

St Columbanus

Ballyholme



Le Match - Official Report
25 Years at Kiwoko
Nativity and Church
Reopening photos

..On the way *together*..

The Parishioner

February 2017

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

Around 28 million people in the UK live with chronic pain. According to figures last year, one in seven adults under 25 experience some form of chronic pain and so do nearly two-thirds of the over-75's. 14% of adults live with pain that is so bad, it is either moderately or severely disabling. Out of a population of 65 million, that's an awful lot of people in an awful lot of pain. Since God created and in the end will resurrect our bodies, the finely balanced combination of skin and bones we're blessed with couldn't be more important. Theologically speaking, we have a spiritual nature, a moral nature and a social nature and it doesn't take a healthcare professional to know that if any of these are violated or knocked out of kilter, physical and emotional breakdown often result. And yet even people whose original illness was caused by strictly biological factors end up needing much more than medicine to recuperate. Small wonder that so many of those drawn to Jesus had a sickness or disease – and that He remains a source of healing and hope 2000 years later for those who open their hearts in simple trust and love.



SED.

Advanced Notice: Easter Vestry on Sunday 2nd April

In accordance with chapter 3 of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland, our annual General (Easter) Vestry meeting in Ballyholme takes place at 12.45pm on Sunday 2nd April in the Parish Centre over a parish family lunch.

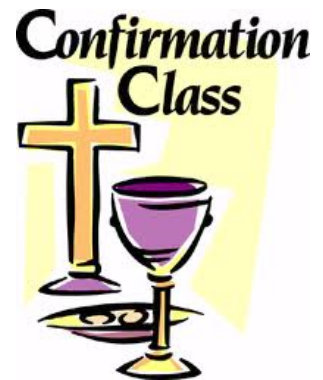
Constitutionally, as you know, we are free to conduct elections to the Select Vestry in whatever way we see fit. Written nominations will be invited ahead of the meeting in the hope that we will receive at least 12 names. It is up to you to stand yourself or to propose someone else to stand and the basic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

Nominations will close on Sunday 26th March. Forms will be available from the Churchwardens on Sundays, from the Parish Office on weekday mornings and from our Honorary Secretary Leslie Adams (91466690).

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

Adult Confirmation Preparation

If you have never previously been Confirmed (or Baptized and Confirmed), perhaps because you come from another Church tradition, or because it was something you just never got around to, now is your chance! As he does each year, the Rector will offer a simple course of preparation through Lent. Please contact the Office (91274912) to lodge your interest or speak directly to Simon himself (91274901). Likewise if you would just like some more information before making up your mind, even just to get a flavour of what might be involved.



Parishioner Cost/Envelope

As you know, The Parishioner comes to you free of charge. To help with our overheads we enclose an envelope once a year by which we hope you can make a contribution towards our running costs. If all of our 630 recipients gave £5 we would certainly cover ourselves, but please bear in mind that only 30% currently make a gift. Please return your envelope by the collection plate on Sunday and do bear in mind that the full text of the magazine is now available on the parish website. If this is the format that best suits you why not consider cancelling your paper copy and you won't have to worry about the envelope at all. What a difference it would make if everyone that read The Parishioner made a contribution towards it!



Just Older Youth

The Wednesday Club

Twenty of our ladies saw in the New Year at our January meeting watching the film Quartet, starring Maggie Smith and Billy Connolly. We decamped to the Columbanus room, where we were snug and warm. Everyone seemed to enjoy this experience, so you never know, we might do it again! Our afternoon tea was taken in the Kajiado room, so we got our exercise as well. Gloria Gracey was this month's winner of our regular draw. See you all again in February, for next month's meeting.



Sue



Phase One: the final touches

With all the excitement of moving out of the school and back into Church, and then the traditional rush of Advent and Christmas services, there has been little time to draw breath over the last few months. Thank you for your generous words of appreciation and encouragement for what has been a huge team effort and a special thank-you to those who helped with the practicalities of moving back in and 'operation deep clean'. Over the next number of weeks we hope to work through the tasks that didn't quite get finished in time for Advent Sunday. It's a list of more minor but still important matters that need attending to or which have emerged through our period of settling back in. For example, adjustments are required to the exterior feature lighting, including spotlights for the Celtic cross and the rose window. The camera system requires some fine-tuning and the choir screen is due to be re-sited. The seating provision will be reviewed and we are still discussing the need for some notice-board space and a place to lay out our magazines, Church of Ireland Gazettes and other leaflets and literature. By all means if you have any ideas or suggestions do please bring them to our attention. We also hope in time for the March magazine to provide as full a statement as possible of the finances of the project. Suffice to say at this stage that thanks to the generosity of our parishioners and careful management by our Design Team the final breakdown is looking very satisfactory.

Stephen Baker & Geoff Hewitt, Glebe Wardens

Revised Carparking

Reducing risks to Parishioners and other Parish Centre Car Park users at busy times has been high on the list of priorities for our Health and Safety Committee during restoration. It was with considerable satisfaction therefore that the Committee recently saw the revised parking markings suggested put in place under the supervision of the Glebe Wardens. The number of disabled spaces has been increased to 4 and a clear pathway running away from the main emergency exit has been created to avoid the possibility of blockage by parked vehicles in an evacuation.

Alongside the new arrangement, care and consideration must remain our watchwords. The more space available at dropping off times the better. So if you are not involved in dropping off and plan to be around the Parish Centre for a time why not help out by taking the short walk from the upper car park.



Uniformed Organisations Service

We are holding a joint Uniformed Organisations Service on Sunday 19th February 2017 at 3.00pm.

This service will be celebrating both our organisations and we will renew our promises during the service.

We hope to have a short parade, weather permitting, and inspection by Canon Doogan after the service and before refreshments in the hall.

This service used to happen on an annual basis and we hope to reinstate this. We hope as many children and their parents will attend as possible.

Confirmed details will be given to all parents nearer the time.

Susan Stockton





Last walk of 2016 - Scrabo revisited

We had 15 at Suburban for coffee pre-walk where Eleanor looked after us (and gave us lovely shortbread). Thankfully the rain eased for our short 3k walk around the Scrabo quarries. No matter when we go there, there's always something new to learn and this time it was a short word from Leslie about a certain spot (now mostly overgrown) where he used to play football and how his Scout troop had their summer meeting in the Quarries. How nostalgic is that!

Betty Armstrong



December 2016



January 2017

Lough Shannagh Walk in the Mournes 2017

The first Columbanus walk of 2017 saw nine of us meet at 8.30 on Saturday 7th in the church car park on a fine mild dry January morning. It was good to meet and welcome two new walkers, Louise and Susan, who joined us for our day in the Mournes. We drove to the starting point of Banns Road carpark 7 kms north of Kilkeel near Slievenagore where we met up with Hill Wilson, our guide for the day.

At 10.00 we set off up the gently sloping old drovers' road called the Lough Shannagh track which ascended gradually over 6kms to the lough with views of Doan, Ben Crom and Slieve Bearnagh. Lough Shannagh (the lake of the fox) is the largest body of water in the Mournes that is not man made. Ten thousand years ago, not long after the ice had disappeared from the lowlands, many patches remained in hollows high in the hills. Located at 390 metres in a wilderness area, the deep blue waters of Lough Shannagh occupy a corrie at the foot of Carn Mountain surrounded by a ring of deeply carved peaks.

On the way up we crossed the Miners Hole River which flows in to the Silent Valley reservoir. It is said to owe its name to the (unsuccessful) prospecting by Cornish miners looking for deposits of tin and lead ore. We enjoyed a noon lunch break on the lough shore and suitably refreshed decided to take the high loop return route. We ascended on a track which took us up to a col between Slieve Lough Shannagh and Carn at the Mourne Wall where we were rewarded with views to the west of Fofanny and Spelga reservoirs. We continued with the wall to the summit of Carn Mountain at 587 metres, our high point of the day.

We started our long descent due south alongside another wall and rejoined the drovers route back to the car park with the ravens circling overhead. Having extended the walk to about 14km, it was now 16.00 and so we decided to forego the usual coffee stop on the return journey and headed straight back home.

Maurice Mehaffey



In December, CMSI's Personnel Manager Gillian Maganda took part in Kiwoko Hospital's 25th Anniversary celebrations in Luweero Diocese, Uganda. Now Gillian reflects on the day.

It was a real privilege and honour to attend and be a part of Kiwoko Hospital's 25-year Anniversary celebrations. From a small clinic functioning under a tree and on the veranda of St John's Church, Rev Livingstone and Dr Ian Clarke worked hand-in-hand, to meet both the physical and spiritual needs of people who were so desperately in need of help.



Reflecting on those early days, Rev Livingstone commented...

Kiwoko Hospital was built on the dry bones of so many killed in the Luweero Triangle, and out of death, we experience life. Kiwoko Hospital is more than just a centre of excellence, but is a precious gift.

Yesterday, both Ian and Robbie Clarke were able to join the celebrations at the last minute. Ian spoke from deep emotion, commenting that he never expected to be standing here 25 years after starting the clinic.

He and Robbie both shared that it was a privilege to be back in a place where they loved and among dear friends. Both reiterated that without CMSI, the hospital would not exist.

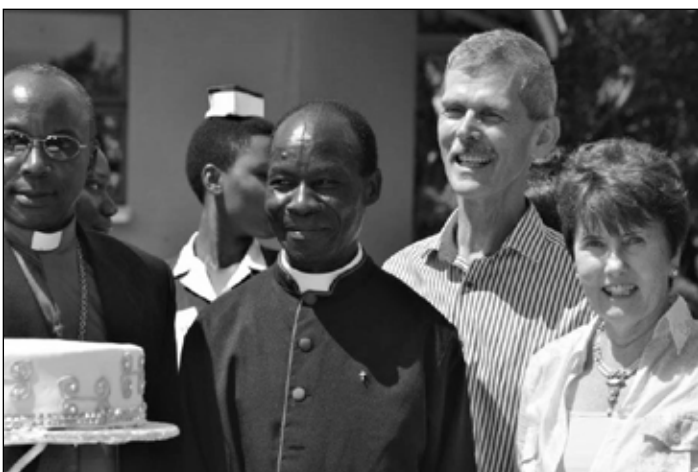
Yesterday's celebrations were a culmination of multiple events that took place throughout the year, both in Uganda and Ireland. In his speech, the hospital's Medical Director (and CMSI Mission Partner) Dr Rory Wilson highlighted that a lot has taken place in 25 years...

Around 40,000 babies have been delivered, 150,000 inpatients and over one million outpatients treated. But only eternity will tell of the countless lives who have received the greatest gift of receiving Jesus. The hospital's motto, We Treat, Jesus Heals is a testimony to the gospel on which it was founded, and in which it continues today.

Throughout the day, we marched, we danced, we sang, we were entertained, we listened to speeches and greetings from dignitaries and invited guests and ate amazing Ugandan delights.



In her greetings, CMSI's Mission Director, Jenny Smyth reinforced what many others had shared, that Kiwoko is much more than a hospital. It is a community of committed people, medical professionals, counsellors and cooks, engineers and accountants, maintenance workers and managers, teachers and students, all using their God given skills to bring health and healing.



It may have been the vision of one Irish man to start the hospital, but we acknowledge and pay tribute to the countless Ugandan co-workers who have invested their lives into the building up of Kiwoko Hospital. Kiwoko is a vast network of supporters across the world who have been inspired and challenged by the transformational change that happens in the hospital's compound each day. Every day miracles of God at work, of people hearing the good news of Jesus and finding fullness of life.

Thank you Luweero Diocese for this partnership in the gospel.

Mothers' Union Celebrate the 100th Birthday of Owen Anderson



The Down and Dromore MU President Mrs June Butler, Down and Dromore Indoor Members' Rep, Mrs Rosemary Clarke and Ruth Ruttle, Ballyholme MU enjoyed the afternoon tea on the occasion of Owen's 100th Birthday at Sunnyside House, Residential Home, which was supplied by her daughter, Valerie. The guests were thrilled to hear about Owen's life living in the South of Ireland and the various roles she undertook in the Mothers' Union Branches she attended. Both June and Rosemary enjoyed their time with Owen very much and were delighted to have been invited to come along. Owen is an amazing woman.

MU News: A service of Holy Communion on Monday 12th December in the beautifully refurbished Church finished our programme for the 2016 Mothers' Union year. This was followed by traditional Christmas refreshments in the church centre.

The 2017 year started with a late Christmas Dinner at Bangor Golf Club on 10th January. Good food, some quiz questions to keep our brains working and lots of people to catch up with meant this was very pleasant evening for the 38 people attending.

6th February will be our Overseas Meeting with our guest speaker telling us "Kim's Story". Wash bags for the hospitals and toiletries for the Women's Refuge should be brought that night. Members are reminded that their 2017 membership fees need to be paid in February.

Our March meeting titled "Give a Girl a Pair of Shoes" will be open so anyone who wants can attend. More details will be in next month's magazine



My Ionian Experience - Daphne Hamill

On Friday 11th August we left Carrickfergus for Iona: the ferry to Cairnryan, then on to Glasgow, over the Erskine Bridge to Oban via Loch Lomond. We travelled in terrible rain. We stayed overnight in Oban and the next day caught the ferry to Mull and then another ferry to Iona. We were met at the ferry and taken to the McLeod centre where we stayed for our visit. We were given tea and cakes and within a few minutes we had met people of four different nationalities.

Our group consisted of 32 of which 15 were Dutch. Including the staff there were 16 different nationalities represented, some from as far away as Australia and Japan. We also came from a wide range of different denominations. After our meal at 6 pm we went to the service in the Abbey which was half an hour long.

I felt I was walking in the steps of St Columba. The services were specially written for Iona and were of a Celtic tradition. It was a moving experience. Next morning breakfast at 8am and the service at the Abbey at 9am. When I arrived at the island I thought of the hymn 'I am the Lord of the sea and sky', we sang it one night in the evening service. I was a reader at the service on our last night in the Abbey which was uplifting. My reflections of my visit was the sense of community, the friendship and kindness of all the people young and old. Whilst we came from different creeds we all had one faith and it gives us hope for the future. Everyone worked together. It was a most spiritual experience.



Around the Parish



Church Reopening



Around the Parish



More photos on the website!

Blast From The Past

Elkie Brooks sang at a midnight matinee in the Tonic Cinema in the sixties.

Later, in the eighties, she had a hit album called 'Pearls'

Have a listen to 'Pearl's a Singer' on youtube, especially the album version, then have a go at figuring out what's special about it. Here's the lyric

*'Pearl's a singer
She stands up when she plays the piano
In a nightclub*

*Pearl's a singer
They say that she once was a winner
In a contest*

*They say that she once cut a record
They played it for a week or so
On the local radio, it never made it*

*She wanted to be Betty Grable
But now she sits here
At this beer stained table'*

It's a bit like the story of a has been,
a loser,
Or is it?
The next few lines say something different
*'She sings songs for the lost and the lonely
Her job is entertaining folk
Singing songs and telling jokes
In a nightclub'*

Just for a moment the song pauses,
Everything changes,
Pearl's piano switches from faded to forceful
Her vocals move from plaintiff to powerful
From somewhere she gains a backing
chorus and strings
She is transformed

And the applause in the nightclub is
drowned out by the applause in Heaven

Leslie Adams



Where's Your Chair?



You mightn't know where this is but you will recognise the chairs! This is Harry's in the Craft Village in Derry. There are 70 chairs here and 30 in Harry's in Portstewart. Donal, the owner, says he is delighted with them. **BA**

BALLYHOLME PARISH CHURCH
PUSH
PRAY UNTIL SOMETHING HAPPENS

The January meeting was inspirational, mainly silent prayer for many subjects suggested in the information on the tables around the room.

February 2nd will follow on from this with separate areas for silent prayer, waiting on God and quietly spoken prayer.

To achieve this we need YOU!

Thelma Robinson

Do you remember the car sticker that read “nostalgia isn’t what it used to be”? Well you could say the same about retirement - it is not what it used to be either. The trend in increasing life expectancy that began about 100 years ago is still continuing. Public Health, England recently announced that on average a man aged 65 can now expect to live to 84, while a lady aged 65 can expect to live until she is 86. Assuming that people continue to retire at 65, then retirement will amount to a whole new life stage, the like of which has never been seen before.

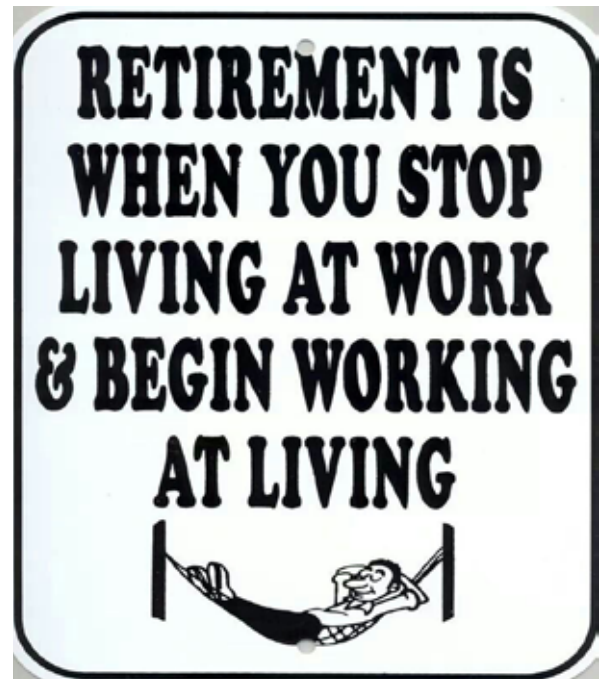
The increase in healthy life expectancy has, unfortunately, not increased as quickly as our overall life expectancy. Jonathan Swift (Dean of St Patrick’s Cathedral in Dublin) remarked “Everyone wants to live a long life, but no one wants to grow old”. If we want to spend our “bonus years”, in good health, then we must accept more responsibility for looking after the only body we will ever own. Many of the problems we associate with ageing have turned out to be the result of our modern lifestyle, especially the food we eat and the adoption of an increasingly sedentary lifestyle. We need to become more active in retirement, rather than adopting an out of date notion that we should “put our feet up”. You are too old not to exercise.

Perhaps the most surprising finding from the research into healthy ageing is the importance of maintaining a positive attitude and staying socially engaged. People with the most positive attitude to growing older were found to live more than 7 years longer than those with the least positive outlook. This is longer than is gained by regular exercise and not smoking!

So there you have it, keep active and work hard on your friendships. Sounds like a recommendation to join the St Columbanus’ Walkers!

(For more advice and ideas on enjoying a long, healthy and fulfilling retirement, visit www.exploringretirement.co.uk)

John Copelton



Women’s World Day of Prayer

The Women’s World Day of Prayer Service for our area will be held this year on Friday 3rd March

2017 at the Methodist Church, Brooklyn Avenue at 11.00 a.m. Tea and Coffee will be served in their Church Hall from 10.00 a.m.

A Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday 4th February 2017 in Ballyholme Parish Centre from 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

Ruth Ruttle and Roberta Munnis - Ballyholme Parish Representatives



ST PATRICK’S NIGHT CEILIDH

Friday 17th March 2017

Ballyholme Parish Centre

TICKETS COST £12.50 which includes Irish Stew, music from “Dusk Till Dawn” and a night of dancing and fun.

All money raised will go to support the youth work of Ballyholme Parish Church.

Tickets available from the Parish Office.



The sky was blue, the air crisp and the grass soft. Perfect conditions for the most anticipated fixture of the calendar year - the Ballyholme Parish Boxing Day football clash of young vs old. Armstrong's young side, still enthused by the glorious victory on Boxing Day 2015, could not help but dare to dream of what could be at the end of the 90 minutes. Baker's oldies side, mindful of the inglorious events 366 days previous that interrupted their 7 year winning streak, were determined and undeterred.

The first 15 minutes were fast paced and the naive dreams of Armstrong's youthful side soon seemed all but shattered. Ben Johnston made a number of vital saves, however the back five faced endless pressure from the attacking force of Gamble, Baker and Owens. Gamble opened the scoring putting Baker's old boys ahead. This coincided with a number of worsening injuries on the young side. McIlwrath put in a strong crunching challenge on Gamble and came out the worse. He soldiered on to see out the half but from that point on was likened to a subbuteo figurine. Another was slotted past Johnston and,



just when he was needed most, player/manager C. Armstrong went down with a squeal. His hamstring had given way, the only consolation being it made way for a super sub, newly transferred to the club in summer 2016, Billy Fyffe! Inhibited by a sprained ankle Fyffe was unable to provide the energy needed and another 2 goals were racked up against his team. The young lads went into halftime 4 goals to nil.

A roll call of injuries was taken and fears arose as to whether the young side could even field 11 players for the second half. Armstrong was off, Captain J. Baptiste's damaged quad was getting worse, and team chaplain B. Fyffe was carrying an ankle injury - both were next to immobile. Key centre back D. McIlwrath ended the half and headed straight to A&E. The remaining players took on board half time chocolate tangerines and reflected sombrely on the half. Armstrong limped over to have words with the opposition and ref, successfully negotiating the return of Matthew Brown to the young side who had been loaned out at the start of the game to the oldies.



Brown made an impact from the start energising the youthful squad, meanwhile the oldies became complacent. The second half was certainly the better one to watch. J. Mackenzie got his young side on the scoreboard which was followed by another 2 before the oldies would score again. 60 minutes into the game and the gap had narrowed to 5-4 and then to 6-5. Baker's side were rattled. It was at this point R. Gullen made his biggest contribution to the game yelling to his midfield and forwards, 'it's like you're doing the mannequin challenge up there every time I

look up.' Meanwhile the front three on the young side was anything but static with Mackenzie, Baptiste and Bell making it difficult for the opposition's defensive line.

Gamble was a serious threat. J. Baptiste put his studs through him, ripping the new boots Santa brought him. Later, Hamilton came in with a late tackle and those slick new boots saw the underside of metal studs for a second excruciating time. Gamble shook it off graciously and responded by continuing to put the ball in the back of the net. A few highlights from the second half deserve a special mention; Samantha Smallwood, the only female to play, made small work of Baker, taking it round him and accelerating down the line leaving him behind. Sam Baptiste scored goal of the game and requested it be recounted as 'he cut in on his left foot like Arjen Robben in his prime, evaded 2 tackles,

curled it round the defender, clipping the inside of the post and in!' Bell has a conflicting memory claiming in actual fact Baptiste was 'too tired to run any further so he closed his eyes and swung a boot at it' and instead reckons his 'fizzing half volley from outside the box' is the goal to be remembered. Gamble's audacious touch, seamlessly guiding the rocketing ball out of the air with his foot, caressing it with ease and elegance perfectly in front of him for a shot on goal was nothing short of an art form. Best not to mention what he did with it next but the keeper headed off in the direction of the corner flag to retrieve it.



In a game that ended 13-7 to the oldies, an accurate track of who scored what was lost. Gamble reported 5 goals and 4 assists. Baker got a handful with Owens, Ward and Whiteside all getting goals for the old boys. Mackenzie racked up 5 with S. Baptiste and Bell making it onto the scoresheet also for the young guys. A score line that reflects a highly injured youthful squad. A Facebook post outlining the injuries incurred and the promise of a proper warm up next year was picked up on by Emma who was

quick to quip, 'Dad's 60 in February and still going strong! At this rate you guys might not be walking at that age...' A sobering statement that begs a question many are seeking the answer to - Robbie Jackson, what is your secret?

Special thanks again this year to the crowd of 4 who came out to support and of course to referee Stephen Baker Senior who remained measured and unwavering throughout despite emphatic claims and fiery questions over decisions, not least from his son. All over for another year, Baker's Old Boys have reinstated their dominance while Armstrong's Young Lads feel they were defeated by injuries.

Andy Hamilton.

BACK HOME

In May 2016 we packed up the Church as the first phase of the much needed restoration began. While the work progressed, we met for Sunday worship in the assembly hall of St Columbanus College.

In a service styled as a Community Re-opening on Monday 5th December, the parish thanked the school for its hospitality and cross-community welcome. Mr Liam Perry school principal and Mr Brian Jamison, school bursar were joined by the Traditional Musicians and Choir along with senior members of staff. The school's Board of Governors were also present and the Chair of the Board of Trustees, the Bishop of Down and Connor, the Most Reverend Noel Treanor, led the prayers.

It was an opportunity for the parish to express its gratitude to the Design Team for their care and oversight of the project. O'Hanlon Brothers of Coalisland were the lead builders and special gifts were made to Judith Hamilton, Project Architect from Architects Knox and Markwell and a sculpture of the Saint, the parish and school have in common, Columbanus, was made to the College.

The Mayor of Ards and North Down, represented the Borough and other guests included representatives from the other churches in Ballyholme, Towerview and Ballyholme Primary Schools and a number of shops and businesses local to the Groomsport Road.

The service was led by our Bishop of Down and Dromore, the Right Reverend Harold Miller, who conducted a short series of reflections at the five key points of Restoration:- The new door and re-sited font, the new organ and audio-visual system, the re-framed windows and new lighting, the relocated pulpit and lectern and the newly commissioned Communion rail and Table.

The doors re-opened in time for Christmas and we now look forward to a service of Dedication of gifts planned for early in the new year.



What is your greatest wish for your child as they grow up? The desire of Christian parents surely is that their children will personally catch hold of and grow in the faith they have been taught since they were small. We long for them to grow into adults who love and worship Christ.



However, we know there are no guarantees that our children will trust God just because we do. But we do know that God has deliberately placed us as their parents and given us a key job to do. What we do and say can have a big impact on how their faith develops. So what are the things that will make a difference?

Pray for them

It may sound obvious, but in the busyness of family life it can be easy to forget to pray for our children regularly, asking God to work in their lives so that they come to know and love him for themselves. Some parents have found it helpful to get together every so often – perhaps once a month over a cup of coffee – to pray specifically for each other and each other's kids.

Practise a real, authentic faith

Let our children see us live out faith. This doesn't mean that we're perfect (we are all still growing as followers of Christ), but it does mean prioritising our own relationship with God. We can pray every day that God will help us grow to become more like Jesus, and our children will see this change happening in us! When we make mistakes, we must be willing to admit them and say sorry. And we can show our kids the impact our faith has on how we spend our money and our time.

Talk about it in everyday life

It's great to get into the habit of talking about our faith naturally (Deuteronomy 6. 5-7). This includes chatting about when God has helped us, or forgiven us, and will make it more likely that our children will come to us with doubts or questions. When they do come to us with a question, we can help them find the answer for themselves in the Bible rather than just telling them the answer. If we have pre-schoolers, we can make the repetition of mealtime prayers or songs a natural part of our routine; repetition is a really important part of how young children learn. As we chat to our children, we can help them understand that being a Christian is about loving and trusting a personal God, rather than about how good they are. Primary-aged children learn best through stories, so when we're telling stories from the Bible, remember that each one is there to teach us more about who God is and what he has done. They're not merely to teach our children moral lessons and make them behave! And when we come to different characters in the Bible, let's make sure we tell our child the full story rather than just the glossy parts; all of the heroes in the Bible failed God at times, but were still forgiven and used by him. Our children need to know as they grow up that God's grace is big enough to forgive them, because his love is so great.

Give unconditional love

While we're teaching our children about God's amazing, unwavering love, it's important to model this as parents, and that can be hard! But they need to know that we love them even when they do things that aren't lovely. Research has shown that children are more likely to have an interest in their parents' faith when they feel close to and secure in their family. Spending as much quality and quantity time with them as we can is important because it helps us build a close relationship, as well as providing lots of opportunities for chatting about our faith.

Ballyholme Parish has been approached to be the Irish pilot project for a new resource by Care for the Family designed to promote faith in the home. Look out for more over the next six months!

YOUTH-news

youth [youth] (youths) news [nooz]

A few years ago, whilst attending a conference in Belfast, I heard the keynote speaker utter the following sentence: "Two things always remain the same: Jesus and Change."

The youth work at Ballyholme Parish Church is undergoing various changes over the coming weeks and months. It was decided at the tail end of 2016 that change needed to happen to make sure that our programmes and curriculum were effective in developing our young people. I sat down one Sunday evening with all the young people and asked them three simple questions.

What do you like about Ballyholme Parish Youth that we should **KEEP** doing?

What do you not like about Ballyholme Parish Youth that we should **STOP** doing?

What do you think we should **START** doing at Ballyholme Parish Youth?

We used the conversations and have designed a new programme that I believe will be very enjoyable and beneficial to each young people that takes part.

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The weekly programme is as follows:

EMERGE will take place on a Sunday morning AFTER the 10am service. It'll be a time of Breakfast and Bible study with the odd trip to the Pitstop for a treat.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP will take place between 7-9PM on a Sunday evening. We'll have honest conversations about issues and faith, share in community with each other and have good craic as well. Oh, there is always hot chocolate and marshmallows.

PIZZA, THE BIBLE is our new programme on a Tuesday evening. I wanted to create a space for young people to come and ask hard questions about life and faith. We will be discussing relevant issues that affect young people and try to come up with ways to live our lives to the full. We will be availing of the Dominos 2 for 1 Pizza offer as well. It would be rude not to.

DROP IN will remain the same on a Wednesday after school. We will run from 4pm until 6pm and it is a space for young people to chill out and be together. We have a tuck shop, playstation, board games and a comfy sofas in the Meto Room.

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We will also have other fun nights to help build relationships and community amongst the young people. CINEMA CLUB and X-CESS will happen each month as well as our first YOUTH WEEKEND away at the end of February. Young people should watch Facebook and Instagram for details on all these activities.

I am very excited about all the new programmes and activities we have planned. Please keep the youth work in your prayers as the changes take place and everyone finds rhythm again coming into the new year.

Please come out and support our fundraising Ceilidh on St Patrick's Night. Tickets are £12.50 and the night will include music from Dusk Till Dawn and a good hearty bowl of Irish Stew.



OUR WORSHIP

Wednesday 1st February

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 5th February Easter 6

4th Sunday before Lent

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 All Age Service

11.30 Morning Prayer

Wednesday 8th February

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 12th February

3rd Sunday before Lent

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Morning Worship

& Children's Church

11.30 Parish Communion

6.30 United Service Ballyholme

Presbyterian.

Wednesday 15th February

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 19th February

2nd Sunday before Lent

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Morning Worship

& Children's Church

11.30 Morning Prayer

3.00 Uniformed Organisations

Service

Wednesday 22nd February

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 26th February

Sunday before Lent

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Holy Communion

& Children's Church

11.30 Morning Prayer

FUNERALS

November

29th: Margaret Blackwood
late of Beverley Lodge

30th: Billy Feherty late of
Beverley Lodge

January

9th: Gil Hudson, late of
Waverley Drive

12th: John Coop, formerly
of Waverley Drive

12th: Tony Rice, late of
Clifton Manor.

19th: Shaun Barkatullah
formerly of Godfrey Avenue.

20th: Helen Parkinson,
formerly of Crosby Court

Parish Office:

91274912

Rectory:

91274901

Prayer Line:

07531806167

Transport: 07599794968

Church Readers Rota:

Freda 91467624

Michelle 91271327

Web Site www.

Ballyholmeparish.co.uk



February

5th: Michael & Sharon
Hatch, Maureen Aiken

12th: Jacqui & Neil
Devlin, Nicole Watson

19th: Charles Robinson,
Vicky Hayes, Pat Adair

26th: Gillian & Geoff
Young, Vicky Hayes



February

5th: No Creche

12th: Rachel Brittain,
Julie Caulfield, Ashleigh
Birkett

19th: Christine Rankin,
Collette Pike, Liz Grant

26th: Nicola Gullen, Jenny
Whiteside, Claire Skelly

BAPTISMS

December

4th: Finn David Robbie
Campbell, Son of Gavin &
Jenny Campbell

February



5th: Daphne Hamill

12th: Betty Rainsford

19th: Ann McMurray &
Marie McKee

26th: Sue Bleakley

Children's Church Helpers



February

5th: No Children's Church

12th: Katherine Newman,
Margaret Moorehead, Kelly
McCullough

19th: Emma Darragh,
Christine Rankin, Cathryne
Menary

26th: Jackie Redmill, Nichola
Hawes, Carolyn Larmour