

# St Columbanus

Ballyholme



Jumpin Superheroes  
CMJ Visitors  
Walkers in the Mournes

..On the way  
*together..*

## The Parishioner

June 2017

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

Have you ever sat there listening to a sermon thinking “I know what’s coming next”? It’s Northern Ireland I’m afraid. Surrounded by churches and preachers as we are, there’s a language, vocabulary and even tone that’s easy to fall into. But it’s not just the clergy. After March’s atrocity in Westminster a journalist called Stig Abell wrote: “When murderous carnage happens, it always feels that our linguistic response is inadequate. We count the clichés: ‘thinking of the victims and their families’; ‘at this difficult time’; ‘shoulder to shoulder’; ‘pray for London’; ‘there are no words’. But the use of cliché is itself a sign of something important: it is a bid for connection. Cliché demonstrates community, our intention to understand one another. By using cliché, we are trying to employ common currency, we are grasping for tokens – however smoothed by overuse – that we all can handle and share.” God’s Word is an ever flowing fountain of freshness and inspiration so my preacher’s antenna is always twitching for new illustrations and personal stories. But as a Church which treasures its Collects, it’s good to remember that in its ‘collectivity’ the time-tested isn’t just consoling and comforting but life-giving and redeeming.



**SED.**

## Easter Sunday

Early on **E**aster Sunday morning at 6.30  
**A**ll churches in the **A**rea gathered on Ballyholme beach to  
**S**hare in a **S**ervice.  
**T**ogether it was difficult not to be **T**ouched by the  
**E**xperience and **E**njoyment of Christian fellowship.  
 An invitation followed to  
**R**egroup for breakfast in the Presbyterian halls before heavy **R**ain began to fall.



**GYMcS**



## Confirmation Service

Easter Sunday  
 in  
 Bangor Parish





### Just Older Youth



### The Wednesday Club

Twenty of our ladies attended our penultimate meeting of the season where we amused ourselves by playing a few games of Bingo which we all enjoyed. Lines of numbers seemed to be slow in coming but we had five winners, who went home with a couple of sweet treats.

The winners were Elizabeth, Etta, Daphne, Rita and Gloria, who also won the monthly draw.

The next meeting in June is our mini outing for afternoon tea. See you then.

**Sue**



Tuesday 27th June is the date of our next informal Communion service in the Parish Centre at 12.30pm. The service is followed by a light lunch when you have the opportunity to chat and enjoy the company of friends old and new.

As usual everyone is welcome, we would especially love to see you if you haven't joined us before. Lifts can be arranged by phoning me at the Parish Office.

**God bless, Karen**



## MU Report



# Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Well spring certainly arrived for us at our MU meeting on Monday evening, wonderful evening sunshine flooding into the Parish Centre.

All this golden welcome to our members and our guest for the evening, our very own "homegrown" Vicki Hayes, the flower lady!

What springtime warmth she treated us to; what an array of flowers and foliage she had brought, along with an interesting collection of containers.

Using these, and with a witty patter of anecdotes, she transformed these woody stems and delicate petals into eye-catching arrangements .

Finally, not even a bunch of last minute garage bought flowers, which Yvonne produced, could present her with a creative block!! No, no, these too were transformed into a coffee table arrangement, with a few snips of the sharp scissors!!

There were 3 very lucky members selected to take these arrangements home that very evening!!

Thankyou so much Vicki, an amazing evening.

### Date for your Diary.

Mon 5th June - Celebration Tea, in Surburban Restaurant, Ballyholme. 7.00pm for 7.15pm. For menu choices and booking contact Yvonne or Ruth in Parish Office.

It's been a great MU first 6 months of 2017, looking forward to the second part after the Summer Break, see you all the first Monday of September in Parish centre at 8pm.

Enjoy your Summer, thanks for all your help and support.

Many Blessings

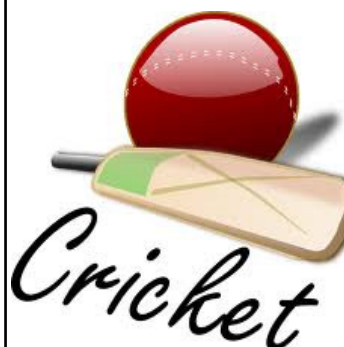
**Yvonne Manogue.**



### Cricketers

The forthcoming  
Rector's Cricket  
Match

Upritchard Park  
Monday 19 June  
at 7.00pm





## The Walkers at the Blue Lough

Another baker's dozen gathered at the car park at Carrick Little just above Annalong for our May outing to the Blue Lough. We welcomed Yvonne Manogue, Michael and Cathy Body and Alice Armstrong to the group.

The east wind was keen at the start with a haze out to sea and clouds over the High Mourne but we soon warmed up on the first gentle ascent north up the track towards Annalong Forest. We crossed the Mourne Wall through a gate where the stile used to be and trekked on up the path along old quarry tracks in open heathland. Much of the route was originally paved with granite slabs, evidence of stone working. From where the path crosses the small stream flowing from the Blue Lough we had great views of Slieve Lamagan and Donard to the north and Binnian to the south west. The small outcrop of rock close by is named Percy Bysshe after the poet. It was used for bombing practice during WW11 from offshore ships!



On cue the sun came out for our Blue Lough lunch spot and from there all but Betty (with the sore knee) headed on up to the saddle between Lamagan and Binnian from where they had beautiful views down into the Ben Crom reservoir.

Down then to the bottom for the eagerly awaited visit to the new café. Great food and pleasant service in this old family cottage where the boss kept piling coal onto the two fires! Worth a visit even if you're not walking.

The Mourne's were busy that day and it's great to see so many people of all ages out enjoying the mountains. We're lucky to have such a great destination so close by.

The next outing on 10th June (note change of date) is being organised by Brian to the village of Benburb with a walk along the Ulster Canal.



by David Walliams



A little boy called Tom goes to a boarding school called St Willets. One day he gets hit on the head by a cricket ball and is sent to a hospital called the Lord Funt Hospital. There he meets four other patients. One is a boy named George who is recovering from having his tonsils taken out. Beside him is a girl named Amber who has broken both her arms and both her legs and is in a wheelchair. There is also a little girl who is very ill and barely has any hair and her name is Sally. Then there is Robin who has been in a serious accident and almost went blind so he can't see because of the bandages covering his eyes.

Every night the Midnight Gang make dreams come true. First they make Amber's dream come true - to go to The North Pole. They use the freezer room in the hospital for that. The porter is part of the midnight gang and he helps out.

Then Robin's dream comes true. He wants to conduct an orchestra so lots of other children help out and they play medical instruments.

Next George's dream almost comes true. He wants to fly. The porter and Tom partner up and get balloons from all around the hospital. They go into a ward where they meet 99 year old Nelly. She thinks the balloons are for her so Tom gives her a balloon before they escape from the ward very quickly! They go to the staircase where there are 1,000 steps and as everyone hands their balloons to George, Nelly runs through and grabs them all! She floats

up high very fast, smashes through a window and flies away. She floats close to a spire on Westminster Abbey and her nightdress gets caught but she isn't worried when she leaves it behind!

Sally's dream was to live a beautiful life so the gang put together a show and she is the star of it. The scenes are about her first car, her first kiss, a holiday, her wedding day, her job and her children.

Last of all Tom's dream comes true. He wants to see his parents because he is fed up in the boarding school. Sally contacted them and they come to the hospital to see Tom and take him home.

**Emma Reading aged 8**

\*\*\*\*\*

I asked Emma if she would do a book review for the church magazine and sat enthralled as she recounted a brief overview of this story which she had obviously enjoyed very much. As an adult ( her granny ) I am now tempted to read it myself! it appears to come across as a heartwarming, funny story with hidden messages covering the values of friendship, helping others and the power of fun and laughter in supporting those in need.

### **3rd Bangor Scouts explore Ballyholme Beach**



Some of the sea creatures found on Ballyholme Beach when the Scouts completed the Naturalists badge recently.





## John and Mildred Visit Ballyholme

The Rev Canon John Simons and his wife Mildred, who were visiting Ireland for the first time as guests of Pat Davidson, joined us at one of the recent PUSH prayer meetings.

Pat met John at the CMJ (Church's Ministry among Jewish People) International Conference in Jerusalem two years ago and again last December. When John mentioned that he and Mildred were coming to London to attend the Alpha Leaders Conference in the Albert Hall and that they had never been to Ireland before, it seemed an ideal opportunity for them to come to Northern Ireland for a few days.



Pat was delighted to have John speak on the "The Power of Forgiveness" at the CMJ Spring Meeting in Knockbreda Parish Church on Saturday 6th May.

John and Mildred were born in Cape Town, South Africa. John became a Christian during the great revival in 1974-75 in Cape Town and emigrated to Australia in 1982 on a business opportunity. He studied theology and prepared for ordination in Brisbane. They went back to South Africa and John ministered there until 1998 and served as the first National Director of Sharing of Ministries Abroad (SOMA).

John and Mildred returned to Australia mid 1998 for ministry and he served as National Director of the Haggi institute in Australia and

also National Director of SOMA Australia. Since 2007 John has been serving as a priest in the Diocese of North Queensland and he is also a member of the CMJ board in Australia.

John and Mildred enjoyed their time in Ballyholme and came along to the Police Male Voice Concert in St Columbanus. This was an unexpected treat for John who used to sing in a Barber Shop Quartet.

Following the Sunday morning service they had the opportunity to chat to Rory and Denise Wilson and other Parishioners over coffee. John had visited Kiwoko Hospital some years ago when Ian Clarke was Medical Director.

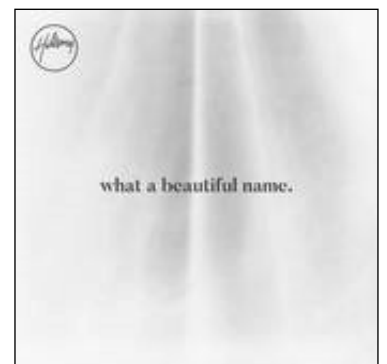
John and Mildred fitted in a visit to the North Down Heritage Centre where they found out a little bit about the Irish Saints and after a few days sight seeing they set off for South Africa to minister there.

## My Top Ten Favourites

The past few months, the music group at the 10am service have introduced new songs to the church. It is great to hear the congregation singing these new songs amongst all the classics. It is our goal to be able to introduce many more new worship songs for our church to sing.

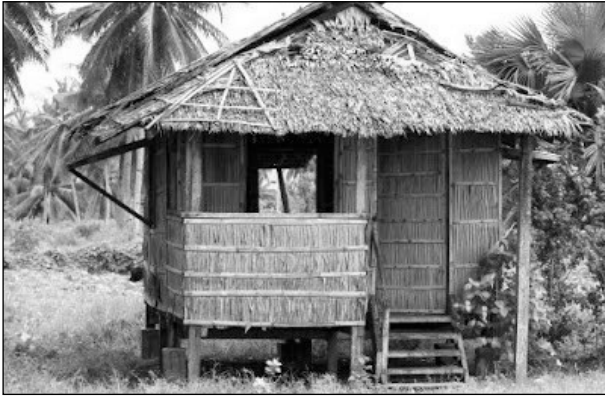
Here is my top ten favourite worship songs on my iPod at the moment.

1. What A Beautiful Name by Hillsong
2. Yes and Amen by Housefires
3. Great Are You Lord by All Sons & Daughters
4. Spirit Move by Bethel Music
5. Good Good Father by Housefires
6. O Praise The Name by Hillsong
7. King of My Heart by John Mark McMillan
8. How Beautiful by Mosaic MSC
9. Your Love Changes Everything by United Pursuit
10. O Come To The Altar by Elevation Worship



All these songs are available on Youtube and all music streaming websites. I hope you enjoy them.

**Billy Fyffe**



## Feeling Abandoned

The only survivor of a shipwreck was washed up on a small, uninhabited island. He prayed feverishly for God to rescue him, and every day he scanned the horizon for help, but none seemed forthcoming. Exhausted, he eventually managed to build a little hut out of driftwood to protect him from the elements, and to store his few possessions.

But then one day, after scavenging for food, he arrived home to find his little hut in flames, the smoke rolling

up to the sky. The worst had happened; everything was lost. He was stunned with grief and anger. "God, how could you do this to me!" he cried. Early the next day, however, he was awakened by the sound of a ship that was approaching the island. It had come to rescue him. "How did you know I was here?" asked the weary man of his rescuers. "We saw your smoke signal," they replied.

It is easy to get discouraged when things are going bad. But we shouldn't lose heart, because God is at work in our lives, even in the midst of pain and suffering. Remember, next time your little hut is burning to the ground. It just may be a smoke signal that summons the Grace of God.

**Author Unknown**

## The Police Male Voice Choir and Guest Artists Concert







**Life to the full? I never knew!  
My journey to Saint Columbanus.**

My parents brought me up in a strict Gospel Hall where the teachings were based on fear and the emphasis was on the wrath of God. This upbringing left many psychologically scarred.

I remember from a very young age the preachers proclaiming loudly about the possibility of sudden death or Jesus returning in the night.... taking your parents but leaving the unsaved behind. I checked on many occasions if they were still there.

We did not have TV. I was not allowed to go to pictures or attend any other Christian church. Other examples of the “rules” were not being allowed to cut our hair or wear trousers (girls).

Sunday was not a joyful day but a day to endure.

After training as a nurse I left home and did not attend any church for 33 years except for weddings and funerals. I maintained my faith in God and did feel the need to belong to a church.... but which one? My husband was brought up and Confirmed in the Church of Ireland but like many people did not attend often but retained a great affection for the Church of Ireland and its teachings. My two stepdaughters were brought up in Saint Columbanus and as we lived nearby it seemed the right choice, when just over four years ago I decided to take the steps to Baptism and Confirmation. In February 2013 two other adults and myself prepared for Confirmation. We met with Simon in the rectory on Tuesday nights for six weeks. Simon set out clearly the teachings of the Bible and the origins of the Church of Ireland. There was time for discussion and prayer. I found it all very enlightening and comforting.

On 24th March 2013 aged 55, Simon kindly baptised me in the afternoon with a few parishioners present. It was a lovely occasion... quiet and meaningful. That evening we three adults along with the lovely young people were confirmed by Bishop Harold ...another happy, memorable time! How did I not know that God wanted me to enjoy life and live it to the full as it says on the young people’s hoodies?

Sundays are now something I look forward to... services full of joyful worship and sermons from Simon about how Jesus led his life and how we should try to emulate this within our daily lives and community. Meeting with my fellow “travellers on the journey” also brings me much comfort and happiness. Life still brings many challenges...that doesn’t change because you decide to follow Jesus Christ but we have an ever present Guide and Comforter.

“On the way together”

**Ruth Lynas**



# YOUTH-news

youth [youth] (youths) news [nooz]

## JUMPIN!

### *Jumpin Superheroes!*

It's hard to believe that **Easter Jumpin'** has been and gone – and what an amazing time we all had! We danced, sang, jumped, dressed up, played, ate, ran and had lots of fun as we explored.

Throughout the week we looked at all of the ways Jesus was a superhero – caring for others, and saving the world! We learned that through His power and love we too can be like superheroes too!

With the help of our leaders, we took part in superhero training, made essential parts of the superhero costume – even coming up with our own ideal superheroes and planning out their adventures! The biannual Jumpin Pea Fair was held to great acclaim, as was the Wallaby Murder Mystery – and there's more to come this summer!



Thanks to our own superheroes – our lovely leaders and to all of the children who came and made the week such a joy!

Next stop: **Summer Jumpin'!** We're back for another week of madness on from **24-28th July**, and we're super excited to see you all there! Registration will open on **Sunday 28th May**, and as always it will simply operate on a **first come first served basis**, so make sure your form is in early! Registration will close on **Friday 30th June 2017 at noon** for administration purposes. We can't wait to see you in July!

**Laura Symon**



# YOUTH-news

youth [youth] (youths) news [nooz]

June is the business end of a busy year for many of our young people at Ballyholme Parish. The summer has quickly come upon us and the whole year of preparation is now finished with the dreaded end of year exams.

At YF, we recently started a new series called *'How To Get Yourself Through School'* and we have been looking at all sorts of issues and challenges that young people face in their schools. We began our series with a discussion around our talents and how we should work hard to capitalise on the gifts and abilities that God has given us. The idea of *hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard* was a big discussion point as we wrestled with how we can balance school work and our social life. We were reminded of Colossians 3:23 that **'whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord.'**



With the pressures of schoolwork and examinations, we are reminded by that verse in Proverbs 3:5 to trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. Our motto for Ballyholme Parish Youth is **'living life to the full'** and it is hard to live that full life when we are worried by all the pressures and challenges around us. It is so important to learn that we are not created to have worry as part of our being. God created us to be full of faith and joy.

Jesus tried to change our focus from fear and worry to faithfulness when he says in Matthew 6:26: *"Look at the birds of the air: they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these."*

Jesus himself said *"by myself, I can do nothing"* and this has been my challenge to the young people throughout their studies to: **stop telling God how big their problems are and to start telling their problems how big their God is.** As Christians, it is so important that we recognise that we 'live life to the full' by the Father's strength and guidance. This allows us the freedom to enjoy the blessing of life and the opportunities to study and learn.

Please continue to pray for all our young people over the next few weeks as they complete their end of year exams and many are completing their GCSEs and A-Level exams as well.

**Billy Fyffe**

## OUR WORSHIP

### Sunday 4th June

#### Pentecost

8.30 Holy Communion  
10.00 All Age Service  
11.30 Morning Prayer

### Wednesday 7th June

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

### Sunday 11th June

#### Trinity Sunday

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

### Wednesday 14th June

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

### Sunday 18th June

#### Trinity 1

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

### Wednesday 21st June

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

### Sunday 25th June

#### Trinity 2

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

### Wednesday 28th June

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

## BAPTISMS

### Sunday 21st May

Amelia Elizabeth McCartan,  
daughter of Stuart and  
Natalie

Isla Laura Nancy Mohan,  
daughter of Michael & Sarah



### June

**4th:** Neil & Jacqui Devlin,  
Pat Adair  
**11th:** Maureen Aiken,  
Jean Law, Vicky Hayes  
**18th:** Ann, Kelly & Karen  
**25th:** Mothers' Union  
Team



### June

**4th:** Pat Davidson  
**11th:** Alwyn Aiken  
**18th:** Flower Fund  
**25th:** Marie Cull



### June

**4th:** No Crèche  
**11th:** Rachel Brittain,  
Julie Caulfield, Ashleigh  
Birkett  
**18th:** Christine Rankin,  
Collette Pike, Liz Grant  
**25th:** Nicola Gullen,  
Jenny Whiteside, Claire  
Skelly



### SAVE THE DATE

## X-CESS 2017

**14-18th August**

Youth Week for 1st Year to  
Upper Sixth

Keep your eye on facebook  
for more details



Parish Office:

91274912

Rectory:

91274901

Prayer Line:

07531806167

Transport: 07599794968

Church Readers Rota:

Freda 91467624

Michelle 91271327

Web Site [www.](http://www.ballyholmeparish.co.uk)

[Ballyholmeparish.co.uk](http://www.ballyholmeparish.co.uk)



## Children's Church Helpers

### June

**4th:** No Children's Church  
**11th:** Julie Monaghan, Trish  
McGrugan, Jenny Campbell  
and Michelle Savage  
**18th:** No Children's Church  
**25th:** No Children's Church

