

Church of

# St Columbanus

Parish of Ballyholme



June 2010



Upstage Downstage  
Parish helpers  
on show!  
See Page 10



The Parishioner

The Church is open every weekday morning for private prayer and meditation



# The Rambling Rector



**S**o: a new government and a new Prime Minister. I was ordained in 1997, the year of the Labour landslide. I'm wondering will I notice any difference. As a tax payer? As a rector? As a common or garden Christian believer? Someone quoted former British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan in the run up to Election Day and his words have been with me ever since: 'If people want a sense of purpose', said Macmillan, 'they should get it from their archbishops. They should not hope to receive it from their politicians.' Politics is always a mixture of idealism and pragmatism so, as voters, knowing where to pitch our

expectations, in terms of what we can fairly expect our representatives to achieve, is always tricky. But Macmillan's point about purpose is surely to do with identifying certain priorities as absolute. What concerns and considerations do we want to take prominence in our country? For the Christian that's a spiritual question with a spiritual answer. What God shows us in Christ is that the only purpose that really matters is being interested in one another, drawing along side one another, making sure that no one in society gets forgotten.

SED

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The temperature is rising! Read about The Home Straight

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Goats as Easter Presents! Where?

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Gideon Wilson makes his appearance - in Uganda!

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The bolwers need you! Did you play bowls in the old church halls?

◆ **Page 10:**

OOOOk-lahoma-Parishioners help at Upstage, Downstage

◆ **Cover:** Riding the waves at Ballyholme.

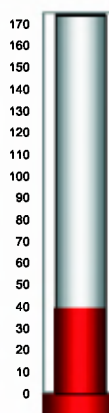
Photo - Don Todd

◆ **Magazine Contact**

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## The Home Straight: June progress report

**T**hermometer showing 'Home Straight' pledges so far towards our total of £174,000. You should see instantly from this month's graphic that the solid start we reported in the May magazine has really gathered momentum. We thank God this month for how well the campaign has begun - and all of you who have been so quick to support it.



The total monies received so far is in the region of £22,000. An additional £16,000 has already been pledged by way of standing order. This has come from approximately 100 of the 500 parish families we have approached. If the remaining 400 families show the same level of support we will be well on track to achieve our target to be debt free in three years. We commissioned our Vestry and home visiting team on Thursday 20 May in the hope that they will be able to follow up on our responses but you can certainly assist us by returning yours via the Parish Office Post Box in Church, or simply by dropping in to see Sue some weekday morning.

## MU Notes



**O**ur summer outing will take place on Saturday 12th June. We will be travelling along the coast to Glenarm Castle for morning coffee and a visit to the walled garden then on to Ballymena for lunch and some shopping! The bus will be leaving the front of the Church at 9.00am and back around 6pm. The cost for the day is £26.

Anyone who would like to go please contact Barbara Tel:461792 or Janice Tel:468017. Hope you all have an enjoyable summer.

Pat

## PLEASE, PLEASE

**L**et us know when someone in your family, or someone you know in the parish has gone into hospital. The clergy are in the hospitals every week, and your relative or friend could be in the bed next to the person they are visiting. While the hospital chaplain does inform us of people he knows about, we would rather be told twice, than miss someone in need of a visit.



Thank you

**World Cup Details**  
*- see ad on page 11*

**F**athers, Sons, Grandsons, Friends, Foes or even some ladies are all welcome to our special Big Screen Presentations of some of the World Cup matches this summer!!

Match 1 - England vs USA -  
**Saturday 12th June 7pm (7.30pm KO)**

Match 2 - England vs Algeria -  
**Friday 18th June 7pm (7.30pm KO)**

Match 3 - World Cup Final -  
**Sunday 11th July 7pm (7.30pm KO)**

These are the matches that we have confirmed, we might show a couple more but we will let you know!!

We will have a BBQ and drinks for each match....  
 £2 per person min donation!

We will also have sweepstake competitions etc on the night of each match!

**SAVE THESE DATES**

**JUMPIN' - 9-13th AUGUST**  
**XCESS - 16-20th AUGUST**

We will have more info for next Magazine edition, also we will send out an email shot to anyone who has signed up for the youth news letter at [www.ballyholmeparish.co.uk/youth](http://www.ballyholmeparish.co.uk/youth)

You may notice some photos of some our young people at Alton Towers.

We went the first weekend of April and had a great time, 40 went on the Liverpool overnight boat (which was extra packed due to the Ash cloud) and thankfully all 40 came back on the boat safe and sound having had a great time!! So much so, they want the return visit planned asap! Watch this space!



If anyone would like to go to summer madness, please let Dave know ASAP!

**Summer Madness** is a Christian Youth festival, held in the Kings Hall, Belfast on the first weekend of July!





## Easter Goats

Bunny rabbits get all the headlines at Easter time but in Kajiado it's all about goats!

On Easter Monday Ronnie and Maggie Briggs visited a community called Emarti to give out goats and sheep to 20 of the most vulnerable households in the area. The task of selecting families is left to the community leaders. On arriving there were words of welcome, prayers from Church leaders, songs from the choir and then the business of distribution.



The names are called out, they come forward and are given 3 animals, the recipient sings or makes their mark and off they go! As a way of giving thanks, each family agrees to bring the first born-kid to their Church as an offering.

One lady, called Jennifer, told Ronnie that since she had lost her husband a few years previously it had been very hard just to survive. The drought had completely devastated her remaining few animals. When she heard about the distribution of animals she had taken no notice as she was not a church member.

Imagine her surprise when she was told to be at the Church on Easter Monday and bring a long rope! By the time it was all over she went home with 3 healthy animals to begin her herd again - now there is a happy bunny!

Ronnie and Maggie



## Special delivery for Wilson...

At 7.40 pm on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> April, Gideon Mugisha Wilson was born in Kiwoko hospital maternity ward. Sister Gertrude (in charge of maternity) and Dr Raul were on hand, and Gideon instantly demonstrated his mighty lungs so effectively, that staff living in nearby houses started sending congratulation texts because they could hear his declaration to have arrived successfully. There has been much debate in the last 2 weeks as to whose baby he is! While it has been allowed that Denise + I have some claim to him, Denise overheard intense debate if he was the baby of the nursing school (where Denise teaches,) the cash office (closest to our home) or male ward (where I tend to be based!) Mugisha is a Ugandan name meaning 'blessed.' We feel really blessed to have been given this young boy at this time, and hope that in due course he will be a blessing to many.

Life at the hospital has been continuing despite the new arrivals. As I spend longer in Uganda and am getting to know the location of more villages, I am struck by the long distances some people travel to seek medical care at Kiwoko. We usually have several patients in the hospital who have travelled for 6 hours or more to reach us, having driven past another (government) hospital en route. Such is the high regard in which the medical care in Kiwoko is held even in communities geographically far from us.

Shaka is a young boy of 6. Uganda has about 40 different tribes and thus languages. He is of Rwandan extraction and only speaks Rwandese - of which I don't speak a word. He was admitted with high fevers, joint pains, vomiting and weakness. After a few days he started responding to treatment for his Brucellosis. We still don't understand a word of each other's language, however when I discharged him this morning, we didn't need much language to understand his smile and energy compared to the weak boy admitted 2 weeks ago. Brucellosis is really a disease of cows, but infects humans too. Much risk can

be reduced by boiling milk, but on a hot day when you're looking after the family cows, most boys are more concerned with satisfying their thirst than with doing what their mother tells them about boiling milk. If treated early a good response can be expected, but if left to become chronic, complete cure can be difficult indeed. Shaka has been fortunate.

The new maternity and neonatal unit has been busy in recent weeks. On Saturday night I was called to assist with the difficult delivery of twins. The first twin had been slow to deliver and was blue and not breathing when I arrived. After 10 minutes of assisted ventilation she picked up, and when she was a little more stable I carried her from delivery suite to the neonatal ward. Returning to delivery suite there was a strong sense of déjà vu as a blue, apnoeic infant required 10 minutes of assisted ventilation before being transferred to join her elder sister next door. In addition to building an enlarged unit for mums and babies we have been trying to improve our standards of care. Part of this has been several rounds of neonatal resuscitation training for relevant staff. There is no question that if these girls had been born in any other unit around us they would be dead, but instead, apart from being a little small on account of being born slightly prematurely, they are doing very well.

The official opening of the new maternity and neonatal unit is scheduled for 19<sup>th</sup> May. Mrs Museveni, the first lady is to be the guest of honour and members of the ISIS team (who supported the construction) from all over the world (Nepal, Australia, Bermuda, USA) will be flying in for the big day. It promises to be quite an occasion! Such an event is an encouragement for hospital staff to remind them that they are working in a unit which is not just a backwater of Ugandan healthcare, but one that is making a significant impact in leading standards within Uganda. The publicity involved in such a function is also useful in reminding policy makers and funders within the distant corridors of power in Kampala of the good work that Kiwoko is doing and that we are constantly worthy of their support.

The next day we leave for Ireland... We are visiting Ireland for a short holiday and to introduce Gideon to our families. We have arranged to speak at the evening service at Ballyholme on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May. We also hope to have Gideon baptised during the service, so it promises to be action packed!



Uganda is a very spiritual place. Statistics vary, but perhaps half the population including churchgoing Christians and Muslims practice some form of witchcraft. The power of the witchdoctor is still very real and many live in fear of curses. These are particularly powerful if an item of their hair, or even a footprint can be brought to the witchdoctor. We have been particularly conscious of this darker side of Ugandan culture in recent months, so thank you to all who pray for the protection of the hospital and particularly us and the other senior staff.

As always, many changes lie before us in the coming months. In addition to Dr Raul and family leaving us to return to Germany in June, Dr Leonard is due to go for further studies in August sponsored through the hospital with funds provided through FOKH. Trying to attract doctors to work in a place such as Kiwoko is a huge challenge. There are simply not enough doctors in Uganda, and many chose to stay in Kampala for reasons of lifestyle. Additionally the salary available in Kiwoko is less than could be expected in Kampala. As we wrestle with how we could increase salaries further, please pray that the right people who would fit well into the life and work of the hospital are attracted to come and work here.

Thanks for reading thus far. In these few snapshots you can see that Kiwoko hospital is still busily meeting the needs of many people. Thank you for your part in helping us to do this. Please do keep praying and giving - you can see from the above just how much we continue to need much of both.

Hope to see you on 30<sup>th</sup>.

Rory, Denise + Gideon

## A new chapter opens for Dave and Julie

Exciting life changes are looming for Dave Cavan in the next few months - a new job, new house and, not least, a new baby on the way. As he looks forward to a challenging future, it is also a time of reflection on the past four years as St Columbanus' youth worker and the many enduring memories he will take away with him. With his usual cheery optimism he is looking forward to tackling his new post as Diocesan Youth Officer for Derry and Raphoe and meeting the challenges head on. Born in Carrickfergus, 26 years ago, Dave is the third of four children, with two older sisters and a younger brother. He transferred to Belfast Royal Academy in third form and at the age of 16, he was discovered to be dyslexic. He is very open about his dyslexia and says his immediate reaction to the diagnosis was a feeling of relief that he was not "stupid."

Dave was 16 and just about to do his GCSE exams - a stressful situation for most teenagers at the best of times, without having to deal with the extra impact of being told you are dyslexic. Career wise, he had thought about becoming a PE teacher or a paramedic but a conversation with a PE teacher who went to his church in Carrick brought about a change of heart. When asked why he wanted to become a PE teacher, he replied that his experience of sport had been dictated by people who did not make him feel very good and he felt limited in his expectation of himself. He wanted to be a positive force for change.

Spotting the teenager's potential, he instead directed Dave towards youth work, a move which he has obviously not regretted down through the years. Academic success, as Dave freely admits, was not something he strived for, adding that he "didn't do very well in GCSE's" while he failed his AS levels "quite dramatically".

Encouraged by the headmaster, Dave repeated the year and then successfully applied to Jordanstown to study Youth and Community work. But before he took up his place, he took a year out and went to America with a group called Mission Year. It organised groups of young people to go and live in inner cities in America - in Dave's case he chose Oakland, California. It was a year that was to prove truly life changing as he and the other four team members were living and working in a community where they were the only white faces. They attended and helped out at the local Southern Baptist church working with Hispanics, African Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Dave also did community work at the local high school where he coached football and he recalls

they had to do "scary" things like go door-to-door in the area to get to know people and ask them if they wanted to pray. As a result, he spent a lot of the time hanging out with local families.

They built up really good relations in the community and although they were the only white people around, Dave says he never felt apprehensive - he's just not that sort of person.

Although America was "good fun" it was also a tough year but he was only homesick once - when his sister gave birth to his first niece and the whole family were there - except for him!

The area was quite a rough one - there was a drive-by shooting at the local school and quite often a police helicopter was to be found hovering overhead but as Dave says, it was a great age for him to be out there, experiencing it all.

He found himself dealing with young people who were illegal immigrants who had no sense of self worth. Born in areas like Guatemala or Mexico they came up to America with no passport, in search of a better life. The harsh reality was that they came to an area where there was a lot of gang violence, murders and a huge problem with drugs. Even with that, Dave says he never felt a

sense of danger when out and about in the area.

Dave returned to start his course and at the end of two years he left with a Diploma and after a further two years he completed a part time degree which he finished while working at Ballyholme. In July 2006 he came to St Columbanus as Youth Worker. Looking back over those four years what have some of the highlights been?

"Without a doubt those have been the summers and the build up to them. It is a good place to be in the summer. The Uganda process was good and setting up the partnership with Ballysillan. That last night in Ballysillan leading the young people and older people in reflection on the week was a special place to be and to be part of".

And he added that being involved in the growth of numbers of young people being part of the church has been exciting. As he and Julie prepare for the arrival of their first child at the end of July and to leave Ballyholme in August, Dave wants to make sure his term in Ballyholme finishes properly with the youth events he has lined up for the summer.

Fatherhood doesn't seem to faze him - he says he has a great dad to learn from. And, as for his new post, Dave isn't quite sure what to expect, but with his usual sunny optimism, he is looking forward to the new challenges. Julie, he says, is very excited to be moving back nearer to her family in Coleraine.

Rosie Lawther





**THE HELP**  
by Kathryn Stockett

Right from the start of this gripping story, you can feel the heat - the heat of southern states America -

both in Fahrenheit and in the relationships between the black maids who virtually raised the children of the white 'folks' and those white employers.

The story centres round the unusual Skeeter (so called because she was thin and tall and leggy like a mosquito and for this reason was having difficulty in finding a suitable boyfriend), and Minny and Abilene. This is 1960s Mississippi and the Civil Rights movement as seen through the eyes of those at the forefront of the struggle. All three women - the black maids, Minny and Abilene and the inquisitive white Skeeter with journalistic aspirations, come together when Skeeter attempts to find out what happened to her family 'help', Constantine. She enters the black maids' world by collating their stories about how their white employers treated them. Were they valued, or were they accused of stealing the family silver? Did they have to use separate cutlery and have an outside bathroom? The author paints wonderful pictures of the white employers (especially the excruciatingly arrogant females and their marriages, husbands, children and bridge meetings) and the intense rivalry between them. But Stockett also evokes sympathy towards the ill-educated Miss Celia and her attempts at deceiving her husband into believing that she, and not the maid, cooked the dinners.

The stories are told by the maids, the white mothers and Skeeter in turn, (it might take a while to get into the flow of the maids' colloquial 1960s style American language but persevere) and centres on the struggle to have the stories published secretly without being found out and putting their jobs at risk. It will make you laugh and make you sad too, sad that the situation ever existed. And you'll find out what happened to Constantine and may end up asking if it's much different now.

Betty Armstrong



Published by Penguin: rrp £12.99 paperback.

**"Things I Love"**



Airports - I love them  
The departures board  
enticing you  
To far off places  
The people all around  
you coming from,  
Or going to, who  
knows where?  
The anticipation of  
all the new  
experiences  
The sights, the sounds, the colours, the smells  
- I love it!

Ballyholme - I love it  
Nothing beats a walk along the beach  
On a bright sunny day  
Watching the little yachts scooting across the bay  
Or a wild stormy day with the wind-surfers  
Dashing across the waves and the seagulls  
flying overhead - I love it.

Listening to music - I love it  
Whether it be classical or country  
Sometimes loud and upbeat  
Sometimes soft and soothing  
Sometimes sacred  
Whatever suits the mood - I love it.

Family - I love them  
Listening to our grandsons and watching them play  
Visiting our children at home and abroad and  
At the end of the day  
When all the work is done  
Relaxing with a crossword  
Followed by another chapter or two of a good book  
And thanks to God for a happy life - I love it!

Maureen Johnston

**Explore programme**  
**Money & Wealth**  
**Our stewardship of God's gifts**



We are continuing our series of Explore on the following dates. Please join us in the Kajiado room on a date that suits you.

Tuesday 1 June	10.30am
Wednesday 2 June	8pm
Tuesday 8 June	10.30am
Wednesday 9 June	8pm



Led by the Rev Stephen Smyth

### What's on your iPod (or MP3 Player)?

SAM JOHNSTON

Sam grew up in Ballyholme. He spent five years studying Music and Sound Recording at the University of Surrey in Guildford. At this point, the call of soda bread and veda brought him back to Bangor. Despite working in the music industry, Sam admits that much of his iPod time is spent listening to podcasts, rather than music.



- |    |                                       |                            |
|----|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1  | The Waking                            | Kurt Elling                |
| 2  | Summa for Choir                       | Arvo Pärt                  |
| 3  | Express Yourself                      | Charles Wright             |
| 4  | Nimrod                                | Elgar                      |
| 5  | Move on up                            | Curtis Mayfield            |
| 6  | Sweet Potatoe Pie                     | Ray Charles & James Taylor |
| 7  | Can't Get Enough of That Reggae Stuff | Matumbi                    |
| 8  | One Day Like This                     | Elbow                      |
| 9  | Adam and Joe Podcast                  | BBC                        |
| 10 | Christian teaching podcasts           | Various                    |



#### Ballyholme Parish Indoor Bowling Club

**WE NEED YOUR HELP !!!!!**

**O**utgoing Club Chairman, Norman Munnis, is

currently putting together a programme to commemorate the club's 50th Anniversary. The intention is to hold a special dinner and prize giving before the next season commences in September. He would be very interested to get the hold of old photographs, memorabilia, etc. Norman would also like to make contact with former members (particularly those who played in the old halls) who have interesting stories to tell.

If you can help in any way please contact Norman on 914622456 or the Club Secretary, Derek Coates 91455471 or the Parish Office.

#### Enjoy Tai Chi and contribute to the Building fund

**L**earn and practice one hour of Tai Chi every afternoon for a week in the Parish Centre this summer and improve your fitness, strength, balance and well being. A suggested donation of £3 per session to go to the Building Fund.

This is for complete beginners and also for those who have practiced Tai Chi before.

Dates: - 19th - 23rd July

Times:- 2.30 - 3.30 pm

Please wear loose, comfortable clothing and flat shoes and if you wish, bring water to drink in case you're thirsty.

If you require further information, please contact Sue in the Parish Office.



#### The Wednesday Club

**A**fter a slightly delayed start, our ladies, under the guidance and tutelage of Noreen Blair, joined in with some exercises to keep us all healthy and fit. It was really good fun, and certainly watching the helpers strut their stuff raised a few laughs.

Our two ballot winners were Mina Gibson and Edna Gracey.

This was the last meeting of the season, with our next meeting taking the form of our annual outing on 2nd June. The bus will leave the front of the church at 1.30, hoping to return around tea time. Just bring yourselves, a bus pass and a fiver!

See you all then Sue



# Around the Parish Car Boot Sale & Coffee Morning

