

# St Columbanus

Ballyholme



Elaine and Ruth in Calais  
Hello Florence  
St Patrick's Day celebrations  
..On the way *together*..



## The Parishioner

March 2016

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

When a number of possible earlier visits didn't quite come off, I thought the easiest way to get Bishop Alan back to St Columbanus was to invite him for Holy Week. I did so three years ago, thinking that we would probably be hosting our services in the Parish Centre, given our initial schedule for Restoration 2016. As things have turned out, it now feels entirely right that we can meet in Church. What better way to prepare for the new 'phase one' of our building work this May (hopefully!) than to gather around the cross in the house of prayer which means so much to us. Could there be a more fitting opportunity to invite the Lord to anoint and bless our undertaking?

As usual, we look forward to the fellowship of our neighbours in Christ from the three other Ballyholme churches. I know you will want to be present for this special series of Holy Week meditations, led by a preacher and pastor the parish of Ballyholme holds very dear to its heart. Our theme is one Bishop Alan has been reflecting on personally for many years and for us it couldn't be more timely: Journeying with Jesus. SED



## If you need the clergy...

Remember please that from the end of February and the departure of our curate assistant, if you are getting in touch about an urgent pastoral matter or an emergency, you will need to contact the Rector on 91274901. It is better to assume that the Rector does not know and has not heard about your need. Unless you or your family make contact, take it that no one else has done so. This is especially true if you or your loved one is admitted to hospital. Simon makes hospital visits every week but often he cannot know to look for people if he has not been informed by their family or friends. A reminder also, that if you have anything important to mention to him at the Church door on Sunday, a little note always makes things easier. You are asked to bear in mind that without a second pair of full-time clerical hands Simon will be under a little more pressure, especially as we enter the building stage of the restoration project. Your prayers for the Rector and all the staff team throughout this period are much appreciated.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Bangor Scout Group

### WE NEED LEADERS



Our Group has been operating for as long as the Church has been in existence. We are going through a period of change with the Leaders.

Our squirrel section, which is very vibrant, and fully subscribed, meets on a Friday evening from 6-7pm. Unfortunately we are losing at least 3 Leaders this June. This means that unless we can get 3 or 4 new leaders by the end of June, Squirrels will not be able to restart in September.

We are also in desperate need of Cub and Scout leaders. Cubs meet on a Thursday 7.30 to 9pm and Scouts on a Friday 7.30 to 9.30pm.

Leaders' commitment is once a week from the beginning of September to the end of May and school holidays off. Also there are planning meetings once a term.

Full training is provided and paid for so no previous Scouting experience is required.

I would like to hear from anyone with an interest in helping, either a first foray into Scouting or returning previous Scout or Leader. Scouting is a marvellous organisation to be part of and is expanding and becoming bigger and better all the time.

Also after 33yrs in Scouting I have decided to take a back seat for a while. To this end I need someone who would be willing to take on the role of Group Scout Leader.

This can be a purely administrative role, looking after all the Sections but again training is provided and there is back up from the District team and obviously myself. If anyone is interested in any of these roles please contact me on 07790359991.

Thank you

Susan Stockton GSL



## Just a Wonder

A row of bottles on my shelf  
Caused me to analyze myself.  
One yellow pill I have to pop  
Goes to my heart so it won't stop.

A little white one that I take  
Goes to my hands so they won't shake.  
The blue ones that I use a lot  
Tell me I'm happy when I'm not.

The purple pill goes to my brain  
And tells me that I have no pain.  
The capsules tell me not to wheeze  
Or cough or choke or even sneeze.

The red ones, smallest of them all  
Go to my blood so I won't fall.  
The orange ones, very big and bright  
Prevent my leg cramps in the night.

Such an array of brilliant pills  
Helping to cure all kinds of ills.  
But what I'd really like to know . . .  
Is what tells each one where to go!



Don't miss out on our next Communion Lunch, taking place during Holy Week on **Tuesday 22nd March** at 12.30pm in the Parish Centre. All are welcome, so please come along and bring a friend. Need a lift or more information?

Please ring me at the Parish Office  
91274912

God Bless  
Karen

## Just Older Youth

### The Wednesday Club



At our February meeting, 25 ladies were given a very interesting talk by John Hall on his postcard collection. He was able to pass around some of them so the ladies



*Eileen and Helen*

were able to take a closer look at the various styles and views he had collected. He first started collecting when he was a mere child and now concentrates his collection on postcards connected with the North Down area, although he did have some silk postcards that his grandfather had sent from the front line in the First World War to his wife, which were embroidered with the regiment's colours.

He told us of secret codes between people, all based on the position of the stamp!



*Phyllis and May*

And the fact that in the beginning a postcard posted in Bangor in the morning, would arrive at its destination before the sender got off the last train to Belfast – all for a halfpenny.



*Lorna, Joy and Dorothy*

After our afternoon tea of scones and traybakes, the draw was made, and this month the winner was Lorna Walker.

We would love to see some new people coming along and joining us for the afternoon. It is always on the first Wednesday of the month, starting at 2.00pm. Lifts can be arranged, just phone the parish office. Sue



March is a busy month for us at Mothers' Union. Please support the Women's World Day of Prayer Service which will be held this year on Friday 4th March in Ballyholme Presbyterian Church at 7.30 pm. Supper will be served after the Service. This year the Service has been organised by the Women of Cuba.

Sunday 6th March is Mothering Sunday. Roberta Rogers, Action and Outreach Co-ordinator will be our visiting speaker at our meeting on 7th March at 8.00 pm in the Parish Centre. For a few years now, Down & Dromore Mothers' Union members have been actively involved in the outreach and support to female prisoners in Hydebank Prison in Belfast, doing all sorts of craft work. Each MU member has to go through rigorous security clearance to gain access to the prison. These members are warmly welcomed and thanked with such gratitude that there is a feeling of great satisfaction that their actions have reached many people whose family life has met with adversity. Donations of any sort of craft material would be greatly appreciated by Roberta to pass on to the ladies involved in the craft project.



On Saturday 13th March we are holding our Annual Coffee Morning and Sale for the Overseas Fund. We invite parishioners and friends during this "SPRING CLEANING AND CLEARING OUT TIME OF YEAR" to remember us and if you have items which need to be collected please contact me. The Bric-a-Brac stall accepts anything. Unwanted Gifts, Cakes, Books, Toys, Tombola etc. etc. You name it, we'll have it. Thank you in anticipation.

Holy Week Services will be held in our Church. On Monday night the 21st, MU members are asked to make a special effort to attend. The Annual Down & Dromore Festival Service will be held this year in Bangor Parish Church on Monday 4th April at 8.00 pm.

Ruth Ruttle (Branch Leader) 02891 450130

### My Favourite Place

My favourite place is my Granny's house because she is funny and cool and clever and good. She taught me to play Solitaire.

We make stuff and play games and do puzzles.

Yeah, Granny's house is Cool.

Orlaith Megaw (Rainbow)



### A Lament



St. Columbanus is losing its curate  
 (On this matter he's being obdurate)  
 He's going away  
 To the USA  
 And we don't know how we'll endure it!

Joyce Stock

Parish Office: 91274912  
 Rectory: 91274901  
 Prayer Line: 0731806167  
 Transport: 07599794968  
 Church Readers Rota:  
 John 91467243  
 Freda 91467624



Web Site [www.ballyholmeparish.co.uk](http://www.ballyholmeparish.co.uk)

## ST PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATIONS 2016



Bishop Harold invites you to join him at Down Cathedral for the annual St Patrick's Day Festival Service followed by lunch in the marquee in the Cathedral grounds. You are also welcome to attend the Holy Communion Service at Saul and to join the pilgrimage from Saul to Down Cathedral. Our theme this year is 'In the Footsteps of Patrick – Proclaiming Christ' and at the Festival Service we will commission our first group of Diocesan Evangelists. Bishop Harold will give the address.

*Programme for Thursday 17 March 2016*

**9.15 am**

Holy Communion at Saul **Preacher Captain George Newell** (Church Army)

**10.15 am**

Pilgrimage from Saul to Downpatrick

**11.45 am**

Festival Service in Down Cathedral **Preacher The Rt Revd Harold Miller**

Wreath laying ceremony at St Patrick's Grave

**1.15 pm** Irish stew lunch in the marquee

### **Transport to Saul**

From 8:00 am private buses will leave from the Mall for the communion service and pilgrimage.

- The last bus for the communion service leaves at 8.45 am
- The last bus for the pilgrimage leaves at 9.45 am.
- The last bus from Saul to the Cathedral leaves at 10.40 am

Dear friends,

In Storehouse North Down it is business as usual after a much needed post Christmas rest for all our volunteers.

Thanks to your contributions we were able to supply 470 hampers to individuals and families within our community. Each hamper contained not only store cupboard items but also fresh vegetables and a £10 meat voucher.

We received the following anonymous thank you note which was left in a church collection trolley - it was on note paper which had a footnote from Proverbs 10:22 - 'The Blessing of the Lord makes one rich, and he adds no sorrow with it'.

*"To Storehouse, I'm writing this thank you note on behalf of myself and my family just to let everyone who contributed to the amazing hamper we were given just before Christmas know how much we appreciate it. It brought a smile to all of our faces and it helped relieve a lot of stress in the run up to Christmas. The work you do is incredible so again, thank you very much'. God Bless!"*

This is one of many thank you messages received and it is a privilege to be involved in this ministry and to pass the thanks to you.

Please continue to pray for Storehouse North Down asking God to be in the centre of everything we do and for Him to be glorified. Please also pray for the recipients of hampers and our partnering agencies.

As you can guess our shelves have taken a huge hit and are looking sparse.

If it is possible would you please promote collection of the following items:-

**Pasta Sauces; Tinned meals to serve with potatoes: Long grain rice; Spaghetti; Tinned snacks (e.g. Beans & sausages); Tinned meats; Tinned spaghetti; Cooking oil; Diluted Juice; Breakfast juice; Tinned desserts; Tinned fruit; Jam; Jars of baby food (7 months plus); Nappies (Size 5); Washing up liquid; Multi-purpose cleaning spray; Deodorants; Shower gel; and Shampoo.**

This would help us tremendously.

Helen

The trolley will be out every Sunday through Lent for your donations.



## Wet winter ends with a ray of sunshine

The next time I announce I'm giving my car away, will someone please remind me to consult a long-term weather forecast before doing anything rash. Who knew that the winter of 2015-16 would prove such a washout? As I mentioned on Christmas Day and in last month's magazine, two wheels were never going to be enough once Alistair moved on. What that means is that by the time most of you read this, my daily dependence on Bella the bike has come to an end.



### A voyage of discovery

What I have discovered since September is just how compact a parish Ballyholme actually is – certainly compared with the 12 miles tip-to-toe proportions of my former parish of Aghalee. I have also discovered that Ballyholme's other road users are universally courteous and considerate – honestly! Not a single scrape or near-miss at any point. Not that it's been uninterrupted pleasure. You know about my chains falling off in Towerview. It happened again in February on the Springwell Road on a run between Groomsport and Ballycrochan.

One thing I really won't miss is the late-night rides home – remembering, as you leave your final visit of the day in the far reaches of Ashbury, that what's waiting to take you home is not the car but the bike! Yes, as the months have gone by it's been satisfying to find journeys growing shorter and requiring less recovery time. But the truth is, I haven't fitted nearly as much work into my day on two wheels as I have on four.



### From NOT THERE YET to GETTING THERE

When asked how the bike was going, I always replied with reference to progress on the Restoration 2016 appeal. At no stage was this a vanity plan to reduce my jowl fat (though some of you have kindly suggested this may be an unintended consequence – thank-you, thank-you, thank-you!). I wish I could say that the money was now in place to finance the whole of the restoration project in one go. I pedalled and pushed as hard as I could for us to be able to do all the work we needed to at once, saving time and money in the process.

Yet I could not be more grateful to God for bringing us this far. In His timing and provision, we are well on our way and, in the end, we will get there. I need to acknowledge at this point that a number of parishioners offered me the use of a car temporarily should I need one. I want to thank them warmly for their thoughtfulness. I also want to thank Heidi for putting her car at my disposal for emergencies and hospital calls. Most touching of all however, was the news that greeted me on the first Sunday in the New Year, that I had been bequeathed a replacement car.



### Bye-bye Bella, Hello Florence

Laurence Manogue, who died just before Christmas, was a much loved and long-standing member of our church family. A former Churchwarden and Vestry member and an architect by profession, Laurence had an intimate knowledge of church buildings generally and St Columbanus in particular. He cared about our Church very much and served on the committee which appointed Knox and Markwell as our architects for Restoration 2016. Laurence was also responsible for a very early sketch which connected our Church and Parish Centre in much the same way as we hope to do in what will now be phase two of our development plan.

You will agree that to be given a car by someone with such a heart for St Columbanus is very much in the spirit of what we are endeavouring to do. This magazine's black and white format doesn't do it justice, but I think what will strike you as you see me out and about, is that canary-yellow Florence is as distinctive and colourful as the man who so generously gave it to me. By the way, the only condition to my taking delivery of Florence, is that when someone more needy of her services comes along, the keys will be passed on to them.





### End of the road for Bella?

We all take jumping into the car and turning the ignition on for granted – take it from me. With Florence taking up residence in the Rectory driveway, no doubt I'll quickly forget to thank God for the luxury of an engine and a roof over my head! Not that Bella the bike will be returned to the skip from whence she originally came. As and when the timetable allows, I fully intend to become a fair-weather Ballyholme cyclist. In the meantime, it's been an autumn and winter I'll never forget and so far as I'm concerned, it has been in the best possible cause. Many of you tell me how dear a place St Columbanus occupies in your heart. Mine too.

Simon

## Restoration 2016

In the February magazine we provided an update on the reasons for the delay in the Restoration Project. In the meantime we have held several meetings with the Design Team (Architects, Quantity Surveyors, Mechanical and Electrical Engineers, Structural Engineers) to plan a way forward within the constraints of a revised budget figure. In conjunction with and on the advice of the Design Team, it has been agreed to proceed with the works on a two phase scheme:

- Phase 1: Restoration of existing Church Building  
Relocation of NIE Sub-station
- Phase 2: New Annex  
Alteration of existing Parish Centre



The approximate building costs of refurbishing the existing Church and relocating the NIE Sub-station will be in the region of £400,000. Funding is available to proceed with Phase 1 immediately. However, it is not clear when funding will be available for Phase 2, but it must be considered as being in the medium to long term future.



As a consequence of phasing the Project locations for a new church boiler, PA/AV cabinet and electrical switch room have proven difficult to resolve. The original plan was to accommodate these in the proposed annex works. The Design Team considered a number of alternative locations such as using the belfry above the vestry, a large cupboard at the back of the church and an external plant room in the current location of the NIE Sub-station. All these locations proved unsuitable due to insufficient space, difficulty of access and noncompliance with current regulations. Reluctantly, the remaining location recommended by the

Design Team, discussed with our organist, Ian Bell, and then agreed by our Vestry, is to install the plant in the organ loft and for the church to purchase a new digital organ to replace the existing one. Visually the pipes and timber panelling will remain in place, and the new organ speakers will be located behind the pipes. To the untrained ear the sound quality will be largely unaffected, as will our traditional Church of Ireland worship. Finances were not the deciding factor.

It is proposed that, subject to successful negotiations with the two lowest tenderers on the original scheme, the work will commence in early-May 2016. Therefore, the final service in the church will be held on the last Sunday in April. It is hoped that the work will be completed by mid-November 2016 allowing services to start again just before Christmas 2016.



## Our journey to Calais and Dunkirk

After being prayed for on Sunday 3rd January in church my daughter Ruth and I set off to Calais with our car packed full of donated clothes, food and some medical supplies. Our ferry crossing from Belfast to Liverpool was probably the calmest night of the winter!!! We arrived in Calais in the evening and were met by flashing blue lights, gendarmes and tear gas!!! We signed into our youth hostel for the week. The only instructions we had been given were to turn up at L'Auberge des Migrants at 9 am next morning. So down to breakfast next morning, which was bustling with young and older people--all volunteers and before I knew it we had a full carload ready to go to L'Auberge.

At 9 am every morning they have a briefing and allocate people jobs for the day--which was exactly what we hoped for. The "orange jackets" were the longer term volunteers who we could ask anything of. They suggested that for the first few days people worked in the warehouse before going into the "jungle". Ruth and I started off on clothing sorting and boxing, then moved to the hygiene section where basic welcome packs were made up for the 50-60 new refugees arriving every day. We also worked on food packs which were distributed at special collection areas throughout the camp with basic ingredients of rice, onions, garlic, salt, sugar, spices, tomatoes, chick peas, oil and tea. All the food and clothing came from donations from across Belgium, France and U K. Each day we were given a hot vegetarian meal at lunch which came from the amazing kitchens, again run by volunteer chefs and helpers. They provided about 2000 hot meals daily for volunteers and refugees.

On the following days we went into camp for part of the day. It was wet, freezing and felt like shanty town Africa meeting the slums of Mumbai. We tasted some flat bread in the Afghan street, saw the Banksy mural of Steve Jobs, whose parents were Syrian refugees, and met a number of individuals trying to survive and all hoping to come to the UK, as they had relatives there. We visited the women's tent which was an oasis of calm, and Ruth visited Jungle Books which is the small school set up and we delivered food parcels to some basic kitchen facilities. The first week went quickly and then we were moving on to Dunkirk.



Nothing could have prepared us for what we saw in Dunkirk. About 1000 Kurdish people with women and many children were camping in mud on wooden pallets with basic tents and sleeping bags. The government were not allowing any wood in for building any more permanent structures. The executive director of MSF (Médecins Sans Frontières) said they were some of the worst humanitarian conditions she had seen in 20 yrs work--and certainly I was



shocked! People were facing wet, cold, dark conditions every day and night with hardly any sanitation. I was horrified at the number of women and children we met. We met a gentle teacher from Iraq with his wife and three children, we met a young civil engineer forced to flee for his life from ISIS, we met a "dog trainer" who worked in Afghanistan training dogs for the British soldiers--who wants to come and work in the UK, we met some beautiful children who should be in school and not scavenging for food and handouts !

All of this happening some 20 miles from the coast of England in a civilised first world country.

So now I am back in the comfort of my home I am disturbed by what I have seen.

I am so glad that I went, and want to thank you all for your prayer support and for some gifts which were put to very good use!!!

Maybe we can ask ourselves what is our response to the refugee, and I am reminded that our Lord himself was a child refugee with his mother Mary and Joseph as they fled into Egypt for a number of years.

Many thanks, Elaine Elborn

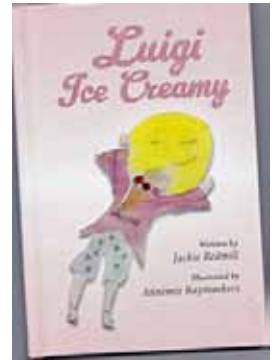




## **Luigi Ice Creamy** A Children's Book

Written by Jackie Redmill (A member of our Parish)

Illustrated by Annemie Raymaekers



It was a rather special experience to be able to interview Jackie to find out what inspired her idea of writing a Children's Book about a man called Luigi and the Moon.

The story is about a man called Luigi (A reflection of God), who lives on the Moon and makes ice cream, using ingredients from all over the world, to make it very special. The ingredients are a reflection of faith, hope, love and forgiveness. The words are very ably supported by hand-painted images by Jackie's friend Annemie from Belgium who shares her life's desire to illustrate a children's book.

For Jackie, the book has been a journey. As a young child holidaying in the Isle of Man, she enjoyed writing fairy stories. Together with husband Duncan, the inspiration to write the story of Luigi developed from the gift of their son Kenton's arrival after their ten-year wait, and as he grows up the book has become a legacy to him.

Think of Luigi next time you look at the moon – one day maybe a sequel will appear!

Review by Glynis, Peter & Orlaith (granddaughter)

*Luigi Ice Creamy reviewed by Orlaith 6yrs*

I think the book is good and very gentle. It is about ice cream and different flavours ~ nice. It is very thoughtful for the lady to write it.



## **Parish Family Lunch and Easter Vestry: 13 March**

As advertised in February's *Parishioner*, in accordance with chapter 3 of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland, our annual General (Easter) Vestry meeting in Ballyholme takes place at 12.45pm on Sunday 13 March in the Parish Centre over a parish family lunch.

Constitutionally, as you know, we are free to conduct elections to the Select Vestry in whatever way we see fit. Written nominations will be invited ahead of the meeting in the hope that we will receive at least 12 names. It is up to you to stand yourself or to propose someone else to stand and the basic commitment is one meeting a month.

Nominations will close on Sunday 6 March. Forms will be available from the Churchwardens on Sundays, from the Parish Office on weekday mornings and from our Honorary Secretary Leslie Adams (91466690). We will take a digital photograph to use on the voting paper.

So far as the agenda for the meeting itself is concerned, in addition to the elections, the adoption of the parish accounts and the submission of any reports, 'any other notified business' should be brought to the Rector's attention the day before the meeting at the latest. Please plan to be part of this important day in the parish calendar.

# YOUTH-news

youth [youth] (youths)

news [nooz]

HIYAA! I'm hoping that many of you will know who I am by now – I'm Sophie & I've been stepping in with youth whilst Jade has been away. So firstly thank you for welcoming me with such open arms, I have loved getting to know you in the last 8 weeks and secondly for letting me work with the wonderful rakers of Ballyholme! I have (and am) loving every minute of it.

Over the last two months we have eaten a lot of 'Tea, Toast & Nutella' whilst looking at a range of different issues and topics – I have learnt and been challenged by so many of the amazing thoughts and questions of the youth. In 'Emerge' we have been looking at the character of Jesus, how differently he lived his life and how he loved others – especially looking at what we can learn from him. We even had the wonderful John Darragh sharing his thoughts and insights on what Jesus' love means to him.



In 'Drop In', (aside from messy games & cream pies in the face) we have been looking at 'Real -Life' issues such as Body Image and Mental Health. It's been amazing sharing stories and watching the young people having courage to share with each other. We have also been learning about how we can get active and help others whether it is homeless people, volunteering or fundraising. Youth Fellowship has looked different each week – which I love! We have been following a theme of identity and fear, hope, love and courage. We have had small group discussions, workshops and storytelling. One of my favourite

moments was when we listened to stories of hope in a massive parachute fort. We also had a wee trip to Donaghdee Methodist to see Billy Fyffe and to hear more about finding our hope in Jesus. A big lesson and theme we have been discussing is how we hide behind a mask or feel a pressure to perform. We often put this version of ourselves in order to gain other people's acceptance and hide who we really are or how we really feel. But the reality is we are all fearfully and wonderfully made to be unique. We are also loved, accepted and even liked for who we are. I think that's a lesson we can all learn from whether we are 13, 22 or 88, it's time to embrace the unique individual God created us to be. Anyway, that's us for now – you can keep praying that fabulous young people continue to embrace their UNIQUE identity as loved and accepted by God, alongside our upcoming confirmation weekend at Castlewellan on the 11<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> March. Have a wonderful March & remember that you are loved – so embrace your uniqueness & stop performing. Big Love, Sophie x

## JUMPIN!

The anticipation for Easter Jumpin 2016 is mounting!

The dates this year are **30<sup>th</sup> March-1<sup>st</sup> April**, and the Jumpin team are getting more and more excited!

There will be three sessions each day, and the children will be divided into 3 groups. – the first group

(Tiggers) will be for Years 1 and 2, the second group (Roosz) for Years 3 and 4, and the third group (Wallabies) for Years 5, 6 and 7

*Morning: 10am – 12noon. ALL GROUPS*

*Afternoon: 2pm – 4pm. ALL GROUPS*

*Evening: 7pm – 9pm (Years 5, 6 and 7)*



Forms are available from the office and on the parish website – places will only be reserved when both forms and payment are returned.

Payment works in terms of days attended. The price for Y1 – Y4 for Jumpin 2016 will be £6 per day (£18 in total). The cost for Y5 – Y7 is £7 per day, due to the extra session (£21 in total).

The forms will be numbered and filed as they come in to the parish office. Laura Jeffrey (children's worker) and Sophie Murtagh (youth worker) will be coordinating this. There will be no preferential treatment – it will simply operate on a first come first served basis. Registration closes on **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March at 12noon** for administration purposes.

If you have any questions, please contact Laura at [laura@ballyholmeparish.co.uk](mailto:laura@ballyholmeparish.co.uk)

## The Quiet Corner

### The God who sees me



Hagar fled to the desert to escape the harsh treatment of her mistress Sarai. It was a very dangerous thing to do. Nomadic travellers could have taken her captive. She could have been sold on. Being pregnant she could have lost her baby from the rigours of travel in rugged terrain. Somehow she made it to a spring of water and sat down exhausted. No doubt she felt completely alone and abandoned.

It is in that context that we read in Genesis 16 that the angel of the Lord found her. What a beautiful picture of our compassionate God who is concerned for this poor, servant girl. The angel tells her what to do. She is to go back to her mistress. Through the child she is carrying God will multiply her descendants.

Hagar, encouraged and overawed gives a new name to God, El Roi, the God who sees me. What a powerful encounter it must have been. Hagar returns to Sarai and Abram and she has a baby boy, Ishmael.

If you have never been rejected or cast aside, if you have never felt mistreated or misjudged or been treated unjustly at the hands of someone else, this story may not have a big impact on you. But if you have ever felt very alone and hurting you will be comforted to know El Roi, who always sees, always knows and always cares. His meeting us in our pain is an extension of his abundant love for us.

You may want to hold that name in your heart, El Roi. Ponder for a few minutes on the God who sees you in every circumstance.

Sandra Griffiths

### Where is your chair?



As we enter the second month of Lent and start looking ahead to Holy Week and Easter, it's the perfect time to join in with our special year of Ballyholme devotionals. Many of our parishioners do follow a daily Bible reading programme but *Where is your chair?* was written with St Columbanus and our restoration project directly in mind as we ask God to restore us spiritually as well as physically. There's an adult *Where is your chair?*, one for young people and a third version specially for the children. We are emailing links every week to people who can access the material electronically but paper copies are also available on request from the Parish Office.

Here's another selection of the feedback received since we launched back in October:

*"As someone who has not only taught in secondary schools in the past but also led Bible Study evenings and Mothers' Union Meditations in my previous church I am aware of how much thought, time and effort has gone into the preparation of these weekly sessions. How Simon has managed to marry up a line from a Psalm, a verse from a Hymn and some wonderful stirring prayers to a passage from St Mark's Gospel is truly amazing. Well done!"*

*"Thanks so much for today's chair, and indeed all of them. Both of us were once involved with churches named for St Andrew; mine was the place where arguably I came to faith as a teenager. We both appreciate the daily discipline of the devotionals and can't thank you and the other compilers enough."*

*"Hi. I am following the readings each night, not so much in my chair but in bed. I just wanted to feed back that I find them of benefit, particularly today's which fits with some of what we were discussing in house group tonight in our study of Rahab! Thank you!"*

*"Thank you for compiling "Where is your chair?" I am finding it a daily anchor to my faith and enjoying the experience. I especially like the format – initially bite-sized, but with opportunities to expand into communication with God, and lots to think about in daily life."*



# OUR WORSHIP

## Wednesday 2nd March

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

## Sunday 6th March Lent 4

### Mothering Sunday

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

## Wednesday 9th March

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

## Sunday 13th March Lent 5

### Passion Sunday

8.30 Holy Communion  
10.00 Morning Worship & Children's Church  
11.30 Parish Communion  
6.30 Ballyholme Churches Together - Most Holy Redeemer, Sheridan Drive

## Wednesday 16th March

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

## Sunday 20th March Palm Sunday

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

## Wednesday 23rd March

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

## Sunday 27th March Easter Day

6.30 Dawn Service at Ballymacconnell Beach  
8.30 Holy Communion  
10.00 Holy Communion  
11.30 Holy Communion



### March

**6th:** Edna Morrison,  
Gillian Fletcher, Carole Majury  
**13th:** Easter Vestry/Lunch  
**20th:** Tracie Andreasson,  
Maureen & Lorraine Colgan  
**27th:** Yvonne Manogue,  
Janice Hewitt



### Children's Church Helpers

#### March

**13th:** Emma Hamilton, Debbie Hunter,  
Allison Jamison, Gillian Jones  
**20th:** Gail Kerr, Caroline & Mark Larmour, Gerry McCaughan  
**27th:** Easter Sunday



### March

**6th:** No creche  
**13th:** Katherine Newman, Leanne Young, Elizabeth Rafferty  
**20th:** Violet Davidson, Colette Pike, Rosemary Thompson  
**27th:** Easter Sunday, no creche



### March

**6th:** Ruth Ruttle  
**13th:** Sybil Robertson  
**20th:** Vicky Hayes  
**27th:** Easter



### Journeying with Jesus

**Monday 21 - Friday 25 March**  
8pm

With Bishop Alan Abernethy



## FUNERALS

### February

**20th:** Mary McCarter, late of Plantation Road  
**25th:** Anne McMillan, late of Second Ave, Baylands

## BAPTISM

**14th February:** ROSA PATRICIA ANNA GULLEN daughter of Nicola & Richard

### Good Friday

10 am Children's Workshop  
12 noon Family Service

### Easter Day

6.30 am Dawn Service at Ballymacconnell beach

*Easter morning breakfast in Ballyholme Parish Centre*

8.30 am Holy Communion  
10.00 am Holy Communion  
11.30 am Holy Communion



**We hope you will join us!**