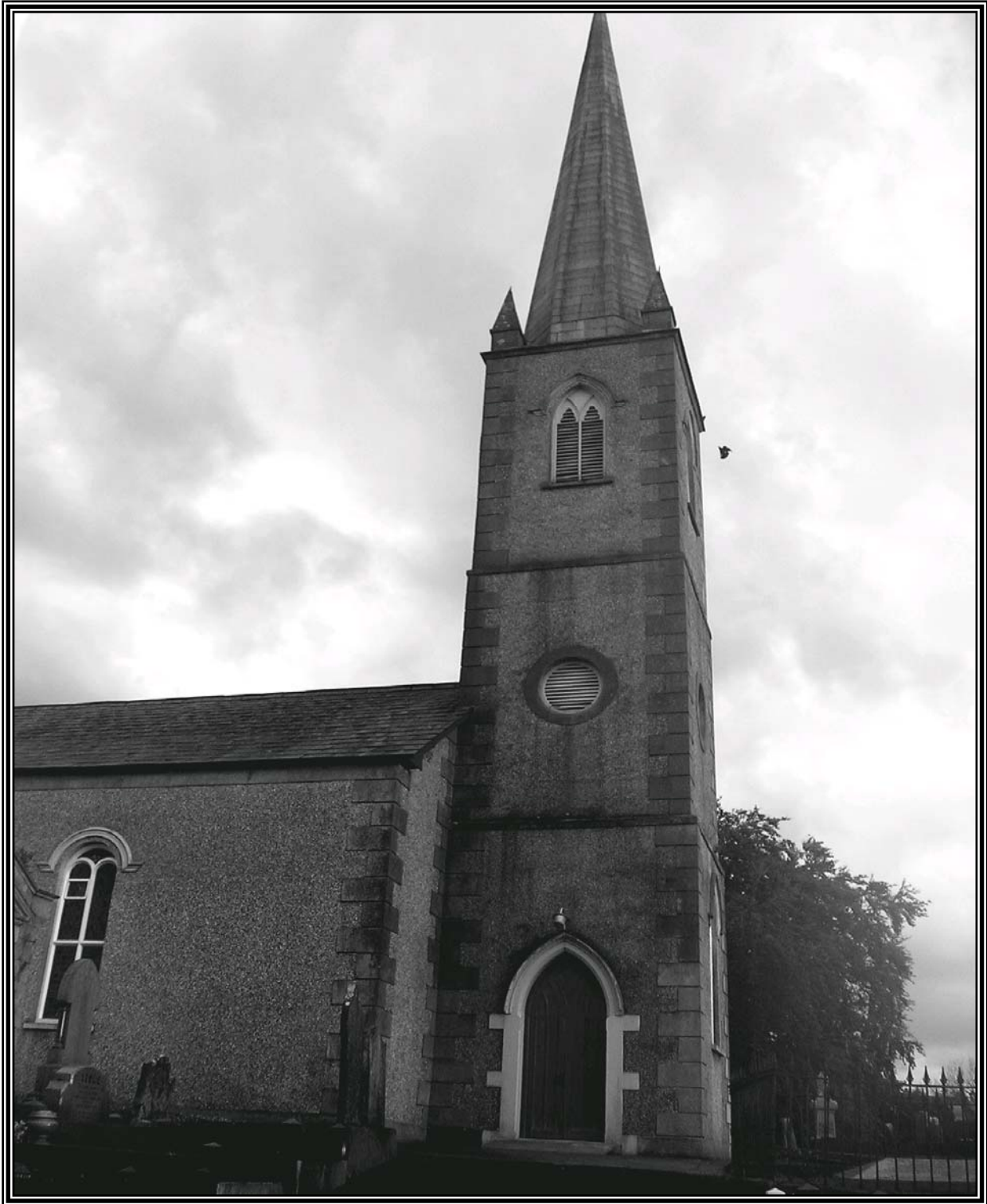


**BALLYSCULLION PARISH CHURCH MAGAZINE**



**SPRING 2007**



***Ballyscullion Parish Church in the Diocese of Derry and Raphoe***

*(Parish website is [www.ballyscullion.com](http://www.ballyscullion.com))*

At present the parish is under the control of the Rural Dean, The Reverend Canon Raymond Stewart, Rector of the grouping of Tamlaght O’Crilly Upper and Lower Parishes. If necessary Canon Stewart can be contacted by telephone - 02829540296

Rector’s Churchwarden ..... Mr. Jackson Frew

People’s Churchwarden ..... Mr. Wesley Davidson

**Organists**

Mrs. Donna Fullerton and Mr. Fred Dunlop

**Church Notices**

**Morning prayer** Sundays at 11.30 a.m.

**Holy Communion** is held the First Sunday in each month at 11.30 a.m.

**Sunday School** at 10.30a.m.



(Sunday School is now closed for the Summer holidays)



**Parish Records**

**Baptism**

***Alex Devon Cyril, son of Garner Overend and Angela McIlwaine***

**Marriage**



**Deaths**

Mrs. Margaret Crooks Crockett died Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2007 aged 96 years.



Our sympathies are extended to all who have been bereaved since our last issue

## What makes June so special?

June is the month of light – the month of the summer solstice, when millions of people in northernmost Europe stay out late to enjoy the sight of the midnight sun. Light and glory where there is usually darkness is something we celebrate, we welcome.

In John 9 Jesus said: “I am the light of the world.” He wasn’t preaching over the summer solstice, but at a Jewish occasion which celebrated light every bit as much. It was the Feast of Tabernacles (John 7:14), which was a celebration not only of God’s provision of water, but also of the light of God’s presence with the Israelites in the wilderness.

During the Feast of Tabernacles there was a joyful celebration. The priests would light four huge lamps in the Court of Women. The flames would reach as high as the temple walls and would provide a light that could be seen all throughout Jerusalem. Men of deep piety would dance throughout the night for the entire week of celebrating. A choir, accompanied by an orchestra of instruments, would sing psalms like Psalm 27, which declare “The Lord is my light and my salvation”



At the height of this grand celebration, the Lord Jesus had the temerity to stand and say that HE was the light that was foreshadowed by the light for the Israelites in the wilderness.

The Jewish leaders were furious, and tried to stone him to death. Jesus did not fight back, he simply illustrated his claim to be the Light of the World by immediately giving sight to a man born blind.

(John 9). In the 20 centuries since then, the Word of God, when it is proclaimed, has drawn people out of the darkness and into the light of Jesus. The Word is, as the psalmist said, “a lamp to my feet and a light for my path” (Psalm 119:105). David said, “In your light we see light” (Psalm 36:9b). Today, by the light of the word of God, we can see Jesus as he is: truly the light of the world.

## Children's Day

One reason why June's so special is we have our Sunday School's Children's Day. The stars of this year's day are photographed below.....



**Back Row:** The teachers-Mrs Yvonne Davidson, Mrs Helen McQuillan, and far right, Miss Laura Davidson. The children are Callum Donnelly Jonathan Dowie Aaron Dowie Nicole Dowie William Dowie Samuel Dowie Kathryn Mawhinney James Mawhinney Joshua Overend, Courtney Overend Jayden Stewart Ceri-Ann Stewart

## **People Like Us (from the Old Testament!) - Elijah**

'No problem is so large or complex that it can't be run away from.' Charlie Brown's words from *Peanuts* strike a chord when we read of Elijah on the run from Jezebel (1 Kings 19). Like Elijah, we know stress, exhaustion, loneliness, loss of self-confidence and feelings of hopelessness. However, his experience is a powerful reminder of God's desire to rescue and restore us.

### ***Elijah's Situation***

Elijah had been 'on top of the world' following his victorious showdown with the prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18). As God's prophet he spoke with eloquence and power, demonstrating that he was a man who walked with God. However, he ended up at Mount Horeb without strength, without resources and totally burnt-out.

- In what ways have we shared Elijah's experience?

### ***The Angel's Compassion***

We find Elijah sitting under a solitary broom tree, paralysed by anxiety and praying that he might die. He could go no further, literally and metaphorically. However, God sent his angel to bring him food, drink and sleep, which was exactly the practical care that Elijah needed to strengthen him.

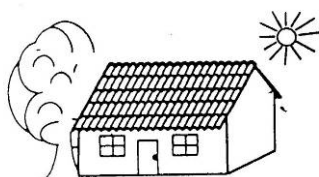
- How can we practically support those who are going through burn-out?

### ***God's Revelation***

God did not give up on Elijah, as he was more concerned to restore him to spiritual health! However he didn't reveal himself in the rock blasting windstorm, earth moving quake or consuming fire. It was in the gentle whisper of love that God spoke to him, restoring him to ministry afresh.

- In what ways do we discern God's still small voice in our lives?

'Breathe through the heats of our desire, Thy coolness and Thy balm; Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire; Speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire, O still, small voice of calm!'



## **Love, Faith and Hope Foundation**

***Fundacion, Amor Fe y Esperanza  
(AFE)***

Debbie Redmon, President of the Love, Faith & Hope Foundation, sent a letter of thanks and appreciation for the donation of £1415 collected over the last year.

Debbie wrote:

*"You don't know how comforting it is to us to know that there are people like you who continue to support the work with the boys.*

*I wanted to share with you what the Board of Directors has in mind for the use of your donation and get your OK on it.*

*I'm involved with another orphanage, this one for girls, in Bejuma, which is about an hour outside Valencia. Some people in our church in the U.S. helped to build the girl's home, and later bought some farm property even further down the road, with the idea that the proceeds generated by the farm would help support the girls' home. These friends are also aware of AFE and want the farm to benefit the boys' home as well. The farm has many tangerine trees and produces 2 crops per year. We have also bought about 15 young calves to put in the pasture, and sold them once full grown, which approximately tripled the investment and provided a considerable income for the girls' home.*

*Recently these friends purchased the property next to the farm, with the intention of having more land for cattle, since it is such a good investment. The land still needs some work, clearing the brush, etc., but there will be space for many cattle.*

*This brings me down to the reason I'm writing: the board of AFE thought it would be a good investment to purchase 10 calves (to start with and see how it goes) to later sell, thus the investment triples. I suggested that we ask you if you are OK with us using part of your donation to purchase the first 10 calves. What do you think? It would basically mean that your donation will be worth 3 times more in about a year when the cattle is sold, and that would go to AFE's operation fund, for food, medicines, etc. If you prefer that the donation be used directly for food and such right now, we respect your wishes. However I wanted to run this by you and see what you think.*

We decided on your behalf that the decision on how the money would be used is best left to the Directors of AFE so they will probably go ahead with this project. We look forward to hearing the outcome and pray that it will be successful.

Debbie also gave us an update on how the older boys are doing. Clint, Lennon and Ronnie are all at university now; Clint is studying Computer Science; Lennon is also studying computers and holding down a job at a software company; Ronnie is studying Administration and works part time at a tennis school, teaching the smaller children and picking up tennis balls. The boys no longer live in the Home and must work to keep themselves. They have to move from their current accommodation so Debbie asks us to pray that they will soon find something affordable and in a good neighbourhood.



Cesar & Robert



Debbie with Jose Gregorio

The two newest boys Cesar (7) and Robert (5) are settling in well and Debbie says they are such a joy to have there. AFE is currently considering a new boy, Jose Luis, who is 9 years old. He is staying at the Home for a few days to see how he adjusts and fits in with the other boys.

John (Vivienne's son) has been very good with all the boys and has worked with them since Vivienne died. John is currently in England and hopes to come over to Northern Ireland in July so we hope to get a lot more information about the boys then.

More than ever our prayers are needed for the street children who need rescuing and the children's homes that are trying to help these children who otherwise would have no hope of a better life.

Thank God there are people out there who care.

*Anne Overend*

## Now – the mobile Bible is here



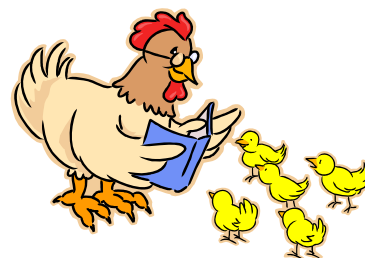
The Bible is now available on your mobile phone - thanks to the Bible Society.

You can access the Old and New Testaments by entering <http://wapbibles.com> into your mobile phone browser. "While mobiles are

great for up-to-the-minute information, urgent messages and football scores, we are offering people an opportunity to use the same technology for reflection," explains a spokesman at the Bible Society. "With the launch of this product the Bible is no longer a dusty book on a shelf. It becomes part of a person's daily life and culture, as natural as their personalized ringtone or MP3."

## **The Lord's Prayer**

The Lord's Prayer can be a challenge for toddlers. As it was for three year-old Thomas, who attempted it with mixed success: "Our Father, who does art in heaven, Harold is your name. Amen."



## Why Easter will never go away

Three years after the Russian Revolution of 1917, a great anti-God rally was arranged in Kiev. The powerful orator Bukharin was sent from Moscow, and for an hour he demolished the Christian faith with argument, abuse and ridicule. At the end there was silence.

Then a man rose and asked to speak. He was a priest of the Russian Orthodox Church.

He went and stood next to Bukharin. Facing the people, he raised his arms and spoke just three triumphant words: 'Christ is risen!' At once the entire assembly rose to their feet and gave the joyful response, "He is risen indeed!" It was a devastating moment for an atheist politician, who had no answer to give to this ancient Easter liturgy. Of course, this does not prove the Resurrection. Indeed, Good Friday gives a dramatic reminder that majorities can be terribly wrong. So the question persists. Dead men



don't rise, so why believe that this particular dead man did rise? At the end of St. Luke's Gospel we read that: "they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement" (Luke 24.4). The disciples had visited the empty tomb; they had seen the risen Lord. Still they

disbelieved. Not only because they were stubborn and disobedient; but because they were overwhelmed. It

seemed too good to be true. They disbelieved...

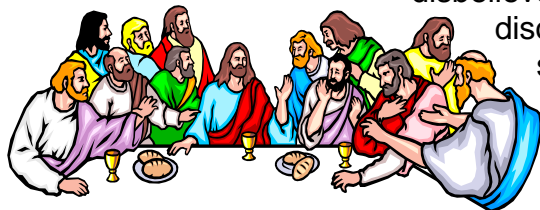
because of joy! This is highly significant. The

Gospels do not show us a group of people who

were in a receptive frame of mind. They needed a

lot of persuading. In the end, it was hard facts which

did the persuading, not wishful thinking. So with us. Why should we believe that God raised Jesus from the dead? Answer: because of some solid facts. Here are just three (there are many more).



**1. Jesus died so young.** Only a handful of men have founded great movements. Each of them needed time in which to make his influence felt. Guatama the Buddha died in 483 BC, aged 80.

Confucius died in 479 BC, aged 72. Muhammad died in AD 632, aged 62. Karl Marx died in AD1833, aged 64. In contrast, Jesus died in his thirties. He spent no more than three years in the public eye, in a fairly remote place. Yet the impact of Jesus on history has been even greater than those of the great men listed above. To quote Hans Kung: "None of the great founders of religions lived in so restricted an area. None lived for such a terribly short time. None died so young. And yet how great his influence has been.... Numerically, Christianity is well ahead of all world religions." How could this village carpenter-turned-preacher made such a colossal impact, given his short life? Jesus left no writing. As for his followers, they were so frightened when Jesus died that they met behind locked doors. Which brings us to the second fact.

**2. The disciples suffered for their preaching.** Very soon after locking themselves in, those first disciples were totally different; brave, excited, confident and creative. They had one great theme: "you crucified Jesus, but God raised him up!" How did they know this? Because of things that happened. 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 – but each one will see a different hallucination. The disciples all saw the same thing. Or rather, they all saw the same person. Jesus. Perhaps they were lying? Jesus had died a humiliating death as a criminal. They wanted to rescue his good name. So we can imagine them cooking up a plot: let's pretend that we have seen him! This theory comes up against one big problem. Their preaching led them into trouble with the authorities. They were beaten and imprisoned, because of it. Some of them were killed. People will sometimes die for ideas and causes which they believe in passionately. But not for things they have made up. We might suffer for our convictions, we will not suffer for our inventions.

It is for this same reason that the famous 'swoon' theory doesn't work. On this view, Jesus didn't die on the cross, despite terrible wounds. He recovered in the tomb, and escaped. The disciples nursed him back to health. The theory bristles with problems. Roman soldiers knew when a man was dead; and there was the guard on the tomb. But if we allow for a moment that this might have happened, the events which followed simply don't fit. Jesus would have cheated death. He would not have conquered it. The disciples would have been delighted. But they would have kept the whole thing very quiet. Publicity and preaching would have been fatal, for they would result in a search. The authorities would not have made a second mistake. Besides, to preach that God had raised Jesus from the dead – which is exactly what they did preach – would have been a lie. We are back where we started. The lash, the dungeon and the sword would soon have loosened their tongues. Inventions crumble under pressure; convictions hold fast.

**3. His continuing impact.** Thousands of people in every generation and of varying ages and personality types share an inescapable sense of being 'accompanied' through life. Though unseen, they identify this presence as the Risen Lord. 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. It brings sharp challenge too. Jesus commands us to love and serve our troubled and divided world, in his strength and in his name. This central notion was captured, most movingly, by the great Albert Schweitzer. "He comes to us as one unknown, without a name, as of old by the lakeside. 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.

## Weekday prayers



**Monday ,Wash Day** - Lord, help me wash away all my selfishness and vanity, so I may serve you with perfect humility through the week ahead.

**Tuesday, Ironing Day** - Dear Lord, help me iron out all the wrinkles of prejudice I have collected through the years so that I may see the beauty in others.



**Wednesday, Mending Day** - O God, help me mend my ways so I will not set a bad example for others.

**Thursday, Cleaning Day** - Lord Jesus, help me to dust out all the many faults I have been hiding in the secret corners of my heart.



**Friday, Shopping Day** - O God, give me the grace to shop wisely so I may purchase eternal happiness for myself and all others in need of love.



**Saturday, Cooking Day** - Help me, my Saviour, to brew a big kettle of brotherly love and serve it with clean, sweet bread of human kindness.



**Sunday The Lord's Day** - O God, I have prepared my house for you. Please come into my heart so I may spend the day and the rest of my life in your presence.

***Sarah Davison has provided 2 poems for this edition of the magazine and this is the first one***

### **The Dream**

I had a curious dream last night ...  
My room was bathed in radiant light,  
And suddenly I was aware  
Of such a mighty presence there!



It was the Lord! He said to me,  
"Now speak, and tell me fearlessly,  
Be honest, do not be afraid,  
What errors do you think I've made?"

Trembling, I wondered if I dare,  
Faced with that mighty presence there,  
But He had said, "Speak fearlessly",  
And so the courage came to me!

"Lord", I said, "Forgive me , now,  
But I don't know why you allow  
Hunger, crime and poverty.  
It just does not seem right to me!"



The Lord was silent for a while.  
I quaked--- but then I saw Him smile.  
"It could be what you say is true,"  
He said. "But, tell me,- Why do YOU?"

## **Big “Thank You” From Select Vestry**

The Select Vestry wishes to record its thanks to all of the following individuals and groups of parishioners who have made such invaluable contributions to the life of the parish in the period from Easter 2006 to Easter 2007:-

1. All the ladies of the parish who have cleaned and provided/arranged flowers within the church during the year.
2. Mrs Greta Overend for organising the rota covering the cleaning of the church and the provision/arrangement of flowers.
3. Those parishioners who have decorated the church for the Harvest Festival and Christmas Season.
4. Men who cut the grass during the year in the graveyard and maintained the church and hall.
5. Men who maintained the rectory grounds, the rectory building and out-housing particularly Mr John Junkin and his son George.
6. Mr Robert Huey for acting as health and safety officer as well as secretary for the parish.
7. Mr Andrew McQuillan who attends to the emptying of the wheelie bin every week and who keeps a weather eye on the rectory.
8. Jim and Sarah Davison for holding and distributing the church and hall keys
9. Contributors for the ‘n:vision’ magazine, Mr Jackson Frew but particularly Mr John and Mrs Audrey Junkin.
10. Mr Victor Overend and Mr Tom McQuillan who have opened the church so that the burial register may be updated for non Church of Ireland burials.
11. Mr Jack Dowie for setting the heating system in the church and for liaising with the electrician and others with regard to the maintenance of the church hall.
12. Mr Darren Frew for liaising with suppliers of electrical goods for the church hall and contractors for re-surfacing of the church lane.
13. George Junkin and Richard Davidson for operating the sound system in the church under the direction of Mr Ronald Overend.
14. Mrs Lorna Crockett for the production of the church magazine.
15. Those members of the parish who wrote articles for the church magazine.
16. Mrs Annie McQuillan and Mrs Jean Hudson who looked after the shop before its closure.
17. Mr John Junkin who set up and maintains the parish website with some assistance from Mr Darren Frew.
18. The organists Mrs Donna Fullerton and Mr Fred Dunlop.
19. Members of the choir.
20. Mrs Audrey Junkin, the treasurer for all her dedicated work in looking after the finances.
21. Mr Richard Frew and the members of the Finance Committee, Nigel Overend and Andrew McQuillan for counting and recording the envelope money.
22. The Sunday School teachers, Mrs Yvonne Davidson, Mrs Helen McQuillan and Miss Laura Davidson.
23. Mr Wesley Davidson in his role as Peoples’ Churchwarden, opening the church and hall, looking after burials and erection of memorials in the graveyard, liaising with those builders who have carried out maintenance on church property as well as advising the Select Vestry on building matters.
24. Mrs Yvonne Davidson for the provision of the bread and wine for Holy Communion, who ensures that the communion linen is washed, ironed and available for communion services.
25. Mr Jackson Frew in his role as Rector’s Churchwarden, organiser of the grass cutting in the graveyard, distribution within and outside the church of the ‘n-vision’ magazine, finding readers for the church service, production of the Sunday morning announcements sheet, organising the organist rota.

26. All the clergy who are currently officiating during the vacancy.
27. Canon Raymond Stewart for his pastoral care of the parishioners, advice and guidance to the Select Vestry and the organisation of clergy to cover in the vacancy.
28. All others who have helped in any way whose work is done quietly and without any fuss.

It is an interesting exercise to write down the names of all those who have helped to ensure that the parish runs smoothly despite the absence of a ministerial tenant in the rectory. How often in our daily lives do we hear the quote ‘**nobody does anything around here!**’ The above list should make it clear that this parish is blessed with many faithful and hard-working servants, who give of their time unstintingly.

J. Frew

*Officers and Members of the Select vestry for 2007/2008*

<b>Rector’s Church warden</b>	Jackson Frew
<b>People’s Churchwarden</b>	Wesley Davidson
<b>Rector’s Glebewarden</b>	John Junkin
<b>People’s Glebewarden</b>	Andy McQuillan
<b>Rector’s Supplemental Glebewarden</b>	Jack Dowie
<b>People’s Supplemental Glebewarden</b>	Ivor Milligan

The full Select vestry is:

Jackson Frew, Wesley Davidson, John Junkin, Andy McQuillan, Jack Dowie, Ivor Milligan, Yvonne Davidson, Darren Frew, Lorna Crockett, Nigel Overend, Robert Overend (Sen.), Robert Overend (Jun.) , Sandra Overend and Ronnie Overend

**Youth Service in Kilcronaghan Parish Church**

On Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May the Sunday school teachers of Bellaghy Parish church attended a Rural Deanery youth service in Kilcronaghan Parish Church in Tobermore. The service was for the Sunday school children and teachers.



Everyone was welcomed by the Rev. Morrow and the theme of the service was “Following Jesus”.

The service included hymns and choruses and the readings were taken from John 14 v1 and John 1 V 1-12. The visiting speaker was Mr. Isaac Hanna from the Church Army who inspired us with his sermon on food and how that in life we are always hungry for the word of God.

Following the service some light refreshments were served in the church hall.

*Yvonne Davidson*

**The Lord is my shepherd**

A Sunday school teacher decided to have her young class memorise one of the most quoted passages in the Bible, Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the Psalm, but little Charles did not find it easy to memorise much of anything. On the day that the children were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Charles stepped up to the microphone and began proudly, "The Lord is my Shepherd...." He knew that much, but the rest of the Psalm suddenly deserted him. So he concluded bravely: "... and that's all I need to know."



## **The Earl Bishop of Derry - Frederick Augustus Hervey**

In the last issue of this magazine I mentioned the Grand Palace that the Earl Bishop Hervey had built at Ballyscullion at a cost of some £40,000 (a lot of money in the 1780's). This was by all accounts a magnificent edifice of unequalled splendour although it is not very clear what its ultimate purpose was to be.

Dominated by a central rotunda, this house was based on another of similar design on Belle Isle, Lake Windermere. That house was in turn based on the architecture of a building in Rome where the Bishop often spent time acquiring his beloved paintings and marble sculptures. That building was the Pantheon, one of the oldest buildings in the world and is still standing after 1600 years. The Pantheon's distinguishing feature of course was a self-supporting domed roof, made of concrete, and one of the first of its kind.



The rotunda at Bellaghy was slightly oval-shaped, measuring some 94 feet by 84 feet, and was fronted by a magnificent columnar entrance with the Greek inscription 'Immediately open ye doors, for much wealth is within, and with that wealth, fresh-springing benevolence'. It had a central double stairway so that guests and servants could ascend and descend without seeing each other and benefited from a circular glass covered roof light.

The Bishop liked all kinds of art and so he needed an 82ft long by 25ft wide by 28ft high flanking gallery for his Flemish paintings and a similar one on the other side of the rotunda for his Italian paintings. The hallway had statues in marble of Cicero, Demosthenes, Seneca, Pericles and Apollo.

The first floor of the rotunda had a segment-shaped drawing room and a similar dining room each hung with very fine paintings, whilst the upper floor had segment shaped bed-chambers all around.

The wings contained two large blocks of offices each 110 feet long but it appears that these were never fully completed due to Shanahan the architect and the Bishop having some differences of opinion!

When the bishop died in Italy in 1803 his Irish property all went to his second cousin, Harry Bruce. He in turn removed all the valuables to his other mansion at Downhill and allowed Ballyscullion to fall into ruin. At a later auction, much of the valuable fireplaces and entrance sculptures were sold off. The staircase went to Shanes Castle.

During the building of the Ballyscullion 'Palace' the bishop started building another similar house at Ickworth, his family home. That house is still very much used today and is well worth a visit when on holiday to that area.

Had things been different we might have had a really magnificent world-class building in splendid surroundings which would have outshone any other in the whole of Ulster. South Londonderry might have been the seat of government with the red helicopter a frequent sighting in the Bellaghy sky!

***By John Junkin***



### Why teenage brains need that lie-in

Has your sweet, loveable child who used to watch TV early in the morning turned into a morose, truculent teenager who doesn't want to get out of bed till nearly lunchtime?

Don't be alarmed. According to a leading body clock expert, teenagers really do need those extra hours in bed - and they are more to be pitied than blamed. For the teenage brain is a 'work in progress', and has profound changes taking place within it, according to

Prof Russell Foster, a 'chronobiologist' at Oxford University. MRI scans of adolescent brains conducted over the last decade have revealed that not only is there major reorganization in the teenage brain, but that it continues to develop until the early twenties.

Mary Carskadon, director of sleep research at EP Bradley Hospital in Rhode Island, America, estimates that teenagers do best on about nine hours of sleep a night. She believes that a later starting time for school would greatly improve alertness and the mental abilities of teenagers during their morning lessons.

In the meantime, no wonder teenagers sleep in - when they get the chance.

### Keep your child safe on the Internet



Is your child safe on the internet? A guide for parents about internet safety, 'Help. I Want my Child to Stay Safe on the Net' contains important Internet safety do's and don'ts.

Internet based child abuse is a serious and growing problem, and children from church backgrounds are by no means immune from this type of exploitation.

Top tips for staying safe are highlighted at [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk). They include the following:

- Don't give out personal details online. This includes Messenger id, email addresses, mobile numbers and pictures.
- It's better to keep online mates online. Never meet up with strangers without taking a trusted adult.
- Remember that any pictures or videos published online can be changed or shared
- Some people lie online - not everyone is who they say they are
- It's never too late to tell someone if something makes you feel uncomfortable.
- Report online child sex abuse at [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)

75% of children and young people aged between 9-19 years have internet access at home.

According to the OfCom Communications Market Report 2006, 70% of young people aged between 16 and 24 are using new online social networking sites to make friends, share information and have fun.



*Census Taker:* "How many children do you have?"

*Woman:* "Four."

*Census Taker:* "May I have their names, please?"

*Woman:* "Eenee, Meenee, Minee and George."

Census Taker: "Okay, that's fine. But may I ask why you named your fourth child *George*?"

Woman: "Because we didn't want any Moe."

After the baptism of his baby brother in church, Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, "That minister said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, but I want to stay with you guys!"

### A much-loved A.A. Milne poem starts out something like this:



*"There once was a sailor my grandfather knew  
Who had so many things that he wanted to do  
That whenever he thought it was time to begin  
He couldn't because of the state he was in."*

Know the feeling? Got something to do? Don't wait until you're not tired. Everybody is usually tired. And don't wait until you have more time. People seldom have enough time. Said the Lord to Jeremiah, "***Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart;...***" God has things to be done which no one else but you can do. So begin. Time is precious!

William Tyndale's burning ambition was to translate the Bible into English so that even the ploughboy could read the Scriptures. Betrayed and imprisoned for the work he had begun as a boy, in 1535 he wrote in Latin to the prison governor of Vilvorde Castle for a few essentials to help him with his study.

"I beg your lordship, and that by the Lord Jesus, that if I am to remain here through the winter you will request the commissary to have the kindness to send me, from the goods of mine which he has, a warmer cap; for I suffer greatly from cold in the head... I ask to be allowed to have a lamp in the evening; it is indeed wearisome sitting alone in the dark. But most of all I beg and beseech your clemency, that he will kindly permit me to have the Hebrew Bible, Hebrew grammar, and Hebrew dictionary, that I may pass the time in study."

Early in October 1536, Tyndale was led out of the castle towards the southern gate of the town. The sun had barely risen above the horizon when he was brought before the authorities and a final appeal was made that he should recant. Tyndale stood immovable. A silence fell over the crowd as they watched the lean form and thin face of the prisoner; his lips moved with a final impassioned prayer: "Lord, open the King of England's eyes."

With that, they chained him to a cross on a pyre and burnt him alive. He began and was still working on what is acknowledged to be the greatest Bible translation of all time whose words have passed irrevocably into our spirits and our own rich language and heritage. It is God's story.



Some of the members of the Bible Study group

## Bible Study Group



The Bible Study Group started in January with a meeting to decide on when the group should meet and agree the format of the bible study. Canon Ian McDonald, who generously agreed to lead the meetings, was very pleased with the initial attendance. It was decided that the study group would meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month but during Lent the group met each week after the Wednesday Lenten services.

### **Topics discussed:**

#### **The Law and the Gospel (Luke 2: 22-34)**

The presentation of Christ in the temple which fulfilled the Old Law, the fulfilment of God's promise to Simeon that he would not see death until he had seen the Messiah, and Simeon's prophecy of God's saving purpose which was fulfilled on the Cross.

#### **Christ's temptation, death, resurrection and ascension**

Throughout Lent the group followed the events leading up to Christ's death on the cross, His resurrection, ascension and the effect of these events on his disciples.



#### **The New Church (Acts 2: 37-47, Acts 4: 32-37)**

Is Church life all it should be? Discovering and grasping the principles of church life. Peter's instructions on the way to become a Christian (Repent, and be baptised). Christians are united through the Holy Spirit who enables and empowers man to do the work God asks of him.

#### **Good News and Bad (Galations 1: 1-10)**

The Church has always been plagued by false teachers, heretics and followers of various cults. How are we to respond to those who preach or accept a twisted gospel? Paul reminds the

Galations about the good news of the gospel and is angry with them for being fooled by those who are preaching a false gospel.

#### **Why Believe the Gospel? (Galations 1:11-2:10)**

There are many other religions in the world, each one claiming to be a path to God. Who are we to assert that the gospel is the only true message of salvation? Paul tells how the gospel message comes from Jesus Christ, not man and how God through his grace, chose him to go to the Gentiles and show them the good news about Jesus.

The members of the Study Group would like to thank Canon McDonald for his initiative in suggesting the bible studies and his enthusiasm and dedication in attending the meetings and preparing the study notes. It was a great time of fellowship and current members would encourage others to come along and experience a deeper understanding of the gospel message which leads to a closer relationship with God.

The Bible Study Group has now closed for the summer but will be re-opening in September. New members will be very welcome.

“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with  
God through our Lord Jesus Christ”

*By Anne Overend*

## **WHO are our neighbours?**

### **Where did all the Presbyterian churches come from?**

The word 'presbyterian' comes from the Greek term '*presbuteros*,' which is found in the Greek New Testament. In most English Bibles it is translated as 'elder.' In Acts 13 and 14 there is the record of the places where Paul and Barnabas preached on their first missionary journey. The Christian converts were gathered together into Church fellowships and Paul and Barnabas 'appointed elders for them in every church' (14:23). These 'elders' or 'presbyterers' were pastors, appointed to preach the Word of God and shepherd the flock of God. Two other terms are also found in the Greek NT relating to Church leadership. They are '*episcopus*,' translated 'bishop' and '*diakonos*,' translated 'deacon.' It is fairly clear that these four words, elder, presbyter, bishop and deacon, are interchangeable. They all refer to the pastors and leaders who were responsible for preaching and pastoral ministry in the NT churches.

Presbyterian Churches were founded as a result of the 16th century Protestant Reformation. The German Reformation, led by Martin Luther, preferred the word bishop, so the Lutheran Church became episcopal, meaning the rule of bishops. The Reformation in Switzerland, led by John Calvin and Ulrich Zwingli, preferred the words elders and presbyters, so their churches were organised under the leadership of presbyters, hence 'presbyterian.' One reason for this preference was that Calvin and Zwingli did not like the power and authority and prestige that belonged to bishops in the Roman Church. When the Reformation took root in Britain, it produced an Episcopal Church in England and a Presbyterian Church in Scotland. This was because John Knox, Scotland's fiery Reformer, had spent time in Geneva and was very attracted to the kind of church worship, government and preaching that he found there. The Church that Knox founded in 1560 and led until his death in 1572, became the Church of Scotland. It was strongly Protestant and Calvinist in its doctrine, putting strong emphasis on the importance of preaching and the leadership of God-called elders. In the following century the *Westminster Confession* was drawn up in London between 1643 and 1646. Together with the Longer and Shorter Catechisms, this Confession became, after Scripture, the doctrinal foundation of Presbyterianism, both in Britain and wherever Presbyterian Churches were founded across the world.

In the reign of Elizabeth I Presbyterian churches were organised in England but they were never as numerous or as influential as the Church of England. The Presbyterian Church in England united with the Congregational Church in 1972 and became the United Reformed Church. Scottish settlers in the North of Ireland in the 17th century brought their Presbyterian faith with them and it became strongly established. Eventually Presbyterianism was established in North America and particularly in the countries of the old British Empire including South Africa, India, New Zealand and Australia. Presbyterian missions expanded the work in Central and South America, in Europe, the Middle East and the Far East. From the beginning, Presbyterianism was characterised by the rule and leadership of elders but this did not mean a sharp division between ministers and lay people. Instead elders who had the gifts of teaching and preaching were ordained while other elders were appointed to have administrative and financial responsibility. Each local congregation calls its own minister. The local church is governed by the Kirk Session while Presbyteries are groups of churches in a geographical area, resembling a large parish. On a national level Presbyterian Churches are governed by their General Assemblies.

Presbyterian worship has traditionally been conservative with most Presbyterian churches having choirs and congregational hymn-singing. A number of smaller Presbyterian groups, however, broke away from the larger organisation and formed churches where only the metrical Psalms are sung. These more conservative congregations adhere strictly to the theology of the *Westminster Confession* and are often openly critical of what they label the 'liberalism' of the larger Presbyterian groups.

From the very beginning, the mainstream Presbyterian Churches were active supporters of the Ecumenical Movement. In general Presbyterianism has always been characterised by a ministry that is theologically learned and noted for its preaching and scholarship. Presbyterianism has also promoted both home and overseas missions, established schools and hospitals in its missionary work, and has been very active in local and national endeavours to promote an improvement in social welfare.

by

*Dr H B McGonigle a Senior Lecturer in Historical Theology, Church History and Wesley Studies in Nazarene Theological College, Manchester,*

**!** Before you criticise someone, you should walk a mile in their shoes. That way, when you criticise them, you're a mile away and you have their shoes!

## Daffodil Tea



A very successful Daffodil Tea was held in the Parish hall on Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> March. Many items were on sale on the various stalls including a large selection of cakes and tray bakes provided by some ladies in the parish.



A Large crowd attended and the amount raised was almost £1000!!!!!!!!!!



Many thanks to everyone  
Who helped in any way  
To make the event such a  
Success.

*Olive Overend*

## **Summer reading**



### **In the Palm of God's Hand - A diary of living against the odds (updated edition)**

**By Wendy Bray, BRF, £7.99**

A moving personal testimony with flashes of wry humour, 'In the Palm of God's Hand' tells the story of Wendy Bray's journey through gruelling treatment for Hodgkin's lymphoma. This new edition brings her story right up to date, with the story of her diagnosis and treatment for breast cancer, unrelated to her first illness. With heartfelt warmth, this prayer diary shares her own physical, emotional and spiritual journey through the treatment and also reflects on the effects on her family and friends. Wendy Bray gives insight into relating to God at the hardest of times, as well as practical ideas for supporting those living with cancer and their families. Wendy Bray is a freelance writer

and newspaper columnist, who has written several books including *The Art of Waiting* (BRF, 2004), and was previously staff writer at *Care for the Family*. A popular speaker at Spring Harvest, she is currently developing her work in the area of positive cancer survivorship through *The One Life Company*.

### **The Lord's Prayer – by William Barclay, £5.99**

The Lord's Prayer is for many people a collection of words which has been repeated so often that it has lost its meaning. It is in danger of becoming a vain repetition. William Barclay opens up this ancient prayer. He discusses it in detail and considers its historical background and its application to our world today. He shows us how Christ has given us in the Lord's Prayer a text which is at once both a prayer and a pattern for all other prayer. Separate chapters deal with each phrase in the prayer

e.g. Chapter 2 , 'Our Father' ..... ' We cannot fail to see that the prayer begins by giving God his own and his proper place. The first three petitions of the prayer are for the hallowing of God's name, the coming of the Lord's kingdom, and the doing of God's will. It is only then that we turn to our own needs and our own requests.'

This is a very interesting book which I have read and can recommend. If you would like to borrow it just ask.

*Lorna Crockett*



## **Childhood accidents - they just aren't what they used to be!**



Remember the days when summer holidays meant that most children climbed trees - and some fell out of them? And when most children rode bicycles - and some fell off them?

Well, all that is changing. A recent study of hospital admissions shows that the number of tree-related incidents has fallen by 36 per cent from 1999 to 2006. And there has been a 22 per cent fall in the number of children injured in bike accidents. On the

other hand, RSI injuries brought on by playing "PlayStation Generation" are up 35 per cent. And last year more under-14s were injured falling out of bed, or even falling off their chair, then falling out of a tree.

**!** *The reason lightning doesn't strike twice in the same place is that the same place isn't there the second time.*

## Certificate in Basic Food Hygiene

11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2007



Siobhan, our tutor for the course, greeted us with a “Sure we’ll take our time and have a bit of craic. I’ve brought some buns for a wee cup of tea”

We should have known there and then that she was lulling us into a false sense of security but nonetheless we joined her for 2 weeks during which she gave a powerpoint presentation of the facts and then sent us home with a book to read for ‘homework’(which of course no one read !!- or so they said, until it came to revision time and then all the swots came to the surface!!!!!!). We sat behind desks and discussed the finer points of fridges, temperatures and germs. We talked about food

shopping and eating in restaurants until we were verging on neurotic about cleanliness and hand-washing but still we were relaxed and comfortable and enjoying each other’s company.

Then came Siobhan’s first shot across our bows when she said’ “You would need to separate out for this test!”..... a pregnant pause filled the room and then this deep enquiring voice from the corner was heard to say incredulously....”You aren’t serious!?” (this was good-going because the rest of us couldn’t speak!) I’m afraid she was serious, so, after a short period of paralysis, we dutifully separated out the desks around the hall and then sat down while looking anxiously at each other and taking fleeting glances towards the door, wrecking our brains for a way out!

Then came Siobhan’s second shot!..... “When you get your test paper I’ll tell you your Centre Number”..... CENTRE NUMBER!!!!!!! That’s only for ‘real exams’. We had been sitting comfortably in a small Church hall planning on a wee cup-o-tea, not a CENTRE! Heads lowered even further and near hysteria descended when we were given our test papers which, I might emphasize, were in separately wrapped packages. Mothers and daughters looked at each other as the generation gap rapidly disappeared. Some examination candidates however displayed a penchant for examinations with their pencil cases and array of writing implements (thanks by the way for lending me a pencil!).

A hush fell on the room as the exam time began. Siobhan wandered around the room with a steady stalking gait and pitiful eyes met across the room at regular intervals, searching for some shred of support and sympathy. Just before the end of the test some students developed an unusual twitch and their lips were seen to move in various ways but thankfully this didn’t last long and they soon recovered.

It was over.... “What did you say for that question on the temperature of the fridge?”....

Mouths opened and eyes popped.....

“What question on the temperature of the fridge! I didn’t see a question on the temperature of the fridge!!!!!!”

It was then we discovered that there were four, yes four, different sets of question papers! Twitches returned and hysterical laughter ensued; Siobhan retreated behind a desk saying, ”mmmm, ...there’s usually only a couple of different tests!”

Post-exam stress disorder was treated with a cup of tea and a biscuit (after all, weight had been lost in nervous energy!), some joking nervously about the results, others sitting in glazed silence. Photographs were taken of the group and a contract was signed stating these could only be published in the event of 100% pass rate (a verbal, but nonetheless, binding agreement!)

And here are the photographs..... so now you know the end of this story..... We are all certified!

Well done girls and boy. Thanks Siobhan and Robert (who organized the classes but had a pressing appointment in Belfast and couldn’t stay.... mmmmm?!) Want another class? Got any good ideas? Let the rest of us know. There’s safety in numbers!

**Lorna Crockett**



Here's Sarah's second poem

### **SLOW ME DOWN LORD**

Ease the pounding of my heart by the quieting of my mind.  
Steady my hurried pace with a vision of the eternal reach of time.  
Give me, amid the confusion of the day,  
The calmness of the everlasting hills.  
Break the tension of my nerves and  
Muscles with the soothing music of the singing streams  
That live in the memory.  
Help me to know the magical, restoring power of sleep.  
Teach me the art of taking minute vacations – slowing down to look at a

Flower, to chat with a friend, to pat a

Dog, to read a few lines from a good book.

Slow me down Lord and inspire me to

Sink my roots deep into the soil of life's enduring values that I may grow toward  
the stars of my greater destiny.

*Author unknown*



However the publication of this edition of the magazine was slowed down a bit too much!!!

Sorry about that folks but time seems to have been running faster for me in the last few months. Encouragingly several people have been asking me when the magazine would be out so I hope you've enjoyed this one and will be inspired to contribute to the next one. Thanks to those who have contributed articles to this issue; the magazine really is a team effort. We want more team members! So what about articles on gardening tips? Or if you've any good stories from years ago we would enjoy reading them later in the year when the nights are longer. Or a Young Parents section; we have several young families in the Parish and we need their input. What about describing good places you have visited with the children? The possibilities are endless. The ball is in your court (just to include a reference to Wimbledon in this issue!)