



Anglican Communion – Church of Ireland – Diocese of Clogher

Carrickmacross and Magheraclone with Ardragh Group of Parishes



St. Finbarr's Carrickmacross, St. Molua's Magheraclone, St. Patrick's Ardragh



Newsletter

December 2007

Jackson Hall

Early on Saturday morning 24th November the Jackson Hall was damaged by fire. To Gordon Sweetnam and the other Trustees of the Hall we express our sincere regret and assure them of whatever support we can give in restoring the Hall.

Apart from the problems caused to the Trustees, the Gardai, the firemen called out in the early morning and others who use the Hall this means that there is currently no venue for the Bowling and Table Tennis Clubs. We hope to find temporary accommodation but this may not be easy and certainly will not be as convenient.

Naomi Quinn

In this magazine you will see a number of references to Ms Quinn who the Bishop has appointed as part time Lay Assistant and part time worship leader in Ematrix Group of parishes centred on Rockcorry. We have been asked to support her in this



work and once a month she will be coming here to lead worship while the Rector goes to Ematrix. Typically this will alternate between the third and fourth Sunday each month. To allow for this Magheraclone and Ardragh Holy Communion services will be moved to the first Sunday of the month. We are sure Naomi will be given a warm welcome when she comes to lead worship in our churches.

*Notes for the newsletter should be
with the Rector by the last Sunday
of the month please*

Worship

Carol Services

There will be a variety of Carol Services over the Advent period the first being in Crossduff on Sunday 2nd December at 3.00pm. On the following Sunday there is a Diocesan Carol service in Monaghan at 7.30pm to launch the 'Jaqueranda Project' a scheme being run by the Anglican Diocese of Kaduna to help homeless boys in their area to receive training and find employment.

On Sunday 16th at 5pm there is a community Carol Service for the Carrickmacross area in St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church to which we and the Baptist Church are invited to take part. We hope that there will be a good attendance of parishioners at this service.

All the main services on Sunday 23rd of December will include Carols, in Carrickmacross at 10.30am, Ardragh at 1pm which will also be a Christmas Communion service, and Magheraclaone at 7pm. The Carrickmacross service will be led by Naomi Quinn our new Lay Assistant as the Rector will be celebrating the Christmas communions in the Ematrix Group that morning.

Christmas Services

There will be Carols and Holy Communion in Ardragh on the 23rd December at 1pm. On Christmas Eve there will be Midnight Communion in Magheraclaone at 11.30pm, and on Christmas Day services will be in

Magheraclaone at 9.15am and Carrickmacross at 8.00am and 10.30am.

New Service schedules

As from January there will have to be some changes in services to accommodate the changed circumstances. We are enclosing a sheet with this magazine which gives a typical two monthly rota. This rota will have to be tweaked at the main festivals like Easter, Whit and so on but it gives the basic pattern to which we will work.

Midweek Communion

Please note there is no midweek service on the 6th or 27th December but it will be as usual on the 13th and 20th, 10.30am in St. Finbarr's in Carrickmacross.

Top Ten Hymns

There were nine returns of the Top Ten Hymn questionnaire all from Carrickmacross and we are now in a position to work out the results. The results in descending level of popularity are:

- 1, Guide me O thou great Jehovah
- 2, Shine, Jesus, Shine
- 3, Abide with me
- 4, Dear Lord and Father
- 5, Jubilate everybody
- 6, Be thou my vision
- 7, Bind us together
- 8, Jesus loves me this I know
- 9, O Lord my God when I
- 10, Be still for the presence.

THIS MONTH

Sunday	2 nd	3.00pm Carol Service in Crossduff Parish Church
Monday	3 rd	8.00pm Study Group in the Parish Room
Tuesday	4 th	8.00pm Select Vestry in Magheracloune Church
Wednesday	5 th	8.30pm Bowls Club meeting in the Parish Room
Thursday	6 th	10.30am No Midweek Communion St. Finbarr's
Sunday	9 th	7.30pm Diocesan Carol Service, Monaghan
Wednesday	12 th	8.00pm Community Carol Service in St. Joseph's
Thursday	13 th	8.00pm Mothers Union and Friends meeting
Friday	14 th	8.00pm Decoration of St. Finbarr's for Christmas
Monday	17 th	8.00pm Study Group in Parish Room
Wednesday	19 th	8.00pm Eimear Quinn Concert St. Finbarr's
Monday	24 th	11.30pm Midnight Communion, Magheracloune
Tuesday	25 th	8.00am Early Communion Carrickmacross 9.15am Christmas Communion Magheracloune 10.30am Christmas Communion Carrickmacross
Saturday	29 th	3.00pm Children's Christmas Party

NEXT MONTH

Tuesday	22 nd	7.30pm Unity Week Prayers in St. Finbarr's
---------	------------------	--

COMING SOON

February	5 th	8.00pm Select Vestry, Carrickmacross
----------	-----------------	--------------------------------------

There is an interesting mix of old and new hymns here and they are a good pointer to what people like to sing. We tend to choose the hymns to fit in with the Bible readings or theme for the day but we will be looking to use all the hymns chosen in suitable places in the Sunday schedule. We may also use the top seven or eight as the basis for a kind of 'Songs of Praise' some time when we will ask people to introduce their favourite hymn.



Week of Prayer for Unity

This runs from the 18th to the 25th January and to mark it there will be a prayer service in St. Finbarr's on Tuesday 22nd at 7.30pm.

Parish News

Graveyard

Having discussed the rather untidy appearance of 'God's Acre', the graveyard on the Dundalk Road the Select Vestry sought quotes for various solutions. We are very grateful to one of the experts who

Sunday Services

2nd December 2007, Advent Sunday Year A (Purple)

Isaiah 2.1-5, Psalm 122, Romans 13.11-14, Matthew 24.36-44

Carrickmacross	10.30am	HC	Rector
Magheracloone	11.45am	HC	Rector
Ardragh	1.00pm	MP	Rector

9th December 2007, 2nd Sunday of Advent (Purple)

Isaiah 11.1-10, Psalm 72.1-7, 18-19, Romans 15.4-13, Matthew 3.1-12

Carrickmacross	8.00am	HC	Rector
Carrickmacross	10.30am	MP	Rector
Magheracloone	11.45am	MP	Rector

16th December 2007, 3rd Sunday of Advent (Purple)

Isaiah 35.1-10, Psalm 146.4-10, James 5.7-10, Matthew 11.2-11

Carrickmacross	10.30am	HC	Rector
Magheracloone	11.45am	MP	Rector
Ardragh	1.00pm	MP	Rector

23rd December 2007, 4th Sunday of Advent (Purple)

Isaiah 7.10-16, Psalm 80.1-8, 18-20, Romans 1.1-7, Matthew 1.18-25

Carrickmacross	8.00am	HC	Rector
Carrickmacross	10.30am	Carols	Ms. Naomi Quinn
Ardragh	1.00pm	HC & Carols	Rector
Magheracloone	7.00pm	Carols	Rector

24th December 2007, Christmas Eve (White)

Isaiah 9.2-7, Psalm 96, Titus 2.11-14, Luke 2.1-14

Magheracloone	11.30pm	HC	Rector
---------------	---------	----	--------

25th December 2007, Christmas Day (White)

Isaiah 62.6-12, Psalm 97, Titus 3.4-7, Luke 2.8-20

Carrickmacross	8.00am	HC	Rector
Magheracloone	9.15am	HC	Rector
Carrickmacross	10.30am	MP	Rector

30th December 2007, 1st Sunday after Christmas (White)

Isaiah 63.7-9, Psalm 148, Hebrews 2.10-18, Matthew 2.13-23

Carrickmacross	10.30am	MP	Rector
Magheracloone	11.45am	MP	Rector

looked at it and who suggested trimming back the trees and cutting out two badly misshapen trees. This work was undertaken by a number of volunteers over two days in November and there has been a wonderful improvement in the appearance of the graveyard. We would like to thank all those who helped with this and saved the parish what could have amounted to a very expensive bill.

Monaghan Orphan AGM

This was held in the Parish Room on Monday 26th November. It was not well supported by local people but there was a good attendance from other parts of the county and we are greatly indebted to Mrs Irene Merrin who single handedly catered for those present with an excellent supper. Unfortunately financial support for the charity is also falling and we are being encouraged to ask for a more generous response the next time we have a fund raising effort for this worthy cause.

Select Vestry

There will be a meeting of Select Vestry of Magheracluone and Ardragh Union of Parishes in Magheracluone Church on Tuesday the 4th December at 8pm. Following on from the helpful airing of certain misunderstandings at the last meeting we hope that there will be a full turn out of members.

Diocesan News

Institutions

Having been a bit short of clergy a few months back the coming of the Rev Colin Bell to Clogh and of the Rev Helene Steed to Clones and with Naomi Quinn coming to help us in Ematris has brought the vacancies down to two or three. We thank God for this and pray that the new ministers will be blessed and a blessing in their new cures.

School of Ecumenics

Bishop of Clogher talked at Tara Centre in Omagh on 12th November

A Conference was organized by the Irish School of Ecumenics to facilitate dealing with memories and to offer ideas on moving into the future. The bishop was asked to give some pointers to the churches in relation to a role they might play.

Inter faith

Bishop of Clogher joins Archbishop of Canterbury on meeting with Chief Rabbis in Jerusalem

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, held talks in Jerusalem on October 31st 2007 with Israel's Chief Rabbis, accompanied by Bishop Suhail Dawani (Bishop in Jerusalem) and Bishop Michael Jackson (Bishop of Clogher).

Church News

THE Archbishop of Canterbury has said that the United States wields its power in a way that is worse than Britain during its imperial heyday.

Rowan Williams claimed that America's attempt to intervene overseas by tearing the decks with

ad tick burst of violent action had led to the worst of all worlds”

In a wide-ranging interview with a British Muslim magazine, the Anglican leader linked criticism of the United States to one of his most pessimistic declarations about the state of western civilisation.

He said the crisis was caused not just by America's actions but also by its misguided sense of its own mission. He poured scorn on the chosen nation myth of America, meaning that what happens in America is very much at the heart of God's purpose for humanity” Dr Williams went beyond his previous critique of the conduct of the war on terror, saying the United States had lost the moral high ground since September 11. He urged it to launch a generous and intelligent programme of aid directed to the societies that have been ravaged; a check on the economic exploitation of defeated territories; a demilitarisation of their presence”

He went on to suggest that the West was fundamentally adrift: Our modern western definition of humanity is clearly not working very well. There is something about western modernity which really does eat away at the soul.”

Williams suggested American leadership had broken down: We have only one global hegemonic power. It is not accumulating territory: it is trying to accumulate influence and control. That's not working.”

He contrasted it unfavourably with

how the British Empire governed India. It's one thing to take over a territory and then pour energy and resources into administering it and normalising it. Rightly or wrongly, that's what the British Empire did — in India, for example.

It's another thing to go in on the assumption that a quick burst of violent action will somehow clear the decks and that you can move on and other people will put it back together — Iraq, for example.”

In the interview in [Emel](#), a Muslim lifestyle magazine, Williams makes only mild criticisms of the Islamic world. He said the Muslim world must acknowledge that its political solutions were not the most impressive”

He commends the Muslim practice of praying five times a day, which he says allows the remembrance of God to be built in deeply in their daily rhythm”

Kevin Rudd

The Herald Sun (Australia) [reports that](#) Prime-Minister-elect Kevin Rudd regularly attends [St John the Baptist Anglican Church](#) in Bulimba in the Diocese of Brisbane. The parish's website has been overwhelmed by people having a look at it to see what Mr Rudd's parish is like. Sooner or later the crowds will die down and you'll be able to see it.

Reports

Jack and Jill

We have received a receipt and note

of thanks for the donation of E880 made to the Jack and Jill Children's Foundation by the members of the Confirmation Class. Perhaps this should not be the end of our contact with this group which provides support for families of severely disabled children. We should continue to think of them if we are disposing of mobile phones as they can make money from recycling them, and perhaps there are other ways we might support them in the future.

People

Holy Baptism

It is quite some time since we had two baptisms in the Group on the one day. On Sunday 25th November at the 10.30am service in Carrickmacross Faith Ann Hill baby daughter of Alan and Rachel was welcomed into the family of faith. and at the 11.45am service we also welcomed William Philip Dacre Mulligan, son of Kevin and Clare into the Body of Christ. As we said on the day it is a privilege but also a major responsibility for a church which baptises children to make sure we create a community in which their parents fee supported and in which the children can grow in faith. We thank the parents for asking the parish to do this for them and we must work hard not to let them down.

Bereavement

We express our sincere sympathy to Malachy Connolly on the recent death of his sister Kitty Whelan in

Florida. This is the third of his brothers and sisters to die during 2007 and we assure him of our prayerful support at this time.

We also extend our condolences to Jenny Merrin on the death of her aunt in Abbeyleix during the month. Our Lord promised 'Blessed are they who mourn for they shall be comforted'. We pray that this will be the experience of all those who have recently lost loved ones

Activities

Study Group

This will continue to meet during December on Mondays the 3rd and 17th at 8.00pm in the Parish Room. We are looking at St. Matthew's Gospel.

Women's Group

At the November meeting Martina from 'Nails by Tina' spoke to the group about caring for our hands, nails and feet along with nail art. In December Rachel Hill will be giving a Flower Arranging demonstration and there will be special Christmas refreshments afterwards. The January meeting will be a supper at John and Eleanor Howell's home by their kind invitation.

Bowls

November was a busy month for the Bowling Club with friendly matches arranged for the 7th away in Bailieborough, the 14th at home with

Braddock and the 21st at home with Billyhill. There is an away match in Drum on the 12th December. It is exactly 30 years since Bowling began in Bailieborough and their first match then was with Carrickmacross so the match on the 7th was a special 30 year celebration at which Carrickmacross did not so so well on the mats but did extremely well with the lavish supper provided. Having looked after Bailieborough Parish during a vacancy about twenty years ago the Rector found himself among many familiar faces.

Bowls meeting

There will be a meeting of members in the Parish Room at St. Finbarr's on Wednesday 5th December at 8.30pm to discuss plans for the club while the Jackson Hall is being restored after the fire.

Table Tennis

This has begun for juniors in the Jackson Hall on Friday nights from 7.30pm to 9.00pm. Because of the fire in the Jackson Hall the club is currently without a home and various enquiries are being made to tie the club over until the Hall is restored.

Notices

Concert

On Wednesday the 19th December there is a Concert performance by Eimear Quinn with Christmas Music in St Finbarr's at 8pm. This is the final in a series of concerts being given by Eimear all around the country, all the others being in

various Cathedrals! and we look forward to welcoming her to our church for what should be a very special musical treat. Tickets are on sale for this concert at Keegan's Store and admission is by ticket only.

Articles

Marriage Law

As from the 5th November the law with regard to marriage has changed completely in the Republic. Basically Banns and Licences are gone and it is the business of the couple to obtain a Marriage Registration Form from the civil authorities. In Monaghan this means contacting the Civil Registration Office, Rooskey, Monaghan, Tel: 047 30444. It is also the couples responsibility to return the MRF to the civil registrar after the marriage ceremony. However, before contacting the Registrar or booking the Hotel! they should contact the parish clergy as the Church of Ireland has made certain rules for the clergy in relation to their involvement. While the new legislation allows marriages to take place in virtually any fixed structure the church has laid it down, to put it very simply, that, other than in exceptional circumstances, clergy can only be involved in marriages in church buildings.

