

St Columbanus

Ballyholme



Restoration Update
The new Church Organ
The Wednesday Club



..On the way *together*..

The Parishioner

October 2016

The Parish Centre continues to be as usual open every weekday morning.

Twelve months ago I asked every member of St Columbanus: Where is your chair? Many of you have been extremely complimentary about our daily devotionals but the pleasure was all ours. Over a year and a half I wrote each template with Jade re-working it for the young people and Laura for the children. Formatting and compilation were left to our former curate Alistair, and then Kelly McCullough and Robbie Jackson oversaw emailing and printing to more than one hundred recipients. Having been written specially for Ballyholme there was never ever any thought of publication but through personal recommendations and 'the net' it seems the word has spread. A parish in the Chester Diocese recently contacted us asking permission to use it in a forthcoming mission! The aim in this year of restoration was to encourage our whole Church family to take a little time every day to listen to God's word and pray. I trust that everyone who got involved discovered the blessing of doing so. Belonging and believing only come alive when we behave as though the Lord has something to say to us – when we make the effort and take the trouble to find a chair.



SED.



CMJ IRELAND

Church's Ministry Among Jewish People

Kelvin Crombie

International Speaker and Author

Will be speaking on "Israel, Jesus and Covenant" in the Kajaido Room

Monday 10th October at 7.30pm

All Welcome



Kelvin is a local historian and author who lived almost twenty-five years in Israel and ministered at Christ Church Jerusalem for some twenty years. During that time he held senior positions in both the Anglican and Messianic Hebrew speaking congregations and established the Heritage Centre at Christ Church Jerusalem.

During his twenty five years living in Israel he was particularly interested in the subject of covenant and came to see that an understanding of covenant was important for understanding one's own faith and relationship with Jesus. The New Covenant that Jesus spoke of was prophesied by Jeremiah when he foretold that God would cut a New Covenant with the House of Israel. Kelvin will be speaking on the concept of Covenant and also what it means for people today to be "In Covenant with Jesus."



YOU are invited to join the Mission Committee at the Annual Harvest Lunch

October 16th at 12.45 pm
in the Parish Centre

proceeds in aid of our Mission Partners Rory and Denise Wilson in Kiwoko Hospital, Uganda and other Mission projects

Please remember to bring back your smartie tubes





Just Older Youth

You Can't Please Everyone

An old fable that has been passed down for generations tells about an elderly man who was travelling with a boy and a donkey. As they walked through a village, the man was leading the donkey and the boy was walking behind. The townspeople said the old man was a fool for not riding, so to please them he climbed up on the animal's back. When they came to the next village, the people said the old man was cruel to let the child walk while he enjoyed the ride. So to please them, he got off and set the boy on the animal's back and continued on his way. In the third village, people accused the child of being lazy for making the old man walk, and the suggestion was made that they both ride. So the man climbed on and they set off again. In the fourth village, the townspeople were indignant at the cruelty to the donkey because he was made to carry two people. The frustrated man was last seen carrying the donkey down the road.

We smile, but this story makes a good point: We can't please everybody, and if we try we end up carrying a heavy burden. Well-meaning Christians may offer us advice, and much of it is valuable. But when we try to do everything other believers want us to do, we can easily become frustrated and confused. That's why we need to remember that the One we must please above all others is Christ. And we do that by obeying God's Word. Carried any donkeys lately? You don't have to if you're trying to please Jesus.

Author Unknown

Date for your diary

Our next service of Holy Communion followed by a light lunch will take place in the Parish Centre on 25th October at 12.30pm.

As always we are eager to see new faces as well as our regulars.

If you would like to join us please contact me through the Parish Office.

God bless
Karen

The Wednesday Club

It was great to see everyone back at the Wednesday Club on 7th September.

Our speaker was Robin Masefield who gave a very enjoyable talk on the history of the railway between Holywood and Bangor.

This was followed by afternoon tea. Our ballot prize winner was Audrey Hamblin.



Did you know that the organ in St Columbanus we all loved to listen to was installed in 1940 and back then the first organist was Harry Jones, the father of one of our parishioners Robin Jones? I only found out about this recently when I met Ian Bell, our current Organist and Choirmaster who has provided the music for our services for the past 30 years.



Ian explained that the old organ, like all pipe organs, was susceptible to changes in temperature and so it needed a lot of TLC in the form of regular tuning and ongoing maintenance which was time consuming and costly. Given its advancing years the old organ was due a major overhaul. Also, a new location had to be found for the new church boiler, the public address/audio visual cabinet and electrical switch room. After much soul searching and discussion and in line with Building Control advice, the only suitable solution was to put these items in the original organ loft and purchase a new digital organ (pictured above) to replace the existing one. It must be stressed that the decision to replace the existing organ was not solely down to saving money.

Ian told me it was very much a “heart versus head conflict” for him and it was with much regret that the Lisburn based organ builders and restorers, Wells-Kennedy Partnership, were asked to come and dismantle the old organ. Ian understands that some of the old parts of our St Columbanus organ have been used to help give a new lease of life to a number of organs in GB.

For Ian it was vital that any new organ should be a fitting replacement capable of producing good quality sounds because that is what the congregation will judge it by. The new organ is an Italian digital one – a Vicount Envoy model. Ian is looking forward to taking control of the 3 manuals (or keyboards), the full concave pedal board and 50 speaking stops which are used to change the sound, not to mention the illuminated music stand! The organ comes from GB and once it is installed 2 engineers will come over to “voice the stops” in other words make the sounds of the stops suitable for the acoustics of St Columbanus. So the sound from the new organ will be like what we were used to hearing from the old one.

This digital organ will be very versatile, it will be possible to produce a greater combination of sounds, attach recording equipment, add instruments and there is a USB socket which can be used to upgrade the stops.

The new organ will be positioned at the top left hand corner of the church where the children’s play area used to be. This will make it easier for Ian to conduct the choir, which will be facing the organ, and also allow him to see what is happening in the Chancel.

The pipes behind the old organ were purely decorative. These will be moved to a wall adjacent to the new organ and the speakers for the new organ will be positioned behind the pipes.

Ian told me that while he has many long serving faithful choir members, new singers are always welcome – the more the merrier! You do not need to be able to read music and there are no X Factor type auditions. If you are enthusiastic, like to sing and enjoy yourself perhaps joining the choir or the group that leads the praise at the Family Service would be just the thing for you?

When we left church at the end of April 2016 Ian played Widor’s Toccata. This is a well known piece of music which demonstrates the full range of the organ’s capabilities and is frequently used in wedding ceremonies. Ian is counting down the days when he can “pull out all the stops” and play this piece of music again when we return to the newly renovated church and we are looking forward to hearing the new organ in all its glory!

Christine Johnstone



Despite the dire forecast seventeen walkers joined the September outing on the Antrim Loop trail. The route, suggested by Robbie and Fiona, was a combination of the Cycle NI trail and the Walk NI trail. And we had completed most of the five mile track before the rain arrived. Wet weather gear and umbrellas adequately counteracted the vertical downpour and by the time lunch was over, the rain had stopped. If you took the forecasts too seriously you'd never go anywhere!

The loop starts at the Lough Shore car park and leads through Rea's Wood to the National Nature Reserve. Then along Kirby's Lane to the Old Mill race by the Six Mile Water river, with its rich industrial heritage evidenced by the huge rusty waterwheel. The display boards tell about the Moylinny Mill and the Boghill Mill. The path is virtually level and tracks through beautiful lush woodland as well as more open areas and alongside the river. Then on under the old railway viaduct before reaching the Salmon Leap Bridge.

The last section leads through the town and into the beautiful restored 400 year old Antrim Castle Gardens with its Parterre, Her Ladyship's Pleasure Gardens and Yew Tree Pond. Clotworthy House in the Gardens was built c1843 by the 10th Viscount Massereene as part of his creation of the Pleasure Gardens and is believed to have been designed by Charles Lanyon. The house and stable yard now contain an exhibition area, a small museum and a restaurant.

Together they depict over four centuries of culture and heritage alongside remnants of the Massereene family dynasty. Antrim Castle was originally built in 1613 by Sir Hugh Clotworthy and enlarged in 1662 by his son, the 1st Viscount Massereene. It was burnt by the IRA in 1922 and the family then lived in Skeffington, now the Deer Park Hotel. After the Second World War, Skeffington Lodge was abandoned; the Antrim Castle stable block was converted for use as a family residence, and was re-named Clotworthy House. The original location of Antrim Castle has now been integrated within the wider garden landscape in a contemporary and innovative way. Not wishing to miss out on our usual après walk refreshments we sampled the tempting fare in the café.



The next walk on 1st October is the Crockbrack Way in the Eastern Sperrins. You can check it out at <http://www.walkni.com/walks/11619/crockbrack-way/>. Meet at 8.45 am at the Church car park.

BA

Hello Everyone

Certainly feeling in holiday mood now after our September meeting of MU. You remember it was entitled Cup Cake Fun? Well it certainly was!! A huge thank you to Lynne Savage who made the most delicious cupcakes for Supper!! Simply Scrummy!!

The Cup Cake "beetle drive" went down a treat too, some very, very talented artists among the MU. Much chat was enjoyed and we welcome especially some new visitors.

Next month we are looking forward to hearing about the L'Arche Community in Belfast whose work supports Vulnerable Adults. The talk will feature their "Root Soup" project and allotments full of home produce.

A good theme to explore especially close to the season of Harvest. Don't forget your soup recipes to share if you have some favourites!! Bring them along!!

Hope to see you there Mon 3rd Oct at 8pm.

All Welcome

Yvonne Manogue (Branch Leader)

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Progress Report 3

Building work is continuing to progress well at St Columbanus Parish Church.

Essential stonework repairs have now been carried out to the 'rose' window and the stone surrounds to the new doorway have been completed. The new sandstone cross has been erected on the gable above the Chancel.



CWS, specialists in stained-glass, have now completed the refurbishment works to the 'rose' window which was reinstated on site at the start of September. All glass has been cleaned and re-leaded and additional support bars have been added. The remainder of the stained-glass windows will be reinstalled in the next week or so. New secondary glazing will be installed once all the stained-glass has been fitted.

The ceiling and trusses have now been cleaned down and first fix wiring has now been completed.

The NIE substation has now been delivered and installed in the lower car park. NIE representatives have been working to complete the switch over from the old substation to the new. After completion of this changeover, the contractor will make good the tracking in the carpark surface.

Scaffolding externally has been dismantled and the main contractor has now commenced the reinstatement works for the pathway to the Parish Centre.

Floor finishes are being chosen and will soon be laid. Light fittings are to be delivered to site shortly and will be installed after decoration of the ceiling has been completed. Works in relation to the new sound system will continue and the platform for the sound desk and the new steps to the Chancel have now been formed.

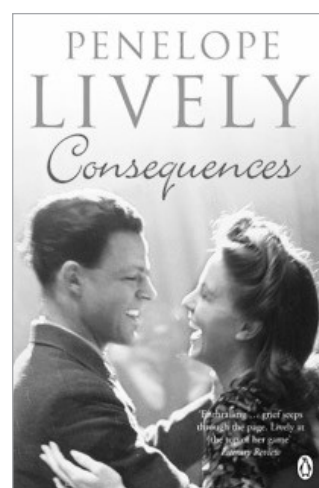
The design team and client representatives have been working closely with the contractors to ensure that decisions are made promptly. Building works continue to be on programme and carried out to a good standard of workmanship.

The next few weeks will see the transformation of the interior – exciting times!

Consequences by Penelope Lively

I have a dislike of family trees in books, but this is one where I will admit it would have been useful. By about the middle of the second generation I was lost. All those husbands, ex husbands, children, brothers, sisters et al had me perplexed. However, the book was beguiling and I did relish the picture it painted of the war years, of the subsequent time travel to more recent times and the effect that one chance meeting in a London park had on all those people's lives. But then, is that not the case with all of us? If my aunt, who was my mum's identical twin, had not opted out of a meeting with my dad and sent her sister (my mum) instead – who knows?

Penelope Lively brings out the huge contrast in classes with clarity and shows us just how entrenched the upper echelons of society were, or were trying to be. Thankfully Lorna saw a better way and went almost to the other extreme – to a seemingly idyllic life in a cottage in the West Country. I kept up with things till after she, as a widow, married her late husband's best friend Lucas and then came the heart-breaking bit – when she died in childbirth to leave her son, Simon. That was a third of the way through the book and at this stage I wondered where it was all going. Still I was eager enough to find out more but gradually, though I did finish the book, got more and more confused with the gradually increasing extrapolation of descendants and their liaisons and relationships. Then came the abrupt and disappointing ending. But I sensed that the story would be ripe for a sequel.



Betty Armstrong

PUSH: Pray Until Something Happens
1st Thursday of Month 7.45 to 8.45 pm.

Pray

There's the prayer we offer corporately in Church, as part of the liturgy and intercessions on Sundays or Wednesdays. There's the prayer we offer privately, in our own personal time with God each day. But there's a third kind of prayer which has been characteristic of every Christian community from New Testament times. That's when members of the church family get together for prayer informally, in a smaller group setting. Not every member of the Church of Ireland has direct experience of praying like this. Yet it is certainly a feature of life in St Columbanus behind the scenes and one we are hoping to open out more widely. Ballyholme PUSH is a new opportunity for us to meet in this simple, ancient way.



Until

The 'u' word some people have in mind for anything resembling a "prayer meeting" may be uncomfortable. The real fear is that everyone who turns up will be expected to pray out loud in front of a room of other people. PUSH will not be about making anyone feel under pressure to contribute 'audibly'. Yes, some will feel entirely relaxed about praying freely and openly in that extemporaneous way. Others will prefer to read prayers they have sourced or even written

themselves. Yet silent prayer will always be an option and of course is of equal value and importance. Certainly no one will be put 'on the spot'. The aim is to achieve a gentle, unthreatening atmosphere rather than an intense or awkward one.

Something

Everyone has something they want to pray about. At any one time most of us probably have several separate things. PUSH is about holding before God the needs of our parish, our community, our world and maybe ourselves and our loved ones too. When it comes to our own needs, sometimes it's a crisis that moves us to seek out prayer support, an urgent worry or a pressing concern. Maybe it's about strength in numbers, a need to know we're not on the spiritual journey alone. Other times we run out of the words or the energy to pray and it's about calling in people we trust to do the praying for us. Whatever the issue bearing down on us, for Christians prayer can be a healing and freeing way to open ourselves to God's love.

Happens

We all find the tried and tested Collects and intercessions of the Prayer Book reassuring and imbued with the faith and hope of the generations of believers who have gone before us. And yet there are times when it feels helpful and even liberating to 'break with the formula', to use our own words and pray as we feel moved or prompted to do so. No two PUSH evenings will be the same. The themes will change as well as the ways and means of praying:

times of reflection and meditation, focussed intercession, opportunities for personal prayer and ministry and all sorts of other innovative ideas and prayer resources will be part of the menu as and when. Please feel that Ballyholme PUSH is for you. It really is.



Our new Church chairs are now on order and a number of parishioners have been asking about the possibility of sponsoring one or more in memory of a loved one. The Vestry is delighted to receive these expressions of interest and is happy to open the sponsor-a-chair idea to the whole parish.



Background

At the open meeting led by Architects Knox & Markwell in January 2015, questions were asked about the seating capacity in the proposed new church floor-plan. It was pointed out in reply that since the available floor space was remaining more or less the same, final capacity would be determined by the design of the chairs we decided upon and by how many of them we wanted to buy. The final selection was made between two very similar chairs and in the end the Vestry have commissioned McNickell & Sons Church Furniture of Carrickfergus.

St Columbanus-appropriate

Uppermost in our mind was the need to find something fitting for a traditional Church of Ireland parish church. Our over-riding concern was not to make the new chairs a dominating feature. The chancel and stained glass windows should be what draw the eye and hold the gaze rather than the seats. The colours were chosen to blend in with the red-brick interior of St Columbanus and to be low-key, subdued and warm, rather than pastel, garish or over-bright.

Flexibility and Comfort

You will remember that as far back as the 2009 'Have your say' conversations there was a strong feeling that we should explore the option of new chairs. The two main concerns were that they should be both more flexible in terms of the lay-out in Church and more comfortable in terms of practical use. Some parishioners explained that so far as their own mobility was concerned the longer the service, the more uncomfortable the old wooden chairs became. Raising and lowering themselves up and down, the narrowness of each chair (and of the rows between them), and the difficulty of kneeling were also identified as issues. We have done our best to source a chair which will address as many of these points as possible.



Specifications

The new chairs link neatly together to form rows but can come apart easily if we want to re-arrange things for any purpose. For even greater flexibility, some of the chairs (probably those in the front few rows), will be stackable. The frames will be in a wood stained beech to match our existing reredos and other wooden furnishings. The upholstery is stain-resistant, waterproof, colourfast and flame retardant. It is a textured fabric designed to be durable and serviceable

and not to show every mark. On the central aisle end of each row, the chairs will have arms to assist with raising and lowering. These armed chairs can be removed to accommodate wheelchairs. A small number of matching kneelers has been ordered and will be available for those who wish to use them. Each chair will have a wooden book holder built into its back and those on the front row will come with lower storage rail-trays.

Sponsoring a chair

Some parishioners have already expressed a desire to buy a chair in memory of a loved one however other important items will be required as part of the refurbishment which could also be sponsored. Since then there are likely to be a number of gifts 'in memory' as part of Restoration 2016 and if demand requires, the thought of the Vestry is to commission a memorial book. Many churches, especially those older than St Columbanus, now keep memorial books on permanent public display. The idea is to record the name and dates of the person or persons remembered and then turn the pages in calendar sequence through the year. Please contact the Parish Office for further details. The cost is £100 per chair.

Moving house is commonly known as one of the most stressful things you will ever do. A friend of mine recently reiterated this point to me as she discovered the joys of moving into her first home.

On top of the physical stress of moving, it can also be very draining and emotional, especially if you are leaving somewhere you love.

The subject of moving seems a very apt one as we start to countdown until we move back to our church building in a matter of weeks.

Once again it will be a matter of everyone pulling together to put our place of worship back together and no doubt it will bring up mixed emotions.

However, it's important to remember how lucky we truly are here at Ballyholme Parish. Not only are we moving back to our home so quickly, but we had a great neighbour in St Columbanus College who took us in during our time of need.

Across the water in Kent, there's a congregation known as 'The Moving Church'.

The short version of their story is that instead of waiting for funding to build a new church to accommodate the growing population size, they dismantled an old church 19 miles away and rebuilt it for their own community.

St Mark's started in Biggin Hill in 1904 when it was just a small village of 200 inhabitants. In that year the tiny temporary church sat about 70 people.

It was only meant to be a preliminary step as the church was an iron structure and the intention was to build a brick and stone church when the population grew sufficiently. But when the time came in the 1950s, the Diocese had no plans for building a new church in Biggin Hill in the foreseeable future. Also the church's building fund stood at £2,600, raised after nearly fifty years' efforts - so a new church seemed a far off dream.

However, the Vicar, Rev Vivian Symons, was determined and permission was granted for taking down the old redundant church of All Saints' North Peckham, London, some 19 miles away.

Bit by bit All Saints' was dismantled and lorry load after lorry load was moved back to Biggin Hill.

The dismantling took three years and four months and then the congregation pulled together to build the place of worship they had always wanted and needed.

So as we approach the end of our period of homelessness, let us remember the spirit of 'The Moving Church' and play our part in rebuilding Ballyholme Parish.



Left
Old temporary iron Church, St Mark's Biggin Hill.

Right
New Church built from dismantled materials from All Saints' North Peckham, London.



First Aid Training Sessions

In partnership with the Parish Health and Safety Committee, we would like to invite everyone, especially leaders of any organisations to attend and receive both First Aid and D Fib Certification.

Two 3 hour sessions: Monday 17 & Tuesday 25 October at 7pm in the Kajiado Room, Parish Centre. Please contact Parish Office to register.

A place to visit – Westport, Co Mayo.

It is difficult to beat our “Emerald Isle”, and this delightful town is a great promotion. As described by the English novelist, William Makepeace Thackeray in 1842 “The most beautiful view I ever saw in the world. It forms an event in one’s life to have seen that place, so beautiful is it, and so unlike all other beauties that I know of. Were such beauties lying upon English shores it would be a world’s wonder: perhaps, if it were on the Mediterranean, or the Baltic, English travellers would flock to it by hundreds, why not come and see it in Ireland” Following a short midweek break to this lovely area I am in total agreement.



Overlooking the Atlantic coast, Westport is certainly a busy and popular tourist destination. The local attractions although not exhaustive are Westport House, Ashford Castle, Croagh Patrick and the Wild Atlantic Way. Time did not permit us to visit all the attractions so we limited ourselves. Our first visit was to Westport House which is located close to the town and is an 18th Century residence set in rich mature woodlands. Whilst we were unable to see into the Georgian-era estate with period rooms, we were able to amble around the woodlands. Within the estate there is a private Adventure Park and a mini railway and lake with pedalos suitable for families to visit. A short distance from Westport is an important site of pilgrimage, Croagh Patrick. Legend has it that Saint Patrick prayed on the mountain for 40 days of Lent in 441 AD. Over 30,000 people climb the mountain every July as a pilgrimage. The day we climbed the mountain was very misty with drizzly rain and we missed the experience of the magnificent views from the top.



A short drive to the pretty Village Cong proved very interesting. “The Quiet Man” was filmed in locations around Cong, where Maureen O’Hara and John Wayne starred. The Quiet Man cottage gave a total experience as if you were on the set. Painstaking effort has ensured that all the furnishings, artefacts, costumes etc are authentic reproductions. Close by is the medieval Ashford Castle set on a stunning 350 acre estate on Lough Corrib. It has been expanded over the centuries and turned into a five star hotel. Walking around the spectacular woodland

took a couple of hours before retreating for a relaxing coffee in the hotel lounge.

A trip to Westport would not be complete without taking in the breath-taking views over the Wild Atlantic Way. Westport offers several very good restaurants to complete an enjoyable day. Overall we probably did not have enough time to explore Westport and all the surrounding areas but we plan to return and would recommend others to pay a visit.

Peter Craig

Children’s Church Helpers

October

2nd: No Children’s Church

9th: Gillan Fletcher, Deborah Galbraith, Debbie Hunter

16th: Gillian Jones, Gail Kerr, Gerry McCaughan

23rd: Caroline & Mark Larmour, Kelly McCullough, Janice McDonough

30th: Trish McGrugan, Rhonda Magennis, Margaret Moorehead, Kathrine



Forthcoming Events

Check for details of events in the next couple of months.

Ards Choral: Handel’s Messiah to celebrate the reopening of St Columbanus Church

First Aid Training

The Christmas Bazaar

YOUTH-news

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LIFE IN ALL ITS FULLNESS...

@ballyholmeyouth



EMERGE

Interactive Youth Bible Study for teenagers aged Year 8 and older. We will eat breakfast, explore the Bible and ask big life questions together.

SUNDAY AT 10AM



YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

YF is a community for young people to come, learn and grow in life and faith. A safe place to explore life together.

**JUNIORS: 6.15 - 7.45PM
SENIORS: 8PM - 10PM**



DROP IN

Drop In is a space to be with friends, relax after school and learn in our various workshops that will take place throughout the year.

TUESDAY: 3.45PM - 6PM



JUNIOR LEADERS

Junior Leaders is a training project for young people in Year 11+. Junior Leaders are studying leadership with YouthLink NI in West Church Bangor.

FRIDAY: 4PM - 6PM

The summer has come to an end and we are now back in the routines of school, jobs and church life. Summer 2016 was one to remember with the success of X-Cess & Jumpin and many memories were made. I am already excited about next summer!

With the new school year already here, we are proud to announce our programmes for the new 2016/17 school year. Please take a moment to read through the descriptions and see what relates to you or if you know someone who would enjoy and benefit from the activities.

I am very excited for the new year! I am excited to see what God will teach us and how each of the young people will grow in their journeys of life and faith.

Billy



NEXT MONTH'S MAGAZINE

Meto Room Clean Up Pictures

Upcoming Events for young people & families

X-Cess Goes Monthly

Thought For The Month

OUR WORSHIP

Sunday 2nd October Trinity 19

8.30 Holy Communion
10.00 All Age Service
11.30 Morning Prayer

Wednesday 5th October

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 9th October Trinity 20

8.30 Holy Communion
10.00 Morning Worship
& Children's Church
11.30 Parish Communion
6.30 United Service at Ballyholme
Presbyterian

Wednesday 12th October

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 16th October Harvest Festival

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

Wednesday 19th October

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 23rd October 5th before Advent

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

Wednesday 26th October

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 30th October 4th before Advent

8.30 Holy Communion
10.00 Wholeness & Healing
11.30 Wholeness & Healing

October



2nd: Patricia Stubbing
9th: Lillian Ward
16th: Harvest
23rd: Christine Johnstone
30th: Vicky Hayes

FUNERAL

August

1st: Gary Swernaton formerly of Brianville Park, at Bangor Parish.

September

14th: Dorothy Swanston, formerly of Ballyholme View Park, at Bangor Parish.

Parish Office:

91274912

Rectory:

91274901

Prayer Line:

07531806167

Transport: 91466198

Church Readers Rota:

Freda 91467624

Michelle 91271327

Web Site www.ballyholmeparish.co.uk

Ballyholmeparish.co.uk



Autumn leaves are falling and the mist is definitely settling in. This is my favourite time of year, when the cooler winds start to blow and the world looks a little more colourful.

It's at this time of year that we celebrate harvest in church. Harvest is a farming celebration, when all of the crops would be picked from the fields and stored for the rest of the year. When all the plants were picked, they would make sure to celebrate and thank God for bringing everything the plants needed to grow - the rain and the sun and the soil!

Harvest reminds me to be thankful - thankful for the beautiful colours in the trees and the autumn winds that make the lovely waves in the sea. Thankful for all of the people who work hard to produce the food I buy at the market! Most of all, I am thankful for God who creates the beautiful world around us and makes sure we have everything we need.

To celebrate the things we are thankful for, our children will be doing a short presentation at our 10am Harvest service on Sunday 16th August - don't miss it!

Laura

