



CATHEDRAL LIFE

The Cathedral Church of Christ the Redeemer, Dromore



‘The Lord is with you’

OCTOBER 2020

THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST THE REDEEMER, DROMORE



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Dean of Dromore

Curate Assistant

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Pastoral Duty

In the event of pastoral need or
emergencies, please contact the
Rector on 028 9269 2275 or if
unavailable, the Curate on
028 3832 1217

Deadline for articles and information
for the next edition of Cathedral Life.

*No material will be accepted after
this deadline.*

Friday 23rd October 2020

Dear friends

Harvest with a difference

I'm sure by now that many of you will realise that one of my favourite characters in the Old Testament is one of the Judges, a select group of individuals chosen by God to lead the nation of Israel during a period of crisis and then "melt away" when the crisis had passed. We are introduced to Gideon in the book of Judges, chapter 6 in what can only be described a harvest with a difference.

It is certainly harvest time, but the context of the harvest is very, very unusual indeed. Gideon is threshing wheat, which is not unusual in itself. But rather than carrying out this harvest work on the threshing floor, Gideon is threshing the wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites *Judges 6: 11*. Context is key in understanding this scene. The Israelites have done evil in the sight of the Lord and for 7 years he has given them over into the hands of the Midianites. Each harvest, the Midianites, Amalekites and all of the other eastern peoples would take their crops and their livestock, not sparing a living thing for Israel.

And so the Israelites, responded by hiding themselves away in mountain clefts and strongholds; locking themselves away from their oppressors and from one another. The Israelites responded by carrying out their "normal" work at harvest, in the most abnormal and unusual of settings out of fear for their oppressors.

Fear, isolation, loss of livelihood, dignity and routine was something which had become part of their experience as a consequence of the "new normal" the Israelites found themselves living in and through.

I wonder how much we can relate to this in our current context of Covid-19? Many of us have

experienced fear and isolation. Some of us have lost our livelihoods and are fearful for the future. Most of us have had our routines disrupted, the familiarity of which can bring such comfort to us all. And in the midst of all of this is the issue of our human dignity and how that can be stripped away so, so easily.

Now back to that ancient harvest scene which must have felt so unfamiliar to the fearful Gideon. An angel of the Lord came and sat with Gideon and made the most outrageous, yet comforting statement into the midst of his brokenness *“The Lord is with you, mighty warrior.” Judges 6: 12.* Two things stand out immediately about this statement. Firstly, that Gideon is viewed by the Lord as a mighty warrior as I’m quite sure that he felt that he was anything but a mighty warrior as he hid in a winepress. And secondly, it is a wonderful truth that even though Gideon and his fellow Israelites felt abandoned by God, that in fact the Lord was with them in the midst of their darkest days.

Gideon’s response to this declaration from the angel of the Lord is most revealing and perhaps something which we can relate to in our context, *“If the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us?”* I want to suggest that Gideon is reflecting on his daily experience of oppression at the hands of the Midianites and constructing a very skewed and erroneous image of our God whose very nature is love and whose heart and promise is to be with us always. I wonder how many of us have cried out like Gideon as we have reflected on our experience of Covid-19? The pain, the fear, the isolation, the loss, the feelings of abandonment. How many of us have been prompted to cry out, *“If the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us?”*

The encouragement from the story of Gideon is that he learnt to trust again and became that mighty warrior that the Lord always knew he was and could become. It took a series of tests for him to realise that God was always with him, even in that lonely place where he found himself threshing the wheat.

Perhaps as we approach this season of harvest within our church calendar, we can learn, like Gideon, that God’s love for us is not something which should be measured by the circumstances we find ourselves in. Perhaps we could grow in our understanding of just how faithful our God is as we look around this incredible world and remind ourselves that He is the giver and sustainer of all life. Perhaps we could consider gathering on Harvest Sunday as we give thanks once more to our faithful God for being with us through our own experiences of brokenness.

Your friend in Christ.

Geoff

Greetings to you from the Diocese of Maridi

“Hope is evidence of Faith”

God is still in control of our lives and situation and we continue to uphold you as source of our hope and hope is evidence of faith in Christ Jesus.

“Hope is one of the Theological virtues. This means that a continual looking forward to the eternal world is not (as some modern people think) a form of escapism or wishful thinking, but one of the things a Christian is meant to do. It does not mean that we are to leave the present world as it is. If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next.” – C.S. Lewis

Current situation in South Sudan:

Risk of famine: The conflict in South Sudan has damaged the country’s economy, contributing to soaring inflation, as a consequence, food prices continue to rise and many of families in South Sudan go hunger. These numbers are expected to rise as the rain season progresses. Many small business places are closed, and some farmers have been displaced from their land due to flood. Food items are expensive.

Unsuccessful peace process: Despite a peace agreement signed by the warring parties, the population of South Sudan has yet to see an end of fighting. Conflict has resulted in a sharp rise in the number of people fleeing their homes and basic infrastructure such as health and education facilities have been destroyed. The international and regional community needs to be united in supporting the current peace process.

Conflict is threatening civilian lives: Tens of thousands of people have been killed in South Sudan as a direct result of the current conflict and millions have been forced to flee. Many more are likely to flee their homes in the coming months if the situation does not stabilize. Civilians are the main victims of the fighting, looting and ambushes. Conflict has caused health facilities to routinely face shortages of key medical supplies putting further civilian lives in danger. The fighting has also compounded food insecurity with malnutrition becoming a greater threat to many.

Current situation in Maridi:

Life is returning back to normal in Maridi, God’s will the churches in the Episcopal Diocese of Maridi will officially reopened coming Sunday 5th September 2020 as we launch a week of witness or mission week in the area where Christians will move door to door to witness for the Lord. The churches are going reopened with using guidelines from the National Taskforce on Covid-19 and other guidelines from the Diocesan Bishop of Maridi.

Despite the fact that people are returning to normal life in Maridi. Still the communities in Maridi are seen to be in danger as many people are not keeping the guidelines for Covid-19. Access to information in the rural communities is limited due to inadequate resources to reach them and the remoteness of the tropical areas. Most of our people are un-educated; they have no access to local media and are seen to live by their traditional and cultural aspects.

There is high level of ignorance and unbelief about the truth of the Coronavirus. People have not adhered to the directives from the National Ministry of Health in the Republic of South Sudan and the local directives. People in the rural areas go on shaking hands and not maintained social distancing.

Needs for your Prayers:

- *Pray for the bicycles for the Pastors and Evangelists to reach out to the Communities who do not have access to adequate information from reliable and trusted source about coronavirus as it has come to live with us.*
- *Pray for the need to support and the 85 pastors and 125 Lay/Readers in the Diocese with food is still paramount.*
- *Pray for the 79 church-based teachers who are now jobless and are in need of food support.*
- *Pray for the Archdeacon Rev Alex Khamis of Eddi Archdeaconry with Churches workers of the Archdeaconry displaced from the churches because of the insecurity in the area. Pray for Madawa Parish, Landlili Parish, Rasolo Parish, Angudri Parish, Mbiligwa Parish, Letuwa Parish, most of the people in those parishes have moved to live with their relatives in Maridi Town.*
- *Pray for the trauma healing for the church leaders as they organize to re-open churches and they themselves are affected with so many trauma.*

Much blessings + Moses Zungo



A very sincere word of thanks to those who have already contributed to the Maridi Emergency Appeal—to date the incredible amount of £10,300 has been sent to Maridi enabling, amongst other things, 30 bicycles to be purchased for the use of Pastors and Evangelists, an extension to be added to the Bethesda Clinic to be used as a waiting area for those requiring treatment and food for ministry students still stranded in Uganda.

Harvest Message

“If the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us?” Judges 6: 13

These words were uttered by a fearful farmer well over 3,000 years ago in the context of a very different harvest. Each year, foreign powers would invade the land, ruin the crops and not spare a living thing. It was devastating for Gideon and his people as year after year, this was their experience. This wasn't in any way a pandemic in the truest sense of the word, but the impact was broadly similar. As a consequence of these annual incursions, the people experienced isolation, fear, loss of income, dignity and routine.

I wonder how many of us have experienced similar feelings during the Covid-19 pandemic? I wonder how many of us have cried out, like Gideon, in the midst of our anxiety, fear and loss *“If the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us?”* Gideon learnt that God was with him and rather reluctantly embraced God's will for his life as he left the harvest winepress and led the army in a victorious battle.

I pray this Harvest, that we might be encouraged to leave the comfort of our homes, to gather for worship, and to thank the Lord of the Harvest for His goodness, provision and faithfulness once more.

Each Harvest, we encourage everyone to support the work of the Cathedral through our Harvest Appeal, and this year is no exception. This year has been one of challenge in terms of our Free Will Offering with a drop in income of around £4,000. In spite of this, the Select Vestry have however resolved to support Maridi Diocese in their response to Covid-19 through the transfer of over £10,000, which includes contributions from individuals as well as Parish funds.

The funds raised through the Harvest Appeal are used to meet the general running costs of our buildings and the payment of staff salaries. Those who support the Cathedral through the envelope system will find a Harvest Appeal envelope in their box of envelopes. Those who support the Cathedral through the Standing Order system or more occasional donations will have received a specific Harvest Appeal envelope with this magazine. Please either bring your offering to church on Harvest Sunday or drop it into the Church Office any time during the month of October.

Sincere thanks to everyone for your ongoing support for the work and mission of the Cathedral here in Dromore.

Harvest: October 2020

Due to the ongoing crisis in our land, the decoration of the Cathedral will be carried out by a small group of volunteers this year, led by Mrs Sara McCorkell. Windows will not be decorated by organisations and groups as most aren't able to meet as yet and the rest of the church will be decorated appropriately for our Harvest celebrations, but in a more limited fashion.

Children are still encouraged to bring a pot plant or packet of tea bags to church on Sunday 11th October or drop them off in the Church Office anytime up to Harvest Sunday. These offerings will be used to bless the more senior members of our congregation.

If you would like to assist in any way, then please let Jill know in the Church Office.

10.00am Harvest Celebration Service

Speaker: Rev Trevor McKeown

Theme: Harvest reminds us that God is with us

Worship led by Karen, Orly & Ruth.

11.30am Harvest Celebration Service

Speaker: Rev Trevor McKeown

Theme: Harvest reminds us that God is with us

Worship led by Karen, Orly & Ruth.

Please don't forget to book your space at a Harvest service by ringing the church office over the next few weeks. Booking your space will enable us to plan seating for our services and will also avoid disappointment.

Fruit and veg will be given to those in particular need in our community through the services provided by Via Wings.

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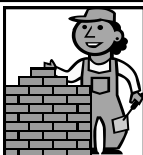
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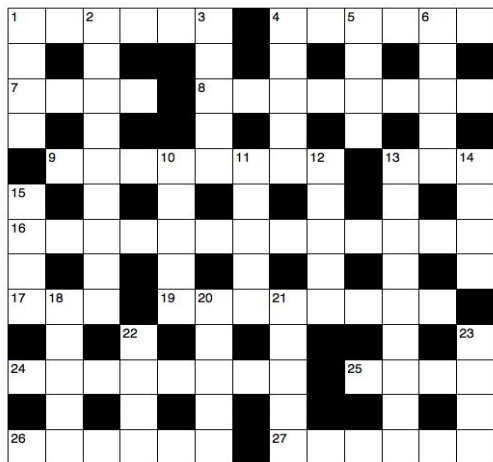
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Across

1. He must be 'the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well' (1 Timothy 3:12) (6)
4. 'For we must all — before the judgement seat of Christ' (2 Corinthians 5:10) (6)
7. 'They reeled and staggered like drunken men; they were at their — end' (Psalm 107:27) (4)
8. See 19 Across
9. It concerned who among the disciples would be the greatest (Luke 9:46) (8)
13. Formed by the Jews in Thessalonica to root out Paul and Silas (Acts 17:5) (3)
16. 'He has sent me to bind up the — ' (Isaiah 61:1) (6-7)
17. Moved rapidly on foot (Matthew 28:8) (3)
19. and 8 ' — a great company of the — host appeared with the angel' (Luke 2:13) (8,8)
24. Hindrance (Romans 14:13) (8)
25. Comes between Luke and Acts (4)
26. Empower (Acts 4:29) (6)
27. 'Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a — !' (John 2:16) (6)

Down

1. Sunrise (Psalm 119:147) (4)
2. The part of the day when Cornelius the Caesarean centurion had avision of an angel of God (Acts 10:3) (9)
3. He was one of those who returned with Zerubbabel from exile in Babylon to Jerusalem (Nehemiah 7:7) (5)
4. 'No one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born — ' (John 3:3) (5)
5. Animal hunted or killed as food (Ezekiel 22:25) (4)
6. 'He encouraged them — — remain true to the Lord' (Acts 11:23) (3,2)
10. Ruses (anag.) (5)
11. Jewish priestly vestment (Exodus 28:6) (5)
12. Visible sign of what had been there (Daniel 2:35) (5)
13. This was the trade of Alexander, who did Paul 'a great deal of harm' (2 Timothy 4:14) (9)
14. 'This is my — , which is for you; do this in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:24) (4)
15. One of Noah's great-great-grandsons (Genesis 10:24) (4)
18. Traditionally the first British Christian martyr (5)
20. Relationship of Ner to Saul (1 Samuel 14:50) (5)
21. Jacob had one at a place he named Bethel while on his way to Haran, fleeing from Esau (Genesis 28:12) (5)
22. Bats (anag.) (4)
23. 'You strain out a — but swallow a camel' (Matthew 23:24) (4)

Annual General Meeting - Thursday 8th October at 8pm

Each year, we are required by the Constitution of the Church of Ireland to have an annual meeting at which the church accounts are adopted, a Select Vestry is elected and Auditors are appointed. This meeting should normally take place within a period of time prescribed by the Constitution around the occurrence of Easter Sunday.

Due to the pandemic, this meeting has not been possible this year so far, but has now been scheduled for Thursday 8th October at 8pm in the Cathedral Hall. This meeting is open to everyone but only registered vestry members can serve on the Select Vestry and have a right to vote. Additionally, as this is what is known as a triennial year, it is a requirement that we elect Parochial Nominators and Diocesan Synodsmen at this meeting.

Thank You

A very sincere word of thanks to everyone who has responded so generously to the various appeals we have had over recent months.

During the season of Lent, we were all encouraged to engage in the Jar of Grace. Due to the closure of our church building during the early months of the Covid-19 pandemic, some jars are still coming in, but to date the total is a fantastic £1,977.00. This total will be divided equally between the installation of the toilet in our Cathedral and ongoing support for Maridi Diocese.

Thank you to everyone who gave to the Lebanon appeal during the first 2 weeks in September. £1,025.00 has been raised to date and every single penny will be sent to alleviate the ongoing suffering of the residents of Beirut following the dreadful explosion over one month ago.

And thank you to those who have already dropped off clothing in the garage in the Clayton Hall yard for the annual clothing collection. The collection will remain open until Monday 5th October.

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History Reading Group

As the restrictions associated to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic remain, at the time of writing, to some degree in place insofar as they impact upon parish life, the **Dromore Cathedral History Reading Group** continue to indulge in remote meeting and reading.

Since social distancing became part of our vocabulary and our daily lives in March of this year the History Reading Group have read books on subjects as diverse as - A social and political history of Victorian Britain, the epic military struggle of Spring 1945 which was the Battle of Berlin and a biography of Edward of Woodstock, eldest son of King Edward III, more commonly known as the Black Prince, who won his spurs at the Battle of Crecy in 1346.

The next book which the History Reading Group have decided to read is the 2020 Abacus published -

This Dark Business – The Secret War against Napoleon *By Tim Clayton*

“This Dark Business” tells the story of the determination of the British Government to destroy Napoleon Bonaparte by any means possible. The reader is plunged into the underworld of Georgian politics in a tale of propaganda, spying, covert operations, secret committees and assassination.

The book is readily available and at reasonable cost in paperback format from the usual high street and on line retailers. Everyone is most warmly invited to join with the History Reading Group in reading this book.

For any further information in relation to “This Dark Business” specifically, the History Reading Group generally or indeed if you would like to become involved in selecting the title of our next book to read please contact -

Billy McCallum Mobile 07714 035909 or email wmccallum09@googlemail.com

Wedding Dress Festival

Many thanks to all who left knitted triangles in the Church or with Jill in the office. We should have enough to make the bunting to help decorate the church for our festival. Unfortunately with present times being very much unknown, it has been decided it would be best to postpone our March date.

An event like this takes a lot of organising and the uncertainty of the next number of months doesn't help. Like most weddings this year, our festival is just on hold until more certain times. I shall keep you updated of a new date.

In the meantime keep on the lookout for any 'vintage' dresses we could exhibit.

Jane Russell

Church Collections

General Fund

August

2020/21

9,890.00

2019/20

8,307.00

Total to date

£34,728.50

£36,859.19

Development Fund

Month 5

August

966.55

691.25

Total to date

£3,954.80

£4,121.05

Clothes and Fabrics Collection

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We can say **YES** to

- Men's Clean Clothing
- Women's Clean Clothing
- Children's Clean Clothing
- Paired shoes, Handbags, Belts
- Bed linen, Curtains

but we must say **NO** to:

- Dirty or wet clothing
- Single shoes
- Uniforms

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6th September Romilly June Gray, O'Roory Hill Road, Dromore

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will you encourage this child in the life and faith of the Christian Community."*

HOLY MATRIMONY

16th September Thomas Wishart and Caroline Jess

"Those whom God has joined together let no-one put asunder."

CHRISTIAN BURIAL

17th September Mary Lowe, Rosemount Care Home, Portadown
23rd September Myrtle Smylie, formerly Thornhill Drive, Dromore

*"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord. They are blessed indeed,
Says the Spirit, for they rest from their labours."*

Church Services each Sunday in October

10.00am Cathedral Praise

11.30am Morning Prayer

Harvest Celebrations - Sunday 18th October

October	4th	11th	18th	25th
Flower Rota Mrs Julie McMurray	Mrs Pauline McMurray	Mrs Jean Gilliland	Harvest	Miss Nan McMurray



The Cathedral Church of Christ the Redeemer, Dromore

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Children's & Youth Worker:	Christine Shanks e-mail: dromore.youth.children@gmail.com	028 9269 3968
Parish Panel:	Very Revd Geoff Wilson 028 9269 2275 Robert Beggs 0777 160 7914 : Vacant	

Please contact the Office to request the issue of Weekly Envelopes or Cathedral Life, and for queries about Hall Bookings, Record Searches, Adverts, etc

Select Vestry 2019-2020

Churchwardens:	Ashley Silcock (Rector's)	Ian Doig (People's)
Glebewardens:	Johnny Gordon (Rector's)	Bill Forsythe (People's)
Vestry Members:	Colin Barr, Andrew Carson, Paul Cochrane, Andrew Cuthbert, Scott Mackey, Nan McMurray (Honorary Treasurer), Samuel Newell, Julie Orr (Honorary Secretary), Sue Pegrum, Joanne Silcock, Leanne Teggart, Agnes Thompson.	
Honorary Secretary:	Currently Vacant	
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Dromore Youth & Children's Ministry

Kingdom Kids in a Folder!

Due to the ongoing pandemic the Sunday children's ministry has been unable to meet in the Cathedral Hall.

However, we have started back into our curriculum, albeit in a different manner. During our 10am service, the children have their own personalised folder with a downsized version of what we would normally do on a Sunday morning. The children participate in a prayer activity, memory verse challenge, craft and game relating to the children's talk they hear in church. On a Sunday afternoon children who weren't able to make the service get sent "Jigsaw at home" which they can complete as a family. This consists of the same theme and activities that the children participated in at church.

We really look forward to the Sunday when we can meet again in the Cathedral Hall when it is safe to do so.

Christine Shanks





CONGRATULATIONS

Sincere congratulations to Caroline Jess on the occasion of her wedding to Thomas Wishart on Wednesday 16th September 2020 in the Cathedral.

Caroline and Thomas had to postpone their wedding, due to Covid-19 restrictions, in April of this year, so it was wonderful that restrictions had eased to such an extent that a church wedding was possible.

We wish them every blessing in their married life together.



Dromore Cathedral is the Parish Church serving the Dromore and Kinallen areas and a Cathedral of the Diocese of Down and Dromore in the Church of Ireland.

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Cathedral Life