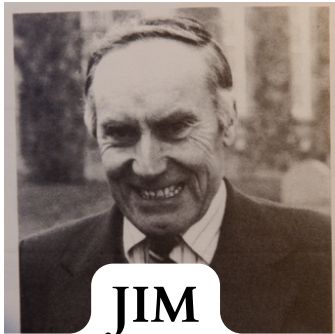


# MULLAGLASS MONTHLY

February 2024 | Volume II | Issue II



**JIM**

## HAWTHORNE

Our Parish received the sad news this week of the passing of James (Jim) Hawthorne, on the 29th January, aged 95.

Jim dedicated his life to our church; as Sexton of the Church from 1959 until his retirement in 2002, he ran our graveyard singlehandedly, organising and keeping right hundreds of burials. He kept our grounds in good order, cleaning, tidying, cutting, and planting, and he performed sidesmen's duties each Sunday; opening up, ringing the church bell when it was still manually rung, opening and closing the doors for the clergy and choir, and for many years he provided the flowers on Mothering Sunday.

Hundreds of tasks he performed quietly in the background, helping keep our church running for decades.

Jim will be missed. The Select Vestry expresses its sorrow to his wider family.

## REGISTRY OF VESTRYMEN

Each February we update our annual membership list in the Parish.

The list of general vestrypersons is simply that; a membership list. It grants you the ability to vote in the Easter General Vestry, and gives you the option to participate more in the life of our parish.

Check the noticeboard in the baptistry to see if you're already on the list, and if not, let Mark know, and he will get you some forms to fill in.


## SPECIAL SERVICES

Alan is running a Parish wide service in Bessbrook Church side chapel for Ash Wednesday.

During lent, there will be a service of Compline held each Wednesday from 21st February until the 20th March.

Again, to be held in Bessbrook, at 7:30pm each evening. Speak to Alan for more information.

## FEBRUARY

 Mondays - Pilates Class  
7-8pm

David's Classical Pilates

Tuesdays - Badminton  
6:45-7:30pm

Parents/Juniors

7:30-8:30pm

Seniors



Sunday 4th

Morning Prayer 10am



Sunday 11th

Holy Communion 10am



Wednesday 14th, 7:30pm

Ash Wednesday

Bessbrook Side Chapel



Sunday 18th

Morning Prayer 10am



Wednesday 21st, 7:30pm

Compline Service

Bessbrook Side Chapel

Held each Wednesday until  
the 20th March



Sunday 25th

Morning Prayer 10am

# Rector's Remarks

Roses and Ashes.

What are we to do this year on 14th February? You see there's a clash that day, St Valentine and Ash Wednesday are the same day so is it penitence and abstinence or roses, chocolates and champers? A miscalculation could be the cause of endless problems if expectations of romance are met with a sudden rush of religious fervour, gentlemen think things through with care!

Of course I'm being light hearted but we do need to give the matter some thought as faithful observance of our Lenten practices may, and to some extent should clash with the expectations of the world around us. Indeed, our whole profession of faith

runs contrary to the pull of society and although we mustn't be cranks we should still stand up and stand out for the things that are important to us.

We could be pedantic and insist on shouting at the world that St Valentine had nothing to do with romance and was a pious Bishop who was martyred on 14th February AD 269 but there's no point, society has decided what it means and that is that. Well not really, we can join in the fun traditions while at the same time acknowledging the real man who suffered and died for his faith in Jesus Christ our Lord. It's a bit like Christmas and St Nicholas who was a real Christian of great note, we can think about his real life and ministry while playing Santa with our children and grandchildren at the same time.

If we can cope with all of that I'm sure we will manage Ash Wednesday and St Valentine landing on the same day. Lent is a serious season of reflection, prayer, fasting and preparation as we consider the enormity of God's love, mercy and forgiveness and the seriousness of our of our sin and disobedience. It is a time to devote ourselves to the study of scripture and seek to grow in faith and the knowledge of God.

"14 For this reason I kneel before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. 16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,

18 may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, 19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."

Ephesians 3:14-19



## WHATSAPP COMMUNITY


Are you in our WhatsApp community? This helps keep you informed in real time to all events in the Parish. If not, scan to join.



## HALL ACTIVITIES?

We're always on the lookout for more activities to run in our hall, currently we have Pilates and Badminton, but are open for more ideas.

If there's something you would like to attend or try, let the Vestry know, and we can see if we can organise, whether its sport, or arts, or culture, we'd like to run as much as possible during the year.



# Diocese Dive

ARMAGH DIOCESE, CHURCH OF IRELAND

**MULLABRACK**  
Wednesday 7th  
February, 7pm

Abaana New Life  
African Children's Choir

Mullabrack Hall  
Free Concert