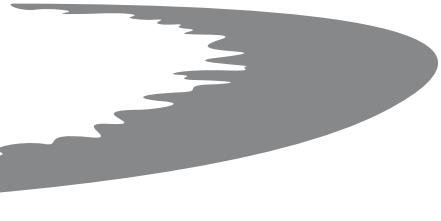


St Columbanus

Ballyholme



Holy Week Services
St Patrick's Day Walk
Confirmation
Parish Profile

..On the way together..



The Parishioner

March 2013

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

The Rambling Rector

When I first arrived in Ballyholme a number of people went to great lengths to tell me how long their association with St Columbanus had been. Thirty years they went back, forty years, sometimes even longer. I did my best to forget an observation a senior rector once made to me. In his experience, unrepresentative perhaps, those who waxed the most lyrical about the length of their "membership" usually had the loosest real connection. What dawns on me as my fifth Ballyholme Easter approaches, is how careful every Christian believer needs to be about brash pledges of spiritual loyalty. Where were they all that first Good Friday: the friends, the followers, the family even? It was fear for their lives that kept them away of course. Whatever it is that keeps people away today, thank God we know nothing of the persecution suffered by so many Christians in the world. As we meet openly and freely with our neighbouring Churches for Holy Week this year in St Columbanus, Bishop Harold will be with us each night, beginning with Confirmation on Palm Sunday evening. Where will you be? That, in the end, is an eternal question for all of us.



Bishop Harold invites you to join him at Down Cathedral on **Monday 18 March 2013** for the annual St Patrick's Day Festival Service followed by lunch in the marquee in the

Cathedral grounds.

You are also welcome to attend the Holy Communion Service at Saul and to join the pilgrimage from Saul to Down Cathedral.

9.15am Holy Communion at Saul

Preacher: Jasper Rutherford (Outreach Officer Church Army/Summer Madness)

10.15am Pilgrimage Saul to Downpatrick

11.45am Festival Service in Down Cathedral

Preacher: Bishop Ken Clarke (Mission Director SAMS)

Wreath laying ceremony at St Patrick's Grave

1.00pm Irish stew lunch in the marquee

Transport to Saul

Please park along the Mall leading to the Cathedral in Downpatrick and board one of the private buses.

Buses to the communion service depart between 8.30 and 9.00am. The last bus for the 35 minute pilgrimage leaves at 10.00am.

RSVP BY 8 MARCH TO:

The Bishop of Down and Dromore's Office
Church of Ireland House

61-67 Donegall Street

Belfast BT1 2QH

Tel: (028) 9082 8850

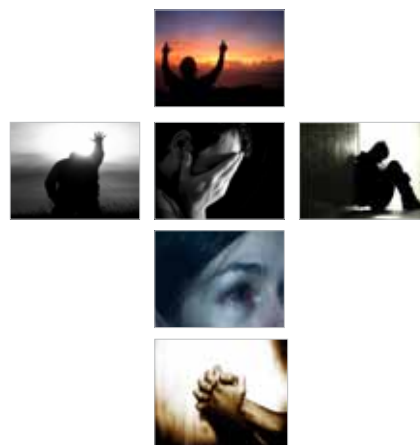
E: bishop@down.anglican.org

The Emotions of a Week

Holy Week 2013 at St Columbanus

Mon 25th – Fri 29th March 8pm

with Bishop Harold Miller



Palm Sunday

6.30 pm Confirmation Service

Good Friday

12 noon Family Service

Easter Services

6.30 Dawn service at Ballymacconnell
- breakfast in the Parish Centre

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Holy Communion

11.30 Holy Communion

The Walkers conquer Slievenaslat

Having abandoned the idea of Slieve Gallion in the Sperrins due to the state of the terrain after weeks of rain and snow, we found ourselves a great substitute in Slievenaslat in Castlewellan Forest Park for our February outing.



Thirteen of us including new member Vicki Stafford gathered in the car park at the Forest in 2 degrees and bright sunshine. It was good to welcome Glynis and Peter back.



The walk of about 5 ½ miles took us on the black route around the perimeter of the park on ground which was still frozen where the sun hadn't penetrated the trees. The views through the forest to the Mourne with snow on the top of Donard and Bearnagh were just stunning and we talked about how lucky we are to live within an hour of such beautiful walking countryside. The forest is a working one, and we did have to take a detour on the track up to the summit. It was evident that a lot of felling was in hand. From the trig point on Slievenaslat we had an all round view of the Mourne, Castlewellan Lake and the rolling hills around Castlewellan town.

Castlewellan (from the Irish *Caisleán Uidhilín* meaning "Uidhilín castle, was designed by a French architect for the Annesley family and is unique within Ireland due to its tree lined

squares both in the old town (upper square) and new town (lower square) as well as its very wide main street. The old market house in the upper square was built in 1764 and now houses the public library.

This impressive castle was commissioned and built in 1856 by William Richard Annesley, 4th Earl Annesley, as his main residence and home. It is a fine example of Victorian architecture and craftsmanship. Today the Castle is a thriving Christian Conference Centre, its facilities being used by many church, school and mission organisations.

Lunch was taken in a civilised manner at the picnic tables and having planned to have our usual refreshments at Balloo on the way home, there was left a respectable 45 minutes before we managed to indulge in the compelling traybakes in the café at the back of the what is known locally as McCann's.

Due to forestry work resulting in diversions and closures, our walk planned for Glenariff has been shelved and instead we are doing the Banagher Forest trail. It's about 9 miles on forest roads and tracks. Banagher is near Dungiven (about 1½ hour's drive) and we meet at 8.30 am on 2nd March at the Church car park.

Safety in and around Church

Parents, we ask that you please accompany your children, whilst on church premises, outside Crèche or Children's Church. We do our best to ensure the safety of all our congregation, but there are risks – our door is open to all-comers and not everything is "child proof".



Thank you for your co-operation.

CONFIRMATION

ST COLUMBANUS AND ST COMGALL'S 2013

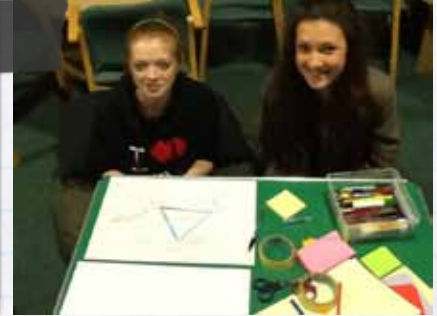
Confirmation Service - Palm Sunday 2013

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." - Margaret Mead.

The wonderful group of young people (whose photos are shown throughout this article), will be presented for Confirmation at a service joining both St Columbanus and St Comgall's on Palm Sunday (24th March 2013). The service will be held here in St Columbanus.

Alistair Morrison (Curate at Ballyholme) and Jade Irwin (Youth Worker) are thoroughly enjoying meeting with this unique and special group of young people each Wednesday, exploring the awesome strands of the Christian faith and Church of Ireland life. Alistair and Jade are learning a lot from the young people!!

We ask for your prayers & support for these brilliant young people, and our adult candidates. This is a very significant time for them & we want to cover them in prayer for this key time in their life journey.



As the quote at the beginning states, a small group of people can have a huge impact on the world around them. May Confirmation be for each of the candidates, the spiritual inspiration they need to shine brightly in the world for the days, months and years that come after their big day.

Their names are:

Sophie Henning
John Darragh
Anna Macartney
Peter Speers
Demi McNamara
Jordan McGrugan
Rory Flannigan
Ruairi Lawther
Mark McDonough
Melanie Sloan
Zoe Beckett
Clare Robinson



MELANIE, DEMI, ANNA
AND CLARE

MARK, JOHN
AND JORDAN

SOPHIE, ZOE, RUAIRI AND
PETER

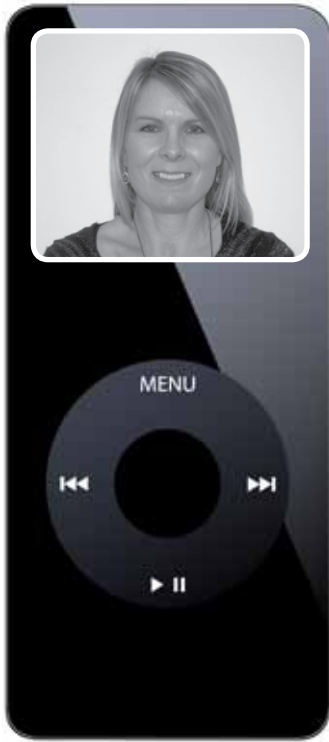
What's on your iPod?

Sharon Hatch

My name is Sharon Hatch and I am married to Michael. We have 3 children Jennifer, Jonathan and Sarah. We moved to Ballyholme in March 2003, having lived in Omagh since July, 1995. We have been members of St Columbanus for almost 10 years now, and enjoy the atmosphere and worship of the 10am service.

My choice of music is pretty varied, but serves to remind me of significant times in my life.

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | Song for Whoever | Beautiful South |
| 2 | The Whole of the Moon | The Waterboys |
| 3 | Dreams | Fleetwood Mac |
| 4 | A Letter from America | The Proclaimers |
| 5 | Uptown Girl | Billy Joel |
| 6 | Father and Son | Cat Stevens |
| 7 | Belfast Central | Juliet Turner |
| 8 | Thank you for the Music | Abba |
| 9 | Chasing Cars | Snow Patrol |
| 10 | Barcelona | Freddie Mercury & Monserrat Caballé |



We look forward to welcoming Caroline Larmour to our Meeting on Monday 4th March at 8pm. Caroline is a parishioner and her subject is '1.4 Billion reasons'. We look forward to hearing what Caroline has to say to us.

On Saturday 9th March from 10am to 12 noon our Annual Coffee Morning and Sale will be held in the Parish Centre.

We depend on the encouragement of friends and parishioners to support our efforts in aid of Mothers' Union Overseas fund. So why not join your friends, have your morning coffee and support a good cause at the same time. See you there.

RUTH RUTTLE (Branch Leader)

The Wednesday Club

Over 30 of our members enjoyed a very interesting talk by George Busby, entitled "The Secret Listeners of Gilnahirk".



It was the story of a radio listening station, manned by the military and supported by amateur radio hams, listening in to German dispatches throughout the Second World War. All were sworn to secrecy, and in fact, in one of the stories we heard, our speaker was not even sure a wife had told her husband what she did for the war effort.

Tea and buns followed as usual, and our draw was won this month by Rene Miles.

See you next month

Sue

Come and join Bishop Harold on **Maundy Thursday 28th March** at 6:30pm for a Christian Passion roast lamb dinner in the Parish Centre

followed by Holy Communion in church at 8pm. Tickets for the dinner are now on sale at £5 each, from the Parish Office.



Easter Chicks

Our Easter Chicks are once more on sale to raise money for the Mission Fund. Chicks can be purchased in the parish office for only £1.50 each.



We would also welcome any donations of Cadburys Creme Eggs for the above mentioned chicks!! Please leave in office for Ann and

Janice.

Thank you all very much for your support.

Around the Parish



Parish Quiz



Family Fun Day



Sue's Presentation



MU Diocesan President's Visit

Medical breakthrough gives hope to thousands



An ambitious and ground breaking research project into the causes and treatment of Cystic Fibrosis lung disease has resulted in St Columbanus parishioner Professor Stuart Elborn being awarded a CBE in the New Years Honours List. “I was knocked off my feet a bit”, was his first reaction. Understandably “delighted” by the award for services to health care in Northern Ireland, Stuart was also quick to point out that it was a team effort. “I was really delighted for the whole team that worked with me on the research. It is recognition of the hard work that a bunch of people have put in. It is recognition for the combined effort and I had the privilege of leading that team. It is a great boost to everyone’s morale,” he added.

His passion has been trying to make a difference in the lives of people with Cystic Fibrosis – the most common fatal genetic disorder in North West Europe. It is a particularly common condition in Ireland. Since 1992/93 Stuart has been involved in caring for young people with CF, more of whom are now surviving into adulthood but without the proper service to look after them.

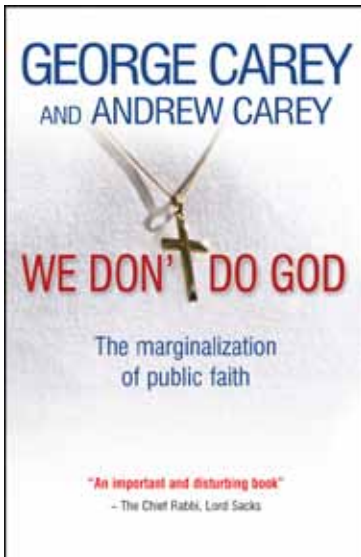
Stuart, wife Elaine and their three children left Northern Ireland to pursue his ideas, gaining experience in Nottingham and Cardiff where he fully intended to settle permanently. But fate had other plans in the shape of a professor from Queen’s University, Belfast, who unexpectedly turned up at the Elborns’ door in Cardiff, asking Stuart to come back to Northern Ireland and posing him the challenge of setting up a service for those young people who desperately needed help.

Rising to the challenge, the whole family moved back again at what turned out to be a “poignant” time for Stuart as three days before his new appointment, Stuart’s mother Josie, who was very much involved in the life of St Columbanus, died. “I had very mixed feelings coming back,” he recalled. In 1995 he began setting up services for CF patients at Belfast City Hospital and he later took on an academic post at Queen’s. The following 15 years were involved in both basic research and trialling new therapies.

A year and a half ago he finished a study which, for the first time, was able to demonstrate a drug which has transformed the lives of young CF sufferers. That drug has just been very recently licensed in the UK. Stuart predicted that it will change the course of treatment for these young people. However, this only works in 10 per cent of these young people – those who have the so called “Celtic Gene”. On the back of this “major breakthrough” the drive is now on to find another drug which could potentially correct a mutation affecting 75 per cent of people with cystic fibrosis. “It is a really exciting time,” he went on. He then added “These young people have hope for the future because before this they were preparing to die. I have learnt just how important hope is to people.” Although it has been a very long and painstaking road to get here there is tremendous excitement within the International medical CF community about this, he explained.

Stuart is Director of the Centre for Infection and Immunity at QUB, Professor of Respiratory Medicine and Consultant with the Belfast Trust. He is a regular worshipper at St Columbanus and although he travels extensively in the course of his work, when he has any spare time he likes to play tennis once a week. He also sails with a couple of friends and loves walking. His ambition is to walk the Santiago de Compostela before he is 60. Time at home with his “long suffering” wife Elaine is very precious he said, adding that the whole family, including their three children Joe, Ruth and Michael will be at Buckingham Palace in March to proudly watch him receive his award.

Rosie Lawther



Book Review

We don't do God

by Archbishop George Carey & Andrew Carey

I can do no better than to quote the chief Rabbi Lord Sacks "George Carey has written a powerful and challenging book on the marginalization of Christianity in Britain, arguing that the law now militates against public expressions of religion, especially if the religion concerned is the established church. This is an important and disturbing book that should be read by everyone concerned for the future of faith in Britain".



Well worth reading

Nancy Baker



On the first Sunday of February in church, I was presented with a cheque, a beautiful basket of flowers and a cake, which we all managed to consume with our coffee between the services. I want to say a sincere thank you to all the parishioners who contributed to my leaving gift. I have been overwhelmed by the good wishes of so many people since I retired, and it is very much appreciated. I have always enjoyed every minute of my time of working in the office and meeting

so many people. I am happy that I have made the right decision to hang up my blue sweatshirt and I know that Kelly will look after you all – I hope she has as much fun as I did. (See some photos on Page 6)

Sue

Ards Choral Society
Conductor – Ian Bell



The Creation

F.J. Hayden

Soloists

Rachel Thompson	Soprano
Martin O'Hagan	Tenor (The Priests)
Michael Brown	Bass
Noel Williamson	Organist

Saturday 2nd March

At 7.30 pm

Ballyholme Parish Church

Tickets £10

available from the Parish Office, or members of the choir, also available on the performance evening

What love is this?

(Jn 19:25, 1 Jn 4:18)

Love to watch,
Love to care,
Love that for a lifetime
Is there,
Is there,
Never withdrawn,
Poured out through the years,
Standing through danger,
Casting out fear.
Love as near perfect,
Reflecting its source,
The love of a mother
Of course,
Of course,
The love of a mother,
Of course.

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother...

By Daphne Kitching

Kajiado visit 2013



Three of us from Ballyhome Parish are excited at joining an all age team going to Kenya in July 2013. Kelly, Brooke and myself will be joining 20 other team members from parishes all over Ireland.

Some people have been before and for many others it will be their first experience of Africa. Ronnie and

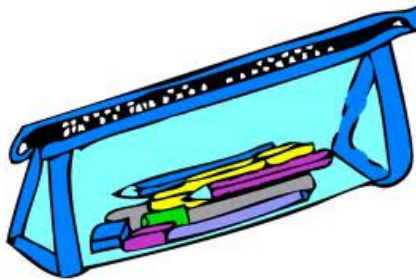
Maggie Briggs will be our leaders. Our team name is UHUSIANO which means partnership. Between us we will work on two projects. One will help with the completion of a classroom for the secondary school that has recently been started in a slum area in Nairobi called Kayole. Yvonne and I visited this area last December when Bishop Alan blessed the water tanks for the area. The poverty is stark and living cramped (to put it mildly) but the community spirit is strong and there is a desire to teach and train the young people. The other project will help with the building of the first IT suite, library, office space and meeting room in a very remote but beautiful area of Kadjiado called Oltiasika. All this is in partnership with the church in Kenya with which we have been involved for so many years. It is exciting and challenging to see work and relationships develop and for St Columbanus to be a part of this.



These projects will take money and skill to accomplish so we will be fund raising for the whole venture. Already a big thanks to all who attended the Quiz Night which was very successful. If you would like to fund raise in any way we would be delighted and will keep you up to date over the next few months as to our progress. We would also ask that you remember the people in Kayole and Oltiasika in your prayers. Many thanks

Elaine Elborn

Pencil Case Appeal



Darcy Larmour has raised over £300 and has collected enough pencils, pens and rubbers to send 176 pencil cases to school children in Swaziland. She raised the money through a sponsored walk from Holywood to Bangor. Parishioners here in Ballyholme Parish Church and her classmates at Ballyholme Primary School also donated pens, pencils and rubbers to help her exceed her target of 100 pencil cases. The local charity USPG.ie will distribute the pencil cases to some of the 11,000 pupils in the 26 schools that they support in Swaziland.



MOTHERS' UNION SALE
& COFFEE MORNING
SATURDAY 9TH MARCH 2013

10.00 – 12 noon
All very welcome



March 2013

YOUTH PAGE



TODD'S LEAP ACTIVITY CENTRE...

The wonderful group of young people from Ballyholme Parish Centre headed off for a wild weekend at Todd's Leap activity Centre in Ballygawley from 15th - 17th February.

Todd's Leap, in my opinion, is potentially the best residential venue for young people, offering a wide range of activities to suit all personalities - from zorbing to ziplines; from boot camp to off-road driving. These amazing activities, alongside great food, lovely wooden cabins for accommodation, and great company, made for a brilliant and memorable weekend.

It was a privilege to be able to accompany these young people, to get to know them

better, to encourage them, to laugh with them and join in the banter. They each have unique personalities, and every individual brought something special to the group.

Amidst the banter and the laughter, existing friendships were deepened, new bonds were made, and there were a number of opportunities for learning, honesty and self reflection. Ultimately, God was with us, stirring our hearts and showering us with love. We are thankful for a really great time.



1 Timothy 4: 12
 Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity.

Over the past six months I have had the privilege of being involved with Storehouse North Down. We supply emergency food packages to those in our community who are struggling with money and food. To date we have supplied around 600 hampers. This has caused me to think quite a lot about food and ask myself about many aspects of this basic, every day necessity.

We live in a society driven by consumerism where food, has become both an icon and a problem. With the contrasts of British Bake-offs and Celebrity Chefs, to anorexia, bulimia, and obesity. From excess food, food wastage and poverty to using ready meals, fast foods and losing some of the basic skills of cooking, there is much to think and talk about.

Jesus has much to say about food and many of the stories in the New Testament involve food. Perhaps in this season of Lent we can take time ourselves to think about food issues in our own lives. Can we imagine what it would be like not to know where our next meal is coming from; to have to choose between heating and eating? How difficult it would be to ask for a food hamper.

Let us think about the positives - the wonderful privilege and joy of sharing food with friends, the powerful reality of the Communion bread and wine, and the amazing way our bodies use and digest food to keep us healthy.

Let us share the gifts God has given us, with thankful hearts. Storehouse would like to thank all of you who have given so generously to serve those in need and hope we keep working in partnership.



Elaine Elborn

2013 Easter Vestry

In accordance with chapter 3 of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland, our annual General (Easter) Vestry meeting in Ballyholme shall take place at 12.45pm on **Sunday 17 March** in the Parish Centre over a parish family lunch (in aid of the Home Straight Appeal).

Constitutionally, as you know, we are free to

conduct elections to the Select Vestry in whatever way we see fit. We intend to run again with written nominations ahead of the meeting in the hope that we will receive at least 12 names. It is up to you to stand yourself or to propose someone else to stand and the basic commitment is one meeting a month.

Nominations were declared open at the February Select Vestry meeting (21 February) and will close on Sunday 11 March. Forms will be available from the Churchwardens on Sundays, from the Parish Office on weekday mornings and from our Honorary Secretary Leslie Adams (91466690). We will take a digital photograph to use on the voting paper. So far as the agenda for the meeting itself is concerned, in addition to the elections, the adoption of the parish accounts and the submission of any reports, 'any other notified business' should be brought to the Rector's attention the day before the meeting at the latest.

Please plan to be part of this important day in the parish calendar.

OUR WORSHIP

Sunday 3rd March 3rd Sunday in Lent

8.30 Holy Communion
 10.00 Family Service
 11.30 Morning Prayer
 6.30 Holy Communion

Wednesday 6th March

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 10th 4th Sunday in Lent

Mothering Sunday

8.30 Holy Communion
 10.00 Morning Worship & Children's Church
 11.30 Parish Communion
 6.30 6-8

Wednesday 13th March

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room



Sunday 17th 5th Sunday in Lent

8.30 Holy Communion
 10.00 Morning Worship & Children's Church
 11.30 Morning Prayer
 6.30 Holy Communion

Wednesday 20th March

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 24th March Palm Sunday

8.30 Holy Communion
 10.00 Morning Worship & Children's Church
 11.30 Morning Prayer
 6.30 Confirmation Service

Wednesday 27th March

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 31st March Easter Day

8.30 Holy Communion
 10.00 Holy Communion
 11.30 Holy Communion



March

3rd: Ruth Ruttle
10th: Sue Bleakley
17th: Sybil Robinson
24th: Vicky Hayes
31st: Easter

FUNERALS

25th January: Kathleen Buchanan, late of Sheridan Drive

1st February: James Hamilton, late of Braemar Park

BAPTISMS

20th January: SOPHIE RACHAEL BOYD, daughter of Gary and Sarah

20th January: KATHERINE MARGARET FORDE, daughter of Stephen and Lynne



March

3rd: No Crèche
10th: Heather Glasgow, Rachel Baird, Paula Foye, Rosemary Thompson
17th: Julie Monaghan, Ann Browne, Rachel Brittain, Dianne Dornan
24th: Catherine Newman, Ashleigh Birkett, Erika Crawford, Emma Sutherland
31st: Easter Day No Crèche



Children's Church Helpers March

10th: Sarah Benton, Colin & Gillian Corbridge
17th: Janet Boal, Jacqui & Neil Devlin
24th: Heather Dickey, Gillian Fletcher, Paula Foye



March

3rd: Jem Moran, Angela Skarmoutsos, Tracie Andreasson
10th: Alison Dornan, Charlie Robinson, Eppi Bates
17th: Michael & Sharon Hatch, Heather Johnston
24th: Edna Morrison, Gillian Fletcher, Carol Majury
31st: Janice Hewitt, Yvonne Manogue, Sandra Hill

Parish Office: 91274912
 Rectory: 91274901
 Curatage: 91271922



Prayer Line: 07531806167
 Transport: 07599794968

Church Readers Rota:
 John 91467243
 or Freda 91467624