

St Columbanus

Ballyholme



Ann's Retirement
Harvest Celebrations
Passing on the Robes
Christmas is Coming!

..On the way
together..



The Parishioner

Dec 2019 / Jan 2020

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

The Rambling Rector

As Bishop Harold and Bishop Alan lay down their crooks, at the end of this December our Sexton of more than 25 years Ann Browne will lay down her brush. To many non-members who come and go through the week, she's "Ann at the Church". One parishioner on hearing the news went further and said "Ann is the Church" and I can't disagree. Ann (and never forgetting Harry who is rarely far behind her) represents all that is best in the Ballyholme spirit of seeing ways to serve the Lord practically, everywhere you look. Following her day job at Webbs Chemist, retirement for Ann was not a selfish 'me' time of giving things up but of taking things on. On a trip to Kajiado and Kiwoko in 2015, I introduced Ann as the key to the whole Ballyholme operation and I meant it. Part of Ballyholme Parish her whole life, I'm not sure where I would have been without Ann's long term perspective on things and that extra-mile kindness which is the mark of all true followers of the Saviour. Ann's daily joy has been St Columbanus Church, its worship, its people and its Lord. What is yours?



SED

The Wednesday Club

Our ladies were looking forward to this month after the cancellation of our October meeting and their expectations were fulfilled.

Our speaker was our own Mercia Flanagan who gave us a very informative, interesting and entertaining talk on the life of C.S.Lewis. We all learnt a lot and no doubt will be visiting the library soon to borrow his novels, so we can enjoy them too.



We welcomed two new ladies to our meeting, Freda and Maureen, who was also the lucky winner of this month's draw.

Next month is our Christmas lunch, with our start time of 1.00pm. Don't forget your wee present for Santa's sack, and we hope to see you then.

Sue





Just Older Youth

Take time to reflect

Christmas ought to be a time of reflection, a time to contemplate the mystery of why God became man. The answer is found in love.

1 John 4:16 “And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.”

He'll be back

As surely as Christ came the first time, according to His promise we can confidently look forward to His ‘second coming’, this time as King of kings and Lord of lords.

John 16:16 “In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me.”

Let God lead

There may be times when it seems God has pressed the mute button and we can't hear Him. In these moments be assured God is very near and has already worked out the best way for you.

Isaiah 59:1. “Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor His ear too dull to hear.”

The close and personal God

Though God upholds the mighty universe and ensures the steady course of stars, He still notices the frown that perplexes and the tear that flows. He pays close attention to every detail of our lives.

Psalms 34:18 “The Lord is close to the broken hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.”

Let God use you

Becoming a channel of God's love is the best way to display the Christmas message. Let God's love flow through you to become a blessing to someone else.

Matthew 5:46 “If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that.”

The joy of Church

A survey carried out over 28 years showed people who attend Church regularly enjoy better health, have lower blood pressure, less depression and stronger immunity. Make Church more than just a Christmas tradition.

Acts 2:42 “They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”

Retreat to advance

We tend to think we can only enjoy the season in the presence of other people. Remember silence is golden and solitude is essential for mental renewal. We should all find time for a moment to ourselves.

Matthew 6:6 “But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”

Be thankful

Christ came from heaven to earth and gave us the greatest gift - Himself.

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”



We are now into advent, the time when we look forward to Christmas and the coming of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. Have you got your tree up yet, written your Christmas list? Advent is a very exciting time, at home, in school and in church with lots of preparations needed.



In Children's Church a lot of time in December is spent preparing for our nativity play. One morning in Bubbles a group of girls were colouring-in, singing the song we had just learnt 'God loves me', and I decided it would be lovely to find a way to incorporate their talents in the nativity, so this year our play is focusing on how Love came down at Christmas, in the form of Jesus Christ.

With so much going on at Christmas it is easy to miss out, so make sure you put these **dates in your diary**:

- * **14th December** 2-4pm Nativity dress rehearsal and Children's church party
- * **15th December** 10am Nativity service
- * **24th December** 5pm Family carol service
- * **12th January** 10am Children's Church restarts
- * **13th January** 4-4:30pm Praise Kids and Praise Crew restart



Nativity Word Search

X	S	M	B	I	Y	L	V	Y	Y	J	U	H	O	L	Y	S	F
D	O	S	E	C	A	M	E	L	S	O	J	G	S	Z	S	T	G
J	V	T	T	Z	A	M	A	N	G	E	R	T	Y	F	J	A	I
O	B	A	H	Z	O	Y	S	C	T	Z	G	J	J	I	Q	B	F
S	D	R	L	N	A	T	I	V	I	T	Y	C	R	E	P	L	T
E	B	Y	E	Q	D	D	O	N	K	E	Y	I	A	I	S	E	S
P	A	J	H	J	Y	X	E	E	J	H	U	V	A	N	J	U	G
H	B	O	E	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	S	N	M	D	L	S
O	Y	H	M	T	C	R	J	X	W	A	R	X	G	T	P	L	I
P	E	X	L	O	V	E	P	E	A	C	E	C	E	R	E	V	E
K	I	N	G	S	I	Y	F	Y	B	P	X	A	L	D	Y	L	P
D	H	P	J	Y	A	U	A	D	V	E	N	T	M	A	R	Y	Q

ADVENT

CANDLE

JOSEPH

PEACE

ANGEL

DONKEY

KINGS

SHEPHERDS

BABY

GIFTS

LOVE

STABLE

BETHLEHEM

HOLY

MANGER

STAR

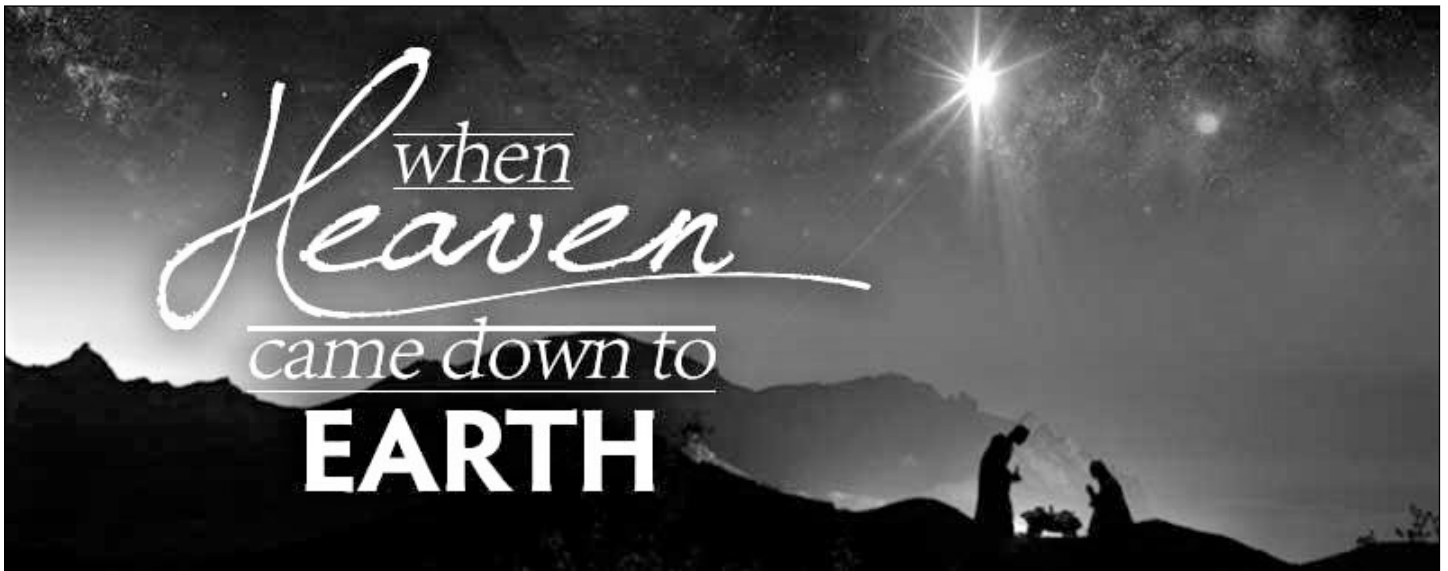
CAMEL

JESUS

NATIVITY

MARY





The greatest moment in history was not when man walked on the moon but when God walked on the earth...

These few annual lines never feel an adequate acknowledgment of the support and sacrifice of so many in our parish year after year who keep worshipping and praying, serving and building for Christ in Ballyholme.

You do it because you love Him and because He first loved you.

In gratitude, fellowship and joy this holy season:
Christmas and New Year blessings to you all!

Simon D.

...join us to worship Him this Christmas!

Bishop Alan's Retirement

As reported in the November Parishioner, our former rector will be retiring early for medical reasons on 31 December 2019. His final services will be on Christmas Eve in Lisburn Cathedral and Christmas Day at St Anne's but he has had to decline our invitation to preach one last time before then in St Columbanus. Please pray for Bishop Alan over this difficult period and let's hope he might be well enough to come back at some point in the future. The following is from his reply to Simon's letter at the end of September.

Thank you for your very kind letter and good wishes from St Columbanus, Ballyholme. It has been a strange and unusual year but we have been carried by the love and prayers of many.

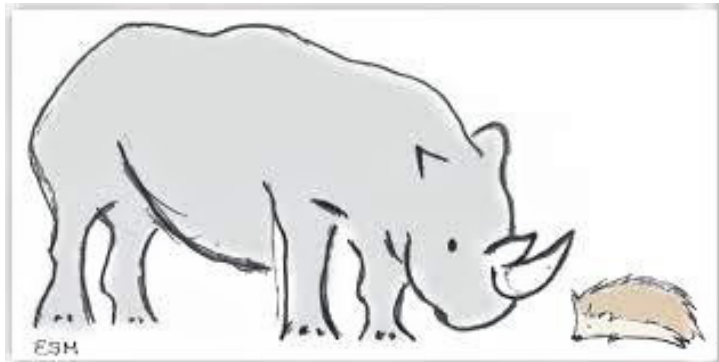
I am very grateful for your kind invitation to preach in St Columbanus before I retire. Unfortunately I feel I have to decline as I am on "sick leave" and in recovery and have had to refuse many such invitations in Connor Diocese.

Ballyholme will always have a special place in our hearts and you and the parish are frequently in our prayers.

Please convey my thanks to all for their love and concern.

Liz joins me in sending our love and prayers to all in Ballyholme.

Alan Abernethy,
Bishop of Connor



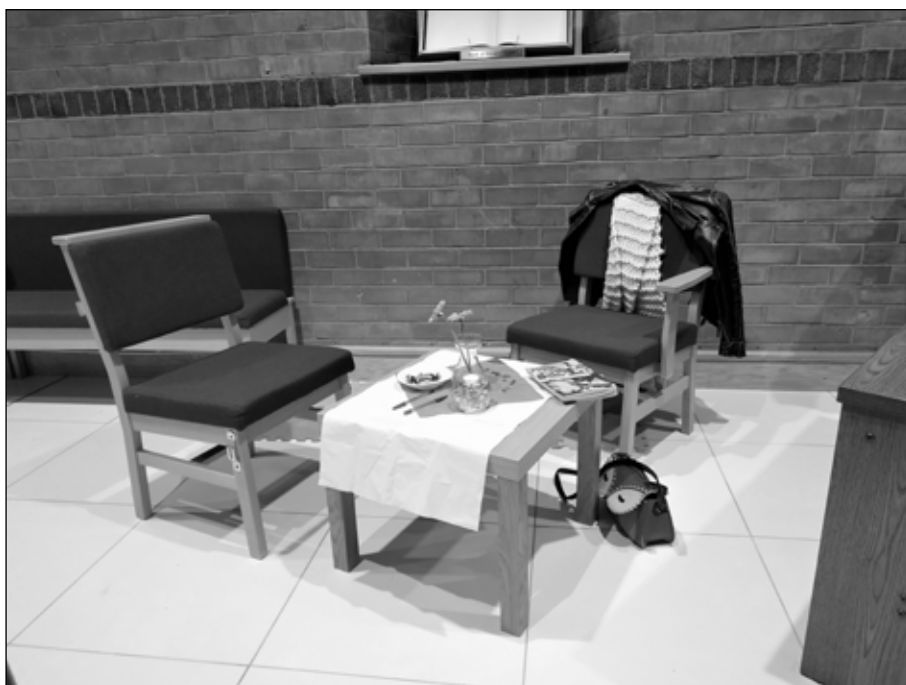
Few of the twelve couples who turned up at Church on Sunday evenings this autumn for Nicky and Sila Lee's acclaimed Marriage Course knew quite what to expect. Fortunately, we were in the safe hands of Rory and Denise Wilson who had experienced it twice for themselves and even run it once before in Uganda.

Our new flexible St Columbanus worship-space lent itself very effectively to the purpose, with the church lovingly arranged each week to be as welcoming and relaxing as possible. With tables set-up in all corners of the building, everyone had good access to the screens for the talks while privacy for conversation was assured by gentle background music.

As to the content, it was a light and accessible mixture of advice, experience from talking-head couples and exercises for those attending. When appropriate there were Bible references and pauses for prayer but the agenda was not directly spiritual so much as relational and every effort was made to put people at their ease.

If it was the rhinos and hedgehogs headline that drew you to read this by the way, suffice to say session four was all about confrontation, dealing with hurt and learning to practice forgiveness. It seems we're all somewhere on the rhino-hedgehog spectrum and knowing which way we lean might well be a relationship-saver!

Not every topic or theme was as relevant for every couple. Yet there was still something to discuss and take home each evening and for all those who came, the opportunity simply to sit down for an uninterrupted two hours together seemed gift enough to make the whole thing worth-while. Our thanks to Roy and Denise for blessing us invaluablely this autumn.



World Day of Prayer

Friday 6st March 2020

The 2020 World Day of Prayer service will be held in Most Holy Redeemer, Sheridan Drive.

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 8th February 2020 from 10.30am to 12noon.

Please come along and support both these events if possible.





who have died over recent years are read from a list which people have added to over the weeks before the service.

This year's guest preacher is our former curate the Reverend Stephen Smyth. Appointed Rector of Inch and Kilmore near Downpatrick in 2012, during their four years with us Stephen and his wife Debbie accompanied many of our parish families through funerals and bereavements. In fact the Smyths first relocated to Northern Ireland from South Africa back in 2007 when Stephen's own father was dying. More recently, Stephen suffered the loss of his dear Mum Dorothy, a friend to many in our church family and a fondly-remembered member of Mothers' Union and our Friday lunch fellowship. It will be good to have them with us.

A trickle of names are added to the Book of Remembrance every few months as people feel they want to record their loved ones in a permanent way in Church – although these names are not read at the annual service, only those on the specified list. If you want to enquire about adding new names, please get in touch with the Parish Office.



Please join us for what is always a poignant and healing act of worship in the run up to that season when the loss of loved ones can feel especially sharp.



North Down Storehouse Advent Appeal

500 hampers were given out at Christmas last year. This year due to lack of space we will be restricted to around 300 which still requires significant donations and the charity are reliant on the support of our church and others to fulfil this need.

Please consider donating the usual groceries such as tins of tuna, custard, sweetcorn, beans, rice pudding, soup, jars of baby food, jam, pasta sauce, diluting juice, breakfast juice, long life milk, boxes of cereals, biscuits, sugar, pasta, tea bags and coffee, bottles of washing-up liquid, cleaning products and other items including male and female toiletries, nappies, wipes but also items of Christmas fayre; mince pies, small Christmas cakes and puddings, chocolates, bottles of Shloer, and other treats that help to make Christmas special (by 9th December).



The trolley will be out each Sunday morning during Advent and thank you for your continuing support.



Our special guest for Harvest 2019 was the Rt Rev Eridard Nsubuga, Bishop of Luwero in the Anglican Church of Uganda – better known to some of our parishioners as the Bishop of Kiwoko. Joined by his wife Mama Jane, Eridard brought greetings from his family, clergy and people to all three of our harvest services and was the guest of honour at our annual missions fund-raising lunch.

Bishop Eridard explained he had been brought to the UK by the Church of England Diocese of Bristol which is celebrating 50 years of partnership with the Anglican Church in Uganda. CMS Ireland extended an invitation that they should travel a little bit further to connect with some of their Irish partner parishes and lo and behold the dates clicked



beautifully: Ballyholme harvest was their final engagement before setting off for home again.



I am the bread of life was Bishop Eridard's theme from John chapter 6. Harvest, he reflected, has its roots firmly in the Old Testament Deuteronomy tradition of first fruits whereby we give back to God from what he has so generously given to us. It's the festival which stops us from taking things for granted – the basic things like food and water and the cycle of seasons which supplies them.

Children's Church, Praise Kids and Praise Crew were in wonderful voice at Good News at Ten, singing 'He's got the whole world in his hands' (with suitable props!) and reading and praying through the seven letters of HARVEST. Bishop Eridard explained to the young people that climate change is having a real impact in African countries. While rain can be annoying and frustrating for us in Northern Ireland, in Uganda every drop is welcome and precious.

The mission committee lunch was a lovely reward to a busy morning of services for our guests. Alongside the traditional harvest vegetable broth, a hall full of parishioners enjoyed a choice of butternut squash, minestrone and curried parsnip soups before a surprise pudding treat of profiteroles. On every table there was a summary copy of the gifts and disbursements made over the previous twelve months so parishioners could see where their gifts were going to.



Mama Jane offered the closing words to our mission committee lunch, saying how much they had enjoyed being with us. They felt warmly welcome in Ballyholme, especially after running out of gas at their accommodation in Donaghadee on Friday night and having to pile on as many layers of clothes as possible until emergency supplies arrived on Saturday! Bishop Eridard closed with a blessing and we said our farewells till the next time.



Before everyone left the Parish Centre, a preliminary count of Smarties Tubes and lunch donations came to more than £2000. Grateful thanks to the whole parish for their continued support of so many worthy Christian causes.



Ann Browne hasn't just been our Sexton, she's been our friend. There was Ann's fifteen contracted hours, and then there was her service. At its October meeting, Vestry reacted to Ann's decision to retire at the end of this year with a spontaneous round of applause. Following a difficult decision which she had kept postponing, the Rector conveyed the deep gratitude of the parish and members joined in warm expressions of thanks and appreciation.

Whether it was opening up and preparing the Church for a funeral or a wedding, or deep-cleaning the Parish Centre after a sale or holiday club or her hours of shopping, prepping and chopping in the kitchen, Ann made a job into a ministry. Not just a cheery face for deliverymen, funeral directors and flower arrangers, she built up a network of contacts over the years through our various church organisations that spread far beyond St Columbanus and went deep into our local community.



Ann has been an affectionate and motherly presence for all of us but that very kindness gave her the authority to be firm sometimes, especially with anyone failing to show proper respect for the sanctity of our Church or the public appearance of our halls. As for Ann's ever-present helpmate Harry, aside from putting out the bins and the traffic cones for a midweek service, how many times has that man tidied the hall of tables and chairs after a function or reception? How many days of his life has he spent at the sink and dishwasher after a Friday lunch?

Ann herself was everywhere. Not – thankfully – that she's going too far now! Ann and Harry will continue to live in Summerhill and continue to worship and





serve in lots of ways as part of our active St Columbanus Church family. What will come to an end though is Ann turning up for work in the Parish Centre every morning. The whole parish will agree that she and Harry deserve some time to themselves, please God with a bit less of the back pain which on bad days especially has been causing Ann considerable pain.

Ann and Harry equally are the definition of 'background' people. On reflection, Vestry should have known it was wasting its time to set a date for a cake and presentation between services as Ann was quick to seek

out the Rector and insist that they be spared any sort of reception. We respect their request of course but Vestry hopes these few words in The Parishioner will go a small way to acknowledging everything Ann has done for us. On behalf of the parish, we have given them a gift of Hastings Hotel vouchers in the hope that they may be able to take themselves off for a weekend and let somebody else do the work!

We will only realise half of what Ann has been doing all these years when she is not doing it any more. Our deep gratitude to her and to Harry along with the good wishes and prayers of the whole parish for a happy retirement.



In Church life the old accounting year finishes on 31 December and the new one begins on 1 January 2020 sees a number of behind-the-scene changes we want you to know about and pray for, as our building and planting for Christ in Ballyholme continues.

New Software

We recently upgraded our Office computer with a package called Finance Co-ordinator. It will make things easier in lots of ways but crucially it is much more suited to today's electronic banking and giving. Our quarterly Gift Aid applications can be processed more easily and our annual accounts and audit will be simpler. From January all our Free Will Offering will be recorded on Finance Co-ordinator.

New Treasurer

Following our restructuring of the role of Treasurer and our call for prayer in September for someone to take over from Roy Lawther at the next Easter Vestry, we thank God for prompting parishioner Liz Grant to step forward. Wife to Colin and mum to Cameron and Erin, Liz is a management accountant with Valpar Micromatic Ltd. Now attending Vestry meetings and shadowing Roy over his closing months, to have someone like Liz who is so at home with payrolls and budgets is in every way a God-send.



New Cashless Culture

More and more of life is now cashless. Our broad-daylight church burglary earlier this year was upsetting for all concerned and certainly the easiest way to avoid it happening again will be for more parishioners to dispense with envelopes, give electronically and pop a token on the Sunday plate. Last year we went down from 200 envelopes to 150 so there is already significantly less cash on the premises. Please help us reduce it still further.

New Energy

With Rev Jan Stevenson as our new Community Pastor we are praying to make fresh inroads into the families and streets all around us. Our Children's, Youth and Seniors' programmes remain absolute priorities as do our overseas mission partnerships and Storehouse North Down. We're saving hard for Phase Two of our building project but long to expand the hours for our Community Pastor and to give more to missions yet we have every sense that you want to support all this. One of the most practical ways you can do that is by giving electronically.

New Standing Orders – 25 please!

It is right that every year we all review our personal giving and ensure that it reflects the Biblical principle of giving God our first fruits rather than our leftover scraps. Forms for setting up standing orders are now old hat by the way. You can do it all online or by taking this magazine into your bank branch – if you've still got one. All you need are these numbers for Ballyholme Parish:

Sort Code **902071**
Account Number **92428425**

Our target this New Year is 25 new standing orders. Even this small number will make a very real difference to us. More would be even better. Please be one of the 25 and thank-you all for your continued response to Generous Giving.



As I am now a month into my new role, it is a good opportunity to share how I think God might want the role to develop. I have found St Columbanus church to be a warm friendly place that is keen to welcome new people. Our society has many people who would value the sense of community and the hope that the Christian gospel brings. I see my role as enabling everybody in the church to reach out.

Prayer is vital as we ask God to prepare people to receive the seed of the Good News of Jesus' care. I intend to be out and about calling into local businesses and promoting the fact that as the local church we would like to be of service to our local community. As a former Primary School teacher I look forward to building on the existing excellent links with local schools. I have already met with clergy from the local churches to discuss how this initiative can go forward as a joint outreach.



As a parish we have many families coming to Sunday services and even more attending our wonderful youth and children's organizations. My daughter is joining the Rainbows and I look forward to getting to know the Mums, Dads and grandparents who drop them off. Just one example of how we can all befriend and encourage people to get more involved in church life.

Jesus said "Does he not leave the 99 and go after the lost sheep until he finds it?" John 15:4

Rev Jan Stevenson

Ulster Hospital Admissions: please let us know

My car knows its own way to the Ulster. I am generally there every Tuesday in life when I am in the country. There has never been a week in my nearly twelve years when there has not been at least one Ballyholme parishioner in Dundonald Hospital and normally it's more like three or four. The record was ten in one week recorded by our then curate the Reverend Alistair Morrison!

Lately however, no hospital chaplain is informing us when parishioners are admitted. This means if you don't get in touch with the clergy or the Parish Office, the chances are we will not hear. More than once recently, loved ones have been in hospital for several weeks without a visit when I was on the premises seeing other people and would only have been glad to say hello. For folk who live alone the risk is doubled and they of all people might be especially pleased to see a familiar face.

It's not just Ballyholme by the way. All the local parishes are experiencing the same problem. We understand it may have something to do with a new EU GDPR policy now being operated at the Ulster and the move from the six-bed bay wards in the old patient block, to the private, en suite rooms in the new. We have asked the Diocese to look into the situation for us.

Lines of communication remain good from the Royal Victoria and Musgrave Park Hospitals but until further notice every time you learn of a parishioner in Dundonald please let us know.





Spring into Life

Friday 20 to Sunday 22 March 2020

Lots of churches go away for parish weekends from time to time, some every year. Preferring as ever to give things our own special Ballyholme twist, this March we are going to bring the fun “holme” and go no further than our own Parish Centre and Church – well where better!

Our speaker will be Jasper Rutherford. A former leader of Summer Madness and Church Army Evangelist, Jasper speaks internationally but is based in Belfast. He will be joining us for a weekend of events for all ages and tastes and at this stage we would simply ask that you save the dates and pray.

With prayer in mind ahead of the programme, we hope to meet on the first and third Thursday of each month (7.30pm in the Choir Room). Please join us on 5th & 19th Dec, 9th & 23rd Jan, 6th & 20th Feb and 5th & 19th Mar.

Our hope and trust is that God will use these few days as part of his longing to break into our lives with new life and growth at a point when we're ready to receive him – a spring time for the soul.

“the water I give will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life”
John 4:14



Community Carols

Please join us for our annual Festive Carol singing together with our Ballyholme Neighbour Churches

Thursday 19 December 5.30-6.30pm

Outside Heatherlea Bakery!

Meeting the somewhat legendary Marsden Fitzsimmons was both poignant and inspiring. I was greeted with a holy kiss and warm handshake, and then a dialogue that went like this:

Marsden: Is there a connection between me and Rory?

Me: Yes – you were his Sunday school teacher.

Marsden: And he was my G.P. Is there a connection between me and Christine (Rory's mum)?

Me: Yes

Marsden: That's right she babysat for us! Is there is a relationship between me and Elizabeth (Rory's gran, Marsden's peer)?

Me: Yes! You taught together.

Suddenly I felt as if I were meeting an extended family member! There was a strong sense of inheriting the robes as a daughter from a father.

2 Kings Chapter 2 relates how Elijah was taken up to heaven. Elisha picked up not only Elijah's cloak v13, but also the office of a prophet, which is clearly evidenced before the end of Chapter 2. In taking up the robes that belonged to Marsden, I hope to honour the Lord and the godly man who wore the robes by faithfully declaring God's Word when I have opportunity.

Marsden retains a passion for the Church, faith and unity. He misses the bustle of church life and so if you are passing Kingsland, Seacliff Rd, he would love to see you – even if it's only for ten minutes! I realise afresh how precious the News in the Pews and Parish magazine are to those who are isolated – however a living, breathing 'magazine' would be superior!

Denise Wilson



Communion Lunch

Tuesday 10th December is the date for our next informal Communion lunch.

The service starts at midday in the Parish Centre followed by lunch at 12.30pm, after which we will be joined by the choir from Ballyholme Primary School.

This really is a wonderful occasion and not to be missed so please consider joining us.

For more information or to arrange lifts please contact me at the Parish office on 91274712.

God bless,

Karen





An Urban Walk in East Belfast

On a surprisingly sunny warm November day eighteen Walkers took the train to Titanic and then walked five miles to Holywood. Heather as leader, had planned an interesting walk along roads close to Samson and Goliath, past the Short Brothers building (now the HSE HQ), with a diversion into the lovely Victoria Park. The park is a hidden gem and we crossed the Sam Thompson

bridge to get to it. Sam Thompson (1916 -1965) was a shipyard worker. As a trade unionist and playwright, he was concerned with social issues and is best known for his controversial plays 'Over the Bridge' which exposes sectarianism, and 'Cemented with Love', which focuses on political corruption.

The park is a hidden gem in a commercial setting, an oasis for wildlife and part of the Connswater Community Greenway. It's home to Victoria Park Playing Fields, which contains soccer pitches, a bowling green and a cycling and BMX track. The park also has two walking trails that centre around the lake. The idea of creating a public park near the Connswater River in east Belfast was first suggested by the Harbour Commissioner in 1854. Progress was slow because the land was very marshy, inaccessible to the public and



generally unsuitable for a public park. But it was given the green light and opened in 1906. It was landscaped by Charles McKimm, who also built the Tropical Ravine in Botanic Gardens.

Further on, another treat, a visit to the RSPB Window on Wildlife visitor centre on Airport Road. Claire gave us an enthusiastic talk over coffee and biscuits, and then took us to the viewing room overlooking the freshwater lagoon. The lake was teeming with birds -



apparently over 200 different species have been recorded long with lots of butterflies, mammals, fish and plants. Interestingly there are also several Konic Polish ponies which graze the land, creating the right conditions for wading birds to breed. We spent quite some time there and then headed on towards Holywood, past the two Bird Hides, which are free to enter, and on past the old Kinnegar Barracks, the Yacht Club and many attractive terrace houses, luckily well away from the busy by-pass. Some headed home but seven of us made our way to the Camphill Organic Foods shop for the customary refreshments.



Our next walk is on 7th December, to precede the Christmas Lunch at Royal Ulster Yacht Club. Details later.

Our November MU meeting was entitled Powder and Paint - now anyone who knows me can verify my great love of lipstick, so I waited with eager anticipation for the speaker Helen McCann to share some beauty secrets from yesteryear. Her stories were centred around a fairly large collection of powder compacts, tiny boxes of rouge and very dainty little beaded bags to carry these complexion enhancers in.

She was able to share the stories of some of these treasures, especially a beautiful beaded, blue "flapper-style" evening dress worn by her Aunt around the 1940's, turning heads in Warrenpoint!

Helen has been collecting these little bits and pieces of glamour for over 20 years, using her love of history and her research skills of a very accomplished P6 teacher. One evening she was sharing a little story about a tiny delicate



powder compact, weaving some possible ideas about it, in the easy style of a creative teacher; next moment a friend suggested she should take these little treasures around the "talking circuit" of afternoon and evening meetings. So out of this Powder and Paint was born.

Helen uses the speaking fee she receives to support a charity close to her heart - Mercy Ships. We learned this is an organisation that has a hospital ship, fully staffed, anchored off the African Coast, which receives and treats many people who would otherwise not have access to any medical help.

A story was told of a young girl named Annette, who hid her face behind a blue flannel, hiding a huge tumour. This ship anchored off Sierra Leone was able to provide medical help for her. The article writer, a surgeon from Northern Ireland, shared this wonderful story and in conclusion he was able to explain that the same blue flannel is now used to wash her smooth tumour-free skin, with each stroke that ever-loving warmth of God's love can be experienced.

Much to consider for ourselves and be thankful for.



Thanks for your support, great to see the new toes returning for the second dip into the water!

Our December meeting will have a festive theme, come along on Monday 2nd December.

Don't forget Winter Treats at Bangor Golf Club on Tuesday 7th January (menu choices will be ready to select at the December Meeting).

Many Blessing and Warm Wishes for Christmas and the New Year from Yvonne & MU Team.

YOUTH-news

youth [youth] (youths)

news [nooz]

This is the first magazine article I've written since my wedding in October, and I'd firstly like to say a huge thank you to those who came to the wedding to celebrate with Hannah and me, as well as everyone who has been wishing us well! It's been great settling into married life, especially for Hannah who has found everyone at church to be very welcoming and friendly.

As for what the youth have been up to, we've been enjoying getting to grips with a whole host of things in our faith. At Emerge we've been learning about the Bible – what it is, its importance and how to study it. For the past few weeks we've had passages from the gospels printed out on pages which we've then studied and learned about. It's been really helpful to show the young people that the Bible does actually make sense and to equip them to read and interpret it themselves – hopefully these will be skills they continue to develop and use.

At YF we've been continuing with our Youth Alpha programme – with the occasional fun night too, such as going to Air-Tastic! With the Youth Alpha course, it's been encouraging to hear the young people talk about what they believe and interact with each other's thoughts even when they radically disagree with each other.

Finally, we've also started back with our weekly Bible Study! Whereas it was only for the Upper 6ths last year, this year we've expanded to 5th year and up. We meet on Friday nights, sometimes in the Meto room and sometimes in my house. I hadn't been able to start it until November (what with getting married, and half term too), but I'd missed hanging out with the gang and chatting about the Bible so it's great to be back at that. We've also had some new people coming who didn't come last year, and they've been an absolute blast! I'm super excited about Bible Study and the stuff we do at it, and if you're in Year 12 or above and want to come then feel free to drop me a message.

We'll be taking a short break from our programme for Christmas but will be back in the New Year – until then, have a great Christmas!

Andrew Watson





December



1st Raymond McCabe
in memory of Jackie and
Graeme McCabe

8th Yvonne Manogue

15th Christmas

22nd Christmas

29th Pat Williamson

January 2020

5th Pat Shannon

12th Susan Stockton

19th Agnes Officer

26th Jacqui Devlin

Parish Office:

91274912

Rectory: 91274901

Prayer Line: 07531806167

Transport: 07599794968

Church Readers Rota:

Freda (11.30) 91467624

Thelma (10.00) 91271327

Web Site www.ballyholmeparish.co.uk

December

1st: Gillian Fletcher,
Carole Majury

8th: Pat Davidson, Pat
Adair, Denise Wilson

15th: Susan & Jonnie
Stockton, Daphne Moore

22nd: Gillian & Geoff
Young, Patrick Crothers,
Neil Devlin

29th: Ann Reynolds, Ella
Walker, Vicky Hayes

January 2020

5th: Jem Moran, Joy
Hamilton, Irene Bell

12th: Mark & Carolyn
Larmour, Jean Law

19th: Tracie Andreasson,
Heather Johnston, Nicole
Watson

26th: Michael & Sharon
Hatch, Charles Robinson



December

1st: Nativity Rehearsal 1:
Claire Andrews, Cathrine
Menary, Emma MacDonald

8th: Jayne Nicholl, Pamela
Reading, Aileen Smith

14th: Dress Rehearsal 2 -
4 pm: Karen Baker, Libby
Beech, Kelly McCullough,
Irene McKay, Michelle Savage

15th Navitivity: Libby Beech,
Sarah Boyd, Ann Brown, Irene
McKay, Michelle Savage

22nd: No Children's Church

29th: No Children's Church

January 2020

5th: No Children's Church

12th: Jenny Campbell, Carla
Kelly, Heather Milliken,
Collette Pike

19th: Ashleigh Birkett,
Caroline Connolly, Dawn
Niblock, Emma Sutherland

26th: Conor Catchpole, Kate
English, Sharon Gowdy, Anna
Gullen



Leading up to the next parish mission we are going to have 2 parish prayer meeting every month on the 1st and 3rd Thursday at 7.30pm in the Choir room.

5th & 19th December

9th & 23rd January

6th & 20th February

5th & 19th March

Creche Rota



December

1st: Rachel Brittain, Jenny
Whiteside

8th: Natalie McCartan, Judith
Thompson

15th: Nativity - No Creche

22nd: No Creche

29th: No Creche

January 2020

5th: No Creche

12th: Rachel Brittain, Sharon
Gowdy

19th: Natalie McCartan, Sarah
Smith

26th: Christine Rankin, Nicola
Gullen

DECEMBER 2019**Sunday 1st December Advent 1**

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

Wednesday 4th December

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado room

Sunday 8th December Advent 2

8.30 Holy Communion
 10.00 Good News at Ten &
 Children's Gifts
 11.30 Parish Communion

Wednesday 11th December

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado room

Sunday 15th December Advent 3

8.30 Holy Communion
 10.00 Children's Carol Service
 11.30 Morning Prayer

Wednesday 18th December

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado room

Sunday 22nd December Advent 4

8.30 Holy Communion
 10.00 Good News at Ten
 11.30 Morning Prayer
 6.30 Carols by Candlelight

Tuesday 24th December Christmas Eve

5.00 Family Carol Service
 11.00 First Communion of Christmas

Wednesday 25th December Christmas Day

8.30 Holy Communion
 10.00 Family Service

Sunday 29th December Christmas 1

8.30 Holy Communion
 10.30 Combined Service

JANUARY 2020**Sunday 5th January Christmas 2**

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

Wednesday 8th January

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado room

Sunday 12th January Epiphany 1

8.30 Holy Communion
 10.00 Good News at Ten &
 Children's Church
 11.30 Holy Communion
 6.30 United Service Kajiado room

Wednesday 15th January

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado room

Sunday 19th January Epiphany 2

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

Wednesday 22nd January

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado room

Sunday 26th January Epiphany 3

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

Wednesday 29th January

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado room



**Quiz
 Night**

**Saturday
 25th January**

**7.30pm in
 Parish Centre**

Tables - Maximum of 8 people
 Book through Kelly in the office
 £5 per person

BYO drinks, nibbles etc for
 brain food

**Proceeds to support Parish Mission
 Partners**



**Help needed to decorate
 the church for Christmas**

**Saturday 14th December
 at 10.00 am**

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