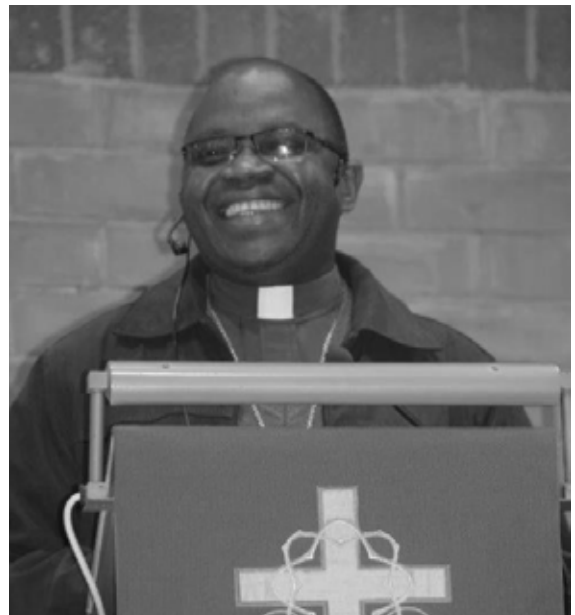


St Columbanus

Ballyholme



Holy Week Guests
CS Lewis course
CMSI Roadshow

..On the way
together..

The Parishioner

April 2019

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

The Rambling Rector

When we last hosted Ballyholme Holy Week three years ago we were about to close St Columbanus for restoration. My intention on re-opening was always to invite my friend Roger Combes for 2019. I am so glad he can be with us and am prayerfully hopeful you will be too. Much has changed since 2016 and I don't just mean our beautiful new-look Church. We're all of us that little bit further along the road of life, that little bit nearer the end than the beginning and with the scars to show for it. What hasn't changed are the Gospel words and pictures which transport us to that first Good Friday. The question, as ever, will be how willing we are to drop our guard. Keeping a safe, uninvolved distance is easy, but if that's been your default spiritual approach down the years I would say please: let this Easter be different. Allow the blood, sweat and tears of the man from Nazareth to draw and move you. Not only will some of what you never previously 'got' about Christianity start to be unlocked, but you will begin to experience for yourself what changed everything for Jesus' earliest followers... resurrection!



SED.

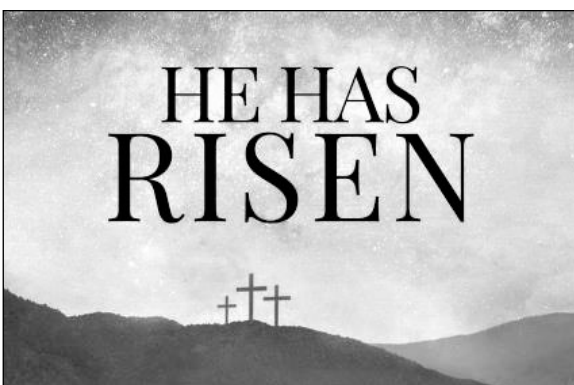
Easter Vestry: 19 May 2019

- in case you missed last month's magazine!

As reported in the March Parishioner, our annual General (Easter) Vestry meeting 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 to allow completion of our accounts audit, a new requirement of the Charity Commissioners because our income for the financial year just past lifted us into a higher scrutiny band.

The bishop has been informed of our adjournment and the thanks of the whole parish go to our 2018-19 Vestry members and especially our Churchwardens and Glebewardens for being willing to hang on in there for another few weeks!



Friends of Kiwoko Hospital proudly presents: Kiwoko Live 2019

Sunday 28th April

St Columbanus Halls, Ballyholme

Starting 6.30 pm with tea and biscuit.

Come and be encouraged as you hear reports and stories from staff and visitors to Kiwoko from recent months.





Just Older Youth

I Take Your Hand Sweet Jesus

When my world falls down around me
And the ground is sinking sand
When peace can't be found on this earth
I reach out for your hand.

When your hand wraps around my own
A strength pours to my soul
It brings me to a quiet calm
Till once again I'm whole.

A peace beyond all reason
A rest there in your touch
Something in your quiet words
My heart yearns for so much....

If I but rest my worries
Upon your shoulder there
Strength that pours forth from your soul
Will wash away each care.

Like a cool sweet taste of water
For a tired thirsty man
My heart finds peace, my soul is calm
When I reach for your hand.



Communion Lunch

Tuesday 16th April is the next date for our informal service of Holy Communion.

Starting with the Communion service at 12.30pm this is followed by lunch at 1pm. All takes place in the relaxed atmosphere of the Parish Centre and is easily accessible if you use a walking aid.

Please ring me at the Parish Office should you require more details, or if you would like transportation to and from the venue.

God bless
Karen

The Wednesday Club

We had a good number of our ladies attend our March meeting, some returning from illness and hospital. Very good to see you all.



Our speaker this month was Richard Gill from the Ulster Bank, telling us all about banking. Well, mostly about how to handle any scams we might come across and various details and hints to help us look after our money. Did you know that you can use your local post office as a place where you can access your bank account? Check with your post office to see what they can do for you.

We were all so involved with what he was telling us, that before we knew it, it was nearly going home time, and horrors, no tea and buns eaten. This was soon remedied and we all went home with the knowledge that hopefully will keep our bank accounts save from fraudsters.

Elizabeth Steele was the lucky winner of our draw this week.

Sue





March was a quieter month for the children at Ballyholme, with only a couple of special events.

The Kajiado room was filled with families on the first Saturday of the month as we all enjoyed the hit movie Moana in a relaxed atmosphere. It was lovely to see a couple of the girls dressed up as Moana and dancing along with all the songs! Andrew and Ross were kept busy at the tuck shop and there was a definite cinema feel and fragrance with the popcorn machine! I hope the families who came along enjoyed the afternoon and will come again if we run another family film event.



However, something else really important happened in March...**JUMPIN' REGISTRATION!** I hope your children have signed up for the 'Minion Madness Easter Jumpin!' If you haven't, and would like to come, please feel free to check with Paula in case there are still places available. We would love to have you there!

Important dates in April:

- * **Palm Sunday (14th)** – the children will be singing a special song and making a special presentation at the end of the church service. Make sure you come along!
- * **Good Friday workshop (19th)** – This will run from 10am – noon before the Good Friday service in church. We will play games, sing songs, hear a special story and complete some Easter craft. It should be a lot of fun and all primary school children are welcome.
- * **24th – 26th - Easter Jumpin'**, 10 – 1pm for everyone, 7 – 9pm for the Wallabies (P5-P7)



**PRAISE KIDS
AND
PRAISE CREW**

Praise Kids and Praise Crew are still meeting every Monday (4 & 4:30pm) and it is great to see them take part more and more in our Sunday services. Please feel free to come along and join the fun!

Paula

Holy Week at St Columbanus, Ballyholme

Monday 15 – Friday 19 April 8pm

The Context of the Cross



With Rev Roger Combes...

Following ministries in London and Cambridge, Roger was for seventeen years vicar of St Matthew's in Hastings, retiring as Archdeacon of Horsham in 2014. Married to Christine, a speech therapist, they have two grown up daughters, one married to a chartered accountant who was born and bred near Lough Neagh.

In retirement, Roger is an occasional writer for the Bible Reading Fellowship.

Good Friday

Children's Workshop 10am-12pm

12 noon Family Service

Easter Day

6.30 am Dawn Service at Ballymaconnell,

followed by Easter morning breakfast in St Columbanus Parish Centre

We hope you will join us each evening at 8pm





I first met Roger and his wife Christine in 2001. Roger was serving in Hastings, East Sussex when I moved from St Finnian's Belfast to West Sussex to be Domestic Chaplain to the Bishop of Horsham.

At that time Roger was both vicar of St Matthew's and Rural Dean of Hastings. It turned out Roger and I had a couple of things in common: we'd both taken law degrees first time around and, far more importantly, we both liked cricket.

Roger cut his preaching teeth in Holy Trinity Brompton and the Round

Church in Cambridge and so carrying a wide experience of parish life, he was a natural choice to be made "The Venerable" and become Archdeacon of Horsham. At that point the Combes family moved from East Sussex to West Sussex: cue lots of jokes about wise men arriving from the east. Suffice to say we became colleagues and friends and have kept up the contact off and on over the years.

In 2014 Roger retired to Crawley near Gatwick and he has been contributing on an occasional basis to the Bible Reading Fellowship daily notes series ever since.

A one night airport stopover for us last autumn made possible a pre-Church Sunday breakfast with Roger and Christine on Armistice Day (hence the poppies). That was our opportunity to tell them all about Ballyholme but lo and behold – wait for it – they decided to come anyway! Having preached Harvest for me in Aghalee in 2006, Roger and Christine subsequently forged new connections with our part of the world on acquiring a 'Norn Irish' son-in-law. I know you will make them welcome on their first visit to Bangor.

SED



Ballyholme Probus

On behalf of Ballyholme Branch of Probus (Professional and Business Men).

We would like to thank the minister and Select Vestry of St. Columbanus Church for the continued use of their hall on Thursday mornings. Not only do our elderly members have easy access from the car park but

also coffee and biscuits provided by the most cheerful, willing and supportive Mrs Brown and helpers.

Their thanks go with our congratulations that your Church has a community outreach, much appreciated.

Probus is a meeting point for retired business men and professionals with a variety of interesting speakers and activities geared towards retired men. We in turn would be pleased to welcome any new members from your congregation – simply arrive at the hall at the rear of the Church, most Thursday mornings from 10.30 to 12.00 noon or contact John Hazel (Telephone: 91452879 Secretary or the President Donald Hayes telephone: 91465678.



Not a tame lion: God and C S Lewis

Please join us for a five week course based on the writing and life of C S Lewis. The course explores C S Lewis' understanding of and experience of God partly through his children's story, 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' and partly through the story of his own late romance and marriage with Joy Davidman, as told in the film, 'Shadowlands'. Each session uses clips from the films of 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' and 'Shadowlands' as starting points for discussion and includes opportunities for prayer and reflection. The course will run on Tuesday mornings from 10.00 to 11:30am and be repeated on Wednesday evenings from 8-9.30pm. The course will begin on Tuesday 30th April and run until the end of May. The sessions are as follows.

Tuesday 30th April/ Wednesday 1st May

Session 1. Living in the shadows – relationship with the world.

Tuesday 7th / Wednesday 8th May

Session 2. Living with the beyond – sensing the spiritual.

Tuesday 14th/Wednesday 15th May

Session 3. Living with the unexplained – the problem of suffering.

Tuesday 21st/Wednesday 22nd May

Session 4. Living with what we've been given – using our gifts.

Tuesday 28th/Wednesday 29th May

Session 5. Living with absence – coping with grief.

An excerpt from

“MEMORIES OF CHILDHOOD AND YOUTH”

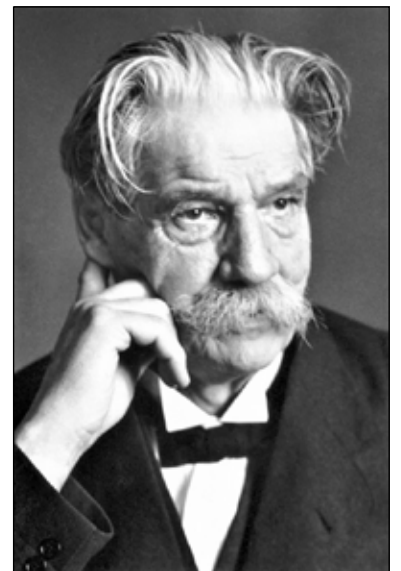
by Albert Schweitzer

I always think that we all live, spiritually, by what others have given us in the significant hours of our life. These significant hours do not announce themselves as coming, but arrive unexpectedly. Nor do they make a great show of themselves; they pass almost unperceived. Often, indeed, their significance comes home to us first as we look back....

Much that has become our own in gentleness, modesty, kindness, willingness to forgive, in veracity, loyalty, resignation under suffering, we owe to people in whom we have seen or experienced these virtues at work, sometimes in a great matter, sometimes in a small. A thought which had become an act sprang into us like a spark, and lit a new flame within us.

If we had before us those who having thus been a blessing to us, and could tell them how it came about, they would be amazed to learn what passed over from their life into ours.

Recommended by Harry Williamson



Good News at Ten on 3rd March was led by Denise and Team Kiwoko - nine men from the parish who made a short five day visit to Uganda in January (see their article in the March edition of the Parish magazine). They repeated their presentations at the 11.30 service.

It was a joyous occasion with all members of the team dressed in "Rory-like" apparel, (Ugandan shirts) and included a rousing chorus of "This little light of mine" led by Patrick accompanied by African drums. There were enough children dressed in Ugandan football



strips to form a football team, and their involvement in asking their fathers the questions really strongly emphasised the FAMILY of our family service.

On the subject of dress sense, the Rector certainly pulled a surprise out when he stripped off his outer vestments to reveal his own colourful Ugandan shirt which he then displayed proudly for the duration of the service. Perhaps it helped give him extra African rhythm for his impressive drum playing later in the service.

We were given a snapshot of life in Kiwoko focusing on the Christian ethos of the hospital and the work being undertaken by the staff under Dr Peter's leadership. The influence of the hospital is far reaching as support staff and volunteers provide vital preventative services in the community. The impact in dramatic reductions in numbers of patients suffering from malaria, polio, measles, worms and HIV was encouraging to hear.

The visit made a huge impact on each and every member of the team - words such as "moving" and "inspirational" were used to describe the dedication of the staff as they served the community.

It was a truly amazing experience but only the beginning of a journey for these men - there is a strong bond of fellowship between the men who now wish to support the work of the hospital as more donors are



needed to continue to provide the services which are making such a positive impact on the community. The link between our Parish and Kiwoko Hospital started 14 years ago when we sent Rory out to serve there. We were told how the strength of this link, and its value to the hospital had been symbolically celebrated in the planting of a shade tree by the team while they were there. There have been several visits from parishioners over the years, but perhaps this is now the start of a fresh phase of the relationship between Ballyholme Parish and Kiwoko Hospital.

To hear more from the group and the work of the hospital, The Friends of Kiwoko will be meeting in our church hall on Sunday 28th April at 6.30pm. Please put the date in your diary, we'd love to see you!

Libby Beech

The Sunday following Team Kiwoko's report, St Columbanus welcomed a visiting Bishop from the Anglican Church of Tanzania.

Darlington Bendakeha is assistant bishop in the Diocese of Kagera and he had been invited to Bangor by Hamilton Road Presbyterian Church for the evening of Sunday 10 March to talk about the impact Christianity Explored is making in his part of East Africa. Of course in Ballyholme we completed our own Christianity Explored course last year, so it was good to hear of how it is impacting many in the Diocese, not least in their Confirmation preparation classes.



The bishop was one of twenty-nine attending a 'New Bishops' induction conference at the end of January in Canterbury and Lambeth and on his brief stay in Co Down he was keen to see something of the Church of Ireland. Certainly the flurries of snow outside while he was preaching made sure that he knew that he was not at home in Tanzania.

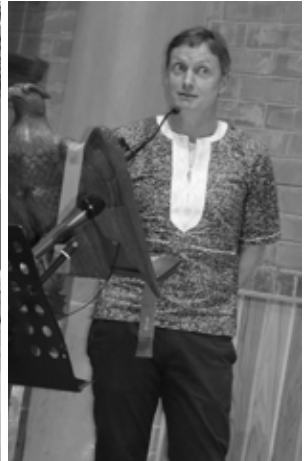
Present for both 10 and 11.30 services, Bishop Darlington enjoyed the variety of our worship very much, both the spectrum of ages and informality of Good News at Ten, and the reverence and tradition of our choir-led Holy Communion service at 11.30. As delighted by the children as they were by him, Bishop Darlington was glad to meet members of both congregations over refreshments between the services and brought greetings from his wife and four grown-up children.

On the first Sunday of Lent, he spoke on the response of Christ to the devil's temptations in the wilderness. "It is written, it is written, it is written" replied Jesus to each of Satan's entrapments. A walk through Lent, Bishop Darlington preached, is best kept in the company of Christ, the One who alone has the words of eternal life.

Rory Wilson



Around the Parish



Kiwoko Service



Roger Cooke and our own Rachel Brittain brought the CMS IRELAND winter roadshow to Ballyholme on Monday 11 February. After Enniskillen the day before, Bangor made it nine in a row and the Kajiado Room was full for an hour-long presentation on the latest overseas news.



The night began with an update on DR Congo, one of Africa's most troubled nations where CMSI has three long-standing partnership links. On hand with the latest from Uganda was Dr Rory Wilson who reported on the recent Ballyholme team visit to Kiwoko and introduced us to the new staff appointments who are continuing the hospital's 'We treat, Jesus heals' ministry.

South Sudan is another important CMSI outpost and we heard the latest on Billy Smith from Moira, currently attempting to re-launch the Yei Vocational Training Centre. Short-term STEP opportunities and teams remain important parts of CMSI's annual calendar and this year team trips to Egypt and Zambia are planned.

For many years CMSI has prepared a four week children's Sunday School programme. This year's resource includes DVDs, leaders resources and activity work sheets and is called 'Outside In' focussing on Nepal. The material was introduced with a sneak preview of one of the four videos.

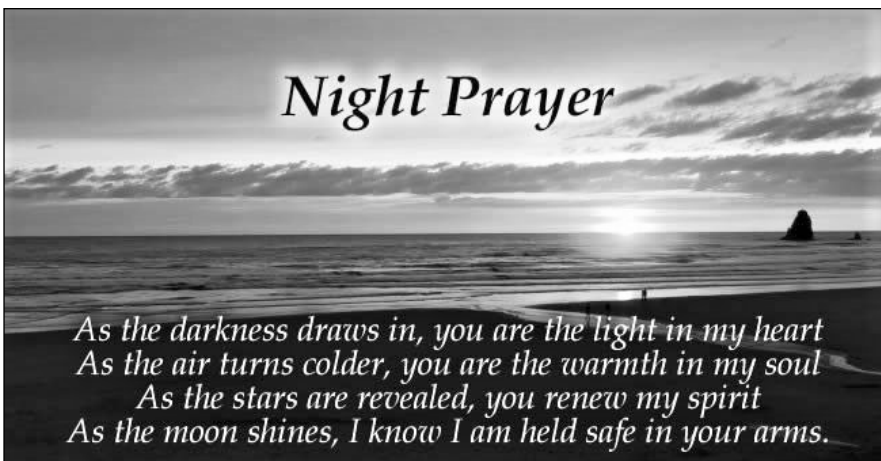


The closing story was news from Zambia and Kenya. Keith and Lynn Scott returned to Zambia at the start of January following their recovery from a serious road accident. Likewise Ronnie Briggs who with his wife Maggie



was involved in a rather scary Landrover roll in November. Ronnie is already back in Kajiado and Maggie hopes to join him there again soon.

With an invitation to the annual CMSI IGNITE conference in September at Dromantine, the evening closed with a time of prayer and then conversations continued over coffee and tea. Guests from Carnalea, Donaghadee and other local churches made it a proper coming-together of people and parishes with a real heart for mission and what God is doing in the worldwide Church, especially among those on the margins.



“Musings with Margaret”

That was the title given for our MU Branch meeting held at the beginning of March. What a fantastic meeting it was, Margaret McKnight was a very amusing, entertaining and thought-provoking speaker.

Margaret was a former colleague of mine from Ballyholme Primary School days; she was vice-principal, I spent at least 10 of my 30 years as primary leader of P4 and P3, right in the next door classroom...happy times.

I knew she could talk, engage with an audience to, multi task and 100 other attributes besides!



All these skills shone through as she guided us along through poems and prose on various pathways of one's life journey. We shared in childhood, schooldays, Christmas, animal companions and family times.

All in all a very entertaining, easy going evening, rounded off with delicious lemon pancakes to welcome Shrove Tuesday, the very next day.

Thanks to Margaret and your support of Mercy Ships.

Thanks too, to all the committee girls for their ongoing support.

Hope you liked our new Coffee Morning and Sale banner, thanks to Roberta for sourcing it.

Then a little bird twittered something about Hens?? on Monday 8th April?? Contact Ruth or Janice if you need to know more!!

15th April, let's meet up at Holy Week service in our own Church. Hopefully see you there.

Many Blessings for Mothering Sunday, see you with a little gift for the ladies of the Parish from MU.

Best wishes, Yvonne and the MU committee.



Thursday Morning fun at the Toddlers Group



Blooms and Water at Tollymore

The Columbanus Walkers' original March outing to the Granite Trail in the Mourne was cancelled because of bad weather. A week later, 7 members headed south and decided that a walk in the shelter of Tollymore Forest Park was preferable to the more exposed Granite Trail.

Our walk was in the valleys of the Shimna and Cascade rivers, both of which were in full spate following several days of rain. The sound of rushing water accompanied much of our walk.

We briefly considered taking a group photograph on the stepping stones across the Shimna, but quickly realised that we would be swept away before the photo could be taken!

Evidence of the mild winter was to be seen everywhere – the daffodils and rhododendrons were in bloom. Masses of bluebell plants were showing their leaves; their flowers will probably be on show within weeks.

Our leader, Brian, took us off the main waymarked paths on a route that took us to the artificial lake, beside which we had lunch on the relative luxury of a picnic table.

On our walk we met some of the many mountain bikers who use the park. More unusually, we saw four horses and riders galloping up one of the paths. Two hours later we saw them again, on the road as we left Bryansford.



Towards the end of our walk, we encountered a group of archers taking part in a competition with targets placed throughout the woods. Not wishing to become human targets, we headed back to the car park.

As is often the case when we are walking in south Down, on the way home, we stopped off for refreshments at McCann's of Balloo.

The April 6th walk is on Waymarked trails on National Trust land at Divis and Black Mountain. More detail on which trail(s) later. Meanwhile you could look at <http://www.walkni.com/walks/2538/divis-summit-trail/>

Peter Gibson

Sometimes, bobbing around on a sea of nostalgia, we don our rose-tinted spectacles to revisit the past, then remember that not all Summer days were sunny and Winter, whilst great fun could be had making slides and building snowmen, also gave us coughs, colds and chilblains. I grew up in simpler times; no television, no computer games. Playing outside, irrespective of the weather, was the norm.

Now we welcome Spring. Memories of childhood visits to Minnowburn, Shaw's Bridge, prompted me to write the following poem some years ago, hoping to capture a moment in a world which was neither perfect nor idealistic, but nevertheless instilled values which society today seems to lack. We looked out for our neighbours, we attended school, Church and Sunday School and were not materialistic.

Such a life seemed simple; where there was want and need, family, friends and neighbours supported each other, true Christianity in action.

Minnowburn

I walk by the river, remembering.
 Spring among the bluebells;
 Spricks in a jam jar; playing out
 Until dark. Free from fear,
 Paddling in slippery stony shallows.
 Games of hide-and-seek along the riverbank.
 Clambering along upended trees,
 Grazed knees. Nobody died of blood-poisoning.
 Childhood was punctuated with memories
 Of being outdoors. Yet memory is not unclouded.
 Not every day was sunny. Nearing home, I sheltered
 Beneath the oak tree. Listening to raindrops
 Pelting rustling leaves. Feeling safe,
 Until a rogue drop found its way past the foliage
 And touched the back of my neck, then headed spinewards,
 Followed by a mighty shiver. Coldness descended,
 Necessitating running for another shelter...
 Home.



Patricia Fawcett



These are my Easter eggs, paws off!

Hang It On The Cross

If you have a secret sorrow,
 a burden or a loss,
 An aching need for healing...
 Hang it on the Cross.

If worry steals your sleep
 and makes you turn and toss,
 If your heart is feeling heavy...
 Hang it on the Cross.

Every obstacle to faith
 or doubt you come across,
 Every prayer unanswered...
 Hang it on the Cross.

For Christ has borne
 our brokenness
 and dearly paid the cost
 To turn our trials to triumph...
 Hanging on the Cross

YOUTH-news

youth [youth] (youths)

news [nooz]

Hello all! So it's time for another youth report, and it's been a fun-filled month for us!

First, we've continued our study of Daniel. We've worked our way through the first six chapters and found many amazing things which can inspire us to stay faithful to God – we particularly enjoyed chapters 4 and 5, and even managed to find and watch a video of these stories being acted out (in a way that wasn't too cheesy!). We're now heading into the often-uncharted territory of Daniel chapters 7-12, and I'm looking forward to studying what can, at first, seem to be a difficult few chapters.

At YF we've been continuing with our stories of Christians who have lived amazing lives for God, looking at Louis Zamperini, Brian Welch, Saint Patrick and Nicky Cruz. The young people have loved hearing these incredible stories and it's been great to have other leaders helping with the talks – and doing a great job!

We've also had a few fun nights with YF (not that our normal nights aren't fun); the first

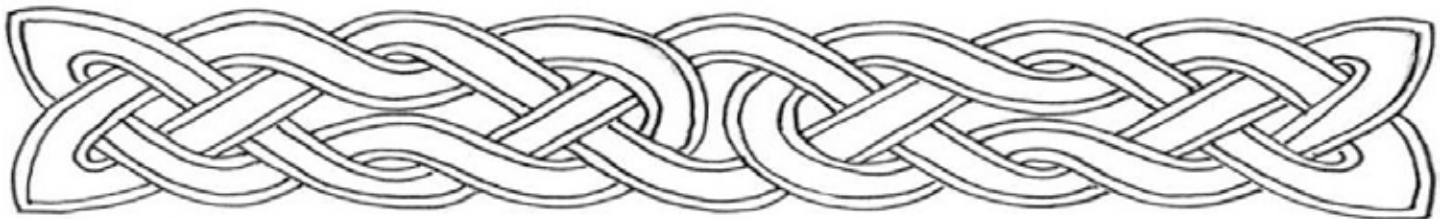


being our Facemasks and Fifa night where Nicola McIntyre from Refresh Skin and Nail Gym came and did homemade facemasks and nail painting, while a Fifa tournament ran on the Xbox for those who weren't so keen on facemasks. Perhaps they felt their skin was flawless enough... Then for pancake Tuesday we made pancakes for the young people that Sunday night, and even managed to get a few ourselves!

At the start of March a group of the young people also attended the annual DDYC Confirmation Weekend in Castlewellan Castle and had an absolute blast! It's a great weekend every year, and this year was no exception with activities ranging from paintball to crafts, and with teaching sessions being led by the one and only Billy Fyffe!

As ever we appreciate your ongoing prayer and support, and are very grateful that parents allow their children to come to these things. We hope that you will continue to pray for the youth ministry here at the church and trust that the Lord will continue to do good things.

Andrew



Wednesday 3rd April

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 7th April

Lent 5

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Good News at Ten - All Age

11.30 Morning Prayer

Wednesday 10th April

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 14th April

Palm Sunday

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Good News at Ten

& Children's Church

11.30 Morning Prayer

Wednesday 17th April

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Friday 19th April - Good Friday

12 noon Family Service

Sunday 21st April - Easter Day

6.30 Dawn Service at Ballymaconnell Beach

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Holy Communion

11.30 Holy Communion

Sunday 28th April

Easter 2

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Good News at Ten

11.30 Morning Prayer

FUNERALS**February****19th:** Jack Beattie, formerly of Groomsport Road.**28th:** Mabel Martin, formerly of Jubilee Court.**March****21st:** Dianne McCreery, formerly of Fairview Gardens

Parish Office:

91274912

Rectory:

91274901

Prayer Line:

07531806167

Transport: 07599794968

Church Readers Rota:

Freda (11.30) 91467624

Thelma (10.00) 91453602

Web Site www.

Ballyholme parish.co.uk

**April****7th:** Jem Moran, Joy Hamilton, Irene Bell**14th:** Geoff & Gillian Young, Patrick Crothers**21st:** EASTER SUNDAY**28th:** Edna Morrison, Gillian Fletcher, Carole Majury**April****7th:** No Creche**14th:** Rachel Brittain, Rhonda Mitchell - Barrett, Dawn Shackles**21st:** Easter Sunday - No Creche**28th:** No Creche**April****7th:** Irene Long**14th:** Margaret Magee**21st:** Easter Sunday**28th:** Ian Bell**Help needed to decorate the Church for Easter****Saturday 20th April 2019 at 10.00 am**

All offers of help, flowers, greenery etc, very much appreciated

Children's Church Helpers**April****7th:** No Children's Church**14th:** Neill Devlin, Angela McCartney, Susan Magill and Emma MacDonald.**21st:** Easter Sunday - No Children's Church**28th:** No Children's Church