

St Columbanus

Ballyholme



Uniformed Organisations Service
Rectory under Scaffold
Surf's Up!
Church Wardens look back



..On the way together..

The Parishioner

April 2017

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

The Rambling Rector

While we're grateful to every set of outgoing Churchwardens, has there ever been a team who took on more than Ann Killops and David Crooks? Everyone knew Restoration 2016 was on the cards and that there would be a re-location to St Columbanus College. Yet there was the thought of what that might involve, and then there was the seven month reality. It is the measure of Ann and David that neither of them was put off – or at least if they were, they didn't show it! I hope their example inspires others to be in a state of readiness should they receive a tap on the shoulder next year. As always, their term of office comes to an end as the Christian year reaches its Gospel climax. There's no better way to get to know people than to serve as Churchwarden and for most it's a whole new behind-the-scenes insight into the modern variety of Church of Ireland worship – and the foibles of the clergy who lead it! For Ann and David, it's been a journey through what felt at times like the spiritual re-birth of our Church but then, as we remember this month: no cross, no empty tomb.



SED.



Tragic news from Albany

We shared in Church on 5 March the tragic news from our former curate the Reverend Alistair Morrison about the death of Christian, son of his wife Laurie, in a hiking accident. Many of you have been asking for an update and your prayers and expressions of sympathy are very much appreciated. We thought we would reproduce an email sent by Alistair on 10 March:

“Thank you for your replies and prayers of support for Laurie and her family. Earlier this week, we had a meeting with the police department and they told us, from their experience, Christian's body may not resurface until May or June of this year. In the meantime, both the police and fire service are searching each day using sonar equipment and drones along the Hudson River. Please pray that during this period of waiting God will uphold us all. Through it all, Laurie has been at peace knowing that Christian is in God's gracious keeping and can come to no more harm. She misses him with a broken

heart, but has great assurance that he is with the Lord. Please also pray for Christian's Dad, Don, and his brother Alex who miss him dearly. I've attached a photo of Laurie with Christian at Thanksgiving 2015.”

Holy Week 2017

8pm Monday 10th - Friday 14th April

Rev David Bruce (Secretary to The Council for Mission in Ireland)

Ballyholme Presbyterian Church



Just Older Youth



Easter Quotes

Good Friday is the mirror held up by Jesus so that we can see ourselves in all our stark reality, and then it turns us to that cross and to His eyes and then we hear these words 'Father forgive them for they know not what they do.' *Robert G Trache*

Look at the cross and you will know what one soul means to Jesus. *Mother Teresa*

Jesus proved His love on the cross. When Christ hung, and bled and died, it was God saying to the world, 'I love you'. *Billy Graham*

Jesus did not die on the cross just so we could live comfortable, well-adjusted lives. His purpose is far deeper: He wants to make us like himself before He takes us to heaven. This is our greatest privilege, our immediate responsibility and our ultimate destiny. *Rick Warren*

Easter was when Hope in person surprised the whole world by coming forward from the future into the present. *NT Wright*

On Easter Day the veil between time and eternity thins to gossamer. *Douglas Horton*

Spring bursts today, for Christ is risen and all the earth's at play. *Christina Rossetti*

Let every man and woman count himself immortal. Let him catch the revelation of Jesus in his resurrection. Let him say not merely 'Christ is risen', but 'I shall rise'. *Phillip Brooks*

The resurrection gives my life meaning and direction and the opportunity to start over no matter what my circumstances. *Robert Flatt*

The Wednesday Club

Due to a lot of different circumstances, only 14 ladies were able to attend our February meeting, so for a change, we decamped to the Columbanus room, where we were nice and cosy!



Our guest was Jill, from the Volunteer service, and she quickly put our ladies to work, changing labels on packets, that were to be sold in Oxfam shops all over Northern Ireland. Well, we certainly deserved our tea and pancakes after all that hard work.

Our winner of this month's was Rita Kent and we hope that more of our ladies will be able to join us again next month.

Sue



Miriam and Beatrice hard at work sticking on labels for Jill

This year has been a particularly eventful one for our Church Wardens, Ann Killops (Rector's Church Warden) and David Crooks (People's Church Warden). This was the year St Columbanus Church hosted the Ballyholme Holy Week Easter services, then there was the move to St Columbanus College in May, the return to Church in December marked by the Community Service and the April Dedication Service. Ann and David have also had to become familiar with the new sound and visual systems as well as adapt to the altered layout of the renovated Church building.

Ann told me she felt surprised but honoured to be asked by Simon to be the Rector's Church Warden. It was a job she had never anticipated doing and she was excited by the challenge but also nervous about taking on such a big role in church life. Ann found she had no need to be worried because everyone was very helpful and friendly.

Likewise David was surprised when he was asked to take on the role of People's Church Warden. Like anyone who has never done the job before, he didn't have a clue what was involved. He was used to coming to Church and taking his

News in the Pews from the Church Wardens and never gave a thought to what goes on behind the scenes. Once he got into the way of things he found it all fell into place and he enjoyed meeting and speaking to everyone attending the various services. David told me he welcomed the opportunity to give something back to the Church as a way of repaying Simon and Alistair for the support he received from them in the past.

Ann and David had a few months in St Columbanus Church before moving to St Columbanus College in May to let the builders in to start the renovation work. This was a challenging time for both of them.

Ann had the extra responsibility of keeping everything needed for the Communion services at home and bringing it all to St Columbanus College each Sunday. Ann always hoped she had remembered everything and I'm sure Simon didn't find anything amiss!

David was at St Columbanus College early every Friday evening to open the building for the set-up teams and between them they ensured that everything was in place for the smooth running of the Sunday services. Ann told me both the set up and clear up teams worked very well and after 7 months they had it all down to a fine art. Ann said it was great to be involved in the Church restoration and seeing it all come together so well. After the challenging months of the move to St Columbanus College and then back to the Church again Ann said she appreciates our beautifully restored Church building all the more.

As Church Wardens Ann and David have had many varied roles and both she and David attended the monthly Vestry meetings. The most enjoyable part for Ann was meeting people from all the different services, something she wouldn't have been able to do prior to being a Church Warden.

Ann and David particularly enjoyed being part of the services at Easter and Christmas even though for David the Christmas service brought back some memories and was somewhat tinged with sadness. Both Ann and David read lessons at the Community Service and during the year Ann had the privilege of helping to give out the wine at Communion services.

Ann will continue with her work as a volunteer befriender for Bryson Trust and the Safe and Well Trust and she is looking forward to a couple of trips to Edinburgh and maybe an Ulsterbus tour down South. Ann would like to wish whoever follows her all the best and she hopes they enjoy being Church Warden as much as she did.

We haven't seen the last of David. He helps out with the Friday lunches and he is a keen guitar player so look out for him giving Billy a hand at the 10 o'clock services! David is also looking forward to having more time for his beloved motor bike. He likes nothing better than hitting the road and feeling the wind in his hair (or as David said what's left of his hair!). Coincidentally I happened to find out that St Columbanus is the patron saint of bikers!

Christine Johnstone





Left luggage at Rocky Mountain!

The March outing of the St Columbanus walkers was delayed a week because of bad weather. When ten of us eventually set off, neither of our leaders, Betty and Leslie, could join us. We travelled to Rourke's Park, near Annalong, where Hill had kindly agreed to show us a corner of his beloved Mourne.

We set off in low cloud which obscured the view. The terrain called for waterproof boots and, ideally, gaiters. It was busy on the Mourne that day. We met or saw several other groups enjoying the great outdoors.

We made our way uphill to the quarry at Round Seefin. Hill told us that the granite from this quarry was regarded as being of the highest quality and had been used for producing granite setts. At the top of the quarry we followed the Mourne Wall over Long Seefin. By the time we reached a stile at the foot of Rocky Mountain for our lunch stop, the cloud had lifted and we were able to enjoy the views down the Spence's River valley towards the sea.

After lunch, two of our number offered to provide a "left luggage" service for our backpacks while the other nine tackled the ascent of the aptly-named Rocky Mountain. Even unencumbered by backpacks, some of us found the sharp ascent quite challenging. However, at the top we were rewarded with a wonderful 360 degree panorama of the Mourne Mountains. The descent of Rocky Mountain – on what turned out to be its wet side proved tricky and a number of us arrived back at the "left luggage" point with damp patches on our clothing from involuntary contact with the wet ground. Thankfully, all of these landings were soft!

The descent from there was gentle, but, again, wet and muddy. We returned to the cars and changed into dry footwear. We then headed to our usual cafe in Newcastle for well earned refreshments after a good day out in the Mourne.

Peter Gibson



The Police Male Voice Choir

**Concert at St Columbanus Parish
Friday 5th May 2017 at 8.00pm**

A concert by the Police Male Voice Choir will take place in the Church on Friday 5th May 2017 at 8.00pm. Also taking part will be guest artists.

The choir have performed throughout Canada, Great Britain and Europe as well as taking part in choir competitions in England.

The members of the choir, who are either serving or past officers in the police force, are looking forward to entertaining you.

Tickets cost £8 each and are available from the Parish Office

This is my review of Gangsta Granny written by David Walliams



BOOK REVIEWS

The characters in Gangsta Granny are Ben, Ben's Mum and Dad, Raj a newsagent, the Queen, Mr Parker, Policemen, Flavio Flavioli and Granny of course.

Gangsta Granny is about a boy called Ben who goes to see his granny every Friday because his parents go ballroom dancing. Ben hates ballroom dancing. He likes plumbing instead. Ben doesn't like going to Granny's house because she always spits in the used tissue she keeps up the sleeve of her cardigan, and THEN wipes his face with it. Granny's T.V. has been broken since 1992 and is covered in



dust; so thick it's like fur. Her house is

stuffed with books and she is always

trying to get Ben to read them even though he loathes reading.

Granny insists on Ben wearing a heavy winter coat all year round, even on a boiling hot day; otherwise "you won't feel the benefit."

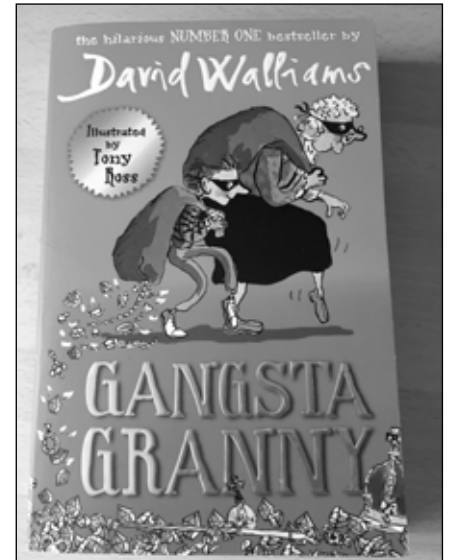
She reeks of cabbage. (Anyone with a cabbage allergy would not be able to come within ten miles of her), and lots more....

But one night she tells Ben a big secret and that's when the story really begins.

One day you should ask your Granny if she has any secrets.

Orlaith aged 8

Note. Orlaith's Granny has typed this review from Orlaith's original hand written version, and yes this Granny may have secrets to share!



MU News: Well what an evening of fun we had with Give a Girl a Pair Of Shoes. It began with a quiz and then some historical shoe facts to share!!

Interestingly, as we saw olden images of footwear we can realise that each decade draws from the past in introducing new designs for shoes, heralding them as brand new!!

Mind you I guess they are no more comfortable 2nd time around!!!

The next part of the evening was given over to modelling some shoes whilst sharing their stories. Hilary told us about her daughter's wedding, a little bargain bought in Singapore and a little snip from Primark!!

Adelene was able to share with us some very special walking boots and her hopes for them.

Next was Maureen whose boots could tell many happy tales of Weekly Outings with Riding for the Disabled.

Vicki shared some happy tales to make us smile and Yvonne regaled us with an epic tale of boat travel, road transport and Laurence's good nature to result in wedding shoes for a Rosbotham Wedding.



Olive, our Speaker, then concluded her shoe musings with references from The Bible. Using The Woman At The Well, Martha & Mary and The Road To Emmaus; it was interesting to note her choice of footwear for these characters.

The evening concluded with a delicious supper; a lovely end to our Open Meeting, thank you for your donations to our MU Funds.

Next Meeting Mon 3rd April - Green Fingers !!
Also Monday 10th April, let's meet up for the Holy Week Service in Ballyholme Presbyterian.
That's all for this month.

Yvonne Manogue



New Fencing

In Uganda and many African houses shoes are left at the door and one enters in bare feet in the interests of cleanliness and hygiene. Around Kiwoko Hospital shoes were vanishing from doors - being stolen by opportunist passers by!

Christmas Cards for Kiwoko have raised much needed funds for many projects at Kiwoko Hospital over the past 10 years. One such was the card towards a new autoclave and fencing around the hospital perimeter. The autoclave was purchased and the fencing project started.

Today the fencing project is almost complete and small theft at the staff residences has ceased. Photograph shows Dr Rory and Dan from Kiwoko outside the fence.



Thank you Parishioners of St Columbanus, Ballyholme for your help!



The 'Miracle Baby' - An Update

The 'Miracle baby', whose story was in the last magazine, came back to Kiwoko in the last week of February. He is thriving - see attached photo.

His grateful parents brought Dr Becca who is in charge of the Paediatric Ward a thank-you present of a bag of ground nuts (peanuts, probably grown on their small allotment).

Where are we with a new Curate?

As Simon's heavy workload this winter has become more obvious and concerning to us all, many parishioners have been enquiring about the possibility of Ballyholme being allocated a new curate. The issue is as much about finance as availability. In recent years our income and outgoings have been carefully balanced and employing a Curate was only made possible by receiving unexpected capital from legacies and judicious budgeting on items such as office expenses, energy and so on. Securing a new staff team member and maintaining our current priorities with children, youth, seniors and missions will be challenging but Vestry will continue to consider the options in the light of our current and future income and expenditure.



The Curatage: currently rented out



Good Friday Praise Party

Come and join us in the Parish Centre at 11am on Friday 14th April for games and songs and craft as we explore what Good Friday means! We will then join in at our 12.00 noon Good Friday worship service. Contact Laura if you would like any details!



Glebe wardens past and present have worked hard to hold back the ravages of time and weather on a building in excess of 100 years old and several decades senior to the Church. Since the exterior of the Rectory was last painted in 2006 (the year before the Abernethys moved out) the plasterwork has deteriorated steadily leading to significant water ingress at the front of the house and to widespread and unsightly damage to the interior decoration, especially the walls and ceilings around the bay windows. Since September 2016 the main lounge and two of the bedrooms have not been usable.



In response to a question about the Rectory at last year's Easter Vestry (2016) a sub-committee was formed to explore our options – keeping as open a mind as possible. Ian Foster, Ivan Humphreys, Norman Munnis, James Perry and Christine Rankin along with Heidi Doogan took as their starting point the December 2015 Diocesan Quinquennial Inspection Report which is a professional survey of every Church of Ireland property commissioned centrally every five years.

The report (on structure and condition) was not good and, if our parish were to become vacant, permission for us to start looking for a new rector would not be granted. This is currently the situation in five vacant parishes in Down and Dromore. The congregations concerned are anxious to appoint new incumbents but as temporary renting is not acceptable they will not be allowed to do so until their rectories are passed as fit. The following areas were identified as 'urgent' in

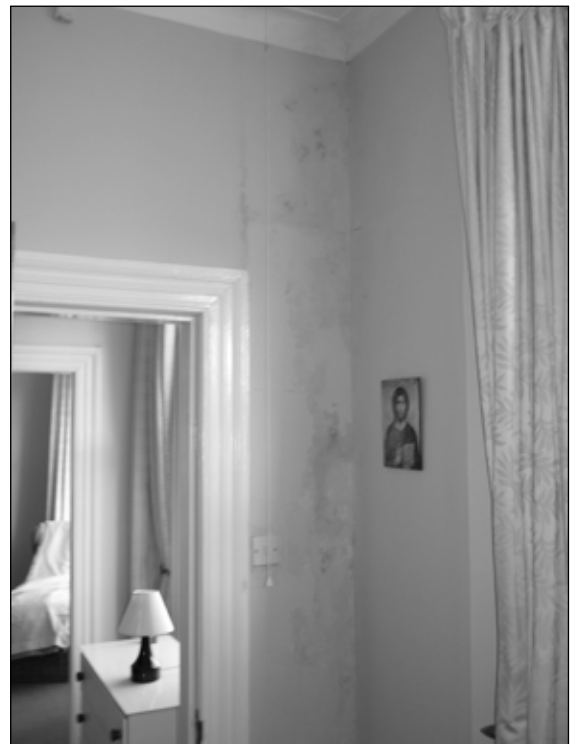
the December 2015 report: chimney flues, flashings and valleys; guttering; eaves; external rendering and insulation; external doors; ventilation; water storage tank; internal electrics; interior decoration. Three options were identified by the sub-committee:

1. Sell 3 Ward Avenue and purchase a replacement rectory

An initial estimate valued Ward Avenue in its current state of repair at £225-250,000. The Church of Ireland requires every rectory to include four bedrooms, three reception rooms and a downstairs WC and, ordinarily, the property should lie within the parish boundary. Bearing in mind that any new rectory would need to have average or low maintenance costs to make the sale and purchase worthwhile, a number of local estate agents were approached. Several houses met the criteria, ranging in price from £299,000 to £420,000. On June 2016 valuations and prices, a bare minimum of £50,000 would be required to buy a new house and probably considerably more. In addition, legal, survey, estate agents, removal and refurnishing costs would be incurred. On the grounds of cost, option 1 was ruled out.

2. Demolish 3 Ward Avenue and re-develop the site

This would involve building a new rectory on part of the site and developing the remainder with additional properties which would be sold to finance the project. This option could only be viable if the site could accommodate at least two residential units in addition to the new rectory. An architect would need to be commissioned, planning permission obtained



and it would be several months before the build could start. The financing for this option would need to be upfront investment by the parish (or a joint venture with a property developer) and for the duration of the project a suitable rental property for the Doogans would be required. Crucially, the market value of the new saleable units would need to cover all the costs. Although an imaginative and creative proposal, the investment risk, logistics, finance and likely time period involved make this option the least practical.



3. Bring 3 Ward Avenue up to standard

The Vestry commissioned its own 'forensic' survey of the Rectory in July 2016 to clarify the extent of the repair works required and how best to approach the task of external insulation and re-sealing. Whilst damp damage is evident inside all the rooms to the front of the house, and while mould is plainly visible in the porch, office and front two bedrooms, it makes no sense to begin any internal re-decoration until the house is properly weatherproofed. Since money to tackle all the work necessary was not available in July 2016, it was decided to take interim steps to

mitigate against the likely effects of the winter weather. In September 2016, the left chimney was lined and both chimney stacks completely rebuilt using non-porous bricks and incorporating lead trays. In November 2016, the front guttering was replaced. The cost of these works was £6000. Fortunately, as regards the remaining work required, this winter proved the driest since Northern Ireland rainfall records began!

Action Plan

Like all our homes, both the Curatage and Rectory continue to require regular maintenance and an ongoing programme of annual expenditure. What has tended to happen with the Rectory is that, being an older property, its needs have been allowed to creep up on us every number of years, until a more radical and costly response becomes unavoidable. Thanks to a generous and timely legacy we are now in a position to address the outstanding repair works, make the whole house habitable



again and return it to a standard acceptable to the Diocese. No monies raised for Restoration 2016 will be spent on the Rectory. On recommendation of the sub-committee, the Vestry has instructed a specification be drawn up and the job be put out to tender. Work will begin as soon as the chosen contractor can schedule it. The Doogans will be able to live in the Rectory while the exterior work is carried out, but they may need to relocate briefly for the subsequent interior re-decoration.



In the darkest of times it can be hard to hold tight to our faith, to know that no matter what, God has a plan for us.

Our world can be a cruel, unjust and downright painful place to live, making following the Lord's path a challenge.

But if ever you find yourself veering away from God's teachings I urge you to look for inspiration in the legacy left by Donaghadee teenager Joshua Martin.

Sadly the Bangor Grammar pupil lost his battle with cancer two month ago (February) but throughout his two year battle with the disease, his faith in Jesus never swayed.

He even sparked a prayer campaign influencing thousands around the globe with his belief and I am sure many within this congregation will have been touched by his strength.

At such a young age he made it clear he knew there was nothing to fear, he knew God was with him every step of the way.

His strength and maturity beyond his years had an impact on everyone he met and all of those who closely followed updates from his mum Kim. News of his passing shocked the community but his family can find comfort in the knowledge their son inspired so many.

Not only did Joshua have the strength and faith some of us can only dream of, his courage in the face of adversity was remarkable.

In the wake of losing Joshua, it will be incredibly hard for family and friends to hold on to their faith in God. Questions will no doubt be asked; why take someone so young, so good and so dedicated to following Jesus?

It is at this time that those in pain must remember Joshua and exactly what he inadvertently taught us all in his short life - just have a little faith, God has a plan for each of us.

At the celebration of his life, Joshua's mum Kim said she and her husband had always prayed they would leave their children with a rich, spiritual heritage. But in the wake of losing him, she realised it was in fact Joshua who had done that for them.

So when times are tough and there seems to be no light at the end of the tunnel, remember the Lord is always with you.

We are never alone in this life so long as we have Him by our side.

Sarah Guy

Uniformed Organisations Service



Following a break of nearly twenty years, a Uniformed Organisations Service was held on 19th February. Members and leaders from 3rd Bangor Scout Group and 8th Bangor Guide Group were joined by family and friends, along with former members for the service on the Sunday afternoon.



The flags for each group were paraded into the Church at the start of the service. Children from each section, aged from 4 to 14 years old, participated in the service, with a Brownie and a Cub sharing the reading. One Child from each of the seven sections read the prayers which had been written by their section.

The Rector, Simon Doogan, gave a talk following a short video by the Kid President which was enjoyed by both the children and adults in attendance. The collection during the service raised over £170 for CLIC Sargent, the UK's leading cancer charity for children.

Following the final hymn the families were invited up to the Parish Centre for refreshments which the children gathered together in the Chancel for photos and then paraded out to the back of the Church where they were inspected by the Rector and leaders.

Everyone attending enjoyed the service and the opportunity for the two groups to interact, along with meeting their family and former members.

SDD

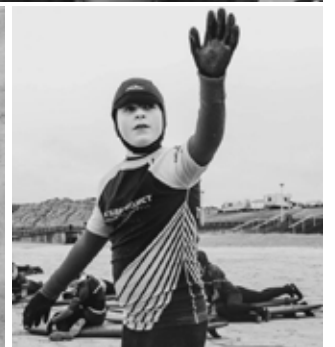
Around the Parish



Uniformed Organisations Service



Surfing Weekend





Having recently introduced 'My Favourite Place' to our magazine, as an alternative, you may like to write about 'My Hero'

And... to start the ball rolling.....

My Hero – 'Ernest Shackleton' born Feb 1874 Kilkea, County Kildare.

Several years have now passed since I left the sea, but throughout that time, there was one person who was and remains today, -My hero- Sir Ernest Shackleton.

I was fortunate enough to have had a similar early background, going to sea as a career and during that time, commanding a ship operating in the South Atlantic, South Georgia and Antarctic region. It is an area liable to hostile and severe weather, but in my case with modern equipment and training. Shackleton died and is buried in

Grytviken, S.Georgia- I visited his grave there, along with my shipmates and saw how it has become over time, a shrine- albeit rarely visited.

Ernest Shackleton came from a Quaker family, his father a homeopathic doctor, in a house where the bible was read aloud each day. He left the family home in his teens, to study at Dulwich College in London and during this time converted to Cof E. He did not have much in common with his father, but where he, loved his home life and domesticity, Ernest was passionate about poetry and the sea, adventure and exploration. He served an apprenticeship for four years, and was very active at sea, keeping morale high amongst his shipmates as the "life and soul" of the crew. He taught himself navigation and seamanship and inspired others to learn as well. He read broadly to find wisdom and guidance for life's journeys and developed into a great leader.

It was an expedition from 1914-17 to try to cross Antarctica from sea to sea, via the pole, that disaster struck when his ship Endurance, became trapped in pack ice and was slowly sunk by crushing. There followed Shackleton's most famous exploit, departing from Elephant Island in an open boat (James Caird), leaving behind most of the crew, sailed 850 miles to S. Georgia, with only the most basic equipment. He returned 4 months later to rescue the crew and complete the voyage. A truly amazing feat of endurance, initially recognized, but thereafter largely forgotten for many years.

This man's great courage, determination and leadership, make him 'my hero'.

Never Stop Exploring!"

Peter Robinson



EASTER

**Exalted on heigh but executed on earth, nailed to a cross at Calvary,
Absolving our sins with his death on the cross and his precious blood,
Saviour to us all, he made the ultimate sacrifice so we can be saved,
Testament to his power he rose from the dead, Saviour to us all,
Escaping the tomb to show us we need not fear death,
Rising from the dead, Jesus's ultimate sacrifice so we can be saved.**



Confirmation is an important date in our church calendar. Confirmation is when those who have been baptised seek the blessing of the Holy Spirit for their growth as Christians. Young people (and adults!) will first confirm the promises of their baptism. The bishop lays hands on them, prays that God's spirit will confirm, strengthen and guide them to live out their faith in their everyday lives.

Confirmation should be a personal decision as it is essentially a public declaration of faith and a young person's transition into Christian adulthood.

Over the past number of weeks, the Confirmation Class of 2017 have been meeting on a Tuesday night in the Meto Room. The class have been exploring and learning about their faith and their Christian responsibilities. This is to prepare the young people to have a proper understanding of how to live as a follower of Christ.

At Ballyholme Parish, we are honoured to present six young people for Confirmation this year. I want to introduce each of them to you so that you can pray for them as they prepare for their Confirmation Service on Easter Sunday evening.



NAME : Darcy Larmour

AGE : 14

FAVOURITE PIZZA : Dominos Texas BBQ

FAVOURITE SONG : Fresh Eyes by Jess and Gabriel

WHY ARE YOU GETTING CONFIRMED : I want to find out more about myself and my faith. I think Confirmation will help me to do this.



NAME : Ellie McGrugan

AGE : 13

FAVOURITE PIZZA : Margherita Pizza

FAVOURITE SONG : Shape of You by Ed Sheeran

WHY ARE YOU GETTING CONFIRMED : To become a member of the church.



NAME : Abbie Monaghan

AGE : 14

FAVOURITE PIZZA : Chicken and Pesto from Little Wing

FAVOURITE SONG : Uptown Funk by Bruno Mars

WHY ARE YOU GETTING CONFIRMED : I'm getting confirmed to show my dedication to my faith.



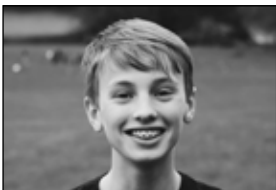
NAME : Jack Boal

AGE : 13

FAVOURITE PIZZA : Domino's Mighty Meaty

FAVOURITE SONG : Big for your Boots by Stormzy

WHY ARE YOU GETTING CONFIRMED : To be more active within the church.



NAME? Nathan Hunt

AGE : 14

FAVOURITE PIZZA : Margherita Pizza

FAVOURITE SONG : My Way by Calvin Harris

WHY ARE YOU GETTING CONFIRMED : I want to get closer to God and Jesus by choosing to follow him in Confirmation.



NAME : Jude Devlin

AGE? : 14

FAVOURITE PIZZA : Domino's Texas BBQ

FAVOURITE SONG : Apache (Bvrnout Remix) by VOVIII

WHY ARE YOU GETTING CONFIRMED : I believe that God's not dead!

This is an exciting time for these young people and I am excited to see how each of them will grow in their Christian faith and how they will transition towards a more active role within our church family in Ballyholme.

The Confirmation Service will take place in Bangor Parish on Easter Sunday evening. Please pray for each of these young people as they prepare for Confirmation.

SURFS UP by Josh Bell

On Saturday 25th February, the youth of Ballyholme Parish headed to Portrush for their youth weekend. We headed off early morning in the 'Wave Rider' mini bus. The journey to the North Coast was good fun as there was a lot of banter and singing despite the early start to the day.

On arrival, we unloaded the mini bus into Portrush Methodist Hall and had our safety briefing on how we can stay safe whilst surfing.

After the safety briefing, everyone got into their wetsuits. The surfers had to wear special gloves and boots as the water was freezing! With the gear on, we headed to the beach, grabbed the surf boards and got into groups. The instructors introduced themselves through some ice breakers. Each of the instructors took a small group through the basic steps on how to surf. Once the young people hit the water, they all had an idea of what they were doing. They all looked like naturals!



After the surf lesson, we had some free time to hang out before we had dinner. Some of us explored the beach and while the others headed back to the hostel to chill out for a few hours. Surf is tiring!

Spaghetti Bolognese was on the menu for dinner. It provided us with loads of energy for our workshop. Dan, one of the instructors, lead us through John 10. We split up into small groups and had deep conversations about what we were learning about.

The night finished with a late night beach walk along East Strand. We had more 'DMCs' (Deep Meaningful Conversations) and good banter. The DMCs lasted well into the night. At 2am, we decided to go to bed so we would have at least some energy for another day of surfing.

The next morning, we ate our breakfast and got down to church as quick as we could for our final lesson. You could see that we were getting to grips with it as we could now stand up on the surf board. You could see that the young people were really enjoying themselves.

We finished up our time with a final workshop in the Methodist Church. We discussed the challenges of 'living life to the full' in our everyday lives. The young people really opened up and discussed



YOUTH-NEWS

youth [youth] (youths) news [nooz]

how they need to take ownership of their faith and others expressed the need to go deeper in their faith. This was very encouraging for the leaders and already we are having follow-up conversations on how we can do this.

Once we got the 'Wave Rider' packed up, we hit the road and headed back to Ballyholme. It was a weekend to remember and we are already excited about the next one!

Quotes from young people about the surf weekend...

"An a'wave'ing weekend which really allowed me to sea life to the full from a spiritual and literal point of view." - Ben Cavan



"We, as parents, appreciate so much what you all did for James at the surf weekend. He loved every minute and you are an inspiration to him." - Jayne Nickell

"The surf was fun, the food was good. I loved the staff and the event was enjoyable." - Rudi Dyer

"The weekend really opened my eyes and helped me to strengthen my faith. The surfing was also one of the most fun things EVER!" - Jenna Fletcher

"Great weekend got to connect with different people I wouldn't normal talk to in YF or Drop-in" - Aaron Crawford



Toddler Group



Just a little peep into the Toddler Group meeting each Thursday from 10.00 until 11.30. Many scones, mountains of toast and much chat is the order on a Thursday Morning!! You are very welcome to join us, we have some craft, colourful toys and memorable songs to enjoy!! Above all this, we have a moment of friendship to Mums, Nanans, Carers and Children!! You Are Very Welcome.



OUR WORSHIP

Sunday 2nd April Lent 5 Dedication Sunday with Rev Alistair Morrison

8.30 Holy Communion
10.00 All Age Service
11.30 Morning Prayer
6.30 "Play It By Ear" Youth Event

Wednesday 5th April

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 9th March

Palm Sunday

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

Wednesday 12th April

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Friday 14th April Good Friday

12 noon Family Service

Sunday 16th April Easter Day

6.30 Dawn Service at Ballymaconnell Beach
8.30 Holy Communion
10.00 Holy Communion
11.30 Holy Communion

Sunday 23rd April Easter 2

8.30 Holy Communion
10.00 Easter Jumpin' Service
11.30 Morning Prayer

Wednesday 29th March

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 30th April Easter 3

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

FUNERALS

February

27th: Kathleen McFeeters,
late of Donaghadee Road

March

1st: Zella Owen, late of
Ballyholme Court
2nd: Brian Finch, late of
Sandringham Court

BAPTISMS

March

12th: Eyda Rose Barrett,
daughter of Andrew and
Rhonda Barrett

Parish Office:

91274912

Rectory:

91274901

Prayer Line:

07531806167

Transport: 07599794968

Church Readers Rota:

Freda 91467624

Michelle 91271327

Web Site www.ballyholmeparish.co.uk

Ballyholmeparish.co.uk



April

2nd: Easter Vestry

9th: Pat Davidson, Susan
& Jonnie Stockton

16th: Yvonne Manogue,
Janice Hewitt

23rd: Geoff & Gillian
Young, Patrick Crothers

30th: Fiona Jackson,
Ann Reynolds, Ella Walker



April

2nd: No Creche

9th: Rachel Brittain, Julie
Caulfield, Ashleigh Birkett

16th: No Creche

23th: Christine Rankin,
Collette Pike, Liz Grant

30th: Nicola Gullen,
Jenny Whiteside, Claire
Skelly

April

2nd: Irene Long

9th: Fairene Montgomery

16th: Easter Day

23rd: Margaret Magee

30th: Eleanor Bell



**Help needed to
decorate the Church
for Easter**

**Saturday 15th April 2017
at 10.00 am**

All offers of help, flowers, greenery
etc, very much appreciated

Children's Church Helpers

April

2nd: No Children's
Church

9th: Amanda Thompson,
Sarah Tweedie, Geoff & Gillian
Young

16th: No Children's Church

23rd: No Children's Church

30th: Deborah Galbraith,
Allison Jamison, Paula
McIlwaine, Helen Crothers

