

Parish Youth Worker

At a Group Select Vestry Meeting in March it was decided to continue the role of the Parish Youth Worker for the foreseeable future. It costs about €12,000 per year to run the youth program and pay the youth worker. We have been allocated a grant from the Priorities Fund for €2,000 for the next three years. As a parish we need to raise €10,000, and the vestries committed to raise a portion of this each. To assist your parish meet their commitment

you can either send a contribution in the envelope provided, or ask the treasurer for a Standing Order to pay a small amount each month to the fund. For those with an existing standing order, you can leave it run, amend it or cancel it, but you need to do this yourself. As a guide, each family should try to contribute €50 - €100, and if you feel you are getting more benefit and are able to be more generous, please do so.

IMPORTANT NOTE- With the exception of the **Family Service** in **Mountrath** on Sunday 13th, **ALL** of these dates and times for June are **PROVISIONAL**, so it would be best to check with the relevant Churchwarden before attending.

| Date | 30th May | 6th June | 13th June | 20th June | 27th June |
|---------|---|------------------|--|------------------|-------------|
| 8:45am | Abbeyleix United Family Service 11:00am | Borris-in-Ossory | Seir Kieran | Borris-in-Ossory | Seir Kieran |
| 10:15am | | Lacca | Mountrath Family Service 11:00am | Roskelton | Annatrim |
| 11:30am | | Mountrath | | Mountrath | Mountrath |

- 28th May.....Final Confirmation Class
- 30th May 11am..... United Family Service, Abbeyleix
- 31st May 8.30pm ... Parish Fete meeting in the Rectory
- 3rd Thursday 8pm .. Institution of Rev. Cliff Jeffers in Athy. **All parishioners invited to attend**
- 7th Monday Closing date for entries for Confirmation/C.I.Y.C. bowling
- 8th Tuesday Closing date for Diocesan Magazine Notes!** (to Jennifer Masterson)
- 10th Thursday Closing date for entries for Annual Soccer Tournament
- 11th Friday Confirmation Candidates Bowling Night, in conjunction with C.I.Y.C.
- 13th Sunday Toddler Party at the Rectory, hosted by Mothers' Union & Young Wives
- 15th Tuesday..... Final meeting of Parent & Toddler group
- 19th Saturday Wedding of Glen Cooper and Simone Ruck in Annatrim Church
- 20th Sunday 11am . Confirmation Service in St. Peter's Church, Portlaoise
- 23rd Wednesday... Closing date for July Newsletter items!** (see below)
- 24th Thursday Parish Fete
- 27th Sunday.....Badminton Club treasure hunt
- 1st July.....Annual Soccer Tournament (closing date for entries- 10 June!!!)
- 12th - 16th July..... Summer Holiday Club (**Mega Quest**) in Castletown
- 24th July Parish Barbecue
- Early September..... Garden party in aid of School and Parish Assistant funds

Parish Office The Parish office in the Rectory will be open on Tuesdays, 10.30am - 1.30pm

Rev. Harvey asks that he be informed if any parishioner is sick, at home or in hospital.

Items for inclusion in the newsletter need to be with the editor by the Wednesday before the fourth Sunday of the month AT THE LATEST, so that the newsletter can be assembled, printed, and distributed in time for the fourth Sunday. Ideally, items should be submitted by E-Mail to- newsletter@clonenagh.com Otherwise to- Ivor Clegg, Cloncourse, Mountrath, Co. Laois. 0502-21277 or 087-2522162 **REMEMBER, if you want an item included in the newsletter, it's up to YOU to get it to the editor, as the editor has neither the time nor the inclination to chase after material for publication!** If you would like to receive this Newsletter (in colour!) by E-Mail, contact newsletter@clonenagh.com



Clonenagh Group of Parishes - June 2004

Borris-in-Ossory, Annatrim, Lacca, Mountrath, Roskelton, Seir Kieran.

Priest in charge:

Rev. Patrick Harvey, The Rectory, Abbeyleix.
Phone: 0502-31243
E-Mail: abbeyleix@leighlin.anglican.org

Parish Assistant (Youth):

Linda Wharton, Dromoyle House, Birr, Co. Offaly.
Phone: 0509-31077 Mob: 086-1966166
E-Mail: linda_wharton@msn.com

Rev. Cliff's farewell service



Eunice, Simon, Andy & Rev. Cliff receive their going-away gifts at St. Jude's Church, Annatrim after Cliff's final service in the group, Sunday 16th May.

Following an uplifting service which included several of Rev. Cliff's 'trademarks': a puppet show, an audio/visual display, and the use of visual aids (Thomas the Tank Engine and friends!) during the sermon, and with live music provided by Rev. Philip Heak and a group of musicians and singers drawn from the parish, Rev. Cliff and his family were presented with some gifts by the parishioners of the Clonenagh Group of Parishes.

Churchwarden's speech:

"Good afternoon Rev. Cliff, Rev. Heak, Eunice, Ladies & Gentlemen. Thank you all for coming along this morning, to what was Rev. Cliff's last service as rector of this group of parishes.

The past three years with you as our rector has been a most enjoyable and spiritually uplifting time. We have had activities for young and old, trips to other parishes to see how they worked, courses to develop our Christianity. All this was done plus lots more by Rev. Cliff, as well as run the parish. His wish for us is that all the various clubs and groups he started will continue and with God's help and your prayers, we will achieve this. All the parishioners and everyone in the wider community are very very sorry to see you go. I would like on everybody's behalf, to take this opportunity to wish Rev. Cliff, and his family all the best as they move to Athy to take up the position as rector. I will now call on my fellow churchwardens to make a presentation to you on behalf of the parishioners of Clonenagh Group of parishes. I would like Rev Cliff, Eunice, Andy & Simon to come forward and accept these small tokens of our appreciation for all you have done for us. Thank You."

After the presentation, refreshments were served in glorious sunshine outside the church. Many parishioners took the opportunity to say their personal good-byes to Rev. Cliff and his family and to wish them well in their new home and parish.

Rev. Cliff writes:

I wish to express our sincere thanks to the parishioners for their wonderful gifts and presentation made to us at my last service in the Group of Parishes on the 16th of May. I'm not sure if the various clocks and watches that we were given were a hint at my time-keeping, but we will have a 'wonderful time' shopping for furnishings for our new home with the generous gift that was given to us. It was very encouraging to see so many people at this ser-



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vice, and especially so many young people. Thank you to Rev. Philip Heak and the music group for leading the worship, to those who prepared the church for the service, the people who made tea and provided the tray bakes and to the puppet team for their input. I leave you with the thoughts from the service: Christians live to deepen their faith and to serve others. My greatest wish is that all that has begun over the past three years will continue, please do all you can to support and help those who have volunteered to run groups and activities. Many thanks, and hope to see many of you on the 3rd of June in Athy at the institution.

Yours faithfully,
Rev. Cliff.

Clononagh National School. On the 7th of May Rev. Cliff Jeffers conducted his last assembly with us in the school. After the assembly Rev. Cliff presented the school with a Children's Bible for the Junior Room and a Resource book for the Senior Room, as well as a bag of sweets for the children (& teachers). The Principal thanked Rev. Cliff for coming to the school to teach R.E. and presented him with two gifts, a set of wine glasses and a lovely wooden clock in the shape of Co. Laois. Building work on the new school continues, and is planned to be complete in July. Classes for the remainder of the year are taking place in the Parochial Hall and Mission Hall. After the building is complete, we will be looking for help from Parents and Parishioners to paint the new school (inside) and hope that many people from the parish will volunteer their services.

Senior Citizens Lunch. 60 plus senior citizens came together on Tuesday 11th May for Rev. Cliff's last lunch with them. A presentation was made to him and his wife Eunice on behalf of the Mothers' Union and Senior Citizens group. This group has been a great success and it is hoped to continue to meet at least 4 times a year.

Congratulations to Samuel George Joseph Gee who was baptised at the Family Service in Mountrath on the 9th of May. Congratulations also to Olivia Carry who will be married to Lorcán Phelan on Thursday 27th of May.

Exam Time This time of year can be a very busy time for all our young people in the group doing exams. We would like to remember them in our prayers over the coming weeks.

Letter from Gillian Murphy, our Parish Mission Partner

I have some news which is rather wonderful. 6 months ago when I went to watch my friend Josephine play basketball, I spotted a rather tall and wide male player on the court - he also spotted me, and shortly after, we were introduced... and very soon after that started going out. Yes, Gill has had a Ugandan boyfriend since December. Last week we went away together to Kenya to attend a friends wedding, and while we were there he proposed and I accepted... so am engaged to be married! Over the past few months God has made it very clear to me that Carlos, my fiancée, is the man for me to spend my life with, and when he asked me, it was the simplest, easiest decision I've ever made! Much love to you all and do feel free to ask me any questions you might like to!!!!

God bless, Gill.

On 20th June 2004, Clononagh Group are joining with Portlaoise for **Confirmation** in St. Peter's Church, Portlaoise. Those preparing for confirmation this year are **Peter Allen, Nigel Condell, Philip McKay, Tara Knowles and Doreen Chambers**. Please pray for them as they prepare. Rev. Cliff is planning to return for this service in Portlaoise in June.

The Final Confirmation Class will be held on Friday 28th May.

First Aid Classes. It is hoped to run these classes in September. A grant is available towards the cost of running them from the VEC but this needs to be applied for in June. Anyone interested in doing this course, names to Sandra Condell at 0502-35067 a.s.a.p.

Clononagh Badminton Club held their AGM on Thursday 7th of May. Their new Chairman is Albert Lalor and new Secretary is Michelle Harvey. Wendy Carry is continuing as treasurer. The club has had a very good year, involved in many finals as team and as individuals, reaching the Leinster finals with their grade 6 team. Practice and teams will restart in September, and they would like to invite anyone interested in taking up the sport at Junior or Senior level to get in contact with them. The club is running a car Treasure Hunt followed by light refreshments on Sunday the 27th June, leaving the school car park at 2.30pm. Further details closer to the event.

Clononagh Golf Classic, sponsored by Telefords (Mountrath) and the Parishioners of the Clononagh Group, took place on the 7th of May with twenty eight teams taking part. We are grateful to Mountrath Golf Club for the use of their facilities and especially to Elizabeth Cooper, Mabel & Charlie Peavoy who along with Vicky Wallace, Emily Jackson, Florence Peavoy and Joe Peavoy ensure that the day ran like clockwork. To date, €5,071 has been raised. The winning foursome was: Kevin Hogan, Jim Cooney, Ned Peacock, and Pat Gilmartin.

Parish Fete A meeting of all stallholders and anyone else interested in running this event (on Thursday 24th June) will be held in the Rectory on Monday 31st May at 8.30pm. Your attendance is much needed.

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**Surprise!!!!** This is what I was greeted with on Saturday 8th of May when I entered Castletown Community Hall. About 100 people, mainly children and young people gathered together to express their thanks. I was speechless (for once !!). My main focus in ministry in Clononagh Group has been with the young people and my greatest wish is that this ministry will continue. I am very hopeful that it will, under the direction of our part-time youth worker, Linda Wharton, and most importantly, with the support of the parishioners. I was presented with many lovely gifts, from the Parent & Toddler Group, Kids Club, Kool Club, Puppet Team as well as a gift from Fr. Jackie Robinson from Borris-in-Ossory. Thank you to Linda Wharton, Jennifer Lalor, Solas Puppet Team, Rev. Philip Heak and all the others who prepared this surprise party. Rev. Cliff.  
**A Parent and Toddler Party** is being hosted by Mother's Union & Young Wives in the Rectory grounds on Sunday 13th June at 3pm. All parents and children up to the age of 6 are welcome to come along and enjoy the afternoon. The last meeting of the Parent and Toddler group will take place in the Rectory on Tuesday 15th June.  
**GFS News** Congratulations to Keely Jackson

**Parish Barbecue** will be held in the Rectory grounds on Friday 24th July at 8pm. Music will be by Kieran Fogarty, and tickets will be on sale soon. Desserts for the event will be much appreciated, contact Emily at 32980.

A **Garden Party** will be held in early September in aid of the School Refurbishment Fund, and the Parish Assistant Fund. Everyone is welcome and there will be a bouncy castle, games, a cake stall, etc. Anyone doing a Summer clearout might like to donate books, toys, knick-knacks, etc, to the event. Items can be left in the Parish office, or contact Vera Caldbeck at 32642.

**Annual Soccer Tournament** will take place on Thursday 1st July. Anyone interested in taking part should contact Joe Hargroves on 086-0627362 or 086-3580077 by the 10th of June.

who got 3rd prize for her Bible Study and to Rachel Honner, Linda Hayes, and Karyn Bennett who were all Highly Commended for their crafts. Also, well done to Katie Hayes, Amylou Hayes, Amanda Dunne, Samantha Hayes, Lisa Lalor and Hannah Honner who also took part in the Bible Study and Craft exams. **Leaders** Emily Jackson was omitted from the list of leaders previously published.

This year's **Holiday Club** will take place in Castletown, 12-16 July. It will be called **Mega Quest**, and will be based around a computer search of the Bible. A bus will depart St. Fintan's at 9.50am every day, and return at 1.10pm.

The **Sólás-Solas Puppet Team** had a major part to play in Rev. Cliff's 'final service' on 16th May, and will perform at the United Family Service, Abbeyleix, on Sunday 30th May.

*Laois CIYC events:*  
**Bowling**, Friday 11th June, in conjunction with the Confirmation Candidates, in Roll n' Bowl, Portlaoise. Cost €6 per head, age 10yrs+, booking essential, names to Linda 086-1966166 or Jennifer 086-8185644 / 35962 by 7th June, book now to avoid disappointment.  
**Junior Weekend in Kerry** A good time was had by all