# St Columbanus

### Ballyholme







**Nativity Service** 

Photos, Photos and more **Photos** 

**Boxing Day Football** 

..On the way together..

## The Parishioner February 2018

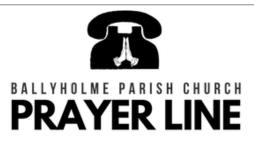
The Church is open every weekday morning for private prayer and meditation

### The Rambling Rector

Lent begins on St Valentine's Day. Which could mean anyone giving up chocolates or alcohol this year may meet with a time of testing quite quickly. But isn't that always how it works? Most believers would say that the moment you decide you're going to undertake some new pursuit or project for God, obstacles start to arise. Likewise, decide you're going to sacrifice something or resist a particular temptation and you can prepare for an onslaught of allure. Ash Wednesday on Valentine's Day certainly invites us to consider the state of our relationships: the hurt we've caused, the lack of forgiveness we've shown, the bitterness we've harboured – often to the people we most love. Chiefly though, it's the state of our relationship with God which Lent puts under the spiritual



microscope. I have this against you, says Revelation 2:4 to the angel of the Church at Ephesus: that you have abandoned the love you had at first. I read these less as words of sharpness or anger, and more as words of sadness and regret. If what we do in Lent doesn't warm our hearts to a greater love of God, I'm afraid it's a case of effort wasted. **SED.** 



### IS THERE SOMETHING YOU NEED SPECIAL PRAYER FOR?

The PRAYERLINE may be the answer!

The PRAYERLINE will receive your prayer request and pray over it, everyday for a month. They will not tell anyone about your need, and you do not even need to speak to anybody, if you dial the number you can leave a voicemail. This message will be picked up promptly, then the small group of intercessors will begin to pray.

James 5:16 says

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

I'm sure that if you cast your mind over your life, you will be able to identify the times whenever the Lord heard your prayer, and responded in love and power. We all have stories to tell!

The Lord loves to hear our prayers, and praying for others is an act of love!

### Call the PRAYERLINE - dial 07531 806167 and leave your prayer request.

Don't forget the monthly prayer meeting, PUSH, every first Thursday at 7.30PM

### Adult Confirmation Preparation

Already this year a few adults have come forward who would like to prepare for Confirmation. If you have never previously been Confirmed (or Baptised and Confirmed), perhaps because you come from



another Church tradition, or because it was something you just never got round to, now is your chance! As he does each year the Rector will offer a simple course of preparation through Lent. Please contact the Office (91274912) to lodge your interest or speak directly to Simon himself (91274912). Likewise if you would just like some more information before making up your mind, even just to get a flavour of what might be involved.

Confirmation Service: TBC

### Parishioner Cost/Envelope

As you know, The Parishioner comes to you free of charge. To help with our overheads we enclose an envelope once a year by which we hope you can make a contribution towards our running costs. If all of our 615 recipients gave £5 we would certainly cover ourselves, but please bear in mind that only 50% currently make a gift. Half of you are paying for the other half! Please return your envelope by the collection plate on Sunday and do bear in mind that the full text of the magazine is now available on the parish website. If this is the format that best suits you why not consider cancelling your paper copy and you won't have to worry about the envelope at all. What a difference it would make if everyone that read The Parishioner made a contribution towards it!



### **Just Older Youth**

### **Christmas Communion Lunch**





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







I know that Christmas now seems to be a distant memory, but please allow me to cast our minds back there for a few minutes! I want to say a really big WELL DONE to all the children who participated in the Christmas services. The children excelled themselves this year in the Nativity, the actors and narrators were brilliant, and the Praise Kids and Praise Crew made Leonard Cohen's *Hallelujah* fresh and memorable! As I reflect on their contribution to Christmas 2017, I can agree with the words of Solomon: *Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from Him. Psalm 127:3* 

We are now entering the month of February. We can look forward to some time off school, eating pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, telling our family and friends that we love them on Valentine's Day, and maybe even 'going off something for lent'. Whatever you have planned for this month, I look forward to seeing you at Children's Church, where we will continue to play games, sing songs, make crafts and hear stories so that we can learn more about our great, big God.

Paula

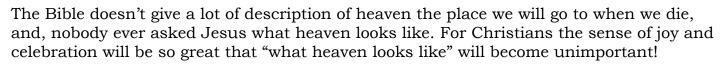






### QUESTIONS KIDS ASK





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

- \* Heaven is the place where God, Jesus and all His angels live. God looks after the people on earth from a throne, with Jesus sitting at His side and surrounded by angels, who worship Him. Light will shine from God and Jesus, their clothes will be so white, they will glow and there will be no need for the sun or moon like the time Jesus appeared on the mountain.
- \* A "New Heaven" is described in the Bible, with streets made of gold, and golden walls decorated with lots of beautiful jewels. No human mind can imagine how awesome heaven will be!

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

- \* Jesus talked a lot about the Kingdom of God, and came to earth to show what heaven is like. He healed many people to demonstrate that there will be no sickness in heaven, and showed that God's immense and pure power would conquer our earthly struggles. This foreshadowing of God's Kingdom is visible on earth today, through the work and power of the Holy Spirit.
- \* People flocked to Jesus. Adults and children all wanted to be near Him because they could recognise the beauty and wonder of heaven within Him. Maybe they were so dazzled by this glimpse of heaven they didn't even think to ask what it would look like.
- \* The transfiguration of Christ (Matt 17:1-8; Mark 9:2-8; Luke 9:28-36) revealed the glory that shines from Christ and demonstrated the truth of heaven. The presence of Elijah and Moses displays the reality of the resurrection of the dead and importance of 'relationship' at the heavenly banquet to come.

### Going deeper....try this at home

- \* As a family, chat about how different things would be on earth if there was no bad or evil.
- \* Think of 3 things you can do this week to make this world better for everyone.

Please send any of YOUR KIDS question to paulalown@sky.com

### Tis STILL the season to be jolly!!

In our gorgeous, noisy, hectic household the mania of Christmas barely settles, the post-Christmas food belly hasn't had time to be worked off and the New Years resolutions are still being kept when the NEXT season hits... Birthday Season!!!

All three of the Monaghan offspring have theirs within the first 5 weeks of the New Year... with a Granda's birthday thrown into the mix halfway through! This celebratory season, although joyfully welcomed by the aforementioned offspring, lends itself to potential pitfalls, which have been ironed out over the years through some basic rules.

- 1. Thou shalt NEVER EVER wrap the aforementioned gift in leftover Christmas paper (it belittles the birthday-ness)
- 2. The birthday person shalt ALWAYS have the white chocolate face of the (M&S) Colin the Caterpillar cake... that's just the rule.

Through these basic rules we face the birthday season.

However, this time also brings challenges as a parent trying to raise children who appreciate all that they have. The generosity of family, friends and Santa means that my children want for nothing at Christmas. But then the arrival of further generosity so soon afterwards has previously left them overwhelmed. How do we teach gratitude for not just the material things, but the generosity of the giving itself.

I read a lovely book recently called "Thanks" by Anne Lamotte who says,

"When you are aware of all that has been given to you, in your lifetime, and in the past few days, it is hard not to be humbled"

So we try to teach our kids to say thank you, not just at Christmas and on birthdays, but every day, for every tiny thing that they have. Anne Lamotte goes on to say that in that way, if we are lucky, gratitude then becomes a habit, and then a behavior. Another hero of mine, Maya Angelou, also then said, "when you get, give".

I then hope, that they will take these actions and behaviours out of our shouty, messy home, and into their lives.

PS. The M&S Colin the caterpillar is all about the chocolate cream to swiss roll ratio... Sorry to other brands!

Julie Monaghan

### Advanced Notice: Easter Vestry on Sunday 18th March

In accordance with chapter 3 of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland, our annual General (Easter) Vestry meeting in Ballyholme takes place at 12.45pm on Sunday 18th March in the Parish Centre over a parish family lunch.

Constitutionally, as you know, we are free to conduct elections to the Select Vestry in whatever way we see fit. Written nominations will be invited ahead of the meeting in the hope that we will receive at least 12 names. It is up to you to stand yourself or to propose someone else to stand and the basic commitment is one meeting per month.

Nominations will close on Sunday 11th March. Forms will be available from the Churchwardens on Sundays, from the Parish Office on weekday mornings and from our Honorary Secretary Leslie Adams (91466690).

We will take a digital photograph to use on the voting paper. So far as the agenda for the meeting itself is concerned, in addition to the elections, the adoption of the parish accounts and the submission of any reports, 'any other notified business' should be brought to the Rector's attention the day before the meeting at the latest. Please plan to be part of this important day in the parish calendar.







### Cool Things To Do For Lent

Skip one meal a day and give the money to the poor.

Start a prayer "rhythm." Say a prayer every time you brush your teeth, see a commercial, or check your e-mail.

Read a chapter in the Bible a day. (Matthew is a good book to start with).

Forgive someone who doesn't deserve it (maybe even yourself).

Give up beer or lemonade. Give the money you save to the charity of your choice.

Spend thirty minutes a day in silence.

Write someone a thank you letter.

Say one nice thing to someone each day.

Pray for others on your way to work, school or the shops.

Volunteer one afternoon a week at a local shelter, tutoring program or other good cause.

### Pancakes (Drop Scones)

100 g (4 oz) Self Raising Flour

pinch Salt

50 g (2 oz) Caster Sugar

1 medium Egg

4 tbsp Milk to mix

- 1. Mix flour, salt and sugar, add egg and gradually beat in enough milk to make a thick batter.
- 2. Cook 2 or 3 at a time by dropping spoonfuls of the mixture on a moderately hot, well-greased griddle.
- 3. Cook until the underside is golden brown and the top is covered with bubbles, about 3 minutes.
- 4 Turn and brown on the other side. Serve hot or cold with butter, lemon and sugar, maple syrup or chocolate spread.

#### ST COLUMBANUS WALKERS



### Christmas Lunch and The Parable of the Lost Sheep

Traditionally the Walkers combine a short walk with an end of year lunch and in December we got a beautiful day for our last 'dander!' of the year. Fifteen turned out for what proved to be a careful walk along the Coastal Path from Carnalea. Some slippery surfaces but walking on the grass helped. We had refreshments afterwards in the Pickie cafe. Then it was off to Royal Ulster for our Christmas lunch. We had a party of 30 in the Gloucester Room and

the food and service were excellent.

Then come New Year and it was off to the Roe Valley Country Park for the first walk of 2018.

Led by Brian the group of ten enjoyed a memorable drive in the winter sunshine to the Country Park and a stunning walk along the banks of the River Roe. The park is approximately 3 miles long and consists of mainly deciduous woodland on each side of the river. The terrain next to the river is mostly steep sided gorge, with some areas of flat grassland on the northwest bank. As the river has a large, freely draining



catchment area, it significantly increases in volume and speed soon after heavy rain, making it attractive for kayakers, and indeed there were several on the water. The valley was famous for its linen industry and the Green Lane Museum has exhibits on this and on local history, agriculture and artifacts of rural life. The remains of the flax drying fields with watch towers, derelict



buildings and a waterwheel are still there. There is also a disused hydroelectric generating station which was the first to operate in Northern Ireland. In 1897 a Major John Edward Ritter began the construction of the Hydro Electric Power House to supply electricity to his home, Roe Valley House, (now the Radisson Hotel) and eventually, in 1924, the town of Limavady. It operated until 1946 when the now NIE took over, continuing operations until the 1960s.

The walkers (refreshed in the coffee shop beforehand) headed off from the Dog Leap car park along the west bank all the way upstream, finally across a Bowstring Bridge to the Carrick Rocks Church. On the way, some of the group noticed three sheep stranded beside the river. Other walkers said they would report it to the park staff. Several groups of kayakers were active on the river taking advantage of the high water shooting the old weirs along the way.

Having reached the church perched on a cliff edge in a picturesque location high above a wooded gorge it was time for lunch. Then it was down again (a bit of a scramble!) to the river bank and back along the east side towards the Visitors' centre. On the way back we noticed that the lost sheep were still in the same predicament.

Not to be deterred Susan climbed over the fence having noticed a farmer working in the field and told him about the 'stranding'. This was not the first instance of 'lost

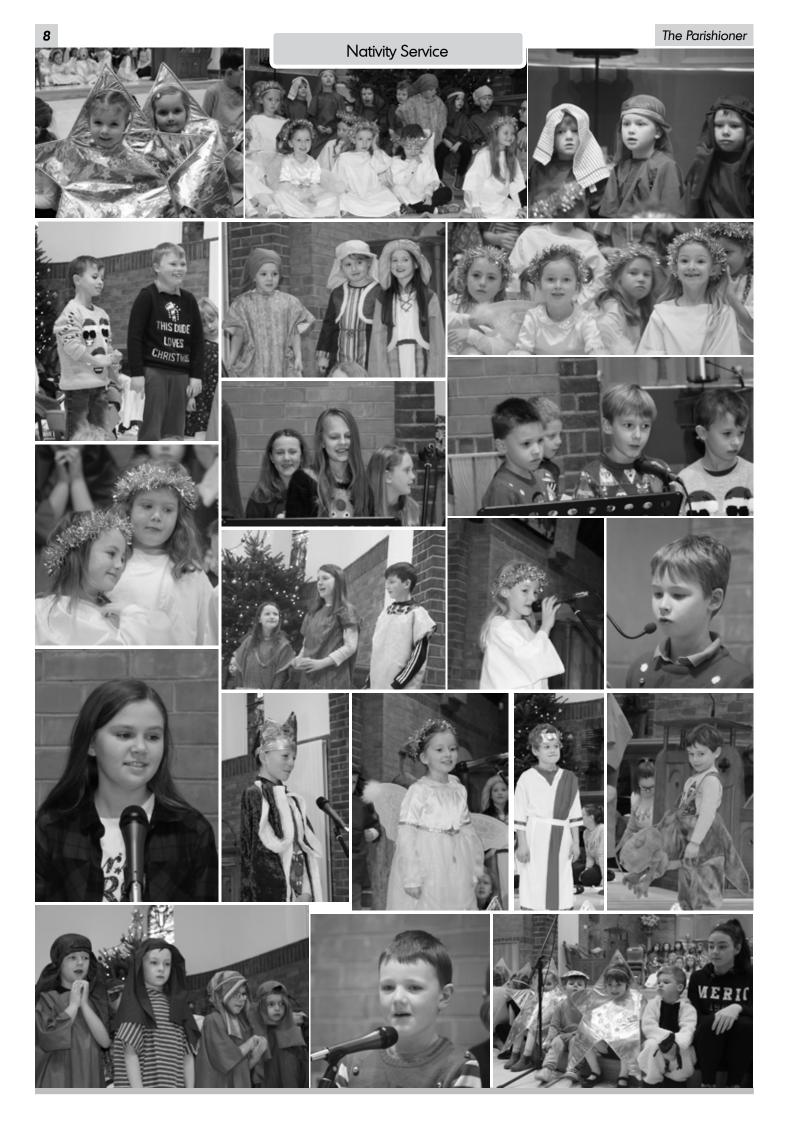




sheep' that day, as three of our group had become separated and headed off in the wrong direction, only to be gallantly rescued by Robert. A case of Three Lost Sheep x 2!

The walk ended with the usual refreshments in the Visitor Centre and then it was another picturesque journey home to end a day of what turned out to be wall-to-wall sunshine.

The next walk is on 3rd February in Tollymore Forest Park.





On Monday 11 December 2017 the members of the Mothers' Union attended their Advent Service to finish off the year. The choir assisted with the singing and thanks go to Robbie Jackson for providing the music. Following the service refreshments, including mince pies and shortbread, were served in the Church. An enjoyable way to finish off our year.



The MU had been thoughtful in their planning....for after the Festive dishes were stacked away and the Christmas baubles had been safely stowed in their boxes, hidden in the loft for another year; we still had our Annual Celebration Winter Meal to enjoy!!

The venue this year was our very own Bangor Golf Club. On Tues 9th January, Scott, the catering manager, along with his trusty team, prepared the lovely cosy room just right for our party size. His menu selection gave us plenty to choose from... the proof of the pudding was certainly in the eating!! From "melt in your mouth" beef to "mouth

watering" salmon followed by a "sugar fix" of desserts, lemon tart, salted caramel and the ever longed for strawberry meringue!! Thanks again to Scott & his team.

Riding on our "sugar buzz" it was time for some fun with some home-grown entertainment....firstly "Search in your Handbag for???" Sylvia, our very own magazine editor was one of the winners by far!!

Her handbag contents could deal with any life emergency...a true Scouter....always prepared, though 15 pens might be too many!!

Next game a "pass the parcel" with a difference, only requirement was a secure knowledge of left and right!! Finally we rounded the evening up with one of Ruth's famous quizzes.





Many Blessings.

Yvonne Manogue.

Thanks to Irene for paperwork and Lynne for the place-card gifts!! A lovely evening of friendship and fellowship to welcome in 2018. It was good to welcome Rev Stuart Bell and his wife Prue as our guests.

Next Month we will meet on Monday 5th February at 8pm in Parish Centre for

### **Decluttering With Qwen**

Meeting open to everyone, men and women, well recommended speaker for "spring cleaning ourselves and our living spaces!!

Light supper, £3 donation.

Come along, bring a friend, let's assure a great Ballyholme welcome!!









The Women's World Day of Prayer Service for our area will be held this year on Friday 2nd March 2018 at the Groomsport Church of Ireland Church at 7.30pm. Tea and Coffee will be served in the Church Hall afterwards.

Your support would be greatly appreciated.

Ruth Ruttle and Roberta Munnis - Ballyholme Parish Representatives



### The Wednesday Club

The Wednesday club met again after the Christmas break and our ladies enjoyed a movie afternoon in the warmth of the

Columbanus room. With thanks to Billy for help in setting up the projector, we watched "Miss Potter" which was enjoyed by one and all. Tea and buns were taken as per usual and our monthly draw was won this time by May Barr.

Weather permitting, we will meet up again next month, same time, same place, and please encourage a friend or two to come with you and enjoy the craic too.

Sue

### **Christmas Friday Lunch**







### Ballyholme Churches Community Carol Singing

It was 'On a cold winter's night', outside the Sheridan Bakery that Simon snapped a 'Selfie' in the company of Glynis and Billie whilst 'Shepherds watched their flocks'. The short Carol Singing Service was attended by members of all the local churches and made a most cheerful start to the evening.

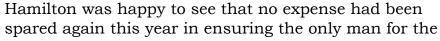




#### **BOXING DAY FOOTBALL 2017**

The smack talk from young Stevie Baker began on Christmas Eve. Plagued with injuries, the youth side were going to need a Christmas miracle to even field a team. Baker couldn't resist a few early jabs at such a plight, however, an un-phased Fyffe knew he'd see this keyboard warrior on Boxing Day morning, and he'd do his talking on the pitch.

The Christmas Day rains had softened the pitch. The low December sun and crisp cloudless air was the backdrop to this years clash. It was all the usual suspects for Baker's old boys, the only noticeable difference was their carrying another year of turkey under their belts. The youth side would feel the absence of key players including the Baptiste brothers, A-Dawg, and Armstrong. Undeterred they had an enthusiastic squad with 4 subs and everyone vying for position.





job would be refereeing the much anticipated encounter. The firm but fair Mr Stephen Baker Snr was turned out in impeccable order as always. His boots well polished and taped up almost as if they had been untouched since last years run out. Mr Baker would again be tormented with malign claims of corners, handballs, and penalties particularly from the oldies but this experienced ref shrugged off such frivolous nonsense from his son and his comrades.

The first 5 minutes were a tough fought battle, both sides struggling to keep possession and strong tackles all around the pitch. Young Baker showed newcomer S. Neill what to expect in these opening stages of the game, winning the ball and putting Neill on the ground. Later Fyffe would prove the muscle of the youth side with a nudge on Gumble resulting in a wildly theatrical fall. Ben Johnston made numerous spectacular saves but Baker finally put one between the posts and opened the scoring for the old boys. Within minutes a second was slotted in and this spurred the old side on. Sporadic spells of positive movement forward, originating from J. Robinson in the right back position, made the youth side look threatening. G. Lawther had the best chance in the first half, lined up



in front of an empty goal, managing to place the ball on the wrong side of the right hand post. He vowed never to upset manager C. Armstrong on the sideline like that again and after missing a second open net in the first half wisely substituted himself. The oldies were dangerous from set pieces and used the height of Gamble and Jennings in the box to cause chaos. At the end of the first half the score was 5 - 0.

The youth side reorganised and built on the positives of the first half. The Brown brothers occupied the centre back positions and after crunching tackles from M. Brown exultations of 'who's the daddy?!' could be heard from the sidelines. A combination of Baillie, Bell, Small and Lawther rolling off and on for each other in the forward positions kept the oldies defence on their toes. Eventually, Lawther would score goal of the game with a perfectly weighted curling dink that teased the keepers fingertips and continued squarely into the goal. The inanimate sideline support from Armstrong and Bell could only be understood as stunned silence... Little time passed before the oldies responded with another impressive goal of their own. A superb cross was met by the glistening noggin of R. Whiteside, seemingly freshly polished for the occasion, the ball glancing of the smooth surface and headed straight for the back of the net. The goals continued to rack up with Owens, Baker, Gamble, Jennings and Whiteside all making it onto the scoresheet.



In the closing 30 seconds of the game a surprise substitution led to a standing ovation from both teams as Craig Armstrong, battling through hip replacement injury, hobbled onto the pitch to secure his 10th cap in 10 years for the young side. The basic one touch football Armstrong played in those 30 seconds almost secured him man of the match but it was unanimous amongst the youth side that the (wo)man

of the match this year was surely Samantha Smallwood! Another year, another great footballing spectacle played in remarkable spirit. As rumours of retirement loom for Baker and his boys the youth side wish to extend their gratitude for a decade of enthralling encounters and best wishes for the year ahead, whatever it may hold.

**Andy Hamilton** 



# More Joy Ju Wednesday Club Christmas Party

### **Just Older Youth**





### **Christmas Friday Lunch**















Another new year is with us and I am very excited about 2018. Last year, 2017, went in very fast but we now have a fresh start to look forward to. A new chapter in life waiting to be written. New questions to be asked, embraced, and loved. Answers to be discovered and lived out in our lives.

I look back on everything that Ballyholme Parish Youth and Children accomplished in 2017 with great joy. We had two amazing Jumpin' weeks with over 100 children at each one. We jam packed a week in August for an incredible X-Cess with over 80 young people through the doors each day. Who will forget the very fun Ceilidh night on St Patrick's Night and a night of sensational music with Audrey Assad. We finished the year with a yummy Christmas dinner in the Esplanade! What a year it was for our church family!

I am very excited about the year ahead in 2018. We already have another family Ceilidh night planned for St Patricks Night (see the ad in the magazine for more details) and the Watoto African Children's Choir will be joining us for a night of music and fun on the 13th of May. We have Easter Jumpin' from 4-6th April and the usual Jumpin' and X-Cess antics in the summer as well as my wedding in August!

We are gearing up for another year of youth activities and I love to see the young people come to YF, Drop In or the midweek bible study each week. This year we will be having our annual youth weekend on 4-6th May in Portrush as well as all the Confirmation classes and the Confirmation weekend in March. The whole year is packed with fun and fellowship of all the young people to get involved in.

Please continue to pray hard for the young people and leaders from our church. In school, the young people will be getting ready for exams in the next few months and, with the rising influence of social media and the internet, young people are feeling the pressure from all sides. Please pray for guidance, peace and strength for our young people and leaders this year as they study, work and go about their daily lives. They are an amazing group and I believe that they all have the potential to change the world that they find themselves in.

In next month's magazine, I will be discussing the rising influence of social media in the lives of young people and children and how we, as a church, can be praying for the young people and helping to influence and guide the young people of today.

Billy



### Sunday 4th February

2nd Sunday before Lent 8.30 Holy Communion 10.00 Good News at Ten - All Age 11.30 Morning Prayer

### Wednesday 7th February

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

### Sunday 11th February

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

### Wednesday 14th February

Ash Wednesday 10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

### Sunday 18th February

Lent 1 8.30 Holy Communion 10.00 Good News at Ten & Children's Church 11.30 Morning Prayer

### Wednesday 21st February

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

### Sunday 25th February

Lent 2 8.30 Holy Communion 10.00 Good News at Ten - Communion & Children's Church 11.30 Holy Communion

### Wednesday 21st February

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

**BAPTISMS** 

### **FUNERALS**

#### December

**4th:** Eleanor Bell, formerly of Kinwood Drive

**15th:** Isobel Hamilton,

formerly of Redburn Nursing

Home

**15th:** Robina Bingham, formerly of Balloo House,

Groomsport

**19th:** Jean White Overton, Formerly of Bramblewood

**Nursing Home** 

28th: Robert Gibson, formerly of Pinehill Grove.

#### January

**11th:** Norma Trotter

Parish Office: 91274912 Rectory: 91274901 Prayer Line:



07531806167

07599794968 Transport: Church Readers Rota: Freda (11.30) 91467624 Thelma (10.00) 91453602

Web Site www.

Ballyholmeparish.co.uk

#### **December**

10th: Ella Elizabeth May, Amy Susan and Leah Gillian Magill, daughters of Susan & Matthew Magill

**10th:** Joseph Henry and

February



4th: Fiona Jackson, Ann Reynolds, Ella Walker 11th: Jem Moran, Joy Hamilton, Irene Bell 18th: Jill Owens, Daphne Moore, Barbara Wallace **25th:** Tracie Andreasson, Heather Johnston, Nicole

Watson

### February

**4th:** No creche

11th: Rachel Brittain, Dawn Shackles, Claire

**18th:** Natalie McCartin, Jenny Beattie, Emma MacDonald

**25th:** Christine Rankin, Ashley Birkett, Nicola Gullen

Henry Jack Skelly, sons of Claire and Alan Skelly.

**31st:** Georgina Mary Patricia Adair, daughter of Chris & Emma Adair

31st: Jack Alexander Whiteside, son of Ryan & Jenny Whiteside

**February** 

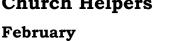


4th: Daphne Hamill 11th: Betty Rainsford 18th: Ann McMurray &

Marie McKee

25th: Lilian Finch

### Children's Church Helpers



4th: No Children's Church 11th: Jodie Smith, Pamela

Reading, Emma MacDonald, Claire Miskelly.

18th: Cathrine Menary, Violet Davidson, Liz Grant, Kate English.

**25th:** Kirsty Merriman, Lynne Forde, Lynne McCullough,

Angela McCartney.

