

# St Columbanus

Ballyholme



Restoration Begins  
Alistair's Wedding  
Jade's Reflections



..On the way *together*..

## The Parishioner

June 2016

The Parish Centre continues open as usual every weekday morning

Our final pre-restoration Sunday in Church was an emotional occasion for everyone. It was also the day I was quietly absorbing the news that Jade Irwin would be leaving us at the end of May. Upon her safe return from Kiwoko Hospital Uganda teaching Gideon Wilson, Jade was approached by the YMCA about a regional youth and families mentoring role. In lots of ways it is the perfect opportunity for Jade to build on her experience and to pursue her heart for young people from challenging and stressful backgrounds. And so our Youth Worker of three and a half years must move on and we must consider how to take our Ballyholme youth programme forwards. One of Jade's many distinctive contributions has been to make herself and her young people more visible and audible on Sundays as part of our wider congregation. Her God-given gifts for leading worship and preaching are plain for all to see and we must encourage her not to let these go. "We recognise the necessity", remarked someone leaving Church on 24 April – talking about the restoration work. The same could be said of Alistair's farewell and now of Jade's. Doesn't make it any easier though!



SED



As was mentioned in our May magazine, Joy Conn, Ann Munnis and Joyce Stock together with Margaret Magee and Ruth Ruttle, their chaperones, joined with 45 other nonagenarians who attended the celebrations, hosted by

Bishop Harold Miller and his wife Liz, to a Mothers' Union Tea Party in celebration of the Queen's 90th birthday in St. Donard's Parish Centre, Belfast on 21st April. The Bishop led a short devotion which was followed by the singing of the National Anthem. The ladies and all the chaperones, about 100 in total, enjoyed the beautiful afternoon tea and special 90th birthday cake, which was cut by Barbara Smith from Dundela, who was a very active 100 year old. This was followed by musical entertainment from the Percy French Singers. The 45 nonagenarians and chaperones were each given an illustrated booklet "The Servant Queen - and the King She Serves". Each of the ladies aged 90 or more were also given a small wooden "holding cross" in a little coloured bag.



On Monday, 2nd May the scrumptious tea organised by the committee was very much enjoyed by everyone. So much so, that those present insisted on giving a donation towards the expenses of the evening and over £90 was raised. This was followed by a "quiz sheet" and caused much fun and laughter. A very surprised me was the recipient of a beautiful presentation of flowers by Daphne Hamill on behalf of the members followed by Yvonne Manogue, who presented me with a lovely handbag and necklace on behalf of the committee members. These "committee girls" are just wonderful and we have worked so well together. Thank you members, for your love and support to me over these past four years, and I wish Yvonne well as she undertakes her new position as Ballyholme's Branch Leader. God Bless you all.



Ruth Ruttle

Soon to Retire Branch Leader



A Sunday wedding might sound unusual on first hearing, but when both the Bride and Groom are clergy, what better day!

By the miracle of modern technology (Skype and a data-projector – via a very long extension lead through to the office!) the congregation at St John's Episcopal Church Johnstown was joined by an enthusiastic congregation at the Parish Centre St Columbanus Ballyholme. The day was Sunday 3 April and it was 1pm Albany-time and 6pm Co Down time.

The doors of the Kajiado Room were opened as Ballyholme wedding guests spilled out into the foyer to snatch a glance of the service. But they weren't there just to spectate. Many of the American Prayer Book responses were familiar and Ulster accents chimed in at various points, not least in the hymns, especially 'In Christ alone'. The marriage itself was followed by Holy Communion.

Both sets of families were well represented in Albany with guests of honour in Ballyholme being Alistair's dad Ivan and his uncle George. Both gentlemen are regulars at our Friday lunches but had not been able to make the journey States-side. Everyone present in Ballyholme shared a sense of feeling privileged to be part of an intimate family moment.

The celebrations in Albany were followed by a reception at St Patrick's Hall next door to St John's to which the entire Johnstown congregation were invited. After the dust had settled on the big day itself, a 'family-moon' (which included a visit to NYC) gave the newly acquainted clans a chance to get to know one another a little better.

The Bride, for whom it was a very emotional day, wore a beautiful, full-length navy dress embellished with crystal sparkles. The Groom looked extremely dapper in a dark grey suit.

It was very much a family affair in terms of the service itself. Alistair's son Andrew and niece Alice led some of the worship on guitar and piano. Alistair's son Peter and Laurie's son Alex gave the readings, and Laurie's other son Christian led the prayers. Alistair's daughter Judith walked her Dad up the aisle and received the bride's bouquet of flowers for the exchanging of the vows.

Lots of photographs were posted online almost immediately and can be still be viewed on Facebook at 'Laurie and Alistair's Wedding'.

The full service is available to watch on line from the St John's Johnstown Parish website, <http://www.stjohnsjohnstown.org/> though Alistair recommends that we fast-forward the opening 45 minutes!

## Where is your chair?

Feedback continues to come in about our weekday devotional series Where is your chair? Every month is a new opportunity to connect with this simple attempt to unite hearts and minds of all ages across the parish in this year of restoration. Nothing has the power to bring our church family together in hope, trust and purpose like those ancient words of Scripture as we allow God's Spirit to speak to us, to guide us and to fill us with His love. If you haven't had a chance to get involved yet, it couldn't be simpler. If you're online, find the Where is your chair? section of the parish website and you're away. Weekly email prompts can easily be set up if you'd like to get in touch with the Parish Office or alternatively ask us for a paper copy (four week booklets are prepared each month).





This month I went along to the Home Group run by Michelle Savage. This Group was formed following on from an Alpha course and it has evolved over the 7 years or so since then as different members and leaders have become involved. This Group meets in the Kajiado Room in the Parish Centre every three weeks on Tuesday evenings at 7:30pm and takes a break over July and August.

When I arrived Michelle Savage gave everyone a bookmark she had made herself and explained that members could use the back of it to note down the dates of the next meetings up until June. The bookmark had the following quotation – “How cool is it that the same God that created mountains and oceans and galaxies looked at you and thought the world needed one of you too.” The members were all delighted with their bookmarks and I thought it was a lovely practical idea.

This Group is currently studying Heroes and Heroines from the Old Testament and they chose this as a result of a recommendation from a friend who had completed a similar study. For some the Old Testament can seem a bit daunting. Members have found this a good way to tackle the Old Testament in manageable chunks and the studies have helped them put some of the New Testament issues into context.



The discussions are led by different group members and the evening began and ended with prayers.

The evening I went the Group was studying Hagar whose story is told in Genesis Chapters 16 and 21. Michelle had asked us to read these chapters before coming along to the meeting and sent us a list of discussion points.

Hagar was a slave who belonged to Abraham's wife Sarah. Sarah was unable to have children so she gave Hagar to Abraham as a surrogate. When Hagar realized that she was pregnant, she began to despise Sarah. Sarah then treated Hagar so cruelly that she ran away. An angel of the Lord appeared to Hagar at a spring in the desert and he told her to return to Sarah so that she may have her son whom she was to name Ishmael. After this encounter Hagar referred to God as 'El Roi' meaning the God who sees.

Unfortunately they didn't live happily ever after but you might like to read Genesis Chapter 21 to see how Hagar's story ended.

The atmosphere was very relaxed and Hagar's story prompted a lot of lively debate about our feelings towards the 3 main characters. We were also encouraged to consider difficult times in our own lives and how God showed His concern and made Himself known to us at these times. Members were keen to share their personal experiences and I found the discussions very thought provoking.

The members of this Group range in age from mid 30s to late 70s, because of this, members bring a wide range of life experiences and differing faith journeys to the discussions so the meetings are also an opportunity to learn from others. The night I went the members were all female but I understand there is one man who was unable to attend that night. Maybe he got advance warning I was coming along!

The members of the Group all made me feel very welcome and I saw first hand the pastoral support and close friendship that exists within this Group. If you would like to give this Group a try please contact Michelle Savage Tel: 02891-271327. New members are always welcome and there is no harm in going along to the Parish Centre one Tuesday night to see if this Group is right for you!

To be continued....

Christine Johnstone

Perhaps the nesting season had something to do with it. The four ducks which refused to form a row for us before Christmas, finally lined up last month: NIE scheduled the relocation of the generator box; planning permission for the new phased project came through; an acceptable tender for the building work was received; and our finances fell into place with Danske bank as a number of new pledges from our parishioners rolled in (they continue to do so – thank you all concerned!).

### **Packing-up Church**

Monday 25 April saw an army of parishioners descend on Church, many of them armed with screwdrivers to dismantle the rows of chairs. Everywhere you looked, someone else was working. We had expected the Church clear-up operation to take the whole week. In the event, the back of the job was broken by Monday lunchtime. Backs were in danger of being broken later in the week however as the heavy-lifting got under way. Preparations at St Columbanus College were made on the Friday evening, when another large crowd arrived to lend a hand. Unfortunately, we forgot to announce that there was one last shifting task to be completed the next morning so a special word of thanks to the four faithful men who did the needful that Saturday (you know who you are!) and to Ian Forster for providing the removals lorry. Most of our sanctuary and 'porch' church furniture has taken up residence in the Parish Centre for safe-keeping. The remainder made its way to Movilla High School courtesy of its new principal our own Ian Bell.



### **A labour of love and prayer**

All-told it was a huge team effort by a large number of people and carefully overseen by our Glebewardens Stephen Baker and Geoff Hewitt. So many parishioners felt they wanted to make a hands-on practical contribution to the project. There will be many opportunities to follow through on that as we get into the routine of setting-up and tidying away from our temporary home each weekend. Please feel you can get involved – the tidying away part is remarkably quick! At various points in the operation people found themselves caught unexpectedly by their emotions. This was true not least on the first Sunday in St Columbanus College as we thought about places to pray and places of prayer and as we gathered around William Coulter's specially constructed portable Communion Table – a dead-ringer for our Columbanus original. But it was also good fun and great fellowship – and there may be points where we need to remember that as the months wear round and we feel a hankering to be back in Church!



### **Our Design Team**

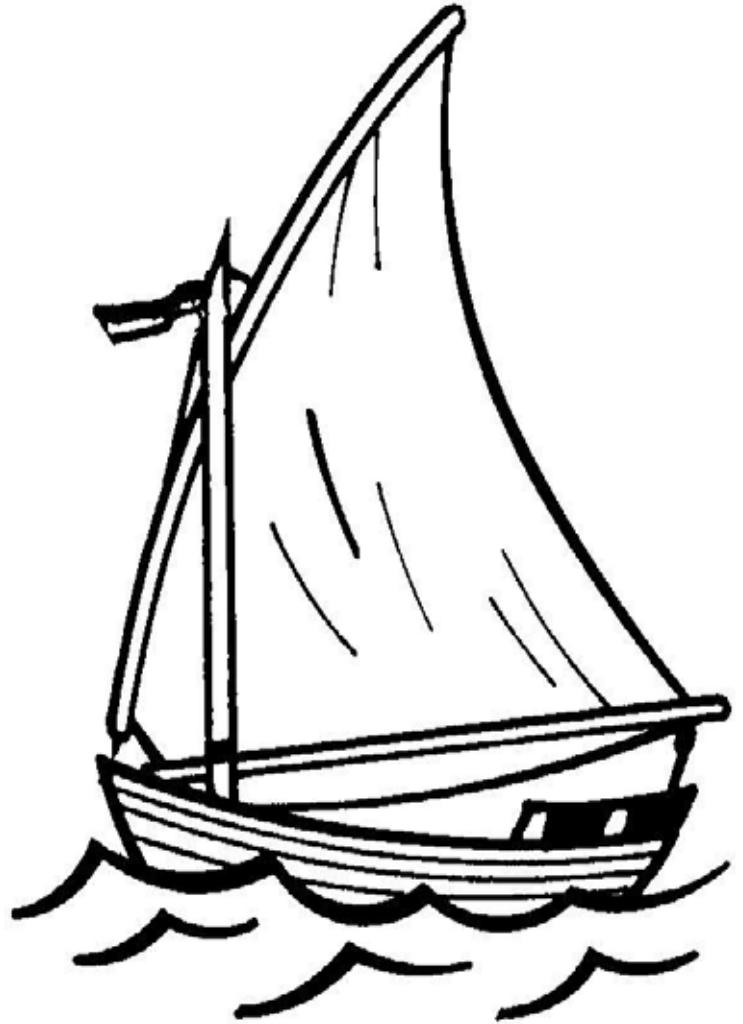
As work begins on-site, please do pray for Architects Knox and Markwell and their team of contractors, especially our builders O'Hanlon Brothers. AKM will be supplying us with monthly reports which we hope to reproduce in The Parishioner but for now you may be interested to know that the work will begin largely out-of-sight. Phase one is the re-siting of the NIE box; phase two is the cutting of the new door so that the contractors may bring their equipment inside to start on the floor excavations for the heating. In the meantime, at long last, we have started. We're now out of Church. Which means the next stage is to be back in Church again.

“I built my house by the sea”

extracts from the Rector’s sermon on our last Sunday in Church (24 April)

A poem. If you’ve seen it before apologies, but I only discovered it myself quite recently. It’s by Carol Bialock an American nun who worked in Chile in the 1970s and it’s a work of faith rather than a work of literature as such.

I built my house by the sea.  
 Not on the sands, mind you,  
 not on the shifting sand.  
 And I built it of rock.  
 A strong house by a strong sea.  
 And we got well acquainted, the sea and I.  
 Good neighbours, not that we spoke much.  
 We met in silences, respectful,  
 keeping our distance  
 but looking our thoughts  
 across the fence of sand.  
 Always the fence of sand our barrier,  
 always the sand between.  
 And then one day  
 (and I still don’t know how it happened)  
 the sea came.  
 Without warning. Without welcome even.  
 Not sudden and swift,  
 but a shifting across the sand like wine,  
 less like the flow of water  
 than the flow of blood.  
 Slow, but flowing like an open wound.  
 And I thought of flight,  
 and I thought of drowning,  
 and I thought of death.  
 But while I thought  
 the sea crept higher till it reached my door.  
 And I knew that there was neither  
 flight nor death nor drowning.  
 That when the sea comes calling  
 you stop being good neighbours,  
 well acquainted,  
 from a distance neighbours.  
 And you give your house for a coral castle  
 and you learn to breathe under water.



The encroachment of the sea. You could apply that poem to the way God takes over our lives. Or to the turbulence of everyday family life. Or to the collective agony of the world. Or on this last Sunday in Church, to what we’re about to experience in Ballyholme – as though the water is sweeping up Sandringham and Godfrey from a high-tide in the bay!

Several clergy friends over the years have observed to me that in their ministries clear spiritual turning-points came along from time to time. The temptation when they did so was always to put their heads down, to turn away, to play safe, to hope the moment would pass. Sometimes they gave in to that temptation.

But other times, they said their prayers. Other times, they stepped out in faith. Other times, they put their hand in the hand of God and asked Him to lead them forwards. And in hindsight, it was those other times when God had proved to be most powerfully and wonderfully at work. It was those other times when God had brought them through to a new stage of spiritual growth, almost a new level of ministry and service.



And so here we are. After five years' work from the Vestry and specifically the Building Committee, I want to thank God today for the positive, generous spirit in which you have embraced Restoration 2016. My overwhelming sense as we begin is that the people of God in Ballyholme want their parish to be looking forwards. They want their parish to be striving to be ever more welcoming, more accessible, more engaging and more honouring to God.

The key to that poem about the encroachment of the sea is the last two lines: "you give your house for a coral castle and you learn to breathe under water." I think I'm right, a coral castle is what you find in a fish tank. The danger with any church is that the people of God allow their building to become a museum piece – an artefact, to be maintained and preserved doggedly at all costs. That has not been my sense in Ballyholme. And yet perhaps God's invitation to all of us is to try to see God's house St Columbanus as a coral castle.

Because the truth is that poem was written with Jesus' words from John 13 about loving one another in mind. Jesus did not say His disciples would be known by their purity, by their piety, by how they worshipped, by what their churches looked like. He said His disciples would be known by their love for one another.

That kind of loving can only ever be an in-the-water, immersive experience. But lo and behold the underwater world waiting for us is in reality intensely beautiful. Once our eyes accustom to the light a whole new colour, a whole new brightness and translucence emerges. Because God's love is shining through it.

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### **My Favourite Place - Robbie Jackson**

I think one of my favourites places has to be that stretch of coastline between Ballyholme Bay and Groomsport that we know as Ballymacormick Point. Having not arrived in Bangor until I was eleven, I never ventured there as a young child, and my first experience was the day we were sent cross-country running around it – out from the Ballymac playing fields, up the muddy lane, down Springwell Road, through Groomsport, around the Point to the Banks, and back up Ballymacormick Road. (Those were the days before Health and Safety – well I suppose really, the days before one of us was knocked down on the Groomsport bypass). Now, I wasn't really all that fast at running – I'd taken it up just to escape from rugby, and the alternative option of hockey was a bit girly – so when I arrived at the Point the others were some distance ahead and there was no-one to follow. So faced with an early choice of path I inevitably took the wrong one, and ended up squelching through muddy pools, and more than a little lost.

However, it didn't put me off, and I grew to really enjoy a walk round this stretch of wild coastline. With a growing interest in birdwatching I enjoyed trying to identify the various sorts of waders encountered there, spotting the odd seal or two, and even once catching a glimpse of what we reckoned were porpoises (well, something big with a dorsal fin).

The other way I like going round the Point is by kayak. Paddling gives you a different perspective on the coastline, and there's always the challenge of trying to navigate the little channels which appear and disappear with the tides, without getting beached half way through them. I'm so glad that in 1952 the National Trust decided to acquire this area to save it from being developed.



#### **Cricketers**

Watch the  
"News in the Pews"  
for details of  
the forthcoming  
Rector's Cricket  
Match



## Just Older Youth



A group of alumni, highly established in their careers, got together to visit their old university professor. Conversation soon turned into complaints about stress in work and life.

Offering his guests coffee, the professor went to the kitchen and returned with a large pot of coffee and an assortment of cups - porcelain, plastic, glass, crystal, some plain-looking, some expensive, some exquisite - telling them to help themselves to the coffee.

When all the students had a cup of coffee in hand, the professor said: "If you noticed, all the nice looking expensive cups were taken up, leaving behind the plain and cheap ones. While it is normal for you to want only the best for yourselves, that is the source of your problems and stress.

Be assured that the cup itself adds no quality to the coffee. In most cases it is just more expensive and in some cases even hides what we drink. What all of you really wanted was coffee, not the cup, but consciously went for the best cups...And then you began eyeing each other's cups.

Now consider this: Life is the coffee; the jobs, money and position in society are the cups. The cups are just tools to hold and contain Life, and the type of cup we have does not define, nor change the quality of Life we live. Sometimes, by concentrating only on the cup, we fail to enjoy the coffee God has provided us."

God brews the coffee, not the cups.....Enjoy your coffee!

"The happiest people don't have the best of everything. They just make the best of everything." Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly and bloom where you are planted! Leave the rest to God.

Author Unknown

## The Wednesday Club



Our ladies certainly had to work for their tea and buns this month as we had a visit from Jill Hunter, who works for Volunteer Now. She got the ladies busy working away, putting sunflower seeds in envelopes and labelling them. Another task that she brought with her, which was a bit more tricky, was cutting out dragonfly wings, a project for the RSPB. Anyhow, the ladies chatted and laughed throughout their "work", but really appreciated their tea when they had finished. Jill also included a few surprise treats to reward the ladies for working so hard. I am sure that Jill will be asked back at a later date, as we all enjoyed it enormously.

Dorothy Smyth was the winner of this month's draw, and don't forget that our season finishes next month with our outing - Agnes will be in touch with details of times and lift arrangements. See you then.  
Sue







Recently, you may have noticed a few new singers at the front of the church on Sunday mornings! A lovely group of ladies have been leading us in our praise, and we are very grateful to them for contributing their time, talents and voices to help us worship God.

To help tune our skills, we took a trip to a worship seminar hosted by Bangor Elim and run by Helen Yousaf and Dave Wellington. Both are gifted worship leaders with a real heart for equipping the wider church to develop their musical

praise, and came to Bangor to lead a session of worship and prayer while giving us a few tips on how to lead congregational praise.

Certain elements of the very Pentecostal afternoon felt quite foreign to our group of Anglicans, but overall, the day was so encouraging. We praised God with a congregation of people from many different churches, learned how to introduce new songs and even got tips on how to write our own! However, most encouraging of all was the fact that Helen and Dave didn't lead with a huge band or bright lights, but with a keyboard and their voices – just as Ian and the singers do in Ballyholme.

Yes, songs may be different in Bangor Elim than they are in Ballyholme Parish. Some churches might lead with a full band or robed choir – and preferred worship styles don't just vary from church to church, but from person to person! You may love to praise God by listening to your favourite worship CD while the person who sits beside you may prefer to take a walk along the beach and rejoice in the beauty of His creation. The person in front of you may love to see more of God in the words of the Prayer Book, and the person in front of them may worship through writing poetry or painting... God is a creative God, and He has made us to be creative people – the ways we communicate with Him can be creative too.

With new facilities in our restored church, we are excited to explore new and creative ways of praising God. But this day was a reminder that beautiful worship of God is something that doesn't need a top-quality band, spotlights or an expensive sound system – or even an organ! To worship God, we only need to be aware of how beautiful He is. Whether our praise is given with a piano and singers, or the silence in our own hearts, He hears and knows it all.

# X-CESS



*18-22 July 2016*

Xcess is for young people in years 8-14 (secondary education age). Registration forms available from Ballyholme Parish Office and should be returned to the office. The cost is £40 for the week which covers the cost of trips. Email [office@ballyholmeparish.co.uk](mailto:office@ballyholmeparish.co.uk) and [ballyholmeyouth@gmail.com](mailto:ballyholmeyouth@gmail.com) for a form to be emailed to you. Form and payment secures the place of your child. Closing date for forms is Sunday 19th June 2016.

Around the Parish



Our temporary home



Clearing the Church



Alistair's wedding



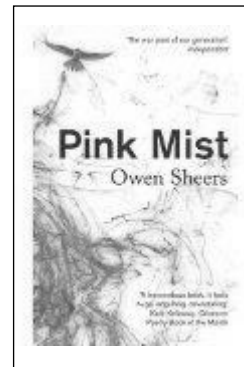
## Pink Mist by Owen Sheers



My son gave me this book to read when I was visiting him and his family last Halloween in England. Unfortunately that was a month too late for the church magazine, as I think it would have been perfect for the November issue and Remembrance Sunday. My son teaches English and his A level class was studying the poetry of the First World War. He got them to read "Pink Mist" also as it deals with the consequences of the recent Afghan war for our soldiers. It tells the story of three

young Bristol boys, Arthur, Hads, and Taff, who enlist for different reasons, but mainly a mixture of accident and design.

It is a very powerful and poignant piece of writing. It brings home the results and effects war has on the families and on the brave men and women who defend us or represent us in the battles in various troubled spots in the world. The writer is a Welsh poet and novelist and the work is written in a verse drama form, which may be very different to what we normally read, but it is short, about eighty pages long and well worth the effort to read it. In fact, I think that the medium of poetry somehow makes it more moving and thought provoking.



WMB

## Churches on the Move : Wenzhou City, China



Imagine having to stand by and watch as bulldozers rolled in to tear Ballyholme Parish to the ground.

The objective, not to create something better but to squash Christianity and hinder the word of God being spread to others.

Here in Northern Ireland we may have our issues, but luckily that is a reality we will never have to face.

The story is not the same everywhere as fellow Christians must battle through worse than a temporary displacement in order to praise the Lord.

In the coastal city of Wenzhou in China, members of the Sanjiang Church were forced to witness their stunning cathedral being knocked down on April 28 in 2014 - just two years ago.

It was the beginning of a government campaign in China to curtail the growth of Christianity which was fast outgrowing the size of its Communist party.

Many believe the government in China see Christianity as a serious threat that needs to be suppressed, especially in the Wenzhou region.

Despite protests by thousands of Christians, this cathedral in Wenzhou was demolished and since then several other churches have been destroyed. The defence of the government for knocking down these places of worship - the enforcement of zoning rules and building codes.

Life and worship are not easy for Christians in China compared to our situation here in Ballyholme. Rich with memories both joyful and solemn, our church has a powerful hold in the hearts of this congregation.

Whether it be the place you exchanged wedding vows, christened your children, or said goodbye to a loved one, as you look around you can not help but be moved each time you enter its doors.

So as we took apart this sacred place piece by piece last month it brought up many questions for people.

Why do we have to move? Couldn't we stay in the Parish hall? Why do we even need to change anything, it's fine!

But this is just the next step in Ballyholme Parish's journey. We have been here before a decade ago through the building of our new Parish Centre.

I remember Youth Fellowship being held in the church itself as we pulled together to keep everything going throughout the transition - and the same must be done again.

Unlike some, we have the option to come back to a newly improved church building, just in time for Christmas.

The next few months may be tough at times but remember, we're all in this together.

Sarah Scott



## INDOOR BOWLING CLUB DINNER & PRIZE-GIVING FOR 2015/16 SEASON

After several years at the Rambling Rose Restaurant, Crawfordsburn, the club moved to the more convenient establishment of the restaurant at The Esplanade, Ballyholme. Our Chairman Stanley Officer opened the proceedings by asking all for a few moments silence to remember our long time member Ivan McKinty who passed away recently. A very enjoyable meal was complemented with entertainment by members Stanley Officer and Tommy Quigley. Dressed as "Coppers" they did their version of the Gendarmes Duet "We'll Run Them In". Tommy then performed "Jake The Peg" made famous by Rolf Harris in the 1980s. Stanley finished with a few jokes after which some wit suggested he should have got arrested for impersonating a comedian!!

Club secretary Derek Coates with assistance from Heidi Doogan presented the perpetual trophies to the winners. The ladies singles was once again won by Margaret McMeekin (three times in the last four years!). Runner up was Madeline Pearson. A great performance considering she only joined the club a couple of years ago.

The men's singles again went to Martin Bleakley who has now won it twelve times since 1991. A pretty good bowling average by any standard! Runner up was former winner Colin Atkinson who with a bit of luck could have taken it from Martin.

With as many winners as the years it has been running, the Walsh Cup handicap competition again went to a different winner in May Henry. May was so amazed to have won considering she was on the verge of being knocked out in the first round (being eight shots behind at one stage) to young Sam Rodgers.

The Pairs Cup always throws up interesting pairings and unexpected results. But one thing the records have been highlighting in recent years is that it helps if you are paired with Martin Bleakley!! Martin had won in 2013 with May Henry, 2014 with Bill Officer, 2015 with Roberta Munnis. This year was no exception and Martin won again with Sadie McLellan even though they had a strong opposition in Jim Beckett and Margaret McMeekin.

The Rinks trophy for the best scores collected throughout the season and results kept secret until the prizegiving was won this year by "big bowls" Harry Browne, way out front on 122 points, followed by May Henry (winner in last two years) on 100 points and in third place our Match Secretary Jenny Jenkins on 99. Unfortunately no silverware for second or third!

The evening ended with a reminder that the club's Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 7th September 2016 in the church hall starting at 7.30. All members are asked to support it. The opening night of the new season will commence immediately after the AGM and the club invites anyone interested in trying their hand at bowls to come along. Bowls are available on loan from the club. For further information please contact Club Secretary Derek Coates on 02891455471

### PRIZEWINNERS – SEASON 2015/16

#### LADIES SINGLES

Winner: Berry Cup Margaret McMeekin  
 Runner Up: Conn Cup Madeline Pearson

#### MENS SINGLES

Winner: Nixon Cup Martin Bleakley  
 Runner Up: Wilson Cup Colin Atkinson

#### HANDICAP SINGLES

Winner: Walsh Cup May Henry

#### PAIRS

Winners: Pairs Cup Martin Bleakley  
 & Sadie McLellan

#### RINKS

Winner: Trenier Cup Harry Browne





### Listening

Recently Gideon and I were reading about the Transfiguration at bedtime, and I had one of those moments when part of the reading jumped out at me.

#### 'Listen to Him' Matt 17:5

God the Father spoke audibly on two occasions affirming the Son-ship of Christ; His approval of Christ and then on this second occasion included a command to the terrified disciples – 'Listen to Him'. It struck me that of all the things that God the Father might have said to them and us; He chose these three words – 'Listen to Him'.

He didn't say, 'Love Him', 'Obey Him' or 'Follow Him'. God said, 'Listen to Him'. Many people will have heard me extol Rory's wonderful listening skills. Quickly within our marriage I learnt how poor a listener I was in comparison. When I begin to relate something to Rory, he stops what he is doing e.g. closes the laptop or book, turns toward me, concentrates on what I am saying and intentionally listens. I am sorry to say my listening skills in relation to God are not as good as this. Often I am listening on the run or trying to discern God's voice amongst the other needs clamouring for attention in my head, yet I do desire to hear more from God.

Interestingly I realise that my listening skills are sharper and I can suddenly find the time, when I am waiting for results, feeling afraid or my sense of security seems threatened. Then I can listen to God very intently and give Him a lot of time to speak. (I am so fickle!) There are lots of reasons as to why it is important to listen to God but I guess the one I settled on in my meditations is from John 15:15 when Jesus tells us that He calls us friends not servants, '...for everything that I have learned from my Father I have made known to you.' The Father has expressed Himself through Christ. He has given Him the words of eternal life.



I am convicted and challenged about my lack of good time management in relation to the time that I give the Lord to speak to me.

Usually as we head back to Uganda to embrace another term I always feel that God gives me a few things to work out in our relationship. So one of my aims this term will be to more actively listen to Him.

Thank you to all our wonderful parishes, prayer groups, friends and family who have listened to us over the last 8 weeks as we have shared our testimonies and learning. Special thanks to those who have fed us and listened! It has been such an encouraging visit to Ireland and we thank God that He has placed so many good people around us. We hope that you will continue to journey with us as we return on the 19th May to take up our duties in Kiwoko again.

# YOUTH-news

June 2016

Ballyholme Parish Youth

## FROM ONE PLACE TO ANOTHER

I remember walking through the doors of St Columbanus Church for the first time, noting the beauty of the stained glass windows and how the sun pierced through them in an array of colours. My journey onwards with Ballyholme has been no less colourful than that initial stained-glass experience. Colours therefore, feel like the best way to paint some highlights of my time here in Ballyholme. There isn't nearly enough room for them all, but space for a few.

Red reminds me of sunsets on Ballyholme beach as the backdrop for special Xcess and Youth fellowship sessions. We have sat together, with sand under our hands, and somebody with a guitar leading a sing-along. We have thrown frisbee's so far that they have been lost at sea. We have had speakers share with us on the beach, had BBQ's and even enjoyed some donuting! (If you don't know what that is, it's probably for the best!)

Yellow makes me think of the brightness of the hall in the Parish centre, where I have enjoyed games with the youth drop-in crowd, so many Jumpin sessions with cream pies to the face and shaving foam in my hair on stage... Tiggers rolling in the front row with laughter, Rooz clapping with delight and the rascal Wallabies chanting at the back.

Pink were the centres of icing flowers on a birthday cake that I received at midnight on my birthday a couple of years ago, hand made and delivered by John and Emma Darragh. The spectacular cake, accompanied by a rendition of the Arthur theme tune performed by the two of them in my living room easily made that birthday one of the best! (Sorry for embarrassing you John... OR not sorry!)

Green is the grass at Brice Park, where leaders have enjoyed sunbathing during the Railway Riots sessions during Jumpin, and where in my most mature moments I have dared young people to race me down

the hill, by rolling of course! And no, I do not let them win.

Orange reminds me of mass amounts of juice and far too many sweets that have been consumed by children and young people every week. At many vestry meetings when I have smiled sweetly asking for more money and explaining how Jesus fed people as a core part of his ministry, with every intention of a Makro trip to acquire sweets which would guarantee the attendance of teenagers to all our youth programmes. It is funny to think just how central food has been to my whole ministry here, with so many scones and tray bakes in the Parish office, breakfasts after Emerge on Sunday mornings, lunch at mentoring sessions and dinners with various families through the weeks.

Purple is the communion wine. Partaking in Communion in Ballyholme have been poignant moments for me as I have kneeled down and thought about the vast love God has for me. There has also been the stress in trying to remember what I was to say when administering the wine at communion services. "The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ which was shed for thee, preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life. Drink this in remembrance that Christ's blood was shed for thee, and be thankful."

Blue takes my mind's eye to images of water; the glistening sea at Ballyholme Bay, water fights at Xcess, baptisms, warm bottled water in Uganda and of course, the many tears that fell from my eyes when I announced that I would be moving on. Although 3 years and 10 months have passed in Ballyholme, it feels like no time at all. I am very much looking forward to this next season with the YMCA, but will continue to be thankful for the many opportunities I have had and memories I have made here in Ballyholme Parish. I am praying for God's hand and God's will every step of the way as the church family travel onwards. We are all on the way together. Thank you for your love. Jade.





## JUMPIN!

It's time - registration for Jumpin 2016 is open! This year, Jumpin takes place from 25-29th July 2016.

As usual, 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 (Roos) for Years 3 and 4, and the third group (Wallabies) for Years 5, 6 and 7.

Payment works in terms of days attended - the price for Y1 – Y4 for Jumpin 2016 will be £6 per day (£30 in total) and the cost for Y5 – Y7 is £7 per day, due to the extra evening session (£35 in total).

Forms are available from the parish office, or you can contact Laura via [laura@ballyholmeparish.co.uk](mailto:laura@ballyholmeparish.co.uk) to have one emailed to you. The forms will be numbered and filed as they come in to the parish office. There will be no preferential treatment – it will simply operate on a first come first served basis, and places will be reserved only when both forms and payment are returned. Please be aware that places for the summer programme fill up very quickly, so we recommend that you register as soon as possible to avoid disappointment!

Registration closes on Sunday 19th June at 12 noon for administration purposes – please note that no forms will be accepted after this date, without exception.

If you would like any more information, please contact Laura via email ([laura@ballyholmeparish.co.uk](mailto:laura@ballyholmeparish.co.uk)) or by phoning the office.

### All Change at the Magazine Committee

After twenty plus years of faithful service to “The Parishioner” Sue Bleakley and Don Todd have stepped down from the Magazine Committee.

Sue worked away quietly in the background putting the magazine together and making sure the finished version always got to the printers in time so that the copies would be ready in Church for the last Sunday of the month. This involved getting all the articles in on time which sometimes required a few reminders and on occasions a bit of gentle persuasion!

Don meanwhile could be seen out and about at Parish activities with his camera at the ready to capture the perfect shots for the front cover and the pictures page.

The Magazine Committee would like to thank Sue and Don for all their dedication and hard work over the past years and hope they enjoy their well deserved rest!

Sylvia Davenport and Robbie Jackson are now taking up the reins. Sylvia will be putting the magazine together and Robbie will be compiling the front cover and pictures page. We wish them well in their new roles!



# OUR WORSHIP

## Wednesday 1st June

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

## Sunday 5th June Trinity 2

8.30 Holy Communion  
10.00 All Age Service  
11.30 Morning Prayer

## Wednesday 8th June

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

## Sunday 12th June Trinity 3

8.30 Holy Communion  
10.00 Morning Worship & Children's Church Prizes  
11.30 Parish Communion  
6.30 United Service - Kajiado Room

## Wednesday 15th June

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

## Sunday 19th June Trinity 4

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

## Wednesday 22nd June

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

## Sunday 26th June Trinity 5

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

## Wednesday 29th June

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

### BAPTISMS

#### May

**15th:** Charlotte Joanne Rice and Harry Joseph Rice, daughter and son of Tony & Michelle Rice



#### June

**5th:** Pat Davidson  
**12th:** Alwyn Aiken  
**19th:** Lilian Finch  
**26th:** Marion Milligan

Parish Office: 91274912  
Rectory: 91274901  
Prayer Line: 07531806167  
Transport: 07599794968  
Church Readers Rota:  
Freda 91467624  
Michelle 91271327  
Web Site www.  
Ballyholmeparish.co.uk



#### June

**5th:** Mothers' Union Team  
**12th:** Mark & Carolyn Larmour, Tracie Andreasson  
**19th:** Maureen & Lorraine Colgan, Fiona Jackson  
**26th:** Tony & Jan Carver, Glynis McSorley, Peter Robinson

### Children's Church Helpers

#### June

**5th:** No Children's Church  
**12th:** Carolyn & Mark Larmour, Kelly McCullough, Janice McDonagh  
**19th:** Trish McGrugan, Rhonda Magennis, Margaret Moorehead, Fiona Oliva  
**26th:** No Children's Church



## Friday 24 June 2016 7.30 in the Parish Centre

Tables - maximum of 8 people  
Book through Kelly in the office  
£5 per Person  
Proceeds for Church Funds