



Cross Talk

Dear Friends,

I can hardly believe that it is a year since I became your curate. So much has happened and we have shared in many times of joy but also in times of sorrow. It has been a year when discipleship has been evident in all aspects of our life and worship together. We have been sociable as well as devotional, practical as well as spiritual. I hope that as you look back on 2014 that you will have memories of times when you found yourself deeply aware of God's presence and assured of his love.

Christmas is, amongst many other things, a time for stories. Whether they are the stories told time and again by grandparents, or stories read in books (or on Kindles), or told in cinema or on television. It wouldn't be Christmas without *The Great Escape*, *The Sound of Music* and *The Wizard of Oz*. But of course the story that it really wouldn't be Christmas without, is the story of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem.

Like so many often repeated stories we almost know it too well, and the challenge we face is to hear that story afresh, and to let it impact our lives. Perhaps the best way to do that is to avoid trying to see Christmas as an escape from the difficulties of life, but rather as God's engagement with our reality. Jesus birth in poverty, in a militarily occupied country was not the arrival of escapism but of the start of God's transforming redemption of the world. Jesus' story begins where we begin, lost and far from home. His invitation is for us to travel with him on a journey of transformation that will see us eventually reach our true home, in heaven with him.

I pray that as you celebrate this Christmas, Christ may become real to you in all that your life is, and that God's love may bring you joy, peace and hope throughout the festive season.

Happy Christmas

Andrew



"Happy Fridays"

join us in

Antrim Day Centre



Fridays 3pm - 5pm



Music dancing and a bit of craic

Tea & biscuits £2.00

No partner or dancing skills needed

Christmas Tree Festival

We will be holding a Christmas Tree Festival in the Parish Hall on the Old Coach Road during the weekend of **13th** and **14th December 2014**.

Local churches, organizations' and businesses will be represented alongside our own parish organizations'. We have invited people to create or decorate a tree in a style that represents their contribution to the community.

There is no admission fee but tea and coffee will be available. We hope that this event will be a positive contribution to the community as churches, organizations' and businesses get the opportunity to promote their engagement with this part of the world.

The doors will be open from **1pm to 5pm** on Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th.



Christmas Music at Donegore

on **Tuesday 2nd December 2014**

at **7.45 pm**

on this evening we welcome

Antrim Choral

who will join us for our Christmas Celebrations



PARISH FINANCES

No 1 account (day to day income and expenditure)

At time of writing, this account is **overdrawn** by £220. While monthly income during the summer months decreased due to lower attendance, this normally increases towards the end of the financial year. However, this account may be marginally overdrawn at the end of the financial year.

No 2 Account (Fabric fund) - for upkeep and repair of property and buildings

This account has currently a **surplus** of £5600. As the Fabric fund now plays an essential role in supplementing the No 1 account, the Select Vestry would encourage parishioners to continue to contribute to this account through monthly envelopes and to support planned forthcoming fund raising events.

The above accounts are linked and hence debit interest is only incurred when the sum of the two accounts is negative.

Norman Shirley
(Hon Treasurer)



Thanks to all who organise and distribute our parish magazines throughout the year!



Sunday Club - SCLUB4

The Children have been very busy and creative with their contributions for the Christmas Tree Festival. Make sure you come along and see our tree on the 13 & 14 December!

Our Advent appeal for this year will continue with Kindfund, which we feel is more poignant this year after the very successful visit of the Kindfund children to our Parish in October.

Our appeal will run from Sunday 30 November to 11 January 2015.

May we take this opportunity to thank the Mums and Dads for their help and support throughout the year and to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy and peaceful New Year.



Some useful dates for your diary:-

- 30 Nov - Rehearsal for play - 10.30 am
Start of Advent Appeal
- 7 Dec - Pre Christmas AAW, Christmas Play & Collection of Gifts - 11.30 am
Rehearsal for play - 10.30 am
- 14 Dec - **No Sunday Club**
- 21 Dec - **No Sunday Club**
Carol Service - 6.30 pm
- 25 Dec - Christmas Morning Service - 11.30 am
- 28 Dec - **No Sunday Club**
- 2015**
- 4 Jan - Christingle Service & AAW
- 11 Jan - **Sunday Club Resumes**
Return jars for Kindfund appeal



Gail



LADIES FELLOWSHIP

The first meeting of the season took place on Tuesday 16th September. As usual it took the form of a Communion service led by the Rev Andrew and was followed by a very cheerful and friendly supper in the church rooms.

Our October meeting set a high standard for the year. The Rev Andrew gave us a vivid and learned presentation of his and Nuala's recent visit to the Holy Land in a party led by Dean Mann. His enthusiasm and knowledge was contagious and he is likely to have many signing up for a possible reprise.

Our November meeting will bring Mr and Mrs Law from Portglenone to tell us about their work to help street children of Bogota in Columbia.

In December we visit the Mission to Seafarers at Belfast docks to see the work there helping foreign seamen during their time in Northern Ireland.

It will be evident that the members of the Ladies Fellowship of this United Parish spread their interests far and wide, from Africa to India to Japan to South America to Ethiopia. Now we bend our minds to portraying all that on a Christmas tree!

Helen Sheldon
(Hon Secretary)
Tel: 94433400



From the Registers

CHRISTIAN BURIAL

"Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord"

13th October 2014, Eugene Lecky

Teen Blast

TeenBlast began their new season of activities in October. Twenty-three very exuberant young people enjoyed an evening of games and activities, which included a 'D. J. ing' workshop!

Our theme for this year is "Upping Your Game", which enables us to discover and develop our talents and learn how to share them with others.

The young people discovered how to mix tracks using DJ equipment. They learnt "fade mixing and "beat mixing" (which is a bit foreign to me!). Our youngest girl took a leadership role in teaching/guiding the other young people through the mixing techniques – a talent she did not know she had!

Each young person was able to contribute their ideas towards mixing techniques and were enabled to pass them on to the next person taking part.

The young people also helped to design and contribute ideas towards our contribution to the Christmas Tree Festival. Many showed very exciting ideas, which we will try to reproduce effectively.

Many thanks again to all our volunteers and to 'Arts in the Community' for their excellent support.

Anne Cinnamon



Marie Curie Cancer Care

Our thanks to everyone who supported the Afternoon Tea for Marie Curie Cancer Care in the Parish Hall.

We raised – **£1,200.00**

Isobel McCollam & Arlene Heaney

Confirmation Classes



We will be having a service of Confirmation on **Sunday 18th January 2015** in St Patrick's at 11:30am.

It is a requirement that those who wish to be confirmed must attend Confirmation Classes prior to Confirmation by the Bishop. I will therefore be holding classes for young people of Secondary School age who would like to be confirmed, beginning on Sunday 23rd November at 3pm.

Classes will be held in the Minor Hall on the Old Coach Road and will last an hour each week. The dates of the classes and the topics to be covered are given below.

Sunday 23 rd November at 3pm	The Bible
Sunday 30 th November at 3pm	The Messiah
Sunday 7 th December at 3pm	The Creeds
Sunday 4 th January at 3pm	The Church
Sunday 11 th January at 3pm	The Holy Communion

I will make a separate arrangement for any adults who would like to be confirmed, if you contact me as soon as possible.



Fundraising Calendar

We are planning further fundraising events for the benefit of the parish this year and we value your support. The dates for your diaries are below, we'd love to see you at some of these events!

Christmas Music at Donegore	- Tuesday 2 December 2014
Christmas Tree Festival	- Sat 13 & Sun 14 December 2014
Queen's Island Victoria Male Choir	- Friday 16 January 2015
Musical Drama	- Thurs 26 & Fri 27 March 2015
Table Quiz	- May 2015

The United Parish of Templepatrick and Donegore

Diocese of Connor

www.templepatrick.connor.anglican.org

THE PARISH DIRECTORY

WHO'S WHO AND WHO TO CONTACT

The Rev Andrew Ker

The Vicarage, 926 Antrim Road, Templepatrick, Co Antrim, BT39 0AT

☎028 9443 2300 E-mail: templepatrick@connor.anglican.org

Mobile: 07762 785713 – EMERGENCIES ONLY

CHURCH OFFICE BEARERS

Vicar's Churchwarden:(St Patrick's) Mr D Smyth, 55 Bush Manor, Antrim,
Tel: 9446 0372

People's Churchwarden:(St Patrick's) Mr W McAvoy, 37 Ballyclare Road,
Templepatrick Tel: 9443 2135

Vicar's Churchwarden:(St John's) Mr C Ovans, 31 Broadacres, Templepatrick,
Tel: 9443 2032

People's Churchwarden:(St John's) Dr C Lundy, 11 Old Coach Road,
Templepatrick, Tel: 9443 3720

Vicar's Glebewarden: Mr M Cooke, 44 Rathmore Road, Dunadry
Tel: 9443 3183

People's Glebewarden: Mr S McCollam, 33 Carmavy Road, Crumlin
Tel: 9443 2506

Supplemental Glebewarden: Dr C Lundy, Tel: 9443 3720

Select Vestry: (meets 2nd Monday in month at 8.00pm) Mrs H Boyd, Mr M
Cooke,

Mr K Egli, Miss A. Kerr, Mrs D Lucas, Dr C Lundy, Mr D. Mawhinney,
Mr T Michael, Mrs A Millar, Mr W McAvoy, Mr S McCollam, Mrs I McCollam,
Mrs G McCoy, Mr C Ovans, Mr N Shirley, Mr D Smyth, Mrs M Walbridge,
Mr R Young

Honorary Secretary: Miss A Kerr, 8 Ingledene, Templepatrick Tel: 9443 3459

Honorary Treasurer: Mr N Shirley, 23 Kingscourt, Templepatrick Tel: 9443 2597

Honorary F.W.O. Recorder and Envelope Secretary: Mrs I McCollam, 7 Lylehill
Road Tel: 9443 2734

Covenant & Gift Aid Secretary: Mr M Cooke 44 Rathmore Road, Dunadry
Tel: 9443 3183

Diocesan Synodsmen: Mr E Cinnamon, Mrs M Finlay

Supplemental Synodsmen: Mr H Cinnamon, Mr J Sheldon

PARISH PANEL:- Rev A Ker, Mrs A Cinnamon, Mr M Cooke, Mr A Walbridge

Hall Secretary: Mrs I McCollam Tel:9443 2734

Sacristan (St Patrick's): Mr B McMeekin, Tel: 9446 4483

Sacristan (St John's): Mrs W Lundy Tel: 9443 3720

Church of Ireland Gazette Secretary: Mrs M McConnell Tel:9443 2560

Bible Study Notes Secretary: Mrs D Lucas Tel:9082 5737

Christian Aid Secretary: Mrs L Lynas Tel:9443 3363

Magazine Editorial Team: The Vicar; Mrs G McCoy; Mr A Walbridge

Parish webmaster: Mr A Walbridge Tel:9443 2795 alan@walbridge.co.uk

Magazine Production: Mrs Gail McCoy Tel:9443 2782 gail.mccoy21@yahoo.co.uk

Pre-service Coffee: rota organizer - Mrs A Millar Tel:9443 2066

Parish organisations and their leaders:-

Choir: Practices on Thursday at 8pm.

St Patrick's, Templepatrick Organist and Choirmistress: Mrs Pat Maxwell,
Tel: 9443 9398

St John's, Donegore Organist and Choirmistress: Mrs S Cotter

Sunday Club: Co-ordinator: Mrs G McCoy Tel: 9443 2782

Helpers: Mrs C Clarke

Creche: (Sunday)

Youth Organisations

St Patrick's Young Singers/Instrumentalists: Rehearsal before AAW service, in
the Church - see Pat - Tel: 9443 9398

Rainbow Guides (4-7 years): Wednesday 6.00-7.00pm Joan Barkley
Tel: 07546880243

Brownies (7-10 years): Wednesday 6.30-8.00pm Lauren McFerran
Tel: 07763 411306

Guides (10-14 years): Wednesday 7.30-9.00pm Lesley Anne Wetherspoon
Tel: 07850319205

Guides Senior Section (14-25 years): Wednesday 7.30-9.00pm
Lesley Anne Wetherspoon Tel: 07850319205

Beavers (6-8 years): Monday 6.30-7.30pm Catherine Michael Tel:9443 3123

Cub Scouts (8-10years): Tuesday 6.45-8.00pm Mr Jony Laverty Tel: 9446 1619

Scouts (10½-14years): Tuesday 8.00-9.30pm Catherine Michael Tel:9443 3123

Adult Organisations

Choir: Practices on Thursday at 8pm. Mrs Pat Maxwell Tel: 9443 9398

Indoor Bowling Club: Friday 7.30pm.

Secretary: Mrs I. McCollam Tel:9443 2734

Ladies Fellowship: 3rd Tuesday in the month 7.30pm.

Secretary: Mrs H Sheldon Tel: 9443 3400

Yoga: Monday 6.30-8.00pm Gail McCoy Tel: 07841 382193



Rotas



Readers and Intercessors rota for St Patrick's, Templepatrick

<i>Date</i>	<i>Service</i>	<i>Reading / Intercessions</i>	<i>Reader / Intercessor</i>
07.12.14	Sunday Club Play	Gospel Prayers	Lucy Reid Emily Reid
14.12.14	Morning Prayer One	Old Testament	Mr Stephen McCollam
21.12.14	Holy Communion Two	Old Testament Epistle Intercessions	Mrs Daphne Lucas Mrs Elizabeth Smyth Mrs Louella Lecky
24.12.14	Christmas Eve Holy Communion Two	Old Testament Epistle Intercessions	Mrs Margaret Walbridge Mr Alan Walbridge Miss Ann Kerr
25.12.14	Christmas Morning	Gospel	Mr Alan Walbridge
28.12.14	Morning Prayer Two	Old Testament	Mrs Catherine Michael
04.01.15	Christingle Service	Gospel Prayers	Lucy Logan Sasha Logan
11.01.15	Morning Prayer One	Old Testament	Mr Bill McCrum
18.01.15	Confirmation Service	Old Testament Epistle Intercessions	Confirmation Candidates
25.01.15	Morning Prayer Two	Old Testament	Mrs Alison Millar
01.02.15	Service of the Word	Gospel Prayers	Nik Kane David Kane
08.02.15	Morning Prayer One	Old Testament	Mrs Amanda Brobyn
15.02.15	Holy Communion Two	Old Testament Epistle Intercessions	Mrs Sandra Aitcheson Miss Ann Kerr Mr Andrew Kane
22.2.15	Morning Prayer Two	Old Testament	Mrs Kathryn Williamson

If you are unable to do either the reading or the prayers on the day you are assigned please swap with someone else on the rota and then change the list at the back of the church and inform the Vicar that a swap has been made. Thank you.



Rotas



Readers and Intercessors rota for St John's, Donegore

<i>Date</i>	<i>Service</i>	<i>Reading / Intercessions</i>	<i>Reader / Intercessor</i>
07.12.14	Holy Communion Two	_____	_____
14.12.14	Holy Communion Two	Old Testament Epistle Intercessions	Mr Colin Ovans Ms Heather Boyd Mrs Elizabeth Smyth
21.12.14	Holy Communion One	_____	_____
25.12.14	Holy Communion Two	Old Testament Epistle Intercessions	Mr Edward Williamson Mrs Kathryn Williamson Ms Heather Boyd
28.12.14	Morning Prayer One	Old Testament	Colin Ovans
04.01.15	Holy Communion Two	_____	_____
11.01.15	Holy Communion Two	Old Testament Epistle Intercessions	Mr Michael Cooke Mrs Anne Cooke Mrs Molly Finlay
18.01.15	Holy Communion One	_____	_____
25.01.15	Morning Prayer One	Old Testament	Mr John Jones
01.02.15	Holy Communion Two	_____	_____
08.02.15	Holy Communion Two	Old Testament Epistle Intercessions	Mr Colin Ovans Ms Heather Boyd Mrs Anne Cooke
15.02.15	Holy Communion One	_____	_____
22.02.15	Morning Prayer One	Old Testament	Mr Edward Williamson

If you are unable to do either the reading or the prayers on the day you are assigned please swap with someone else on the rota and then change the list at the back of the church and inform the Vicar that a swap has been made. Thank you.





Rotas



St Patrick's



Communion Rota

December	Mr T & Mrs C Michael
January	Young Parishioners
February	Mr J & Mrs G Hamill



Cleaning Rota

December	H Sheldon, J Sheldon, B McMeekin
January	A Cinnamon, H Cinnamon
February	A Cooke, O Erskine, B Perris



Flower Rota

December	7 th F Blackbourne, 14 th S Russell, 21 st & 28 th Ladies Fellowship
January	4 th & 11 th I McCollam, 18 th D Gaffney, 25 th S White
February	1 st S White, 8 & 15 th , N Clendinning, 22 nd E Smyth

St John's



Communion Rota

December	Mrs F McElhinney & Dr C Lundy
January	Mr & Mrs M Cooke
February	Mrs F McElhinney & Mrs M Moore

CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 2014 - FEBRUARY 2015

03.12.14 Wednesday

10.00 am Holy Communion One

07.12.14 The Second Sunday of Advent

10.00 am Holy Communion Two (said) – St John's

11.30 am Sunday Club Christmas Play and Gift Day – St Patrick's

7.30 pm Lylehill Young Farmers Club Carol Service – St Patrick's

Old Testament Isaiah 40:1-11

Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13

Epistle 2 Peter 3: 8-15a

Gospel Mark 1 : 1-8

10.12.14 Wednesday

10.00 am Holy Communion Two

14.12.14 The Third Sunday of Advent

10.00 am Holy Communion Two – St John's

11.30 am Morning Prayer One – St Patrick's

Old Testament Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Psalm 126

Epistle 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

Gospel John 1: 6-8, 19-28

17.12.14 Wednesday

10.00 am Holy Communion One

21.12.14 The Fourth Sunday of Advent

10.00 am Holy Communion One (said) – St John's

11.30 am Holy Communion Two – St Patrick's

6.30 pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Old Testament 2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16

Psalm Canticle 14 – Magnificat

Epistle Romans 16: 25-27

Gospel Luke 1: 26-38



24.12.14 Christmas Eve (Wednesday)

11.00 pm Holy Communion Two - St. Patrick's

Old Testament	Isaiah 52:7-10
Psalm	98
Epistle	Hebrews 1:1-4
Gospel	John 1:1-14



25.12.14 Christmas Day (Thursday)

10.00 am Holy Communion Two – St John's
11.30 am Christmas Morning Family Service

Old Testament	Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm	96
Epistle	Titus 2:11-14
Gospel	Luke 2:1-20

28.12.14 The First Sunday of Christmas

10.00 am Morning Prayer One – St John's
11.30 am Morning Prayer Two – St Patrick's

Old Testament	Isaiah 61:10 – 62:3
Psalm	148
Epistle	Galatians 4:4 - 7
Gospel	Luke 2: 15-21

2015

01.01.15 New Year's Day (Thursday)

10.00 am Holy Communion One

04.01.15 The Second Sunday of Christmas

10.00 am Holy Communion Two (said) – St John's
11.30 am Christingle Service – St Patrick's

Old Testament	Jeremiah 31: 7-14
Psalm	147: 13-21
Epistle	Ephesians 1: 3-14
Gospel	John 1: 10-18



07.01.15 Wednesday (Epiphany Observed)

10.00 am Holy Communion Two

11.01.15 The First Sunday after the Epiphany (The Baptism of Christ)

10.00 am Holy Communion Two – St John's
11.30 am Morning Prayer One – St Patrick's

Old Testament	Genesis 1: 1-5
Psalm	29
Epistle	Acts 19: 1-7
Gospel	Mark 1: 4-11

14.01.15 Wednesday

10.00 am Holy Communion One

18.01.15 The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

10.00 am Holy Communion One (said) – St John's
11.30 am Confirmation Service – St Patrick's

Old Testament	1 Samuel 3: 1-10
Psalm	139: 1-5, 12-18
Epistle	Revelation 5: 1-10
Gospel	John 1: 43-51

21.01.15 Wednesday

10.00 am Holy Communion Two

25.01.15 The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

10.00 am Morning Prayer One – St John's
11.30 am Morning Prayer Two – St Patrick's

Old Testament	Jonah 3: 1-5, 10
Psalm	62: 5-12
Epistle	1 Corinthians 7: 29-31

28.01.15 Wednesday

No Wednesday Communion this week

01.02.15 The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (observed)

10:00 am Holy Communion Two (said) – St John's
11.30 am Service of the Word – St Patrick's

Old Testament	Malachi 3: 1-5
Psalm	84
Epistle	Hebrews 2: 14-18
Gospel	Luke 2: 22-40

04.02.15 Wednesday

10.00 am Holy Communion One

08.02.15 The Second Sunday before Lent

10.00 am Holy Communion Two – St John’s
11.30 am Morning Prayer One – St Patrick’s

Old Testament Proverbs 8: 1, 22-31
Psalm 104: 26-37
Epistle Colossians 1: 15-20
Gospel John 1: 1-14

11.02.15 Wednesday

10.00 am Holy Communion Two

15.02.15 The Sunday before Lent (Transfiguration Sunday)

10.00 am Holy Communion One (said) – St John’s
11.30 am Holy Communion Two – St Patrick’s
1.00 pm Lenten Lunch – Parish Hall

Old Testament 2 Kings 2: 1-12
Psalm 50: 1-6
Epistle 2 Corinthians 4: 3-6
Gospel Mark 9: 2-9

18.02.15 Ash Wednesday

10.00 am Holy Communion One
7.00 pm Rural Deanery Lenten Service

22.02.15 The First Sunday in Lent

10.00 am Morning Prayer One – St John’s
11.30 am Morning Prayer Two – St Patrick’s

Old Testament Genesis 9: 8-17
Psalm 25: 1-9
Epistle 1 Peter 3: 18-22
Gospel Mark 1: 9-15

25.02.15 Wednesday

10.00 am Holy Communion Two



Safeguarding Trust

In accordance with the recommendations in ‘Safeguarding Trust - The Church of Ireland Code of Good Practice for Ministry with Children’, a Parish Panel has been appointed (operating since June 1998) to implement some of the responsibilities identified in the Code.

The Panels responsibilities include:

- interviewing persons willing to serve as workers in the parish
- advising workers on their responsibilities in respect of the Code
- advising the Select Vestry in respect of its responsibilities
- being an immediate contact point for workers when a suspicion, complaint or allegation of child abuse is made about a worker or on parish premises in accord with the procedures set out in these guidelines.

The Parish Panel Members are:-

Rev Andrew Ker, 926 Antrim Road, Templepatrick Tel:028 9443 2300
Mrs A Cinnamon, 27 Templarise, Templepatrick Tel:028 9443 2317
Mr M Cooke, 44 Rathmore Road, Dunadry Tel:028 9443 3183
Mr A Walbridge, 4 Broadacres, Templepatrick Tel:028 9443 2795



Notes for next issue of the Parish Magazine are due on:-

Wednesday 11 February 2015

Contributions from all parish organisations would be very welcome.

COLEMAN'S GARDEN CENTRE

6 Old Ballyclare Road, Templepatrick

For further information Tel: 028 9443 2513

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Music in the parish

It has been a busy autumn! The Harvest services in both churches were well attended, and the music well received. Thank you to the choir for their hard work, which resulted in 2 very different services, but some splendid singing of old and new music. We are now preparing Advent and Christmas music: plenty of favourites to choose from here! And when you choose which service to come to at Christmas, remember that the choir will be at them all: Carol Service, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services!

The parish children continue to lead songs in the AAW services, and they made us very proud in their singing of 4 songs during the Kindfund evening. We look forward to their Christmas play, Christmas songs and the seasonal instrumental music they are preparing. Do come to hear them on Sunday 7th December at 11.30am (Christmas play and Gift Service) and on **Sunday 21st December at 6.30pm** (The Nine lessons and Carols).

Pat



St Patrick's & St John's Bowling Club

The bowling club re-opened on Friday 5th September 2014, with a good turn out of members. The first bowl of the new season was delivered by our Vice-Chairperson, Alison Millar.

We continue to bowl on Friday evening from 7.30pm to 10.30pm and Monday evening from 8.00pm to 9.30pm (practice night). After Christmas we are hoping to form a junior section of the bowling club, bowling on a Friday evening from 6.30pm to 7.30pm.

In September, once again this year, 20 members and friends had a four day bowling break to the Manor House in Fermanagh, bowling in a local church hall. Our thanks, once again, to Will Mehaffy for his contact with the local church for the bowling facilities.

On 23rd October we had a meal at Mossley Mill before heading to the theatre to see 'Oklahoma', performed by Ballyclare High School, this was an excellent evening enjoyed by everyone who was there.

We are now looking forward to our first visit of the season to the Baker Stadium later this month and a visit from the Rock Bowling club in December.

Our Christmas party night will be on Friday 19th December, our chosen charity this year is Marie Curie.

New members would be made most welcome, come along and enjoy the fun and friendship, even if you have never bowled before.

Isobel McCollam
(Hon Secretary)



Brian Price

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LITTLE THOUGHTS



Luke 1 : 30 KJV

And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.

Oh angel, please come down again, come down from heaven!

You told me not to fear, that all is well,

And prophesied the gift that only God alone had given,

Yet look down one more time and see my plight, oh, can't you tell?

Will I ever make it through on this road which we must travel?

For darkness has closed in on us, and sand blows in the cold,

The thoughts that I have had these last few months, I can't unravel,

I only know my soul must trust in what you said is to unfold.

My Joseph is so steadfast. He is strong and he is near,

I know he had despair of what he thought I'd brought to him,

He wasn't with me when you came, he didn't see you here,

How could I ever blame him when he thought I'd lived in sin?

But now his dream has told the truth. He knows our God, he knows His love,

The shawl he's placed around me shows his faith, it shows he cares,

He coaxes this poor donkey and looks at the sky above,

For a huge star has appeared, and I watch as Joseph stares.

My bundle is so precious. I am anxious. I'm in pain,

You must know, angel, that my time is nearing every hour,

I try to think upon your words for comfort through the strain,

Don't let these tears keep falling. Help me call upon God's power.

I need those words again! Just one more time to hear your voice!

But I do not doubt the miracle of what our God has done,

The Holy Spirit sends now a Messiah of His choice,

Scriptures have foretold my blessing of a heavenly Son.

Bethlehem! The faintest outline of its town is now within our sight,

I feel the strength You've sent me, Lord, Your promise and Your favour,

My God, my heart is filled with joy on this Your glorious night,

For I will be His mother – and He shall be my Saviour.

Jeanette Egli

KINDFUND

Be kind to one another Eph 4:32

The children from the Kindfund charity in northern Kenya were in Northern Ireland for just over 3 weeks and were with us from 14th-18th October. The children had an amazing and unforgettable trip. Whilst in the area the young people enjoyed spending time at Templepatrick Primary School, coming to the community soup and cheese lunch, sharing with our Sunday Club at the praise evening, leisure activities at Antrim Forum, getting the train to the north coast to visit the Giant's Causeway and Whiterocks beach, meeting the Lylehill Girls Brigade and an afternoon of crafts.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who was involved and helped with the children's stay in Templepatrick. Thank you to all of the hosts, the soup lunch team, those who helped with transport, provided meals, everyone who helped with the Thursday night and those who made financial contributions for the trip. Your support is greatly appreciated. A very generous donation of £250 was made to Kindfund from the soup and cheese lunch and £490 was received on the Thursday night.

Thank you to the Rev Andrew Ker for taking a Bible story session and for the Messy praise event on the Thursday night. It was a very special night of praise with singing from the Kenyan children and our Sunday Club children, where we all joined together to glorify God. It was wonderful for the Sunday Club children to be able to meet and spend time with the children they have been supporting over the last number of years. We were very blessed to be able to share our homes with these amazing youngsters, the majority of whom are orphans, to see their faith and the enthusiasm with which they embarked on everything is something we will always remember.

For more information see: www.kindfund.com

Catherine McCutcheon & Daphne Lucas





Scouts

Our Scout Group has begun the year very successfully with eighteen Beavers, twenty-four Cubs and our re-formed Scout Section has eighteen boys.

We applauded Steve Sargent's decision to move from Cubs to be our new Scout Leader and welcomed our new Helpers Steve Britton-Hall and Lawrence Anderson.

Regretfully we said farewell to Michelle Gamble our Beaver Leader and welcomed Steve Sargent's wife Michelle to help. We also have two boys Owen Minford and Scott Lawther helping with Cubs for their Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Cubs and Beavers need another warranted Leader and we would welcome anyone interested to speak to me.

We held our enrolment ceremonies for all members on Tuesday 21st October followed by the AGM.

Our Remembrance Day Parade was well attended and the youth organizations contributed to the Service with a special ceremony to mark the 100 years anniversary of the Great War.

The Scouts made crosses and representatives from the Cubs, Brownies, Guides and Scouts placed the crosses with the names of those who died and served from our Parish in a box of turf which was then placed behind the Church in the Garden of Remembrance.

We have a full program of events planned for the coming year and my thanks to all our Leaders, Helpers and Parents for their support.

Catherine Michael GSL



Saints of the Church

Nicholas, Bishop of Myra

6 December -- Lesser Festival -- Bishop -- White

Nicholas was a fourth-century bishop of Myra in Asia Minor (southern Turkey). His reputation as a worker of wonders was enhanced by a ninth-century author of his hagiography and he is now best known through these stories. Many of them concern his love and care for children, how he fed the hungry, healed the sick and cared for the oppressed. He saved three girls from a life of prostitution by providing them with dowries and so developed the tradition of bearing gifts to children on his feast day, a practice appropriated by the Christmas celebrations. Nicholas is also one of the patron saints of Russia.

Stephen, Deacon, First Martyr

26 December -- Festival -- Martyr -- Red

In the book of the Acts of the Apostles, Stephen is described as one of the seven deacons whose job it is to care for the widows in the early Church in Jerusalem. His eloquent speech before the Sanhedrin, in which he shows the great sweep of Jewish history as leading to the birth of Jesus, the long-expected Messiah, and his impassioned plea that all might hear the good news of Jesus, leads to his inevitable martyrdom by being stoned to death. As the author of Acts, Luke's description of Stephen bears direct parallels to that of Christ: for example, the passion; being filled with the Holy Spirit; seeing the Son of God as the right hand of God, as Jesus promised he would be; commending his spirit to Jesus, as Jesus commended his to the Father; kneeling as Jesus did in Gethsemane and asking forgiveness for his persecutors. Witnessing to Jesus by acting like Jesus in every way is thus seen by Luke as of the essence of the Christian life.

John, Apostle & Evangelist

27 December -- Festival -- Apostle -- White

Whether or not John the Apostle and John the Evangelist are one and the same, the Church honours on this day the one who proclaims Jesus as the Word made flesh and who is 'the disciple whom Jesus loved'. John was one of the sons of Zebedee who, along with James and Peter, followed Jesus. John was there with Jesus on the holy mountain; he was there with Jesus at the last supper; he was there with Jesus in his agony in the garden; he was there with Jesus and his mother, standing at the foot of the cross; he was there with Jesus as a witness of his resurrection and 'he saw and believed'. John was a witness to the Word, he proclaimed the Word and he lived and died witnessing to the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, who loved him and whom he loved.

The Holy Innocents

28 December -- Festival -- Red

Herod 'the Great' was appointed King of the Jews by the Roman authorities in Palestine and he proved to be ruthlessly efficient in his thirty-three years of dealing with his subjects. In Matthew's gospel, he tried to persuade the Magi, to whom he played the host on their journey seeking the one 'who has been born king of the Jews', to bring word of where they

had found him. His desire was to eliminate Jesus and, when he realised that the Magi had tricked him and left the country, Herod poured out his wrath on all the male infants in the land. These were God's 'innocent' ones, paralleling the story of Pharaoh slaughtering the Hebrew children in Egypt.

The Naming & Circumcision of Jesus **1 January -- Festival -- White**

The celebration of this scriptural festival marks three events: firstly, the naming of the infant; secondly, the sign of the covenant between God and Abraham 'and his children for ever', thus Christ's keeping of the Law; and thirdly, traditionally the first shedding of the Christ's blood. The most significant of these in the gospels is the name itself, which means 'Yahweh saves' and so is linked to the question asked by Moses of God: "What is your name?" "I am who I am," was the reply, thus the significance of Jesus's words: "Before Abraham was, I am." This feast has been observed in the church since at least the sixth century.

The Epiphany **6 January -- Principal Feast -- Gold or White**

The subtitle in the Book of Common Prayer of this, one of the principal feasts of the Church, is 'The Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles'. This emphasises that, from the moment of the Incarnation, the good news of Jesus Christ is for all: Jew and Gentile, the wise and the simple, male and female. Nothing in the Greek text of the gospels indicates that the Magi were all male and even the number three and making them Kings is a much later, non-scriptural tradition. The date chosen to celebrate this feast goes back to the placing of the feast of the Nativity of Christ in the winter solstice: the north European pre-Christian tradition of celebrating the birth of Sun on 25 December differed from the Mediterranean and eastern tradition of having 6 January as the Solstice. As often happens, the two dates merged into a beginning and an end of the same celebration. The western church adopted 'the twelve days of Christmas' climaxing on the eve of Epiphany, or 'Twelfth Night'. The implication by the fifth century was that this was the night on which the Magi arrived. The complications of dating became even more confused with the changing in the West from the Julian to the Gregorian Calendar, the eastern church refusing to play any part in such a radical change. So this day remains the chief day of celebrating the Incarnation in Orthodox Churches.

The Conversion of Paul **25 January -- Festival -- Apostle -- White**

The conversion of the anti-Christian zealot, Saul, to the apostle of Christ, Paul, is clearly related in the reading from the Acts of the Apostles, but it has to be remembered that this was a beginning: Saul took some time to become Paul and some time to begin to understand that his call to preach -- to Jew and to Gentile -- the saving power of Jesus, the Son of God, was something that was a whole life's journey for him. Paul says in his Letter to the Church in Galatia, "God set me apart before I was born and called me through his grace ... Three years after (the Damascus Road conversion), I went up to Jerusalem." The preparation for this moment of his conversion was his whole life. This feast has been celebrated in the Church since the sixth century but became universal in the twelfth century.



Brigid, Abbess of Kildare **1 February -- Festival**

Brigid (also known as Bride) was born in the latter part of the fifth century, of humble origin just five miles from Kildare. She was to become first a nun in the monastery there and then its Abbess. She is believed to have been baptised by and the stories of her portray a woman of great compassion. She is even said to have been consecrated a bishop by Bishop Ibor, because of her resemblance to the Virgin Mary, but this may have been put abroad to support the claim of the primacy of the Abbey of Kildare. By her prayers and miracles, she is reputed to have strongly influenced the formation of the Church throughout Ireland, where she is, with St Patrick, the patron saint. She died in about the year 525.

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas) **2 February -- Principal Feast -- Gold or White**

This day marks the completion of forty days since the birth of Jesus, when Mary and Joseph took the child to the Temple in Jerusalem. The requirement in Levitical law was for Mary to be 'cleansed', the completion of her purification following the birth of a male child. Until that day, she could touch no holy thing nor enter the sanctuary. Yet on seeing the holy family, Simeon praised God and acclaimed the infant as 'the light to enlighten the nations' and the prophet Anna gave thanks and proclaimed him her Redeemer. The image of Christ as the Light has led to the celebration of light countering darkness, with candles often taking a central place in the observance.

George Herbert, Priest **27 February -- Lesser Festival -- Pastor -- White**

Born in 1593 into the aristocratic Pembroke family, George Herbert went up to Cambridge in 1614, eventually becoming a fellow of Trinity College. At the age of twenty-five, he became Public Orator in the University and then a Member of Parliament, apparently destined for a life at court. To everyone's surprise, he decided to be ordained and, after spending a time with his friend Nicholas Ferrar at Little Gidding, he was made deacon in 1626. He married in 1629, was priested in 1630 and given the care of souls of the parish of Bemerton, near Salisbury, where he spent the rest of his short life. He wrote prolifically, his hymns still being popular throughout the English-speaking world. His treatise, *The Country Parson*, on the priestly life, and his poetry, especially *The Temple*, earned Herbert a leading place in English literature. He never neglected the care of the souls of Bemerton, however, and encouraged attendance at the weekday recitation of the daily office, calling to mind the words of his hymn, 'Seven whole days, not one in seven, I will praise thee'. He died on this day in 1633.

