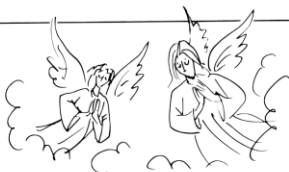


CHURCH NEWS

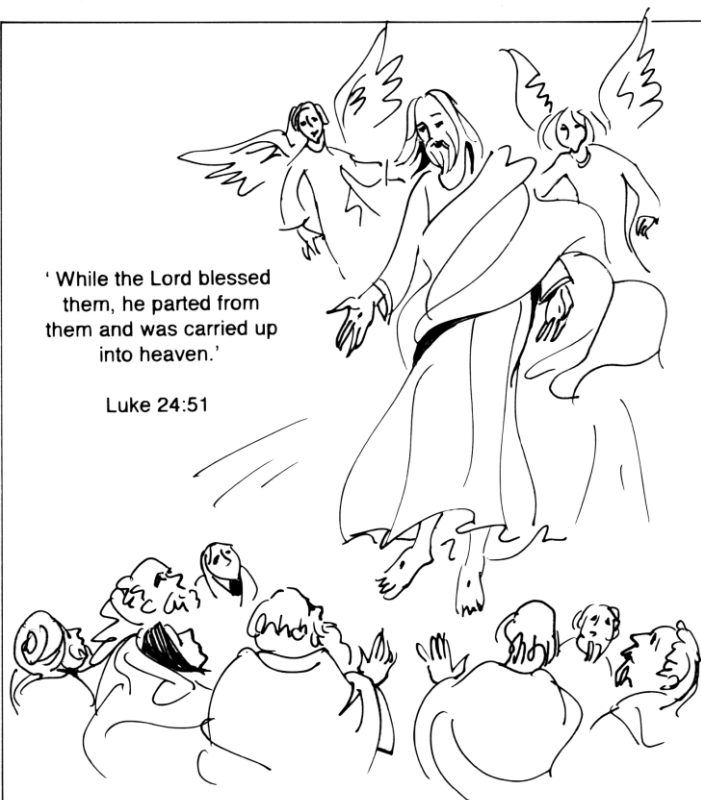
MAY



2013

'While the Lord blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven.'

Luke 24:51



Magheracross Parish Church

Message from the Rector

So what's happening in May? Apart from my birthday, the key item in my diary for the month is the General Synod. This is the "parliament" of the Church of Ireland and is responsible for looking after both the doctrine of the Church (what we believe) and all its housekeeping (how we manage our finances, buildings, personnel etc). It is an extremely large group which is made up of representatives from across Ireland. Among many issues up for debate this year, you will find a major review of clergy pensions, which, along with many other pension schemes, is not in a healthy place. There will be a discussion relating to the current deployment of bishops and there is a big step being proposed to further the unity of the Methodist Church and the Church of Ireland. There will be motions about education, feeding the hungry, ethical taxation of multi-national companies, and the establishment of a "select committee" to further the discussion on issues of sexuality.

It will be a busy few days and the wheels will grind slowly! However, many of the examples I have given above relate to the influence and involvement that the church has in society. The church is not immune to what goes on in the world, whether it involves finance, poverty, hunger or

morality – we do not live out our lives in isolation.

One of the very strong features of Magheracross Parish is its involvement with the community of Ballinamallard and the Methodist Church. Two very practical examples of this community involvement are the churches' participation in the Ballinamallard Festival and the catering for the July 12th celebration in the village. Far too often, a church can become withdrawn from the society it claims to serve. It is a privilege for Magheracross to have the opportunity to be part of the wider community. Part of this integration happens very naturally – volunteers in community events are also active in the life of the church. Sometimes, people need a little encouragement to realise that they really do have something to offer. In catering, for example, it could be that you could wait on tables, butter bread or wash dishes. You don't have to be over 18 or female to do these things! In the festival, you just need to take part and enjoy the events, helping out where possible with setting up/clearing up, stewarding, publicity etc. Such volunteering and helpfulness can be a great encouragement to those who take on the bulk of the work. It also puts you in a position where you can

be an encouragement to each other and enjoy each other's company.

Living a life of service to others is an important part of living out our Christian faith. May will also see the celebration of Pentecost – the moment when the disciples were empowered by the Holy Spirit to leave their room and move out into the street, sharing the Good News with all those in their city, both residents and tourists. That event has left us with a lasting legacy of hope and joy. Let us continue to keep our faith alive by living it out in both word and deed in our own village, our own workplace or school, our own family circle and circle of friends.

Sunday School

Due to the Festival and G8, the Sunday School prizes are a little earlier than usual this year – June 2. The children have been working on a project about the world's newest country, South Sudan. We hope to have a representative from CMSI (Church Mission Society Ireland) which supports the work of the church there in establishing new schools and hospitals.

Leaders Wanted

If you have an hour or two to spare each week (either now or from September onwards) and would like to help out in some way with our youth, please speak to David McIlroy.

'Ballinamallard's Got Talent' will take place on Saturday 8 June in the Archdale Hall (time to be confirmed). If you can sing, dance, or make your pet dog jump through flaming hoops while reciting a Shakespearean sonnet, please speak to David McIlroy and get signed up!

Flower Rota – May

5 May – In memory of Mrs Dane
12 May – Mrs Fitzpatrick
19 May – Miss G Nixon
26 May – Mrs J Brien

Multi-Media Operators - May

5 May and 12 May 2013
Norman Love, Henry Robinson
19 May and 26 May 2013
Arthur and Dannielle McKinney

County Fermanagh Orange Widows & Orphan Society

The hosts Ballinamallard District No 6 would like to thank all who supported them in any way with their Cake Sale and Coffee Morning on Saturday 13 May 2013. Amount raised to date - £737.00

Annual Easter Vestry

The Annual Easter Vestry took place on Monday 8 April 2013 at 7.30 pm in the Archdale Hall. The following were elected to sit on the Select Vestry for the coming year:

Rector's Glebwarden:

Wilfred Crawford

People's Glebwarden:

Roland Hurst

Rector's Churchwarden:

Gordon Lee

People's Churchwarden:

Richard McBride

Vestry: Liane Armstrong, Alex Elliott, Ernie Fisher, Harold Graham, George Hamilton, Helen Humphries, Norman Love, Arthur McKinney, Howard McMorris, Sammy Nixon, Henry Robinson, Gail Thompson. At the meeting of the newly elected Select Vestry, Liane Armstrong was elected to serve as Honorary Secretary and Arthur McKinney as Honorary Treasurer.

Select Vestry

The May meeting of the Select Vestry will take place on Monday 13 May at 7.30 pm in the Parish Room

12th July – Volunteers required

Ballinamallard is hosting the 12th July parade this year. The parish will be providing teas on the day, if you can help in any way each for a short time can you please put your name on the sheet at the back of the church.

Festival 2013

See the enclosed leaflet about this years festival

Ballinamallard in Bloom. This year it has been decided that the judging will not take place before the Festival but deferred until the beginning of July when hopefully there will be more blooms to judge.

The Committee would encourage all residents to do their bit for the village by creating a decorative garden – especially with the Twelfth of July being held in the village this year.

Photographic Competition : There will be 3 categories this year - portrait, landscape and best candid photo, so get your cameras out. Further details later

'**Care for the Family**' are having a special event on Thursday 9 May 2013 at 7.30 pm in St Macartin's Cathedral Hall, Enniskillen. Theme "*Getting your kids through church without them hating God*". Rob Parson's who founded 'Care for the Family' will be the speaker. Unfortunately the main event on 9 May clashes with General Synod, so if you cannot attend we hope you can inspire others to come along

Welcomers for May

Henry Robinson, Stephen Graham

Mothers' Union

Mothers' Union will meet on Thursday 2 May in the Archdale Hall at 8.00 pm. The speaker will be Dr Margaret Knox, the Diocesan President of Mothers' Union and her subject is **"Fit for Life"**. Members are reminded to bring their missionary boxes, used stamps and knitted items to the meeting. A warm welcome is extended to all members of the congregation to come along.

Mothers' Union Area Service - Friday 10 May @ 8.00 pm in Cleenish Parish Church. The preacher will be Dean Raymond Ferguson, Mothers' Union All Ireland Chaplin. Members are encouraged to attend and if you require transport please contact Valerie on 028 6638 8117.

This year's **Mothers' Union Annual Outing** will take place on Saturday 18 May 2013 to Springhill House, Moneymore then to Cookstown and finishing with a meal in the Mayfly Inn in Kesh. Everyone welcome – if interested please see Iris Hurst as soon as possible to book your place.

Mothers' Union Young Women's Get Away 2013

'Sow and Grow' I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. 1 Corinthians 3: 6-7 Time away to relax, have fun and learn more about the Mothers' Union. Come and join us – a warm welcome awaits you!

11 – 12 October 2013 in the City North Hotel, Julianstown Cost: £100 per person. To find out more speak to your local Mothers' Union contact or contact – Jean Thompson – 028 7776 5141

Coffee Morning



Helen McMorris has completed her Skydive and everything went well. We, as a family would like to thank everyone who supported her so generously. As part of the fund raising effort the coffee morning in aid of the Breast Screening Unit at Altnagelvin Hospital will be held on Saturday 11 May from 10.00 am to 12.00 pm at the home of Howard and Valerie, Drumkeen. Please support this worthy cause.

Services for May 2013

Sun 5 May	9.30 Morning Prayer 11.00 Family Communion 7.00 Evening Service
Sun 12 May	9.30 Holy Communion 11.00 Family Service 7.00 Evening Service in Methodist Church
Sun 19 May	9.30 Morning Prayer 11.00 Family Service 7.00 Holy Communion
Sun 26 May	9.30 Holy Communion 11.00 Family Service 7.00 Evening Service in Methodist Church

Who to Contact:

Rector:	Revd Brian Harper	 028 6638 8238
		 079 8974 3545
Assistant:	Revd Charlie Eames	 077 9219 1565
Pastoral:	Olive Nixon	 028 6638 8483
Sexton:	Raymond McBrien	 028 6638 9761
Secretary:	Liane Armstrong	 028 6638 8618
Churchwardens:	Gordon Lee	 028 6638 8810
	Richard McBride	 028 6638 8404