

# St Columbanus

Ballyholme



Kiwoko Visit  
St Patrick's Day Events  
Latest youth news  
Walking to Aghalee

..On the way  
*together..*



## The Parishioner

March 2019

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

You know it's going to be a late Easter when Ash Wednesday doesn't arrive until 6 March. Still, with half-term behind us and the nights lengthening before us, hopefully this year's Lent course will prove tempting. Since we introduced repeat morning and evening sessions, Tuesday at 10.30 has consistently been the favourite option but there's always a faithful band who never miss Wednesdays at 8pm so the choice is yours! 'Knowing me, knowing you' is our theme for four reflections on the First Letter of John. Don't worry, neither Abba nor Alan Partridge will feature (majorly), though what a sad storyline for such a great song? "Breaking up is never easy I know, but I have to go!" A sound track for Brexit perhaps? Jesus' showdown with the devil in the wilderness may have little to do with a failed romance or love affair gone wrong, but it's certainly about a parting of the ways. Truth be told, Christ's threefold decision to reject the hollow comfort, worldly power and empty assurance of a deceitful and destructive false god remains the basis for every Christian's quest for personal holiness – however subtly such entrapments are laid for us.



### St Patrick's Day at Saul Church and Down Cathedral

Bishop Harold invites you to join him in Standing with the Persecuted Church as we celebrate St Patrick's Day on Monday 18 March with a Festival Service in Down Cathedral and lunch afterwards.

You are also very welcome to attend the Holy Communion Service at Saul and to make the pilgrimage from Saul to Down Cathedral.

#### PROGRAMME

9.15 am: Holy Communion at Saul  
Preacher: Eddie Lyle (President, Open Doors UK & Ireland)

10.15 am: Pilgrimage from Saul to Downpatrick

11.45 am: Festival Service in Down Cathedral

Peacher: Michael Jones (Egyptian Christian businessman whose name has been changed to protect his identity)

Wreath laying ceremony at St Patrick's Grave

1.15 pm: Irish stew lunch for all in the marquee

#### TRANSPORT TO SAUL

\* From 8:00 am private buses will leave from the Mall for the communion service and pilgrimage.

\* The last bus for the communion service leaves at 8.45 am

\* The last bus for the pilgrimage leaves at 9.45 am

\* The last bus from Saul to the Cathedral leaves at 10.40 am

### Adult Confirmation Preparation: Lent 2019

Four adults were Confirmed last year and following September's 'Festival of Faith', Christianity Explored running through the autumn and the Bible Comes of Life Exhibition at the end of November, perhaps some new candidates will come forward again this year. If you have never previously been Confirmed (or Baptized and Confirmed), perhaps because you come from another Church tradition, or because it was something you just never got round to, now is your chance! As he does each year the Rector will offer a simple course of preparation through Lent.

Please contact the Office (91274912) to lodge your interest or speak directly to Simon himself (91274901). Likewise if you would just like some more information before making up your mind, even just to get a flavour of what might be involved, don't hesitate to get in touch.

Confirmation Service: Sunday 19 May.



### World Day of Prayer Friday 1st March 2019

Reminder: 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.

Please come along and support this event if possible.



## Just Older Youth

### A Breath of Prayer

A breath of prayer in the morning  
means a day of blessing sure;  
a breath of prayer in the evening  
means a night of rest secure;

A breath of prayer in our weakness  
means the clasp of a mighty hand;  
A breath of prayer when we're lonely  
means someone to understand;

A breath of prayer in our doubtings  
assures us the Lord knows best;  
A breath of prayer in our sorrows  
means comfort and peace and rest;

A breath of prayer in rejoicing  
gives joy and added delight,  
For they that remember God's goodness  
go singing far into the night.

There's never a year nor a season  
that prayer may not bless every hour,  
And never a soul need be helpless  
when linked with God's infinite power.

**Frances McKinnon Morton**



Karen visiting Renee



Friday Lunch

### The Wednesday Club



Our February meeting was held in the Kajiado room, where we were entertained by our speaker, Davy Crooks.

He gave us a pleasant, relaxed and interesting talk on his life and career, from his early days in Lambeg to his experiences in Afghanistan, and finally retirement. Not forgetting of course, his year as church warden, which he thoroughly enjoyed, even though it coincided with the year when most of the services were held in St Columbanus school.

Our usual tea and buns were enjoyed by all and Joyce Stock was the lucky winner of this month's draw.

**Sue**





Children's Church is back into full flow again. We have had a lot of fun playing games and learning our bible stories. The Splash and Ice groups both played water games as they were learning about Naaman being healed in the dirty Jordan river and Ice had a cracker-eating competition as they learnt about the Living Water that Jesus gave to the Samaritan woman at the well.

Meanwhile, the Bubbles continue to get creative as they have been learning about Jesus growing up and the start of his marvellous ministry.

There is always room for more children, so please make sure you don't miss out the fun!



Also, DON'T FORGET TO **REGISTER FOR EASTER JUMPIN'** THIS MONTH!!!!

**Pre-registration** – after the **10am service on 17 March** in the Kajiado room

**Registration Night** – **21 March, 7-8pm** in Parish Centre



**PRAISE KIDS  
AND  
PRAISE CREW**



This month I want to give a special thank you to the Praise Crew! I think they are doing an amazing job leading the worship at the Family Services. They work hard and have a lot of fun playing games, learning songs and doing an activity in the Prayer Corner. If you are P5-P7 and would like to have a go, I would love to see you on Monday afternoon, 4:30-5pm!

**Paula**

Our annual General (Easter) Vestry meeting in Ballyholme takes place at 12.45pm on Sunday 19 May in the Parish Centre over a church family lunch.

The unusually late date for our AGM is less to do with the unusually late date of Easter and more to do with new regulations imposed by the Charity Commissioners. It turns out our income for the financial year just past has lifted us into a higher scrutiny band whereby we must commission a professional audit of our accounts. A nice problem to have, but it means there is simply no way of completing the audit and passing our accounts at Vestry in time for our preferred Passion Sunday AGM.

The Church of Ireland Constitution states: "A meeting of the general vestry of each parish, to be known as the Easter vestry, shall be held each year not earlier than 20 days before, and not later than 20 days after Easter Day, and this meeting may be adjourned from time to time to any day or days not later than the fifth Monday after Easter Day: Provided that the general vestry meeting may not be held on, or adjourned to, a day within the period from the Sunday next before Easter (Palm Sunday) to Easter Day (inclusive)."

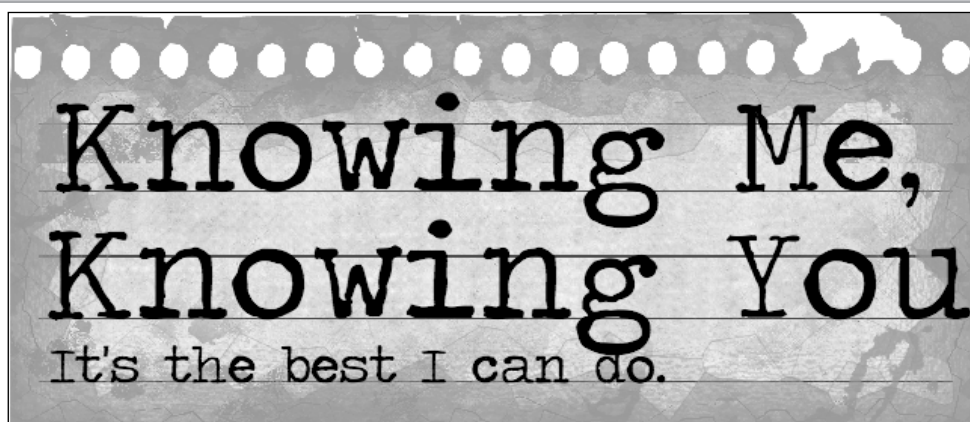
The fifth Monday after Easter Day is 20 May so we will be just within that window but Bishop Harold has been informed of our adjournment. Since he will be with us on 19 May for Confirmation anyway, we intend to ask him nicely to hand-deliver our Easter Vestry returns to the Diocesan Office first thing the next morning!

Constitutionally, as you know, we are free to conduct elections to the Select Vestry in whatever way we see fit. Written nominations will be invited ahead of the meeting in the hope that we will receive at least 12 names. It is up to you to stand yourself or to propose someone else to stand and the basic commitment is one meeting a month (ten a year).

Nominations will close on Sunday 12 May. Forms will be available from the Churchwardens on Sundays, from the Parish Office on weekday mornings and from our Honorary Secretary Leslie Adams (91466689). We will take a digital photograph to use on the voting paper.

So far as the agenda for the meeting itself is concerned, in addition to the elections, the adoption of the parish accounts and the submission of any reports, 'any other notified business' should be brought to the Rector's attention the day before the meeting at the latest. Please plan to be part of this important day in the parish calendar.

Incidentally, the Rector will be chairing an Easter Vestry on Passion Sunday (6 April) this year as he is 'minding the shop' at Glenraig Parish which is currently vacant. Like us, the boost in numbers and interest they experienced by moving their AGM to a Sunday a number of years ago is one they are keen to continue.



**Lenten reflection and discussion on the First Letter of John  
please join us in the Kajiado Room**

Tues	5 March	10.30 am	repeated on	Wed	6 March	8.00 pm
Tues	12 March	10.30 am	repeated on	Wed	13 March	8.00 pm
Tues	19 March	10.30 am	repeated on	Wed	20 March	8.00 pm
Tues	26 March	10.30 am	repeated on	Wed	27 March	8.00 pm

Last summer a certain 'Dr Rory' put a notice in the parish magazine asking whether any of his peers would consider visiting Kiwoko Hospital with him in the New Year. There was no particular agenda behind Rory's invitation, but perhaps he saw in all of us something that suggested that this was a place we all needed to see. He could not have been more right.

As a Parish, we are aware of Kiwoko not least of all because of the 'Wilson connection' and the strong ties the hospital has had to Northern Ireland since its foundation as a primary health care project by Dr Ian Clarke in 1988. Kiwoko has expanded over the years to a 250 bed facility with c.500 staff and students who deliver a broad range of health care services both at the hospital and in the surrounding community.



We were privileged to meet with key Kiwoko staff over the course of the next 3 days including Dr Peter Serwadda, the Medical Director, and Moses Ssekidde who co-ordinates the Community Based Health Care. It has been said that Uganda's greatest asset is its people and this is certainly true of the staff at Kiwoko who passionately champion the vision of providing holistic, affordable, quality healthcare to an impoverished community in the Nakaseke District where 55% of the population is under 17 and the vast majority

of families are reliant on subsistence farming.

Unsurprisingly, the biggest challenge for Kiwoko is financial stability, given the shoe-string budget on which it operates, and the allocation of limited resource in one area inevitably squeezes opportunity in another. Over 60% of Kiwoko's annual budget is financed by donors and the sense of vulnerability this brings is palpable.

Yet, despite the challenges, the resilience of the staff at Kiwoko has and continues to deliver incredible results. While not wishing to detract from the vital services the hospital itself provides to the thousands of in-patient and out-patients, it was perhaps the impact Kiwoko has had in the surrounding community which resonated with us the most. Through the delivery of immunisation, free TB, STI and HIV testing, antenatal and post natal



### **Antenatal Clinic**

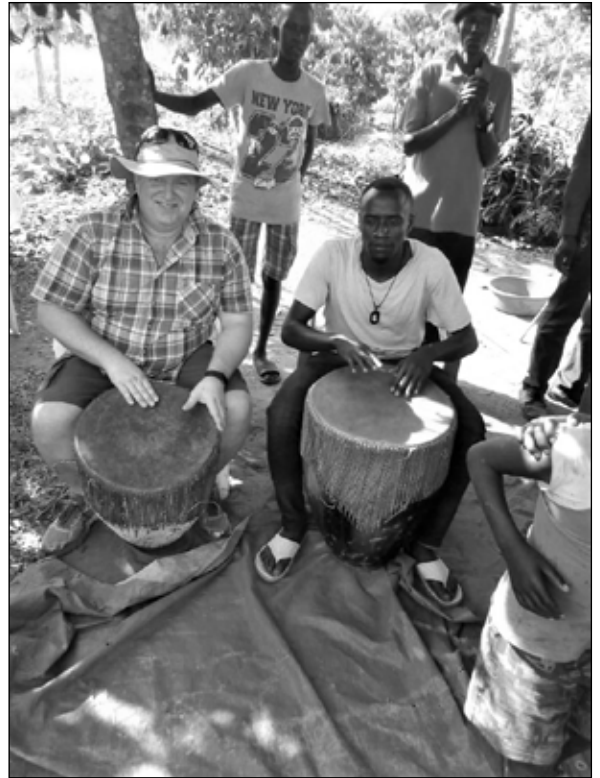
care and a range of targeted health education directly into the heart of the local community, incidences of polio and measles have all but disappeared and worms have been almost eradicated. We joined Moses on a trip around some of the outreach centres and homes where we saw at first hand the holistic impact that early intervention and education plays when people 'of the community' work with the community.



**Captain George William Rutembuza and his extended family**

Faith lies at the heart of Kiwoko and our attendance at morning prayers opened our eyes to the possibilities of just how far the ten o'clock service at home might go with singing, dancing and hand clapping. However, being asked to join Captain George William Rutembuza and his extended family (which clearly included Dr Rory) for an afternoon of praise and fellowship at his home was something none of us will ever forget.

Beyond the slums of Kampala, Uganda is a stunning country where the warmth of the colours was only surpassed by the warmth of the welcome we received. Before returning to the airport at Entebbe, Dr Rory 'turned tour guide' and we managed to cram in a visit to the spectacular Murchison Falls National Park where, next to the Nile, we came within feet of the cast of the Lion King.

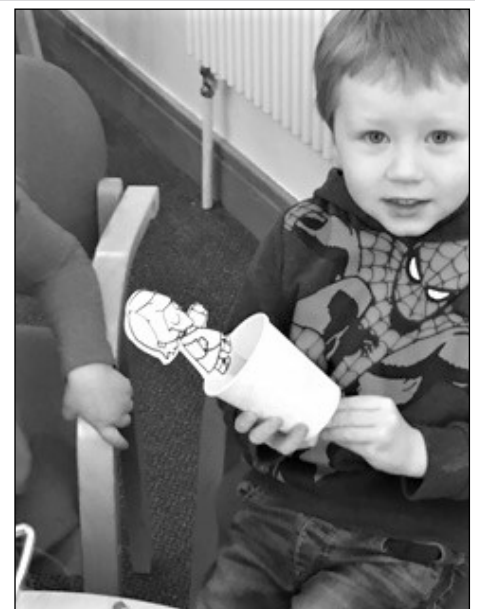


**Nurses and Steven on the drums**



We hope to share more of our experiences with you at the morning services on the 3rd March and again at an evening event to be arranged, but it would be remiss not to take this opportunity to thank Dr Rory for looking after us – we were nothing short of a handful – but more importantly for giving us the opportunity to have both our eyes and our hearts opened.

**Steven Nickell**



A big thank you to all our members for their brilliant response to supply toilet bags for emergency admissions to local hospitals and other toiletry requirements to help the work of our Borough Charity, Women's Aid.

For our overseas night the speaker at our February meeting was Jennifer Holley, a volunteer for Tearfund organisation.

She began by explaining the origins of Tearfund from a Christian perspective. Its name comes from **The Evangelical Alliance Relief Fund**.

She explained the organisation would liaise with agents on the ground to work with local communities in relief & development projects. Some of these may provide "micro finance" to encourage small community based business.

She shared stories of success one step at a time in different parts of Africa, Asia and South America. Jenny gave us prayer points for our support and encouraged us to consider that for the cost of just one cappuccino, we could register a monthly support to the work of Tearfund worldwide.

It was a thought provoking evening, thank you to all those who contributed to it.



#### Diary Dates:-

**Mon 4th March Meeting-** 8pm  
Shrove Tuesday Eve!

**Sat 23rd March** 10 -12 noon.  
MU Sale & Coffee Morning - See below

**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

Reminder, if you have not yet paid your £25 subs for this year please bring them in March.  
**Many Blessings, Yvonne Manogue and the MU Committee.**

## Ballyholme Mothers' Union Spring Sale and Coffee Morning

Saturday 23rd March  
in the Parish Centre  
10am to Noon

Admission £3.00 including light refreshments  
Children free

**Cakes, Bric a brac, Books, Toys, Unwanted Gifts and Tombola etc.**

Any great condition toys, books, gifts etc can be left at the Parish Centre  
no earlier than Monday 18 March.







## FEBRUARY SUN AND ICE

There's a song by Elbow called 'One day like this' with a line 'It's looking like a beautiful day'. Well, it was exactly that on 2nd February- blue skies and warm in the sun - for our walk along the old Lagan Canal towpath from Moira Station to Aghalee and back.

Seventeen boarded the train for the relaxed journey to Moira and we were delighted to welcome Robert's friend Richard to the group. The towpath takes you along the route of the original Lagan Canal, through Soldierstown, so called from when a certain Major George Rawdon (1604-1684) came to the area in 1631 to manage the Estate of Viscount Conway at Killultagh. He built the Garrison for soldiers at Aghalee hence Soldierstown, and on to Aghalee.

The Lagan Canal was 27 miles long and built to connect Belfast to Lough Neagh. Two sections were closed in 1954 and 1958. The central section from Sprucefield to Moira was destroyed by the construction of the M1 in the 1960s.

We made our way under the bridge that carries the railway line and had a look at the 'skew brickwork' which was used to strengthen the bridge and saw the notches which the tow rope cut in the iron guard at the foot of the bridge. We then walked alongside the canal, which was



frozen over and causing a lot of consternation to the swans trying to break through the ice to get at food. Then we passed the Broadwater, also frozen with swans standing on the ice. It was created in a natural valley to retain a sufficient head of water to accommodate the navigation. Lunch in The Tannery near the station awaited and it was a real treat to sit

down to a warm meal (rather than a picnic) and the staff were most accommodating, having two tables set in the Bistro to take all 17 of us.

Next walk on 2nd March is Donard Park and the Granite Trail (about 5 miles), contouring Thomas's Mountain.

We will do this walk in the opposite direction to that in WalkNI so as to descend the steep section beside the Bogie Line. There are some interesting artifacts from the Mourne Granite industry.

We leave the Church car park at 9am.


**Betty**



Ballyholme is blessed with a regular smattering of healthcare professionals at most of our services and parish activities. Following two recent First Aid sessions at the beginning of February, organised by our Health and Safety committee, we've now got a few more who have received training on how to respond to an emergency on parish premises. Some of those who responded to the open invitation were representing church organisations, others came independently, some had been through First Aid training elsewhere or at work, for others it was the first time. The course was led by Dawn Grady and her father Maynard Porter, well known throughout the voluntary, youth and church sector for their non-alarming, entertaining and practical approach. The sessions included a run through on procedure with our defibrillator which, for anyone who doesn't know, lives at the sound-desk in Church on Sundays and on the wall of the Parish Centre kitchen corridor on



**Family Film**



'Moana'  
Saturday 2nd of March  
Ballyholme parish  
Adults: £3. Kids: £2  
4pm

**jumpin'**  
ballyholme parish



### EASTER JUMPIN' IS COMING!!!

We're planning an amazing MINION MAD JUMPIN'  
I hope you're planning to come!

**Dates:** 24th, 25th & 26th April

**Times:** 10am – 1pm (Tiggers, Rooz & Wallabies)  
7 - 9pm (Wallabies)

**YES! EVENINGS ARE BACK!!!!**

**Price:** £25 (Tiggers and Rooz)  
£30 (Wallabies)

**Registration:** 17th March after 10am service  
21st March 7-8pm

We are really looking forward to seeing you all there!

**Paula and Andrew**

PS Summer Jumpin' is 22-26 July



### North Down Storehouse Lent Appeal

The trolley will be at the back of Church each Sunday during Lent.

Items in particular demand are:

Tinned rice, custard, fruit, snacks, cooking oil and rice.

Thank you for your continued support, each donation makes a real difference.



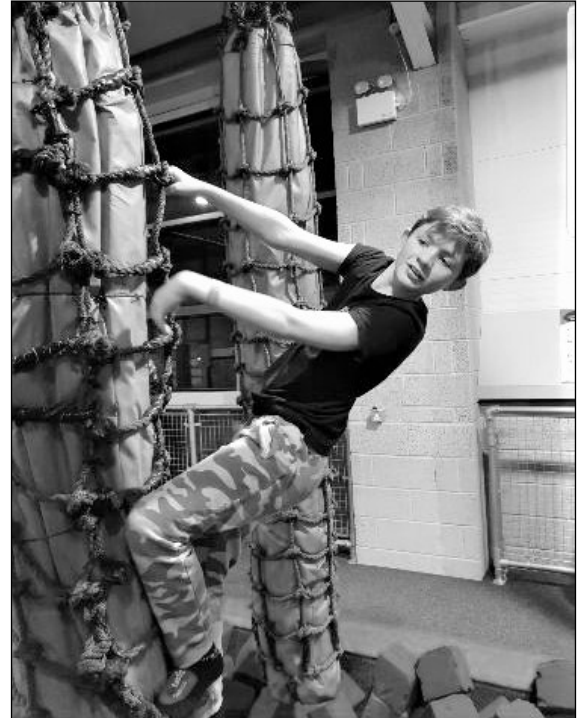
# YOUTH-news

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So another month has come and gone (how are we in March already?), and as ever we've been having a great time with the youth.

At Emerge this term we've been looking at the Book of Daniel, which has been really exciting. Personally, Daniel is one of my favourite books in the Bible and I've loved exploring it with the young people on Sunday mornings, and seeing how we can follow God in a world that doesn't want us to – just like Daniel did.

At YF we kicked off the new year with a relaxed night in the church, playing games and catching up with each other after the Christmas break. We've also had a fun night at Air-tastic which was great. I ended up bouncing too – to make sure everyone was behaving, of course – and I think I had just as much fun as the young people. It seems that despite being an 'adult' now, my inner child is alive and well...



At YF we've also been looking at the stories of some famous Christians; so far we've talked about Brother Andrew (aka God's Smuggler), Corrie Ten Boom, Lee Strobel and Saint Valentine. It's been really encouraging to hear about the lives of these amazing Christians, and to see how they sought to follow God even when he led them to crazy places.

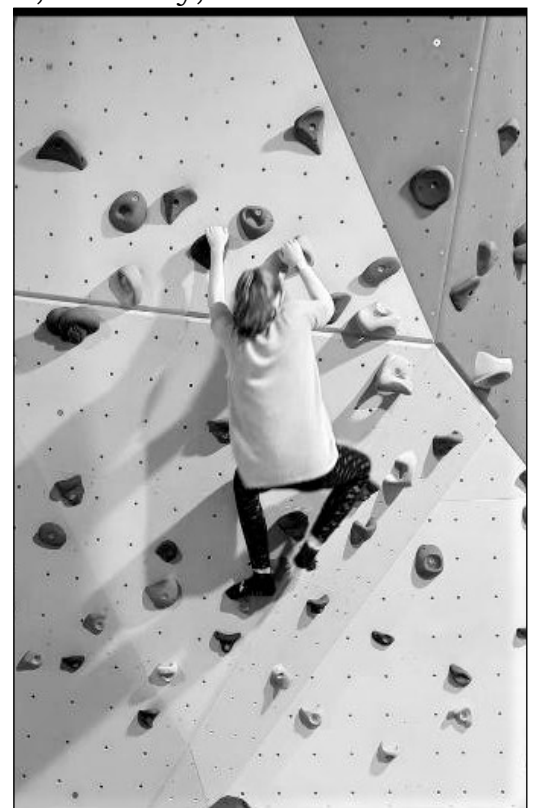
I'm also thrilled to say that we are running a youth weekend this year. We will be going to Sheep Island View, Ballintoy, from the 12th to the 14th of April, and myself and the other leaders are already super excited.

Finally, we have been running Confirmation classes on Wednesday nights here at church, and it's



been great to have our young people going through this process. I would love it if you could pray for them on this journey, as well as praying for the rest of our programme – particularly the youth weekend – that the Lord would do through us what he wants and guide us as leaders.

**Andrew**



**Sunday 3rd March**

The Sunday next before Lent  
8.30 Holy Communion  
10.00 Good News at Ten - All Age  
11.30 Morning Prayer

**Wednesday 6th March**

Ash Wednesday  
10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

**Sunday 10th March**

The First Sunday of Lent  
8.30 Holy Communion  
10.00 Good News at Ten  
& Children's Church  
11.30 Parish Communion  
6.30 United Service Ballyholme  
Presbyterian

**Wednesday 13th March**

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

**Sunday 17th March**

Lent 2  
8.30 Holy Communion  
10.00 Good News at Ten  
& Children's Church  
11.30 Morning Prayer

**FUNERALS****February**

**5th:** Rosemary Forster,  
formerly of Seaview Nursing  
Home.



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

**Wednesday 20th March**

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

**Sunday 24th March**

Lent 3  
8.30 Holy Communion  
10.00 Good News at Ten - Communion  
& Children's Church  
11.30 Morning Prayer

**Wednesday 27th March**

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

**Sunday 31st March**

Lent 4 - Mothering Sunday  
8.30 Holy Communion  
10.00 Good News at Ten - Wholeness and  
Healing & Children's Church  
11.30 Wholeness and Healing

**March**

**3rd:** Ann, Karen & Kelly  
**10th:** Fiona Jackson, Ann  
Reynolds, Ella Walker  
**17th:** Michael & Sharon  
Hatch, Charles Robinson  
**24th:** Tracie Andreasson,  
Heather Johnston, Nicole  
Watson  
**31st:** Mother's Union

**March**

**3rd:** No creche  
**10th:** Rachel Brittain,  
Jenny Whiteside, Ashleigh  
Birkett  
**17th:** Natalie McCartin,  
Julie Caulfield, Claire  
Andrews  
**24th:** Christine Rankin,  
Jenny Campbell, Sharon  
Gowdy  
**31st:** Rachel Brittain,  
Nicola Gullen, Melissa  
Haddock

**March**

**3rd:** Karen Baker  
**10th:** Ruth Ruttle  
**17th:** Fairena Montgomery  
**24th:** Sybil Robertson  
**31st:** Sue Bleakley

**Children's  
Church Helpers****March**

**3rd:** No Children's Church  
**10th:** Pamela Reading, Dawn  
Niblock, Anna Gullen  
**17th:** Carla Kells, Kate  
English, Karen Toogood  
**24th:** Tracie Andreasson,  
Claire Andrews, Jenny  
Campbell  
**31st:** Sarah Boyd, Caroline  
Connolly, Cathrine Menary

