

Killegar Parish

Celebrating 200 years

SOPHIA BLEAKLEY



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Killegar parishioners above with Rector Canon Alison Calvin.

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Our small, but close-knit, community enjoys worship together on Sundays as well as a range of other activities throughout the year, most notably our annual summer barbeque. This is generously supported by our neighbours and friends with music provided by Nigel Livingstone who also does our Annual New year Social.

Christopher Godley, Lord Kilbracken, sent the following letter to the parishioners. In it, he explained that Killegar Church was built by his great great grandfather John Godley (1814-1863) who inherited some 6,500 acres in Leitrim from his grandfather in about 1810. Then, aged 35, living in the now O'Connell St in Dublin, he made an extraordinary decision to leave a salubrious part of the capital city to build himself a large country house in Killegar. The house was completed in 1813 and he married Catherine Daly daughter of Denis Daly MP and granddaughter of the Earl of Farnham and raised nine children.

Despite the many demands on his time, including the care of more than 300 tenant farmers, it is a measure of the man's values and priorities that, within only five years of his arrival, he had also found the time and the money to build this church. He also went on to build the schoolhouse and the school teacher's house.

John's son, Rev James Godley, was incumbent of Killegar. His daughter Maud died in 1946 and is buried alongside her parents. Another Incumbent (1827-1860) was the Hon Rev Henry O'Brien, who was married to John's daughter Harriet. Finally, his daughter Anna who spent her whole life in Killegar, played the organ and led the choir for many years, was buried here in 1955. John died in 1863, at the age of 88, leaving a proud legacy. I am sure he would be delighted to know that we are celebrating the 200th anniversary of the church this year.

Killegar Church was newly refurbished for this bicentenary celebration. In May, a Re-dedication Songs of Praise Service was held. This was conducted by Canon Ali Calvin with the Ballinamallard Accordion band providing the

music, and Lelia Beaty playing the organ. Bishop Feran Glenfield was the special guest speaker.

We held a 200th Harvest Celebration weekend in September, with special speaker Rev William Bennett from Co Wicklow. His central message, "Rejoice in the Lord always" *Philippians 4 v4* brought much encouragement and food for thought for all who heard him.

We were delighted to have the Elliott family, Emma Cartwright, Killeshandra

Parish Group Choir and Praise Band to enhance our worship over the weekend, joining with us in giving thanks to God for His Faithfulness and Blessing over the years. Our Parish Sunday lunch in the schoolhouse, was the ideal finale to a very Blessed weekend.

The Mohill Sweet Spirit Gospel Choir, under the baton of Tish Dunleavy, played a concert of Gospel, Folk and Classical music.

As we look back to celebrate the past,

and remember those no longer with us, in particular, those who have contributed so much to the upkeep and ministry of this church, we look forward in faith and thanksgiving to God's Blessing for many more years of worship and fellowship as a country church community.

'To God be the Glory great things He has done'.

Appreciation of James Gallagher

A true son of Leitrim

James Gallagher the present (Irish Farmers Association) IFA Chairman for County Leitrim is concluding his four year term of office in March 2019 and we wish to acknowledge his service to the organisation, and particularly to the farmers of County Leitrim, in pursuit of issues relating to their farm incomes.



James spearheaded the Leitrim farmers interests in the formation and delivery of the Beef Genomics Scheme, Sheep Welfare Scheme, GLAS Environmental Scheme, revision of the current Direct Payment Scheme, (Area of Natural Constraints) ANC Scheme all of which contribute to the maintenance, continuance and survival of the indigenous farm families in our County. His role as Chairman required weekly interface and attendances at meetings with Leitrim's 17 Branch executives, County executive members, National Committees meetings in Dublin. He also spent time interfacing with public representatives and government officials to promote issues of concern to our Leitrim farmers and listened to the views of farmers about their difficulties in dealing with their problems with officialdom and bureaucracy.

Through his persistent lobbying of government with his IFA colleagues, he has succeeded in the restoration of additional €25 million of payments under the ANC Scheme to farmers in 2018 and a further €25 million in payments for 2019. He promoted the plight of the Leitrim farmers during the fodder shortage of the past 3 years which resulted in Department of Agriculture subvention to ease the financial impact on our Leitrim farmers. He was a leading advocate within the IFA for the introduction of the Suckler Cow Scheme to underpin the production costs of maintaining the Suckler Cow and Calf. Payments under this new Scheme will flow to farm families in 2019.

While James pursued his role with vigour in the enhancement of the existing farming support schemes and the introduction of new schemes, he also represented County Leitrim's farmers' aspirations in the development of future farm policy. He spearheaded the Leitrim IFA Submission under 2017 Mid Term Forest Review seeking a review of forest policy, Farmers access to land and finance is prohibitive when pitched against largesse of pension funds diluting the farm family foothold in County Leitrim. Through his intervention in this area, he has succeeded in having the IFA at national level execute a study of future forest policy in County Leitrim, where all stakeholders will have the opportunity to have their input into the development of new policies in this area. This study will also deliver a land use policy where the demographics of the townlands parishes schools are impacted by blanket forestation and develop pari passu government and CAP (Common Agricultural Policy) supports for the management of the natural value farmland in the county.

On behalf of Leitrim IFA James headed a working group to formulate a submission to the Department of Agriculture for CAP post 2020. Included in this submission is a demand for increased funding of Direct Payment Support Scheme under Pillar 1 of €14000.00 for the first 40 ha of farmland and a €15000.00/40ha new Agri Environmental Scheme. Also sought is an enhanced Suckler Cow Scheme up to €200.00/cow, €15000/farmer for Early retirement scheme to assist land mobility, funding to counteract aggressive forestation and assist the transitioning of farm holdings from the old to the young farmer all under Pillar 2 national funding mechanisms. We as members of Leitrim IFA and the 3400 flock and herd farmers in the county acknowledge with gratitude and thanks, the voluntary contribution of this son of Kinlough and Leitrim in pursuance of our aims and aspirations and wish him best of luck and fortitude in the future.