

CONTACT

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The Rector's Letter

Proverbs 3:6 says: *"In everything you do, put God first and He will direct you and crown your efforts with success."*

Think what a local church would be like if its people were radically devoted to Jesus, committed to each other and relentlessly dedicated to reaching outside of God's family with the Gospel of Christ.

It would be a church against which the gates of hell could not prevail. It would be an unstoppable force for good in the community, an inspiration to other churches and a testimony to God's unfailing grace.

Keep in mind a memorable statement made to a young American visiting Taiwan: "Young man, remember that your life is like a coin. You can spend it any way you like, but you can spend it only once."

That's the goal, isn't it?

Our statement and vision for 2006 has been, "Building together with God for today and the future."

It means spending our lives on what will matter, and what will last, and what will count in our lives and the lives of those around us.

As we make and take the opportunity to look back this month, we think of one man whose life did that for a period of 55 years in this Parish and we give thanks to God for that life.

Dean Edward Albert Myles was that man who for 55 years as Rector of All Saints made a huge impact for God in the lives of the many that he touched and left an impact that still lives on in this community today, 55 years after his death in 1951. Dean Myles was, as I've listened to people share with me over the past two years, a man who ministered in the name of Jesus, bringing peace, hope, help and healing, sharing love and working to bring God's Kingdom closer here in Tullylish. And so can you and I. It doesn't take much - a word here, a deed there, and the effects can be remarkable. Few of us can make an indelible impact through our discipleship, let alone change the world, but all of us, if our faith is what it ought to be, should make a difference somewhere.

As I enter into my third year of work here in the Parish of Tullylish, my heart continues to give thanks to the Lord as He continues to enlarge our vision and our work. We continue to see a steady rise in the number of people that the Lord brings to church. Again we give God thanks as He equips us to reach out and help those in need and those whose faith has been eroded by emotional pain or life's circumstances. The aim and purpose behind all we do in communicating the message of Jesus, is to draw people closer to God, to encourage non-churchgoers to learn more about Jesus and develop their own faith and for us to become a church that is vibrant and an exciting community to belong to.

Let's continue to be all that God calls us to be, and to continue to be a community of His people in Tullylish who are rooted in the love of His Son, Jesus.

I finish with some words which Dean Myles spoke.

"To have been spared to work and live among the good people in this historic Parish has given me unfeigned pleasure and filled me with heartfelt gratitude. If my ministrations in the pulpit and in the home have been fruitful, I must never forget what Saint Paul says: 'It is God that gives the increase.' "

Your Friend and Rector,

Arthur

Dean Myles Remembered

An interesting piece of Tullylish history will be relived on Tuesday, 27th June 2006 with the dedication of a new gravestone on the grave of the late Dean Myles.

For many people who attend All Saints today, the name Edward Albert Myles may be just another name on the list of previous Rectors of Tullylish, but there are still those around who remember with great affection this remarkable man.

Dean Myles came from a family which had been in Ireland since the time of Cromwell. They had been prominent in Limerick City for many generations and the name Myles is still commemorated there as a street name.

At the time of his death in May 1951, the Dean had celebrated 55 years as Rector of Tullylish. After the funeral service in our Parish Church, the Dean was laid to rest in Knotty Ash Cemetery in Rostrevor.

The interment service was private, attended only by two of his cousins, a few close friends, his Select Vestry and last but by no means least, by his faithful housekeeper, Bridget, and his gardener, Billy Geddis.

Over the years much has been written and said about Dean Myles—his many gifts, his humour, his love of history, especially the history of Tullylish which he often referred to as “Sweet Tullylish”, but above all his love and care for his parishioners.

It is very fitting that 55 years later, his grave which had been neglected for too long has been restored to its original state. The Rector and Select Vestry who have been responsible for having the work done, invite as many parishioners and friends who might be interested to attend the Dedication.

This simple act is an opportunity to remember with affection Dean Myles whose qualities have influenced our parish for over a century and whose name will always be synonymous with Tullylish.

Below are extracts from a speech given by Dean Myles in 1946, on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of his ministry in Tullylish.

Half a century ago, I commenced Rectorship in the Parish of Tullylish. When I came North at the age of 23 I was a raw recruit and had all the impertinence of youth. After serving curacies in Belfast, Seapatricks and Donaghcloney, I arrived in Tullylish with the corners well and truly knocked off me.

It was an extremely different Tullylish from what it is today. Queen Victoria was on the throne and Ireland was an undivided country. Nothing was known in this part of the country of the motor car, radio or aeroplane. Horse and trap was the mode of transport.

Those were the days before the Great European wars and one could sleep in one's bed without the fear of high explosives or atomic bombs. Those were the days when coal was 10 or 12 shillings a ton.

Local industry was flourishing and the bleach greens and linen industries were developing in the Bann Valley. There were 30 or 40 hand looms in the Clare district producing linen for the American market. Yet there was much poverty, deaths from tuberculosis were prevalent and there was the awful prospect of the workhouses in Lurgan and Banbridge for the aged and the friendless poor.

Education was limited and many were illiterate, touching the pen was common at the signing of the register. I thank God for the social changes I have seen, the standard of living being greatly improved.

During my ministry over the last 50 years, I must have preached 5000 sermons and I can reflect that I have not only baptised the children of the children I have baptised, but I have coupled the children of the couples I have coupled. For this privilege and for the length of my days, my thoughts are one of thanksgiving to Almighty God. To have been spared to work and live among the good people in this historic Parish has given me unfeigned pleasure and filled me with heartfelt gratitude.

If my ministrations in the parish, both in the pulpit and in the home have been fruitful, I must never forget what St Paul says:

“It is God that gives the increase”.

The Women's Fellowship

The final meeting of the season was held on 11th May.

We began with a short AGM and the following members were elected onto the Committee.

President: Yvonne Davison
Vice-President: Valerie Walker
Secretary: Heather Hanna
Treasurer: Muriel McCracken
Committee: Heather Carswell, Sheila Walker, Lillian Hall and Eileen Hamilton.

The guest speakers for the evening were Jackie Orr and her friend, Moya. Moya has been deaf since she was 6 months old and she communicated with Jackie by sign language who in turn translated Moya's signs into speech for us.

Moya told us how she became a Christian and how she is continuing to learn more about Jesus.

At the end of the evening Moya demonstrated some signs for us to try.

At the end of April some of our members and their friends enjoyed a brilliant weekend in Edinburgh. We enjoyed great fellowship and glorious weather. We stayed in the elegant and luxurious Roxburghe Hotel which is a short stroll from Princes Street and Edinburgh Castle. Among other things, we enjoyed the shopping and viewing the sights of Edinburgh from a open top bus. On Sunday morning we went to a Service held at Edinburgh University which is being used by the Church of St Paul and St George while their church building is being renovated. There we were publicly welcomed to the service and at the end were offered lifts back to our hotel by some of the congregation.

Lovely Scottish hospitality!

I would encourage all ladies to join with us when we resume again in September. You will be made most welcome and you are also invited to bring a friend.

Our programme of events for the new season will be out in due course.

Heather Hanna

Tullylish Memorabilia

Throughout the years, many events have taken place in our parish, yet some of them are only a hazy memory and others have become completely forgotten in the mists of time.

For those of us who are hoarders, from time to time when clearing out cupboards we may come across newspaper cuttings, old photographs or programmes of events. All work stops as we read and relive the events of bygone times. It was from some such articles that we have been able to put together our article on the late Dean Myles.

If any of you have memorabilia of our Parish and do not know what you should do with it, please do not throw it out.

We have acquired a cabinet for storing such material. There it will be safely kept and available for anyone who wishes to view it.

Please leave anything you wish to donate, either on the table in the church porch, or hand it to me.

Isabel Whiteside



Photo: Courtesy of The Banbridge Chronicle Press

Our Rector, Arthur and some of the members of All Saints who recently took part in The Relay Race, The 13 Mile Walk and The Belfast Marathon and in doing so raised over £1500 for Church Growth in Croatia.

The Trip to Croatia

A team of volunteers from All Saints led by our Rector, Arthur will travel to Croatia in July to spend a week working with a small Baptist Congregation in the town of Koprivnica. The money raised from the marathon will be used to buy paint and other materials to improve the homes of some of the church members.

We wish them Godspeed and a safe return.

Heavenly Father,

We ask you to be with Arthur and those from our Church Family who will travel to Croatia in July. We thank you for their unselfishness in giving of their time and offering their practical skills as a testimony to the love and compassion of Christ.

Strengthen them O Lord for the tasks that lie ahead. Bless all the work which they will undertake there. Protect them from all dangers and return them safely to their families.

For Jesus Christ's Sake. Amen