

St Columbanus

Ballyholme



Holy Week
New Lay Readers
Jumpin

..On the way
together..

The Parishioner

June 2019

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

Not just one new Diocesan Lay Reader but two! Robbie Jackson was the first to receive his blue scarf, in Canon Mercer's time. Jill Boal and Marsden FitzSimons were trained during Bishop Alan's incumbency and all three still have licences as Readers Emeritus. Sandra Griffiths became number four and remains a familiar face and voice on Sundays but Paula McIlwaine and Denise Wilson's new availability could not be more timely, especially with Reverend Maithrie's internship ending in June and Reverend Mercia retiring in August. Diocesan Readers are licensed by the bishop to read, pray, preach, lead non-sacramental services and distribute Holy Communion. While their primary involvement is within the parish, they may also be called upon to serve in the wider diocese. To describe Readers as a vital part of Church of Ireland life is an understatement. In the South particularly, were it not for Readers many rural parishes would go weeks without a service. This is a genuinely landmark moment for St Columbanus. I know you will affirm and pray for both Paula and Denise as they respond to God's call. Please join us at their commissioning on Wednesday 26 June, Down Cathedral at 8pm.



SED

Looking back on Holy Week

It was a real pleasure for Christine and me to be with you in Ballyholme during Holy Week. Thank you very much to everyone for the warm welcome we received and the friendly openness with which you included us in your fellowship. We enjoyed meeting you all, and it is always encouraging to go to different places and meet Christians one has not met before and yet instantly sense the unity in Christ we share. Thank you very much for your kindness and hospitality, and particularly for the generous cheque gift that Simon sent us away with. We are very grateful.

It was a special privilege to join you: not just because your focus that week was on Christ's sufferings but also because it was when your Christian churches in Ballyholme choose to unite to meditate on the gospel story and pray and praise together.

Christine and I had been to Northern Ireland before, but only for two brief weekends. This time we took longer and really appreciated seeing a wider sweep of the scenery and places. We picked up a bit more of the history (including St Columbanus, of course) and were fortunate in some unusually good weather for the time of year. We really enjoyed getting to see something of County Down.

Now we have all moved from Holy Week to Eastertide. Our Easter faith rests in the great Easter victory and in the risen Christ accompanying us day by day. Praise God!

With our thanks and best wishes,

Roger Combes

jumpin'
ballyholme parish

AN INCREDIBLE SUMMER JUMPIN' IS UNDER PLANNING!!!

I hope you're planning to come. (some of The Incredibles are planning to be there.)

Dates: 22 – 26 July 2019
Times: 10am – 1pm (Tiggers, Rooz & Wallabies)
 7 - 9pm (Wallabies)
Price: £30 (Tiggers and Rooz)
 £35 (Wallabies)

Registration: 9th June after 10am service
 11th June 7-8pm

We are really looking forward to seeing you all there.

Paula and Andrew





Just Older Youth

God's Creation

God's creation, what a sensation
Myriads of stars all known by name,
Each constellation telling their story,
Bursting with glory, God's power to proclaim.

Beautiful Pleiades, The Bear with its Cubs,
Orion's Belt, all set in the sky
Our planet of blue transfixed in the heavens
Touched with the finger of God from on high.

The sun like a bridegroom rejoices on rising
His course devising from east to west
As he leaves his pavilion in golden splendour
With warmth and light on our earth to bless.

Light from darkness, order from chaos
Land and oceans come into view,
Magnificent Artist, Architect, Builder,
Not only Creator - but a Saviour too.

By Megan Carter



The Wednesday Club



Our May meeting was held in the main hall of the parish centre, as we needed a bit of space. Margaret had kindly volunteered (!) to give a short demonstration of a simple flower arrangement, which our ladies were more than delighted to try and copy for themselves.

They were all encouraged by Margaret, who kept a watchful eye on the proceedings and gave advice and help when needed. The ladies were very pleased with their individual arrangements, which were all carefully carried home, to be displayed in pride of place.

We had a birthday girl with us this month and Sally celebrated by blowing out the candles on her cake.

Our winner of this month's draw was Kathleen Taggart.

Next month is our outing for afternoon tea, and Agnes will be in touch about times nearer the time. See you then.

Sue





The end of April was super busy for the children of Ballyholme Parish and there is still loads more to come.

It all started on Good Friday when a group of children came along to the Workshop to play games, see a science experiment which explained why 'Good' Friday is good, and complete lot of Easter crafts. The morning ended with a short service and the children helping to bring the cross outside to the church garden.

However, I think the climax of the Easter activity was our Minnion Mad Jumpin'.

The hall was buzzing for 3 days with over 70 children and 30 youth playing games, singing songs, making minion crafts and watching leaders get pied in the Leader's challenge. We all loved seeing Postman Jack read out the mail and it was great fun learning the memory verse despite Gru and his minion stealing the words.

Still to come...

Children's Church Prize Day 16th June

Children's Church Party 23rd June

A DVD Morning 30th June

THE INCREDIBLE SUMMER JUMPIN'

22ND - 26TH JULY:

Tiggers and Rooz £30, Wallabies £35

Registration - 9th June after 10am service

11th June 7-8pm



Diocesan Lay Readers are people authorised by the Bishop to preach, teach, lead worship and engage in other pastoral work. Given the important role Readers have in teaching and leading services, they receive training in Biblical studies, theology, ministry and preaching over a two year period before being commissioned. Simon approached Denise Wilson and Paula McIlwaine and asked them to consider becoming Diocesan Lay Readers and they began their two year, part time training in 2017.

I met Denise recently and she explained a bit more about the training which comprised self directed study, written and practical assignments with six study days at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute in Dublin. Subjects covered on the course included, Church History, Christian Spirituality, Homiletics, Biblical Studies, Theology, Ministry and Mission. The training was more academic than Denise and Paula had expected. It had been a while since they had last undertaken formal studies but the training provided a good grounding on subjects they might need to help them as Readers. Sounds like a few late nights and burning the midnight oil might have been required!

Our Diocese ran night classes on liturgy and practical sessions on preaching sermons. Although it was nerve-wracking preaching to a group of five or six fellow students it was a safe environment to practise skills and receive constructive feedback. The training has been enjoyable, challenging and required commitment. It's been a personal spiritual journey for both Denise and Paula, and a chance to reflect on their motivation and call to ministry. Denise described it as a humbling experience in that it is a privilege to have the opportunity to do the course but it also brings a responsibility to handle God's Word well.

Simon has given both Denise and Paula opportunities to lead some of the 'Good News at Ten' services and I'm sure most of you who normally attend this service will have had the chance to participate in one they led. Once Denise and Paula are commissioned, they are looking forward to preaching sermons and serving in our Parish, in addition to being available to help out other Parishes in the Diocese. As Denise said it's a bit like learning to drive, it's only when you pass your test and start driving on your own that the real learning begins!

The assignments have been submitted and pending results, God willing, Denise and Paula will be licensed as Diocesan Lay Readers on Wednesday 26 June 2019 in Down Cathedral at 8pm, along with eight other successful students from the diocese. You are all warmly invited to attend and I'm sure Paula and Denise would love to see a few familiar faces! Just speak to either of them and let them know if you would like to come along and show your support on the night.



Please remember Denise and Paula in your prayers as they prepare for this significant stage in their journey of faith. I'm sure you will want to join with me in wishing them many blessings as they take on their new roles in our Parish family.

**Christine
Johnstone**



Holy Week 2019 will live long in the memory of all who shared in it. In the customary Ballyholme way, the local clergy took it in turn to lead with members of all our Ballyholme congregations, Presbyterian, Methodist, Roman Catholic and Church of Ireland, bringing our readings and occasional prayers each evening.

Our guest preacher's gracious, under-stated and self-effacing style was just what the week of all weeks required. Former archdeacon Roger Combes drew on more than 40 years of reflecting on the Passion in a variety of different ministry settings. His gentle voice, quiet wisdom and fresh devotional angles received warm words of appreciation all round.



Communion Lunch in Holy Week

Roger began with Mary anointing Jesus' feet. Although an extravagant, beautiful act of love, it took place in an atmosphere of hostility which was the shape of things to come. Judas' objection to Mary's generosity revealed not just the hardness of heart but the duplicity that propelled Jesus to the Cross. Tuesday's theme was hope in Christ as a fixed point in our lives. Based on Lamentations, while the sacking of the ancient city of Jerusalem represented the low point of gloom for Israel, there was a 'but' – a positive rather than a negative 'but': the Lord remained faithful; His love was and is new every morning.



Communion Lunch in Holy Week

Perhaps few of us had ever paused to notice how Jesus greeted Judas as his friend in the Garden of Gethsemane. Wednesday led us to consider the compromise and covetousness which proved so irresistible and destructive for Judas but which most of us fail completely to see in ourselves. Service and sacrifice was our twin focus on Maundy Thursday as we commemorated the institution of the Lord's Supper. The background for what happened in the Upper Room was more than 1000 years of remembering the Passover when the original children of Israel trusted that the blood of the lamb would save them. In Christ we trust in the blood of the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.



Holy Week Evening Services

The week reached its climax with the Tenebrae Service on Good Friday. Following a poignant rendition of "All in an April Evening" by the choir, Roger meditated on the fact that the One who is dying on the cross is actually reigning from it. He is the Lord of glory because He is a king who dies to save His people. On that moving note, the Tenebrae itself began and the sixteen candles were extinguished one by one as the Scriptural record of the story of our salvation slowly unfolded.



Tenebrae Service on Good Friday

Opening each service with a suitably affecting introit, Ian, the choir and on Maundy Thursday the 10 o'clock singers led us through a rich selection of Passiontide hymns and songs, many familiar some new to us. Along with the Canticles and Taize chants which are so important for the mood of Holy Week worship, the screen team who kept our scripts running smoothly throughout and not forgetting careful attention each evening, the loving preparation of all concerned was plain to see.



Easter Morning Breakfast

Reverend Roger was also present to offer a Holy Week word at both the Communion Lunch on Tuesday and our Communion and Prayers for the Sick service on Wednesday. The time of fellowship on Wednesday evening was a very welcome opportunity for our four congregations to get together, especially before the departure of our Most Holy Redeemer friends for the start of their Triduum on Maundy Thursday. The joy of our Easter morning breakfast after the sunrise service left us in the perfect spirit to go our separate ways.

All told, a thrill to plan, an experience to savour and good news to share – for us and all the world.



Easter Morning Breakfast

It was a delight to welcome back the annual Friends of Kiwoko Hospital (FOKH) information night to our parish centre on Sunday 28th April. This year at 'Kiwoko Live' we were entertained to informative interviews from some Queens nursing students who spent their December elective at the hospital and through the wonders of recording technology an interview with the present medical Director, the Ugandan surgeon Dr Peter. Our own team of men who visited recently shared some of their impressions and learning with honesty and humour. Dr Roy Harper, consultant Endocrinologist from the Ulster Hospital shared how he became involved in visiting Kiwoko regularly while Dr Roy Millar, Chairman of FOKH, shared the financial needs that have become more acute in recent years as some long term supporters are no longer able to contribute.



Thanks to everyone who helped make the evening a success.

The whole evening was fun and informative and an encouragement for us to continue in partnership with the great work being done at Kiwoko which continues to flourish since the Wilsons have returned to Ballyholme.

There are 2 fundraising events for Kiwoko Hospital at the start of June – a guitar concert on Friday 7th June in Hamilton Road Presbyterian Church from the Classic Guitar Society of Northern Ireland and then on Saturday 8th June a Table Quiz in our own parish centre organised by the men from our parish who visited Kiwoko in January. Why not put one of them in your diary to keep supporting this fantastic hospital?



Due to the bank holiday the MU did not meet until 13th May when Pat Peel led us in a series of light exercises, many of which could be carried out while still seated in our chairs. A fun evening with all members able to take part or just listen to the music.

Light refreshments were served at the end of the evening and members had time for a chat. Best wishes from **Yvonne and the MU committee**

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families



JUNE
8



TABLE QUIZ NIGHT

**Parish Centre - Saturday
8th June
7.30pm - 10.00pm**

In aid of 'Friends of Kiwoko' a fun filled evening of good company and trivia awaits. Tables of 8 (£5 entry per person) BYO drinks and nibbles

**BOOK YOUR PLACE WITH KELLY IN THE
PARISH OFFICE 028 9127 4912**

Come along with some friends for a fun night and show off the depth of your trivia knowledge while enjoying good company, conversation, drinks and nibbles.



A Glorious Day in St. Patrick's Country

With several of our regulars unavailable, just six Columbanus Walkers set off in bright May sunshine to spend a day in the Lecale peninsula.

From Raholp (4 miles east of Downpatrick) we walked along green lanes and country tracks to the north end of Lough Money. Here, in the crystal clear water, we saw a solitary swan and speculated that its mate was tending a nest, secreted in the bullrushes. Along the path that took us away from the lough we admired the flowers that were blooming in the May sunshine – bluebells, primroses and speedwell among others. We mused on the fact that we were using lanes that had been created and marked out by dry stone walls, hundreds of years ago. We also wondered what had been sown in the many fields that were covered with neat rows of polythene.

Our walk, now on public roads, brought us to the car park and fishing stations at the south end of Lough Money. The cooling northerly breeze blowing over the lough obliged us to shelter behind a wall for our lunch stop.

On our return to Raholp we decided to take a short cut. This gave us the time and more importantly, the energy to visit the statue of St. Patrick, on a hill between Raholp and Saul. The statue was erected in 1932 to mark the 1500th anniversary of our patron saint's landing at Saul. From the road, a steady climb for 10 minutes took us to the statue on the top of Slieve Patrick. Our exertions were rewarded with a marvellous view, not just across County Down – from the Mournes to Scrabo – but also across the sea to Scotland and England. While at the top of the hill, Robert drew our attention to the aerial display of a noisy crow chasing a buzzard away from the crow's nest.



As we returned home after a glorious day in St Patrick's country, we stopped at McCann's of Balloo for refreshments.

Peter Gibson



YOUTH-news

youth [youth] (youths) news [nooz]

Hello all! It's officially June, which means it's time for another update on what's been happening with the youth! Summer is fast approaching (can you believe it?) and we don't have many weeks left before the young people finish school, but we've still got plenty to be doing this term.

At Emerge we've enjoyed picking up again with the 'NUA' resource we had been working through before Christmas. There were a few sessions we hadn't quite finished, and with the summer term being shorter this year we figured it would be the perfect time to get back into this resource and study some of what we hadn't covered – exploring God's goodness and the Church's role in the world.

At YF we're covering areas that are relevant around exam time – things such as 'Stress', 'Gifts' and how to stay close to God over the summer when there's no YF! We're also super excited for Summer Madness; and if you, your child or even your grandchild is in Year 8 or above and wants to go, let me know and I'll show you how to book it!



On the topic of 'things to do over the summer', there are still spaces on SUNI's Mullingar Junior and Senior Camps – a camp which changed my life and which I now lead at. It's the highlight of my year every year and if you know anyone who would be interested, check it out. The dates are 27th of July – 3rd of August for Junior camp (Year 8-11) and 3rd – 10th of August for Senior Camp (Year 11-14). More information can be found at 'SUNI Mullingar Camps' on Facebook, or @mullingarcamps on Instagram.

Finally, I want to say a huge thank you to all the leaders who helped out at Easter Jumpin' this year. We had a brilliant three days exploring what it means to follow Jesus and were able to run evening sessions for the P5-P7 age group. We felt incredibly blessed by the Lord during these three days and many prayers were answered, especially when it came to weather! A highlight of mine was hanging out as leaders between the sessions – even though I did get a basin of water poured over me at one stage! However, the success of Easter Jumpin' was made possible by the hard work, enthusiasm and dedication of our wonderful volunteers. Summer Jumpin' will be from the 22nd – 26th of July and already we can't wait!

Andrew



The lovely azaleas at our Parish Centre have battled the cold spell and are now in full bloom. Our thanks once again to Marty and Harry for all their hard work and dedication during that past year.

Well done! Pat Williamson



Sunday 2nd June

Easter 7

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Good News at Ten - All Age

11.30 Morning Prayer

Wednesday 5th June

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 9th June

Pentecost

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Good News at Ten

& Children's Church

11.30 Parish Communion

6.30 United Service Ballyholme
Presbyterian**Wednesday 12th June**

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 16th June

Trinity Sunday

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Good News at Ten

& Children's Church Prizes

11.30 Morning Prayer

FUNERALS**April****27th:** Trevor Morrow,
formerly of Ballyholme
Court.

June

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 19th June**

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 23rd June

Trinity 1

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Good News at Ten - Parish

Communion & Children's Church Party

11.30 Morning Prayer

Wednesday 26th June

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 30th June

Trinity 2

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Good News at Ten - Wholeness and
Healing & Children's Church Film

11.30 Wholeness and Healing

**June****2nd:** Ann, Karen & Kelly**9th:** Fiona Jackson, Ann
Reynolds, Ella Walker**16th:** Michael & Sharon
Hatch, Charles Robinson**23rd:** Tracie Andreasson
Heather Johnston, Nicole
Watson**30th:** Mothers' Union**June****2nd:** No creche**9th:** Rachel Brittain,
Nicola Gullen, Jenny
Campbell**16th:** Children's Day: No
creche**23rd:** Children's Church
Party: No creche**30th:** Children's Church
Film: No creche**June****2nd:** Pat Davidson**9th:** Alwyn Aiken**16th:** Lilian Finch and Heidi
Doogan**23rd:** Marie Cull**30th:** Audrey Carroll**Children's
Church Helpers****June****2nd:** No Children's Church**9th:** Pamela Reading, Dawn
Niblock, Anna Gullen**16th:** Children's Day: Carla
Kells, Tracie Andreasson,
Cathrine Menary**23rd:** Children's Church Party:
Libby Beech, Kate English,
Karen Toogood**30th:** Children's Church Film:
Caroline Connolly