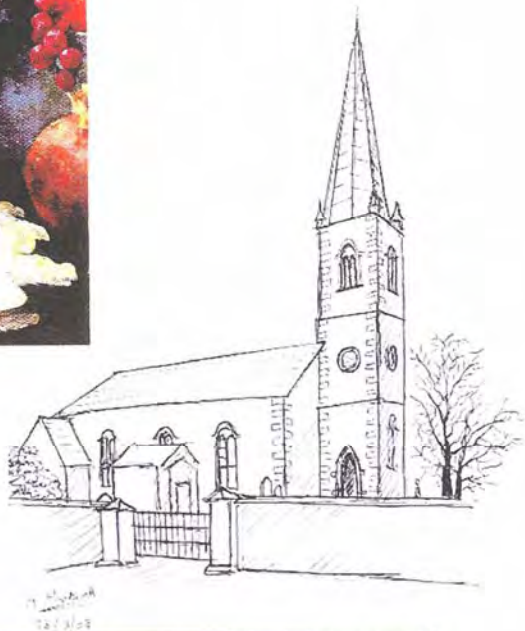
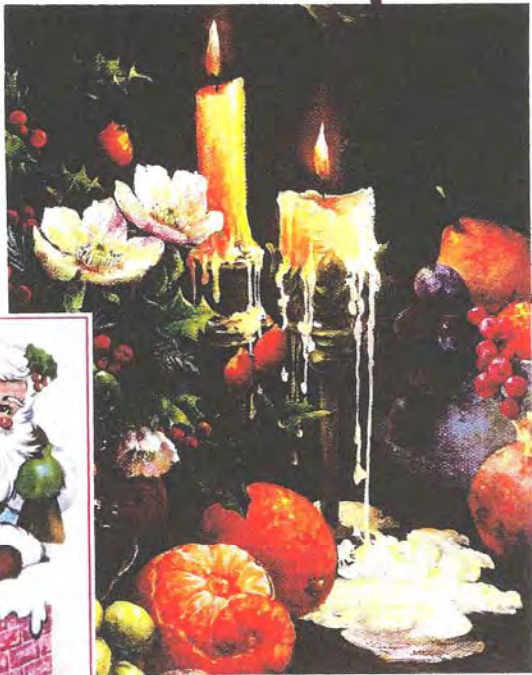
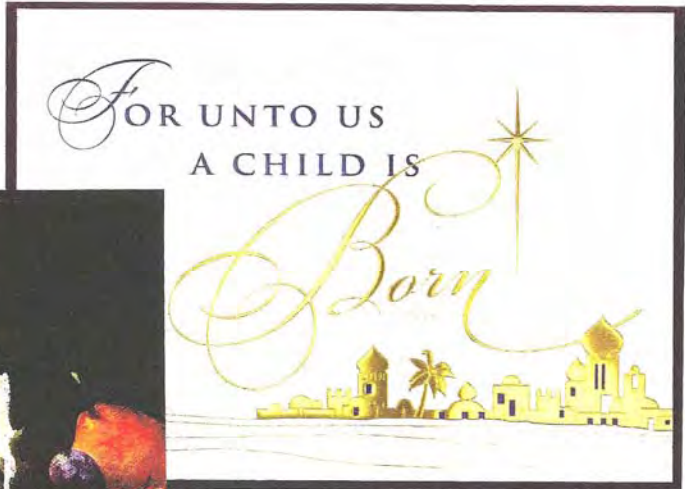




Ballyscullion Parish Church

Magazine

December 2011



Ballyscullion Parish Church - Diocese of Derry and Raphoe

Rector (*part-time*) **Canon E.R. Lavery B.A. Dip.Th., GOE**

Contact details: 11 Drumnamallaght Park, Ballymoney. BT53 7QZ
Tel. 028 2766 9147

Parish Website: www.ballyscullion.com

Rector's Churchwarden: Mr Robin Smith Tel: 028 7946 9481

People's Church Warden: Mr Wesley Davidson

Organist - Mr Fred Dunlop

Assistant Organists - Miss Julie Kissick & Miss Jill Lennox

Morning Prayer - Sundays at 11.30 a.m.

A Service of Holy Communion - First Sunday in each month at 11.30 a.m.

Sunday School - 10.30 a.m.

Recording of Sunday Services

The church service is recorded most Sundays on to audio CDs by a small team which takes turns at the sound desk in the gallery. Free copies are distributed on the following week to any parishioners who cannot be present in church.

If you know someone who would benefit from one of these weekly CD's please contact Canon Lavery or one of the Church Wardens and it will be organised right away.



Creche

Since my arrival in Ballyscullion Parish I have had the privilege of baptising eight children. On my visits other members of the Congregation who have young children expressed a very keen interest in having a Creche facility each Sunday. Over the past 12 months we have acquired the toys, a new storage cupboard which was specially presented by a family - and volunteers - but

WHERE ARE THE CHILDREN?



Parents, could I remind you of the promises that you made at your child's Baptism? We look forward to welcoming you in Church and your son/daughter at

the Creche in the New Year.

Members of the Select Vestry – 2011/12

Rector's Churchwarden:- Mr Robin Smyth
People's Churchwarden:- Mr Wesley Davidson
Rector's Glebewarden:- Mr John Junkin
People's Glebewarden:- Mr Andrew McQuillan
Rector's Supplemental Glebewarden:- Mr Jack Dowie
People's Supplemental Glebewarden:- Mr Ivor Milligan

Mr Jack Dowie
Mr Jackson Frew
Mr Robert A Overend
Mr Robert Overend (Sen)
Mr Darren Frew,
Mr Ivor Milligan
Mr Nigel Overend
Mr Andrew Overend,
Miss Judith Overend
Mrs Yvonne Davidson
Mrs Sandra Overend
Mrs Alva Overend.



Parochial Nominators:-

Mr Jack Dowie, Mr Robert Overend (Sen), Mr Andrew McQuillan and Mrs Sandra Overend.

Supplemental Parochial Nominators:-

Mr John Junkin, Mr Jackson Frew, Mrs Yvonne Davidson and Mr Victor Overend.

Diocesan Synod Members:-

Mr John Junkin and Mr Jackson Frew

Supplemental Synod Members:-

Mr Robert Overend (Sen) and Mr Nigel Overend.

Hon. Secretary – Mr Jackson Frew

Hon. Treasurer – Mrs Audrey Junkin

Parish Records

Marriage -

- 11 August – STEPHEN RAYMOND BIGGAR & LESLIE-ANN OVEREND
29 Sandy Braes, Magherafelt



Baptism -

- Sunday, 30 October – JAMES WILLIAM, second son of Heather and Darren FREW



Burials –

SUNDAY, 11 JULY – RUTH TAYLOR (formerly of Beatrice Villas, Bellaghy)

SUNDAY, 2 OCTOBER – THOMAS JAMES DAVISON, Main Street, Bellaghy

The Parish extends its sympathy to all who have recently been bereaved.



My Dear Parishioners,

It's hard to believe that another Christmas is fast approaching. Where has the time gone? As we get older time flies faster and the memories begin to play tricks on us.

We start looking back to the 'good old days,' when everything, yes, everything was perfect; or so it seems to us. Surely Christmas was better back then – it was really special! No sooner is Hallowe'en over, than the shelves are stacked with Christmas cards, Christmas wrapping paper, windows with tempting Christmas displays and everywhere it's money, money, money.

When we were young it was different! The Christmas displays at least followed Advent and visits to Santa were a rare, but affordable, treat. The shop windows were different; there was a manger, the Child, the animals, Mary and Joseph looking lovingly at the Babe. Now its all elves, Santa, Harry Potter, flashing lights, Play Stations and other expensive games. We were happy with a book, a toy car or doll and some sweets, now it takes us to Easter (or later) to pay off the Christmas shopping bills. It not like Christmas any more, there's something missing!

I wonder what the First Christmas was like. Joseph and his young heavily pregnant wife Mary, by command of the occupying authority, had to make the long tiring journey on foot from Nazareth to Bethlehem, a trip of several days. Imagine how they felt when they finally arrived, tired and weary but could find nowhere to stay. Finally they were allowed to rest in a stable with the animals. Then it happened! The young girl, frightened and far from home gave birth to a baby boy. Imagine the relief when it was over.

Think of Jesus, the only son of God, Creator of the universe, born among the animals in a stable. The King of Kings' first bed was a manger. He gave up the glory of Heaven to become like you and me. He is the real reason for Christmas. He is the true Christmas present, God's gift to us all. I wonder is Christ missing from our Christmas.

This year, why not put Christ back into Christmas! Will you make time to come to meet and worship Him? We are all invited to attend His Birth-Day celebration;

**I look forward to seeing you at His table in His Church this Christmas.
WILL YOU COME?**

Yours in His service

Robin Lavery

The Journey

What a journey we had! The roads were bad, the inns were poor. Why did we travel? We left our homes - it seems a lifetime ago - to find a king. But why us? We had been happy, but a brooding sense of unquiet had rested on us for quite some time. We saw the star and felt compelled to seek the king it signified. We were attacked by bandits and cheated by inn-keepers, but we still continued on. In Bethlehem our search reached its end. We found a poor young couple and their baby; this child was the king we had felt called to find.



“But what was it for? We found a child – and yet it was more than a child. In Him we saw sadness and sorrow – and yet we also saw great Joy. In the child we saw the answer to our unrest.”

Not quite T S Eliot, but hopefully a reasonable description of the journey of the Magi. In all our lives God has a disquieting effect. God is constantly calling to us, however far away we are from God we still hear his voice.

The effect is unsettling and disturbing. He have an awareness – but we don't know of what. It is the lack of understanding that unsettles us – as with a conversion we only partly hear. The closer we come to God the more we understand what he is saying to us. The more we understand then the less unsettled we become and we begin to experience God's peace. Our experience of God comes from our response to his call.

Most people – even hardened atheists – are like the Magi, they are to seek just like the Magi (as a baby it was naturally impossible for him to seek the Magi) because they +already had the desire to find Him. All too often we as members of the Church forget that we are surrounded by people whom God is calling and who, like the Magi, want to find their King.

How many of us will be stars that help them in their search for Christ?

Your Church is what you make it!

- If it is a **growing Church** it is because you come regularly with your children
- If it is an **active Church** it is because you give your time to promote its programmes and activities
- If it is a **scriptural Church** is it because you will settle for nothing less
- If it is a **friendly Church** it is because you are a friendly Christian and make it so
- If it is a **giving Church** is it because you give realistically of your time and your money
- If it is a **missionary Church** it is because you believe that the Church is given the task to send forth the message of Christ to others
- If it is a **soul-winning Church** it is because you are a winner in your daily life

If your Church here in Ballyscullion is none of these things, then whose fault is it?

Christmas Blessings

Helen Steiner Rice

C is for the **Christ** Child a child of love and light

H is for the **Heavens** that were bright that holy night

R is for the **Radiance** of the star that led the way

I is for the lowly **Inn** where the infant Jesus lay

S is for the **Shepherds** who beheld the Christmas star

T is for the **Tidings** the angels told afar

M is for the **Magi** with their gifts of myrrh and gold

A is for the **Angels** who were awesome to behold

S is for the **Saviour** who was born to save us all.

Holy Innocents

Sleep, little baby, sleep;
The Holy Angels love thee,
And guard the bed, and keep
No spirit can come near
Nor evil beast to harm thee;
Sleep, sweet, devoid of fear
Where nothing need alarm thee

The Love which doth not sleep
The eternal Arms around thee;
The shepherd of the sheep
In perfect love hath found thee.
Sleep through the night,
Christ-kept from snare and sorrow,
Until thou wake to light
And love and warmth to-morrow.

Christina Rossetti

A Time to Think!

Some time when you're feeling important
Some time when your ego's in bloom,
Some time when you take it for granted,
You're the best qualified man in the room.
Some time when you feel that your going
Could leave an unfillable hole,
Just follow these simple instructions,
And see how they humble your soul.



Take a bucket and fill it with water,
Put your hands in it up to the wrists,
Pull them out and the hole which remains
Is the measure of how you are missed!
You may splash all you like when you enter,
You may stir up the water galore,
But stop and you'll find in a minute,
That it looks just the same as before.

The moral of this is quite simple;
Do just the best that you can,
Be proud of yourself and remember
There is no indispensable man.

From Abbeyfield Society Magazine

That old 'White Fiver'!

The 'A' series £5 note, or 'White Fiver' was first issued in 1793, when it was worth in today's [money](#) some £437.16, and remained in circulation until 1957 when its equivalent value was some £83.20.

The worth of a white fiver today is somewhere between £50 and £120 depending so very much on condition and age.

The average value of a white fiver today is circa £60-70 which you will notice is actually less than when in circulation. It would have made more [financial](#) sense to have spent one when in circulation than holding one as an investment as they have not yet reached a higher value.

Simon Holmes.

A Christmas Tale

All the lights of Christmas were on Christmas Eve, having a debate as to who was the greatest light of all.



The Christmas tree's lights spoke first –
“**We are the most important lights for we are the ones that attract everyone's attention to their Christmas presents. We blink at the humans from the corner of the room. We shine out into the street, so that everyone who passes by thinks of what they should get from their friends and relatives, compared of course, to what they are giving others. Without us, Christmas would not be Christmas**”, they concluded.

“**Not at all**” said the television light “**I am the most important light. It is my light that attracts everyone's attention to the enjoyment of Christmas time. Think of it**”, the TV light proclaimed “**If my light wasn't on, what else would people do at Christmas. They would have to go to Church, they would have to play with their children's toys, they would have to think why we have Christmas. No, because of my light, people of all ages can enjoy Christmas, without ever having to think why. Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without my light.**”



Suddenly, the fridge door swung open, and the light inside spoke out with a shiver. “**Both of you are wrong, for it is my light that makes Christmas for everyone. It is my light that shows where all the food is, the turkey, the ham the puddings, the trifles. If people didn't have their food at Christmas, if they were like the millions in third world countries who are starving on Christmas Day. Well Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without my light.**”

At that point all lights were switched off by the humans, and all that remained in the room was the single light of a candle.

A light that for all who saw it. They recognised how on that Christmas Eve of the night. A candle could do in the hearts, for it meaning and **Christ.**



it took away the darkness light that told of what God darkness of our own pointed all to the only true light of Christmas, **Jesus**

Ten Little Churchmen



TEN little Churchmen went to Church when fine;
But it started raining and then there were nine.

NINE little Churchmen stayed up very late;
One overslept himself and then there were eight.

EIGHT little Churchmen on the road to Heaven;
One joined a rambling club and then there were seven.

SEVEN little Churchmen heard of “Sunday flicks”,
One thought he would like to go and then there were six.

SIX little Churchmen kept the place alive;
One bought a television and then there were five.

FIVE little Churchmen seemed loyal to the core;
The parson upset one and then there were four.

FOUR little Churchmen argued heatedly –
Over ceremonial and then there were three.

THREE little Churchmen sat the service through;
Got a hymn they didn't know and then there were two.

TWO sincere Churchmen disputed who should run-
The next Parish concert and then there was one.

ONE faithful Churchman knowing what to do;
Got a friend to come to Church and then there were two.

TWO sincere Churchmen each brought in one more;
So their number doubled and then there were four.

FOUR sturdy Churchmen simply couldn't wait –
Till they'd found four others and then there were eight.

EIGHT eager Churchmen searching round for souls;
Praying, working, witnessing, drew others in by shoals.

SHOALS AND SHOALS at every service, cramming every pew;
Oh, God, supply this grace and zeal - in my own parish too.

Sunday School



According to the internet, commentaries, dictionaries, etc., Sunday School is a place where people and churches can be transformed.

It is a school generally affiliated with a church that offers religious instruction for children and sometimes the adults as well.

Some years ago, even for the very young, classes were usually grouped off into age groups. Teacher and class would sit in a circle, girls in one class, boys in another class – no mixing! Classes started by reciting homework from the previous week – catechism and a hymn or scripture verse and if they had not been learned off by heart, woe betide the pupil! Teacher then explained a portion of scripture from the Bible and said a prayer and then it was off to Church – no sneaking off home!

Today, Sunday School is a different place – more informal. Children are usually split into age groups so that the teacher can teach a lesson on the students' age level. Children can sit on the floor, on chairs, at tables or stand up whilst they are being taught.

The aim of any Sunday School is "To train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" – Proverbs 22:6.

The purpose is to help the children learn about God's Word, and know how to apply it to their daily lives. When children are involved in workbook and group activities they tend to learn more. Learning can be boring or it can be enjoyable. Children like attention and they like competition. We try to make our Sunday School enjoyable and a happy place where children of the Parish will learn God's Word.

Come to the Family Service on Sunday, 11 December at 11.30 am and see what our Sunday School children have been learning and doing over the past weeks.

Christmas Party

On Friday evening, 16 December at 7.00 pm it is planned that the girls and boys of the Sunday School and their families will enjoy the annual Christmas party in the Church Hall. A special guest has been invited to attend.



colour the picture



Write the first letter of each object

Mary and Joseph called the baby



because the angel said,
"He will save his people from their sins."

Fill in the words

Son

God

Saviour

_____ promised to send Jesus.

Jesus is God's _____.

Jesus came to be our _____.

colour the letters you need

Verse to Learn

1 John
4:14

Thez Father has sent
the hisv Son to be the
Saviour k of thei world.

Graveyard Matters

Have you heard anyone comment over the past year on how well our graveyard looks?



What a pleasant asset to have a well-kept graveyard gently forming the backdrop to our picturesque church nestled

on the edge of the village. Thanks must go to our local grass cutting contractor Robert Evans for keeping the graveyard so neat and trim over the past year.

Each year a grass cutting contract is renewed so that parishioners and others from neighbouring churches can visit their family plots in pleasant surroundings. The cost of this work is partially funded by graveyard fees.

Graveyard fees are collected by the Parish in a number of ways. At a time of burial a small fee is charged for opening a grave, there is also a fee for registering a new plot or for the re-registration of a family plot. A fee of 15% is also charged for the total cost of erection, repair or replacement of memorial stones, flatstones, surrounds, inner coverings, railings or vaults.

The care of our graveyard is entrusted to the incumbent and the church wardens, as laid out in the 'Graveyard Regulations' pertaining to all churches within the Diocese. Any person considering carrying out work in the graveyard or adding-to or changing inscriptions on a stone, should in the first instance, discuss their proposals with the church wardens to obtain permission and make the necessary payment to the treasurer before work commences.

As we draw towards the close of another church year, any family which has had any work carried out in the graveyard and have overlooked graveyard fees should arrange payment to the church treasurer before the end of December 2011.

Further details about graveyard fees or any other graveyard issues can be obtained by contacting Wesley Davidson (Peoples Church warden) or Robin Smyth (Rectors Church warden).



Christmas Shortbread



240gm Butter
120gm Castor Sugar

240gm Plain Flour
120gm Cornflour

METHOD

1. Beat butter and castor sugar together.
2. Then add flour and cornflour, a little at a time, until it forms a dough.
3. Roll out to 3/4 cm thick and cut into shapes.
4. Place onto a greased baking sheet and bake for 20 to 30 minutes at 180C until golden.
5. Sprinkle with castor sugar and leave to cool on a wire rack.

Sago Plum Pudding

(A lighter alternative to traditional Christmas pudding)



1 cup of Breadcrumbs
1 Egg
1 cup of Milk
2 dessertspoons of Fine Sago
1 small teaspoon of Baking Soda

1 cup of Raisins or Sultanas
1/2 a cup of Sugar
25 grams of Butter
1 teaspoon of Mixed Spice

METHOD

1. Soak the sago in the milk overnight.
2. Mix all the other ingredients into the sago-mix, and ensure the mixture is very 'sloppy'. (if not, add more milk)
3. Put mix into a buttered pudding bowl and steam for 2 to 4 hours.

(Recipes from Mrs Linda Stewart)

They Came With Gifts

It was G K Chesterton who wrote:

There were three things prefigured and promised by the gifts in the cave at Bethlehem concerning who received them:

- 1 – that he should be crowned like a king
- 2 – that he should be worshipped like a god
- 3 – that he should die like a man

And these things would sound like Eastern flattery were it not for the third.

The gifts of the kings, or wise man, to the Christ Child of Bethlehem were indeed unusual to say the least. They have been referred to as having mystic meaning.

When studied closely the gifts say much, not only about the person who was to receive them, but about the world he lived in, and not least about you and me.

Gold for a king; to be crowned only with thorns in this world, deserted by his friends in his hour of need, rejected by the world who cried “we have no king but Caesar”, prayed to by a Church which pleads “Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven”. Yet more often than not, we believe that tomorrow will do.

*Born a king on Bethlehem plain
Gold I bring, to crown him again –
King for ever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign.*

Incense for a God, we might say “Thou art the King of Glory, O Christ; thou art the everlasting Son of the Father”. He might plead our prayers “Through Jesus Christ Our Lord”, yet, our God of surprise, of change and challenge, we hope like the incense smoke will drift away. That he might be a God who does want and will not demand anything from us.

*Frankincense to offer have I;
Incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, all men raising,
Worship Him, God most high.*

Myrrh for a man; the world was to condemn him to death – crucify Him! He was to plead forgiveness for them and he was to be laid in a stranger’s tomb. Without his death, there would be nothing to live for.

*Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.*

Ballyscullion Mothers’ Union



Theme for 2012

“Your Gift” - Discover and Celebrate

The branch meeting is held on 2nd Wednesday in the month at 8.00pm.

For our opening meeting we had Holy Communion after which we had some business to discuss. Our programme for the year was circulated.

In October we welcomed Jill Lennox, one of our organists, who gave us a very interesting talk on the street children of Guatemala where she was involved in an education programme.



In November we had Donna Fullerton for a ‘Pampering Evening’. She practices Reflexology and this was a very informative evening for the members and a relaxing time for Yvonne Davidson who volunteered to be ‘model.’

On 7th December we have planned a ‘Seasonal Workshop’ with Mrs P Wright and it is hoped that all who are interested will have the opportunity to leave with a small table arrangement. Please note there is NO meeting in January

We hope to have some visitors in February when a speaker, Mr C Davies, from MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship) will address our branch.

To end the season Mrs L. Lyness will demonstrate some healthy exercises while sitting in a chair (Chairobics) and then will give us a short talk on our theme (Your Gift – Discover and Celebrate).

Mothers’ Union Prayer

Loving Lord, we thank you for your love so freely given to us all. We pray for families around the world. Bless the work of the Mothers’ Union as we seek to share your love through the encouragement, strengthening and support of marriage and family life. Empowered by your Spirit, may we be united in prayer and worship, and in love and service reach out as your hands across the world. In Jesus’ name. Amen

Church Calendar for Christmas 2011

Dec 4 th	Service of Confirmation Very Rev Ken Good – Bishop of Derry & Raphoe Everyone is invited to the Church Hall for refreshments	11.30am
Dec 11 th	Family Service with the Sunday School Children	11.30am
Dec 16 th	Sunday School Party in the Church Hall A special guest has been invited!	7.00pm
Dec 18 th	Nine Lessons and Carols Special collection for Love Faith & Hope charity (Venezuela)	11.30am
Dec 25 th	CHRISTMAS DAY - Holy Communion	10.30am
Dec 31 st	Joint Midnight Service at St Tida's	11.30pm
Jan 1 st	Service of Holy Communion	11.30am

Saint Columb's Cathedral

Saint Columb's Cathedral, was the first of its kind to be built after the Reformation of the Church and is the city's most historic building containing displays of artefacts from the Siege, as well as information on famous personalities, e.g. Cecil Francis Alexander (the internationally renowned hymn writer), the Earl Bishop and the philosopher George Berkeley. It is dedicated to the name of St. Columba (Columb), the Ulster monk who established a Christian settlement here in the sixth century.



St. Columb's Cathedral was built in 1633 by William Parrot for the Honourable The Irish Society and is in the Planter Gothic Style. The current tower and main building are that of the original Cathedral, with the spire being added in 1821. The Chancel was added in 1887 and the Chapter House in 1910. The Cathedral was built of stone from local quarries and skilled stone cutters and masons had to be procured. The old pillars and arches bear testimony to sound judgement and first-rate craftsmanship. The Cathedral has many fine stained glass windows, regimental flags, memorials and a large collection of historical items from the time of the siege. The foundation stone in the porch, originally from the 12th Century Templemore Monastery of the Columban tradition is inscribed:

"If stones could speake, then London's prayse should sounde who built this church and cittie from the grounde, Vaughan aed"

The peal of eight bells is the oldest set in Ireland and was presented by Charles 1st in 1638.

Restoration of St. Columb's Cathedral commenced in February 2010 and was completed in June 2011. The Cathedral is now fully reopened and tours of the Cathedral and Chapter House Museum have resumed.

Season's Word Search

Want a bit of time out of the festive madness? Grab a pen and complete our seasonal fare word search just for fun! The words may be hidden backwards, forwards, up, down or diagonally.

P E P H R E N A P I Z R A M A E E S G S C H S C
 E L L E E P D E I D N A C G L G N I E L P O H C
 E S U F G S I K C A S O C T T N W I N A L A E H
 R M M M R S E L P P A W H L H A R I R I M W R O
 E I U E P T Z P E E S E E H C R F S N P I C R C
 T N F K S U F Z A Y M H S E E O N O A E S H Y O
 T C F S E F D E S R F I T B T I C G O L T O T L
 U E L N O F E D T E G L N O P S N F I G S C R A
 B P R E T I P T I N E A U C H E N G W N I O I T
 Y I R L A N O A U N R A T A E D Y E R I A L F E
 D E Y L T G R Z R C G C S S C M S U E D S A L L
 N S D O O F T I F O O D D B N O E C K D S T E O
 A P A T P O D S E U N N U O O L F A R U E E D G
 R I E S D A W S C F O D C G S K H M T P Z B S H
 B Y R W E F V A A M H E K A C S A M T S I R H C
 U D B C T T H L L O L C Z D L H N I N A N A P L
 Y N R H S L A A G N U S H E R R Y O R M A Z I E
 S A E O A K D D I S U G A R M I C E I T Y I N M
 T R G C O E C K U I T T L Y B A U Y S S F L U E
 U B N L R B I S C U I T S F B R Z I S I T S T N
 O C I A N B T R U F F L E S D S N I W R T D S T
 R Y G P E E O W Z S N I O C D L O G L H A S O I
 P U L O R A N G E S L I C E S H O F H C H E C N
 S E T T U B S R O A S T T U R K E Y U B N E P E

Apples	Chocolate Log	Gold Coins	Parsnips	Stuffing
Bacon	Christmas Cake	Goose	Pears	Sugar Mice
Biscuits	Christmas Pudding	Grapes	Plum Pudding	Sugared Almonds
Brandy	Clementine	Ham	Port	Sweets
Brandy Butter	Cranberries	Marzipan	Roast Turkey	Truffles
Candied Peel	Dates	Mince Pies	Roasted Potatoes	Walnuts
Champagne	Duck	Mincemeat	Sherry	Wine
Cheese	Figs	Nuts	Sherry Trifle	
Chestnuts	Gingerbread	Orange	Sprouts	
Chocolate Brazils	Glace Fruits	Orange Slices	Stollen	

"There has been only ever been one Christmas -- the rest are anniversaries"

W. J. Cameron
