



CONTACT



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Christmas 2006

The Rector's Christmas Message

As I sit in my study to write this Christmas letter, I cannot believe how fast this year has passed. It seems to have been the fastest year of my life so far.

But how many of you are hoping that 2007 will be better than 2006? Maybe 2006 has been a tough year. Maybe it has been a year of challenges, or a year of choices. Maybe it has been a year of changes, of crises or illness for you or a family member or close friend.

Maybe for some of us 2006 has been a big disappointment. For some in our Parish Family it has been a painful and pain-filled year of losing loved ones. For others, maybe it has been a year of failures and mistakes.

As we stand almost at the end of an old year and at the threshold of a new one, there will be feelings stirring within us. Entering into a New Year can bring some measure of hope and a fresh feeling that we can start again.

Whatever the failures, disappointments or setbacks of this past year, one thing is true - God wants us to open our hearts and receive His peace, thus releasing us from fear and allowing us to experience the light of His love.

As human beings, we need the light as much as we need oxygen. Fears, worries, depression and the bad things in life so often seem to be drawn out at night time, while daylight brings hope, a fresh start, clarity and purpose.

The Christmas Story is all about Jesus Christ - God's Son, born on earth as a baby and living a life that would change the world and the direction of our lives for ever. One of the ways which Jesus described Himself was as "the Light of the World" - a light that would never go out.

At this Christmas season, we can find out what it means not only to follow "the Light of the World" but to know the Light of the World personally, know His love, forgiveness and purpose in our lives and living. That gives us a right and elevated perspective from which to look back over the happenings of another year and to look forward to a New Year. May I take this opportunity to convey my wishes for a peaceful and Christ filled Christmas for you and your family members.



JESUS

The Light of the World

Thank you for all your love and encouragement to me during 2006. I look forward in sharing God's work with you in our Parish in 2007.

Your Friend and Rector,
Arthur

*O God who made this most hallowed night
resplendent with the glory of the true Light;
grant that we who have known the mysteries
of that Light on earth,
may enter into the fullness of his joys in heaven.*

Baptism

Sunday, 1st October 2006 - Katie Louise, daughter of Arlene and Gordon Mulligan.

Sunday, 3rd December 2006 - Suranne Charoene Linda Donna, daughter of Elaine and James Maguire.

Heavenly Father, we ask you to bless Katie and Suranne as we welcome them into our Church Family. Watch over them, guide their steps, bless them with health, fill them with joy.

Blessing

Sunday, 19th November 2006 - Max Patrick, son of Joanne (née Bell) and Kevin Keegan of Dundrum, Dublin.

Gracious God, we ask your blessing on baby Max. May he know joy, health and peace on his journey through life.

Death

5th October 2006 - Mrs Myrtle Anderson

While recording Myrtle Anderson's death, we also give thanks for her faithful service to Tullylish Church. Following the death of her husband, Dickie, Myrtle continued on the work as sexton of our church for a number of years. She loved Tullylish and all it stood for and was often seen late on Saturday evenings brushing and cleaning outside the church in readiness for Sunday worship.

As we give thanks for her life and service, we extend our prayerful sympathy to her Family Circle.

Sympathy

We send our deepest sympathy also to those members of our Church Family who have suffered the loss of loved ones.

We think especially of:
Ruth Robinson and Richard Collen on the death of their aunt, Ruth Shanks.
Mrs Elizabeth Waite on the death of her husband, Alex.
May and Brian Bell on the death of May's mother.

Loving God, grant to those who grieve, your special blessing. May they know that your hand is upon them, your arms encircling them, and your heart reaching out to them.

Archbishop Robin Eames

Our thoughts and prayers are with our Primate, Archbishop Robin Eames as he prepares for retirement. We give thanks for his 40 years of pastoral ministry, 20 of which were spent as Primate.

We were privileged to know our Primate when, as Bishop of Down and Dromore he visited us here in Tullylish.

Much has been said about his many gifts and the contribution which he made to the Church of Ireland and Anglican Communion.

We join with parishes throughout the Church of Ireland in wishing both the Archbishop and Lady Eames a long and happy retirement.

Church Notices

Marriage Preparation Classes will begin on Monday 8th January 2007.

Confirmation Classes will begin on Thursday, 11th January 2007 at 7.00 pm.

Communion at Christmas

If you wish to receive Holy Communion in your own home before Christmas, please contact the Rector.

Thanks

I would like to express my thanks to all those who so willingly read or lead us in prayer, Sunday by Sunday.

I would like also to thank our young members who come so well prepared and thanks also to their parents for their cooperation.

Heather Fulton

A Prayer

Amid all the bustle and glitter of this season we take time to remember those faithful members of our Church Family who, for a variety of reasons are unable to worship with us.

Loving Father, we pray for those confined to their homes,

those no longer fit to be out and about, those in hospital or nursing home.

May each of these our friends, know that they are still much remembered, much valued,

and much cared about.

May they know you close by their side, joined with us and all your people in the fellowship which only Christ can bring. Amen

The Women's Fellowship

For their October Meeting, the Women's Fellowship welcomed Mrs Wendy Donaldson as their guest speaker. Wendy demonstrated her cooking skills by producing some delicious food which we were all able to sample at the end. Some of her delicious recipes are now in the hands of our members!

In November our guest speaker was Miss Pauline English, a former nun, who is now General Secretary for the Gospel Mission of South America (UK). As well as showing us slides of the work being done in South America, Pauline also told us of how she entered the convent at 17 years of age and her life as a nun. She also explained how through an illness and speaking with a Christian nurse, she herself became a born again Christian and left the convent and the Roman Catholic Church. We all found her talk most fascinating.

On Thursday 14th December, we are all going to Gilberry Fayre for our Annual Christmas Dinner. Judging by the sample menus which we have all seen, we are in for a real treat. Everyone is asked to be there for 7.45pm. We do not want to keep the chefs waiting!

Our first meeting of the New Year will take place on Thursday 11th January. Mr Ted Potts will be along to show us slides of his many travels which include Australia and Peru.

A lovely way to brighten up a cold winter's evening!

On Thursday 18th January we are once again off to the Pantomime in Portadown Town Hall - this time to see "Jack and the Beanstalk." If it is up to the standard of previous years we know we are going to have a fun filled evening. We will all meet at the Town Hall at 7.00 pm as the show begins at 7.30pm.

We wish all of our Church Family a Joyous Christmas and invite new members to come along in the New Year to enjoy fellowship with us. We have a varied and interesting programme planned.

Heather Hanna (Secretary)

Nathanael's Visit

On Wednesday, 22nd November the Church Fellowship welcomed our friend Nathanael from Croatia. He was accompanied by some friends from Muckamore Presbyterian Church. It was encouraging to have them join with us.

The Rector showed some photos of the work which our team had undertaken on our visit to Croatia.

Nathanael also showed some of his photos and spoke of the impact which we had made on those with whom we had come into contact. The local people had seen at first hand how we had tried to make a difference to the lives of some less fortunate than ourselves. Nathanael thanked everyone for their generosity, help and prayers and said that people in the town were still talking about our visit. It was good to meet with Nathanael again. Please do continue to pray for him and Elizabet as they seek to serve God and spread the gospel in their area.

Do pray also that their financial needs will be met.

We here are so privileged by what we have - not only materially but spiritually as well.

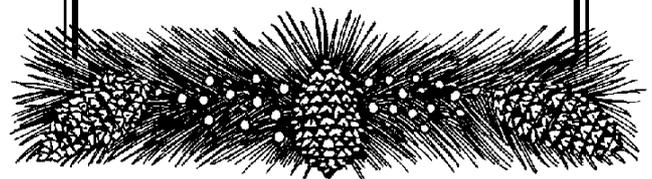
Heather Hanna

Never The Same Again

After the birth of Jesus, the shepherds returned to the same old world from whence they came. Yet, there must have been a new excitement in that familiar world.

Life must have taken on new meaning, for no one is ever the same again after being in the presence of the Lord.

Churches Together
 Carol Service
 Friday 15th December 2006
 7.00 pm
 Ballydougan Pottery
 Seasonal Refreshments



Gifts you can give all year long – not just at Christmas!

The gift of praise:

Give people appropriate mention, even in front of others, of their qualities or jobs or deeds well done. Praise God for who He is and all He gives you.

The gift of consideration:

Care for other people's feelings. This means seeing the other's viewpoint, having the humility to say, 'You're right and I'm wrong'.

Ask God for wisdom to see things from his standpoint.

The gift of gratitude:

Never forget to say 'thank you' and never fail to mean it.

Count your blessings from God.

The gift of attention:

When the other person speaks, listen attentively. Seek to know God's will and listen for his messages.

The gift of inspiration:

Plant seeds of courage and action in the heart of another. Help other people to reach a little higher. Ask God for a vision that will inspire and motivate your life.

The gift of presence:

Be there for people in good times and bad, just as the Lord is for you.

YOU can be the best gift of all to someone!

Jesus is the best gift God could have given us.

As the year draws to a close

Loving Father, help me to live one day at a time,
Not to be thinking of what might have been,
Not to be worrying about what may be.

Help me to accept the fact
That I cannot undo the past
And I cannot foresee the future.

Help me to remember
That I will never be tried
Beyond what I can bear;
That a Father's hand will
Never cause his child a needless tear;
That I cannot drift
Beyond your love and care.

William Barclay

Autumn Leaves

The new session of our Group got off to a good start in September when our Rector, Arthur came along and gave us a talk on his life and the journey that has brought him to us here in Tullylish.

The guest at our next meeting was Joan Davis from the Citizens Advice Bureau who so ably informed us of our rights and helped us with any queries we might have had.

We entertained ourselves at our next meeting by having a beetle drive. Lots of excitement and fair play!!!

In October we had a visit from Mrs Joan Baird, a Banbridge Counsellor who gave us an interesting insight into the workings of local government.

Also in October we welcomed Majella Farrell, a nutritionist and Declan Donnelly from Parkes Pharmacy in Gilford who spoke to us on healthy eating, and allowed us to sample flaxseeds and sun dried goji berries- the latest health foods. The question and answer session at the end was particularly beneficial.

The healthy life style continued in November when Mrs Ella Brown demonstrated armchair aerobics. Nothing too strenuous but still enjoyable!

At our last meeting our own Mrs Edith Curran gave a demonstration in Floral Art. We all left with beautiful Christmas arrangements and feeling very pleased with ourselves.

Now we are looking forward to Monday, 11th December when Gilberry Fayre will be serving up Christmas Lunch to us in the Minor Hall. Pupils from Milltown Primary School will also be on hand to sing Christmas carols.

As we look forward to our Christmas celebration we send best wishes for a Happy Christmas to our Rector and all our Church members. Why not come along in the New Year and experience for yourselves the fun and fellowship?

Brenda Orr