

St Columbanus

Ballyholme



Cricket Match
- all the action

Billy's Wedding and off
to pastures new

Back to Church

..On the way
together..

The Parishioner

September 2018


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

The Rambling Rector

No new season I can remember has seen such feverish pre-planning and prayer as this September. Children's Church and Crèche swing back into action on Sunday 9th and it's no exaggeration to say that seeing our young people reappear every September along with a clutch of new families is one of the high points of my year. Our two new stained glass windows for the south transept are on schedule to be dedicated by Bishop Harold on Sunday 16 September. They look set to be a rich addition to our atmospheric Church, strongly in keeping with our Celtic Christian heritage. And then our Festival of Faith with Canon Stuart Bell, an initiative very much of and by parishioners with a vision to see all of us moving closer to God. The hope is that every parishioner, young and old, gets at least one chance to be part of the Festival and to invite along someone who, for whatever reason, hasn't been to Church for a while. The One who made us and gave His Son to die for us, calls us to remember whose we are and whom we serve. Christ's is a love that longs for our response.




SED.



**Yours is the Kingdom,
Power & Glory**


**The Hebraic Roots Of The LORD's Prayer
What Did Jesus Really Mean ?**



Rev Aaron Eime
International Bible Teacher
Christ Church, Jerusalem

**Ballyholme Parish Centre
Monday 11th September at 8.00pm
All Welcome**

Rev. Eime is a popular and engaging international Bible teacher and will be exploring the nature and subject of prayer at the time of Jesus. He was educated at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and is currently teaching at the Alexander Biblical School of Learning. Aaron and his family have lived in Israel for the past 18 years.



www.cmjireland.net
cmjireland@hotmail.com

Wednesday Communion

Our mid-week service in the Kajiado Room resumes at 10.30am on Wednesday 5 September 2018. It's the familiar Holy Communion Two Prayer Book service, with a chance for us to pray each week for the names on our parish prayer list, many of whom are sick or ill.

Coffee and tea are served immediately after for those who can stay for a chat, and access couldn't be easier from the lower Parish Centre car-park. Everyone is welcome especially those who can't make it to Church on Sunday!



It's that time of year again! **SMARTIE TUBE TIME**

Collect your tube
at church on 2nd September

Enjoy the Smarties!
Fill the tube with 20p's
or any suitable coins*
Bring back the filled tube

on 21st October
To any Harvest Service

** All the money goes towards the
support of our Mission Work*

The Crafty Stitchers

Classes start on
Tuesday 11th September
at 7.45pm

Get your needles and thread
ready

New stitchers welcome





The Seven Wonders of the World

A group of students were asked to list the seven wonders of the world. Though there was some disagreement the following got the most votes:

1. Egypt's Pyramids
- 2 Taj Mahal
- 3 Grand Canyon
- 4 Panama Canal
- 5 Empire State Building
- 6 Saint Peter's Basilica
- 7 China's Great Wall

While gathering the votes, the teacher noticed that one quiet student hadn't turned in her paper, so she asked the girl if she was having trouble with her list. The girl replied, "Yes, a little. I couldn't quite make up my mind because there were so many". The teacher said, "Tell us what you have and maybe we can help".

The girl hesitated, then read, "I think the seven wonders of the world are:

- 1 To touch
- 2 To taste
- 3 To see
- 4 To hear"

She paused and then added:

- 5 "To communicate
- 6 To laugh
- 7 To love"

It is far too easy to look at the exploits of man and refer to them as wonders, while we overlook all God has done in the creation of our beautiful world and ourselves. May we always be reminded that the most precious things are in front of us and truly are gifts from God.

We hope you have all enjoyed the beautiful summer and like us are excited to see the return of the **Wednesday Club** on **5th September**, **Monday coffee** on **10th September** and **Friday lunch** on **14th September**.

Lifts to all of the above can be arranged by ringing me at the Parish Office. If you haven't been before, a warm welcome awaits and lots of friendly faces to make you feel quite at home.

God bless

Karen

BAPTISMS

July

22nd: Willow Hettie Cram, daughter of Martin and Rebecca Cram



July

22nd: Eli Thomas Irvine, son of Brian and Rachael Irvine



Parent and Toddler Group resumes

Thursday 20th September

in the Church Centre
10.00 to 11.30am

Play and games,
socialising, mixing with
other children.

Light refreshments.



ST COLUMBANUS PARISH
BALLYHOLME



FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

THE FESTIVAL INCLUDES

ALL SEWN UP - BOWLED OVER - IT'S A KNOCKOUT
ST COLUMBANUS BANGOR WALK - TABLE TENNIS
YOGA - LUNCH CLUB - KEEP FIT - CURRY & QUIZ
THE MASTER'S BUILDERS WORKSHOP
SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE & SO MUCH MORE

SATURDAY

EVENTS FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH



THE
MASTER'S
BUILDERS
WORKSHOP

BRICKS4KIDS

LET'S HAVE FUN
WITH LEGO
2.00 - 4.30 PM

FOR CHILDREN IN PRE-SCHOOL
AND PRIMARY SCHOOL



SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE

YOUTH EVENT
(YEAR 8 - UPPER SIXTH)

MUSIC - GAMES - PRIZES
BANTER - FRIENDS - FOOD
& FUN FOR ALL

7.30 - 9.30 PM

FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

MONDAY



10.00AM KEEP FIT
10.00AM COFFEE & SCONES

7.30PM TABLE TENNIS
7.30PM YOGA

TUESDAY



7.30PM ALL SEWN UP
JOINT MOTHERS' UNION &
CRAFTY STITCHERS SPECIAL

RAINBOWS, BROWNIES
& GUIDES
A FUN NIGHT WITH SPECIAL GUESTS

WEDNESDAY



10.30AM HOLY COMMUNION
2.00PM WEDNESDAY CLUB
& FRIENDS
8.00PM BOWLED OVER

THURSDAY



10.00AM TODDLER IN
JOIN IN WITH THE FUN AT OUR
PARENT & TODDLER GROUP

7.15PM FAMILY KNOCKOUT
A FUN NIGHT FOR ALL THE FAMILY!
COME ON DADS! SHOW US WHAT YOU
GOT!

FRIDAY



12.30PM LUNCH CLUB
ENJOY A YUMMY LUNCH AND
LISTEN TO CANON STUART

8.00PM CURRY & QUIZ
GOOD FOOD & GOOD COMPANY.
TICKETS £5 FROM OFFICE. BYO DRINKS

SUNDAYS AT THE FESTIVAL

SUNDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER

LED BY CANON STUART BELL

8.30AM HOLY COMMUNION

10AM GOOD NEWS AT TEN

HOT DOGS

BETWEEN SERVICES

11.30AM MORNING PRAYER



2PM ST COLUMBANUS BANGOR WALK

JOIN US AS WE EXPLORE ECCLESIASTICAL BANGOR
MEET AT BANGOR ABBEY

6.30PM ENCOUNTERING GOD

SERVICE LED BY CANON STUART

SUNDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER

LED BY CANON STUART BELL

8.30AM HOLY COMMUNION

10AM GOOD NEWS AT TEN

ICE CREAM VAN BETWEEN SERVICES

11.30AM MORNING PRAYER



6.30PM BECOMING WHOLE

SERVICE LED BY CANON STUART

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THESE SPECIAL SERVICES
YOU WOULD BE VERY WELCOME

If you were present in Church on Sunday 1 July, you will have heard the sad announcement that our Youth Pastor of the last two years Billy Fyffe would be leaving at the end of Xcess to get married and live in Lurgan. Following an emotional farewell in Church on Sunday 5 August, the Rector married Billy and his fiancée Jane in the bride's church Magheralin Parish the following Thursday. It was a wedding involving many faces and voices from St Columbanus.

Given the geography for Billy and Jane, the news was not a complete surprise but it is a huge loss to us and one which will be felt not just by our young people but by the parish as a whole. During Jade Irwin's time as Youth Worker, Billy had become a regular and popular visitor for our Ballyholme young people as a DJ and occasional speaker. On completion of his degree in Youth Work and Theology, Billy seemed Jade's natural replacement and the Vestry was very pleased to appoint him.

Styled 'Youth Pastor' because of his Sunday worship input, Billy inherited a busy programme of weekday and Sunday events for our young people and headed up our Youth Confirmation, both in conjunction with Michelle Savage and a team of young leaders. Our visits from Audrey Assad and the Watoto Choir were both at Billy's initiative and caught the imagination of the whole church family not to mention our two St Patrick's Night Ceilidhs.

It's easy to forget that Billy first joined Ballyholme at the start of our seven months of Sundays at St Columbanus College. The restoration project saw us setting up for worship every weekend in the school assembly hall and so our return to Church plunged us into a world of new audio visual and musical hardware. Truth be told, Billy had been on the parish staff for six months before he even put his foot over the door of our Church.



football, and Billy leaves a hole only the Lord can fill.

Approachable and warm, Billy was always ready with a joke and a laugh and quick to seize on any opportunity for 'good banter'. We record here the thanks of the parish and especially its young people for all that Billy has done for us. Please do remember Billy and Jane in your prayers as they begin their married life together and as Billy begins his new post with Portadown YMCA.



As we battled for mastery of our new equipment and especially as we longed for a new spark of dynamism and energy for our 10 o'clock praise, Billy was in every sense God's gift to us. Though obviously not home-grown, Billy was nonetheless the first young person to take a lead worship role in Ballyholme for at least a decade. Add to that a flair for graphic design and publicity for all to see on our screens every Sunday, and a primal love for soccer which saw the revival of the Thursday night





Children's church restarts on **Sunday 9th September**, during our **Good News @ 10** service. Please bring your completed registration forms with you!

There will be lots of **fun and games** for all the children who attend, alongside **craft, stories and songs**. Children's Church is available for children from 3 years old and throughout primary school, divided into 3 groups:

Bubbles – 3yrs to P1

Splash – P1 to P4

Ice – P5 to P7

We look forward to your child coming along, and I trust they will have a great time getting to know the children in their group and learning about God.

Paula Lown



Praise Kids and Praise Crew

Last year a few changes were made to the Praise Kids and we launched the Praise Crew! I think we had a great year, and the 2 groups came together to make wonderful contributions to the Christmas and Children's Day services with a fabulous rendition of A Christmas Hallelujah and the introduction of My Lighthouse, by Rend Collective.

Both groups will be restarting on **Monday 17th September** in the Choir Room, with **Praise Kids (P1-P4) at 4pm, and the Crew (P5-P7) meeting at 4:30pm.**

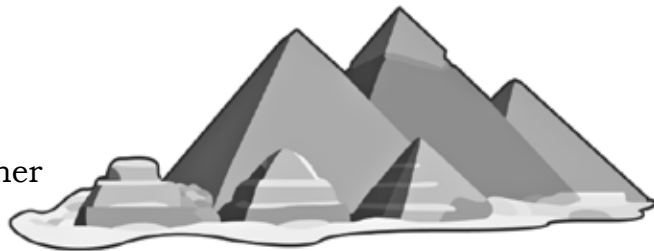
Each week starts with a warm up game, (Duck Duck Goose has been a Praise Kid's favourite, with Flinch topping the charts for the Praise Crew), and then we gather together to sing some songs, whilst thinking about what the songs mean. The Praise Kids have loved learning the actions of the songs and have even helped me lead these from the front of the church on a Sunday morning. The Crew have enjoyed some action songs but have focused more on singing the songs and accompanying them on the Cajun Drum.



I anticipate another great year for both groups, and am looking forward to seeing some new faces and exploring more ways to worship God together.

Paula Lown

With 110 children registered I was quite nervous about how the week would turn out, but I should not have worried! With the help of Billy Fyffe, the tremendous team of leaders and the willing adult helpers in the kitchen, it came together with great success! I thank God for supplying me with all that I needed throughout the week.



This summer we had an Egyptian theme, with the children making a few Egyptian costume items, whilst learning the story of Joseph. Every morning was filled to the brim with activity and games, not forgetting the Pea Fair and Railway Riots. The Main Stage saw the return of the much-loved Postman Jack and the Leader's challenge! One of my highlights was the dramas, which saw a young Joseph being carried off the stage and a group of adult men on all-fours, mooing like cows!!

I was particularly pleased to see so many leaders/junior leaders in church on the Sunday for the Jumpin' Celebration Service. The Song Leaders had really excelled themselves throughout the week, and the energy they used to lead the actions on the Sunday morning really added to our worship.

A BIG THANK YOU goes to all involved in Jumpin', with thanks to the parents who faithfully brought their children down each day. Without these wonderful children Jumpin' couldn't happen.

Paula Lown



Festival of Faith families night - are you ready for the Family Knockout?

As part of our Festival of Faith week on Thursday 27th September we are having a family it's a knockout in the Parish Centre with lots of fun side-show style games to enjoy together.

For parents and kids to enjoy together – Dad led teams especially welcome.

Don't miss the fun. Doors open 7pm at the Parish Centre.

Come on, you know you want to!



Bishop Harold will be with us on Sunday 16 September (both 10.00 and 11.30 services) for the dedication of two brand new stained glass windows which we hope will quickly find their place in the affections of all our regular worshippers.

For anyone who has missed earlier reports in the Parishioner, Restoration 2016 saw the organ and choir move from the south side (the right as you look up the Church – the Parish Centre side) to the north (the left as you look up – the Groomsport Road side). Behind the organ pipes lay a small transept containing three plain glass windows original to the building but hidden from internal sight, we think, since the installation of the organ in the 1950s.

Patiently waiting for some fitting way to commemorate their sixtieth anniversary in Ballyholme, our Mothers' Union lost no time in commissioning a wonderful hands-around-the-world Mary Sumner design from the firm of CWS in Lisburn. Duly passed by Vestry, Diocese and the RCB and dedicated at both 10 and 11.30 services on the first Sunday in October last year (2017), our first new window for more than a decade has been admired by parishioners and visitors alike as a lovely addition to the story of our Church. CWS have also been contracted for our two new windows.

Background

Our two new windows are intended to make a striking and distinctive addition to the Celtic theme and colour of our existing St Columbanus gallery which pilgrims to Bangor so often make a special effort to see.

The Pelican: As a complement to our Lamb of God window on the north side will be another traditional symbol of Christ sacrificing himself for humanity, that of a pelican pecking its breast to feed her young. The origins of the pelican as a Eucharistic atonement image probably came about because of the pelican's red-tipped beak and very white feathers, and because long-beaked birds such as the pelican are often to be found standing with their beaks resting on their breasts. The narthex in Down Cathedral contains tile mosaics of both the Agnus Dei and Pelican in a similar north/south, left/right symmetry. It is an image which crops up in all sorts of places, including a famous lectern in Durham Cathedral and the crest and blazer badge of a Sussex public school called Ardingly College.



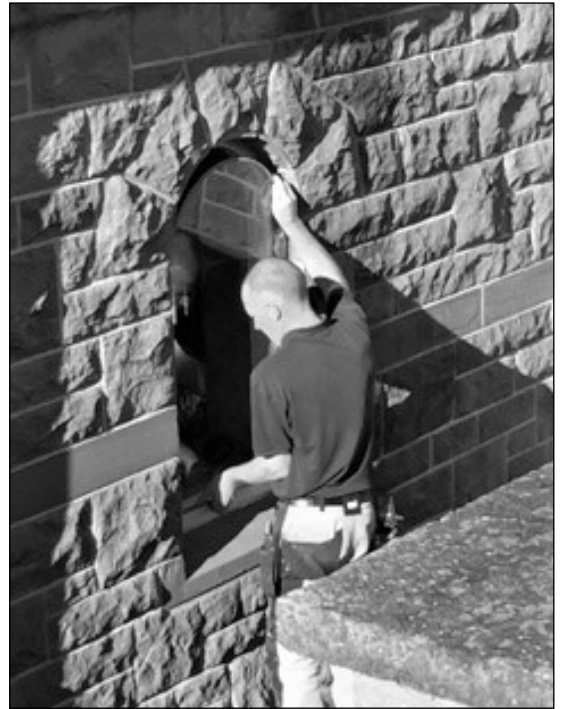
St Bronagh: As a complement to St Brigid on the north side will be a sixth century Christian woman remembered annually on the 2nd April. Associated with Rostrevor Co Down and Kilbroney (Kil is the Irish for Church and broney denotes Bronagh), Bronagh built a church, founded a community of prayer and became its abbess. To denote her authority, Bronagh will carry her abbess's staff in one hand and the ancient Bronagh's Bell in the other. The bell is a relic of the original church which lay concealed among its ruins for centuries. An early Martyrology describes her as "Bronagh beoda". Where in Gaelic bronagh means mournful, beoda, by contrast, means lively. Which makes the implication of bronagh beoda, that this celebrated woman of prayer was of a much cheerier and more dynamic temperament than her name might suggest!

Generosity

You will recall that at the launch of the Restoration 2016 Appeal we invited parish families to get in touch if they wanted to contribute in a specific way to specific elements of the project. A significant number of parishioners responded with sizeable one-off cash gifts. Some of these, including one very generous cheque earlier this year, were anonymous donations to the overall building costs. Others were allocated to particular items essential to the new design, by agreement and in memory of loved ones but again anonymously. Our new windows are the gift of two parish families who approached the Vestry formally at the start of this year.

The Pelican window was originally conceived as the gift of the Bell family. As our organist and musical director, Ian Bell has had a connection to that part of our Church building since his appointment by Canon Mercer in 1986. Ian's dear wife Eleanor and sons Timothy and Adam have all worn the robes of our parish choir at various points over Ian's more than 30 years at the helm. Conversations about the window began before Eleanor was taken seriously ill in June 2017. Eleanor's untimely death last December gives the window an added poignancy and makes it a memorial gift not just from Ian but Timothy and Adam too.

The St Bronagh window is the gift of the Manogue family. Currently Rector's Churchwarden and Branch Leader of our Mothers' Union, Yvonne's late husband Laurence himself served as Churchwarden. An architect by profession, Laurence ran Ulster Historic Monuments



and spent the larger part of his working life preserving Northern Ireland's oldest places of worship. Laurence died in December 2015, twelve years after being diagnosed with nasopharyngeal cancer but of all the churches he knew so well, St Columbanus was closest to his heart. The window will be a suitably colourful memorial gift from Yvonne, Niall, Michael and Rachel.

Curry & Quiz**Parish Centre****Friday 28th September at 8pm**

For all those quiz enthusiasts we have the perfect night for you...perfect because not only will your mental agility be tested, stretched and broadened but also your belly will be filled with delicious curry!



What is not to love about such an evening? Grab your ticket at the Parish office or email vincent3mac@hotmail.com

Tickets are a steal at £5 per head and you can even bring a wee bottle of your own to wet the palate.

Around the Parish



Perhaps you're trying to summon up the courage to invite someone to our Festival of Faith? Or maybe you've had a sense for a while now that you would really love to get back to Church but while the spirit is willing, the flesh is weak! Or possibly, there's a tugging at your heart and a stirring in your soul which you can't quite explain but might just be Christ. Here are stories from three Ballyholme parishioners who have recently 'come back holme'.

A family crisis

"Last year I received 2 phone calls over 4 months when my brother told me he couldn't face living any longer. At first I felt guilt that I hadn't supported him through the many crises he had tumbled through in his life so decided I would "sort this". This was a temporary fix. His second call was for real. I genuinely thanked God that because of new career opportunities I could devote time to taking him to appointments, drink tea with him and just spend quality time together instead of always watching the clock and feeling I should be doing something else. I prayed so hard that he would be OK. The professionals were brilliant and my family supported me so I could support him. I needed help and returned to church looking for answers and someone who could hold me up when I was struggling to cope. The first service happened to be Communion and I hesitated about going to receive the sacrament. I waited patiently and knelt at the step. When Simon gave me the bread and said my name I felt a flood of emotion overwhelm me and then I accepted the wine and my name was mentioned again. I held back sobs as I returned to my seat. Although I had not been to Church for so long, God had not forgotten me."

Losing mum

"In 2015 my Mum, who had encouraged me as a child to lead a Christian life, became poorly. On some of the occasions when I visited her, Simon also called, and at the end of the visit, he said prayers. I suddenly started to feel warm and happy. Eventually the inevitable happened and Mum was moved to a nursing home. Simon continued to visit and on one visit when I was there offered Communion to my Mum and to me as well. He didn't ask, he just knew. I felt so happy and the thought of returning to Church got me thinking. It was as if a candle had been lit and the light entered me. Everything became bright and clear. Sadly Mum passed away in May 2017. Simon came to say prayers in the hospital and I found it extremely comforting and was at peace. A few days before the funeral, Simon rang me and invited me to the Wednesday Communion service - the service my Mum had come to. I said I would like to come and was welcomed most warmly. Again, I felt at peace. My Mum's funeral was very emotional for me and Simon spoke about Mum, having met my sister and I beforehand to discuss the service. I've continued with the Wednesday morning Communion service and have got to know such lovely kind people. I truly believe God has guided me back to Him."

A Dad church-goer

"As the years rolled on and I got married and had kids, I was still a bit unsure about going to Church. I was the usual Dad church goer: Christmas to see the nativity and June to see the kids get their prizes. Other than that I would stay at home and clean the house, that was my Sunday routine. I'm older now, hopefully wiser, and I started to question my reasoning for not letting go and giving myself to God. I have seen how my Wife drew great strength from her faith and the enjoyment it brings her through the friendships she has made. I wanted to be closer to her and her faith and closer to God so maybe it was time for me to engage and join the Church family to serve God. Then it happened, I spoke to God and he spoke to me. I must admit it was strange at first but then it became normal and now I pray on a daily basis, thanking God for my beautiful Wife and children, thanking him for taking care of us and giving us strength to cope with the stresses of life. I started going to church on a regular basis, I found that there was nothing to fear and I actually enjoyed it. I wanted to get more involved and I have done that. It feels great to be part of something so special, to make new friends and worship God."

The Stables Groomsport was once again the venue for the club's annual end of season dinner and prize-giving. Club Chairperson Stanley Officer welcomed an excellent turnout to show their support to the prize-winners and to have a very enjoyable evening with their fellow bowlers.

After the usual excellent dinner, Club Secretary and acting MC, Derek Coates assisted by the Rector's wife Heidi, presented the seven perpetual trophies covering the five competitions played for throughout the season. Derek praised previous winners on how well the trophies had been looked after, making a beautiful presentation table.

With the very experienced and multi winner Margaret McMeekin not competing this season there was an easier route for the other cream of the crop to make it to the final of the Ladies Singles. Indeed it was May Henry and Roberta Munnis who made it through. Particular mention to relative beginner Kay Quigley who acquitted herself extremely well against May in the semi to the point that she was unlucky not to win the match. Roberta won again to retain the trophy and add to her many past wins.

The men's singles was retained not surprisingly by undeniably the best player in the club – Martin Bleakley. Runner up was Gilbert Lemon who shocked Harry Browne in the semi and made a very close match of the final.

I say this most years, but anyone who gets partnered with Martin Bleakley in the Pairs Cup has always an excellent chance of taking the silverware. This year it was a bit of a family affair as Marty's wife's cousin Jenny Jenkins got the lucky straw and was over the moon. Jenny played some of her best bowling in supporting Martin and they ended up the winners beating Derek Coates and Agnes Officer. Derek fancied his partnership to win but with the excellent play of Jenny the best all-round pairing won.

The Walsh Cup handicap singles final was between Roberta Munnis and Marty Bleakley. Marty was giving Roberta two shots over the eleven ends but most still thought on form it would be Marty to win as usual. Derek Coates felt otherwise as Roberta was getting good match practice over the year and was playing well, so a close match could be on! Indeed it was more than a close match as Roberta lead most of the way to win above her handicap.

The Rinks winner for best scores collected throughout club nights went to Marty Bleakley (90), from Madeline Pearson (84) and Harry Browne (76). This trophy was presented to the club in the name of former member T. Trenier in 1980. The records up to 2015 show over twenty different winners throughout its 35 years. It is understood that this cup was one of the few Marty hadn't won (he can't enter the ladies cup!!).

The Rector finished the evening off by thanking the bowling club for another season of great friendly competition, especially with the inter-club matches. He also thanked Stanley and Derek for once again organising a very enjoyable evening.

NOTE: The club's Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 12th September 2018 in the church hall starting at 7.30. All members are asked to support it. The opening night of the new season will commence immediately after the AGM and the club invites anyone interested in trying their hand at bowls to come along. Bowls are available from the club. For further information please contact club secretary Derek Coates on 02891455471 or the Chairman Stanley Officer on 02891461650.

PRIZEWINNERS – SEASON 2017/18

LADIES SINGLES

Winner: Berry Cup Roberta Munnis
 Runner Up: Conn Cup May Henry

MENS SINGLES

Winner: Nixon Cup Martin Bleakley
 Runner Up: Wilson Cup Gilbert Lemon

HANDICAP SINGLES

Winner: Walsh Cup Roberta Munnis

PAIRS

Winners: Pairs Cup Martin Bleakley &
 Jennifer Jenkins



RINKS

Winner: Trenier Cup Martin Bleakley

GENEROUS GIVING

Update

In the twelve months since the launch of our Generous Giving initiative and Church presentations from Leslie Adams and Peter McIlwaine, your

responses have made a dramatic difference. In a real spirit of gratitude we want to share and rejoice in this excellent news and issue a fresh invitation to those who haven't quite got around yet to going electronic!

The main thrust of Generous Giving was to encourage a switch away from giving by envelope and the budgetary rollercoaster of fat months and lean months, and a switch towards giving by standing order to make our income more consistent throughout the year. Our other key aim was to be able to cover our own costs without depending on legacies.

Praise God that as a direct result of new standing orders, summer 2018 did not see the dramatic seasonal dip of previous years. Before 'Generous Giving' your SOs to Bank of Ireland contributed on average £2916 per month to the upkeep of our Parish whereas the new figure by this method now stands at an impressive £6376.



Standing Order Mandate Form

To: The Manager, Bank of Ireland, 82a Main Street, Bangor, BT20 4AL

Your Name: _____

Your Bank: _____

Branch Address: _____

Please make payments in accordance with the following details:

Debit my Account: Sort Code Account Number

Credit Account: Sort Code Account Number

Beneficiary A/C Name: Ballyholme Parish Church

First Payment Date: ^d ^d ^m ^m ^y ^y

Usual Monthly Date Thereafter: ^d ^d

Monthly Amount: £20 £25 £30 £35 £40 £50 Other £.....

I undertake to donate the above amount until further notice.

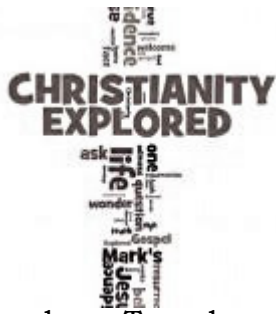
Signed: _____ Date: _____

For Gift Aid Purposes please tick the box to confirm you are a UK Tax payer.

What's more the increased generosity of your giving, whether by SO or envelope, which amounts to some 35 per cent, has made possible the appointment of a part-time clergy assistant whose ministry we are all very much enjoying. If this rise continues a fulltime curate feels within our grasp before very much longer.

Over the coming months we hope even more parishioners will take the step of dispensing with their envelopes. As reported in the May magazine, there will be a re-numbering of envelopes this winter so that we can reduce the number of new boxes of envelopes we need to order.

Why not take the opportunity of the SO form attached to move away from your envelopes and join those around you in our drive to modernise and, where possible, increase our giving.



Our Festival of Faith at the end of this month will present all of us with the challenge of moving closer to the God who calls us to follow him. If you want to go 'further in and higher up' in the life of faith, (to quote C S Lewis) this follow-up course is for you. 'Christianity Explored' takes us in seven sessions and an away day through the gospel of Mark and helps us to reflect on and respond to three major themes of that gospel: Who Jesus is, (his identity), what Jesus has done (his mission) and Jesus' call on our lives, (how we can respond). The course will run each

week on Tuesday morning at 10.30 and be repeated on the Wednesday evening at 8pm, so we hope everyone who wishes can have the chance to attend. It will start on Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th October. The dates are laid out below so you can get them in your diaries straight away! There will be 3 sessions in October with a break for half term and three sessions in November with a break for the 'Bible comes to life' exhibition. The day away will be on Saturday November 24th and the course will finish in the first week of December. Further details will be in the October and November magazines and there will be opportunities throughout the Festival of Faith to signal your interest in the course. But in the meantime, as we prepare to move closer, let's also consider together taking this one more step along the road.

Tues 9 Oct 10.30am Wed 10 Oct 8pm
 Tues 16 Oct 10.30am Wed 17 Oct 8pm
 Tues 23 Oct 10.30am Wed 24 Oct 8pm
 Tues 6 Nov 10.30am Wed 7 Nov 8pm
 Tues 13 Nov 10.30am Wed 14 Nov 8pm
 Tues 20 Nov 10.30am Wed 21 Nov 8pm
 Saturday 24 November – Day Away
 Tues 4 Dec 10.30am Wed 5 Dec 8pm



'Oh Happy Day!'

The sun shone - most of the day! The bride's church Magheralin Parish was the venue on Thursday 9 August for a typically Billy Fyffe mix of style, tradition, surprise and hipster cool. Two clergy called Simon did their best to control a rowdy mid-Ulster congregation: Simon Genoe the Rector of Magheralin who welcomed and preached, and our own Simon D who had the honour of conducting the legalities. Ian Bell played the bride in to a Philip Phillips song called 'Home' and musical friends of the happy couple led three hymns: In Christ Alone, How great thou art and Be thou my vision. Colossians 3: 12-17 provided the Bible text for the day and the couple and all present were invited

to wear love, carry peace and talk truth. Ice creams and tea and cake were served immediately after the service in the Parish Hall before guests decamped to the Hilden Tap Room, Lisburn for the reception. It said much for Billy's time at Ballyholme that two of his young people served as ushers. A former Youth Worker of Ballyholme David Cavan was official photographer! The new Mr and Mrs Fyffe honeymooned in Madeira.



Rector's XI vs Youth XI Match Officials

Umpires: Tom McLellan (Bloomfield Road End),

Roy Lawther (Bangor Grammar End)

Scorer: Roy Flannigan

Photos: Don Todd

In the unavoidable absence of our resident cricket pundit Marty Bleakley, you're stuck with my amateur-by-comparison attempt to give you a flavour of an excellent evening's sport. Kindly hosted once again by Bangor Cricket Club at Upritchard Park, we played on Monday 26 June in the sunniest conditions we have ever had for a fixture which is now in its tenth year. Naturally, I will try to keep this brief report as even-handed as possible.



Basically, my team won. On a memorable night which saw the presence of many more spectators than players, there were some excellent individual performances: Andrew Gowdy, Peter McIlwaine and Neil Brittain for the Rector's XI; Andrew Beech, Harry Wilson and Jack and Harry Boal for the Youth.

As hands were shaken at the end, members of the Youth squad jokingly objected that the Rector's XI should forfeit the game for not fielding a full side. The fact that the Youth Worker's XI hadn't got eleven players either was quickly highlighted. Both sides embarked on the match on that basis and, in the jocular atmosphere of the occasion, it was agreed that the team unable to press home their numerical advantage had no one to blame but themselves. Although I didn't mention it at the time, half as many players on the winning side scored twice as many runs as the losing side. Or to put it another way: twice as many of them were only half as good as us. Thankfully, it was less about the result and more about the spirit of cricket.

As such, the match was full of champagne moments (RIP Brian Johnston) and I would have to say in all modesty, that I was involved in most of them. If I had to single out just one, it would have to be the third of my four wickets. Clipping the stumps visibly and audibly with the fifth ball of my second over, the bails stubbornly stayed put. Harry Wilson set off to make a run. Billy couldn't quite make it to the other end in time and so was run out. Never again will I take two wickets with one ball – even if only one of them counted! The ironic icing on the cake was that when it came our turn to bat, I got out to Harry myself – caught and bowled. Harry was good enough to remind me of his scalp on his way out of Church the following Sunday morning. Thanks for that Harry.



Magnanimous in defeat, prior to taking up his appointment in Ballyholme, Billy had never before graced a cricket pitch. Having played now in a total of three matches, Billy has established a consistency verging on the predictable: he has batted three times and lost his wicket three times without once laying bat on ball. One for the cricket record books, almost certainly. In honour of his captaincy Billy has marked his departure from Ballyholme by presenting us with a perpetual trophy. An inaugural victory for the Youth XI would obviously have been poetic. Unfortunately for them, it would also have been miraculous.

SED



We all remember where we were when the dreadful news began to break. It was a sunny day here. We were preparing to leave for New Zealand the following day in order to attend a family reunion. Preparations stopped. How could we think of going anywhere when the world was in such turmoil? Like many others, we sat, mesmerised, in front of the television, watching repeated footage unfolding of an incredible, dreadful atrocity. We were oblivious to the fact that the house was upside-down. Our kitchen had been stripped out, ready for refurbishment in our absence, its contents packed away. We sat instead, trying to comprehend the heartbreak of thousands of people on the other side of the Atlantic, reeling from the actions of an ongoing, terrifying atrocity which went completely against the grain of any scrap of humanity.

That night, a representative of the travel firm with which we had booked rang to say that we would be travelling, a day or two late, but the airline had swung into action. Like so many people all over the world, we were still in a state of disbelief but started to pack and plan afresh.

Two days later, we flew to Heathrow. Our original booking had been via Los Angeles, but commercial travel across the Atlantic had been suspended. British Airways, so often the object of opprobrium, masterminded a tremendous operation, flying in staff from all around the United Kingdom to deal with the re-routing of passengers and the issue of fresh boarding passes. After a ten hour wait, watching this reorganisation take place, we were boarded on a night flight via Singapore. The captain made an announcement to the effect that, had the airline been unable to guarantee our safety, we would not have been flying, but, for obvious reasons, the route was diverted to avoid flying over Afghanistan airspace.



More seats had been crammed into the aircraft. It was uncomfortable but nobody complained. Everything was being done to facilitate us. We were all too aware of the fate of those who had boarded their flights in the United States two days' previously. Unlike them, we would eventually reach our destination.

There was a six-hour wait at Singapore. A hotel abutted on to the concourse. We were able, for a small fee, to use showers. Following this, we watched the continuing television coverage of the atrocity. The scene shifted to the changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace. The Band of the Coldstream Guards paid tribute in the unprecedented playing of the Star-Spangled Banner, a moving gesture which had been sanctioned by Her Majesty the Queen. All eyes in the packed airport lounge were on the screen. Tears were shed.

I wandered off to find somewhere quiet, to reflect and to pray. A sign pointed to a prayer room. I was prevented from entering by a member of the airport's Ground Staff, who pointed out that this was a preparatory washroom for Muslim worshippers to use; it was not available to other religions. As time progressed, I witnessed a number of people in the lounge drop to their knees, facing East to pray.

Of differing faiths, we respect the rituals of others. We all offer hopes and petitions through prayer. How incomprehensible that a skewed form of religion caused the mayhem of September 11th, 2001, the results of which have continued to reverberate around the world.

Patricia Fawcett

Table Tennis News

The new season is nearly upon us and we will resume on Monday 17th September 2018.

We have a wide age range from 8-80 and also abilities, but the underlying factor is fun, and on Monday nights you can hear the laughter emanating from the Parish Centre.

We would be delighted to welcome new members. Don't worry about your standard or if it has been years since you played.

Michael Stephen 07799921138



3rd Bangor Scout Group 2018/19

Parents meeting for registration, fees and information on upcoming events will be held on **Thursday 6 September at 7.00pm** in the Church Centre.

Sections resume as set out below:-

Squirrels Friday 14 September at 6.00pm
Beavers Thursday 13 September at 6.30pm
Cubs Thursday 13 September at 7.30pm
Scouts Friday 14 September at 7.30pm

PRAY UNTIL SOMETHING HAPPENS

Ballyholme PUSH:

Thursdays 6, 13 & 20 September 7.30pm

Throughout the summer prayer for all aspects of parish life and especially our Festival of Faith has continued quietly but faithfully. Please feel welcome to join us for what we hope is a blessing not just for those who come along and pray but the whole Church family. We usually meet in the Choir Room but listen out for announcements in Church the Sunday before. Meanwhile, a little more

prayer wisdom of the kind we begin with each Thursday, this time on the theme: "Blessed Crisis".

"The prayer of need, the prayer we revert to as our last resort, is a demonstration of our fundamental selfishness, of our little faith. Yet we have to acknowledge that the prayer of need has at least one advantage: it is authentic, it brings us back to our truth, to our fundamental dependence on the Lord; it is an opportunity to turn the crisis into Kairos, into a favourable time, a day of salvation.

It is the story of the Song of Songs. Despite the many proofs of the Lord's love and loyalty, when he knocks at the door the beloved still delays surrendering to him: *I had put off my garment; how could I put it on again? I had bathed my feet; how could I soil them? And when too late, she opens the door, the Lord has disappeared: I opened to my beloved, but my beloved had turned and was gone.* (Song of Songs 5:3,6) Of course the Lord did not disappear in retaliation, but to educate the desire of the beloved, to get her out of her paralysing indolence, to introduce her into a true and passionate search for God. Through this education, there comes a day when the bride finally lets herself be sealed on the Lord's heart, a day when her love becomes stronger than death: the waters of forgetfulness and of laziness can no longer put out the fire of this love.

True, eager, heartfelt prayer, a prayer in which we truly come into the Lord's presence, whether it be triggered by need or crisis, always becomes an opportunity to return to the Lord."

Luigi Gioia, Benedictine Monk
and author of *Say it to God*, The Archbishop of
Canterbury's Lent Book 2018

PUSH JOHN 14:14
PRAY UNTIL SOMETHING HAPPENS



Book of Remembrance

The Book of Remembrance has been very warmly welcomed by parishioners since its dedication last Advent. As the pages are turned, it reminds us of the love and faith of many dear Ballyholme friends and of the hope that is ours together in the risen Christ.

The installation of the new stained glass windows presents an opportunity to address two connected issues which have been brought to our attention with regard to the Book in its current position: location and access.

For some, the south transept feels a little far away – people have to make their way the full length of the nave to see it. Also, the rows of chairs in front of the window mean people have to stretch and strain to read the entries. Thankfully the great advantage of the beautiful easel on which the book rests, is its portability.

Having considered a number of alternative positions, the most suitable seems to be the sill of the St Brendan the Navigator window. Closer to the main porch door, it is free of chairs immediately in front but there is still seating nearby if people want to take a moment to sit, be still and remember.

Hopefully in its new situation more parishioners will get a chance to see the book up-close, maybe even for the first time. If you feel newly prompted to add a name ahead of this year's service of remembering, please get in touch with the Parish Office where forms are available.

St. Columbanus Walkers

The Walkers on 'The Green Road' - July



Lackan Bog is an old worked out bog and the Green Road is the rampart across it. It lies near Ballyrone between Rathfriland and Dromara in remote typical drumlin country where the Upper Bann winds its way to Lough Neagh. The bog is set in a lowland basin of moss and birch and the track is now fringed with native trees, ferns, wild flowers and grasses. But sadly we saw none of the famed dragonflies.



It was an interesting walk however, with a sign telling us to watch out for rabbit holes, of which there were many and that it is forbidden to take moss! The bog itself was one of the largest single blocks of lowland peat left in County down and has apparently 13 out of 22 Irish species of Dragonflies.



The walk has a couple of dodgy footbridges before reaching the open fields leading to the road which we took back to the start. The route passes over the old Great Northern Railway to Newcastle which opened in 1906 and closed in 1955. We had thought of doing the walk in two parts so lunch was waiting at the parking place but it was so warm and humid we reckoned nearly 5 miles was enough on the day and headed home, some via the Muffler at Killinchy.

The Walkers in the 'Queen of the Glens' - August



No wonder it has that title. It is probably the most imposing of the nine glens of Antrim and the Scenic Trail gave us a varied and fascinating view of Glenariff and its two rivers, the Glenariff and the Inver. The recent dry spell meant that the waterfalls weren't quite as spectacular as normal but stunning nevertheless.

Our group of fourteen met several walkers on the high part of the trail and even more on the Waterfall Walk. We started at the Visitor Centre in a slight drizzle which soon died out, and did the walk in reverse, wending our way gently ever higher to the peaty moorland at the head of the glen. You get great views down the Glen and across the North Channel to the Mull of Kintyre. From there we traversed the opposite east side of the this very obviously glaciated valley, and made our way down the old iron ore railway track bed, through the forest and down the river gorge, ending up eventually at our lunch stop at Laragh Lodge. This used to be a favourite destination with Victorian tourists who would take the old Ballymena, Cushendall and Red Bay Railway (later to become the Belfast and Northern Counties), to Parkmore, from where they would take a carriage to the top of the Glen, walk

down to Laragh Lodge, for refreshment and then proceed by carriage down to the Coast Road from where they would head to Larne for the train back to Belfast.

From there we took the Waterfall Walk, an 80 year old stepped track (fortunately upgraded) back to the car park.

Betty

YOUTH-news

youth [youth] (youths)
news [nooz]



X-CESS 18

Another great opportunity for fun and friendship in Ballyholme parish was found at **X-CESS 18**.

The youth all gathered at the Parish Centre on the sunny afternoon of Monday 30 July anticipating an amazing week, and judging by how much my son enjoyed it, I doubt anyone was let down! With an ice cream van, a gaming room, table tennis, tuck shop and chill out zone how could they be disappointed?

The afternoons and evenings were jam-packed with activities ranging from laser quest, messy games, quiz shows, pizza, photo hunt and soft arrow combat, all organised by our esteemed Youth Pastor Billy Fyffe (who unfortunately has just left us to get married) and his team of magnificent leaders. The fun of the week crescendoed throughout and ended with an awards night and formal disco. As I pulled into the carpark on the Friday evening I could hear the music from the top of the driveway and managed to sneak a peak into the hall to see a fabulous group of young people having so much fun, dancing and singing at the top of their voices.

Well done Billy, and a big thank you to his team!

Paula Lown



This is a reminder that our first Mothers' Union meeting after the summer break will be on **TUESDAY 25th September** at 7.30pm along with the Crafty Stitchers for the Festival of Faith, (with guests Stuart and Pru Bell who we met at our New Year Dinner in January)

Please bring a friend and make sure you have your glasses!! We have some craft to share in!! A fun evening to meet new people and have a go at some crafts and catch up with friends after the summer.

Looking forward to seeing them.

Yvonne and the committee.

October meeting is Monday 1st at 8pm as usual.

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

OUR WORSHIP

Sunday 2nd September Trinity 14

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

Wednesday 5th September

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 9th September Trinity 15

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

Wednesday 12th September

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 16th September Trinity 16

8.30 Holy Communion
10.00 Parish Communion
& Children's Church
11.30 Parish Communion

Wednesday 19th September

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 23rd September Trinity 17

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

Wednesday 26th September

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 30th September Trinity 18

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

FUNERALS

July

28th: Doreen Blackwell-Smyth, formerly of Glenburn Park.

August

15th: Marjorie Cunningham, formerly of Ballymaconnell Road

September



2nd: Tracie Andreasson

9th: Ruth Lynas

16th: Anna Lemon

23rd: Pat Williamson

30th: Flower Fund

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



Children's Church Helpers

September

2nd: No Children's Church

9th: Tracie Andreasson, Claire Andrews, Sara Boyd and Jenny Campbell

16th: Caroline Connolly, Andrew Cuthbert, Violet Davidson and Neil Devlin

23rd: Emma MacDonald, Cathrine Menary, Margaret Moorehead and Angela McCartney

30th: Kelly McCullough, Katherine Newman, Jayne Nickell and Aileen Smith



September

2nd: Glynis McSorley, Peter Robinson, Daphne Moore

9th: Michael & Sharon Hatch, Charles Robinson

16th: Mothers' Union Team

23rd: Anne, Kelly & Karen

30th: Fiona Jackson, Ann Reynolds, Ella Walker

September

2nd: No Creche

9th: Rachel Brittain, Johanna Lawther, Sharon Gowdy

16th: Rachel Brittain, Julie Caulfield, Nicola Gullen

23rd: Natalie McCartan, Dawn Shackles, Melissa Haddock

30th: Christine Rankin, Sarah Fletcher, Ashleigh Birkett

