

St Columbanus

Ballyholme



Windows dedication
New Youth Worker
Festival of Faith Response Card



..On the way
together..

The Parishioner

October 2018

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

The Rambling Rector

With July's high temperatures and low rainfall, harvest 2018 looked touch and go for our local farmers. It's a reminder of just how finely balanced the seasonal equilibrium really is. As Jesus underscored so emphatically with the withered fig-tree, the final yield is all that matters. Where is the fruit? This blunt but spiritually fair question is one our mission partners aren't shy of. Harvest in St Columbanus is always a chance to hear news from Uganda and Kenya and this year we celebrate 25 years of the Diocese of Kajiado: from 10 congregations under one ordained pastor in 1983, to 160 congregations, 93 clergy and 200 lay readers in 2018. What about that for fruit! Closer to home, thanks to everyone who helped pray us up a new Youth Worker. If you haven't had a chance to meet Andrew Watson yet, you'll find an introduction in this magazine. Meanwhile, it's not too late to make your personal Festival of Faith response. This month's new Christianity Explored course is only one way of 'moving closer' to God and discovering for yourself that the Holy Spirit is alive and well and still bearing fruit in Ballyholme Parish.

SED.



The Wednesday Club

Our new season started with our ladies hearing all about Ramsays Fine Foods, who are a sort of "meals on wheels" service. Ros, the owner and onetime cook, gave us an insight into her business.



She started cooking meals in her home, and quickly realised that she would need bigger premises, so moved to a unit in Balloo.

The news of her business spread and became very popular so she then needed to move again to new premises close by. Her daughter, who had been to catering college, entered into the fray as head cook, and there are now 4 cooks working under her. In all they now employ 16 staff, including her daughter and son, who helps to deliver the prepared meals.

The meals come in three different generous sized-portions, that can be ordered in advance and delivered to your door. All the food is sourced locally and prepared fresh.

We were each given a small sample of a dinner and dessert, which we all thoroughly enjoyed. Menus were left with us in case we wanted to order.

We were pleased to welcome two new ladies this month - Freda and her mum! The winner of this month's draw was Elizabeth Steele.

See you all next time.

Sue



Harvest wouldn't be harvest in Ballyholme without **Soup and Smarties!**

As ever, we need your names ahead of time to gauge the soup requirement, but if you've never joined our harvest lunch before, why not make a point of being with us this year.

All proceeds go to our CMS Ireland mission partners and this year's guest speaker, for the first time, is their Director Jenny Smyth.

Please plan to come and bring the family and don't forget those coin-filled Smarties tubes!

Christmas cards for Kiwoko Hospital.

The Christmas card in aid of Kiwoko Hospital is now on sale in packs of 10 for £5. The original card carries seasonal greetings to your friends and support for the needy patients in Kiwoko.

In addition, an 'alternative gift' card is for sale costing £10.

Cards will be on sale at Sunday Coffee over the coming weeks and at the Harvest Lunch. In addition Kelly is selling them from the Parish Office.



Just Older Youth

Diary of a Church Mouse -

Poem by John Betjeman

Here among long-discarded cassocks,
 Damp stools, and half-split open hassocks,
 Here where the vicar never looks
 I nibble through old service books.
 Lean and alone I spend my days
 Behind this Church of England baize.
 I share my dark forgotten room
 With two oil-lamps and half a broom.
 The cleaner never bothers me,
 So here I eat my frugal tea.
 My bread is sawdust mixed with straw;
 My jam is polish for the floor.
 Christmas and Easter may be feasts
 For congregations and for priests,
 And so may Whitsun. All the same,
 They do not fill my meagre frame.
 For me the only feast at all
 Is Autumn's Harvest Festival,
 When I can satisfy my want
 With ears of corn around the font.
 I climb the eagle's brazen head
 To burrow through a loaf of bread.
 I scramble up the pulpit stair
 And gnaw the marrows hanging there.
 It is enjoyable to taste
 These items ere they go to waste,
 But how annoying when one finds
 That other mice with pagan minds
 Come into church my food to share
 Who have no proper business there.
 Two field mice who have no desire
 To be baptized, invade the choir.
 A large and most unfriendly rat
 Comes in to see what we are at.
 He says he thinks there is no God
 And yet he comes ... it's rather odd.
 This year he stole a sheaf of wheat
 (It screened our special preacher's seat),
 And prosperous mice from fields away
 Come in to hear our organ play,
 And under cover of its notes
 Ate through the altar's sheaf of oats.
 A Low Church mouse, who thinks that I
 Am too papistical, and High,
 Yet somehow doesn't think it wrong
 To munch through Harvest Evensong,
 While I, who starve the whole year through,
 Must share my food with rodents who
 Except at this time of the year



Not once inside the church appear.
 Within the human world I know
 Such goings-on could not be so,
 For human beings only do
 What their religion tells them to.
 They read the Bible every day
 And always, night and morning, pray,
 And just like me, the good church mouse,
 Worship each week in God's own house,
 But all the same it's strange to me
 How very full the church can be
 With people I don't see at all
 Except at Harvest Festival.

Informal Communion Lunch

Tuesday 23rd October is the date of the next informal Communion Lunch at 12.30pm in the Parish Centre.

Don't hesitate to ring me on 91 274 912 if you need a lift or if you would like more information.

As always we are eager to see some new faces so bring a friend or two!

Grace and blessings

Karen





Andrew Watson, Simon Doogan, Stanley Officer, Libby Beech and Paula Lown pictured at the annual Safeguarding Trust review at the beginning of September.

Every autumn, all the parishes in the Church of Ireland are required to submit a written child protection return to diocesan authorities. Signed off by the Rector and Honorary Secretary on behalf of the Vestry, it is a formal re-adoption of the Church of Ireland's Safeguarding Trust policy preceded by a step-by-step practical review.

Basically, it's an undertaking that as a church community we are doing everything possible to keep our children as safe as possible. Stanley, Libby and Simon make up our Safeguarding Trust Parish Panel and it is their role to oversee our child protection measures and ensure good practice is being followed.

The day to day responsibility for implementing Safeguarding Trust falls to Paula Lown our Children's Worker and Andrew Watson our Youth Worker. While Paula and Andrew are your first port of call in the case of any queries or concerns, please never hesitate to approach any one of these people on a matter of child protection at any point.

Yours is the Kingdom, Power and Glory

Rev Aaron Eime



The Kajiado Room was full to overflowing on Monday 10 September for CMJ's Aaron Eime from Christ Church Jerusalem. Guests from a number of other local churches joined Ballyholme parishioners to hear reflections on the Lord's Prayer from a Jewish-Christian perspective.



After a welcome from our own Pat Davidson (Chair of CMJ Ireland), the rector of Greyabbey Canon Gill Withers opened in prayer before a



fascinating night of new insights unfolded. With us in Ballyholme for the fourth time, Aaron is a riveting speaker and you're advised to remember his name for the next time he comes to Northern Ireland!



Cubs

3rd Bangor Cubs making paper planes and flying them in the hall as part of the work towards completing the Air Activities stage 1 badge.



BOOK REVIEWS

This is a book for those of us whose favoured genre is historical fiction. Through the work of writers such as Lady Antonia Fraser, Alison Weir and Philippa Gregory, we have begun to learn more about women in history. Following in the footsteps of Dame Hilary Mantel, who shone a light into the life of the enigmatic Thomas Cromwell, who would become Chief Minister to Henry VIII between 1532 to 1540, Carol McGrath tells the story of his wife, Elizabeth, in a first-person narrative which moves seamlessly back and forth through the different stages of her life, painting a vivid picture of a Tudor woman previously consigned to the shadows of history as enigmatic as the man who became her second husband.

Whilst the wives of prominent figures of the past have hitherto been treated as pawns in historical alliances, little more than chattels, through books such as *The Woman in the Shadows* we now understand that women like Elizabeth Cromwell effectively ran households, businesses, raised families and were more influential than at first thought. Widowed at 22, she maintained the confidence of her late husband's secret life, continuing in business as a Cloth Merchant despite threats and intimidation from rival merchants before marrying Thomas Cromwell. Through Elizabeth's eyes, we see Cromwell's star ascend, hear her misgivings and mistrust of other people of influence such as Lord Chancellor Cardinal Thomas Wolsey and watch the court of Henry VIII stumble into crisis over 'the King's secret matter,' his overwhelming desire to have a son and heir. Unable to negotiate the annulment of Henry's marriage to Catherine of Aragon, Wolsey was dispensed with, the King showing a ruthlessness with which he would become synonymous.

Thomas Cromwell's unique brand of what we would now call 'spin-doctoring' found favour with Henry. Through the eyes of Elizabeth Cromwell, we understand her fears and her wish for Thomas to express caution as he inevitably soars into favour, only to fall victim to his King's increasing obsession to produce a legitimate son and heir.

Whilst we are all familiar with these historic events, Carol McGrath has added a vivid dimension of life at that time. Saints' days and religious festivals are observed; we learn about what people ate and wore; she weaves a background to ordinary people's lives as time marched on towards constitutional chaos, executions and the total destruction of the old order.

Patricia Fawcett

Ballyholme Golf Society

Nine golfers tee'd off at Donaghadee Golf Club on Friday 7th September 2018. It was good weather and all the players had a good time. Harry Browne was the winner on this occasion, while Ivan Humphries got the prize for the Front Nine and Gareth McCullough for the Back Nine. Afterwards the players enjoyed a good meal in the club house.





I think it is quite easy to spot the girl in the choir robes as me! The cute baby is my eldest son, Zack.

I have been to church most Sundays ever since I became a Christian in primary school. When I had my children, it was completely natural to bring them along. They sat in the choir stalls with me and I even made Zack his very own cassock when he was 2 years old!!



So, do I think it was worth bringing the children with me every week? Yes, I do. I am passionate about God, and as a result, I am passionate about church...but I am also passionate about children. Children understand our faith in ways we cannot. In Matthew 18 Jesus placed a child in the middle of the room and told the followers that they should become like that child in order to receive the kingdom of heaven. Childhood is a unique time when God-truths can be received and understood, and church is a place where God's love is shown and taught. I am delighted that my children know how much they're loved, not just by me, but also by God, and bringing them to church week by week means they are always receiving this message of love. It hasn't always been easy to bring them Sunday by Sunday, my youngest has autism and learning difficulties, my eldest doesn't like noise or crowds...but I persisted and now it's routine, it's just what we do on a Sunday. I think the fruit of this persistence was revealed when Samuel summarized the gospel:

It doesn't matter about the bad things that I do because Jesus is more important!

I am very keen to make Children's Church a place your children are happy to come to, and our teachers work very hard to ensure it is a safe, fun, loving environment for them. I look forward to seeing your children here!

Paula Lown

Wednesday Communion

Refreshments being served to participants after the Wednesday Communion Service.





While the black and white photographs in this edition of The Parishioner are excellent, it's the light of the morning sun that really brings the colour and power of St Bronagh and The Pelican to life.

The original vision was Canon Mercer's. He longed not only to see the plain glass windows of St Columbanus turn to stained glass windows, but to see them celebrate a gallery of Irish saints, beginning with 'the Bangor three': Comgall, Gall and Columbanus.

There was a great sense on Sunday 16 September that our first rector's dream had finally been realised. It was a poignant day for the Bells and the Manogues whose gifts had made the windows possible, especially for those family members who read the lessons and led the prayers of the people at both 10 o'clock and 11.30 services.

From the outset, they were anxious that the dedication should be very much a day for the whole church family and so it proved to be.

The fact that it was Holy Communion at all three services meant the entire congregation could make its way up the nave and share in the first glimpses. Bishop Harold spoke admiringly of the craftsmanship and spiritual message behind both windows, before committing them to the glory of God and the edification of His people.

The Mothers' Union's refreshments between the services rounded off a memorable and historic St Columbanus occasion. If you haven't yet had a chance to see our two beautiful new windows in situ there really is no substitute. The best time, of course, is a Sunday morning.





B' HOLME
FESTIVAL OF FAITH

RESPONSE CARD

NAME: _____ PHONE NO: _____
 EMAIL: _____
 ADDRESS: _____ POST CODE: _____

I GIVE PERMISSION FOR MY DETAILS TO BE HELD BY ST COLUMBANUS IN ACCORDANCE WITH EU GDPR

I WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT FAITH THROUGH:

CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED (STARTING 9TH/10TH OCTOBER)
 GETTING INVOLVED IN PRAYER
 PERSONAL BIBLE NOTES
 CHAT WITH CLERGY
 INFORMATION ABOUT JOINING THE PARISH

I AM INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING:

CHILDREN YOUTH
 GUIDES SCOUTS
 SENIORS DRIVER
 FRI LUNCH VESTRY
 IT SOUND
 WORSHIP AT TEN CHOIR
 BIBLE COMES TO LIFE

STEP OUT WITH NEW OPPORTUNITIES?

MISSION TRIP TO EAST AFRICA LATE 2020
 TRIP TO OBERAMMERGAU PASSION PLAY IN AUGUST 2020

PLACE THIS CARD IN THE OFFERING PLATE
 OR HAND TO A CHURCH WARDEN AS YOU LEAVE
 WE WILL FOLLOW UP WITH YOU IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS

Response cards are still available following our week of re-connecting with God and re-committing ourselves to worship and serve Him in Ballyholme. At their simplest, the cards are part of our parish EUGDPR 'compliance journey' and a means of the parish confirming consent for us to hold your data. While you're doing that though, our hope is that you will go on to consider what other practical way or ways you want to respond. Here's a more in-depth run-through of how we would love you to get involved and share your gifts in St Columbanus. There is a bundle of spare cards at the back of Church and we will be glad to receive them whenever you get round to it.

LEARNING MORE

CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED

This excellent course from All Souls Langham Place is in widespread use around the world. In seven sessions and an away day, it takes participants through the gospel of Mark and reflects on three major themes: Who Jesus is, (his identity), what Jesus has done (his mission) and Jesus' call on our lives, (how we can respond). Good as an introduction and (also) as a refresher for wherever you are on your spiritual journey.

Choose morning or evening.

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



GETTING INVOLVED WITH PRAYER

A basic component of the spiritual life is prayer: saying it to God. There's prayer in Church on Sundays and at Communion on Wednesdays. There's private and family prayer at home and prayer support in home groups and the parish prayer line. But there's also our monthly hour of prayer on the first Thursday at 7.30pm – usually in the Choir Room. While not everyone prays aloud, it's an opportunity to share in informal but structured prayer for the life of the parish in a gentle and unthreatening atmosphere. Nothing scary or intense, just turn up, join your prayers to ours and by the power of the Holy Spirit, things we never thought possible invariably start to happen.



CHAT WITH CLERGY

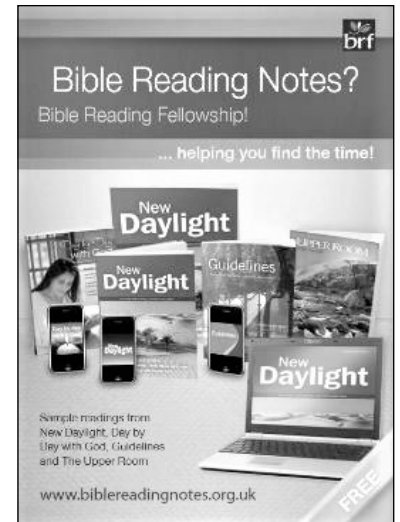
Perhaps you would like someone to talk to confidentially. It might be a spiritual question. Maybe you had a new experience of God during the Festival of Faith you want to make sense of. Maybe you feel your life is at a bit of a crossroads and you would value a



new steer or a word of guidance or direction. Of course it could be some more personal issues or memories have been stirred that you would like to share with someone. While neither of our two serving clergy is a professional counsellor, both have a wide experience of listening and praying with people passing through all sorts of different personal and spiritual situations. They can also refer people on should there be the need to do so. Whatever might be on your mind or heart, both Simon (9127 4901) and Mercia (9147 9816) are at your disposal – and neither will be hurt or offended by whom you choose to approach.

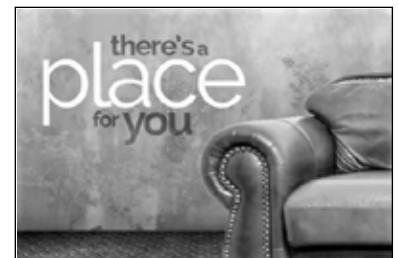
PERSONAL BIBLE NOTES

Another tried and tested way of moving closer to God is to engage in a concerted way with Christianity's foundational texts: the Bible. Where to start with the Old and New Testaments can feel like quite a daunting prospect, especially if reading the Bible regularly and methodically is not something you've ever attempted before. The good news is that an array of accessible, good quality Bible notes are now published by an array of very reputable, mainstream Christian outlets. Some are written for men, some for women and others for young people and children and most are available in electronic form or as apps for your phone or tablet. If you would like some help choosing something that will work for you, we are ready and waiting with suggestions.



INFORMATION ABOUT JOINING THE PARISH

If you're a new face or family to Ballyholme we would love to know who and where you are. Canon Simon is always keen to put names to faces and happy to call with you at your home by arrangement. Equally if you've moved house recently and would like Simon to pray a blessing on your new home, please get in touch. On a more day to day level, if it's a matter of getting your name on the magazine list or asking about ways you can get actively involved with what we're doing, the Parish Office is your first port of call. Available five mornings a week in the Parish Centre, Kelly McCullough our administrator will be glad to help. She can also advise you if you have any enquiries about setting up a standing order to share in the costs of our parish ministry or to support the building fund.



I AM INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING

CHILDREN

Paula Lown our Children's Worker oversees our children's programme in Ballyholme, the bulk of which happens in and around our 10 o'clock service on Sunday morning.

There is always a need for new parents and volunteer helpers to lend a hand – men especially – whether it's on the teaching side or simply herding and organising! Most of our helpers find they grow in lots of ways through the experience of passing on the faith to our little ones.

YOUTH

As of September, Andrew Watson is our new Youth Worker and he would love fresh input and ideas as he starts to give shape and structure to a new vision for our Ballyholme young people. Where there is a real need is for young adult Christian role models, whether they have any experience of ministry with young people



in the past or not, but who can remember the trials and tribulations of being a teenager, coming to an adult faith and working out a sense of what God might want them to do with their lives. Rewarding isn't the word for it.

SENIORS

Karen Baker our Pastoral Assistant to the Elderly heads up a large team of volunteers who are anxious to ensure no one in our church family or indeed the wider Ballyholme community gets forgotten as they get older. People continue to retire to our area but as they lose a little of their mobility, social isolation can be a real danger. Whether it's our programme in the Parish Centre or our squad of visitors who call on people at home we always need new helpers – and to hear who is out there that we might not know about.



DRIVERS

At every Sunday or weekday service and at the vast majority of our other organisations and activities there will be someone keen to come but who needs a lift. While a number of very faithful parishioners make it out under their own steam or by taxi, we are keen to recruit more volunteer drivers as there is always a need for more willing wheels. There may well be someone you're completely unaware of living not very far away who would be only too glad of a space in your car. Please make yourself known to us so we can put you in touch.



FRIDAY LUNCH

Few of our activities are valued as highly as our Friday lunches. There are those who set up the hall beforehand, those who serve the meals to the tables and those who clear away and wash up afterwards. The core responsibility though falls to our rota of chefs. It works out at one Friday in every six and we can always find work for new choppers, peelers and mashers. Karen Baker oversees everything but what we currently need most are people willing to take on leading one of our kitchen teams. With all the help on hand, it's not as hard as you might think.



VESTRY

Every organisation needs people to take responsibility for the official things like buildings and finance. In Church of Ireland life this falls to the Select Vestry whom we elect every Easter. Twelve parishioners make up the Vestry not forgetting the two Churchwardens (who welcome you on Sundays) and two Glebewardens (who look after our properties). New personnel are always needed and over the next few years we are keen to identify a new Treasurer and Secretary as it is good practice to share these roles around. Perhaps this is a way you can make a contribution?



I AM INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING

IT

Basically, the screens. It's taken a while to get to grips with our new computer hardware but our team of IT helpers and their confidence levels are both growing. Our software is Easy Worship and the words and hymns of the service are uploaded to the laptop ahead of time. The task on Sundays is to put what we



need on the screen, when we need it to be there. The key is arriving early, and getting familiar with what's been prepared so that the service can flow calmly and without any surprises. It's more or less the same routine each week so if you're IT-minded at all, this would be a very valuable way to make yourself available.

SOUND

Separate from the screens, the sound desk is a second desk of faders and mute buttons. The same microphones need to be activated and deactivated every Sunday and, bar minor adjustments, most of the levels are pre-set so it's an operation most people pick up pretty quickly. A quick run-through before the service reassures all concerned but it is not a complicated set-up and certainly it enhances the worship-experience of many parishioners greatly. For those who are hard-of-hearing, the loop system is a real God-send – and you could be too by joining our Sunday rota!



WORSHIP AT TEN

We are currently advertising and praying for a new praise leader. It's 6 hours to play and sing on Sunday, rehearse during the week and raise up a new team of people who will also take their place playing and singing – which may be where you come in!



Our vision for Good News at Ten is to enrich and improve our music and singing and, where possible, to learn new worship songs to expand our repertoire. We know the musical talent is out there in Ballyholme, we just need it to step forward and make itself heard. Whatever instrument you play or if your voice is your instrument, opportunity knocks at St Columbanus!

CHOIR

Singing every Sunday at 11.30 and frequently at other seasonal services on Sunday evenings, our robed church choir are right at the heart of worship in St Columbanus. The psalms and canticles traditional to Anglican Prayer Book worship are only part of their spiritual offering as in four parts they lead Morning Prayer and Holy Communion in the time-honoured Church of Ireland way. If you love singing and incline more to the choral sacred tradition than the contemporary Christian praise scene, there is a ministry and a set of robes waiting for you!



GUIDES

Guides, Brownies and Rainbows have a long tradition in Ballyholme – and an even longer waiting list for places. While the demand from local families is certainly there, what we continue to cry out for is a steady supply of enthusiastic leaders. There is a real opportunity for Christian service here in an organisation which teaches invaluable life lessons to girls all around the world.



SCOUTS

St Columbanus scouts are as old as our parish but, for safeguarding reasons, numbers are determined by the numbers of leaders we have in place. Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts have played such a formative part in so many of our lives and we can all remember those devoted men and women who invested time, care and probably prayer, to make those years so key. Perhaps you could do that too?



BIBLE COMES TO LIFE

If you've not heard already, we are hosting a major exhibition at the end of the autumn and will need a huge team of volunteers to make it happen. Running from Wednesday 28 November to Saturday 1 December, welcomers, guides and car-park attendants will be required throughout each day. The primary and secondary schools of the district have booked in for the weekday mornings and afternoons and we will be open to the public in the evenings and on Saturday. Tuesday will be our set-up day and we will pack up on the Saturday evening so if you can be free to serve at any point please make yourself known to us – and come and join the craic!



STEP OUT WITH NEW OPPORTUNITIES?

MISSION TRIP TO EAST AFRICA LATE 2020

Over recent decades, dozens of Ballyholme parishioners have made the journey to visit our mission partners in Kajiado (Kenya) and Kiwoko (Uganda). A short men's trip to Kiwoko is planned for early in 2019. What's envisaged in 2020 however is a slightly more leisurely look at the projects Ballyholme have been intimately involved with down the years and a chance to meet the personalities with whom we have forged such bonds of trust and affection. The flora and fauna of a game reserve will also be on the itinerary so if you have toyed with the idea of travelling to East Africa off and on, now is your chance.

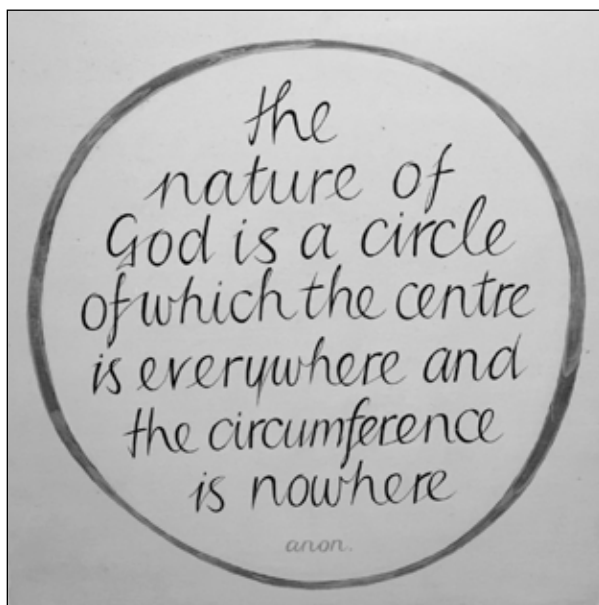


TRIP TO OBERAMMERGAU PASSION PLAY IN AUGUST 2020

Some people have Oberammergau on their 'bucket list' but most who go remember it as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to share in one of the world's greatest cultural traditions. A shorter rather than longer trip is planned and while nothing has yet been booked, following an advertisement in the summer magazine a number of Ballyholme parishioners have already put their names down and are starting to put their pound coins in a jam-jar. Please consider joining us for what by all accounts is a monumental undertaking by the people of this small Bavarian village and a moving experience for everyone who witnesses it.



MOVING CLOSER...YOUR RESPONSE



Parishioners regularly get in touch to share items of spiritual interest that catch their eye on holiday. This time one of our own magazine team Sarah-Jane Flannigan spotted this striking quotation whilst staying in Braemar in Scotland. It was displayed in a church dedicated to St Finnan in a hamlet called Migvie Logie-Coldstone near Balleter. The Church, now used as a gallery space, dates from 1777 and is based on the site of an ancient Pictish ecclesiastical settlement. Sarah-Jane describes how the incredible beauty and sheer vastness of the Cairngorms touched the whole week of their stay with a tangible sense of the spiritual. When she spotted these words on the wall of St Finnan's, it just seemed to sum everything up perfectly.

Around the Parish





A Bull Run for the Walkers at Adders Loanin!

The first day of Autumn turned out to be a splendid sunny warm one. Fourteen of us gathered at the Lighthouse Car Park (why Lighthouse?) for the start of our five and a half mile walk on Adders Loanin and the Moat Pad. A Loanin is a lane or open space between cultivated fields through which cattle are driven – there are lots all over County Down.

From the car park there is a fantastic view of the Mourne's but we were unlucky not to see the famed Red Kites which breed in the area.



The walk took us through grassy lanes, farm tracks and even farm yards and along country roads. This area around Slieve Croob is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and well deserved of its status.

We had an interesting time passing a field in which there was a very hefty looking bull. That bull definitely didn't like us and followed us down the field beside the lane making a great noise!

A visit to the Finnis Souterrain after lunch proved a challenge for most of us but four did

venture inside this interesting underground site dating from around the 9th Century which comprised one main passage with two side passages off. It was lit by solar lighting but we had brought torches anyway. It is thought they were used as food stores in times of strife. We confess that only four of us, Robert, Leslie, Willie and Heather ventured inside. It required a great deal of stooping and bending but they did come out again!

Our next walk on October 6th is on the Newry Canal towpath from Poyntzpass to Scarva and back – six miles.

Betty



Men's trip to Kiwoko Hospital.

Early 2019.

Are you ready?

In January 2019 a team of young (at heart) men will be travelling to Kiwoko for a few days.

The purpose of the short trip is to learn more about what God is doing through the hospital and what we have to learn from it and will last less than a week.

The programme will be a busy few days engaging with different areas of the work of the hospital, depending partially on our own areas of individual interest and expertise.

We want to encourage the hard working staff, as well as reflecting on how we as individuals and a parish connect with mission.

If you are interested in hearing more, then talk to Rory.

YOUTH-news

youth [youth] (youths) news [nooz]

About Me

Hello! My name is Andrew Watson, I'm 21 years old and I'm from Moira. I'm a Christian – you'll be glad to hear – and I'm delighted to say that I am the new Youth Worker at Ballyholme Parish!

I just graduated from Queen's University Belfast, where I studied Theology; and until this year I wasn't quite sure what I wanted to do with my life. By the time my final year had come around people were constantly asking me, "what will you be doing next year?"; my reply usually involved me shrugging my shoulders and saying that I didn't know... year?"; my reply usually involved me shrugging my shoulders and saying that I didn't know...

I had always known that youth ministry was an option, and something which I could probably do, but it seemed like a bit of a cliché to graduate from a Theology degree and go straight into youth ministry and so I tried to look at other options, with very little success. It wasn't until I spoke at a youth weekend in March that I thought to myself, "why shouldn't I go into youth ministry?". I'd always loved working with young people, having been involved in summer camps and my youth fellowship at home since I turned 18, and I felt that God had given me an ability to do it.

So as the uni year drew to a close I started looking for jobs, all the while praying that God would lead me to where he wanted me to be. I had several doors closed in my face (figuratively speaking of course, I didn't come across that bad!), until I received a call from Simon asking if I would be interested in the youth worker job at Ballyholme. From there, one thing led to another and after a period of several weeks and two interviews I was offered the post.

I asked for some time to pray about it to see if this was where God wanted me, and the more I prayed the more Ballyholme felt right – and so I phoned Simon, told him I would be delighted to take the job, and here I am.

As I'm writing this it's five days before I start, and I must admit that I am slightly nervous. However, I'm also very excited to meet the church, the volunteers and the young people, and I can't wait to see what God has in store for me at Ballyholme!

Andrew Watson

Mothers' Union Notes

Following on quickly from our joint September meeting with the Crafty Stitchers the next meeting is **Monday 1st October at 8pm** as usual.

The MU literature stall will be there, so if you want a MU diary or calendar or some Christmas cards bring your purse with you.

October is going to be a busy month, on **Sunday 21st October** we will have the MU Annual Service at 6.30pm in the Church followed by light refreshments.

Why not bring a friend along with you to either or both of these events. If you are a member who hasn't been for a few years why not come along and see what is happening. Everyone will be very welcome.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at these events.

Yvonne and the committee.



OUR WORSHIP

Wednesday 3rd October

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 7th October Trinity 19

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

Wednesday 10th October

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 14th October Trinity 20

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

Wednesday 17th October

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 21st October Harvest

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

Wednesday 24th October

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 28th October 5 before Advent

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

FUNERALS

September

10th: Maureen Grace Burge,
formerly of Bayview Road

11th: James Coyle formerly
of Millbrook Court



October

7th: Flower Fund

14th: Lillian Ward

21st: Harvest

28th: Christine Johnstone

Children's Church Helpers

October

7th: No Children's Church

14th: Jodie Smyth, Emma Sutherland,
Gillian Cuthbert and Pat Davidson

21st: Kate English, Lynne Forde, Liz Grant
and Anna Gullen

28th: Carla Kells, Heather Milliken, Pamela Reading and
Claire Skelly



Help needed to decorate
the church for **Harvest** on
Saturday 20th October.

Any donations of flowers
or greenery would be very
welcome, but most of all
we would like to see **YOU.**



Parish Office: 91274912

Rectory:

91274901

Prayer Line:

07531806167

Transport:

07599794968

Church Readers Rota:

Freda (11.30)

91467624

Thelma (10.00)

91453602

Web Site [www.](http://www.ballyholmeparish.co.uk)

[Ballyholmeparish.co.uk](http://www.ballyholmeparish.co.uk)



October

7th: Tracie Andreasson,
Heather Johnston, Nicole
Watson

14th: Jem Moran, Joy
Hamilton, Irene Bell

21st: HARVEST LUNCH

28th: Geoff & Gillian Young,
Patrick Crothers

October

7th: Family Service - no
Crèche

14th: Rachel Brittain, Sarah
Douglas, Jenny Whiteside

21st: Natalie McCartan,
Jenny Campbell, Rhonda
Mitchell-Barrett

28th: Christine Rankin,
Claire Andrews, Jenny
Beattie

