

The Newsletter

October 2014

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***Laura Grant & John McBryde in action at
the National Ploughing Championships recently***

Clonenagh Group of Parishes

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

Rector's Letter

October is "pay and file" time, the deadline for the tax return, and, more significantly, payment of tax for the year. For ten years financial management in our house has been through columns in exercise books. Lines drawn down a page separate a column in which each item is written, from a column that shows amounts budgeted, a column for credit card expenditures, and a column for cash withdrawals and debit card spending. On the right hand side is recorded the balance, after the addition or, more often, the deduction of each item.

Keeping a track of all the transactions is not easy, a certain vagueness creeps in under cover of "cash". "What was that €60 for?"

"I dunno, bits and pieces".

There is a Charles Handy story where 'bit and pieces' has its own initials:

"Words and money mattered . . . in the Irish rectory where I grew up. Each week my parents would prepare and exchange their personal accounts, in an attempt to keep some track of their spending. It was a weekly agony for my mother who could never remember what she had spent on what. I used to try to help. 'Why,' I once asked, do you spend so much sometimes on the SPG when we are so poor?' A child of the rectory, I knew about the SPG; it was the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, a famous missionary society. 'Hush,' said my mother, 'and never tell your father, but SPG really stands for Something, Probably Grub.'

It was my first realization that accountancy can some-times be more of a creative art than a science. Looking back now I think that my father always knew and she knew that he knew but they both realized that 'keeping count' was a valuable discipline, even allowing for the SPG".

Perhaps there is something of the Gospel in 'bits and pieces' or 'SPG'; Jesus was never a rigorist. He gets into trouble over his disciples' vagueness in keeping exactly to the rules:

"One Sabbath Jesus was going through the grainfields, and his disciples began to pick some heads of grain, rub them in their hands and eat the kernels. Some of the Pharisees asked, "Why are you doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?"

Jesus answered them, "Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? He entered the house of God, and taking the consecrated bread, he ate what is lawful only for priests to eat. And he also gave some to his companions." Then Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath." Luke 6:1-5

There is room in life for both discipline and for being relaxed. When it comes to budgeting, as with many other things, it is the discipline that makes the space for being relaxed. Discipline through the year should mean 31st October does not hold too many fears.



Church of Ireland News

Farm Safety

The Board of Education of the Church of Ireland issued a statement of support for the suggestion made recently by the President of ICSA (the Irish Cattle and Sheep Farmers' Association), Mr Patrick Kent, for health and safety education to be included in the primary school curriculum, with a particular emphasis on farm safety for children in rural areas.

This matter is of concern to all of those involved in farming and is of particular concern to the Church of Ireland community given that a significant number of its members are engaged in farming. The number of deaths on farms due accidental health and safety related incidents in recent months and years displays the absolute need for greater awareness among children and young people of the dangers on farms and from farming equipment.

While it is realised that the primary level curriculum contains a great many elements, the Board is nonetheless of the view that it would be beneficial for close consideration be given to the highlighting of farm safety given the frequent references to farm animals, farmyards and farm life in the primary level curriculum and popular school textbooks.

New Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe

On 8th September, the Episcopal Electoral College for Limerick & Killaloe elected Canon Kenneth Kearon as the new Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe. He succeeds Bishop Trevor Williams who retired at the end of July.

Canon Kearon is Secretary General of the Anglican Communion, a position he has held since 2005. Born in 1953, Canon Kearon is a native of Dublin. Educated at Trinity College Dublin, he served his curacy in All Saints Raheny and St John's Coolock, before becoming chaplain of Trinity College in 1984, a position he held until 1990. He was Rector of the Parish of Tullow (Dublin) from 1991 to 1999 after which he became Director of the Irish School of Ecumenics (1999–2005).

The Archbishop of Dublin, said, 'Canon Kearon has expressed his delight at returning to work in Ireland and his intention to serve the people of Limerick and Killaloe and the communities of which they are a part. I have known Canon Kearon for many years and have always appreciated his personal friendship. I wish Kenneth and Jennifer all that is best within the love of God in their time in Limerick and Killaloe.'

The bishop-elect said: 'I am honoured and delighted to have been elected to the Diocese of Limerick and Killaloe, and I look forward to getting to know the diocese, its people and its clergy well in the near future. Ireland has been through a very difficult period in its history, and I look forward to helping the diocese play its part and making its contribution to shaping the future. This diocese has made a distinctive contribution to the Church of Ireland in the past, in part through the work of its bishops and most recently through Bishop Trevor Williams, and I hope to be able to continue in their footsteps.'

Parish Notes

From the registers

Holy Baptism

On Sunday, 24th August 2014, at Saint Peter's Church, Mountrath, **Chloe Elizabeth Hargroves** of Ard Edmond, Castletown.

Funerals

The Late Gladys Gill

Gladys Elizabeth Gill, née Cooper, was born on 26th September 1928 in the Old Schoolhouse in Aghaboe, where her mother was the school teacher.

Her family later moved to the Pike of Rushall. She was educated in Aghaboe and subsequently in Carrickmacross Boarding School, Co. Monaghan. She then returned to help her father on the family farm.

On 12th October 1955 she married Herbert Gill in St. Brigid's Church, Stillorgan, and she moved to his family farm in a place called Castletown, just outside Birr in County Offaly.

In 1971, following the birth of their four children, Herbert and Gladys and their family moved to a smaller farm in County Laois, coincidentally to another Castletown.

Gladys had many gifts, chief among them, music. Many parishioners may remember her playing the organ in Mountrath church on occasions when Archdeacon and Mrs. Gray were on holidays. Her touch was so gifted that numerous people would remark that they knew it was her who was playing from the moment the organ started up. Every other Sunday, she could be found enhancing the church choir with her beautiful singing voice.

In addition to throwing herself into

the life of her parish, another place where she left her mark in Mountrath was in the Country Market: flowers from her beautiful garden, tomatoes from her greenhouse, but most of all her delicious cakes were always much in demand.

For the last couple of years as her mobility decreased, she resided in the loving care of her daughter, Gwyn, and her family, in the Rectory, Aughrim, Co. Galway, where she passed away peacefully on 4th September, after a short illness.

Her funeral service was conducted by her son-in-law, Canon George Flynn, Rector of the Aughrim & Creagh Unions of Parishes, in St. Peter's Church, Mountrath, on Saturday 6th September, and attended by a large gathering of mourners. The address was given by her daughter, The Rev. Lesley Robinson, Rector of Clontarf.

After the service, Gladys was laid to rest in the adjoining churchyard beside her late husband, Herbert, who passed away in 2011.

We extend our sympathy to Isobel, Wilbert, Gwyn, Lesley, and all her family and friends.

The Late Canon George Flynn

Sadly, less than two weeks after the death of his mother-in-law, Mrs. Gladys Gill, Canon George Flynn collapsed and died suddenly in County Galway.

Ordained Deacon in Armagh Cathedral on 24th June 1990, he was then appointed Bishop's Curate in the union of Kilsaran, in the Diocese of Armagh, and became the Priest-in-Charge there the following year. He was Rector of the Clonenagh Group of Parishes from 1998 – 2000, and his final incumbency was in the Aughrim and Creagh Unions of Parishes, where he was instituted as Rector

on 1st February 2008.

In January of this year, he was installed as a Canon, becoming Preband of Inniscattery in the United Dioceses of Limerick and Killaloe.

George will long be remembered for his exceptional spirituality, energy and most of all his pastoral care and kindness. Nothing was ever too much trouble and no one was ever outside the remit of his care. His devotion to the elderly, the vulnerable and the sick were exemplary.

He also had the rare gift of being able to relate and minister to people of all ages equally, putting huge effort into children's ministry in all his parishes, especially for Family Services. As one young, former parishioner of this Group of Parishes wrote on Facebook from Australia on the news of George's death: 'Thank you Rev. George, the world has lost a shining light and Heaven has earned an incredible soul'.

His funeral service was held in St. John's Church, Ballinasloe, on Saturday 20th September, and was conducted by Archdeacon Wayne Carney, acting as Archbishop's Commissary, in the presence of numerous diocesan and visiting clergy, including many from the Roman Catholic Church.

The packed church included family, friends and present and past parishioners, all of whom were shocked and saddened by George's untimely passing. Poignantly, the address was once again given by Rev. Lesley Robinson, his sister-in-law, and following the service George was laid to rest in Annatrim Churchyard in the family plot.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife, Gwyn Cooper-Flynn, his five stepsons Stuart, Scott, Ross, Robin and Dale, and his large circle of extended family and friends.

Thursday Bible Club: Our Thursday Bible Club began again in September after the summer break and meets once a fortnight in the parochial hall in Mountrath from 6.30 until 7.45 pm. Numbers had built up to two dozen in the spring and the club opened with sixteen members in September. We hope to build up numbers this year as we did last year. In October the club meets on Thursday, 2nd and Thursday, 16th.

4th Seed: Mervyn Tomb is beginning a new initiative aimed at young people from 6th Class until Second Year ages. Called 4th Seed (after the Parable of the Sower), it is a monthly Saturday evening gathering at the Faith Mission Centre in Durrow for games, activities and some Bible teaching. The first meeting is on Saturday, 4th October and then on Saturday, 1st November. Contact Mervyn for details.

Lacca Harvest: The harvest thanksgiving season continues on Sunday, 5th October at 4pm when we shall welcome Sam Harper as our preacher.

Clonenagh Select Vestry: There will be a meeting of the select vestry of Clonenagh Parish in the parochial hall on Tuesday, 7th October at 8 pm

Vintage talk: Mr George Conn, a well-known vintage tractor enthusiast, will give an illustrated talk on "Henry Ford: The Man who put the World on Wheels" at the Faith Mission Centre at Durrow at 8 pm on Thursday, 9th October. There will be an epilogue and refreshments. Admission is free and everyone is welcome.

GFS: GFS began again on 19th September with twenty girls present and more to come. The next meeting of the branch will be on Friday, 10th October.

Andrew Holt's Memorial Service: A memorial service for Mr Andrew Holt of Coolrain who died on 11th September will take place in Annatrim Church on Saturday, 11th October at 11 am.

Major Harding's Memorial Service: The Memorial Service for Major Cecil Harding of Tulach Nore, who died in England during August, takes place in Annatrim Church on Saturday, 11th October at 1.30 pm. It seemed a fitting time at which to hold the service – Major Harding loved Annatrim Church and it will be looking at its best with the decorations for the harvest service the next day.

Annatrim Harvest: Our harvest thanksgiving in Annatrim will be at 11am on Sunday, 12th October. We welcomed eighty-four people to the harvest service in Annatrim last year – an excellent total when other morning services were taking place – and hope for a good attendance this year.

Diocesan clergy conference: The annual clergy conference takes place at Clonea in Co Waterford from Monday, 13th until Wednesday, 15th October. Telephone calls to the Rectory number will forward to the Rector as usual.

Mothers' Union Conference: The Mothers' Union hold a conference on the theme "Sowing Friendship" at the Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise on Saturday, 18th October, 10.00 am -3.30 pm. The cost, including lunch, is €25 and everyone is welcome. Application forms are available from Jean Treacy and Mabel Peavoy.

Roskelton Harvest: The harvest festival season concludes at Roskelton on

Sunday, 19th October at 7pm – the darkness of the autumn evening announcing that the winter is approaching and that we can rejoice that seedtime and harvest have not failed and that all is safely gathered in.

Mothers' Union Service: After the diocesan service in September and the day conference on 18th October, Mothers' Union members are welcome to attend the branch service at Mountrath Church at 8 pm on Monday, 20th October. Tea will be served afterwards in the parochial hall.

Diocesan Synod: Our diocesan synod takes place at Piltown in Co Kilkenny on Wednesday, 22nd October where our parishes will be represented by Mrs Emily Jackson, Mr Ivan Jestin, Mr Joe Peavoy, Mrs Jean Treacy and Mrs Joyce Wharton. A census of Church of Ireland church attendance took place in November last year and produced results that were presented to the Standing Committee and posted on the Church of Ireland website in June. With a Sunday attendance of just 20.2% in our diocese, it is hoped that the diocesan synod will take seriously the findings of the census and will take steps to consider what opportunities there for renewal and evangelism. All the other discussions regarding parochial organisation and the other matters before synod become irrelevant if there are no people.

Remembrance of Loved Ones: Our annual service of remembrance of loved ones takes place in Mountrath Church on Sunday, 2nd November at 7 pm. Everyone is welcome at this service, regardless of their religious background or parish.

Smiles

A couple had two little mischievous boys, ages 8 and 10. They were always getting into trouble, and their parents knew that if any mischief occurred in their town, their sons would get the blame. The boys' mother heard that a clergyman in town had been successful in disciplining children, so she asked if he would speak with her boys. The clergyman agreed and asked to see them individually. So, the mother sent her 8-year-old first, in the morning, with the older boy to see the clergyman in the afternoon.

The clergyman, a huge man with a booming voice, sat the younger boy down and asked him sternly, "Where is God?" The boy's mouth dropped open, but he made no response, sitting there with his mouth hanging open. The clergyman repeated the question. "Where is God?" Again, the boy made no attempt to answer. So, the clergyman raised his voice some more and shook his finger in the boy's face and bellowed, "Where is God!?"

The boy screamed and bolted from the room. He ran directly home and dove into his closet, slamming the door behind him. When his older brother found him in the closet, he asked, "What happened?"

The younger brother, gasping for breath, replied: "We are in real BIG trouble this time! God is missing, and they think we did it!"

There's this guy who had been lost and walking in the desert for about 2 weeks. One hot day, he sees the home of a missionary. Tired and weak, he crawls up to the house and collapses on the doorstep. The missionary finds him and nurses him back to health. Feeling better, the man asks the missionary for directions to the nearest town. On his way out the backdoor, he sees this horse. He goes back into the house and asks the missionary, "Could I borrow your horse and give it back when I reach the town?"

The missionary says, "Sure but there is a special thing about this horse. You have to say 'Thank God' to make it go and 'Amen' to make it stop."

Not paying much attention, the man says, "Sure, OK."

So he gets on the horse and says, "Thank God" and the horse starts walking. Then he says, "Thank God, thank God," and the horse starts trotting. Feeling really brave, the man says, "Thank God, thank God, thank God, thank God, thank God" and the horse just takes off. Pretty soon he sees this cliff coming up and he's doing everything he can to make the horse stop.

"Whoa, stop, hold on!" Finally he remembers, "Amen!"

The horse stops 4 inches from the cliff. Then the man leans back in the saddle and says, "Thank God."

Items for the November 2014 Newsletter need to be with the editor by WEDNESDAY October 22nd AT THE LATEST, so that the Newsletter can be assembled in time for the 4th Sunday, October 26th.

PLEASE make your item as ready for publication as possible, and most important, please ensure that you spell names correctly.

Ideally, items should be submitted by e-mail to- newsletter@clonenagh.com

Otherwise to- Ivor Clegg, Cloncourse, Mountrath, Co. Laois. 057-8621277/087-2522162

This Newsletter and many older editions can be downloaded directly from

www.clonenagh.com

Services & Readings

October 2014

First Sunday 5th	Exodus 20: 1-4, 7-9, 12-20 Psalm 19 Philippians 3: 4b-14 Matthew 21: 33-46	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer	Roskelton 9.30am Holy Communion	Borris-in-Ossory 11.00am Morning Prayer	Mountrath 11.30am Holy Communion	Lacca 4.00pm Harvest Thanksgiving
Second Sunday 12th	Exodus 32: 1-14 Psalm 106: 1-6, 19-23 Philippians 4: 1-9 Matthew 22: 1-14	Seir Kieran 9.30am Holy Communion	Annatrim 11.00am Harvest Thanksgiving		Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer	
Third Sunday 19th	Exodus 33: 12-23 Psalm 99 1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10 Matthew 22: 15-22	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer	Borris-in-Ossory 11.00am Holy Communion	Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer	Lacca 4.00pm Evening Prayer	Roskelton 7.00pm Harvest Thanksgiving
Fourth Sunday 26th	Deuteronomy 34: 1-12 Psalm 90: 1-6, 13-17 1 Thessalonians 2: 1-8 Matthew 22: 34-46	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer	Lacca 10.30am Family Service	Annatrim 11.00am Morning Prayer	Mountrath 11.30am Holy Communion	

Parish Diary

October

- 2nd Thursday.....Thursday Bible Club (*page 5*)
 4th Saturday.....4th Seed (*page 5*)
 7th Tuesday.....Clonenagh Select Vestry meeting (*page 5*)
 9th Thursday.....Vintage Talk (*page 5*)
 10th Friday.....G.F.S. (*page 5*)
 11th Saturday.....Memorial Service for Andrew Holt (*page 6*)
 11th Saturday.....Memorial Service for Major Harding (*page 6*)
 13th Mon -15th Wed....Diocesan clergy conference (*page 6*)
 16th Thursday.....Thursday Bible Club (*page 5*)
 18th Saturday.....Mothers' Union conference (*page 6*)
 20th Monday.....Mothers' Union branch service (*page 6*)
 22nd Wednesday.....Diocesan Synod (*page 6*)
22nd Wednesday.....Closing date for November 2014 Newsletter items!

November

- 1st Saturday.....4th Seed (*page 5*)
 2nd Sunday.....Service of Remembrance of Loved Ones (*page 6*)