

ST. COLMAN'S CHURCH - LARNE ROAD **CARRICKFERGUS**

www.stcolmanschurch.org.uk



Rector:	Mike McCann	93362387
Curate:	Billy Stewart	93362145
Hon. Secretary:	Angela Cole	28277551
Hon. Treasurer:	Alan Hibbert	93329160

MAY 2007 NEWSLETTER

RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear parishioner,

It was not a total surprise to me that Canon Alan Abernethy was elected as our new Bishop of Connor. We offer him our congratulations, our best wishes and our prayers for him and his wife Liz. Alan for the last 16 years has been the rector of my home parish of Ballyholme in Bangor and he baptised two of my children, Ashleen and Timothy. He is a very able man with a fine awareness of the issues facing the church today and he has a particular interest in the issues facing clergy. In the course of a sabbatical a few years ago he wrote a short book entitled "Fulfilment and Frustration" which charted, warts and all, the ups and downs of life as a clergyman. It would be a good book for any of us to read.

Alan has been the Central Director of Ordinands for a couple of years and in that connection he has been working intensively with the House of Bishops to replace the outdated system of training clergy with a system which will provide the church with leaders for the 21st Century. This new system was outlined to the church in April and will become the method of training from September 2009. Already it has sparked some people to begin considering ordained ministry. If that might be you I would be happy to talk to you about it.

At the same time the church has been recovering the biblical truth that all Christians are ministers in that we all, in our work and friendships and families, have the opportunity to demonstrate God's love to the world, to minister to those who need to know that there is a God who loves them. Those who are ordained are just like anyone else, having the same ups and downs, however they have a particular role in equipping the people of God to fulfil their ministry.

The world is becoming an ever more difficult place to live by the values of Jesus. The pressure to be conformed to the world is very great. Against this we, as Christians, offer a different way. May we all become better equipped to live as followers of Jesus and better equipped to help others discover the joy of knowing God and knowing his love.

May God bless you,

Mike McCann

KIDSZONE CELEBRATION AND PARISH PICNIC

Kidszone, the Sunday morning Children's work, will conclude for the summer on Sunday 17th June with a special service of celebration in church at 10.15am. The children will be taking part in much of the service and we always follow this with a picnic lunch together in the church hall, or outside if the weather is good. We encourage you to participate in this as it is a chance for the church family of all ages to be together. Everyone brings some food, roughly enough for their family, which is placed on a large buffet table before church and then after church we share together all that has been provided. Try to be with us if you can on this day.

EASTER VESTRY

The Easter Vestry meeting took place this year on Wednesday 18 April at 8.00pm. The annual accounts were presented and adopted. Copies of the accounts are available in church. The following were appointed or elected at that meeting.

Rector's churchwarden	Brian Shields
People's churchwarden	Isabell Stewart
Rector's glebewarden	Harold Love
People's glebewarden	Colin McVicker

Other Select Vestry members	Sandra Aeppli, Audrey Alexander, Angela Cole, Valerie Foster, Alan Hibbert, Gina Hibbert, Alison Inch, Thomas Magill, Ailsa McVicker, George Moore, Heather Stewart, Chris Sturgess
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Honorary Secretary	Angela Cole
Honorary Treasurer	Alan Hibbert
Gift Aid secretary	Chris Sturgess
FWO recorder	Fred Cole
Honorary Auditors	Joy Warnock, Ronnie Cromie

PARISH FETE

The date for the Annual fete has been set for Friday 15th June beginning at 6.30pm. We will have the usual range of stalls including "sponge the rector", bric-a-brac, toys, books, face-painting/hair-spraying, a plant stall, a bouncy castle for the young children and a BBQ. We will need donations from you of good items you no longer need. There will be a cake stall so put your baking skills to good use. We will also need people willing to man stalls on the evening. Angela Cole is co-ordinating the fete so contact her (028 28277551) for further info and offers of help.

PARISH AUCTION

The parish Auction will take place this year on Friday 7 September with viewing from 6.30pm and the auction at 7.30pm. The hall will be available to store items from Monday 27th August so if you are planning a clear out over the summer please hold onto items which might be good for the auction until then. We are looking for an auctioneer so if you would like to give it a go we would be glad to hear from you.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

A group of 20 will be attending "Summer Madness" this year. Summer madness is the largest Christian Festival in Ireland and is run by the Church of Ireland Youth Department. Eight of the group will be staying on for "StreetReach" where 1000+ young people will be serving the community in 31 areas of Greater Belfast.

SUMMER KIDS CLUB

The dates for the Carrick Circus kids club, which will take place in our hall, will run from Wednesday 22nd to Friday 24th August. Our friends from Dunmurry will be returning to help us and we hope to partner again with Mt. St. Nicholas in providing hospitality for the team. Please encourage children you know to come. It was great fun last year and is eagerly anticipated by those who attended before. We hope to gather up many more kids for 3 fun-filled days. Your support for this is appreciated.

BROWNIE PACK HOLIDAY 2007

Kitchen Roll and Cold Water

Ah Ha...!!! I bet you are wondering what Kitchen roll and cold water has to do with a Brownie pack holiday...?? Well, it was quite simply the new solver of every medical condition ever known during the duration of our pack holiday. This year we held our holiday in the Brownie House at Guide headquarters in Lorne, Co Down. The facilities were fabulous and the girls had a park right outside their dorms. However with a park comes little scrapes and bumps, you may think we went through a small fortune in plasters, but no ! Our first aider, known to most of you as Marion Magill, had her own cure, yes, you've guessed it...kitchen roll and cold water...it really works a treat, it's quite amazing how TLC, kitchen roll and cold water cures most of life's little hiccups.

This was my first ever pack holiday, I am what is known as a "mummy helper". I help out at Brownies on a Monday night every couple of weeks, (no qualifications necessary) I really enjoy the Brownie programme and when our Brown Owl, Gillian Wilson, asked me to join the crew on pack holiday I jumped at the chance. Persuading my husband, Brian, your rector's warden, that having two children on his own for the weekend however was a different matter. Another first this year was that we teamed up with another Brownie troop, Carrickfergus Congregational Brownies. The joining of the two troops was a huge success.

The weather was fantastic, which meant that a lot of our activities could be outdoors, the girls went to the beach, did grass sledging, obstacle courses and went for night walks through the forest as well as soo much crafting they needed help to take it all home. Every year pack holiday has a theme and this year's theme was "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory", the girls were delighted when we had a chocolate fountain on their first night, don't worry parents , they were dipping fruit into the chocolate!

I thoroughly enjoyed my first ever pack holiday and it is definitely an experience I will be repeating next year, and if there are any mummies out there whose child goes to Brownies on a Monday night (6.30 – 7.45pm), would like to help out on a rota basis, we would love to hear from you...

Anne Shields

BRAZIL CONNECTION

We have a strong and growing connection with the "Sal Da Terra" group of churches in the city of Uberlandia in Brazil. On Thursday 10 May we had a presentation about our trip to Brazil in February this year and we are organising a series of fund-raising events to support the work our friends in Uberlandia are doing to help needy people there. From now until the end of July the proceeds of the car boot sales on Saturday mornings will go to these projects.

Along with two other churches, Gateway church in Carrick and Cregagh Community Church in Belfast, we will be piloting a mission training program with Brazil. Six young people, 18-21 years old, will be coming from Brazil to train in mission, learn English and serve in a local church in Ireland. They will come for a six month period beginning in January 2008 ending their time with a mission trip to Europe accompanied by some of our congregation. We will be receiving two young people who will be hosted in homes in the parish during their stay. The two young people will stay in different homes so that they have to use English. They will each stay 6 months in one home or one or both will stay in two homes for 3 months each. If you would be interested in hosting someone please speak to the rector.

EUROPEAN CHURCHES' SUMMIT

We had the great joy of sharing with two other churches in the hosting, from April 20-22, of a summit of young adults and their leaders from small churches in Germany, Spain and Portugal along with visitors from England and Brazil. As well as events during the weekend we had visitors from overseas and a Brazilian preacher on the Sunday morning and in the evening we enjoyed a big crowd in church, 250+, for the final celebration of the weekend which included contributions of music, dance and speaking from home and overseas. Some of our own children performed a very moving interpretive dance. Thanks to all who helped with our input into this weekend by hosting people, transporting people and simply getting involved.

This is the beginning of a new set of relationships and we hope to take small teams from the parish to visit our new friends in various parts of Europe to encourage them in their work and to enjoy their fellowship.

PARISH RECORDS

Baptism

20 May 2007 Regan McIlwaine

HIRE OF HALL

The Select Vestry has put in place a policy to allow for the rental of the main church hall and the minor hall to outside organisations. We already have two organisations that have agreed to take up this opportunity. If you hear of others who are looking for premises please tell them to contact us. Our existing organisations will continue to have their normal time slots. If they should wish to use the facilities at other times they should consult the list which will be placed on the notice board in the church hall and contact Ailsa McVicker (93365972) to book any additional time.

FURTHER DIARY DATES

There will be a contemporary service on the second Sunday in June, the 10th of June.

PARISH WEBSITE

The parish has a new website designed by Daniel Gordon which is now active. The address is www.stcolmanschurch.org.uk Over time we will develop this.

NORMAL PATTERN OF SERVICES

Every Wednesday 10.30am Holy Communion (BCP form 1 - traditional language)

Sunday mornings

Every Sunday 9.00am Holy Communion (BCP form 1 - traditional language)

1st Sunday of the month 10.15am Holy Communion (BCP form 2 – modern language)

2nd Sunday of the month 10.15am Morning Prayer

3rd Sunday of the month 10.15am All-age service

4th Sunday of the month 10.15am Service of the word

5th Sunday of the month 10.15am Morning Prayer

Sunday evenings (September to June)

2nd Sunday of the month 7.00pm Contemporary Service