

Mullavilly News



Autumn 2019

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MULLAVILLY IS A COMMUNITY BASED CHURCH AND PARISH

'To Know Christ and to make Him Known'

There are so many lovely old and modern hymns that remind us that the 'Church' of Christ our Lord is made up of people from every nation under heaven.

As many of you know, one of my favourite things to do is to travel: to see other countries, experience their culture and meet some of their people, even if only for a few hours or a couple of days. I am always fascinated with what I find; from the huge, great, big, busy cities to the remote, quiet, desolate places. One thing I also look out for in all the places I go is a Christian Church. On the odd occasion these have been hard to find and I may not have been able to locate one, but if I can, we always go in and, if there is no service on, have a look around, sit quietly and pray and thank God for that church and its witness in that place, and also for those at home.

I am always fascinated to find that churches come in all shapes and sizes. Tiny wooden structures, small stone structures, huge ornate Cathedrals. Some are busy, doing lots of outreach into their local community, others are a place of refuge and quiet for those who want to get away from the hustle and bustle of town or city life and spend a few minutes in God's house, wherever that may be. Places where worshippers have walked

for miles to be there to meet others; places where the church 'building' could be easily hidden among the skyscrapers around it and few attend – but is still a presence in that place.

The Church for many is a building. Four walls. A pulpit. A prayer desk. A Communion Table. Some pews. A Baptism Font. Maybe some stain glass windows. A Lectern with a Bible on it. Choir Stalls.

Yes, this is a place for the Church to meet. It is not the building that is 'the church', but the people of God who meet together 'as the church'. The early church, which we read about in the Book of Acts, met together in people's homes and shared with each other all that they had. In one country I went to with CMSI, the 'Church' met under a tree. It didn't make it any less of 'a church'. The people still worshipped God, prayed and shared in the Lords Supper together.

Many of you hold Mullavilly Church building very dear to your hearts and rightly so, it is a beautiful old building that many have said to me is homely and welcoming. But as 'the Church' of Mullavilly, in this community, what do you hold dear? Is it just the building, the seat you always sit in, the windows you like to look at, the prayer book you use, the hymnbook you like to sing

out of or the Bible that is very rarely lifted and used that remains stacked at the end of your pew. Or, is it the people that makes 'church' special to you? Is it because you come primarily to worship God along with others? Is the thing you hold dearest of all your own personal relationship with the Lord? If all the physical things were stripped away, would you still feel part of 'a church'?

A thought for discussion... Would it matter where you met together, so long as you were able to read God's Word, sing hymns, prayer and have fellowship together?

Yes, we love 'our church, the people', we love the place we call 'God's house' in this parish. As part of the local community of Mullavilly, Laurelvale and the surrounding area, our hope and desire is that we would 'All Know Christ and make Him Known, and in doing so provide and meet the needs of all those who live here. As you know, you are more than welcome to join us at any of our various Church services each week, but not only that, to join in all our activities and events, or avail of our organisations, which cater for all ages on a weekly or monthly basis.



Sunday Worship in Mullavilly

9.30am

Holy Communion each Sunday

11.00am

1st Sunday of month: Parish Communion
2nd Sunday of month - Family Service
3rd Sunday of month - Service of Holy Baptism
or Morning Worship
4th Sunday of month - Morning Prayer
5th Sunday of month - Songs of Praise

7.00pm

Evening Prayer
(Holy Communion 4th Sunday evening)

Church Mice – Crèche

All children under 4 are encouraged to go to Church Mice. Their mums/dads are more than welcome to stay with them for the first week or so as they settle in and become familiar with other children and their new environment. As Church Mice is for pre-school aged children – all other children are invited to go to Sunday School.

Contact: Carolyn Mayes for the Church Mice Rota (Mob: 0797 9738091)



House-Groups

We're now in the period of Advent and nearly at Christmas. September seems so far away but back then we started our new House Groups. Two groups, one led by Eddie Cairns and the other by Caroline Whitten are exploring the Book of Acts. These are pretty laid-back, chilled Bible studies or rather chats around some of the themes found in the book. We all met together in the Choir room for an introductory evening, helping us to see the big picture of what Luke (the author) wanted to portray in the sequel to his gospel. For a few weeks, we then met in people's homes before returning to the hall for another evening together focussing on Chapter 4. Following a few more house-based meetings we will be meeting again at 7:30 p.m. on Monday 9th December for our Christmas Fun Evening. If you'd like to join the fun and fellowship, then chat to Caroline or Eddie and come along. We'd love to see you.

Mothers Union



10th December – Christmas Movie and Dessert Night

21st January 2020 – New Year Meal Out – venue to be confirmed

18th February 2020 – Lynette Givan – Mercy Ships – Visitors Night

24th March 2020 – Elizabeth Haslett – Healthy Eating

Confirmation Class and Junior Bible Class

Parents, please ask your young person to read this information. Thank you. It is important to note that all young people intending to be confirmed next year should be attending Bible Class every Sunday morning. At present the class is following the church teaching programme on The Armour of God but will soon be switching to the Confirmation Preparation Programme.

Full attendance at Bible Class is mandatory for confirmation, and unless there is an exceptional reason why your young person cannot attend, due to sickness for example, this may impact on them being put forward for Confirmation in this particular year group. There have been around 10 Sundays since the beginning of Junior Bible Class this year, and the most that any one candidate has attended has been 5.

Part of Confirmation, taking this next step in their faith journey, is their commitment to church attendance and meeting together with others to worship God.

One of the Promises that was made by you the Parents / God-Parents at their baptism was: 'Will you care for them and help them to take their place within the life and worship of Christ's Church?' to which you would have replied – 'with the help of God, we will.' At their Confirmation, they will be taking on this and other promises for themselves, therefore we need to be able to see that they are serious and committed to these promises and that they are not undertaking them lightly. Can we please ask that as you as parents, continue to set an example to your young person by attending church with them and ensuring that they come to Junior Bible Class for all the teaching and preparation that is required. Sadly, as we look around our church, as is the same in other churches, we hear the phrase, 'Confirmation is just a passing-out parade'. This makes me, as it does many ministers, very sad indeed. In fact, it is the complete opposite. This is an opportunity for those being confirmed to make a positive commitment to become full members of the church – not to see it as the time to walk away.

Please have this discussion with your young people at home. Talk about it and find out from them why they want to be confirmed.

Would you not agree that our church should be filled with young people, if they were serious about the promises they made at their confirmations over the years? Which leaves the questions, where are they? What did their confirmation mean to them? I guess that for many, they still need the guidance and encouragement of their parents to bring them to church and to get involved in the life and faith of the Christian Community of Mullavilly Parish (as one of the other promises indicates). Many, many thanks for your help in this very important step in your young person's journey of faith, and if you have any queries or questions please do not hesitate to get in touch with the Rector.

Bumblebees Parent and Toddler Group

Our Bumblebees meet on Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. (during school term time) but will finish on Tuesday 3rd December with a Christmas Party. Please feel free to come along and join us and dress your little ones in their sparkly tops and clothes! And mums / dads / grand-parents and carers can of course dress up too, with antlers, jingle bells etc...



Rainbows

Monday's at 6:30 p.m. For all Girls aged from P1 upwards. Those who are older will become part of the 'Brownies'. Contact: Lesa Gibson on 07933 050157 or the Rector: 0238 840221



Kids Club

For all Primary School Children (P1-P7) What do you do on a Tuesday night from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m? Are you bored with the same old Tuesday TV programmes? Then why not come to Kids Club where we play loads of games, do crafts, cook stuff and eat other stuff! Come and make new friends in the Church Hall every Tuesday evening. We would love to see some more boys and girls come along, so bring your friends and we will see you there!

Please contact Jackie McCammon on 07809 428646 for more information



Youth Fellowship

Over the last few weeks, the Youth Fellowship has been enjoying a lot of messing about! This was a way of introducing the newbies to the rest of us and building up our fellowship together. We have had many games of 'Unihoc', 'W5 slide' and the ever-scary 'Sardines'. Just before we broke up for the half term holidays, we brought in food from McDonalds and witnessed the national chicken nugget mountain consumed by (some of) the guys.

When we return, however, our programme will be changing and although there will still be the essential fun and games, we will be including Bible studies, debates and discussions, video nights, food nights and much, much more. Youth Fellowship is not Youth Club and we meet to develop the faith of our young people by exploring how Jesus can impact our everyday lives.

Good Companions Friendship Group

From January 2020, our Friendship Group will meet once a month, on the 3rd Thursday. It will begin at 11:00 a.m. and finish with a soup lunch at 12:30 p.m.

Thank you to those who provide soups on a rota basis. If you would be willing to help, either by providing a pot of soup or by serving it out, I know that this would be very much appreciated by all those who attend. (When we have sufficient people providing soup this means that you are only perhaps asked once a year.)

Bowling Club

Our Bowling Club meets on Mondays and Thursdays at 8:00 p.m. Some evenings are held in our own hall and some away at different venues where we have been invited to play matches against other teams. If you would like to join us, even just for the club nights at our own hall, please do get in touch. You will be made very welcome.

For further details or information please contact Linda Milligan 07592 598083.

Mullavilly Youth Club

Due to a few unforeseen circumstances, the Youth Club did not start on the date we had originally intended, but we are reviewing a starting date and will let everyone know when this will be, either in our Church announcements or on our Facebook page. Please keep an eye out for this in the coming weeks. Again, if you would like to help us get a Youth Club up and running please do get in contact with us.

Parking

We continue to have an on-going problem with parking in the Church Car Park. Can we ask that you do not park on the double yellow lines, block the entrance to the Church and Church Hall, or park in the yellow boxes. Please park only in one of the car parking spaces provided.

Parking in the restricted areas not only blocks all the traffic coming and going but is also dangerous and could cause a serious accident. Entrances must be kept clear so that the emergency services can access to our buildings and reach someone who has taken ill. Thank you.

Badminton Club

Our club continues to meet on a Wednesday evening at 8:00 p.m. and is open to all. As usual our Christmas 'Chinese' evening will be on Wednesday 18th at 8:00 p.m. Please let David Overend know your choice of menu.

Contact: David Overend – 07769 940321
It will recommence after Christmas on Wednesday 8th January.

Foodbank

Thank you to all those who donated items for the Craigavon Area Foodbank during our Harvest Thanksgiving weekend. These items were gratefully received and will go to help those who have found themselves in circumstances where they are finding it difficult to provide for themselves or their families. Thank you too to Mr Andrew White who very kindly collected and brought these items to the foodbank warehouse for us.

A Call to Ordination Parish Reader - Lay Reader

Have you ever felt that God may be calling you to some kind of ministry within the church? Perhaps at a local level as a Parish Reader, like Margaret or Caroline who help me week by week on a rota basis. Or perhaps at a diocesan level as a Lay Reader, or even in the wider church as an ordained minister. If this is something you would like to discuss further, please speak to me and we can have a chat about the different possibilities.

As is very evident in our parish, we have some very dedicated ladies who fulfil very important roles. (e.g. two Parish Readers, the organist, the parish secretary, parish treasurer and many others who are on our scripture reading list, although we do have a number of men on this as well), and as leaders of our children's and adult organisations.

I am therefore challenging the men of our parish to think and pray seriously about what God may be calling you to do.

It may be something like taking on the responsibility of our Friendship Group or helping with the sound desk in Church, Kids Club or Youth Club or starting a 'Men's Shed' group that would help to keep the area round our church and graveyard tidy, or do little bits of maintenance, or painting or 'hands-on' stuff..! The options are limitless, but we need more willing hands.

You might think that you have nothing to offer, but what you do have is the ability to be a male role model to the young men of our church and parish.



Apple Blossom Baby Basics

Since our last update in the previous magazine, there has been a lot of hard work 'devoted to setting up our Baby Basics. The room we use is shelved and filled with storage boxes and lots of people have been very generous in providing all sorts of items from baby wash to Moses baskets. Some have taken items home to wash, iron and return. Others have been sorting and sifting the items that have been donated. Some who have knitting skills or sewing skills have been putting these to good use in making things to go in the baskets.

Our committee have been working very hard too, setting up the room, applying for grants, filling in copious amounts of paperwork and keeping in regular contact with the health professionals and other bodies, as well as collecting items that have been and are being donated.

We have already prepared and sent out our first basket, which was very gratefully received.

Information and articles about Baby Basics have appeared in the Church of Ireland Gazette (an all-Ireland publication) and The Ambassador (the Armagh Diocesan Magazine), as well as letters and leaflets going into primary schools and junior high schools in the area, some of whom have already held a collection to provide additional items. The Rector has spoken at the Diocesan Synod to all the clergy and representatives of the Diocese; at the Mothers Union Rural Deanery Service, which was held in Ballymoyer, and also the Armagh Diocesan Council Meeting for MU, where there was a lot of interest in the project. We have also made close contacts with some charity shops, where they will let us know if there are Moses baskets that we could use. We can forward items to them that we receive but cannot use. The amazing thing about this project so far is how it is impacting all ages, across all organisations and groups. From small children in our schools, to older folk who are knitting, many are keen to help in whatever way they can.

We will continue to keep you up-to-date on all that is happening – but please do follow us on Facebook if you wish, and in doing so, you will be able to hear our latest news and whether we have special requests for particular items that may be needed.

Again, many thanks to all who have helped so far and who are continuing to offer their help in any way. If you feel this may be something you would be interested in getting involved with then please do get in touch. The more the merrier and it means that the little tasks can then be shared out as and when needed.

Many thanks
Rev. Elizabeth
Present Committee: Caroline Whitten, Carolyn Mayes, Jayne Hollywood



PSNI Choir & CPA(NI)

We had a lovely evening on Sunday 3rd November, when the PSNI Ladies choir joined us for our evening service. They truly blessed us with the items that they sang, and it was great to see so many join us from our own parish and from other local churches. We also heard a very inspiring message from Det Con. Heather Flanagan from the Christian Police Association. Thank you to those who helped provide supper and refreshments after the service, when the PSNI choir treated us to some more singing.



Bereavements

We extend our sympathy to those who have been bereaved in our parish and ask for God to continue to comfort them as they mourn the loss of a loved one.

3rd November 2019
Mr Herbert Sydney Milligan (Bertie)
Ashtree Hill (Laurelvale)

Pastoral Visitors Course

The Diocese has asked me to run another Pastoral Visiting Course for the wider church. This six-week course will begin in the New Year and run each Monday evening from 13th January until 17th February from 8:00 – 9:30 p.m.

If you would be interested in undertaking this course, which would enable you to assist with visiting in the parish, please do get in touch. Visits might be to an elderly person who is housebound or in a nursing home, or even a young family. You may want firstly to come to this evening and find out whether this area of ministry is for you. This is perfectly acceptable.

Safeguarding Trust



Just a reminder that if you have any new leaders (in any organisation) over the age of 18, they must have gone through our Safeguarding Trust procedures. If you have members in your group who are under 18, there must be at least two leaders who have gone through SGT and have undertaken the relevant Access NI checks. There is also a requirement for those who are parish pastoral visitors to receive SGT training, especially those calling on vulnerable adults. Please speak to the Rector should you have a query or need more information.

WWI – TRIP TO THE SOMME

For members of Mullavilly Church. The Rector is organising a trip to the battlefields of the Somme and surrounding areas for 24th- 27th September 2020. There are limited places on this and more than half of them have already been taken. If you are interested, please let the Rector know as soon as you can. Even if we are full, we can add your name to a waiting list. The cost per person is £595. More details are available at the back of the church.

News from the Diocese and Wider Church



At our Diocesan Synod, the Archbishop announced that he would be retiring on 2nd February 2020. Archbishop Richard came to Armagh in December 2012 and has been warmly welcomed into our Parish and also into some of our homes when he came to visit us.

We have always enjoyed his visits, his down-to-earth manner and his ability to get along with all ages.

The Archbishop said; "I must thank you and others throughout the Church of Ireland who have made these past seven years - for me at least - both fulfilling and pleasurable. Of course, not every moment of every day has been without issues or problems to be faced, but this time in Armagh has truly been a very agreeable experience for me, and for this I humbly thank God for the great privilege I was given in being appointed as Primate seven years ago and I also thank all of you, for your constant encouragement, your friendship, your prayers, your support and... your patience."

We pray for God's blessing on him as he leaves this demanding role and moves into retirement and live in West Cork and that he will have health and strength for many years to come. We pray also for those who are tasked with the responsibility of choosing and electing a new Archbishop, not just for Armagh but also as Primate of all Ireland.

Congratulations!



Archdeacon Andrew Forster has been appointed as the new Bishop of Derry and Raphoe. Andrew (52), along with his wife Heather, who have three children, succeeds Ken Good who retired at the end of May this year. Andrew led a special 'Parish Away Day' for us a couple of years ago and we were very blessed to have him on that occasion. We pray for him as he prepares for this new and demanding role.

Andrew has been Rector of Drumglass (Dungannon), since 2007, and Archdeacon since 2015. He was previously Rector of Drumcliffe and Archdeacon of Elphin and Ardagh in the Diocese of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh (2002-2007), Church of Ireland Chaplain and Dean of Residence at Queen's University, Belfast (1995-2002), and Curate in Willowfield Parish Church, Belfast, in the Diocese of Down and Dromore (1992-1995).

Andrew's Consecration as Bishop will take place in Armagh Cathedral on Sunday 8th December and the Archbishop has invited all the Armagh Clergy to this important service as we gather to support Andrew on this special occasion. As a result, there will be no evening service in Mullavilly Church on the 8th December.

MULLAVILLY IN DECEMBER

Please see the special events and services over the Christmas period to which you are all invited and will be very welcome.

Invitation

It was lovely that local churches came along and joined us on the evening in November when we had the PSNI Ladies Choir. In return, Mullavilly Parish has been invited to Ballymore Parish Church on Sunday 1st December at 7:00 p.m. for its Community Carol Service. (There will be no service that evening in Mullavilly.) Poyntzpass Silver Band will be helping to lead the singing and local school choirs will be taking part. The collection at this service will go to the work of Action Mental health

Christmas Soup Lunch

Thursday 12th December at 12:30 p.m.
This is a much-looked-forward-to event every year and this year is no different. Everyone is welcome to come and we will be enjoying some lovely soups and a large range of desserts, followed by tea/coffee, mince pies and shortbread. If you would like to come, please let us know, and how many you are bringing with you, so that we can arrange our catering.

Sunday School

The Sunday School 'Christmas Party' will be on Wednesday 18th December from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Church Hall.
The Sunday School 'Nativity Service' will be on Sunday 22nd December at 11:00 a.m. in Church.
Sunday School will recommence after Christmas on the 5th January 2020.

Mullavilly Primary School

Our Primary School will be having their Annual Play this year in our church hall. It will be on Monday 16th and Tuesday evening 17th December. More details will be available from the school and tickets can be issued directly from the school office.

Mullavilly Community Carol Service

Our service of Nine Lessons and Carols will be on Sunday 22nd December at 7:00 p.m. Each year it is lovely to see families returning home for Christmas and coming out together to this traditional service. So, please do invite them along, even those who live nearby, we would love to see them all. There will also be 'Christmas Praise' on the Sunday after Christmas – 29th December at 11:00 a.m. Our service then will take the form of readings and carols.

Salvation Army Gifts and NSPCC 'Gift Tree'

As we have done in previous years, we will be collecting gifts for children and teenagers over the first two Sundays in December. These can be left for the Salvation Army under the 'Big Tree' at the front or at the 'NSPCC Tree' in the baptism area. Thank you in advance for all your support in providing these items. Please do not wrap the presents but do please place them in bags if possible.

Colour Me In

*We would love you to take some time out to colour this in,
reflect and pray on this piece of scripture.*



Calendar and Sunday Rota

Date	Church Mice	Flowers	09.30 Scriptures	11.00 Scriptures	
01 December	Advent Sunday 9.30am Holy Communion 11am Holy Communion 7.00pm Ballymore Church	Carolyn Mayes Jayne Hollywood	Pauline Martin	Brett Hannam	Rosemary Neill
08 December	Advent 2 9.30am Holy Communion 11am Morning Service No evening Service (All Rectors at the Cathedral)	Holly Brown Elaine Neill	Jane King	Susan Hannam	Georgina Stewart
15 December	Advent 3 9.30am Holy Communion 11.00am Holy Baptism 7.00pm Evening Service	Emma Cairns Valerie Doyle	Dinah McClelland	Andrew White	Jean McClelland
22 December	Advent 4 9.30am Holy Communion 11am Sunday School Nativity 7pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols		Roberta Rafferty	Susan Ferguson	Sunday School
24 December	11.15pm Christmas Eve Service				
25 December	CHRISTMAS DAY (Wednesday) 8.30am – Holy Communion 10.30am – Family Service (Short)			Helen McClenaghan	Lisa Fitzpatrick
29 December	Christmas 1 – 11am Christmas Praise with Carols and Readings ONLY ONE SERVICE AT 11.00am		Roberta Rafferty		Marianna Neill
05 January	Christmas 2 9.30am Holy Communion 11am Holy Communion 7pm Evening Service	Linda McCammon Susan Hannam	Wendy Hazeley	Edward Wilson	Mary McKee
12 January	Epiphany 1 9.30am Holy Communion 11am Family Service 7pm Evening Service		Mandy Wright	Raymond Hill	Sunday School
19 January	Epiphany 2 9.30am Holy Communion 11am Morning Service 7pm Evening Service	Lisa FitzPatrick Yvonne Neill	Brenda King	Brett Hannam	The Mayes Family
26 January	Epiphany 3 9.30am Holy Communion 11am Morning Service 7pm Holy Communion	Lesa Gibson Jayne Hollywood	Mandy Close	Andrew White	Ruth Pearson

Calendar and Sunday Rota February and March continued overleaf

Calendar and Sunday Rota Continued

Date	Church Mice	Flowers	09.30 Scriptures	11.00 Scriptures	
02 February	Presentation of Christ in the Temple 9.30am Holy Communion 11am Holy Communion 7pm Evening Service	Kerrie Shortt Elaine Neill	Mandy Craig	Susan Hannam	Sheila Hamilton
09 February	3rd before Lent 9.30am Holy Communion 11am Family Service 7pm Evening Service		Yvonne Cushley	Susan Ferguson	Sunday School
16 February	2nd before Lent 9.30am Holy Communion 11am Morning Service 7pm Evening Service		Ann Robinson	Helen McClenaghan	Andrew Milne
23 February	Sun before Lent - Transfiguration 9.30am Holy Communion 11am Morning Service 7pm Holy Communion	Carolyn Mayes Valerie Doyle	Caroline Whitten	Edward Wilson	Rosemary Neill
01 March	1st Sunday in Lent 9.30am Holy Communion 11am Holy Communion 7pm Evening Service	Holly Brown Christine Neill	Paula Neill	Raymond Hill	Georgina Stewart
08 March	2nd Sunday in Lent 9.30am Holy Communion 11am Family Service 7pm Evening Service		Judith Pentland	Brett Hannam	Sunday School
15 March	3rd Sunday in Lent 9.30am Holy Communion 11am Morning Service 7pm Evening Service	Emma Cairns Yvonne Neill	Donna Fletcher	Susan Hannam	Jean McClelland
22 March	4th Sunday in Lent Mothering Sunday 9.30am Holy Communion 11am Morning Service 7pm Holy Communion	Linda McCammon Jayne Hollywood	Valerie Milne	Andrew White	Lisa Fitzpatrick
29 March	5th Sunday in Lent 9.30am Holy Communion 11am Songs of Praise 7pm Evening Service	Lisa FitzPatrick Susan Hannam	Julie Magowan	Susan Ferguson	Marianna Neill

