

Sept—Oct 2020

Billy Derrykeighan

Rectory Ramblings

Why we need to get our children back to full-time education

- Jesus was betrayed by Judas the Carrycot
- Jesus was condemned by a bunch of spiders
- An angel said, "Take the child and flea into Egypt"
- The Holy Ghost, the Parakeet descended on the apostles
- Jesus cured the 10 leprechauns
- Moses went up Mount Cyanide and came down with 10 tabloids of stone
- Jesus said, "Blessed are the cheese makers"
- Jesus had a lady friend called Mary Mandolin
- The angel said to Mary, "Blessed art thou a monk's woman"
- (The same angel) said to Mary, "Hail highly flavoured one"
- The first long distance runner in the Bible was Good Sam Marathon
- The Bible tells us not to lay up trousers upon earth

Remember the Red Cross motto from the Spanish Flu pandemic

Obey the laws, wear the gauze

Protect your jaws from septic paws

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With expert help and advice from within the parish, and following the Health & Safety guidance from Church House, I am very proud and pleased to be one of the first Rectors to open their churches after the lockdown. Many parishes have not yet re-opened at all.

We have a small congregation in both churches at the usual times on Sunday mornings and hopefully this will build up, if life gets back to some sort of normality.

It wasn't easy, wading through the rainforest of guidelines (which kept changing and are still changing), but I do believe that our churches need to be open. They are as vital as any branch of the NHS.

So please be patient, yes indeed it is frustrating not singing and not sitting in your favourite pew. And I know that wearing a face mask can be stuffy and annoying.

The services are shorter, but there are many liturgies within the Book of Common Prayer that we haven't often used and can now enjoy on a Sunday morning.

The new normal is different, it will be different and we are just going to have to cope with change.

It is so difficult to plan ahead, especially as I write at the moment the infection rate is going back up and many more are testing positive and having to quarantine. This makes it essential that everyone attending church plays their part in keeping their fellow parishioners safe.



- Wash your hands
- Wear a mask / shield if you can
- Keep your distance
- Don't come out if you suspect you have had contact with anyone with the virus or if you feel in anyway unwell.

It could well be that we will face local lockdowns in the future or that the contact and trace system will force some of us to isolate for 2 weeks. It really is impossible to plan ahead, we can only make our plans in pencil, as a wise man said, "So that God can rub them out".

My midweek and Sunday reflections will continue on Facebook and Youtube, just look up "Billy & Derrykeighan".

I can't bring Sunday School or Confirmation classes back at the moment. Please be patient. Having consulted with colleagues, we are afraid of disrupting the strict "bubbles" that are operating during the week in school. The risk is too great at the moment and churches do not want to be the "weak link" during this pandemic. Sunday School teachers will try to keep contact with their children. We haven't forgotten about you and maybe we will just have to do something "new". The Diocesan Children's Office is making resources available. www.rippleconnor.org.uk

Children can of course come and worship with their families on a Sunday morning as long as they sit together as a family. The shorter services might even suit fidgety wee ones better!

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Harvest 2020

We will plan to celebrate Harvest, morning and evening on Sunday 4th October in Billy and Sunday 11th October in Derrykeighan.

To help with decorating on the Saturday mornings, it would help if flower arrangements could come already made. To prevent unnecessary touching of surfaces, please bring donations of food and produce for Ballymoney Foodbank.

Operation Christmas Child

Thanks again for the anonymous donation of flatpack shoe-boxes that will be available in the church porches. All filled boxes need to be returned by Remembrance Sunday, 8th November as they will be collected during that week. Make sure you read the instructions of the leaflet and include your £5 for costs.



Billys Holy Dusters

5 Sep	Evelyn Kane & Jean Ramage
12 & 19 Sep	Brenda McCook & Louisa McGoogan
26 Sep & 3 Oct	Pam Traill & Ivy Walker
10 & 17 Oct	Brian & Helen Bolt
24 & 31 Oct	Sarah Breadon & Jill Stewart-Moore