

# St Columbanus

Ballyholme

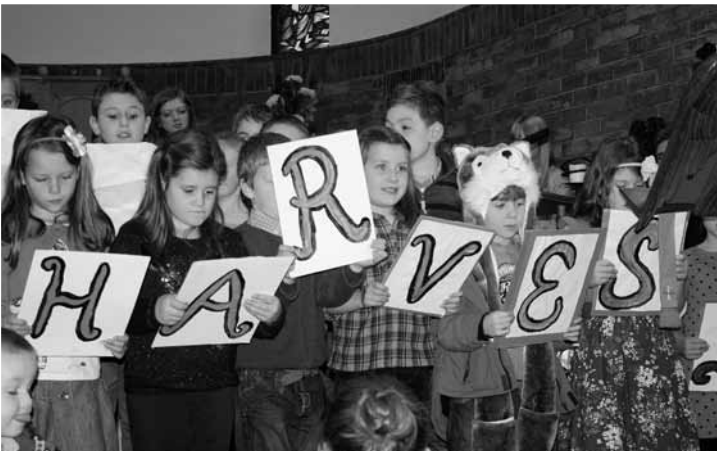


The Walkers in the Fairy Glen  
Harvest Photos

Kids' Corner

Introducing Laura

..On the way *together*..



# The Parishioner



Dec. 2013 & Jan. 2014

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

## The Rambling Rector

Does going to Church in December “count”? It’s a question asked every Christmas and I don’t much like the tone of it. If the chief end of man is to worship God and enjoy Him for ever, then going to Church counts whenever. Put simply, the praise and prayer we offer as the people of God in the house of God is us doing what God created us to do. Granted, it doesn’t make a lot of spiritual sense if Christmas is the only time we go to Church. At best it’s nostalgia; at worst it’s sentimentality. But somehow the hope in the air at Christmas and New Year gives me faith that with the birth of the Christ Child new beginnings and fresh starts can be born in all of us. Besides, if we’re honest, everyone comes to Church with mixed motives. Sometimes it’s about pleasing ourselves, sometimes it’s about pleasing other people, for one or two I’m told it might even be about pleasing the Rector! Providing we’re clear that pleasing God comes first on that list, then there is no question of us not being back in Church come January. We won’t be able to stay away.

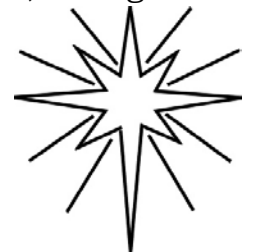


SED



There is a little nativity set that has sat on my hearth since I was a little girl - it’s so old that most of the thatch from the stable has fallen away, and some of the shepherds have definitely wandered off somewhere, but I love seeing it there in front of the fire, the lights lighting up the baby Jesus asleep in his bed of hay.

The fact that God who made the sun, the moon and stars chose to come to earth as this tiny baby never fails to amaze me. I love to play with the little ones in Toddlers, and I’ve been trying to imagine Jesus at their age, playing alongside them... Did Joseph carve him little building blocks to play with? I don’t know, but what a beautiful story.



The boys and girls are excited to tell you this story... The Children’s Church team has been caught up in a whirl of casting calls, carols and camels, as we prepare for the Nativity play which will be showcased on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December. We have had a lot of fun rehearsing, and we would love for you all to join in this fun on the day!

And to celebrate, we will be holding a Christmas Praise Party on **Saturday December 21<sup>st</sup>**, where we will be taking an interactive look at the Nativity story through lots of games and songs and general Christmassy fun, with the help of our wonderful Jumpin’ leaders! We’re looking forward to seeing all of our boys and girls there!



It will soon be 2014! A whole new year and a whole new leaf! January is always a time for changes and for New Year resolutions... My resolution has been to stop biting my nails every year for the last ten years, and I still haven’t managed it! What New Year resolutions have you made before?

In Children’s Church we have been talking and singing lots about how much Jesus loves us – and it’s amazing how much he does! And that has made me think - maybe, instead of making our New Year’s resolution to stop doing things like biting our nails, we should make a resolution to start doing things – to start showing Jesus’ love to everyone around us! There are lots of ways to love others – maybe that’s sharing with our brothers and sisters, or being kind to your classmates or maybe even saying thank you to your teacher for being so wonderful! In the Bible, Jesus told us that the most important thing to do is to love him, and to love others – so let’s take the new leaf that we get in January to start doing this.

Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!

Laura Jeffrey



## 'Back to Broadway'

*A Festive Spectacular  
Featuring  
Upstage Downstage  
Musical Company  
and Guests*

*Saturday 14th  
December  
7.30 pm*

*Ballyholme Parish  
Centre  
Tickets £12  
(inc Wine Supper)*

*Only 100 tickets  
Available from  
the Parish Office  
Phone 91274912*

*An unforgettable festive evening  
of wonderful song*



**Mothers' UNION**  
Christian care for families

First of all, thank you to Margaret Hagan and Lyla McKee for volunteering to come onto the Mothers' Union committee. I appreciate them both volunteering so graciously!

Sue Bleakley was the recipient of our "surprise" event at our last meeting. We were indebted to her for all the necessary typing, printing, advice and for all the other extras which were required for the smooth running of the branch, which she undertook so willingly without question. We had hoped to surprise Sue with a small token of our appreciation last May at our summer outing, but unfortunately she was unable to be with us. To make sure she was present at the last meeting I asked her to do a job for me so I knew she had to be there. Sorry, Sue!

## Women's World Day of Prayer 2014

Date for your 2014 Diary.

The Women's World Day of Prayer will be held here in Ballyholme Parish on **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March at 8.00pm.**



The service for next year is entitled "Streams in the Desert" and has been prepared by the Christian Women of Egypt. Please keep this date free as we would like as many as possible to support this event.

There will be the usual coffee morning, on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2014 in Groomspoint Church of Ireland hall from 10.30am to 12 noon to help with expenses.

Ruth Ruttle 91450130  
Jade Irwin 07896694548  
Ballyholme Representatives

Hopefully, after our November meeting we will have gained some knowledge in the art of decorating cards, labels, etc. as demonstrated by Annette. By the time you read these notes, some members will have visited Ballyholme Methodist WI to hear about the history of Bangor and Ballyholme and some members will have attended the MU area service in St. Gall's.

In early December, we look forward to our Christmas dinner, this year at Coffee Cure in the Heritage Centre. Members. If you intend to be there, please make sure your name is on the list. Also, please remember to bring a present for the elderly. Some of our members are hoping to support the Christmas tree festival at Willowfield Parish Church at the beginning of December.

Our own Jade will be with us in January so we look forward to hearing what she has in mind for our young people next year.

Ruth Ruttle



**December**

**1st:** Kelly McCullough, Karen Baker, Ann Browne  
**8th:** Maureen Aiken, Ann McMurray

**15th:** Charlie Robinson, Michael & Sharon Hatch

**22nd:** Pauline Baird, Jim & Liz Murdoch

**29th:** Sandra Hill, Jonnie & Susan Stockton

**January 2014**

**5th:** Jacqui Devlin, Pat Davidson, Kelly McCullough

**12th:** Mark & Carolyn

Larmour, Ann Reynolds

**19th:** Edna Morrison, Gillian Fletcher, Carole Majury

**26th:** Jo Ann Coulter, Nicole Watson, Patrick Crothers

**December**

**1st:** No crèche

**8th:**

Heather

Glasgow, Ruth Toy,

Catherine Menary,

Caroline Connolly

**15th:** No Crèche (Children's Carol Service)

**22nd:** No Crèche

**January 2014**

**5th:** No Crèche

**12th:** Heather Glasgow,

Rachel Brittain, Dianne

Dornan, Paula Foye

**19th:** Violet Davidson,

Natalie McCartan,

Caroline Gillan, Betty

Singleton

**26th:** Katherine Newman,

Rosemary Thompson,

Angela McCartney, Elaine

McNamara

**December**

**8th** Gareth and Janet Boal,

Sarah Benton

**January 2014**

**12th** Emma

Darragh, Jacqui

Devlin, Heather Dickey

**19th** Gillian Fletcher, Paula

Foye, Deborah Galbraith

**26th** Samantha Gouk, Emma

Hamilton, Karen Hunt

**December**

**1st** Jackie McCabe

**8th** Audrey Carroll

**15th** Christmas

**22nd** Christmas

**29th** Pamela McNutt

**January 2014**

**5th** Betty Armstrong

**12th** Jacqui Devlin

**19th** Agnes Officer

**26th** Pat Shannon

**NEW YEAR'S DAY WALK**

**WEDNESDAY 1st JANUARY 2014**

Don't forget our annual New Year's Day Parish Walk which will take place on Wednesday 1st January. Gather up in the

Parish Centre at 10.15 and head off at 10.30. We will go along along Groomsport Road, down to the beach via Morningside, along the Promenade, past Ballyholme Yacht Club and back to the Parish Centre for hot chocolate and doughnuts.

The yellow coated marshals will be dotted along the way to take care of you and make sure you take the correct turns.

Don't forget your thermals and bring a brolly if it looks like showers!



Parish Office: 91274912

Rectory: 91274901

Curatage: 91271922

Prayer Line: 07531806167

Transport: 07599794968

Church Readers Rota:

John 91467243 or Freda 91467624

**FUNERAL**

**8th November:** Joan Cardwell, late of Glenariff Park

**FREEWILL OFFERING ENVELOPES**

The next year's freewill offering envelopes will soon be available for collection. They can be found at the back of the church in boxes, in alphabetical street order.

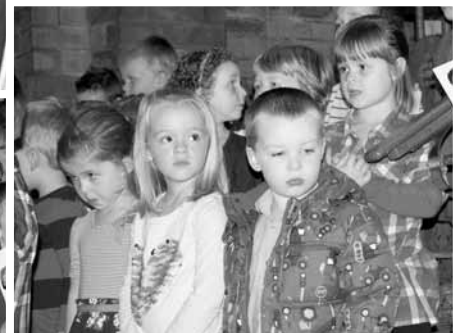
It would help us considerably, if, when you are picking up your own, you could take some of your neighbours' envelopes with you and pop them through their door.



Around the Parish



Children's Church Harvest



Harvest Lunch







## The Wednesday Club

Our ladies had a really lovely afternoon in November, when Pat Peel put us all through our paces to help us feel fit for Christmas. Everybody joined in with gusto, and really enjoyed themselves. We can now enjoy our Christmas lunch without feeling guilty - bring on the mince pies!

We welcomed a new member, Miriam, this month and our draw was won by Vera Bell and Pat Davidson.

Next month 4<sup>th</sup> December is our Christmas lunch, so remember ladies, we start at **1.00pm**. Don't forget to bring a little Santa present for his sack, valued at about £2-£3.

See you then  
Sue

## Remembrance of Tanya

Tanya our daughter died on 20th June. She was forty years old. Her illness was diagnosed five years ago – ten days before her wedding.

After leaving school, Tanya worked as a care assistant. She continued to study at North Down Technical College. Her ambition to be a nurse took a step forward when she was accepted for training at Pilgrim Hospital (Boston-Lincolnshire) and Nottingham University, England. After Tanya's graduation she worked in Johnson Community Hospital, Spalding. Meantime Tanya married Michael. Her married life was overshadowed with illness. She cared more for others than herself. She never complained or asked – Why me? Tanya had surgery and many harsh treatments to endure. She was always treated with loving care and dignity. No complaints about the National Health Service!

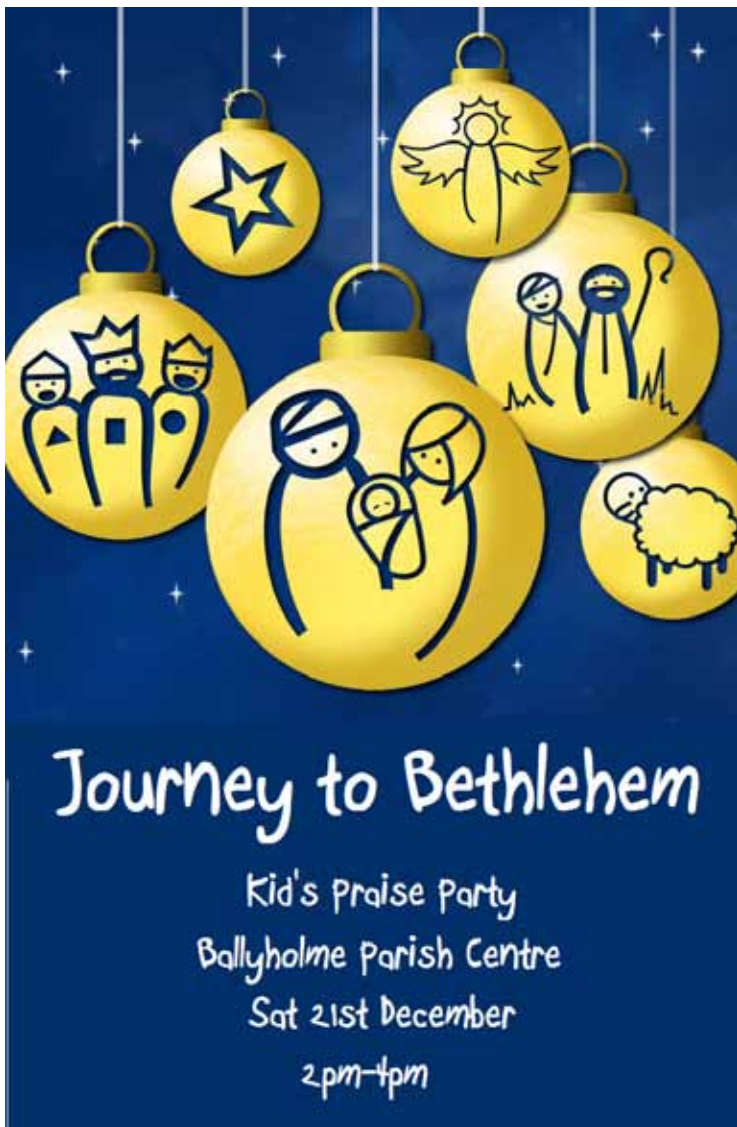
Tanya died in Lincoln Hospital. There was a service of thanksgiving in Spalding. After this, Tanya was brought back home for a burial service at St Columbanus. At both services word of kindness and reflections on her dedication to work were expressed. Tanya had a short life but she achieved so much and is fondly remembered by many. In September the hospital where she worked, dedicated a garden bench and tree in her memory. This was followed by tea, chat and the amusing stories of happenings that staff and patients shared. It was a happy afternoon.

Michael, her brothers and the rest of the family and we her parents, have been left devastated but we received much support from friends and the Church.

We lovingly remember. We are grateful for Tanya's good and caring life. Many other people are grieving, we are not alone.

We pray for those reading this who have recently been in our situation. We write this in appreciation of Tanya's life. She would want all those who knew her to remember her with joy and a smile in their hearts.

Irvina & Roy



## Christmas thoughts

As Christmas approaches it is anything but quiet for my family. In a bid to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas I like to think of the following as we decorate our house. The pure green colour of the fir tree remains green all year, representing the everlasting hope of mankind; all the needles point heavenward, making it a symbol of man's thoughts turning toward heaven. Stars - the Star was the heavenly sign of promises long ago.

God promised a saviour for the world and the star was the sign of fulfilment of his promise. Candles symbolise that Christ is the light of the world and when we see this great light we are reminded of Jesus who fills our lives with light. The Wreath symbolises the real nature of love. Real love never ceases, like God's love that has no beginning or end. The Holly leaf symbolises immortality. It represents the crown of thorns worn by our Saviour and the red berries represent the blood shed by him. The sugar cane hung on the tree represents the shepherd's crook. The crook on the staff helps to bring back lost sheep to the flock.

Angels - an Angel announced the glorious news of the Saviour's birth - "Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace and good will toward men." And finally what every child loves - presents. The wise men bowed before the holy baby and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

We should always give gifts in the same spirit of the wise men. Ultimately we received the greatest gift of all, "God so loved the world that HE gave us HIS only son". We thank God for his very special gift.

With so many symbols of Christ, what is there not to love about Christmas?

Peace, Joy and love to you and your family.

Lynsey McDermott



Join us for  
a night of  
**Christmas Bling  
Fling**  
**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup>  
December**  
**7.30pm till late**



£12.50

Food by 'Báwon' Chinese

Dancing

Music by Sam & his Band

Bring your own bottle (no corkage!)

Dress code: Bling!



Limited to 104 seats  
(tables of 8 can be reserved)

Contact Timothy & Jane Smyth  
028 9127 0983 (after 6pm).

## The Walkers in the Fairy Glen

This is a magical place at the foot of the Mourne near Rostrevor. We left the car park in Kilbroney Park, full of mountain bikers from far and wide, using the new trail. Crossing the lower park in the beautiful autumn sunlight which set off the stunning colours of the trees, we followed the Kilbroney River up the Fairy Glen to reach the impressive 4,000-acre Rostrevor Forest and took the path west to the bridge at the far end. After crossing the river we had lunch at the picnic tables before returning to the car park. Six miles in all of very pleasant walking, and stunning views over Carlingford Lough and of course, refreshments in the park café afterwards.

Our next walk is in Redburn Park in Holywood on 7<sup>th</sup> December followed by Christmas Lunch in Café Essence. Meet at 9 30 am in the Church car park.

Betty







### Advent and North Down Storehouse

I would like to share a quote with you from a book by Sara Miles called *Take this Bread*, in which she shares her personal faith journey combined with starting an amazing food pantry in a church in San Francisco. She says "because of how I've been welcomed and fed in the Eucharist, I see starting a food pantry not as an act of 'outreach' but one of gratitude". To feed others means acknowledging our own hunger and at the same time acknowledging the amazing abundance we're fed with by God" Perhaps this Advent, during our season of waiting and preparation, we could bring our food gifts for storehouse out of a sense of gratitude for all that God has given us and out of that sense of abundance. All food and toiletries (both basic and slightly more special) are gratefully received as we prepare our Christmas hampers to deliver this December. As you know gifts will be received each Sunday during advent or any morning in the office. With many thanks.

Elaine



### Ballyholme Churches Community Singing Wednesday 18 December 2013

Starting at Ballyholme Parish at 7pm and ending at Ballyholme Presbyterian around 8.30pm with supper. Please wear warm, water-proof clothing and bring torches or lanterns to make yourself safe and visible.



### The Dinner by Heman Koch

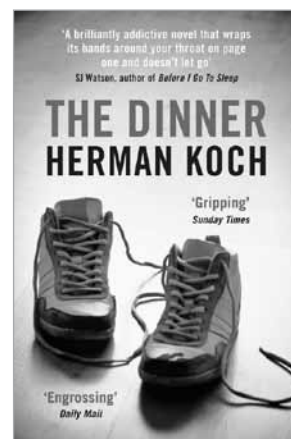
It took me ages to realize that the reason for the two so very different couples meeting for dinner was to discuss the terrible crime committed by each of their fifteen year old sons. The fact that the men were brothers who hated

each other makes the possibility of a resolution seem distant. Serge, the aspiring politician, is detested by his prematurely retired schoolteacher brother Paul.

What started as a boyish prank throwing rubbish at an elderly tramp in a shop doorway (all visible on CCTV) turns into something more horrific and suddenly the enormity of it all is ramped up by the internet showing of a second video taken by Serge's adopted African son.

As the dinner, in a posh restaurant with very posh staff, progresses course by course at first the conversation ranges from work to holidays to political aspirations, but always skirting around the serious issue of the crime. I could have done without the detail of the food, the place settings, and the expense of the wine but have to admit the description of the waiter's over attentive hovering is funny. I was impatient for the author to get on with the story. But there is a black side to the agenda, and when the evening finally falls apart with arguments and tears, the length to which each couple will go to protect their son is shown. Lots of questions though. Why not name the restaurant? Why keep Paul's discovered genetic tendency secret? What was wrong with Paul's wife who suddenly became very ill? Still it is a compelling read!

*The Dinner is published by Atlantic Books and available in paperback from £3.85*



B.A.

### The Christmas stars

Any astronomer can predict with absolute accuracy just where every star in the universe will be as the clocks chime midnight on Christmas Eve. He can make no such prediction about his teenage daughter.





## New Children's Worker finds her feet



Since her appointment as the new Children's Worker, the past few months have sped past for Laura Jeffrey. Not only did she hit the ground running, helping out at Jumpin and Xcess, there was also the extensive "getting to know you" exercise with the children and parents of the parish, no mean feat when St Columbanus boasts such a burgeoning children's church.

Then there was also helping out with the Upstage Downstage production which was right up her street, indulging Laura's other passion for music. And not forgetting that she has just taken up studying again.

After completion of her A levels at Glenlola, Laura headed off to Norwich to study medicine where she quickly realised after a year that it was just not the right path for her so she headed back to Bangor.

"Much as I loved England, it was great to be back home," she added. This year she is doing a course at the Union College which will hopefully lead her to studying Divinity at Queen's University, Belfast, next year. which is her long term goal. However, working with children is her real passion and already she feels right at home in St Columbanus. "Everyone is so lovely, welcoming and so family orientated. It has made a great impression on me".

Laura's enthusiasm for youth work was whetted in Norwich when she started working with a youth group in a church there and then one night she was asked to become a leader.

"The more I have learnt about myself and about God it definitely seems the right way to go. Being able to give my time to work with people who love God has been a real blessing," said Laura. She had discovered that sharing her faith was not really an "option" when studying medicine

In the little spare time Laura might have, she loves to read, describing herself as a "bookworm". She also plays the piano and guitar ("not very well" she added) and loves singing.

"Music is a universal language that connects with everyone". She was a member of the Glenlola school choir and would like to find time for that at some stage in the future.

She is also involved in the Storehouse project. Although she was brought up as a Methodist she is also very comfortable working within the Church of Ireland but said "There is so much scope within the Church of Ireland for working with other churches".

Rosie Lawther

## Register of Vestry Members



In accordance with Chapter 3 of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland and Regulation 7 of the Down and Dromore Diocesan Regulations, the Register of Vestry Members for Ballyholme Parish is open for review and available for inspection in the Parish Office

from Thursday 16th January.

Our Select Vestry will meet to conduct the formal review at 7.45 pm on Thursday 20 February 2014 in the Parish Centre (Kajiado Room). All those seeking registration are entitled to appear at the meeting to support any claim.

To add your name to the Register, Forms of Declaration for both Resident and Accustomed (non-resident) members of the congregation must be submitted before the opening of the 20 February meeting.

**Forms are available either from the Churchwardens on the relevant Sundays or the Parish Office on weekday mornings.**

## Wrapping Up

This is a season for wrapping up. Wrapping up warmly in hats, scarves and gloves to face the bitter cold of the frosty weather. Wrapping up gifts in decorative paper with shiny labels and bows to share with friends and family at Christmas time. Wrapping up bin bags to clear all of the used wrapping paper once the presents have been excitedly opened.



Wrapping up boxes in tape to put old items in the attic in order to make room for the new. Finally, wrapping up the year as it draws to a close.

As you wrap up your year of 2013, what comes to mind? Perhaps you think about memories that have been made with friends and family on special occasions. Maybe changes are occupying your thoughts – changes in relation to your job, school, university, relationships and so on. Could your heart be burdened with loss and grief? Possibly you are facing thoughts of regret as you ponder mistakes you feel you have made. On the other hand you might be rejoicing in positive decisions you made and beneficial action you have taken over the year gone by.

The challenge as we wrap up presents, wrap up warmly and wrap up the year is to reflect, and then to be honest with other people. Find somebody, whether it would be a friend, a family member, a youth worker or Minister, and talk to them about how this past year has been for you. Tell them the truth. Get things off your chest. Let somebody in, to mourn with you and rejoice with you. Give them the authority to ask you the difficult questions in order to help you to forgive, to make changes, to learn and to grow. Wrap up the silence and the secrecy as you wrap up your year, and open up the beauty of honesty and journeying with people you trust.



As you open up and let other people in, you create space and provide strength for others to do the same. In the words of Marianne Williamson, “As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.” Let go of the fear of being judged and let yourself be known. Experience the freedom and encouragement in doing so. And remember to wrap up warm!

Jade





**F**or  
unto us  
a child is born,  
unto us  
a Son is given

*Christmas & New Year Blessings  
with every good wish in Christ  
to those for whom His coming means so much  
and whose praise and prayer ring out  
in St Columbanus Sunday by Sunday*

*A special seasonal thank-you from the Rector  
on behalf of the whole Church family to  
(in no particular order):*

*the Staff Team*

*the Churchwardens and Lay Readers*

*the Glebewardens, Secretary, Treasurer  
and other members of our Select Vestry*

*the Choir and those who lead us in music and song*

*those who lead our array of organisations, clubs and societies*

*those who feed us, water us and make us welcome  
on Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays  
and often the other days too!*

*the ones who fetch and carry  
those who wouldn't make it otherwise*

*the editors, writers, photographers and deliverers  
of our parish magazine*

*those who see to the thousand other domestic  
practicalities of life in a busy parish*

*the intercessors: those who hold all that we do  
faithfully and regularly before the God  
in whose name we all serve*

*to one and all:*

*enjoy the worship, rest and fellowship of this holy season!*

## The Quiet Corner

Perhaps it's the shortness of the winter days. Maybe it's the ending of an old year and the beginning of a new one. Or possibly it's the seasonal theme of eternity breaking through. Something prompts me to reflect at Christmas and New Year on the sanctity of time itself.



I stumbled on this recently by Francois de la M. Fénelon:

"Time is precious, but we do not comprehend all its value. We shall know it only when it will no longer be any advantage to us. A day will come, when a simple quarter of an hour may appear of more worth to us than the riches of the whole world. God who is so free and liberal to us in everything else, teaches us, by the wise economy of his providence, how careful we should be of the use of time; for he gives us but one instant, and withdraws that as he gives us a second, while he retains the third in his own hands, leaving us in entire uncertainty whether it will ever be ours."

Despite our best modern efforts at time management, our days, weeks and months are still never long enough for us to do all the things we want to do. The spiritual reality of course is that so far as God is concerned we have all the time we will ever need.

Which means most of us have a way to go: from panic at the speed at which our watches tick round, to peace when we can allow ourselves to rest in the divine moment, to let at least a few holy minutes slip away trusting that in Christ, God has taken care of everything.

Blessed be the hour, O Christ,  
in which you were born,  
and the hour in which you died;  
blessed be the dawn of your rising again,  
and the high day of your ascending:  
O most merciful and mighty Redeemer  
Christ,  
let all times be the time of our presence  
with you, and of your dwelling in us. Amen

SED

## Our Worship

### Sunday 1st December Advent 1

8.30 Holy Communion  
10.00 Morning Worship & Children's Gifts  
11.30 Morning Prayer  
6.30 Advent Taize Service

### Wednesday 4th December

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado room

### Sunday 8th December Advent 2

8:30 Holy Communion  
10:00 Morning Worship & Children's Church  
11:30 Parish Communion  
6.30 6-8 Service

### Wednesday 11th December

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado room

### Sunday 15th December Advent 3

8:30 Holy Communion  
10:00 Children's Carol Service  
11:30 Morning Prayer  
6.30 Carols by Candlelight

### Wednesday 18th December

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado room

### Sunday 22nd December Advent 4

8.30 Holy Communion  
10.00 The Jesse Tree (Family friendly)  
11.30 Morning Prayer

### Tuesday 24th December Christmas Eve

5.00 A Family Carol Service  
11.00 First Communion of Christmas

### Wednesday 25th December Christmas Day

8:30 Holy Communion  
10:00 Family Service

### Sunday 29th December Christmas 1

8.30 Holy Communion  
10.30 Morning Worship

### Sunday 5th January Christmas 2

8:30 Holy Communion  
10:00 Morning Worship & Children's Church  
11:30 Parish Communion  
6.30 Holy Communion

### Wednesday 8th January

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado room

### Sunday 12th January

#### 1st Sunday after Epiphany

8:30 Holy Communion  
10:00 Morning Worship & Children's Church  
11:30 Holy Communion  
6.30 6-8 Service

### Wednesday 16th January

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado room

### Sunday 19th January

#### 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

8.30 Holy Communion  
10.00 Morning Worship & Children's Church  
11.30 Morning Prayer  
6.30 Bangor Christian Unity Week service  
*(Venue to be confirmed)*

### Wednesday 22nd January

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado room

### Sunday 26th January

#### 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

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

### Wednesday 29th January

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado room



**Help needed  
to decorate the church for  
Christmas  
Saturday 14th December  
at 10.00 am**

All offers of help, flowers, greenery etc,  
very much appreciated

