



# C O N T A C T

The Magazine of All Saints' Church, Tullylish  
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## THE RECTOR'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

**Immanuel is with us and has promised He will never leave us.**



*The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.*

Despite its message of joy and celebration, Christmas is a time of mixed emotions, meaning different things for different people. For some, it will indeed be a time of celebration, bringing families together, parties, the giving and sharing of presents. For others, it will bring pain. It may be the memory of a loved one who has recently died that hurts, or an earlier bereavement around Christmas. It may be the memories of

past years before children grew up and left home to start families of their own. It may be the burden of sickness, disability or terminal illness. Or it may be the continuing suffering of millions across the world facing the ever-present reality of poverty, hunger and disease. Many will have little, if anything, to celebrate in worldly terms. Christmas may be a time of joy, but not everyone will be rejoicing.

Yet it's right at that point that we see the true wonder of the Christmas message, that God became flesh, taking on the form of a human body. God in the straightjacket of a human body! But because of that we can truly say that He knows what we are going through, whatever it might be. He doesn't just sympathise with our pain and heartaches. He doesn't stand afar off from daily life and living, for He has shared in it Himself and is involved in our human situation.

Christmas is a time of good news for all, whether we laugh now or weep, rejoice or despair. Why? Because God has entered our world so that, whatever we face now, we know that He is with us in it!

Immanuel is with us and has promised He will never leave us.

May you truly know God's blessing, peace and presence this Christmas.

God Bless.

ARTHUR

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

CHILDREN'S PAGE

MISSION UPDATE

PUZZLE FOR GROWNUPS

TOPICAL FEATURES

PARISH PAGE

NEW YEAR THOUGHTS

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

and lots more

# MISSION UPDATE



## THE LEPROSY MISSION

Struggling for Christmas Gift Ideas?

### An Easy Walk Home

Leprosy kills the nerves under the skin, making hands and feet completely numb and vulnerable to damage through everyday wear and tear. Special sandals help to keep tender feet free from injury.

Cost of a pair of sandals - £3.50

### A Clean Bill of Health

Because leprosy is always found in areas of chronic Poverty, Leprosy Mission hospitals must always be ready to treat those suffering from such diseases as malaria, dysentery and T.B.

Cost of Medicine for one patient - £5.25

Thank you for all your support through the past year. Please continue to pray for us. Feel free to take any of the Leprosy Mission literature which can be found on the table at the back of the church.

**Betty Jones**



## CROSSLINKS

I am pleased to report that Karen Salmon is back safely in Ethiopia after her break here. She hopes, God willing, that three teams from Northern Ireland will visit Ethiopia in 2008. Andy Pedlow and Gary Keenan have returned home after seven months in Serbia. As Serbia is not open to evangelism, they found that making friends there was the most effective way of spreading God's word. They wanted to show God through their lives and be a blessing to as many as possible. They were also able to engage in practical work in schools. They would like us to pray for Rob, Trish, Christian and Lotta, all Mission partners. Also please pray that Project Timothy - a church training initiative started in Serbia - will continue to flourish.

I would like to thank all our parishioners for their support. Have a Blessed Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

**Laura Moffatt**



## CMS IRELAND

The newly erected display boards in the Church Hall and Minor Hall will be a great means of displaying news and views of the various Mission Societies and Church Organisations.

CMSI have some interesting facts on display, which, even at a glance are very informative.

However we hope you will do more than glance at the display, but will take time to see a little of who does "what and where."

You will be surprised at how interesting it is.

Mission Societies and Mission Partners whether at home or overseas need our prayerful support.

Our annual Biblical Quiz will be in circulation after Christmas and as always we hope it will be a means of support for CMSI.

Thank you for your continued support.

**Isabel Whiteside**



## NATHANAEL'S VISIT

On Tuesday 13th November, Nathanael accompanied by his cousin Ivan arrived in Northern Ireland for a two week visit. Ivan has just passed out of Bible College and hopes to have a church in about two years time. Arrangements were made for them to speak at various churches while they were here. We had the privilege of having them at Morning Service on Sunday, 18th November. The Rector interviewed them both and then Nathanael and Ivan sang two lovely songs in Croatian.

Nathanael delivered the sermon and told us of how he was called by God to Koprivnica. One could not help but be touched by his strong faith and his longing to see people coming to know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

Nathanael appreciates all that we here in All Saints are doing for him both prayerfully and financially.

After the service, a soup/stew lunch was held in the Church Hall which gave everyone an opportunity to chat with both Nathanael and Ivan.

They had a busy schedule while they were here, visiting churches in Carnmoney, Tullylish, Ballycraigy, Ballygowan, Richhill, Maghera, Newtownbreda and Lisburn.

On Monday 26th November some of us from Tullylish were invited to The Haven, a Christian Centre near Templepatrick. This was a get-together of about 40 people, some of whom were meeting Nathanael for the first time.

Nathanael spoke and then he and Ivan brought us some messages in song. The ladies from Muckamore served a lovely supper, after which we said our goodbyes as Nathanael and Ivan were flying home the next morning.

**Heather Hanna**

# ORGANISATION NEWS

## THE WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

As our Women's Fellowship embarked on a new season, we have been enjoying an exciting programme.

Our opening meeting in **September** was on the subject of Healthy Living and was taken by Majella Farrell who spoke about and demonstrated Reflexology. Deborah was the willing "guinea pig."

In **October** we joined with the Men's Fellowship to welcome Lady Sylvia Hermon, wife of the former Chief Constable of the RUC - Sir Jack Hermon. We had a most enjoyable evening as Lady Hermon told us of her life. She began by recalling life on the family farm in County Tyrone, to law student at university in Wales and law lecturer at Queen's University in Belfast. She also described life as the wife of a Chief Constable when the "troubles" were at their height. She then gave us an insight into life at Westminster where she sits as the Ulster Unionist M.P. for North Down. This was a most memorable meeting and we are very grateful to Lady Hermon for giving of her time to visit us.

**November's** Meeting - An African Experience- by Norman and Agnes Houston gave us detailed information about life in Uganda. Agnes gave an interesting talk about her experiences in Uganda- some of which were quite amusing. Norman spoke of his fundraising which enables the local people sink wells which provide them and their families with clean water - a great luxury.

Now we are looking forward to our Christmas Dinner at Gilberry Fayre on 6 December and our visit to the pantomime in Portadown on 17 January.

**Rachel Sinton (Secretary)**

## THE GIRLS' BRIGADE

Our Parish Church was filled to capacity on Sunday, 4th November for the 30th Enrolment Service of our Girls' Brigade. Parents, relatives and friends joined with the 50 girls who were to be enrolled along with their leaders.

Muriel McCracken was enrolled as Captain, Betty Jones, Deborah Mulligan, Lisa Taggart, Kim Aughey and Leslie Campbell as Leaders, Joanna Sinton as Sub Officer and Eileen Hamilton, Joan Newell and Alison Gilchrist as Helpers.

The Special Guest of Honour was Mrs Daphne Coe, the first Captain of Tullylish Girls' Brigade.

A choir of Brigade Members trained by Arthur, our Rector, sang "I will sing your praises" which received an appreciative and spontaneous round of applause from the congregation. After the service many of the congregation remained behind to view the display of photographs of the Brigade

members taken over the past thirty years and to sample the delicious birthday cake specially made for the occasion.

**Muriel McCracken**

## CRUSADERS

Another busy year is under way for Crusaders. This term we started collecting Tesco sports vouchers and to date we have over 1300. Thank you the congregation, for your support.

A variety of activities have taken place this year. We have had a representative from Tear Fund who told us about all their work.

Next up for Crusaders will be our Christmas Fancy Dress Party. The young people and the leaders are all expected to dress up.

At the present time, preparations have already started for Our Crusader weekend at Ganaway, Newtownards, from 11-13th April.

In order to reduce the cost of the weekend, various fundraising activities have been planned. The first will be a six hour sponsored sermon night on 15th February 2008 when Arthur will be preaching. You will not have to pay to come in. Instead you will be asked to pay to get out.

Another event will be bag packing at Sainsbury's, Craigavon at the beginning of March. More details of both these events will be published later. May I take this opportunity to thank the congregation for all their support?

**Heather Walker**

## AUTUMN LEAVES

Autumn Leaves got off to a good start in September with the Reverend Samuel Newell speaking to us on one phase of his life when he worked on a building site. In the following weeks we continued with a variety of interesting speakers, from Arthur, our Rector telling of his visit to the Maze Prison, Enid Smith describing her work as a mid wife, to Ted Potts with his beautiful photography of a canal cruise in Russia. In November, our own Isabel Whiteside captured the attention of all present with her extensive knowledge of the history of our parish. Also in November, Canon Elizabeth Johnson spoke to us of her 30 years spent in India. We are now looking forward to a Christmas floral-arrangement demonstration by Edith Curran and our final meeting of 2007 which will be Christmas lunch in the Minor Hall.

# ORGANISATION NEWS

## THE BOWLING CLUB

All Saints' Indoor Bowling Club have made a very impressive start to this season's West Down Zone League and Cup campaign. In fact at time of writing, they are still unbeaten in all domestic competitions.

The League campaign started with a maximum seven point haul against near neighbours, Ballydougan which was soon followed by similar results against Dromara and Holm Park, Dromore. Sandwiched between League fixtures was another visit by Ballydougan in the President's Cup but yet again All Saints triumphed with some ease which set up a second round tie with Holm Park, Dromore.

Back to League action again and another maximum points haul was awarded when Magherally were forced to forfeit the points due to a misunderstanding around Harvest time. All Saints were willing to play the fixture but the League Committee went back to the rule book and the decision stood.

Last year's League winners, Dromore NS were next to visit Fortress Tullylish and like so many who had come before them, went home with very little. However it was a very close encounter as the game was only won with the last bowl of the match - Tullylish 5 points v Dromore NS 2 points.

The President's Cup second round tie with Holm Park was again one way traffic with All Saints progressing to the third round with a bit to spare. St Josephs Poyntzpass came to Tullylish with a strong team on a night when All Saints had a few players unavailable. However such is the spirit in the team that they ground out a super 6 points to 1 point victory to remain League leaders.

The Bowling Club is always looking for new members. We therefore offer an open invitation to anyone wishing to try this fun game to come along.

We meet on Wednesday evenings at 8.00 pm in the Church Hall. Some weeks, this is our match night, but please come along anyway and see what you think of it.

**Edward Campbell**

## THE MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The fellowship outing postponed from April, due to the illness of some of our members was finally held in September, and was well worth waiting for.

Our day started with a conducted tour of the Maze prison site and gave us an opportunity to see the vast amount of money which had been spent. After our tour we then went to the Ulster Aviation Centre with Arthur acting as our "stewardess" and explaining the safety procedure on a Shorts 330. After a picnic lunch we headed off to Patterson's Spade Mill where some of our group recalled using the ancient implements.

The new season started off in September when we were joined by Declan, the former pharmacist in Parkes Chemists, who explained a number of issues relating to men's health.

In October we had a joint meeting with the Ladies' Group when Lady Sylvia Hermon was our guest.

Our November meeting was to have been a talk from Mr Derek Shaw but unfortunately he was unable to attend because of illness. We wish him a speedy recovery and pray that he may be able to speak to us some time in the future.

Mr Steven Stranach stepped in at short notice and gave us an excellent photo presentation of his time serving in Iraq. He described the problems encountered during his tour of duty. Steven's talk made us aware of the comforts of home and the sacrifices made by those who serve Queen and Country in places like Iraq and Afghanistan.

Our Christmas Dinner will be held at Tandragee Golf Club on Tuesday 18th December at 7.30 pm. Anyone who wishes to attend should put their name on the list which will be in the Church porch.

Looking forward to January, there will be an evening tour of St Nicholas' Church, Carrickfergus one of the oldest Church of Ireland Churches.

This will be followed by a simple fish supper in Harry Ramsdens.

Male members of our congregation will be made most welcome at any of our meetings or outings.

### AUTUMN LEAVES PROGRAMME JANUARY - MARCH 2008

January 7th	MLA David Simpson
January 21st	Rosemary McCready
February 4th	Photo Quiz
February 18th	Craft making
March 3rd	DVD
March 17th	Irish Stew