

CHURCH NEWS



February
2013



Magheracross Parish Church

HONESTLY.....

Nine year old Peter was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday School.

“Well, Mum, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his engineers build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then he radioed headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved.”

“Now, Peter, is that really what your teacher taught you?” his mother asked, somewhat alarmed.

“Well, no, Mum. But if I told it the way the teacher did, you’d never believe it!”

“Did you Know”

Did you know that the Mothers' Union in the Clogher Diocese have a Prayer Chain where prayers are said for those who are sick, afraid, troubled etc. To maintain confidentiality only the first name is used and if you wish a description of the need. The contact in Magheracross is Valerie McMorris 028 6638 8117.

Bishops' Appeal

With the February copy of Church News is an envelope for your 2013 contribution to The Bishops' Appeal.

The Bishops' Appeal was set up by the Bishops of the Church of Ireland – not because they directly control it, but because they see its work as central to the advancement of Christ's Kingdom in the world, and the bringing of good news to the poor.

The theme for 2012 was EDUCATE FOR LIFE, and this involved funding: Mother's Union: Burundi, Sudan and Congo

Tearfund: Myanmar (Burma)
SAMS: South American Mission Society (Peru)

In 2011 these projects extended from providing fuel effective stoves in Eritrea; training programmes for parents of children with cerebral palsy in Uganda and income generating fisheries in Cambodia.

The fund is available when world disasters strike.

Your contribution can be placed on the collection plate, or given to your Parish Visitor to return.

Thank you.

Confirmation Class

Please support the members of the 2013 confirmation class in your prayers as they begin this exciting new stage in their church life. They are Lee Armstrong, Matthew Dunlop, Rachel Glenn, Sophie Magwood, Isla McFarland, David McHugh, Danielle McKinney, Rachel Mills, Megan Morrow, Nathan Shirley, Joshua Shirley, Jordan Thompson.

Lent

Lent can be a strange time of year. It is associated traditionally with hardship and temptation, particularly with regard to Jesus temptation in the wilderness (40 days). It can be useful time to take up a new diet or exercise or to give up chocolate / coffee / alcohol. If you're doing that sort of thing, its worth remembering that fasting through Lent does not include the Sundays! Sunday is always a day of celebration and, therefore, a "Feast Day". If you don't believe me, check your calendar and count the days – if you exclude the Sundays, you have exactly 40 days for fasting.

However, the deeper purpose of Lent is spiritual – it should be a time to deepen our faith and draw closer to God. Good disciplines might include reading a devotional book, committing to attending Sunday evening services or committing to attending worship each Sunday. You might choose to come along to the special Wednesday meetings.

Whatever you choose to do, it should have a clear purpose of helping you to grow in faith.

Founder's Day

The annual scouting service will be on 24 February at 11.00 am. This will be a service suitable for all ages and the sermon will be directed towards the children. It is important the Sunday School children attend as they don't usually have the opportunity to stay through a whole service. It is, of course, important for all our congregation to support the scout group by joining with them in prayer and worship on this particular morning.

Baptisms

We have two baptisms on 10 February at 11.00 am. It is my own preference that the sermon should always precede the baptisms but it is also good to have the other children in church present. Therefore we will need to experiment a little with timing! On 10 February, the Sunday School children will leave church during the opening hymn. Hopefully, this will give them time to have their class and then return to church for the baptisms. Those children that do not normally come to church with their parents should note that Sunday School will begin at approximately 11.05 am and parents should then collect them at the usual time of noon from the church.

Mothers' Union

Thursday 7 February at 8.00 pm in the Archdale Hall. The speaker will be Canon Noel Regan, the Rector of the Clogher Group of Parishes. He will give us an interesting and often amusing account of his time spent working for the late Lord Mountbatten at Mullaghmore. We would encourage any member of the congregation who would like to hear him to come along.

Thursday 7 March at 8.00 pm in the Archdale Hall. The speaker will be Laura Greenaway from Banbridge. She is the author of a children's book entitled "Phoenix." She was born in Ballintra, Co Donegal and her late husband was a Methodist Minister in Pettigo. We extend a warm welcome to everyone to come along.

Select Vestry

The Select Vestry will meet on Monday 11 February 2013 at 7.30 pm in the Parish Room.

Lunch Club

There will be no lunch club on Friday 15 February 2013 due to the half-term break.

Sunday School

There will be no Sunday School on Sunday 17 February 2013 or on Sunday 24 February 2013.

Ballinamallard Historical Society

The February meeting of the Historical Society will take place on Friday 22 February 2013 when Mr Bert Johnston MBE talks about his life in the public service and his trip to the Palace to receive his award in 2011.

Youth & Children's Ministry

During February, the joint Methodist/Church of Ireland Youth management Committee will be interviewing and hopefully appointing a full-time youth and children's worker to support the many volunteers in the two churches. Your prayers are welcomed for this task and for the applicants.



"...and keep in mind that 'No' is still an answer."

Change of Address

If your address has changed in the recent reallocation of road names and numbers, we will need to update our records, so don't forget to let us know, preferably using the email address above or by leaving a note with the church-wardens. There will be a parish census in the near future to update all our records.

Piano Lessons for beginners

Do you want to learn something new or improve your skills and music reading ability? If so please contact 028 8956 1666.

!Limited Number of Places!

Flowers for Valentine's

Some husbands are thoughtful and buy their wives flowers on Valentine's Day. And then there is my husband.

One day I couldn't stand it any longer. "Why don't you ever bring me flowers?"

"What's the point?" asked my husband. "They die after about a week."

"So could you," I shot back, "but I still like having you around."

Multi-Media Operators

Sunday 3 February

Ross Brimstone, Grace Verner

Sunday 10 February

Arthur McKinney, Danielle McKinney

Wednesday 13 February (Lent)

Henry Robinson

Sunday 17 February

Arthur McKinney, Danielle McKinney

Wednesday 20 February (Lent)

Henry Robinson

Sunday 24 February

Ryan Moffitt, Jami-Lee Guy

Wednesday 27 February (Lent)

Ryan Moffitt

Recording Ministry : CDs of the church Service are generally available (although we have to admit there are some Sundays when it does not work) There is generally some spare CD's of the service at the back of the church so please ask for one to be picked up for you

Flowers – February 2013

Mrs M Johnston/Mrs D Crawford

3 Feb – Mrs J Kerr

10 Feb – Mrs P Wray

17 Feb – Mrs M Aiken

24 Feb –

Services for February 2013

Sun 3 Feb	9.30 Holy Communion 11.00 Family Communion 7.00 Evening Service in Parish Room
Sun 10 Feb	9.30 Morning Prayer 11.00 Family Service with Baptisms 7.00 Evening Service in Methodist Church
Wed 13 Feb	8.00 Ash Wednesday Service
Sun 17 Feb	9.30 Morning Prayer 11.00 Family Service 7.00 Evening Service in Parish Room
Wed 20 Feb	8.00 Lent Service
Sun 24 Feb	9.30 Morning Prayer 11.00 Family Service – Scout Founders Day 7.00 Evening Service in Methodist Church
Wed 27 Feb	8.00 Lent Service

Who to Contact:

Rector:	Rev Brian Harper	☎ 028 6638 8238
		☎ 079 8974 3545
Assistant:	Rev Charlie Eames	☎ 077 9219 1565
Pastoral:	Olive Nixon	☎ 028 6638 8483
Sexton:	Raymond McBrien	☎ 028 6638 9761
Secretary:	Liane Armstrong	☎ 028 6638 8618
Churchwardens:	Norman Love	☎ 028 6638 8762
	Gordon Lee	☎ 028 6638 8810