

EDITORIAL

I am delighted there are so many contributions this month that I am making SPACE for them.

Happy Christmas

Editor....

LETTER FROM THE RECTOR



At the end of last month's *Lion* I had said that I would reflect a little and say something about my visit to Finland, representing the Church of Ireland at a meeting of the Porvoo Communion. So, the largest part of this letter takes the form of an edited version of an article I wrote for the Church of Ireland Gazette on that topic.

However, first some more everyday matters.

As always we had a very moving Remembrance Day service on Sunday 8 November.. Many people comment on how special

that service is, and how the atmosphere is helped by the numbers attending.

That is all very true. And equally true is how heartbreaking it is to see the attendance on the following Sunday. Of course many visitors came to the Remembrance Sunday service.

Nevertheless when we have 550 one week and 200 the following week, it gives pause for thought. Enough said?

Men's Group

I had also said last month that that I would report back on the findings of the men's survey which was largely undertaken at my request through the exertions of Ken Bell. We had forty-three replies, which was a gratifying number. However both Ken and I found it very difficult to discern any pattern or consensus in the remarks offered.

There is no doubt that parishioners showed interest – but in very different things. However, spurred on by the level of interest shown, and based on the most requested topics in the questionnaire, Ken and I have been putting together a programme of very high-quality speakers. The talks will cover a very wide range of subject matter, should appeal to all age groups, and will commence in the New Year. Details will be printed in the next issue.

I am very grateful to Ken for the trouble he has taken and the initiative he has shown and I do hope that through these beginnings we can build up a renewed sense of Men's Fellowship here in St. Mark's.

Christmas Services

You will see elsewhere in the *Lion* a list of services for Advent and Christmas. The first Communion of Christmas on Christmas Eve is always a most

memorable service and like the Family service with the Nativity play on Christmas Day, well attended.

Advent services on Wednesday at 7.30 (and indeed 10.30 Sunday worship during Advent) are not quite so popular, to say the least. However Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of the Lord and I would commend Advent services to you.

Confirmation

Over recent years, with nearly every parish experiencing smaller numbers for confirmation, parishes have shared Confirmation services. Last year we joined together with the parishes of Knock, Stormont and Gilnahirk and this year the four parishes also intend sharing the preparation for Confirmation.

The service will take place on Sunday 25 April (St. Mark's Day as it happens) in St. Molua's, Stormont. Candidates should be in first form or above. Classes will commence early in January.

Preparation for adult confirmation will take place separately and almost certainly by each of the four parishes individually. So I would be very interested to hear from any adult who would be interested in being confirmed or indeed who wishes to discuss any spiritual matter.

Finland

“Every man fears becoming poor; Jesus dreaded any man becoming rich”. One of the remarks made in the group we were in, which was discussing a paper on the economic crisis and the world around us, given by the Rt Revd Olav Skjevesland, Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Norway. The occasion was a meeting of the Primates and representatives of the Porvoo Communion, held in the little Cathedral town of Porvoo in southern Finland.

The Porvoo Communion does not claim to be a great cosmopolitan institution which issues authoritative statements. The meeting in Porvoo was merely a group of believers coming together to share their experiences and to encourage one another (and one another’s churches) in how to live out our Christian discipleship in the modern world. And, of course to gather around Scripture and Sacrament – the living symbols of the Incarnate Word.

The meeting was hosted by the Finnish Lutheran Evangelical Church and it was a strange experience to attend a Holy Communion service conducted in Finnish. Lutherans love to sing hymns. There could be eight in a service. We sang hymns impromptu when we visited a church for sightseeing; we sang hymns when we were invited to someone’s house for dinner; we sang hymns at a post-service entertainment in Porvoo parish hall. I am prepared to state that I have sung more hymns in Finnish than any manjack in Ireland.

We received the bread in our hands and the wine in little individual cups. An abstruse debate developed between the Anglicans as to whether this way of receiving communion achieved a compromise between a communal celebration and an act of personal devotion. Most thought it did, so we informed the hosts of our satisfaction. “It is for reasons of hygiene” they said. Much deflated, we left further theologising to the Lutherans.

For those of us who had met at previous Porvoo gatherings it was a time to renew old acquaintances. There was Darius Petkunas, the pastor of Klaipeda in Lithuania, whose twin daughters had inspired a sermon on Jacob and Esau at our last meeting. The urbane and cheerful Ragnar Persenius, Bishop of Uppsala, who was standing down as Lutheran co-chair to be replaced by Karl Sigubjornsonn, Bishop of Iceland; his name harder to pronounce than Ragnar’s but giving a great sense of achievement when you managed it.

And there were new faces. Susan Woodcock, representing the Spanish Episcopal Reformed Church, but coming from Kent via Uganda, Kenya and Bolivia. Among the Primates, the first Porvoo outing for the Rt Revd John Sentamu, Archbishop of York, still refusing to wear a clerical collar until Robert Mugabe is gone from power in Zimbabwe, and bringing laughter as a debating tactic to many of our discussions. The Revd Leslie Nathaniel, a native of Kerala, a veteran of the Church of South India, (and an admirer of Hugo Chavez) now working at Lambeth Palace on

ecumenical affairs added a touch of radicalism to our conversation.

As the quotation at the top of this article shows, the debates were on substantial issues and allowed us to think about how, though sometimes small in number, the Churches might act as leaven in our societies. Many of the countries represented, such as Estonia, Latvia and Iceland have been even more deeply affected by the economic crises that we have in these islands. Faith and stoicism during the years of Soviet oppression, or in the case of Iceland, transforming a frozen land at the world's edge into a European nation, have perhaps equipped these countries with resources to face great trials that others lack. In any case, during our discussions of the grim times ahead, the truth that "*Christ is our peace*" was never forgotten.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, the Primates' discussion concluded in a request that much more work needs to be done in the area of mutual consultation. That is of how we talk to one another about decisions that we may make as individual Churches, but which have an impact far beyond our own small sphere. The Archbishop of Armagh was able to draw on our experience as a Church in two jurisdictions to illustrate the need for considered and respectful dialogue. He also managed to work in the Grand Slam achievements of the Irish Rugby team.

We discussed issues of great sensitivity; human sexuality of course, which is a much as bone of contention in the Lutheran

World Federation as in the Anglican Communion. Relationships with Russia, and other world powers. The behaviour of the British government in using anti-terrorist legislation to take action against a bank in Iceland. How, as a group of autonomous Churches, we can live and grow together.

There is no doubt that personal contact at all levels, parish, diocesan, and Church-wide, is crucial to further development. Some Irish dioceses and parishes have formed links with Lutheran counterparts and as the Porvoo Contact person for the Church of Ireland, I am available to help facilitate others.

There is nothing quite like meeting together to cement a relationship. The marriage was arranged way back in the 1990s by the elders of our tribes and it is time that the bride and groom got to know each other better.

One thing you will find is enormous variety, and the Lutheran Churches certainly operate in circumstances very different to our own. Most are State or at least National Churches, often supported by a poll tax. In Sweden, Finland, Norway and Denmark over 80% of the population would consider themselves Lutherans and would have their children baptised and confirmed and, when the sad scene arrives, buried. That said, they are not avid Church goers in between times, and although a parish may have perhaps twenty-five thousand members, it may have only one hundred people in church on most Sundays.

The wife of the Swedish speaking bishop of Porvoo is a professor in the University of Helsinki where the Faculty of Theology has two thousand students in any one year. Can any society thrive under the weight of that much theological conversation? Up to three hundred of these will be ordained each year, but relatively few will work in parishes. Many will find jobs as teachers or even as Church bureaucrats.

The bishop of Tampere in central Finland (two hours bus journey through what looked like a flooded silver birch plantation) has the largest diocese in Finland with around fifty parishes. He has five hundred clergy,(not including deacons, who form a separate permanent expression of ministry. Lutherans talk about one order of ministry with three expressions). No problems there for rectors looking for curates there.

No doubt national stereotyping is a thing of the past but my own observations and those of more experienced nation-watchers are as follows. The Finns are quiet and the Estonians are quieter. Icelanders are the Latins of the North, positively raucous in comparison with most Nordic people. Their language has remained virtually unchanged (bar the odd loan word) for a thousand years and to hear an Icelander speak is to be listening to the language of the Sagas, and has more in common with Beowulf than with Celia Ahern.

So diplomatic are the Swedes that, in their company, you always feel that you have committed some horrendous social gaffe, but they are too polite to say. The Norwegians and the Danes seem

to smile more but then they understand one another's languages and may be just having the last laugh. They all love the Irish.

Lithuanians and Latvians also speak related languages and share the awful common legacy of both Nazi and Soviet tyranny. Unlike the Nordic churches, they are greatly in the minority in their own countries (the Lithuanian Lutheran Church makes up just 0.6% of the population) and, if they are much more traditional in their outlook, is it really surprising, given the modernist political "theories" which have blighted their lives and their history?

You may have mixed opinions about the usefulness of a gathering of about forty people, a combination of Primates and plebes, and what such gatherings might achieve. However, given the infrequency of the meetings, and the importance of that word "communion" they provide some anticipation of what a worldwide church committed to freedom, autonomy and mutual commitment communion might feel like.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS



HOLY BAPTISM

Jesussaid, "Let the little children come to me" (Mark 10:14)

15 November 2009 Jamie Walsh of 69 Pim's Avenue, Belfast

CHRISTIAN BURIALS

"I am the resurrection and the life, saysthe Lord" (John 11:25)

9 November 2009
Belfast

Susan Taylor late of Glenmachan Tower,

COUNTING & STAPLERS

COLLECTION COUNT ROTA DECEMBER 2009

Convenor Max Livingstone

Counters Walter Christie

Corry Lyttle

Margaret Parrock



COLLECTION COUNT ROTA JANUARY 2010

Convenor Harry Grindle

Counters Tony Christie

Jim McKinley

Joe Cairns

LION STAPLERS— JANUARY

Friday 29 January @ 9.00am in the Committee Room



Karen Doyle

Rosemary Simpson

Shena

Moorhead

Heather Grindle

Ada Long

Tony Wilson

FLOODLIGHTING

OUTDOOR FLOODLIGHTING DECEMBER



Donation for church floodlighting gratefully received from:

December 2009

- 6 Mrs L Wilson of 23 Sydenham Avenue in memory of her mother
Mrs Heather Thompson
- 6 J Beynon of 116 Old Holywood Road in memory of Irene
- 13 Mr B Williams and family of 18 Glen Ebor Park in memory of Helen
- 20 Mrs Betty Little of 14 Belmont Grange in memory of her parents and husband
- 27 Mr B Williams and family of 18 Glen Ebor Park in memory of Helen

January 2010

- 3 Mrs L MacHenry & Watson family of 24 Ashbrook Drive in memory of Fred Watson
- 3 Mr & Mrs D Parrock of 10 Finchley Gardens in loving memory of their parents and departed brother and sister (December anniversaries).

- 10 Mr Bob Brooks of 32 Inverary Fold in memory of Mrs
Mona Brooks
- 17 Dr H & Mrs Grindle of 37 Cairnburn Crescent in memory of their
parents
- 17 Mrs M Irwin of Apt 14, Butterfield Lodge, 221 Hollywood Road
in memory of her husband Bob
- 24 Mr & Mrs G Treanor of 2 Edgcumbe Drive

CALENDAR OF WORSHIP – DECEMBER 2009

Wednesday 2

- 11.00am Holy Communion
- 7.30pm Advent Service and Intercessions for the Sick

Sunday 6 Second Sunday of Advent

- 8.30am Holy Communion
- 10.30am Family Service
- 6.30pm Holy Communion & Ministry of Healing

Wednesday 9

- 11.00am Holy Communion
- 7.30pm Advent Service and Intercessions for the Sick

Sunday 13 Third Sunday of Advent

- 8.30am Holy Communion
- 10.30am Morning Prayer

6.30pm Compline

Wednesday 16

11.00am Holy Communion

7.30pm Advent Service and Intercessions for the Sick

Sunday 20 Fourth Sunday of Advent

8.30am Holy Communion

10.30am Parish Communion

3.00pm Holy Communion for Senior Parishioners and friends

6.30pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Wednesday 23

11.00am Holy Communion

7.30pm Advent Service and Intercessions for the Sick

Thursday 24 Christmas Eve

11.30pm Midnight Eucharist (First Communion of Christmas)

Friday 25 Christmas Day (The Nativity of Our Lord)

8.30am Holy Communion with Hymns

10.30am Family Service with Nativity Play

11.30am Holy Communion (shortened form)

Saturday 26 Saint Stephen

11.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 27 First Sunday of Christmas: Saint John the Apostle

8.30am Holy Communion

10.30am Morning Prayer

6.30pm Compline (said)

CALENDAR OF WORSHIP – JANUARY 2010

Sunday 3 The Epiphany (tsfd)

8.30am Holy Communion
10.30am Morning Prayer
6.30pm Holy Communion & Healing Ministry

Wednesday 6

11.00am Holy Communion
7.30pm Intercessions for the Sick

Sunday 10 First Sunday of Epiphany

8.30am Holy Communion
10.30am Morning Prayer
6.30pm Evening Prayer

Wednesday 13

11.00am Holy Communion
7.30pm Intercessions for the Sick

Sunday 17 Second Sunday of Epiphany

8.30am Holy Communion
10.30am Parish Communion
6.30pm Evening Prayer

Wednesday 20

11.00am Holy Communion
7.30pm Intercessions for the Sick

Sunday 24 Third Sunday of Epiphany/The Conversion of St Paul

8.30am Holy Communion
10.30am Morning Prayer
6.30pm Compline

Wednesday 27

11.00am Holy Communion
7.30pm Intercessions for the Sick

Sunday 31

8.30am Holy Communion
10.30am Morning Prayer

6.30pm Holy Communion & Healing Ministry

Sunday 7 February: The Presentation of Christ (tfd)

8.30am Holy Communion

10.30am Family Service

6.30pm Holy Communion & Ministry of Healing

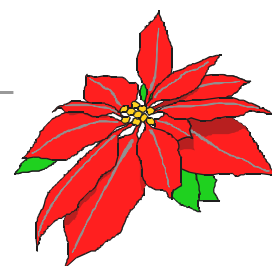
Wednesday 10

11.00am Holy Communion

7.30pm Intercessions for the Sick

FLOWERS

DECEMBER 2009



6 December Mr Bob Williams

In memory of my wife Helen

13 December Mrs M Clark

17 Johnston Court, Green Road

20 December CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

27 December CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

JANUARY 2010

3 January CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

10 January Mrs Baker

5 Victoria Drive

In loving memory of her husband David

17 January Mr Bob Brooks
32 Inverary Fold
In loving memory of my wife Mona

24 January Mr and Mrs M M Brown
7 Knocktern Gardens

31 January Mr D McCracken
58 Belmont Church Road
In loving memory of my wife Eileen

Lesley E E Donaldson 90654866

POINSETTIAS AT CHRISTMAS

Would you like to place a red poinsettia plant in Church in memory of a loved one at this special time of year? If so, please bring it to Church on 18th or 19th December, between 10 and 11am and it will be placed at the front of the Church.

MOTHERS' UNION *from Mary Harland*



We meet in the main hall after the Advent Service on 16 December for our Members' Candlelight supper.

At our meeting on 20 January we look forward to welcoming Roberta Rodgers, the M.U. Diocesan President, speaking on her visit to Uganda.

I wish you all a Very Peaceful Christmas and a Very Happy New Year.

LADIES' GUILD *from Geraldine Whiteside*



At our 9th November meeting Gloria Jamieson and Margaret Harris made snowmen and all other kinds of decorations for cakes, all made from sugar paste. The flowers were so realistic all they needed was

scent.

We would like to thank Gloria and Margaret for a fantastic evening.

Dates to remember:

14th December – Christmas Party

Sarah Bass & Youth Fellowship

11th January – Citizens Advice

Linda Williamson

We would like to wish all our Readers everywhere a Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

EVERGREENS *from Lorna Rutter and Joan Eakin*



Our November meeting involved making crackers for Christmas. Thanks to Yvonne McMaster for showing us how and to various Committee members for bringing all the necessary paper, tubes, fillers and sparkly stuff. They looked very festive and put us in the mood for our Christmas Party on 9 December. We look forward to seeing you all then.

PRAYER PAGE

A Christmas Prayer

by Robert Louis

Stevenson

Loving Father,
help us to remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,
and the worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and
open the door of love all over the world.
Let kindness come with every gift and
good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing
which Christ brings, and teach us
to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy
to be Thy children, and the Christmas evening
bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts,
forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen!

POETRY PAGE
Yeats

Sailing To Byzantium

by William Butler

That is no country for old men. The young
In one another's arms, birds in the trees
---Those dying generations---at their song,
The salmon-falls, the mackerel-crowded seas,
Fish, flesh, or fowl commend all summer long

Whatever is begotten, born, and dies.
Caught in that sensual [music](#) all neglect
Monuments of unageing intellect.

An aged man is but a paltry thing,
A tattered coat upon a stick, unless
Soul clap its hands and sing, and louder sing
For every tatter in its mortal dress,
Nor is there singing school but studying
Monuments of its own magnificence;
And therefore I have sailed the seas and come
To the holy city of Byzantium.

O sages standing in God's holy fire
As in the gold mosaic of a wall,
Come from the holy fire, perne in a gyre,
And be the singing-[masters](#) of my soul.
Consume my heart away; sick with desire
And fastened to a dying animal
It knows not what it is; and gather me
Into the artifice of eternity.

Once out of nature I shall never take
My bodily form from any natural thing,
But such a form as Grecian goldsmiths make
Of hammered gold and gold enamelling
To keep a drowsy Emperor awake;

Or set upon a golden bough to sing
To lords and ladies of Byzantium
Of what is past, or passing, or to come.

PARISH CHEF *from Angela Kerr*

TURKEY WITH A DIFFERENCE!

This recipe is ideal for those who do not wish to buy a whole turkey for Christmas Lunch or Dinner!

Turkey breast fillets as per number of guests (I have given ingredient quantities for 4 people)

3 large oranges- cut in half and squeeze to give 3
tablespoonful

of juice.. Grate rinds finely.

1 tablespoon clear honey

1 tablespoon English or wholegrain mustard

1 tablespoon ground ginger

Place turkey breasts in greased dish making 2 slits across top
of each.

Heat all the above ingredients and pour over turkey

Cook 190 deg for 25/30 minutes. Reduce heat if fan oven.

Baste turkey after about 10 minutes.

Serve with a parsnip mash i.e. cook cubes of potato and parsnip until soft.

Drain and season. Mash.

Add a little milk and knob of butter to the mash.

Arrange on serving platter with turkey fillets on top.

To add colour, garnish with fresh cranberries and slices of orange.

A little port may be added to the gravy to add flavour.

Happy Christmas from
Angela Kerr (Parish Chef)

Articles for the February edition of 'The Lion' should be with the Parish Office by Wednesday 20 January 2010

THE PRESENCE *from Billy Adair*

When Church Hymnal 5 was published in the year 2000, (can you realise it is nine years old?) it expanded our knowledge of hymns and carols and included quite a few “new numbers”, some of which had been familiar in

Nonconformist circles, but were now being introduced to Church of Ireland worshippers for the first time.

One of the sections thus increased was the Christmas hymns and carols which gained seventeen new items, one of these being No 157 “Glory to God”! all heav’n with joy is ringing”, a very sensitively well written hymn. This is set to the fine tune “Highwood” by Sir Richard Terry, and though I have never heard it sung, I’m sure it would sing well.

The writer is the Rev. John Edward Bowers who was born in 1923 and was still alive when Church Hymnal 5 appeared in 2000. He was Vicar of two parishes in Leicestershire, and was an honorary Canon of Leicester Cathedral for ten years before his retirement in 1988.

Bowers wrote a number of hymns, most of which appeared in “More Hymns for Today” (1980). One of these was the Christmas hymn we are considering, which he wrote specially for the Christmas midnight Eucharist at St Helen’s Parish Church, Ashby de la Zouch in Leicestershire.

Writing about this hymn, Bowers said, “I wanted to write a hymn to the lovely tune “Highwood” for the Christmas midnight Eucharist. I took the four themes of Angels, shepherds, wise men and ourselves. I like to think that this is a good marriage of tune and words; the tune is probably the dominant partner!”

The scene is set with an outburst of praise in verse 1:

“Glory to God!; all heav’n with joy is ringing;
Angels proclaim the gospel of Christ’s birth –
“Glory to God!”, and still their song is bringing
Good news of God Incarnate here on earth”.

In the stable that Christmas night all was quiet – “how silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given” – but outside, the air was filled with music, as the host of angels sang “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will towards men”.

We know the words but alas, not the tune. This was the good news of all time, that God in His mercy had come amongst us in the person of his Son – “Born of a woman because He was human, born of a virgin because He was divine”.

v 2 “Lowly in wonder shepherds kneel before Him,
 No gift to bring save love of heart and mind.
 Come like those shepherds, sing His praise, adore Him,
 A babe so weak, yet Saviour of mankind.”

Shepherds were not at the top of the social strata, yet it was to such that the first indications of the Saviour’s birth were revealed. And they had the first invitation to go to Bethlehem and see for themselves. So without any gift but loving devotion, in wonder they kneel before Him, and that is what is expected from us – adoration.

v3 “Humble, yet regal, wise men kneel before Him,
 Gold, incense, myrrh, their gifts to Christ they bring,

Come like wise men, sing His praise, adore Him.
A babe so poor and modest, yet a King.

The magi had the wherewithal to present gifts, and of great significance – gold for a King, incense for a God, and myrrh for the final anointing, but they knelt before Him in worship, for “richer by far is the heart’s adoration”.

v4 “Though now no crib or cradle is concealing
Jesus our Lord in that far-distant shrine,
Christ at each Eucharist is still revealing
His very self in forms of bread and wine”.

This Hymn was written for a Christmas midnight Eucharist, and in this last verse we leave the far-distant stable and move to the Altar. Here we have the crux of what the hymn was leading up to – Christ’s Presence in the bread and wine – “this is my Body, this is my Blood”.

We are indebted to Church Hymnal 5 for making this lovely hymn available to us, and it reminds me of the closing verses of John Betjeman’s “Christmas”:

“And is it true? And is it true,
This most tremendous tale of all,
Seen in a stained-glass window’s hue,
A baby in an ox’s stall?
The maker of the stars and sea
Became a child on earth for me?”

“And is it true? For if it is,
No loving fingers tying strings
Around those tissueed fripperies,
The sweet and silly Christmas things,
Bath salts and inexpensive scent,
And hideous tie so kindly meant,

“No love that in a family dwells,
No carolling in frosty air,
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells
Can with this single Truth compare –
That God was Man in Palestine
And lives today in Bread and Wine”.

There you have it – two minds, with but a single thought.

EVENING PRAYER

Come and surprise yourself.

Our Evening Service consists of Compline, (in Prayer Book page 153), Evensong and Holy Communion & Ministry of Healing.

Compline is only 30 minutes in length, the others slightly longer. There is also a social side – tea/coffee, cakes and a bit of a chat.

They all have a somewhat more personal feeling for me and I would like to see our members going.

You should seriously come and experience these for yourself. Then you will understand why I think that you too will really benefit from your Sunday Evening Service.

M

THE 1% CATHEDRALS FUND



13 October 2009

Bishop Harold writes

This year is the 400th Anniversary of the granting of the Charter to both our Diocesan cathedrals, in Downpatrick and Dromore. Several special events have been organized to celebrate this occasion, and recently I have been present at two of them: the wonderful Flower Festival in Down, and the dedication of the completed organ in Dromore. We are also in the midst of forty days of prayer organized and promoted as part of the celebrations by our two deans.

Both of our cathedrals have a very real place in the hearts and minds of the people of the diocese. They have, of course, a very special place in my own heart as your bishop, as places where the seat or cathedral of the bishop is to be found. But they are more than that. They are important historical buildings in their own right, one on the site where St Patrick is buried, and the other as the last resting place of our most famous bishop, Jeremy Taylor.

But both of our cathedrals also have a vital ministry to exercise. Dromore Cathedral is, of course, also a parish church, but it is a place where many major diocesan events and services have taken place, and the people of Dromore have always warmly welcomed us and generously offered their hospitality. Down Cathedral, in a complementary way, is not a parish church, but rather is a place of pilgrimage with more visitors than ever this year. It is also a place where many of our larger diocesan occasions take place, and where we may gather and invite others. The privilege of having these places entrusted to us in the Diocese of Down and Dromore is immense, and the possibilities for mission and outreach are more than we can imagine.

It is also the case that a great deal of work has been done on the fabric of the two cathedrals over the last years, with much of the drive and energy coming from the local worshippers. What

remains now to be done is largely the interior work: lighting, decoration, sound, re-ordering and seating are some examples. I long for both of our cathedrals to be places of beauty, creativity and vitality in both their life and their looks! In the case of Down, potential outside funding, especially for the tourism and pilgrimage aspects of the Cathedral, depends on ownership by the parishes of the diocese.

So, after consultation with the Diocesan Council and Diocesan Finance Committee, I am launching a 1% Cathedral Fund for the next five years. This idea was warmly welcomed by many, not least at this year's Diocesan Synod. I think it is the first time in twelve and a half years that I have made a personal financial appeal to the diocese. This is not a diocesan levy, and I am aware that I make this appeal at a time of recession and financial uncertainty, and that your very response as parishes will be a step of faith. According to my calculations, if each parish in the diocese rose to the 1% challenge (ie 1% of all income), and two thirds was given to Down and one third to Dromore, reflecting the size of the dioceses, the result would be around £250,000 for Down Cathedral and £125,000 for Dromore over the five years. But this requires each parish to play its part. For some, you may wish to give directly from funds in the allocations at the end of the year; for others you may wish to have a fund-raising event.

Thank you in advance for your support and investment in this most important aspect of the life and witness of our diocese.

Yours sincerely in Christ

+Harold Down & Dromore

LIGHTEN OUR DARKNESS

Isabelle Prondzynski (with Louise, Kathleen and Lucy)

Nairobi greetings from all of us, at the end of an exceptionally difficult year for Kenya. The water shortage in the country has been severe, and has led to widespread famine. Nairobi has additionally been hit by electricity rationing, as much of Kenya's

power is hydro-electricity. As I write, rain is falling, and we hope that it will continue and will provide the country with a crop and the people with water and with power.



Thinking about electricity has made me want to write to you about one of the most successful projects of the Urban Development Programme (UDP) in recent years. It all started with the election of Janet Njoroge, a publisher, to the post of Chairperson of the UDP Committee in 2006. This Committee supervises the work of the UDP and reports to the Cathedral's Parochial Church Council. Janet Njoroge is a doer, and she soon developed her new ideas for the UDP. The first of these was to create a Resource Centre for the youth of the communities in Kayole, who had got together in a club called Tumaini (the Swahili word for "hope"). The Resource Centre was to be located in the same plot as the Tujisaidie Nursery School, which itself is so familiar to St Mark's Dundela, as you have been supporting the school and its children for many years now.

Janet generously donated textbooks from her own company, she got the Cathedral congregation to donate more books, magazines and other materials, she raised funds for new shelves, tables, chairs and equipment, as well as obtaining a computer and printer, and she encouraged the community to apply for electricity. The new Resource Centre started its

operations in mid-2007, with a football friendly between Tumaini and the youth of All Saints' Cathedral. The furniture was completed, and a big day was found for the blessing of the new centre -- this happened just before Christmas, on 22 December 2007.

At that stage, the electricity application was running its course, and with the help of funding from CMSIreland, electricity was installed and finally connected in February 2008. It was a huge event, all the greater since the Resource Centre was the only place in the surrounding area which was now connected to the grid and, for some of the children, it meant seeing the marvels of electric light for the very first time. There was singing and dancing and celebration -- and some of the children decided to spend the night in the Resource Centre, to continue enjoying this marvel.

It is hard to imagine what the simple installation of power and lighting has meant for the young community members. The electric light, together with the books, has brought unexpectedly massive numbers of community children and youth to the Resource Centre to do their homework -- sitting on the chairs and benches of all classrooms of the nursery school, on the floor, and even outside in the school yard. The older youth take it in turns to supervise the Centre and provide coaching for the younger students. School results have

improved and there is demand for an expansion of the Centre, as well as for additional seating.

The lighting at the Centre has also improved the feeling of security for the community as a whole, and the students know that theirs is a safe place where they can study unmolested.

Entertainment has become possible and, at Easter time, the film “The Passion of Christ” was screened on a donated television set, and the “Sweet Poison” DVD from CMSIreland was watched by many. The Centre nurtures talent, and the Tumaini youth have enjoyed practising drama and poetry there, and have entered local and city-wide competitions. With the help of the electric light, the Tumaini counselling team are also using the Centre to talk with some of their young members or neighbours, who may be experiencing early pregnancy, displacement after the post-election violence of last year, or spiritual problems they wish to discuss with someone close in age to themselves.

The Resource Centre has become a place where the adult community also gathers to celebrate achievements (such as the recent graduation of the Tumaini Chairperson in Urban Ministry), to hold meetings and to prepare for funerals.

We give thanks for this wonderful facility and for Janet Njoroge’s initiative and enthusiasm, which have made it possible, for the commitment of the Tumaini leadership, and

the financial support of CMSIreland. And as we enjoy the electric light in the Resource Centre, we also wish you light and joy throughout Advent and the Christmas season.

Written for The Lion, 19 October 2009.

The Urban Development Programme (UDP) of All Saints Cathedral church, Nairobi, was started in 1991 in order to look after 350 families, who were displaced from their homes in slum demolitions.

Among the specific activities supported by the UDP are:

- *Health* – The UDP is involved in both preventive and curative health measures – but with an emphasis on the former. Basic methods of disease control are demonstrated by the community health workers who are funded by the UDP and free treatment is provided at the Makadara mercy sisters' dispensary. As part of the health care programme the UDP also organises free medical camps in collaboration with the congregation members who have a medical background.
- *Latrines* – Provision of latrines and bathrooms was the first priority of the community. A lack of adequate facilities meant that bathing and going to the toilet was happening in the open causing significant problems of hygiene and personal embarrassment. So far 120 latrines and bathrooms have been constructed by the community members.

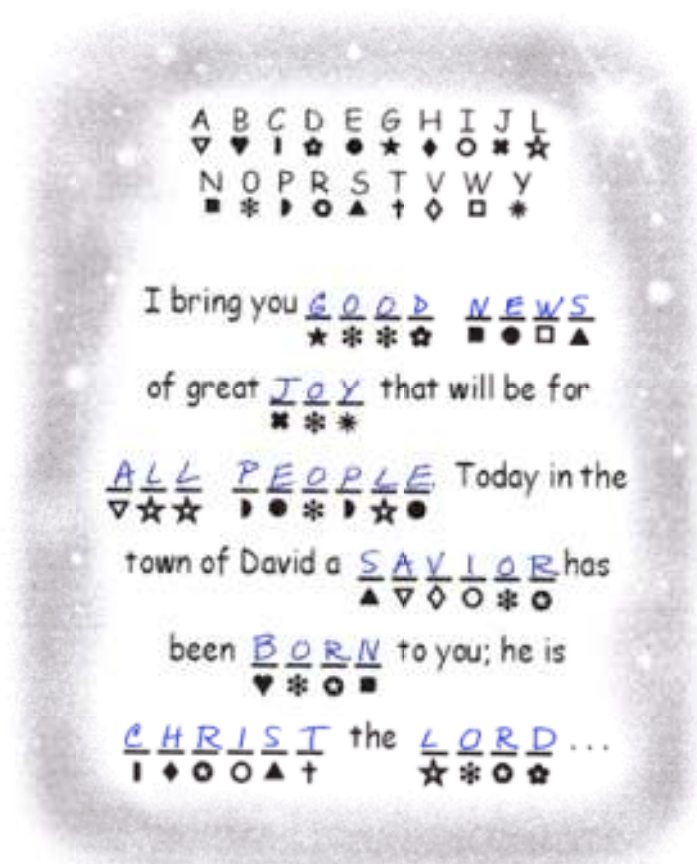
- *Education* – Students are given bursaries through the UDP from the *Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal* and a number of other donors. They are selected on the basis of their examination results and the capacity of their parents to continue paying school fees for them. Most of the beneficiaries of this scheme have continued to do well after completing their secondary school education. One of them has a masters degree in economics from Jomo Kenyatta University and is now a bank manager.
- *School Feeding Programme* – The community set up a nursery school for their children – in order to protect them from spending their time on the streets. The feeding programme is part of an effort to encourage and enable children to stay in school throughout the day. They are served a simple a simple hot meal, which is funded through the UDP by supporters in Irish link churches. The community members organise themselves to cook, serve and clean on a rota basis. The feeding also extends to the old and sick – who number 20 on any given day. The initiative has had a positive impact on the health of the children, their psychological well being and has contributed to the community's togetherness.
- *Income Generating Activities* – The UDP is committed to helping the local communities find ways of providing for themselves. At present this primarily focuses on craft making, which by the young mothers. Many of their crafts have so far been on sale in Europe, and purchased by visitors from Ireland. The group are now planning to set up a stall to sell their wares on a larger scale

at the Cathedral on Sundays. Other options currently being explored are pig rearing, sewing, and a bakery facility.

- *Community Capacity Building* – Seminars and workshops are held to provide training on: leadership; fire fighting; income generating possibilities; and home based care for HIV/AIDS.
- *Evangelism Through Sports* – This is a relatively new initiative which brings young people in the communities together for football, volleyball, basketball and table tennis. They have an opportunity to share the word of God, through teaching and testimony, before and after their activities, and to support each other in fellowship and prayer. The initiative is bringing many to faith and discipling many others.

Through these programmes and areas of support the UDP looks to make the love of Christ visible and tangible at the heart of a local community.

Answer to code



IN AN OTHER DIOCESE *by Berrie O'Neill*

An autumnal visit to the place of my birth found me at the church of my baptism, situated as it was then in the United Diocese of Kilihaloe, Kilfenora, Clonfert and Kilmacduagh - all historic place names where ancient cathedrals have for long adorned the banks of the mighty river Shannon. Nowadays, however, a further dwindling of the Church of Ireland population in the midland and south western regions has brought about the "United Diocese of Limerick, Ardfert, Aghadoe, Killaloe, Kilfenora, Clonfert, Kilmacduagh & Emly" - a huge swathe of the island of Ireland constituting the see of newly consecrated Bishop Trevor Williams.

An excellently produced and edited diocesan monthly magazine 'Newslink' plays a major role in keeping a sense of belonging in the many parishes throughout this nowadays geographically far-flung part of the Church of Ireland. Reports of barbeques, cups of tea, fetes and flower festivals remind us of a social ethos that extends across our parochial boundaries. A vibrant youth and schools emphasis also emerges through photographs of table tennis teams, mountain climbing and horse riding expeditions

not to mention rather more modern or esoteric activities such as caving, surfing and 'spike balling'!

Within this united diocese can be found parishes such as Aughrim (where long ago the armies of William and James continued to battle) and, on a more up-to-date note, Cloughjordan where an 'eco-village' is emerging. Not too far away, on the boundary between counties Offaly and Tipperary lies Moneygall where was born into the Church of Ireland, Fulmouth Kearney, third great grandfather (6 generations) of USA President, Barak Obama - indeed the Rector of Moneygall, Rev. Stephen Neill, was a guest at the President's inauguration. In Shinrone the newly instituted Rector is Rev. Michael Johnston who was "raised in County Down, at the foot of the Mourne mountains" whilst in Tralee there was sadness combined with thanksgiving expressed in the passing of 99 year old Archdeacon Rowland Blennerhasset.

From a St. Mark's perspective, bell ringing in Limerick strikes a note (to coin a phrase) and there is here and there through the 'High Milcaoe Club' a focus on the 'Evergreens'. Most unexpected of all are two references in 'Newslink' to our former curate, Rev. Christopher Woods. Rev. Patrick Comerford writes of a visit to Christ's College, Cambridge "where the Rev. Christopher Woods is the chaplain and Archbishop Rowan Williams was an undergraduate" and in the context of the 70th anniversary celebrations of Kilmallock Church in Co. Limerick, Christopher was the special preacher on 29th June last.

'Newslink', which very much emphasises people in its columns, prints a 'Clergy Profile' each month where clergy answer a limited number of questions about themselves. The questionnaire ends with the searching question, 'If you could change one thing about the Church of Ireland, what would it be?' To which one enigmatic answer was; 'The patient is dying of terminal certainty and needs regular injections of agnosticism if it is to have any realistic chance of survival'. Maybe some food for thought there.

WONDER NO MORE!!!



It is a known fact that the penguin is a very ritualistic bird which loves an extremely ordered and complex life.

The penguin is very committed to its family and will mate for life, as well as maintaining a form of compassionate contact with its offspring through out its life.

If a penguin is found dead on the ice surface, other members of the family and social circle have been known to dig holes in the ice using their vestigial wings and beaks, until the hole is deep enough for the dead bird to be rolled into and buried.

The male penguins then gather in a circle around the fresh grave and sing,

“Freeze a jolly good fellow”



*Received with thanks from Bible Study Group
£120 for UDPNursery School*

19 October 2009

COULD YOU LIVE ON 10 LITRES OF WATER A DAY?

Y

Stidia lives in Kigazi, a remote village in the mountains of Uganda. The village is at the top of a mountain and has no running water. This means that Stidia and her friends must make the two hour trek up and down the mountain twice a day in order to provide water for their families. It is a dangerous journey, the girls are often attacked but they keep going because they know this is the only source of water for their families.

A

K

The YF were challenged to monitor the amount of water they use per day and to try and cut it down as much as possible for one week.



-Standard shower = 35 litres every 5 minutes... 10 minute shower = 70 litres

-Running a tap = 6 litres per minute... brushing teeth twice a day = 24 litres per person

-Dishwasher = 17 litres per wash

These are just some of the ways in which we use water everyday so you can imagine how difficult it would be for a whole family to live on just 10 litres of water per day.

Thanks to Tearfund, a new rainwater tank has been built in Kigazi and so Stidia and her friends no longer have to worry about making the dangerous journey down the mountain very day. Next time you run a tap, spare a thought for those less fortunate who don't have this luxury.

Take their whisper and your volume; change their lives (and yours).

THE ANGEL'S ANNOUNCEMENT - Luke 2 (NIV)

About 2000 years ago there was a very special baby born in the town of



**Harold the Angel Sings!!
glory to the newborn king!**

Bethlehem. This baby had been promised to a woman named Mary by the angel Gabriel. You can read about this in Luke 1:26-36. On the same night that he was born, an angel appeared to the shepherds in a nearby field who were watching their flocks.

Use the code below and fill in the spaces to see what the angel's message was.

A	B	C	D	E	G	H	I	J	L
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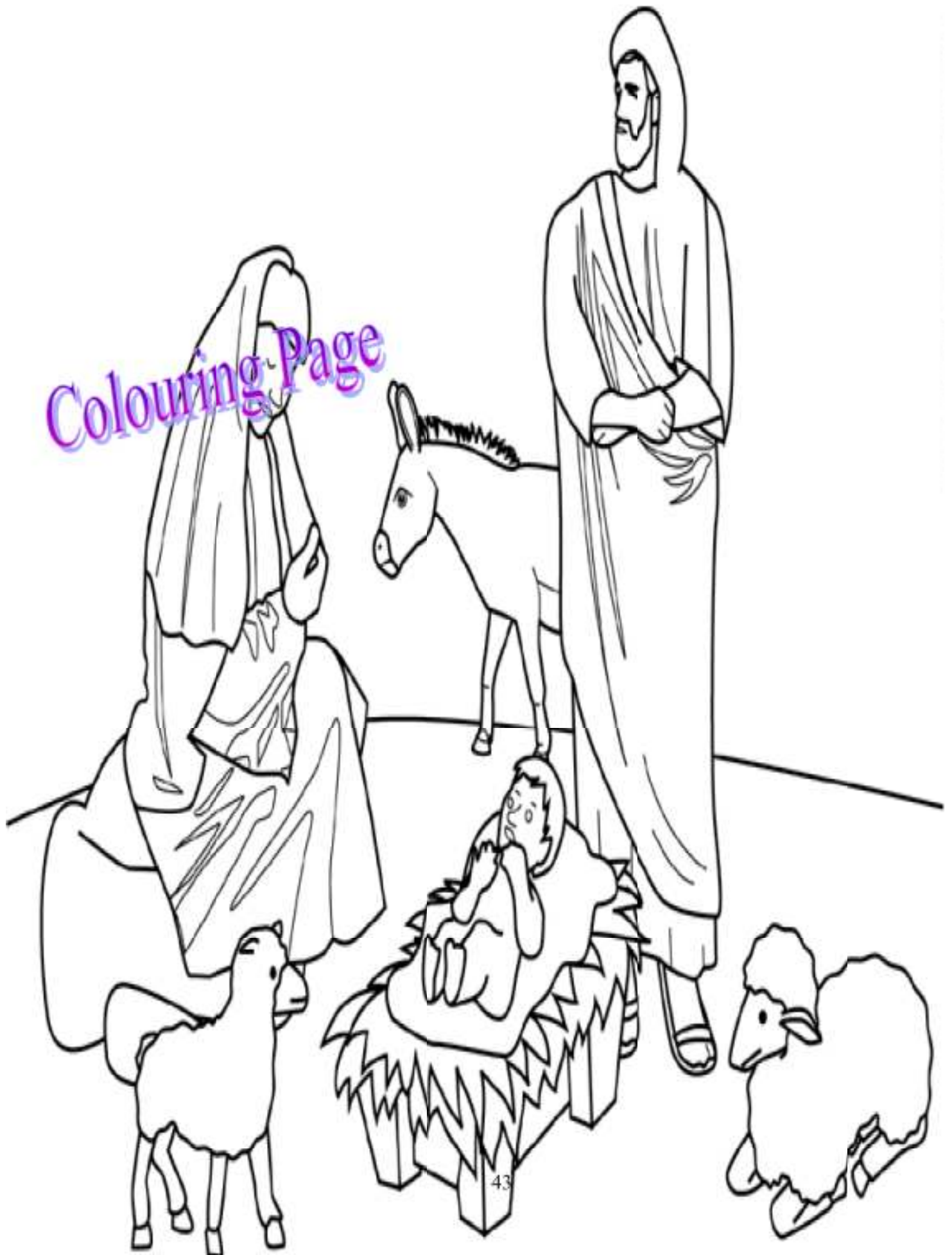
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been _____ to you; he is
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The Lion

Magazine of St Mark's, Dundela

December 2009/January 2010



SAINT MARK'S CHURCH - PARISH OF DUNDELA

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Rev J McDowell T: 9065 9047
Prof K Bell T: 9145 3744

PARISH ORGANISATIONS & REPRESENTATIVES

(in alphabetical order)

Alpha Bible Group	1st Tuesday, 8.00pm	Mrs Hannah Nelson, T: 9065 1916
Bell Ringers	Monday 7.30 - 9.00pm	Mr John Emerson, T: 9076 1221
Bible Fellowship	Wednesday (excpt 3rd), 8.15pm	The Revd John McDowell, T: 9065 9047
Boys' Brigade	Friday 6.30 - 8.00pm	Mr Harry Whiteside, T: 9029 5908
<i>Junior Section (age 8 - 11)</i>		
<i>Anchor Boys (age 5 - 7)</i>		Mrs Louise Orchin, T: 9067 1717
Brownies (ages 7 - 10)	Monday 6.30 - 8.00pm	Miss Heather McKaig, T: 9047 2319
Choir	Thursday 7.30 - 9.00pm	Mr Peter Hunter, T: 9042 2048
Christian Aid		Mrs Yvonne McMaster, T: 90422836
Church Missionary Society		Miss June Moore T: 9065 7051
Church of Ireland Gazette		Mr Peter Moore, 10 Hopedene Mews T: 9067 3216
Cradle Roll		Mrs Pat Thompson, T: 9087 6634
Evergreens Club	2nd Wednesday, 2.30 - 4.00pm	Mrs Joan Eakin, T: 9076 8109 and Miss Lorna Rutter, T: 9065 2777
Flower Guild		Mrs Lesley Donaldson, 4 The Cairns, T: 9065 4866
Guides	Monday, 6.30 - 8.00pm	Miss Lois Kennedy, Parish Office T: 90654090
Healer Prayer Group	Wednesday, 7.30 - 8.00pm	<i>Secretary:</i> Mrs Margaret Parrock, T: 9076 8524
Ladies Bowls	Thursday 2.00 - 5.00pm	Mrs Kate Logier, T: 9065 2047
Ladies Guild	2nd Monday 7.45pm	<i>Secretary:</i> Mrs Geraldine Whiteside, T: 9029 5908

Men's Fellowship – Bowls	Thursday 7.30 - 10.45pm	Mr Corry Lyttle, T: 9076 8043
Men's Society	1st Tuesday 8.00pm	Mr Tony M Wilson, T: 9076 3540
Mothers' Union	3rd Wednesday 8.00pm	<i>Enrolling Member:</i> Mrs Mary Harland T: 9087 3649
Mums and Chums <i>(Parents and toddlers group)</i>	Wednesday 10.15 -12.00noon	Mrs Mary McDowell, T: 9065 9047
Rainbows (ages 4 ½ - 7)	Monday 5.15 - 6.15pm	Mrs Heather Ellison, T: 9065 9278
Sanctuary Guild		Mrs Mary Harland, T: 9087 3649
St Mark's Players (Drama)		Mrs Jackie Parrock, T: 9076 8210

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Meets each Sunday except 1st Sunday from 10.30 until 11.30am.

Children are collected from Heyn Hall after the Morning Service.

Kindergarten (ages 3 ½ - 7)

Seniors (ages 8 and over)

Mrs Hannah Nelson, T: 9065 1916

Mrs Ada Long, T: 9065 6117

The WARDROBE YOUTH ROOM

Youth Fellowship Sunday 8.00 - 9.30pm
(age 11-18)

Mr Harry Whiteside, T: 9029 5908

CHURCH SERVICES IN ST MARK'S

SUNDAYS

8.30am Holy Communion (every Sunday)
Fri)

10.30am Family Service (1st Sunday)
Parish Communion (3rd Sunday)
(Wednesday)
Morning Prayer (2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays)
(Wednesday)
6.30pm Holy Communion & Ministry of Healing (1st Sunday)
Compline (2nd Sunday)
Evensong (3rd Sunday)
Compline (4th Sunday)
Hospital ☐
Choral Eucharist (5th Sunday)
Direction ☐
Praise Service (as announced)

WEEKDAYS

8.30am Morning Prayer (Mon-Fri)
5.30pm Evening Prayer (Mon-Fri)
11.00am Holy Communion
7.30pm Healer Prayer Service

BY ARRANGEMENT WITH THE CLERGY

Holy Baptism ☐ Holy Matrimony ☐
Visitation of the Sick at Home/in
Communion for the sick ☐ Spiritual
Christian Burial

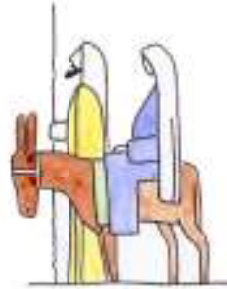
CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 13 Third Sunday of Advent

8.30am Holy Communion

10.30am Morning Prayer

6.30pm Compline



Wednesday 16

11.00am Holy Communion

7.30pm Advent Service and Intercessions for the Sick

Sunday 20 Fourth Sunday of Advent

8.30am Holy Communion

10.30am Parish Communion

3.00pm Holy Communion for Senior Parishioners and friends

6.30pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Wednesday 23

11.00am Holy Communion

7.30pm Advent Service and Intercessions for the Sick

Thursday 24 Christmas Eve

11.30pm Midnight Communion (First Communion of Christmas)



CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES

Thursday 25 Christmas Day (The Nativity of Our Lord)

8.30am Holy Communion with Hymns

10.30am Family Service & Nativity Play

11.30am Holy Communion (shortened form)

Friday 26 St Stephen's Day

11.00am Holy Communion