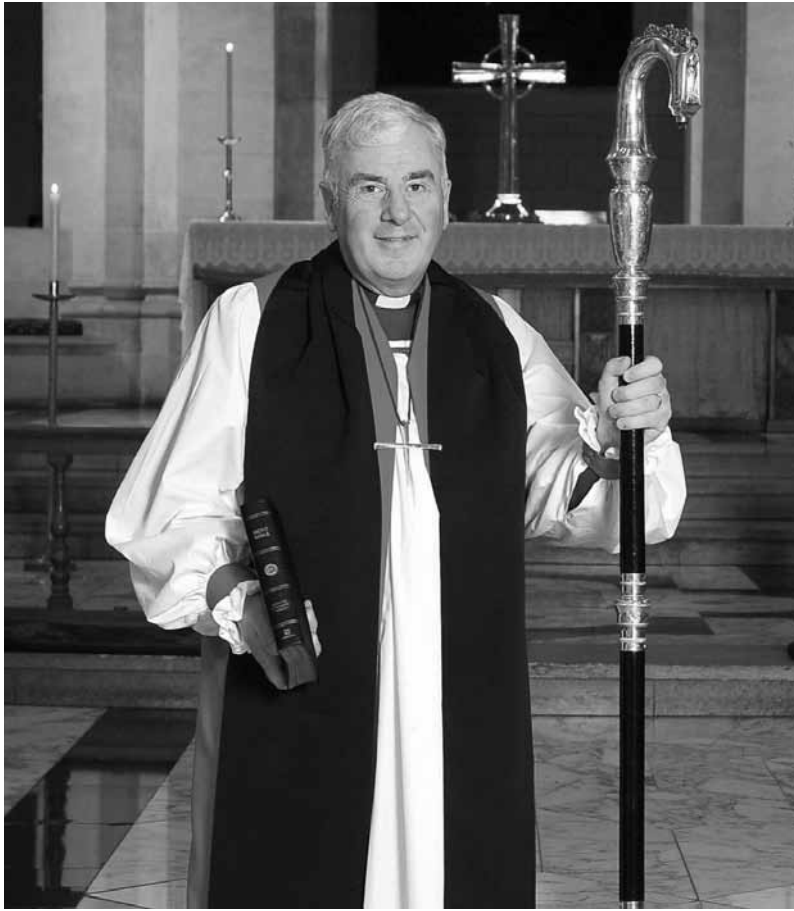


# St Columbanus

*Ballyholme*



Bishop David's  
Consecration  
World Leprosy Day  
Meet Jasper Rutherford

..On the way  
*together..*



## *The Parishioner* March 2020

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

As a Rector, nothing beats the feeling that everything is falling divinely into place. This month's Spring into Life parish weekend is the most recent example which is handy, because I've lost count of all the others. It began with a sense under God that following our Festival of Faith it would be good to do something to bring us all together for a few days towards the start of this new year and new decade. Then we turned our minds to the person we might invite along to speak, hoping for someone with a heart for a church family like ours, in a setting like ours and with their finger on the pulse of a generation and culture we're all trying hard to make sense of. Emails, telephone calls and conversations at the Mission Committee followed, and we started seeking advice and begging favours. The results of which, we pray, will be three days of extremely varied activities giving everyone in the parish an opportunity to draw closer to God at the invitation of one of Ireland's most gifted Christian communicators Jasper Rutherford. Please ensure you've got your own programme and one to give to a friend.



**SED.**

*Happy  
St. Patrick's  
Day*

Our annual St Patrick's Day celebration gathers visitors from all denominations from Ireland and abroad at Saul Church and Down Cathedral. This year's theme will be prayer.

The Speakers are the Ven Roderic West in Saul Church and Rt Revd Andrew Forster, Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, at the Festival Service in Down Cathedral.

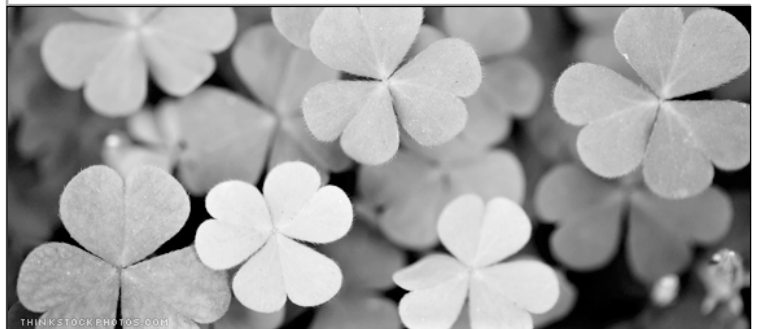
Please visit [www.downanddromore.org](http://www.downanddromore.org) for more details and times.



### **Adult Confirmation Preparation: Lent 2020**

If you have never previously been Confirmed (or Baptized and Confirmed), perhaps because you come from another Church tradition, or because it was something you just never got around to, now is your chance! As he does each year the Rector will offer a simple course of preparation through Lent.

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



### **World Day of Prayer Friday 6th March 2020**

Reminder: 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.

Please come along and support this event if possible.



## Just Older Youth

### The Bonus Years

'Our days may come to 70 years, or 80, if our strength endures'. Psalm 90:10

I have known this verse most of my life, but only this month has it become reality for me. Yes, I have transitioned into my 70's and am now a septuagenarian. It is a strange feeling as I realise that I am now in my bonus years. With 25,550 days of my life already gone, each new day is to be welcomed as a gift and enjoyed to the full.

Life expectancy in the UK is currently 79.2 years for men and 82.9 years for women, so hopefully there are still a few years ahead of me. However, we cannot take our health for granted, nor that of our loved ones. This is the period when the fact of our mortality- and that of those around us- will become increasingly real.

Psalm 90 was written by Moses who lived to the grand old age of 120, and who stayed in remarkable health - his eyes were not weak nor his strength gone (Deuteronomy 34:7). Growing old is not too bad when you have good health and adequate resources, but for many of us that may not be the case. Indeed, Moses - with a touch of realism (or pessimism?) - also says about our years that 'the best of them are but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away' (v10).

All the more reason, then to remember that God, the One who is from everlasting to everlasting, can be our dwelling place (v1). He can be our refuge, and our fortress, the One in whom we place our trust. Whatever our later years may bring, we can dwell safely in the shelter of the Most High and rest securely in the shadow of the Almighty (Psalm 91:1-2).

**Tony Horsfall**

### The Wednesday Club



We were transported back in time to the 1960's at this month's Wednesday Club when we got together to enjoy Doris Day's film 'Send Me No Flowers'.

We had the chance to catch up with each other after the film over a welcome cup of tea and cake.

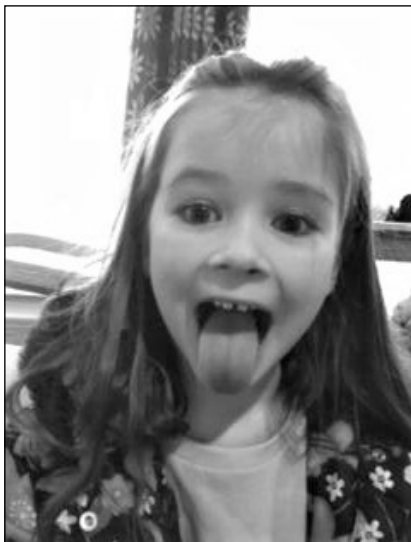
Lilian was the winner of this month's ballot, she is pictured here with Roberta who presented her with her prize.

### Karen



*hello March!*






I hope you have all enjoyed the first signs of spring...the buds on the trees and even some flowers in the garden!




**Children's Church** has continued with lots of chat about God, the most powerful being, who knows us and loves us, and therefore knows what is best for us. Ice and Splash have studied the stories of Isaac and his twin sons, Jacob and Esau; I wonder if you can manage to answer the quiz questions?




Meanwhile the Bubbles have travelled to Egypt with the stories of Joseph and Moses, and have enjoyed singing songs and completing lots of craft activities.




**Praise Kids and Crew** have been using finger lights while they sing and dance, whilst learning how to let the light of Jesus shine from inside us by loving people around us. Come and join us Monday at 4 or 4.30pm.


**Esau & Jacob**

1. Who was born first?  
 \_\_\_\_\_ **Jacob**  **Esau** \_\_\_\_\_

2. What did Esau like to do?  
  

3. What did Jacob like to do?  
  

4. What did Esau trade his birthright for?  
  

5. Who did Isaac give his blessing to?  
 \_\_\_\_\_ **Jacob**  **Esau** \_\_\_\_\_



**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**

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





By now everyone should have a copy of our Spring into Life invitation programme (spares are available from Church and the Parish Centre). Our speaker is Jasper Rutherford and so as a friendly introduction for this month's magazine we asked the man himself a few quick get-to-know-you questions.

### **1. Where are you from?**

Born in Antrim town and currently live in east Belfast.

### **2. Is there a Mrs Rutherford and do you have any little Rutherfords?**

I have been married for 15 years. My wife is Lynne and she is a primary school teacher. We have 3 children, Elijah (13), Shannon (10) and Nathan (8).

### **3. Any time for hobbies?**

I love fun with my family and friends and a good book or movie in front of the fire. I love almost any sport or competition and I am a

huge football fan. Liverpool FC is my fourth child! You Never Walk Alone - even our anthem is biblical!

### **4. Is it true you're both a Captain and a Doctor?**

Yep! I am a commissioned Church Army Evangelist, so with that I get the title Captain. I also have a PhD in Physiology and with that I get the title Dr. I don't ever use them though.

### **5. Who do you currently work for?**

An organisation called Christ In Youth. This is a new youth ministry with its origins in USA, which we have started in Europe. I am the European Director and our first work in Europe has concentrated in the Republic of Ireland. Through events, resources and mission trips we want to raise up young people to be Kingdom Workers in all and any sphere of influence.

### **6. Can you tell us a little about your own spiritual journey?**

I didn't become a Christian until I was 23 years old. God had shown up powerfully and dramatically in my life on many different occasions as a teenager but I kept putting him off. I thought I was too cool, or that I would wait until I was older, or that I needed to sort myself out before I could properly come to God. After years of tip-toeing around God and suiting myself, it was a simple service where the question was posed to me - "are you for God or against God." I knew that I wasn't 100% for God, and I knew I didn't want to be against God. I gave my life to him and said this time that I was 'All in'!

### **7. How do you read current attitudes to God, church and faith?**

Each generation of God's people are called to discern the times we live in. With constant



news and 24 hours of media and information bombarding us, that can sometimes be difficult. It feels like we just get bad news or the threat of bad news on a constant basis. However, amongst the fear and negative projections I am confident that God is on the move - that there is hope and opportunity. Through prayer, through traveling around Ireland, through reading research, asking good questions and meeting with leaders all over the land, the overwhelming consensus is that it isn't all doom and gloom and we are in fact at the doorstep of another great awakening of God. Although the church might seem broken, God breathes life through broken vessels. We are sensing the Holy Spirit setting up things for God to move and to break through in ways that we can only dream of and hope for.

### 8. What persuaded you to join us for Spring into Life?

I really felt compelled in prayer to come and serve. In my own mind I had already said no to the invitation, as I just felt too busy and I am trying to focus my time in the Republic of Ireland. But in prayer I felt an immediate sense that I had to say yes. So I am happy and excited to come and see what God has in store for Ballyholme!

### 9. What are your hopes for the weekend?

That God moves and God shows up! I have two real prayers: (1) that the people of Ballyholme Parish fall deeper in love with Jesus and that a renewed hunger and thirst for more of Him is birthed in you this weekend - that you have confidence in who Jesus says he is; and (2) that many people will give their lives to Jesus for the first time. That hearts will be softened to the love of God and this weekend will result in those hearts turning and crying out to God.

### 10. Any requests for us in the build up?

Have fun with this weekend! Enjoy it and bless people with kindness and love. Cast your nets wide and do not be afraid to invite your work friends, your neighbours, your family and friends. This weekend will not be "successful" on the basis of how well the visiting guy speaks. It will be your invitations, your care and love, and your conversations that will be the real fruit of this weekend - when people see Jesus in you. Pray and discern who to invite and be brave!



## Lent Appeal

The trolley will be at the back of Church during Lent to receive your donations.

Items in particular need are:

**Spaghetti (dry and tinned)**

**Diluted Juice**

**Biscuits**

**Sugar**

**Porridge**

**Tinned snacks - ravioli, meatballs. Sausage & beans etc.**

**Tinned meals to serve with potatoes**

**Kitchen rolls**

**Toilet rolls**

**Toothpaste**





The Rt Revd David McClay has become the new Bishop of Down and Dromore following his ordination in St Anne's Cathedral Belfast, on Saturday 25 January.

Formerly rector of Willowfield and Kilkeel, Bishop McClay was ordained by the Archbishop of Armagh, The Most Revd Dr Richard Clarke, before a cathedral filled to capacity. Family, representatives from the parishes of the diocese, friends and colleagues had made the journey from all over Ireland, England and the United

States. Ballyholme was represented by our clergy, our Honorary Secretary Christine Johnstone, our Honorary Treasurer Roy Walker, the Rector's Churchwarden Jacqui Devlin and a number of other parishioners.

### Address

The Dean of Connor, The Very Revd Sam Wright who grew up in St Columbanus, gave the address. He and Bishop McClay began theological college together 35 years ago and quickly became friends. Dean Wright paid tribute to Bishop McClay's parents, Roly and Kathleen, who had "modelled the Christian life and upheld their son in prayer every step of the way." "Family", said the Dean, "is the precious hidden gem in the church; they love, encourage, worry and pray for us as vulnerable leaders. As I pay tribute to the support and love the McClay family have been to David, I also pay tribute to the families who have the backs of all church leaders."

Turning to the question of what the new Bishop was to do, Dean Wright took 2 Corinthians 4:1-10 as his text and the inspiration of a brave, bright and beautiful gospel. He said: "It is clear from past experience that David will do many things, but I want to encourage him to keep to the main thing – to share the Good News of Jesus. And as the chief shepherd for the people of Down and Dromore Diocese to encourage, enable and equip the church, to bring this Good News to the world. In this era of scepticism and rejection by many of the Christian Gospel, he will need to be brave, and to offer a bright and beautiful Gospel to all."

### The Conversion of St Paul

He continued: "In his life and in his sharing of Christ, David has courageously sought to change lives through his teaching and explanation of the word of God and through the power of the Holy Spirit. He has been a champion for the poor. He has spoken out against violence when it would have been easier to stay silent. Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 4:4 are as true today as ever – "The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see light of the gospel." It takes courage to shine out the gospel into the darkness of the world. David, in your new role, be brave."



The Dean reminded the congregation that the ordination was taking place on the Feast Day of The Conversion of St Paul. Addressing the Bishop-elect he said: "As you find yourself dealing with the people and issues of a large diocese, recall your own conversion experience





Lets begin our March MU Jottings with some special **THANKS!!**

**Firstly**, thanks for the great response to our annual MU Parish members appeal for toiletries to support Women's Aid Bangor and also toilet bags filled for emergency admissions for Ulster Hospital Dundonald.

**Secondly**, thanks also for the prompt payment of MU membership subscriptions for 2020; these are on the way to London Headquarters.

**Thirdly**, thanks to our newcomers - fantastic to see you - spread the word; we of room in our meet ups and in our hearts for even more.



The Kajiado Room provided an ideal setting for this celebration, allowing a top table and two long tables making a "U" shape allowing each person to face each other.



Members preparing to take part in the Passover Sedar

Our usual format for February is an overseas theme, for this we welcomed one of our very own members Pat Davison - wearing her CMJ "Hat". She began by explaining the work of CMJ Ireland, and inviting us to take part in Passover Seder.

The Passover Seder presented is a Christian Passover celebrated by Messianic Jews or Gentiles. Therefore, in the liturgy, references to Jesus are made and the link between Jesus and Passover is emphasised.



On each table there was a section of food stuffs:-

- Matzah - unleavened bread
- Horseradish
- Fresh parsley leaves
- Charoset
- Hard Boiled Egg
- Red Grape Juice
- Haggadah - Booklet describing Passover liturgy.



Pat guided us through the booklet, pausing to sample some of the significant foodstuffs.

It was fascinating to consider some of the references to The Old Testament. In fact the evening made us hopeful of picking up some of those threads from The Old Testament.

Thank you Pat for sharing a very special evening amongst us.

The members still had room for their supper of homemade cupcakes, traybakes, shortbread biscuits and tea.



## Some MU Diary Dates

**Monday 2nd March** - Meeting at 8pm in the Kajiado Room.

Our speaker is from the Consumer Council (some interesting and useful information, I bet!). Followed by supper too!

**Sunday 22nd March** during Spring Into Life, Mothering Sunday treats by the MU Bakers!!

Enjoy tea, coffee and treats between the Services at 11am. Either arrive for cuppa before 1130am or enjoy after the 10.00am. See you there.

**Monday 6th April** - Holy Week Service in Ballyholme Presbyterian, let's go as a group? More details nearer the date.

Reminder, if you have not yet paid your £25 subs for this year please bring them in March.

Thanks for your interest and support.

**Many Blessings Yvonne and the MU team.**

## Ballyholme Mothers' Union Spring Sale and Coffee Morning

Saturday 4th April  
in the Parish Centre  
10am to Noon

Admission £3.00 including light refreshments  
Children free

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

Any great condition toys, books, gifts etc can be left at the Parish Centre no earlier than Monday 30th March.







As advertised last month, our annual General (Easter) Vestry meeting in Ballyholme takes place at 12.45pm on Sunday 29 March in the Parish Centre over a church 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.

### **A Triennial Year**

2020 will be what the Church of Ireland Constitution describes as a "triennial" election meaning that certain other important parish positions filled once every three years fall vacant. Essentially, we will be seeking nominations both for members of Diocesan Synod and for Parochial Nominators (these will also close on Sunday 22 March).

### **Diocesan Synod Members**

Once a year the Bishop calls a Synod where representatives of all the parishes in Down and Dromore come together for a day of worship, discussion and encouragement. Effectively, this gathering is the AGM or Easter Vestry for the diocese. Time is spent on important practical and accounting matters and motions are debated and passed or rejected but the overall focus of synod is that the blessings of the previous twelve months are shared and celebrated. For the last three years Ballyholme has been represented by Leslie Adams, Margaret Magee, Jim Shaw and Freda Woods, all of whom find the day full of interest and inspiration – as they will tell you if you ask them! We are also asked to nominate a junior synod representative and until his departure ours was Billy Fyffe.

### **Parochial Nominators**

In the event of a parish becoming vacant (through what's referred to ecclesiastically as 'retirement, preferment or death in post') the task of interviewing and agreeing a new rector falls to four Parochial Nominators, elected from our own parishioners. The first stage is for a diocesan body called The Permanent Commission on Parochial Vacancies to establish that our parish remains viable and that it can pay for a rector and offer a rectory which meets the regulation Church of Ireland standard. Once these preliminary requirements are met, the Nominators consult with the Bishop and an elected group



of diocesan representatives known as the Board of Nomination. Together they identify the particular needs of the parish, put a parish profile together and draw up a shortlist of candidates. It is for the Nominators to meet the prospective clergy and come to the Board



with a recommendation. If called upon to act, it is a prayerful, time-consuming but fascinating task carrying a serious level of responsibility. The nominators in place for the last vacancy in Ballyholme in 2007 were Nancy Baker, Paddy Donnelly, Geoffrey Johnston and Don Todd. The four in place to date have been Leslie Adams, Karen Baker, Rachel Britain and Don Todd. It is highly desirable that our four nominators bring a range of outlooks and backgrounds and that they are seen to represent the whole sweep of the parish with its menu of service styles and array of interests and opinions.

### **Supplementalists**

In addition and as a precautionary measure, 'supplementalist' Synod Members and Parochial Nominators also need to be elected this year. These are people who will step up should one of our Members or Nominators have to stand down at any point during their three years in office. Supplementalists are called upon to act from time to time, so it is critical that we have a full list of nine 'subs' (Synod, Nominators and Junior) to ensure that our parish is well served in every eventuality.

For further information speak to the Rector and please consider making yourself available for these important roles.



## Knowing Me, Knowing You

Lenten Bible Study on  
the letters 2 and 3  
John & Jude

please join us in the Kajiado Room

Tues 25 Feb	10.30 am	repeated on	wed 26 Feb	8.00 pm
Tues 3 March	10.30 am	repeated on	wed 4 March	8.00 pm
Tues 10 March	10.30 am	repeated on	wed 11 March	8.00 pm
Tues 24 March	10.30 am	repeated on	wed 25 March	8.00 pm



Ballyholme parish has a strong sense of family with many people feeling part of the Church community here. My family have proved to be a wonderful asset in meeting many of you. Hope has joined Kids church, Praise Kids and Rainbows. We loved having Olivia (see photos of Olivia with Pip our dog and Hope) to stay. Thank you, Rainbow leaders, Christine and Heather. Ruth has found Youth Fellowship to be friendly and fun. Sam is renewing old friendships and making new ones. He and Rory Wilson have started a new men's house-group, where there are still spaces if anyone is interested.

The first "Encountering God" service, as well as being a really special time with God, enabled me to get to know some of the people who sing and play instruments. Others were re-trained and have formed a Prayer Ministry team under the leadership of Sandra Griffiths and me.

We are getting ready to welcome many people to all the events planned for our parish weekend (20-22nd March). We have decided to have a designated befriending team to ensure every opportunity is taken to speak to the people who come. We hope to invite the folk who come to one event to come back to another.

We are planning to run an Alpha course starting after the Parish weekend and would encourage you to tell people it's happening and invite them to come.

### Rev Jan Stevenson



### What Church Means to Me

by Daphne Hamill

As I have grown older I have come to depend on Church, not only for worship but for companionship. Monday morning coffee, Wednesday morning Holy Communion and Friday lunches, once a month Mothers' Union and Wednesday Club.

I attend the 10 o'clock Church service. I enjoy worshipping with the children (they are our future) with tea/coffee afterwards.

July and August are bleak months and I am glad when September comes as everything starts up again and I enjoy them so much.

I have made good friends through the Church over the years and for that I am eternally grateful. We all appreciate the hard work of all staff and volunteers.







27th January was the global day for remembering the six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust, and the millions of people killed under Nazi persecution, and in the genocides which followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, and Darfur. The 2020 memorial theme was 'Stand Together'. In respect of the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, the Presidents of the Council of Christians and Jews asked churches to join in the prayer below:

God of the past, present, and future, 75 years since the liberation of Auschwitz, we remember the six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust, the millions of other victims of Nazi persecution, and all those who have been targeted and killed in subsequent genocides.

We remember those who, having survived, share their stories with us:

We give thanks to You for the lessons of human stories, both in their suffering and in their joy.

We remember those who stood up against injustice and saved lives: we give thanks to You for their example.

Together we acknowledge the sacrifice of those that stood together with those who suffered during the Holocaust and other genocides.

And we affirm that every life is loved by You and sacred.

Yet, during the Holocaust too many failed to stand together with their neighbours. Oppression stains Your world and contradicts Your love.

So we pray that You will inspire us now as we stand together in the love that we know of God in Christ Jesus.

Let us commit to remembering and to glorifying God in our words and actions.

We make these prayers in the name of Christ Jesus who, through His life, death, and resurrection, journeys with us into the eternal hope of Your truth and light.

**Amen.**





Around the Parish



Missions Quiz





Sunday 26th January 2020 was World Leprosy Day. We in Ballyholme Parish were therefore delighted to welcome Joanne Briggs, Director of Leprosy Mission Northern Ireland as our preacher at the 10am and 11:30am services.

Joanne spoke on the subject of Hospital Heroes. Joanne began by what a true hero embodies. In her opinion a true hero is someone who is willing to sacrifice everything to help someone in need. She told the congregations that people who are affected by leprosy need a hero to support them and champion them.

Joanne stated that nearly a million people are diagnosed with leprosy each year. Leprosy is a particularly cruel disease attacking nerves on the skin leading to numbness and sensitivity to the touch. A course of antibiotics (known as MDT) provides the cure and cost just £6 per person.

Joanne told us that the Leprosy Mission works in over 30 countries. Their aim is to end this destructive disease by following the example of Jesus. By supporting the Leprosy Mission you become the hands and feet of Jesus today.

Joanne finished by stating "Jesus cured leprosy in his lifetime, we are called to end it in ours!" Zero Leprosy transmission by 2035 is the target. Joanne invited all of us to partner with them.



### Trevor Smyth

Parish Leprosy Mission NI coordinator.



### Big news for Ballyholme's Krusty Crew!

Register for Easter Jumpin' 2020 this month!

**Jumpin' Dates: 15-17 April 2020**

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

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

3 for 2 family discount still applies!

**Registration:** Sunday 15 March after 10am  
service

Thursday 19 March 7-7.30pm

We are really looking forward to seeing you all there!

**Paula and Andrew**



### March

Racing clouds and whistling winds,  
Coats flapping in the breeze,  
Bright kites circling in the skies,  
The dance of swaying trees,  
The cheerful sight of crocuses,  
The first sweet breath of spring –  
Just part of all the many moods  
The month of March can bring.





## The Walkers in a windy Castlewellan Forest

Castlewellan Forest Park was the destination for our February walk, and it was also the location for hundreds of Park Runners mid-morning and then later, dozens of mountain bikers (children mostly). Good to see so many people enjoying the lovely surroundings of this park.

We are delighted to welcome two new members, Anne and Mary, friends of Jackie.

Brian had organised two walks, with a lunch-break in between, so off we set on the path alongside the lake, which used to be the original road from Banbridge to Castlewellan, near which is the famous Dolly's Brae, scene of a skirmish in 1849 over a contested procession, in which 30 people died. Then it was uphill to the Moorish Tower, from where you could just about see the sea.



There being no café open in the Courtyard we made use of the several tables for lunch and then set off again on the second outing. This was to the walled Annesley Garden and the 100-acre National Arboretum, which hosts one of the finest collections of trees in Ireland, including 42 champion trees, and 20 of the oldest specimen trees in the British Isles. The garden is a mixture of informal and formal design with terraces, fountains, ornamental gates and flower borders.



The Muffler at Balloo crossroads was our refreshment stop on the way home, where a couple of us met an old friend Peter Burrows, the owner of the café. It's one of our favourite cafes, in a unique characterful shop/post office/butchery/mini-supermarket and hardware store. Hopefully it won't succumb to major re-development.

**Betty**

# YOUTH-NEWS

youth [youth] (youths)

news [nooz]

Now that we're well into the new year, the various youth programmes at church have once again settled into a familiar routine (for now!). This will of course be somewhat interrupted by our approaching youth weekend which, at the time of writing, is less than three weeks away! We will be heading to Moira and will be joined by Luke Sherwin, a local Bangor boy, who will be sharing with us about Jesus over the weekend – perhaps not the most imaginative topic, but certainly a good one! Make sure to check out the youth Facebook and Instagram pages as there will certainly be lots of photos.

At YF this term we've been going through different stories throughout the Bible and talking about what they show of God's character. We've covered the Garden of Eden, Joseph's story, the Exodus, David and Goliath and we look forward to getting into the New Testament. We were delighted to have Jan Stevenson come at the end of January to talk to the young people about how their lives can sometimes resemble that of Joseph, and that God was with Joseph wherever he went. We also turned the Kajiado room into a sort of prayer room, where the young people could come and interact with various stations that Jan had set up. The response to this was very encouraging and it was great for us as leaders to see.



At Emerge, then, we've been working through the CIYD's 'Live to Give' programme, talking about what it means to be generous with the resources God has given us. The truths that all people are created in God's image and that we are all called to serve others mean that we should be generous with what God has given us; not just our material resources (though that's important), but also our immaterial resources – our time, energy, creativity. The hope is that the young people will develop a passion to serve God in whatever way they can, and to serve the people around them who are created in his image.

Bible Study has also been going very well! It's always a joy to chill in the Meto room with the ones who come and talk about life, faith and pretty much anything else that comes to mind! We've talked about prayer and doubt in the faith, but also what's happening in school, how exams went and general life-stuff.

Finally, I've been doing an OCN youth work qualification for the past few weeks, having started in January. It's run by the diocese and it's a formal qualification – probably a good thing to have as a youth worker. The vestry have kindly paid for that and I hope it continues to develop my youth work here at Ballyholme.

**Andrew**





**Sunday 1st March**

Lent 1

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Good News at Ten - All Age

11.30 Morning Prayer

**Wednesday 4th March**

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

**Sunday 8th March**

Lent 2

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Good News at Ten

&amp; Children's Church

11.30 Parish Communion

6.30 United Service Ballyholme

Presbyterian

**Wednesday 11th March**

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

**Sunday 15th March**

Lent 3

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Good News at Ten

&amp; Children's Church

11.30 Morning Prayer



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 18th March**

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

**Sunday 22nd March**

Lent 4 - Mothering Sunday -

Parish Weekend

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Good News at Ten

&amp; Children's Church

11.30 Morning Prayer

6.30 Encountering God

**Wednesday 25th March**

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

**Sunday 29th March**

Lent 5

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Good News at Ten - Communion

&amp; Children's Church

11.30 Wholeness and Healing

**March****1st:** Patrick Crothers, Ann Reynolds, Fiona Jackson**8th:** Jem Moran, Joy Hamilton, Irene Bell**15th:** Ann, Kelly, Karen**22nd:** Mothers' Union**29th:** AGM**March****1st:** No creche**8th:** Rachel Brittain, Sharon Gowdy**15th:** Natalie McCartin, Nicola Gullen**22nd:** Christine Rankin, Sarah Smith**29th:** Rhonda Mitchell - Barrett, Judith Thompson**March****1st:** Karen Baker**8th:** Ruth Ruttle**15th:** Fairena Montgomery**22nd:** Sybil Robertson**29th:** Sue Bleakley**Children's Church Helpers****March****1st:** No Children's Church**8th:** Emma MacDonald, Jayne Nichols, Pamela Reading, Aileen Smith**15th:** Sarah Boyd, Jenny Campbell, Anna Gullen, Michelle Savage**22nd:** Ashleigh Birkett, Caroline Connolly, Angela McCartney, Heather Milliken**29th:** Libby Beech, Judith Bell, Conor Catchpole, Collette Pike