

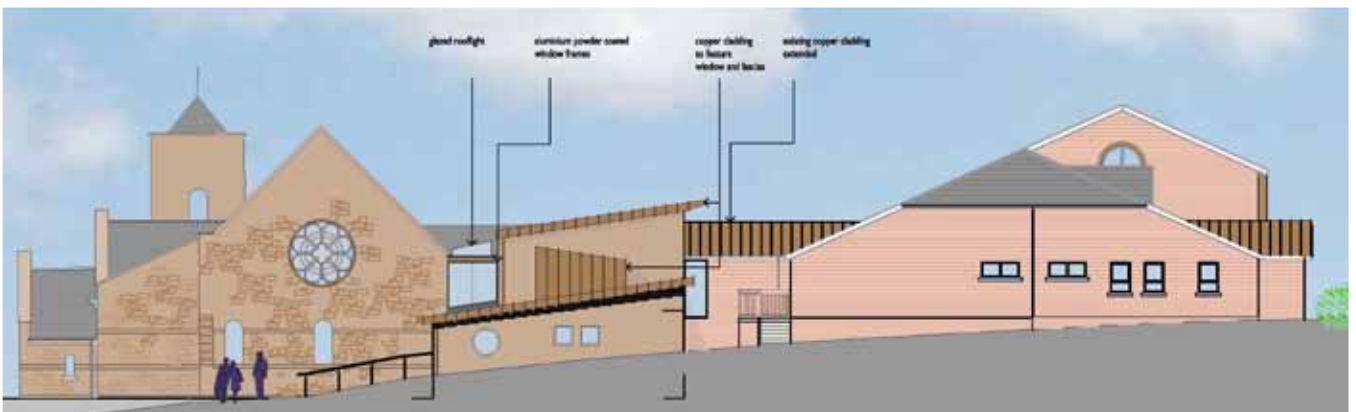
St Columbanus

Ballyholme



Restoration Update
Rory's Confirmation Report
Scouting Year Reviewed
Kiwoko Youth Team Prepares

..On the way *together*..



The Parishioner

July / August 2015

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

The Rambling Rector

Most parish activities pause for July and August. Among those due a well-earned break are Children's Church leaders Paula Foye, Paula Lown and Gareth Boal, and we extend to them sincere gratitude for their faithful efforts over the last year. For Jade, Laura and our young people however, the summer months see the Parish Centre transform into a campsite, a cafe and a concert venue. It rejoices God's heart to see so many children and teenagers exploring faith in an atmosphere of fun and excitement. But it is also a source of pleasure for our whole church family and something we must pray for. As we know, rest was written into God's ordering of creation from the outset. *The Sabbath was made for humankind*, as Jesus famously explained to the Pharisees, *not humankind for the Sabbath*. And yet what's really interesting about that closing scene of Mark chapter 2, is that it's followed by the words *Again Jesus entered the synagogue*. For Christ, worship and rest went hand-in-hand. In that spirit we look forward to seeing you all coming and going this holiday season. As usual, the combined 10.30 service will be as all-age friendly as we can make it.



SED



Time For A Change

'Things I Love' has been a feature of our magazine for a considerable time, and your contributions have been warmly received throughout.

We would like to make a change, though not quite as good as a rest maybe, and introduce a new subject for you to ponder and contribute to and it is called - "My Favourite Place". It is holiday time and whether you are lucky enough to travel far away or able to visit a local beauty spot, it might just be 'your favourite place'.

We would welcome your contributions, a short description with a photograph.

Two ways to get to us,

- By email to: captpeet@icloud.com (Note: - The article and photo should be sent as an attachment)
- By written or typed note, with a photo to: 38 Shandon Drive Ballyholme BT20 5HR

Glynis and Peter

Going to Church on Holiday

Every summer in Ballyholme we look forward to the company of tourists, day trippers and holiday makers at many of our Sunday services and we hope to make them all warmly welcome. Welcoming the stranger is one of the most basic expressions of our Christian faith and, the Scriptures make clear, it is also a blessing to us as we welcome them. In exactly the same way when we go on holiday it is up to us to bless other churches with our presence, to give them a chance to welcome us. It is also fascinating to see how other Christians do things; even if language barriers mean we can't follow the whole of the service often there will be a word or a theme for us to take away. If you are making the trip to somewhere further afield this summer the Intercontinental Church Society have a helpful website to point you to the nearest Anglican Sunday service (address below).

Go on: be brave. You'll be glad you made the effort and so will those who greet you!

www.ics-uk.org/churches



Hospital/Home visits

Letting the clergy know is crucial through the summer months when the normally reliable lines of communication with the hospitals often break down - if you haven't told us yourself that someone is sick at home or in hospital you must assume we do not know!



Kenyan Club Exclusive Membership Offer

Membership of this exclusive club is available for a 'one off' membership fee of only 30,000 Kenyan shillings!(Equivalent to £250.00) **

There are only 99 places left so you'd better hurry

Details are available from Simon or Christine Wilson

** Instead of visiting Kenya you can be involved by donating and go another time to see the fruits of your gift



Scouting at St Columbanus

Here we are at the end of another successful year for 3rd Bangor Scouts, Cubs, Beavers and Squirrels. Below is a picture of the Cubs enjoying a scavenger hunt on the beach, many crabs were found.

The kids have taken part in quite a few activities including Christmas at

Crawfordsburn (Beavers), County camp (Cubs), and Clip and Climb (Scouts).

We have a great camp organised for next October at Crawfordsburn, involving Cubs, Scouts and Beavers.

We have great fun throughout the year and the kids enjoy completing badges. We take them out as much as possible, when the weather allows.

To help provide a rounded programme for the boys and girls we do need to appeal for more leaders. It is important for us to have a good supportive team in all sections.

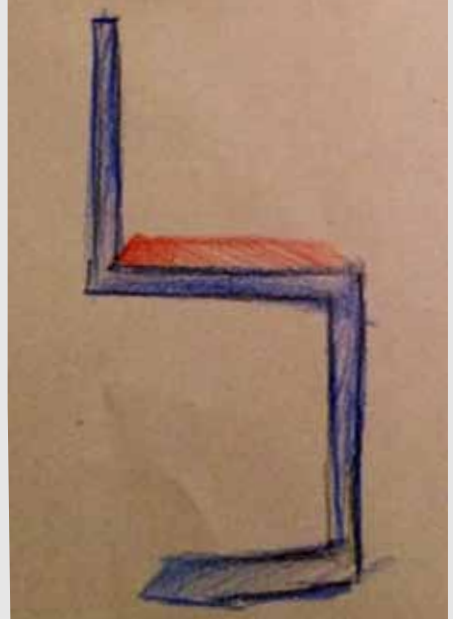
If you would like to be involved, or know someone who may, then I would really like to hear from you. No experience in Scouting is necessary as full training will be supplied and paid for by the group.

Unfortunately, if more leaders are not forthcoming soon then we will have to start restricting numbers in some of the sections.

Please contact me, Susan Stockton, on 07790 359991.



WHERE IS YOURS?



11 - 18 OCTOBER 2015

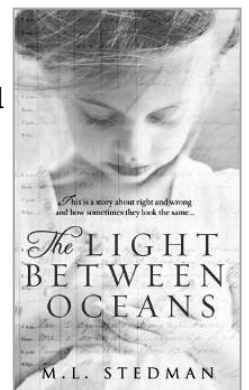


"The Light Between Oceans" by M L Stedman

I downloaded this book onto my kindle after it was recommended to me by a friend.

It tells the story of Tom Sherbourne who has survived the First World War and returns to his home country of Australia longing for peace and solitude. He meets and marries Isobel and they go to live on the remote island of Janus Rock where he is the lighthouse keeper. They love their life there but Isobel longs for a family and is bereft and inconsolable after her third miscarriage. Then a boat is washed ashore with a dead man in it and a little baby who has survived. Isobel feels that God has answered her prayers and she persuades her husband to make a decision which has devastating consequences.

I felt so much sympathy for all the characters in this story. It is a great read and very moving. I loved this book .



Irene Long



Just Older Youth



The Wednesday Club



Dorothy & Elizabeth

Our last meeting of the season was an outing to the Stables in Groomsport for afternoon tea. Thirty of us, including some helpers, enjoyed sandwiches, scones and a trio of desserts with some relish. The afternoon was spent chatting (and eating) and a good time was had by all. One of our members, Joy Conn, celebrated her 92nd birthday, and after we all sang happy birthday to her, she read us a poem on Senior citizens, which we all enjoyed. Simon gave a vote of thanks to the staff and looked forward to seeing us all again at the start of the next season, which starts on 2nd September. See you then, Sue



Pat, Simon & Barry

Friday lunches



"The Workers"



Lillian, Daphne & John



Audrey, Vera & Lorna



Tommy, June & Georgie



Pat, Sue & Joyce



Ruth, Walter & Charles



Trevor, Marion & Ian



Olive, Pat & Rita

Around the Parish

M.U. Coffee Morning



Car Boot Sale



Saint Columbanus Walkers Chilly for June!



Four or five years ago the Walkers made a winter visit to the Lackan Bog, near the hamlet of Ballyronee outside Banbridge. For some time we felt a return summer visit would be interesting owing to the bog's designation as an Area of Special Scientific Interest. Among its attractions is the fragile habitat, home to some thirteen out of twenty - two species of Irish dragonflies. And so we gathered in June on our habitual first Saturday of the month in the Church car park determined to head for Ballyronee in spite of the poor weather forecast. Arriving at our starting point, the junction of the Lackan and Flush roads, we parked, got into unseasonal jackets and over trousers and headed off along the nearby Crabtree Road. The route soon deviated to a marked footpath taking us to the shore of Annahinchigo Lake where we were hit by the first of the day's powerful squalls. Luckily we were moving through a stand of substantial scots pines which resulted in the oddish sight of nine solid trunks providing wind and rain breaks for the nine walkers in our group!

The remainder of our day followed a similar pattern. Bright sun and fantastic views of the Mourne were suddenly replaced by pouring rain and driving wind forcing us to dive for cover wherever possible including a bus shelter as we passed through Ballyronee village. Shortly after we diverted back into the countryside this time into the bog proper and along a birch and rowan canopied track honeycombed with rabbit burrows known locally as the Green Road. As far as dragonflies are concerned, do they like temperatures around 10 degrees, do they like gale force winds, how many did we spot? You've guessed it, not a single one! We did



however have the compensation of experiencing a bit of local colour in the shape of the Rathfriland Fire Brigade out on a training exercise and hearing the stories told to us by one of its members whose grandfather had farmed in the area. We also viewed the wonderfully well maintained Ballyronan Railway Station marking the point where the line from Banbridge to Newcastle changed its ownership from GNR to BCDR. The railway historians in our group were able to tell us that the station staff wore Great Northern livery for 12 months and switched to Belfast and County Down the next!

As we gathered for our walk we were dismayed to hear that Betty, one of our founding members and organizers, had been taken ill and hospitalised during the week. At the time of writing Betty is on the road to recovery and, all being well, we hope to see her and Rob on our next walk which will include Blackhead and Carnfunnock Country Park. Our walks are for everybody, why not come along, bring a packed lunch and meet in the Church car park at 9.30 on Saturday 4 July.



Summer is fast approaching and we in Mothers' Union and especially the Committee are looking forward to a break from what has been a very busy few months of Mothers' Union activities.

I would like to thank our dedicated Committee for all their help to the Branch and to me personally, for giving of their time and commitment, to make sure all our plans ran as smoothly as possible.

Six members and two drivers enjoyed the Indoor Members' Communion service and afternoon tea in St. Mark's Church, Newtownards on Thursday 21st May.

On Sunday 20th September 2015 we will be celebrating the 60th Anniversary of Mothers' Union in our Parish. The present members and other specially invited guests will have afternoon tea prior to the annual church service at 6.30pm. There will be more information about this in the September magazine.

Please contact me Ruth Ruttle (Branch Leader) on Tel: 028-91450130 at anytime.



What Can You Get For A Fiver?



A sacrifice or an inconvenience?
For a fiver a week, you can get God's House restored.

Restoration Project – Where are we now?

It seems a long time since the proposed restoration plans were presented to the Parish on 6 January 2015. It has been a busy six months and the summer magazine seems like a good moment to draw breath and take stock of how far we have come. Also, as your pledges and gifts have been coming in, so have the invoices!

Design Stage Approval

As you know, Architects Knox and Markwell have been working to accommodate suggestions from the parish into the design. Changes have included minor alterations to the children's room, and a new location for the kitchen. An application for planning permission was duly lodged in April. At its May meeting the Select Vestry formally approved the design stage plans (see below). This means that the overall scheme is now settled with an understanding that further site changes may arise. We are now at the working drawing stage, and over the next few months our architects will be preparing detailed drawings, specifications and schedules for going out to tender this Autumn.

Asbestos Survey

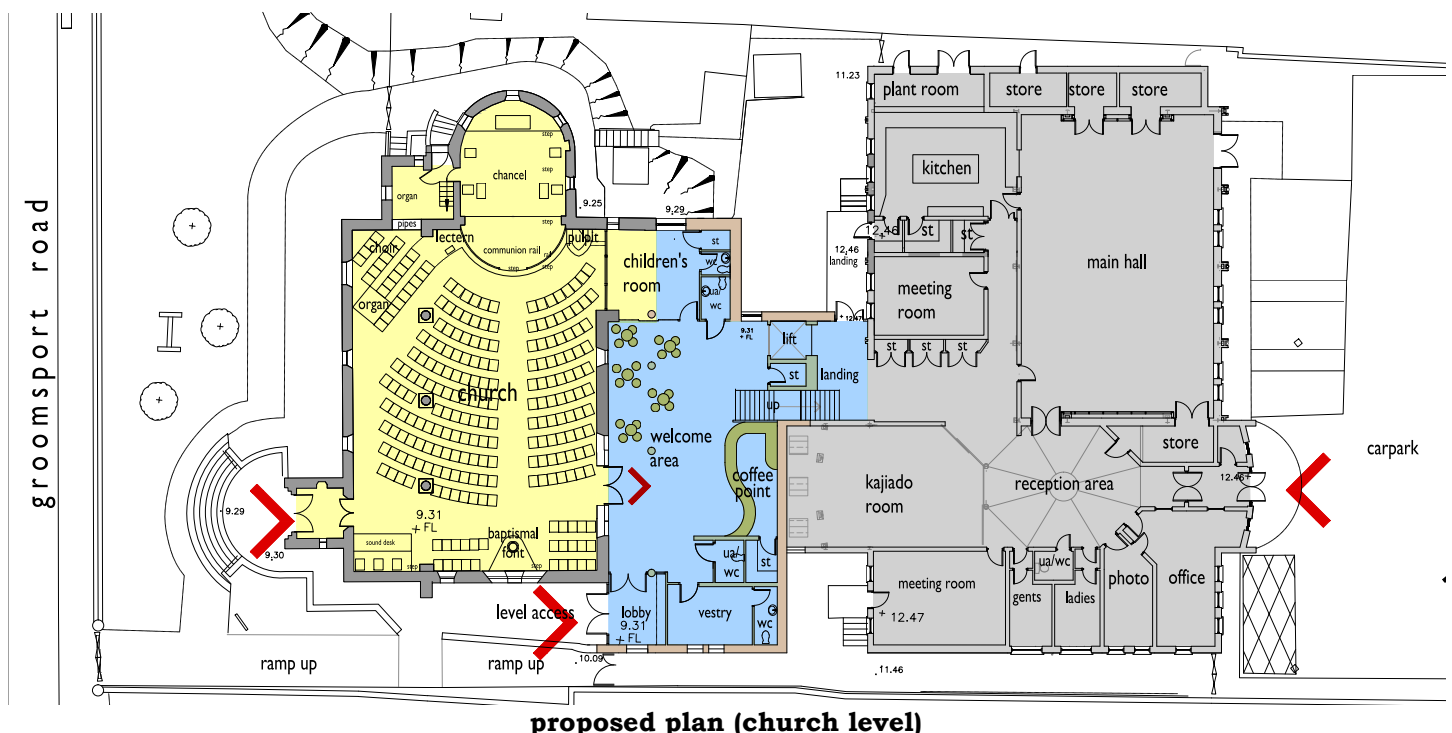
At the recommendation of the architects, to avoid any nasty and unexpected surprises down the line, an asbestos survey of the church was carried out in April by WH Stephens. Their report indicated that there is some asbestos in our building. It was stressed that the type of asbestos found is low risk, but its removal will have to be carefully controlled and monitored by the building contractor.

NIE Sub-station

Many of you may not realise that the "box" near the bin-store supplies the flats and houses adjacent to the church on the Groomsport Road. The need for foundations for our new annex means we have no choice but to move it to the lower car-park and the bank next to the car-park gates. It is hoped, subject to legal agreement, that the relocation will take place in October 2015, during the half-term school break. Depressingly but unavoidably, the cost of the sub-station is in the region of £50,000.

Our first Bills!

Your pledges and gifts have been coming in, and this is much appreciated as invoices are starting to come in now too. With planning applied for we received our first bill from the Design Team: £18,956.65 (incl. VAT) for work completed from September 2014 – April 2015. This was followed by another bill for the asbestos report: £1,008.00 (incl. VAT) and a third is pending from NIE.



Programme

We have been in discussion with our architects and have informed our Parish Centre user groups of the following provisional programme:

- Commence work to the church and new annex Jan 2016
- Commence work to the Parish Centre April 2016
- Completion of works to Church, annex and Parish Centre Sept 2016

(All the plans and elevations shown in the magazine, and a few others, will be available to view in colour on the parish website.)

Unavoidably, the Parish Centre will be out of commission from April to September. We appreciate that this will be an inconvenience to all concerned but trust that the disruption will be beneficial to all Parish Centre users in the long run.

St Columbanus on the Move

At its May meeting the Select Vestry unanimously accepted an invitation from St Columbanus College on the Ballymacconnell Road for us to use their premises on Sunday mornings for the duration of the on-site restoration work.

This highly respected school has been an important part of Ballyholme life since 1960 and links between our parish and St Columbanus are long-standing. A Catholic Maintained college, the banner headline of St Columbanus's website describes it as 'a school for the whole community'. Currently 40% of its pupils are from a non-Catholic background and for many years we have had parishioners both attending and teaching there. Its mission statement is "Achieving success in a happy and hardworking atmosphere where each individual matures in a supportive Christian environment."

From our first conversation with Mr Liam Perry the school principal, everything felt right. With its self-contained site and generous parking facilities, the College fits the bill in so many ways. We are proposing to conduct our 8.30, 10 o'clock and 11.30 services in the Assembly Hall. We are confident that a number of our parishioners will find access to the Hall much easier than to our Church building currently, with toilets being located nearby in the entrance foyer.

From our point of view, we needed premises that could accommodate at least two hundred people for worship plus offer five meeting rooms for Creche, Emerge (youth group), Bubbles, Splash and Ice (Children's Church). This ruled out the other three Ballyholme churches which would have been glad to help us but naturally have their own Sunday morning programmes. We would have been made equally welcome by Ballyholme Primary School, but with Ballyholme Presbyterian next door in Ashley Drive the parking needs of two simultaneous Sunday congregations would have been problematical.

The College will give us a key to the school gates so we can let ourselves in and out - probably setting up on the Friday afternoon or Saturday morning. We will be looking for teams of parishioners to help with this each week!

We hope to be able to find somewhere safe to store our Communion Table, Lectern, Prayer Desks and Electric piano. Full use of the Assembly Hall's audio visual equipment has been offered to us and there will of course be heating as necessary throughout the year in the zones of the school we require.

We will be anxious to pay our way and to be the minimum of inconvenience and disruption to the life of the College. For now we are extremely grateful to Mr Perry and the school for rolling out the red carpet for us so readily and open-heartedly. They have afforded us every Christian hospitality in their power.



Confirmation Service - Kiwoko Style



About 30 years ago I was confirmed by Bishop Robin Eames. I confess to not being quite sure of the date, but I do remember a fairly sombre but good evening in Ballyholme with about 25 of my contemporaries, most of whom I have lost touch with, but many of whom as far as I know are not involved much with church anymore.

Over the years I have enjoyed various confirmation services for family, friends and youth fellowship members at Ballyholme and in Kiwoko. Today was the latest – and what an excellent day.

Today we hosted our new Bishop Eridard (referred to as the Mugole, a term usually used here for newlyweds) for our confirmation service. I thoroughly enjoyed the day, and as happens on these occasions was reminded of my own confirmation a few years ago.



The service was meant to start at 10am. We went on time as the new Bishop is famed for his good timekeeping. True enough, he arrived at 10, driving up the avenue of the banana leaves placed there yesterday evening, accompanied by frenzied drumming and dancing from the primary school children. But of course the preceding service wasn't finished and so we had to wait a little. We sat outside under the shade of a tarpaulin strung between some of the unfinished extension to St John's church enjoying the slight breeze. Before the service began properly Denise, Gideon and I were beckoned inside to sit close to the

front of the church – we were too important to sit outside in the minds of some. Despite missing the breeze, when the torrential rain began just before communion, I was grateful for having been ushered inside. Those under most tarpaulins were dripped upon significantly through the many holes. Those under the new tarpaulin without holes got quite a surprise when the strings holding it up were eventually unable to support the weight of water upon it and so it suddenly gave way drenching all underneath. We all had to shuffle our chairs together as the number of people in the building doubled.

After the Bishop's address (from Psalm 119 about the importance of us using God's word and then from John about Nicodemus being born again - simple yet critical and well communicated messages) he finished with an invitation for any who wished to respond. Most of the 120 confirmation candidates and some relatives and friends ended up surrounding the Bishop at the front. I am not sure Bishop Eames (or most of us in Ballyholme) would have been quite so comfortable with the exuberant Ugandan chaos that ensued for 5 minutes?

The collection took longer than even the longest Ugandan Hymn I have ever sung, so after repeating the chorus 5 times at the end, the lay reader Samuel took off into free style Lugandan worship. The candidates loved it and before too long there was dancing, jumping and frantic Bible waving. Just great. I suspect Marsden Fitzsimons could certainly have given a similar effort at my confirmation given half the chance, but I don't think that we 13 year old Bangor boys would have gone with it quite so well.

It is fortunate that the rain coincided with the communion part of the service – with the heavy rain on the tin roof it was quite impossible to hear anyone speaking in the building.

Thankfully by the time the service was over, the sun was drying everything up nicely and so photos outside were in order. I have a copy of my formal confirmation photo somewhere – taken in the old



church hall in front of the stage, some of us sitting and others carefully balanced in rows behind.

The organisation today to manage that with 120 youngsters would be beyond most, so it was simpler just to have the Bishop and his entourage wait outside for photos with whoever wanted until they had had enough and off we went for lunch (at 4pm.) I was accidentally in the way as they headed for lunch so found myself eating some of the best Ugandan food I have ever enjoyed at the top table. Denise and Gideon had given up staying several hours earlier (a 6 hour service being beyond Gideon's enjoyment still) though all of the 500 people present enjoyed a big feast – Mothers' Union cooking all night over open fires is pretty impressive really. Afterwards I gave one of the clergy a lift home and passed some of the candidates walking home – 7 miles away! I think if any of us had to walk 7 miles to get to and from our confirmation we might have missed the service!

So a jolly day all in all. If you find yourself enjoying it with us next year, then be careful which tarpaulin you choose to sit underneath.

Rory Wilson

Ki Kati! (Hello!)



It is not long at all until our team jet off to Kiwoko Hospital in Uganda. On the 22nd of August, we will be whizzing along the runway into the air, with hearts full of excitement and bundles of nerves! All of our training and preparation is finally going to be put into practice! We have loved hearing the stories that Denise, Rory and Gideon shared with us when they were home, and we are so looking forward to making memories and having stories of our own. When we are in Uganda, the primary focus will be running

two children's schemes, not unlike our Jumpin Holiday Club here in Ballyholme. We will be joining the children's ministry team in Kiwoko to put a jam-packed programme together for the children. The first week will be primarily for children of the hospital staff and children from the local community. The second week will be for children in the HIV clinic. There will also be opportunities to do bits and pieces in the hospital, and some of our team are interested in that part particularly. Other activities include community work, visiting local schools, churches and a prison (one part that I am really passionate about!).

The team would all appreciate it very much if you could pray for Kiwoko hospital, the staff and ministry teams over there, and for what we will be doing during our visit. Some prayer points to guide you include:

- For Rory, Denise, Gideon and all the people who keep the hospital and ministries functioning;
- For the patients that visit the hospital;
- For all of the children who attend the summer schemes we will be doing, and the teams putting the programme together;
- For team unity, wisdom and discernment in how to love each other well throughout our time in Uganda;
- Travelling mercies, health and strength.



We are thankful for all of your prayers and support and we can't wait to share our experiences with you all when we are home!

The team: Jade Irwin, Laura Jeffrey, Faye Moorehead, Elaine Jeffrey, Sandra Humphrey, Debbie Cragg, Libby Beech, Cameron Ewart, Brad Gillespie, and Ross Hamilton.



The Quiet Corner

The greatest achievement in life is happiness. All too often people struggle through this life pushing themselves towards the top goal, the best job, and their health and family life suffer in the process. When the goal is achieved or not, life has passed them by, they realize they have never actually 'lived' in the moment – life was always 'ahead' and in their 'head.' Moments of transient happiness, as a tiny goal, were achieved at a sacrifice.

True happiness comes from within. It is God given. We all have the capacity to access this and be happy. When we look at how small we are in the great universe and yet we are most important in God's eyes. When we realize that as humans, our chief goal really is happiness and that the greatest fortune is not money, or jewels, it is health. Health really is wealth.

When a target is not met, a top job goes to another, the home you had your heart set on falls through – don't lose faith, get 'dis-heartened' – most times your miss was your mercy and happiness is only temporarily interrupted to make way for something better. Happiness is a state of mind. It is our own individual choice. Have faith – set your goal – Be Happy!!



Jackie Redmill



It's Summer! Ice cream and summer schemes and best of all – no school! Summer is such an exciting time for us at Ballyholme for lots of reasons, like the fact that our Church is right beside the beach but mostly because that means it's almost time for Jumpin! Bring on 27th July!

But there is something sad about summer – no Children's Church for a whole two months! We have had an amazing year with Paula, Paula and Gareth, but now it's time to have some rest and time to get excited for next year! And you know, even though we aren't in Children's Church on Sunday mornings, God still has so much to teach us over the summer! We can learn these things in so many ways – next time you're at the beach, look at all of the millions of grains of sand under your feet. Did you know that the Bible says that God thinks about you so often that if you counted each of those thoughts, there would be more of them than all of the grains of sand in the whole world? You can look at the sea in front of you and remember that God's love for you is even wider and deeper than the whole of the ocean. He can speak to us when we pray to him, when we read the Bible and take time to listen to Him – and remember that you can always talk to God and know that He will hear you! See you in September!



Reflections



"The things I love" has been an article featured each month in our church magazine. People from the Parish, across the chronological spectrum have been willing to share their thoughts and for that we give them thanks. It has been interesting to read each personal contribution and even more interesting to note the strand of simplicity in receiving pleasure running through each. Family, friends, God and the Church feature consistently.



Looking through the past year's submissions, words such as love, laughter, hugs, cuddles, chatting, drinking coffee and activities such as walking, playing, listening to music, reading books are recognized time and again. As quoted by Veronique Vienne (art director and writer), "The only difference between an extraordinary life and an ordinary one is the extraordinary pleasure you find in ordinary things". It has been humbling to read these articles with consideration and realizing how much love is experienced by so many within our very own parish.

Colossians 3:14 "And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony".



Glynis McSorley

OUR WORSHIP

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>July
 5th Trinity 5
 8.30 Holy Communion
 10.30 All Age Service
 7.30 United Service Ballyholme Parish</p> <p>12th Trinity 6
 8.30 Holy Communion
 10.30 Holy Communion
 7.30 United Service Ballyholme Methodist</p> <p>19th Trinity 7
 8.30 Holy Communion
 10.30 Morning Service
 7.30 United Service Ballyholme Presbyterian</p> <p>26th Trinity 8
 8.30 Holy Communion
 10.30 Morning Prayer
 7.30 United Service Ballyholme Parish</p> | <p>August
 2nd Trinity 9
 8.30 Holy Communion
 10.30 All Age Service
 7.30 United Service Holy Redeemer</p> <p>9th Trinity 10
 8.30 Holy Communion
 10.30 Holy Communion
 7.30 United Service Ballyholme Methodist</p> <p>16th Trinity 11
 8.30 Holy Communion
 10.30 Morning Service
 7.30 United Service Ballyholme Presbyterian</p> <p>23rd Trinity 12
 8.30 Holy Communion
 10.30 Morning Prayer
 7.30 United Service Ballyholme Parish</p> <p>30th Trinity 13
 8.30 Holy Communion
 10.30 Morning Service
 7.30 United Service Ballyholme Methodist</p> |
|--|--|



There will be no creche supervision in July or August, but the creche room will be available for parents and children and there will be a children's table in the church.



- July**
 5th Muriel Ryan
 12th Ann Browne
 19th Caroline Jones
 26th Maureen Johnston
- August**
 2nd Mary Moore
 9th Anon
 16th Yvonne Manogue
 23rd Edna Rosbotham
 30th Marion Milligan



Please note during July & August there will be no Holy Communion in the Parish Centre on Wednesday mornings

FUNERALS

- 30th May:** Doreen Hamilton, late of College Avenue
2nd June: Holly Walsh, late of Briarwood Park

Have you pledged yet?

Restoration 2016
 Please return your pledges in the box on Sundays or through the week to the Parish Office.
 Extra leaflets and forms are available at the back of Church

Thank you to everyone who has committed so far.

£5 per week

BAPTISMS

- 21st June:** ROBYN ISABELLA GOWDY, daughter of Andrew & Sharon
21st June: CHLOE GRACE RANKIN, daughter of Donal & Christine



Please note during July & August there will be no coffee in the Parish Centre

Parish Office: 91274912

Rector: Canon Simon Doogan

Rectory: 91274901

Curate: Rev Alistair Morrison

Curatage: 91271922

Prayer Line: 07531806167

Transport: 07599794968

Church Readers Rota:

John 91467243 or Freda 91467624

