

Church of

St Columbanus

Parish of Ballyholme



November 2010



Harvest Hoolie

See the pictures
on page 7



The Parishioner

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

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Bangor 10k runners take
over Ballyholme.
Photo by Don Todd

✦ Magazine Contact
email:
office@ballyholmeparish.co.uk

The Rambling Rector

Pilots, firemen, nurses and ambulance drivers who battled to keep Britain going through the Blitz gathered at St Paul's Cathedral in September to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the start of the raids. In his address, the Dean described St Paul's as a building which stood "as a national icon of defiance and hope amidst conflict and uncertainty". He read Churchill's words ('Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few'), before an air raid-siren sounded to mark the start of a minute's silence. As a 1950's parish, St Columbanus has no war memorial. Many of our parishioners attend the civic

ceremony in Ward Park on Remembrance Sunday and we are careful in Church to keep the traditional time of silence before the beginning of worship in solidarity. Because Armistice Day follows so closely after All Saints Day, November always resounds with the names and faces of those no longer with us. But the words of the Dean should also remind us of the power of the Church to find a place in the consciousness of its local community. How do neighbours and passers by in Ballyholme think of St Columbanus?



SED

Double Harvest Presentation

Between the 10 and 11.30 services on Harvest Sunday special gifts were presented on behalf of the Parish to two very special people. By now most of the parish will know that at the end of August Marsden FitzSimons hung up his blue lay reader's scarf for the last time. While Marsden has promised not to see us stuck, the Vestry wanted to acknowledge Marsden's faithfulness to the parish in this and several other capacities over a very long number of years. As befits someone who has shared in the leading of our worship, Marsden was presented with a picture of our Church.

Perhaps the second presentation came as more of a surprise. Few realised that Sue Bleakley has now clocked up no fewer than 25 years as our Parish Secretary. Originally appointed by Canon Mercer, Sue sees to so many of the day to day house- and book-keeping responsibilities and she also remains the first point of contact for our parish with the general public when they get in touch with the Parish Office. Sue received a piece of jewellery

(which she will be glad to show you if you ask nicely!) as a small token of our appreciation for her dedication to duty - which we are glad to know she will be continuing for years to come.



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



GORMAN HAGAN

Hi! I'm Gorman Hagan, better recognised as the husband of Brown Owl and, for those with long memories, Balloo in the Cubs.

I had to smile when I was asked "What's on my iPod". As Technical Director in NIE I suppose you would think I had one, but as my wife and three children will testify - I'm too mean. So, as I sit here cleaning my golf clubs, waiting to watch Ulster rugby have another scintillating win, with the next Up Stage Down Stage script by my side, I have wound up my record player, let the valves heat up in my radio and allowed you a glimpse into my music soul.

- | | | |
|----|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Ennio Morricone | The Mission |
| 2 | John Williams | Theme from Schindler's List |
| 3 | Karl Jenkins | The Armed Man (Sanctus) |
| 4 | Karl Jenkins | Benedictus |
| 5 | Carl Orff | O Fortuna |
| 6 | The Priests | Ave Maria |
| 7 | Mike Oldfield | Tubular Bells |
| 8 | Enya | Wild Child |
| 9 | Katie Melua | Nine Million Bicycles |
| 10 | Norah Jones | Sunrise |

Ballyholme Parish Church

Christmas Bazaar

on **Saturday 27th November 2010**

in Parish Center from **10am - 12.30pm**

Admission £2 including light refreshments

All proceeds in aid of church hall building fund

Confirmation Call-up:

Deanery Confirmation Celebration
Easter Day, 24 April 2011, 6 pm
 first meeting for young people:
January 2011
 first meeting for adults: **March 2011**

Please note that the date for next year's Confirmation has now been set. As stated last month, the first meeting for young people thinking about Confirmation will be held at the start of January. Younger candidates must be at least in their third year at secondary school. As in previous years, the Rector will be pleased to offer preparation for any adults wishing to be Confirmed on the Monday nights through Lent.

Thank you for those who have already got in touch but just a reminder that if you would like to add any names to the candidates list please contact Sue in the Parish Office on 9127 4912.



THINGS WE LOVE -DANCING

MAAIKE

At seventeen I discovered dancing and couldn't wait for Saturday nights. I lived near Derry and got the 8 o'clock bus every Saturday night into the City and the 10 o'clock home as my parents were very strict! After my children were born I didn't dance for 30 years. But about 11 years ago on my return from living in Holland, I decided it was time to take up dancing again.

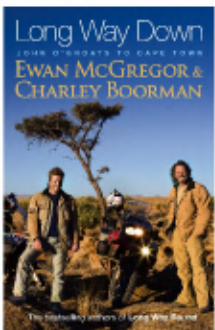
DEREK

I didn't start proper dancing until after I had retired. It was when I started cruising that I realised what I was missing. It was with great difficulty that I found my first dance teacher and then my first partner. Last year Maaïke and I met at a dance in Bangor, and found we both belonged to St Columbanus. We hit it off on the dance floor and have been a couple ever since. We entered a social dance competition in Dundalk and despite Maaïke's nervousness, enjoyed it and won some medals. Next year our love of dancing will take another step forward as we have been successful in becoming a Dance Host Couple on a cruise ship.

For us God works in wonderful ways; we do not see what's ahead, but he does and we feel he has brought us together through dancing.

Maaïke Waegemans and Derek Manton

PS Come and join us for the Supper Dance on 19th November in the Parish Centre!



LONG WAY DOWN by Ewan McGregor and Charley Boorman

The book was passed to me by my father in light of the film *Motorcycle Diaries*, which we had watched. The film was the dramatization of a

motorcycle road trip Che Guevara made in his youth that showed him his life's calling.

Whilst I am not a motorcycle enthusiast, I am interested in true life stories, particularly travel and adventure. Ewan McGregor and Charley Boorman's *The Long Way Down* certainly answered all of that. Not only is it an amazing travel adventure by motorcycle but also illustrates the places, wildlife and people they met on route. They travel almost 15,000 miles through 18 countries from John O'Groats in Scotland to Cape Town in South Africa.

For me one of the most interesting parts is about the people they met and stories they heard firsthand about their lives. They saw the difference that UNICEF can make and visited UNICEF

projects to raise awareness and funds for children. They worked with Mine Awareness groups in Ethiopia, helped groups coping with the effects of conflict in Gulu, Uganda and with the Children's Corner in Chimteka, Malawi which helps children orphaned through aids. Another project that they visited was Riders for Health in Kenya where they use motorcycles as a method of transporting healthcare to people who would otherwise die. In this way motorcycles were saving lives. The book is well written and informative; it leaves you with an understanding of what the journey was like and the difficulties they encountered; you feel their highs and lows and gain a better understanding of the charities they support.

Most people read a sequel to a book after reading the first but in my case I am looking forward to reading their first book *Long Way Round* - chasing shadows across the world, published 2004.

Heather Johnston

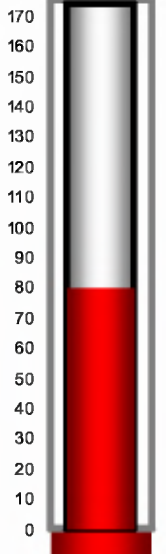
Long Way Down is Sphere 2007 - R.R.P.£7.99. It is also available in audio edition from Hachette Digital +iTunes. Related website:

www.unicef.org.uk/longwaydown
www.longwaydown.com

Home Straight

The response has been wonderful and a very large number of people have pledged to support our final push to clear the parish debt over the next three years.

To those parishioners who have promised to complete a standing order form and to those others who have said they would prefer to give a one off gift an enormous thank-you.



We will be having "Shazzam" at our meeting on Monday 1st November. Suzanne owns the Shop Around the Corner in Belfast and makes a delicious range of homemade jams, chutneys and relishes which will be on sale. She will also be demonstrating pottery painting and we will be able to design and paint our own small bowls. (Cost £4) The Mothers Union Enterprise stall will also be available for cards, diaries etc This promises to be a fun evening and an opportunity to buy some Christmas gifts.



Preaching God's word as a Lay Reader



While one familiar face steps down as a Diocesan Lay Reader after 15 years faithful service, another is just setting out on her journey as a newly commissioned Lay Reader. Marsden FitzSimons has been a member of St Columbanus since 1962, Sandra Griffiths joined just 4 years ago, and they both felt called to fulfil this very important role in their church. Standing up in public and speaking before a packed church was never going to be a problem for Marsden who was "well used" to public speaking. Initially reluctant when the idea was first mooted because of his post in Senior Sunday School he eventually realised that after 30 odd years it was time to move on. Having "trod the boards" for many a year in operatic productions he did not find it at all "nerve wracking" to address St Columbanus parishioners.

"All the world is a stage" he quoted, adding that, to him, making eye contact is very important and the feeling that he is not just reading something. "You are trying to bring people along with you, - I used to say in school that I was a voice crying in the wilderness. All my life I have been standing up and talking in front of people," he recalled.

And the highlights along the way? Taking his first service in Down Cathedral was definitely one to remember - a remarkable high point. And he added "The first time you take a service in your own church is also a hard test since you are preaching to people who know you."

Marsden firmly believes that you must have a "concrete" message for the people in the pews. At 85, he is "still going strong" as he puts it although he is retiring from the council next year, after an 18 year stint in the chamber and a year as Mayor. But, far from slowing down, he has just completed a book on Bangor's Christian Heritage which should be in the bookshops before Christmas.

Describing himself as "full of energy", his secret is his enthusiasm for life - "If you can't put 100% into something then don't do it."

However, he will still be a familiar face in the congregation and the choir stalls, where he has been a stalwart for many years.

Sandra has been a relatively recent addition to the congregation, but she has wholeheartedly

thrown herself into church life.

When she, her husband David and son Aaron arrived in the area 4 years ago, having previously worshipped as Presbyterians, they visited a number of local churches. Although baptised in the Church of Ireland, Sandra says she had been away from it for a number of years but was particularly drawn to the 8.30 Communion Service in St Columbanus.

"I felt when I came here it was part of a long journey. I was discerning what God wanted me to do," she explained. To her delight, both David and Aaron decided to join her and Aaron is now involved with Children's Church.

Sandra also worked in education for many years, she was a lecturer at the University of Ulster and now works on a consultancy basis for Queen's University. But she says she had known for a long time that there was something else out there for her.

"I had been praying a lot, trying to listen to where God was leading me," she explained. However, it was after attending a Network Course, at Simon's suggestion, which led, indirectly to Sandra discovering about the possibility of joining the course for Diocesan Lay Readers. Although it had already started, Bishop Harold assured her that there would be no problem with her joining it.

Now, with the two years almost finished and her commissioning on 7th November, she has come a long way in the last two years during what was a "fairly intensive" experience.

During that time, Sandra was on placement at Bangor Abbey which, she said, was fantastic for her because of the valuable experience she gained during her time there. She has preached there as well as in Kilcooley and Clondeboye churches.

"I want to put as much into it as possible and when I am doing essays I want to study to get as much as possible out of it," she explained. Her academic background was a definite advantage in that respect. "I was actually very nervous about standing up and preaching but I also had such a strong sense that this was where God wanted me to be," added Sandra. She is also very eager to communicate her enthusiasm and joy for God's word when she steps up to the pulpit on a Sunday.



Around the Parish October 2010



100 Years Of Broadway



Harvest Hoolie



Harvest Service



Moist Chocolate and Almond Cake

Serves 6-8

8 eggs, 330g caster sugar, 350g dark fair-trade chocolate, 50 g plain flour, 50g ground almonds, 210g butter, 1 teasp vanilla essence, 100ml water

Method

Preheat oven at 160C. Whisk the eggs and sugar together until pale and fluffy, then set aside. Chop the chocolate as finely as you can, and place in a bowl. Add the flour and ground almonds and set aside. Place the butter, vanilla essence and water in a pot, bring to the boil and pour this over the chocolate mix. Whisk until all the chocolate melts, let it cool then fold into the egg mixture.

Do ensure you fold, as it's very important to keep in as many air bubbles as possible. Butter a 22cm cake tin and pour in the mix. Place in the preheated oven for 40 minutes. Insert a knife into the middle to ensure it's cooked, it should come out clean. Serve with whipped cream or crème fraiche

Apple, Walnut and Cinnamon Sponge Cake

serves 6-8

6 eggs, 125g caster sugar, 300g flour, 1 teasp baking powder, 2 teasp ground cinnamon (keep a few pinches for the top), 40g fresh walnuts, cracked and roughly chopped, 350g apples, 1 tblsp sugar.

Method

Preheat oven at 180C. Beat the eggs and sugar together until light and fluffy. Mix together flour, baking powder, cinnamon and walnuts. Fold this into the sugar and egg mix.

Peel and core the apples, slice into 0.5cm slices. Line a 23cm cake tin with baking paper, put a layer of apple in the bottom, pour the cake mixture on top and lay the rest of the apple on top of that. Sprinkle with ground cinnamon and sugar. Place in the oven for 40 -50 mins, test with a knife, it should come out clean. Serve hot with crème Anglaise

**The Wednesday Club**

The ladies this week were entertained by a thoroughly interesting talk about Bangor Castle and the Ward family.

Mr Ian Wilson from the North Down Borough Council told us the history of the Castle, which no doubt, most people in Bangor take for granted. At the end of his talk, he recommended that if possible, people should pay a visit to the walled garden, which was part of the original house, and supplied the fresh vegetables, fruit and flowers for the house.

We were pleased to see Winnie McGregor a newcomer to the Wednesday Club and after our customary afternoon tea, the draw was won by Margaret Kerr.

**Did You Know?**

That for only £4.50 you are able to get a two course meal, with tea or coffee in the Parish Centre every Friday.

Lunch is served at 12.30, with lifts available for those who need them. Why not treat yourself and come and join us on Friday?

KIWOKO CHRISTMAS BRICK APPEAL

You won't need isolation this Christmas but Kiwoko does need TB Isolation rooms!

These rooms are crucial for the health of all patients

Dr Rory says "Our target is £10,000" Can you help us reach this?

Send someone a Brick Card this Christmas Available at £10 each from the Parish Office.

All proceeds go to Kiwoko Christmas Brick Appeal



BOWLING CLUB CELEBRATES 50 YEARS



Ballyholme Parish Indoor Bowling Club celebrated 50 years of the club recently with a dinner combined with its annual prizegiving at the Rambling Rose Restaurant. A very enjoyable evening was had by members, former members and invited guests. Former chairman Norman Munnis had put together an excellent and very interesting display of articles and photographs illustrating the club's history. A superb dinner commenced the evening, and this was followed by the presentation of awards for the season.

The prizes were presented by the Rector's wife Heidi. A new trophy was presented by Eileen Coates in memory of her father, the late Harry Walsh who was a long standing club member.



The perpetual trophy winners were as follows:-

Ladies Singles:	Winner (Berry Cup)	Sue Bleakley
	R/up (Conn Cup)	Susan Nixon
Mens Singles:	Winner (Nixon Cup)	Colin Atkinson
	R/up (Wilson Cup)	Ivan McKinty
Pairs:	Winner (Pairs Cup)	May Henry & Martin Bleakley
Rinks:	Winner (Trenier Cup)	Alan Harvey
Open Handicap:	Winner (Walsh Cup)	Sue Bleakley

The evening was concluded by the Rector, Chairman Canon Mercer and Derek Coates entertaining everyone with some banter and a few light hearted stories. It was particularly pleasing to listen to Canon Jack as the founding father of the club 50 years ago, and still as sharp in his playing as his wit !! Here's to another 50 years of the club.

DJC



**Recent news from
Kiwoko**

Denise writes; "We had a nurses' graduation ceremony recently. Rory had to wear robes etc., and would have made a good Joseph with his coat of many colours! His speech went well. I have been attending a prayer meeting in the hospital that meets on Wednesday evenings at 9.00 pm and I love praying with others. They are so faithful, even after a hard day's work, and I feel they are Kiwoko's watchmen on the walls. Gideon continues to grow and delight us. He is the picture of Rory!"

Oh, that we had more watchmen on the walls at St. Columbanus! There are so few at the monthly Parish Prayer Meeting and the twice monthly Missionary Prayer meeting.

Kiwoko is expecting a new couple in January- Paul & Tania Baker, from Bangor, who are presently at Belfast Bible College. He is well qualified to look after all the machinery in the hospital, which will be a great blessing to several departments.

Sheilagh Jebb

"Strictly Come Dancing"

Pre-Christmas
supper dance
on **Friday 19th November**
in the Parish Centre at 7.45 pm
Limited places available
so please book your ticket now!
£5 per ticket

For more information, contact Karen
at the Parish Office



Looking Back, Over My Shoulder

In order to prepare for the youth page this month, I decided to trawl through the fascinating back catalogue of 'Parishioner' magazines that nestle in a cabinet in the church office.



It was a really enjoyable experience. I discovered that the first youth page in the Parishioner was printed in the December/January 97/98 edition. Back then I was the tender age of 13, a member of Jam (now JYF) and looking forward to confirmation and progressing through to the Youth Fellowship.

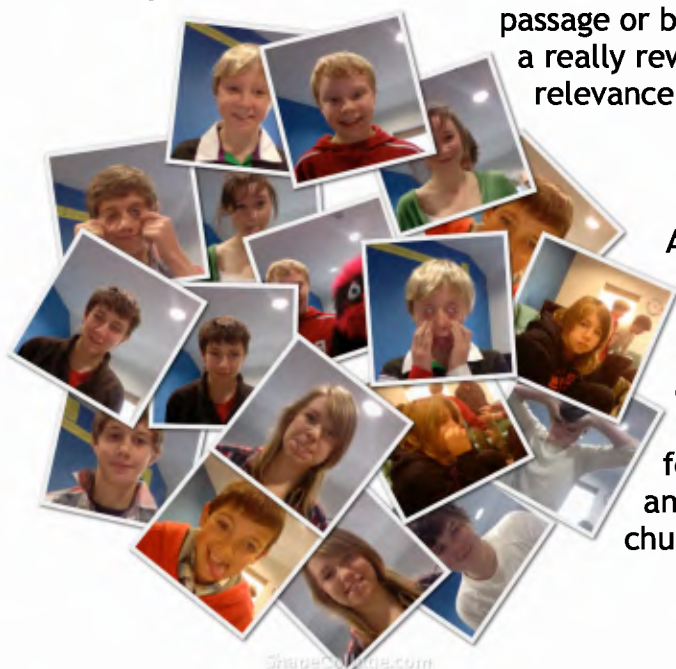
I was reminded of many events, weekends, away days and general capers over the years. I was even able to decipher a few tales written in code, referring to more (*ahem*) 'energetic' exploits that took place, but were deemed a little too raucous for the magazine.

For me, the other great thing about looking back, has been remembering the folks who have passed through the halls of the church over the years. People who led and taught me, people I used to pray with, people whom I shared great times with. Often I remembered people that I have long since lost contact with.

This week, I was fortunate enough to speak briefly with Canon Mercer. I was amazed at his memory. He was able to recall, and name my grandmother and my father, as well as my aunts and uncle. He even recalled details of their lives even though two of them immigrated to Canada over thirty years ago.

All this looking into the past reminded me of what we are looking at on Sunday mornings with our 11-14 year olds. HBD (formerly Toast) meet up in the Meto room, and this term we are looking at the timeline of the Bible.

It seems to me that we can often learn about various characters and stories in the Bible as if they were totally isolated entities. We choose something to look at, and forget to investigate what has come before, or what follows. The challenge when wrestling with a passage or bible story is often to fit it into context. This can be a really rewarding endeavour, showing a deeper meaning and relevance to the story.



Finally, my mind turned to our church family. As with any family, we evolve and change. New people are brought into our family, others move on. Perhaps as we play our part in the timeline of Ballyholme parish, one of our personal challenges could be to get to know the people around us better - in their own context, to understand the folk that we may not naturally be drawn towards, and to understand them in the big picture of the church.

The Quiet Corner



Just recently our child number 2 left home for university. I think it felt more of a jump this time going from two at home to one at home, than it did a couple of years ago, going from three at home to two at home. I've always been able to identify with that verse in the Bible which says that children are a blessing from the Lord, and over the years we've had a lot of fun together. We've tried to bring them up within God's family while not ramming religion down their throats.

I must admit that my early Christian experience was all about being "saved" and I'd quite a specific view about how people should become Christians, and disagreed strongly with customs such as infant baptism. So I found myself in a bit of a quandary when I was asked to be godfather to my recently born baby cousin.

In the end I spent a few weeks with the aid of a concordance going through every verse

in the Bible where children were mentioned. And at the end I came away with a totally different view - that God's intention was clearly that children should be brought up as belonging to His people, as part of His family, and not as those who were "outside" and had to at some point come into the fold and be saved. The other Sunday we had Holy Communion and all the kids came down from children's church. It was all hustle and bustle for a while, and not the usual reverent hush. But for me it really felt like a true family meal and great to see all the kids heading up the front for their grapes. Long may our church continue to be a place where we enjoy the children being part of God's family together with the rest of us.

Robbie Jackson

St Columbanus Walkers at An Creagan

A return to the Sperrins in October gave our party of ten the opportunity to explore yet another part of this fascinating area. An Creagan lies half way between Cookstown and Omagh so travelling by the M2 meant we arrived in good time at 10.15, just right for the coffee and scones in the surprisingly large and interesting Visitor Centre.

The area is rich in prehistoric remains - Bronze Age stone circles and megalithic tombs dating back 6000 years. The centre boasts interpretive displays, the archaeological history of the area, bog trails and walks, and a lovely restaurant.

There are several way marked routes in the surrounding bogland and forests and we added two together to make up a 10k hike, starting from the centre and walking first the Biodiversity Trail with its series of panels on the plants found on the bogs of Creggan. The walk continued through the forest where we enjoyed the rich variety of plants including some huge deadly looking mushrooms. The trail makes its way along the Glasagh Burn with beautiful views of Cashel Mountain and across the open raised bog to a main road and then back via side roads to the centre. And when we arrived back the waitress had reserved a table for us. How's that for service?

The next outing is on 6th November to Slievenagore in the Mourne. It's 6 miles on mountain tracks with about 350 ft ascent. Meet at 8.30am in the Church car park.

For your diary: Our outing on 4th December now has the destination changed to Crawfordsburn Country Park, followed by the now traditional meal in Coyles Restaurant. Details later on www.ballyholmeparish.co.uk or from Leslie or Betty



Betty Armstrong

Our Worship

Wednesday 3rd November
10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado room

Sunday 7th November
3rd Sunday before Advent
8.30 Holy Communion
10.00 All Age Worship
11.30 Morning Prayer
6.30 Holy Communion

Wednesday 10th November
10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado room

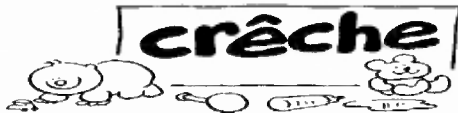
Sunday 14th November
Remembrance Day
8:30 Holy Communion
10:00 Morning Worship & Children's Church
11:30 Parish Communion
6.30 6-8

Wednesday 17th November
10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado room

Sunday 21st November
Sunday before Advent
8:30 Holy Communion
10:00 Morning Worship & Children's Church
11:30 Morning Prayer
6.30 Holy Communion

Wednesday 24th November
10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado room

Sunday 28th November Advent Sunday
8:30 Holy Communion
10:00 Parish Communion & Children's Church
11:30 Morning Prayer
6.30 Hymns and readings for Advent



November

7th: Family Service, no crèche
14th: Heather Glasgow, Debbie Calvert, Deborah Galbraith
21th: Julie Monaghan, Irene McKay, Jenny McKay
28th: Violet Davidson, Fiona Oliva, Joanne Smith



Parish Office: 91274912
Rectory: 91274901
Curatage: 91271922
Prayer Line: 07531806167
Transport: 07599794968

Web Site:
www.ballyholmeparish.co.uk

The Church's Ministry of Healing

Is holding two
Advent Quiet Days
at
Echo Sound, Downpatrick
on
Saturday 4th December or
Thursday 9th December
From 10.30 am - 4.00 pm

Cost £20

Place reserved
on receipt of
donation.
Phone:
90782159



BAPTISMS

10th October: ANYA ISOBEL & JOEL ROBERT Birkett, twins of Christopher & Ashleigh
24th October: DANIEL MCILWAINE, son of Peter & Paula



November

7th: Edna Morrison, Gillian Fletcher, Carol Majury
14th: Charlie Robinson, Joanne Bishop, Pauline Baird
21th: Richard and Sandra Kennedy, Christine Wilson
28th: Anna Gullen, Tracie Andreasson, Lorraine Campbell



November:

7th: In memory of Dorothy Reid
14th: In memory of Joan Wright
21st: Pat Todd
28th: Pamela McNutt

November Sunday School helpers rota

14th Gillian Jones, Mark & Caroline Larmour
21st Stephan Andreasson, Heather Dickey, Lynsey McDermott
28th Margaret Moorhead, Jane Nickell, Michelle Savage