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As the Rector of the Carrigaline Union of Parishes (St Mary's



Church Carrigaline and St John's Church Monkstown) I would like to thank all of the people involved in putting together this newsletter.

There is information on who we are as a parish, diocese and a church, with all of the ministries in the church having a chance to 'display their wares' so to speak.

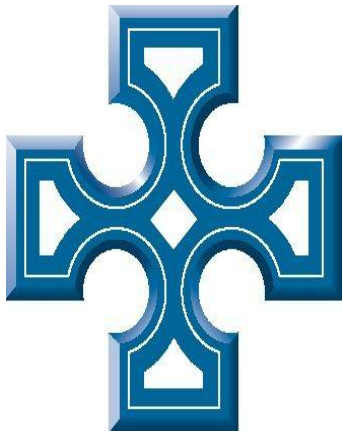
Animal Service

It is hoped that this Newsletter will provide you with all of the information that you will need to know more about the parish; it's people, it's activities and it's vision.

As with the Welcome Leaflets already available in Church, I hope that this publication will prove to be a unifying and important communication link within our parish union and that the information contained here will be of use to you whether you are new to the area or whether you have been a parishioner of many years standing.

Please don't forget that you are always welcome to contact me should you have any questions about any aspect of our parish and its ministry. My mobile is 087-2363100 and my email is emit@eircom.net

With all God's blessings this Harvest-tide. ***Elaine***



The Church of Ireland

is part of the worldwide Anglican Communion which has 70 million members in 164 countries, it is an apostolic church, maintaining an unbroken link with the early apostles and drawing on the apostolic faith in its teaching and worship, it is also both a Catholic and Reformed church, and is able to trace its roots to the earliest days of Irish Christianity. The Church of Ireland has three orders of sacred ministry – Bishops, Priests and Deacons.

It has services which follow an accepted liturgical form and structure and has one prayer book – The Book of Common Prayer (2004) – plus other services authorised for use by the General Synod. The Church of Ireland tries to keep a balance in doctrine and worship between Word and Sacrament and has the Holy Communion or the Eucharist as its central act of worship.



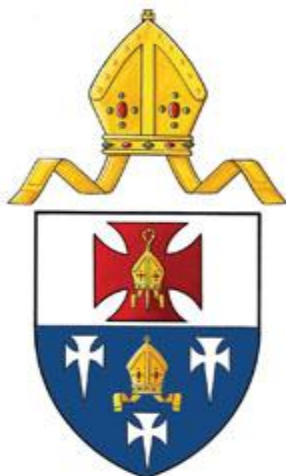
It is one church embracing Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland and has 390,000 members – 275,000 in Northern Ireland and 129,039 in the Republic of Ireland (Census 2011).

There are two provinces, Armagh and Dublin, each with an Archbishop and has 12 dioceses, over 450 parochial units and over 500 stipendiary clergy.

It is a representative church, with each diocese electing those who will represent them at the General Synod, the 'Parliament' of the church.

The General Synod consists of the House of Bishops which has 12 members and a House of Representatives which has 216 clergy and 432 laity. There are also Diocesan Synods where representatives of the parishes meet usually once a year.

The Church of Ireland has a parochial system where decisions at local level are made by Select Vestries whose lay members are elected each Easter by the people of the parish. For more information on the Church of Ireland, please check out the Website www.ireland.anglican.org



Our Diocese

Cork, Cloyne & Ross is the most southerly diocese of the Church of Ireland. Our Bishop is the Right Revd Dr Paul Colton.

For more information on the diocese, please check out the diocesan Website

www.cork.anglican.org



St John's

Our Parish



St Mary's

The Carrigaline Union of Parishes consists of a group of people who worship in two churches :

St Mary's Church in Carrigaline (consecrated 1823) and St John's Church in Monkstown (consecrated 1832).

We are blessed in the facilities we have as a parish : the Parish Hall beside the Church in Carrigaline where a lot of our after church activities takes place , the Canon McCrea Hall in the parish school of St Mary's , Waterpark which we have full use of outside of school time.

(Both of these Halls are available to rent for events, please contact the Parish Office 021-4374045 for details.)

There is also the lovely 'Sexton's Cottage' beside the Church in Monkstown which is currently rented to a local Architectural firm, who have completely and tastefully renovated the cottage.

In Carrigaline Union, as in all Church of Ireland parishes, the Fabric, Furnishings and Finance are looked after by the Select Vestry, a group of people voted in by all registered parishioners each year (see the section on the Select Vestry written by Rowland Newenham, the current Honorary Secretary). The Rector looks after all spiritual and liturgical aspects of the parish. We are lucky to have the services of a non-stipendiary Priest, the Revd Tony Murphy and of a Diocesan Reader, Richard Dring which gives a huge boost to the liturgical and spiritual depth of the parish.

We are also blessed in the Union with excellent ecumenical relationships with the Roman Catholic parishes in both Carrigaline and Monkstown. The Parish Priest of Monkstown, Fr. Sean O'Sullivan and the Parish Priest of Carrigaline, Fr. Pat Fogarty work well with the clergy of our Union, the Revd Elaine Murray and the Revd Tony Murphy.

In the past year, we have celebrated an Ecumenical Easter Dawn Service at the Seafront in Monkstown, a Pulpit Exchange of all four clergy during the week of Christian Unity in January and clergy have attended each others churches for major services such as Confirmations, Harvests, First Holy Communions, Nine Lessons and Carols

and so on. We hope to continue with joint initiatives in the future so as to witness together our common faith.

The rector also teaches an R.E. class on prayer to groups of 5th Year students from the Community College during the school term.

Our outreach initiatives over the past year have included a collection of unwanted Christmas gifts for the Women's Refuge in Cork, Harvest vegetables and fruits delivered to the St Vincent dePaul community in Monkstown and the Senior Citizens in Carrigaline, an Easter Egg collection for the children in the Women's Refuge in Cork.

We have also reached a hand across the continents by collecting filled Pencil Cases in our parish school and delivering via United Society (Us.) to schools in Swaziland. In the future we hope to contribute prayerfully and practically to Feed the Minds Charity initiatives. This organisation reaches out to those countries who need help in providing education for the most vulnerable in their societies.

From a social justice perspective, we as a parish successfully applied for Fair-trade Status in 2012. This means that we committed ourselves, when at all possible, to buying only fairly traded goods for use in our parish activities. In this way, we help build a fairer world.



In January 2013, we began a journey to become an Eco Congregation. This means that we look at what we are currently doing as a parish, whether we are adhering to good environmental practise and if not, planning to change our behaviour in order to live lightly on the earth. See the separate section on Eco Congregation for more details on this initiative.

In all, we have a healthy, happy parish and we thank God for the honour of being a little part of his kingdom on earth.



Website

Our website is

www.carrigalineunion.org

and you will find almost anything you need to know about what is happening in the Carrigaline Union on this site along with photos and news from previous months and years.

Select Vestry 2013/2014

Clem Carroll *Rector's Churchwarden St Mary's*

Barney Deane *Rector's Churchwarden St John's*

Cecil Poole *Rector's Glebewarden*

Eddie Pierce *People's Churchwarden St Mary's*

Henry Forbes *People's Churchwarden St John's*

Adrian Bateman *People's Glebewarden*

Rowland Newenham *Honorary Secretary*

Helen Arnopp *Honorary Treasurer*

Jonathan Fleury *Health & Safety Officer*

Valerie Andrew , Derek Buttimer, Richard Dring

Joy Keefe. David Kirk, Jocelyn Pierce,

Lesley Roberts, Eric Wilson



Services

You are very welcome to join with us at any of our services in either of the churches.

Each Sunday, there is a Service at 9.30am in St John's Church Monkstown and at 11am in St Mary's Church, Carrigaline

Each Wednesday there is a 10.30am Eucharist in St Mary's Church, Carrigaline. On the first Wednesday of the month, there are special Mothers' Union prayers said and there is tea/coffee in the Church after the service.

On the 2nd Saturday of each month, there is a 7pm Service of the Word in St Mary's Church, Carrigaline. This is followed by light refreshments in the adjacent Parish Hall.

On the 2nd Sunday of each month, there is a 7pm Choral Evensong Service in St John's Church, Monkstown.

In months where there are 5th Sundays, there is a United Service held in either Carrigaline or Monkstown. Please check with the Parish Office (021-4374045) or on the Website www.carrigalineunion.org for details.



Safe Guarding Trust

The Church of Ireland Code of Good Practice for Ministry with Children was approved by the Standing Committee of the General Synod of the Church of Ireland, September 2007. It is the policy of the Church of Ireland to set standards for the welfare of all children sharing in its ministry with a view to protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional harm.

Each of our Youth Leaders , Sunday School teachers and Junior Choir Leaders have been Garda vetted and have completed Safe Guarding Trust training.

Our Parish has a Safe Guarding Trust Panel which consists of the Rector and two others and any incident may be reported to them. Each Church and Hall has a poster with details of the Panel and how to contact them.

The Safe Guarding Trust Parish Panel members are:

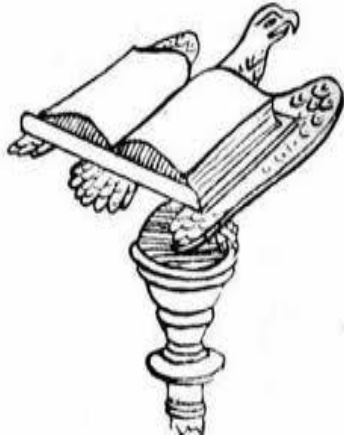
The Revd Elaine Murray	Tel	087 2363100
Rosemary Powell	Tel	087 2849865
The Revd Daniel Nuzum	Tel	086 7872270

The year of 2013 at a glance

January	6 th	Epiphany Services Collection of unwanted Christmas Presents delivered to Cork Women's Refuge
	10 th	Select Vestry approved the initiative to seek to become an EcoCongregation.
	18 th – 25 th	Week of Christian Unity Ecumenical Pulpit Exchanges: ❖ Fr Bertie O'Mahoney PP preached in St Mary's Church, Carrigaline while Fr. Sean O'Sullivan PP preached in St John's Church Monkstown at the Sunday Services ❖ Revd Elaine preached in Our Lady and St John's Carrigaline while Revd Tony preached in Sacred Heart, Monkstown at the Vigil Masses on the Saturday Night.
	27 th	Canon Richard Bartlett of US preached in St Mary's on Mission. He accepted the Pencil Cases collected by children in the Parish School for schools sponsored by US in Swaziland.
February	17 th	Kate Cargin, an Ecumenical Accompanier, recently returned from Palestine/Israel spoke in both churches of her experiences.
March	1 st	Hosted the World Day of Prayer Service in St Mary's Church. Claire Jackson was the preacher.
	9 th	Special Fair Trade Saturday Service celebrating having gained Fair-trade Parish status in August 2012.

March	16 th	Hosted a Diocesan Celebration of Holy Communion <i>as gaelige</i> on St Patrick's Eve
	24 th	Billy the Donkey joined us in Carrigaline to lead the Palm Procession.
	28 th	Seder Meal held in Parish Hall in advance of the Maundy Thursday Eucharist Service
	29 th	Children's Easter Club held in Parish Hall
	31 st	Ecumenical Dawn Service at Seafront in Monkstown.
		Easter Egg Collection delivered to the children in the Cork Women's Refuge
April	11 th	Easter Vestry Meeting (Annual General Vestry) and election of the new Select Vestry for 2013/2014
	27 th	Mothers' Union Brunch held in Rectory
	28 th	Annual Parish/School Sponsored Walk. This year we collected rubbish as we walked for the An Taisce 'Spring-clean' Initiative.
May	17 th - 19 th	Flower Festival A celebration of flowers with a theme of 'Pentecost – Fruits of the Spirit'
June	1 st	Parish Fete Held in the Canon McCrea Hall in St Mary's School
	9 th	Sunday School Prize giving and Parish Family Picnic in the Rectory Grounds
July	22 nd - 26 th	Week long Children's Holiday Club held in the Canon McCrea Hall in St Mary's School together with Templebreedy Parish.
September	6 th	Parish Barbecue in the Rectory Garden

September	15 th	Confirmation Service for seven of our young people in St John's Monkstown
	26 th	First of a series of 3 Movies/Documentaries for the Heart, Mind and Soul, held in Parish Hall
	27 th	Teen Barbecue held in the Rectory Garden
	29 th	Animal Blessing Service in St Mary's Church
And still to come		
October	12 th	Parish Harvest Supper in the Canon McCrea Hall
	13 th	Harvest Thanksgiving Services in St Mary's and St John's
	30 th	Children's Movie Night in Parish Hall
November	16 th	Quiet Day in Parish Hall led by Fr James McSweeney
	21 st	First of a series of 3 Movies/Documentaries for the Heart, Mind and Soul, held in Parish Hall
	24 th	Gift Day in the Rectory
December	7 th	Intercessions Workshop in St Mary's Church 10am - 12pm
	12 TH	Mothers' Union Lunch
	15 th	Sunday School Cake Sale and light Lunch after the Service in St Mary's
	20 th	Carrigaline Community Carol Service 7.30pm in St Mary's Church
	22 nd	Service of Nine Lessons and Carols 4pm in St John's Church, Monkstown
	24 th	Carols around the Crib Service 4pm in St Mary's Church



Reading in Church

Reading in Church is not just about getting up to the lectern each Sunday and reading aloud some text, it is about proclaiming the word of God in time-honoured fashion in our Christian

community. We are delighted in Carrigaline Union that we have a group of people (and we are always looking for more!) who enjoy reading at the services each week. There is a Rota which means that no-one gets called upon too often. Good notice is given of when you are to read and what the particular text is so plenty of time is allowed for preparation.

In the Church of Ireland, we use the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) which is used by most of the mainstream Christian Churches. There is a 3 year cycle and each of the lectionary years begin on the first Sunday of Advent , for instance this year , November 2013 will see Year A begin on 1st December, Advent Sunday.

Year A - 2013, 2016

Year B - 2014, 2017

Year C - 2015, 2018

The first Sunday of Advent is four Sundays prior to the Western feast day of Christmas (December 25th).

Using the RCL ties worship in a local congregation to the worship of millions of Christians around the world. Drawing from a common set of texts means that Christians will be hearing and reflecting on the same scriptures and themes. Sometimes they are even singing the same hymns!

In addition, building worship around the texts of the RCL also ties local worship to that of the historic Church. Using all four readings (Old Testament, Psalm, Epistle, Gospel) develops the discipline of reading and hearing the scriptures that define the Christian faith.

It also deepens the congregation's understanding of the Church Year (and consequently the life of Christ) while also helping to set the rhythm for that year. Since the Revised Common Lectionary is drawn from a long succession of older lectionaries, using those reading in worship echoes the earlier practice of the Church.

If this is something that you are interested in, please do get in touch with either the rector (087-2363100) or with the Parish Office (021-4374045).



Intercessions in Church

We pray for others because we view it as a vital part of being a Christian. The Bible consistently tells us to bring our needs and the needs of others to God. We are told to ask, knowing that we will receive; seek, knowing that we will find; knock, knowing that the door will be opened (Luke 11:1-3) Prayer is often said to be the 'practice of the presence of God'.

We, the Church, have always seen it as our holy duty to bring the world to God in regular prayer. Intercession has always been at the centre of our public liturgies. Whether it is at Morning or Evening Prayer or at Holy Communion Services, when the Church gathers, we intercede. And so, understanding the importance of our prayer, we need to give the public practice of it our full attention. Jesus' disciples weren't too proud to ask Jesus to teach them how to pray (Matthew 6:9-13, Luke 11:1-5) We all have to learn how to make our prayers vivid and imaginative on one side, while at the same time making them useful, faithful and beautiful for God.

In the Carrigaline Union, we are lucky to have several parishioners who are willing to write and lead the intercessions on a monthly basis and as with the Readers Rota, we are always looking to expand the group. On December 7th, the rector will lead a Workshop on leading Intercessions in Church and you are very welcome to come along if this is an area you would like to grow into. The workshop will be from 10am until 12pm in St Mary's Church, Carrigaline.

If you would like to talk to the rector before hand , please contact her at 087-2363100.



We began our journey to becoming an Eco Congregation in January 2013 when we downloaded '*An Environmental Check up for your Church*' from the Eco Congregation Ireland website. At the next meeting of the Select Vestry on 7th February, those assembled voted unanimously to support the initiative that environmental issues and caring for God's creation form part of our parish's life and mission.

This was followed immediately by a Creation themed service on Saturday 9th February. Some ideas for this service were copied from the resources available on the Eco Congregation website. The next step was informing all of the parishioners what we were doing which was achieved through the weekly pew sheet and on our parish website. We have a section called 'Green Matters' in our page on the diocesan magazine

where we let people know what has been happening and look for suggestions as to what we can do to become a greener parish. Several initiatives have come about :

- ❖ We bought new bins and began separating recyclable items.
- ❖ We stopped buying plastic cups and cutlery and began using the existing delph in the cupboard.
- ❖ We sourced 'green' 100% compostable cups, plates and napkins for big events (like the Flower Festival and the Parish Fete) and these are then put into the Rectory Compost bin.
- ❖ The Rector became involved in the Parish School's Green Flag initiative. This resulted in our annual sponsored Parish/School walk joining up with An Taisce's Spring Clean initiative. All of the participants picked up rubbish as they walked. Several bags of rubbish were then collected free of charge by the local Council.
- ❖ The children brought toy tractors and ploughing equipment into church for the special Rogation Sunday Service which celebrated the planting of seeds in spring. Normally we only think about the earth in this

- way in the autumn at Harvest Time, this way we appreciate the whole cycle.
- ❖ A donkey was invited to join us for our Palm Sunday Service in Carrigaline and together with 'Billy the Donkey' , the entire congregation walked out of the church, down the road, through the housing estate, into the Rectory and through the Graveyard back into the Church.
 - ❖ On Easter Sunday, we joined with our sister Church in Monkstown for an Ecumenical Dawn Service which celebrated the Risen Christ out of doors by the sea.
 - ❖ We had a Flower Festival at Pentecost in Carrigaline, celebrating all the wonderful diversity of flowers. The theme was 'The Fruit of the Spirit'. Plants were sold at this event and we advertised the availability of Allotments in our local community.
 - ❖ The Sunday School children were all given Sunflower seeds, courtesy of Christian Aid, and a competition is underway to see who will grow the tallest Sunflower.
 - ❖ A major job was done on the Rectory Garden which had been left to its own devices for many years. We began by felling some trees which were in a dangerous

state (it is interesting to note that in the Church of Ireland, we must apply to the diocesan property committee for permission to fell trees on church land, giving good reason for felling them and committing to planting trees in their stead – a great safeguard for our tree population!) The logs were sold within the parish to bear some of the costs of the renovation. The remainder of the logs will be used in the Rectory during the winter.

- ❖ We planted bee-friendly scrubs, hedging and fruit trees.
- ❖ The entire garden usage was revised and two separate 'Allotment' type areas were developed to grow vegetables. A composting area was set up. All of these efforts are 'bearing fruit' , we have a lovely productive garden, buzzing with bees and butterflies and the Rectory family are enjoying the 'fruit of our labour'

The wider parish are also benefitting from the rejuvenated rectory garden as so far we have had a Parish Picnic and two separate BBQs one for 'adults' and one for 'teens' in the Rectory grounds.



Music in our Churches

On being a Church Musician



Will I play the piano or the organ today??

A question I often ask myself. We have such a variety of music available to us; some is so much

more suitable for the organ and some for the piano. It is wonderful to have a choice of instruments!

The other question I ask is what will we sing this Sunday or at whichever service is involved; how do I arrive at the choice of hymns each week? It can vary. I pray, I agonise, I do a 'quick pick', I pour over suggestions on the internet or in the book connected to the readings. Sometimes the rector chooses, which is always welcome. The readings of the day, the season of the year, the type of service; all these things influence the hymn selection. I do my best to pick a mix of old and modern, well-known and not so familiar, ones the children will know from school, so that everyone can join in.

It is a challenge to get it right and we can never know how the Holy Spirit will touch people's lives through the music. Many a time I myself have been amazed at just how perfectly the hymns fit with the sermon and prayers. One of the special things about being a church musician is the opportunity to be part of many special occasions such as weddings, baptisms and funerals.

Thank you to everyone who expresses their appreciation of the music in the services each week. It is so lovely to be encouraged like that. Please talk to me if you have a favourite hymn you would like us to sing or you like a hymn in the book which we could learn. It's always good to add to our 'repertoire'. *Hilary Dring, organist in St Mary's*



My Organ Story

About 18 years ago Arthur Houston, our then Rector, asked me to play the organ in Monkstown church as there was a vacancy, and he knew I played the piano. He was very persuasive, and as there was nobody else, I said I'd have a go. My Mum used to play the organ in the Methodist church when she was young. I was

really terrified but I told God I was doing it for Him so He better help me, and He did, and still does.

Jack Hanna gave me lots of advice as he had been a choir boy in St. Finbarrs. With the encouragement and the love of the Monkstown congregation I am still playing.

To try to overcome my nervousness I took piano lessons and they helped a little. Three years ago I started lessons in St. Finbarrs to learn how to play the pedal board. Malcolm Wisener, my tutor, is a wonderful intuitive teacher and he has helped me enormously. I still get scared but I cope better now. To prepare to choose the hymns, after service on Sunday I look up the internet for the readings for the following Sunday. I read them over a couple of times to get the theme, and then I search the hymn book for hymns that fit the theme. Gradually during the week the 4 hymns emerge from the extended list.

Hymns touch us deeply and singing is joyful, beautiful, and gives praise to God. St. Augustine said 'When one sings, one prays twice'. I am a most unlikely candidate to be playing the organ as I was never a very diligent student when I was young as my main interest was sport. I even amaze myself how much I enjoy practising now.

I love playing the organ as music is such an important part of worship. *Kay Treacy, organist in St John's*



Chamber Choir

Monkstown Chamber Choir began 2013 with the ever popular Songs of Praise Evensong in February. Choral Evensong is sung on the second Sunday of the month in St John's Church, Monkstown at 7pm. As well as singing the responses and hymns we continue the beautiful Anglican tradition of chanting the psalm, Magnificat and Nunc Dimittus. There is normally a sung Anthem which can be anything from Byrd to more modern pieces by Christopher Walker or Tom Kendzia.

The choir are a lovely mix of people who simply enjoy singing Church music. We recently welcomed back Laura Murphy (alto), which brought our membership to 16.

In 2012 the choir received a very welcome donation of new red robes, and this has brought a real sense of ownership and identity to the group.



In April we took our annual "pilgrimage" to West Cork! Travelling down on the Saturday morning, we took the

ferry to Sherkin Island and sang at 4pm Mass. As usual, the locals provided an abundance of cakes, scones and sandwiches afterwards and of course the well deserved cup of tea! Because the hotel on the island was full, we stayed the night in The Waterfront Hotel in Baltimore and stuffed our faces even more with a slap-up meal in the village!



Then in May we were kindly invited to sing at the closing service of the Flower Festival in St Mary's Church, Carrigaline. Little did we know that John Andrew had arranged for us to be

secretly filmed and a few days later we could hear and watch ourselves on facebook! In June we joined with the Choir of St Canice's Cathedral in Kilkenny to sing Choral Matins . This was a fantastic experience and it was great to meet Malcolm Proud (organist), David Forde (director) and all the other choir members who had visited us the previous year in Monkstown. We were treated to a trip up the 9th Century Round Tower which stands beside the 13th Century Cathedral. What a view from the top! A few strange aches and pains the next day however, having used muscles in our

thighs to climb up that hadn't been used for years!
Taking a well deserved break for July and August we returned to Choral Evensong in September. Carrigaline Union became an affiliated member of RSCM Ireland (Royal School of Church Music) this month which is good news for both Monkstown Chamber Choir and also the Junior Choir. It is hoped to use the resources of the RSCM to encourage and assist our understanding of Church Music in an enjoyable yet practical way. By the time you read this you will be either looking forward to joining us this evening at Harvest Festival Choral Evensong or will have enjoyed the evening!

On Tuesday 22nd October, we have been invited to sing at an Ecumenical Service of Remembrance in the Chapel of Bon Secours hospital. We really feel privileged to be asked to sing at what promises to be a touching and reflective service. While we have become accustomed to singing in cold and draughty churches, the choir have been warned that the Chapel in the Bon's is swelteringly hot, so we will not be robed for this event.

Then we have Remembrance Day Choral Evensong on 10th November in St John's. The choir are currently learning the anthem "Faith, Hope and Love" by Irish composer Ronan McDonagh, specifically for this event.

Coming up to Christmas is always a busy time for any choir.

This year we will be singing at a special Advent Choral Evensong in St John's on 8th December. Then the following Sunday we join with Passage West Folk Group to sing at a Carol Service in St Mary's Church, Marmullane, Passage West. On Friday 20th we join with other choirs to sing at the Community Carol's in St Mary's Carrigaline.

Finally on Sunday 22nd December we have what will be for the choir, parishioners and local people, the highlight of the year when we sing at the traditional and hugely popular "Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols" in St John's Church at 4pm. As it is just a few days before Christmas, this service conjures up for me all that makes this season so special.

We are currently learning "*Lully, Lulla, Lullay*" by Belfast composer Philip Stopford to be sung at the Service.

Afterwards, choir members will very merrily (no doubt!) kick off our heels as we enjoy tapas and vino in "Napoli" bistro in Monkstown.

Then it's 2014.....!

Roger Ellis, October 2013



Junior Choir

What a wonderful privilege it is to work with the children in our Junior Choir. Thank you to all the children who played and sang for us during the year. We had fun and worked hard to learn new songs. Thank you also to the parents who bring their children each week. A new season has begun; some have moved on and new members have joined us. We have children aged 4yrs up to early teens. Having such a wide age range presents some challenges – one of the bigger ones being that the younger ones cannot read yet, so lots of learning by heart, which is very good. Another challenge is that we don't always have a full complement, for a variety of reasons. It does make a difference especially when we are singing in church; it is so much easier for the children to sing when we have a full choir (on 26th September, we had 14 children attend the practice which is our biggest number yet, I think). It is so lovely that the children, as part of our church family, can enhance our worship in this way. If your child is interested in joining us they will be very welcome.

Hilary Dring, Junior Choir Director



St Mary's Church, Carrigaline has a Sunday School which welcomes all primary school-going children. There is also a special provision for pre-school children aged 3 up but they

must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.

We meet most term-time Sundays to learn from the Bible stories and to help the children understand that these are not just stories but ways of showing us how to live our lives. Through activities, games and discussion, we help the children to understand the meaning behind the stories in the Bible and show them ways to apply these lessons in their daily lives. We do our utmost to make the Bible stories come alive for the young people in our community and to help them live their lives within Christian principles.

The focus is on the Gospels, and group leaders do activities related to the week's readings in the church. The Sunday School Leaders are Peter Coughlan, Hilary Warren-Perry, Michelle Woodworth, Helen Bannon, Ingrid Glen and Sally Orren. Tracy Pierce and Chioma Njoku will be joining the team in the New Year. *Sally Orren, Sunday School Coordinator*



Youth Group

Youth Club meet once or twice a month on Friday nights in the church hall. Young people attending secondary school are welcome to attend.

The club is a place to relax after a busy week at school - to chat, meet friends, make new ones, play some crazy games, have a laugh and learn something about God and develop our relationship with Him into the bargain. Our Youth Club also tie in with the excellent diocesan youth events run by the Cork Diocesan Youth Council. (For more info on events run by the CDYC, go to www.cdyc.ie.)

We had our first 2013/2014 event at the end of September when a Barbeque held in the rectory garden - we had lots of craic and a great turnout (Including 5 young people from our neighbouring Templebreedy group of parishes).

We had some interesting chat about some of the recent challenging events in our lives such as starting secondary school or preparing for big exams and how God can support us in those challenges.

We managed to do serious damage to burgers, sausages and pizzas as well as delicious cakes dropped in by some of the parent's!

Thank you to them and also to our leaders Conor, Brenda and Ivan for their enthusiastic help and sense of fun.

For more info, contact Peter at [086 3453361](tel:0863453361) or email the office at stmaryscarrigaline@eircom.net

Peter Coughlan, Youth Group Coordinator



Bell Ringing

DING DONG!

It was with great delight that we once again heard the sound of the bells of St Mary's and St John's for the first time in nearly a decade. It was a tradition that had unfortunately lapsed too long ago. Now with a Rota of enthusiastic bell ringers not a Sunday goes by without the traditional call to prayer. A bell ringer's official title is a Campanologist.

Bell ringing has a long tradition in Church life, It goes back many centuries to 400 AD to be precise, when Paulinus of Nola introduced Church bells to the Christian Church.

Do you realise that someone is doing a workout while you walk into church? Triceps, biceps and lats flexing, the bell-ringer keeps a keen eye on the small, square hole cut into the wooden ceiling high above their head: The rope must not chafe! Foot on the stirrup, then a few tugs on the big rope-knot sets the bell rocking then chiming. Repeating the tugs about 300 times during five minutes tells everyone that the service is about to begin. Then it's time to gallop down the stairs, racing into church before the Rector makes her appearance from the Vestry. Bells are the largest and loudest instrument in the world, but get the rhythm wrong and there will be silence or an un-holy clatter. Learn the knack and you feel a great sense of achievement!

Anyone who is interested in joining the bell ringing team at either St Mary's Church or St John's Church would be very welcome . All it requires is to be 5 minutes early for Church.. A member of the existing team will assist any new team member and "show them the ropes "

Learn the knack and you will feel a great sense of achievement.

IG & JK, Bell ringers



Select Vestry's Role

The Select Vestry's role is to maintain the church buildings (and contents), halls, rectory and graveyard. It is also responsible for finances. The Select Vestry has NO responsibility with regard to order of worship or services in general. The Select Vestry is elected annually at the Easter Vestry, which is held in the period around Easter each year. Next year (2014) the Easter Vestry will also elect the Diocesan Synod members (who represent us at Diocesan meetings) and the Parochial Nominators (whose sole responsibility if called upon is to nominate a new rector).

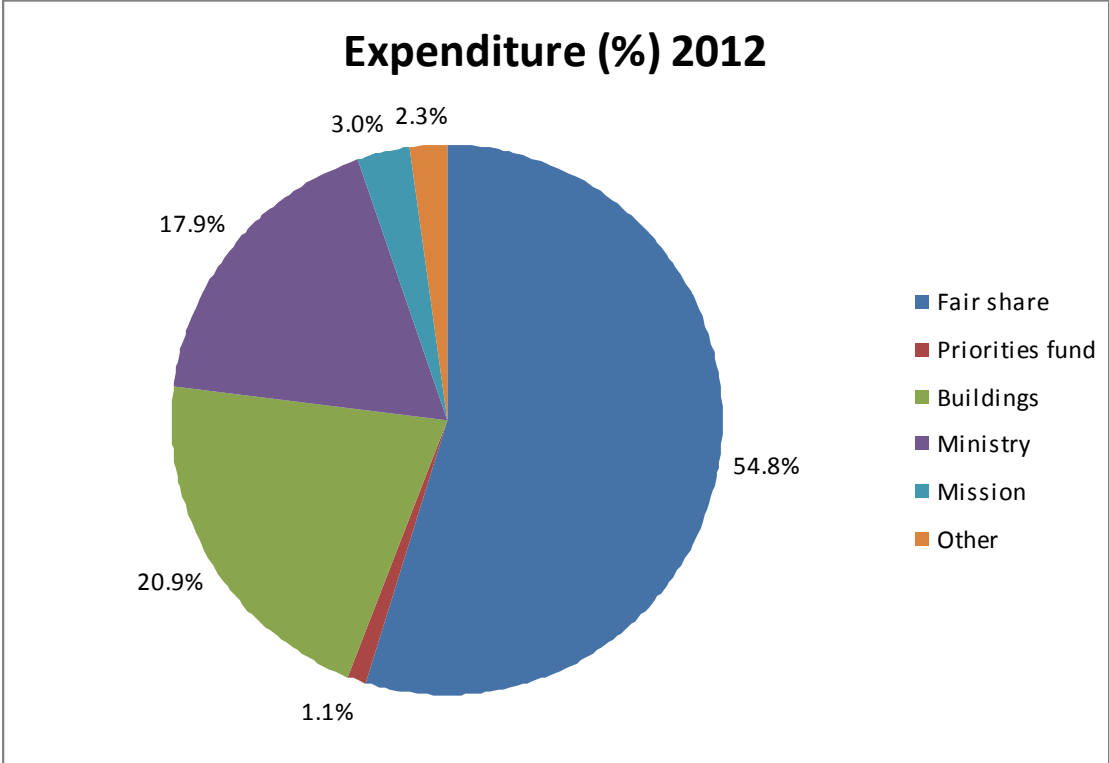
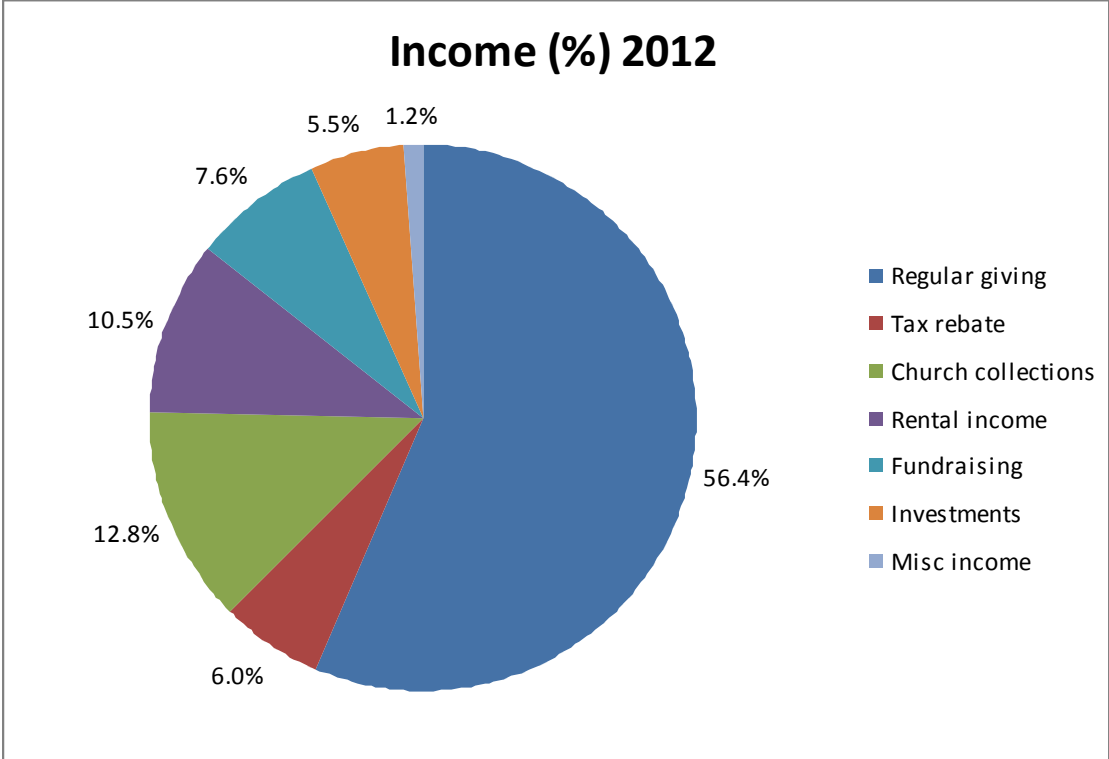
The structure is entirely democratic. The parishioners vote to choose the members of the Select Vestry (maximum of 18 including wardens), and they also elect the Synod members and the Nominators.

Any person over the age of 18, who is a parishioner in this parish, is entitled to serve as a Select Vestry member, Diocesan Synod member, or Parochial Nominator.

I would actively encourage anyone who is considering further involvement in the parish to allow their names to go forward for election. Please approach me if you need any guidance in making sure that correct procedure is followed.

Rowland Newenham, Secretary to Select Vestry

Finance



Fair Share

This is a method of pooling of our resources in the Cork Diocese so that every church member no matter where they may live contributes an equal amount towards the ministry of the Church. This money is primarily used to pay the clergy in the Diocese. In our case as a parish almost 90% of this figure is returned to the parish to support Ministry.

Tax rebate

The state will give us 30% of what we give the church in a traceable way provided our annual giving is greater than €250 in the calendar year. We all need to consider this prayerfully to determine if we can avail of this if we are a taxpayer, and if we are in employment or receipt of a pension then it is highly likely that we are a taxpayer. This is money the parish can benefit from for very little effort. We only have to contribute €5 per week to be able to meet this, and to put this in context, if we buy one alcoholic drink a week or buy a Sunday newspaper and two daily newspapers we will exceed the threshold for a tax rebate. Also we need to remember that to run the parish from year to year the average giving has to be almost €550 per family with 200 families. This indicates we should be able to maximise this benefit.

Please consider moving to envelopes or other traceable way of contributing, and consider with envelopes that the tally is only maintained by the treasurer so it is still personal and anonymous.

Should anyone wish to contribute directly to the parish, they can do so by setting up a standing order at an interval which suits your income, either weekly, monthly, quarterly or annually. The treasurer is now ordering both weekly and monthly envelopes for 2014 and should you wish to contribute in this way, please contact the Hon. Treasurer who will ensure your envelope will be available from January 2014.

Parishioners can also lodge directly to the Unions Bank account at Bank of Ireland, Carrigaline – PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE FOR DETAILS OF THE BANK ACCOUNT Please ensure you include your name as a narrative in any lodgement made directly to this account so the Union can benefit from relevant tax rebate.

Fundraising vs. Regular giving

75% of our income comes from regular giving which is to be commended, with only 8% from fundraising; however we do need to consider how much work goes into fundraising for the return and maybe by giving a little more through regular

giving we can then use our fundraising for mission and outreach within our community and further.

Current position

Income for 2013 has been sufficient to meet the expenses for the period to the end of August and thank you all for your weekly and monthly contributions and hard work with this year's fundraising activities which have generated in excess of €16,000.

The expenditure in the Union will be approximately €40,000 for the remainder of the year of which 50% relates to the final quarter of the Fair Share. Income from the letting of the church hall is estimated at €2,000; the tax refund estimated at €5,000 and investment income estimated at €3,500. The balance of the income will be generated through regular planned giving, weekly plate collections and the Gift Day in November. It is essential that we all carefully and prayerfully consider our giving to ensure the Union continues to be in a position financially to deliver all the wonderful facilities and support which we are privileged to be able to offer.

Helen Arnopp, Honorary Treasurer to the Select Vestry

Fundraising



Fundraising for the parish is a rewarding and enjoyable experience. A fundraising committee is elected to organise fundraising events.

The committee would meet once a week leading up to an event where we swap & discuss each other's ideas. We would then plan the best we could to make sure the event would take off.

Events we have organised so far have been a 70's & 80's Disco night which was held in Carrigaline Court Hotel. The committee organised a DJ, raffle prizes & a best dressed award. A great night was had by all!

In April, the committee organised a Quiz Night. It was a great family night and was very well attended with both the adults & the youth of our parish attending in great numbers. The Quiz was held in the Canon McCrea Hall in St. Mary's NS with Frank Linehan as Quizmaster for the night. There was a tie for first place so a play-off round decided the winner.

Refreshments were provided such as tea & coffee along with numerous amounts of cakes & sandwiches - enough to feed

a small army! A huge thank you must go out to all those who provided them!

In the near future, we are planning to have a Dog Show. For this we will have to organize a judge, an entry secretary, prizes and a raffle to be run on the day. A venue will have to be decided followed along with good advertising to ensure a healthy attendance.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my committee members who have done a lot of hard work over the year. Also, to anyone who has chipped in & helped with events over the year, whether this was moving tables & chairs for the Quiz, baking refreshments or simply attending the events – Thank you - the events wouldn't be a success without you – WELL DONE EVERYBODY!!

Adrian Bateman, Co-ordinator of the Fundraising Committee



Summer Fête

Carrigaline Union of Parishes' Summer Fête is

one of the biggest fund raising events of the year and is attended by many people - not only from the parish but from the wider community. The Fête is held each year in Canon Mc Crea hall and the grounds of St. Mary's National School. It raises much needed funds for both churches. The event relies on an eager team of volunteers of men and women to put up marquees and man the many stalls in the hall and to supply and bake the many products for sale, country products , plants , books, crafts, toys, cakes, DVD's. Bric-a-brac and of course teas & coffees are served with sandwiches and lovely home baking where people can sit down and chat.

Outside in the grounds we have bouncy castles , games and the local scouts making burgers and hot dogs so that the young people can have lots of fun. The raffle is also very important with great prizes donated by parishioners and local businesses.

This Fête is etched in people's calendars as a must each year and is a great success at providing a feel good factor in the parishes. *Eddie Pierce, Co-ordinator of Fête*



Hospitality

Hospitality plays a very important part in the life of both St. Mary's Church and St. John's Church.

In St John's Church, after the Service on most Sundays there is an informal gathering in one of other of the parishioner's houses for coffee and chats. Visitors are of course invited to come along and made to feel welcome.

In St Mary's visitors are always most welcome and after the service twice a month we serve refreshments in the church hall, in fact, if we can get more people to help with the Rota, we are hoping shortly to expand this hospitality to every Sunday.

All the different age groups get on extremely well and we would encourage all members of the congregation to join us for coffee and a chat.

If anyone would like to help in any way, you can contact Linda Daunt [086 8083951](tel:0868083951) or Hilary Warren Perry [086 2637137](tel:0862637137).



Parish Office

The Parish Office is based in the Parish Centre in the grounds of St Mary's Church. The Administrator is there from 9.15 till 12.15 on

Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings.

The main daily tasks are :

- ❖ checking, and responding to, and writing emails.
- ❖ Preparing the Linksheets for Sunday.
- ❖ Updating the website (www.carrigalineunion.org for those of you who haven't checked it out!).
- ❖ Contacting people who are on the various Rotas to make sure they know they are reading, serving tea and coffee, flower arranging etc.
- ❖ Looking after bookings for both Parish Hall and Canon McCrea School Hall.
- ❖ Purchasing any requirements for the Parish-mainly tea, coffee, biscuits and toilet rolls!!!!
- ❖ Fulfilling any duties either the Rector, Treasurer or Select Vestry require like assisting with fundraising, finance, and fiddly tasks!

There are times where all the items on the to-do list are ticked off. But the office isn't only a place of "doing", it's a place where anyone can drop in for a chat (not just the Rector!), clarify any Parish business, or even come and research family history.

It is a lovely place to work, (overlooking the graveyard does not bother me at all!) It is nice to have contact with parishioners and often meet faces that go along with names I see on parish lists and emails. The work is not stressful or overly pressurised which suits me just fine. It fits in perfectly with my family commitments. I like to think that when the parish office is people's first, or only, contact with the parish they find it a welcoming and helpful place and where a piece of Jesus' light is reflected.

Christina Newenham, Parish Administrator

Christine moved from Dublin 10 years ago when she married Alex . They live in Carrigaline and have two children, Asia aged 5, and Ben who will be 2 at Christmas. When she's not being a Parish Administrator, Mummy, Wife, Cleaner, Cook, etc etc.....or collapsed on the sofashe enjoys cycling, swimming and meeting her friends!

Toddlers Plus One

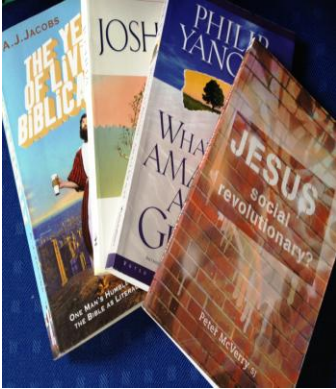


This group meets each Monday morning from 10am until 12pm in the Parish Hall beside St Mary's Church, Carrigaline. The group consists of pre-school children and at least one of their carers, whether they are the Mother, Father, Grandparent, Au Pair or Guardian. We just chat while the children play together, a very simple format and you are guaranteed a decent cup of tea or coffee and a warm welcome.



Monday Club

This group meets each Monday afternoon from 3pm until 5pm in the Parish Hall beside St Mary's Church, Carrigaline. The original idea of the group was that people could come along for a chat and tea/coffee and perhaps share their skills with each other – rather like a mixed gender 'Men's' Shed! Some people bring along their Laptops and iPads so as to pick up pointers on new technology and we hope that soon we will get a couple of experts on dying skills like Crochet and knitting... the sky's the limit. Do come and join us any Monday.



Theological Book Circle

This group meets just four times a year and chooses one book to read in the next 3 months. They gather over a cup of tea/coffee in the Rectory and discuss the book they have just read. As you can imagine the conversation goes all over the place but we do at least try to stick to the subject (or book!) to hand. Since we started back in 2012, we have read many books :

- ❖ Steve Chalke 'The lost message of Jesus'
- ❖ A.J. Jacobs 'The year of living Biblically'
- ❖ Philip Yancey 'What's so amazing about Grace?'
- ❖ Giles Fraser 'Christianity with Attitude'
- ❖ Peter McVerry 'Jesus, Social Revolutionary'
- ❖ Joseph F. Girzone 'Joshua'
- ❖ M. Scott Peck 'The Road less travelled'

All are welcome to join us. We are currently reading Jostein Gaarder's 'The Christmas Mystery' and will meet again at 8pm in the Rectory on 29th January 2014 . Please ring the Rector at 087-2363100 for further details on the circle.



C.A.M.E.O. CLUB

(Come And Meet Each Other)

The Cameo Club meets on the last Friday of each month, except for July and August, at the Monkstown Bay Sailing Club, by kind permission

of the Commodore. The kettle is put on at 10.30 a.m. and folks drop in for a cuppa and a chat. The Sailing Club is a very suitable venue as everything we need is on the ground floor and we can sit outside, overlooking the water, when the weather is fine.

Anyone is free to bring along old photos, crafts, or anything of interest, but most people come for the chat and the warm and friendly companionship. Not to be forgotten is the home baking which is always a welcome treat.

We recommenced on Friday, 27th September and hope to see some new faces over the coming year.

Lifts can be arranged for anyone needing transport.

Simply phone Hazel or Liz at the following numbers.

Hazel Fleury 021 4841383

Liz Hanna 021 4841496



Mothers' Union is an international Christian charity that seeks to support families of all faiths and none through practical outreach, prayer and advocating family friendly policies within both government and public life. By supporting marriage and family life, especially through times of adversity, we tackle the most urgent needs challenging relationships and communities.

Our members are not all mothers, or even all women, but are single, married, parents, grandparents or young adults who are just beginning to express their social conscience. For all 4.1 million members in 83 countries what Mothers' Union provides is a network through which they can serve Christ in their own community through prayer, financial support and actively working at grassroots level in programmes that meet local needs.

Some comments from members :

- When I was young, life was all black and white for me, so I never thought I would follow my great grandmother, grandmother or mother into Mothers' Union. I could not see

myself going to hear speakers, prayer meetings and baking the elaborately decorated 'Victoria Sandwich' cake every month for the Mothers' Union meeting at the rectory on the Cork road!

When I returned home from England, gave up nursing at the Bon Secours hospital and got married, life was a bit 'quiet'. Then a friend invited me to come with her to the "Cork Young Wives", hosted by the Bishop's wife Mrs. Perdue at the Palace. (Young Wives, a junior M.U. was started by Mrs. Gordon, and were a part of M.U.) The young women were a fantastic bunch, and in due course I became enrolled. The friendships that started then are still very much part of my life, and have been a continuous support to me and my family, with all its ups and downs.

The good work the M.U. does both at home and abroad is just the icing on the cake for me, to be part of an organization worldwide which is doing so much good work, is very satisfying. Of course M.U. has changed over the years, most importantly the welcoming of women and men of other Christian denominations, and just as well also as I never mastered the art of making a good 'Vic. Sandwich'. Many people with varied skills and ability took up important roles and helped M.U. grow to the fantastic organization it is today.

Black and white has evolved into grey due to the people I have met who have supported me in the various office positions I have held during my 38 years as an enrolled member, but I am 40 years “reaping the rewards”.

- I’ve been a member of Mothers’ Union for years. I enjoy the social and friendship side a lot and have found such help and support from the members when needed.

- I’m delighted to have been asked to write a line or two on “What it means to me to be a member of Mothers’ Union” as it gives me the opportunity express my gratitude! I have learnt a lot while attending meetings and reading Families First magazine; supporting the global, national and local work which Mothers’ Union does to tackle family issues while fighting poverty and injustice. But it’s not just the topical subjects and actions that are attractive... As a “blow-in” two and a half years ago, I was invited by an existing member to my first meeting. I remember the welcoming atmosphere, the fascinating travel talk plus the superior and unexpected supper. The more meetings I attend, the more I appreciate the smiles, laughter and kindness which accompany a real sense of acceptance. It has made my transition into a new country and community much easier knowing that I have a ready-made surrogate friends/family network. I am

confident knowing that there's plenty of wisdom in the group to tap into when I need advice or support. It really means a lot to a newbie to be recognised and greeted by name.

Thank you Mothers' Union!

- My first contact with Mothers' Union was when I was invited to special talks on trips to unusual countries. I was made feel very welcome despite not being a mother! However with plenty of nieces and nephews I have lots of experience. I was also interested to hear how Mothers' Union operates, both at home and worldwide, helping many different peoples. The feeling of fellowship is very important, as is the friendship, which strengthens one through united worship and prayer.



Indoor Bowls Club

St Mary's Indoor Bowls club meets every Tuesday night in the Canon McCrea Hall in St Mary's National School, Waterpark. New members are always welcome.

Contact Denis McLaughlin 087-6100717 or Henry Forbes 087-2035000 for further details.



In January, Christian Aid provided a prayer resource pack *Count Your Blessings* to focus our prayers during Lent

and to guide our personal gifting. Christian Aid week this year between **Sunday 12th and Saturday 18th May** utilised prayers and video clips from partner organisations in Bolivia, Kenya and Zimbabwe and had as its central themes social justice and the dignity of work and self sufficiency. Whilst the social injustices of land dispossession, hunger in a world of plenty and drought are never far from our television screens, it is uplifting to realise that through our prayers, intercessions and giving – time, political action, talents and financially – that we can support those with needs here and abroad and live out our gospel calling. The collections for Christian Aid week this year's raised € 510.00.

On Saturday 7th September, nearly 150 supporters undertook one of the two routes for the Sheep's Head walk to raise funds for the **Christian Aid Syria Crisis Appeal**.

Christian Aid's South-West Ireland Coordinator writes:

"Cork Since the conflict in Syria began in March 2011, more than 100,000 people have been killed, over two million refugees have fled to neighbouring countries and at least another five million people have been displaced inside Syria. The number of vulnerable people

is increasing as the humanitarian crisis deepens. There was close to 150 walkers who participated in either of the two scenic walk routes this year – a 14km (4.5-hr) walk and a 7km (2.5 hour) flat terrain walk, which catered for age groups, all level of walkers fitness, families, and experienced hikers, etc., and which was enjoyed by all concerned. I would express all the leaders and supporters who were hike leaders or who helped so much with catering in the hall. Specifically like to express appreciation to the parish Kilmocomogue , Canon Willoughby, Rev. Anne Skuse and Sandra Dukelow, for their wonderful support of this annual event.

Finally this is a major fundraising event for the work of Christian Aid and all funds raise on the day will go towards Christian Aid partners in the development world. If you would like to donate please send any donation to Christian Aid Cork Office at address or you can directly lodge to Christian Aid No.1 Account and indicate in narrative Sheep's Head Hike. We would hope to raise over €5,000 again this year and appreciate donations in reaching that target.

Thank you for your support.

*Regards,
Andrew"*

Next year we hope to encourage more of the Carrigaline Union Parishioners who enjoy hill walking, are reasonably fit, enjoy a wonderful day out in scenic West Cork with lovely company, excellent food and refreshments and for a really good cause to get out with Reverend Elaine Murray and John Sweeney on the Sheep's Head trail!

*John Sweeney,
Christian Aid Representative in Carrigaline Union*



At the present, there are two Home Groups active in the parish, one meeting mainly in the Carrigaline Area and one meeting mainly in the Monkstown area. If you would like to be part of a home group, please contact the rector or directly contact Cecil Poole or John Sweeney who co-ordinate the groups.

'The Sapling Home Group'

Our Home Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the winter months at 8pm in the home of Cecil Poole (unless otherwise stated) 087-2722826

A guest speaker is invited to come and talk to us on any subject with a spiritual theme. The evening opens and closes with short prayers and includes discussion, friendship and the compulsory 'cuppa' with biscuits.

There is no study or preparation involved and all are very welcome.

The Monkstown Home Group includes people from Carrigaline and Monkstown and meets usually from September to early May each year in each others' homes every second Wednesday. We agree in advance what our study theme should be for the following year and, the group is completing the Crossway Bible Guide "Discovering Luke's Gospel" by Simon Jones (1999).

The sessions are friendly, interactive and open to inclusion of a wide variety of points of view and we are welcoming to newcomers. There is always a blend of fun, hospitality, bible study, reflection and intercessory prayer and occasionally music.

Our members are active in children's work, caring for the elderly, home and hospital visiting, intercession, healing, Vestry/church administration and a variety of other helping ministries and hail from all walks of life and parts of the country.

We discuss the bible usually following a study around a particular book or theme with a view to application of insights shared to our Christian journey individually and corporately. Christian Aid have recently launched a 9-week study course for small groups entitled "*The Jesus Agenda*" presented by Rev Joel Edwards, International director of the

Micah Challenge, based on Jesus' ministry as set out in Luke 4 and Isaiah 61 – sometimes called the Nazareth Manifesto. We have sent for the videos and study guide and may utilise this as part of our studies of Luke's Gospel.

Once or twice a year we have a social evening in which we share in the provision of food and beverages – this is a great opportunity to come along to meet us in a most informal setting if you would like to find out more or just to dip your toe on the water, so to speak. We are delighted to welcome our clergy to meetings whenever they are free. For further details please contact John Sweeney [\(021\) 485 9826](tel:(021)4859826).



St Mary's National School

A September 2013 update from Ms Valerie Elliffe, the Principal of our Parish School.

After a wonderful summer break we are delighted to welcome all pupils and staff back to St. Mary's NS for what promises to be another very productive and successful year. We are especially delighted to extend a warm *Céad Míle Fáilte* to the new pupils who have joined us in Junior Infants and in other classes throughout the school and in particular, to the families who are new to our school.

September is a particularly busy time in school and here are a few things we have been up to and have planned for the not too distant future.....

Red Jersey Day

All pupils, staff and visitors were invited to participate in our Red Jersey Day fundraising event on 6th September to support Nathan Kirwan in his journey to recovery after suffering a severe neck break in June 2013 resulting in a spinal cord injury. Nathan, aged 24 from Currabinny, is a past pupil of St. Mary's NS. We are delighted to have raised

€600 for the Nathan Kirwan Trust and we wish Nathan every success for the future.

School Activities and Clubs

Drama, Gymnastics, GAA coaching, Swimming lessons and Hockey coaching are all well underway for this term and our Chess Club is set to resume shortly. Weekly school Assemblies have also resumed and we are delighted that Reverend Elaine and Reverend Tony are able to join us each Friday throughout the year.

Schools Diocesan Service

On Thursday 3rd October pupils from 6th class will attend the schools diocesan service in St. Peter's Church, Bandon. This is an annual event and we are very much looking forward to meeting Bishop Colton and all the other schools from the dioceses on the day.

PA News

The hardworking Parents Association have planned to repaint the games on both of our playground surfaces to promote co-operative and imaginative play. We can't wait!!! The PA also hosted a very successful coffee morning in school on Friday 27th September for parents of Junior and

Senior Infant pupils, and parents of new pupils in other classes.

Green School News

We will shortly be making our application for our first Green School Flag for St. Mary's NS. Our focus is on Reduction of Waste and we are very hopeful that we can achieve this award.

Empowering Young People & Building Self-esteem

This term we look forward to the delivery of workshops by the Reality Schools Team run by Cork Diocesan Youth Council in partnership with Mother's Union. The workshops will centre on communication & listening with/to one another, respecting one another/looking out for one another, team building/bonding and building self-esteem.