

St Columbanus

Ballyholme



Spring into Life Programme
CMSI Impact Roadshow
New Sextons



..On the way
together..

The Parishioner

February 2020

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

“How many months have 28 days?” You’ve heard it before. The Mission Committee toyed with the idea of a ‘Leap of Faith’ themed parish weekend for the end of this month. It turned out the speaker we wanted had booked his young family on their first skiing holiday over those dates, hence next month’s Spring into Life (see later). But the ‘Leap of Faith’ thought has stuck with me. Perhaps that was how you felt about getting married or starting your first mortgage? I’ve heard business people tell stories of how their most successful ventures involved stepping out nearly blind. Of course before any significant life commitment we’re going to do a risk assessment and Christianity is no different. But after weighing up the evidence, all those claims made by, for and about Jesus, there still comes a point where we have to give up control ourselves and trust Him. Until that moment, I’m not sure our journey of faith has really even begun. My own favourite ‘Leap of Faith’ picture is the trapeze artist. It’s not about letting go mid-air and flailing around wildly to grab hold of something – anything. It’s about letting go mid-air and allowing God to catch us.



SED.

Register of Vestry Members and Easter Vestry 2020

The Register of Vestry Members was declared open at the January meeting of the Select Vestry and will be closed and reviewed on Thursday 20 February. If you have never done so before, please do register: it entitles you to participate in the constitutional life of the parish but commits you to nothing!

In accordance with chapter 3 of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland, our annual General (Easter) Vestry meeting in Ballyholme takes place at 12.45pm on Sunday 29 March in the Parish Centre over a parish family lunch.

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.

Nominations will close on Sunday 22 March. Forms will be available from the Churchwardens on Sundays, from the Parish Office on weekday mornings and from our Honorary Secretary Christine Johnstone (91459623). 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.



World Day of Prayer

Friday 6th 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.

Parishioner Cost/Envelope

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

Although the gifts are anonymous and unrecorded we are allowed to aggregate them for Gift Aid purposes. If all of our 468 recipients gave £5 we would certainly cover ourselves, but please bear in mind that less than 25% made a gift last year.

A quarter of you are paying for the other three-quarters, give or take! Please return your envelope by the collection plate on Sunday and do bear in mind that the full text of the magazine is now available on the parish website.

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



“God Knows”

by Minnie Louise Haskins (1875-1957)

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:

“Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.”

And he replied:

“Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.

That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.”

So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.

And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.

So heart be still:

What need our little life

Our human life to know,

If God hath comprehension?

In all the dizzy strife

Of things both high and low,

God hideth His intention.

God knows. His will

Is best. The stretch of years

Which wind ahead, so dim

To our imperfect vision,

Are clear to God. Our fears

Are premature; In Him,

All time hath full provision.

Then rest: until

God moves to lift the veil

From our impatient eyes,

When, as the sweeter features

Of Life’s stern face we hail,

Fair beyond all surmise

God’s thought around His creatures

Our mind shall fill.

Minnie Louise Haskins’ famous lines on “the gate of the year” have been used at royal occasions from George VI’s 1939 Christmas broadcast to the funeral of Elizabeth, the Queen Mother in 2002.

Her words live on, inscribed at the entrance to the George VI memorial chapel in St. George’s Chapel, Windsor and in a window at the Queen’s Chapel of the Savoy.

Friday Christmas Lunch





CHILDREN'S CHURCH

I know it's now February and we are thinking about Valentine's Day and are busy making lots of cards for mummies and daddies. However, I would like you all to take a minute to cast your minds back to Christmas 2019 when the children put on an **outstanding nativity play!** With a hard-working Mary and Joseph, sleeping shepherds and cute sheep, an inn-keeper cum Wise Man, loads of fabulous readers, noisy animals, angels, and of course, not forgetting our wonderful cheerleaders it was a great Christmas service! It was a success because of the children's enthusiasm, extra practices on the playground, and the support from all the mums and dads who brought them along and helped them to learn their lines.



Children's Church is up and running again with Splash and Ice learning about how God keeps his promises, and Bubbles learning the story of Joseph (the Old Testament one!)

Praise Kids and Crew (who sang really well at the nativity service) are also back and in full voice. All children are welcome to come: Praise Kids (P1-4) Mondays 4-4.30pm, Praise Crew (P5-7) from 4.30-5pm. It would be great to have you along!

Paula Lown

But without further ado, I'm sure you will enjoy looking at these photos:





Over the coming weeks, CMSI is taking to the road for its annual series of **Impact** events across Ireland. Each event includes a short, engaging presentation of stories from the global Church and updates from CMSI's work. There's also a chance to chat with CMSI staff members over a cuppa and to meet other friends and supporters of the society.

The nine roadshow events also offer a chance to pick up the latest CMSI resources, including the 2020 Children's Resource, *In The Middle*, which focuses on Burundi and the Church's role at the centre of communities.

The **Impact** events are open to all and will be of particular interest to anyone with a connection with CMSI or a wider interest in global mission.

The series kicks off with the **Impact Belfast** event in St Mark's, Dundela on Monday 20th January at 7:30pm.

Two of the other events are taking place in Down and Dromore parishes:

* **Impact Drumbeg** - Wednesday 5th February, 8pm; Drumbeg Parish Halls

* **Impact Bangor** - Monday 10th February, 7:30pm; Ballyholme Parish Halls

Details of the other events are available on the CMSI website or by contacting info@cmsireland.org.

Three good friends went for a swim.
The one who was fat wished she was thin.
The one who was curvy wished she was clever.
The one who was clever wished she swam better.
The really great swimmer wished she was witty.
The one who was witty wished she was pretty.
All three friends thought the other two were just fine.
If only they could let their own bright light shine.
So throw on your swimsuit if you're fat or you're thin.
Enjoy fun and friendship love the skin that you're in!

Three Good Friends watercolour by Rachel Toll





Following the retirement of Ann Browne as Sexton at the end of December, the whole parish must have been wondering how we could ever find someone as committed to the life of St Columbanus as Ann had been for more than 25 years. One person was never going to be enough!

No one was expecting that two of our existing part-time members of staff would almost instantly express an interest in the post. Karen Baker our Pastoral Assistant to the Seniors since 2004 and Kelly McCullough our Parish Administrator since 2012 have firmly established themselves as trusted employees of our church and at the vanguard of its mission and ministry.

Known widely throughout the congregation for their warmth, approachability and dedication to duty, both Karen and Kelly wanted to expand their hours. They love the whole environment and atmosphere of 68 Groomspport Road, the Church and the Parish Centre. Moreover they have a heart for our families and a desire to see God's kingdom among us grow and expand.

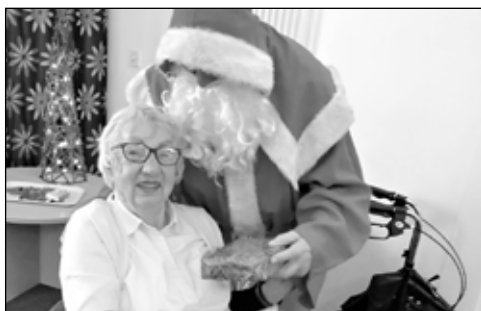
When Karen and Kelly approached the Vestry with a plan for how the Sexton's role could be restructured, the response was unanimously positive. Having met to agree their new contracts with our Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer (on Vestry's behalf), our new Sextons began work on 1 January.

The primary duty of a Church Sexton is to ready the sanctuary for divine service. Karen and Kelly will share this responsibility as well as domestic management of the Parish Centre premises in conjunction with our own organisations and external hall users. They come to the job with fond admiration for their predecessor and a good working knowledge of what they're taking on.

"We will learn as we go," said Karen, "and we're already missing Ann and Harry Browne so much." "We've got new ideas for down the line" added Kelly. "The lack of storage in the current Parish Centre has always presented a caretaking challenge but we're up for it – and open to new suggestions. Parishioners should certainly feel they can talk to us and bring things to our attention."

Grateful as we were for the service of the Brownes, I'm sure you will join me in thanking God for the willingness of Karen Baker and Kelly McCullough to step into this important parish role. They are people that we know and trust. Both ladies have supportive and committed families and they deserve our prayers, good wishes and every practical encouragement we can give.

More Photos from the Wednesday Club Christmas Party



Encountering God

Sunday 2nd February at 6.30pm



Immanuel – God with us! God loves to bless us and be with us. “Encountering God” is a service with an emphasis on informality and creating space to worship and encounter God. Following on from New Wine’s Worship Rooms in November (see photo), this is our version of contemporary worship, bible teaching and fellowship. Worship Rooms was well received and by popular

request we hope to host another Worship Rooms in May 2020

Our first “Encountering God service” will be on Sunday 2nd February at 6.30-7.30pm, Ryan Mitchell is coming with some musicians to join with us in leading the service.

The next “Encountering God” service will be one of the highlights of our Parish weekend on Sunday 22nd March, with Jasper Rutherford giving his final talk. As we listen to God’s Word preached, we find God helps us to see how the passage applies to our lives. Prayer ministry is one way we can respond when God challenges us to change.

A Prayer Ministry Team has been re-formed and re-trained and is ready to pray for any prayer request. They will be at the front and the back of the church and you can ask for prayer confident that God loves to meet and bless his children through this wonderful ministry. It is good to ask for specific prayer for our needs or for the needs of others, but it is also important to know that you can come for prayer and you do not have to say why.

Faith, confidentiality and accountability are core values in this ministry. Our team will be meeting regularly to train and allow God to develop our spiritual gifts.

Rev Jan Stevenson



SAVE THE DATES!!!!

Easter Jumin’ 2020 – 15th-17th April

Summer Jumpin’ 2020 – 10th-14th August



Jasper Rutherford (the speaker for our Parish weekend) while sharing at the Diocesan Bible week.

KIWOKO HOSPITAL
WE TREAT, JESUS HEALS

Planning GAP year activities?
Thinking of a sabbatical?
Want to do something different?

**WE
NEED A
TEACHER!**



- Experience beneficial... but not necessary!! Enthusiasm and a love for children essential!!
- From May 2020, for as long as possible! (minimum 6 weeks)
- For two children, aged 11 & 8
- Based at Kiwoko Hospital, Uganda
- Potential for involvement in other activities at the hospital, especially ministry (if interested)
- Voluntary position (but please still enquire if finances are an issue)



For further info contact
lindajeanpark@gmail.com

Speak to Rory of Denise to find out more if interested

**ST COLUMBANUS
BALLYHOLME**

SPRING INTO LIFE

**Fri 20th to Sun 22nd
March**

Ballyholme Parish
Groomsport Road, Bangor
Tel – 028 9127 4912
ballyholmeparish.co.uk

A further opportunity for us all to get closer to God following on from last year's Festival of Faith. Jasper Rutherford will be our guest speaker for the weekend at a series of events for all ages and all tastes.



A Church Army Evangelist and former leader of Summer Madness, Jasper speaks to groups across the world. We look forward to what God wants to teach us through him.

Our weekend programme is below

#movingcloser

#encounteringGod

#familyfun

Fri	7.30pm	Sustain & Gain Fashion Night Tickets from Parish Office @ £10 pp including supper (BYO drinks)
Sat	9am to 10.30am	Breakfast with Rugby Bacon butties with Paul Marshall, former Ulster & Ireland rugby player
Sat	3pm to 4.30pm	Gathering Drums Community drumming for all ages with tea and coffee
Sat	7.30pm	Belfast Community Gospel Choir Tickets from Parish Office @ £10 pp
Sun	8.30am	Holy Communion
	10am	Good News at Ten
	11.30am	Morning Prayer
	6.30pm	Encountering God

Attention all ladies! As part of our Parish Weekend we are planning a fashion and beauty evening on the 20th March. There will be tips, from experts, on make-up, clothes and colours, not to mention a yummy supper, so keep the night free. Our aim is not only to promote clothing from local boutiques but in an effort to be environmentally friendly, to re-sell clothes from within the Parish community! So if you have been spring cleaning last year's wardrobe please hold on to them for a little longer. In a few weeks we will communicate where exactly the clothes should be deposited ready for our fashion night. More details in next month's magazine!



St Columbanus Psalm

We sing a song of glad celebration for all saints and scholars who,
"loved well their Lord".

We sing a song of glad jubilation
for their service and mission,
in spreading God's Word.

Sing allelulia, sing allelulia, sing allelulia, allelulia.
We sing a song of glad jubilation
for their service and mission,
in spreading God's Word.

Sing allelulia, sing allelulia, sing allelulia, allelulia,
we sing a song of sweet adoration for Christ is with us,
His promises true.

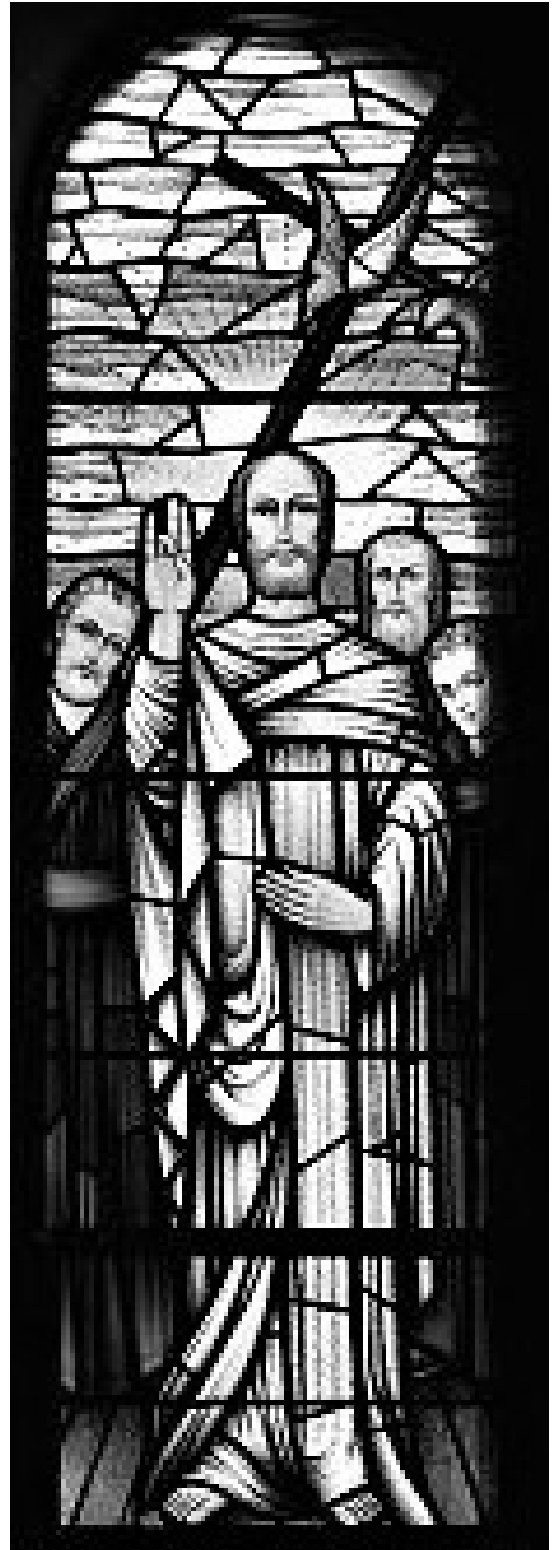
The bells ring out in unity calling,
to all of God's people to worship and praise,
the bells ring out in glad invitation,
proclaiming the gospel, our worship and praise.

We sing a song with all of God's children,
For brothers and sisters we have in the Lord,
we sing a song of joy to our Saviour,
for Christ is with us,
the living Word.

We sing a song of mission and sharing,
for a world in need of God's healing and grace.
We sing a song of service and caring,
calling us to be Christians in every place.

We sing a song of glad jubilation,
for all God has done and what He can do,
we sing a song of sweet adoration for Christ is with us,
His promises true.

Words written by Adeline Cully one of our parishioners to celebrate the 1400 anniversary of St Columbanus, missionary saint and scholar who died on 23 November 615.



Monday 2nd December was probably a special date to hold on to for the ladies of Ballyholme Parish - it was the last little restful, relaxing evening of "Me Time" to be enjoyed before the busyness of the Festive Season!

The first part of the evening was given over to Vicky Hayes and her flourish with flowers; she makes her creations seem effortless to create, just like that! A quick little ballot ensured some Christmas Floral Joy to adorn some homes in our Parish.

Next came some craft fun, much glitter, tiny bells, sequins, reindeers, tiny cushions and a very happy Yvonne. Such fun (not that much mess, at least the new Hoover could cope!).

Finally we enjoyed a Festive Supper of delicious shortbread and mince pies (thank you to Janice and Margaret Magee.) Washed down with piano pieces and a sing along with David!



Christmas bizz over, feeling flat? Not the Ladies of Ballyholme MU, for we enjoyed our annual Festive Outing to the Broadway Room at Bangor Golf Club. Lovely surroundings, much food, fellowship and craic of course. The games, who had the most diverse contents in their handbags? (no names!) Who could identify who's who of the decade 2009 to 2019? Finally all I'll say SPROUT IT OUT! You'll know who you are! Well done everyone! Worth noting new fav tippie from the Top down is Donegal Donkey! Recipe under discussion. Much enjoyment!

February meeting is on Monday 3rd at 8.00pm with an overseas speaker. Don't forget toiletries for Women's Aid or emergency toilet bags for hospital admissions. Come along and bring a friend too!

Advance notice - The MU Sale and Coffee Morning is on Saturday 4th April.

Thanks for all your interest and support,

Many Blessings, Yvonne Manogue and the Committee.



Around the Parish



Church Bazaar



Nativity Service





A Walk along the Coast and an Excellent Lunch for the Columbanus Walkers

As is the custom of the Columbanus Walkers, the December outing is a shorter than usual walk followed by a

Christmas lunch.

This year, some 13 walkers travelled by train to Helens Bay station. The station, which was originally called Clandeboye, was built in the Scottish baronial style by Lord Dufferin. We began our walk on Clandeboye Avenue – the carriageway that was built to enable the inhabitants and guests of Clandeboye House to travel to the station, and the coast beyond. Part of Clandeboye Avenue passes over the low bridge on the Ballysallagh Road that has so often been hit by vehicles that are too tall to pass under it.



At the station, between the railway and road bridges, Brian pointed out the turning circle for the horse-drawn carriages and the doorway (now blocked up) that led to the private waiting room for the folk from the big house.

We followed Clandeboye Avenue to the coast and followed the coastal path into Bangor. We noticed that, on a Saturday morning, there were very few other people on the path until we came to Smelt Mill Bay, at the foot of Stricklands Glen. When we arrived at Pickie, we decided there was enough time for refreshments at the cafe before returning home to dress for lunch.

Twenty-four of us enjoyed an excellent lunch at the Royal Ulster Yacht Club and recalled another successful year (the 15th) for the Walking Group.

The next walk is on Saturday 4th January. We will meet at Bangor station at 9.10 in time for the 9.25 train. From Lanyon Place, we will take the Glider bus to Dundonald. We will walk along the Comber Greenway to C. S. Lewis Square and then to Titanic Quarter station to take a train back to Bangor.

Peter Gibson

January Walk - Walkers on the Comber and Connswater Greenways

It's unlikely that the planners of the Belfast and County Down Railway could have ever foreseen that the disused section between Comber and Belfast would be transformed into a Greenway. But that's what has transpired and by late last century it had become a recreation path for walkers, cyclists and runners. It was officially opened on 8 November 2008.

The BCDR was an Irish gauge railway built in the 19th Century, linking Belfast with County Down. It reached as far as Donaghadee, Comber, Newcastle, Ballynahinch and Ardglass. The section we walked was from Dundonald to the 'Arches' in East Belfast and on via the C. S. Lewis Square and the Connswater Greenway to Sydenham.

Our group of 16 travelled by train to Belfast, Glider to Dundonald and walked back to the train station at Sydenham.



So from the Rosepark Glider stop near Dundonald, we made our way through the Ardcarne estate to the Greenway and crossed the Kings Road, Abbey Road, Knock, Sandown Road, Bloomfield, Hollywood Arches (which used to carry the railway line), C. S. Lewis Square and then to Sydenham.

The Comber Greenway is a wonderful tranquil traffic-free path along the old line. The trail is also a haven for wildlife, with areas of nature conservation such as the River Enler. There are great views of Stormont, Scrabo Tower, the Harland & Wolff cranes and the Belfast Hills.



It was strange to be walking along and then come across a familiar road. For example, Knock Road, where there was at one time a level crossing at Ballyclougan Nursery. The station there was built in 1869. The original name of the Sandown Road crossing was Cadger's Looney (from the Scots Gaelic for peddler). This was where Mr Sinclair Boyd made the bricks for his housing development from the sandpits around the line. The pits can still be seen today. On the Beersbridge Road the station was Bloomfield and the next halt was Neills Hill. Here we sat on the old platform but the station which had been opened in 1890 was long since gone.



C. S. Lewis Square provided an interesting lunch stop. It is located at the intersection of the Connswater and Comber Greenways and features statues depicting the story of The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe.

We had refreshments in the Coffee Bar in the East Side Visitor Centre where there's lots of information on the city's attractions from interactive screens, interpretative panels and a wall map, connecting people to EastSide's famous faces, places and industries.

On then via the Connswater Greenway beside the river to Sydenham and the train home.

Thanks to Peter Gibson for organising such an interesting day out. Our next walk is in Castlewellan Forest Park on 1st February.

Betty



More Joy Just Older Youth

Wednesday Club Christmas Party



Christmas Friday Lunch



YOUTH-NEWS

youth [youth] (youths)

news [nooz]

The word 'Christmas' may not have entered your mind for some time now (it is February after all), but indulge me here as I tell you all about what the youth got up to in the last few weeks of 2019.

On our last night of Bible Study, we took a trip into Belfast to visit the Christmas markets and to get James and Josh new jumpers. We were successful on both counts, and although Conor is the only one smiling in the photo, I can assure you that we did, in fact, have a great time.

As for YF, we continued our tradition of 'Secret Santa' on the last night, as well as playing some pass the parcel and having a "snowball fight" with ping pong balls. Unfortunately there are no photos of that event as I was too busy, admittedly, throwing "snowballs" – but we did manage to get (almost) everyone still for a group photo on our Christmas Eve reunion, where the young people came to church for a Chinese and a Christmas film before the 11pm service.



Christmas, however, is now well and truly behind us and we're well into the swing of normal life again, with Bible Study, Emerge and Youth Fellowship all having returned.

At Emerge we'll be spending the next few weeks exploring the topics of poverty and justice in our world, and why God cares so much about this. We began the series with a game where the young people were split into teams and had to use 'money' to purchase resources, design t-shirts then sell them for a profit; the catch being that one of the teams was given much more money and much more help to begin with! This introduced them to some of the concepts and ideas we would be discussing as the term continued.



At YF we are taking a tour through the entire Bible, pulling out stories and passages which display certain aspects of God's character - His power, love and grace for example. We also have our YF Weekend fast approaching and are super excited about that – we would love it if you could pray for that, that the logistics would run smoothly and that the young people would encounter the living God on that weekend.

Finally, I want to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported the youth ministry at Ballyholme Parish in 2019 – whether financially at events like the Christmas Bazaar, practically by volunteering, or prayerfully. We couldn't do it without you.

Andrew



Sunday 2nd February

Presentation of Christ
8.30 Holy Communion
10.00 Good News at Ten - All Age
11.30 Morning Prayer
6.30 Encountering God Service

Wednesday 5th February

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 9th February

3rd Sunday before Lent
8.30 Holy Communion
10.00 Good News at Ten
& Children's Church
11.30 Parish Communion
6.30 United Service - Holy Redeemer,
Sheridan Drive

FUNERALS**November**

20th: Noelle McCrossan, late of Seaview Nursing Home

21st: Ron Farrar, late of Seaview Nursing Home

25th: Miriam Cochrane, late of Bramblewood Nursing Home

26th: Marsden Fitzsimons, formerly of Charlesmount

29th: Terence Swanston, formerly of Grovehill Gardens

January

9th: Betty Rainsford, formerly of Ward Avenue

10th: Beryl Clarke, formerly of Cranley Lodge

15th: Pat Pattison, formerly of Grandmere Park

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

Ballyholmeparish.co.uk

**Wednesday 12th February**

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 16th February

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

Wednesday 19th February

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 23rd February

The Sunday next before Lent
8.30 Holy Communion
10.00 Good News at Ten - Communion
& Children's Church
11.30 Morning Prayer

Wednesday 26th February

Ash Wednesday

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

**February**

2nd: Gillian Fletcher, Carole Majury, Daphne Moore

9th: Pat Davidson, Pat Adair, Denise Wilson

16th: Susan and Jonnie Stockton, Vicky Hayes

23rd: Geoff and Gillian Young, Neil Devlin

**February**

2nd: No creche

9th: Rachel Brittain, Johanna Lawther

16th: Natalie McCartan, Sharon Gowdy

23rd: Christine Rankin, Jenny Whiteside

BAPTISM**December**

29th: Holly Jill Hamilton daughter of Stephen and Alice Hamilton

**February**

2nd: Daphne Hamill

9th: Cathy Body

16th: Ann McMurray & Marie McKee

23rd: Lilian Finch

Children's Church Helpers**February**

2nd: No Children's Church

9th: Johanna Lawther, Andrea McInnes, Anne Reynolds, Gillian Segasby

16th: Susan Magill, Katherine Newman, Dawn Shackles, Jodie Smyth

23rd: Claire Andrews, Liz Grant, Cathrine Menary, Karen Toogood

