



St. Mary's Parish Church, Comber

Outreach

November

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Parish Website www.stmaryscomber.org.uk

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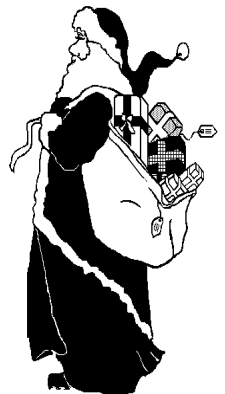
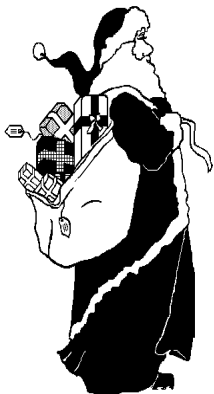
in the CHURCH HALLS

SATURDAY 22nd NOVEMBER

at 10.00 am

*All the usual stalls: bric-a-brac, toys, books, bath & beauty
~ lovely fresh farm produce ~ Santa! ~ refreshments ~ and more!*

An event for the whole family to enjoy so do come along.



Yes dear friends, it's that time of year again when the Christmas Fair is fast approaching. This year it will be held on Saturday 22nd November in the Church grounds with the doors opening at 10.00am.

The Christmas Fair has proved over recent years to be a major financial boost to our overall church funding, so we are appealing for donations of saleable items that can be sold on the bric-a-brac, book, health & beauty, plant, cake and toy stalls.

We do ask that items be of good repair, and it must

be pointed out that due to safety regulations we cannot accept any electrical appliances such as kettles, mixers, lamps, radios, etc.

Items can be left at the Parochial Hall on the Wednesday 19th November from 10.30am until 3.00pm or evenings between 6.30pm - 7.30pm. Or bring down to the Church halls any time on the Friday evening prior to the Fair.

Donations of money can be given if desired and this can be left in to the Church Office or handed to the Churchwardens or Treasurer, please ensure

that you mark the envelope "Christmas Fair".

We would also appeal to all our parishioners and friends to come along and support the Christmas Fair to ensure an enjoyable and successful morning.

The Christmas Fair is enormous fun with many excellent bargains to be had, good books to buy to read on those cold winter days or evenings in front of the fire, hot tea or coffee to warm you (if the weather is not so good) along with a tasty mince pie or two, games and fun for the children along with that all important visit to you know

who. Ho ho ho.

SO PLEASE DO SUPPORT US IN WHATEVER WAY YOU CAN AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ON SATURDAY 22nd NOVEMBER.

Also remember the FAIR IN THE SQUARE the following Thursday, 27th November.

More details in local papers nearer the time.

ALL SAINTS' DAY - 1ST NOVEMBER

All Saints, or All Hallows, is the feast of all the redeemed, known and unknown, who are now in heaven. When the English Reformation took place, the number of saints in the calendar was drastically reduced, with the result that All Saints' Day stood out with a prominence that it had never had before. This feast day first began in the East, perhaps as early as the 5th century, as commemorating 'the martyrs of the whole world'. A Northern English 9th century calendar named All Hallows as a principal feast, and such it has remained. Down the centuries devotional writers have seen in it the fulfilment of Pentecost and indeed of Christ's redemptive sacrifice

and resurrection. The saints do not belong to any religious tradition, and their lives and witness to Christ can be appreciated by all Christians.

Richard Baxter, writing in the 17th century, wrote the following:

He wants not friends that hath thy love, And made converse and walk with thee, And with thy saints here and above, With whom for ever I must be... As for my friends, they are not lost; The several vessels of thy fleet, Though parted now, by tempests tost, Shall safely in thy haven meet.... The heavenly hosts, world without end, Shall be my company above; And thou, my best and surest Friend, Who shall divide me from thy love?"

ALL SOULS' DAY - 2ND NOVEMBER

All Souls' Day The early Church was slow to dedicate a liturgical day to offering prayers and masses to commemorate the faithful departed.

But in time prayers were offered on behalf of dead monks, that they might attain "the Beatific Vision" through purification, which the

Church later described as Purgatory. Odilo, the powerful abbot of Cluny, (d 1049) decreed that All Souls' Day should follow the feast of All Saints' Day.

At least four ancient English dedications are known, the most famous of which are All Souls College, Oxford and the church in

Maurice Frost (ed) Historical Companion to Hymns Ancient and Modern, London: Clowes, 1962, No 274, verses 1,3,6.

Apparently 1,255 ancient English churches were dedicated to All Saints - a number only surpassed by those dedicated to the Virgin Mary.

The Rector writes:- I am fascinated by this article and by the information concerning the dedication of churches to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Our own church is dedicated to the mother of Jesus - hence it is St Mary's Church. Those of you who are avid readers of *Outreach* will of course remember that maybe a year ago I wrote about this aspect of our own parish church.

The dedication of the church in The Square is yet

another pointer to our history. If we had been "merely" a Plantation Church of the early 17th century, while the Anglican establishment would have insisted, quite properly, on a dedication to a saint, it would have been to someone like St Patrick, or St Mark. For example St Mark's Church, Newtownards.

Whereas we are dedicated to St Mary. That is yet another clue to our ancient heritage in this place, for the Cistercians always dedicated their missionary churches in honour of the Blessed Virgin. The reason the Protestant Planters dedicated their 1610 church to St Mary is simply because worship will not have ceased on the site of the Abbey suppressed just before 1560. Like us, they will have seen the old church simply continuing in the new.

Langham Place in London.

In bygone centuries All Souls' day was certainly uncomfortable for anyone who had wronged a person who had then died. For it was believed that souls in purgatory could appear on earth on this day, in the form of ghosts, witches or toads, to haunt anyone who had wronged them in life.

On a more cheerful note,

it was also believed that you could help the dead on this day by almsgiving in cash or in kind. Some of these beliefs seem to have been caught up in the popular customs of Hallowe'en.

When the Reformation came, the Protestants disregarded the idea of Purgatory, and this feast day remained within the Roman Catholic Church.



The War Memorial and the De Wind Plaque have been brought into the church from the porch.

For a long time Remembrance services in churches become ever less common in some places as the years go by. In part, it's because those who have any direct experience of war are, in stable countries, a small minority. In part, it's also because such services in the past have been uncomfortably jingoistic at times.

Some churches have tried to avoid all of this by renaming them 'peace' services. But whatever title they are given, all remembrance services are peace services – although that begs the question of

what we mean by 'peace'. It won't be too many weeks before we are singing about "peace on earth, goodwill towards men". And yet those words are sung to describe a country living under foreign occupation, where guerrilla warfare was a part of daily life. It seems an odd sort of peace. In his play 'Murder in the Cathedral', T. S. Eliot writes of Becket wrestling with this theme: "Did Jesus mean peace as we think of it: the kingdom of England at peace with its neighbours, the barons at peace with the king, the householder counting over his peaceful gains?" There's the paradox. We can have Jesus' peace,

but it doesn't mean that we'll never have to face conflict. Not all peace is good peace. Nations – and each of us individually – can make peace by giving in to what is wrong, by letting evil win. Of course, there's always the temptation to take the easy way out when it comes to resolving conflict, to accept what's wrong and to excuse ourselves by saying that we're doing it for the sake of keeping the peace. But that sort of peace isn't worth having and is unlikely to last anyway. Building true peace can be costly. It will mean that we have to admit our own part in the mess, that we have sinned, and that we have to be prepared to forgive other people their sins too. It's a peace based on suffering and sacrifice – based on the cross. So whatever form our remembrance services take, they are all peace services. We remember those who have died, and who are still dying as a result of conflict. We confess our part in it, even if it has only been a passive involvement. And we commit ourselves to playing our part in building true peace; not cheap peace, not peace at any price, not peace through compromise with evil. We promise to try

to do God's will for his world, so that lasting peace, honourable peace may be built.

The Church News Service

With the 90th anniversary of the end of World War One in mind, here's what great writers over the centuries have said about war....

**John Donne
Sermons, 12 (1622)**

As peace is of all goodness, so war is an emblem of all misery.

A great war leaves the country with three armies - an army of cripples, an army of mourners, and an army of thieves. *Anon*

The tragedy of war is that it uses man's best to do man's worst. *Anon*

John F Kennedy

Mankind must put an end to war, or war will put an end to mankind.

Louis Mumford

Let men who delight in the cruelties of war remember that their day is coming.

The tragedy of war is that it uses man's best to do man's worst. *Anon*

SNIPPETS

Died in the services

Little Alex was staring up at the large brass plaque that hung on the side wall of the church. The plaque was covered with names, and seemed to fascinate the seven-year old. "All those names," he said to the minister. "Who are they?"

"Well, they were people who used to go to this church," explained the minister. "This is a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the services."

Soberly, they stood together, staring at the large plaque. Little Alex's voice was barely audible when he asked, "Which service, the 9 o'clock, or the 11 o'clock?"

Last chance?

The minister was very ill, and was told by his doctor not to have too many visitors. However, when his agnostic friend called, the unbeliever was ushered into the minister's bedside.

"I do appreciate," said the agnostic, "you seeing me when so many of your friends have not been able to see you."

"Well, it's like this," said

the minister. "I feel confident that I shall see my friends in heaven, but I was worried that this might be my last chance to see you!"

Say that again?

A woman telephoned her bank and spoke to the accountant who looked at her holdings, "I want to make some changes," she said. The accountant asked for more details. "Are you interested in Conversion or Redemption?" he asked. "Good heavens," came the reply. "I must have got the wrong number. I wanted the Bank of England, not the Church of England."

Prayer for the current financial situation

Lord God, we live in disturbing days:

across the world, prices rise, debts increase, banks collapse, jobs are taken away, and fragile security is under threat.

Loving God, meet us in our fear and hear our prayer: be a tower of strength amidst the shifting sands, and a light in the darkness; help us receive your gift of peace, and fix our hearts where true joys are to be found, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

YOUNG SEEKERS NEWS

Young Seekers and their Leaders again say a big THANK YOU for your support and generosity on Harvest Sunday.

A grand total of £385.00 was raised at the Soup & Roll Lunch for the CMS Ireland project "Footsteps". Also ten carrier bags of dried food was delivered to Crafts for Christ for their container going to Zimbabwe on the 11th November.

We thank God for the opportunity to support others in their ministries and in doing so set an example to our children of putting our faith into action.

As we complete our fourth project we would appreciate the return of any CMS Ireland boxes. We have almost reached £1000.00 - **FANTASTIC!**

And looking ahead to Christmas..... many people are asking, "are you 'doing' the boxes again?" The answer is YES - more details will follow in the December **Outreach**. However this year boxes are being provided for easier
p a c k a g i n g a n d

transportation. If you would like one now please ask Joe or see us on Sundays - Youth Hall.

Ivy, Kim & Sharon

DATE FOR DIARY

14th December 2008

We invite you to our Christmas Family Service with Julie & Paul Swaffield and their Puppets

A PRAYER.....

Dear God

Your wonderful love has got us to where we are today.

It has helped us be strong through the tough times, and to share our faith with others in need of it.

It tells us the difference between right and wrong, what we should do and what we ought not to have done.

Help us to choose the right path in life with the help of Your wonderful love. Amen.

This prayer was written and read by Cora McNeill from Genesis at our Family Service on the 14th September, which was a celebration of "God's Wonderful Love."

*When going through some files in the Church Office I came across this poem written by Len Ball.
I hope he does not mind but I have printed it below for everyone to enjoy. Maureen Anderson*

St MARY ' S IN THE SQUARE

A bell tolls out across the town
It's been a long time there.
The old bell of St Mary's
Church of Ireland in The Square.

A refuge from way back in time
When men repented sin.
Whom God so loved - and loves us yet,
All those who enter in.

A Cistercian Abbey once stood here
From eleven-ninety-nine,
Built by monks from Cumbria
Who thought just here was fine!

Priors and monks and abbots
Dedicated to the cause
Prayed, and read God's Holy Book,
And kept God's Holy Laws.

Apart from chanting of the Psalms
Each one to give his praise,
They lived their lives in silence
In those ancient Godly days.

Three-hundred-years and fifty
Did the Order they maintain,
Until absolved by Henry,
King of England, in his reign.

The great monastery lay idle
And the stones began to fall,
Till Montgomery and his Scotsmen
Thought they'd give the place a call.

In sixteen-six they came, and found
The scene bleak and forlorn.
So they built some shelters from the stones -
Our town was being born!

The great Scots' planters brought their faith
But a church could not be found.
Then they fashioned up a House of God
From the ruins all around.

Two-hundred-years the church gave praise
And the population grew.
The old church had to be knocked down
To make way for the new.

So it was in eighteen-forty
That they built the grand affair,
Today still standing proudly
As St Mary's in The Square!

Now, just try to imagine
No St Mary's in the town.
How could Comber Square survive
Without its church and ground?

No car park for the locals,
No church or belfry tower.
No graveyard for our long deceased,
No clock to tell the hour.

No Rector and no sermons,
No 'Three in One' - No 'One in Three'.
No fine east window, and no Faith,
No Hope, No Charity!

So when you walk into our Church
It's comforting to know
This ground was hallowed to our Lord
Eight hundred years ago!

Pray stop a while and wonder
What all this means to you and me.
If St Mary's wasn't here today -
Just where would Comber be?

**THE
FRIENDSHIP
CIRCLE**

PSNI LADIES CHOIR

Wednesday 19th November

2.00pm - 4.00pm in in the Parochial Hall

OPEN HOUSE TO ALL ~ PLEASE COME

*Everyone is very welcome to join us as
we enjoy this special visit of the
PSNI Ladies Choir*

Contact

Kathleen Coulter	028 9187 2621
Pauline Little	028 9187 8515
Anna Milligan	028 9187 8032
Sheila Stewart	028 9187 3348



**ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH
MOTHERS' UNION**

**3 NOVEMBER CRAFT NIGHT
2008**

**15 DECEMBER VISIT TO THE TUDOR
2008 CINIMA
*MEAL BEFORE AT LISBANE***

**12 JANUARY REFLEXOLOGY
2009 WITH JUDITH SINCLAIR**

**HARVEST IN
BIBLE TIMES**

Every schoolchild learns the rhyme "Thirty days hath September".

In 1908 a similar verse, listing the agricultural work to be done each month or two, was discovered. It was written in the tenth century before Christ, and it starts with September and October:-

The two months of olive harvest,

The two months of sowing grain,

The two months of late planting,

The month of hoeing up of flax,

The month of harvest of barley,

The month of harvest and festivity,

The two months of vine tending,

The month of Summer fruit.

The verse was written on a pocket-sized piece of limestone, about 11cms (4") high. It was probably copied by a school boy as an exercise, in the time of King Solomon, to remind him of the farmer's year.

This calendar was found in Gezer, a small town a

little inland from Jaffa, which has the remains of a defensive gate built by Solomon.

Although most Holy Land farmers use modern machinery, there are still poor farmers and those with small pieces of land, who plough with animals and reap by hand.

The most famous harvest worker was the widowed Ruth, permitted to glean the remnants of the barley crop by her kind kinsman.

The book of Ruth, telling the story of her faithfulness to Boaz is well worth re-reading at harvest.

The last verses tell that their child was Obed, the father of Jesse, the father of David, and we could add, the ancestor of Jesus.

EDITORIAL



The Closing date for all articles for the December, and last edition for 2008, of Outreach is Wednesday 19 November.

Please leave your contribution in the Church Mail Box or bring to the Church Office any time before the closing date.



CHURCH FLOWERS

This year we really did have a tremendous response to our appeal for the Harvest and I think that everyone would agree that the Church was beautiful.

Many thanks to all those who so kindly gave up their valuable time to decorate the church for Harvest Sunday. Those who helped to tidy but especially to the ladies who arranged the flowers. A lot of love and dedication, woman hours and tired fingers did go into the displays and the flowers were really lovely and very much admired and appreciated.

Also thank you to the many people who gave so generously to the flower fund for the Harvest, many of which were anonymous.

Our next appeal will be for the Christmas Flowers.....but that will be next month!!!

THANK YOU ~ Joyce

1st COMBER BEAVER SCOUTS NEWS

WELCOME TO THE NEW BEAVERS OF 1st COMBER PACK

Kyle Smith, Matthew Gibson, Connor McClure, Michael McGrath, Jonathon Topping, Ross McMinn.

SWIMMING UP TO CUB SCOUTS, **GOOD LUCK!**

Aaron Migan, Rueben Neild, Myles Milliken, Ethan Topping.

DATES FOR THE DIARY-

13th/20th November -

Christmas Decorations for the Christmas Fair.

4th December -

Christmas at Crawfordsburn.

18th December -

Last night before three week Christmas break.

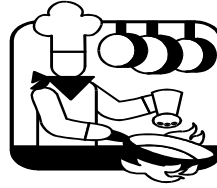
25th April 2009 -

Mount Stewart Beaver Scout Adventure Day.

BADGES TO ACHIEVE THIS YEAR -

Global Challenge, Hiking, Sleepover and Animal Friend.

FOOD FOR THE BODY



LOVELY SCONES

Ingredients:

*12oz Self-raising Soda
Flour*

*3oz Block Margarine or
Butter*

*2oz Caster Sugar (a little
more if required
sweeter)*

1 Egg (lightly beaten)

*¼pt Buttermilk (works
best if kept to near use-by
date)*

Method:

Sift the flour into a baking bowl and carefully rub in the fat using a light touch until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs, then stir in the sugar.

Carefully mix in the egg and buttermilk adding

them gradually and bring together to a firm dough.

Turn mixture onto a floured board and giving it very little handling gently flatten dough to ½ inch thick and cut out using a medium sized cutter or by using a knife.

Place scones onto a non-stick or floured baking sheet and bake at 210/220 degrees C for 15-20 minutes or until pale golden brown.

Remove from oven and place on a cooling rack until cool.

When cool scones may be packed in polythene bags and placed in freezer if not needed immediately, they thaw out perfectly when needed and are as freshly baked.

NB - I hope this simple recipe will inspire some of the non-makers of scones to have a go and perhaps we'll get some more bakers for times when scones are required ~ for example the Christmas Fair as detailed on the front page!!

Worship in November 2008

St Mary's is open all day every day for contemplation and prayer

2 NOVEMBER	TRINITY 24 ~ ALL SAINTS
9.00am 11.00am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Two - Modern Parish Communion One - Traditional Evening Prayer Two - Modern
9 NOVEMBER	TRINITY 25 ~ REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY
9.00am 10.20am 11.10am 6.30pm	Holy Communion One - Modern THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION ACT OF REMEMBRANCE IN THE SQUARE ACT OF REMEMBRANCE IN ST MARY'S WITH THE COMBER BRANCH OF THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION Evening Prayer One - Modern
16 NOVEMBER	TRINITY 26
9.00am 11.00am 6.30pm	Holy Communion One - Traditional Morning Prayer Two - Modern Compline & Communion One - Traditional
23 NOVEMBER	"STIR UP" SUNDAY ~ THE SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT
9.00am 11.00am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Two - Modern Morning Prayer One - Traditional <i>We will be joined by Mr Bob Fraser and his band of Traditional Musicians</i> Evening Prayer Two - Modern
30 NOVEMBER	ADVENT SUNDAY
9.00am 11.00am 6.30pm	Holy Communion One - Traditional Morning Prayer Two - Modern Advent Carols with the Comber Clergy & The Choir of Comber Primary School
7 DECEMBER	THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT
9.00am 11.00am 6.30pm	Holy Communion One - Traditional Parish Communion Two - Modern Evening Prayer One - Traditional
<p>CONFIRMATION CLASSES begin on Sunday morning 16th November at 10.15 in the Upper Room of the Parochial Hall. <i>Teenagers are invited to come on Sunday mornings. Adults are asked to talk to the clergy. The Confirmation and Communion Service will be held on the evening of Sunday 1st February 2009. On that morning we will dedicate to God our new Transept, the Cistercian Window, the new lights and the renovation of St Mary's.</i></p>	



OUR JOYS HOLY BAPTISM

5 October 2008

Grace Sarah
the daughter of
Claire Louise Wilson
& **Craig Thomas Wylie**

26 October 2008

Robert Keith
the son of
Nicola Sara
& **John Paul Donnelly**

FLOWERS NOVEMBER

2	Mrs Julia McCullough
9	Mrs Lucy Cooper
16	
23	Mrs Joyce Whiteside
30	Mrs Louise Darragh

DECEMBER

7	Mrs Gretta Greenaway
14	Mrs Rosemary Cooper
21	CHRISTMAS FLOWERS Mrs Rosemary Cooper
28	CHRISTMAS FLOWERS Mrs Marion Hanna