

St Columbanus

Ballyholme



Easter Vestry
Confirmation 2017
Wilson's Coming Home



..On the way *together*..

The Parishioner

May 2017

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

And so, as expected, Northern Ireland's politicians were given an extra month to try and reach a power-sharing agreement. Each side quite naturally and predictably blamed the other for their failure first time round. Whilst in the past political vacuums often spelled trouble, it's a sign of how far we've come that there was so little panic or fear in the air. On the face of it we should be glad about that, especially as people of faith whose prayer for so long has been for peace and for healing. But I was struck by the remark of one journalist writing recently about former Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness: "He was a core part of both the problem and the solution." No overtly spiritual point was being made, but that certainly rings true with my own Christian experience. So often I fall short before God. So often I feel unworthy to be called to His service. And yet all the purpose and identity I find in the Lord lie in my foundational experience of His forgiveness. Grasping the depth of my need of Christ is an essential preliminary to seeing ways I might hope to be useful to Him.



SED.

Parentalk

THE PRIMARY YEARS

How can I pass on my faith to my children? What can I do to show them how great God is? What kind of example should I be setting? HELP!

Bringing up kids can be a minefield of questions like this – especially when you're hoping to instill a living faith in them as they grow. The good news is that you are not alone with these questions – as part of a church, you should know that there are plenty of other parents around you who asking exactly the same things!

Join us on Wednesday 10th May at 7.30pm for an evening of discussion about the joys and challenges of bring kids up to know and love God. This evening is part of our partnership with Care for the Family to develop resources for parents and includes media and material by Christian writers Nicky & Sila Lee. Most importantly, it is an opportunity to share coffee and ideas with each other and to encourage each other. If you would like any more information, please contact Laura at laura@ballyholmparish.co.uk.

MU Report

Well Green Fingers was the title we gave for our visiting Speaker at our April MU meeting. Hopefully this condition is "catching!" because Mervyn showed us the secret of taking and nuturing cuttings from fuschia plants, only time will tell, how these root and flourish?

After these tips, Mervyn shared many wonderful images and stories from his very own garden. Even offering a little visit for our group next Spring, which I really think we will enjoy very much!! Our evening concluded with a lovely supper and some seed planting in jiffy pots!

We hope to have some photos of our blooms In their green pots for you to enjoy!



It was great to note that £800 was raised at our recent MU Coffee Morning and Sale for Oversea's Funds. A huge thank you to everyone who supported our event.

Some dates for your Diary

Mon 8th May 8pm "Spring is Here! "

Thurs 18th May Indoor Members Tea Party
(contact Ruth Ruttle if you would like to go)

Sat 20th May Shopping trip to Dundrum Co Dublin, bus leaves 815 am
(more details and booking contact Yvonne, Ruth or Parish Office).

Our final meeting is Mon 5th June

We hope to enjoy some chat & supper at local coffee shop!!! Details soon!

Hope to meet up with you at some of the MU events in May and why not bring a friend!

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Yvonne Manogue



Just Older Youth

The Praying Hands of a Grandmother

There were tiny flutters of a heartbeat.
Before each child was born,
She prayed.

With joy,
As the little fingers clasped her hand,
She prayed.

She asked for strength.
She gave her thanks.
She unburdened her fears and worries.

Her children were unaware
Of her many times of prayer:
- For their safety and protection,
- For their health
- For their education.

Her most important prayer
Was that they
Would love God.

In the stressful periods,
When she couldn't find the words,
God understood her heart
And her voiceless prayers were heard.

Her children moved away.
They led their own lives.
From a distance,
She prayed.

Times when the family
Came together for celebration
Were always special.
She rejoiced in her grandchildren,
She blessed them.

She asked about their lives.
They waved as they said goodbye.
She remembered what they had said
And she prayed.

Today, if you look at
her hands,
they are lined and worn.
But from the time
Her infants were born
She has continued to pray.

How precious are
the praying hands of a grandmother.



The Wednesday Club

24 of our members and visitors really enjoyed our speaker this month, who came from the organisation TinyLife (Formerly NIMBA) Northern Ireland's premature and vulnerable baby charity, dedicated to reducing premature birth, illness, disability and death in babies born here. Kimberley told us all about the organisation that helped families with premature babies. We were surprised to hear that almost 2000 babies spent time in the Neonatal units last year in Northern Ireland,, some with more problems than others. Tiny Life offers support by providing a volunteer to help individual families for as long as they are required – giving mums and dads a much needed break occasionally. TinyLife receives minimal government funding and rely heavily on their fundraising activities and the support of others to enable them to continue with their vital work. To this end, the committee and friends were busy knitting coats, hats, blankets etc, to donate to Kimberly at the end of her talk. If anyone would like to support this very worthy cause, visit their website info@tinylife.co.uk. Joy Conn was the winner of this month's draw, and we hope to see you all back with us again next month.



Sue



This Easter Ballyholme Parish was honoured to present 7 Confirmation candidates to Bishop Harold Millar on Easter Sunday 16th April in Bangor Parish.

In last month’s magazine Billy Fyffe introduced us to the 6 young people who were Confirmed – Darcy Larmour, Ellie McGrugan, Abbie Monaghan, Jack Boal, Nathan Hunt and Jude Devlin. This month I would like to introduce you to Sarah-Jane Flannigan our adult candidate. Here is Sarah-Jane’s story.

Sarah-Jane was born in Ballyholme and was baptised in First Bangor Presbyterian Church. She attended Glenlola Collegiate School and went on to study Business Studies at the West of England University. In 1992 Sarah-Jane married Robin whose family were St Columbanus parishioners. They were married in St Columbanus as Sarah-Jane found she liked the Church of Ireland services, especially the 10am Family Service. Sarah-Jane and Robin have two children, Rory, aged 22 and Suzanne aged 19.



In 1994 Sarah-Jane began teaching in Glenlola Collegiate School where she is currently the Head of Business Studies, Senior School Year Head and she teaches junior geography.

Like a lot of us, Sarah-Jane found that it became more difficult to find time for church. She was balancing the competing priorities of family life and the ever increasing responsibilities of a demanding teaching job and so she found she was attending church less frequently.

Often it can be a life changing event that brings many of us back to church. Sadly when Sarah-Jane’s mother, Mary Furey, died in 2015 she found herself drawn back to church. Sarah-Jane told me “It seemed different this time”. For her it was the right time to come back and so she made the decision to become a regular attender again.

Although baptised, Sarah-Jane had never been Confirmed. Now that she was going to church regularly she wanted to feel she “belonged” to the church and so she decided to take the next step by getting Confirmed. For her it was important to make that commitment and public declaration of faith. Sarah-Jane told me she valued her one to one preparation sessions with Simon where she had the chance to explore and learn more about her faith in the weeks leading up to the Confirmation itself.

I’m sure you would all like to join with me in wishing Sarah-Jane and our 6 newly confirmed young people every blessing as they continue to live out their faith in their everyday lives.

Christine Johnstone

A huge thank you to all who came out and enjoyed our St Patrick’s Night Ceilidh in the Parish Centre. We were entertained by the brilliant Dusk Til Dawn band who taught us many traditional dances and jigs. The boys played all the hits and the night was loved by all ages who enjoyed a hot bowl of stew, plenty of laughter and a good dance.

Many thanks to Ann, Harry and Kelly who kept us all fed and watered during the night. Make sure you keep St Patrick’s Night 2018 free in your dairy for another Ceilidh night in Ballyholme Parish! Photos from the night are included in page 14.

Coming Home

Summing up how we feel as a family just now is best summed up in the motto for the Hospital's 25th birthday celebrations which recently took place.



We are very thankful to God for the years we have spent here. It has been a real blast. That doesn't ignore the hard work; sleepless nights spent on the wards; tears on losing friends and often feeling overwhelmed.....in the midst of it all we have had peace, satisfaction, fulfilment....and a lot of laughs.

We have seen people come to saving faith in Jesus from Muslim backgrounds and nominal Christianity. We have helped mentor and disciple students into mature parents and leaders within the hospital community. Some lame can now walk. Some blind can now see.

Of course the last years are littered with spectacular moments of failure and disappointment too – missed diagnoses; opportunities lost; livestock killed by our car; too much time spent on the less important things. Thankfully my experience, like that I find in characters in the Bible is that God often continues to work through failures and even make us the stronger for them.

All these years have only been possible from the support of many, particularly from Ballyholme Parish. Financial support – for us and also for the hospital, both regular and intermittent have literally kept us alive and able to work. Without the prayer support we have received we would not have been able to compete with the spiritual pressures, which in a setting such as this seem particularly real at times. Practical support – letters; presents; favours; a sack of coal when we are in Bangor; hugs when we visit on Sunday mornings - thank you so much to everyone who has helped in every way. We are very very grateful.

Of coursewhat now? Well that is where 'Trusting Him for the future' comes in I guess. God has been faithful to us in all our adventures since I left Ashley Medical Practice in 2005. On the basis of that we are trying to be confident for navigating a return to life in Bangor for the months ahead. Gideon is looking forward to going to big school from the middle of May. Please pray with us that such a transition goes well. Moving from a school of 1 to 400 pupils has potential hurdles. I am trying to return to General Practice and have to undergo various exams and retraining that will probably take the rest of 2017 to complete. Denise is initially trying to keep us all stable and looked after, but will need more to stimulate her juices in the months ahead.....exactly what that should be for now remains a mystery.



We look forward to being around the parish from mid May. We have final deputation to complete around the various parishes that have been supporting us and the hospital. It will be towards Advent before we expect to finally complete those assignments and then can become more regular in the pews. Hopefully we will be sharing formally in Ballholme for Harvest Sunday....though I must warn you that at the last harvest service we attended Gideon brought his wriggling firstborn piglet as his offertory.

Meanwhile we are leaving most of our possessions in Uganda. It is indeed more blessed to give than receive. We have been enjoying giving away our books, goats, cutlery, bedding, beds and toys. However if anyone reading this is now too old to use their Lego any more, there is a 7 year old boy would be delighted to receive a donation as he has just left his Lego box behind with his friends in Uganda.

Love from us

Rory, Denise and Gideon

*Thanking God for the Past,
Trusting Him for the Future*

The regulars at our 10 o'clock service will know that we have been enjoying the musical talents and skills of an ever increasing number of parishioners. We thought we would take this opportunity to explain a little of what has been happening behind the scenes over the last three months.

Our recent restoration work saw the church being fitted out with a much more flexible PA infrastructure. Previously, amplifiers had to be set up afresh every Sunday and the temporary screen arrangement made the whole thing much more difficult. Now, strategically placed socket boxes mean we can use guitars and numerous microphones alongside the electric piano with the minimal fuss and set up time. There is a world of new praise songs and worship material generally available and our Church of Ireland Service of the Word (Book of Common Prayer page 168) affords us the opportunity to be as creative and innovative in lots of exciting ways.

We have been exploring and introducing new songs and, while some of them are easy to pick up, others require a little more learning, but our aim is to balance the brand new with some of the old and not so old favourites. We want to encourage everyone who would like to be involved with singing or playing at 10 o'clock to make their contribution. Do you



play the guitar? Can you keep rhythm and play a box drum? Can you follow a melody on a flute or an oboe? And by the way, it's not just a matter of turning up impromptu on a Sunday morning with your double bass!

Stage one is the selection of the songs themselves and we have established a new routine of meeting once a month on a Monday morning to plan out the

10 o'clock singing programme for the whole month. 'By we', we mean Billy, Laura, Simon, Paula McIlwaine and Helen Crothers and by all means, if anyone wants to be involved in this little group please get in touch.

So in addition, having chosen our playlist, Billy maps out the rota for who is going to sing on which Sunday and prepares the words and music sheets. After the Wednesday evening choir practice, Ian Bell our musical director, offers a weekly run through of the 10 o'clock material with whoever is down to sing and play the next Sunday. Those involved are circulated with Youtube online access to all the songs so they can familiarise themselves before their Wednesday run through.

This system seems to be working smoothly and we are especially keen that the Emerge age teenagers will feel that there is a practical role for them all at 10 o'clock service whether it's musically, technically, meeting and greeting or even reading the lesson or leading the prayers. Our simple hope is that more and more parishioners will want to be part of all this and share their gifts with their church family. Your feedback is warmly welcome.

The 2017 General Vestry meeting was held in the Parish Centre on 2 April with 68 people in attendance. Over an array of delicious soups and a mountain of fresh wheaten bread served by members of our Vestry and Staff Team, our triennial agenda was completed in an atmosphere of prayerful gratitude and fellowship. Opening with a Bible reading and time of prayer the Rector read from James chapter 1: Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above.

Leslie Adams was appointed Secretary to the meeting and the Rector paid tribute to Leslie's continued efficiency and enthusiasm as Honorary Secretary throughout the previous twelve months. The Rector made his Chairman's remarks during the first helping of soup before introducing a report from Stephen Baker on behalf of the Glebewardens. Stephen thanked his Glebewarden colleague Geoff Hewitt as well as Harry Browne, Marty Bleakley and William Coulter for their practical help throughout the year. On the Restoration project he thanked our in-house surveyor James Perry, our bank go-between Geoff Young and our grants supremo Harry Thompson. Stephen gave details on the expenditure over the previous twelve months of upkeep on the Rectory, our apartment at The Bay and the Parish Centre and informed us of the income from the letting of Beverley Gardens. Extending the gratitude of the whole parish to Stephen and Geoff, the Rector was pleased to announce that both men would be continuing in their roles.

Next to the microphone was Roy Lawther our Honorary Treasurer. Roy reported on the extremely positive financial response to Restoration 2016 and the excellent work keeping the project on budget. On the Free-Will Offering, the fall in income reflected our seven months out of Church worshipping in St Columbanus College but running costs and parish expenses had been kept in check as far as possible. In response to a question from the floor it was explained that while the need to find a new curate was not in doubt, work would need to be done to bring the story of our general account to the attention of the wider parish before any new appointment could be pursued. It was agreed that copies of the year-end accounts be made available at the back of Church. A second question addressed the availability of funds to proceed with the rectory repairs. With a legacy in the pipeline to cover the rectory, Roy explained that in the meantime restoration income would ensure the necessary cashflow was in place. Before being thanked for all his efforts, Roy expressed his gratitude to Kelly McCullough, Mark McBride, Ann Adams and her counting crew for all their practical help, week in-week out.

Turning to the elections, the Rector drew attention once again to the gargantuan task that befell our outgoing Churchwardens Anne Killops and David Crooks. If it wasn't enough to have seven months out of Church and setting-up and taking-down each weekend at the school, David and Anne began office with an early Easter and Holy Week in 2016 and finished with a late Easter in 2017. The appreciation of everyone present was expressed enthusiastically before the list of new appointments was announced (see later).

The meeting closed with prayer and the first meeting of the new Select Vestry at which Leslie Adams and Roy Lawther were re-elected Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer respectively. The Rector repeated his thanks to the hospitality and clear-up teams and acknowledged all the work of our parish administrator Kelly McCullough in preparing the minutes, agendas, envelopes and other papers for the meeting. £437 was raised from donations around the tables.



The traditional Easter General Vestry agenda of reports, accounts and elections also included the following remarks by the Chair, Canon Simon Doogan:

What a year! I was expecting a real ‘upper-and-downer’, but nothing could have prepared me for how seismic 2016-2017 would turn out to be in the life of Ballyholme Parish. The mountain to be climbed stretched all of us and without such a willing team of volunteers we would never have scaled it. No Churchwardens and Glebewardens have ever had more to do, yet rather than make this report a list of thank-yous to them and to our Honorary Treasurer, our Honorary Secretary, our Staff Team and all sorts of other people not looking for them, it feels right that we acknowledge how richly the Lord has blessed us as we have called upon His wisdom and direction.



Many have spoken of feeling almost overwhelmed by their first sight of the restored St Columbanus. What first seems to strike people is the new sense of openness, light and colour. As well as warmer and cosier, somehow the Church feels freer and airier – more spacious. The features we love about St Columbanus, particularly the windows, have been accentuated and enriched. The newly revealed ‘south transept’ to the right/south-side of the pulpit creates a new balance and proportion. It gives us an inviting new ‘corner’ of the Church

in which to sit and pray and offers us a very natural home for our Mothers’ Union banner and soon-to-be MU window.

New life has already been breathed into our music and singing. No-one predicted that the combination of a tiled floor and a re-location for the choir would improve the Church’s acoustic in such a striking way. Coupled with our magnificent new organ, many have remarked on how fresh and newly energised our parish choir have been sounding since 27 November. New sound equipment has made worship at 10 o’clock much more flexible and slowly but surely new voices and instrumentalists are feeling encouraged to share their gifts. The screens and other modernisations feel subtle and understated rather than jarring and ‘in-your-face’ and we have a wonderful crew of people keen to operate them all.

Inevitably Restoration 2016 proved a spiritual test for us. Closing St Columbanus and camping-out in the school was always going to be a real challenge to our patience, our loyalty, our generosity and in lots of ways our faith commitment. It put us on the spot about how much belonging and believing really means to us and how much we care about the importance of both meeting for worship and preserving and upgrading our Church for the future. For every single person who has given financially to the project, it has been a sacrifice. Yet to those who love the Lord that sacrifice has been only a joy, a joy increased to overflowing as we have shared in the worship since re-opening day on Advent Sunday.

As if things weren’t tumultuous and emotional enough for us all, our Youth Worker Jade Irwin moved on at the end of April. Tears were shed, not just for the loss of a highly gifted and inspirational youth leader but for the loss of someone who gave so much to the wider life of the parish and whom so many of us really cared about. Billy Fyffe, already well-known to our young people, emerged as the best placed to build on Jade’s ministry. To reflect Billy’s regular input at 10 o’clock worship, he has been styled ‘Youth Pastor’ and has quickly become a very visible member of our Church family involving himself in an array of areas of parish life. Billy is renting our apartment at The Bay and starting to feel like part of the Ballyholme furniture.

Many of you have been raising the question of appointing a new curate. Though availability may be a factor, what it really comes down to is money. No one needs convincing that Ballyholme needs a second pair of clergy hands. All I would say is that after four Christmases with Stephen Smyth and four with Alistair Morrison, Christmas 2016 nearly finished me! It was the combination of moving back from the school to the Church with all the expectations that went with that and then the rapid onset of Advent and Christmas pastoral work and services. Twenty-one home Communion in 2015 shared with a colleague, became thirty-five this year on my own. The argument for moving Christmas Day permanently to a Sunday has acquired one new supporter! What it comes down to is that my ministry has become largely reactive rather than proactive. I am not getting a chance to lift myself above simply keeping the show on the road.

The issue of repairs to the Rectory was raised at the 2016 Easter Vestry. A magazine article last month has given the background and explained the plan so there is no need to dwell further on it here. Heidi and I very much appreciate the concerns you have expressed to us and suffice to say we are really looking forward to an odour-free Rectory. We have always tried to open the doors and put the house and garden to the use of the parish. As such we will be glad to have the main lounge back in commission and have an excuse to light the fire again under the newly-lined chimney. Likewise, the sooner the two out-of-action bedrooms are returned to use, the sooner we will be able to have our full cohort of English relations back to visit.

Only to add that it is to the credit of our Vestry that at its first meeting after re-opening they were looking forwards. It would have been so easy to sit back and take things easy for a while. Not our Vestry! No time was lost in talking about what's to come next. A large part of the Vestry's January meeting was given over to setting some new objectives for moving from Restoration to Transformation – a process which of course begins and ends with the Holy Spirit of God as we continue to call prayerfully on His love and leading.



So much of what we do already with young people and children, seniors and missions is aimed at reaching out to and serving the needs of our local community and wider society. Our desire to build and expand on that has been re-doubled by a collective sense that in our Church and our faith we have something wonderful and precious to share.

My Heroes

My Daddy helps me to choose my clothes and shoes when I can't decide what to wear sometimes. He can make nice dinners as



good as my Mum makes. He takes me to gymnastics on Saturday mornings and he reads me stories at bedtime. I love to snuggle up beside him. I love him very much.

My other hero is my teacher. He is a funny teacher. He tells lots of jokes and makes everyone laugh. He is a good teacher.



Kate Reading (Age 5)

At the Easter Vestry meeting on 2nd April, the following were elected to office for the year 2017/18.

Rector's Churchwarden: Maura Dalton
Rector's Glebwarden: Stephen Baker

People's Churchwarden: Ivan Humphreys
People's Glebwarden: Geoff Hewitt

Vestry Members:

Leslie Adams (Hon Sec), Roy Lawther (Hon Treas), Suzanne Beech, Sarah Boyd, Ann Browne, David Crooks, Christine Johnstone, Ann Killops, Mark Larmour, Yvonne Manogue, Christine Rankin, Gillian Young

Parochial Nominators

Leslie Adams, Karen Baker, Rachel Brittain, Don Todd

Supplemental Parochial Nominators

Ann Adams, Ann Browne, Roy Lawther, Christine Rankin

Diocesan Synod

Leslie Adams, Margaret Magee, Jim Shaw, Freda Woods

Supplemental Diocesan Synod Members

Karen Baker, Libby Beech, Harry Browne, Pat Davidson

Under 30's Member

Billy Fyffe

Supplemental Under 30's Member

Andrew Beech



Leslie Adams



Roy Lawther



Suzanne Beech



Sarah Boyd



Ann Browne



David Crooks



Christine Johnstone



Ann Killops



Mark Larmour



Yvonne Manogue



Christine Rankin



Gillian Young

The following is a summary of the report given at the Easter Vestry on Sunday 2nd April 2017. In addition to the management accounts that were presented at the Easter Vestry, new law, The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, relating to charity accounting and reporting commenced on 1 January 2016. This legislation applies to all registered charities and sets out:

- The form and content of charity accounts.
- The form and content of the trustees' annual report.
- The level of external scrutiny required, i.e. independent examination or audit.

All registered charities are required to comply with these regulations for each financial period beginning 1 January 2016. Because our Parish income is more than £250,000 but less than or equal to £500,000 we must:

- Prepare accruals accounts.
- Have our accounts independently examined and this must be by a member of the bodies listed in Section 65(4) of the Charities Act.
- Complete a trustees' annual report that also reports on how your charity has met the public benefit requirement.
- Complete an annual monitoring return.

Unrestricted Funds

Overall the Parish spent £3,797 less than its income this year with a total of £201,403 of income against £197,606 of expenditure. This gave the Parish a closing capital balance of £13,387.

General Fund Income

General income was down from £225,737 in 2015 to £201,403 (-£24,334). This income is from the following sources:

- Income from voluntary giving, which includes free will offering, gift aid and collection plate was £169,835 down from £176,281 in 2015 (-£6,446).
- Property related income, which includes renting the Bay apartment and the Curatage was up from £5,750 to £8,084.
- General Parish income from sources such as hall rental, magazine donations, catering was down from £32,107 in 2015 to £23,344 (-£8,763).

Expenditure

Overall expenditure was down from £225,154 in 2015 to £197,606 (£27,548). The main areas of expenditure are:

- Clergy staffing costs which reduced from £87,967 in 2015 to £59,659 (-£28,308), this reduction was as a result of our Curate, Alistair Morrison leaving early last year.
- Staff costs were down from £66,020 to £62,176.
- Repairs and maintenance increased from £7,489 to £16,739. This was primarily due to essential work carried out to the Rectory and some work required at the Bay apartment.
- Premises costs, including heating, lighting, rates etc. decreased by £2,543 from £15,078 in 2015 to £12,535.
- General Parish expenses e.g. consumables, postage and printing reduced from £26,950 to £22,415.

Restricted Funds**Development Funds**

The Development fund started 2016 with £166,353 in the bank and throughout the year voluntary giving to the restoration project by way of standing order, donations or fund raising events came to £97,926 plus £1,308 in interest. There was also £46,479 of VAT recovered on the building work giving a total of £145,573 of Development fund income raised throughout the year.

Expenditure on the refurbishment of the Church last year was £493,987. As at 31st December we have borrowed £237,435 from the Danske Bank to finance the restoration project.

Since 2013 when the Parish started the restoration project it has cost the Parish £608,421:

- 2013 £4,900
- 2015 £109,534
- 2016 £493,987

Missions

Income into the Missions fund was £6,903 and £7,242 was given to charitable causes.

Youth Fellowship

Income into the Youth fund was £4,284 and £2,469 was used for activities relating to youth.

Look Ahead

The following are financial priorities for the Select Vestry and Parish in the coming year:

- The amount borrowed from the Danske Bank for the restoration project will be finalised and we will start to pay off the loan.
- Consider ways of increasing general giving with the aim of having sufficient funds to enable us to have the funds for a Curate in 2018.
- Plan to move away from FWO envelopes to electronic giving.
- Carry out essential maintenance on the Rectory.

Roy Lawther
Treasurer



Friday 5 May 8pm
Police Male Voice Choir

Performing in Church with special guest artists.

Tickets £8 available from the Parish Office.

Saturday 20 May 7pm - Audrey Assad Live

The popular American singer-songwriter and Christian music artist will perform in Church on the second of two Irish concert dates.

Tickets available on line at the following web address, price £12 plus booking fee.
<https://audreyassadatballyholme.eventbrite.com>
Limited number available from the Parish Office.





The Argory in April

Having met in the Hillmount Garden Centre and welcomed new member Jackie McCutcheon, seventeen of us made our way via the M1 to the National Trust property near Moy where we were made welcome by Carolyn, our guide for the house tour.

The Argory is a neo classical mansion built in the 1820s on a hillside location in a 320 acre wooded riverside estate bordering the River Blackwater. This former home of the MacGeough–Bond family has a splendid stable yard with horse carriages, harness room, acetylene gas plant and laundry.

It was gutted by fire in 1898 and rebuilt in a truncated and modified form shortly after. Remodelled throughout the 19th century, it contains much of its original Victorian furniture, as the family left it. The interiors also include marbled walls, ornate metalwork, and polished brass staircase balusters. And seven years after it was badly damaged in a flood, the study has been restored

Among the myriad of interesting objects and furnishings is a rosewood Steinway grand piano which Peter Harris was delighted to play. And he also played for us the chamber organ – what a treat!

After lunch and after sheltering from a sharp rain shower, several of us headed for the Blackwater River, which separates the counties of Armagh and Tyrone.

It is possible to cross the river by Bond's Bridge which Brian told us is a fine example of a metal bowstring bridge. In this case it is a road bridge, but the design was often used for railway bridges. After walking along the Armagh side of the river for some distance, we returned to the main house through the woods, at times walking on boardwalks laid across wetlands.

A great day out!

Betty, Leslie and Peter G.



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK COLLECTORS 14-20 MAY 2017

Ballyholme Parish is looking for additional collectors to help during Christian Aid Week, 14-20 May 2017. Residents have always been very generous in contributing to the important work of Christian Aid along the parish's well-established collection routes.

However, as some parishioners who have served as collectors for many years are in some cases no longer able to do so, we are in urgent need of new collectors (16 and older) to take up the challenge.

Please contact Stefan Andreasson (07792866362 / bstefan@gmail.com) ASAP if you can help with collection in May this year.

Since Christian Aid Week began 60 years ago, volunteers from churches have collected house-to-house. Together they delivered more than seven million envelopes last year, each one sending a message about Jesus' love and justice.

Every envelope delivered is also a chance to start a conversation, to introduce the local church. It's an act of witness, proclaiming Jesus' good news to the poor. It's a sign of his kingdom, visible to the whole community.

And it's a clear demonstration that Christians won't stand by while our neighbours are suffering.



Around the Parish



St Patricks Night Ceilidh



Saturday Night Live



Andrew Morrison (son of Alistair) happily married to Becca

YOUTH-news

youth [youth] (youths) news [nooz]

Mahatma Gandhi once said, "Faith is not something to grasp, it is a state to grow into." Our Confirmation candidates have certainly grown in their faith and understanding over the past few months as we explore many different topics in our Confirmation classes.

The Confirmation classes took place on Tuesday evening in the Meto Room with the wonderful and talented Michelle Savage sharing thoughts and her years of wisdom with us each week. The class was very informal and had treats available each week such as sweets, ice cream, chocolate and even two 24 inch Little Wing pizzas on the last night.

The classes covered the following topics:

Who is God?

Why we need a saviour?

Who is Jesus?

The Sacraments

Who is the Holy Spirit?

The Bible

Prayer

Worship

Church

The Church of Ireland

Serving God/Serving Others

Sharing Our Faith

The Church of Ireland Youth Department provided us with a great resource handbook called 'Believe' and we used the handbook each week as we got to grips with the topics. Each session had different games, activities, Bible hunts and discussion questions for the young people to engage with. The young people enjoyed learning together and I witnessed a real growth and maturity in each of them as the weeks went on.

Confirmation 2017 finished with a big weekend away to Castlewellan Castle to join up with 150 other young people from around the Diocese who are also getting Confirmed this year. The weekend was jam-packed with music, teaching, small groups, activities and a rave in the cave. The girls enjoyed taking part in Soft Arrow Combat and Laser Quest whilst the boys strangely enjoyed a quiet afternoon of "Extreme" Craft making pompoms. I thought they would have enjoyed the archery, canoeing or even the ultimate frisbee! Not our boys! The young people are keen to go back next year as they had, as one described, "the best weekend of his life!"

Whilst it is sad that the classes are coming to an end, I am excited to see what the future holds for Abby, Darcy, Ellie, Jack, Jude and Nathan in their faith and in their lives. Each of them is incredible and a real credit and asset to our church family. I was honoured to present them to Bishop Harold at their Confirmation service in Bangor Parish on Easter Sunday. Please continue to pray for them as they find their feet in our church family.

Billy Fyffe



OUR WORSHIP

Wednesday 3rd May

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 7th May

Easter 4

8.30 Holy Communion
10.00 All Age Service
11.30 Morning Prayer

Wednesday 10th May

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 14th May

Easter 5

8.30 Holy Communion
10.00 Morning Worship
& Children's Church
11.30 Parish Communion
6.30 United Service Ballyholme
Parish - Kajiado Room

Wednesday 17th May

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 21st May

Easter 6

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

Wednesday 24th May

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 28th May

Easter 7 Sunday after Ascension Day

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

Wednesday 31st May

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room



May

7th: Jem Moran, Joy Hamilton, Irene Bell
14th: Jill Owens, Daphne Moore, Barbara Wallace
21st: Tracie Andreasson, Heather Johnston, Nicole Watson
28th: Michael & Sharon Hatch, Charles Robinson



May

7th: No Creche
14th: Rachel Brittain, Rosemary Thompson, Emma Porter
21st: Christine Rankin, Gillian Segasby, Ann Browne
28th: Nicola Gullen, Julie Caulfield, Ashley Birkett

FUNERALS

March

29th: Brian Green, late of Rockmount Park

May



7th: Jane Fitzimmon
14th: Heidi Doogan
21st: Joy Conn
28th: Joan Larmour

Children's Church Helpers

May

7th: No Children's Church
14th: Jackie Devlin, Andrew Cuthbert and Gillian Fletcher
21st: Karen Toogood, Katherine Newman, Christine Rankin and Nichola Hawes
28th: Debbie Hunter, Kelly McCullough, Gillian Jones and Caroline Connolly



Parish Office:

91274912

Rectory:

91274901

Prayer Line:

07531806167

Transport: 07599794968

Church Readers Rota:

Freda 91467624

Michelle 91271327

Web Site www.ballyholmeparish.co.uk

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