

Mullavilly News

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To Know Christ
and to make
Him known

SUMMER 2009

In Support of Politicians, Servants, and Volunteers!

There can be little doubt that the issue of politicians' expenses has exercised our brains over the past few weeks and brought the government into turmoil. If I were a politician, I would have thrown in the towel by now. Most people go into public service and politics because they believe in their cause and they want to serve their communities. Yet look how quickly those same communities can turn on those who serve them and make sport of what should be a noble and respected profession.

It is important that our politicians know that they have our support and encouragement for the good that they do, and that they should not feel guilty about asking for legitimate expenses in connection with their work. They do need reasonable accommodation in London and they do need flexible travel arrangements etc. We need to be generous in spirit to those who serve us well. We have the privilege of choosing our politicians and they deserve better from the people of Britain. It is wrong to vilify everyone in Westminster because some have abused our trust.

Most people will make every effort to maximise the expenses they can claim—in overtime, accommodation and travel—and few would use their own money in the course of doing their work. We expect to be reimbursed for our expenses and not taken for granted.

The scandal of the expenses corruption prompted me to think about my own expenses, and the expenses of those who volunteer their time to the church. For me, locomotory expenses are paid from the diocese, at a flat rate for 15,000 miles per annum. Anything above that, comes from my own stipend. There is also an office allowance, paid centrally, to cover landline and other costs. The Select Vestry recently decided to pay the monthly mobile contract of £25, as this is now an integral tool of ministry. Capital maintenance and rates on the rectory are paid by the parish. Other utilities are my own responsibility. I hope these are all reasonable benefits!

What I am certainly very conscious of is the generosity of those who undertake voluntary work in the parish. More often than not, expenses are not requested but willingly included in the gift of time and effort. There are lots of little bits and pieces of invoices that never make their way to the treasurer and yet are never noticed or acknowledged. Our volunteers are excellent and deserve encouragement. Now that the end of the 2008/9 season has arrived, let me say a massive thank-you to all those who have quietly contributed to the life of the parish in a way which cannot be recorded or measured—the supply of traybakes and milk and sandwiches, the time spent in organising, administering and preparing; the consultations and the wisdom (an expensive commodity in the commercial world); and the tolerance and love given to our children and teenagers. As the Body of Christ, we need to learn to appreciate the contribution of every part of that body, from the least to the greatest.

People with a servant heart are a precious commodity in any church or in the wider community. We should not begrudge them whatever resources they need nor take them for granted, but freely and willingly carry our share of the cost. We must look after our servants if we expect them to look after us. The recent government scandal has probably knocked the heart out of many good people who have been striving to improve society. Those who have taken advantage of us should rightly be voted out or sacked, but those who have a higher vision should be encouraged and supported.

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

Whilst on the subject of volunteers, the Sunday School will be losing three leaders next year! Elizabeth and Rachel are hopefully taking up places at university in Scotland and England and Jonathan will be studying in South Africa after Christmas. Rainbows also need replacement leaders.

In order to process the Child Protection documents, we would need to identify new volunteers (18+) before July. Speak to me for further information.

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DATE	CHURCH MICE	FLOWERS	SCRIPTURE	NOTES
June 14th		Hilary Beattie		11am Sunday School prizes
June 21st	Brian	Betty Beattie	Leslie Irwin	11am Holy Communion
June 28th	Tanya	Sally Ann Black	Carolyn Mayes	
July 5th	Carolyn	Jennifer Brown	Helen McClenaghan	<u>10:30am Holy Communion</u>
July 12th	What's grey and has a trunk? A Church Mouse on holiday	Jean Hawthorne	Jean McClelland	4:00pm Evening Service
July 19th		Susan Ferguson	Heather Harper	10:30am Holy Communion & Baptism
July 26th		Pauline Jennett	Rebecca Milne	11am Baptism 7pm Holy Communion
August 2nd	Ann	Gwen Kane	Alice Patterson	10:30am Holy Communion
August 9th	Pauline	Brenda King	Robert Chapman	
August 16th	Jonathan	Gwen Maginnis	Mark Doyle	10:30am Holy Communion
August 23rd	Elizabeth	Julie Magowan	Brett Hannam	7pm Holy Communion
August 30th	Rachel	Sandra Burns	Ian Howard	

MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:30am ONLY

Family Service Refreshments in June served by Wendy Hazley, Geraldine Thompson, Mandy Close and Judith Pentand

Baptism Anniversaries

JUNE: Amy Overend (1st); Jonathan Stewart (2nd); Jamie Clarke (2nd); Mia Crowe (2nd); Oliver Crowe (2nd); Kerry Louise Gibson (2nd); Lucy McDonald (2nd); Ben Black (3rd); Louis Willis (3rd)

KEY DATES

The first key date is probably over by the time you read this! On **JUNE 7th**, Colin Patterson will be commissioned officially as Parish Reader. This will take place at the evening service. Colin has been a great support to Margaret and myself at the front of the church and we extend our prayerful support to him as he continues. If anyone else wishes to enquire about the role of Parish reader, please do not hesitate to ask.

On a similar theme, the Revd Geoff Wilson will be instituted to the Parish of Shankhill, Lurgan on **Wednesday June 24th at 8pm**. It is a big church so there should be room for anyone who wants to go. Geoffrey served as churchwarden here in 1994 and then for many years as a youth worker, vestry member and friend. We extend to him, Naomi, Bethany, Jack and Sam, an assurance of our prayers as they move to Lurgan.



June 8th-11th, the Over 55's will be enjoying a luxurious coach trip to Westport. I'm not able to join them this year so I hope they behave themselves!! Have a safe and enjoyable time.



Every 5 years, the Diocesan Architect pays us a visit to inspect the property and advise on any faults. He will be with us on **Friday June 12th**. We are grateful to Alan Neill and Jackie McIntyre who, as glebewardens, oversee all our maintenance and ensure an easy passage through this inspection.



Sunday School Presentations will be made on **June 14th**. Prizes are awarded for attendance and hopefully there will be a good attendance that morning. The guest preacher is Adam Pearson.

Jonathan Harper, Rachel Doyle and Rebekah Hampton will be commissioned in Waringstown Parish Church for their trip to Kenya. This will be at **6:30pm on June 21st**.

Elizabeth Harper will be commissioned for her trip to Burundi in All Saint's Church, Belfast on **July 5th at 7pm**.

The Kenya team will be away from **July 5th to 27th** and the Burundi team from **July 16th—August 3rd**



The Mark Ferguson Band will be in concert in the Armagh Theatre on **Saturday 27th**. If you enjoy contemporary Christian music, then this will be an excellent night.

Summer Madness takes place in the King's Hall **July 3rd-7th**. Mark Doyle, Kerrie Shortt and Amanda Stewart are taking a group from here to camp over the weekend. Summer Madness is one of the key influences on young Christians in our church and we pray that they will be greatly blessed.



A number of our young people are taking part in the Xpression project in Portadown, Richhill and Craigavon from **August 17th-21st**. If you bump into any of the Xpression team around town, do stop and encourage them. As well as taking part in worship etc., they will be involved in many community activities.

MATCH REPORT

Loughgall Presbyterian Church must seriously regret challenging Mullavilly Parish to a football match. Despite the fact that our team was hastily pulled together in only two days, with no practice, the final score was a resounding defeat with 7 balls in the net from Mullavilly and only 5 from Loughgall. The age range of our team covered more than four decades, with the youngest player being only 15 (work the rest out for yourself!).

Throughout the match, Pearson, Uprichard, Doyle and Foster played havoc with Loughgall defence, showing speed and agility. The brute force of Ferguson left the opposition on the floor as he advanced to

score a hat-trick. Samuel Harper, the baby of the team, stunned the goal keeper with an amazing volley at close range whilst Hill, Metcalfe and Overend formed a solid defence at the other end. Goal scorers were Ferguson (3), Foster (1), Uprichard (2) and S. Harper (1)

On the sidelines, coach, Herbie Pearson, kept the team motivated, assuring the senior players, frequently, that there were only 5 minutes left. His half-time pep-talk would have been a credit to any pulpit. With encouragement from a collection of WAGS and parents, the team succeeded in completing the full 90 minutes. Man of the Match was awarded for courage and endurance to Nigel Metcalfe.

The full team list was Jonathan Harper (goal), Alan Overend, Raymond Hill, Nigel Metcalfe, Simon Foster, Adam Pearson, Jamie Uprichard, Mark Doyle, Samuel Harper, James Ferguson and coach Herbie Pearson. (there were only 10 players as someone almost forgot their wedding anniversary!)



Parish Records etc

We're making two changes to the way in which we publish the important events in the lives of our parishioners. The births, marriages and deaths will no longer be listed in a formal style but will but will include more personal detail and pastoral comment. This will also allow for comment on other events which are not part of our registers, e.g., moving away from the parish or welcoming new families.

Secondly, money received in memory of the deceased will be published as an annual total in the accounts each Spring but the individual totals will be published in this magazine throughout the year as they are received.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Dr Ronnie Burnett whose funeral took place on April 30th. Ronnie was held in high regard by his patients and friends and will be missed in the community. His widow, Heather, and children Jonathan, Nicholas, Christopher and Alison are assured of our prayers. We also remember prayerfully Jervis and Ruth Pearson and Cameron on the still-birth of baby Jacob whose remains were interred in his grandparent's (Ossie and Ellie) grave on May 9th. On May 2nd the Pritchard family from England, attended the burial of ashes of the late Mr Robin Pritchard in the family plot which had recently been restored by the deceased.

We were delighted to baptise three infants since Easter. These were Harry, son of Allan and Glenda Gough and sister to Lucy. Harry is the 4th grandchild of Francis and Gordon Whiteman and was baptised by the Revd Sam Black on May 10th.

Harry Michael, son of Michael and Caroline Willis, was baptised on May 24th and is a brother to Mollie and Louis and a grandson to Freddie and Barbara Ward.

Emma Florence, daughter of Ernie and Florence Copeland and sister of Grace, was baptised on the evening of May 31st. May God bless each of these families.

In 2008, we gratefully received £1100 in memory of the late George Spence in lieu of flowers. We also received a donation of £40 in memory of Pearl Smith and £50 in memory of Jackie Purdy.

In 2009, we have received with thanks £200 from the estate of the late Mary Milligan and £500 from the estate of the late Mrs A. Hall, Rathowen.