

# St Columbanus

Ballyholme



Easter Jumpin  
Festival of Faith  
Easter Vestry Reports



..On the way  
*together..*

## *The Parishioner* May 2018

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

Just before Easter, more than 100 girls kidnapped in February from their Nigerian boarding school by Islamic militant group Boko Haram were reunited with their families. Five more had died in captivity. One, Leah Sharibu, is still being held; she is a Christian who refused to convert to Islam. Often the plight of one person arrests our attention more sharply than the plight of a group or larger number. Leah might be one of my nieces, or one of your daughters or granddaughters or even, for our younger parishioners, one of your sisters. If she were, horror and fear for her safety would grip us, rather than admiration and wonder at her spiritual courage. Of course the first Christians exhibited much the same depth of conviction. Their encounter with the risen Christ had set flowing both the loving forgiveness of the Father and the quiet assurance of the Spirit. No threat would make them deny that experience. Not that we can't understand why many Christians down the centuries have succumbed to brow-beating and torture. Especially when we recall the myriad small ways in which we seem ready to deny Him. Often several times a day.



**SED.**



## **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK COLLECTORS, 13-19 MAY 2018**

Ballyholme Parish is looking for additional collectors to help us during Christian Aid Week, 13-19 May 2018. Parishioners have always been very generous in contributing to the important activities of Christian Aid along our well-established Ballyholme collection routes, thus helping us to raise a substantial amount of funds each year for the good works of Christian Aid.

However, as some parishioners who have served as collectors for many years are no longer able to do so, we are in urgent need of new collectors (16 and older) to take up the challenge.

Please contact Stefan Andreasson (07792866362 / bstefan@gmail.com) ASAP if you can help with collection in May this year.

For more than 70 years, with the help of our amazing supporters, Christian Aid has been helping change the lives of people, of all faiths and none, living in poverty around the world.

This Christian Aid Week, we need to #StandTogether and help families to weather future storms.

## **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 of the Diocese and will be led by Andrew Brannigan.



## **Easter Day Dawn Service**

**Ding Dong...It's the 5.50am**

**Alarm**

**Wake-up call.**

**Need to head to the**

**Sea front on Ballymacconnell Beach for 6.30am to**

**Enjoy the fellowship and worship that**

**Re-unites the Ballyholme churches in**

**Voice, Verse and**

**Interaction to**

**Celebrate the Blessings of**

**Easter.**

**G McS**





## Just Older Youth

### I'VE LEARNED

- I've learned....That the best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person.
- I've learned....That when you're in love, it shows.
- I've learned....That just one person saying to me, "You've made my day!" makes my day.
- I've learned....That having a child fall asleep in your arms is one of the most peaceful feelings in the world.
- I've learned....That being kind is more important than being right.
- I've learned....That I can always pray for someone when I don't have the strength to help him in some other way.
- I've learned....That no matter how serious your life requires you to be, you always need a friend to act goofy with.
- I've learned....That sometimes all a person needs is a hand to hold and a heart to understand.
- I've learned....That life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.
- I've learned....That it's those small daily happenings that make life so spectacular.
- I've learned....That under everyone's hard shell is someone who wants to be appreciated and loved.
- I've learned....That we should be glad God doesn't give us everything we ask for.
- I've learned....That love, not time, heals all wounds.
- I've learned....That when you harbour bitterness, happiness will dock elsewhere.
- I've learned....That one should keep his words both soft and tender, because tomorrow he may have to eat them.
- I've learned....That a smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.
- I've learned.... That I can't choose how I feel, but I can choose what I do about it.
- I've learned....That everyone wants to live on top of the mountain, but all the happiness and growth occurs when you're climbing it.
- I've learned....That the less time I have to work with, the more things I get done.
- I've learned....That when your newly born grandchild holds your little finger in his little fist, you're hooked for life.
- I've learned.... That the Lord didn't do it all in one day. What makes me think I can?

### Photos of Easter Communion Lunch



On Sunday 13th May 2018, Ballyholme Parish will host the Watoto Children's Choir in our beautiful church. This will be an evening you do not want to miss! Watoto Children's Choir have travelled extensively since 1994, sharing a message of hope for Africa's orphans and widows. To date, the choir has toured six continents and performed to enthralled audiences in schools, retirement homes, churches, parliaments, state houses and royal palaces. The Ballyholme concert acts as a fundraising event for Watoto.

Each child in the Watoto Children's Choir has suffered the loss of one or both parents and now lives in a Watoto village. The experience of travelling in a choir helps the children to develop confidence and boldness, as well as broadening their world view. Accompanied by a team of adults, the choir presents Watoto's vision and mission by sharing personal stories, music and dance. While on the road, the children act as advocates for the millions of other African children who have experienced the same heartbreaking pain and suffering as them.

Why don't you get a ticket and plan to come along for a night of fun, stories, music and dance?



## **Holy Week and Easter Services**

### **“Walking the Way of the Cross” - Holy Week 2018 at Ballyholme Methodist**

The Reverend John Alderdice, Director of Ministry at Edgehill College, was our guest preacher. Hosted by Ballyholme Methodist and the Reverend Brian Anderson, members of all four Ballyholme congregations came together with members of the different churches taking their turn to lead, read and pray. Based on texts from St Mark's Gospel, the titles for each evening give a flavour of the themes: Monday “Human concerns; God's concern”, Tuesday “What about those others”, Wednesday “True sight”, Maundy Thursday “How to ruin a party” and Good Friday “Forsaken”.

Three presentations by drama group Play it by Ear from Newtownards made a real impact. A supper was shared in the Church Hall after Wednesday evening's service with the Rector giving the vote of thanks and remarking on how different tray bakes can be just a few streets away from home! As ever, the dawn service on Easter morning was an atmospheric start to the Day of Resurrection and the final breakfast back at Brooklyn Avenue rounded off another moving and memorable coming together of local Christian neighbours. Holy Week 2019 will be hosted by St Columbanus Ballyholme and runs from Monday 15 April.



Good Friday. Carrying the cross



Easter is always a fun time of year for children with copious amounts of chocolate! I know my children spent at least an hour of Sunday hunting for eggs (which I did hide, Simon!). I even managed to catch a photo of the Easter bunny in my back garden!

Easter at St Columbanus Parish began on Palm Sunday for the children, when they made a special presentation in church. All the children, right down to the youngest Bubble sang Our God Is Greater with great fervour, and some of the Ice children read a poem about what Easter means.

The next special event for Easter 2018 was the Good Friday Workshop. It was a lovely morning, welcoming children from 3 years to 11, and run with the help of Anne Browne, Karen Baker, Jenny Porter, Honor McFerran and Ellie McGrugan (thank you).

We sang songs, played games, prayed and learnt about how Easter allows God to Spring Clean our hearts. We made loads of craft including googly-eyed Easter eggs and paper plate daffodils. I really enjoyed my time with the children that morning, and I hope that they had fun too!

**Paula Lown**



## Easter Jumpin' 2018



The Parish Centre was buzzing with excited activity for 4 days this Easter. It all started on Easter Tuesday, when all the Jumpin' leaders gathered to transform the hall with many, many emoji faces!! By 10am on Wednesday we were ready to welcome around 80 children to our 3 mornings of Jumpin'!

Despite the weather, a fun time was had by all, with the Pea Fair and Railways Riots remaining favourite activities. Other highlights included the little Tiggers' conga line, games, craft, songs and of course....The Leaders' Challenge! We saw leaders eating a doughnut from a dangling string, others had to drink a can of smart price lemonade through a dirty sock, and Billy and I had to eat a crème egg, using only the knife, fork and spoon provided! Whoever lost the challenge got "pied" (Thankfully I won my challenge!)



I believe that Easter Jumpin' was a great success, thanks to the many leaders who gave up their time to make it happen. The children learnt about how God loves them and they should share this love with others, how we can trust God so we don't need to worry and that JOY stands for Jesus, Others and You! They had great fun praising God in our songs, writing letters to Postman Jack and learning a memory verse. I look forward to seeing them all again in the summer!

**Paula Lown**

While we may not have been hosting Holy Week this year, our Easter 2018 worship was 'book-ended' with a busy time for our choir and singers.

A large congregation turned out on the evening of Palm Sunday for "A Meditation on the Sacred Passion of the Holy Redeemer", better known as John Stainer's Crucifixion. Several months of rehearsals from our parish choir were plain for all to hear. Sung in subdued lighting, the worship was aided by an array of carefully positioned candles and a subtle red tinge in the chancel to capture the foreboding mood of the first day of The Last Week. For some people, it was their first visit to St Columbanus since Restoration 2016 and a number remarked on the beautiful atmosphere – and comfortable seats!



Under the direction of our own Musical Director Ian Bell and accompanied at the organ by Noel Williamson, our parish choir regulars welcomed a number of special guests to swell their four-part ranks. Soloists Mark Tilley (Tenor) and our own Patrick Crothers (Bass) and Stanley Officer (Baritone) gave of their musical best to what was for everyone a poignant and emotional evening. The perfect start to Holy Week.



At short notice we were approached to do a live BBC Radio Ulster broadcast going out at 10.15 on the Sunday after Easter (Sunday 8 April). Led by our Youth Pastor Billy Fyffe on guitar and Ian Bell on piano and organ, our 10 o'clock singers duly rose to the challenge and were glad to receive support from our 11.30 choir for what was a predominantly Good News at Ten repertoire of contemporary songs and praise.

Warm words of appreciation have been received from the wider listening audience, for what turned out to be the first Ballyholme sermon for the Reverend Mercia Flanagan. It also turned out to be the twenty-first St Columbanus broadcast for Ian Bell! You can listen again to the service until 7 May on the BBC iPlayer radio.



SED

Satellite Broadcast Van



## Scone Famine at Mossley Mill! The Walkers in Newtownabbey

The Newtownabbey Way runs for 4 miles from Corr's Corner down to the sea at Whiteabbey and passes the Mossley Mill Civic Centre, former flax and spinning mill saved from demolition in 1996 by Newtownabbey Borough Council. A major restoration and conversion project resulted in refurbishing the remaining mill buildings and creating a new state-of-the-art Community Arts and Cultural Centre capable of conferences, exhibitions, functions and arts and cultural events. (The theatre would be the envy of many Bangorians!).

So to reach the start at the Mill our twelve strong group took two trains and a short walk brought us to the centre. We had the privilege of watching a swan build a nest at the old mill dam pond. We took the opportunity for morning coffee in the theatre concourse but the kitchen obviously wasn't expecting a big influx of people and apologised for the dearth of scones. We managed to finish off the supply!

After an interesting time spent in the Mill Museum where the exhibition charts the development of the linen industry in that area, we set off on the Three Mile Water trail down to the sea. It is also a cycle way and there are public art installations depicting Newtownabbey Heritage. The well surfaced path follows the Three Mile Water through a tree lined valley before reaching the Conservation Park, an area of parkland popular with local walkers and the local angling club. After a short section in



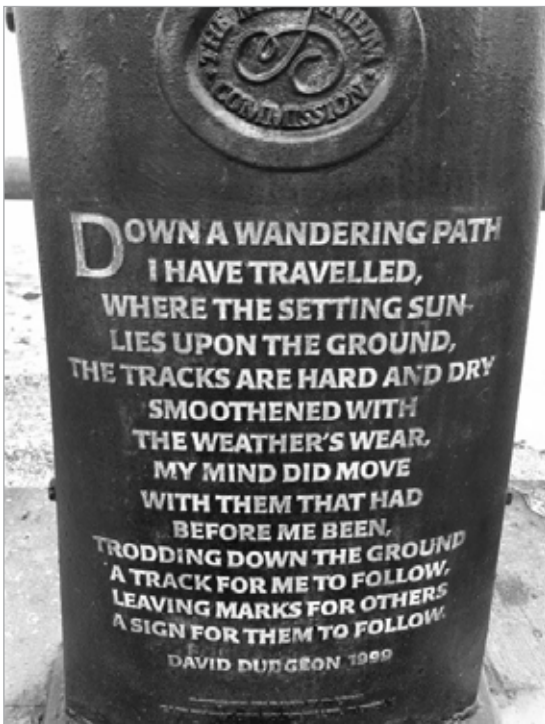
**Bleach Green Railway Viaducts**

Monkstown, it continues through the parkland and Monkstown Wood, below the hugely impressive Bleach Green Railway Viaduct. The Viaduct was completed in 1933 to allow trains to run between Belfast York Road Station and Ballymena without having to reverse at Greenisland. It carries the mainline to Derry over the Larne Line. There are actually three viaducts carrying the lines from Belfast to Ballymena/Londonderry and Larne Harbour across the Three Mile Water and Valentine's Glen, to the north of Whiteabbey

station. Eventually we ended up on the Shore Road at Whiteabbey where we found picnic tables and had lunch beside a small stone monument engraved with a poem entitled, appropriately, "Down a wandering path I have travelled". If we had been cycling we could have continued along the Loughshore to Belfast.

The next walk on May 5th is in Loughgall Country Park when we hope to see County Armagh's apple blossom.

**Betty Armstrong**



**Whiteabbey Poem**



The traditional Easter General Vestry agenda of reports, accounts and elections also included the following remarks by the Chair, Canon Simon Doogan:

Over the last year, St Columbanus has lost some of its earliest and most energetic friends, a number in the fullness of years, others it feels like much too soon. The “Funerals” listed on the back of the parish magazine every month tell the full story – there were 41 last year. Naming names always risks leaving people out, but we have said farewell to founder members, to people who gave lovingly to our young people and children over decades, and to others whose names for a lifetime of reasons became practically synonymous with Ballyholme Parish. Life today feels so much more transient and short-term. Yet there is a real sense I think that we are blessed with individuals and families who are enthusiastically carrying on the tradition of those who have died this year. More and more of our



parishioners are serving God’s Kingdom not just as committed Christians, but as ambassadors for St Columbanus Ballyholme and the wider Church of Ireland. Given the gifts and talents of our Church family, that is just as it should be.

A joyous milestone came at Children’s Church. What an encouragement to our new Children’s Worker Paula Lown taking over from Laura Jeffrey on 1 September: 100 children turned up on the first Sunday of the 2017 session. The total number registered is approximately 130 although virtually every month new

### Outgoing Churchwardens

children are coming along as new families join the parish. Praise God for this wonderful growth and for the parents who are caring enough for their children to make Church on Sunday a real priority. I hope no one thinks this is a welcome but random spike! This is what happens when a parish targets its investment and resources its ministry strategically. If it came down to a choice between funding a Children’s Worker or a full-time Curate Assistant, which in a way it did, I feel we made the right choice and I hope we would make the same choice again. It’s left me playing catch-up in terms of signing-up our volunteers to ensure our all-important ratios are in place, but our Sunday children’s programme is a real success story. We need to celebrate it and build on it. A growing Sunday School is a growing Church, it’s that simple.

September saw the launch of the Generous Giving Campaign and presentations at the three Sunday morning services by Leslie Adams and Peter McIlwaine. Your response has been extremely positive and more parishioners are now switching to electronic giving every month. What we need to achieve really is a change of giving culture. Like most cultural

change, it’s going to take time but the effect of more money coming in more regularly to our current account is already being felt. If the proportion of parishioners giving electronically can rise to the sort of 85-90% figures achieved by other comparable parishes, our historic reliance on legacies to top us up will have been broken. Today’s congregation needs to cover today’s costs – which include under God our all-important missionary giving. Meanwhile, the reduction in Sunday giving by envelopes has meant we have been able to retire our team of weekly counters. Our thanks to them and to our book-keepers – whose task of entering and





recording has not been done away with!

It would be remiss of me not to mention the boost we are in the process of receiving from four special ladies. I'm glad to say that our student deacon the Reverend Maithrie White-Dundas will be with us for another twelve months. With Maithrie training part-time, her parish placement lasts two years and in the course of the practical experience she is gaining every month, she is making a real contribution to parish life. Many are valuing her warmth and sincerity as well as her sense of fun and Far Eastern sparkle. As of Easter morning, the Reverend Mercia Flanagan is making her thirty years of ministry experience felt as our new part-time assistant priest. Mercia's re-location to Bangor and her readiness to serve in a formal role in Ballyholme could not be more timely. Our ability to employ Mercia is a direct result of the Generous Giving Campaign, which again goes to show what can happen when God's people pray, open their hearts and give sacrificially. We hope Mercia will feel embraced and affirmed in her years of service with us. Not forgetting Paula McIlwaine and Denise Wilson, both newly commissioned as Parish Readers and with two more years to train on the Diocesan Reader course. God has raised up these four women and it's important that we acknowledge His provision while praying that more and more will think of making themselves available to God in this and other ways – men and women.

And now it's time to look ahead. Two things on the horizon would particularly benefit from your prayers. Our Festival of Faith (23-30 September) is really starting to take shape and our plan is to re-vamp our website and signage in parallel for a re-launch at the start of the new autumn season. The Festival of Faith initiative was precipitated by Stuart and Pru Bell's house-for-duty visit when Heidi and I were in New Zealand and there is already a real buzz about it. Next

Easter it is our turn to host Holy Week and I have invited a friend of mine the Reverend Roger Combes to join us from Sussex for the week. Roger was Vicar of Hastings for 20 years and some of you may know his name from his contributions to the Bible Reading Fellowship notes.



Separately, plans are now in place for two new stained glass windows to 'complete' the south transept and join the glorious MU hands-around-the-world anniversary installation unveiled last October. Two families have approached us with gifts in memory of loved ones to cover the whole cost of the new commissions. The Select Vestry accepted these generous gifts on behalf of the parish and will need to refer the final designs to the Diocese for a faculty. To match the Lamb of God on the north side of the nave, the higher window will be the ancient Eucharistic symbol of the pelican feeding her young. Opposite St Brigid and in keeping with our unique collection of Irish saints, the lower window will depict sixth century abbess and woman of prayer St Bronagh, synonymous with Kilbroney in Rostrevor.

On the personal side, we hope to see the Rectory fully-functioning again soon and pretty well mould-free. Ten years have come and gone for us quickly at Ballyholme Parish – though some of you may not feel that! By this stage, it's fairly obvious where people stand in terms of their Church membership and Christian commitment. To the ones who love St Columbanus and the ancient faith and Living Lord it stands for, it remains my joy to be your Rector. So long as we remember and pray for the others: the Lord has not given up on them and nor must we!

The following is a summary of the report given at the Easter Vestry on Sunday 18th March 2018. In addition to the management accounts that were presented at the Easter Vestry, The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, relating to charity accounting and reporting commenced on 1 January 2016. This legislation applies to all registered charities and sets out:

- The form and content of charity accounts.
- The form and content of the trustees' annual report.
- The level of external scrutiny required, i.e. independent examination or audit.

All registered charities are required to comply with these regulations for each financial period beginning 1 January 2016.

Because our Parish income is more than £250,000 but less than or equal to £500,000 we must:

- Prepare accruals accounts.
- Have our accounts independently examined and this must be by a member of the bodies listed in Section 65(4) of the Charities Act.
- Complete a trustees' annual report that also reports on how your charity has met the public benefit requirement.
- Complete an annual monitoring return.

The Parish accounts, Independent Examiners report and Trustee Annual Statement were submitted for the first time online to the Charities Commission NI last year. They are available at the Charity Commission NI website:

<https://www.charitycommissionni.org.uk/charity-details/?regid=103244&subid=0>

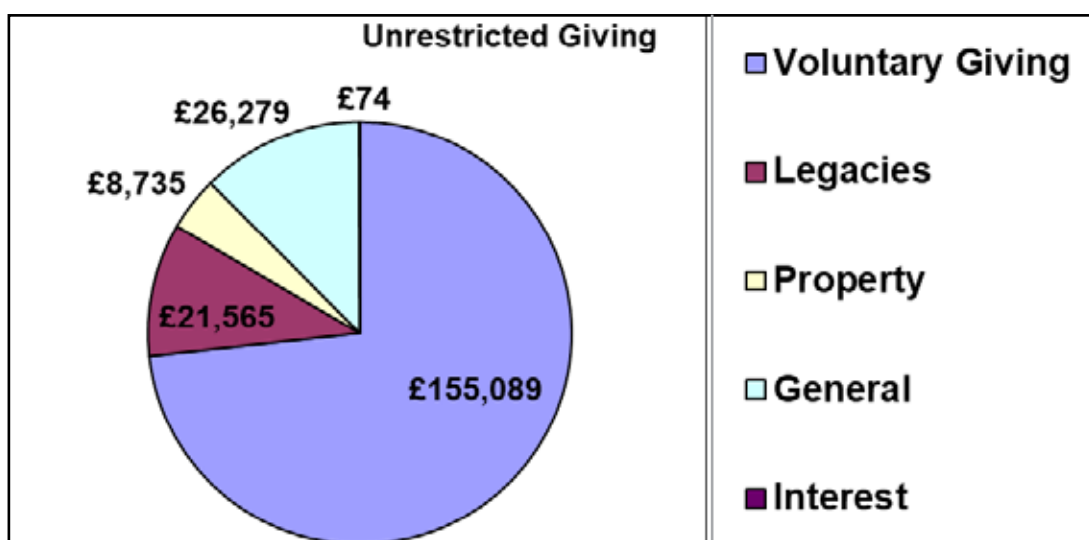
## Unrestricted Funds

Overall the Parish spent £21,301 less than its income this year with a total of £211,742 of income against £190,441 of expenditure. This gave the Parish a closing capital balance of £28,228.

### General Fund Income

General income was up from £201,403 to £211,742. This income is from the following sources:

- Property related income, which includes renting the Curatage was up from £8,084 to £8,735.
- General Parish income from sources such as hall rental, magazine donations, catering was up from £23,344 to £26,279 (+£2,935).
- The Parish received legacies amounting to £21,565.

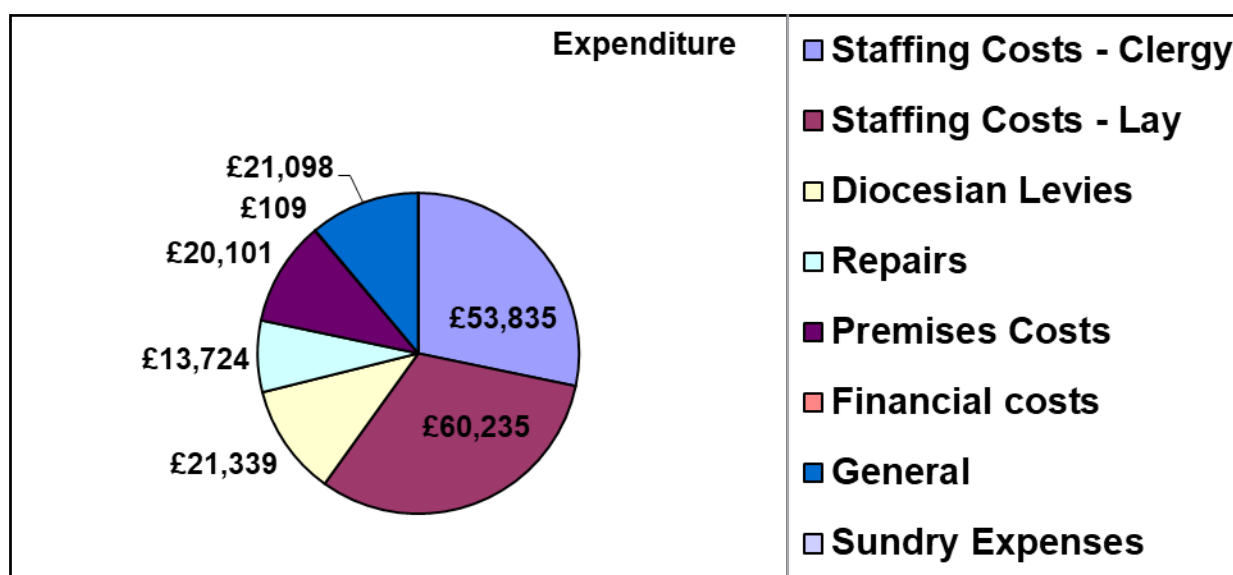


## Expenditure

Overall expenditure was down from £197,606 to £190,441 (-£7,165).

The main areas of expenditure are:

- Clergy staffing costs which reduced from £59,659 to £53,835 (-£5,824), this reduction was as a result of no Curate.
- Staff costs were down from £62,176 to £60,235. This is despite starting workforce pensions for eligible members of staff.
- Repairs and maintenance decreased from £16,739 to £13,724. In addition, £28,994 was spent on essential repairs to the Rectory.
- Premises costs, including heating, lighting, rates etc. increased by £7,566 from £12,535 to £20,101.
- General Parish expenses e.g. consumables, postage and printing reduced from £22,415 to £21,098.
- The Diocesan levy remains much the same at £21,339, £21,771 in 2016.



## Restricted Funds

### Development Funds

The Development fund started in 2016 and throughout the year voluntary giving to the restoration project by way of standing order, donations or fund-raising events came to £76,083. The Parish also received a grant and VAT recovered on the building work of £76,741, giving a total of £153,172. On average there is £3,900 of standing orders going into the Restoration Fund monthly, amounting to just over £46,000 per year.

Expenditure on the refurbishment of the Church last year was £37,391. We borrowed £200,000 from the Danske Bank to finance the restoration project. As at 31st December 2017 the outstanding loan was £187,927.

Since 2013 when the Parish started the restoration project it has cost the Parish £608,421:

- 2013     £4,900
- 2015     £109,535
- 2016     £493,987
- 2017     £37,391
- **Total   £645,813**

## Missions

Income into the Missions fund was £8,549 and £7,242 was given to charitable causes.

### Youth Fellowship

Income into the Youth fund was £11,301 and £14,582 was used for activities relating to youth.

### Generous Giving Update

As at the 31st December there have been 69 new Standing Orders into our Bank of Ireland account, with an average income rising from £2,945 monthly to £6,292. This increase is mainly made up of parishioners transferring from Freewill Offering envelopes and increases in monthly giving.

### Look Ahead

The following are financial priorities for the Select Vestry and Parish in the coming year:

- To reduce the amount borrowed from the Danske Bank for the restoration project.
- Continue to push the generous giving initiative with the aim of having sufficient funds to enable us to employ a full-time Curate.
- Continue to move away from FWO envelopes to electronic giving.
- Carry out essential maintenance on the Rectory.
- Update the Parish Website and other means of communication.

**Rev Canon Simon Doogan**  
Rector  
19th March 2018

**Roy Lawther**  
Honorary Treasurer

## Ballyholme Mothers' Union



The Mothers' Union did not meet in April, however 8 members travelled to St Mark's, Dundela to attend the MU Festival Service on 9 April.

In the church, still decorated for Easter, including the wooden cross covered in flowers, the service was conducted by Rev.d Helene T Steed along with Bishop Harold Miller and the Diocesan Chaplain.

The service included the dedication of a new banner for St Mark's MU and the reaffirmation of the vision and mission of Mothers' Union. Members from the MU branches throughout the Diocese of Down and Dromore joined together in the singing of the hymns including **O Lord my God** which was voted the most popular by Mothers' Union members in all of Ireland in 2017.

After the service refreshments were served in the church hall where the members had an opportunity to catch up with friends and members from other branches.



**SDD**

Dear Friends in St Columbanus,

Pru and I had such an outstanding welcome from you all during our visit in January that we are delighted to have received an invitation from Simon to come back again in September for a Festival of Faith.

You are an extremely gifted congregation and one of your strongest gifts is in hospitality. After a fortnight with you we came home half a stone heavier and that was on top of the weight gain over Christmas!

One of the things that so many other retired clergy mentioned to me is that after retirement you get to do the things for which you were ordained in the first place. No buildings, no committees, just people and preaching. The result for us has been lots of travelling and new ministry opportunities, not least coming to you. After Easter this year we're volunteering for two months in the Garden Tomb in Jerusalem. Then in the autumn, in addition to our visit to Ballyholme in September, I'll be chaplain on a Saga cruise around the Mediterranean.



When we're at home we continue to look after three churches in the parish of Borth on the West Wales coast, near Aberystwyth, because there's no stipendiary minister. Add that to a little more time with our three children [in San Fransisco, Kent and London] and our two grandsons, and there's not much time for anything more.

One of the images in our minds when we were discussing the proposal to hold a Festival of Faith in St Columbanus was the picture of these circles on this page.



Have a look at it and decide where you stand in relationship to the church. Are you right at the centre of everything? Regular? Faithful? Consistent? Or are you a little further out than that? Coming occasionally? Participating during the big occasions? Or do you consider yourself to be on the very fringe of the church? Where would you like to be?

During festivals of this kind it is extremely unusual [although not impossible] for people to come from right on the outside of the church to right on the inside all in one go. Usually a person growing in faith will move in by one circle at a time. That's our prayer for the Festival of Faith in September and we hope that it will be your prayer too.

For this to happen we need to be more than a hospitable church [you're already on top of that], we need to be an 'inviting' one too. Very few people outside the church get up on Sunday and think that they'll go to a service. But many people will accept an invitation if they get one.

So what about it? Who could you invite to join you at a service or the mid-week event you normally attend? Something to be praying about now?

We're looking forward with great enthusiasm to seeing you in the autumn.

Many blessings in all of your preparations.

## Back to Kiwoko – the return of the Wilsons

Amazingly it is a year since we came back to Bangor from Kiwoko. Thus at Easter we went back to see our friends in Kiwoko Hospital.

It was good to catch up with good friends and encourage them to keep doing their great work caring for those in need.

Gideon was very pleased to pick up with his Ugandan friends and there was lots of football, tree climbing and swimming to be done.

The solar panels supported by Ballyholme last year are working very well and have noticeably reduced the hospital electricity bill. A long dry season from November until March wasn't good for water supplies or people's subsistence gardening, but the plus side

now is that at least it generates even more electricity! Now that the rains have been back in flow for a few weeks however it is better for everybody – and we are still generating more electricity than on most sunny summer days in Bangor!



The Easter day service only lasted 4 hours despite having a wedding included. Two of the senior members of the congregation who work in the hospital lab had decided that after having a traditional wedding 20 years ago, it was time to formalise it at church as well. We were delighted to be involved – even though it involved washing our vehicle by torchlight the preceding night so Rory could chauffeur the bridal party.

The hospital continues to be busy, and many of the staff members are the same as when we left. It has been a

challenging year as outside donations have reduced since we left. Do continue to pray particularly for Dr Peter (Medical Director) as they seek to balance the books, yet remain accessible to the local poor population. The term of the present board finishes in June so praying for wisdom as the Bishop seeks new members with the suitable skills is also very important.

Please receive greetings from the Hospital, Bishop and Kiwoko Parish church of St John's.



Rory, Denise & Gideon Wilson

# YOUTH-news

youth [youth] (youths) news [nooz]

Easter holidays are over and we are gearing up for the summer. Thank you to everyone who attended the St Patrick's Night Ceilidh. I had a lot of fun and hope you did as well. Check out some of the photos that were taken during the event. What a hoot!

The period between Easter and summer is a busy preparation time as I put plans in place for our summer programmes. This summer has the usual antics of Summer Madness, Jumpin' and X-Cess. Lots of excitement in the midst of my own August wedding plans! The summer of 2018 is all go!

## The dates for our summer events are:

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Summer Madness | Friday 29th June 2018 to Tuesday 3rd July 2018 (16+) |
| Jumpin'        | Monday 23rd July 2018 to Friday 27th July 2018       |
| X-Cess         | Monday 30th July 2018 to Friday 3rd August 2018      |

Please put these dates in your diary and tell any young people you may know about these amazing events!

## Prayer Points for Spring Term

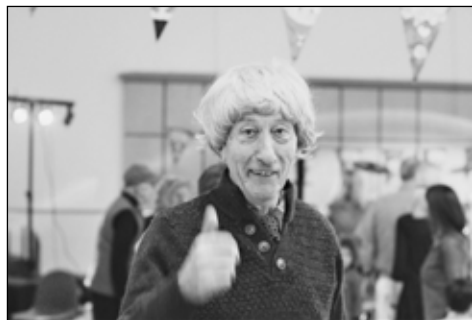
Exam season is here and young people are working hard at revision in preparation. Please pray for the young people in all our schools that they will have the strength and wisdom to get through this exam season with their heads held high.

Pray for all the summer plans that are being put together at this present time. We will soon be booking speakers and special activities.

Pray for the leadership of all the youth ministry programmes. Pray that relationships will strengthen with the young people and that our programmes and sessions will have a significant impact on each of the young people's lives.

**Billy**

## St Patrick's Night Ceilidh Photos



**Wednesday 2nd May**

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

**Sunday 6th May**

**Easter 6**

8.30 Holy Communion  
 10.00 Good News at Ten - All Age  
 11.30 Morning Prayer  
 6.30 United Service Ballyholme Parish - Kajiado Room

**Wednesday 9th May**

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

**Sunday 13th May**

**Easter 7 Sunday after Ascension Day**

8.30 Holy Communion  
 10.00 Good News at Ten & Children's Church  
 11.30 Parish Communion  
 6.30 Watoto Choir

**Wednesday 16th May**

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

**Sunday 20th May**

**Pentecost**

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

**Wednesday 23rd May**

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

**Sunday 27th May**

**Trinity Sunday**

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

**Wednesday 30th May**

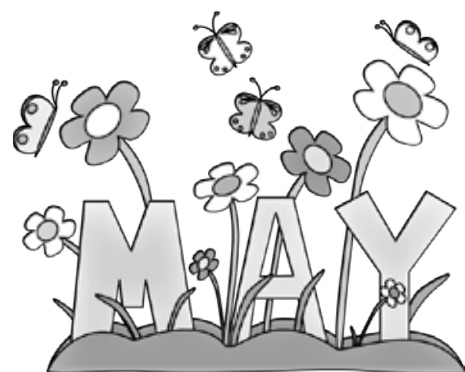
10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

**FUNERALS**

**April**

**16th:** John McFeeters, late of Donaghadee Road

**20th:** John Wills, late of Ballyholme Road



Parish Office:  
 91274912  
 Rectory:  
 91274901  
 Prayer Line:  
 07531806167



Transport: 07599794968  
 Church Readers Rota:  
 Freda (11.30) 91467624  
 Thelma (10.00) 91453602  
 Web Site [www.Ballyholmeparish.co.uk](http://www.Ballyholmeparish.co.uk)

**May**

**6th:** Gillian & Geoff Young, Patrick Crothers

**13th:** Ann Reynolds, Fiona Jackson, Ella Walker

**20th:** Jem Moran, Joy Hamilton, Irene Bell

**27th:** Jill Owens, Daphne Moore, Barbara Wallace



**May**

**6th:** No Creche

**13th:** Rachel Brittain, Dawn Shackles, Emma MacDonald

**20th:** Natalie McCartan, Jenny Whiteside, Nicola Gullen

**27th:** Christine Rankin, Julie Caulfield, Ashleigh Birkett



**May**

**6th:** Jane Fitzsimons

**13th:** Heidi Doogan

**20th:** Joy Conn

**27th:** Joan Larmour



**Children's Church Helpers**



**May**

**6th:** No Children's Church

**13th:** Catherine Menary, Violet Davidson, Liz Grant and Kate English

**20th:** Claire Andrews, Judith Bell, Sarah Boyd and Katherine Newman

**27th:** Neil Devlin, Jayne Nickell, Aileen Smith and Caireen Porter