

St Columbanus

Ballyholme



Easter Vestry notes
Joanne's Zambian report
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Photos from Around the Parish
..On the way *together*..



The Parishioner

May 2015

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

You will all have heard by now that on 2 April Ballyholme lost its much loved first rector Canon Jack Mercer. In Bishop Harold's words at the funeral: he died on Maundy Thursday, was laid to rest on Easter Eve, and in Christ, is a partaker of the Resurrection. My first real grasp of the scale of Canon Mercer's ministry came only recently. I had brought him Holy Communion in the City Hospital and was relaying the headlines from my seventh Ballyholme Easter Vestry the previous day. Suddenly it struck me: when Canon Jack reached his seventh he had another thirty still to go! Jack was a welcome and regular visitor to the Rectory but on his final visit to Ward Avenue on the first Sunday of 2015 he was fading before our eyes. As ever he left us with the assurance of his prayerful support and encouragement. Speaking personally, I always felt he trusted me to build and plant for God in the same way that he had tried to do. His passing certainly marks the end of an era but what a solid foundation he laid: worship, prayer, pastoral care – all the hallmarks of a living Christian community.



Confirmation 2015: Palm Sunday

“Are you ready with your own mouth and from your own heart to affirm your faith in Jesus Christ?” When Bishop Harold asked that question on the evening of Palm Sunday, six young people and four adults replied before the St Columbanus congregation: “I am.”



Our younger candidates were Anna Shortt, Imogen Porter, Ellen Hunt, Andrew Allen, Callum Devlin and Jack McDonough. From January they met each week with Alistair and Jade in the Meto Room but a special highlight for all of them was the Down and Dromore Confirmation Retreat at Castlewellan Castle. More than 150 young people hoping to be Confirmed across the diocese this year came together in Castlewellan for a time of fellowship, teaching and final decision making.

Our adult candidates were Jacqui Devlin, Audrey Hamblin, Trevor Morrow and Alison Shortt. Through Lent, the adults met with Simon at Ballyholme Court, the home of Audrey Hamblin who greeted her guests in the Windmill Road Common Room each Monday afternoon with a very welcome tray of tea and biscuits.

As part of their preparation both groups explored all the key elements of the Catechism (Ten Commandments, Creed, Lord's Prayer, Baptism and Holy Communion) as well as looking

at different aspects of Church of Ireland tradition and history. Alongside these central components of the faith, both groups spent time sharing personal and spiritual insights and reflecting on what had brought them to make the promises of their Baptism their own. During the service itself Ellen Hunt and Jacqui Devlin spoke of their spiritual journey with Christ in a way that touched everyone present. Friends, family, candidates and congregation shared in the special music prepared for the service by Ian Bell and the Choir and our Children's Worker Laura Jeffrey on guitar. A fountain of chocolate and popping corn and a sea of tray bakes in the Parish Centre afterwards rounded off a memorable evening which had given Bishop Harold an opportunity to underline his 2015 Confirmation theme of 'New Life in Christ'. The invitation was there for all the world to embrace the One whose life, words, death and resurrection remain the only real source of truth, the only lasting source of love.

"HOW TO MAKE AN AMERICAN QUILT" the film, was attended by 30 Members. We had been advised to have hankies nearby. Luckily there were a few packets left over from Mothering Sunday. We enjoyed the sweets, cones and of course the usual cup of tea and fancy biscuits.

At the moment 28 members are looking forward to attending Shankill Parish Church "Flower Show" in Lurgan on Saturday 10th May. We hope to get the 08.57 am train from Bangor. Why go by coach when the majority of members can travel free by train! For those few who have to pay the train fare, perhaps we might consider treating them to their coffee and scone. We'll see! Lunch at 1.30pm will be provided by the Church which had already been pre-booked last year. We also look forward to some retail shopping before we get the train back to Bangor.

The indoor and older members' annual communion and tea party will this year be held in Newtownards on Thursday 21st May at 2.30pm when our branch hopefully will be well represented.

The annual sale and coffee morning on **Saturday 6th June 2015 from 10.00am to noon in the Parish Centre** we hope will be well supported by parishioners and friends. The money raised at this event goes to the Overseas Fund. In the past year Mothers' Union has enabled 7,381 people in Sudan and South Sudan to learn to read and write and 529 people to start their own business. This is just one of the many examples of what Mothers' Union does abroad.

Please contact me if you need to know anything about the Mothers' Union in Ballyholme Parish Church.

Ruth Ruttle (Branch Leader)

WHERE IS YOURS?



11 - 18 OCTOBER 2015

Kiwoko Night Sunday 3rd May

In the Parish Centre
 Starting 5.30 pm

Food, fellowship and feedback from our friends at Kiwoko.

Denise, Rory + Gideon tell all.
 Ugandan worship led by David
 Maganda + friends

An update on Jade's team going to
 Kiwoko in August

Oil those dancing joints and bring
 your sense of rhythm
 and Ugandan smile.



SUMMER MADNESS

WHY? It is amazing fun & a great opportunity to grow in faith in a relevant and youth-focused environment.

WHO? For all young people ages 13+

WHEN? 3rd - 7th July 2015

WHERE? Glenarm Castle Estate

WANT MORE DETAILS?

Contact jade@ballyholmeparish.co.uk



The Lonely Londoners by Sam Selvon

The Lonely Londoners is a novel in which Selvon toys with rhythm and language to cast a uniquely Caribbean glow onto the bleak chill of a London winter in the 1950's.

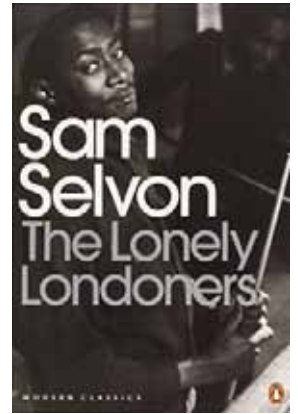
Featuring a 'Windrush generation' cast of misfits, The Lonely Londoners follows a group of Trinidadian and Jamaican men through the London streets, focusing

on their experiences in this home away from home.

The novel opens in Waterloo station where the older Moses meets fresh-off-the-boat Henry (nicknamed Sir Galahad). The contrast between Moses' cynicism and Galahad's enthusiasm makes the book both comical and poignant.

Selvon writes in a modified Creole dialect, adding an easy lyricism to the story and making the reader feel like they've stepped onto the streets around Notting Hill.

Overall, Selvon manages to transport the reader into this isolated community, portraying homesickness and racism at the same time as the simple joys of going on a date in the famous Piccadilly Circus. This is a unique and very interesting read that has very rightly acquired classic status.



L.H.

the things I *love*

- A bath without interruptions!
- Climbing a 'decent' mountain with a bit of a challenge on the way up and down, especially with my kids.
- Fridays at work when everyone is in a good mood because it is Friday!
- Going out for a coffee with a friend and having such a good natter that it leads to a second cup of coffee.
- Having my feet or hair stroked; it is the thing that instantly relaxes me. Any offers gratefully accepted!
- Sleeping in a caravan at night with the rain beating down on the roof; except we don't have a caravan!
- My children: - Callum's great sense of humour; he makes me give one of those real hearty laughs that's hard to stop. Jude's passion for golf and endless energy. Lydia's constant entertainment with song and dance. At least it means she's a happy child and I must be doing something right.
- My husband, Neil's calming effect on me! It has to be someone's job!
- All these things are a reminder of God's good grace to me. I can live without the caravan!



Jacqui Devlin

IT'S SPRING-CLEANING TIME!

Need somewhere to get rid of all those things you never use? Then plan to make use of our



CAR BOOT SALE

on **Saturday 16th May**

at 10.30am to 12.30pm

(and support the Restoration Fund)

Book a place for your car in St Columbanus Church car park or come and enjoy a cuppa with freshly baked scones - £2.50

For more information, get in touch with Margaret Parr 02891467532

When the late Dean of York was asked why he called his stumpy-tailed fox terrier 'Mark', he explained: "The New Testament contains the life-stories of our Lord by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Mark's is the shortest tale!"



Easter Vestry 2015

THE RECTOR, CANON SIMON DOOGAN, WAS IN THE CHAIR

1. Opening Devotions and Lunch: All present were welcomed by the Rector. A reading from Isaiah 51 by Alistair was followed by prayer. The Rector proposed a vote of thanks to those involved in the preparation of lunch, especially Karen and Ann. A further vote of thanks was proposed to the entire staff team, Kelly, Karen, Ann, Jade, Laura, Ian and Alistair for their enthusiasm and 110% commitment throughout the year. The Rector noted this would be Alistair's last Easter Vestry at St Columbanus and commented on how valuable his construction industry experience had proved in taking forward the Restoration Project. Leslie Adams was elected secretary for the meeting.

2. Apologies: Larry and Camilla Cheshire, Stuart and Elaine Elborn, Ivan and Linda Humphries, Yvonne and Laurence Manogue, Stanley and Agnes Officer.

3. Minutes of the 2014 Meeting: These were approved unanimously.

4. Rector's Remarks: The Rector referred again to the support he and the Parish in general receive from the staff team and the backing they in turn obtain from so many voluntary helpers. By way of example this year's Children's Church team of Paula Foye, Paula Lown, and Gareth Boal is doing tremendous work and in turn they are underpinned by the background planning work undertaken by Joan Dales and Violet Davidson who organize the rota. At a later point in the meeting following a reference by Laura the Rector was pleased to thank the team of young volunteers who assist with Children's Church namely Claire Robinson, Conor Johnston, Imogen Porter and Amy Weir. Simon spoke at some length by way of tribute to 5 individuals whom he described as part of the considerable number of 'unsung heroes' who contribute to the life and fabric of the Parish. This is elaborated on further in the extended Rector's Remarks on page 8.



Reflecting on the year's events Simon expressed his satisfaction with the launch of the Restoration Project, in particular the very well attended meeting with our architects, Knox and Markwell, on 6 January. He had taken great encouragement from this and the positive attitudes displayed by Parishioners both at the meeting and in the months since.

5. Glebewarden's Report: The report was presented by the Rector's Glebewarden. Stephen outlined various unavoidable items of expenditure including boiler repairs, electrical maintenance, grass cutting, window cleaning etc and pointed out that by dint of good housekeeping the cost of repairs and upkeep had been reduced by around £3500 on the previous year. He pointed out that this would have been impossible without the help and support of People's Churchwarden Geoff Hewitt and former Rector's Glebewarden Harry Browne both of whose DIY skills had proved a major asset.

In thanking Stephen for his report the Rector pointed out that care was being taken to avoid major outlays on repairs and upkeep where the areas of work needed were likely to become part of the Restoration Project.

6. Honorary Treasurer's Report: See below

Roy's report was proposed by Patrick Hayes, seconded by Norman Munnis and approved unanimously.

7. Appointment of Rector's Churchwarden: Simon announced he was delighted Jane Fitzimmons had agreed to serve. Jane's father had served as Churchwarden in previous years and as Parish Treasurer for 27 years.

8. Election of People's Churchwarden: Jonny Stockton proposed Stephen Baker and this was agreed unanimously. The Rector pointed out that there was no constitutional barrier to Stephen holding the dual roles of Rector's Glebewarden and People's Churchwarden

9. Appointment of Rector's Glebwarden: Stephen's agreement to continue to serve as Rector's Glebwarden alongside his role of People's Churchwarden was greeted by acclamation.

10. Election of People's Glebwarden: Stephen proposed Geoff Hewitt should continue in this role to further acclamation.

11. Election of Select Vestry: Twelve nominations were received with the result that an election was unnecessary. The following agreed to serve:



Leslie Adams, Yvonne Manogue, Elaine Elborn, Larry Cheshire, Ivan Humphries, Joan Dales, Ian Foster, Ann Browne, Christine Rankin, Patricia Robinson, Susan Stockton, Gillian Young.

The Rector thanked those who had agreed to serve. Leslie Adams was thanked for acting as Vestry Secretary and Gillian Young as deputy when required.

Roy Lawther, Honorary Treasurer, was co opted to Vestry.

12. Appointment of Honorary Auditor: Geoffrey Young has agreed to fulfil this role for a further year.

13. Closing Prayers: The Rector closed the meeting with prayer.

(Immediately after the meeting the Select Vestry met briefly and agreed unanimously that Roy Lawther should continue in his role as Honorary Treasurer and Leslie Adams as Honorary Secretary).

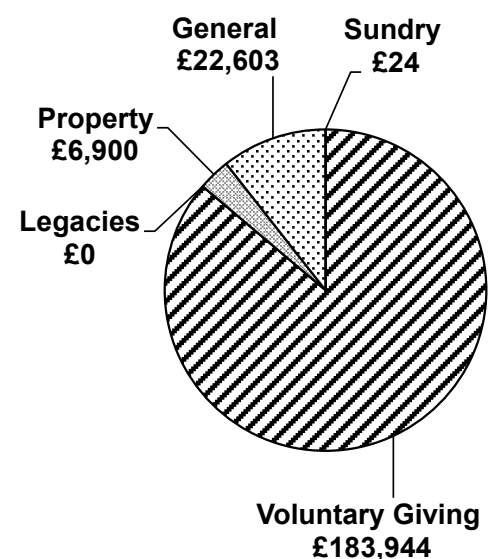
PARISH ACCOUNTS 2014

The Select Vestry presented a report and financial accounts in the format recommended by the Church of Ireland to the Easter Vestry on Sunday 22nd March 2015. They are a simplified version of the accounts previously presented and comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities", produced by the Institutes of Chartered Accountants and the Charities Commission.

The aim of the simplified accounts is to make them more understandable to all. Highlights of the accounts include:

Income:

- Total Income decreased from £223,520 to £213,833, a decrease of £9,687.
- Voluntary planned giving through envelopes and standing orders (including the tax reclaimed) was £183,944 an increase of £3,271 or 1% from last year (£180,573).
- Income from other sources decreased by £13,057 from £42,946 to £29,889.
- There were no legacies in 2014.

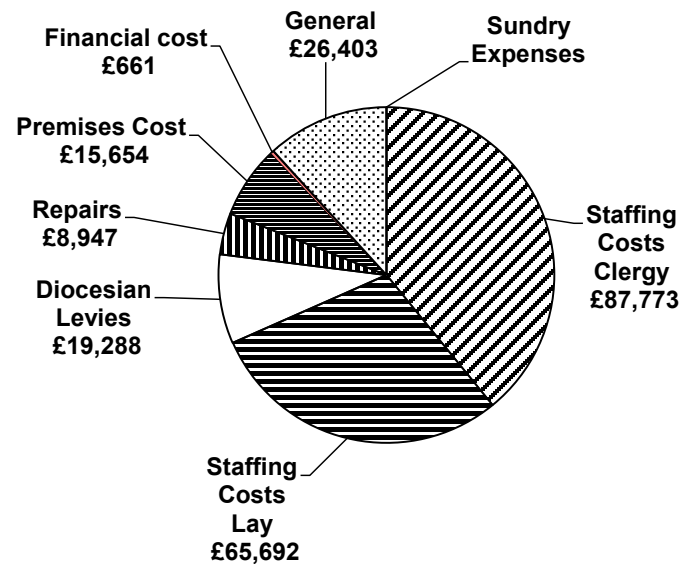


Expenditure:

- Expenditure increased from £215,059 to £224,417 an increase of £9,358 or 4%.
- Our share of the costs of the diocese was £19,288 an increase of £817 and represents just over 8.6% of our total expenditure.

- Repair costs on buildings have decreased by £3,613.
- Premises/Running costs have increased.
- Despite changing suppliers, heating and lighting has increased by 0.9%.
- Office costs such as postage, stationary and printing increased by 19%.

The outcome for the year was that we had a deficit of income over expenditure of £10,584 (last year it was + £8,460). This year has been described as a “perfect storm” with a reduction in general income, no legacies and an increase in expenditure.



Missions

Our giving to mission during the year totalled £11,522. Mission income comes from two sources:

1. Specific collections, events and gifts during the year totalling £5,246.
2. Money from the general fund available for distribution by the Mission Committee, this is transferred to the Missions account after the Easter Vestry each year and amounted to £5,000 last year.

Youth Account

Last year £7,313 was raised by the Parish youth during the year for youth initiatives and activities. A further £3,357 in financial support was given by the Parish to support the youth and children's work.

The Parish Development Fund

Last year £7,950 was paid into the Parish Development Fund by a number of Parishioners who have maintained their standing orders from the Home-Straight appeal. Since the re-launch of the Parish Development Fund in December there has been a further £20,205 in cash gifts and £1,948 per month in standing orders.

This year

As with last year the Select Vestry:

- Aims to increase the number of Parishioners who pay by Standing Orders. This will:
 - Provide regular income.
 - Reduce the cost of purchasing envelopes.
 - Reduce the administrative burden of counting and banking the money.
- Financial stewardship. The Select Vestry will discuss further ways of reducing our costs over the next year, although there is little scope to further reduce running costs.

Additionally the Select Vestry will:

- Examine ways to increase income from the use of the hall.
- Provide Leadership in respect of the Parish Development mission.

Rev Canon Simon Doogan
Rector
1st April 2015

Roy Lawther
Honorary Treasurer

Among the more formal and familiar annual business of the 2015 General Vestry, the Rector made special mention of some unsung parish heroes. The following is a paraphrased extract:

“Every parish depends on those who give their time and energy freely and generously to the work of God’s kingdom and in Ballyholme we have a wonderful team of enthusiastic labourers who keep the St Columbanus show on the road week by week, month by month and year by year. For some their role is public and visible but others operate under the radar so that what they have been doing quietly and faithfully only really comes to light when they stop doing it. This year there are five unsung heroes whose invaluable contribution to the wider life of the parish of Ballyholme comes to an end.

As you will read in the April magazine, Margaret Hagan stands down after more than 35 years with the Ballyholme Brownie Pack, spending all of those years as Brown Owl. You will also have noticed from the *Parishioner* that after more than 30 years Alistair Ardill stands down from the Scouts, his wife Nicky having bowed out from the Cubs the previous year after a similarly impressive tenure. So far, Alistair has managed to elude our St Columbanus newshounds’ attempts to secure an interview, but you will agree our Easter Vestry meeting was entirely the right setting for us to pay tribute to the huge dedication shown by these three special people in the service of our young people over so many years.



The responsibility involved in running a Youth Organisation is only really appreciated by those who put on the uniform and turn up every week. They have enjoyed it of course, but the significance of the part they have played in the lives of so many generations of young people cannot be overstated. Parents continue to say they want their children to go to youth organisations and the waiting lists for the groups that meet in our Parish Centre certainly bear that out. The question is, do parents want it enough to get involved themselves in the actual leading and running of the programme? In the case of our Sunday Crèche and Children’s Church they have proved that they do, but it’s different on the weekday evenings after a day at work. For most people in this day and age the thought of undertaking that commitment for 30 years plus is beyond imagining.

Whenever you place your envelope on the offering plate on Sunday, have you ever stopped to think about who opens it at the other end – opens it and records it. These days more and more of our parishioners are giving by standing order rather than using envelopes and there are many really good reasons for doing this. But where would we have been without John Peel for the last 23 years and Harry Williamson for the last 18. Backed up by their deputies Charles Ruttle and Dennis McMorris, just about every week in life at a secret time and a secure location, John and Harry meet with Anne Adams to tear, tip and tote! It’s another highly responsible parish job and I would not want anyone to think that we have taken the trust, honesty and accuracy of these dedicated volunteers for granted.

A team of new counters has been assembled (if anyone would like to volunteer to help with this please speak to Kelly in the Parish Office) and no doubt John and Harry will still help us out from time to time, but we could not have asked for a more cheerful and willing duo – not a shred of Matthew the Tax Collector or Ebenezer Scrooge about either of them. Of course the point mostly about unsung heroes is that they are unsung precisely because that is how they want to be. It’s not about plaudits or acknowledgment for them, it’s about the satisfaction that comes from serving – quietly, faithfully, prayerfully.

As followers of Christ it is for all of us to put our hand to the plough and give ourselves to the work of the kingdom. As St Paul took pains to tell us, the Church is a body where we each serve our purpose as limbs and organs. If that isn’t you, all you have to do is ask: God has a job with your name on it ready and waiting!”



From 10 - 16 May, churches the length and breadth of Britain and Ireland will come together to pray, campaign and raise money to improve the lives of people like Loko. Every year, 100,000 volunteers demonstrate God's love for the poor by taking part in house-to-house collections for Christian Aid.

This fantastic witness is a chance to

take the mission of the church into your community. Loko's choice in life is simple:

'If I can't collect firewood, my children will die.'

Four times a week, in a remote corner of Ethiopia, Loko makes a back-breaking eight-hour trip to gather wood. It's a task she dreads, but she steels herself to do it because if she doesn't her children will starve.

She prays to God as she walks. 'I ask him to change my life and lead us out of this,' she says.

This Christian Aid Week, you can help transform the lives of women like Loko.

Just £5 could give Loko a loan to start her own business buying and selling tea and coffee, freeing her from her desperate task and allowing her to spend more time caring for her family.



Lateral thinking puzzles that challenge your preconceptions.

1. You are driving down the road in your car on a wild, stormy night, when you pass by a bus stop and you see three people waiting for the bus:

- An old lady who looks as if she is about to die.
- An old friend who once saved your life.
- The perfect partner you have been dreaming about.



Knowing that there can only be one passenger in your car, whom would you choose?

2. Acting on an anonymous phone call, the police raid a house to arrest a suspected murderer. They don't know what he looks like but they know his name is John and that he is inside the house. The police burst in on a carpenter, a lorry driver, a mechanic and a fireman all playing poker. Without hesitation or communication of any kind, they immediately arrest the fireman. How do they know they've got their man?

3. There are six eggs in the basket. Six people each take one of the eggs. How can it be that one egg is left in the basket?



Answers on page 12

May 14: Ascension Day - 40 Days with the Risen Christ



40 days after Easter comes Ascension Day. These are the 40 days during which the Risen Christ appeared again and again to his disciples, following his death and resurrection.

The Gospels give us little of Christ's teachings and deeds during those forty days. Jesus was seen by numerous disciples: on the road to Emmaus, by the Sea of Galilee, in houses, etc. He strengthened and encouraged his disciples, and at last opened their eyes to all that the Scriptures had promised about the Messiah. Jesus also told them that as the Father had sent Him, He was now going to send them - to all corners of the earth, as his witnesses.



Just Older Youth

Christian One Liners

People are funny, they want the front of the bus, the middle of the road and the back of the church.

When you get to your wits end, you'll find God lives there.

The phrase that is guaranteed to wake up an audience – "And in conclusion"

Coincidence is when God chooses to remain anonymous.

He who angers you, controls you!

Stop griping about your Church, if it was perfect you wouldn't belong.

If God is your co-pilot, swap seats!

God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage.

Prayers: Don't give God instructions, just report for duty.

The task ahead of us is never as great as the power behind us.

The will of God will never take you to where the Grace of God will not protect you.

We don't change the message, the message changes us.

God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.

The best mathematical equation: 1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given

Don't keep the faith, spread it around.



Some of our parishioners who enjoyed a light lunch after our Easter Communion service in the Parish Centre



Beryl



Audrey, Simon and Vera



Phyllis, Ann and May



Our willing helpers



Brian and Lillian

A small piece of a large project.



I recently took part in a 10-week developmental project in Zambia volunteering for a charity organisation

called Challenges Worldwide. The programme is called ICS Entrepreneur and the main aim is to encourage private sector growth by using a market systems approach to provide Firm-level support and promote inclusive business. This is not your usual volunteer project but being a business graduate myself, I felt I could really put my skills and knowledge to use in a way that can make a difference to people who need it. Aid can be given in many forms but I believe it is important to skill share and empower people to take hold of their own future. Zambia, along with many other Sub-Saharan economies, has huge potential, with a young and fast growing population/labour force and vast resources of land. In Zambia, agriculture is the most important sector from a socio-economic point of view and this is where my journey begins.



We were 7 UK volunteers working alongside our Zambian partners who were similarly young, fresh graduates. We were all placed in agricultural SME's to work as business support associates. Myself and my Zambian counterpart Florence, were placed with a small family run Jam and Marmalade Company called Lyben. Florence has agricultural knowledge and less business expertise therefore in our pair we had the opportunity to skill share. I think we learnt a lot from each other during the 10 weeks and she is now the Zambian Team leader for the next group of volunteers.

The company was quite new and the owners lacked a lot of basic business knowledge. In the first few weeks we carried out business diagnostics to interview staff and see where help was most needed and where improvements could be made. We quickly learned that the owners did not have much marketing knowledge or confidence in financial recording, but more importantly that they were keen to learn and they were committed to improving their company. During our time working for Lyben we were able to make numerous recommendations for improvements. By the end of our placement we were able to leave them with a working business plan, marketing plan, action plan, basic business information pack and financial accounts. It is very difficult to measure impact over such a short period of time and I know I am no expert in the field, but I do believe the work we did for our company will truly help them to improve and grow. When we handed over the work we had completed at our final meeting, Mrs Mwanza, the company owner couldn't believe that we had raised money to come out and work for such small scale companies, she was so overwhelmed and grateful for the work we did for her. Our work has also been passed on to a business incubation trust out there who will continue to provide support for Lyben.



Since coming home people ask me all the time about my time away but it is so difficult to put such an amazing experience into words. It was one of the best things I have ever done and I was so sad to come home (not just because of the temperature difference). Zambia is an incredible place and the people there are wonderful.

Thank you so much to everyone who supported me at my cake sale before I left and to all the youth who came along to my events. It really is an amazing project and it will continue to have a powerful impact.

Joanne Courtney

Get Real: Holy Week 2015

Ballyholme Methodist Church were our hosts and Rev Bert Montgomery our preacher and guide, as we enjoyed the fellowship of another four-church Ballyholme Holy Week and Easter. Against the backdrop of events on that last momentous week in Jerusalem our challenge was to Get Real.

On Monday night it was Get Real about the Creator. In reply to the question 'Why the mess?' Bert submitted that in rejecting its Creator, the world falls short on its primary purpose to glorify God. All the more reason, he insisted, for those who call themselves Christians to make public worship a matter of absolute priority. We were invited on Tuesday night to hold the mirror up and Get Real about Ourselves. Offering us a personal refresher course, Bert encouraged us to consider the state of our spiritual lives: how deep is our experience of the peace of God? Do we live in the assurance of God's grace? Is hope an everyday reality for us?

Get Real about the Church was Wednesday's theme. Bert turned on its head the traditional 'believing, behaving, belonging' sequence of how people come to Christian faith these days, and led us in a re-think of how we reach out to those beyond our doors who do not speak our spiritual language. Maundy Thursday's topic was Get Real about God's call. Sharing from his long-standing interest in ornithology, Bert explored the Bible image of faith as rising up on the wings of an eagle. In the same way that a bird's home is not the nest but the air, as human beings we are not made to keep ourselves safe and comfortable but to find our spiritual identity in serving Christ and taking risks for him.

Our Light to Darkness Tenebrae-style service of Scripture readings, meditative worship, prayer and silence walked us through the Passion narrative on the evening of Good Friday. We left the Church in silence, universally moved by the wonder and love of the events which led Jesus to the cross and the garden tomb.



Not forgetting Wednesday night's supper and Easter morning's breakfast, as ever it was good to be together and an important opportunity for us all to do things slightly differently. More than just a solemn commemoration giving way to a joyful celebration, as usual it was a shared and timely reminder that we are part of a family of Christ which is far bigger than the particular customs and traditions with which we may feel comfortable. In every sense it was a chance for us to Get Real with the living God.

It is our turn to host Holy Week again next year at St Columbanus. Our special guest preacher will be former rector of Ballyholme Bishop Alan Abernethy.



Coffee Morning and Sale

on
Saturday 6th June
10.00 - 12 noon

in the Parish Centre

All proceeds goes to the
Mothers' Union Overseas Fund

Solutions to lateral thinking on page 9

- 1, The old lady of course! After helping the old lady into the car, you can give your keys to your friend, and wait with your perfect partner for the bus.
2. The fireman is the only man in the room. The rest of the poker players are women.
3. The last person took the basket with the last egg still inside.

Around the Parish



Easter Vestry & Lunch



Easter Day Dawn Service



Easter Youth Activities



YOUTH-NEWS

youth [youth] (youths) news [nooz]

Streetreach – Ordinary Radicals

“For even if the whole world believed in resurrection, little would change until we began to practice it. We can believe in CPR, but people will remain dead until someone breathes new life into them. And we can tell the world that there is life after death, but the world really seems to be wondering if there is life before death.”

– Shane Claiborne, *The Irresistible Revolution: Living as an Ordinary Radical*



Over the Easter holidays, a group of approximately 80 young people from across Bangor joined together, to live out the love God has lavished upon them, and the life Jesus has breathed into them. Streetreach was not about charity.

Streetreach was about blessing. Streetreach was about solidarity, and

identifying with others. Streetreach was about an overflow of joy and a spilling of love.

With litter-pickers, garden tools and paintbrushes in hand, we went on a home mission to join with people in Kilcooley, simply to share the love of God. Local community groups, businesses and churches in Kilcooley were key to helping us locate people who could do with a helping hand, giving us fences to paint and weeds to uproot. This year we also ran a children’s club during the daytime, an afternoon tea party for senior’s and painted a mural on the large flower bed in the central square. The young people’s smiles were infectious and the messages they were sending to the local community were clear:

- **Jesus brings life NOW as well as later.**
- **You are important, significant and loved.**

In the midst of lending a helping hand to other people, we were deeply moved by the realisation of how far God has gone to reach us. No sacrifice would have been too great. At Easter especially, we are reminded of the great love that moved the heart of God to be prepared to die, to restore relationship with us. The hope Jesus brings through overcoming death, enables us to reach others in an overflow of thankfulness for the love we have been shown.



The Big Jumpin’ Experiment is over and the result? So much fun! We had murder mysteries, explosive experiments and great games as we learned about the God who created all of the amazing things in our world. Ending the week

is always sad, but luckily it won’t be long until Summer Jumpin’ - keep an eye out for dates coming soon! And to



keep the fun going until then, we will be taking a trip to the Diocesan Praise Party in Moira on May 16th for a fun filled day of adventure! Keep an eye on the website and talk to Laura for more details!





Quiet times occur all too often and particularly when one is left alone through the loss of one's partner and for those of us who move to different parts of the United Kingdom or the World even more so.

My mother's advice to me, when I married and moved away, was to go to Church and, specifically join the Mothers' Union. I did this with the help of 2 wives of Bangor Parish clergy, Nora Quinn and Moira Mitchell. I had found Bangor not a very friendly place, as everyone seemed to be related to everyone else! Friends in the Mothers' Union changed that.

Eric and I were blessed with a son and I have 2 grandchildren, aged 18 & 15, starting to think about what they are going to do with their lives, so this occupies most of my time, when I hope I may give some valuable guidance along with their parents.

Having also been asked to start a Probus group in Bangor West, this has helped me to gain so many good friends. I still drive my car and go on holidays with friends to different places each year which keeps one's mind alert and helps me to get through this life alone, together with my Maker's help.

Marion Milligan

The Walkers at Murlough Nature Reserve



We were again blessed with sunshine for our adventures in Murlough. This is an extraordinarily beautiful dune landscape offering well defined paths on heath, grassland, through woodland and along beaches.

The Reserve is a fragile 6000 year old dune system with great walking and stunning views over Dundrum Bay, the Mourne and Slieve Croob. We couldn't resist the coffee shop which was full of litter pickers on a mission!

Our walk took us in a loop covering about 5½ miles including a diversion to avoid the section of beach opposite Ballykinler where firing practice was going on. The trail also passed the lovely sandstone built Murlough House which was built in 1856 as the summer residence of the wealthy Downshire family. whose seat was in Hillsborough. It is now a Christian conference centre. We enjoyed the early primroses and budding blackthorn but greatly missed the knowledgeable input from our late friend, Don McNutt. As we know Don was an expert on all things natural and a great source of information on the many walks he and his widow Pat had with us. We miss him and his ever enlightening conversation.

The walk ended as it had begun in the presence of horses. In the early stages we had the attention of two in a field and later on encountered a friendly group of Exmoor ponies, introduced to stop the scrub from spreading and keep the landscape in shape.

Betty



OUR WORSHIP

Sunday 3rd May Easter 5

8.30 Holy Communion
10.00 All Age Service
11.30 Holy Baptism
5.30 -7.30 Kiwoko focus night

Wednesday 6th May

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 10th May Easter 6

8.30 Holy Communion
10.00 Morning Worship & Children's Church
11.30 Parish Communion
6.30 Six-Eight

Wednesday 13th May

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 17th May Sunday after Ascension

8.30 Holy Communion
10.00 Morning Worship & Children's Church

11.30 Morning Prayer

6.30 Bangor Churches together at Ballyholme Presbyterian, Ashley Drive

Wednesday 20th May

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 24th May Day of Pentecost

8.30 Holy Communion
10.00 Parish Communion & Children's Church
11.30 Morning Prayer
6.30 Informal Holy Communion- Kajiado room

Wednesday 27th May

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 31st May Trinity Sunday

8.30 Holy Communion
10.00 Wholeness & healing
11.30 Wholeness & healing
6.30 Compline

BAPTISMS

12th April:

IMOGEN BELLE CUTHBERT,
daughter of Gillian and
Andrew
EVA PENNY SHERIDAN,
daughter of Debbie and
Michael

May

3rd: Jean Law, Ella Walker, Heather Johnston
10th: Charlie Robinson, Jo Ann Coulter, Nicole Watson
17th: Neil & Jacqui Devlin, Elaine Elborn
24th: Lynsey McDermott, Vicky Hayes, Pat Adair
31st: Mark & Carolyn Larmour, Pat Davidson

Children's Church Helpers

May

10th: Gillian Jones, Gail Kerr, Caroline & Mark Larmour
17th: Gerry McCaughan, Kelly McCullough, Stefan Andreasson
24th: Janice McDonough, Trish McGrugan, Rhonda Magennis, Margaret Moorehead
31st: Fiona Oliva, Sarah Tweedie, Geoff & Gillian Young



May

4th: Jane Fitzsimons
11th: Heidi Doogan
18th: Joy Conn
25th: Joan Larmour
31st: Pat Davidson

FUNERALS

March

27th: Maureen Cameron, late of 11 Ward Avenue

April

2nd: Vi Sheppard, late of 32 Godfrey Avenue
4th: Canon Jack Mercer, first rector of this parish

WEDDING

April

11th: Elizabeth Rafferty and Colin Grant, of 22 Briarwood Drive, Bangor



May

3rd: No creche
10th: Heather Glasgow, Ruth Toy, Emma Sutherland
17th: Violet Davidson, Emma McDonnell, Catherine Thompson
24th: Katherine Newman, Ann Browne, Rosemary Thompson
31st: Julie Monaghan, Rachel Brittan, Aileen Smyth



Parish Office: 91274912
Rectory: 91274901
Curatage: 91271922
Prayer Line: 07531806167
Transport: 07599794968
Church Readers Rota:
John 91467243 or
Freda 91467624

