

Kilbride HERALD

St Bride's—where Faith and Fellowship grow

MAY/JUNE 2019



**KILBRIDE VISITS THE
BELFAST JEWISH COMMUNITY**

PARISH OF KILBRIDE : ST BRIDE'S CHURCH
- where Faith and Fellowship grow

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<p align="center">Organist & Choir Director: Vacant</p> <p align="center">Sunday School Superintendent Eleanor Graham: 9334 0000</p> <p align="center">Charity Number: 10 35 70</p>	<p align="center">The Rector would be grateful for information about hospital admissions and discharges.</p>
	<p align="center">KILBRIDE HERALD Editorial Panel Iris McCormick, Ivan Topping, The Rector</p>
	<p align="center">NEXT ISSUE: COPY DEADLINE Sunday 9 June</p>



This year Christian Aid Week (Sunday 12th - Saturday 18th May) will focus on the plight of mums and babies in the West African country of Sierra Leone.

Sierra Leone, roughly the size of Ireland, is the most dangerous place in the world to become a mum. Ten women die every day giving birth. One in nine children does not live to celebrate a fifth birthday mainly due to malaria and cholera.

In 2014 Sierra Leone came to a virtual standstill when the Ebola virus struck. It claimed the lives of 4000 people and killed 10% of healthcare workers. Joanna Tom - Kargbo, who works for Christian Aid in Sierra Leone, says "Ebola really devastated us. It wiped out whole families. We are still suffering from poor healthcare. Sierra Leone lacks the funds to provide basic services."

Christian Aid's response is to build Health Centres, provide medical training for nurses and give basic hygiene training. To help out during the crisis, the IMF (International Monetary Fund) gave loans to Sierra Leone's Government which is now having to pay off these debts at a time when the people are struggling to access basic healthcare. As the UK Government is the fourth largest shareholder in the IMF, Christian Aid is urging it to use its influence to have these crippling debts written off!

Christian Aid believes in Life before Death

Last year our Church collection raised £403.51 and the House to House £469.57 making a total of £873.08. Many thanks to all those who gave so generously. As in previous years, envelopes will be placed in the Church pews.

This year we will be starting on Sunday 12th May and then on following Sundays. We will also be collecting house to house on the evening of Monday 13th May. If you would be willing to help with this collection please contact Barbara Rea (Tel. 93322207).

THE ASCENSION OF JESUS

The Church remembers our Lord's Ascension this May – when Jesus went back into heaven. But just where is heaven? And how will we experience it?

The Bible is clear that Christians can expect a personal, conscious life after death.

It is clear that heaven is NOT some wispy, anaemic realm with a few clouds floating around, but as real as oceans and suns, winds and planets.

The Bible tells us that the triumph of Christ over dark powers will release the cosmos from sin's bondage (*Rom. 8.21*) and we will become more, not less, embodied. Heaven will be physically perfect, sparklingly alive, and stunningly beautiful.

The apostle Paul called the present "whole creation" as groaning like a woman in labour, waiting to be delivered.

Those who believe in Jesus have the "first-fruits of the Spirit" and can expect bodily redemption and sharing the glory of the risen Lord

(*Rom. 8:15-25*).

The apostle Peter spoke of "a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness". (*2 Pet. 3.13*).

For Jesus' triumph over death signals our own victory. Death is not the last word, life is! And it will be life that is personal, conscious continuation beyond death.

And best of all, we will be with the risen Jesus (*Phil 1.23*) and see Him face to face. He promised: "I will take you to myself, that where I am, you may be also." (*St Jn 14.3*)





WATCHMEN HEAR FROM ONE OF THEIR OWN

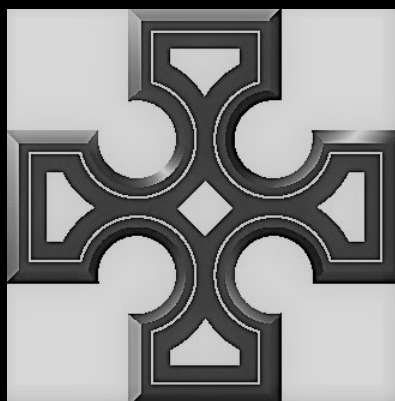
Last month's meeting of the Watchmen saw parishioner Steve Aiken MLA talk about his own life and times.

Steve entertained and enthralled the men with interesting details of his life as a Naval Commander and as a politician, intermixed with his Christian faith. It would certainly be true to say that the men were rivetted to their seats, and that everyone found Steve to be a natural and excellent speaker, combining the entertaining with the acute, the light-hearted with the life-threatening.

After a spellbinding and captivating delivery, Steve answered many questions over a cup of tea. Thanks, Steve, we had a really good evening!

GENERAL SYNOD

This year the General Synod of the Church of Ireland meets on 16—18 May in Londonderry. The Synod will be held in the Millennium Forum. Please remember the Synod members in your prayers, as they discuss and deliberate on important matters concerning our Church.



The Services at St Bride's



[1] Sunday 5 May

3rd Sunday of Easter

11.00am Holy Communion

& Holy Baptism

6.00pm Prayers for Healing

[2] Sunday 12 May

4th Sunday of Easter

11.00am Morning Prayer

[3] Sunday 19 May

5th Sunday of Easter

11.00am Holy Communion

(Family Service)

Preacher: Canon Walter Laverty

[4] Sunday 26 May

6th Sunday of Easter

11.00am Morning Prayer

[1] Sunday 2 June

Sunday after

Ascension Day

11.00am Holy Communion

6.00pm Prayers for Healing

[2] Sunday 9 June

Feast of Pentecost

11.00am Holy Communion

[3] Sunday 16 June

Trinity Sunday

11.00am Holy Communion

(Family Service)

[4] Sunday 23 June

Trinity 1

11.00am Morning Prayer

[5] Sunday 30 June

Trinity 2

11.00am Songs of Praise

[1] Sunday 7 July

Trinity 3

11.00am Holy Communion

PLEASE NOTE THE SERVICE CHANGES IN THE MONTH OF JUNE

The Feast of Pentecost, no matter what Sunday of the month it falls on, is always Holy Communion. This year it falls on Sunday 9 June—the second Sunday of the month.

You might also like to be reminded that there are no Prayers for Healing in the months of July and August—Sunday 2 June is the last of these services until September.

MASONIC THANKSGIVING AT KILBRIDE

The Sixmile Valley District Masonic Charity Committee held their annual service at St Bride's, and this year it was co-hosted by the Parkgate Masonic Lodge 776, on this their 100th anniversary year.

The Preacher was Rt Wor. Bro. the Revd Stephen Sheerin of Dundonald Methodist Church—his first time preaching in St Bride's.

The service was basically Evening Prayer, which the Lodge members found spiritually uplifting, and the singing was excellent!

After the Thanksgiving Service members retired to the Parish Hall for refreshments.

Below: Office-bearers at the service, together with the Revd Stephen Sheerin and the Rector.

TAKING LIFE SERIOUSLY!



To realize how short life really is, think of a lifespan of seventy years as a single day—from 7.00 in the morning until 11.00 at night. If your age is:

15, the time is 10.25am
20, the time is 11.34am
25, the time is 12.42pm
30, the time is 1.51pm
35, the time is 3.00pm
40, the time is 4.08pm
45, the time is 5.16pm
50, the time is 6.25pm
55, the time is 7.34pm
60, the time is 8.42pm
65, the time is 9.51pm
70, the time is 11.00pm



NEW BELL-RINGING SYSTEM DEDICATED AT ST BRIDE'S

In recent times the electrical mechanism that tolls the church bell had become almost as noisy as the bell itself, and was obviously in need of some attention.

The bell was formerly tolled by pulling a rope suspended in the traditional way from a wheel attached to a complicated mechanism.

About 45 years ago Leith Burgess very kindly fashioned a hammer which he attached to an electric motor, saving the bell-ringer considerable stress whilst standing in a freezing cold church porch in the winter. Leith's mechanism has been ringing the bell almost to the present day.

The mechanism, however, has recently been in serious need of attention. A decision to replace it was made by the Select Vestry as a matter of some urgency, and following a generous donation by the family of former parishioner, the late Annie Lewis, a brand new solenoid mechanism has now been fitted. The bell was re-dedicated in memory of Annie,



on St Patrick's Day. This was the very generous gift of Annie's family, who were present in church for the dedication. Annie was a member of the parish family in St Bride's for many years, and passed away quite recently .

The tradition of ringing church bells dates back to about 400AD, and believe it or not, a lot of its origins are Irish!

The primary purpose for ringing church bells today is to call the faithful to worship. Some churches ring their bells three times a day to summon the people to say the Lord's Prayer.

Bells are also tolled at funerals (a slow toll, perhaps one ring every 10 seconds). There is also the passing bell, which is a fairly fast toll, informing the parish that a parishioner is about to pass on.

In Christian days gone by, monks and missionaries carried small, portable bells with which they called the people to a local

assembly point. We know that Irish monks used these bells, so it may not be too extreme to imagine St Patrick—or even St Bride—using these crudely-fashioned bells before worship.

For members of the Church of Ireland, the ringing of a bell from the church tower is a “joyful noise”, reminding them of God’s



*Is this the St Bride's bell?
No—but it looks just like it!*

THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD WEATHER CHRISTIANS

Now it came to pass as the warmer weather drew nigh, that Mr Church Member lifted up his eyes unto the hills and said:

“Lo, the warm days cometh and are even now at hand. Come, let us go unto the mountains, where the cool breezes shall refresh us and glorious scenes greet our eyes.”

And Mrs Church Member said unto her husband, “Thou speakest wisely, but four things we must do before we go.”

“Three things I can think of,” replied Mr Church Member. “We must arrange for the watering of the houseplants, the cat to be fed, and the post to be brought in, but there seemeth not to be a fourth thing—I know not what thou meanest, a fourth thing.”

And then she saith unto him: “The fourth is like unto the first three, yet is more important than all. Thou shalt dig into thy purse and pay thy church’s offering for every Sunday thou shalt be away, that the good name of the church shall be preserved, and that it may go well with thee. For verily, verily I say unto thee, thou hast more money now than thou wilt have when thou returnest.”

And it came to pass that Mr Church Member paid his money for the weeks he would be away, and the church treasurer did rejoice greatly, saying: “Of a truth, there are those who care for the Lord’s work.”



GREAT NIGHT AT THE MILL

A great night was had at the Theatre at the Mill, when a large number of parishioners from Kilbride attended a function featuring the country gospel group, "Live Issue". It was an inspiring evening of music where the five men who make up the band sang some gospel songs, some familiar hymns and well known pop songs but in their own style. Songs such as 'Let it be Me' by the Everly Brothers, 'He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother' by the Hollies were given a country gospel flavour and in something very unusual 'Amazing Grace' was combined with the famous Eagles hit 'Peaceful Easy Feeling' to great effect.

The group also bore witness to the inspiration they take from their own personal faith in Jesus Christ in every aspect of their music and their lives. The band was joined by Belfast-based gospel singer Heather Vient who sang in both halves. A very enjoyable evening for a very appreciative audience who got a chance to chat with all the performers afterwards.

Thanks to all who supported the evening, and a special thanks to Clarence who came up with the idea, and who did most of the organising.



DID YOU **KNOW?**

CRANMER STILL LIVES!

We Anglicans are living in a period of incredible change, particularly with regard to our worship, where in the space of a generation, four hundred years of tradition has been largely swept away.

Whether this is a good or a bad thing is not the subject of this article. Instead your attention is drawn to one little item that has remained virtually unchanged in the older form of our services, namely the Collect.

The Collects appear in several places in our services. At Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer we have three collects: the first, which changes with every Sunday and holy day, and the second and third, which remain unchanged.

At the Holy Communion there

is also the Collect for Purity, usually quite close to the beginning of the service.

But just what is a Collect? It can hardly be enough to say that it is a prayer!

The majority of 'old language' collects are very old, and in fact pre-date the Reformation.

The name Collect refers to the 'collecting up' of the prayers of the individual people into one prayer.

Originally it was extempore prayer, i.e. composed on the spot, but after a while the Collects became set prayers, peculiar to the worship of the western Church.

But the Collect is not just any short prayer—it actually has its own literary form, and is usually (but not always) in five parts.

We can see this very clearly if we take as an example the Collect for Purity, which is well known.

1. It starts off with an

ADDRESS:

Almighty God,

2. Then it has what is usually called an

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT which reflects some quality of God:

*Unto whom all hearts are open,
all desires known, and from
whom no secrets are hid,*

3. This is followed by the **PETITION**—the actual prayer:

*Cleanse the thoughts of our
hearts by the inspiration of thy
Holy Spirit,*

4. Then comes the **ASPIRATION**, usually introduced by the conjunction “that”:

*That we may perfectly love
thee, and worthily magnify thy
hole name,*

5. and then the **PLEADING**:

Through Christ our Lord...

Some people may refer to these five parts by different names, but that does not affect them as a priceless part of English-speaking Christianity.

But if the Collects are mostly pre-Reformation, why does Cranmer usually get the praise

for them?

Well, Cranmer (and those who worked for him) translated them, edited them, and wisely decided to retain them in the various editions of the Book of Common Prayer. They are extremely useful in private and public worship.

Two well-known Collects are printed below, (in the old form) so that if you wish you can study the form of each in relation to the five-part plan.

The Collect for Purity

*Almighty God,
Unto whom all hearts be open,
And from whom no secrets are
hid;
Cleanse the thoughts of our
hearts by the inspiration of thy
Holy Spirit,
That we may perfectly love
thee, and worthily magnify thy
holy name;
Through Christ our Lord.*

**The Collect of the Thirteenth
Sunday after Trinity**

*Almighty and merciful God,
Of whose only gift it cometh
that thy faithful people do unto*

thee true and laudable
service;
Grant, we beseech thee, that
we may so faithfully serve thee
in this life,
That we fail not finally to

attain thy heavenly promises;
Through the merits of Jesus
Christ our Lord.

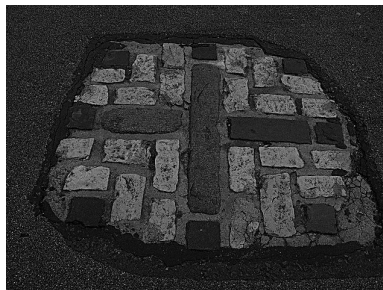
Thomas Cranmer has been called the architect of the English Reformation. He lived from 1489 to 1556 and took Holy Orders, eventually being appointed Archbishop of Canterbury by King Henry VIII. He supported the translation of the Bible into English, and then under the reign of King Edward VI he initiated a huge reform of the worship of the English Church, producing the First Prayer Book in 1549. Queen Mary tried him for treason. After a long trial and imprisonment, he was forced to deny the reform he had brought about.

However, at his execution by burning, he dramatically stuck his right hand in the fire, the hand with which he had falsely signed his renouncement of his beliefs, crying, "This hath offended!" It was this gesture that inspired the English Church to continue, and Cranmer's work was reinstated by Queen Elizabeth I.



Left: The Martyrs' Memorial in the centre of Oxford bears a statue of Thomas Cranmer.

Below: Just yards away from the memorial, the cross on the ground marks his execution spot.



When I come at last to the end of the road
And the sun has set for me,
I want no tears in a gloom-filled room -
Why cry for a soul set free?

Miss me a little—but not too much,
And not with your head bowed low;
Remember the love that once we shared;
Miss me, but let me go.

This is a journey we all must take,
And each must take it alone;
It's all a part of God's perfect plan -
A step on the road home.

When you are lonely and sick at heart,
Go to the friends we knew;
And banish your sorrows by doing good—
Miss me, but let me go.

- contributed by an anonymous parishioner.

DON'T LOOK BACK!

The Sunday School teacher was telling the story of how when Lot's wife looked back at the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, she turned into a pillar of salt. One youngster nodded in a knowing fashion. "My mummy looked back once while she was driving," he confided, "and she turned into a lamp post."



KILBRIDE VISITS THE BELFAST JEWISH COMMUNITY

The Rector recently held a number of very interesting talks on the Jewish Roots of Christianity, and the fitting conclusion to the series was a visit to the Jewish Synagogue on the Somerton Road, Belfast.

Fourteen parishioners from St Bride's made their way to the Synagogue where they received a very warm welcome before being given an extremely informative talk on the Orthodox Judaism practised in Belfast and a history of the Jewish faith in Ireland dating back to the 18th century.

After the talk, questions were more than adequately answered by Mr Neville Finch of the Hebrew Community. It is right and fitting that we Christians should be aware of the Jews in Belfast, and how they have contributed over the years to civic life here. Those who attended the evening will long remember the warmth of the welcome they received.



The interior of the Belfast Synagogue, showing the Ark, where the sacred scrolls are kept.



*The Kilbride community gathered before the Ark.
Of the Hebrew writing on the wall of the Ark, the large print says: "Know before whom you stand". The smaller print bears the opening words of each of the Ten Commandments.*

On our way through the synagogue we were also shown a portrait of Chaim Herzog, son of the Chief Rabbi of Ireland, who was born in Belfast (in Cliftonpark Avenue) and who became President of Israel.

We were also shown a portrait of Sir Otto Jaffe, a German-born Jewish businessman, who was twice elected Lord Mayor of Belfast, the only Jew to be Lord Mayor of the city.



*The Belfast Synagogue,
Somerton Road—the only
Synagogue in Northern
Ireland.*

KNEELING WITH BODY, MIND AND SOUL

Some of us prefer to kneel for just about everything in church. People around us might sit – but we are kneelers!

Time may have taken its toll though, and sadly the knees may not what they were. But if you visit different churches, you will find that not all of them have furniture designed to help you kneel.

Some have the wooden support so close to the pew back that you are 'forced' to perch your rear on the seat in order to physically fit. Others have the gap so wide you cannot reach the seat, so you have to kneel with a straight back. Some don't have anything to kneel on at all.

But why do we kneel in church? In church we're continuing the actions of those in the Bible – both at worship and when addressing Jesus. Just think of all those who knelt before Him to ask forgiveness or healing, or, like the single leper, to give thanksgiving.

In the conscious presence of Almighty God, as we come before Him in worship and supplication, what can we do but we kneel with our body, mind and soul?



BIG SUMMER FÊTE

COMING UP!

See the back cover for details.

THE SICK BOOK

The so-called 'sick book' in church is used by many people. The Christian name of a person is written into the book, together with a few details of the condition; the person is prayed for (using a list of the names copied from the book), especially at Prayers for Healing on the first Sunday of the month (6.00pm).

There are a few problems, however, which people might be able to help with.

1. Although the sick list is used by many people, there are many more who don't use it. Do they not believe in the power of prayer? Or do they simply not know any sick people? As Christians, we should be eager to take advantage of this system in our parish—please use the sick list.

2. Some people are very keen to place names in the book—but they never update the information, and we don't know whether we're praying for someone who has recovered, or who perhaps has died. Please regularly update the information in the book.

3. Some people say they can never find the book! The book sits on the table at the back of the

church.

4. When writing the names in the book, please remember that it's Christian names only, to preserve anonymity.

5. Why not come along to Prayers for Healing and join us in our prayers for the sick? The service is quite short. Remember the words of St James: "The prayer of faith will make the sick person well."

6. Some people scorn Prayers for Healing because even when they're prayed for, some people die. That's true, but remember two things: [1] We're praying for the whole person—body, mind and spirit; God will always grant healing of some sort; and [2] The ultimate act of God's healing is to take people into his greater presence, and for Christians, that is where we're headed, and it should be a wonderful thing to think of, and to pray for.

So for those who use the sick book and those who pray: thank you—and please keep doing it. To those who don't use the book, or those who don't pray for the sick in any way—we need your prayers—by supporting our scheme of praying for the sick you really can make a difference to people's lives! Go on—take up the challenge!

THE RURAL DEANERY IS ALIVE AND WELL!

Over the weeks leading up to Easter, the Rural Deanery held the usual Mid-Week Lenten Services in its own churches.

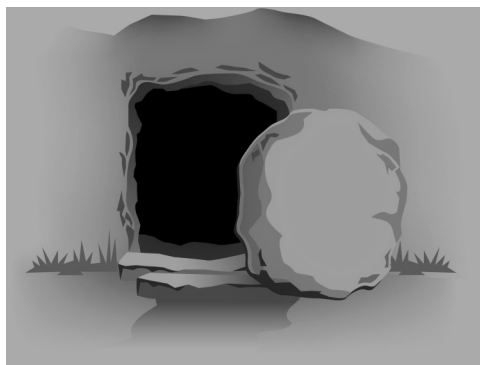
Each week all the parishes were represented as we toured round the area. Here at Kilbride our turn was on Wednesday 3 April, when we were privileged to entertain the large numbers to church, and then to the Parish Room for supper—many thanks to June and Carol for that!



*Canon Derek Kerr,
Rural Dean of Antrim*

We are indeed fortunate to have such an active Deanery, very ably ordered by the Rural Dean, Canon Derek Kerr. A Deanery (or more formally a Rural Deanery) is a group of parishes within an Archdeaconry.

In Kilbride, we are in the Deanery of Antrim, and our parishes include Drummaul Duneane & Ballyscullion, Muckamore Killead & Gartry, Connor & St Patrick's Antrim, Ballynure & Ballyeaston, Templepatrick & Donegore, Kilbride, and Antrim.



PENTECOST

(Sunday 9 June)



On Ascension Day the sequence of events that began at Easter was completed.

Christ ascended to his Father in heaven, and now it was the turn of the Holy Spirit to come down to earth. Pentecost is the feast on which the Church

celebrates the gift of the Holy Spirit. With his enabling power, the Church was soon off to a flying start, an incredibly dramatic expansion in its earliest, formative period.

So no wonder Pentecost Sunday is a major feast in the Christian year. In fact, in many Christian traditions, Pentecost comes second in importance only to Easter itself.

The Holy Spirit is of major importance to Christian thought and life. When we read through the Acts of the Apostles we find evidence of his presence everywhere—guiding, encouraging, and empowering the Apostles. In more recent times, the rise of the charismatic movement within the worldwide Church has led to an increased awareness of the powerful role of the Spirit in each of our Christian lives. Pentecost falls on the fiftieth day after Easter, when, according to St Luke's account, the Holy Spirit descended on the Christians in Jerusalem, who were gathered there on Jesus' instructions.

Even so, the Holy Spirit's arrival astounded everyone. The disciples of Jesus certainly did not expect a sound like a mighty rushing wind from heaven, tongues of fire coming to rest on their heads, and the gift of being able to praise God in languages unknown to them.

THE EASTER GENERAL VESTRY

This was held in the Parish Room on Tuesday 9 April, after a celebration of the Holy Communion in church. After the Rector's address and the presentation of the Financial Statement, appointments and elections took place. As can be seen from the list below, there have been several changes this year, which is a good, healthy practice for a parish.

Just in case you don't know the procedure, the Rector appoints his own Churchwarden and his own Glebewarden. All members elect their own Churchwarden, Glebewarden and the Select Vestry, the members of the Select Vestry then elect their own Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer.

Rector's Churchwarden:	Clarence Gibson
People's Churchwarden:	Hazel McDonald
Rector's Glebewarden:	Jim Wilson
People's Glebewarden:	Billy Robinson
Honorary Secretary:	Ivan Topping
Honorary Treasurer:	Lillian Lyttle

Other members of the Select Vestry:

Kate Henry, Diane Hurst, Carol Ireland, Steve Aiken, Nigel Cinnamon, David Holmes, Rodney Wilson, Raymond McDonald, Jim Johnston.

FASHION SHOW IS RESOUNDING SUCCESS

There was a huge attendance at April's Fashion Show, and the venue was Coleman's Garden Centre. At the time of going to press the event has just taken place, so we don't have the space or the time to give a report now. All the details, including photos, will be in the next issue of The Herald. In the meantime, grateful thanks to all involved!

PALM SUNDAY PROCESSION

Our children took part in the re-enactment of the events of Palm Sunday, with a procession from the parish hall up to the church. It was bitterly cold, but the majority of parishioners enthusiastically made their way to the hall to await the opening prayers and blessing of the branches. Our thanks once more to Kerry and Alan—and of course, Annie the donkey.



Photos from Palm Sunday, the first day of Holy Week.



GRAND SUMMER FÊTE

and Hog Roast
at St Bride's

Saturday 22 June
10.00am—4.00pm

All sorts of stalls and games

Cleeks & Rims, the Buzz Wire Game,
Dog Obedience Classes,
PSNI Quad Bike, Fire Engine, Welly-Wanging,
Lots more Games,
Tea/Coffee, Cake Stall, Ice Cream

*Outside in the Church Grounds
Inside in the Parish Hall,
and this is only what we've confirmed so far!*

FREE ENTRY !!!

**COME ON, EVERYBODY,
MAKE THIS YOUR SPECIAL DAY OUT!**

