "Hot Potato" column for each edition. My instructions were to tackle a subject in a way that would inspire debate and discussion. I had hoped that this column might be anonymous so that I could avoid getting involved in any controversy that might follow, but it is not to be!

My greatest anxiety is that I might inadvertently offend my own parishioners or that you might think I was deliberately criticising you personally. Please be assured that this is not the case. In this edition, I am dealing with environmental issues and will be asking questions about our own responsibilities, especially as I have just flown a family of five across the Atlantic and then driven a huge 4x4 through Michigan and Ohio! If you have any suggestions for future "Hot Potatoes" do please let me have your suggestions—you can stay anonymous and I'll take the flak!

Continuing work at the Rectory:

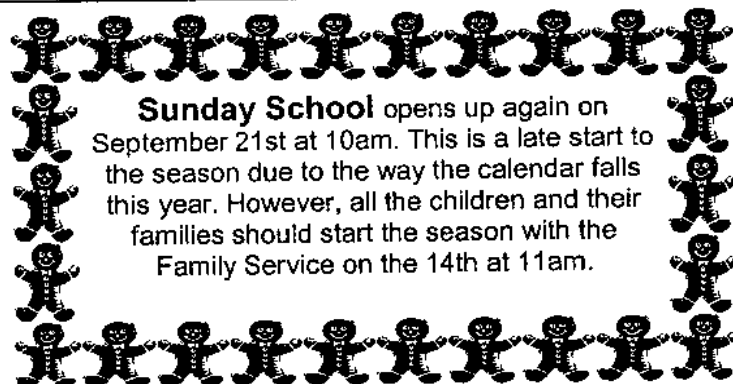
All is well at the rectory. The wet summer made it extremely difficult to get the garden sorted out but Jackie has forged ahead and the seed was finally sown. Heavy rain threatened to wash everything away but it held firm to produce a good rich grass with only a few gullies which should soon fill in. The hard work of all those who raked and lifted stones etc over the summer is greatly appreciated.

Fundraising events to pay the debt continue and we are grateful to Yvonne for the Pig Barbecue and Square Dance held last June.

If you promised to give regularly to the Fund, please do not forget or neglect to do so. If you have not yet started to share in this responsibility, please consider what you can do. Put your donation in an envelope marked for the Rectory Fund and your name (or number of your weekly envelope). You can give to Robert Jennett or place it on the offering plate. Alternatively, you can set up a regular Standing Order—ask for a form.

40 years of service

It was good to celebrate with the Revd Sam Black in August as he marked the 40th anniversary of his ordination. At a special morning service, with his family, Sam presented the Church with a brass cross to sit on the Holy Table. In turn, the parish presented Sam with a season ticket for Ravenhill and a bouquet for Angela.



	What?	Who?	When?
Badminton	An informal night with good fun and lots of banter! All abilities are welcome but you must be 14.	David Overend 3884 1582	Wednesday 8pm-10.30pm (start 10th)
Bowls	Both competitive and informal indoor bowling in a supportive and friendly club.	Jackie Wright 3884 1441	Monday & Thurs 8pm (start 11th)
Prayer Group	Tea and coffee followed by a time of prayer. The atmosphere is informal.	Jean McClelland 3884 0325	Tuesday 10am-11am (start 9th)
Boy's Club	For boys age 4-7. A very popular group which focuses on games and craft	Wendy Hazley 3884 1207	Wednesday 6.30pm-7.30pm (starts 17th)
Rainbows	Part of the guiding group for girls age 4-7 with games, activities and badges	Heather Harper 38840221	Monday 6.30pm-7.45pm (starts 15th)
Brownies	As above, for girls age 8-10	Jacqui McLoughlin 3833 9416	Monday 6.30pm-7.45pm (starts 15th)
Guides	As above for girls aged 11+		Monday 6.30pm-7.45pm (starts 15th)
Mothers' Union	Presentations and talks of special interest to women of all ages .	Jean McClelland 3884 0325	3rd Tues of each month. 8pm
Sunday School	Bible Teaching and activities for children age 4-12	Heather Harper 38840221	Sundays, 10am-10.50am
Youth Fellowship	For teenagers 13+ involving discussion, Bible Study and fun.	Amanda Stewart 38841961	Sunday 8.15-9.30pm (starts 7th)
The Fridge	Drop-in youth club for secondary school kids.	Brian Harper 38840221	Friday 8pm-10pm (start to be confirmed)
Over 55 Club	Exactly as it says on the tin! An afternoon for over 55s.	Alan Neill 38840663	

SITUATIONS VACANT

FAMILY SERVICE REFRESHMENT ASSISTANTS:

Setting up tables, making tea and coffee, serving the refreshments, clearing up afterwards. You will work in a small team of app. 4 people on a rota.

YOUTH CLUB ASSISTANT (male and female)

Friday evenings spent in the company of teenagers. You must be over 18 and willing to comply with Child Protection guidelines. If there are several volunteers, a rota might be possible.

YOUTH CLUB TREASURER

No contact with children needed! Keep the tuck shop supplied with drink and sweets and manage the simple account.

DATA MANAGEMENT

Using MS Access or similar, create a database of the graveyard using our register of records and the information on headstones.

CD DISTRIBUTION

Ensure that the recordings of the morning service get to the right places. The recordings are available immediately after morning worship.

These are just a few of the opportunities to serve your Church. There are always ongoing tasks in maintenance and administration that might need your willing help.