

CALENDAR

21st June: 10.30 Morning Prayer – Garvary
12.00 Holy Communion – Derryvullen South

28th June: 10.30 Morning Prayer – Derryvullen South
12.00 Morning Prayer – Garvary

5th July: 10.30 Morning Prayer – Garvary
12.00 Morning Prayer – Derryvullen South

12th July: 10.30 Morning Prayer – Derryvullen South
12.00 Morning Prayer - Garvary

HOLY BAPTISM

On Sunday 19th April 2009 in the parish church of Holy Trinity, Garvary, the sacrament of Holy Baptism was ministered to Matthew Thomas John, son of Alan and Jill Moore, 65 Feddans Road, Garvary; and on Sunday 26th April 2009 in the parish church of St Tighernach, Derryvullen South, the sacrament of Holy Baptism was ministered to Emily Jane, daughter of James and Debbie Black, 31 Cloughcor Crescent, Lisbellaw. We extend our prayerful good wishes to both families “that these children may lead the rest of their lives according to this beginning.” (BCP p.350)

BEREAVEMENTS

We extend sympathy to all who have been bereaved recently including Roy Graham and Valerie Wilson on the death of their brother in law, Joe Shortt, Gortaclare, Omagh.

EASTER VESTRIES

This year’s annual Easter Vestries brought a couple of changes. In Derryvullen South, we welcomed as a new member of vestry Mrs Iris Henderson who is also secretary of the vestry. Following the election which took place, it was with regret that, for the moment at any rate, we had to say farewell to Freddie Kettyles as a vestry member. Freddie has been a member for the past 27 years and has been a most faithful member for all of that time. He has also been churchwarden to each of the last three rectors and in that capacity has given loyal and dedicated service to the parish. In Garvary, we expressed appreciation to Mrs Eva Phair who served as people’s churchwarden last year, and we welcomed Mrs Margaret Porter who has been appointed as people’s churchwarden this year as well as being honorary secretary.

BOWLS

On Saturday 2nd May 2009 in Squires Restaurant, Tempo Road, Garvary Bowling Club and invited guests enjoyed a meal together to round off the year's activities. The rector thanked Hilda and Maud for their work in arranging the evening.

Our congratulations to Derryvullen South Bowling Club for winning the Erne Bowling League section A for the third year running and also for winning the Erne Bowling League play off trophy.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday 14th June 2009 is our prizegiving Sunday when the young people will be presented with their prizes and they will again be presenting this year's CMSI project. The Sunday school will then be on holidays until the 13th September 2009.

ORANGE PARADES

Sunday 5th July 2009 marks the annual parade services in Garvary at 10.30 am and Derryvullen South at 12.00 noon. Both services will take the form of Morning Prayer attended by the brethren. Everyone is welcome.

GENERAL SYNOD

It has to be admitted that it takes great stamina to sit through General Synod from beginning to end. Not many do; they get up and drink coffee and network during the day. Even the Archbishop as chairperson takes a break. Bills can be very boring but this year there was actually an atmosphere of excitability and anticipation as the debate of Bill no.1 progressed through its second reading on Friday. This Bill was to instruct that any future printing of the Book of Common Prayer would introduce the Thirty-nine Articles of Religion by means of a Declaration which, amongst other things, referred to negative statements not representing the spirit of this age. An amendment to this referred to the "tone and tenor" of the negative statements rather than the statements themselves. The Declaration as amended was passed by a significant majority of Synod. This means that Synod felt the negative statements are still of relevance so long as we view them sensitively. This seems to be a sensible approach. After all the ten commandments are negative but commandments such as "Thou shalt not kill" are surely still relevant. The Declaration admitted that distinct differences remain. The Thirty-nine Articles remain a sensitive issue. The Standing Committee asked for a legal opinion and it was the legal judgment that the Declaration could be seen as changing the doctrine of the Church of Ireland which caused unease and contributed to the way members eventually voted. In the Preamble and Declaration to the Constitution (BCP p.776) our church is described as "Catholic" and "Apostolic", but also "reformed" and "Protestant". Unfortunately the first two words appear in the Declaration in Bill no.1 but not the second two. This added to the uncertainty of what was being intended by the proponents of the Bill.

As we approach that season again when emotions can get carried away, we need to maintain a balance on the one hand, between acknowledging that distinct differences

remain and that these can legitimately be expressed in negative statements, and on the other, we need to refrain from discourtesy of any kind and the temptation to labour points in such a way as to become offensive.

LESSON IN MODESTY

You remember Agnes Smith Lewis from Ayrshire in Scotland, the lady who, along with her twin sister Margaret, travelled to St Catherine's monastery at the foot of Mount Sinai and who in February 1892 discovered the Syriac palimpsest containing the complete four canonical gospels. It is even older than Codex Sinaiticus which was discovered by Von Tischendorf. In the providence of God these Holy Scriptures have been preserved for us by the Eastern Church and especially the monks of St Catherines. Anyway, Agnes was a remarkable lady. As you probably know she spoke many modern languages fluently and learnt Latin, Hebrew, Greek, and Syriac. She entertained to her home in Cambridge, rubbed shoulders with, and corresponded with many eminent scholars worldwide. Did you know that she didn't have a university education although she was granted several honorary degrees including doctorates? You didn't? You never heard of her? Oh... The author of a book entitled "Ancient Iraq" was a French physician who worked in Iraq for twenty years gaining first hand knowledge of the people, their culture and their history. Some sentences in the opening pages of that book are worth reflecting on this summer as a lesson in modesty. "In man's short history, of these opulent cities, of these powerful gods, of these mighty monarchs only a few, often distorted names survived. The dissolving rain, the sand-bearing winds, the earth splitting sun conspired to obliterate all material remains, and the desolate mounds which concealed the ruins of Babylon and Ninevah offer perhaps the best lesson in modesty that we shall ever receive from history." (Ancient Iraq by George Roux 1964, p.19)