

St Columbanus

Ballyholme



Farewell to St Columbanus College
Time to go home
Laura's Wedding
Letter from America

..On the way *together*..



The Parishioner

November 2016

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

7 months, 30 Sundays, and 81 services at St Columbanus College. It's been a test of our dedication and commitment, not to mention our ingenuity and resourcefulness. A hearty "well done, good and faithful servants", but especially to David Crooks and Ann Killops. Never have two Churchwardens taken on so much. Overseeing our set-up and tidy-away rota was David Stevenson but the team-list could go on and on. Though it's certainly been a massive upheaval, there are elements I shall miss, particularly the sense of all-hands-on-deck – that smile-and-make-do spirit that saw so many parishioners every weekend rolling their sleeves up for God. It wasn't about turning up for Church, so much as making Church happen. Admittedly I shall not miss the 5.30 Sunday morning alarm calls and getting back to the Rectory half an hour later for lunch – and forgetting something every single Sunday! But it's been worth it, as you will all soon see. Thank God that save for any surprises, the works undertaken in Restoration 2016 should mean that even when Phase Two eventually gets under way there should be no need to move out of church again in most of our lifetimes.



SED.

Ulster Project 2016

Words cannot describe the time I spent in America over the summer. The best month of my life started on the 27th of June 2016.

We travelled across the world and ended up in Arlington, Texas. Little did I know that this was the place I was going to create many beautiful friendships, memories and family. I was taken in by the Taddonio Family and I couldn't have asked for a better family to be adopted into.

Over the course of the month we completed many mission trips, adventures and new experiences. They ranged from flying in the skies of Texas to tubing down a river in the blazing sun.

The mission projects we completed were the days that I valued the most. My favourite project was the homeless dinner we planned. We served busloads of men, women and children that were in need. We spoke to them, listened to their story and gained many wise words from them. Later on that night we were able to showcase our talents to them. There was tap dancing, singing and much more. I played guitar and sang with my new buddy, Libby from America and it was the most amazing moment of my life. We connected with the audience and I've never felt a feeling like it.

The Ulster Project is a project that promotes unity between Protestants and Catholics. The project teaches and harmonizes the issues we cannot solve within our own country. I learnt more about Northern Ireland in America than I have ever learnt whilst living here. One of the councillors once said, 'The Ulster Project blesses us with the understanding of our country more than we could have ever learnt whilst in the country, which is crazy, but America has given us that opportunity.'

The Ulster Project is the best thing I've ever been a part of and if anyone is thinking about applying or giving it a try I would urge them to do it, you won't regret it.

Ellen Hunt

Ulster Project Participant 2016





Just Older Youth

Smile

A little girl walked to and from school daily. Though the weather that morning was questionable and clouds were forming, she made her daily trek to the elementary school. As the afternoon progressed, the winds whipped up along with thunder and lightning. The mother of the little girl felt concerned that her daughter would be frightened as she walked home from school and she herself feared that the electrical storm might harm her child.

Following the roar of thunder, lightning like a flaming sword would cut through the sky. Full of concern, the mother quickly got into her car and drove along the route to her child's school. As she did so, she saw her little girl walking along, but at each flash of lightning, the child would stop, look up and smile. Another and another were to follow quickly, and with each the little girl would look at the streak of light and smile.

When the mother's car drove up beside the child, she lowered the window and called to her.

"What are you doing? Why do you keep stopping?"

The child answered, "I am trying to look pretty; God keeps taking my picture."

May God bless you today as you face the storms that come your way.



Sue, Karen, Margaret, Roberta and Agnes

The Wednesday Club

The afternoon was bright and sunny, and so were the ladies who attended the October meeting in the parish centre.

Our speakers were Irene and Andrew from the main Bangor Post Office, who were able to give us a run down on the functions of the post office. We were surprised to hear that as well as selling stamps and taking in our letters, they were also able to offer independent financial advice in such things as home insurance, motor insurance, savings and funeral plans (not that we wanted to hear those!)

We welcomed a new member to our midst, Daphne Hamill, and our draw was won by Etta Boyd.

Hoping to see you all at our November meeting, while December will be our Christmas lunch.

We hope to welcome the choir from Towerview Primary School and Santa will also be joining us (if we have been good!), so don't forget to bring a wee present for his sack.

We would like to invite anyone to join us for this. If you are thinking of coming, which we trust you will, please let the office know, for catering purposes.

Sue



The Venerable Naftaly visits the Wednesday Club

Progress Report No. 4

Work is nearing completion at St Columbanus Parish Church. O'Hanlon Brothers, the main contractors are now carrying out the finishing works – the end is in sight!



Interior views on works underway in the sanctuary.

CWS, specialists in stained glass, have now reinstated all the stained glass windows into the new timber frames and new secondary glazing is to be installed in the next week or so. The details in the stained glass have been highlighted and the refurbished windows look beautiful.

The ceiling has been decorated and many of the new light fittings have been installed. The chancel has now been redecorated and new lighting to the chancel has enhanced this space.

Laying of floor finishes is to commence this week and then items such as the frontals cabinet, sound desk and communion rail will be delivered to site for installation by O'Hanlon Brothers' joiners. Once the sound desk is in place, the specialist contractors will begin setting up equipment for the sound and vision in the Church.

New radiators have been fitted and the new door has been installed.

The redundant NIE substation has been removed and both the NIE and Phoenix Gas switchovers are now complete, which will enable the contractor to make good car park surfaces.

New external lighting has been provided and the pathways between the Church and Parish Centre and around the Church will soon be re-surfaced.



Photos of external works nearing completion.

This will probably be the last progress report given as next month works will be complete. All parties involved in the project have worked closely together with the common aim of carrying out sympathetic alterations, to enhance the interior of the sanctuary and provide a warm, welcoming Church. The design team has appreciated working with the representatives from St Columbanus. We have really valued their dedication to the project and their willingness to meet as and when necessary to discuss various details as the works progressed.

There has been an appropriate blend of professionalism and camaraderie between the various disciplines on site and we hope that everyone is pleased with the end result.

**Judith Hamilton
Architects Knox + Markwell**

Laura's Wedding at St Comgall's, Bangor Parish, Saturday 24 September 2016



Outside was a downpour, however inside the church was a shower of flowers and a space filled with expectant love!

The beautiful bride was piped up the aisle towards her dashing groom in his kilt and the service was tunefully led in worship by Ian, Billy and Paula. Simon led the service, with many parishioners looking on from the mezzanine level. Among the readers were Laura's sister Rebecca and Laurie's friend William, and prayers were by a couple Laura met at university Katy and Stephen Unwin.

Jade spoke about the couple's earlier days of courtship and we got a lovely picture of how their love blossomed over the now infamous lost red coat and many cups of hot coffee!

The rain continued to fall so we were grateful for the spacious foyer of the church to chat with the parents and the children of the Parish who called in to be part of Laura's special day and absorb the atmosphere, before leaving for the reception at Hilden Brewery Lisburn.

The reception began with a glass of fizz and delicious heart shaped shortbread, we were then led upstairs to a beautifully decorated room with twinkling fairy lights and lovely floral centrepieces on each table. The heartfelt speeches were followed by great food and the customary cutting of the cake and before long we were watching the happy couple dancing their first dance!

The evening continued until late and I can say without doubt that the whole day and evening was so relaxed and suited Laura and Laurie's hipster style. We wish them every happiness in the world.

Kelly McCullough

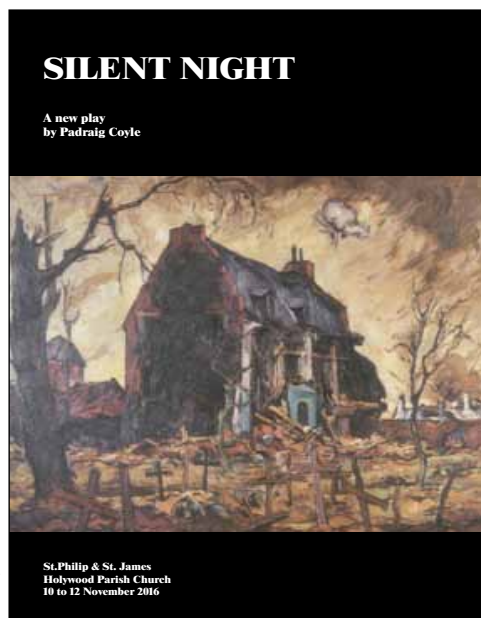


Silent Night

A new play by
Padraig Coyle

Silent Night is being performed in Hollywood Parish Church 10 - 12 November at 8pm. Tickets £8.00 - will be on sale in Hollywood and on the door.

The cast is made up from local leading amateur and trained actors. The whole venture is being done on a voluntary basis and the funds raised will be shared among local charities.



CASTING CALL

Nativity Play
Sunday 18th December, 10am

Rehearsals begin 27th November

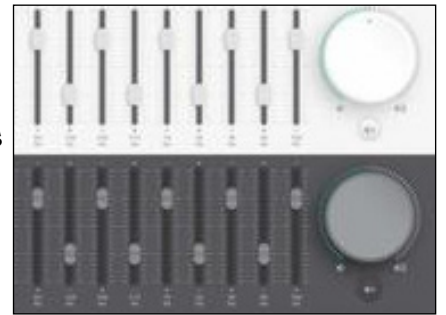
Dress rehearsal & Christmas party
Saturday 17th December 2pm-4pm



This month I was lucky enough to get a sneak preview of the inside of the Church when Geoff Hewitt, one of the Glebewardens, showed me round to explain how the audio and visual systems are being improved as part of the renovation work.

The morning I was there the builders were working away like mad, obviously keen to meet their deadline! Above the noise of the drilling, banging and hammering, Geoff explained that we will be able to hear the services better thanks to a new improved sound system (incorporating a loop system for hearing aid users) comprising microphones, radio microphones, speakers and PA system. Four of the new speakers will be positioned behind the organ pipes and the new microphones will be strategically placed around the Church. All of this high tech equipment will be controlled by a state of the art sound desk which will be on a raised platform at the back right hand side of the Church just inside the original entrance. If you think you would like to have a go at managing the sound desk please contact Geoff (Tel: 028-9185-7448) to get more information. He has assured me all volunteers will get full training and the commitment should probably be not more than once a month.

A new feature in the Church will be cameras placed at various spots to capture what's happening during the services. One of the cameras will be focussed on the Chancel which will address the sight line problems we had and minimise obstructions caused by the pillars.



The images from the cameras will be projected onto screens - 2 at the front, 1 for the choir, 2 half way down the Church and 1 at the back overlooking the font which will allow the congregation a clear view of baptisms. The screens will also be used to show the words of the Family Service to which we have become accustomed at St Columbanus College. The new chairs will be placed in a semicircle, so we should have no problem seeing a screen from where we are sitting and paper copies of services will be available in addition to the prayer and hymn books.

The lighting has also been improved, there are extra outside lights and inside it will be possible to adjust the lighting to set the right mood/atmosphere for the different services.

To paraphrase the words of a Jonny Nash song, once all this work has been completed we should all be able to say "I can see (and hear) clearly now."

Christine Johnstone

Welcome back Naftaly!

The Venerable Naftaly Lemooke made a welcome return to Ballyholme on Wednesday 5 October. Present in Northern Ireland for the CMSI Ignite conference in Dromantine, Naftaly joined us for our mid-week Communion Service and brought warm greetings from Bishop Gaddiel Lenini and all the clergy and people of Kajiado Diocese.

He also updated us on developments at Tenebo House, the diocesan headquarters Ballyholme Parish helped to build with donations from the building of our Parish Centre. The good news is that 20 of the rooms have now been rented out and are income generating. Naftaly spent the rest of the day catching up with friends made during his time at Belfast Bible College in 2007 and on several previous visits to St Columbanus. That evening the Missions Committee hosted a meal at which Naftaly was the guest of honour – where else – in the Kajiado Room!



Finishing Touches

O'Hanlon Brothers our main contractors are due to leave site by Friday 4 November. A number of sub-contractors will be coming and going over the remaining few weeks as the final furnishings are put in place in time for our return to Church on 27 November, Advent Sunday.

Monday 7 November: Work-party

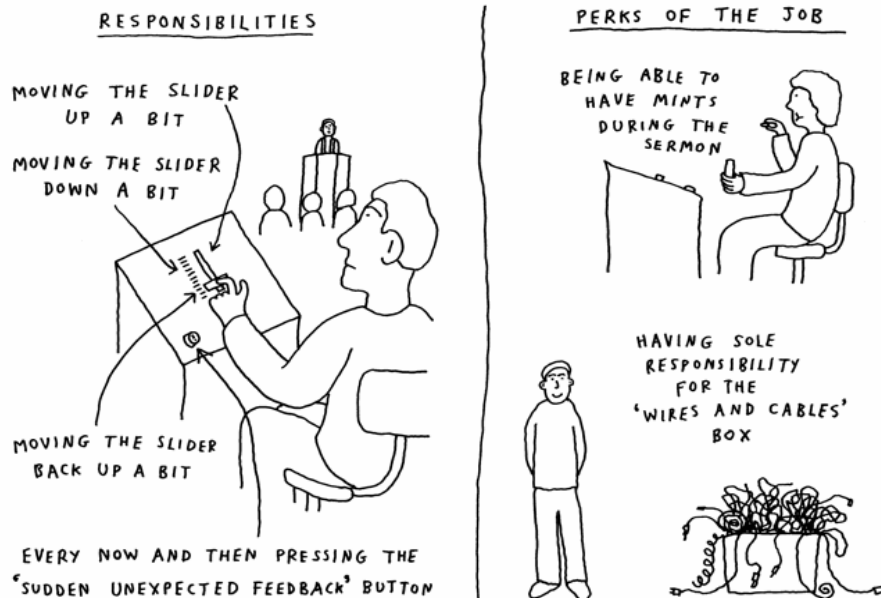
We had such a wonderful work-party for clearing the Church and we hope you can be free to help with "Operation Deep Clean". Please dress appropriately and if you have a set of steps or a small step ladder please bring it. Cleaning materials will be supplied as will tea, coffee and scones throughout the day.



PA/AV: The Sound Desk

The week beginning 21 November we hope to gather a team of people to be introduced to our new audio visual system. The more parishioners who have some familiarity with the new equipment the better so please let us know if you are keen to help. No technical expertise or previous experience is necessary. We will finalise this nearer the time and make announcements in Church.

THE SOUND DESK OPERATOR



CartoonChurch.com

Garden

The contractors are obliged to 'make good' the site before they leave it. The grass in our Church front garden along the Groomsport Road has already been re-sown and the shrubbery and trees will be pruned and tidied before re-opening. The railings have been re-painted and the decision has been made to go with black this time. Black should be harder-wearing and it will match the Church guttering, down spouts and all the other fencing on our site.

Car Park

The ground between the Parish Centre and the Church and the path down from the car park is due to be completely re-surfaced. Where it has been trenched the lower car park will be patched. The budget for Phase One never included a complete re-surfacing of lower and upper car parks.

Children's Church Helpers

November

13th Fiona Oliva, Amanda Thompson, Sarah Tweedie
20th Stefan Andreasson, Tracie Andreasson, Geoff Young, Gillian Young
27th Gareth Boal, Janet Boal, Emma Darragh, Heather Dickey



November

6th: In memory of Dorothy Reid
13th: Margaret Horner
20th: Pat Todd
27th: Audrey Carroll





As I write this letter the leaves on the trees are slowly turning to the vibrant colours of Fall. I find it hard to believe that six months have gone by since Laurie and I were married back in early Spring. Just to let you know, marriage seems to be agreeing with me, although I do miss a good fish supper! I've settled in well to life in small-town, up-State, NY; certainly loads of hot summer sunshine helped. On our days off, Laurie and I have gone kayaking and explored a number of the many beautiful lakes in the Adirondack Mountains just north of where we live. Although, I can't say I'm looking forward to the cold winter, but I'm told it is very spectacular around Christmas time.

Every so often a name from Ballyholme pops into my head, and it makes me think, "I wonder how they're getting on?" The online Parish Magazine has been a great way of keeping up with some of your news, and it's even better when I get to see photos of your smiling faces (keep on snapping, for the expats at least!). Simon and Karen update me every so often with progress on the restoration project. It seems strange not to have shared with you the St Columbanus School church experience; although I did hear the Radio Ulster broadcast service from Ballyholme back in September. I'm sure you are all looking forward to being "home" again in the beautifully restored church building.



"We love your accent!" is what I hear most after I preach at different churches around the Albany Diocese. A parishioner in



St John's (our home church) came up to me after a service one Sunday and said, "I've finally worked out what you are saying -- you are talking about 'the poor' but it sounds like 'the pair!'" Unfortunately, there are many around the area where I now live who fall into the category of "the poor". Social Services do what they can, but many of the local churches, including St John's, run food pantry and meals programmes to help those most in need.

I've also been helping Laurie with services at St John's, and we are hosting an Alpha Course in the weeks running up to Christmas. You will see from the photo, the new robes I bought with the money you so generously gave me on my leaving Ballyholme. The robe is called an "Alb" which means "white"; this is also where the word "Albany" comes from.

I hope to be over in Ireland before Christmas, but this is conditional on me getting my Permanent Residency through. I could leave the country, but without my visa being upgraded to permanent, I wouldn't get back into the US. Laurie says she misses all of you as well. In the meantime,

Blessings from both of us.

Ballyholme Golf Society

A total of 21 golfers (17 male and 4 female) tee'd off at Donaghadee Golf Club on Friday 23rd September 2016 from 2.00pm.

Despite it being very windy it remained dry and all the players had a good time.

Gareth McCullough won the men's competition and Susan Stockton the ladies competition.

The prizes were presented afterwards in the club house where the players enjoyed a good meal.



Kajiado Partnership Update

Roger Thompson (CMSI Partnership Coordinator for Kenya)

I write on behalf of CMS Ireland and the Rt Revd. Gaddiel Lenini (Bishop of Kajiado) to thank the congregation at Ballyholme for the generous donation of £4000 towards the Roof Catchment Water Tanks repair project at Oltiasika Maasai Rural Training Centre. I visited the centre in March this year and saw for myself how precious rainwater is harvested using gutters attached to roofs of buildings, leading into water tanks. However, many of these have fallen into disrepair and either leak or are unable to hold any water (see attached pic).

To this day, rainfall is the only means of water supply in this region, with the result that local people are totally vulnerable to climatic conditions and rely entirely on these tanks. There are approximately 3,000 residents living in the Oltiasika area – about 2/3 of them are children under 10 years old - and all depend on their water supply from the Centre. Lack of a clean and safe water supply has a highly



detrimental impact on the local community. Children fall ill more often when the water they drink is not clean, preventing them from attending school and so setting them back in terms of their education. When the family spend their meagre resources on medicines for their children, then they are less able to provide a balanced diet, which in turn impacts on the wellbeing of the child and indeed the whole family.

Last year Ronnie Briggs helped organise a community meeting called by the regional MP and attended by local chiefs and about 400 people. The most pressing needs of the community were

discussed and provision of adequate water supply was declared to be the most important. Following on from this, a survey was carried out of 36 existing water tanks to ascertain the scope of repairs needed to return them to a state of being able to collect and hold water for an extended period.

Your gift will help Ronnie and the staff at the Centre begin this important work before the rains start (expected soon). Ronnie's colleague Venerable Naftaly Lemooke (Development Coordinator for the Diocese of Kajiado) visited Ballyholme recently to pass on greetings from Kenya personally and to give a more detailed report on the ministry of the church. He spoke about the Strategic Plan of the Diocese which puts the work of Mission and Evangelism as the top priority, but at the same time recognises that social transformation is essential too (in areas such as women's empowerment, water conservation, education and skills training).

Part of Naftaly's message was to highlight the crucial importance of the two-way partnership between Kajiado and Ballyholme, with CMSI helping facilitate this. To that end it was great to be with you for your harvest celebrations this year and have the opportunity to meet so many of you.

My Favourite Place

When asked what was my favourite place, I found it impossible to come to a decision, so I have cheated by selecting three for three different contexts. My favourite space at home is the small paved area at the bottom of the garden, especially on a sunny summer day. It is quiet and quite secluded and I love sitting here reading a novel with the birds singing and surrounded by lovely flowers in a collection of pots.

For holidays, my favourite country was France. We always went camping there with the children and have so many happy memories of various regions – Brittany, Vendee, Normandy, Loire Valley, Dordogne and Paris. The food was great, it never seemed to rain and there was always so much to see and do. It must have pleased our sons too, as they now go camping in France with their families, but they have obviously grown softer, as they now stay in mobile homes, not tents.

For days out in Northern Ireland, we are truly spoilt. I like the lake district in Fermanagh, the Antrim coast road and the Glens of Antrim, but my favourite for over fifty years was always walking in the Mourne. They may not be as high or cover as large an area as some mountain ranges, but in a lovely compact area there is a great variety of scenery – rivers, valleys, reservoirs, loughs, forests, sea views and heather clad hills. If forced to pick a particular spot I would say the summit of Doan, the Sentinel, situated on its own in the middle, surrounded by a ring of mountain tops linked together by the Mourne Wall.



Time to go home

Just as in a single human body there are many limbs and organs, all with different functions, so we who are united with Christ, though many, form one body, and belong to one another with its limbs and organs. Romans 12:5

I'm not sure I've ever lived through a better case-study of what St Paul had in mind when he wrote those famous words to the Romans. The last seven months in St Columbanus College have been a truly inspiring team effort, with parishioners responding to the practical needs of the hour not so much with stoicism as with joy. The care and love with which Sunday worship was prepared for and offered was plain for all to see. It's been a real demonstration of how the Lord takes the hand of those who step out in faith and walks with them.

David Crooks and Ann Killops our Churchwardens have already been mentioned in the Rambling Rector – along with 'logistics manager' David Stevenson and his wife Mildred not far behind! Charged with opening up, managing the burglar alarm and closing up again afterwards, David and Ann went about their weekly duties undaunted. There was fun to be had on Friday evenings as the rota crew arrived to get everything ready with the two Davids. Likewise on Sundays after the 11.30 service, as we returned our 'kit' to the wings of the stage. The sight of Edgar Reynolds arriving on his bike with his ladder to erect our canvas welcome sign was an important reminder that the people of God of Ballyholme Parish were on the move.

From the outset, our aim was to recreate in St Columbanus College as much of what was familiar from our own St Columbanus Church. The Christian ethos and atmosphere of the school was a good start, indeed the basketball net and crucifix on the rear wall (above your heads from where I stood at the front) will probably remain my abiding memory. William Coulter also helped considerably by constructing a portable Communion Table and Font to match exactly the proportions of the Church originals. This meant of course that we could use our own seasonal Communion frontal though it made things a whole lot handier that aside from two white Sundays (Rogation and Trinity) and one red one (Pentecost), all the others were green!

Everything had to be done ever so slightly differently. Spare a thought for those who arrived with the flowers on Friday evening and turned up to collect them again after 11.30 – their extra effort for Harvest lifted all our spirits. With no safe at the school, there was a new routine too for those who took charge of the offertory every Sunday. Parishioners who normally walk to Church on the Groomsport Road had to start sharing lifts to Ballymacconnell and new contacts and friendships were forged in the process. Others were able to leave the car in the garage and grab their umbrellas.

After a few weeks of marshalling in the carpark, we seemed to get the hang of the 10 and 11.30 change-over. What a difference it made at 10 o'clock singing from the screens rather than with our heads buried in service sheets! The choir camped out very willingly in an interview room which doubled as the crèche (two school gym mats came in very handy for the latter). Four classrooms were turned into Children's Church and we had the benefit of not just one on-site loo in the foyer but three!

As Sarah Guy has reminded us in her series of "Church on the move" articles, the inconvenience and frustration we may have suffered is as nothing compared to so many other Christians in other situations around the world. Still, I won't pretend I wasn't nervous ahead of the first Sunday in May. I remember driving things over with Harry Browne and Marty Bleakley on the Friday thinking "will anyone come on Sunday?" I needn't have worried. Besides, the Lord would have been there even if no one else had shown up. As someone was kind to remark: "you're here, we're here – sure it's more or less the same!"

What began with a work-party to clear the Church and set up in the school, will end with a work party to clear the school and set up in the Church. In this, as in all things pertaining to Restoration 2016, our Glebewardens Stephen Baker and Geoff Hewitt have taken the lead. Re-read the parable of the vineyard in Matthew 20 and if you weren't involved at the beginning, listen out for announcements about how to be involved at the end!



Farewell to St Columbanus College



Friday lunches



Golf Society



Ekisa

It is the time of year again when we are preparing for Ekisa, a three-day holiday club for local children that aims to share the Gospel and encourage children in their journey of faith. We have a team of 29 staff and students, all eager to make the programme fun and Christ centred. It is hard to believe that it is a year since we had our CMSI team out with us for the very same event in 2015!



On visiting Kiwoko some are struck by how bedraggled and unkempt some of the local children appear in contrast to their million dollar smiles and excited lavish hugs. Many visitors are humbled by this one experience alone as they walk to morning prayers from their room at the training centre. In their free display of acceptance, welcome and affection these little children can challenge a visitor's sense of justice, thoughts on human rights, sense of propriety, and provoke questions about society's norms – all before they have spent 24 hours in the country! Barriers and fears begin to crumble in the clumsy yet heartfelt embrace of the little children.

Despite the outward appearance, many of our local kids are loved and looked after.

However, recently I have been reminded that for a lot of children in this area, life is cruel and harsh. There was a young boy admitted to male ward last month with a fractured femur, due to a beating from his dad. I cannot think of what he was supposed to have done to 'deserve' such a severe punishment. To make matters worse his father discharged him without care, to take him instead for care at the witchdoctor's. I pray for that little boy because despite facing unbearable pain in the weeks ahead, he will probably also end up with a life-long disability, affecting his future. I wonder how he is now...



Last year, we had an admission of a student who could not move her arms because of nerve damage, due to being beaten repeatedly over the shoulders by her teacher. While these admissions are thankfully not common, their occurrences remind us of what sometimes does go on in the community.



Jesus loves the little children all the children of the world, red and yellow, black and white all are precious in His sight. Jesus loves the little children of the world!

If you serve in some sort of children or young people's ministry – 'thank you!' Keep going, don't stop. The children of the world need to hear and know Jesus – His love, forgiveness, acceptance and healing, many of them need much healing from living in this broken world. Perhaps you are not in ministry specifically but you have children,

nieces, nephews, your children's friends etc. Pray for them. There is so much potential packed into each unique life, pray that God would unlock it.

Pray for Ekisa, this year being held on the 14th-16th September. Pray that children will laugh, smile and come to know Jesus, that the ministry team will work well together and that God's presence will be felt by all.



After early light rain, the St Columbanus Walkers met up at 8.45 on Saturday 1st October to walk the Crockbrack Way in the eastern Sperrins. A Baker's Dozen, 13 of us, set off from Ballyholme in four cars via the M2 and met up on the A6 near Maghera. The clouds were just starting to lift off Slieve Gallion. We followed Leslie's car towards the Glenshane Pass and after a couple of wrong turns, found the Five Mile Straight and the village of Moneyneany. We parked at Mulligan's pub with kind permission of the innkeeper, and then set off up the Drumderg Road on the first leg of the 11km Crockbrack Way, which is a permissive path (the trail is made possible by a number of landowners giving permission). Crockbrack means a speckled hill. A slow, steady climb up a road, and then a track which, with frequent stops for views to Benbradragh, Binevenagh, and the Inishowen Peninsula, took us past a large glacial erratic stone 10 feet high. A bit of head-scratching to find the route was needed before reaching Crockmore at 478m. A right-hand turn took us across blanket bog to the summit of Crockbrack 526m. It was warm and sunny, so we had our picnic lunch at this spot, admiring the extensive views as far as Slemish, Lough Neagh, Lough Fea and even to the Mourne. Suitably refreshed, we descended a steep slope to the headwaters of the Drumderg River and climbed up again to Craighbane, crossing a few stiles. This section was quite wet and slippery. It was now a gentle descent via a track and road back to Moneyneany and Mulligan's pub at 4.00pm, where we relaxed and enjoyed coffee and other refreshments before setting off for home. Remarkably we didn't meet any other walkers on this trail, although we did see one hang-glider and one large bird of prey, also lots of sheep. An excellent day for walking with warm sunny weather, light winds and good visibility. A good map was essential, as the marker posts were infrequent.

We have discovered that The Argory (house) is closed until 11th March so we will have an alternative destination for upcoming walks.

Maurice Mehaffey



MU News

Yvonne Manogue, Branch Leader

What an enjoyable evening we had on Mon 3rd October where our speaker was from the L'arche Community. Scott, a native of Seattle, shared much interesting information about the L'arche Community in Belfast. He was a gifted speaker, with an easy manner.

As their story began to unfold, members of our branch realised that 13 years ago when the first house was being purchased to provide accommodation for adults with learning difficulties, we had been responsible for fund raising and furnishing a room. Another house has been purchased and these two provide accommodation for adults with learning difficulties, core members, as they are called. Thomas, one of the core members was able to share some stories about how he loves living and being part of this community.

Root Soup is another initiative, which along with horticulture in allotments provides education and training to core members with the aid of volunteers from all over the world.

A delicious harvest supper of apple tart concluded the evening, leaving us with much to be thankful for and the possibility of a soup lunch in St John's Presbyterian Church Newtownbreda (each Tues provided by Root Soup)!!

Diary dates ... Area Service in Bangor Abbey - Thurs 3rd November 7.30pm.

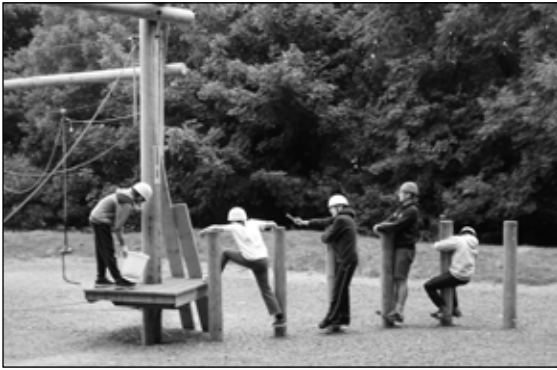
Next Meeting - Mon 7th November 8.00pm Parish Centre. Christmas Crafts to make!!!!

Also please bring your Christmas gift for the Seniors in our Parish (something small and unwrapped please)

Looking forward to November meet up, come along and even bring a friend!!

3rd Bangor Scout Camp 11th - 16th August 2016

Scout camp this summer was at Gorse Hill Farm, Bryansford, Mourne Mountains. When I first arrived I had to unpack my kit in a brand new spacious tent. After I started to look around the camp, first I saw the breathtaking views of the Mourne Mountains. Then I noticed a few outbuildings, these were a small kitchen and two small bathrooms. Another outbuilding had been converted into a big living area with sofas around the inside edge of the building and a long table down the middle. There was a small wood burner which we used to keep us warm when it was too cold. Going back outside I saw there was an area of grass which we used as a football pitch. We mostly played football or played with a pack of cards for the rest of the day until night time. We slept in our tents and hoped it wouldn't rain too much.



The next day we had a pleasant surprise to hear that we were going to the YMCA to do ziplining and team assault course! When we got there we saw the zipline and some of us nearly fainted as it was so high! But first we did the team assault course. We had to get a bucket with 5 metal rods inside it and 2 wooden beams to the end of the course without touching the floor with our feet. There were places where we had to tightrope across a thin rope and places where we pulled our team mates across to the other side all whilst bringing the bucket along as well! We succeeded in only losing 3 lives (we had 7 lives).

Then it was time to face the zipline it looked so high from the floor but when I got up to the top of the tower it didn't look that bad. The instructor at the top of the tower told me if I jumped out, I would go faster so I accepted the challenge and did it. The first step off the edge was the scariest part of it! I was going so fast that in about 7 seconds I was at the end!

The next day we decided to take a walk in the Mourne Mountains to explore what we thought was a cave but when we got there it was just a flat stone surface where miners used to chisel the stone. We found out that when the stone was mined there wasn't any electricity, so the miners used to make small holes in the stone, then they put wooden pegs in the small holes and wet the wooden pegs. The wooden pegs then expanded which pushed the rock off the surface of the ground. Later in the day we took a car journey to Spelga Dam to skim stones and enjoy the scenery.

We had hoped to do our astronomy badge but unfortunately the clouds only cleared at 3am each night and we were all asleep. I had a great time and looked forward to going back to Scouts in September to have more adventures!

Nathan Hunt



BALLYHOLME PARISH CHURCH
PUSH
 PRAY UNTIL SOMETHING HAPPENS

Theme - Community

Thursday 3rd
 November
 7.45 - 8.45pm
 Kajiado Room



Ballyholme Parish Church
Christmas
Bazaar



on

Saturday 26th November 2016
 in the Parish Centre

from

10am - 12.30pm

Admission £2 including light refreshments

Children free



YOUTH-news

youth [youth] (youths) news [nooz]

It has been a busy month in the life of Ballyholme Parish Youth. It is great to see so many young people come out to the various programmes that are taking place weekly in the Parish especially the new faces who have just joined us. We have spent the past couple of weeks getting to know each other and building our community through various activities like our team building activity night. It is exciting to see the young people coming together and building friendship with each other.

The Meto Room has recently had a makeover. The excess craft materials, old electronics and the green sofas have now been dumped and the bright blue wall has been painted over. We now have beautiful cushions, plants and brown leather sofas for the young people to come and relax. The vision for the Meto Room is that it'll become a hub for young people to come to and relax; a space for them to be comfortable and a place they can call theirs. Please pop your head in if you're in the Parish Centre.



X-Cess, the Parish youth week that takes place over the summer, is very popular amongst the young people around Ballyholme and Bangor. We had an amazing time over the summer with all the activities and fun. It was decided that X-Cess should become a more regular event in the Parish youth calendar. On the first Saturday of each month, X-Cess will be taking place in the Parish Centre. October's X-Cess was a night of worship, led by Sammy Gribben, and a message from the youth pastor Billy Fyffe on not being afraid to be yourself as that is who God created you to be. We had an interview with the lovely Brooke Keenan who shared part of her life story and told us what faith, love and hope meant to her. It is our vision to see X-Cess become an event that the young people will look forward to each month. November's X-Cess will be taking place on Saturday 5th November at 7 o'clock.



We have the wonderful Play It By Ear, a Christian drama group who write stories and short skits about the Christian life and issues that affect young people today. It's going to be a great night and I can promise that the young people will love it! Why don't you tell everyone you know who might be interested to come along and join in?

November is a busy month in the life of the Parish. We have the church reopening on Sunday 27th November and all the festivities around that. On Saturday 26th November we have the annual Christmas Bazaar. Preparations are underway so please put Saturday 26th November into your diary. The Bazaar will take place between 10am to 12.30pm and admission will be £2. Watch out for the posters around Ballyholme and in the News in the Pews. Remember to start gathering together your Bric-A-Brac. **Please note that items for the Christmas Bazaar can be left into the Parish Centre from Monday 21st November.**

Psalm 139:14 [ESV] says, "I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well." Who we are, at our core, is our foundation. It is who God created us to be. If you forget the lies said by the media of who you are and don't listen to the opinions of others who try and tell you how to be, we find ourselves knowing who we really are. God tell us in His word that we are an incredible work of art (Ephesians 2:10), that we are totally and completely forgiven (1 John 1:9), that we are the salt of the earth and light of the world (Matthew 5:13-14) and that we are greatly loved (Romans 5:8). My thought for this month is... Who are you? Do you listen and accept the lies of the world around you telling you to change this or fix that? Or do you believe that you are an incredible work of art that is completely forgiven and greatly loved? Recognising who you are is an important platform to start the day. Who you are is the foundation on which you stand. Stand on what God says about you.

Wednesday 2nd November

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 6th November 3rd before Advent

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 All Age Service

11.30 Morning Prayer

Wednesday 9th November

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 13th November 2nd before Advent

Remembrance Day

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Morning Worship

& Children's Church

11.30 Parish Communion

6.30 United Service at Ballyholme Methodist

Wednesday 16th November

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 20th November Sunday before

Advent

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Morning Worship

& Children's Church

11.30 Morning Prayer

6.30 St Columbanus Festival Service

St Comgall's, Brunswick Road

Wednesday 23rd November

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 27th November Advent Sunday

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Holy Communion

& Children's Church

11.30 Holy Communion

6.30 Youth Worship Event

Wednesday 30th November

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

WEDDING**September****17th:** Ashley Jones and Christopher Rogan at Glencraig Parish Church**24th:** Laura Jeffrey and Laurie Symon, at St Comgall's Bangor Parish.**FUNERAL****September****30th:** Caroline Jones, formerly of Ashley Drive at St Gall's Parish.**October****20th:** Sam Allen, late of Oakmount Lodge**20th:** Jack Hendly, Late of Tonic Fold

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91274901

Prayer Line:

07531806167

Transport:

91466198

Church Readers Rota:

Freda 91467624

Michelle 91271327

Web Site www.

Ballyholmeparish.co.uk

**There's No Place Like Home!****Sunday 27 November**

Morning services at 8.30, 10 and 11.30

6.30 Youth Worship Event

Saturday 3 December Handel's Messiah 7pm

Ards Choral Society (ticket only)

Monday 5 December 7.30pm

St Columbanus Community Celebration (ticket only)

Sunday 11 December 6.30pm

Remembering – our annual opportunity to remember those who have died over the previous twelve months

Monday 12 December 8pm

MU Annual Service

**Celebrating Our Return to Church!**