

# The Pointer

March 2025

The Magazine of the Church of Ireland Parishes  
of  
Clonallon & Warrenpoint with Kilbroney in the Diocese of Down and Dromore

RECTOR

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Clonallon and Warrenpoint Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/warrenpointcoi/>

Kilbroney Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/KilbroneyParishChurchRostrevor/>



## A Loving Lent!

Dear Friends,

The year goes by so quickly! Christmas only seems like yesterday, and now we are talking about Lent. I wanted to let you know what we will be doing during the Sundays in Lent this year.

The central theme will be based on Jesus' famous words:

**“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”**

Matthew 22:37-40

Jesus calls us to love God and to love others in a very special way. His words also affect how we can love ourselves.

Over Lent, the Gospel readings will be from John 15 and part of John 19, and we'll look at how we love God and others, both as individuals and as a church.

- **Week 1: John 15:1-4 – How I love God**
- **Week 2: John 15:5-8 – How we love God**
- **Week 3: John 15:9-13 – How I love others**
- **Week 4: John 15:14-17 – How we love others**
- **Week 5: John 15:18-27 – How I love myself**
- **Week 6: John 19:25-27 – How we love ourselves**

This theme is central but it need not be daunting or heavy. Love is always a good thing to speak about, and there is no reason we can't enjoy ourselves as we do so!

If you have not been to the church in a while or have never been, this would definitely be a good time to come. You will be made very welcome.

Yours in love,  
**Andy.**

| <b>Lectors</b>               |  |  |
|------------------------------|--|--|
|                              | <b>10.00 am</b>                                    | <b>11.30 am</b>                                      |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> March</b>  | Evelyn Greer<br>Andy Hay                           | Mellissa Jeffers<br>Shelagh Roberts                  |
| <b>9<sup>th</sup> March</b>  | Rene Murphy<br>Andy Hay                            | Liz Farnan<br>Anna Farnan                            |
| <b>16<sup>th</sup> March</b> | Emma Cooper<br>Dorothy Major<br>Christopher Cooper | Stewart Nash<br>Jonathan Heyhoe                      |
| <b>23<sup>rd</sup> March</b> | Stephen Cooper<br>Evelyn Greer<br>Rene Murphy      | Alanah Donaldson<br>Joan Thompson<br>Elizabeth Hanna |
| <b>30<sup>th</sup> March</b> | Dorothy Major                                      | William Graham                                       |
| <b>6<sup>th</sup> April</b>  | Emma Cooper<br>Andy Hay                            | Karl Teggarty<br>Rosie Teggarty                      |

**Christian Burial**

We extend our prayerful sympathy to all who mourn,  
especially to the family and friends of

**Amy Louise Brown**  
29<sup>th</sup> February 1988—28<sup>th</sup> January 2025

**Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.  
They are blessed indeed, says the Spirit,  
for they rest from their labours.**  
Revelation 14:13

**‘I am the resurrection and the life,’ says the Lord.  
‘Those who believe in me, even though they die,  
yet shall they live, and everyone who lives and  
believes in me shall never die.’**



**SAFEGUARDING**  
CHURCH OF IRELAND

**The Church of Ireland is committed  
to ensuring all children and  
vulnerable adults are protected  
from harm.**

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2025**  
**Friday 7 March**  
A service for everyone!

**Rostrevor Presbyterian Church**  
7.00 pm  
Everyone is Welcome

**Lenten Journey**

Hung with purple, the colour of wine  
the colour of reflection  
we begin with dust and ashes  
and look towards resurrection.

Between those two, a yearning  
to be more kind, forgiving  
and mindful of our weak, worn ways  
our thankless, selfish living.

We walk with One who stood apart  
from guilt, from shame, from sin  
and know that He will pay our price  
though we lose heart  
and let doubt in.

He turns His gaze to paradise,  
invites us to follow there  
where loneliness of penitence  
meets fellowship of grace  
we bring our Alleluias  
and see Him face to face.

*Andrea Blain*

**Whatever  
you're facing  
We're here to listen**

**SAMARITANS**  
Call free day or night on  
**116 123**



**PIPS**  
Suicide Prevention Ireland

**Freephone:  
0800 088 6042**  
(9am-9pm Mon-Fri  
& 10am-6pm Sat-Sun)

| Church Services  |   |                                    |
|--|---|------------------------------------|
|  | 10.00 am  | 11.30 am                           |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> March</b><br>The Sunday before Lent                                | <b>Holy Communion</b><br>Warrenpoint                  | <b>Holy Communion</b><br>Kilbroney |
| <b>9<sup>th</sup> March</b><br>The First Sunday in Lent                              | <b>Holy Communion</b><br>Clonallon                    | <b>Family Service</b><br>Kilbroney |
| <b>16<sup>th</sup> March</b><br>Second Sunday in Lent                                | <b>Morning Prayer</b><br>Warrenpoint                  | <b>Holy Communion</b><br>Kilbroney |
| <b>23<sup>rd</sup> March</b><br>The Third Sunday in Lent                             | <b>Morning Prayer</b><br>Clonallon                    | <b>Morning Prayer</b><br>Kilbroney |
| <b>30<sup>th</sup> March</b><br>The Fourth Sunday in Lent<br><b>Mothering Sunday</b> | <b>United Service</b><br><b>11.00 am</b><br>Kilbroney |                                    |
| <b>6<sup>th</sup> April</b><br>The Fifth Sunday in Lent                              | <b>Holy Communion</b><br>Warrenpoint                  | <b>Holy Communion</b><br>Kilbroney |

| Lectionary Year C                                   |                           |                          |
|---|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Old Testament                                       | Epistle                   | Gospel                   |
| Exodus<br>34:29-35<br><b>Psalm 99</b>               | 2 Corinthians<br>3:12—4:2 | Luke 9: 28-36<br>(37-43) |
| Deuteronomy<br>26:1-11<br><b>Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16</b> | Romans<br>10:8b-13        | John 15:1-4              |
| Genesis<br>15:1-12, 17-18<br><b>Psalm 27</b>        | Philippians<br>3:17-4:1   | John 15:5-8              |
| Isaiah 55:1-9<br><b>Psalm 63:1-9</b>                | 1 Corinthians<br>10:1-13  | John 15:9-13             |
| Joshua 5:9-12<br><b>Psalm 32</b>                    | 2 Corinthians<br>5:16-21  | John 15:14-17            |
| Isaiah 43:16-21<br><b>Psalm 126</b>                 | Philippians<br>3:4b-14    | John 15:18-27            |



PLEASE JOIN ME IN DOWN CATHEDRAL ON MONDAY 17 MARCH 2025 FOR OUR ANNUAL ST PATRICK'S DAY FESTIVAL SERVICE FOLLOWED BY A COMPLIMENTARY 'PICNIC IN THE PEWS'. YOU ARE ALSO WELCOME TO ATTEND THE HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE AT SAUL AND TO JOIN THE PILGRIMAGE FROM SAUL TO DOWN CATHEDRAL WHERE OUR SPEAKER WILL BE HIS HONOUR DAVID TURNER KC.

+David

**9.15 am** Holy Communion at **Saul**      **11.45 am** Festival Service at **Down Cathedral**

We look forward to welcoming **His Honour David Turner KC** as our preacher at the Festival Service in Down Cathedral and the **Revd Canon Maurice Elliott** as the preacher at Saul.

Originally from Derry/Londonderry, **David Turner** is a recently retired Circuit Judge who sat in Essex and London. An Anglican all his adult life, David is, among other things, Chancellor of the Diocese of Chester, Deputy President of the Clergy Discipline Commission and a Reader and regular preacher at All Souls' Church, Langham Place.

**Maurice Elliott** is Director of the Church of Ireland Theological Institute, prior to which he spent fifteen years in parochial ministry including as rector of Shankill Parish Lurgan. In terms of training and ministerial formation, his passion is for mission and church growth, leadership and team ministry, biblical preaching, and personal spiritual development.

**Rev Andy** plans to be in Downpatrick on 17<sup>th</sup> March (well wrapped up and wearing waterproofs!) and would like to meet up with folk who want to go ... do contact Andy if you need transport.

# SUNDAY

## Sunday Explorers

11.30 am each Sunday

All children welcome! If you're new to the area this would be a good place for young folk to meet.

## No Service of Compline in March

From April  
6.30 pm on the Third Sunday

# MONDAY

&

# THURSDAY



## Badminton

### Warrenpoint Parish Hall

Mondays from 5.30 pm and  
Thursdays 5.30 pm until 7.30 pm  
Join the **WhatsApp** group for updates.

# TUESDAY

## Ladies Bible Study

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March  
at 10.45 am

in the vestry Warrenpoint Church.  
All ladies will be made very welcome.

# WEDNESDAY

## Parish Prayer Time

10.00 am in the Parish Room, Kilbroney  
Each Wednesday  
Everyone Welcome

## Kilbroney Crafters on Wednesdays

Crafting (or chatting) in the Parish Room  
11.00 am to 1.00 pm. All levels of Crafters welcome.  
Tea, coffee, a biscuit and craic are obligatory!

All are welcome

## Warrenpoint Parish Church

### Open Church

From 11.00 am until Noon Each Wednesday

Everyone is welcome to drop in

# THURSDAY

## Ladies Guild

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00 pm

Guest speaker: Julie-Ann Hanna  
Home Start, Newry and Mourne

## Tower Bells and Handbells on Thursdays

Tower bells 6.45 to 7.30 pm

Handbells 7.30 to 9.00 pm

If you're interested in joining this ministry  
please speak to **Liz Farnan** (handbells) or  
**Kenny Roberts** (tower bells).

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   | 5 |   |   | 2 | 8 |   |   |   |
|   |   |   | 6 | 1 | 5 | 9 |   |   |
|   | 4 |   | 8 |   |   |   |   | 3 |
| 3 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 7 |
| 1 |   |   |   |   | 7 |   | 5 | 2 |
|   |   | 9 | 3 | 7 | 1 |   |   |   |
|   |   | 6 | 5 |   |   |   | 4 |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |



## The Craic is Mighty ... ... and the buns are tasty!

I dropped in to the **Kilbroney Crafters** last week. It wasn't long after eleven o'clock and the kettle was on already, the aroma of coffee filled the Parish Room, and there was a buzz of conversation! Topics were as varied as the folk present ... how to get back to sleep if you waken in the middle of the night, what to do with a huge surplus of eggs, and remembering a time when you could purchase a cactus for four pence.



Even though I'd not brought any craft along it was great to join in the chat and drink the coffee. I'd highly recommend this as a warm and comfortable place, with no expectations, and a cheery welcome! You don't have to belong to the church to enjoy the craic. You don't even have to bring anything to knit, crochet, cross-stitch, or whatever ... but the "bug" will bite and you'll likely return armed with wool and hooks or needles.

Elizabeth Hanna

## Can I have a 'P' please, Bob?

If you understand the 'Bob' reference, you are showing your age. If you are too young, go and search for it online. Meanwhile, I thought I would fill you in with what I have been doing over the last few weeks and what I have in mind as we move forward. I will use the letter 'P' to help ...

### People

Most of my time so far has been spent meeting and getting to know people. I have lists of names and addresses of people linked to the parishes of Clonallon and Warrenpoint with Kilbroney (CWK). At the time of writing, I am focussing on those who are in hospital or housebound and the members of the Select Vestries. Those in hospital or who cannot leave the home will always be a priority.

As time goes on, my aim will be to meet everyone in CWK. I tend to batch visits by postcode rather than parish. If you are concerned that you are not on my lists, or that I may not know you are housebound please contact me. My details are on the front page.

### Preparation

Part of my time is also given to service and sermon preparation. There will also be time given to select vestry preparation and meetings, as well as general administrative tasks.

### Prayer

The reason for all of this, is that we are part of the Body of Christ, and I have been given the privilege of serving our part of this body. None of this can happen without speaking and listening to God, seeking His sustenance and His guidance. This is part of my daily routine, and I would encourage you to make it part of yours too.

### Pattern

My weeks have taken on a pattern with Wednesdays being the day I take as my day off. It is vital for all of us to take a day of rest and quiet. Having said that, if **you fall ill or run into difficulty on this day, please let me know**. I may not reply immediately but I will get back to you and together we can make a plan.

### Purpose

As we move forward through Lent, Easter and beyond, the time will come to ask ourselves what God wants for the future here in CWK. We will take time to pray and listen to God and to one another. Right now, we are relatively small in number **however**, God will nourish us where we are and allow us to flourish and thrive. God will show us how to best reach out into our community so our friends and neighbours can also flourish and thrive.

I literally could not be more delighted to be here with you and I am looking forward to all God has for us in the weeks, months and years to come.

Andy



**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March**  
**Coffee and Cake sale**  
**Bryansford Parish Church**  
**10.00 am - 1.00 pm**

**Enjoy a cuppa, chat and  
delicious homemade treats.**



## A prayer for Shrove Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> March

On this Shrove Tuesday, Lord help us to enjoy and give thanks to you for the bounty you provide for us and remind us to share your gifts with others. And as Lent begins tomorrow, prepare our hearts and minds to reflect upon the temptation of Jesus for 40 days and nights and what that means for us. **Amen.**

### A Lent Liturgy

#### Call to action

The prophet Micah said: **"What does the Lord require of you? Only to act justly, love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."**

God of mercy and source of justice,  
pour on your people such love and compassion that  
we cannot remain silent,  
we cannot tolerate injustice and poverty.

As your grace fills our hearts  
so may we be stirred into action  
to demonstrate your love for all the world  
and for all creatures that live and move on this earth.  
**Amen.**

#### Prayer of Confession

Forgive us Lord for our apathy,  
for our lack of courage to speak out.  
Forgive us when we walk past and don't offer help.  
Forgive us when we get it wrong.  
We confess that we are afraid -  
we don't want to overcome our hidden doubts and  
prejudices  
in order to be alongside those who are different from  
ourselves.

We ask that you would lead us into action:  
give us strength to be a voice crying for justice and  
peace.

Help us to step into another person's shoes,  
or, if they have no shoes,  
then not to be afraid to take off our own,  
peel off our preconceptions and assumptions,  
uncurl and spread out our toes, and  
tread in their footprints.

May we be a liberating presence  
and offer love, compassion and whatever is needed  
to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our  
God. **Amen.**

#### Prayers for others

God of mercy and love let us serve you in our world.

We pray for desert people,  
who live in a dry, parched land,  
who lack water  
who travel constantly  
so that they might live.

Give them living water.  
Let the deserts bloom into flower.

We pray that those who work on climate change  
may find solutions so that the erosion of soil may be  
halted or reversed.

We pray that water and other vital supplies might  
not be used as a weapon of war  
in countries where resources are scarce.

#### God of mercy and love

##### let us serve you in our world

We pray for countries where justice seems far away,  
where human rights are ignored.  
Let us remind those in power that prisoners are not  
forgotten.

We pray that the dignity of life is respected  
and remember those who have lost that dignity  
through age or infirmity or neglect.

We pray for situations  
where the sex of a baby may lead to abandonment,  
and where women are not offered the same  
opportunities,  
or are actively demeaned or mutilated.

May we act to challenge injustice  
and seek to affirm your love for all humankind.

#### God of mercy and love

##### let us serve you in our world

We pray for those who have no peace -  
for those who are troubled and torn apart by lack of  
self esteem  
for those who torment and victimise the vulnerable.

We pray for men and women affected by violence in  
the home  
and for those who live by violence.

We pray for those who are trafficked  
and for those who organise and profit from selling  
other humans.

May they learn of your love  
and somehow come to newness of life  
even in the midst of despair.

#### God of mercy and love

##### let us serve you in our world

Loving Lord let us not stand aside and tolerate  
lack of basic human resources,  
dehumanising practices,  
or the use of violence to disempower your people.

Give us strength to act and challenge hatred,  
and instead bring your justice and mercy.  
In your name we humbly ask that we may be a  
channel for your peace and love. **Amen.**

Dr Deidre Homer  
Methodist local preacher.

## CONGRATULATIONS Kilbroney Integrated Primary School



### British Council International School Award

Kilbroney Integrated Primary School in Rostrevor has been awarded Foundation level of the British Council's prestigious **International School Award** (ISA) in recognition of its work to bring the world into the classroom. The ISA celebrates the achievements of schools that do exceptional work in international education. Fostering an international dimension in the curriculum is at the heart of the British Council's work with schools, so that young people gain the cultural understanding and skills they need for life and work in today's world.

KIPS's international work includes linking in with other schools, working collaboratively on areas such as Chinese New Year, World Religions, and events. On hearing the news that KIPS had achieved Foundation level of the award, Mrs Porter said: All the staff here at KIPS are delighted to be awarded the ISA for all the work we do as an integrated school in collaborating, learning and celebrating world events and religions and celebrating diversity and inclusion in the Rostrevor Area.

Shannon West, Head of UK Schools for the British Council, said: 'Kilbroney Integrated Primary School's international work has earned the school well-deserved recognition with the British Council ISA Foundation Certificate. We are delighted and proud that 'Kilbroney Integrated Primary School is committed to developing a whole school approach to embedding and celebrating international work. The dedication from everyone is enriching education and supporting globally aware young people and the development of key skills. We thank all involved in this important work; embedding an international ethos across a school can lead to International School Award accreditation, which is the highest level of the award.'

The Award is now available worldwide in countries such as Greece, India and Nigeria. Over six thousand International School Awards have been presented to successful schools in the UK since the scheme began in 1999.

This Award encourages and supports schools to develop an international ethos embedded throughout the school, a whole school approach to international work, collaborative curriculum-based work with a number of partner schools, and year-round international activity Involvement of the wider community.

## I'll put the kettle on!

According to Reader's Digest<sup>1</sup>, around 100 million cups of tea and 70 million cups of coffee are drunk every day in the UK. That is a lot. I wonder how much of that is you? I drink a fair bit of coffee over the course of each day.

When we get up in the morning, need a wee sit down, decide to phone a friend, watch the telly, we almost always have a cuppa in our hand. It is just our habit. Did King David drink tea? He was probably more of a wine drinker, but we do find these words in Psalm 16 v. 5:

**'Lord, you alone are my portion and my cup; you make my lot secure.'**

These fourteen words form a simple, devotional prayer. They remind us that God is the source of all we need. He is the cup we drink from and the source of our hope. If we were to pray these words every time we put the kettle on it would give us a few moments each day in which we can simply give thanks to our Lord for all He is to us.

Once you have read this edition of *The Pointer*, you may wish to cut out the image below and stick it on the door of your tea and coffee cupboard, or somewhere next to the kettle. This way you can nurture your prayer habit along with your tea habit!

Now, where did I put those biscuits ...

Andy

<sup>1</sup> [Why the British Drink So Much Tea | Reader's Digest](#)





## Kilbroney Church Railings



### Beautiful and Ornate

The late Georgian/early Victorian iron railings and gates are a common feature of most churchyards across the country. We have three original gates.

1. the gates on Church Street,
2. into the Square and,
3. vestry gates,

and so, together with the railings, all date roughly around the 1820s—1830s.

### Church Railings

These railings were installed originally to mark the boundary of the consecrated ground, and to provide a level of security for the church. They are also however, of historic importance in their own right, and are cherished by our parishioners, and community.



Made locally, within the village, they were produced by the McCormick Blacksmiths. Their forge was situated at number 9 Water Street ... just across the road.

Dan McCormick took over the premises in 1815. Prior to that the establishment had been a bakery for some thirty years. Sadly, while the forge no longer exists, the

hooping stone does, and it rests beneath the oak tree to the lower side of Rostrevor Square.

Our black railings consist of an strong upper rail and a base rail with spindles in between, some of which have small collars on them. The railheads are topped with approximately 400 golden fleur-de-lis. (Charles, Lewis, and Jonathon counted them recently!).



There is a magnificent ornamental golden corner pot. So, how many have actually noticed this?

I often wonder if a time

capsule has been placed within it ... but sadly, I can't get into it!

Many church railings throughout the country were removed during World War II, seemingly to be melted down in a morale-boosting drive to help the war effort. Kilbroney held off till the last ... as it was recorded in church Vestry minutes of September 1942. The Vicar, read a circular regarding the removal of the railings around the church, but it was the united opinion of those present at the meeting, NOT TO comply with this order, until such time as the authorities made it compulsory.

In 2017, the church went through a major renovation programme. At that time, the cream coloured painted railing were in the process of being repaired and scraped back in preparation for repainting. The discovery of maker's name and place, engraved on the central linking pickets, and on each set of gates, was undoubtedly a high point for me!. It was very clear ... McCormick Rostrevor.... and so, it was left unpainted.

Now, the steps and gates which lead down into the square were always a dubious access spot. The gates were kept locked because there is 'a little bit' of a sheer drop either side, and, with very, very steep unsafe steps. It was 'one of those' unused areas for 'health and safety' reasons. It was definitely an accident waiting to happen, even though it had been known about, but never acted upon, for the last 200 years!

So when we thought about what we could do to honour Canon Dermot Jameson, this project seemed a fitting tribute to his memory. Canon Dermot welcoming parishioners and the community, up into the church grounds, with his cheery smile and an outstretched hand. The Canon was much loved, and respected within this community. So the fact that this project was completed in such a short time is a testimony to the generosity of his family, friends, and the local community.

The makers of these beautiful new railings and gates were Ben Wilson & Sons Ltd, an engineering company from Newry. This isn't the first project which they have completed for Kilbroney. They made the rails in the



sanctuary, the handrails leading into the church, and also the **left hand side rail** of the main steps on Church Street, in and around 2010.

The right hand rail was never produced. So this beautiful new handrail, also made by Wilson Engineering, has been gifted by the McFall family in memory of their parents, Harry and Anne, who were actually married here in Kilbroney in 1955. The couple first settled in Ballinran and their children David, Joanne and Alan followed. The children attended Kilbroney Primary School. In later years the family moved into the village, to their new home on Cherry hill.

The McFall family were very much involved in Kilbroney Parish Church life, from Harry being on the Church Vestry for many, many years and the children being listed on the Baptismal roll, to Sunday school, bell ringing, choirs and confirmations. We were all sad when they relocated to Banbridge in the mid 70s.

So that's why it was so special to have representatives of both families present at the dedication of the new railings, as shown in February 2025 Pointer.



Shelagh Roberts

## The Nicene Creed

The Nicene Creed was an early, official, robust outline of apostolic faith. I know, I know ... some of you might protest that theology is not the answer. You're thinking, Maybe *you* care about such things, but I don't care about theology. Who needs theology? I just love Jesus, and he loves me.

There is something truly beautiful about that heart. It is childlike and simple and gets the very core of the gospel: being loved by God and loving God in return. We ought never to lose that heart, never to lose the simplicity of childlike faith.

And yet, we are to grow to a mature faith. For our bodies to grow, we need proper nutrition. If someone were to prepare a nutritious meal for you — let's say, salmon with black pepper, spinach, and tomatoes — you would benefit from it, even if you did not know why. You don't need to be a nutritionist to benefit from a nutritious meal. But if you want to learn to cook for yourself and develop a habit of healthy eating and healthy living, you have to learn a few principles of nutrition.

Theology is a bit like that. Good theology — from authors or preachers or podcast pontificators — can nourish your faith without you understanding why. But if you want to begin to grow and feed yourself, you have to learn a little bit about what makes a particular theology good or bad, robust or anaemic. Our faith cannot grow on the theological equivalent of a Happy Meal.

When children learn to write, they don't start with an empty page. They usually begin by tracing their letters over dotted lines. Over and over again, they trace a letter. One whole line of the letter A; one whole line of B. Soon, they can write those letters without the guidance of the dotted lines.

That's the idea of a pattern of faith. You trace these words until you know them by heart. Until they find a way inside your core, until your vision of God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; until your picture of love is Christ who came down "for us and for our salvation"; until your ultimate hope is "the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come."

Glenn Packiam



Somebody asked a Christian friend why he was eating doughnuts, when he had given them up for Lent! He answered, *'At the baker's I prayed that if God wanted me to buy doughnuts, then there should be a parking space in front of the shop. On the tenth time around, there it was!'*



## Sunday Explorers

Each Sunday the young folk are involved in a varied programme of **teaching** and **crafts**. Every child is welcome to join them in the Parish Room at Kilbroney Parish Church. The sessions begin at **11.30 am** and everyone has an enjoyable experience.

## Purim 14<sup>th</sup> March 2025

A few months ago the Ladies Bible Study explored the story of Esther ... well ... this month the festival of Purim is celebrated by Jewish communities all over the world.

**The Rev Aaron Eime**, General Director of The Church's Ministry among Jewish People, writes: "Irony is the key to understanding the text of Esther. There are many subtleties and ironies within the Hebrew text. One of the obvious ironies is that there is an atmosphere of celebration of God's redemption from Haman's plot to kill all the Jewish people, and yet, where is God? The irony is that God is in control without the mention of his name!"

"Other ironies in the story include king Ahasuerus who always seeks advice. He is a king but can never initiate anything, thus he is the opposite of a king. He is constantly manipulated like a puppet. First by Vashti, a woman who refuses to do as the king requests, and in the end Esther, a woman who makes the king do as she requests."

"Ironically Mordechai doesn't bow or kneel for Haman in chapter 3, which makes Haman angry, and yet in chapter 5 Haman is angry that Mordechai doesn't rise in his presence! You can't win!"

So, what happens during this festival?

The full story of Esther is read aloud at the synagogue. Every time Haman's name is mentioned the children stamp their feet, boo, hiss and shake rattles (groggers) in an attempt to drown out the sound of his name.



Grogger

After the service, some children dress up and act out the story and they also give gifts to their friends and to the poor. Dressing up is a reminder that Esther concealed her identity at the court.



The most popular food eaten during Purim are pastries called **Hamantaschen**, which are filled with poppy seeds. They eat seeds because Esther only ate seeds while she lived in the King's palace.



To shape a hamantash, a filling is placed in the centre of a circle of dough, which is then either folded in half and shaped into a triangle or the sides are brought to the centre to form a triangle. The oldest and most traditional filling is poppy seed paste, with prune jam a close second.

The name *hamantash* is a reference to Haman, the villain of Purim, as described in the Book of Esther. The pastries are supposed to symbolize the defeated enemy of the Jewish people. The word *tash* means "pouch" or "pocket", and thus may refer to *Haman's pockets*, symbolizing the money that Haman offered to Ahasuerus in exchange for permission to destroy the Jews.

This festival is important as people are remembering God's power to save them and that good overcomes evil.

## The Little Free Library



**Alan** (from Rostrevor Men's Shed and one of the Tower Bell Ringers) is pictured here as he puts the finishing touches to **The Little Free Library** for Kilbroney Parish Church.

This will be mounted on a powdered steel base just outside the church so folk can come in, pick a book to sit and read, or take one away if they wish. All of the books, many for children and some for adults, will be respectful to the Christian faith. If you have some that you would like to donate then please give them to the Rev Andy, Liz Farnan or Elizabeth Hanna.

Huge thanks to Alan and the Men's Shed for the magnificent granite library, and to Liz and the Select Vestry for their vision. This is a resource that we hope will be used by the entire community.

## Thank You



In 2024 the district collection raised **£13,952.73**.

The money raised through Myrtle's collection boxes locally was **£112.60**.

**Thank you for your generosity.**



## Monday Moment

As we move through Lent and Easter this year, we are going to take our needs and the needs of the world to God in Prayer. On the first Monday of March, April and May we will have a short prayer evening followed by Holy Communion.

During this time you may choose to pray alone using the prayer book, provided resources or in a way that is comfortable for you. You may also want someone to pray for you. You could ask for prayer for a friend, for a family member or for yourself. Our evening will close with a short celebration of Holy Communion and everybody is welcome.

These evenings will be a simple and quiet space to invite friends to. There will be no talk or sermon, just space to meet with God. The evenings will be held in the three parish Churches of Clonallon, Warrenpoint and Kilbroney but please know that all three evenings are for all members of all three churches and their guests.

Andy



# Monday Moment

## Take a moment...

for quiet, personal prayer

or

## let us pray for you

You are invited to join us this Lent and Easter as we bring to God our needs and the needs of the world.

**Each evening will close with a short celebration of communion and all are welcome.**

Monday 3rd March **Warrenpoint** Parish Church

Monday 7th April **Kilbroney** Parish Church

Monday 5th May **Clonallon** Parish Church

**7:30 - 8:30pm**

## From Lebanon

From the 16<sup>th</sup> February until the 1<sup>st</sup> March, a few young people from our congregation (Kilbroney Parish Church) and **YWAM** (Youth With A Mission) An Cuan (**David, April, Annie and Thiago**) were in Lebanon.

During their time, they have been able to assist **YWAM** there with their peacebuilding and youth programmes. They also got to bless the **YWAM** team there with a lot of new cleaning and kitchen supplies, as they have just recently got a new building.

I will have a full report from Lebanon in the next edition of The Pointer, so keep your eyes open for it!

David Beck



# Ladies Guild

The Winter Session of the Ladies Guild got under way on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025. Unfortunately our numbers were down, mostly due to sickness.

Dorothy welcomed local lady Yvonne Dalzell also Joy and her husband Paul along with Les their driver who came along to talk of the work of the Gideons or **Good News for Everyone** as it is now known.



Before handing over the Meeting to our Gideon friends, Dorothy read a few verses of scripture, Matthew 28 v 16-20 and Acts 1 v 6-8 and then prayer.

Yvonne give a very interesting introduction to the work of the Gideons.

It began in America in 1899 by three business men; it came to UK in 1949; came to NI in 1961; South Down in 1993. The name changed in 2020 to **Good News for Everyone**.

The testaments would have had the pitcher & torch symbol now it's the open Bible.



It used to be the King James Version now it's the New International Version. Nowadays they are also printed in Polish, Spanish and Czechoslovakian. Yvonne brought a selection of testaments that were and are still handed out free to schools, hotels, B&Bs and AirB&Bs. QR codes are also being used in hotels in the South Down Area. The Hope Booklet is also another means of sharing the Good News of God's love. There are great opportunities to spread the word.

Yvonne invited Joy to share her testimony and her journey from the Philippines to Newcastle.

Joy is a Filipino and was of a different religion but her introduction and accepting Jesus into her heart made a difference in her life. She told us of the many ways of God's provision. She always had a desire to share her faith to others. She got that opportunity but what she had to share now was different to what she had planned. She travelled with the Logos and Doulos Ships and these ships took her to many places where



she shared that faith. Joy told us that while she was on one of the ships she met her future husband Paul from Newcastle. However, they kept missing each other on their travels. When one ship was leaving a port the other was coming in. Eventually their paths met again and they married within a few months. Before coming to Newcastle they worked in prisons bringing the Good News.

The situation in the Philippines meant they needed to leave and come home to Newcastle ... that is only about nine months ago. They still continue their work in prisons in the Philippines on-line. They also share the Good News with those they meet.

One elderly man they know has been recently recalling when he was a child he went to Sunday School. He remembered some of the bible stories and was able to recite verses that he had learned.

**Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it**

Proverbs 22 v 6.

Joy spoke with such enthusiasm that one couldn't help but feel the excitement of hearing about hearts being reached for the Lord.

This little purse is made in the ladies prison.







The key ring contains the smallest bible in the world and doesn't it remind you of the verse in Psalm 119 v 11 ... **I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.**

At the end everyone was given the Hope booklet. There are booklets for those members who weren't at the meeting.



The meeting finished with a nice wee cup of tea and lovely fruit loaf and biscuits. Thank you Lorraine.

Our February meeting will be over by the time you read this. Our speaker is Brian McCalmont from Warrenpoint Forum and will be talking and showing some photos of old Warrenpoint.

Then our March meeting is

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00 pm.**

Please note the time. We are into the spring term. The speaker will be Julie-Anne Hanna and she will be telling us of the work of Home Start, Newry & Mourne.

The Guild is open to all Ladies. A welcome and cuppa awaits you.

Love and God Bless  
**Dorothy Major** Xx

## ... ations

If we meet and I say, "Hi,"  
That's a salutation.  
If you ask me how I feel,  
That's a consideration.  
If we stop and talk a while,  
That's a conversation.  
If we understand each other,  
That's a communication.  
If we argue, scream and fight,  
That's an altercation.  
If later we apologize,  
That's reconciliation.  
If we help each other home,  
That's a cooperation.  
And all these actions added up  
Make Civilization.  
(And if I say this is a wonderful poem,  
Is that exaggeration?)

© by owner, Shel Silverstein

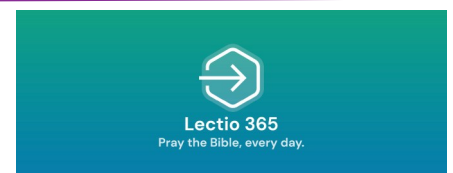
## Get Well Soon!



Wishing Joan and Sheila God's blessing and good health as they return home having recuperated in Slieve Roe. We also remember all others who are in hospital or those who live in nursing or residential care.

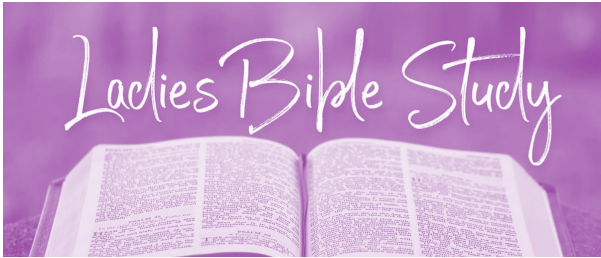
Please remember to let the rector know if someone is admitted to hospital or care. There are small cards in each church building so that information can be written down. It is better to be told a number of times than not hearing at all. Clergy are no longer informed by the hospitals so it is really important for family/friends to pass on this information.

**Lectio365**



Folk who are using this app find it of great benefit as we pray daily. It is free to download.





We had a lovely morning on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February when 6 of us gathered around God's Word and continued with the story of Miriam.

The last time we left Miriam full of praise for what great things the Lord was doing.

Do you remember how she was leading the worship and praise. She was playing the tambourine and dancing. Well now, today we find that things began to change.

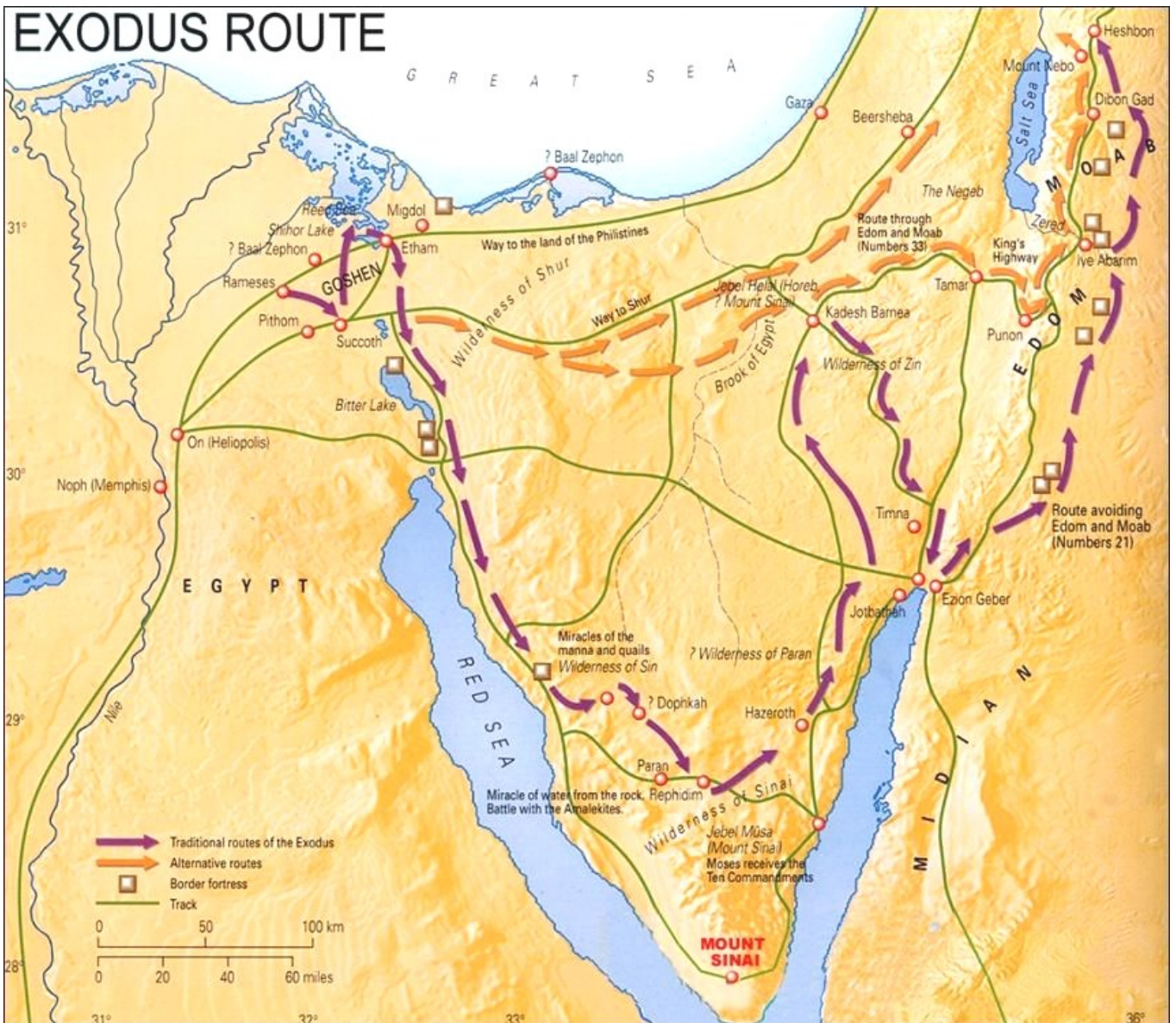
The journey was long and seemed never ending. It was hard to keep on trusting the Lord.

Where was this Promised Land? Miriam seemed to forget what she had witnessed along the way. For that split second she took her eyes off the Lord and negative thoughts crept in.

We need to turn to Numbers 12 v 1-16 here we find Miriam and Aaron complaining and grumbling against Moses, criticizing his wife because she was a Cushite woman. Can't you just hear the pair of them talking ... "just look at her"; "she's not one of us".

Then they start questioning Moses' authority. They seemed to be jealous that God made Moses leader, jealous that God was speaking to Moses and not to them. Instead of Aaron stopping Miriam, he becomes as bad as her. Can't you see the pair of them talking together and Aaron saying "you're right, why would God talk to him ... what about us ... what's he got that we don't have? Why would they be jealous? Miriam was a Praise & Worship Leader. Aaron was a Priest so he was a Spiritual Leader. They were leaders in their own right!!! They too were chosen by God.

The big sister who was Moses' best supporter was turning against him and influencing Aaron as well. God had to take steps to put a stop to it. He told Moses, Miriam and Aaron to go to the Tent of the Meeting and the Lord came to them in a pillar of cloud. He summoned Miriam and Aaron.





We see that the pillar of cloud that protected them in Exodus 14 was now a pillar that rebuked them. We read that rebuke in verses 5-8.

What happened next is very sobering, verse 9 says "the anger of the Lord burned against them and he left them".

So he struck Miriam down with leprosy which meant she had to isolate from everyone. Aaron pleaded with Moses and apologised for what they had done (vs 11 & 12).

Moses prayed and asked the Lord to heal her from her leprosy. God heard the prayer and healed her, but he didn't take away the consequences because she was still isolated from her people for 7 days before continuing the journey. (Numbers 12 v 15)

No other mention of Miriam until Numbers 20 v 1 where we are told she died before reaching the Promised Land. She must have been well into her 100s by now. She missed out but Moses and Aaron didn't get there either.

It's a lesson for us, when we take our eyes off Jesus, the devil is ready. We are told in 1 Peter 5 v 8 that our enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour ... always ready to pounce. He knows the buttons to press. We need to be on our guard. A couple of months ago Myrtle shared a verse from Proverbs 4 v 23 **Above all else guard your heart for it is the wellspring of life.**

The hymnwriter puts it -

Still let me ever watch and pray  
and feel that I am frail  
that if the tempter cross my way  
yet he may not prevail

Remember Peter when he was walking towards Jesus on the water. While he kept looking at Jesus he was okay, but the minute he took his eyes off Jesus and saw the water beneath him, he began to sink. Then Jesus took him by the hand and led him to the boat.

Hebrews 12 v 2: Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Turn your eyes upon Jesus  
look full in his wonderful face  
and the things of earth will grow strangely dim  
in the light of his glory and grace. Amen

Our next Bible Study is

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March at 10.45 am.**

All ladies are most welcome.

Looking forward to seeing you.

Love, God Bless and stay safe.

**Dorothy Major** Xx

## CWK Pets



**Charlie**, Joan Toase's cat, decided to help Shelagh with filing and miscellaneous office chores while Joan is away ... is "help" the correct term?

Maybe we should start a page of cute CWK cats and dogs? I wonder, for example, if you know to whom this beauty belongs? Her name is **Misty!**

Many will recognise the editor's dog, **Rock** ... often to be found slumbering on the sofa ... or in his cosy doughnut in the back of the car. He's always alert for Hugh's treats!



Let's have your favourite pet pictures!

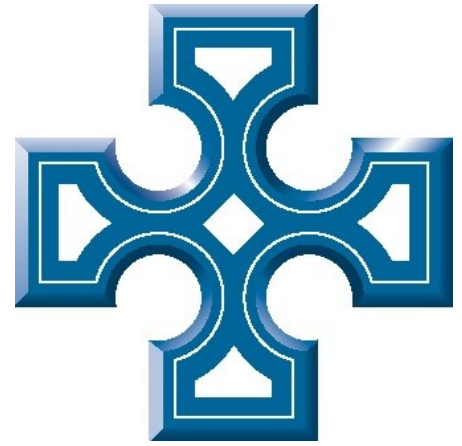






## Church of Ireland Logo

The cross used as the Church of Ireland logo is based on the archaeological remains of an incised cross at Nendrum.



Photograph: Robert M Chapple

## Nendrum Ecclesiastical Site

This is the best example in Northern Ireland of a pre-Norman ecclesiastical enclosure with its buildings.

Nendrum is associated with Saint Mochaoi who died at the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> century, and is linked with Saint Patrick in a much later source.

Notices of Nendrum clergy, including three bishops, begin in the 7<sup>th</sup> century and the excavation of a sophisticated tide mill on the shore near the site has shown that the mill was active in the early 7<sup>th</sup> century, which underlines the early importance of Nendrum.



Annal references continue until a fire in 976, perhaps a Viking raid, when the head of the church (erenagh) was burned in his house.

In the late 12<sup>th</sup> century a small Benedictine monastic cell was founded on the site, but by 1302–1306 this was the parish church, abandoned for Tullynakill on the mainland in the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

Nendrum lies within the United Parish of Killinchy, Kilmoody and Tullynakill.

The Rector of the parish, Rev. Dr. Stanley Gamble, has spiritual authority and responsibility for the ancient site. On the Sunday after the summer solstice each year, the parish has an open-air service within the walls of the old church.

On Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2017, the first Christening service took place at the site since the monastery was dissolved. An annual service is also held at the monastery by Saint Mary's Parish, Comber, on Palm Sunday each year.

Information from the Department for Communities, NI., and other sources

## A Common Denominator?



Can you guess what these five ladies share in common ... and ... do you know what secondary school each attended?

## The Tour Bus

A tour bus driver was taking some older folk on a trip. One lady handed him a handful of peanuts.

Gratefully, he munched them down, thinking, "Older people are so generous and kind."

About fifteen minutes later, she offered him another handful of peanuts.

This happened a few more times until he finally asked, "Why don't you all eat the peanuts? Maybe pass them around to the rest of the passengers?"

"Oh, don't worry about us, dear," the woman said with a sweet, toothless smile. "We just love sucking the chocolate off them."





Greetings everyone and welcome to Water Drops projects for 2025.

I (Ronnie) am now settling into life in Kajiado - Maggie will join me later - and planning and work is well under way for our first 2025 project.

It is in **Erankau** - which means 'whistling thorn' - when the wind blows through this bush there is a distinct whistling sound.

We had a meeting organised with the community leaders.

Water is such a precious resource that there can be dispute over its distribution and use, so it is important that we take time and put energy into discussing all the issues involved with the local community. Then when we start the work everyone is happy with how the water will be used and how it will be a blessing to all. I really appreciate the opportunity to visit and work with this community.

Thank you for your continued support.

So, we had a great day with the community at Erankau. This is a very well organised group of people and they are ready to give us all the support we need to see this project successfully completed. We met with a group of men - the women were at another seminar to help them develop a small agricultural business for some income, as well as improving the family diet.



Bulk materials began to be delivered ...

Thursday: the quarry stones arrived. Friday: the Stone Mason was on site to dress the stones for building. Saturday: two lorries of sand arrived, and then the ballast for concreting was delivered..

The next step was to mark out the tank on the ground and begin excavation. We will also start sourcing the cement, reinforcement bars and all the necessary timbers, and then construction begins.

I really appreciate those who know their jobs ... and get on with it.



The church will have guttering which will feed into the finished tank when the rains come. For now, water has to be carried to the site for the concrete. The women who do this are paid a little bit for their work.



The metal reinforcement for the base of the tank has been constructed nearby and will be lifted into place by the workers on site.

There's a short video on the church Facebook pages to give a better idea of the work that is happening at Erankau. This will make a huge difference to the people in that area.



Ronnie Briggs





## Visit to a Church Zion Lutheran Church, Amor Minnesota, USA

Late last October, when US 'election fever' was at its height, I visited my home state of Minnesota, in America's Midwest. Autumn in Minnesota is a beautiful time, with the brilliant changing colour of leaves on the trees and the dry, refreshing chill that the season brings. There was a spell of wonderful, bright weather at the end of October - a welcome contrast by any measure, to the sometimes dark and invariably uncertain political climate of an election year.

My family travelled north to the wonderfully named 'Otter Tail County', for a few days of vacation on the shores of one of Minnesota's many lakes. Our visit included a Sunday, so I was able to attend a church service in one of the local churches, **Zion Lutheran**, in a tiny town called **Amor**. The name 'Amor' is based on the Latin word for 'love'; a name embraced by the mostly Norwegian settlers living there when the township was established in 1879. Amor's population of about 550 is one fifth the size of Rostrevor's.



### God's Acres

Zion Lutheran stands on a hill at a country crossroads. Beyond the carpark that serves the church is 'God's Acres', a wooded area with paths and points of interest, carved out of

the farm fields that surrounds the church. It was the idea of a small group of Zion congregation members who wanted to create a natural space for the use of the local people. According to Zion's website:

***There's a little-known patch of heaven just off of Otter Tail County Scenic Highway 1, south of Otter Tail Lake, where everyone is welcome, all the time. The gates to this earthly heaven are never closed, and there's never a cost to enter. Walk through, and you'll find the perfect place to rest, play, meditate and simply enjoy all that nature has to offer.***

God's Acres has community garden plots, an apple orchard, a Veteran's memorial, a prayer garden, children's play area and a reconstructed pioneer cabin. As you can imagine, the church sometimes holds outdoor worship services there.





## Confirmation

On the last Sunday in October, the Zion's worshippers were indoors celebrating Reformation, which is a **Very Big Deal** in the Lutheran Church. It was also Confirmation Day for two young people, Mallory and Zeke, so the church was full. It made for a good sound when it came to hymn singing – something that most Lutherans do with gusto.

Zion Lutheran is a fairly modern building with a tall, triangular sanctuary. The stained-glass windows along the sides of the sanctuary look as though they might have come from a much older church. The pipes of the organ were in a loft at the back of the church, but the keyboard was up front.



## Stories

During the service, the confirmands each had a chance to tell a story about their faith journey. **Mallory** spoke about an experience she had as a track and field athlete, competing in a race that she knew she had no chance of winning, against more experienced runners. Her faith told her that as long as she did her best, God would sustain her and help her to know that winning isn't everything, as long as she remained faithful to herself and her beliefs.

**Zeke** talked about a hunting trip (a common pass-time in northern Minnesota). While out in the woods, he was confronted by a bear. Fear and surprise made him want to run away – which would have been the wrong thing to do. He remembered that you're supposed to stay still and make noise to convince the bear that you're bigger and scarier than it is. His faith told him that he could conquer his fear, and the bear did indeed run away.

As they spoke, I was reminded of a hymn I learned and loved in my days as a Lutheran chorister in the choir school where I grew up. *Fight the Good Fight* is a little out of fashion now because of the perceived aggression in some of the text of the hymn. Even so, for Mallory, I inwardly recited:

**“Run the straight race through God’s good grace, lift up thine eyes and seek his face. Life with its way before us lies: Christ is the path and Christ the prize.”**

And for Zeke:

**“Faint not, nor fear, his arms are near. He changeth not and thou art dear. Only believe and thou shalt see that Christ is all in all to thee.”**

Mallory's story appealed because it was humble and accepting. Zeke came across as a little bit self-satisfied, but his relief at being able to face his fear was also apparent. Both were able to convey gratitude for the teaching about Christ they had experienced at Zion and the support they felt in that community.

The service at Zion Lutheran in Amor brought back memories of my own confirmation, many years ago now. It also gave me a glimpse of the way religious faith still sustains individual communities in America.

To the rest of the world, the United States can appear divided and out of touch, and 'Fighting the Good Fight' could mean very different things to different people. But there in Amor, Minnesota, a small place named for love at the edge of God's Acres, the congregation lives and works in the faith that is outlined in my favourite lines of that old hymn:

**Cast care aside, lean on they guide;  
his boundless mercy will provide;  
trust, and thy trusting soul shall prove  
Christ is its life and Christ its love.**

Andrea Blain



## A Generational Thing

Do you know how to clean a car, change a lightbulb, hang a picture and identify a spanner? If yes, then chances are that you are either **the Silent Generation** born 1928 to 1945 or a **Baby Boomer** 1946-1964, and not a **Generation Z** (1997-2012).

For recent research has found that some Gen Z are paying up to £1,300 a year for simple household tasks to be done, because they don't want to tackle them.

Changing a light bulb? Gen Z worry that a step ladder can be dangerous, and that the bulb might be "too hot". They do not want "to mess around with electrics."

Hanging a picture frame? Add air to a car tyre? Identify a spanner? Fit a wiper blade? Clean a car? The list of practical jobs is endless, and huge numbers of Gen Z get round them by asking a parent or paying a professional, to do it.

The research was commissioned by Halfords.

It concluded that DIY may sadly be a dying skill, because too many Gen Z-ers are simply not practically minded.

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## In Praise of Knitting

Knitting can be astonishingly good for you. This gentle hobby has been found to lower blood pressure, reduce depression, keep your mind alert, slow the onset of dementia, distracts from chronic pain (such as arthritis), boost wellbeing, and reduce loneliness.



**Kilbroney Crafters**  
**Wednesdays**  
**11.00 am - 1.00 pm**  
**Everyone is Welcome**

A major study by the organisation Knit for Peace has found that knitting lowers the heart rate by an average of 11 beats per minute and induces 'an enhanced state of calm.' The repetitive movement also boosts calming serotonin, which lifts your mood and dulls any pain. Knitting also boosts the reward centres of the brain, because it allows people to feel that they can still

make a contribution to society.

In Britain, where the NHS spends more than £2 billion each year on blood pressure treatments, around £300 million on antidepressants, and about £26 billion on dementia, and unknown billions on various chronic pain, perhaps more people should take up knitting. As one expert says: 'Research has shown that there is a growing crisis in primary care. As a skilled and creative occupation, knitting has therapeutic potential. There is an enormous amount of research showing that knitting has physical and mental health benefits.'

## Carl Spitzweg

5<sup>th</sup> February 1808 – 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1885

Spitzweg was born in the town Unterpfaffenhofen, near Munich, Bavaria, and was the second of three sons of Franziska and Simon Spitzweg. His mother belonged to Munich's upper middle class, the daughter of a wealthy fruit wholesaler. Carl's father came from the village of Unterpfaffenhofen (in Upper Bavaria) where his family had become wealthy. Simon Spitzweg was an educated businessman who gained respect and reputation in Munich through his political activities.

Carl Spitzweg had two brothers whose careers were determined by their father. The eldest, Simon, was to take over the business, Carl was to become a pharmacist and the youngest, Eduard, was to be a doctor.

In Munich, he suffered under his strict father, who tried to forbid him from drawing. After his mother died his father married his late wife's sister, Maria. She took great care of Carl and defended him against his father.

Carl was obedient to his father and began studying pharmacy, botany and chemistry at the University of Munich in 1830, which he completed with honours in 1832. The following year, Spitzweg gave up his career as a pharmacist and decided to devote himself to painting in a full-time level.

Spitzweg had a keen sense of colour. Through his pharmacist training, he gained experience in the production of his paints. He used a unique, bright shade of blue that cannot be found in any other painter. He also knew how to produce permanent colours.

In the late 1930s an art forgery case in Germany involved 54 paintings which had been passed off as Spitzweg originals. They had been painted by a copyist named Toni, who worked from reproductions and picture postcards. Toni signed the works "*in the style of Spitzweg*" with his own name, but fraudsters later removed his name and artificially aged the paintings in order to sell them as originals. At the Stuttgart Criminal Court Assizes, the conspirators were jailed for up to ten years for the swindle.





## Ash Wednesday

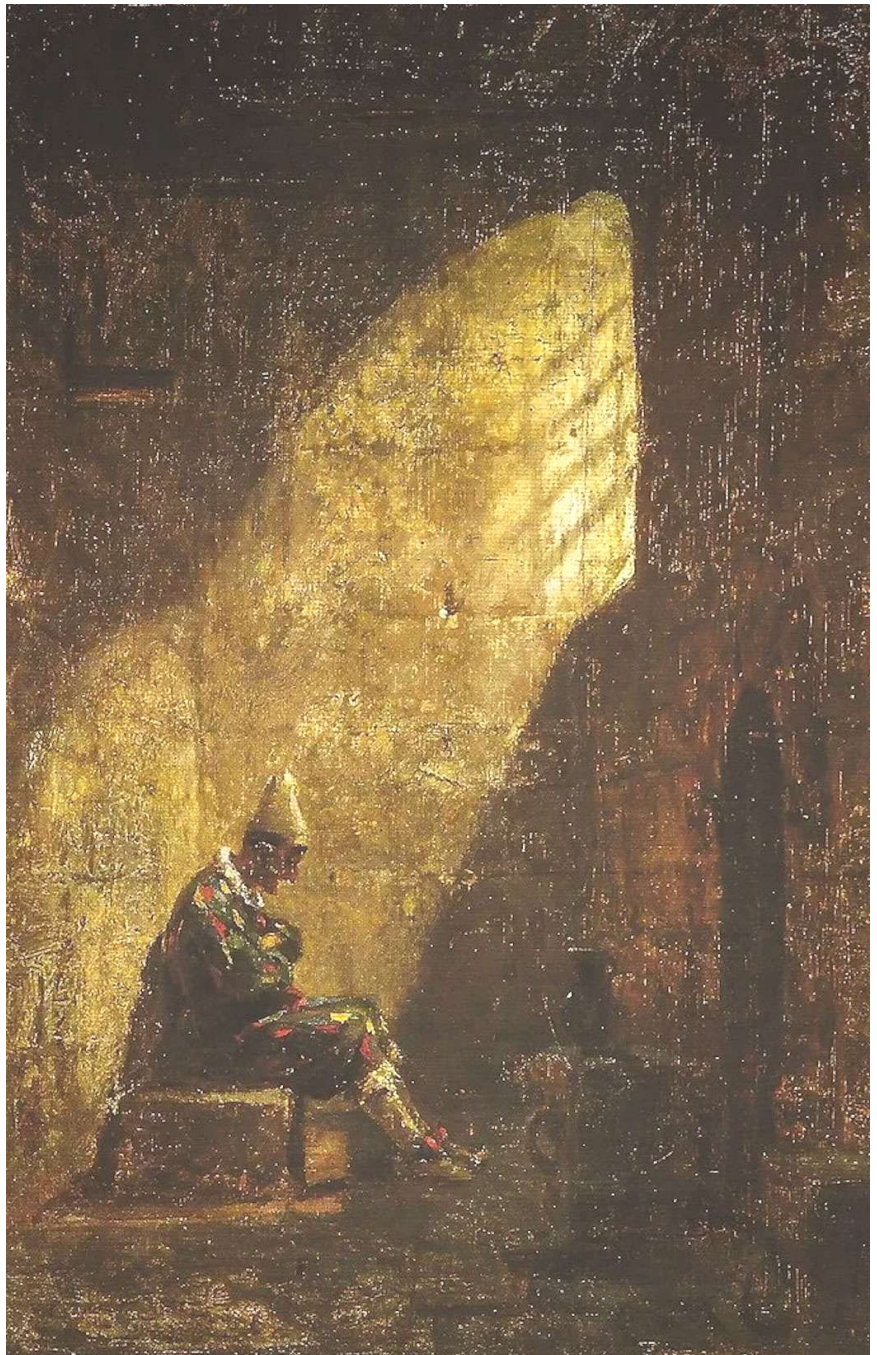
### Your Father who sees all that is done in secret will reward you

Matthew 6:1-6,16-18

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be careful not to parade your good deeds before men to attract their notice; by doing this you will lose all reward from your Father in heaven. So when you give alms, do not have it trumpeted before you; this is what the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets to win men's admiration. I tell you solemnly, they have had their reward. But when you give alms, your left hand must not know what your right is doing; your almsgiving must be secret, and **your Father who sees all that is done in secret will reward you.**

'And when you pray, do not imitate the hypocrites: they love to say their prayers standing up in the synagogues and at the street corners for people to see them; I tell you solemnly, they have had their reward. But when you pray, go to your private room and, when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in that secret place, and your Father who sees all that is done in secret will reward you.

'When you fast do not put on a gloomy look as the hypocrites do: they pull long faces to let men know they are fasting. I tell you solemnly, they have had their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that no one will know you are fasting except your Father who sees all that is done in secret; and your Father who sees all that is done in secret will reward you.'



### Reflection on the painting

This painting from **1860** was by the German romanticist painter **Carl Spitzweg** and is titled "**Ash Wednesday**".

We see a downcast, sad carnival clown seated in the corner of a cell, his head bent, arms crossed, and his face is in the shadows. Carnival is over. A clown normally triggers laughing, joking, excess, exuberance, but here he is depicted as exactly the opposite. A clown normally attracts attention and wants to be the centre of attention, but not in this painting. And that is exactly what Lent is about: not to be the centre of attention.

That is what Jesus is teaching us in our Gospel reading today: '*Be careful not to parade your good deeds before men to attract their notice*'. Jesus teaches us to be less concerned with how others may see us and so that we can enter into a period of introspection and quiet reflection. That is now where the clown finds himself.

The painting's background tells the rest of the story: it is simple, stripped back. There are no paintings on the wall or any distractions - just the natural light, coming in through the window, brightens the picture. The cell almost functions as a stripped back place of retreat.

It is a good painting to illustrate what the start of Lent is about: reflecting upon our usual ways of acting, doing some fasting, praying a little more and giving alms. It is a time to shed our clothes of excess, shed our masks, and enter a spiritual cell of quietness, peace and rest ... .

Christian Art, Clergy House Westminster Cathedral

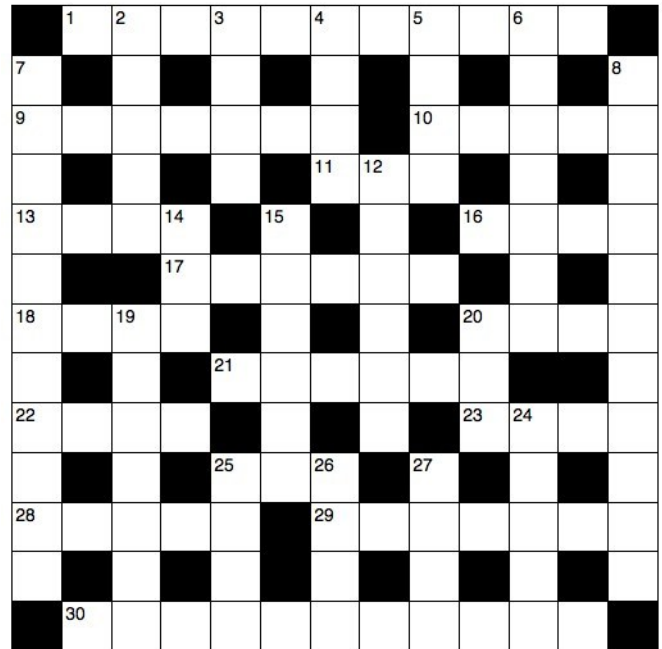


**Across**

- 1 These letters come between Romans and Galatians (11)
- 9 'You will not — me to the grave' (Psalm 16:10) (7)
- 10 King of Moab to whom the Israelites were subject for 18 years (Judges 3:14) (5)
- 11 Town possessing mineral spring (3)
- 13 Mede (anag.) (4)
- 16 High-fidelity (abbrev.) (4)
- 17 He succeeded his father Rehoboam as king of Judah (1 Kings 14:31) (6)
- 18 A son of Simeon (Genesis 46:10) (4)
- 20 Controversial religious book of the 1970s, The — of God Incarnate (4)
- 21 'He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you — — and hear' (Acts 2:33) (3,3)
- 22 'You — me together in my mother's womb' (Psalm 139:13) (4)
- 23 Edit (anag.) (4)
- 25 'Who has believed our message and to whom has the — of the Lord been revealed?' (Isaiah 53:1) (3)
- 28 Abraham's brother (Genesis 22:23) (5)
- 29 'When Mordecai learned of — that had been — , he tore his clothes' (Esther 4:1) (3,4)
- 30 Sympathetic (Proverbs 11:16) (4-7)

**Down**

- 2 'That was why his parents said, "He is — —; ask him"' (John 9:23) (2,3)
- 3 Integrated Services Digital Network (1,1,1,1) 4
- 4 'Saul has slain his thousands, and David his — of thousands' (1 Samuel 18:7)

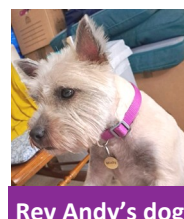


- (4)
- 5 Concept (John 8:14) (4)
- 6 'Do we, then, — the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law' (Romans 3:31) (7)
- 7 Industrious (2 Timothy 2:6) (11)
- 8 'I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be — in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you (Ephesians 1:18) (11)
- 12 'Out of the same mouth come — and cursing' (James 3:10) (6)
- 14 This was how many of the Jewish leaders described Jesus (John 10:20) (3)
- 15 Vitality (Job 20:11) (6)
- 19 He urged David to kill Saul at Hakilah (1 Samuel 26:8) (7)
- 20 'So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul — with the church and taught great numbers of people' (Acts 11:26) (3)
- 24 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord — — ' (Deuteronomy 6:4) (2,3)
- 25 Parched (Matthew 12:43) (4)
- 26 'In the image of God he created him; — and female he created them' (Genesis 1:27) (4)
- 27 Disparagement (Psalm 15:3) (4)

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 5 |
| 9 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 6 |
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| 2 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 9 | 3 |
| 3 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 8 | 7 |
| 1 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 2 |
| 4 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 8 |
| 7 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 1 |
| 5 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 9 |



In God alone my soul quietly rests,  
for my hope comes from Him. Ps 62:5



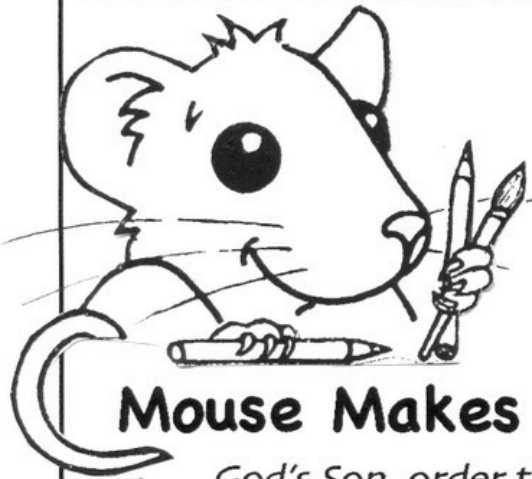
Rev Andy's dog



Each played on their school's hockey team!

- 1. Mellissa: Belfast High School.
- 2. Joan: Omagh Academy.
- 3. Elizabeth: Kilkeel High School.
- 4. Sandra: Omagh Academy.
- 5. Shelagh: Newry High School.





## Mouse Makes

God's Son, order this stone to turn into bread." But Jesus answered, "The scripture says, **Human beings cannot live on bread alone.**"

Then the Devil showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world. "I will give you all this power and all this wealth, it has been handed over to me and I can give it to anyone I choose. All this then will be yours if you worship me." Jesus answered,

*The scripture says, **Worship the Lord your God and serve only him.***

Then the Devil took Jesus to the Temple and said to him, "If you are God's Son, throw yourself down from here. For the scripture says, 'They will hold you up with their hands so that not even your feet will be hurt on the stones.'"

But Jesus answered, "The scripture says, **Do not put the Lord your God to the test.**"

READ  
Luke 4: 1-13

## THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

After he was baptised Jesus returned full of the Holy Spirit and was led by the Spirit into the desert where he was tempted by the Devil for forty days. In all that time he ate nothing, so that he was hungry when it was over.

The Devil said to Jesus, "If you are

THE DEVIL SAID:  
"If you are God's Son, order this stone to turn into bread."

JESUS REPLIED:  
**Human beings cannot live on bread alone.**

read Deuteronomy 8:3



WE LEARN:  
**Read the Bible  
Learn God's word.**

THE DEVIL SAID:  
"I will give you power and wealth if you worship me"

JESUS REPLIED:  
**Worship the Lord your God and serve only him"**

read Deuteronomy 6:13

**1**

WE LEARN:  
**Put God first  
Worship only Him**

THE DEVIL SAID:  
"If you are God's Son, throw yourself down, the scriptures say God will take good care of you"

JESUS REPLIED:  
**Do not put the Lord your God to the test."**

read Deuteronomy 6:16



WE LEARN:  
God cares, **trust Him**  
do not test Him.



Cut out the three cards and during Lent learn the bible verses

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**April 2025 Pointer**

**Deadline: Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March**

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## Standing Orders

Parishioners are encouraged to use standing orders for free-will offerings.

Details of how to do this may be obtained from the church treasurers.

**Mr Stewart Nash—Kilbroney**

**Dr David Gaw—Warrenpoint & Clonallon**

## Flowers in Church

A number of folk take the opportunity to put flowers in our churches in memory of a loved one or to mark a celebration. If you'd like to do this please sign the flower list ... and if you want someone to do the arrangements for you that is also possible. Just have a word with someone who does the flowers.



**The Pointer** continues to be **free to all** ...

however, if you're ever in a position to contribute a little towards the printing costs, please put your gift in an envelope clearly marked for **The Pointer**.

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