

CHURCH NEWS

September
2013



Magheracross Parish Church

What a wonderful summer we've had! The sun shone bright and strong through most of July, whilst Heather and I were away, and August hasn't been too bad either. Church attendance has been reasonable and keeping the 9:30 and 11 schedule seems to have been a success. Evening worship has been particularly encouraging - in the Parish Room on the 1st and 3rd Sundays and in the Methodist Church on the 2nd and 4th.

The team of catering people were very pleased with the support on 12 July. The scouts provided a barbeque at the bridge and the meals and teas in the Archdale raised approximately £2,700. A major thank-you goes out to all those who worked so hard or donated supplies.

The BIG event in August was Space Academy. The team worked really hard and the dedication of the leaders was a great example. You can read David's report in a separate article on these pages.

So now we hit the autumn – a rapid three months of Harvest, remembrance, Advent and Christmas! Let us start the new season with a fresh renewal of faith in Christ and a desire, in all things, to glorify God.

Sunday School

Sunday School opens up on 8 September. On most Sundays, children will start in Church and then move to the Archdale at about 11:15. However, when there is communion (1st Sunday of the month) or a

baptism, they will leave during 1st hymn and return to church to be picked up from there. Any children whose parents are not in church can also come to church with their teacher.

On 15 September, Sunday School classes will stay in Church for a special children's service, concluding with ice cream. It would be helpful if parents could stay with their children on this Sunday or ensure that they are with their teacher.

Look out for the starting times of the various youth activities that operate in the Ballinamallard churches. We have GFS, all the levels of scouting from Squirrels to Adventure Scouts, a Youth Fellowship, GB in the Methodist Hall, Badminton and Bowls (it can be a youth activity too!) Mums and Toddlers will be held as usual each Tuesday morning.

Confirmation 2014

Plans for the 2014 Confirmation are starting to form, based on the feedback from the 2013 candidates. The new gang of year 10 students should register their interest during September, either directly to me or to David. There will be a preparatory meeting for all candidates and parents on **Wednesday 9 October at 7:30 pm** in the Archdale Hall. In the meantime, candidates should be demonstrating their interest in confirmation by attending worship and the Youth Fellowship.

The date for Confirmation in 2014 will be 18 May.

Men Alive!

We have been invited to Dromore Parish Church on Saturday 21 September to an event arranged specifically for men. Its begins at 9.00 am and concludes with brunch at noon. The programme includes worship and the guest speakers are Roy Walker (the football one, not Catchphrase) and Stuart Elliott (former NI footballer, now pastor). The blurb says that this event will test our strength, stamina and brains! If you want to make a whole footie day of it, Ballinamallard are playing at home to Linfield at 3pm.

Dromore Mothers' Union are also hosting an event on 28 September so the other half won't feel left out! Saturday 28 September – **Ladies Breakfast** at 10.00 am in Holy Trinity Parish, Dromore. Guest Speaker: Catherine Campbell. Her story is of how God has sustained her and her family through immense loss and tragedy, and how even today God is still at work in her life and how it impacts people all over the world. Organised by the Mothers' Union. Cost £5.

Keeping you informed.

Information is available to parishioners in many different formats and it is very important that each organisation keeps this information flowing and up-to-date.

Sunday Link: a weekly news sheet available in the pews each Sunday. Information should be with Liane by Thursday.

Church News: a monthly news bulletin delivered to every registered home, available from the 1st Sunday of each month. Information should be with Liane by the preceding Wednesday.

Web-site: www.magheracross.co.uk information from each organisation should be posted here. There is a calendar of events that should be kept current. The site can carry news and photos. Please send everything to treasurer@magheracross.co.uk . Photos should be accompanied by text.

FaceBook: The parish has a FaceBook page which you can "like". When you do, you will receive updates. The feed from this page also appears on the website. The scouts also host a FaceBook group with a closed membership as will the Confirmation Class and Youth Fellowship. You can also be the rector's "friend" if you're a suitable age!

Twitter: you can follow the rector on @colliedoggie for information on church events, funerals etc. Eventually, this may split into a separate church account.

Direct Contact: by landline to the rectory 028 6638 8238. By mobile text or phone 07989 743545. By email to magheracross@gmail.com My preferred choice is text or mobile. If I'm with someone, I won't answer so don't worry about interrupting. In particular, if someone is in going into hospital, moving hospitals or coming home, please text me asap – it will save me a lot of time wandering the corridors of SWAH!

Men's Group

We would like to start a Men's Group this year. While both Brian and myself have some ideas as to what we might do to encourage the men of the parish to get together we realise that we do not have all the answers.

I would appreciate it if everyone who reads this could give some thought to how we can encourage the men of the parish to come together in a way that allows us to share fellowship and also to grow in faith.

If there is something that you think is doable then please speak to me. We will consider any idea (as long as it is legal). We would hope to arrange an event every second month.

I hope to arrange a breakfast type event in October to kick the proceedings off and further details will follow about this. Charlie

Youth Fellowship is BACK! We'll be kicking off again on 8 September in the Methodist Hall youth room. Junior YF (YFJ) meets from 7:00 pm – 8:15 pm; Senior (YFS) meets from 8:30 pm – 9:30 pm. If you haven't been before, why not give it a try? We'd love to see you there!

Select Vestry will meet on Monday 9 September 2013 at 7.30 pm in the Parish Room.

Lunch Club will recommence on Friday 13 September 2013. Please contact Iris Hurst to book your lunch 07970631135.

Diocesan Magazine

A new look diocesan magazine will be available from September. The magazine will be published 10 times per year and will cost £1 per copy. If you already subscribe to this magazine, you will continue to receive the new copy.

Ballinamallard Primary School Cook-Book

Ballinamallard Primary School has just completed a new school cookery book. This book is now available for sale and can be purchased from the school office or Sharon Benson 07729524820 or Sandra Seaney on 07738383329. The book costs £8 or two books for £15.

Meeting for chat and prayer

Would you be interested in taking part in an informal meeting with others for prayer?

You would be asked to meet in groups of about 3 either in your homes or in the church. You will have a note of the current issues or people who have asked for prayer and also some written prayers and other resources to help you. You might also prefer to use your own prayers or simply read the prayer points and then spend a few moments together quietly – it's up to you.

If this is something you'd be interested in, please let the Rector or David Beare or Howard McMorris know.

Flower Rota – September

1 September – Mrs P Nixon
8 September – Mrs M Sweeney
15 September – GFS
22 September – Mrs M Johnston
29 September –

Space Academy Report

On Monday 19 August, the Space Academy airlock hissed open for the first time and a horde of excited young astronauts spilled inside. As a team, we had prepared as best we could for their arrival but none of us could have anticipated how much enthusiasm and energy would accompany the holiday club children of summer 2013.

By Saturday 24 August we had 83 astronauts registered, with an average daily attendance of between 50 and 60 children. Throughout the week, the Space Academy team excelled in everything I asked of them: leading from the front, teaching memory verses, telling stories, guiding in craft time, organising games, dancing on stage, singing, acting, and generally leaving all their inhibitions at the door. Our behind-the-scenes food and registration teams did an equally stellar job keeping us fuelled for our on-going mission. For their part, the children responded by heartily throwing themselves into every song, activity or challenge that came their way. Most importantly, they received spiritual nourishment from the Bible as we collectively dived deeper into the story of Daniel and learned more about why our

God is so amazing. Our week was capped by a well-supported united church service, set in the midst of the awesome Space Academy set that the team had constructed and maintained so well.

Looking back, I couldn't be happier with how the week went. The team did themselves and their families proud, and I'm certain the children left with a greater desire to know God, even if they don't fully realise it yet. Roll on summer 2014!

David McIlroy

Mothers' Union

Mothers' Union will commence the new programme of events with a Service of Holy Communion on Thursday 12 September at 8.00 pm.

We welcome all existing members to this service and we would encourage all ladies in the congregation to consider joining us both at this service and also at our monthly meetings. If you would like to know more about Mothers' Union please contact Valerie McMorris on 02866388117.

October Meeting – 3 October at 8.00 pm in the Archdale Hall. The speaker will be Raymond Dowdalls and he will speak about his experiences of working in Kenya. Raymond is well known to us all as he owns the Village Pharmacy. A warm welcome is extended to all members of the congregation to join us.

September Services

Welcomers – Gareth McCormack and Ryan Moffitt

1 September	9.30 am	Morning Prayer
	11.00 am	Family Communion and dedication of gifts
	7.00 pm	Evening Service in the Parish Room

2 – 6 September Bowling Tournament

8 September	9.30 am	Holy Communion
	11.00 am	Morning Worship and Sunday School
	7.00 pm	Evening Service in Methodist Church

15 September	9.30 am	Holy Communion
	11.00 am	Sunday School in Church for Ice Cream Sundaes
	7.00 pm	Holy Communion in the Parish Room

21 September – Men Alive! – Dromore Parish Church









22 September	9.30 am	Morning Prayer
	11.00 am	Morning Worship and Sunday School
	7.00 pm	Evening Service in Methodist Church

26 September – Diocesan Synod

27 September – 5 October – Pastoral Care by Charlie and Olive

29 September	9.30 am	Morning Prayer
	11.00 am	Morning Worship and Sunday School
	7.00 pm	Evening Service in the Parish Room

Who to Contact:

Rector:	Revd Brian Harper	 028 6638 8238
		 079 8974 3545
Curate:	Revd Charlie Eames	 077 9219 1565
Youth Minister:	David McLroy	 077 0374 3583
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