

DECEMBER 2020

Billy Derrykeighan

Rectory Ramblings

And it came to pass in those days...

From the traditional to an updated 2020 version

No Nativity because Mary & Joseph face a travel ban

The shepherds had been furloughed

The Innkeeper has shut after a slump in bookings

How are the Wise Men meant to cross International borders

... that there went out a decree from Caesar Boris that all the world should be tested and traced... and all went to be tested, everyone into his own city... and told to stay at home... or else!

If you can't come to church, our technology gives us new opportunity to worship. If you have an Amazon smart speaker, then ask Alexa to open the **Cambridge Prayer Book** and you will be able to have Common Prayer at home.

On Kindle and Google Play, there is a new translation of the Gospels by Martin Manser. Find it on www.wordcomealive.net

There is a free Bible Study App—WordGo.

If you look up www.johnkeble.org.uk, then you will find that the Vicar, Simon Rowbory, of this Oxford parish is providing a new hymn for every week that can be sung to a well known tune.

Don't forget your Rector and Rusty will continue to broadcast on Facebook and Youtube. Like or subscribe **Billy & Derrykeighan**. Faith is alive and well in the digital domain.

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Operation Christmas Child

Well done to both parishes for sending 83 shoeboxes to needy children.

Services

It is very difficult to plan ahead in a pandemic. The circuit breaker lockdown means there will be no services on 29th November, Advent Sunday or 6th December, St Nicholas Day and Advent 2. The children's service we had planned for 6th December must now be cancelled.

I have tried to think ahead and to change things this year and to be fair to each congregation. A few folk have said to me that they don't really like driving at night, so we might try having an afternoon service instead of an evening. If the public health advice changes, then follow that guidance firstly.

Sunday 13th December, Advent 3.

An informal service of the word at the usual times in both churches.
Readings and poems for Christmas at 4pm in Billy

Sunday 20th December, Advent 4.

Holy Communion at the usual times in both churches.
Readings and poems for Christmas at 4pm in St Colman's

Christmas Eve

A Crib Communion 4pm in Billy

Christmas Day

A Crib Communion 10am in St Colman's

Sunday 27th December, St John the Apostle

Morning Prayer at the usual times in both churches.

Thursday 31st December, New Year's Eve

A service of reflections and meditations to bring this sad year to an end and to ask God's blessing on 2021. This will be a joint service in Billy at 4pm



Ballymoney Foodbank

Donations of food and toiletries can be left in either church or in the Rectory front porch. Thank you to Jean McCook for taking your donations into Ballymoney.

Postage Stamps

More than ever this year, we need to be reviving the traditional Christmas Card and keeping in touch with one another. Please keep all stamps and I will pass them on to CMSI for their fundraising.

Sunday School Christingle

I know we can't even think about planning anything for the New Year, but can we at least plan in pencil so that God can rub it out for our Christingle service on Sunday 24th January at 4pm in St Colman's for all Sunday School families.

This will be something new and a type of Christingle you will never have seen before!

Broadcasting

The Rector does enjoy feedback from his Sunday and midweek broadcasts. If there is anything that the viewers would like to see, let the Rector know. Rusty will try especially hard to have some child friendly broadcasts coming up to Christmas so that our Sunday School children don't feel forgotten about—keep an eye on Facebook and YouTube—Billy & Derrykeighan.

Church Envelopes

I know there are envelopes out there that need to come in. Please try and get 2020 envelopes in before the end of the year. New envelope sets for 2021 will also be on their way out to you. If you are passing Dervock, you can leave your envelopes in the letterbox at the Rectory gate pillar. All churches and charities along with businesses have taken a bit financial hit since March. Please do keep your money coming in. The church of God never closes and the Rector is on duty, even if it is only to deal with emergencies. You will need your church and your church needs you.

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There is still no formal flower rota, but if anyone wishes to provide a display for over Christmas, just bring to church—there are plenty of windows and flower stands.



- From a nativity play that went wrong...

Innkeeper : Can't you see the no vacancy sign?
Joseph : Yes, but my wife is having a baby.
Innkeeper : Well, that's not my fault
Joseph : Well, it's not mine either

Parish Registers



Holy Baptism

St Colman's	25th October	Frankie James Jonathan Taylor
Billy	15th November	Brianna Ariella Baldray

Christian Burial

St Colman's	4th November	Isobel McIntyre
St Colman's	10th November	William (Billy) Simpson



Billy's Holy Dusters

5th & 12th December	Isobel McKay & Shirley Kane
19th & 26th December	Jim & Margaret Matthews

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