St Columbanus Ballyholme



Hidden Belfast Pizza the Bible Miracle Baby Quiz Night photos



.. On the way together ..

The Parishioner March 2017

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

The Rambling Rector

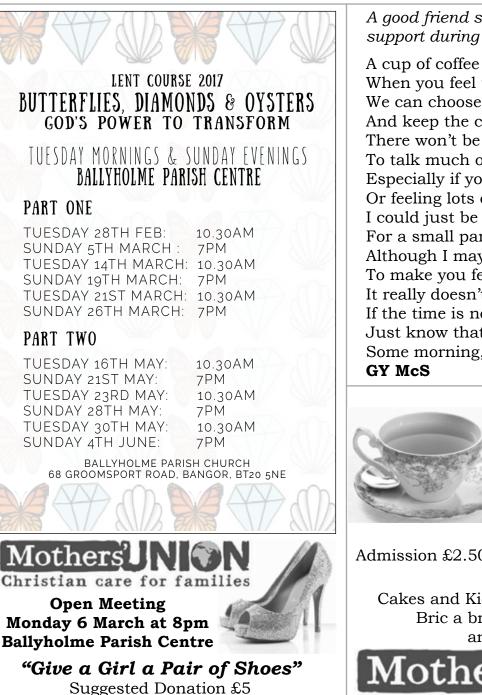
'Butterflies, Diamonds and Oysters' is the title we've given to this year's Lent course. In case you're wondering, it's nothing to do with the beautiful Red Admiral which took up residence in the warmth of our newly restored Church this winter! But I do want to take this opportunity to stress that absolutely everyone is welcome and encouraged to share in the Lent course. Don't think that it's some special sort of Bible study or prayer group, or that it's only for members of home groups. If you've never been before, the atmosphere is relaxed and low-key. My aim is to keep things accessible and practical and to send us all home each week with something fresh and useful to think about. This year we're going to try splitting it up: three sessions before Easter as Part I and three in the



The Parishioner

run up to the summer as Part II (see dates below). Each session will stand alone and you certainly won't be asked to commit to coming to all six, though it would be lovely to see you! What's the spiritual thread connecting butterflies, diamonds and oysters? Clever lot like you can figure it out, surely! Romans 12:2.





Light Supper included

A good friend sent this poem to me as support during a challenging period

A cup of coffee awaits you When you feel the time is right. We can choose a quiet venue And keep the conversation light There won't be any need To talk much or explain, Especially if you are down Or feeling lots of pain. I could just be a slight distraction For a small part of your day, Although I may not have the words To make you feel ok. It really doesn't matter If the time is not yet right Just know that I'll be there for you Some morning, noon or night.



Ballyholme **Mothers' Union** Spring Sale and **Coffee Morning**

Saturday 25th March in the Parish Centre 10am to Noon

Admission £2.50 including light refreshments Children free

Cakes and Kids Crafts for Mother's Day, Bric a brac, Books, Toys, Gifts and Tombola etc.







Just Older Youth

Spring

God, give us eyes to see the beauty of the Spring,

And to behold Your majesty in every living thing-

And may we see in lacy leaves and every budding flower The Hand that rules the universe with

gentleness and power-

And may this Easter grandeur that Spring lavishly imparts

Awaken faded flowers of faith lying dormant in our hearts,

And give us ears to hear, dear God, the Springtime song of birds

With messages more meaningful than man's often empty words

Telling harried human beings who are lost in dark despair-

'Be like us and do not worry for God has you in His care.

Helen Steiner Rice





The Wednesday Club

Our February meeting was attended by 25 of our ladies, who heard Sarah from Clear Chemists give us a talk on



our health, and how we should be looking after ourselves. Exercise, good nutrition and keeping ourselves hydrated by drinking water all aid our well being. At the end of her talk, she was able to take most of our blood pressures, which was very reassuring. With hopefully all winter colds gone, we will see you all again next month.

Audrey Hamlin was the winner of this months draw.





Sarah takes Daphne Hamill's blood pressure

Easter Jumpin is approaching – this year's programme will take place from 19th-21st April!

As always, the children will be divided into 3 groups – Tiggers (P1-P2), Rooz (P3-P4) and Wallabies (P5-P7), and there will be two sessions each day (10am-12noon & 2-4pm for all groups, with an evening session from 7-9pm for the Wallabies). Payment works in

terms of days attended. The price for P1 – P4 for Jumpin 2017 will be $\pounds 6$ per day ($\pounds 18$ in total), and $\pounds 7$ per day for P5-7 due to the extra session ($\pounds 21$ in total).

Forms will be released in church and through the mailing list on Sunday 5th March and will be available from the office and on the parish website – places will only be reserved when both forms and payment are returned. Places are allocated on a strict 'first-come-first-served' basis, and as places have been in such high demand we recommend registering as early as possible. Registration closes on Friday 31st March at 12.30pm for administration purposes.

If you have any questions or would like to be added to the mailing list, please contact Laura at laura@ballyholmeparish.co.uk

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 2 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 a month.

Nominations will close on Sunday 26 March. Forms will be available from the Churchwardens on Sundays, from the Parish Office on weekday mornings and from our Honorary Secretary Leslie Adams (91466689). 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.

A 'Triennial' Year

4

As advertised last month, nominations close on Sunday 26 March for our new 2017-18 Select Vestry. However this year is what the Church of Ireland Constitution describes as a "triennial" election meaning that certain other important positions filled once every three years come vacant. This means we are seeking nominations both for members of Diocesan Synod and for Parochial Nominators (these will also close on Sunday 26 March).

Diocesan Synod Members

Once a year the Bishop calls a Synod where representatives of all the parishes in Down and Dromore come together for a day of worship, discussion and encouragement. Effectively, this gathering is the AGM or Easter Vestry for the diocese. Time is spent on important practical and accounting matters and motions are debated and passed or rejected but the overall focus of synod is that the blessings of the previous twelve months are shared and celebrated. For the last three years Ballyholme has been represented by Leslie Adams, Jill Boal, Jim Shaw and Freda Woods, all of whom have found attendance interesting and inspirational. We are also asked to nominate a junior synod representative and until her departure last April ours was Jade Irwin.

Parochial Nominators

In the event of a parish becoming vacant (through what's referred to ecclesiastically as retirement, preferment or death in post!) the task of interviewing and agreeing a new rector falls to four people styled Parochial Nominators. The first stage is for a body called The Permanent Commission on Parochial Vacancies to establish that our parish remains viable and that it can pay for a rector and offer a rectory which meets the regulation Church of Ireland standard. Once these preliminary requirements are met, our Nominators consult with the Bishop and an elected group of diocesan representatives known as the Board of Nomination. Together they identify the particular needs of the parish, put a parish profile together and draw up a shortlist of candidates. It is for the Nominators to meet the prospective clergy and come to the Board with a recommendation. If called upon to act, it is a time-consuming but fascinating task carrying a serious level of responsibility! The nominators in place for the last vacancy in Ballyholme in 2007 were Nancy Baker, Paddy Donnelly, Geoffrey Johnston and Don Todd. The most recent four have been Leslie Adams, Karen Baker, Patricia Robinson and Don Todd.

It is highly desirable that our four nominators bring a range of outlooks and backgrounds and that they are seen to represent the whole sweep of the parish with its menu of service styles and array of interests and opinions.

Supplementalists

In addition and as a precautionary measure, 'supplementalist' Synod Members and Parochial Nominators also need to be nominated this year. These are people who will step up should one of our Members or Nominators have to stand down at any point during their three years in office.

For further information speak to the Rector or any of those named above if available and please consider making yourself available for these important roles.

ST COLUMBANUS WALKERS





The Walkers and some hidden history of Belfast

Did you know that St George's Market is the oldest surviving market in Belfast? Or that St Malachy's Church was intended to be a Cathedral? And do you know about the unusual Christmas decorations in Muriel's pub near Ann Street or where the first Belfast Castle was built?

Our unusual monthly outing with Marti Molloy of Belfastology provided all the answers when we embarked on a 'Hidden Belfast' tour. From the late nineteenth century St George's Market which had fallen into disrepair and more recently restored with Lottery funding into the vibrant hub which it is today, we made our way along Joy Street, past the only surviving Georgian houses in Belfast to the 170 year old St Malachy's Church in Albert Street. Originally it was intended to be the Cathedral Church of the Diocese of Down and Connor seating 7000 but as the building costs were to be raised by donations which, due to the Famine, dried up, it is smaller than planned. However the interior is stunning – the ceiling looks like a wedding-cake turned inside-out, so lacy and frothy is the plasterwork.

On then through the City Hall to view some of the beautiful stained glass windows with their individual stories and thence to Fountain Street where a fountain stood just behind the Arcade, and on via Ann Street to the Cathedral Quarter. On the way we popped into Muriel's Bar to see its quirky Christmas decorations kept throughout the year by popular demand - you need to go and see for yourself – and on through the lively vibrant Cathedral Quarter with the Black Box theatre, the Yardbird Bar approached through what is said to be the oldest building in Belfast to St Anne's Square - a light airy open place with the Mac Theatre on one side. From there you get a great glimpse of the Cathedral and its Needle.



We finished at the Big Fish by the new walkway over the Lagan where Marti told us of the regeneration of the Lagan and the appearance of salmon after years of pollution by the dockside industries. The Lagan is a river which had turned its back on the City but now is the lifeblood of a whole new city development.

Marti and the Walkers in theatrical mode!

One of those is the Marina and we made our way there to have lunch in the Dock Café at Abercorn Basin, about 15 minutes walk from Titanic Quarter train halt. This is an Honesty Café with really interesting art work, decoration, comfy sofas, and an ever-expanding collection of quirky pieces of history from the Belfast docks: Titanic memorabilia, models and unique pictures of shipyard life, and artefacts from the lovely old H&W Drawing Office. It affords the opportunity for meetings, working, and music – just whatever you please. There we had our BYO lunch and enjoyed the usual chat about our venture.

These were just a few of the interesting stories revealed on our walk. Belfastogy is to be recommended for those who think they know Belfast! Visit http://www.belfastology.com



"I am the Lord, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me?" Jeremiah 32:27

There is one story I want to share with you from December that has been an encouragement to us and I hope will be to you too. Baby Nazziwa came to us on day 2 of life with breathing problems. There was no air getting into the right side of his chest so we did an x-ray. That showed that his liver was in his chest, reaching all the way to his armpit and squashing his lung almost completely and pushing his heart over so his left lung was squashed too. This is called a congenital diaphragmatic hernia and if you say those words to a baby doctor they tend to get nervous! These babies in the UK will have at least one consultant at the delivery, need immediate interventions and high tech equipment and even then many die. Having a right sided hernia with the liver involved is especially bad. Despite all that, this little one was managing to breathe, even if a bit fast, and was breastfeeding. We were amazed. Miracle 1 was that despite having almost no functioning lung he was alive and had made it to Kiwoko.



We sent him to see a specialist in Kampala who was willing to operate on him. Given that this was 6 days before Christmas and that getting to see a specialist is hit and miss at the best of times this was **Miracle number 2**. Then there was the issue of money. The surgeon would only operate in the international hospital since he felt the baby's chances of surviving in the government hospital were zilch. The international hospital (IHK) wanted 5 million shillings (£1000) in cash as a deposit before admitting him and despite phone calls and pleadings from me they would not budge. They are not used to having people from the village there!! So **Miracle 3** was that a very persistent and caring nurse who had accompanied the baby and his mum refused to leave and eventually the intensive care doctor saw the baby and overruled the finance people on clinical grounds. Here it got a little scary. The doctor phoned me and said he would admit the baby if I would guarantee the fees would be paid. The total cost was going to be at least £2500 but possibly much



more. I felt that God was asking us to trust him. He had already accomplished the impossible so would we trust him to provide the money? A charity I have links with said they would consider his case if he survived, but we would be left with the bill if he didn't. Did we believe that God was sovereign? Would we trust our Heavenly Father to provide our daily bread regardless of whether the charity paid up or not? We went ahead and guaranteed the money would come trusting that God was in control. I wish I could say that trust never wavered

on my part! There were moments of anxiety, especially as the bill started climbing, but my nursing colleagues' faith was strong and they kept reminding me that God would provide.



The Parishioner





Baby Nazziwa had successful surgery on the 22nd of December and was put on a breathing machine. The question now was would his lungs re-expand? Would he be able to come off the machine and breathe alone? Would he

get any other complications? Waiting was hard. I would much rather be in the middle of things than watching from a distance! 5 days after the operation he came off the breathing machine and 2 days later we brought him back to Kiwoko. **Miracle number 4.**

Miracle 5 was that we had found a friendly person in finance who allowed the baby to leave IHK based on receipts of money transferred even though it had not yet arrived in their account. 4 public holidays were not helping us get the money to them. The total cost came to 18 million shillings (£4200). The dad was telling me how that was more money than he has earned in his entire working life. I chose not to point out that it's also a significant chunk of my annual budget and I would be living off posho and beans for a year if the charity failed to pay up!! Instead we talked of God's provision and care. On returning to Kiwoko the baby continued to do very well. He came off oxygen, was feeding and growing and he went home last week. He has been named Kisakva Mukama which means God's grace. The same day the charity confirmed that they would pay the money in full. The charity is a UK based Christian charity set up to help children whose families can't afford to pay for their treatment. It is called Willing and Abel. See http://www. willingandabel.org.uk for more info on their great work.

This has been one of the highlights of my year. So many parts of this story were out of our control and relied on



God doing the impossible. We felt God asks us to step out of the boat and trust Him in this relatively small way, and when we did He let us be a part of this story. Our faith has increased as we have seen God come through and His name is being glorified as these parents share the story in their village. **Dr Becca Jones**

If you need the clergy...

Just a reminder that if you are getting in touch about an urgent pastoral matter or an emergency, you will need to contact the Rectory on 91274901. Unless you or your family make contact, take it that no one else has done so. It is better to assume that the Rector does not know and has not heard about your need. This is especially true if you or your loved one is admitted to hospital. Simon makes hospital visits every week but often he does not know to look for people because he has not been informed by their family or friends. A reminder also, that if you have anything important to mention to him at the Church door on Sunday, a written note always makes things easier - this applies to any member of staff too! You are asked to bear in mind that without a second pair of full-time clerical hands Simon remains under a little more pressure. Your continued prayers for the Rector and all the staff team are much appreciated.

Around the Parish











Mission Committee Quiz Night





















MU News: On Monday 6th Feb we were priviliged to share in a very special story......

Our guest that evening was Heather Lyle, a teacher, a minister's wife, an adoptive mother to two very special daughters. She shared her life to date, her walk with Jesus and her amazing fulfilment in becoming a complete family.

What an engaging speaker she was, so real was her pain, so strong was her faith, so joyful was her realisation of her prayers answered.

That prayer, that search for joy in Motherhood, that was the story we shared, Kim's Story, beginning in a girl's dream for Marriage and Motherhood growing up in the North Coast in Ireland. Many years of hospital anticipation and subsequent disappointments. Now celebrating that first beautiful daughter, "waiting for her" in Sunshine House Orphanage, Thailand.

More recently a much anticipated little sister Zoe, has safely travelled from the same orphanage to become a second adoptive daughter for the Lyle family. Many Blessings indeed from The Lord.

March is a very busy month for our MU branch, which I hope all the parish can share in. Our meeting on 6th March is open to all the ladies of the parish and beyond!!

Please join us, it's an Open Meeting and Supper to be enjoyed. Our event is titled -

"GIVE A GIRL A PAIR OF SHOES"

Olive and Hilary will be chatting, and modelling shoes??

We'd like you all to bring along a shoe or 2 which are special to you !! Is there a story Around it? Could you share it?? See you there???

Monday **20th March** Area Meeting at Groomsport Mothers' Union. Arrangements to be made at meeting on 6th March.

SPRING CLEAN????

Yes we need you to have a clearout and send it down to Parish Centre for our SPRING SALE and COFFEE MORNING

Cakes and Kids Crafts for Mother's Day the next day!! Bric a brac, books and gifts etc. Sat 25th March in Parish Centre 10am to Noon. Proceeds to MU Projects.

Followed by Mothering Sunday the next day, Sunday 26th March.

Finally, Monday 27th March, the Festival Service, Dromore, (transport to be arranged)

Phew!! Now didn't I say March was a busy month for MU!! Looking forward to meeting with you all through the month!!

Much Joy.

North Down Storehouse

The trolley will be out during Lent for your donations. Items that are needed include: Tins: Tuna, custard, sweetcorn, beans, rice pudding, soup Jars: Baby food, jam, pasta sauce Drinks: Diluted juice, breakfast juice, long life milk Boxes: Cereal, biscuits, sugar, pasta, tea bags & coffee Bottles: Washing-up liquid, cleaning products Male & Female toiletries



Yvonne Manogue, Branch Leader.



Women's World Day of Prayer

Friday 3rd March 2017

The Women's World Day of Prayer Service will be held on Friday 3rd March 2017 at Ballyholme Methodist Church, Brooklyn Avenue at 11.00am. Tea and Coffee will be served in their Church Hall from 10.00am.

A New Face in Church House

Roy Lawther, who is the Honorary Treasurer of Ballyholme Parish, took up the post of Diocesan Secretary on 16 January 2017 and he is based in Church of Ireland House, Donegall Street, Belfast.

Roy had spent the past 10 years working in Lisburn and Castlereagh Council and felt the time was right for him to take up the challenge of working in a completely different environment. In his new role as Diocesan Secretary, Roy is

responsible for managing the office on behalf of the Bishop of Down and Dromore. His job requires him to manage all the committees of the Diocesan Council which include Finance and Planning to Glebe related committees. He provides secretarial support for all the various Committees and this involves producing agendas and minutes and he also has to make sure all the action points are carried out.

Roy is also responsible for the day to day running of the Church House building which extends over 4 floors. As the facilities manager he can be faced with many challenges including arranging to get shutters and boilers fixed!

In many ways the issues Roy is having to deal with in Church House are no different from those faced by other organisations and so Roy is able to make good use of the skills he gained whilst working in the local council.

When Roy is not busy balancing the books of Ballyholme Parish he likes to sing in the Police Male Voice Choir and I believe they will be performing in St Columbanus Church soon so watch out for more details! Roy also likes to "walk for miles in all weathers" and I can confirm that because the night I met him it was blowing a gale and trying to rain and Roy was ready to head out in the night!

17 March St Patrick's Downpatrick notice

St Patrick's Day Celebrations 2017 - Bishop Harold invites you to join him at Down Cathedral for the annual St Patrick's Day Festival Service followed by lunch in the marquee in the Cathedral grounds.

This year's theme is 'Rising to the Challenge' with two keynote speakers, Mickey Harte, of the Gaelic Athletic Association, and Shane Logan, CEO of Ulster Rugby.

You are also welcome to attend the Holy Communion Service at Saul and to join the pilgrimage from Saul to Down Cathedral. RSVP by email by 11 March to **info@downanddromore.org**

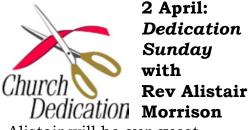
9:15am	Holy Communion at Saul
	Preacher: Rev. Adrian Dorrian
10:15am	Pilgrimage from Saul to Downpatrick
11:45am	Festival Service in Down Cathedral
	With: Mickey Harte (Tyrone G.A.A)
	Shane Logan (Ulster Rugby)
	Wreath laying ceremony at St Patrick's Grave
1:15pm	Irish stew lunch in the marquee

Transport to Saul

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

The last bus for the Communion service leaves at 8:45 am. The last bus for the pilgrimage leaves at 9:45 am. The last bus from Saul to the Cathedral leaves at 10:40 am.

Christine Johnstone

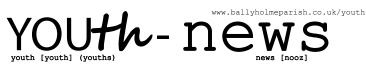


Alistair will be our guest preacher at all three morning services:

8.30, 10.00 & 11.30am Back in the UK for the wedding of his son Andrew, Alistair will lead special prayers of dedication and thanksgiving for our financial gifts and pledges and for our array of new Church furnishings following Restoration 2016.







Socrates, the Greek philosopher, once said:-

The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new.

These words ring true in my heart as the youth work of Ballyholme Parish has entered into a new season of change. Over the past month, we have had many tweaks to existing youth programmes and seen the birth of some new exciting ventures such as Pizza The Bible. We are constantly celebrating the old programmes such as Youth Fellowship but trying to strive forward into the new and exciting times on offer.

We had our first Pizza The Bible night on Tuesday 17th and it was greeted with a group of 12 young people eager to learn about the Bible and eat Dominos pizza. The Bible and pizza are a fantastic combination. Over the next few months we are diving into many different topics and issues such as relationships, identity, self-worth and how we can deepen our relationship with God.

Youth Fellowship had a few tweaks and changes but remained largely the same. We have been enjoying a new series called 'Rise: Me, myself and..." and have discussed and explored issues around self—perception, our values, our hopes and aspirations and how we can serve our community better. Each of these has raised many great questions and it is so good to see young people being challenged on their perceptions and exploring how they can be better as people and challenge themselves further in their dreams.

Emerge has moved, to after the 10am service and we enjoy a good discussion over breakfast. We have been discussing how to live our lives more effectively everyday.

I hope you have enjoyed the praise at the 10am service. I have to give all the praise to the amazing team of singers and Ian. I have had a great time digging through the archives of worship songs over the years and I am very excited to play these over the forthcoming months. If you have a personal favourite, why don't you come up and suggest it? I'd love to hear it!

On St Patrick's evening, we are having a fundraiser for the youth work of the Parish. We will be having a ceilidh with a hearty bowl of stew and a dance. Even if you don't dance, come along and have a laugh. We would love to have a big crowd out to support the young people and, if I can sell enough tickets, I might even dress up as a leprechaun for the evening. Tickets are £12.50 and a family ticket is £25 so why not bring the entire family? It is open to all ages and we would love to have you there.

In next month's magazine, I will be telling you about our first youth weekend away to Portrush. We are going surfing! There will also be some interviews over the coming months with the Confirmation candidates and how they are feeling about taking the big step of being confirmed on Easter Sunday!

Billy Fyffe



The Parishioner

12 OUR WORSHIP

Wednesday 1st March Ash Wednesday 10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 5th March Lent 1

8.30 Holy Communion10.00 All Age Service11.30 Morning Prayer

Wednesday 8th March

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 12th March Lent 2

8.30 Holy Communion
10.00 Morning Worship
& Children's Church
11.30 Parish Communion
6.30 United Service Ballyholme
Methodist, Brooklyn Avenue

FUNERALS

January

28th: Adelaide Sweet, late of Carmen House31st: Susan Trenier, late of Croagh Patrick Nursing Home, Donaghadee

February

10th: Laura Gilbert, late of The Brae, Groomsport18th: Dorrie Nesbitt, late of Seacourt



Parish Office: 91274912 Rectory: 91274901 Prayer Line: 07531806167 Transport: 07599794968 Church Readers Rota: Freda 91467624 Michelle 91271327 Web Site www. Ballyholmeparish.co.uk Wednesday 15th March

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 19th March

Lent 3 8.30 Holy Communion 10.00 Morning Worship & Children's Church 11.30 Morning Prayer

Wednesday 22nd March

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 26th March

Lent 4 8.30 Holy Communion 10.00 Holy Communion & Children's Church 11.30 Morning Prayer

Wednesday 29th March

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Breakables

A parishioner decided to post a new Bible to her granddaughter in England. At the Post Office she was asked "Anything breakable inside Madam?" She replied "Only the Ten Commandments!"

March



5th: Karen Baker12th: Sybil Robertson19th: Vicky Hayes26th: Ruth Ruttle

Children's Church Helpers



March

5th: No Children's Church
12th: Debbie Hunter, Kelly
McCullouggh, Gillian Jones,
Caroline Connolly
19th: Judith Bell, Neil Devlin,
Gail Kerr, Sarah Boyd
26th: Julie Monaghan, Trish
McGrugan, Jenny Campbell,
Michelle Savage



March

5th: Tony & Jan Carver, Glynis McSorley, Peter Robinson
12th: Edna Morrison, Gillian Fletcher, Carole Majury
19th: Mark & Carolyn Larmour, Jean Law
26th: Mothers' Union Team



March

5th: No Creche
12th: Rachel Brittain,
Rosemary Thompson,
Emma Porter
19th: Christine Rankin,
Gillian Segasby, Ann
Browne
26th: Nicola Gullen, Julie
Caulfield, Ashley Birkett