

The Pointer

April 2025

RECTOR

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The Magazine of the Church of Ireland Parishes
of

Clonallon & Warrenpoint with Kilbroney in the Diocese of Down and Dromore

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cwkparishes



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

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

Dear Friends,

As I write we are in the middle of Lent, and Easter is fast Approaching. This year, Easter Sunday falls on the 20th April. Why this date? Well according to Learn Religions.com:

‘Easter is always the first Sunday after the first full moon that falls on or after March 21.

Easter can occur as early as March 22 and as late as April 25.’

This was decided at the Council of Nicaea in the year 325 AD. They didn’t believe in making things simple. This year we will be marking the strange sadness of **Maundy Thursday** with a United Service of **Holy Communion in Clonallon Parish Church** at **7.00 pm**. It will be a simple, spoken service open to all and will be a time to remember that Thursday evening when Jesus and the disciples ate together for the last time before his crucifixion.

On **Holy Saturday** we will have a **United time of Prayer** between **12 Noon and 1:30 pm**. It will be a space for personal prayer and also a time to be prayed for. Holy Saturday was a time of brokenness and desolation for the poor disciples as they came to terms with the death of their friend. This prayer time is especially for those who are mourning or living with long unanswered prayer. During this time, you are invited to come and go as you please, but it will be a time of quiet. We will call this time: **Prayers for the Down at Heart**.

Easter Sunday is the day of Celebration! The Sunday services will be a time to give thanks to God for all he has done for us in the resurrection of his Son.

Please do join us for these special occasions and do invite friends and neighbours.

Andy



CONGRATULATIONS

Kilbroney Handbellers gave a stellar performance on Warrenpoint Town Hall stage as entrants of the Feis percussion class in March.

They were awarded a distinctive 81 marks and brought home the **Mary Higgins Cup** for the second time for their rendition of Chariots of Fire and Eye Level.

The adjudicator, Ballyclare born, opera singer and music teacher in London, Ellen Mawhinney, was excited to hear handbells rung for the first time and she said that we were awesome!

I particularly liked her comment that upon hearing us play **Chariots of Fire**, it should only ever be played on handbells! Another handbell convert!



Liz Farnan



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 7th April **Kilbroney** Parish Church

Monday 5th May **Clonallon** Parish Church

7:30 - 8:30pm

Easter General Vestry

Kilbroney 12th May

Time to be announced

Clonallon and Warrenpoint
date and time to be decided

Lectors

	10.00 am	11.30 am
6 th April	Emma Cooper Andy Hay	Karl Teggarty Rosie Teggarty
13 th April	Rene Murphy Evelyn Greer	Bethlehem Beck Annie Catani
20 th April	Stephen Cooper Christopher Cooper	Timothy Alexander Jonathan Heyhoe
27 th April	Dorothy Major Hugh Tyrrell Emma Cooper	Susan Farrell Joan Thompson Alanah Donaldson
4 th May	Rene Murphy Andy Hay	Stewart Nash Shelagh Roberts



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

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

SAMARITANS

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PIPS
Suicide Prevention Ireland

Freephone:

0800 088 6042

9.00 am—9.00 pm
Monday—Friday

10.00 am—6.00 pm
Saturday and Sunday

Church Services		
	10.00 am	11.30 am
6th April The Fifth Sunday in Lent	Holy Communion Warrenpoint	Holy Communion Kilbroney
13th April Palm Sunday	Family Service Clonallon	Family Service Kilbroney
20th April Easter Day	Holy Communion Warrenpoint	Holy Communion Kilbroney
27th April The Second Sunday of Easter	Morning Prayer Clonallon	Morning Prayer Kilbroney
4th May The Third Sunday of Easter	Holy Communion Warrenpoint	Holy Communion Kilbroney

Lectionary Year C		
Old Testament	Epistle	Gospel
Isaiah 43:16-21 Psalm 126	Philippians 3:4b-14	John 15:18-27
Psalm 31:9-16	Philippians 2:5-11	John 19:25-27
Isaiah 65:17-25 Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24 Easter Anthems	Acts 10:34-43	John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12
Job 42:1-6 Psalm 150	Revelation 1:4-8	John 20:19-31
Jeremiah 32:36-41 Psalm 30	Revelation 5:11-14	John 21:1-19



13th April

Clonallon 10.00 am

Kilbroney 11.30 am

Bring the children, the grandchildren, the neighbours and their children!

**Come and celebrate
with the whole family of God**



Easter 2025

Come Now, Let us Leave.

A spoken service of Holy Communion
Clonallon Parish Church Thursday
17th April
7 pm to 7:45 pm

Prayers for the Down at Heart

A time for those who mourn or live with
unanswered prayers. Come to pray and
be prayed for.

Kilbroney Parish Church Saturday
19th April

12 noon to 1:30 pm

SUNDAY

Sunday Explorers

11.30 am each Sunday

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

Compline

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 8th April
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, chatting with tea/coffee in the Parish Room
11.00 am to 1.00 pm. All levels of Crafters welcome.

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

No meeting in April

Look out for the menu for the end of year meal in the Whistledown in May.

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).

OTHER DAYS

7th April : "Monday Moment" in Kilbroney Parish Church — quiet personal prayer followed by a short celebration of HC—7.30—8.30.

8th April : Tuesday at An Cuan (see page 7)

11th April : KIPS Beach Clean (p 1-4) 9.30-11.00 am & Park Clean (p 5-7) 1.00 –2.30 pm. The children have sponsor forms—please support!

12th April : Saturday, Spring Concert (see page 22)

13th April : Palm Sunday Family Services in Clonallon and Kilbroney.

15th April : Blood Donations in Hilltown. 12.30 pm—7.30 pm.

17th April : Maundy Thursday HC in Clonallon at 7.00 pm.

19th April : Prayers for the Down at Heart in Kilbroney. Noon—1.30 pm.

Prayers for use during Holy Week and Easter 13th—20th April 2025

Let us pray to the Father,
who loved the world so much that he sent his only
Son to give us life.

Simon from Cyrene was forced to carry the cross for
your Son.

Give us grace to lift heavy loads from those we meet
and to stand with those condemned to die.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Your Son watched the soldiers gamble to share his
clothes.

Transform the hearts of those who make a profit from
their victims,
and those whose hearts are hardened by their work.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

The thief, who was crucified with Jesus,
was promised a place in your kingdom.
Give pardon and hope, healing and peace
to all who look death in the face.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

From the cross Jesus entrusted Mary his mother
and John his disciple to each other's care.
Help us also to care for one another
and fill our homes with the spirit of your love.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

In Mary and John your Son created a new family at
the cross.

Fill our relationships,
and those of new families today,
with mutual care and responsibility,
and give us a secure hope for the future.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

The centurion was astonished to see your glory in the
crucified Messiah.

Open the eyes of those who do not know you
to see in your Son the meaning of life and death.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Joseph of Arimathea came to take your Son's body
away.

Give hope and faith to the dying and bereaved,
and gentleness to those who minister to them.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Simon and Joseph, Mary and John
became part of your Church in Jerusalem.
Bring into your Church today a varied company
of people,
to walk with Christ in the way of his passion
and to find their salvation in the victory of his cross.

Lord of the Church,

**hear our prayer,
and make us one in heart and mind
to serve you in Christ our Lord. Amen.**



We pray to Jesus who is present with us to eternity.

Jesus, light of the world,
bring the light and peace of your gospel to the nations.

Jesus, Lord of life,
in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, bread of life,
give food to the hungry.
and nourish us all with your word.

Jesus, Lord of life,
in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, our way, our truth, our life,
be with us and all who follow you in the way.
Deepen our appreciation of your truth
and fill us with your life.

Jesus, Lord of life,
in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, Good Shepherd who gave your life for the sheep,
recover the straggler,
bind up the injured,
strengthen the sick
and lead the healthy and strong to new pastures.

Jesus, Lord of life,
in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, the resurrection and the life,
we give you thanks for all who have lived and believed
in you.
Raise us with them to eternal life.

Jesus, Lord of life,
**in your mercy, hear us,
accept our prayers, and be with us always. Amen.**

Lebanon



It felt like a dream being in Lebanon for two weeks with adventures, laughter, and tears, beauty and pain. I painted this on a rainy day on the roof, seeing all the mountains afar, random buildings and busy streets, with the rain washing down and getting everything renewed. There's always hope and redemption.

April Feng



From the 16th February until the 1st March, I (David) was in Lebanon with some others from Youth With A Mission (YWAM) An Cuan. (Well, really, due to several travel woes that are too long to mention here, it was actually the 17th for me!)

For a long time, An Cuan has had a close relationship with **Ramy and Roula**, who are the leaders of the **YWAM** base we stayed at. After spending some time in Belfast in 2005, they started YWAM in Lebanon, and it has since grown and multiplied.

One of their biggest ministries that we got to take part in was called "**Play For Peace**": a football team that mixes Lebanese and Syrian refugees. The team meets twice a week- once for skill training, and the other for emotional development, with a Biblical message.

We hosted several of these meetings where we shared testimonies, organised games, and created a hospitable space for the players. In a country with such high tensions, it was amazing to see young people rallying around the Gospel together!

YWAM Lebanon has also recently gotten a new building. This is the biggest location they've ever had, and they don't have the experience of being a YWAM "base" yet, as they have been a small team scattered across the

country, only meeting in Beirut, the capital, when they can.



Roula Ramy
Children: JD & Deborah

We were able to act somewhat as consultants to them, showing them what they could change within the building to create the most opportunity for ministry. We helped remodel the kitchen, and were able to bless them by buying a lot of new kitchen supplies like knives, pots, pans, and a new stove.

We also got to lead a youth worship night on the first Friday there. We managed to

pull together an acoustic guitar, electric guitar, violin and cajon, and were able to share worship, testimonies and dinner with about 40 youth.



Lebanon is very dear to my heart, and I have many friends there. The biggest prayer point right now is for



peace. Pray that tensions both within the country and with their neighbours can settle.

We are also hoping to have some of our friends from Lebanon joining us in June for our Foundation for Christian Peacebuilding school. If they can pay for flights, we will pay the rest of their fees, so please be praying for a breakthrough in funding for Jad, Joyce, and Paul!



David Beck

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					8			3
	4		6	1				



DELICIOUS
Lebanese Food
Fundraiser at An Cuan

OPEN MIC

Tuesday 8th April

7:10–9pm Tea & Coffee

7:30 Start

AN CUAN
44 SHORE ROAD

LEBANESE FOOD

5:30–7:00pm

Meal by donations

Sponsor trainees from Lebanon for Peace-building Course in June

Question: What will go up a chimney down but not go down a chimney up?



Beware of a new Amazon scam. A friend’s husband ordered some expensive jewellery for his wife but motorcycle parts came instead! Thankfully, they were the perfect fit for his bike.

Golf can best be defined as an endless series of tragedies obscured by the occasional miracle.

Answer: An umbrella.

Sunday Explorers

Moses and the Ten Commandments



During the spring term the young folk worked on the Exodus story. Starting with recycled cardboard, paints, clay and miscellaneous materials they have created an interesting display on the notice board.

Sunday Explorers meet each week during term time and there's a warm invitation to all young folk to come and be part of this lively group.



Royal Mail has issued a set of stamps from 27th March featuring mythical creatures and fabled figures from UK folklore. Designed by London-based artist Adam Simpson, the illustrations include characters from England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales:

- The Loch Ness Monster • Cornish piskies • Blodeuwedd from the Mabinogion • Beowulf and Grendel
- Grindylow • Black Shuck • Selkie • Fionn mac Cumhaill





Dear Friends at Kilbroney Church,

I am writing to thank you so much for a lovely card from many parishioners brought to me recently by Shelagh. I am sad not to be able to get to church these days and miss you all. Your friendship prayers and support mean so much to me and I am hoping to see you from time to time to keep

in touch. With my love and very best wishes to you all.

Sincerely **Kate Hall**

Kate sends the following:

A clergyperson stepped up to the loudspeaker to start the service and said **"The Lord be with you"**. When there was no response they tapped the loudspeaker and said "there's something wrong with this thing" to which the congregation replied **"and also with you"**!



Shelagh and I met up for lunch with our old friend Lily Patterson. Lily for many, many years was a stalwart member of our Church. She had a hand in everything that went on, choir, cleaning duties, flower arranging, catering for every occasion and ideas for things no one else would have thought of!



Kenny reflects that Lily always stopped by to greet the Tower Bell Ringers on her way to the choir gallery each Sunday morning. .

Now in her later years she is living near Markethill, looking extremely well and living in the capable hands of her sister and family. We had a super lunch in Alexander's, Markethill, with **Lily**, her sister **Mabel** and our good friend **Anne Collins**.

Joan Toase

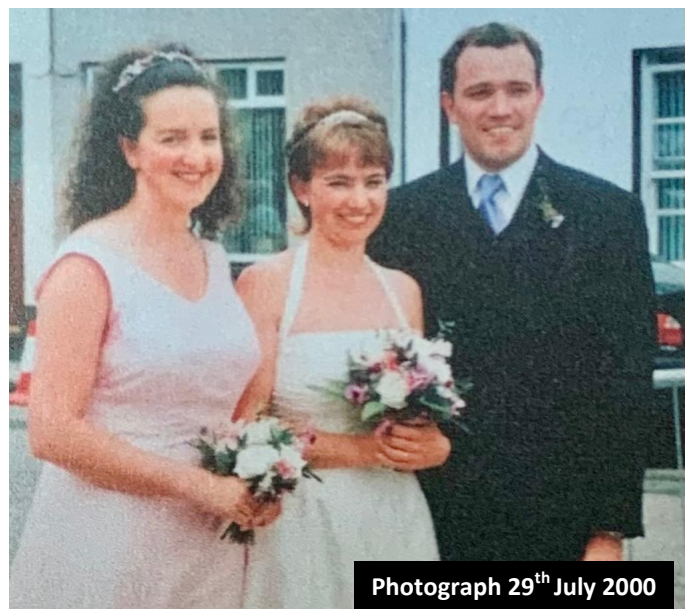


Carol and Douglas Caren, from Alloa, Scotland, meet up with friends over a cup of coffee in the Parish Room after the morning service.



A huge thank you to **Patsy Morgan** for organising the 'spring feed' for our church garden roses. To **John Morgan** too, for his transportation of the fine organic matter and also **Tim**, as his shovelling helper! This is so very much appreciated. Hopefully, there will be 'blooming marvellous' display of colour in our church grounds!!

Happy **60th** Birthday **Roy Crawford**.
You kept that quiet!! Hello to **Lorna** and **Julie**.



Photograph 29th July 2000

Brigadier Arthur R. Douglas-Nugent

Arthur Rainey Douglas-Nugent, is the youngest child of the late Captain Arthur Charles & Mrs Elizabeth Douglas-Nugent. He was born in 1932 and lived with his family at Bellevue House, which is on the Old Killowen Road, outside Rostrevor.

Arthur and his cousin Peter are based in England. They recently made a trip, with Peter's wife Tricia, to County Down, which included a visit down memory lane to Kilbroney Parish Church and Knotty Ash Cemetery.

The Nugent family along with the Douglas family were long supporters of Kilbroney Parish Church and were regular attenders. Arthur's grandmother, Elizabeth Douglas was born in Rostrevor and baptised in Kilbroney Parish Church in 1859. (166 years ago) Her parents were Captain Waddell Cunningham (of the 17th Lancers) and Louisa Douglas, who had 2 sons and 2 daughters, James, Charles, Elizabeth and Louisa. Their home was Bellevue, Killowen. All four were baptised in KPC. The boys remained unmarried as was their sister Louisa. James (47) and Charles (52) are buried with their parents in the family crypt in Knockbreda, outside Belfast.

Elizabeth Douglas married Captain (but later Major) Arthur Nugent on 4th April 1893 (132 years ago!). He was the 3rd son of General Charles Lavalinn William Nugent and his wife Charlotte who had 10 children between 1850 - 1870. The first three children were born in New Zealand, the next two in Australia, the next one in England followed by Scotland, and the last two were born in Dublin. Their youngest child Raymond was a Commander in the Royal Navy, (later promoted to vice Admiral) when aged 37 he married Adeline Francis Forde in Kilbroney Parish church in 1907.

Arthur's father, Captain Charles Nugent married Margaret Grizel Rainey-Robinson in 1928. She was one of six children to Colonel Robert Maximilian Rainey-Robinson. When the Col. retired from the Indian army he lived for a short time in Kilbroney house, Rostrevor, with his wife and three young daughters.

Around May 1910, Col. Rainey-Robinson was chairman of the Rostrevor Memorial committee, for a village memorial clock and a water drinking trough, which was to be erected in memory for the late King Edward VII. After the project was completed, they left for England. However, the family returned frequently to see the Colonel's sister Esther, wife of Commander Perfect which resulted in young Arthur's mother meeting his father! Both Arthur and Peter are grandsons of Colonel R.M. Rainey Robinson.

Arthur's grandparents, Major Arthur & Elizabeth Nugent bought Ballyedmond Castle in 1905. They had two sons and three daughters, Charles, Louisa, Edith, Amy and Raymond. When Charles married Margaret (Peggy) they preferred to bring up their family from 1941, living in the Douglas' family home, Bellevue House.



Charles changed his name in 1948 by deed poll to Arthur Charles Douglas-Nugent. In 1963 when Charles died, the family sold Ballyedmond Castle 3 years later due to death duties.

Arthur and his sister Fiona, and cousin Anne in 1948, were the last of the Nugent family to be baptised in Kilbroney church.

Kilbroney Parish is very fortunate to have many memorials left by the Douglas family, the Nugent family and the Douglas-Nugent family. Some of these include the reading desk, the communion rails and gates, an oak chest for stowage of altar frontals, and a large wall oak book inscribing the names of all the vicars of Kilbroney Parish Church.



Both the Rev Andy and Stewart Nash enjoyed meeting our visitors and listening to Arthur's reminiscences.

Shelagh Roberts

For the Blood is the Life

A man died last month aged 88, an ordinary, extra-ordinary man. He was James Harrison, recognised as the world's most prolific blood donor. As if that were not sufficient distinction his blood also had more than usual life-giving properties.

Born in New South Wales, Australia in 1936 Harrison was the son of a railway worker and spent his working life in that business rising from clerk to chief administrative officer. He retired at 50 and occupied himself with family and hobbies thereafter. Nothing unusual there.

The extra-ordinary part of his life began at the age of 14 when he underwent major surgery. His father told him that he had required 13 litres of blood (though in 1950s Australia that would presumably have been in Imperial measure). "My life had been saved by unknown strangers" he later recalled. This brush with death and sense of obligation to the kindness of strangers shaped his life. At 18 he volunteered as a blood donor, continuing regularly until the age of 81 when he was compulsorily "retired" - 1173 gifts of life. He did this despite a life-long dislike of needles, having to avoid the sight of them in his vein!

Harrison's dedication was remarkable but chance and medical science were to make his contribution even more significant. Researchers identified one cause of death among infants in the womb or shortly after birth as a clash between blood-types of a mother and a foetus that provoked an immune response. Subsequent children conceived with the "wrong" blood-type would be damaged or killed by the response. In 1966 it was found that injection of an antibody dubbed "anti-D" into the mother would prevent this. The search for blood donors with high levels of "anti-D" threw up the name of James Harrison. The combination of blood types he had received, aged 14, had resulted in his own blood being exceptionally rich in anti-D. This factor in his blood is thought to have saved more than 2 million babies. Poignantly this included his own grandson and great-grandchildren.

Just consider that number – 2 million lives saved. Few of the world's infamous tyrants or conscienceless bureaucrats have ended lives on that scale and none so directly by their own arm. At a time when there is so much cause for uncertainty and anxiety, when one of the most influential people in the world can unblushingly assert that "the fundamental weakness of Western civilization is empathy" Harrison's life offers both an example to admire and a rebuke to those who would cross and pass by on the other side. 'Whoever saves one life saves the world entire.' - how much more is two million times?

"Earth receive an honoured guest."

Timothy Alexander

GIVE BLOOD Save Lives

**Book now for your local
community blood donation
session!**

VENUE
Hilltown Hall
Hilltown

DATE & TIME
Tuesday 15 April 2025
12:30 - 19:30

**Northern Ireland needs 1200
blood donations per week.**
That's 1 every 8 minutes.

Ladies Guild

We hadn't had our February Meeting when the last issue of The Pointer was published. In fact the copies arrived just as our Meeting began.

Dorothy welcomed everyone. There were a number of apologies. Dorothy then read a portion of Scripture from Lamentations 3 v 22-24 and after an opening prayer introduced our Speaker.

It was lovely to welcome local man **Brian McCalmont** to our meeting. Brian is no stranger to the community. Very brave to come amongst a group of Ladies.



His very informative 'Old Warrenpoint Forum' page on Facebook draws a lot of interest. (photographs on this page are from that site.)

Brian has a wealth of knowledge of the Warrenpoint area and must have volumes of photos and newspaper clippings of former days.

Brian showed slides of old Warrenpoint and was able to give an in-depth description of each photo. Buildings were familiar even though they had changed hands. Brian showed what was and what is now.

There were familiar faces too. There were pictures of a packed Square on a Fair Day back in the day ... and then the contrast of a deserted Square when Covid landed on our shores. The photo was taken on the Easter Sunday just after the lockdown. You could have sensed the silence. However, there were many humorous stories attached to the photos.

There were some interesting facts ... the ruins of the old windmill is tucked behind Diamonds Restaurant. Did you know that the Mound Road was once the Downpatrick Road? It was the direct route through to Downpatrick!

It was a great morning and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. We hope Brian will come back with more interesting slides and stories.

The morning finished with a cuppa and delicious hot cross buns and biscuits.

Thank you Lorraine.

The baths ... 1930s



Rev Robert Glenny and members of the household in the garden of the old Church of Ireland rectory "Mount St Columb" Alex Easton - photo.



The Pavilion





Warrenpoint windmill



Our March meeting was on Thursday Evening 27th March. We are now into Spring and so our Meetings are back to the evening.

There were some apologies. Our numbers were somewhat depleted again but the weather had suddenly turned bad and there is still a lot of sickness around. However, Dorothy welcomed those who were present and extended a warm welcome to Julie-Anne Hanna who had come to tell us of the work of Home-Start Newry & Mourne.



Dorothy then read a few verses from Psalm 84 and after our opening prayer invited Julie-Anne to speak to the Group.

Home-Start offers free support, friendship and practical help to families with at least one child under 5 years old. Homestart

support is confidential. Personal information is not disclosed to anyone outside Home-Start without the consent of the person concerned, EXCEPT where there is concern about the safety or welfare of a child.

Home-Start can put families in touch with other professional bodies who can help with problems. Home-Start is a safe place where families with young children are given support. Parents can meet together to support each other, have a break from the normal routine, learn new skills and join in and enjoy the children's activities.

Children enjoy games, stories, singing, parties, outings and a healthy snack.

Parents can make new friends, learn new parenting skills, learn how to economise, how to manage their money, learn to cook, how to make nutritious meals on a budget.

All this is done with the help of volunteers who come from all walks of life. To be a volunteer you must be a parent, grandparent, foster parent or stepparent. Volunteers are carefully selected and will be matched up with a family. They visit the family in their own home regularly ... to be a listening ear, offer help and give assurance.

Outside our four walls, there are a lot of families struggling and Home-Start offers a lifeline.

Volunteers are always needed. The little Home-Start Charity Shop on Church Street, Warrenpoint remains closed because there are no Volunteers to staff it. If anyone has an hour or two in the week to spare maybe you could help.

Julie-anne left us with much to think about.

Once again our meeting finished with the obligatory cup of tea with lovely hot cross buns and some deliciously tempting chocolate biscuits. Thank you Lorraine, you have us spoiled.

There will be **NO LADIES GUILD MEETING IN APRIL** as it is Easter Week and Members may have something planned over the holidays. We can have the speaker come at some other time.

With the rising cost of hiring a bus and the fact that everyone has been everywhere, there won't be an outing this year ... but we can have a meal out instead. This will be our end of term event.

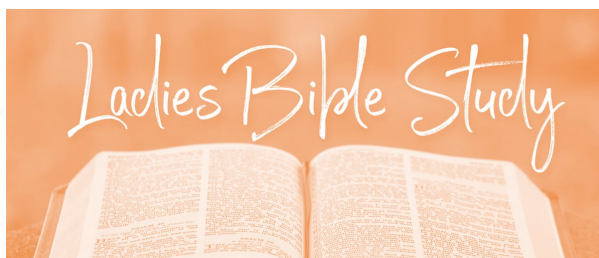
The date is: **THURSDAY 29th MAY AT 5.00 PM IN THE WHISTLEDOWN.** We will use the money in the bank to supplement the cost. So a two course meal plus the tip will cost £20. Please contact Lorraine or Dorothy for a menu. Completed menus and payment by **SUNDAY 25th MAY.**

That's about it for now. Meantime I'll be looking out for your menus.

Love, God Bless and take care.

Dorothy Major. xx





Here she was all alone in a different country, different culture, different beliefs. So this wee captive girl began working for Naaman's wife. She probably prepared meals, sorted out clothes, carrying and fetching and looking after guests. So she would have worked hard.

Curious and Concerned

She was **CURIOUS AND CONCERNED**. She was probably like many a young one ... she watched everything and didn't miss a thing. She noticed there was something wrong with Naaman. He had leprosy. (He didn't seem to have been isolated. Could it have been he didn't have to because of his high importance). She probably noticed how sad her mistress was and the little girl was concerned. She wanted to help. She wanted to share something with her mistress. She wanted to tell her mistress something that she knew.

Compassionate, Courageous, Confident

She was **COMPASSIONATE, COURAGEOUS, AND CONFIDENT**. She was all of these in verse 3. She went straight to her mistress and told her of a Prophet in Samaria who could cure Naaman. Read what she said. The little maid was sure in what she was saying. She didn't say he might be able to cure him. Her words were certain "he would cure him of his leprosy. Such innocence ... a child-like faith.

Her mistress could have dismissed the idea, she could have told the little maid not to talk such rubbish, that there was nothing anyone could do.

Her mistress listened to her and went and told Naaman her husband. Naaman listened too. Now he could have said - Ugh she's only a child ... she's just a maid, what would she know. Naaman went to King Aram and told him what the little girl said ... and the King listened as well.

One little girl spoke and a Kingdom was moved; a government acted and a King issued a letter. WOW!!!! Look at verse 4 ... "By all means go, I will send a letter to the King of Israel".

Off Naaman went with the letter asking the King to cure his leprosy and brought gifts for the King. No expense spared.

When the King of Israel read the letter ... he panicked. He couldn't heal this man of leprosy He thought it was a trick and that King Aram was waiting for an excuse to start trouble. He tore his clothes in despair. Elisha the Prophet heard about this and sent the King of Israel a letter asking that Naaman be sent to him.

When Naaman arrived Elisha told him to wash 7 times in the River Jordan. Naaman was raging and was having none of this. There were better rivers to

Captive

First of all she was a **CAPTIVE**. We read this in verse 2. She was taken from her family and home in Israel to come to Syria and work for the wife of Naaman a Captain of King Aram's army. A very important and powerful man.

I've always thought of her as a wee girl of about 7 years old (maybe it's because I was a wee girl of about 7 when I heard that story in Primary School and we would have been taught from the KJV). She could have been a bit older, we are not told.



wash ... not that Jordan River. The River Jordan is significant in Scripture ... Jesus was baptised in the River Jordan.

Naaman's servants pleaded with him to do as Elisha said. Naaman did and, as I was taught in School, Naaman dipped in the River Jordan ... once he dipped and came up and nothing happened. He dipped twice, three, four, five and six times and still nothing but when he came up the seventh time he was healed - verse 14 tells us "his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy".

This was always the end of the story for me. When I was preparing this and after all those years I discovered not only was he healed physically, he was also healed spiritually.

He acknowledged God in verses 15 & 17. Not only that, I discovered too in verse 18 that he, Naaman was conscious that once he went back home as part of his job he would have to accompany King Aram to the Temple of Rimmon and with the King leaning on his arm he would be forced to bow before a false god, Naaman asked for forgiveness for this in advance. Elisha said "Go in peace".

We talked about times when we are in the same position as Naaman ... we find ourselves in a situation that is contrary to God's word. That is a Bible Study in itself and just like Naaman it is as easy to be pulled down as pulled up.

There's no more mention of this little girl in scripture, but surely her example lives on. She remembered the power of God and she shared it. Because of her witness of faith, a great man was healed of leprosy and his life was changed.

There are no age limits to share our faith. I love that little phrase at the end of Isaiah 11 v 6 where it says "a little child will lead them". (Such a lovely picture).

2 Corinthians 5 v 17 sums it up. It says: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old has gone, the new has come.

When Naaman came out of the River having believed in God's word, he was a new man.

When we repent of our sins and believe in Jesus for forgiveness of sins, He re-creates us into new people.

A lovely worship song we often sang in CCK have these beautiful words

**To the river I am going
bringing sins I cannot bear.
Come and cleanse me,
come forgive me,
Lord I need to meet you there.**

Our next Bible Study will be on

Tuesday 8th April at 10.45 am

All ladies are most welcome,
Looking forward to seeing you.
Love, God bless and stay safe

Dorothy Major xx



Each month Kilbroney Parish Church leads the school assembly in **Kilbroney Integrated Primary School**. In March the Rev Andy held the pupils (and staff) totally enthralled as he said he'd eat some dog food for his breakfast! The vast majority of pupils egged him on, not quite believing that he'd do it!



Before indulging in this rather unusual meal the Rev Andy told the story of how God used the prophet Samuel to select David as the second king of Israel. All seven of the older brothers were rejected because, as God said to Samuel, **"People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."**

Then, much to the enthusiastic delight of the pupils, the Rev Andy peeled off the lid from the tin that was clearly labelled "dog food" and he began to eat! The audience, of course, could see only the outward appearance ... !!



I was standing in line at the bank when there was a commotion at the counter. A woman was very distressed, exclaiming, "Where will I put my money?! I have all my money and my mortgage here!! What will happen to my mortgage?! You can't do this to us!"

It turned out that she had misunderstood a small sign on the counter.

The sign read:

WE WILL BE CLOSED FOR GOOD FRIDAY.



In Christ Alone

**In Christ alone, my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song:
this cornerstone, this solid Ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!**

**My Comforter, my all in all,
here in the love of Christ I stand.**

**In Christ alone! who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones he came to save:
till on that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied-
for every sin on him was laid;
here in the death of Christ I live.**

**There in the ground his body lay,
light of the world by darkness slain:
then bursting forth in glorious day
up from the grave he rose again!**

**And as He stands in victory
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
for I am his and he is mine-
bought with the precious blood of Christ.**

**No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.**

**No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from his hand;
till he returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!**

In Christ Alone was composed in 2001 by Keith Getty and Stewart Townend with the purpose of creating a modern hymn that would explain the life of Christ. Copyrighted by Getty and Townend it was the first which the two songwriters penned down in their partnership of songwriting. The song first appeared in the album *New Irish Hymns* performed by vocalists Máire Brennan, Margaret Becker, and Joanne Hogg. With a strong Irish melody, it gained increased popularity first in Ireland and then in the United Kingdom and in the United States and internationally. By 2005, it had been named by a BBC Songs of Praise survey as the ninth best loved hymn of all time in the U.K.

The theme of the song is the life, death and resurrection of Christ, and that he is God whom even death cannot hold.

The hymn mentions several aspects of the life of Christ and his relationship to us.



Stuart Townend



Keith Getty

In the first stanza we are told that because of Christ's love for us, he is our hope of glory. 1 Colossians 1:27 Paul writes 'God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery which is Christ in you, the hope of glory'.

The first stanza also says that he is the cornerstone upon which our lives are built. In 1 Peter 2:6 we read 'see I am laying in Zion a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame'.

Stanza 2 centres on the death of Christ to die for us, Christ had to take on flesh: John 1:14 When Jesus hung on the cross, the wrath of God was satisfied in the sense that he died for our sins.

Stanza 3 centres on the blood of Christ. After Christ died and was buried, he rose from the grave. 1 Corinthians 15:4. By this victory, He broke the curse and reign of sin on us. Romans 6:7-14. All this is possible because we have been bought with the precious blood of Christ: 1 Peter 1:18-19.

Stanza 4 centres on the power of Christ. To those in Christ, there is no guilt in life, no fear of death, and there is no condemnation. Romans 8:1 This is because we are kept by faith through the power of Christ: 1 Peter 1:5 And by his power, no one can pluck us from his hand as long as we hear his voice and follow him. John. 10:27-29.

Keith Getty writes about why "In Christ alone" is so important. He believes the lyrics succinctly express theological truths about the life, death, and saving power of Christ through his sacrificial death on the cross. He writes, "As we've shared the hymn in churches, we've witnessed the passion and emotion it evokes. I think this is what makes it so memorable."

"In more than a decade now of writing modern hymns together, Stuart and I continue to receive feedback about the effect of "In Christ Alone." We're amazed and humbled by the way this hymn seems to have connected with so many people on their Christian journey. Hearing how the song has helped others hold fast to Christ, often in times of great crisis and pain, is deeply meaningful and encourages us to continue writing. Believers are hungry to celebrate truth put to music, and Stuart and I are grateful to have played a small part in helping facilitate such opportunities for the church."

Some hymnal editors wanted to alter the lyrics before adding the hymn to their compilations. However, Keith and Stuart believe that altering the lyrics would remove an essential part of the gospel story as explained throughout Scripture. The main thread of what is revealed throughout the Old and New Testaments is the need for humanity to be made right with God. The provided path toward reconciliation came through Christ's predetermined and perfect sacrifice on the cross, satisfying God's wrath once and for all. God's love was shown on Calvary's hill through Christ doing for us what we could not do for ourselves — shedding his own perfect blood to atone for our sins.

Each of us faces the temptation to fashion God out of our own image. A picture of God formed through our experiences of hurt, anger, injustice, or rage is a sad and vindictive one indeed. But this is not the infinite, good God we serve. God's wrath is not like our wrath, and his ways are not like our own. Throughout Scripture the need for atonement to be made is likened to a cup of wrath the sinner must consume. As we know, Jesus drank this cup for us. The cross was a remedy, providing for each of us a way to be saved.

Rev Mellissa Jeffers

Down Memory Lane

Does anyone remember the Reverend Canon Malcolm Graham's dog Trixi?

Trixi accompanied his master everywhere and in Church sat at the bottom of the pulpit steps until the sermon was finished.

One sunny summer Sunday morning a butterfly got into Church and was fluttering around during Canon Graham's sermon finally settling on an artificial rose on a lady parishioner's hat.

Trixi took exception to the newcomer and much to the congregation's amusement and the consternation of the lady, who hadn't realised that it was her hat causing the excitement.

Joan Toase



An English teacher asked her class to write an essay on what they'd do if they had a million pounds.

Alec handed in a blank sheet of paper. "Alec!" yelled the teacher, "you've done nothing. Why?" "Because if I had a million pounds, that's exactly what I would do!"

Changing Lives ... Tank by Tank!



So ... own up ... which of you have been praying for rain?

It started on Sunday afternoon and on into Monday morning. A decent amount of rain and a good amount of water now in the tank at Erankau. If you keep on praying we'll soon have a tank full. Please know that your prayers are appreciated.

Now that the community tank at Erankau is just about complete we are moving on to the **boma tanks**.

We had planned for 10 of them, but with more donations coming in we are doing 17. That's 7 more shouts of joy!

We've purchased all the tanks and delivered them to a central place from where they will be taken to each homestead. Then the work will begin. We really appreciate the effort so many of you have made to bring such joy to so many people.

Ronnie and Maggie Briggs



I'm trying to organize a hide and seek tournament. But good players are really hard to find

Them: You actually let your dog on the furniture?

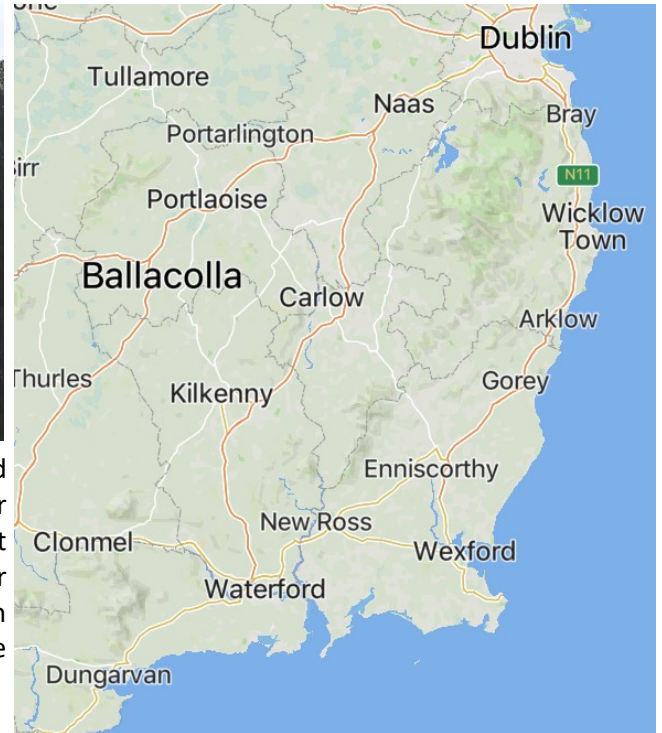
Me: I'd let my dog borrow the car if he needed to.

When a rector rehearses his sermon, is he practising what he preaches?



Visit to a Church

"Daddy, why are you called Pearson?" I asked my father that question when I was a teenager, and curious about his unusual Christian name. Half a century later, his answer took me to the gates of **Killermogh Church of Ireland**, a mile outside the tiny village of Ballacolla in Co. Laois (formerly Queen's County). A hundred years ago Killermogh (rhymes with Palermo) was the home church of the Pearson family, who had a small farm nearby.



My father's mother, Mary, was a daughter of the family, and as a young woman was sent north to Belfast, to enter "service" with a well-to-do family in the city. There she met and married Willie John Blain, and my father was one of their six surviving children. As the only son, he took the maiden name of my "Granny Blain" for his Christian name, after the Pearsons of Ballacolla.



Killermogh Church enjoys a tranquil rural setting, and in its neatly maintained graveyard, with birds tweeting in the quiet air above, you feel the centuries slip away around you. As a boy my father travelled down to Ballacolla in the summer holidays to help on the Pearson farm, and (no doubt) keep him out of mischief in Belfast. He attended services at Killermogh with the family, and remembers day trips to nearby Durrow in a trap drawn by a donkey.

The church has not changed greatly in the eighty years between. Its plain, shoe-box exterior is capped on the west-facing gable by a handsome bell-tower. Inside, the pews are divided by a central aisle, with a first-floor gallery to the rear. The building's interior is immaculately kept. On a showery Sunday morning in February my wife Andrea and I attended a Service of the Word there, led by the **Reverend Canon Patrick Harvey**.

Around twenty parishioners were present, and they were what my wife calls a "singing congregation" - although live keyboard accompaniment is a rare luxury at Killermogh nowadays, the hymns were heartily sung to a pre-recorded organ track. It was strange and wonderful to be momentarily transported back in time, to the days when my father sat in the same pews with his Pearson relatives for Sunday worship. He still recalls those services clearly.





The Pearson farm is long gone now, replaced by what my father terms a "nice modern bungalow". But the family name is still quite common in the area. After the service we met the current occupant of what is still called "The Red House" (not so red today), situated a short distance from Killermogh. She moved there when the previous owner, Bob Pearson, died.

Bob was my father's uncle, and is still remembered in the area for his skills as a carpenter. My father thinks that Bob restored the church's roof at one point, and it's probable that either the pulpit or lectern was made by him as well.

By now the rain had given way to bluer skies, and a shimmering of winter sun. I paused outside to visit a particular grave that I had come to see, a modest plot which I had not located on a previous visit. In it, two of Granny Blain's cousins are buried - Richard and Abraham Pearson, also farmers, who lived forty miles away at Coolacrease.

Aged 24 and 19 years respectively, they died in 1921 in a Civil War-related incident. There, in the placid atmosphere of the Killermogh cemetery, I prayed that the Pearson boys were now at peace, and felt grateful that a new, committed generation of parishioners is still keeping the old church going.

Terry Blain

Almost Forgotten!

My family's shoe shop in Newry, closed now for many years, had three store rooms, bathroom and toilet on the first floor upstairs. In previous years it had been a small apartment. At the back of the shop, downstairs, a door opened out to a small covered yard where cleaning and surplus window dressing equipment was stored in one section, and a toilet and wash hand basin in the other.

One wet Saturday the shop was very busy with families being fitted for back-to-school shoes. It was nearly closing time when an elderly man asked to use our facilities. The assistant knew that a lady with two young children had just gone in there and, as the man was looking very uncomfortable, she opened the door to the stairs, which was always kept locked, and told him that it was the first door on the left. This was in the bad old days when shopkeepers had to be vigilant for arsonists who would leave a "wee parcel", in other words, an incendiary bomb, to cause a fire after hours, and this man on his own had aroused her suspicions.

We were outside on the street after closing up when she remembered about the man who had gone upstairs. He was still locked in but lucky guy - he could have been there until Monday morning - no mobile phones then! He told us that God had answered his frantic prayers.

Joan Toase

When I was in school, I used to ask a lot of questions. One day I asked Mrs Doris, our English teacher, "Why do we ignore some letters 'H' like in hour, honest, honour, etc?"

Ms. Doris replied, "We are not ignoring them. They are considered silent."

During the lunch break, Mrs Doris gave me her packed lunch and asked me to heat it in the cafeteria. I ate all the food and returned her an empty container.

Mrs Doris asked me, "What has happened? I told you to go and HEAT my food and you are returning an empty container to me?"

"I'm sorry, Mrs Doris, I thought the 'H' was silent."



The Concert

Gerrit Van Honthorst (1592-1656)

© National Gallery of Art, Washington DC



I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me. John 5:5, 16-30

At the Pool of Bethesda ... One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, "Do you want to get well?"

So, because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jewish leaders began to persecute him. At that time Jesus answered the Jews, 'My Father is working even now, and I am working.' This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

So Jesus said to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise. For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing. And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel. For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will. For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgement to the Son, that all may honour the Son, just as they honour the Father. Whoever does not honour the Son does not honour the Father who sent him. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word, and believes him who

sent me, has eternal life. He does not come into judgement, but has passed from death to life.

'Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. And he has given him authority to execute judgement, because he is the Son of Man. Do not marvel at this, for the hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgement.

'I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgement is just, because **I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me.**'

Reflection on the painting

In the Gospel reading, Jesus asked the paralysed man at the pool of Bethesda, 'Do you want to be well again?'

Throughout the Gospels, Jesus is often seen probing the hearts of those he encounters, encouraging them to reflect on their deepest desires. Though he already knew what the man wanted, he still posed the question. He wanted to draw out an intentional response. At the very end of the reading, Jesus reveals what *he* desires: 'I seek to do not my own will but the will of him who sent me.'

His words express the profound truth that his will is in perfect harmony with the Father's. And now, he calls us to desire what he desires, aligning our will with his own.

Our calling, then, is to be in perfect harmony with Jesus, just as he is in perfect harmony with his Father.

Where in the arts do we find such harmony beautifully expressed? In music. In music individual notes and sounds blend together to create something greater than their sum — something whole and unified. Imagine if humanity were in perfect harmony with our Lord ... what a glorious symphony that would be!

For the artwork we turn to **Gerrit van Honthorst**, one of the greatest painters of the Dutch Golden Age.

Van Honthorst painted with energy and confidence, using vivid, joyful colours that seem to radiate light. Joy bursts from the canvas. In the scene, the conductor of the house concert, seen with his back to us, points out the notes to be sung, guiding the musicians and ensuring their harmonious performance. Just as harmony in music comes when the conductor's direction is followed, so too does harmony in our faith emerge when we follow Christ.

After training in Utrecht, Gerrit travelled to Italy, where he absorbed **tenebrism** (strong contrasts of light and dark) characteristic of Caravaggio's work. Upon returning to the Netherlands, he became famous for his candlelit night scenes, earning him the nickname "Gherardo delle Notti" (Gerard of the Nights). His compositions are often filled with warmth, life, and fun storytelling, whether depicting biblical narratives, historical subjects, or lively genre scenes of musicians. His reputation led him to prestigious commissions from European courts, including working as a painter for King Charles I of England and Prince Frederick Henry of Orange.

Christian Art, Clergy House Westminster Cathedral

An Easter Prayer

When everything was dark
and it seemed that the sun would never shine again,
your love broke through.
Your love was too strong,
too wide,
too deep
for death to hold.
The sparks cast by your love
dance and spread
and burst forth
with resurrection light.
Gracious God,
We praise you for the light of new life
made possible through Jesus.
We praise you for the light of new life
that shone on the first witnesses of resurrection.
We praise you for the light of new life
that continues to shine in our hearts today.
We pray that the Easter light of life, hope and joy,
will live in us each day;
and that we will be bearers of that light
into the lives of others.
Amen.

Revd Michaela Youngson.

Tea

*Come, dear friend,
the kettle calls
and beckons us to Tea.

There's Chai for you
(with scones and cream)
and Earl Grey, hot, for me.

Come, dear friend,
take Tea with me.
Let's drift among the stars...

We'll waft around
the universe
past Jupiter and Mars

Come, dear friend,
and rest awhile,
when weary, life leaves you.

Just one small sip
renews your soul...
there's magic in the brew.
~ Torrey Moseley*



Reasons I Stopped Attending Sporting Events

1. Every time I went, they asked me for money.
2. The people with whom I had to sit by didn't seem very friendly.
3. The seats were too hard and not comfortable at all.
4. The coach never came to call on me.
5. The referee made a decision with which I couldn't agree.
6. Some games go on and on and I'm late getting home.
7. I was sitting with some hypocrites -- they came only to see what others were wearing.
8. The band played some tunes that I had never heard before.
9. The games are on when I want to do other things.
10. My parents took me to too many games when I was young.
11. I read the book so I know more than the coaches.
12. I don't want to take my children, because I want them to choose for themselves what sport they like best.

Why Easter will never go away

How do you make sense of the resurrection? Dead men don't rise, so why believe that this particular dead man *did* rise?

At the end of Luke's gospel we read that: "they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement" (Luke 24.4). This is highly significant. The Gospels do not show us a group of disciples who were in a receptive frame of mind. After the crucifixion, they were in hiding, frightened and scattered. Then suddenly, they came out of hiding and were totally different; excited, joyful. By Pentecost they were confident, with one firm message: 'You crucified Jesus, but God raised him up!'

How did they know this? Because of direct personal experience. Some of them had visited the tomb of Jesus: it was empty. Others claimed to have seen and touched the risen Lord. Were they hallucinating? People can hallucinate in groups – when taking drugs, for example. But of course, each one will see a different hallucination. But the disciples all saw the same thing. Or rather, the same person. Jesus.

Were they lying? Jesus had died a humiliating death as a criminal. Perhaps they wanted to rescue his good name. So, did they pretend they had seen him?

This theory has a big problem. Their preaching led them into trouble with the authorities. They were beaten and imprisoned and some of them killed. People will die for ideas and causes which they believe in passionately. But not for things they have made up. We might suffer for our convictions, but we will not suffer for our inventions.

What about the 'swoon' theory? That Jesus didn't die on the cross, despite terrible wounds? That he recovered in the tomb, and then escaped? That the disciples nursed him back to health? But Roman soldiers knew when a man was dead; and there was the guard on the tomb. Also, the events which followed simply don't fit. If the disciples had been hiding Jesus all along, they would have kept very low-key, and out of the way, so that the authorities did not come after him again.

Besides, to preach that God had raised Jesus from the dead – which is exactly what they did preach – would have been a lie. Beatings and threat of death would soon have loosened their tongues. Inventions crumble under pressure; convictions hold fast.

Another reason for believing in the resurrection is this: Jesus' continuing impact. Thousands and soon millions of people in every generation since have shared an inescapable sense of being 'accompanied' through life. Though unseen, they identify this presence as the Risen Lord.

Sometimes this experience of meeting Jesus is gentle and fitful. Sometimes it is dramatic and life changing. This reminds us that the resurrection of Jesus is not just an

interesting historical puzzle. It is a vital, present day reality. It brings wonderful comfort, assuring us of the central Christian truths: death is dead; Jesus is alive; God is love.

This central notion was captured, most movingly, by the great Albert Schweitzer: **'He came to those men who knew him not. He speaks to us the same word: "Follow thou me," and sets us to the tasks which he has to fulfil for our time. He commands. And to those who obey him, whether they be wise or simple, he will reveal himself in the toils, the conflicts, the suffering which they shall pass through in his fellowship, and, as ineffable mystery, they shall learn in their own experience who he is.'**

Have a joyful – and a challenging – Easter.

Parish Pump



Mary Queen of Peace Junior Choir presents

Spring Concert

Saturday 12th April
7.30pm

St. Peter's Church, Warrenpoint

Join us for an evening of wonderful music featuring
Kerygma Choir, St Peter's Band and a number of local musicians.

Admission free. Donations welcome in aid of Life and Time and MQP Junior Choir Rome 2026 trip.



Rector: You want to hear God speak?

Parishioner: Yes, I do.

Rector: Read your Bible.

Parishioner: I want to hear God audibly.

Rector: Read it out loud!



The danger of falling asleep in church!

I fell asleep in church and woke to hear the words "stand up". So, I stood up, and everyone clapped. The Rector said, "Thank you ... now who else will donate £2,000."

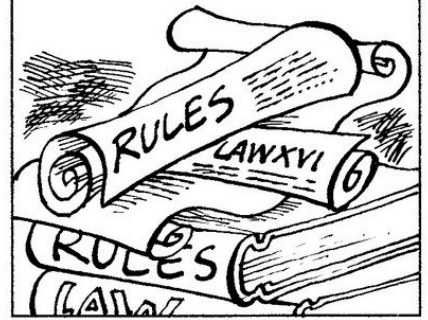
9	6	4	1	5	7	2	3	8
3	7	1	2	8	6	4	5	9
2	8	5	3	9	4	1	7	6
1	5	8	4	6	2	3	9	7
4	9	3	8	7	1	5	6	2
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8	3	6	9	2	5	7	4	1
5	1	9	7	4	8	6	2	3
7	4	2	6	1	3	9	8	5

"Some tough talking"

JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ON AT LEAST ONE OCCASION JESUS BECAME VERY CROSS WITH THE PEOPLE WHO MADE LOTS OF RULES



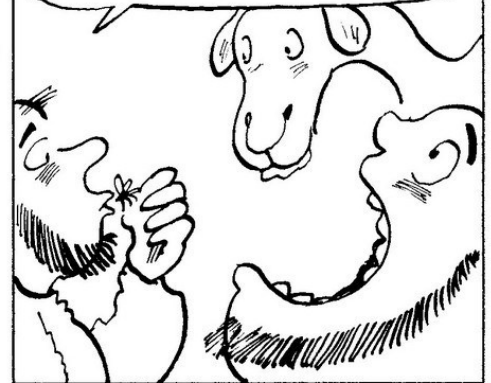
YOU ARE BAD PEOPLE - YOU GIVE A TENTH OF YOUR HERBS, MINT, DILL AN CUMIN...



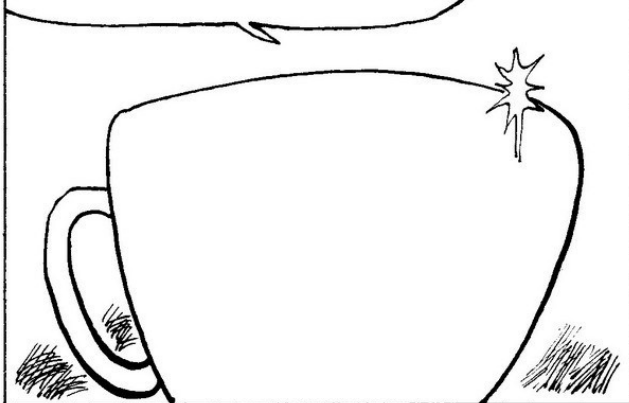
...BUT YOU FORGET ABOUT JUSTICE, MERCY AND HONESTY!



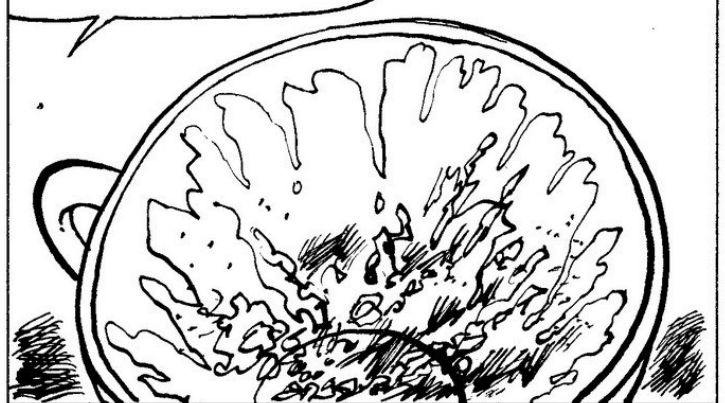
IT'S AS THOUGH YOU STRAIN AT A GNAT - BUT SWALLOW A CAMEL WHOLE!



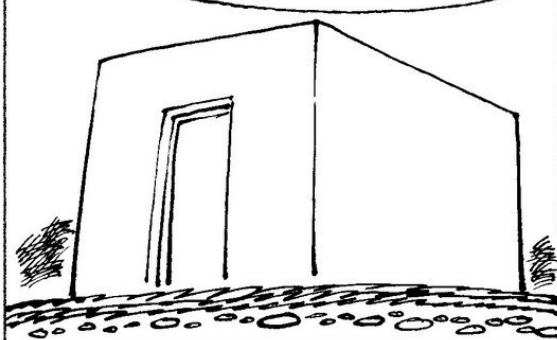
YOU ARE LIKE A CUP THAT IS CLEAN ON THE OUTSIDE..



...BUT DISGUSTINGLY FILTHY ON THE INSIDE!!



YOU ARE LIKE A WHITEWASHED TOMB - SPARKLING CLEAN ON THE OUTSIDE...



...BUT FULL OF MOULDY OLD BONES!



JESUS DID NOT LIKE PEOPLE WHO MADE IT HARD TO FOLLOW GOD.

See Matthew 23.23-27

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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**.

If you know of anyone who would like to advertise in
The Pointer they should email the editor for details.

hannamanor15@btinternet.com

Please save your stamps for

**Royal National
Institute
of Blind People**

