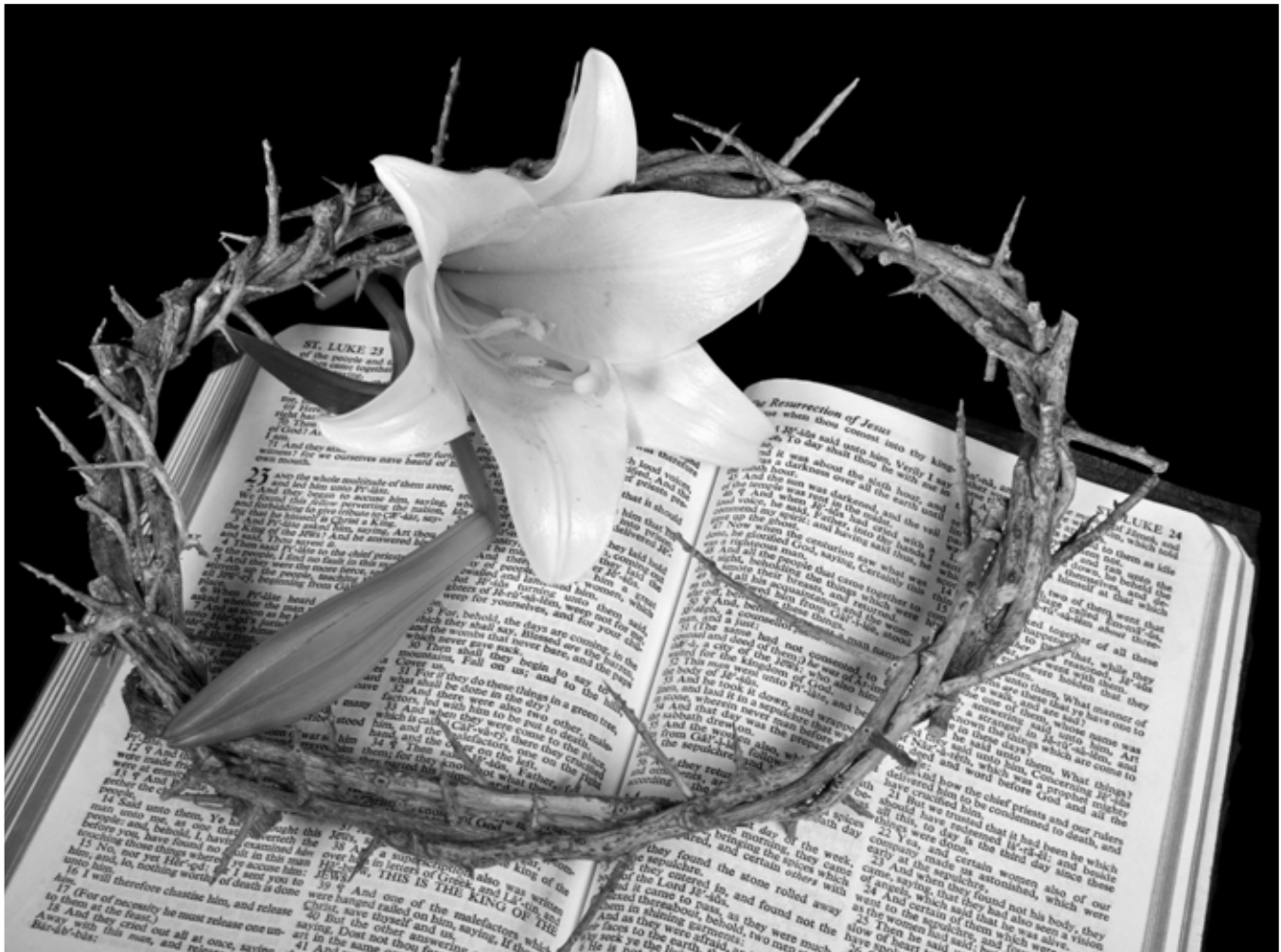


St Columbanus

Ballyholme



New Clergy Appointment
MU Coffee Morning Photos
Watoto Children's Choir

..On the way together..

The Parishioner

April 2018

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

The Rambling Rector

Easter 2018 brings the welcome arrival of a new part-time member of staff. Your response to the electronic 'Generous Giving' campaign leaves us in the happy position of being able to make a new clergy appointment. In every way an answer to prayer, the improvement in our current account has coincided with the move to Bangor of the Reverend Mercia Flanagan. She comes to us with thirty years of ordained experience in London and Belfast (her home town) and has a real heart for teaching, mission and the pastoral ministry of the Church of Ireland. Newly-married, Mercia and her husband Colm will be living in their own home in Ballycrochan. Until the end of January, Mercia was rector of Carnmoney Parish in north Belfast and she joins us on Easter Day on a formal part-time basis, equating to two Sundays a month and two days a week. The hope is that Mercia can serve in that role for the next couple of years until we return to the point where the parish can once again appoint a full time curate assistant. As the heavenly multitude put it so perfectly at the marriage feast of the Lamb in Revelation 19: Hallelujah!



SED.

2018 Easter Vestry

This year's Annual General (Easter) Vestry Meeting is scheduled for Sunday 18 March, two days after the copy-date for the April magazine, so a full report along with the list of new parish officers and updates on Generous Giving and the Restoration Fund will appear in the May edition of The Parishioner.

If you need the clergy...

Just a reminder that if you are getting in touch about an urgent pastoral matter or an emergency, you will need to contact the Rectory on 91274901.

Unless you or your family make contact, take it that no one else has done so. It is better to assume that the Rector does not know and has not heard about your need.

This is especially true if you or your loved one is admitted to hospital. Simon makes hospital visits every week but often he does not know to look for people because he has not been informed by their family or friends.

A reminder also, that if you have anything important to mention to him at the Church door on Sunday, a written note always makes things easier.

Your continued prayers for the Rector and all the Staff Team are much appreciated.

Welcome Training Night

Wednesday 16 May 8pm

Parish Centre

Discover how to become more of an expert at making people feel welcome in our Church!!

This is an initiative led by the Diocese and will be lead by Andrew Brannigan.



Rachel Brittain giving Simon a manicure at the Mothers' Union Coffee Morning and Sale

Hallelujah!
HE IS RISEN

Joy Just Older Youth

Thoughts on Easter

John 3 16-17

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.

When we think about the events of the first Easter, it's easy to rush to Sunday morning. But pause, and wait, and think. Take time to come alongside these grieving women- because it's only when you get inside the dashed hopes of these ladies that you are prepared to begin to appreciate what happens next.

Mike McKinley

The earthshaking promise of Easter is that God has not forsaken any of us. The risen Christ will meet us along the confused, chaotic, fearful paths of our lives and speak the same words the women hear at the tomb 'Do not be afraid'.

James A Hamish

No one in Jerusalem would have believed the preaching for a minute if the tomb was not empty. Sceptics could have produced Jesus' corpse. Also, Paul could not be telling people in a public document that there were scores of eyewitnesses alive if there were not.

Tim Keller

His sacrifice is the heart of the story. But not the end of the story. The Lord's resurrection is the most glorious, victorious moment in history.

Liz Curtis Higgs

Easter is a time when God turned the inevitability of death into the invincibility of life.

Craig D Lounsbrough

Do not go to an Easter service to hear the best news in the world without bringing someone with you who needs to hear it for the first time.

Rick Warren



The Wednesday Club

Our meeting this month saw some of the history of Bangor through a power point presentation of old postcards.



Leanne from the North Down museum showed postcards dating from the late 1800s to the 1970s. She only selected for us some of the 1300 postcards that have been donated to the museum over the years and have recently been sorted and catalogued. We were very glad that this had been done, as we enjoyed a tour of Bangor through the years. The postcards varied from views of Bangor and cheeky seaside ones, which were very popular in the 1900s. Judging by the correspondence on the back, the boys of Bangor were a great attraction! (But sure most of us knew that anyway.)

Our monthly draw this month was won by Eileen Harmon.

Please remember there is no meeting in April as it is Easter week, so we will meet up again in May.

Have a nice Easter break and don't eat too many chocolate Easter goodies.

Sue





The tables and chairs were set out, adorned with our best laundered table cloths, and yellow flower filled vases were their centrepieces. In fact everything was ready for our visitors! We were hosting the MU area meeting. We were expecting to be joined by MU groups from Groomsport, Donaghadee, St Gall's, Bangor Abbey and Bangor Parish.



We had invited 2 guest speakers for that evening; Rachel Brittain from CMS Ireland and Denise Wilson just returned after over 10 years spent in Uganda at Kiwoko Hospital with her husband Dr Rory and son Gideon.



Rachel had set up her Marketplace stall, filled with many many colourful crafts. This is a craft initiative, set up by CMSI, to provide an outlet for goods made by mostly MU groups worldwide, generating much needed income for these women as they struggle to support their families.

Denise had laptop, projector, colourful items and festive balloons of Ugandan, red, yellow and black added to the scene of anticipation!!

We welcomed our visitors, opened our meeting in the usual way, a great song "He's got the whole world in His hands". Roberta read a psalm, chosen by Denise, followed by some prayers.

Rachel began sharing 2 stories from the craft makers at Kiwoko Hospital, Kamiyata & Resty. She explained how their skills had managed to provide essential income for their families; sadly Kamiyata is unwell and can no longer work, family members continue to help support her. Each item on Marketplace has a story to tell, there is even often a name card attached to the item proudly displaying its maker. These stories emphasise to us the lifestyles of MU members worldwide.



Denise began her part of the evening with some background to her life.... She called herself "a blow in", not being from Bangor! She shared her journey of faith, her nurse training, her call to overseas work, her meeting and marriage to Rory, their work together in Kiwoko hospital, their Blessing in the birth of their son Gideon, now their arrival back here in our Parish of Ballyholme. So engaging was her talk; we felt ourselves to be part of that journey, even down to the scarf dancing! She explained to us, the hopes, fears, joys and worries were not that much different for her MU Ugandan members than others in the worldwide membership of MU. All experienced fellowship, friendship, faith and the comfort of sitting alongside sharing this faith and friendship.



The evening finished with a delicious supper and some Marketplace shopping. You will see some of the committee sporting some very jaunty aprons from Kiwoko fashion school. You couldn't miss us.

Thankyou to everyone who took part in this evening, it has given us plenty to think about and hold close to our hearts.

Many Blessings from Yvonne and the MU committee.

Reminder - The Down and Dromore Festival Service is on Monday 9 April 2018 at 8.00pm in St Mark's Parish Church, Dundela, Belfast.

Next meeting on 14 May 2018.



Mary Magdalene – Saturday and Sunday Saturday

The sun rose today
as if yesterday had been an ordinary day.

Could the sun have forgotten that yesterday
he hid his light
to cloak in darkness the fateful hours
when the innocent man
suffered with the guilty?

Could he have forgotten how the earth shook
in horror as this one man died?
And that now the world is empty of meaning,
nothing can be truly alive
now that he is dead.

Shine on sun, you cannot warm the bleakness
of my heart,
or bring light to the darkness of my mind.

Sunday

I woke before the sun today,
expecting to feel no warmth, to see no hope.

In the pre-dawn darkness we set out,
wondering how to move the stone from His
tomb
to tend His broken body.

We had not saved Him from death,
but we could give Him this last service.

But the stone was gone, and in the half-light
of dawn
we saw the place was empty –
someone had been there before us,
and had taken Him away.

The others rushed away,
I stumbled into the garden, blinded by tears,
deep in the despair of loss –
the loss of love, of joy, of all hope.

But then I heard a voice, calling my name.
His voice? or a figment of my shattered heart?
But then I looked, and saw Him –
and I became alive again.

For the Son is risen, and will never set.

Valerie Jill Boal



3rd Bangor Cubs get ready for Mother's Day

On Thursday 8 March 2018 the Cubs made cards and decorated plant pots with crystals and pearls as presents for their mothers. Once completed the pots were filled with a viola plant in bloom. The boys and girls were delighted with their results.



At the end of the evening all of the Cubs were presented with their Artisits Activity badge. They had completed the three tasks needed to receive the badge.

The previous month they completed the Road Safety Activity badge.



SPLASH AT CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Splash is a wonderful group of boys and girls aged P2 - P4. They greet me each week with happy, smiling faces eager to share with me their news from the week (don't worry mums and dads, I can keep a secret!) and to offer their help checking off everyone's name from our attendance sheet. We normally begin with a few games to burn off a little bit of energy (a particular favourite is octopus and squid) and then we settle down to talk about a story or passage from The Bible, some favourites so far include Daniel in the lion's den and Jesus spending 40 days and 40 nights in the desert (many were surprised to learn Jesus managed that whole time without an X-box or PlayStation!). We then move on to a craft based activity or another round of our team challenges based on our story and finish with a prayer led by some of the children. I pray that the boys and girls leave Splash knowing that they are important, valued, listened to and loved and that they treat others as they have been shown to do by God.

Jenny Porter



QUESTIONS

K I D S A S K



Are there only nice people in Heaven?

In my vision of heaven I imagine that all the people there must be nice. I see them being kind to each other, always smiling, laughing and helping each other. In Luke 14:16-24 we are told that heaven will be like a great banquet or a party and I don't want to go to a party where people aren't going to be nice to me! But maybe this answer misses the point of the question...is it really asking whether it is the people who we think are 'nice' on earth that are the ones who will go to heaven?

Making it easy...for the kids!

* Going to heaven isn't simply about being nice or not. If we have put our trust in Jesus, choosing to live as one of His followers on earth, then one day we will live with Him forever in heaven. John 3:36a says *anyone who believes in God's Son has eternal life. Anyone who doesn't obey the Son will never experience eternal life...* (NLT)

* Jesus lets us choose whether or not we want to become his friend, but people who choose not to follow Jesus while they're living here on earth, won't live with Him in heaven either.

* Therefore, if heaven is like being at a great party, then hell is like being left out of that party.

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

* It is not nice to talk about this, but Jesus made it clear that there will be a final judgement for all of us. Matthew 25:31-46 names Jesus as the Son of Man, the judge of the earth at the end of time. The 'sheep' are rewarded with eternity in the kingdom of heaven, whilst the 'goats' are not. The sheep have performed good works for those in need, whilst the goats have not. But, as none of us can perform enough 'good works' or be 'nice enough' to deserve heaven, Jesus is saying that the sheep are the people who have received the gospel message, followed him, copied his example by serving those in need, and been forgiven when they fail. In other words, what we do on earth, and why we do it, matters.

* So, are there only nice people in heaven, or will we find our enemies there too? Isaiah 11:6 foresees a utopian world *where the wolf and the lamb will live together; the leopard will lie down with the baby goat. The calf and the yearling will be safe with the lion, and a little child will lead them all.*

* In the end, Jesus will bring harmony between enemies and ultimately there will be peace amongst all living creatures, whether they seem nice or not.

Going deeper... try this at home

Just for fun... get together as a family and watch the movie "Heaven is for Real". It's a true story about a little boy who claims to have visited heaven during a near death experience. He tells his dad things about heaven that he couldn't have learned in Sunday School.

It's all about ROUTINE!

Very early on in my second child's life I realised that he was very different from his big brother. A friend regularly reminded me that you never get two the same, and I must say that this is very true and is a great joy, the world would be a boring place if we were all the same!

One thing we love as a family is routine, I think we must have a routine for everything! Like most, we have a morning routine, which makes sure everyone gets to school on time (hopefully with their correct packed lunch!) and skipping homework or music practice is not an option. But as my youngest son grew older, I became very aware that routines are especially important to him because they help him make sense of his world. For this reason, I introduced a new routine, a 'family time' every evening before supper, during which we spend time together playing a game. I suppose I was very aware that he needs extra support in building relationships with other people, and I hoped this would help.

Like most parents, my favourite routine is the bedtime routine. It's a time when I can have special chats with my children, lots of cuddles and then share something of my faith with them. In our house, after we finish reading the bedtime story, we spend time thinking about the day that is past and the day that lies ahead, thanking God for the good times and praying for the things that are worrying us. My youngest son expects a rendition of his favourite kid's song God's not Dead, and both children faithfully "put on the armour of God" every night as a reminder that God will protect them as they sleep and equip them for what problems they may face in the morning.

I hope and pray that this simple routine may enable my precious boys to go to sleep, knowing that both I, and their Heavenly Father love them more than they can dream.

Sunday shopping was introduced in Northern Ireland in 1994 and has now almost become as much of a ritual as attending church. The shopping centre opening times, from 1.00pm to 6.00pm, mean that a symbiotic relationship is possible.

Having shopped Monday to Friday, you wonder what we could possibly need on a Sunday, but there is always something we run out of at the last minute. Sundays are therefore not days to do a 'big shop.' Shopping centres always seem to attract large numbers of people; the occasion has now been invested with a social aspect.

Recently, I have noticed innovations to the local shopping experience. Government exhortations that we keep fit have apparently encouraged an increase in activity. Ever resourceful, we turn our thoughts to introducing some form of keep fit activity into our normal routine. A few weeks ago I felt that this may be succeeding as I took a turn around the shops on a Sunday afternoon.

At one centre, for example, a corner of the lower car park appeared to be dedicated to skateboarding. Fortunately, the area is large enough for shoppers to stay well away, avoiding the likelihood of an enthusiastic skateboarder mistiming a triple salchow and landing on your car bonnet.

Moving to the traveller, I witnessed further athletic activity as children happily ran unsupervised down the 'up' traveller and vice versa. A benign member of staff smiled welcomingly at the top. Walking into the main shopping area, I noticed different patterns of movement on the part of fellow shoppers. Here are some examples. Forget about progressing forwards in a straight line along the aisles, careful to avoid causing an obstruction. When two or three are gathered together – well, this is Sunday after all – why not stop for a chat, ignoring a trolley tailback of fellow shoppers with rictus grins. Or perhaps – this is increasing in popularity – reverse across the aisle, diagonally. Then we have the Kamikaze shopper, emerging backwards, dragging a trolley, from an aisle into the main concourse. Oh to be a choreographer, assembling the highly inventive, intricate movements of trolley pushers to a suitable music track.

I was recently fascinated by the antics of a multi-tasking mum, who executed all of the above manoeuvres whilst dragging her trolley, talking on her mobile phone, chomping on a large wad of chewing gum yet totally oblivious to the fact that a younger child on board the trolley was being screamed at, right into her little face, by an elder sibling.

Emerging at last, the thrill of the Grand Prix is called to mind when negotiating the one-way system, meeting someone channelling their inner Lewis Hamilton who is travelling against the one-way system, at a speed well in excess of the recommended 5mph.

Twenty-four years ago, an element of people wishing to keep Sundays special opposed shop openings. Opinion remains divided, yet we cannot doubt that Sunday shopping, albeit on a small scale, is now a part of our lives, potentially a more hazardous one compared to attending church.

©Patricia Fawcett



Signs & Wonders

**WATOTO CHILDREN'S CHOIR LIVE AT
BALLYHOLME PARISH CHURCH
SUNDAY 13TH MAY 2018
6.30PM**

ALL NEW
WATOTO CHILDREN'S
CHOIR TOUR

TICKETS AVAILABLE ON EVENTBRITE.CO.UK
SEARCH FOR "WATOTO BANGOR"
OR VIA THE PARISH OFFICE

Around the Parish



MU Coffee Morning



Wednesday Club





In 1891 a Jerusalem born Anglican clergyman named Samuel Schor had a vision to teach British Christians about the Bible in its original context. He put together a touring exhibition that explores the life and culture of the Bible with models, costumes and artefacts that bring the places and peoples of the Bible to life. Many folk may remember the

Bible Come's to Life Exhibitions which were held throughout Ireland during the 1990's. The Church's Ministry Among Jewish People (CMJ) continues with that vision. Last year, Paul and Janey Hames who lived and worked for CMJ in Jerusalem for five years relaunched the new exhibition in the UK which includes many pieces of Samuel's original exhibition.



We were delighted that this unique exhibition, hosted by Clogher Diocesan Board of Missions, has returned again after 25 years to St. McCartin's Cathedral Hall Enniskillen from 8th – 11th March. The Dean of Clogher, the Very Revd Kenneth Hall, chairman of the Exhibition, dressed in Joseph's coat of many colours, (which he wore throughout the Exhibition), helped to promote the event by walking through the town with the team,

all dressed as characters from the Bible.

Approximately 900 children from 13 primary and 7 post primary school from Fermanagh, Tyrone and some from as far away as Sligo attended during the first two days of the exhibition. Small groups of the young people spent around 10 mins at each of the six



stations which included Worship, Feasts and Festivals, Desert Life, Jewish Culture and The Word of God before they were moved on at the sound of the Shofar.

The centre piece was a spectacular 3m x 2m model of the Jewish Temple in the time of Jesus which was illuminated with LED lighting as various sections were explained and a smoking altar added to the effect. The evenings and weekend



sessions were open to the public with youth groups and hundreds of people attending.

There was a great response across the generations to the Jesus- centred costume talks that were given by Bible Characters such as Abraham, Simeon, Mary, a Roman Centurion and the woman who lost her coin.

Half way through the Sunday morning service, the congregation in the Cathedral, made its way to the hall for the main address and to view the Exhibition. A closing service was held in the hall on Sunday evening with those attending joining together to sing, "To God be the Glory". Billy and I spent a wonderful few days, as Isaac and Rebecca, representing CMJ Ireland and we hope that other churches will be interested in hosting the event and that

this will be the first of many BCTL Exhibitions in Ireland.

Pat Davidson, CMJ Ireland



23rd to 30th September 2018

WITH REVD CANON STUART & PRU BELL

YOUTH-news

youth [youth] (youths) news [nooz]

Bono once said that “music can change the world because it can change people”. Over the past number of weeks at Ballyholme Parish Youth, we have been exploring various different songs and asking ourselves what these songs speak into our lives and how the themes can relate to the Bible.

Mainstream media is full of images that we don't want our young people exposed to but yet we find young people listening to music nearly every hour of every day. As a DJ in my spare time, I am always trying to build sets that speak love, hope and positivity into the lives of young people. This is why we have been looking at the topic of music and how we can relate some of the music we listen to and put a positive message to each one.

We started our series off with Katy Perry's song 'Roar'. We challenged ourselves on what we place our identity on and how we must make sure that our identity is firmly rooted in Jesus and what He has done for us. God wants to do great things through us. We are His handiwork, His product, the fruit of His labours. He has made us and destined us to do good works through His Son Jesus.

Our second song was 'I Cry' by Flo Rida. We discussed our relationship with God and how in life, when we face struggles, God can be trusted to be with those who struggle. God's trustworthiness is not something that is here today and gone tomorrow. God's trust is a constant. We can trust Him in the ordinary things of life

Our third song was 'Livin' on a Prayer' by Bon Jovi. I taught on the importance of having a prayer life and how to actually pray. We wanted to demonstrate that, for the Christian, prayer is both a responsibility and a commitment. We ended this session with young people praying and putting what they learnt into action.

We finished our series with two songs; 'What about Us?' by Pink and 'Believer' by Imagine Dragons. These songs speak about hope and ask us the question on where we place our hope. I find that it's far too easy to have the mindset that says others should fix things and help us have the best life possible. The reality is that God has invited us to put our hope in Him as the one who holds it all together. While we cannot always see what God is doing, we can trust His character no matter what the circumstances. The challenge to the young people was to ask whether or not we are ready to stand up and do our part to bring His Kingdom to this world. Jesus prayed for this in the Lord's Prayer, and we are called to bring His message of love and restoration to the broken world. God is doing His part, but the question here is what about us?

The young people absolutely loved this series and I was able to have some good conversations around love, hope and faith. Our next series is going to be on the theme of movies. Young people love Netflix and all the different movies and TV shows. I cannot wait to share with you all about the response we get from our movie series.



Billy

Photos of the young people taking part in activities at the Confirmation weekend in Castlewellan.

Sunday 1st April**Easter Day**

6.30 Dawn Service at Ballymacconnell Beach
 8.30 Holy Communion
 10.00 Holy Communion
 11.30 Holy Communion

Sunday 8th April**Easter 2**

8.30 Holy Communion
 10.00 Good News at Ten
 11.30 Morning Prayer

Wednesday 11th April

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 15th April**Easter 3**

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

FUNERALS**February**

22nd: Louisa Maud McClean, formerly of Glenburn Park

22nd: Kathleen Victoria Iris Brunt, formerly of Ashley Gardens

28th: Doreen Proctor, formerly of Fernmore Avenue

March

6th: Jean Orr, formerly of Sunnyside House



Parish Office:

91274912

Rectory:

91274901

Prayer Line:

07531806167

Transport: 07599794968

Church Readers Rota:

Freda (11.30) 91467624

Thelma (10.00) 91453602

Web Site www.

Ballyholmeaparish.co.uk

**Wednesday 18th April**

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 22nd April**Easter 4**

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

Wednesday 25th April

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 29th April**Easter 5**

8.30 Holy Communion
 10.00 Good News at Ten
 & Children's Church
 11.30 Wholeness and Healing

BAPTISMS

11th March - Harry James Stephen Baker, son of Stephen and Kylie

April

1st: Yvonne Manogue, Janice Hewitt

8th: Edna Morrison, Gillian Fletcher, Carole Majury

15th: Mark & Carolyn Larmour, Jean Law, Vicky Hayes

22nd: Pat Davidson, Susan & Jonnie Stockton

29th: Jacqui & Neil Devlin, Pat Adair

April

1st: No creche

8th: No creche

15th: Rachel Brittain, Dawn Shackles, Johanna Lawther

22nd: Natalie McCartan, Jenny Beattie, Claire Skelly

29th: Christine Rankin, Julie Caulfield, Ashleigh Birkett

**April**

1st: Irene Long

8th: Fairena Montgomery

15th: Margaret Magee

22nd: Audrey Carroll

29th: Ian Bell

**Children's Church Helpers****April**

1st: No Children's Church

8th: No Children's Church

15th: Anna Gullen, Melissa Haddock, Carla Kells and Caroline Connolly

22nd: Andrew Cuthbert, Gillian Cuthbert, Tracey Andreasson and Jenny Campbell

29th: Heather Milliken, Susan Magill, Mark and Carolyn Larmour

