

CONTACT

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The Rector's Easter Message

**Touching lives, changing lives because of the Greatest Come Back Ever
Jesus is Alive and He is the Only One who could ever change Your life.**

Confident hope for eternal life is only found in the One who died and came back from the dead—Jesus. Now He holds the keys of death and can one day raise you and me too. So because of Jesus, our 'Goodbyes' can be changed to 'See you again!'

Easter Sunday — what a glorious day to celebrate that Jesus is the JOY of our lives — our Wonderful Saviour, Great Friend and Living Lord. A few years ago, a dramatic and courageous comeback was made by the soap called 'Crossroads', but it did not last long as it was not as successful as the original. It just did not have the same pull and attraction to the viewers as it once had had in the 1970s. So the TV company decided to pull the plug on the series and 'Crossroads' was no more.

Isn't it true that everyone loves a great and dramatic comeback – from thrilling sporting moments and dramatic movie endings to real stories of those who have overcome adversity to pull through and become life's winners?

Two thousand years ago, human history was brought to a Crossroads when Jesus died after being nailed to a cross. His body was buried in a tomb and people thought that was the end of Him. Yet three days later, the world's greatest comeback of all took place. And that is what we remember at this time called Easter. This greatest comeback ever to happen was when Jesus was raised back to life on that first Easter Sunday. Three days after His death, as He had predicted, His tomb was found empty.

If you have ever tried to change your life, you will know how hard, if not impossible, it is to change yourself and all those things that you do not like about yourself. But the Good News, the Great News and the Brilliant News is that Jesus really is alive and that He has the power to do in you what you are powerless to do for yourself. Only a living, raised to life, never to die again, alive at this moment JESUS could ever love us, accept us, save us and change us for ever and ever.

Christianity is real, it is now, it is happening and it is exciting—it is not sedate or simply part of history. This person Jesus was and is a person with a passion, a person with love with blood running through His veins and who shed that blood on the Cross to have us come back to Him. This Easter, you can celebrate the greatest comeback of all time and discover afresh God's great love for us.

Years after Jesus was raised from the dead, His friend John saw Him and wrote:

When I saw Him, I fell at His feet as though dead. Then He placed His right hand on me and said, 'Do not be afraid, I am the First and Last I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and the grave.' Revelation 1: 17-18

Your friend,
Arthur

Marriages at All Saints

25th February 2006 – Kerry Jones and Peter Redmond

8th March 2006 – Caroline Jones and Stephen Banks

We wish Kerry and Peter & Caroline and Stephen
every happiness in their future lives together.

We ask God to be with them, so that they may abide in His love and peace
all their lives.

The Women's Fellowship

Our speaker in **January** was Mrs Jackie Murphy from Chapman's award winning Farm Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Store. She stressed the importance of Healthy Eating and how eating the recommended '5 a day' servings of fruit and vegetables is the most important element of any Healthy Eating Plan. She introduced us to a variety of exotic and unusual fruits and vegetables which we were able to sample.

Also in January we enjoyed A Night Out at the Pantomime, 'Mother Goose', in Portadown Town Hall.

The **February** meeting took the form of Question Time – the panel for the evening being the Rev. Joanne Megarrell, the Rev. Adrienne Gilligan, Doctor Victor McMullan and our Rector, the Rev. Arthur Young.

The members asked many interesting and varied questions, ranging from Civil Partnerships to Women Bishops.

The panel equipped themselves well and generally agreed on most subjects.

In **March** we had Mrs Fiona Cromie who had as her topic 'Have suitcase, Will travel.' With the aid of crafts and costumes from faraway places, she brought to life the customs and cultures of some of the countries which she had visited, including Japan, Vietnam, South Africa, Australia and The Holy Land. We also had members from some of our neighbouring churches as our guests.

All members are encouraged to attend The Holy Week Services.

Mrs Jackie Orr will be our guest speaker in May when she will be demonstrating Sign Language.

On May 14th we will be holding our Praise Service with The Amen Band as our guests.

Heather Hanna

C.M.S.I. Mission Service**ENGAGE**

Sunday 9th April, Palm Sunday, will see All Saints hosting a lively dynamic Mission Service called ENGAGE. This service will be held at 6.30 pm in the Church. A team from C.M.S. will have a big input into the Service, showing videos and featuring the stories of those people who have been 'engaged' in Mission.

If you are prepared to be challenged and called into action then please come along and ENGAGE with us!

The service is open to churches in the Dromore Diocese who support C.M.S. so we are expecting a good attendance.

Please give this service your prayerful support.

Isabel Whiteside

South American Mission Society

For the past 30 years Teenie Curran has been the Missionary Box Secretary for SAMS in our parish. Teenie has now decided that the time has come to hand over this post.

As well as fund raising, Teenie has been involved in raising our awareness of the work and needs of this mission and also offering prayer support. We are very grateful to her for all the work and time which she gave and for the enthusiasm and passion which she put into it.

We are fortunate in having Louise McClory who is to take over from Teenie thus ensuring that the work for SAMS will continue in Tullylish.

Tullylish Girls' Brigade Successes



The Explorers and Junior Sections who won the Craft Shield at the Bann District Competition. Included are the Captain, Mrs Muriel McCracken, Brigade leaders and the Reverend Arthur Young, Chaplain.



The Junior Choral Choir with the Bann District Shield which they won at the Bann District Choral Speaking Competition.



The Explorers who won the Bann District Shield in their section of the Bann District Choral Speaking Competition



Mrs Lynda Carswell and her daughter, Megan accept a cheque for £100 on behalf of the Parents and Friends Group of Ceara Special School, Lurgan from Tullylish Girls' Brigade Captain, Muriel McCracken.

My Trip To Romania

How does 03.45 hours on a Friday morning sound to you? Yes, I wasn't over the moon about it, but little did I know that it was to be the start of an amazing trip.

There were four schools involved in this visit to Romania. Among them were twenty one students and teachers from Banbridge High School who headed off from Dublin Airport on Friday 27th January to Budapest, Hungary, before taking another flight to Bucharest, Romania. After that we had a sixteen hour journey with a coach transfer to Poiana Brasov. Let's just say we were all ready for bed that night.

During the week we visited a number of schools, orphanages, hospitals and care homes for the elderly. With us we had medicines, food, fruit, nappies, stationery and school supplies, creams, vitamins and blankets. In the schools we were entertained by singing and poems from each class and were amazed by the outstanding quality of the English spoken by the children. Also our boys, who thought they were great at football, were brought down to earth by the fact that they were beaten by a primary school team. This they will never live down!

The children from the orphanages were the friendliest and most lovable children we had ever met and it broke our hearts to see the conditions in which they were living. As well as giving the children material things, we also wanted to give them happy memories that no one could take away from them. So we took them to a McDonalds and I tell you the truth, I have never before seen food disappear so quickly. We also took them to the ski slopes for a great afternoon's fun sliding on 'bum boards'. But the day's fun unfortunately led to one of the members of our group fracturing her ankle in two places. But thankfully, she did not let that spoil her week.

I am so glad that we did not forget about the elderly while we were there, because the day we spent with them was so much fun. Also we met quite a few characters among them.

The place I found the toughest was an orphanage for handicapped children, ranging in age from infants to eighteen years. Words cannot describe the smell that hit us when we walked into Timis. Nor can words describe the sights we saw or the way the children were treated. Hopefully by taking them out to McDonalds we brought some joy into their lives.

The most rewarding thing we did was when one night we helped a project called 'Narnia' give out soup, bread and fruit to homeless people. We gave out the food from the back of a car at a subway station. I found it hard to come to terms with the number of people living on the streets. Eyes just seemed to appear from nowhere out of the darkness.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to everyone who supported me both financially and prayerfully.

The trip was a huge success and this was greatly assisted by YOU.

Joanna Sinton