

St Columbanus

Ballyholme



Lockdown to
Re-Opening
Home Deliveries
Risk Assessment
Ready

..On the way
together..

The Parishioner

October 2020

Harvest feels entirely the right season to be rambling to you again! Through all the uncertainties of 2020, God's provision has been the constant. Our CMSI partners in Kenya and Uganda would say the same, even though Coronavirus is stretching resources in both places to the limit. Ronnie and Maggie Briggs' harvest visit to us on 18 October could not be more timely. As I mentioned back in the spring, on returning permanently to Northern Ireland Ronnie was an early victim of Covid-19 so the Briggses will have much to share with us. But surely as believers we have a clearer picture than ever of the Lord who crowns the year with His goodness. "By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation" reads the harvest Psalm (65, verse 5): "you are the hope of all the ends of the earth". While our traditional soup lunch cannot take place, every home in the parish will receive at least one Smarties tube to fill this month. Normally our meal and Smarties collection raises around £2000 for missions. Please join me in trying to match and even exceed that figure this year. The need has never been greater.



SED.

See you soon and see you safe!

Coming and going from the supermarket and the golf club and eating-out to help-out through July and August we hope you will feel equally safe in Church, if not safer.

Remember please:

keep your distance

bodies, chairs and tables should be 2 metres apart at all times

don't bunch up

at the doors, on the steps, in the porch or even the carpark

wear a mask

remember to bring your own but we have spares if you're stuck

be early and stay 'bubbled-up'

numbers are limited with a Church service maximum of 70

use the hand sanitiser

it's available at all entry points and at other places too

wash your hands when you get home

and help our teams clean chairs and other surfaces if you can

'go' at home!

for now, toilets are for emergencies only please



The Prayer Line: 07930 231536

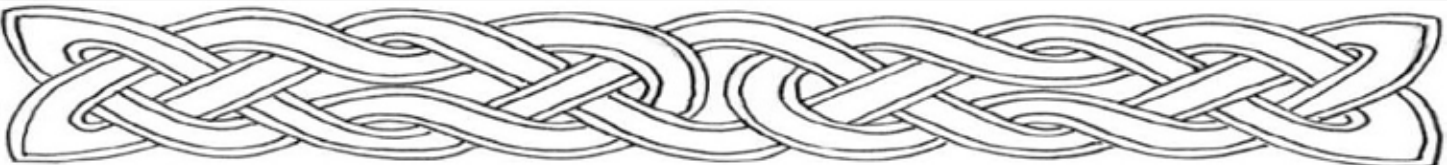
Please note the new number.

The Ballyholme Prayer Line has been in existence now for going on 20 years.

A small number of parishioners, whose names we don't disclose but who meet periodically, take turns to look after our pay-as-you-go Prayer Line Nokia and answer it when it rings.

Essentially, a friendly anonymous voice at the end of the phone notes down the specific prayer request and as soon as the caller hangs up, passes it on to the other members of the group but no one else – not even the Rector!

Mostly used by parishioners but occasionally by others, it's a confidential service for anyone who feels the need to call in prayer-support.





Just Older Youth and More



Our regular senior programme may have had to stop due to the global pandemic, but Karen and the staff team have continued to connect with these treasured members of our Church family.

Weekly phone calls made to over 90 elderly parishioners by Simon, Jan, Karen, Kelly and Mercia were co-ordinated by our Hon Secretary of the Select Vestry Christine (who also made calls herself).

It was reassuring for all to keep making those connections and throughout the weeks new contacts were made and cherished relationships were preserved.

As well as chatting with them on the phone, 3 lockdown gifts were delivered to the homes of our more senior parishioners between April and September; a food parcel, a pot plant and a jar of homemade marmalade!



Shopping at Tesco Bloomfield for our first senior lockdown gift, Karen was delighted to have the help of Jenny McGill and Kyle Hurst who took the time to fill the trolleys and even pack everything into her car boot! A big thank you to the management of Tesco Bloomfield who gave permission for the large shop and of course to Jenny and Kyle.

The Wednesday Club

Due to the current situation the committee at a recent meeting decided to leave any decision about restarting until the New Year when we will review it.

A letter has been sent to all our regular members explaining the reasons behind this, and we hope that the situation improves soon and you are all keeping safe and well.

Sue





Once the shopping was done, Karen and Kelly individually packed each gift and many helpful parishioners delivered them. We are so grateful for all the volunteers that made the gifts happen, a few are pictured here when we were able to take a photo of them in time!!



The Parishioner magazine was put on hold for a few months and was replaced by a monthly lockdown letter. Kelly assisted by Karen, made sure that over 450 families received the latest news as restrictions eased. Thanks to all the volunteer distributors who faithfully went doorstep to doorstep each month.





I have just read the article that I wrote for our last magazine (April 2020). It was filled with hopeful anticipation as the joyful Easter season approached. Unfortunately, a lot of the events that were planned and ready to go had to be set aside as we entered 'lockdown'. Schools closed and life became very different for the children in our parish. Numerous rainbows were painted and displayed on our windows as a sign of hope, and appreciation of the NHS and key workers. Home schooling began and Children's Church consisted



of zoom meetings, video lessons and WhatsApped Sunday School material for families to do together.

As much as I enjoyed preparing my video object lessons, I soon discovered the frustration of something going wrong in the last few seconds of a fourth or fifth attempt to record. I was very

grateful to Jenny Porter who became an awesome double act with her daughter Ellen and helped me out with this teaching task!



It wasn't long before I felt a great loss as I wasn't able to spend time with our wonderful children at Children's Church or Praise Kids. I decided it was time to get to grips with 'zoom', and, although it was all happening from my conservatory, it began to feel a bit more like a normal Sunday morning. It was great to spend some time chatting with our kids, and Melissa Haddock and Jenny both made a wonderful contribution to the running of these meetings.

We had great fun completing rainbow scavenger



hunts, 'Who am I?' games, quizzes, musical statues, and even a toilet roll challenge! Each of our Sunday School zoom meetings closed with a simple prayer activity, and a fun action song for the younger ones. These zoom meetings have resumed (fortnightly) until we meet again in the Parish Centre.

Although loads of children and families joined our online meetings, there are a number of people who just don't like this kind of thing (my children included). I really hoped that these families received some sense of connection by the videos that were placed on YouTube every week, and I was encouraged by some photos of families watching me on TV! (Too cringey to post here!!) Nonetheless, I really wanted to ensure every family knew that they were still in my thoughts and prayers, so, with the help of Dawn Niblock, cards and letters (containing balloons and treats) were sent out to every family.



Then, as summer approached, I knew that there was another event that needed to be acknowledged in some way, the children's Prize Day. I wanted to take the opportunity to thank our families and children for all their support throughout the lockdown season. I created another card for each child and this was sent out, with a small gift, by our amazing church delivery team.



Thanks once again to all who helped me deliver the children's programme over the last few months, and to those who sent me texts and photographs to encourage me. It meant a lot! I can't wait to see our children again face to face!

Until then, keep well and God bless!

Paula



Church was open early not because we were being over-relaxed and reckless – the opposite. Tiddliwinks have been up and running in the hall since the end of August and some small groups are starting to come and go. While we welcome that and approaches from our other hall-users to get up and running again, safety and cleanliness remain absolutely paramount.

If your organisation or group feels you would like to resume meeting, please get in touch with the Parish Office. A conversation will need to take place and as part of resuming your activities you will be asked to form a cleaning team (or teams) who will undertake to leave the space used safe for those coming after you. Users will sign to say they have done this.

We are ready and waiting with our Risk Assessments and please bear in mind that certain activities, especially those involving any physical exertion or singing cannot meet in the normal way. It's the need for social distancing and the extra breathing-out that present the hazard. Hospitality too is an issue: the kitchen is only big enough for 2 people.

Cleaning materials have been provided and will be replenished as necessary. Our Sextons Karen and Kelly will be happy to field any enquiries and likewise our Health and Safety Committee. Thank you for your co-operation and compliance.

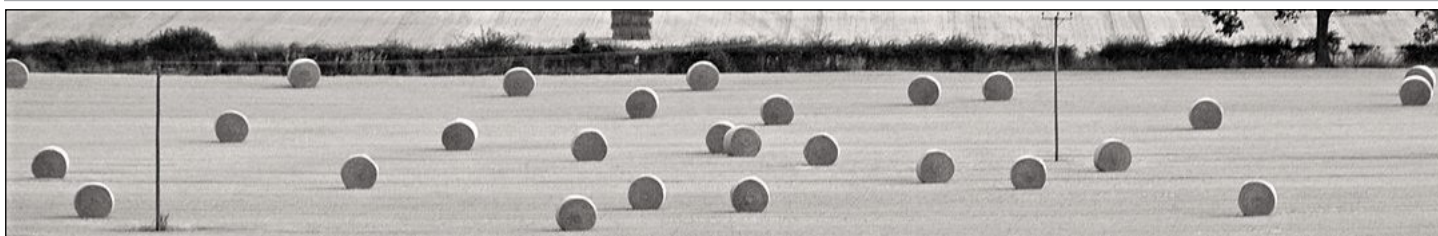
Easter Vestry: Thank you Jacqui & Trevor

With the postponement of our Easter Vestry this year, Rector's Churchwarden Jacqui Devlin and People's Churchwarden Trevor Smyth unexpectedly found themselves with an extra seven months of Sunday duty.



Not only have they been key to our Health and Safety procedures on re-opening church, but they have had the added task of wiping down the chairs after each service. We want to thank them for their perseverance and cheery faithfulness right to the end of their extended year of office and service. Neil and Freda will be glad to see a bit more of their other-halves again so our thanks to them too!

As advertised in the September letter, every parish in the diocese will be convening their postponed AGM between 1 and 16 October. Ours takes place on Sunday 11 October, at 12.30 in Church. Owing to our limited capacity there will be a sign-up sheet for those who wish to attend and a cap of 70 people. Lunch will not be served.



With much less to report, frustratingly little to promote and the situation changing sometimes every day, the decision was made in April to suspend publication of The Parishioner. Also with so many of our delivery team staying at home and shielding through lockdown, a new team of deliverers had to be formed to cover the gaps. Thank you to everyone who volunteered.

The letters you have received since March were in large part written by me. I'm sure you will be relieved to hear some different voices in this long-awaited return magazine. While the Coronavirus Crisis is plainly not over yet, reflecting on the last six months what I am most grateful for is a tangible sense of the Lord leading us creatively through the unknown.

Under God, our early focus on prayer, and a surge of willing intercession from across our church family bore very considerable fruit. Fresh ideas have flowed, new relationships have been forged and, against all the odds, pastoral contacts have been enriched and enhanced where they could so easily have been diminished or destroyed.

I'm strongly conscious that other churches, including many of our neighbouring congregations in Bangor, have found re-opening tough. By the time you read this, St Columbanus will have been open for socially-distanced worship for three full months, not forgetting Carpark Family Church (a joy from start to finish) and now Café Church. As we show up, so does God.

Those who come tell me they feel safe and we are working hard to keep it that way. Please let us know if you have any concerns about our arrangements. The priority is to ensure the premises are regularly cleaned and that is something we all need to take responsibility for as members of the parish and users of its premises.

The people of God in Ballyholme want to be together and believe me when I say they are the ones who have made that happen in the strength of the Holy Spirit. For Church generally, the fundamental obstacle is that meeting is our *sine qua non*: our 'without which nothing'. Where it wasn't possible physically, we made it happen virtually – and will do so again if we have to.

SED

Samaritan's Purse



This charity is an International Relief and Development Organisation. The most well known aspect of its work in St Columbanus is the Shoe Box Appeal. During this pandemic this work continues and there is even greater need to provide help and comfort to children by receiving a Shoe Box.

In October there will be leaflets at the back of the Church for the Shoe Box Appeal. These include information about the charity's work and step by step instructions for completing a box, suggested contents, a label and an envelope for donations towards shipping, transport costs etc. Include items that children will immediately embrace such as dolls or stuffed toys, school supplies, hats, gloves, scarves and hygiene items.

Completed Shoe Boxes should be taken to Ballycrochan Presbyterian Church which is the local collection point by 9th November 2020.

Thank you for your help.

Margaret Magee



Lockdown Mission Updates

Life under lockdown with fear of Covid for us and our families has been difficult. For our friends in Kenya and Uganda it has been even worse. With swarms of locusts destroying crops and freak flash floods washing away homes, the residents of Kajiado Diocese have had many challenges. In Kiwoko hospital a number of staff tested positive for Covid 19, but we are grateful that to date all have recovered.

Lockdown restrictions have also caused problems themselves. Transport was limited by the government to reduce spread of the disease but this led to problems for patients safely getting to hospital in time. Those living in town couldn't go to work, so their families went hungry because they had no money to buy food. Numbers of cases continue to rise across East Africa and the people, health workers and their leaders need our prayers. The mission committee sent some money to Kajiado and Kiwoko and also through Christian Aid to help them deal with the crisis.



Solar Energy Saving Lives at Kiwoko

You may remember a fundraising quiz and a pre Christmas film night last year organised by our men who visited Kiwoko last year.

Money was raised for solar panels which have now been installed. With plentiful sun available and constant need of electricity for medical equipment, the project is both a life saver and a money saver for the hospital in these cash strapped times.

Check out Café Church Everyone

Everybody is invited to Café Church on Sunday 4th and 18th October 10am in the Parish Centre. We plan on bringing the fun and informality of Car Park Family Church into our big hall where we will sit around tables in our family bubbles; parents, children, grandparents. With smaller tables for couples and folk coming by themselves. This time aims to be family friendly but for everyone!

We plan to explore a theme from the bible with activities at each table to encourage the youngest to the oldest to engage with the topic.

Bring your own coffee and snacks as we are taking every precaution with social distancing, masks, emergency use only of the toilets. The bottom carpark will be an overflow with tables and space for toddlers who need to stretch their legs.

Our aim to meet with God in a short 30-minute service, keeping all-ages engaged seems incredibly optimistic except for the over whelming desire found in the heart of our loving heavenly Father to meet and encourage us.

Look forward to seeing you there, come early to help us seat you safely.

Rev Jan Stevenson
(Community Pastor)





David and a rather scary Goliath (my husband) appeared on Steven Nickell's trailer for what was to be the first of many action-packed and truly encouraging family friendly services in our car park. God was close and in a time of stress and anxiety the burdens were lifted and shared as we came together to sing God's praise in our cars and hear God's promises of His peace and presence in the midst of our battle with Covid 19.

I had visited our neighbours and told them of our plans before we started in June. They were happy for us to go ahead and some joined us by sitting in

their gardens or keeping a window open.

The number of people coming was really encouraging right through the Summer. Fabulous fun was had in the T-shirt race and throwing sponges at the rector or the youth worker. Singing "Blessed be your name" was a highlight for me as I was reminded in that moment of the how real God's rule and reign is even in the midst of a pandemic that had shut the doors of our building but had not silenced praise and prayer to God.



A big thank you to the team and all who made CPFC memorable for all the right reasons.

Rev Jan Stevenson (Community Pastor)



Removal of Church chairs and books to make way for new socially distanced worship on a very hot day in July! Thanks to all that helped with this very physical work.



Following some furniture removal, the Sextons and the Health and Safety Committee (Leslie Adams and Harry Thompson) measured the floor and arranged the chairs with social distancing firmly in mind. Much work was also done regarding Covid-19 risk assessments.



A familiar sight in all public areas!
Automatic hand sanitisers in Church at the front doors. There is another one in the foyer of the Parish Centre.



PPE for the Celebrant during every Holy Communion service.

One of the first Sunday morning services back in Church once restrictions eased in early July.



Notice

This is the first magazine since April and we hope you enjoy reading it. The next edition will be a joint one for December/January. If you want anything included please send it to sylvia.d.davenport@btinternet.com or to the parish office.

A monthly newsletter will be issued in November giving service details, updates etc.

Please see the dates for the re-scheduled Spring Into Life weekend for your diary.

ST COLUMBANUS BALLYHOLME

SPRING INTO LIFE

Fri 19th to Sun 21st March 2021

Ballyholme Parish

Groomsport Road, Bangor

Tel – 028 9127 4912

ballyholmeparish.co.uk

Where would we have been over the last six months without our online presence and the three people who kept updating it for us: Robbie Jackson (Website), Andrew Watson (YouTube) and Kelly McCullough (Facebook). Others have helped and a large team has kept the content flowing, but the thanks of the whole Church family go to Robbie, Andrew and Kelly for providing us with such a vital lifeline.

As you know, plans were afoot earlier this year to rebrand and redesign our website. While this remains our goal, the existing website has served us well, especially as a means of accessing our weekly services, children's programme and prayer updates. The weekly YouTube services got progressively smoother and generated ever warmer feedback. Not only did they command viewing figures of several hundred at their height, but they drew an audience far beyond our own immediate congregation. Social Media is not something all of us 'do', but for those who are part of the Facebook world, interconnectivity has been raised to a whole new level.

Live Streaming of church services as they happen is the latest development. The cameras installed as part of Restoration 2016 are broadcast quality, the Rolls Royce of the CCTV world. Stage one was to establish a broadband connection in Church. This was always planned as part of Phase Two of the restoration project but our Glebewardens Steven Nickell and Ivan Humphreys commissioned an electrical contractor back in June and generous donations from a number of parishioners (since the September magazine letter) have now entirely covered the £600 cost of that installation.

Likewise expenditure on the new Video Capture Card and the dedicated PC and monitor required for live streaming (£1100) have all now been fully covered by the kindness of individual parishioners. The new facility was project-managed in-house by Stephen Baker, Andrew Watson and Ross Hamilton. While companies were queuing up to install and manage a live-streaming facility for us, the cheapest was going to be £2500 installation plus £100 per month for one camera and microphone fixed high on the back wall and we would still have had to install the broadband.

The great advantage of our set up is that all the sound-desk team have to do each Sunday is switch on the live stream and then operate the camera and the microphones in the normal way. Effectively, whatever appears on the six screens in Church will now be beamed through YouTube. Our computers, i-pads, telephones or other personal electronic devices become the seventh church screen.

The intention is to live stream the 10.00 Church service every Sunday. Currently this is happening fortnightly, so on the weeks when there is Café Church (until Children's Church resumes) we will record the 8.30 service so that online worship is available every Sunday at 10am. To repeat what was said in the September letter: if you're camera shy, please avail of the pillars!

Cheese Muffins

Ingredients

230g self raising flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
190g mature cheddar grated
40ml milk
1 egg
40g melted butter
1 teaspoon English mustard
Salt and pepper

Method

Preheat oven to 200 degrees

Butter and flour 2 muffin tins (makes 12)

Put flour and baking powder in a bowl, add cheese, salt and pepper

In a separate bowl mix milk, egg and melted butter

Add wet ingredients to dry, mix

Add mustard

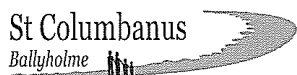
Put in muffin tins and bake for 15 mins



One symptom of the Pandemic we have experienced in Ballyholme Parish has undoubtedly been generosity: yours. Individual gifts towards replacing and upgrading our equipment and infrastructure, including most recently a gift to update the church laptop, are only the start of it.

Our door-to-door deliveries of groceries, flowers, and most recently marmalade, yielded a spontaneous and open-hearted response from a large number of you. It was never that anyone in our parish desperately or urgently needed anything, but plainly many people were touched by these gestures. As you felt moved to respond, so in turn your gifts towards our costs moved the parish team responsible. The 'hardship' fund has also grown steadily and as furlough ends and the economic consequences of Coronavirus start to bite, the money you have given to help struggling families will be welcome to say the least.

Week by week you have filled the Storehouse Trolley. Usually there have been two full trolley-loads of non-perishable groceries and toiletries delivered to Balloo along with cheques and cash gifts people have asked us to pass on. Some of you have made special gifts to our mission partners, aware of the additional pressures of coping with Covid-19 in settings such as Kiwoko and Kajiado. Then towards the end of the summer following the disaster in the Lebanon there's been the bucket appeal for Open Doors emergency relief and now the traditional Ballyholme Harvest Smarties Tubes for missions.



Standing Order Mandate Form (Freewill Offering)

To: The Manager, Bank of Ireland, 82a Main Street, Bangor, BT20 4AL

Your Name: _____

Your Bank: _____

Branch Address: _____

Please make payments in accordance with the following details:

Debit my Account: Sort Code Account Number

Credit Account: Sort Code Account Number

Beneficiary A/C Name: Ballyholme Parish Church

First Payment Date: ^d^d^m^m^y^y

Usual Monthly Date Thereafter: ^d^d

Monthly Amount: £20 ☐ £25 ☐ £30 ☐ £35 ☐ £40 ☐ £50 ☐ Other £..... ☐

I undertake to donate the above amount until further notice.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

☐ For Gift Aid Purposes please tick the box to confirm you are a UK Tax payer.

In terms of day-to-day running costs and overheads, our situation would have been entirely different (and almost doesn't bear thinking about) had we not had our 2017 Generous Giving Campaign to switch to electronic giving. The pandemic has proved an added prompt for those who hadn't yet taken up the Standing Order option. Another rush of new monthly direct transfers to our current account have been set up over recent months. To make it easy for those intending to give in this way who still haven't quite got around to it, the form is reproduced below. You can set this up online or take the form into your local bank branch.

Thank you for recognising that the work of God's kingdom must continue through the worst of the world's ups and downs and thank you for playing your part financially by giving back from what God has so generously given to you.

It's incredible that we are over two-thirds of the way through 2020, a year which has both confounded and challenged us; indeed, it continues to do so. We started the year with concerns about the ongoing refugee crises, particularly in the Yemen and Syria, the devastation caused by unprecedented bush fires in New South Wales and Victoria, Australia, and the war of words between east and west, unaware that much worse was to come.

Before we knew it, the Coronavirus, labelled Covid-19, was amongst us. Government briefings and guidance were issued on a daily basis. All too swiftly, and tragically, Covid-19 began to make its presence felt; many people were admitted to special Covid-19 wards and new, hastily-constructed Nightingale hospitals. The NHS prepared to deal with the worst-case scenario, exacting an almost superhuman effort from all its dedicated staff, who responded magnificently, with no little personal sacrifice. Across the United Kingdom, many people started to succumb to the virus. We had lockdown. Who can forget the pandemonium witnessed on our television screens, as we watched people viciously fighting over supplies of hand sanitisers and toilet rolls and the panic-buying of food, much of which had to be scrapped as it rapidly went out of date.

In the midst of this, most of us got on with our lives. Neighbours, families and friends exchanged contact details and contingency plans. Local food outlets came up to the mark with online initiatives which involved zero risk to staff and customers alike.

With the arrival of furloughing schemes, financial hardship was eased across most of society but those who 'slipped through the cracks' of financial aid became increasingly reliant on food banks, and remain so.

We all settled into a routine; socially distancing, handwashing, self-isolating, taking short, local walks, only shopping for essentials. The electronic age came into its own, enabling many of us able to maintain contact with family and friends. The Spring weather was kind to us, which made our restricted outdoor activities a little more pleasant.

With the approach of Autumn, and the slight easing of the healthcare crisis, we are nevertheless reminded that a second wave, possibly followed by a third, ensures that we keep vigilant. The only thing predictable about Covid-19 is its unpredictability.

At times we may have been overwhelmed by what is happening around us. Whilst the initial panic in supermarkets brought out the worst in people, the opposite also proved to be true. Clergy maintained telephone contact with those of us who were self-isolating or shielding. Places of worship seized the initiative; services were streamed via YouTube and in church par parks. We now have gradual reopening of churches with social distancing and hand sanitisers in place. The wearing of masks has become a way of life for us all.

Standing in socially-distanced queues to enter shopping areas has seen us having conversations with total strangers; maybe there was neither the time nor the inclination to do this before. Short walks and exercise outdoors gives us time to look around us, watching the emerging Spring flowers appear, marvelling that, irrespective of what is going on in the world, it keeps turning; the seasons continue to change.

We have participated in 'clapping for carers' on Thursday evenings, waving at our neighbours, brandishing whatever comes to hand to augment our applause [in our case, an aged bodhrán and a tambourine] and repeated the process, to loud, tuneless but nevertheless enthusiastic renderings of 'We'll Meet Again' to commemorate the 75th anniversary of V E Day.

Inspiration has come from unexpected sources such as the amazing achievement of Captain – now Sir - Tom Moore, who raised many of millions of pounds for the NHS. The stirring address by Her Majesty the Queen offered comfort and reassurance when it was needed most. There have been many acts of selflessness.

We cannot know what lies ahead. The research for effective vaccines looks promising but we are constantly reminded that Covid-19 is almost a way of life for us now. Things will never be quite the same but, if we can take anything from this pandemic, it's that we will never again take anyone or anything for granted in our lives. From its appearing to bring out the worst in people at the onset, we are now seeing the best in each other. Kindness and consideration cost nothing.

Patricia Fawcett

A Wee Peek at Lockdown!!

Hello everyone, hope you are all keeping well and finding your own ways of keeping busy in this last "wee while"!

My first few weeks of lockdown began with a road trip to Omagh on Thursday 18th March (yes 2 days before we were confined to our houses!) This road trip saw 2 return passengers ... woof woof! Yes life changed, big style! Two beautiful golden retriever pups - ours named Daisy (obviously remembering 11th May 2019) and her sister Poppy for the Brittain family "up the hill".



Life changed, but for good reasons with much to occupy us but also to make us smile. Now in this time of confinement at home the kitchen was a heartwarming place, a high spot of the day, meal times, coffee breaks and crossword cuppas. David, my assistant chef, perfected Cheese Muffins - delicious, one step up from cheese scones and much cheesier!! See recipe on page 12.

The garden too was another place of comfort.... whether as a place of Peace to have some Spiritual Quiet Time or to

soak up the warmth of the sun's rays.

Now in Autumn more busyness as those beetroots need to become chutney!!

Finally we could meet up out of doors; Car Park Church brought much joy and a little trip with the grandkids to enjoy Barry's Lemon Tops in Bangor's Main Street, just like the good old days!!



Keep safe everyone, remember your friends in MU in our Parish and all MU members in Ireland and across the world. I have posted a link below that you can click into to find out what's happening in MU for now.

<http://www.mothersunion.ie/>

Hope we saw some of you on Saturday 26th September at Coffee with Hilary McClay in our church.

Many Blessings

Yvonne and the MU team.

A Prayer - Canon Robert Deane, MU All-Ireland Chaplain

Rabbouni,

We pray for all who carry on the fight for health provision: all doctors, nurses, ambulance crews, porters and cleaners, carers in hospital and at home;
 we pray for all ancillary and emergency services backing up those on the frontline;
 we pray for all who are ill with Covid-19 as we pray for all who have lost loved ones;
 we pray for all whose job is to make decisions for the good of the nations and for the well-being of citizens worldwide;
 and we pray we may have patience and love for ourselves and for each other.
 Amen.



July - The Walkers on the Coast

A great turn out of 17 joined in July for the walk from Groomsport to Orlock via the coast and back by the road.

Peter was the leader and even tour guide as he told us some really interesting facts about the area. We passed Groomsport House which was built by Robert Percival-Maxwell in 1848. The High Court in Dublin prevented him from blocking access to the coast in front of the house.

Then on past McCutcheon's Field which comprises several acres of coastline. Cattle graze for a few months each year to sustain the local ecosystem.

Next came the Windsor Caravan Park and Seahaven Park Homes - both run by Lifestyle Ireland who have been obliged to maintain access to coastal path as the site developed.

At Sandeel Bay and Orlock you can have a building site (if you have deep pockets!) The steps and path lead up from the coast to Coastguard Lane. The National Trust bought 100 acres of land at Orlock in 2010.

Walking back along the road we passed the new development at Andrews Shorefield. Valuation records show the first "huts" in place in 1923. One had a shop and later a circus set up on the common area in the middle of the field.

Altogether a really interesting four mile walk in good weather followed by a 'socially distanced' lunch near the boathouse.

The next outing was on Saturday 1st August in Crawfordsburn Country Park led by Brian. The reason for choosing nearby locations is because until the guidance changes we can't comfortably share cars.



August - Adventures in Crawfordsburn Country Park

It would be true to say that some of us walked in parts of the park new to us, so thanks to Brian for the 5.7-mile adventure.

We had a big party of 20 including some who hadn't been able to join us on our 'new normal' walking. Welcome to all of them. We started off at the café and walked to the beach past the huge Crawfordsburn House, built by Colonel Robert Gordon Sharman Crawford in 1904 and sold in 1947 to the then Northern Ireland Hospitals Authority. It became a Childrens' TB hospital, a home for elderly people and more recently converted into apartments.

From there it was up (there seemed to be a lot of 'up'!) through the meadow, eventually



crossing the Old Windmill Road. Brian pointed out where the old bridge and where the Crawfordsburn Halt had been. Both served Crawfordsburn Hospital and the Country Park. The Halt closed in 1997 because of low passenger numbers. Leslie reminisced about his scouting days, when scouts arrived by train with all their gear which they offloaded and carried to the Camp Site. There were, he said, instances of them abseiling down the viaduct pillars! Originally the Scouting organisation was offered all of the country park but as that would have been a huge undertaking, settled for a

smaller portion, just off the main access road.

Then it was under the five arch viaduct designed by Charles Lanyon and built in 1865. The viaduct, along with the rest of the Holywood - Bangor line, was upgraded from single to double track between 1897 and 1902. The Ulster Transport Authority took over the line in 1948, and with it, the viaduct. In 1968 it became the property of Northern Ireland Railways, who removed Lanyon's foundation stone in 1989 on the centenary of his death. Brian also told us about the time capsule found in one of the supporting pillars.



Next stop was the waterfall. Eileen spoke of her father and his brothers and sister growing up in two houses behind the waterfall. Down the other side of the river and across the road to Helen's Bay brought us to the path through the Townswomen's Guild Wood and eventually to Clandeboye Way and into the Station Square. From there it was along the back of the Golf Course back to the Country Park.

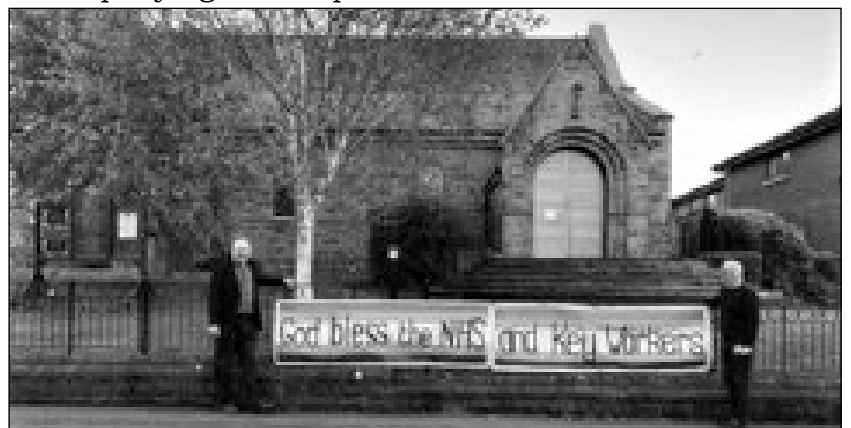
After 2 and a half hours, the picnic lunch was very welcome! It was great to be able to enjoy the 'craic' and appreciate being able to walk as a group again (always respecting social distancing!).



NHS and Key Worker Banner

Children's Worker Paula and her son Zack designed and painted the colourful NHS and Key Worker banner that was visible on the Groomsport Road from the start of the lockdown. What a bright and hope filled message to send out from Church despite the doors being closed!

Those living in the immediate area would have heard the peal of the Church bell each Thursday evening at 8pm accompanying the "clap for carers".





“Those who trust in the Lord for help ... will rise on wings like eagles” Isaiah 40:31 (GNT)

We are delighted to invite all the ladies in our church, your family and friends to join us for a night away at the Dromantine Conference Centre on 6-7th Feb 2021. We are aware of how draining and stressful lockdown has been and are planning for our time away to be refreshing and encouraging. We plan fun and relaxation and lots of coffee and catching up with each other.

Our speaker Hilary McClay (the bishop's wife) will help us to realise afresh how precious we are to God and how available His grace is for daily living. Jude Frame is going to lead our worship as we focus on God who promises us his peace and strength.

Dromantine is this side of Newry on the main A1 road, it has all single ensuite rooms. The cost will be £110 in total including meals & coffee. Book now to reserve your place with a £20 deposit. This is a step of faith backed up by wise planning which guarantees all money back if we cannot go ahead.

Fun guaranteed, friendship enhancing, faith reviving!!!
Join us you: will love it!

Jan Stevenson, Sandra Griffiths, Yvonne Manogue, Kelly McCullough, Paula McIlwaine & Denise Wilson



A Belfast Child by John Chambers

The byline for this book title is 'My true story of life and death in the Troubles' but John Chambers' story reveals much more about his, and, in part, his family's odyssey from the fallout of a broken, mixed marriage, in a notorious Loyalist estate in West Belfast.

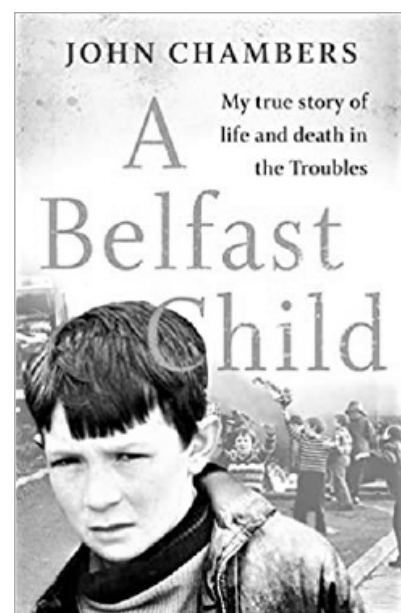
Whilst living presently through the nightmare that is Covid-19,

we are occasionally blindsided by blizzards from the so-called 'Snowflake' generation, objecting to restrictions such as the limitations on their social lives and the wearing of masks, as if these necessary precautions were in breach of their civil liberties.

In stark contrast, John Chambers' childhood was marred by the perceived rejection by his mother when he was six and the untimely death of his father, when he was ten years old. Beneath the baleful stare of paramilitarism which policed the area, he and his siblings' upbringing was overseen by his father's extended family, imbued with an intense hatred of Catholics and an equally intense love of Orangeism. Embedded within such a background, it is unsurprising that he flirted on the periphery of paramilitarism, criminality and involvement in drug culture, all of which seemed to reflect the era.

The journey he undertook, with its many pitfalls along the way, is related by John Chambers without one scintilla of resentment or self-pity. He charts his difficulties in a matter-of-fact manner, blaming no-one but himself. Eventually, he achieves resolution and reconciliation. We leave this book shaking our heads at what this man has been through, marvelling that he found the courage and determination to carry on, which he attributes to the unconditional love of his siblings, wife and family.

It has become fashionable in recent years for people to blame a troubled childhood, a broken home or a lack of money for their lives going wrong. This book goes a long way towards debunking the 'poor me' mantra. It is an inspirational life story which has marked the transition of a child of the Troubles to a man of the world.



Patricia Fawcett

YOUTH-news

youth [youth] (youths) news [nooz]

As someone whose job it is to see young people regularly, it really was strange seeing them exclusively through the medium of technology for several months, and I could use this piece to write about what we did with the young people over lockdown (Zoom, Zoom and more Zoom). Instead, though, I'd love to share with you what we have been able to do since lockdown restrictions eased.

July brought a lightening of guidelines regarding youth ministry, which allowed us to see young people in their friendship groups provided that we stayed outside. These "Hangouts" proved to be popular for the young people, who seemed to be as keen to see each other and us as we were to see them! These



went on for the duration of the summer and thanks to a whole lot of prayer, there was only one occasion where these were rained off.

Come August, our usual Jumpin' and X-Cess programmes were replaced by 'X-Jump'! This entailed four days in August where we produced an online Jumpin' for children in the afternoon (huge credit to Paula as well DDYC for creating the programme for that), and in the evenings we would meet for a more traditional X-Cess evening where we could explore what faith in God looks like.



And now, at long last, we are able to meet again somewhat normally – something which has brought us so much joy. It has been beyond great to see the young people in Emerge, YF and Bible Study again, and we have also been thrilled to start up an after-school homework club for



theme, but I would love it if you could join me in praying for the young people – that they would know God's peace and presence at this crazy time.

Andrew



OUR WORSHIP

Sunday 4th October Trinity 17
8.30 Holy Communion
10.00 Cafe Church - Parish Centre
11.30 Morning Prayer

Wednesday 7th October
10.30 Holy Communion - Church

Sunday 11th October Trinity 18
8.30 Holy Communion
10.00 Morning Service
11.30 Parish Communion
6.30 United Service - Ballyholme
Presbyterian - Online

Wednesday 14th October
10.30 Holy Communion - Church

Sunday 18th October Harvest Trinity 19
8.30 Holy Communion
10.00 Cafe Church - Parish Centre
11.30 Morning Prayer

Wednesday 21st October
10.30 Holy Communion - Church

Sunday 25th October Fifth before Advent
8.30 Holy Communion
10.00 Parish Communion
11.30 Morning Prayer

Wednesday 28th October
10.30 Holy Communion - Church

FUNERALS

April

1st: George Morrison,
formerly of Lord Wardens
Manor

May

1st: Maureen Speers,
formerly of Seaview House

June

2nd: Walter Long, formerly
of Woodland Avenue

3rd: Stephen Weir, formerly
of Bramblewood

4th: Bert Martin, formerly of
Sandringham Manor

September

14th: James Walters,
formerly of Beverley Gardens

15th: John Crothers,
formerly of Victoria Terrace

Parish Office:

91274912

Rectory:

91274901

Prayer Line:

07930231536

Transport: 07599794968

Web Site www.ballyholmeparish.co.uk



Harvest Smarties



You should have received a tube of Smarties with your magazine. Please enjoy the chocolate treats, but we'd be delighted if you could help us raise funds for mission by filling it up with coins and returning it to church. We'll gratefully receive them on Harvest Sunday and on the first Sunday of November. Any other donations for mission are especially welcome at this time to try and make up for lost fundraising opportunities.

Thank you.

October

4th: Flower Fund

11th: Irene Long

18th: Harvest

25th: Christine Johnstone



Decorating the Church for Harvest

Calling all green-fingered volunteers! Vicky Hayes, our flower rota co-ordinator would love to see you on Saturday 17th October at 10am to help decorate the Church for Harvest Sunday the next day.

