

Billy Derrykeighan

Rectory Ramblings

More gems from John Pepper's "What a thing to say."

Aren't you glad you are not in the congregation where the preacher was nicknamed "Oul thunder-gub". Not a man to keep his voice lowered or to hide his light under a bushel.

The story is told of a visiting preacher who was invited to a sumptuous lunch before the evening service. When he arrived he announced that he always spoke on an empty stomach and would only take a glass of milk and a biscuit. The lady of the house was much miffed and didn't go to the service. When her husband came home she asked him, "Well, how did he do?" "To tell you the truth", was the answer, "he might as well have ate his fill."

The new curate, out on his rounds, always called at the front door which often in Ulster houses is stiff and hard to open because everyday callers use the back door. Imagine the panic caused when the curate, waiting at the front door, heard a voice from inside, "Minnie, get the hatchet, it's the new minister!"

One cleric, leaving to take up a post in

another parish, was receiving his farewell gift, when the old Sexton said, "We are going to miss you. When you came here, we didn't know what you were going to be like, but sure didn't you turn out to be a big ignorant fella like the rest of us".

At another farewell presentation, the outgoing Rector was told, "We decided to give you a wee momentum."

As heard in many an Ulster Rectory on a Sunday morning:

"Yup?", "Ibed.", "Grup.", "Shrup.", "Grup.", "Mup."

If you can't figure out the last sentence, speak to the Rector.

New appointment

Well done to the Rector of Portstewart, Rev'd Malcolm Ferry, who has been appointed as our new Rural Dean, succeeding Chancellor Graham of Dunluce. My personal thanks and appreciation for all the support and guidance I have received from Canon Graham over the years, he deserves to slow down a little.

Ash Wednesday

A Penitential evening service will be held in St Colman's on Wednesday 26th February at 7.30pm. CMS Mission boxes will be available.

Foodbank

Well done to both parishes for their donations to Ballymoney Foodbank coming up to Christmas. Collections are ongoing as the need is all year round. Collection crates are in both church porches.

The Giant's Causeway Lodge have very kindly agreed to support Ballymoney Foodbank through Billy parish and will be having a coffee morning to promote the work of Foodbank on Saturday 29th February at 10am. All welcome to LOL 1195 on the Causeway Road.

Easter Meetings

The Diocesan Office has asked for our Easter Vestries to be held before Easter. This is a Triennial year so we need to appoint Synodspersons and nominators as well as a Select Vestry. Billy's AGM will be on Tuesday 31st March in the church hall and Derrykeighan's on Wednesday 1st April in the Allen & Adair hall both at 7.30pm. Only those on the register will be entitled to vote, but everyone is welcome to come along.

Congratulations

To the William Pinkerton Memorial



Primary School in Dervock on being shortlisted as Best School in Co Antrim and Miss J Galbraith as Best Teacher in Co Antrim in the Families First NI Education Awards. They will be facing stiff competition from other local primaries including Dunseverick, Kilmoyle & Bushvalley. Well done to all our local schools for proving the quality of teaching here in North Antrim - we are blessed with dedicated teachers in our local schools. The Rector will be attending the Gala awards evening in Titanic Belfast... no show without punch!

Billy Flower Arranging

A special meeting for all who are on the flower rota in Billy to try to streamline how we decorate the church for Easter, Harvest and festivals. Everyone welcome to the Rectory on Tuesday 3rd March at 7pm.



Sundays in February & March

2nd February	Candlemas
9th February	Septuagesima
16th February	Sexagesima
23rd February	Transfiguration
1st March	1st Sunday of Lent
8th March	2nd Sunday of Lent
15th March	3rd Sunday of Lent
22nd March	Mothering Sunday
29th March	Passion Sunday—Café Church

Archdeaconry Confirmation

Our Bishop's retirement means that Confirmation arrangements are all changed. There will now be an Archdeaconry Confirmation for all local parishes in St Patrick's Broughshane on Sunday 24th May at 6pm. Any adults, who would like to be confirmed, please see the Rector.

Lenten Project

"In the Middle" is the theme of this year's CMSI Lenten Project for Sunday School. Please do support the work of CMS by taking a money box to fill and bring back. Also the Rector is always collecting used postage stamps to pass on to CMS as one of their fundraisers.

Register of Vestrypersons

The Register of Vestrypersons will be open throughout the month of

February. Make sure you get a form to sign up so you have voting rights at the annual meeting.

Graveyards

It would be a great help to our groundsmen if all Christmas flowers and holly wreaths were removed from family graves. Everyone is reminded that plastic flowers and old wreaths should be removed after 3 months and placed in the bins provided. In Derrykeighan, old holly wreaths should be placed at the laurel bushes at the gate on the Castlecat Road, so that the bin is not overloaded.



Flower List

Billy

2nd February	Isobel McKay
9th February	Isobel McKay
16th February	Ann Harkness
23rd February	Sarah Breadon
1st March	Amanda Dobbin
8th March	Meta Page
15th March	Shirley Kane
22nd March	Jill Stewart-Moore
29th March	Café Church

Derrykeighan

Claire Christie
Wendy McAleese
Pat McClure
Maud Hartin
Edna King
Helen Quigg
Jean Hamilton
Brian Hill
Cora Maxwell



Billy's Holy Dusters

1 & 8 Feb	Evelyn Kane & Jean Ramage
15 & 22 Feb	Brenda McCook & Louisa McGoogan
29 Feb & 7 Mar	Brenda McCook & Louisa McGoogan
14 & 21 Mar	Brian & Helen Bolt
28 Mar	Sarah Breadon & Jill Stewart-Moore