

A-Z of the Virginia Group of Parishes

All-4-1 Services

About 4 times a year the 4 churches come together as one to worship together. It is a more informal service.

Announcement Sheet

A sheet of parish and community events is produced each week and is given out during the weekly service. On it are parish details, service details, the weekly psalm as well as contact details. Can be downloaded at: www.virginia.kilmore.anglican.org

Bibles

During each service is a reading from the bibles and a sermon looking at the particular passage. To help us follow the passage in more details there are pew bibles in each church.

BCP

The book that the Church of Ireland uses for church services is called the Book of Common Prayer (BCP). Originally published over 300 years ago the new version we use was published in 2004. Morning Prayer is found on page 101 and the Holy Communion Service is found on page 201.

Bible Study

Nothing too heavy! We usually follow a series of bible passages using guided questions after which we enjoy some refreshments.

Billis Hall

Billis hall is a great asset. It has been opened since 2004 built on the site of the old Billis School. Much happens under its roof from parish organizations like Girls' Friendly Society, Bowls, community clubs like Basket Ball. It is available for private bookings but private insurance must be provided. Contact: Cherry Smith (049) 8547506.

Billis School

Billis School has been open from the 1980's. There are 4 full time Teachers, 1 Learning Resource Teacher, a School Secretary and a Caretaker. There are over 90 in the school but as the general area grows so does the school population. It is managed by the Board of Management which is made up of 2 teacher reps, 2 community reps, 2 parent reps and 2 bishop's reps. The school website is www.billisns.com

Bishop / Diocese

Billis, Killinkere, Lurgan (Virginia) and Killinkere make up the Virginia Group of parishes. The Virginia group of Parishes is part of Kilmore Diocese under the leadership of Bishop Ferran Glenfield who has been Bishop since 2013. Bishop Ferran is married to Jean. The Bishop visits the parish yearly usually on Confirmation Sunday. www.dkea.ie

Bowling Club

The bowling club meets on Monday nights from 8pm in Billis Hall. The cost is just €2 per evening which includes refreshments.

Car Boot Sale

Runs from Easter to late autumn in the grounds of Virginia church. It is on the third Saturday of each month from 9.30am to 1pm. The cost is just €10 per car and €15 for vans.

Community Games Basketball

This group meets in Billis Hall on Thursday evenings from 7pm to 8pm to learn and play basketball. Cost is €2 per night.

Christianity Explored

Runs from time to time. It is an opportunity as a community to explore the Christian faith as well as learning about each other's denominations.

Children's Prayer Book

In each church there is a special prayer book that children can follow during the service.

Church of Ireland

The Virginia group is part of the Church of Ireland which is part of the worldwide Anglican Communion which has 70 million members in 164 countries. It is an apostolic Church, able to trace its roots to the earliest days of Irish Christianity, it is a Catholic and Reformed Church. It is a Church with three orders of sacred ministry - Bishops, Priests and Deacons. It is an all-Ireland Church with some 400,000 members - 275,000 in Northern Ireland and 125,000 in the Republic of Ireland and has two provinces, Armagh and Dublin, each with an Archbishop. There are 12 dioceses, 466 parochial units and 528 stipendiary clergy. The parliament of the church is called the General Synod. www.ireland.anglican.org

Cleaning Rota

Like with the flowers there are a rota of people who take turns to give the church the once over. See church notice board for names.

Confirmation Services

Depending on numbers there is usually a yearly confirmation service in the parish. (although some are confirmed through their school) The candidates must be at least in sixth class to be confirmed. After attending classes they are presented before the Bishop.

Carers & Toddlers Group

Another of those watch this space groups. We hope to have one running in the next month or so. It will be a safe place for those who look after pre-school children to come and chat while enjoying a nice cup of tea/coffee while their children play (or sleep!) in safety. Contact Vida McCauley for more details (049) 8548465

Community

We are all part of it! The challenge is what can we do to serve and build God's Kingdom among those we live and work among.

Church Warden

There are two of these in each church, one chosen by the Rector (the rector's warden) and one chosen by the people (the people's warden). They jobs include preparing the church for morning service as well as collecting the offertory.

Diocesan Council / Synod

Decisions are made at every level. Vestry – At parish level there is the vestry while the diocesan equivalent is the Diocesan Council and the Diocesan Synod. 5 members from across the group are able to be elected (for a three year term) to the Diocesan Synod (which meets yearly) and anyone can be elected to the Diocesan Council (which meets quarterly).

Donations

Always greatly appreciated. Often in lieu of flowers at funerals. The moneys donated are usually put towards some project in the church like – new lights, new organ, bibles etc...

Email

The parish email address is: virginia@killmore.anglican.org

Finances

What church can survive without them? Giving is so important to the life of this group of parishes, not only so we can maintain the church buildings but also so we can invest in and build the real church – the people. How much should we give? The bible says 10% of our income! Failing to do that even each person putting at least €5 per week on the plate would make a massive contribution to what we can do.

Flower Rota

Every church has a rota of people who do flowers for a Sunday morning. See church notice board for names.

Gigglers and Wiggles

This is a parent and toddler group which runs on a Tuesday morning in Virginia Hall from 10am to 12pm. A safe and warm space to come and chat and allows the kids to play freely.

Girls' Friendly Society

The Girls' Friendly Society has a long tradition in this group of parishes. It is aimed at girls in the 3+ age group. It meets on Friday afternoon from 2.50pm to 4pm. The girls enjoy games, songs, crafts and project work all aimed at learning more about Jesus. The leader of the GFS is Gillian Kellett.

Grazers

Our teens youth club runs twice monthly and is a joint Virginia Group and Kildrumferton Group club.

Glebe

The glebe is any area of land owned by the parishes. It is the responsibility of the glebe wardens to ensure it is kept in good condition. Often the glebe land is 'set out' for an agreed period of time.

Grass Cutting

Sometimes done by an outside person, usually done during the spring/summer and autumn months by church volunteers. See church notice board for names and to sign up!

Harvests

Being a largely rural group of parishes this is another highlight of the year. Each church has its own service with an invited guest preacher. The churches are beautifully decorated for the harvest service.

Happy Bags

As parents we've all been there bringing young children to church. Keeping them occupied can be a nightmare. To help a little we have blue/green 'Happy Bags' at the back of each church that contain books, toys and puzzles.

Hymn Book

The hymns that we sing during our services are primarily from the red hymn book which is at the back of the church.

Holy Week

The week from Psalm Sunday (when Jesus rode in Jerusalem) through Good Friday (when Jesus died on the Cross) to Easter Sunday when we celebrate Jesus rising from the dead. Usually there will be evening services during the week.

Holiday Bible Club

The Virginia Group and Kildrumferton Group of parishes runs a holiday club for primary school age children in Billis Hall during the summer usually at the end of June.

Home Communions

Something that primarily happens at Easter and Christmas (but the Rector will bring communion to anyone at anytime). Aimed at those who cannot get out to the main church service. Contact Ven. Craig to arrange a home communion (049) 8548465

Killinkere Hall

Killinkere Hall is full of charm. The center piece is the old fire place which roars when fully lit. It is the meeting place for the Mothers' Union

Lent

The period of time before Easter – usually 40 days when we are encouraged to take a look at our lives in light of God. A lesser known fact is Sundays are not included in Lent as they are always a day of celebration in the Christian faith. You can eat what you want – honestly!

Lessons and Carols

One of the highlights of Christmas in the parish and the community is the 9 Lessons and Carol's service. It usually takes place on the Sunday before Christmas in Lurgan (Virginia) church. Over the last few years the service has included special guests the Virginia Singers.

Living Praise

Our Youth Service – Meets monthly in Virginia Hall from 5pm. Worship, teaching, food and fellowship!

Mothers' Union

The Mothers' Union is a worldwide organization with branches in many countries. Contrary to the title you do not need to be a mother to join or even a woman - Men are welcome too! The Mothers' Union meets monthly and have a varied program of events. During the summer months there is usually an outing also. The Mothers' Union also have a prayer chain and Indoor Members (those who can't make it to meetings but still have a connection to MU). The enrolling member is Vida McCauley and she is assisted by a committee of other women.

Music

Music is such an important part of our morning worship as we come to praise God. Ideally there would be a good traditional opening and closing hymn with a kids songs and a new hymn making up the numbers.

New Families

Virginia and the surrounding area has changed so much in the last decade or so. Many new families and individuals have come to live here from different parts of Ireland and far beyond. All are welcome to come and join the parish and become part of an extended family.

Nursing Home Communions

Like with home communions they happen at Easter and Christmas but the Rector is glad to bring communion to anyone. There is also a monthly communion in St. Joseph's Nursing Home on the Oldcastle road on the third Wednesday of each month at 2pm. If you have a family member or friend there you are welcome to join us for communion.

Organists

We are lucky to have organists in all four churches and some spares in the background too. In Billis the organist is Florence Cassidy; In Killinkere and Virginia the organist is Janet McGuigan.

Offertory

Taken on a weekly during the morning service. It goes towards upkeep and running of the church, stipend and enables us to finance the organization etc... What people give makes such a huge

difference. If you would like weekly envelopes then see one of the church wardens and they will pass your name to the treasurer.

Parish BBQ/Picnic

When the weather in June is good enough! We try to have a parish bbq or parish picnic after the All-4-1 service. Nothing fancy just burgers, sausages, wings, ribs, refreshments' and good company...

Parish Readers

There are three licensed (by the Bishop) parish readers across the group. Albert Walker (Munterconnaught) Doris Byers (Killinkere) and Cherry Smith (Billis). They assist the rector in the taking of the service, intercessions and covering the rector's absence.

Parish / Community Primary School Club

On Friday evenings in the Billis Hall there is a club for those of primary school age which meets from 7.15pm to 7.45pm. There are crafts, hama, board games as well as soccer, pool and table football not forgetting the tuck shop! Cost is €3 per night.

Pastoral Visits

The rector tries to visit all homes but if you need a visit for any particular reason just let him know. Equally if someone is in hospital let him know asap. You are not hassling him by letting him know. Contact Ven. Craig to arrange a visit (049) 8548465

Pastoral Website

www.virginia.kilmore.anglican.org – Full of up to date and useful information.

Repairs

Like with our homes we have a responsibility to look after our buildings. In recent times internal repairs have been done in Killinkere Church, re-wiring and touchup painting. Killinkere Hall has been repaired and painted. In Munterconnaught church the windows have been repainted. In Billis a new door was donated as well as a disabled access ramp put in. There are internal repairs to be done in the near future as well as re-carpeting. In Lurgan (Virginia) the inside has been repainted and the sanctuary roof is being replaced as well as repairing the window frames and glass along the Ballyjamesduff side. A disabled access ramp and flower bed are also being added to the front of the church. In the coming year or so other repair jobs are due to be done.

Rector

The current Rector (Pastor/Minister/Clergyman) is the Ven. Craig McCauley who is also the Archdeacon of Kilmore. He has been here since 2004. He is married to Vida and they have two children Laura and Matthew.

Readers

During the Sunday morning service (and on other occasions) it's nice when someone other than the Rector does something. One of the opportunities for people to contribute to the service is by doing a reading. If you would like to add your name to the list then simply let the Rector know.

Safeguarding Trust

In the year 2008 caring for our children in a parish context comes top of the priority list. The Virginia Group is fully signed up to Safeguarding Trust which is the Church of Ireland policy on working with the under 18's. Since September 2006 all leaders have been Gardai vetted. Information on the Parish Policy and the Safeguarding trust panel can be seen in each church and hall.

Scribe Magazine

This is the monthly diocesan magazine which contains news, articles and events from across the diocese. If you would like to order one contact the Rector. Cost is about €16 per year.

Services

There are weekly services in three of the churches. Killinkere is at 9.30am, Virginia at 10.45am and Billis is at 12pm. Munterconnaught is monthly (see parish website for times). (The times of Billis and Killinkere swap year about when the clock goes back in the autumn). The service is usually Morning Prayer or Holy Communion. Munterconnaught service is monthly and is a Holy Communion service at 8.45am on the second Sunday of the month. (Christians of all denominations are invited to receive the bread and wine). As an aim we would like there to be something for all ages during each service.

Senior Citizens Christmas Party

Takes place in December!. It would be nice to have a regular meeting slot for those who were once the heartbeat of the group of parishes.

Sunday School

Faithfully run for many years across the group. It is for those who have not yet been confirmed. The children leave during the service and learn bible stories.

Stats

There are about 160 families new and old connected to the Virginia Group with a good proportion in each age group.

School Assembly

Done on a weekly basis in Billis School (usually Friday mornings).

Teens Club

Another new initiative in the group. The first meeting took place in August with a BBQ. This group will be meeting in the Billis Hall on the second Friday of each month from 8.45pm to 10.30pm. The group is for those in secondary school. The program will be semi-organised and will include trips to the cinema etc... The cost is €2 per night.

Table Tennis

The parish table tennis club is split into two parts the junior and the senior. The seniors meet during the week and the junior club meets on Saturday evening from September to April from 8pm. As the year progress various teams compete for league and cup glory.

Vestry

The vestry is the yearly elected church committee which primarily looks after the 3 F's in the churches – Furnishing, Fabric and Finances. The Vestry on average meets every few months.

Virginia Group

There are four churches in the Virginia Group: Billis, Killinkere, Lurgan (Virginia) and Munterconnaught).

Virginia Parish Hall

Opened in 2012. Hosts the Youth Service, Giggles and Wrigglers, Whist Drives and lots more.

Whist

The whist drive meets twice each month in Virginia Hall from 8pm.

The Church is about people who believe in Jesus Christ gathered together to learn about and to serve God so His Kingdom is built in this place and His Good News goes far.