

# St Columbanus

Ballyholme



..On the way  
together..



The Bible Comes to Life  
Nativity pictures  
Latest Youth News



## The Parishioner

February 2019

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

Heat returns to the Parish Centre just in time for the worst of this winter's weather. Unfortunately over recent years the boilers commissioned in 2006 have let us down expensively. We hoped they would hold out until Restoration Phase Two, but a repair estimate following their last breakdown proved the final straw. Thanks to the foresight of our Glebewardens, Treasurer and Vestry, a replacement had been budgeted for but why is it that boilers almost invariably wait for the colder weather to arrive before packing in? Because, like so many other twists of domestic happenchance, they just do. Personally I've never been one for analysing every life event for some hidden Divine timing and purpose. So many of the things we do to ourselves, one another and the planet are clearly and entirely our fault. As for the things that aren't, holding God responsible makes Him out to be some kind of part-time puppet master, causing pain as though at whim. It seems we always need someone to blame, though as Jesus Himself once put it: he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous (Matthew 5:45).



SED

## Register of Vestry Members

In accordance with Chapter 3 of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland and Regulation 7 of the Down and Dromore Diocesan Regulations, the Register of Vestry Members for Ballyholme Parish is open for review and available for inspection in the Parish Office from Thursday 17th January.

Our Select Vestry will meet to conduct the formal review at 7.45 pm on Thursday 21 February 2019 in the Parish Centre (Kajiado Room). All those seeking registration are entitled to appear at the meeting to support any claim.

To add your name to the Register, Forms of Declaration for both Resident and Accustomed (non-resident) members of the congregation must be submitted before the opening of the 21 February meeting. Forms are available either from the Churchwardens on the relevant Sundays or the Parish Office on weekday mornings.



Bishop Harold and wife at the exhibition

## World Day of Prayer

Friday 1st March 2019



The 2019 World Day of Prayer service will be held in Ballycrochan Presbyterian Church.

The service will commence at 11.00am. Tea and coffee will be served before the service from 10.00am.

The World Day of Prayer Coffee Morning will be held at Groomsport Presbyterian Church on Saturday 9th February 2019 from 10.30am to 12noon.

Please come along and support both these events if possible.

## Parishioner Cost/Envelope

As you know, The Parishioner comes to you free of charge. To help with our overheads we enclose an envelope once a year by which we hope you can make a contribution towards our running costs.

Although the gifts are anonymous and unrecorded we are allowed to aggregate them for Gift Aid purposes. If all of our 550 recipients gave £5 we would certainly cover ourselves, but please bear in mind that only 50% currently make a gift.

Half of you are paying for the other half! Please return your envelope by the collection plate on Sunday and do bear in mind that the full text of the magazine is now available on the parish website.

If this is the format that best suits you why not consider cancelling your paper copy and you won't have to worry about the envelope at all. What a difference it would make if everyone that read The Parishioner made a contribution towards it!



## Just Older Youth

This is an extract from UCB's (United Christian Broadcasters) Word for Today and is a true story worth reading.

### LIVE!

'You will come to the grave in full vigour'  
Job 5:26 NIVUK (2011 Edition)

Author Norman Cousins said, 'No disease is more lethal than the boredom that follows retirement'.

Here's a true story of a lady in her eighties who went to a doctor for a check up. He asked if she stayed active. She gave him a big smile and said, 'I jog about four or five miles a day'. Surprised he told her not to overdo it. 'Take it easy,' he suggested. She took his words to heart and decided to slow down. She reduced her jogs to slow walks, and cut back to one or two days a week. Within a year she was dead. After hearing about her death, the doctor who'd given her such advice told a friend, 'Never again will I tell a patient who's doing so well to take it easy'.

The Bible is filled with the stories of people who lived on because they had something to live for! Remember Caleb? At eighty five he attacked the giants in the hill country, drove them out and became a land developer.

And how about Noah? He began building the ark when he was five hundred years old and a hundred years later he helped to start the world all over again.

Age means nothing unless you are cheese! And wrinkles, grey hair and spots on your hands mean less than nothing. As long as God chooses to leave you on this earth, don't just exist - live! Claim the promise: 'You will come to the grave in full vigour'. Keep dreaming. Accept new challenges. And don't even think about taking it easy!



## The Wednesday Club



After a lovely relaxing Christmas break, we resumed our meetings in January with a quiz, to get our brains into gear after watching all the festive programmes on our televisions.

The ladies divided into teams and answered general knowledge questions, (which we all thought were easy peasy). Anyhow the team composed of Joyce, Etta, Elizabeth and Margaret were the eventual winners after a closely fought match. They all won a chocolate bar for their troubles.

After catching up with all the post - Christmas and New Year news, we had our tea and buns, and this month the draw was won by Daphne Hamill.

To all our ladies that were unable to come because of illness, we wish them a speedy recovery, and hope to see them soon.

**Sue**

### Wednesday Club Christmas Party



On its first visit to Bangor for more than 30 years, CMJ's Bible Comes to Life Exhibition left as lasting an impression on those who helped stage it, as on those who visited it. Hundreds of school children and members of other churches made their way through the doors of St Columbanus to share in a unique multi-sensory spiritual experience. By way of reflection, first a personal piece by Candice Foster and then a few behind-the-curtain insights on the logistics of a very special week in the life of our parish.



### **A good decision**

On a cold dark December evening it would have been easy to relax by the fire, but my husband and I had heard about The Bible Comes To Life Exhibition and felt it was worth a visit. As soon as we entered the church, we knew it had been a good decision.

Each area was hosted by an expert dressed in costume and gave great understanding about how people lived in biblical times. The Scrolls on display showed the attention to detail and reverence given to Holy Teachings. In Ballyholme access to a Bible and freedom to study it is taken for granted. This exhibition helped me appreciate that it is a Holy Book as well as a life guide.

The model of the Jewish Temple in the time of Jesus helped me to visualise the description of the temple in the bible. I

was unaware that the Romans watched all activity at the temple and were positioned to deal with any unrest or rebellion. The opportunity to learn more about Jewish tradition was very interesting. It was fascinating to learn more about the culture of this time.

I remember hearing in a sermon that "The Old Testament is the New Testament concealed and that The New Testament is the Old Testament revealed". This exhibition was a wonderful way to appreciate that our faith today allows us to call YAHWEH the Holy One, our Father.



### **Behind the scenes**

It started with the baking of hundreds of Star of David shortbreads and iced buns. By the time CMJ's white van 'Victor' arrived outside Church to be unloaded, the bulk of our new church chairs had been safely stowed in the Columbanus room and the catering team were gearing up in the Parish Centre. The exhibition itself took six hours to set up and we needed to borrow eight tables from our friends at Ballyholme Presbyterian.

While the six-strong CMJ team made the presentations and offered the talks and dramas, it was our army of parish volunteers who brought the whole thing together and made the six days go so seamlessly. Feedback from many of the visitors spoke of the warmth of our welcome and hospitality, alongside the value and interest of the display itself. People came from as far away as Coleraine and Newry to see the exhibition, some through the CMJ

Ireland network and others because of the coverage in the local press, not least the News Letter and Spectator.

Clearing the Church on the Sunday before was done mostly by members of the Good News at Ten congregation. Putting church back together again the following Saturday night saw volunteers from all three morning services weigh in. So many people were milling about in the darkness that it was impossible to put a number on it but certainly there were at least two dozen. First the church floor needed to be cleaned and then the chairs were brought down to the glass side doors and left on the mat for those with dry shoes inside to position around the church.



A group from Trinity Presbyterian Church joined some of our regulars for lunch in the Parish Centre after visiting The Bible Comes To Life Exhibition.

### **Doorkeepers James and Gideon**

Taking the longest stand of the evening and deserving special mention were James Crothers and Gideon Wilson whose crucial job it was to hold open the glass doors while the chain of fetchers and carriers passed up and down the slope to the Fire Exit of the Columbanus Room. Once all the chairs were in, the Prayer Books and Hymnals were shared out around the building and the Church very briefly resembled a mosque or an eastern temple with a pile of outdoor shoes laid out on the entrance mat!

The CMJ team were put up by four parish families and met each morning to get into costume and pray before the first visitors arrived at 9.30. There was a break for lunch in the Kajiado Room at 1.00pm and then before the evening sessions they ate together as a team with each of the four parish families in turn. Members of the Missions Committee and the Bible Comes to Life group hosted a final meal after the 11.30 service before our guests left for Aldergrove and the Port of Belfast.

It was a gargantuan effort by more people than we could possibly count in what turned out to be one of the worst weeks of weather in an otherwise mild autumn. An initiative of the Missions Committee, the total cost of staging the exhibition including CMJ expenses and publicity came to £2200. While never intended to be a fundraiser, donations of £880 were received via the glass carboys (which made it back to their donors intact) and at the January meeting of the Missions Committee it was decided to pass these directly to the ministry of CMJ.





# CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Christmas is now well and truly over...it almost seems as though it hardly happened at all! However, this is the first real opportunity I've had to say a **BIG THANK YOU** to all the **children involved in the Nativity Play**, and to all the parents who helped them learn lines, dress up and transport them. This year's play told the story of Christmas beautifully whilst displaying the abundant talent of our children - we will all remember the wicked look on King Herod's face!! **Well done everyone!**



I also would like to take a moment to **thank our Praise Kids and Praise Crew!** We worked together to come up with the actions for **'Baby Jesus'** and **the Crew** did a great job at leading the carols at the **Family Carol Service** on Christmas Eve.

### CAN YOU HELP?

Children's Church is back in full flow again. I hope your children are enjoying their time here each week, whilst learning about God and how much He loves them! The number of children attending is still



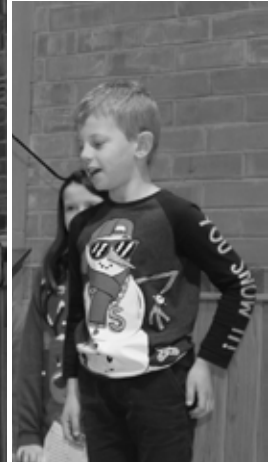
large and I want to make sure that there are enough adults to help. If you are not on the rota and would be happy to come along to support the group teacher **we would love to add your name** to the list! Please speak to myself or Libby Beech.

Also...

I love to see the children involved in the **Family Service**. I have been touched by some of the younger children (P2 and P3) leading the prayers, and I have really enjoyed listening to the Bible lesson when they have been read by a parent and child team. If your family would like to be a part of this I would be delighted to hear from you...please volunteer and maybe you could give me dates of your availability.

**Paula Lown (07763933678)**







**Impact** is CMSI's annual series of roadshow events, which takes place across Ireland every January and February.

The gatherings see the CMSI staff team coming to a church near you – in fact this year our local gathering will take place in our own Parish centre on Monday 11th February at 7.30 pm.

There will be a one hour programme of news and stories from CMSI followed by an opportunity to chat over a cuppa.

The night is a great way to connect with CMSI and introduce others to the work of the society.

See you there.

### CMJ Exhibition Team



Round the table clockwise:-

Janey, Graham, Yvonne, Suky, Mike & Paul

### Mission Committee Quiz

A big thank you to everyone who came along to support our fundraising quiz on Saturday 12th January 2019. Everyone had a great evening and the hall was packed to capacity. Lots of fun answering the questions, eating nibbles and chatting. Overall the evening raised £938 which will be put to good work by the Mission Committee.



### Open Doors

Open Doors serves persecuted Christians worldwide. The organisation also seeks to mobilise the Church in the UK to serve Christians living under religious persecution. Hostility to Christianity can take many forms: verbal abuse, discrimination in education and the workplace, violence of many kinds and even death. Many Christians live in countries where everything appears against them – the government, the law, the media and perhaps worst of all, their families. Unbelievably over 200 million people worldwide are persecuted for their faith in Christ. Sadly the numbers are rising.

Open Doors provides emergency relief, training, support, Bibles and much more to families living under persecution for their faith. Syria is one such country where Christians are being helped by Open Doors. Although Islamic State fighters have been driven out of the occupied cities, they are still actively persecuting the Christians who remain. Open Doors provides food and medical support for some of these most vulnerable families. The need is overwhelming, however Hanna, a Christian from Damascus writes, 'When there is so much misery and violence around you as there is now in Syria sometimes you don't see any glimmers of light. But when people let you know, "I'm praying for you", that makes a great difference' Prayers are those glimmers of light in the darkness....'.

As well as praying there are opportunities to help financially: for example

- \* £26 could buy a winter relief pack for a family in Syria for a month.
- \* £46 could provide counselling for a Syrian refugee who has been traumatised by years of war.

If you would like more information about Open Doors please check out the webpage [www.opendoorsuk.org](http://www.opendoorsuk.org).





On Monday 3rd December our pre-Christmas meeting was held in the Kajiado Room. Adeline Cully gave a demonstration on making woven paper hearts and then we started watching the classic film "Holiday Inn". We had an intermission when festive mince pies and shortbread were served along with our tea, then back to the film and the classic song "White Christmas".

A group of over 20 MU members and friends attended the Ulster Orchestra at Bangor Abbey: Brass on Your Doorstep Christmas Concert on Friday 14th December 2018. Twelve musicians under the control of conductor Bryan Allen played a selection of mainly seasonal music including "A Christmas Fanfare" and "Ding Dong Merrily On High". The church was full and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the music.



### Welcome 2019 MU January Dinner

Our Mothers' Union group made a cheery start to 2019 at Cafe UNO, in Bangor Golf Club.

Scott and Tracey from the club, had prepared delicious platefuls of tasty food, including mains of pork and hake and desserts of lemon tart and profiteroles. Scrumptious! Certainly my best meal in January! (mind you before this my other dishes had been aircraft fare, not to be savoured!)

The Broadway room made a cosy and welcoming venue, with lovely place settings and table

arrangements. Much chat and a little welcome sweet favour (thankyou Lynne!) all added to the enjoyment of the evening.

With smiles on our faces, and a feeling of well being.... the games part of the evening began!

Good fun, much chat and so many steady hands were in evidence at the cup stacking! All in all, a great way to begin 2019!

Thanks to all the committee for their help, especially Irene who is brilliant at compiling menu choices and finalising the Golf Club arrangements.

### Diary Dates.

**Sun 24th March** Commissioning Service for All-Ireland President-elect, June Butler 3.00pm in Down Cathedral, Downpatrick.

**Mon 25th March** Area Service in Bangor Parish 7.30pm

**Sun 31st March** Mothering Sunday

**Mon 1st April** Diocesan Festival Service in Magheralin Parish Church 8pm

**Advance notice** for Annual MU coffee morning and sale during March (date to be confirmed) Proceeds to overseas MU projects.

As you can see a busy and productive Springtime in Ballyholme MU.

**Yvonne Manogue.**





## December Walk and Christmas Lunch

Last year it was ice, this year rain. However there was a good crowd gathered at Crawfordsburn for coffee before the

traditional shorter Christmas walk through the park.

Then it was another meet up, this time in Donegans for a fine festive lunch. Of course there was plenty of camaraderie, which is something that the Walkers are very good at!

**Betty**



## January Walk

### Ards to Conlig via the Lead Mines

Our first walk of the New Year started at Bangor bus station with a group of eleven. We welcomed new member, Irene from Donaghadee, who was introduced by Jackie before boarding the 9.35am bus to Newtownards.

We all headed off for the hills along the Crawfordsburn Road passing the impressive new Thriving Living Church where Brian suggested we go in for an

early coffee break. Suitably refreshed we headed up the Mountain Road to the back entrance of the Lead mines. Leslie reminisced about his childhood days rolling Easter eggs in the sloping fields and later being a popular spot for courting couples.

The area known as Whitespots was established as a Country Park in 1995. The history of the mines began in 1780 when a farmer ploughing a field in Ballyleidy uncovered the lead ore in land belonging to Sir James Blackwood. Between 1849 and 1864 the area was mined for lead and continued to be so until 1910. For the last 60 years the Lead Mines has been synonymous with motorcycle scrambling and trials. We did see a few cycle scramblers.

We bypassed the Somme Centre and continued to the highest point at Helens Tower passing several disused engine sheds, towers and capped mine shafts. We were warned by Leslie about the presence of arsenic in the lead ore in the spoil tips and that these may have to be grassed over for health and safety.

As Helens Tower was the last landmark which the WW1 troops, who trained here, saw before travelling to the Western Front, it was the model for the Theipval Memorial Tower in France.

We strolled back down through Clandeboye Golf Course to Conlig and to a café (Kaldi) in Green Road for refreshments where Betty and Peter joined us. (Some thought it was too cold for an outdoor picnic).

Most walked back up to Conlig for the 14.15pm bus back to Bangor and everyone enjoyed the dry calm day.

**Maurice Mehaffey**



## St Columbanus Mass of Commissioning Friday 23 November

Through his role as a member of the St Columbanus College Board of Governors, the Rector was recently invited to attend the school's Mass of Commissioning which took place at St Comgall's Brunswick Road on the Feast of St Columbanus. It is an annual service during which members of the Senior Pupil Team, School Council, Liturgy/Chaplaincy Team, College Choir, Traditional Group and the Youth Conference of St Vincent de Paul are all commissioned for service for the year.

Simon was asked to offer a blessing to the young people who were not for one reason or another able to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion in the Catholic tradition. He was still busy ministering to his queue long after everyone else had sat down! Simon also shared a few devotional words at the end of the service on the Columbanus theme of busying ourselves as a community in God's service while we're waiting to discover the overarching plan God has for our individual lives.



### First Aid Courses

#### First Aid Training

**Tuesday 5 & Tuesday 12 February  
7pm -9.30pm**

**Kajiado Room – Parish Centre**

It's two years since we've offered First Aid Training and it's time all our organisations and volunteers had a refresher.

Come along and brush up on your skills, as none of us know when we will be in a situation where we could help someone following an accident or injury or even save a life!

**Please sign up via the Parish Office.**

The jewel that is Groomsport lies at the mouth of Belfast Lough.  
The home of earlier fishermen with their cottages by the sea.  
They turned their windows from the storm and the strong wintry gales.  
Facing eastward to Orlock to greet the rising sun.

In the early days of history it belonged to the Abbey lands.  
As did Holywood and Portavo. They had to pay their tithes.  
When the Irish abbeys were dissolved by greedy King Henry.  
Groomsport was granted a Scot for services to King James.



There are three islands of Copelands fame and the lighthouse shines at night.  
The Lighthouse Island once called "The Cross" was a place to meditate.  
These islands were inhabited till the nineteen forties days  
and now have become an Observatory and a sanctuary for birds.

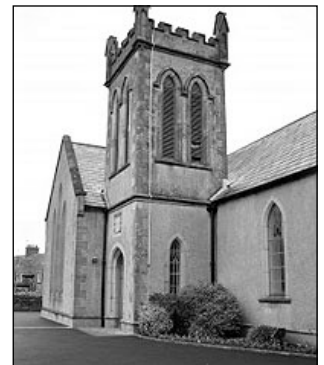
There was a legal trade and illegal foods so a customs man was placed  
to guard the little harbour and make people pay their due.  
By the 1840 days the fishing fleet grew strong.  
It counted 20 vessels with 80 fishermen on board.



In September 1636 the Eagle Wing set sail  
with destination America where religion was free from laws.  
Pastor Robert Blair from Scotland, James Hamilton's closest friend,  
led the Presbyterian party of 140 of his flock.

They sailed away from Groomsport across the Atlantic sea.  
Where gales are all too frequent and bring destruction in their wake.  
The rudder, it was shattered and main sail torn apart.  
Near Newfoundland they turned around according to God's plan.

The 13th August 1689 Marshal Schomberg, the Dutchman came ashore.  
He joined up with King William who landed on Carrick's rock.  
They fought King James at the River Boyne and were victorious.  
But alas for poor Marshal Schomberg he died a hero's death.



In World War Two the German fleet was evidently feared.  
So defences were built along the coast to spot the enemy craft.  
To stop the German submarines from entering the Lough  
They laid an electric cable sunk into the sea bed.

Now Groomsport stands so proudly convinced of its great fame.  
On every July the fourth it celebrates with American friends.  
And also in September Eagle Wing's journey is recalled.  
And hundreds come on sunny days to enjoy the healthy breeze.

Marsden Fitzsimons

June 2014

### **Photos from Staff and Volunteers Christmas Lunch**



# More Joy Just Older Youth

## Wednesday Club Christmas Party



## Christmas Friday Lunch



# YOUTH-news

youth [youth] (youths) news [nooz]

Hello all! So I'm aware that it's February and Christmas feels like a long time ago, but much has happened since my last magazine article, so allow me to fill you in on what we've been doing with the youth.

First, we had a trip to the Harness Adventure Centre in Bangor – an obstacle course raised about 10 feet off the ground (though as the name suggests, there are safety harnesses). We climbed across walls, swung on ropes and had a generally great time!



We were also invited to put up the Christmas tree at the Rectory, and enticed by the promise of sweets, a gang of young people (and Ross) came to help put it up. Thanks very much to Ross, Lucy, Cerys and Olivia for providing both help as well as some great laughs!

At YF we spent the December weeks looking at the importance of Christmas – how Jesus was the light that came into the world and how we can prepare our hearts to hear his life-changing Gospel. We topped it all off with a Christmas fun night (featuring lots of food), and then on Christmas Eve we had the traditional Chinese takeaway and Christmas film in the parish centre before heading down to the 11.00pm service.

It would be remiss of me not to give a huge 'thank you' to



everyone who helped out with the church services in some way over the Christmas period; whether they read, prayed, did a collection or handed out hearts on Christmas Eve. Your help was very much appreciated and made Paula and my lives much easier.

Enough about Christmas though... Because now that we're well into the New Year it's great to be getting things up and running again – particularly Emerge, Bible Study and YF. We as leaders are excited about our programmes this year and for the things that we'll be teaching the young people, and so we are praying – and would love you to as well – that the Lord can guide us in this New Year and help us to share His amazing Gospel.



Last, but certainly not least, I want to remind you all about our upcoming Confirmation classes which will be starting on Wednesday 13th of February, at 6.30pm in the Meto Room. Confirmation is an exciting opportunity for those who are in Year 10 and above to spend some time learning more about their faith (topics include Jesus, prayer and many others) before affirming their beliefs at our Confirmation service, which will be held on Sunday the 19th of May. Classes will be running every week and if you're eligible it would be great to have you along! For more information please feel free to ask me.

**Andrew**

**Sunday 3rd February**

Epiphany 4

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Good News at Ten - All Age

11.30 Morning Prayer

**Wednesday 6th February**

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

**Sunday 10th February**

4th Sunday before Lent

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Good News at Ten

&amp; Children's Church

11.30 Parish Communion

6.30 United Service St Columbanus  
- Kajiado Room**FUNERALS****November****30th:** Joan Baird, formerly  
of Bramblewood Care Home**December****3rd:** Jack Burge, formerly of  
Bayview Road**10th:** William Barr, formerly  
of Fernmore Road**10th:** Winnie Thompson  
formerly of Belmont Care  
Home**20th:** Patricia Gordon,  
formerly of Godfrey Avenue**January****2nd:** Albert Dickson,  
formerly of Balloo House.**18th:** Atholl Blair, formerly  
of Rossdale 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.

Ballyholmeaparish.co.uk

**Wednesday 13th February**

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

**Sunday 17th February**

3rd Sunday before Lent

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Good News at Ten

&amp; Children's Church

11.30 Morning Prayer

**Wednesday 20th February**

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

**Sunday 24th February**

2nd Sunday before Lent

8.30 Holy Communion

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

11.30 Morning Prayer

**Wednesday 27th February**

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

**February****3rd:** Pat Davidson, Pat  
Adair, Vicky Hayes**10th:** Mark and Carolyn  
Larmour, Jean Law**17th:** Jacqui and Neil  
Devlin, Daphne Moore**24th:** Susan and Jonnie  
Stockton, Denise Wilson**February****3rd:** No creche**10th:** Rachel Brittain,  
Dawn Shackles, Nicola  
Gullen**17th:** Natalie McCartan,  
Melissa Haddock,  
Johanna Lawther**24th:** Christine Rankin,  
Sarah Douglas, Rhonda  
Mitchell-Barrett**February****3rd:** Daphne Hamill**10th:** Flower Fund**17th:** Ann McMurray &  
Marie McKee**24th:** Lilian Finch**Children's  
Church Helpers****February****3rd:** No Children's Church**10th:** Susan Magill, Johanna  
Lawther, Karen Toogood, Libby  
Beech**17th:** Violet Davidson,  
Katherine Newman, Jayne  
Nickell, Aileen Smith**24th:** Jodie Smyth, Emma  
Sutherland, Lynne Forde, Liz  
Grant