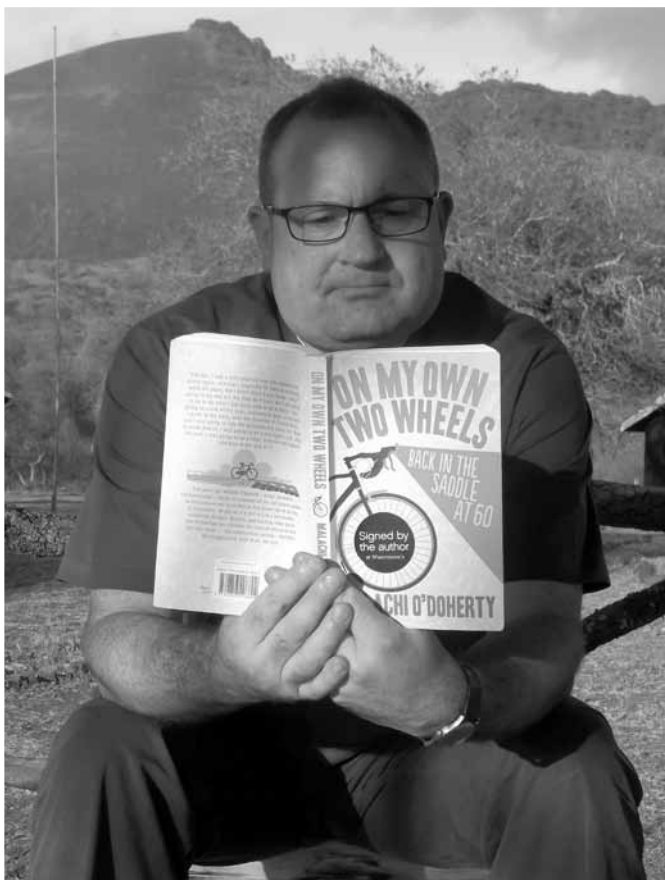


St Columbanus

Ballyholme



Kajiado and Kiwoko Visit
Crafty Stitchers
Where is your chair?
Columbanus Festival
..On the way *together*..



The Parishioner

November 2015

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

The Pedalling Parson (temporarily)

As the only Church in Northern Ireland dedicated to St Columbanus (we've now established that there is definitely one in Dublin!), 23 November 2015 is a red letter day for Ballyholme Parish. Bangor's Columbanus 1400 weekend (20-22 November) has been long in the planning and we look forward to hosting some of the events and welcoming our share of pilgrims. As site-work on our restoration project draws closer, one dimension of Columbanus' ministry has slowly been dawning on me. Everywhere Columbanus went, he arrived with absolutely nothing and proceeded to found a spiritual community which successfully survived his departure. All the communities Columbanus founded have survived in some shape or form for a full fourteen centuries. What has kept them going? I would say it's the worship and the prayer. Buildings rise and fall. That's just demographics and changing generational needs and expectations. You have to wonder what Columbanus would have made of Bangor 2015 compared to the simple settlement which was his home for 20 odd years. Yet he would recognise the worship and the prayer, that's for certain. He would recognise the presence of Jesus Christ among those trying faithfully to follow, serve and proclaim Him.



On yer bike Vicar – NOT THERE YET



Some of you who weren't in Church for Back to Church Sunday in September or Harvest Thanksgiving in October, didn't get to hear what happened to Simon's car and have been asking...

As everyone now knows, Simon donated his little blue Peugeot 107 to the Restoration Harvest Gift Day. Ballyholme's most enthusiastic and experienced amateur car dealer oversaw the sale of HEZ, the hope being for some figure in the region of a thousand pounds. In the event, and to Simon's complete surprise, the car was sold and gone before he returned to Ballyholme from his summer holiday! The price secured

was £1750 – to which of course Gift Aid will be added.

Now without a car (though with access to Heidi's for hospitals, emergencies and grocery runs!) Simon has taken to two wheels. For as long as it takes everyone to get their pledges in, he intends to cycle the parish in his high-vis 'NOT THERE YET' waistcoat. Next month we hope to bring you a simple statement of where we are with the Restoration Appeal in terms of donations received, pledges submitted and monies now in the bank. Meanwhile, if you haven't made your pledge yet, forms are available from Church and the Parish Office and now is the time – especially as our Treasurer will shortly be approaching banks to talk about loans. Thank you for your support and generosity so far.

Meet Bella! There she goes...

Thanks to Children's Church for their well-chosen name for Simon's 'NOT THERE YET' bike. For the December/January edition of the magazine it's been suggested that we gather in a selection of photographs of Simon out-and-about on Bella.

Without risking your own, Simon's or anyone else's safety, if you see our 'Pedalling Parson' somewhere on his parish travels, please take a picture on your phone and send it to the Parish Office: office@ballyholmeparish.co.uk Let's see how many pictures we get and what turns out to be his farthest point from Church!



Did you ever wonder who provides the flowers on the Office window sill in the Parish Centre?

Well it's Meg Barnard who has a stock of them to suit all seasons and has been doing them for some time. We probably walk past every week and don't think of the work involved.

Thank you Meg



WALKERS ON THE HEN TRAIL



The first Saturday of the month arrives again with a dozen St Columbanus Walkers, including our very welcome new member Liz Selby, gathering in the Church car park on a pleasant October morning for a 9.00 o'clock departure to the Mourne. Off we go, enjoying the countryside via Downpatrick and Bryansford, and all the while catching up on each other's news since the last outing.

The starting point for our walk is the car park and picnic site where the Rocky River flows under the Sandbank Road. It is in this little part of Northern Ireland, on the way to Rostrevor, where C S Lewis is said to have derived some part of his inspiration for the magical land of Narnia. At the car park we meet up with Hill Wilson, a member of our group, and a vastly experienced Mourne walker who will act as our guide for the day. To our surprise the car park is a hive of activity as Scouts from Banbridge get organized for a 30 kilometre overnight hike as part of their Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme. Hill tells us that on a reconnaissance of our planned walk the previous weekend he came across quite a few damp and squelchy areas, but undaunted we put on boots and gaiters and head off up the well trodden path between Hen and Cock Mountains on one side and Rocky Mountain on the other. Our walk sees us climbing gradually on the track known as the Hen Trail, running alongside the Rocky River and further on passing the point where the Rocky and Rowan Tree rivers intermingle. Around noon hunger gets the better of us and we stop and sit on flat granite slabs by the riverside enjoying our packed lunches. Getting underway again we cross the bridge over Rocky Water and move on without mishap through one of the damp areas we had been warned about. As we climb gradually into the col between Rocky and Tornamrock the ground gradually becomes drier and soon we are on a well defined path taking us over the col and down towards the picnic area at Leitrim. From here it's a short 2 kilometres back to our starting point with time on the way to pick and enjoy from the blackberry verges.



Heading home we stop as always for refreshments, this time at at Balloo, and are glad to meet up with Betty and Rob who were unable to be with us earlier. Lots of ideas for further adventures are discussed and we head for home looking forward already to our next expedition on 14th November by train to Mossley then by foot to the shore of Belfast Lough.

Why not join us! For more information phone Betty on 91465372.

LESLIE

Storage Space



As much storage space as possible is being included in designs for the restored St Columbanus and the new annexe connecting it to the Parish Centre.

However for the duration of the on-site build, storage space is what we need from you. By all means if you've got some great barn or aircraft hangar in your back garden, we would love to hear from you.

What seems more likely is that we can carefully distribute what we need to store around a number of parish garages, roof-spaces and basements.

However small a space you can offer us, please get in touch. There will be a list to sign in Church and Kelly will gladly take names and addresses in the Parish Office.

THE SYRIAN REFUGEE CRISIS

Betty Armstrong's son Barry is a Humanitarian Advisor in Jordan and this is his advice on donating to the Syrian Refugees

Parishioners may wish to know that the most effective way of helping Syrian refugees is to donate cash. If there is a secure way of donating that will give it to people based on some fair criteria, then that is much better than clothes etc. Not just because it is more efficient but because it gives people more choice. If you were in the refugees' situation, would you rather have some choice or be given items that may not be to their liking or even their size? Two of the major organisations working in that field are the International Rescue Corp and CARE. Donations can be made online.



Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Apologies to Joyce Stock whose name was omitted from the list of ten names mentioned in the October magazine to have received Mothers' Union long term membership certificates at the 60th Anniversary Afternoon Tea Celebrations. Joyce is an enrolled member of 55 years. The total number of years between these eleven ladies amounts to 627. We in the branch are very proud of these ladies and congratulate them all. We were delighted to welcome back to our celebrations, Eva Wright from Letterkenny, wife of former Curate, Stewart Wright, Bronwyn Dark, wife of another former Curate, Nicholas Dark and Denise Acheson, herself a former Curate and now a Canon of St. Anne's Cathedral. Unfortunately, Liz Abernethy and Debbie Smyth were unable to be with us. Thank you to all the visitors including those from other branches, and to the MU Chaplain, Canon Robert Howard who preached at the service in the evening.

We also offer thanks to our organist, Ian Bell and the members of the choir for leading the singing, especially for the hymn written by the Representative for Indoor Members, Rosemary Clarke. As Rosemary's husband was unwell, she was unable to stay for the service but was very pleased to hear that her hymn was to be included. I think I can hopefully say "A good day was had by all". My thanks to the committee who provided the food for the "Afternoon Tea" and for making sure all the guests were well looked after. Many thanks to Catherine Darragh, Jade and Emma who made sure the teapots were always full.

Our next Meeting on 2nd November at 8.00 p.m. is "Quilting Old & New". Anyone interested in "Quilting" will be welcome to join us. We will have the Literature Stall on this occasion. On Monday, 16th November, Bangor Area Service will be held at Groomsport Parish Church at 7.30 p.m. Lifts will be arranged. On Monday, 7th December, we have been asked to host the Young Members' Advent Carol Service at 7.30 p.m. Supper will be provided in the Parish Centre after the Service. At this stage, I think the Committee will be delighted that the Parish Centre will be "out of bounds" for some months. (No more catering for a while!) We are hoping to have our postponed Christmas Dinner on Monday, 4th January 2016 at Lorne. More details later.

Ruth Ruttle, Branch Leader, Telephone 91450130.

My Favourite Place

When I mentioned to the family that I was going to be doing an article on My Favourite Place, there was a collective rolling of eyes and the muttered comment "We all know where that's going to be!"

My passion for Cornwall in general and the village of Port Isaac in particular has led to many memorable family holidays in this beautiful county.

Fans of the curmudgeonly Doc Martin will recognise it immediately as the fictional Portwenn from the TV series and I have joined the gawping hordes on several occasions to catch a glimpse of filming. That particular 5 second shot onscreen where the Doc strides into Mrs Tishell's chemist shop?....it took well over an hour to perfect!!

Port Isaac has a maze of little winding streets to explore, stunning clifftop walks to stretch the legs but its stunning location on the North Cornish coast also makes it a great base to explore further afield.

Close by is Tintagel Castle, claimed to be King Arthur's stronghold, then there's St Michael's Mount, the Eden Project, the Lost Gardens of Heligan, St Ives for art and crab sandwiches, the picture postcard villages of Mevagissey and Mousehole.....the list is endless!

But the memories of Port Isaac holidays that always make me smile are the family times – listening to the Fisherman's Friends singing at the harbour on a glorious summer evening; eating piping hot fish and chips at Padstow harbour; watching Roy and the boys, wetsuit clad and armed with body boards launch themselves into the thundering waves at nearby Polzeath beach.....

And now, if you'll excuse me, I'm off for a spot of internet surfing to suss out a holiday cottage for next year – anyone for a cream tea?

Rosie Lawther



Around the Parish



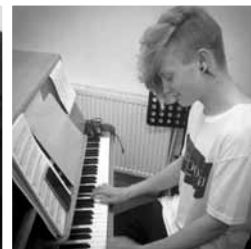
Mothers' Union
60th Anniversary Celebration



Kajiado & Kiwoko Visit



Youth Activities





Just Older Youth

“He causeth the vapours to ascend from the ends of the earth; he maketh lightnings for the rain; he bringeth the wind out of his treasures. Psalm 135:7

Our God who reignest up on high,
though lightnings flash across the sky.
And howling tempests hurry by,
we fear not these, for Thou art nigh,
To all who trust in Thee.

Though now the sky is overcast,
and heavy rains are falling fast,
And storm and sleet go driving past,
And day by day the moaning blast,
Sweeps dead leaves from the tree.

November time, that seems so drear
when days are dark and winter near,
Will pass at length, and Christmas cheer
the last hours of the dying year
With song and dance and mirth.

And in due time thy mighty power
will give the spring, with sun and shower,
The opening leaf, the early flower,
and birds in every woodland bower,
Will sing to gladden earth

Anon

We welcomed 30 to the Parish Centre for Communion lunch on 6th October, a gloriously sunny autumn day. Thanks to Alistair who took the service, Margaret, Roberta and Sue in the kitchen, our ever helpful band of drivers and last but not least, those who kindly contributed the delicious sandwiches and trifles.

See next month's magazine for the date of the Christmas communion lunch.

God Bless Karen



Margaret and Alistair

Karen with some of our parishioners at the lunch



Joan, Joy, Charles and Joan



Basil and Trevor



Kelly, and her gran Eileen



Jean, Rene and Dorothy



Pat



Kajiado's 'Ballyholme Hall' Declared Open

It began in 2003 with Ballyholme's Lawrence Manogue and Mark McCullough sharing a cup of coffee with Ronnie Briggs of CMS Ireland. The venue for this fateful conversation was Kajiado, at that point the Anglican Church in Kenya's youngest, smallest and most rural diocese.

Back then, Kajiado had a school, a health centre, a small church with a larger Cathedral nearing completion, and a number of houses and makeshift office buildings. The new vision was for a purpose-built suite of offices and meeting rooms to meet the projected needs of the diocese for the next 50 years, a facility with rental possibilities so it would prove financially sustainable.

In 2004 Ballyholme pledged Kajiado 10% of the building costs of its new Parish Centre. The name *Tenebo House*

was chosen to reflect the spirit of partnership which inspired the venture – *Tenebo* means togetherness. With the Kajiado Room now central to the life of our Parish Centre, one of the larger meeting rooms in *Tenebo House* was to be named *Ballyholme Hall*.

And so, on 4 October 2015, the ribbon was finally cut. *Tenebo House* was blessed and dedicated at an open-air "Harambee" attended by the Rector, Ann and Harry Browne, Ruth Ruttle and Vicky Hayes. Simon preached on sowing the seed of Christ and how God blesses our giving more than we can ever imagine possible.

Having begun at 10.30, the service was still going strong at 4 o'clock as the Ballyholme bus departed for Nairobi Airport. Next stop: Uganda.

What next for the Kajiado/Ballyholme partnership?

With the 10% gift from our Restoration Project building costs in mind, the Vestry and Missions Committee charged our Kajiado/Kiwoko 2015 team to begin a new conversation with Ronnie Briggs. Surprise, surprise, Ronnie was ready with a suggestion!

Subject to confirmation, the team was introduced to a project called WET-Life Kajiado. WET stands for Water, Education and Training. In the first instance, remedial repair work is required for 35 water tanks serving the needs of Kajiado's Masai Rural Training Centre at Oltiasika. Oltiasika is Ronnie and Maggie Briggs' new home in Kajiado, a breathtakingly beautiful retreat centre looking out over Mount Kilimanjaro.

After the safari of a lifetime (6 hours including giraffe and ostrich stops), the team made an overnight visit to Oltiasika to investigate. It was a much anticipated second trip for Ann and Harry but the need for water was plain for all to see. The Centre serves a local community of 3000 people, 75% of them under the age of ten. More details to follow.



Dr Wilson, we presume!

On the evening of the Tenebo House dedication and blessing, our team was greeted onto Ugandan soil by the Ballyholme parishioner who cut the first sod in Kajiado: Dr Rory Wilson. Rory's wife Denise and their son Gideon completed the welcoming party. In 2004 Rory had made the journey to Kenya before travelling on to Uganda, spending a week in each place. It was part of a time of discernment for Rory before he decided to apply to CMS Ireland and hand in his notice to the NHS. Ashley Park Surgery's loss, was Kiwoko Hospital's gain.

Simon, Ann, Harry, Ruth and Vicky spent two nights at Kiwoko, a first visit for all of them. A tour of the site was followed by an introduction to the HIV centre and the local schools healthcare programme. They were welcomed warmly to daily prayers and on the Wednesday morning Simon spoke on God's call of Moses in the desert and the idea of holy ground.

A special meeting of the Kiwoko Mothers' Union received Ballyholme MU Branch Leader Ruth Ruttle. Ruth shared news of Ballyholme MU's programme of activities and their recent diamond anniversary. A number of St Columbanus' parishioners had donated baking tins and these were gratefully received by the enthusiastic but under-equipped bakers of Kiwoko MU.

A highlight for Vicky was a pilgrimage to St Paul's Cathedral Nairobi. It was the satisfaction of a long-held desire to see the place where Vicky's late father had been baptised. The Reverend Cyril Godfrey Wilson (no relation to Rory!) served in a number of parishes in the Diocese of Cork, but like Gideon, he was born to CMS Missionary parents serving in Uganda.

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A bright idea for Kiwoko

The Vestry and Missions Committee have decided that this time, the 10% building costs gift from Restoration 2016 should be shared over more than one project. Accordingly, our Kajiado/Kiwoko Team was asked to explore some possibilities with Rory and Denise.

Through our Christmas cards and Kiwoko tree angels, we have supplied Kiwoko with (amongst other things) mosquito nets, bricks for a maternity ward, an autoclave and fencing material. The need now identified is intended to save the hospital money. Electricity costs for the Hospital currently run to approximately £3000 per month. Through the provision of solar panels which would pay for themselves in three years, there is now the possibility to reduce this bill by £1000.

As you may remember from the launch of our Restoration 2016 Appeal, Ballyholme received an anonymous £8000 gift specifically for solar cells on our Parish Centre roof. It thus seems fitting, subject to confirmation, that we might be able to do something similar for Kiwoko harnessing the power of the God-given equatorial sun. More details to follow.

Need ideas for Christmas Presents?



Kiwoko Christmas Cards on sale now as alternative Christmas gifts. Suggested donation £5.00 per card. 100% of proceeds go to Kiwoko project for essential replacement of hospital and community pick up truck. Cards available in parish office or contact elaineelborn@googlemail.com

Where is your chair? Mission Week 2015

My chair is in the Rectory.

Sunday to Friday I get up at 6 o'clock in the morning. I shower and dress in the normal way and then I sit in my chair until 7.15. Why 7.15? Because that's when the toast goes down. If the toast goes down any later than 7.15 someone misses the train!

More to the point is what I do in that chair. I read, I think and I pray. And so what I'm asking is: where is your chair for reading, thinking and praying?

Every parish in our Diocese hosted some kind of mission event in October 2015. People were asked to think about their relationship with God and about Jesus' love for them in dying for their sins. They were asked to respond to that love in a list of different ways, but the way I want St Columbanus to respond is difficult and harder than it sounds. I want you to find a chair.

You see we were thinking about where we are in Ballyholme in terms of our Restoration Project and having to move out of Church at Christmas, and out of the Parish Centre at Easter. We were thinking about all the upheaval and chaos and work of next year for everyone, and we thought let's try and do something together, as best we can, as one parish family.

So from Monday 19 October for a whole year we are sending out a weekly email. (If you don't have email, we will give you a print-out.) This will consist of a short piece of Scripture, brief comment from me, 140 words – no more, the briefest of prayers, tied to the theme of the passage. All of which Jade has translated for the teenagers and Laura has translated for the children. Alistair formatted it and Robbie Jackson and Kelly McCullough have organised the emails.

You need the email, you need a Bible, and you need a chair. It's going to be a series of short devotionals based on (amongst others) Mark, the Joseph story, Philippians, Ruth, Acts of the Apostles – not the whole Bible but a year's worth. Short, simple and I've written five for each week to cover the next 12 months.

Spiritually speaking, worship and meeting together are vital. But sometimes we can hide behind Church, we can hide behind services. What God wants above all, is for us to come to him personally. Which is why just as crucial as people giving their lives to Christ or re-committing their lives to Him at a mission, is what they do after the mission is over. Where is your chair?

Yes, this is about prayer for the Restoration Project. Prayer for the work itself. Prayer for the funding. Thank you again for pledging already and thank you for your pledges still to come. But this is also about prayer for when after the work is done. Because when we're properly up and running again, we will want to reach out in a new way to the community. In fact over the next year please pray for the person or persons, the neighbours, the family whom you intend to invite along to the newly restored St Columbanus. We'll organise something with them in mind.

So where is your chair? If you've not signed up, find the link on the parish website or ask for a printout at any point from the Parish Office. Then find a Bible, pick a chair and we'll ask God to lead us through the next year together.

SED



Ephphatha - Be Opened

Can you put yourself into the shoes of the man in the Gospel story, who, because of his deafness had a speech impediment? How embarrassing it must have been. What shame did he experience when he tried to communicate? He would probably have been misunderstood and ignored, shunned and marginalised. Having a disability can do that to some people.

However, Jesus had better plan; way better than the man could ever have imagined.

First, Jesus took him aside.

He took the man to a private place, on his own, away from the crowd. Jesus refused to make the man a spectacle, a side show or a circus "freak-show".

Second, Jesus touched him with his hands.

This was like sign language to the man who couldn't hear. Jesus touched his ears and then his mouth. Jesus was saying to him, "Don't be afraid, I am going to do something about your ears and your mouth; now let's look to God for his help."

Thirdly, Jesus gave a deep sigh.

Jesus moaned; and in doing so was showing the man that he understood his pain.

Finally, Jesus spoke to him.

He said "ephphatha" which means "be opened". And immediately the man could hear and speak clearly. "Be opened", these were the first words the man could hear. Can you imagine what that must have been like; the first person you ever heard speaking clearly was Jesus? That must have been amazing.

Closed Ears

We might not be physically deaf nor have a speech impediment, but the ears of our hearts can be deaf to the Words of Jesus. Yet Jesus is always speaking to us in language that we can understand, and he says to us, "be opened".

Be opened to God changing us;

Be opened to new possibilities, new attitudes, new hope, new faith,

Be opened to new ways of imagining the future,

Be opened to new ways of accepting ourselves.

Be opened to it being way better than you ever imagined.

Disabilities

The man in the story had a disability and so often when someone has a disability they can't take part in normal everyday activities. If they are in a wheelchair it is sometimes difficult to get into a building, or they might be embarrassed to go somewhere because they need to use the toilet.

Our church building is not easy to use if you are disabled. The building is on the side of a hill; and for some it is difficult to climb the slope and steps. We also have no easy access to a toilet in the church. There is one, but it is upstairs in the tower - along with the spiders. So that is why we are building a new annexe to the church. The new Welcome Area will make it easier for people with disabilities to get into church; and hopefully feel more comfortable because they will have easier access to facilities. We want our church to "EPHPHATHA" - to BE OPENED to everyone who wants to come in. Let's give our time and our money so that our church can be opened to those who can't yet access our building.

The man's friends brought him to Jesus. They wanted to see him healed; to hear and to speak without stuttering or mumbling. How much do we want our friends to meet with Jesus? Pray for them, ask that God will touch them with language they understand, and that the ears of their hearts will be opened to Jesus' words.

A better plan

Jesus had a better plan for this man; way better than he could ever have imagined. The man's world had been closed, but now because of meeting Jesus, his life was opened. Now he was open to hear and able to speak of the miracle he had experienced; no longer embarrassed; no longer ashamed. Whatever we might feel is closed in our lives - that which causes us shame or embarrassment - let God open us to His will; which is always way better than we could ever imagine.



Percy French Players

Present an evening
with Percy French & friends

On

Saturday 5th December at 7.00 – 9.30pm

In the Parish Centre



Suggested donation £5

(in aid of Parish Restoration Fund)

Limited seating: book with the Parish Office

Light refreshments will be served

A Night of Celebration Praise with Kerygma Choir



You're warmly invited to A Night of Celebration Praise with The Kerygma Good News Choir on **Saturday 7 November at 7.00pm in St Anne's Cathedral.**

Refreshments will be available during the interval. Seating is unreserved.

Doors open at 6.30 pm Tickets £10

Tickets available online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/kerygmachoir

Proceeds to crisis funds working with refugees in the Middle East



Restoration Project - Update Organ to stay put

The design process for a building project is a little bit like writing a musical score. Sometimes what sounded good at first, no longer works and changes are made which fine-tune the overall piece. In our case, this is what has happened with the organ. The initial proposal was that the organ would be relocated in the existing vestry and tower. However, after consultation with Stephen Shaw, organ specialist, and discussions with Ian Bell, our organist, it was decided that the most suitable location for the organ was for it to stay in its original location. The knock-on effect of this decision has been to open up a number of new design possibilities, not to mention cost savings.

The changes are as follows (see drawing):

1. Vestry - The existing vestry space will be reused as an enlarged reconfigured clergy vestry. Removing the staircase provides room for a new WC, and a new trap door will give access to the bell above.
2. Choir Vestry - To be located off the Welcome Area adjacent to the new entrance. With the choir relocated in the new extension the current Choir Room will become a general meeting room and provide storage for Children's Church.
3. Children's Room - This will no longer have a direct visual connection to the church as it will be located behind the original wall of the organ. This resolves concerns expressed at the open Parish meeting with our architects in January 2015. The frosted glass and waist height cupboards option outlined in the March magazine is now redundant.

Other changes to the final layout include - a coffee point located in the Welcome Area adjacent to the Choir Vestry, and an additional WC provided between the lift and the new staircase.

The tender documents are currently being priced by eight contractors, who were selected and assessed for their suitability in this type of construction work by the Design Team. It was essential to finalise all these decisions in order to minimise the possibility of expensive post-tender changes to the base plans.

Finally, an update on the NIE sub-station, due to a delay in getting a contract signed between the NIE and Representative Church Body, a delay not the Parish's pr Design Team's making, the work to relocate the NIE sub-station will now commence in early January 2016.

Bangor's now firmly established annual celebration of Columbanus takes place over the weekend 20th to 22nd November in a variety of venues around the town.

FRIDAY 20TH November

Bangor Abbey

8.00pm THE JOURNEY OF A SINGLE DAY III

An evening of music, song and storytelling with ARDS COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN, DAVID LENNON, THE SMYTH SISTERS, LEN GRAHAM, JACK LYNCH, LAURA HUGHES and other guests.

SATURDAY 21st November Talks and storytelling sessions

Ballyholme Parish Centre

10.00am IMMO WARNTJES, Lecturer in Irish Medieval History at Queen's University, Belfast. Today he discusses Columbanus' Clash of Cultures on the Continent

11.30 am BARRY SLOAN, a Methodist Minister from Northern Ireland who has for many years ministered in Germany. In 2012 he hitch-hiked from Bangor to Bobbio in the steps of Columbanus. He describes the story of that journey as the tale of a 6th century saint and a 21st century sinner. Today he launches the e-book telling the story of the journey.

St Comgall's Parish Church, Brunswick Rd

2.00 pm DAMIAN BRACKEN, Senior Lecturer in History in University College, Cork, his research has focused on Hiberno-Latin literature, especially on the works of St. Columbanus

2.30 pm STORY AND SONG for youngsters

LEN GRAHAM and JACK LYNCH present a programme of story and song specially designed for the young of North Down.

1st Bangor Presbyterian Church

7.30 pm SONGS OF THE SCRIBE In Songs of the Scribe, singer and composer, Pádraigín Ní Uallacháin, delves deep into the history of our monastic tradition to dramatic effect. Pádraigín is accompanied by harpist Sylvia Crawford and fiddler Darren Magee.

SUNDAY 22nd November

Bangor Abbey

3.30 pm TO FIND A HEATHEN PLACE AND SOUND A BELL is a haunting weave of voices and music. It tells the story of two of the early saints or founders of the Church in Ireland. Both of the men in the story lived for a time in the Monastery of Bangor under the rule of its founder Comgall.

6.30 pm A UNITED CELEBRATION - Lord Eames

The Festival reaches a climax as Churches of Bangor come together in Bangor Abbey to celebrate the life and legacy of Columbanus in an Act of Worship and Thanksgiving. The preacher will be The Rt. Rev. the LORD EAMES OM, former Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland who commenced his Ministry as Curate of Bangor Parish in 1963. The ever popular Bangor Ladies Choir will also take part in the Service.



Crafty Stitchers

I'm afraid my sewing abilities do not extend beyond sewing on a button or fixing a ripped hem so it was a real eye opener for me when I went along to one of the Crafty Stitchers Tuesday night meetings.

I was totally amazed by array of patchwork, appliqué and quilting work on display. All the items had been made by members of the group and featured a wide range of intricate patterns. There was quilted work decorated with spiders and black cats and door stops in the shape of pumpkins which were just right for Halloween. I saw a large quilt which featured cats in the shapes of vegetables. Imagine a pea pod with three tiny kitten's faces as the peas and you'll get the picture! There was a cushion cover with a patchwork turkey in lovely autumnal colours and a string of birds separated by red wooden beads which could be used as a Christmas decoration. I also saw an appliqué cushion cover decorated with pink and purple birds – two of my favourite colours! Some of the other cushion covers had a nautical theme and I was very impressed by one design which included tiny hexagonal pieces about the size of a twenty pence coin which reminded me of the Giant's Causeway. Lovely to look at but all much too fiddly and complex for me to even think about taking on something like that!



Janice Hewitt, the group organiser, told me the Crafty Stitchers have been on the go now for about 17 years. The group started off by making fabric covered boxes and Christmas crafts. In



those days the group members all produced the same things but now members bring along their individual items and work on them at the meetings. Sometimes the Crafty Stitchers produce items for sales in the Church and larger items like quilts have been given as a raffle prizes. Anne Steele is the resident expert who is on hand to offer advice. Anne has lots of books and she even makes her own patterns so no-one need be worried that they will stuck for ideas.

Having watched 'The Great British Sewing Bee' on BBC, I was looking out for any men but to date sadly none of the men in the Parish have been tempted to take up a needle and thread! Janice assured me any men would be made most welcome! The Crafty Stitchers currently has approximately 14 to 15 members of all ages and new members are always welcome. The group meets in the Columbanus Room in the Parish Centre on Tuesday nights. The meetings start at 7:45 and finish around 9:45. Janice told me a lovely supper is always included as is friendship and an opportunity to chat!

If you would like to find out more about the Crafty Stitchers please contact Janice Hewitt Tel: 91857448.

Christine Johnstone



**Ballyholme Parish
Christmas Bazaar
21st November
10am - 12.30pm.**



£2 entry which includes tea/coffee and a scone. Fun activities for children will be available.

Donations of gifts, books etc can be left in the Parish Centre from **Monday 12th November** (no earlier).

Good quality items. Nothing sharp, broken or dirty. Please check that all items are suitable before donating. There will be a raffle, - if anyone could donate special gifts for this, that would be greatly appreciated. Many thanks

Jade



The Wednesday Club

Our Wednesday Club meeting this month was postponed for a week, so we could be part of the Parish's Mission week.

We were pleased to see a great attendance, and our ladies and various guests, enjoyed a lovely lunch before relaxing to music supplied by Freddie and Jim with us all joining in the singing with them. Paddy Corbett was the winner of this month's draw.

Our next meeting will be, as usual, on the first Wednesday in November (4th), starting at 2 o'clock.

See you there
Sue



No Tricks, Just Treats.

Quite recently, you may have had some “trick-or-treaters” all dressed up at your door hoping for some sweets and treats. Some of us wait with constantly refilled bowls of candy by the door and others of us, if we are honest, ignore the doorbell.



Whatever category we fall into, this trick-or-treating phenomenon has led me to thinking, and has gotten our young people motivating themselves for some treat action.

One of the main reasons I love working with young people is how they shine. Their openness, honesty, humour and kindness can flood the world with refreshing light. The young people in school years 8 – 14 (ages 12 – 18), assisted by excellent young adult leaders, put together sweetie treats for the younger children in Ballyholme and also the senior citizens who attend various events in the Parish Centre throughout the week. There is no doubt that the very youngest recipient through to the very eldest found that their treat put a smile on their face and a spring in their step.

The beauty wasn't simply in the gifts that were handmade and delivered, but also in what those gifts communicated. The messages sent through these kind treats were that each person mattered enough for a young person to take time out of their lives to hand-make a treat for them.

Children and elderly people were treated with dignity and respect by our teenagers. When we treat people with random or unexpected love and kindness, all kinds of barriers are disarmed. Unlikely friendships are formed, good days get better and bad days become bearable days. This November, let's treat each other, both with treats, and kind treatment. Be kind to yourself and be kind to others.

How can it be November already? Children's Church has been running for two months, and we're over halfway through the school term. Summer seems to have ended a long time ago – and already there are Christmas songs playing in shops! When we look at it that way, we can often miss how wonderful autumn is. It is such a beautiful time of year – the frost makes the ground glitter in the mornings! The trees are covered in bright beautiful colours, ruby reds and warm golds as the leaves change and fall.



And just as the leaves and seasons change, we change too. We grow older, we learn new things and become new people. God changes us – when we spend time getting to know Him. He helps us to grow and change to be more like Him. We become kinder, more loving, and more joyful as we grow, asking



God to watch over us and help us change – just like the autumn leaves, into something wonderful and beautiful. He loves you so very much and is always there to help you grow – all you have to do is ask!

We are halfway through our term and it's time to say a thank you to our lovely Children's Church leaders! It has been a busy two months – time truly does fly when you're having fun! We have all made new friends and learned such a lot in these two months about how God created and cares for His world.

Paula Lown is taking the Bubbles for a second year in a row, Judith Bell has been leading Splash – and for Ice, we have a fabulous mother & son team in Andrew & Libby Beech! There is lots in store for all of the children at Children's Church and we're very excited for what's ahead – keep checking the magazine updates!

The Quiet Corner

When I was in first year at school I was sent by a teacher to my Form Master for using “inappropriate language” in the playground. I duly reported to the Master’s office, knocked the door and heard the command – “Enter.” I stood at attention in front of his desk and explained my offence and awaited my punishment. My Form Master stood up and went to the blackboard and chalked:

“Ce que l’on conçoit bien s’énonce clairement
Et les mots pour le dire arrivent aisément”

He told me to write the quotation down, go away and find out who wrote the words, translate it and then return with my efforts. In those pre-Google days this necessitated being a bit more resourceful so I recalled that a sixth former, who I sometimes walked home with, was studying French for A level. I purposely waited outside school until I spotted the older boy and struck up a conversation on our way home about my dilemma.

“Ah”, he said, “You must have got this from Mr X.” It transpired Mr X was also his French teacher, and was prone to using this quotation. Yes, he could translate it, but it was going to cost me. A bottle (no cans in those days) of Coke and a Marathon (Snickers for younger readers) and several days later he accordingly handed over the translation.

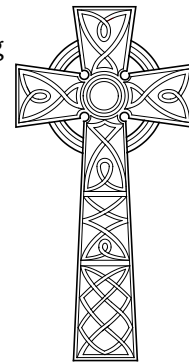
I smugly returned to my Form Master with “my” translation and the name of the author, Boileau, a 17th Century French poet. The translation from L’art Poétique went (apologies to any scholar of French who is reading this):

“Those things that are well conceived, are spoken without obscurity
And the words to express them will flow with ease”

Um, he grumbled as he looked over his gold rimmed glasses at me. Without a ‘well done’ or ‘good effort’ he dispatched me with the task of writing a 300 word essay on what the quotation meant. My heart sank, as I thought I had got away with it. So instead of playing football in the playground for the several days I spent my time in the library scribbling out a 12 year old’s interpretation of the passage.

Don’t ask me what I wrote back then. The question is did I learn my lesson? I would say it is still a work in progress. But on a positive note, I still have a penchant for Marathons/Snickers.

Roy Lawther



Columbanus TV Documentary

About three years ago, Belfast based film maker Declan McGrath was on a tour of Bangor exploring the possibility of making some sort of documentary on Bangor’s most famous European export. It was no more than a sketchy idea at that stage for Declan and he certainly didn’t know where any money might come from to fund the project. He had verbal interest from the BBC, RTE and some European television companies but that was as far as it went. Then he came to Ballyholme for a look at our windows in St Columbanus and a cup of tea with our rector...

The conversation came around as to who might be approached to present the documentary, should the project ever get off the ground. “There’s only one person who fits the profile”, opined Simon: “Mary McAleese.” To cut a long story short, Declan made an appointment to meet the former Irish President in Rome where she was spending an extended period of personal study and retreat. Declan duly booked a flight and was thrilled when Dr McAleese agreed to present the film, the first such offer she had accepted since leaving Áras an Uachtaráin. Needless to say, money from interested broadcasters began rolling in!



When a film crew visited Bangor in the early stages of production Simon was invited to lunch to meet the team. Declan acknowledged that the spark which got the whole thing moving had begun over a cup of tea with the Rector of Ballyholme. Dr McAleese greeted Simon with the words: “So you’re the one I’ve got to blame for all this!”

I hope that you will tune in to see either the Irish language version (with subtitles) of Mary McAleese & The Man Who Saved Europe showing on BBC NI on Sunday 22nd of November, or the English language version, showing on RTE One on Tuesday 24th November.



OUR WORSHIP

Sunday 1st November

All Saints Day

8.30 Holy Communion
10.00 All Age Service
11.30 Morning Prayer
6.30 Holy Communion

Wednesday 4th November

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 8th November Remembrance Day

3rd Sunday before Advent

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

Wednesday 11th November

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 15th November

2nd Sunday before Advent

8.30 Holy Communion
10.00 Morning Worship & Children's Church
11.30 Morning Prayer
6.30 United service in Ballyholme Methodist

Wednesday 18th November

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 22nd November

Sunday before Advent

8.30 Holy Communion
10.00 Parish Communion & Children's Church
11.30 Morning Prayer
6.30 St Columbanus Festival Service
Bangor Abbey

Wednesday 25th November

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 29th November

Advent Sunday

8.30 Holy Communion
10.00 Wholeness & Healing
11.30 Wholeness & Healing
6.30 Taize for Advent

Where is your chair?

Daily Ballyholme Devotions
more details at
www.ballyholmeparish.co.uk



FUNERALS

24 September: Mary Dickson, late of Sunningdale Court.

24 September: Patricia Davidson, late of Ballycrochan Road.

November

1st: No crèche

8th: Heather Glasgow

Helen and Patrick Crothers

15th: Violet Davidson, Angela MacCartney, Christine Boyd

22nd: Katherine Newman, Paula McIlwaine, Catherine Darragh

29th: Julie Monaghan, Betty Singleton, Elaine McNamara



Children's Church Helpers

November

8th: Stefan & Tracie Andreasson, Gareth & Janet Boal

15th: Alison Jamison, Gerry McCaughan, Kelly McCullough, Janice McDonagh

22nd: Paula Foye, Trish McGrugan, Rhonda Magennis, Margaret Moorhead

29th: Amanda Thompson, Sarah Tweedie, Geoff & Gillian Young



November

1st: Irene Long

8th: In memory of Dorothy Reid

15th: Margaret Horner

22nd: Pat Todd

29th: Jackie McCabe



November

1st: Jem Moran, Joy Hamilton, Irene Bell

8th: Edna Morrison, Gillian Fletcher, Carole Majury

15th: Maureen & Lorraine Colgan

22nd: Fiona Jackson, Pat Adair, Maureen Aiken

29th: Patrick Crothers, Ella Walker, Heather Johnston

Parish Office: 91274912

Rectory: 91274901

Curatage: 91271922

Prayer Line: 07531806167

Transport: 07599794968

Church Readers

Rota:

John 91467243

or

Freda 91467624

