

St Columbanus

Ballyholme



Kiwoko Christmas
Handbags from Gladrags
Rector's Christmas Card

..On the way *together*..



The Parishioner



Dec 2017 / Jan 2018

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



“Christmas is all about giving and generosity” began a line I saw recently, “but sometimes it gets confused with buying and consuming.” It’s an annual complaint and often true. But it’s too easy to blame the retailers. Everyone’s got to make a living and whilst Christmas is when many of them make their money, we seem keen enough to pay for what they want to sell us. Nor is it fair to blame our modern culture of ‘party’. Especially in the northern hemisphere, celebrating together in the darkest part of the year isn’t just fun but cathartic and spirit-lifting. People find the winter long enough. Let’s face it, this year as every year we will all succumb eventually to the commercial lure. And yet because a slightly empty feeling afterwards is equally inevitable, our best chance as Christians is to strain as hard as we can to see every expression of giving and generosity as an extension of God’s gift to us in Jesus. That first gift, if we open our hearts to it, has the power to transform all our other gifts. It also has the potential to touch both giver and receiver with a little bit of heaven.

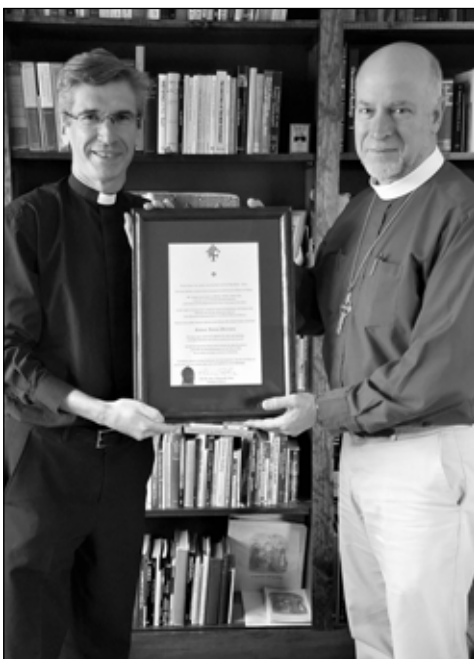


SED

Christmas



begins with God's gift to us.



Christ Church Duanesburg

Further to our October article on Simon’s US visit, we are glad to report that our former curate the Reverend Alistair Morrison’s appointment has now been confirmed. The photograph shows Alistair being canonically received into the Episcopal Church of the United States of America on 23 October 2017 by the Bishop of Albany the Right Reverend Bill Love. This final formality cleared the way for Alistair to be licensed as Priest-in-Charge of the Parish of Duanesburg. 29 October was his first Sunday in post. Please remember Alistair in your prayers as he settles into this new and distinctly rural Church community. Duanesburg is about half an hour from the Johnstown Rectory where Alistair and his wife Laurie will continue to be based. The US Anglican Diocese of Albany has been in official partnership with our own Church of Ireland Diocese of Down and Dromore since the 1998 Lambeth Conference.

Home Visits & Communion Calls

Just as last year, I have made every effort to keep up with the regular round of sick calls and pastoral visits to our home members and those in nursing care. As the winter sets in it is more important than ever that no one is left out. Please don’t risk leaving it to my memory or intuition to know who might be feeling forgotten. Get in touch straight away if you are aware of anyone who would appreciate a visit, especially if they end up in hospital. Likewise Christmas Communion: bringing the sacrament to parishioners who loved the Lord and His Church over a lifetime remains one of the great pleasures of my ministry.

SED



Just Older Youth

May you know

May you know the Christ of Christmas
as.....

The God who sings over you and with you in
joy

The God who rejoices over you and with you
in love.

The God whose mountains and hills break
forth before you into singing;
and all the trees of His fields clap their hands
The God who walks beside you, delighting
with you as He directs your every step.

May you know this Lord of Love as.....

The God who compassionately comforts you
as a Father in all your troubles

The God who strengthens your inner self by
his Spirit that is always with you.

The God who is your strength, your refuge,
and a very evident and present help.

The God who is your shield and protection
when you are under attack.

The ever-present God who is eternally your
peace.

Author unknown



Enjoying the fellowship after the October
Communion lunch

The Wednesday Club

Our members welcomed
Pat Peel to our meeting this
month, who gave a very
thorough keep fit work out
to get us in shape for all
the treats at Christmas. We all enjoyed
the gentle exercise and it gave us a good
reason to enjoy our scones and tray bakes
with our usual cup of tea.



Eileen Harmon was the winner of this
months draw.

Don't forget that the December meeting is
our Christmas lunch, starting earlier at
12.15. Agnes will be in touch regarding
lifts etc, and as Santa will be visiting us,
don't forget to bring a small present for
his sack.

See you then

Sue



John celebrating a special birthday at the
Friday lunch club with Simon and Karen

Communion Lunch

Wednesday 13th December is the date for
our next informal Communion lunch.
The service starts at midday in the Parish
Centre followed by lunch at 12.30pm,
after which we will be joined by the choir
from Ballyholme Primary School.
This really is a wonderful occasion and
not to be missed so please consider
joining us. For more information or to
arrange lifts please contact me at the
Parish office on 9127 4712.

God bless

Karen

On the evening before Christmas, with the final preparations in place, a period of calm falls over the house. By 10.00pm, I am ready to leave for the First Communion of Christmas service. I have followed this ritual for over 30 years, barring the very few occasions when we have not been home for the Festive Season. By 10.20pm, in a church suffused with a warm, candlelit glow of goodwill, I am in my seat. The church steadily fills up, smiling greetings exchanged, a period of silent reflection and, at 11.00pm, to the strains of 'Hark the Herald,' the service gets under way. The familiar lessons and carols are set in stone; I don't know if it would be quite the same if the running order was somehow altered. Finally, with the rafters echoing to the last strains of 'O Come All Ye Faithful,' it's time to go home.



A further ritual ensues; we take a glass of Christmas cheer and step up the hallway towards the Nativity set. This is not as grand as it sounds. The figures are 'genuine plastic,' bought from a Christmas catalogue, circa 1980. They cut a slightly forlorn scene back then, cushioned on a layer of cotton wool, beneath a very small Christmas tree. There was no cash available for expensive decorations; matchboxes and the like were wrapped in Christmas paper, cardboard tubes fashioned into Santa Claus and some crackers.

Over the years, the Nativity figures have been greatly augmented by an assortment of model animals, including toys from McDonald's Happy Meals. Dodger, the cool, shades-wearing dog from Disney's 'Oliver and Co,' looks on, accompanied by Quasimodo and tiny, scarf-wearing reindeer. Many years ago, William made a stable, complete with a mezzanine floor and ladder, a miniature mattock and rope hanging on the wall. The comfort of the Holy Family has been greatly improved as they are cushioned on a layer of straw, salvaged from a Body Shop gift basket. A turkey is perched on the stable roof, unaware that many of its non-plastic kinfolk will be gracing dinner tables all over the world later that day. In the interests of historical accuracy, the Magi are some distance from the stable whilst the shepherds are honoured guests.

Our Baby Jesus figure is lifted from his hiding place beneath the straw and placed between Mary and Joseph. We light a candle, wish peace and happiness, drink a toast and open some presents.

Over the years, it would have become possible to replace these symbols of Christmas with something grander but we have found it impossible to part with them. They remind us of a time when the household budget was stretched to the limit, guarding against complacency. Nowadays, numbers of homeless people are on the increase, more families rely on foodbanks, refugees all over the world, irrespective of their faiths, risk their lives in order to flee into democratic countries. Our beliefs and rituals bind us firmly together whilst we attempt to make sense of a world apparently becoming crazier by the minute. The promise of the Christmas message gives a thread of hope and optimism for the future.

Patricia Fawcett



Storehouse North Down

Did You Know?...

- * There are 49 Churches partnering with Storehouse North Down, and with your help 25-30 hampers are distributed each week with the average cost of a hamper being £60.
- * Since the beginning in September 2012, 7,700 hampers have been distributed.
- * You are welcome to call at Storehouse to see first hand where your donations are going.

During Advent the trolley will be at the back of Church and at the Parish Centre for your Festive Donations, in particular the items required are: Selection boxes, tins of biscuits, Shloer, tinned meats and Christmas puddings.



“to all who received Him, who believed in His name, He gave power to become children of God”

It remains my very great joy to give my best to you as Rector and to lead you in the worship and witness of Christ in Ballyholme. Please accept this ‘card’ as a grateful acknowledgement of all that you give in effort and prayer, time and money to maintain the ministry of St Columbanus and to build up the kingdom of God in this place.

To Staff, Vestry and Wardens, Children’s and Youth Leaders, Choir and technicians, players and singers, caterers and chauffeurs, reporters and photographers, bookkeepers and bankers, callers and carers, gardeners and grafters and especially to those who in season and out of season offer the praise and the prayer:

**Blessings to you and yours
this Christmas and New Year**

Spot the Difference: Rectory Repairs Update

If you have had any reason to pass along Ward Avenue recently, you can’t have missed the new-look Rectory. The scaffolding went up at the end of August and the last of it was removed the week commencing 22 October to reveal a handsomely re-guttered and weather-proofed No 3. The new composite door was then fitted and the difference it made to the front porch was instant.

Before any start is made on internal redecoration, it’s been recommended that we allow the house to dry for 3-4 months. This process should benefit significantly from the newly installed gas central heating. Tours are available should you wish to inspect the project: please be in touch with the residents who are looking forward very much to a drier, warmer winter!



Children's Church - Passing on....the way!



So we are now approaching the end of term 1 in Children's Church 2017/18. The Lord has blessed us with lots of children coming along, in fact there are 130 names on the register for this year, with a number of new families joining us...you are most welcome! As this autumn term ends, we know that Christmas is fast approaching, Christmas lists are being written and there may even be a mischievous Elf on the Shelf at home!

It's a busy time for all of us, and there are lots and lots of fun events for children and their families happening at Ballyholme Parish this year! So there is a list of dates for your diaries on the next page.

QUESTIONS

K I D S A S K



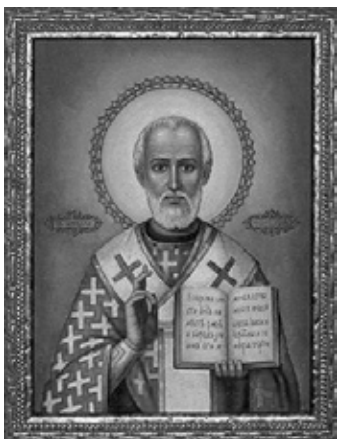
Are Jesus and Santa the same?

They both lived long ago and are still alive today.

When I was first asked this question, my clever answer was to say that only Jesus can forgive our sins. Then someone reminded me that Santa can take names off the naughty list and place them on the good list! It took a little more thought, but here are a few important differences.

Making it easy...(for the kids!)

- * Santa doesn't know our names, he has to ask us, but Jesus knows our names and loves us, no matter what.
- * Santa only brings us presents once a year, but Jesus promises to give us what we need, when we need it.
- * While Santa may take our names off the naughty list, becoming friends with Jesus adds our name to the Book of Life, and allows us to go to heaven.
- * Santa needs us to write our "Christmas list" down, so that he knows what to bring us. With Jesus, because he can hear our thoughts, we can pray about anything, even without speaking.



A little bit more...(for the mums and dads!)

Let's consider who Santa is and why he still delivers presents today. The man behind Santa is St. Nicholas, a bishop from Turkey in the 4th century. He was very kind and gave presents to the poor, but he wanted to keep his identity a secret. It is rumoured that he threw gold down a family's chimney at night, and it landed in the stockings that were left drying at the fire. Santa delivers presents once a year for three reasons.

- * It helps us remember the greatest gift that God has given us, Jesus Christ, and to renew our faith in him.
- * It reminds us of the three gifts that Jesus received from the wise men, gold, frankincense and myrrh, gifts that announced Jesus was king, that he was God and that he would have a special death.

* Christmas is a time of celebration! Giving and receiving gifts is an excellent way to make people happy!

Going deeper...try this at home

- * Thank God for Santa and the gifts he brings
- * Think about what Jesus' birth means for each of you
- * Remember some of the people who will be lonely or will not receive gifts this Christmas

Diary Dates

Nativity Play Dates:

Casting - 26th November

First rehearsal - 3rd December

Dress rehearsal & Christmas party – 16th December, 2 - 4.00pm

The Nativity Play – Sunday 17th December, 10am

Christmas Jumpin'! – Saturday 9th December, 10 – 1pm

With crafts, snacks, games, songs and stories

Children's Christmas Gift Day – Sunday 10th December,

This is an opportunity for the children to give a present to a child in need. If they bring a wrapped present to the Good News @10 service it will be taken to The Salvation Army or SVDP, who will deliver it to a child who has less than us.

Children's Christmas Service – Sunday 24th December, 5pm

A fun 30 minute service, led by Billy and Paula, especially for the children.

There is something for everyone this Christmas, I hope to see you here!

Paula

Christmas Traditions

The festive season is upon us and the sudden drop in temperature has already encouraged us to wrap up warm before leaving the house. I particularly look forward to coming in from work during these dark evenings, lighting the fire and simply getting cosy.

Even though every day is busy with our own children, the run up to Christmas takes us to a whole new level. Decorating the house, shopping for presents, Christmas events and of course food planning and preparation for the holidays. We are beginning to introduce some of these traditions in our own home. My favourite of these being the arduous task of picking a suitable Christmas tree with the perfect dimensions to fit our living room. This is closely followed by each family member carefully and proudly hanging every decoration collected or handmade over the years on its branches. Together we eagerly anticipate the arrival of the man in the big red suit and share each other's excitement in what he brings. A busy house, busy lives and busy jobs means less opportunity for family time throughout the year, therefore Christmas is a good reminder to take that time out and spend it with family, making new memories and remembering old.

As a parent I have realised the importance of introducing and sharing these family traditions together but also bringing it all into perspective. Bringing our boys up with Christian morals and values is important to us, along with having an awareness of the world around them and their position within it. Since moving to the heart of Ballyholme and joining St Columbanus Church we have felt such a strong sense of community. We all look forward to the short walk on a Sunday morning for Good News @10, where we sit amongst familiar faces, neighbours and friends. Attending church during Christmas time will encourage our boys, Joseph and Henry, to think about the true meaning of Christmas and why we celebrate it together as a family at home and in church. It is lovely seeing the boys look forward to Children's Church and Praise Kids each week and coming home bubbling with new questions and stories, like I remember doing as a child. Paula is even carrying on a tradition of her own from teaching me in Sunday School to now teaching my own children too, thanks Paula.

I will be looking forward to continuing with these Christmas traditions and sitting down to my Christmas dinner, surrounded by family and laughter. The highlight of the calendar will certainly be watching the children dress up and eagerly perform the nativity story with great excitement and unpredictability.

Merry Christmas

Claire Skelly

Ten months of the year, as if by magic, *The Parishioner* drops through your letter box or comes to you online.

It takes 83 volunteers to deliver the parish magazine. Their legwork is much appreciated and while we do our best to be as efficient as possible about our circulation we are always keen to know if there is any undue delay. Likewise if your magazine has stopped coming for some reason, or if you would prefer in future to read it online, please get in touch with the Parish Office. As you know, we do not make a charge as such for *The Parishioner* but the familiar brown envelopes will go out in next month's edition and all your contributions towards our costs are gratefully received.

The editorial team meets ten times a year in the run up to each deadline. Their task is to proof-read, discuss upcoming events and content for the next issue and share feedback and new ideas. The team has undergone a few personnel changes recently with Peter Robinson and Glynis McSorley standing down after three years of very creative story gathering.

Henceforth you may expect to be button-holed and door-stepped by our new journalistic faces Sarah-Jane Flannigan, Pat Fawcett and Sarah Guy. By all means if you would like to get involved please do contact us.

Articles from our readers and especially photographs are always welcome. Articles and enquiries about joining the team go to sylvia.d.davenport@btinternet.com and photographs may be emailed to robbie.jackson@btinternet.com and Sylvia for inclusion in the photo page or with the article to which it relates.



Glynis and Peter who are standing Down



Simon and Robbie were on their holidays



The Kiwoko Christmas alternative gift card is now available from the Parish Centre.

Thinking of Christmas...

Choirs, Carols, Cards, Crackers
Hymns, Halo, Holly, Ho! Ho! Ho!
Reindeers, Rudolph, Ribbons
Incense, Icicles, Igloos, Invitations
Stars, Stable, Shepherds
Trees, Twinkling lights, Tinsel
Music, wise Men, Myrrh, Mince pies
Angels, Annunciation
Santa, Stockings, Sparkles, Sleigh bells

If **Christ** is taken out of Christmas and replaced with an **X**, whose birth are we celebrating?

GYMcS

GENEROUS GIVING – YOUR HELP NEEDED

- To grow our church
- To reach out to our community
- To share God's love near and far
- To carry the Christmas message into 2018
- To discover God's plans for each of us
- To be free from worrying about making ends meet
- To balance our books and employ a Curate
- To build a Kingdom

**PLEASE RESPOND TO OUR GENEROUS
GIVING APPEAL LEAFLETS FROM
THE CHURCHWARDENS AND PARISH
OFFICE**



Around the Parish



Enjoying fellowship after the October Communion lunch



Brownies



YF

Scouts at Halloween



God in my Arms?

At His birth,
tired and bewildered I held him.
This, the Morning Star of heaven? Earthed.
My son, with Divinity enmeshed,
Enfleshed,
Birthed

Tell me, you wise men,
can Yahweh, the Almighty of Eternity,
have fuzzy baby eyebrows and eyes,
soft baby skin, baby hair, and snuggle warm
against my body
with little baby whimpers and baby sighs?

Tell me, how the Master of the Universe
might be cradled within amniotic gloom?
Or crafted into blood and bones,
the Creator of Light,
for nine months locked within the darkness
of a womb?

I look into sleepy eyes that focus unseeing,
and adore, not Yahweh, but a warm soft
child.

I forget He is Divine,
for what I hold in my arms is baby warmth
with baby scent of milk,
and baby fingers curled with confidence
round mine.

Yet suddenly,
my heart quickens,
memory returns
of a Divine visitation,
a mystic revelation!

My breath falters with terror,
the immensity of this frightening truth;
this is my son with pink tongue outstretched
in drowsy content
with milky baby yawn,
the Ruler of the Universe
lies Incarnate in my arms
in the stillness of a hushed and silent dawn?



In 2006, at a carol service in my parish church in Nottingham, I was asked to play the part of Mary. I am not great at acting – not since I forgot my lines and had bad stage fright as a child. I hummed and hawed. But the rector's wife – Pixie (who was here at my ordination) was persuasive. It was a tableau, she said. Nothing to be spoken at all, she explained. It would be great to have a Mary, who had brown skin, and looked a bit authentic. Can't I do this one little part for the carol service? So I agreed.

I was not prepared for what happened at the service that night.

I carried the "baby Jesus" – a wrapped up doll – up the church aisle with Joseph by my side. As I walked up, it suddenly felt real. I was overwhelmed as I realised that a young bewildered mother held a baby in her arms – a baby she knew was God. Thoughts came at the rate of knots. Was this really the son of God – this helpless baby, wrapped up for warmth. So vulnerable and tiny. I found myself fighting back tears as I sat up front during the tableau looking down at the "baby Jesus." There was awe in the eyes of the kids who came up to me and looked at the baby. That night, I couldn't fall asleep. I got out of bed, sat down and wrote down the thoughts and emotions that I had felt that night... "God in my arms."

Maithrie White

Practical Christmas Generosity

Christmas is a great time for remembering others and doing something for them. Why not...

- * Take the time to call or visit someone who will be missing a loved one
- * Open your house and invite friends and neighbours for a coffee or a seasonal drink
- * Deliver a spare parish magazine to someone with no Church connection
- * Offer to bring some friends and neighbours to one of the Christmas services
- * Before opening presents on Christmas Day, make an online donation to a charity





Christmas in Kiwoko is lots of fun. There are lots of boys back home from boarding school for me to play with. On Christmas morning I open some presents with Mum, Dad (and Jaja who usually visits us) and we unpack our stockings. None of my friends get any presents at all. Everyone goes to church and then has a feast.

Sometimes we have Christmas lunch with our friends in a nearby village called Katoke. 15 children usually live in that home, but in holiday time when everyone is back from school and a few cousins come to stay we can be more than 30 eating lunch. The mums cook over an open fire and my mum always is impressed how well they manage without a cooker.

We eat in the shade of their big tree. Christmas is an exciting day as it is the first time in many months that most people eat any meat. After lunch we usually have some dancing (traditional Ugandan style) which is lots of fun. I am a bit shy so I usually only watch. After a while the kids can go and play on their own while the grown-ups drink tea. Footballs don't usually last very long here with all the big thorns, so dad usually gives the kids a new football for Christmas.

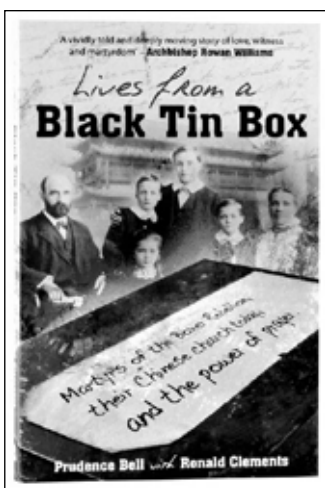


Then I and my friends can go and swim in the Dam (the big pond that collects water for the cows to drink.) It is usually hot for Christmas in Uganda (about 30 degrees) so a swim is nice to cool off. Sometimes there is a terrapin also swimming in the dam, but he usually tries to hide once he hears us coming.

While there we fill up the jerry cans of water for their home to bring back after our swim.

This year is my 1st Christmas in Bangor and I am looking forward to seeing snow. However I miss my friends in Uganda and hope that Dad will take us back soon for a visit.

Gideon



Wednesday 17 January at 8pm in the Kajiado Room

In 2007 Pru Bell made the journey of a lifetime travelling to Xinzhou in China to trace the impact of the life and ministry of her great grandparents, Herbert and Elizabeth Dixon who were missionaries there at the end of the 19th century.

In the midst of a harvested maize field on the outskirts of the town she found a broken up memorial recording the names of eight missionaries who had been martyred during the time of the Boxer Rebellion, and Herbert and Elizabeth's name were on that memorial. Within hours she was standing inside the Martyrs' Memorial Church in Xinzhou with a plaque on the wall of the vestibule and once again there were the names of

her great grandparents. She had travelled thousands of miles to a place which no-one would know about here in the west and she found not only a record of their names but also the legacy of their ministry, a thriving church with 4000 members.

This is a story which crosses more than 120 years and travels right around the world and contains a succession of thrilling miracles. Pru will be sharing this remarkable missionary memoir in Ballyholme on Wednesday 17 January.

Everyone welcome.





THE FAIRY GLEN – JUST A PERFECT DAY

*'Just a perfect day
Problems left all alone
Weekenders on our own.....'*

Whatever or wherever inspired Lou Reed it couldn't have been more perfect than Saturday 3 November when the Walkers visited The Fairy Glen in Rostrevor.

The car journey from Newry to Warrenpoint and Rostrevor was indeed inspiring. A panorama framed by purple mountains, layers of autumn colours and sunlight reflecting on Carlingford. Magic!

Twenty-one gathered in Kilbroney Park, donned their boots and headed for the Kilbroney River. Off up-stream for about a kilometre on an enchanted path paved by autumn leaves with shafts of sunlight penetrating the baring branches of oak and beech and sycamore. Then into grassy fields and over a stone wall into Rostrevor Forest where we met and chatted with a group of local walkers. Climbing gradually through the forest we are surrounded by conifers, standing and blown by the recent storms, and make way for families of mountain bikers, renew acquaintances and conversations, all the time gradually going upwards.

It's time for lunch! Across a wooden bridge and down to a picnic area. Suddenly, when we stop, it turns cold. Woolly hats and gloves appear and we are glad to get our return journey underway.

Back downwards through the wood gives a different perspective. One hundred and one chats broke out as we divided and sub divided. We reached Kilbroney Park again and it was time to talk about our essential coffee stop.



What a find! The former Rostrevor Methodist Church, now a coffee shop and bistro. Built in 1901 as a memorial to the Rev John Gilcriest it always had a very small congregation. We sat on the original pews taking in the loveliness of our surroundings and the cappuccino and lemon tart were yummy!

It was time to go. Darkness gathers on the road as we passed Loughbrickland and Dromore. Then Bangor again, safely home.

As Lou said

*'Oh, such a perfect day
I'm glad I spent it with you.....'*

Our next walk on 9th December is the last of the year. It is followed by lunch at 1.30 for 2pm in Royal Ulster Yacht Club. We take the 9.27 train to Helen's Bay and walk via Crawfordsburn Country Park cafe to Bangor.

Leslie

Church Notice Board Announcement

Now that there are two entrances/exits to our church, children will be baptized at both ends!!!

Village Church Notice Board

Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir.
They need all the help they can get!!!

Second Bloom visits Ballyholme MU!!

Well what a treat we enjoyed last Monday 6th November at our MU Open Meeting... entitled "Second Bloom".

I know the terms "second flush" and "second bloom" may often be thought of in a tired, second-rate sort of way, BUT certainly not this Second Bloom event!!! Instead Sharon and Eleanor treated us to a really superb evening, together they make up Second Bloom - handbags from gladrags.



Sharon gave us some background information, explaining how their interest and friendship grew. Many funny tales of washing disasters resulting in a creative way to upcycle their fabric into a unique handbag.

Eleanor then shared a short history of the evolving story of that essential ladies' accessory...The handbag.

Next we all had the opportunity to feel, touch and marvel at their upcycled creations!!! How beautiful they were, each one unique and even better able to be purchased. Yes, that's right, they could be bought!!! Believe me, we didn't hold back. Watch out in the coming months to see if you can spot Yvonne's, Pat's and Roberta's for starters!!!

Thanks to everyone who supported the evening, I'm also pleased to share we have gained some new MU members already this year...that's just fantastic. Plenty of room for even more to share in our friendship & fellowship.

Next month our meeting date is the second Monday in December....Monday 11th December @ 7.30pm in The Church for our Advent Service and Festive Supper, bring a friend along.... everyone welcome.



Yvonne trying to select a new handbag from the wide selection on offer.



Advance notice:-
New Year Dinner
 Bangor Golf Club
Tuesday 9th January
 7.00pm for 7.30pm
 Please select your menu in advance next month at supper after the Service.

Thanks for all your support in Autumn 2017, let's look forward together to January 2018.

Many Blessings.
Yvonne Manogue.



Admiring the handbags

YOUTH-news

youth [youth] (youths) news [nooz]

I enjoy scrolling through my Facebook timeline or Twitter feed when I have some downtime to relax. I follow some funny pages and accounts on my social media accounts but the pages and accounts that I enjoy the most are the more serious but interesting ones. I recently started to follow Business Insider to keep up to date with the latest technological releases, business news from around the world and to be encouraged in leadership and development. It was one night that, whilst listening to a podcast from an inspirational speaker called Simon Sinek, I heard these words...

“Leadership is not about the next election, leadership is about the next generation.”

This year we have had the immense privilege to welcome some new leaders on board to our youth programmes. Michelle Savage has joined us on Sunday evenings and offers us a wise head in our small group discussions and challenges the girls to think outside the box when it comes to their faith and their everyday lives. It's great to have an amazing woman with a wealth of life experience and teaching experience join the team and help us out each Sunday. Craig Fetherstonhaugh has stepped in recently to be part of our leadership team and comes with a history in youth work having been a youth worker in the Church of Ireland in Castlederg and Mount Merrion. Craig adds a lot of energy, laughter and fun to our group on a Sunday. I am so pleased to have Michelle and Craig join our leadership team.

In addition to the wise old heads of Billy, Michelle and Craig, we have our junior leadership programme taking place. We have a group of seven young people who are undertaking an OCN Level 1 in Leadership and Practical Youth Ministry. They are learning about the characteristics of leadership, how to deliver programmes and how to manage participant behaviour in small groups. Each Sunday our junior leaders help set up, take down and tidy up after Youth Fellowship on a Sunday night. These young people are incredible and really emphasise that leadership is about the new generation. I feel encouraged to watch each of our junior leaders grow in confidence each week as they take initiative, lead small groups and pray together. Currently on our junior leadership programme are: Ben Cavan, Conor Devenney, Dylan Moore, Erin Savage, Honor McFerran, Lucy Thomas and Michael Sinclair. Please pray for each of these junior leaders as they grow and develop as leaders in their social circles and schools.

Last but not least, we are always really thankful for the old faithful in our leadership team: Faye Moorehead, Samantha Smallwood, Ross Hamilton and the legend that is Matthew Moore. These guys are constantly giving up their Wednesday afternoons and Sunday nights to come down and serve our church. They welcome the young people, serve tuck shop, make lots of tea and kick football around with the young people. Sunday nights could not happen without them!

Please pray for our leaders as we continue to work with the young people and run our programmes on a weekly basis. Please also pray for our leaders who are away at university at the moment: Brad Gillespie, Emma Rea, Beth Anderson, Josh Bell and Tom McFerran.

My goal as “the boss” is to help each of our leaders to grow and develop, to inspire and empower them so they may use what they have learnt in their work life and social circles. I'm excited to see what is in store for them all in the future.



Billy

December

3rd: Ann, Karen & Kelly
10th: Yvonne Manogue, Janice Hewitt & Vicky Hayes

17th: Tony & Jan Carver, Glynis McSorley & Peter Robinson

24th: Christmas Eve

31st: Edna Morrison, Gillian Fletcher & Carole Majury

January 2018

7th: Mark & Carolyn Larmour & Jean Law

14th: Pat Davidson, Susan & Jonnie Stockton

21st: Neil & Jacqui Devlin & Pat Adair

28th: Gillian & Geoff Young & Patrick Crothers

BAPTISM

29th October

Zach Alexander Michael Andrews, son of Alan & Claire

Isabella Harper Boyd, daughter of Justin & Lisa

For Your Diary

Monday 5th February 2018

Hosted by MU but open to all parishioners - Men & Women!!

Decluttering Tips Sorted By Qwen

A thought provoking evening to start of 2018.

Light supper

Donation £3

Confirmation Classes will begin in early 2018. Confirmation is for all those in Year 10 and older.

If you or your child are interested in going through confirmation, please contact the Parish Office or let Billy know.

Watch out for more information in the News in the Pews.

Creche Rota

December

3rd: Rachel Brittain, Dawn Shackles, Claire Skelly

10th: Natalie McCartin, Jenny Beattie,

Emma MacDonald

17th: Christine Rankin, Ashley Birkett, Nicola Gullen

January

7th: No Creche

14th: Rachel Brittain, Julie Caulfield,

Violet Davidson

21st: Natalie McCartin, Ashley Birkett,

Dawn Shackles

28th: Christine Rankin, Emma MacDonald,

Gillian Segasby



Ballyholme Churches

Community Carol Singing

Ballyholme Methodist are hosting this year!

Thursday 21st December, at Sheridan Bakery

5.30-6.30pm

Confirmation



December

3rd: Janice McDonagh, Debbie Hunter, Caireen Porter and Pat Davidson

10th: Claire Andrews, Sarah Boyd, Margaret Moorehead and Katherine Newman

17th Navidity: Karen Baker, Anne Browne, Libby Beech, Neil Devlin, Trish McGrugan, Paula McIlwaine and Kelly McCullough

January 2018

7th: No Children's Church

14th: Anna Gullen, Melissa Haddock, Carla Kells and Katherine Markwell

21st: Tracie Andreason, Andrew Cuthbert, Jenny Campbell and Caroline Connolly

28th: Susan Magill, Heather Milliken, Mark and Carolyn Larmour



December

3rd Jacqui McCabe

10th Yvonne Manogue

17th Christmas

24th Christmas

31st Flower Fund

January 2018

7th Susan Stockton

14th Pat Shannon

21st Agnes Officer

28th Jacqui Devlin

Parish Office:

91274912

Rectory:

91274901

Prayer Line:

07531806167

Transport: 07599794968

Church Readers Rota:

Freda (11.30) 91467624

Thelma (10.00) 91271327

Web Site www.

Ballyholmeparish.co.uk



DECEMBER**Sunday 3rd December Advent 1**

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

Wednesday 6th December

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado room

Sunday 10th December Advent 2

8.30 Holy Communion
 10.00 Good News at Ten &
 Children's Gifts
 11.30 Parish Communion

Monday 11th December

7.30 Mothers' Union Annual Service

Wednesday 13th December

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado room

Sunday 17th December Advent 3

8.30 Holy Communion
 10.00 Children's Carol Service
 11.30 Morning Prayer
 6.30 Carols by Candlelight

Wednesday 20th December

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado room

Sunday 24th December Christmas Eve

8.30 Holy Communion (for Advent 4)
 5.00 Family Carol Service
 11.00 First Communion of Christmas

Monday 25th December Christmas Day

8.30 Holy Communion
 10.00 Family Service

Sunday 31st December Christmas 1

8.30 Holy Communion
 10.30 Combined Service

JANUARY**Wednesday 3rd January**

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado room

Sunday 7th January Epiphany 1

8.0 Holy Communion
 10.00 Good News at Ten - All Age
 11.30 Morning Prayer

Wednesday 10th January

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado room

Sunday 14th January Epiphany 2

8.30 Holy Communion
 10.00 Good News at Ten &
 Children's Church
 11.30 Holy Communion
 6.30 United Service Holy Redeemer
 Sheridan Drive

Wednesday 17th January

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado room

Sunday 21st January Epiphany 3

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

Wednesday 24th January

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado room

Sunday 28th January Epiphany 4

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

Wednesday 31st January

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado room



**Saturday
 27th January**

**7.30pm in
 Parish Centre**

Tables - Maximum of 8 people
 Book through Kelly in the office
 £5 per person

BYO drinks, nibbles etc for brain food

**Proceeds to support Parish Mission
 Partners**



**Help needed to decorate
 the church for Christmas**

**Saturday 16th December
 at 10.00 am**

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