

St Columbanus

Ballyholme



Introducing ...
Good News at 10
New Arrivals
The Croft Community

..On the way
together..



The Parishioner

September 2017

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

The Rambling Rector

Not just one new introduction this September but two! On the departure of our Children's Worker Laura at the end of the summer, it was plain to all concerned that within our volunteer team the Lord had someone with the experience and spiritual heart for the role waiting in the wings. News of Paula Lown's appointment has brought smiles all round. Meanwhile Maithrie White-Dundas will be ordained in St Columbanus along with three other new student deacons on Sunday 3 September. As part of their training for ministry in the Church of Ireland, they will serve term-time placements in churches around the diocese and I am extremely pleased that for her parish experience, Maithrie will be coming to Ballyholme.



Both ladies have fascinating and very different stories to tell about the hand of God in their lives and their sense of call to ministry. Of course that's a call the Lord makes on all of us, whatever our stage of life and whatever our gifts and skills. At the start of this new season, there's a part for each of us to play in the life of St Columbanus. I've got a list if you want to find out more!

SED.



Relaunching - praise kids!!!

So, sadly Laura has left us, but she kindly left us with PRAISE KIDS!!

Praise Kids will continue under my love and care, but things will be a bit different.

Praise Kids will meet 4-4:30pm on a Monday afternoon in the Church. It will be a time for P1-P4 children to have fun praising God with their voices and bodies through action songs. There will be time for games, chat and prayer, but overall, I hope that it will provide a relaxed, safe place for the Praise Kids to meet and enjoy singing.

Launching - the praise crew!!!

This is a new group for P5-P7 kids who enjoy singing and making music.

It will be held in the Church on Monday afternoons from 4:30-5pm.



I hope that the PRAISE CREW will provide an opportunity for the older kids to showcase their love for music in a fun environment. We will play games and work together to improve our voices, whilst also singing songs to praise God.

Paula Lown



It's that time of year again! SMARTIE TUBE TIME

Collect your tube
at church on 3rd September

Enjoy the Smarties!
Fill the tube with 20p's
or any suitable coins*
Bring back the filled tube

on 15th October
To any Harvest Service

** All the money goes towards the
support of our Mission Work*

The Crafty Stitchers

Classes start on
Tuesday 12th September
at 7.45pm

Get your needles and thread
ready

New stitchers welcome





Just Older Youth

We're back!! **Monday Coffee** resumes after the summer break on **11th September**, 10am to midday and the **Friday Lunches** on **15th September** at 12.30pm.

We look forward to seeing old friends and new so please join us at either of the above, or even better come to both and bring a friend or two with you. Lifts are available from our ever faithful group of drivers and can be arranged by phoning me on 9127 4912.

Wednesday Club starts back on **6th September**. This is a lovely way to spend an afternoon. Each month we have a speaker followed by afternoon tea and lots of chat. Again lifts are arranged and we would so very much love to see some new faces.

God bless.

Karen



Above - Pictures from the last Friday Lunch before the Summer break.

Right - Pictures from the Monday Morning Coffee in June.

Good News at 10

For those who love the stillness of the Lord's Table early on the Lord's day, the traditional prayer book Communion service at 8.30am is a vital start to the week. For those who love choir-led Anglican Psalms, canticles and Communion settings with the best of ancient and modern hymns, there is 11.30am. For everybody else, and especially for the families, there is Good News At 10.

We thought we would give our established 10 o'clock service a little bit of a makeover this September but we hope that everyone can think of ways to reach out to new people for all three of our St Columbanus morning services. We would love to see new faces and are keen to make new contacts and connections in our community.



The atmosphere at 10 o'clock at Ballyholme has always been informal. With Children's Church and Creche running parallel, there is a natural sense of coming and going with mums, dads and children feeling free to offer worship and prayer in a relaxed and easy-going setting without feeling they are disturbing anyone's stillness and concentration. In terms of Good News at 10, the hope is that more and more of our young people can take an active role in the service

whether that be reading, singing, leading prayers, playing a musical instrument, welcoming people in, lifting the collection, helping with the technical side or whatever other opportunities are available.

Our new banners advertise all three services but, with a new season of Children's Church beginning, we wanted to reach out in a fresh way to the local community, particularly to new families. While we hope people will see the banners as an invitation, of course, personal invitations are the most effective.

Can you think of anyone from your street who doesn't go to church whom you might invite to come along with you some Sunday?

Can you think of any parents to whom you could recommend our Sunday children's programme? Have a think, say a prayer, be brave, tell them how welcome they would be and how there is a place for them in our church family.

GOOD NEWS AT
10
BALLYHOLME PARISH CHURCH

JOIN US ON SUNDAY MORNING
FOR WORSHIP & CHILDREN'S CHURCH
TRADITIONAL PRAYER BOOK SERVICES AT 8.30AM & 11.30AM

As you know, we have been praying to get some clergy help for Simon to ease his workload ever since Alistair Morrison left at the end of February 2016 and until we are in a position to appoint a full time replacement once again.

The good news is that Maithrie White-Dundas will be joining us this month as a Deacon Intern to begin a 2 year term time placement as part of her 6 year part-time theological training course for ministry in the Church of Ireland. Maithrie will be with us in Church two Sundays per month, commencing on 10 September when she will lead the services. She will preach once a month and be with us for supervised pastoral experience in the parish 3 - 5 sessions per week.



Maithrie White was born in Sri Lanka and studied English Literature at university there. She moved to Nottingham in 2000 and completed a Doctorate in English Literature at Nottingham University. During her 6 years in Nottingham, Maithrie met Paul Dundas originally from Fermanagh but living in Belfast, who was in Nottingham visiting friends. Paul and Maithrie got married in 2008 and they share their home in the Stranmillis area of Belfast near the river with Maithrie's mother who will be 90 years young this month! Paul is a software engineer and he works for British Telecom.

Maithrie, who attends St Thomas Parish Church, Eglantine Avenue Belfast, had an interest in pursuing ordination for a number of years. It was something she gave a great deal of thought to because she wanted to make sure she was making the right decision for the right reasons so she discussed this with her minister, the Reverend Walter Lewis. He encouraged her and spoke to the Bishop and in 2010 Maithrie began training for the ministry in the Church of Ireland Theological Institute in Churchtown, Dublin.

Maithrie is looking forward to working in St Columbanus Parish which was her first choice of churches to serve her internship. She liked the fact that we share worship with other denominations and she was also attracted by Simon's profile on our website, particularly the bit about hating gardening and being useless at DIY!

Maithrie and 3 other Deacon Interns will be ordained by Bishop Harold Millar in St Columbanus on Sunday 3 September 2017 at a service commencing at 6pm. Canon Dr Christina Baxter will be preaching at this service and she is the Principal of St John's Theological College, Nottingham. This will be a very special occasion for our church and we hope you will be able to come along to support Maithrie and the other Deacon Interns. I'm sure you would like to join me in wishing them every blessing and please remember them in your prayers.

Christine Johnstone



Sections resume as set out below:-

Squirrels Friday 15 September at 6.00pm
Beavers Thursday 14 September at 6.30pm
Cubs Thursday 14 September at 7.30pm
Scouts Friday 15 September at 7.30pm

Parents meeting for registration, fees and information on upcoming events will be held on **Thursday 7 September at 7.00pm** in the Church Centre.

If you need to check about availability of places for your son or daughter please contact the appropriate section leader on the numbers in the Parish Directory.

It's not surprising the most frequently asked question around the Parish of late has been 'when will we get a Curate?'

For as long as many of us can remember St Columbanus has been a 2 clergy Parish. Rector and Curate have worked together to lead worship, deliver sermons, visit homes and hospitals, link with missions, conduct weddings and funerals, administer the Parish and much more.

The answer to 'when?' is hopefully, 'soon!'

If our church is to flourish then its heavy day to day workload needs to be shared so that our clergy have time to plan the way ahead.

The restoration of our building is an achievement of which every Parishioner can be proud, but to enable us to build our church spiritually and reach out to the surrounding district, employing a Curate is a must.

Your Vestry is keen to secure a Curate as soon as possible but feels the whole Parish needs to know about the costs involved. In the past few years employing a curate was only possible through funds from legacies and rentals; but these vary from year to year and cannot be depended on to pay for a Curate on an ongoing basis. Vestry is continuing to consider how a Curate can be employed and hopes to present you with a means of achieving this in the near future.

Look out for more news in the next edition of your magazine and through announcements in Church in October.



St Columbanus Table Tennis Club

Table tennis will resume this season on Monday **4th September** 7.30pm - 9.30pm.

Have you played table tennis at some stage in the past or have you thought 'I'd like to have a go at that but maybe I wouldn't be good enough'. If that is the case, please come along and give it a try. It gets you out during the dark winter nights for a bit of fun, exercise and laughter.

We have 23 members on the books all of varying ages and abilities. The club is not competitive with the emphasis on fun, and many a laugh can be heard throughout the evening.

We have three tables and play mostly in foursomes but also some singles matches for variety. All equipment is supplied, but if you come along just wear suitable footwear etc.

Remember the date and time. Monday **4th September at 7.30pm** in the Parish Centre.

Stanley Officer - Tel. 91 461650



Welcome to our Parent Posts, our new magazine page! Each month, one of our lovely parents will write a piece – this month, Neil Devlin (dad of Callum, Jude & Lydia) has written some thoughts about going back to school. In addition, we will take a look at a question frequently asked by our kids here in the magazine alongside exploring it in church one Sunday in the month. This month, our question is: **“What does God look like?”**

The short answer is – we don’t really know. Many people have a picture of God in their heads that closely resembles Gandalf (tall, old and magnificently bearded), but this probably isn’t terribly close to the truth. People have never been able to look on God’s face directly on this side of heaven – in the Bible, God was often shielded as flame or light. There are many illustrations in the Bible that can help us to form a picture of who is – but as he is Father, Son and Spirit all at once, none of these can give us a full or concrete image of what he looks like.

But we do know something - Jesus told his disciples “If you have seen me, you have seen the Father.” So it would make sense to believe that God looks a bit like Jesus. While this maybe doesn’t provide a picture the way Google images might, we know that, as Jesus is God, he is loving, kind, and good.



Back To School

What do you remember of the school holidays when you were young? It could be old age creeping on me but what I remember are the warm, sunny days down at the beach in Warrenpoint learning to swim in the sea. My brother and I used to get 1d (old money) for every five strokes without sinking. This only lasted until we could swim twenty strokes and then my father said enough. The days always seemed to be sunny and we spent every day outside. The holidays as a child lasted for ever but now it seems that once school is over there is a break for a couple of weeks and then its thinking about going back to school in August.

As I work in a school I am fortunate that I have the whole summer off. This has the benefit of no child care expenses, however, both Jacqui and I have to constantly think of things for the children to do. Thankfully our eldest Callum is 17 and learning to drive (a whole different story) and he can amuse himself most of the time. Our next boy is 14 and Jude spends every day on the golf course unless he is playing a golf competition elsewhere and that means driving him all over the country. So our 10 year old girl Lydia takes up most of the time and when she stated at 10.30am on the 3rd July that she was bored I thought this is going to be a very long summer. Lydia’s highlights of the summer included a week away to Cambridge and London and is currently looking forward to JAM camp in August. What she really loved was the week of Jumpin’. It was such a great week for her to learn about the love of Jesus in such a fun way. Every day she came home bouncing and talking nonstop about what she did and learned. We are so fortunate to have such a great team of leaders at Jumpin’ along with Laura and Billy to help our children learn about Jesus and how He can help them get through their busy and sometimes stressful lives.

Only a couple of weeks left as I write this and then the moan of “Do I have to go back to school?” The long run to half term and scary masks and costumes for Halloween. The summer holidays will be gone, in the past, but hopefully not forgotten as memories will always be there for the children as they grow older. I am sure that they will remember long, hot, sunny days that seem to last forever and they will forget the rain and the cold.



Paula Lown takes up her role as Children's Worker this month. Paula told me she has always had a real passion for children's mission and she felt flattered and overwhelmed to be asked to take on this role.

Paula became a Christian as a child when she was taken by a neighbour to a Good News Club being run by Rosemary Park Baptist Church. Because of her experience as a child, Paula thinks it's important that children are taught to pray at an early age and as Children's Worker she feels amazingly privileged to be able to give children a start on their Christian journey.

As a mother of 2 children, Zack aged 10 and Samuel aged 8, Paula knows how receptive children are and she told me that talking to God is a normal part of their everyday family life, it is not just a Sunday thing.

Paula sees her role as Children's Worker is to oversee the children's ministry in St Columbanus and input to the vision of our Church from the point of view of the children and their families. Paula will also be leading

Praise Kids and she told me she has a few small changes planned which she will tell you about herself.

I heard Paula sing a solo in our Church at a Nine Lessons and Carols Service a few years ago and she has a beautiful voice so I wasn't at all surprised when she told me she has a Diploma in singing. Paula also teaches piano, singing and music theory from home a few hours a week. This flexible arrangement allows her to manage her time around two very important people in her life, Zack and Samuel. Previously Paula was a geography teacher and she taught at the Little Flower School in North Belfast for around 10 years but left when Zack was 1 year old.

Before coming to St Columbanus about 3½ years ago, Paula was an active member of Bangor Parish. She was sorry to leave but when the time of their family service changed, it didn't suit her and so she tried St Columbanus. Paula told me she found our Church very friendly and she received such a warm welcome from Simon Doogan and Kelly McCullough that she felt at home here and the boys have settled in well too! Paula immediately threw herself into the life of our Parish. She became involved in the Children's Church group, Bubbles and often leads the Bible study in Michelle Savage's Home Group which meets in the Parish Centre on a Tuesday night.

Like everyone starting a new job Paula admitted to feeling a bit apprehensive. She is worried about not being able to do the job and letting people down but Laura Symon gave her a good piece of advice by telling her that God doesn't call the equipped but equips the called. Paula told me that when she was approached about this job, things fell into place so easily and doors were opened to her, she took this as a sign that God is calling her and she will trust in Him to help her do a good job.

I'm sure you would all like to join with me in wishing Paula every success in her new role and remembering her in our prayers.

Christine Johnstone

Indoor Bowling Club

The Indoor Bowling Club starts its new season on

Wednesday 6th September at 7.30pm with the AGM followed by the usual bowling.



Come along, join us and have some fun.

For further information please contact club secretary Derek Coates on 02891455471.



Pastoral Care Course

For those who may wish to develop their understanding of pastoral care from a Christian perspective, Pastoral Care UK are holding a ten week course this Autumn in Carnmoney Presbyterian Church (21st September – 2 November 7.15pm-9.30pm). Cost £70.

Leaflets available at the back of Church.

For further information, please contact Jean Pillar, Tel 07590 109699.

email jean.pillar@carnmoney.org

"There's a breathless hush in the Close tonight—

*Ten to make and the match to win—
A bumping pitch and a blinding light,
An hour to play and the last man in".*

Sir Henry Newbolt

Simon managed to choose a lovely sunny evening for the annual cricket bash between his team and the Youth Worker's team. There was a cool breeze which became more noticeable whenever the sun dipped behind a passing cloud, but it remained pleasant enough to

encourage supporters to stay to the end. Roy Lawther and Stanley Officer were on umpire duty as Michael Hatch and Andrew Gowdy came out to open for the Rector's XI. In an interesting first over, Michael hit the first four, was dropped and then was run out. Patrick English then formed a solid partnership with Andrew, who hit the only six of the evening. Both players sportingly retired after passing 25 runs each. Gavin Campbell and Peter McIlwaine formed the next partnership until Gavin was run out with a direct hit on the stumps by young Harry Boal, who had also bowled well. Peter then retired after a solid 16 runs.



Jack Boal had Neil Devlin caught and bowled, and Jim Murdoch was joined by Davy Crooks, who was batting for the first time. He was almost run out when Jim set off to run two, while Davy was sauntering forth for a gentle single, but then finding himself overtaken by Jim, had to sprint to complete the second run. Jim retired to let the Ugandan international cricketer, Rory Wilson, have a bat. Rory announced he was proud to play for the rector's team, as he gallantly gave up his wicket, as Billy claimed his first ever wicket, to let Simon in as the last over started. Simon clipped the first ball away for a single, but unfortunately was then stranded at the bowler's end for the rest of the over. The innings ended with a nice round score of 100, a decent tally in 15 overs.

Matthew Reardon and Jude Devlin opened for Billy's team. Jude had a couple of nice scoring shots before being caught out. The young Harry Tindle also hit a few nice runs until he was bowled by Peter McIlwaine. The tempo increased when Andrew Beech joined Matthew in the middle as they made a partnership of over 50 before both retiring. This left the youth team in a decent position, until Andrew Gowdy took three wickets in four balls, using the cunning, but tried and tested plan of bowling at the stumps.



The W. G Grace lookalike, known as Billy was taking advice on how to bat when he was suddenly called to the crease, only to become Andrew's fourth victim in five balls. "It's a lot harder than it looks!", he confessed. Matthew and Andrew, the early retirees returned to bat to try to snatch victory. They reached 100 in the last over and then managed to scamper to victory with a sharp single to send Billy home delighted, as he had now bowled, batted and won in his first ever match.

Billy takes guard for the first time.

Our thanks go to Roy and Stanley for umpiring, to the spectators for their encouragement and to the players who put on a closer fought match than India and Pakistan in the ICC final the previous day.



The Cricket



Friday Lunch



YOUTH-news

youth [youth] (youths) news [nooz]

September is an exciting time for the life of our church with many of our church ministries and programmes starting back. The youth ministry is no different.

We celebrated a fantastic year just before the summer and we are eagerly anticipating the year ahead. We have seen amazing growth, not only numerically, but spiritually in the lives of our young people. Many are taking their faith more seriously and others are starting out their journey for the first time. Ballyholme Parish Youth want to build on this momentum in the year ahead.

I am very excited to give you a glimpse of what is on offer for the young people of Ballyholme Parish. The programme is jam packed with all sorts of teaching and resources to aid the personal, social and spiritual development of our young people but it is also bursting with fun for everyone to enjoy.



YF (Youth Fellowship) will kick off our week on a Sunday evening (7-9pm). YF is a space for young people to explore and discover more about the Bible and their faith but also to hang out and chill with their friends. The informal nature of YF has allowed the leaders to build great relationships with all the young people who attend and we are excited to see what will happen this year with our new theme “The Greatest Story Ever Told”. We will be having guest speakers join us on the first Sunday of each month and the guests will share their personal testimony and how it interlinks with the “greatest story ever told” that is the story of Jesus Christ. Throughout the year, we will also be looking at various “hot topics” and questions to challenge us in our thinking and faith.

Wednesday is another busy day for the youth of Ballyholme Parish. Drop In (4-6pm) will continue to be a place where young people can come chill out after school, enjoy a cuppa and chat with their friends. After Drop In, we will be having our midweek Bible study (6.30-7.45pm), which has been named “DMC” (Deep Meaningful Conversations). During DMC, we will be going deeper into what the Bible says about various issues but we will also be focusing on how we make our faith practical in our everyday lives.

A successful night last year was our Cinema Club on a Tuesday night. This year we are expanding this into what I’ve coined as “Tribe Nights”. I believe that one of the most effective ways to disciple young people is through good honest fun and community. People who have fun together stay together. We want this to be at the heart of our youth community at Ballyholme and our Tribe Nights will cater for us. These nights will vary from baking nights to gaming nights to football at Eddies to Cinema Club. Each night happening spontaneously but regularly. The young people will not want to miss out on Tribe Nights. I’ll explain the tribe name idea in next month’s magazine.

I am very excited about next year and what lies ahead for the young people. Please pray for all the youth who attend each of our programmes. Please pray for the leaders who facilitate and give up their time each week to teach, chat with and pray for the young people. It is an exciting time for the life of our youth work and we cannot wait to get started!

Billy Fyffe

<p>BALLYHOLME PARISH YOUTH 2017/2018</p> <p>KEEP UP TO DATE ON SOCIAL MEDIA</p> <p>f i t @ballyholmeyouth</p> <p>WEEKLY PROGRAMME</p>	<p>YF SUNDAY NIGHT 7.00-9.00PM</p> <p>Let's explore and discover more about the Bible and our faith. Space to hang out and chill with your friends too.</p>	<p>DROP IN WEDNESDAYS 4.00-6.00PM</p> <p>Come and chill out after school. Enjoy a cuppa, chat with friends, play PS4 or grab some sweets from the tuck shop.</p>
	<p>TRIBE NIGHTS</p> <p>Join us on Tribe Nights to spend time together, to have a laugh and enjoy each other's company.</p> <p>CHECK OUT SOCIAL MEDIA EACH WEEK FOR DETAILS</p>	<p>DMC WEDNESDAYS 6.30-7.45PM</p> <p>Time for deep meaningful conversations at our midweek Bible study as we try to wrap our heads around God's Word.</p>

St. Columbanus Walkers The Walkers Raid of Cooley - July



Táin Bó Cúailnge (the driving-off of cows of Cooley) is commonly known as The Cattle Raid of Cooley or The Táin). It's a legendary early Irish epic tale which tells of a war against Ulster by Connacht's Queen Medb and her husband Ailill, who intended to steal the stud bull Donn Cuailnge opposed only by the teenage Ulster hero Cu Chulainn.

All of this is purported to have happened on the Cooley Mountains in County Louth, that long ridge high above Carlingford Lough opposite the Mourne. It is wonderful walking country with as many as ten way-marked trails to indulge in. We had done the Barnavave Loop before but remembering the 'murderous' stretch above the forest, it was decided to join up three sections – the Eastern part of the Barnavave Loop, Molly's Loop and the Grange Loop, making about five miles of much more manageable trails.

We met at the Tourist Office in the medieval village of Carlingford which in itself would make a great short historical walk, with its De Lacy and King John connections. The village's inability to develop a heavy industry allowed its ancient layout and archaeological artefacts to remain relatively intact. Off we went up a steep hill right into the forest of head high ferns on a path down which rivulets of water ran. Just as we emerged from these (green) ferns Peter was able to tell us the score in the second Test against the All Blacks (they of the silver fern). That made us very happy! The trail turned east at that point and wound up Barnavave, along the Tain Way for a short time, and then we struck off for the summit. We made our way between the two peaks, one of which, at 1500 feet, was 'conquered' by Susan and Maurice.

Then it was down hill to the deserted village on the side of Barnavave where we had lunch. This small hamlet used to contain about 12-15 houses. In the pre-Famine years, food and other supplies were brought up from Carlingford by horse and cart which meandered along the tracks which now form part of the pathway of the Barnavave Loop. During the Potato Famine of 1845-1852, this community and others similar to it, were particularly hard hit and were literally wiped out. As a result, the buildings became dilapidated and the tiny settlement became colloquially known as 'the famine village'. Today, all that's left is a clump of ruins which provide a little shelter for the sheep and goats who continue to roam the area. It made an interesting lunch stop and we were lucky to finish before the rain came. The next set of walkers weren't so fortunate.

With the rain turning out to be rather more than a shower we headed back to the village by the 'shortcut' and on Peter's advice made McAteer's our refreshment stop where we dried out as well as indulging in their mouth watering desserts! Well worth it if you're in Carlingford.

Thanks to Peter and Brian for looking after us! The Walkers Raid of Cooley



The Walkers on the Ards Coast - August

The fourteen walkers on the Cloughey to Knockinelder walk enjoyed, after a chilly start, beautiful sunny weather with amazing visibility enabling us to see the Isle of Man and behind it faintly, the Cumbrian mountains and of course, the Mourne standing proud to our right. We were pleased to welcome back Derek Manton who hasn't been with us for some years.

Apart from the stunning views we spied, almost hidden on the track, a beautiful Peacock butterfly.

The walk starts at the car park in Cloughey village and takes you along the beach towards a rocky headland. Much of it was on the shore along the tide line and interspersed with lovely small sandy beaches with barely a soul on them. As the trail is linear we did some clever juggling with cars at both ends. It leads through lichen-covered slate rocks and coastal grassland, with the small sandy bays made up of shingle and saltmarsh (and some very nasty smelling seaweed). Eventually we reached the pretty National Trust village of Kearney and from there the path was more civilized most of the way to Knockinelder.

Kearney is a showpiece village carefully restored by the National Trust to give the authenticity of a traditional fishing village which it was in the nineteenth century.

Having retrieved the cars from Cloughey we set off to Portaferry where we filled one whole room of the coffee shop.

The next outing on 2nd September is on the north coast from Portballintrae to the Giant's Causeway with a short visit to the stones and then back, making a total of about 6 miles. Meet at 9am in the church car park.



Betty

Hello to all the members of MU, it's hard to imagine that Summer Break is almost over!! Hopefully all of us managed to catch up with friends, maybe travelling further afield, or sipping cappuccinos around The Ards!!

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Our committee have chatted and hopefully have invited a selection of interesting, thought provoking Speakers for our monthly Mondays. We are always open to suggestions, so please feel free to tell us about any interests you would like to hear more about.

Our first meeting is **Monday 4th September** at 8pm in the Parish Centre, which is entitled "Home Grown Fun". Please come along, even invite a friend!!!

MOTHERS' UNION , STAINED GLASS WINDOW update...

Looks like it could be completed by Mid September, with a **DEDICATION CELEBRATION** planned for FAMILY SERVICE, SUNDAY 1st OCTOBER. 10.00am and 11.30am.

We plan this will be a family event as our motto is **CHRISTIAN CARE for FAMILIES**....so wouldn't it be fantastic if all ages could join together in JOY!! There is talk of Bacon Butties & Hotdogs on that morning just to add to our excitement and joy, remembering the work of MU right across the World as is depicted in the window design. Further information will appear in News in the Pews through September.

That's all the update for now off to enjoy last rays of August sunshine, see you all on the Monday 4th September.

Many Blessings **Yvonne Manogue.**

The Croft Community

When I think about the Croft Community I think of our lovely residents and their zest for life. I think of our caring, compassionate staff and management team and our voluntary Management Committee who give so generously of their time and expertise. I think of our fine suite of buildings at 71 Bloomfield Road, which have been developed over the years to provide accommodation and furnishings anyone would be proud of.

But my fondest thoughts are of those moments when our residents have brought a sparkle to a particular moment and made it special. One of those memories was when the then Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Sir Patrick Mayhew visited Croft and was asked by Peter - who took a great interest in politics - "Do you know John Major?" to which Sir Patrick replied "Oh yes, I used to be his boss, now he's my boss". Then Peter said, "I like John Major, would you tell him that Peter at Croft was asking for him?" The outcome was that Peter received a letter of appreciation and thanks from the Prime Minister, and subsequently an invitation to Sir Patrick's farewell party at Hillsborough Castle. I can think of many such times when the simple outlook of our folk has brought not only a smile but a sense of reality and of what's really important.

"Necessity is the mother of invention" and Croft was born out of the great necessity, back in the 70's, to provide much needed suitable long-term accommodation for adults with a learning disability, whose parents were getting older and were concerned about what would happen to their children.

In October 1979 I was invited by Iris Bingham and Maureen Smith, Principal and Deputy Principal at Clifton Special Care School, to join a small group of parents and professionals who were very concerned about the situation. We heard some very distressing stories of young folk, who on the death of a parent or carer and due to the shortage of suitable accommodation, were moved away from their home, school, friends, practically overnight to Muckamore Abbey mental hospital or anywhere a vacancy could be found.

The story of The Croft Community and of all that has happened from then till now is a story of vision, determination and perseverance in the face of many obstacles facing a small group, who were relatively unknown and inexperienced.

The first major obstacle was that we had no money to embark on such a venture. So an approach was made to the N.I. Federation of Housing Associations, the outcome of which was that we entered into a joint management agreement with a housing association, where they provide the premises and maintenance, for which we pay Housing Executive based rents. Croft in turn provides the caring through the Health Trust. This arrangement has worked very well and we are grateful to Choice Housing Association and our local Health Trust for their support and co-operation over the years.



When we opened The Croft Community in 1983 we provided accommodation for 7 long term residents plus 1 place for much needed, short-term respite care.

We now have 8 residential places providing care in the communal Mayne House, 34 tenants in Supported Living accommodation, enabling a more independent life style, 7 respite places in our recently opened Croft Lodge, which was designed to accommodate some wheelchair bound clients, and which serves around 100 families. We also have a very successful Day Care service offering meaningful activities for 27 folk from Croft and from the wider community.

The Croft team are always seeking new ways to help our residents achieve our Mission at Croft, which is to “Empower adults with learning disabilities to live fulfilling lives within the community”.

Our Strategic Plan for the next 5 years is to maintain the high standards at Croft and develop our services to meet the challenges and needs of people with learning disabilities and their families.

From the dream presented to us at that meeting back in October 1979 to its realisation today has been an amazing journey of faith, hope and love, and much prayer.

The best thing I can hear of is a resident saying to their parent or carer after a night out is, “It’s time I went home to Croft now”.

Jim Clark

Chairman of Croft Management Committee

The Croft Community and St.Columbanus Church

Members of the Croft Community attend our church on the first Sunday of each month at the 10.00 Service and at Christmas they give a short musical performance during the service.

A Tribute Concert for a Much Loved Member of Our Congregation, Laura Gilbert.

“French Fancies”

Presents

“An Evening with Percy Friends & Friends”

Enjoy Music Hall Songs & recitations with guest artistes

Saturday 7th October at 7.00pm, Ballyholme Parish Centre, Grove Park.

Suggested Donation £5

Donations in aid of Church Funds

Tickets available from the Parish Office weekday mornings

The Week Junior.



Described as ‘Making Sense of the World’ and ‘News and Facts for Young People’

On a recent trip to Bristol to see my daughter Carrie and grandson Jamie (Age 9 and a half), I noticed Jamie was reading a magazine that I hadn’t seen before - I had been subscribing to “The Beano” for him, a comic that I used to take myself at his age and still take a sneaky look at when I get the chance!

However, when he put it aside, I took the opportunity to look through it.

It was most interesting. The magazine is aimed at 8-12 year olds.

The subject matter covers a wide range. The main topic covered is last week’s News, but other subjects also from explanation of how the Houses of Parliament works, to basic cooking recipes, a book club, big events around the world, quizzes and puzzles, crafts and art. Understanding archaeology, sport, animals and lots more.

This magazine could suit both Grandparents and Grandchildren alike. And as a Grandad.....I can’t wait for next week’s issue !

Peter Robinson



OUR WORSHIP

Sunday 3rd September Trinity 12

8.30 Holy Communion
10.00 Good News at Ten - All Age
11.30 Morning Prayer
6.00 Ordination of Deacons

Wednesday 6th September

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 10th September Trinity 13

8.30 Holy Communion
10.00 Good News at Ten
& Children's Church
11.30 Parish Communion
6.30 United Service - Ballyholme
Methodist

Wednesday 13th September

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 17th September Trinity 14

8.30 Holy Communion
10.00 Good News at Ten
& Children's Church
11.30 Morning Prayer

Wednesday 20th September

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 24th September Trinity 15

8.30 Holy Communion
10.00 Good News at Ten - Communion
& Children's Church
11.30 Morning Prayer

Wednesday 27th September

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

FUNERALS

June

22nd: Reggie Hamilton
formerly of College Avenue

July

5th: James Arbuthnot
formerly of Groomsport
Road

14th: Joy Harwood formerly
of Manselton Park.

31st: Vera Bell formerly of
Gilbert Crescent

August

2nd: Audrey Mitchell,
formerly of Green Road

Parish Office: 91274912

Rectory:

91274901

Prayer Line:

07531806167

Transport:

07599794968

Church Readers Rota:

Freda (11.30)

91467624

Thelma (10.00)

91453602 Web Site www.ballyholmeparish.co.uk



Children's Church Helpers

September

3rd: No Children's Church

10th: Debbie Hunter, Michelle Savage, Sarah
Boyd and Cathrine Menary.

17th: Rhonda Magennis, Gillian Fletcher,
Jackie Devlin and Andrew Cuthbert.

24th: Kelly McCullough, Katherine Newman, Christine
Rankin and Gillian Fletcher.



September

3rd: Tracie Andreasson

10th: Ruth Lynas

17th: Anna Lemon

24th: Pat Williamson



September

3rd: No Creche

10th: Rachel Brittain,
Rosemary Thompson,
Dawn Shackles

17th: Natalie McCartin,
Emma MacDonald,
Julie Caulfield

24th: Christine Rankin,
Gillian Segasby,
Ashleigh Birkett



September

3rd: Tony & Jan Carver,
Glynis McSorley, Peter
Robinson

10th: Edna Morrison, Gillian
Fletcher, Carole Majury

17th: Mark & Carolyn
Larmour, Jean Law

24th: Susan & Jonnie
Stockton, Pat Davidson

Wednesday 6 September 2017 Holy Communion & Prayers for the Sick

The Kajiado Room 10.30am
Followed by tea/coffee
Everyone welcome especially
those who can't make it to
Church on Sunday!