

St Columbanus

Ballyholme



Watoto Children's Choir
Confirmation at Stormont
Data Protection



..On the way
together..

The Parishioner June 2018

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

At the time of writing and as required by the Diocesan Quinquennial Inspection, a new 'consumer unit' is being installed at the Rectory. To you and me that's a fuse box. It will make the house safer, increase the electrical capacity and allow the fitting of several new power-points which as many parishioners know, older houses have fewer of. All of which, with Pentecost in the air, makes for a ready picture of the spiritual life, not just for individual believers but for whole churches. Christianity is not about the same faithful few drawing the same quiet personal reassurance from the same predictable, steady-as-He goes God. The opposite! It's about ever more and more of us tapping into an energy which pulses and surges and sparks because it flows from a source that is limitlessly powerful.

With the need to plug things in such a standard feature of modern life, you might think people would realise how frustratingly short our spiritual battery-life actually is. Today's proliferation of sockets is a reminder not just of our constant need to charge up by regular worship and prayer and fellowship, but of God's readiness to meet our demand with His infinite supply.

SED.



Work on New Fuse Box



Ongoing Electrical Work



Tracking for New Sockets



Summer Jumpin'!



We're back for another week of madness from 23-27th July 2018 and we're super excited to see you all there!

Registration forms will be E-mailed out on 29th May 2018.

Pre-Registration Desk open on Sunday 3rd June 2018 from 11.10 to 11.30am.

Registration Evening on Wednesday 6th June 2018 from 7.00 to 8.00pm.

Registration will be on a first come first served basis. If your child wants to attend please attend one of the two registration sessions.

The cost is £30 for the week.

We can't wait to see you in July! **Paula Lown**



Just Older Youth



“Awake less, asleep more”.

There is a BBC iPlayer video currently in circulation which would benefit everyone to see.

Presented by Dr Kathryn Mannix, a palliative care doctor, it’s a 4 minute talk entitled “Dying is not as bad as you think”. While not from a faith perspective it echoes and affirms the Christian hope of falling asleep in Christ. Though parents might decide to watch it before showing it to their children, it is a gentle, reassuring piece which addresses some of the simple practicalities we will all face eventually.

To view it go to www.bbc.com and search “Dying is not as bad as you think”.

Karen



The Wednesday Club

Our ladies this month had a visit from Helen from the Consumer Council. Her talk was extremely interesting and very informative, explaining to us our rights on buying appliances whether online or in the shops. Also suggested as a possible way of saving our hard-earned money, was to consider switching electricity suppliers, or phone companies.

Did you know that water and electricity companies have customer and critical care registers of pensioners and critically sick people, that, once registered, receive prior notice of planned power cuts, - more details of this and more can be found on the Consumer Care website.

We were pleased to welcome Mabel this month who joined us for the first time. After more chat, tea and pancakes, our draw was won by Eileen Harmon.

Next month’s meeting is our annual afternoon outing which finishes our years programme. Agnes will be in touch re lifts etc. See you then.

Sue





ICE AT CHILDREN'S CHURCH

This month I thought we could find out about ICE at Children's Church, and I decided to ask my eldest son, Zack some questions to help me write about it.

What is ICE?

It's a group for children aged P5-P7, to learn about God.

Normally, there are at least 15 children there, and often even more.

What are all the different things that you do at ICE?

We play games, hear a Bible story and learn memory verses. We do craft e.g. decorating cupcakes or making marshmallow altars for the Elijah story.

What is your favourite activity?

I like playing the games best, and my favourite game is called Mafia. In this game the secret Mafia agent 'kills' someone, who then must be identified by the doctor and saved. Meanwhile, the detective has to figure out who the Mafia agent was! This year, my favourite bible story was The Last Supper, which we learnt before Easter.

Zack Graham



QUESTIONS

K I D S A S K

Is there such a place as hell?

When I first started to consider this, I opened the question to the church staff team...Billy quickly confirmed that there was such a place...it was sharing an office with me!!! I know he's only kidding, but we consider hell to be difficult places or upsetting experiences and times. It is a hard concept to understand, especially because we don't like to think that a loving God would want anyone to suffer or feel bad. The whole point is, God does not want anyone to go to hell, or to worry about it, he wants us all to go to heaven. He died on the cross at Easter to make sure that we could go to heaven, even though we all do bad things sometimes.

Making it easy...for the kids!

* There is such a place as hell! There are 162 bible references to hell in the New Testament, and 70 of these were made by Jesus himself. We cannot be sure that it is a

physical place that we could draw a map of, but we know it is a real place prepared for the Devil and his fallen angels. (Matt 25:41).

* The words used in the bible to describe hell are not very nice, they paint a picture of darkness and punishment with numerous mentions of fire. In the end, hell is a place of separation from God and all the good things He provides e.g. light and love. No wonder Jesus mentioned the kingdom of heaven a lot more (192 times), he was keen to teach us about the better place!

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

* The bottom line is that we don't know exactly what hell will be like, but we do know that God is just and true, therefore, the fact of heaven for the forgiven necessitates the fact of hell for the guilty. If we accept all the 'joyful' parts of Christianity from the bible, we also must accept the sorrowful parts, like hell (Gehenna), too.

* Please remember, God has never 'sent' anyone to hell, and He will never 'send' anyone to hell. Human freewill and unbelief leads us there. God never forces us to believe the gospel of Jesus Christ, and so, He cannot force us to join Him in heaven. The good news is that God does not want anyone to perish and suffer eternal torment, instead God is waiting patiently for as many people as possible to come to Him in repentance. (2 Peter 3:9).

Going deeper... try this at home

Affirm your faith and hope together as a family – read the Apostles Creed together and take some time to chat about and understand what it means.

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly!

I couldn't wait to be a mum and when it finally happened I was given a small screaming baby who continued to scream for at least the next year of his life. I am from a family of nine children and I am number 3 so my experience with babies and small folk, I felt, was vast. I always worked with kids either in church or in my job and I was good at it and enjoyed it. But then my gorgeous crying boy came along and I had never felt so helpless and inadequate. We rocked him, swaddled him, took him out in the pram, in the sling, in the baby carrier, in the car, in the cot, in the bed, in my arms....you get the picture we tried everything but this kid was cultivating a great set of lungs. As I was crumbling I was blessed with an eternally optimistic husband who was helplessly in love with Daniel, my wonderful sister and one highly empathetic friend, all who kept me going. But in the dark times my cries turned to my Heavenly Father, I leaned heavily on Him, laying all my burdens on Him.

The success story would be to tell you my prayers were answered and Daniel slept, sadly only time and perseverance paid off but he sleeps beautifully now (He's 8!). Thankfully his sister who followed close behind him was a dream boat so maybe the Lord heard me after all.

But in all this I learnt to be faithful in prayer and to know that I have a Father who will listen to me, hear exactly how I feel, every raw emotion. I have a God who listens and sees me for who I am, when I am at my worst, when I feel like a failure He is there reminding me of His promises. I am reminded that He loves me, He chose me, He chose Daniel for me, He is always waiting for me to talk to Him. My Father sees me on my good, bad and darn right ugly days in my parenting. I love the verse in 1 Peter 5:7 "...cast all your worries on him, because he cares for you." And because I am a parent and I do a school run I will lay my burdens daily before His throne because I know He cares about me.

Paula McIlwaine

Sunday 15 April was a special night for four Ballyholme parishioners and their families and friends. The venue was St Molua's Stormont, a church rich in colour, light and visual Scriptural imagery.

Patrick English, Paula McIlwaine, Caireen Porter and Denise Wilson had met with the Rector through Lent and had invited loved ones, sponsors and guests to be present for this milestone moment in their spiritual journeys. Bishop Harold met with the candidates before the service and was fascinated to hear their array of personal stories and experiences.



Every year the Rector offers Confirmation preparation for adults in the run up to Easter but as Bishop Harold remarked during the course of the service, everyone who gets Confirmed is an adult. Confirmation is that 'into membership' moment when people of whatever age are ready to make an informed statement of faith and a lifelong commitment to Christ and His Church.



The theme of the service was the strengthening power of God. Our Ballyholme candidates were joined by fifteen others from Stormont, Knock, Gilnahirk and Ballyphilip parishes making it a real diocesan occasion and creating a lovely sense of the wider Church family.

Lots of St Columbanus faces were visible in the large congregation - and at the reception afterwards where the now traditional Down and Dromore Confirmation chocolate fountain and popcorn machine were in full flow!

We plan to host our own service of Confirmation for young people and adults next Easter. If you would like to explore what's involved speak to the Rector, Billy our Youth Pastor or why not ask one of the candidates themselves. Newly strengthened by God, no one could be better placed to tell you all about it!

The Confirmation Candidates Stories

Denise Wilson

Denise is married to Rory and they have one son, Gideon aged 8. The family returned to Ballyholme last year after 11 years overseas service with the Church Mission Society Ireland (CMSI) in Kiwoko, Uganda. Health issues with Denise and Rory's parents, plus wanting to get Gideon into school made this the right time to return to NI. These factors have made it easier for them to settle back into life in Ballyholme in spite of still missing parts of Ugandan life. Denise leads a Home Group, she is involved in the Mothers' Union and hopes to play a more active part in the PUSH prayer meetings. Rory is the People's Churchwarden and Gideon, who has just joined the Sailing Club in Ballyholme Yacht Club, goes to the Cubs and Splash where he sees many of his friends from Ballyholme Primary School. Denise is training to be a Diocesan Reader and whilst being Confirmed is a pre-requisite, Denise also viewed Confirmation as a landmark on her journey of faith with the Church of Ireland. As the 4 candidates prepared for Confirmation with Simon, Denise found it encouraging to hear what God is doing in other's lives as they shared their journeys of faith. At the Confirmation Service, Denise



found the part when each candidate knelt before Bishop Harold and he laid a hand on each of them whilst praying over them particularly significant.



Patrick English

Patrick is married to Kate and they have 2 two sons, Noah aged 10 and Felix aged 9. Patrick teaches History and is Head of Careers at Malone Integrated College, Belfast. He's also responsible for the school's Public Relations and will be involved in a BBC NI production featuring the school's GCSE and A level students to be aired later this year. After leaving University Patrick went to Australia and spent 4 years in London before returning to Ballyholme in 2003. After attending a few churches Patrick and his family finally settled on St Columbanus in 2012. Our services appealed to Kate who was Church of England before moving to NI.

Patrick is a member of Bangor Cricket Club and has played for Simon's team at the annual cricket match, Kate is a Cub Leader and Noah and Felix attend the Cubs and Scouts. Patrick decided to become Confirmed because Noah and Felix were being baptised and Patrick felt it was the right time for him to make a public commitment of his faith. Patrick enjoyed the Confirmation preparation with Simon and the 3 other candidates as they considered what it meant to be Confirmed and explored their faith together. Following the Confirmation Service Patrick was touched to receive a card with a compass presumably intended to keep him going in the right direction.

Paula McIlwaine

Paula is married to Peter and they have three children, Daniel aged 8, Imogen aged 6 and Teddy aged 5. Paula works as a Community Learning Disability Nurse in the Bangor and Ards Peninsula area providing support and advice for families. St Columbanus wasn't Paula's home church. She attended Ballyholme Parish Youth from her early teens and when she joined the Parish 12 years ago it felt like coming home. For Paula Confirmation and affirming her faith reinforced those feelings of belonging as St Columbanus has become her church family. Paula sings in 10am praise group, she's on the sound/audio rota, she shares leadership of a Home Group with Caroline Gillan, and plays an active part in PUSH (Pray Until Something Happens). Peter is the Group Scout Leader and the children go to Cubs, Rainbows and Squirrels. Paula is training to be a Diocesan Reader and has already led services but when she completes her training next year she will be qualified to preach sermons. In this way she hopes she can give something back to St Columbanus. Paula particularly liked Bishop Harold's sermon at the Confirmation Service based on Joshua Chapter 1 Verses 1-9 urging us to be strong and courageous.



Caireen Porter

Caireen has a daughter, Imogen aged 17, and 2 step-daughters, Nancy and Grace both in their early thirties. Caireen is kept busy in her job as a Revenue Assistant dealing with bills and invoices from legal partners. Caireen joined St Columbanus 5 years ago thanks to her friend Karen. Karen's daughter Ellen is good friends with Imogen and it was this friendship which introduced Caireen to the Parish. She immediately felt she belonged in St Columbanus because people were so welcoming. Caireen is a member of the Mothers' Union where she has met a lot of people and made many friends. Imogen enjoys the Sunday night Youth Fellowship and still goes along to The Surf Project which she first attended when Billy

Fyffe took a group of young people to the North Coast. Caireen's favourite worship song is "One More Step Along the World I Go" because she always knew she had not been walking her path alone. Over the past few years when she was going through tough times she felt herself growing closer to God and knowing that He is always near and loves her. This year just felt like the right time for Caireen to confirm in public that she stands by God as He has stood by her. For Caireen being Confirmed was a big event in life and she was greatly encouraged to see so many people coming along to St Molua's to support her.

Why I am excited about our Festival of Faith - 23-30 September 2018

A few years ago, after decades of avoiding church, my father decided to attend church one Sunday morning. Loss of a close friend had got him thinking. A couple sitting beside him encouraged him to join them in the hall for coffee after the service. He went back the following week, and the following week, and two years later was confirmed.

Being men, we didn't talk about it too much, but as church has been important to me for years it brought us much closer together. When he became ill and died last year our shared faith brought us both real comfort. Being able to pray together in the last days and to know that someday we will be together again brought us all some peace through such a hard time.

Looking back, God had obviously been quietly working in Dad's mind for a while for him to go to church that day. Of course it now seems that some friends had been praying for him to get back together with the God of his childhood.

There are a few folk who I rarely see in St Columbanus on Sunday mornings these days. Following Simon's challenge a few Sundays ago, I am praying for them that God would get them thinking about coming back again. In September I'm going to give them an invitation and hopefully someone might come along. My father coming back to faith brought me great pleasure, and I would love others in the parish to share that joy.



BAPTISMS



May

13th: Noah Matthew English and Felix Jon English, sons of Patrick and Kate English

May

13th: Jasper Joseph Smith and Sophia Annabel Smith, son and daughter of Ryan and Sarah Smith



Cricketers

Watch the "News in the Pews" for details of the forthcoming Rector's XI v Curate's XI Cricket Match at Upritchard Park



Football's coming 'Holme!

Whether you are Peter Shilton or Peter Kay... Thursday night at the Bangor Aurora is the place to be for the 5 a side football fans of Ballyholme Parish.

In the spirit of the resurrection, our St Columbanus' Thursday tradition of shin-kicking and abuse-hurling was raised from the dead in the weeks before Easter this year.

From seven players on the first night to a full squad of twelve in just a few weeks, we are now exploring the possibility of a bigger pitch or a second pitch for a second parallel game. The demand has continued to grow and we want to cast the net wider to include as many Ballyholme 'ballers as possible.

Dust off your boots, grab your shinguards and make your way down to the Aurora for the greatest game ever invented. It's just an hour, start to finish and you'll find us on the Muga pitches at Bangor Aurora for a 9 o'clock kick off!

Billy Fyffe



The Walkers – Downpatrick to Steamboat Quay (and back)

We are so lucky to have such lovely walks within striking distance of Bangor and the Quoile River Walk is one of them. Fourteen of us gathered at the Down Museum for some reinforcing refreshments before starting the venture, led this time by Brian. We headed up the steps towards the Mound of Down where the Norman knight, John de Courcy and his small army of 300 defeated Rory MacDunlevy in 1177 to claim

Ulster as his own.

The Mound is wildly overgrown with bushes and trees and until the construction of the Quoile water barrier in 1957 the high tides of Strangford Lough often made an island of the mound. The tracks lead across some fields and then onto Jane's Shore path. The Quoile River was effectively created when Edward Southwell, landlord of Downpatrick in the early 12th century, built a tidal barrier at the Quoile and began draining the land, creating 500 acres of land from what was previously the western branch of Strangford Lough. All the paths are well maintained and we enjoyed the first signs of spring including blackthorn blossom a plenty. After crossing the Quoile Bridge we joined the path at the Quoile Pondage.

This National Nature Reserve covers both sides of the Quoile River. It was created in 1957 by the construction of a tidal barrier to prevent flooding in the Downpatrick area.



Soon after the barrier was built, plants and trees colonized the former seashore. We passed many old quays, still with their bollards well preserved, Quoile Castle to the east and the remains of an old workboat, eventually reaching the Steamboat Quay. It was built in the 1850s by David Ker, landlord of Downpatrick, to assist the operations of the County Down and Liverpool Steampacket Company. During the latter half of the 19th century timber was landed from sailing schooners from Baltic and Canadian ports. Missing now is the timber quay itself which jutted out from the present stone structure. The Downpatrick Timber, Slate and Coal Company imported building materials (mainly slate) from North Wales from its formation in 1895 until 1920.

We then turned back to the Countryside Centre where we expected to see displays on the wildlife and history of the area. But no – it was closed, as were the toilets including the disabled one (except for a blue Tardis) but we did avail of the picnic tables and admired the raised beds of flowers and herbs maintained by Downpatrick U3A. And it was May bank holiday weekend! Shame on the Dept of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs.

We then set off back to the Museum and 8.5 miles later just managed to catch the last minutes of the café opening hours in the Museum.

The next walk is on 2nd June in the Loughgall Country Park.

Betty

SAVE THE DATE

X-CESS 2018

30th July - 3rd August 2018

Youth Week for 1st Year to
Upper Sixth

Keep your eye on Facebook
for more details



Do you remember a 1960's TV show called *Mission Impossible*? At the start of every episode, the hero listened to instructions from a cassette recording which ended: "This message will self-destruct in 10 seconds." And it did!



No company, organisation or agency can ever completely eliminate the risk of the information it holds getting into the wrong hands. The church is no exception. As everyone in St Columbanus knows, the parish has a database of information about its members. These are details people have

given to us freely and we have good reason to have them. On 26 May 2018 the EU General Data Protection Regulation came into force which obliges us to give evidence that you know what information we hold, the reason why, and who has access to it. As before, you retain the right to have that information amended or have your details removed.

As a member of Ballyholme Parish, the church needs to know who you are and where and how to find you. While general information is circulated by means of the magazine, the website and the News in the Pews, more specific information sometimes needs to go out by

text, email, post or by hand. For the most part the data we hold is quite basic: name, address, postcode, phone number and email address. Those who still subscribe to Freewill Offering envelopes have given us slightly more information, as have those who give regularly by Standing Order. All perfectly legally held



and only accessible to those who need it. The parish database is updated almost constantly and as families come off the list, other new families are added. The office computers are password protected and any paper files are kept in a locked cupboard. If you phone up the office or ask one of the Staff Team for a particular phone number or address, don't be surprised or offended if they don't give it. What they will be happy to do however is contact the person whose details you are asking for and let them know you are trying to get in touch.

Over the past few years we have been hoping to reach a point where we write individually to every parish family at the end of November/beginning of December with a statement of their recorded giving to church funds over the previous twelve months. In light of the new GDPR our intention is to include with this annual mailing a copy of the information held on our database. You will then be invited to respond: to confirm that you wish to remain on the parish list, to give us permission to hold the information we hold, and to correct/amend any details which may be amiss.



The one thing you may be reassured to know is that our church database is not sold on to any third party. In other words, if anyone ever contacts you saying they obtained your address from Ballyholme Parish don't believe them!

For all you could possibly wish to know about the new requirements go to www.ico.org.uk. Your Ballyholme point of contact is our Parish Administrator Kelly McCullough, available five mornings a week in the Church Office.

In the parish diary for nearly twelve months, May's visit of the Watoto African Children's Choir will live long in the Ballyholme memory. Part of their 2018 'Signs & Wonders LIVE Tour', the evening lived up to its billing as "the sound of a transformed generation by a family of orphans from Uganda".



There are now three Watoto villages in east Africa with two thousand children living and growing in Christian community and preparing to serve Christ in an ever-increasing array of adult roles. Rescued as babies,



Watoto's mission is to tell people about the transformation there is in God alone and His power to make all things new. Following an introductory video, the evening began with a call to worship from probably the smallest of the children: "Give thanks to the Lord and sing praise to Him"!

Watoto's visit was so much more than a concert of wonderfully joyful Christian singing - though it was certainly that.

Aside from the music, eighteen children accompanied by nine 'aunties' and 'uncles' were welcomed into the homes of eight St Columbanus families for two nights of Ballyholme hospitality.



After a pre-performance dinner on Sunday afternoon in the Parish Centre, Karen, Ann, Gareth and Kelly were thanked with a harmony-rich version of the Aaronic blessing which brought a whole new meaning to the phrase 'sing for your supper' - not to mention a tear or two for those on the receiving end.

A number of the children shared their personal stories and a generous retiring collection was lifted at the end. While dancing and clapping were compulsory throughout, few people got through the evening without at least one lump in their throats.

Sunday 3rd June

Trinity 1

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

Wednesday 6th June

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 10th June

Trinity 2

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

Wednesday 13th June

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 17th June

Trinity 3

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

Wednesday 20th June

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 24th June

Trinity 4

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

Wednesday 27th June

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

FUNERALS

April

26th: Joan Dales, formerly of Silverbirch Park

May

8th: Ken Nickell, formerly of Woodland Avenue, Hollywood.

12th: Marion Milligan, formerly of Shandon Park East.

15th: Esther McKee, formerly of Groomsport 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



June



3rd: Tracie Andreasson, Heather Johnston, Nicole Watson

10th: Michael & Sharon Hatch, Charles Robinson

17th: Ann, Karen & Kelly

24th: Mothers' Union Team

June



3rd: Pat Davidson

10th: Alwyn Aiken

17th: Flower Fund

24th: Marie Cull

June



3th: No Creche

10th: Rachel

Brittain, Jenny Whiteside, Ashleigh Birkett

17th: Natalie McCartan, Sarah Fletcher, Sarah Smith

24th: Christine Rankin, Dawn Shackles, Nicola Gullen

The Two Jaspers

On 13 May 2018 when Jasper Joseph Smith was baptised he met his namesake Jasper Johnstone. We now have 2 Jaspers in St Columbanus! See photo below.



Children's Church Helpers



June

3rd: No Children's Church

10th: Tracie Andreasson, Andrew Cuthbert, Emma MacDonald, Pamela Reading,

Claire Skelly and Jodie Smith

17th: Children's Church Prizes

24th: Children's Church Film