

# St Columbanus

Ballyholme



Words of Life  
Beach Clean  
Easter Vestry Report  
Book Swap  
Summer Services



..On the way  
together..

## The Parishioner

July / August 2021

Can you believe that twelve months ago Car Park Church was in full swing? As the pandemic continued, Café Church took over after the summer and this July and August it will run on the first Sunday of each month. Many families have found the bubbling and sharing at tables a great new way to engage with the Bible message of the day and get actively involved. 8.30 and 11.30 have been able to keep going with familiar faces reappearing every week and although we long to have the choir back in action and to be able to reunite at the Communion rail once more, it's been lovely to see so many returning to worship and feeling safe enough to come out again. Of course we yearn for the resumption of our full Good News at Ten format with Crèche, Children's Church and Emerge and our much-missed weekday seniors' programme, but one of the many lessons God has been teaching us through this strange season is undoubtedly patience. Dozens of Bible texts champion this virtue, but with holiday rest this summer in mind, my favourite is Isaiah: *those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength* (40:31).



**SED**



With the 2 metre rule still in place plus the need to wipe down surfaces after use, in order to maximise our Sunday capacity there will be no combined main morning service this July or August.

See the back page for a full listing but the plan is:

**8.30 am Holy Communion Order One**

**3 July & 1 August 10.00 am Café Church & 11.30 am Morning Prayer**

**All other Sundays:**

**10.00 am Good News at Ten**

with a children's activity in the Parish Centre on Communion Sundays

**11.30 am Morning Prayer/Holy Communion**

**7.30 pm United Epilogue Service**

hosted in person or online by the four Ballyholme churches

**Socially-distanced worship for July and August!**



### Just Older Youth

**“Faith is the bird that feels the light and sings when the dawn is still dark” - Rabindranath Tagore**

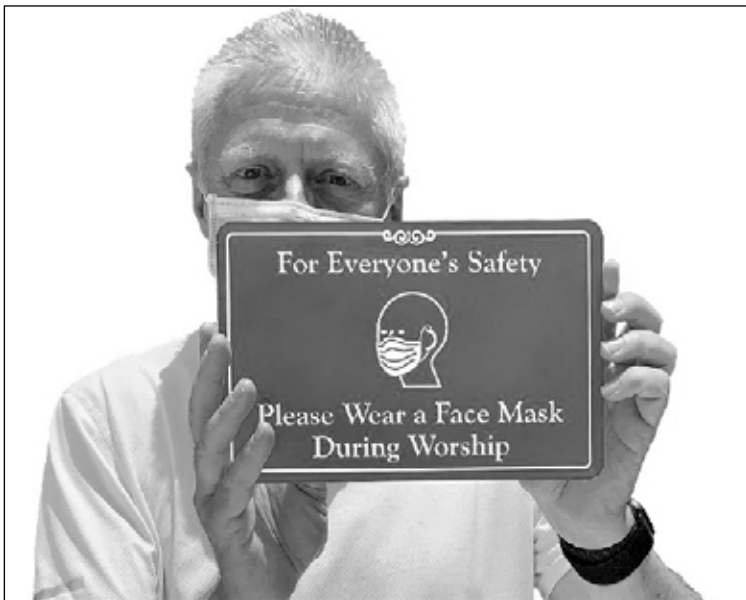
Most mornings I have the window wide open to welcome the wild, ecstatic hallelujah at the start of each new day. The song thrush first - actually a while before any light at all appears in the night sky, but then the hidden orchestra strikes up: blackbird crescendoing with wren, robin riffing with chaffinch.

Birds sing before sunrise, I’m told, because they have been woken by the cold and it is not yet light enough to hunt for food or a mate. They sing when they are constrained, cold and desperate - in anticipation rather than celebration. Once satiated they are silent.

We are communicants in this mystery. Participants in this moment when the sweetest, most startling hallelujah arises - contrary to anything we ever expected - in the darkness preceding the dawn, in the shivers that yearn for a sunrise, the hunger before the feast.

**Pete Greig**

“Awake, my soul! Awake harp and lyre! I will awaken the dawn.” - Psalm57:8



### **Face Masks: coughs, sneezes and tickles**

Necessary as they are, these masks we’re all wearing are hot, they’re uncomfortable, they need readjusting almost constantly and if you wear glasses they make for extremely steamy windows! But they also seem to make some people more prone to coughs, sneezes and tickles. If that’s you, then you have our sympathy but this is simply to say please don’t be embarrassed if it happens during Church. There are glasses of water all around the building and, if needs be, you can leave for a few minutes and then come back in again.

***Praise be to the Lord,  
to God our Saviour,  
who daily bears our  
burdens. Psalm 68:19***



## **Muddy Church**

Since Easter we have been able to meet with the children regularly for Muddy Church and we have been blessed with some super weather too! We have been on a Bear Hunt, finding bears, making bear treats and considering some bible verses with the word 'bear' in them. We celebrated Pentecost by creating a hands blowing bubbles, making windmills, hunting for fire, painting stones to share and enjoying an ice cream. Muddy Church has been lots of fun and a good way to encounter the bible stories in an experiential context.



## **Online Children's Church**

Zoom meeting and Sunday School videos have continued, and we have enjoyed games, chatting with God and trying to listen to what He is saying to us.

## **Children's Day**

This had to be a bit different this year, so we had THE BIG CAFÉ CHURCH PICNIC. Families met in Brice Park with their brunch and were invited to become busy bees and go on a Muddy Church Trail. There were puzzles to complete, items to hunt for and a chance for families to consider being patient, humble, kind and happy as they chatted about these biblical principles.

**Paula**





By learning to live more like Christ in a succinct and scripturally sound manner, the church as a whole has seen an improvement in its desire for internal fellowship, as well as external community outreach.

Although some may see Café Church as a 'fun alternative' to the regular service, it is, in fact, just as beneficial

Café Church, what is it? A children's service, a family service, or just some light-hearted worship?

Well, Café Church has something to offer everyone, both physically and spiritually. Whether it be participation from all ages, or the ability to be able to sing worship both classic and contemporary, Café Church always delivers a service that allows one to grow closer in their relationship with God.



to God's Kingdom as it enables somewhat complex themes to be explained in a simpler manner so that believers of all ages may understand.

Overall, Café Church is a valuable addition to Ballyholme's church life and will continue to equip believers to go out and be ambassadors for Christ well into the future. After all, who doesn't love being filled with the Holy Spirit while filling up on coffee and biscuits?

**Ben Cavan**





Where do you turn in times of difficulty? God has left us the Bible to meet our needs and bring us to Himself through Jesus. Many people in Ballyholme need re-introduced to the words of life that are found in Scripture. We plan on going door-to-door in September to ask “What can we (the local churches) do to support them at this time?”

The local churches have so many programmes that they could avail of; youth & children’s organisations, Seniors’ programmes, recreational activities....etc.

Going to somebody’s door is a practical demonstration of our care. We will also offer them a gospel of John explaining that it contains words that really can help.

We will have 3 teams – a prayer team, a team to put gospels in letterboxes and a team to ring the doorbell and speak to people.

Rev Mandy Durrell (Ballyholme Methodist) and I are running an orientation evening for all 3 teams on Wed 15th Sept 7.30pm. Please speak to Jan or Simon and come along to find out more. There is complete flexibility to try out any of the three options and swap between the teams. The leaflet drop is Sat 18th at 10am & Wed 22nd Sept at 7pm. The Prayer team will meet at the same time to pray for an hour. If you can only make one of these times that is still really worth doing.

It is as we step out in faith that the Holy Spirit will equip and tell us what to say. Going out to bless our local community will be a mountain top experience and guaranteed to really invigorate your personal walk with Jesus.

**Rev Jan Stevenson (Community Pastor)**

Following on from the popular Easter scavenger hunt and colouring competition, Jan and the Love Ballyholme team turned their attention to organising litter-picking and book recycling events during the months of May and June.

Armed with litter pickers, gloves and large bags, a small group of hardy volunteers faced the elements on Saturday 8th May to pick up litter on Ballyholme beach and Banks Lane car park. It was meant to be a “dry run” for a larger event in June; but there was nothing dry about it! Despite the wind and rain,

we managed to fill numerous bags with litter, whilst chatting to our fellow pickers and other beach users, who were hugely grateful for our efforts.

The second litter pick followed on Saturday 19th June at 10.30am. Advertised on the Love Ballyholme Facebook page, it attracted lots of support from the wider community. Focussing on a common task proved to be a great way to create instant connection and allow for easy conversations, which continued over coffee in the car park after the litter was safely set aside, ready for the Council to take away.



Saturday 12th June saw the team host a community “Book Swap”. The idea being that you bring a book and take a book or leave a donation for charity. The charity that we chose was Macmillan Cancer Support who do an incredible job of supporting those with cancer and their families.

Mindful of Covid and the need to quarantine books before swapping them, members of the congregation delivered their used books to the Parish Centre at least 72 hours before the Swap. This provided us with a stock of Covid safe books

to set out on tables for the event. All books received on the day have been set aside and will be used for a future book swap. It was lovely to see the Parish lawn filled with people of all ages choosing books for their “summer read”.

**Caroline Gillan**





Wednesday 26 May turned out to be the first really beautiful day of summer weather and what a memorable night it made for the Introduction Service of our former Diocesan Reader Denise Wilson as Community Pastor of Christ Church Primacy.

The parish has been vacant since October and is currently unable to appoint a new fulltime rector. With public worship in Northern Ireland voluntarily suspended from Boxing Day,

Denise started in post at the beginning of February. In the end, she could not finally come face to face with her congregation until Easter Day! Nearly two months later Bishop David led us in a joyful, family night of praise and prayer and called down God's anointing on a new ministry well and truly under way.

Joining Denise, Rory and Gideon on the night were family, friends and guests of honour Denise and Rory's Mums, Mrs Christina Kane and Mrs Christine Wilson (see photo below). In his role as Area Dean of Clondeboye, Simon served as MC and issued the opening welcomes and call to worship. Primacy has always been shared between the Church of Ireland and the Methodist Church and so Reverend Mandy Durrell, Methodist Minister of Ballyholme and Primacy shared the sanctuary with Denise and read the Bible



lesson. Bishop David preached on the fourfold call of the risen Christ to his disciples: from panic to peace, from fear to faith, from maintenance to mission and from weakness to witness. Commissioning Denise as Community Pastor, Bishop David then charged the congregation to embrace their part as the whole New Testament people of God.



Denise's first public duty was to lead the prayers and following the final hymn and blessing Bishop David led the congregation directly out the fire doors to an alfresco reception in the Church garden. A greeting from Primacy Churchwarden Scott Carson and closing thankyou's from Denise herself rounded off a special night which despite being socially distanced felt intimate from start to finish.

Please continue to pray for Denise's new appointment, especially as restrictions ease over the next number of months. (In case you're wondering, the garden hides behind the Church building and is visible on the way to Primacy Food Village!)

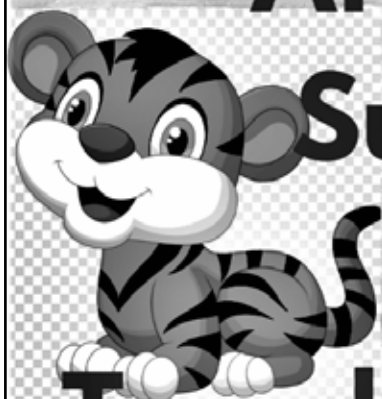






**16 -20 August 2021**

**Registration:  
After Cafe Church**



**Sunday 1 August**

and

**Tuesday 3 August 7-8pm**

COST: £30 Tiggers and Roos (P1-4 Sept 2021)  
£35 Wallabies (P5-7 Sept 2021)

Registration forms will be emailed out and  
available from the back of church mid-July

The traditional Easter General Vestry agenda of reports, accounts and elections also included the following remarks by the Chair, Canon Simon Doogan:

Closed for 6 months this year, it is a measure of the faithfulness of God and the implacability of His people in Ballyholme that both last July and this April, we were open again for worship the first Sunday after Coronavirus restrictions were lifted. I'm not complaining when I say that everything through Lockdown took more effort. The smallest things had to be carefully thought about and, sometimes, approached entirely differently but of course it was totally worth it. In many ways, the conscientious work of our Health and Safety Committee over the last 10 years proved a dress rehearsal for the slew of new requirements imposed by the NI Executive. Their attention to detail, and the sheer elbow grease of our Sextons, Churchwardens, Glebewardens and Café Church Team, has made our environment as safe as it can be under the circumstances.



## Our congregation

The Pandemic has taken its toll on all of us and certainly our congregation did not escape unscathed. We lost a number of faithful parishioners last year, some of them directly and indirectly to the Virus. Thank God we were spared the surge in untimely deaths and funerals experienced elsewhere, but for those families which did have funerals to arrange the restrictions made an already difficult time considerably harder. While a year ago the idea of live streaming a funeral would have seemed strange to most of us, our newfound ability to broadcast services is making a huge difference with sometimes upwards of 400 YouTube 'hits' as friends and family tune-in from all over the world.

## Volunteers

It's also important to acknowledge how willingly so many of you volunteered in one way or another. National figures emerged last month reporting that 12.4 million people in the UK volunteered at some point in 2020. I don't know if that figure included members of faith groups, but I remain impressed though not surprised by all the ways members of our own congregation stepped up, led so often by the Staff Team. Everything we were able to do last year, not least in connection with Carpark Church, Café Church, delivery rounds and a number of work parties, required large numbers of parishioners to roll their sleeves up. There are however two people it would be remiss not to single out for special mention.

## Special Mention

When Church closed last March, without Andrew Watson our Youth Worker, quite simply there would have been no recorded YouTube services. Because of his previous experience in that area and his readiness to oversee the filming and editing, online worship was available without fail every Sunday. We owe a similarly enormous debt to Stephen Baker who oversaw the installation of our live streaming equipment. It is no exaggeration to say that Stephen spent a hundred hours plus getting to grips with the set-up,



particularly bringing the audio and the visuals together. Through trial and error, no one now has a better mastery of the desk than Stephen. At this point it's time for our Sunday teams to work themselves up to the same level of confidence.

## The legacy of Restoration

For me, gratitude to God this year sees a couple of historic items re-enter the list. Restoration 2016 left our Church building better equipped for life with Covid-19 than we could ever have foreseen. Five years later, it's as though the glass doors have always been there, but without them we would have no one-way, entrance/exit system. The underfloor heating left us able to use the Church freely and comfortably through the week and the new tiles and hard surfaces have really helped ensure that our cleanliness can be next to our Godliness! Of course the cameras were



also waiting for their moment and add to that the sheer flexibility of the seating system and undoubtedly, restoring Church made living with Coronavirus immeasurably easier.



## Generous Giving

Thank God too for your open-hearted response to our Generous Giving campaign three years ago. The major shift to electronic giving by Standing Order at that point, and the steady shift away from envelopes since revolutionised our parish finances. Frankly, the state of our bank balance without that initiative doesn't bear thinking about, but inevitably we have still taken a major financial hit in 2020, as our year-end deficit of approximately £21,000 makes clear. Local evidence suggests that our percentage loss was comparably close

to other churches in the area, so we can draw the obvious conclusion that the shortfall was a direct consequence of the Pandemic. What a year for poor Liz Grant to take over as our new Treasurer! Given the exceptional circumstances however, Liz remains positive and I still feel we have much to be grateful for, especially with so many of you giving sacrificially to our hardship fund. Our ministry has remained outwards looking and, at last, the church doors are now open again.

## Not over yet

As for resuming our weekday Parish Centre programme, social distance restrictions will restrain us a while longer. There are so many things we long to do this summer and autumn, not least our children's and youth programmes and our Spring into Life Parish Weekend (probably now March 2022). Our chief problem remains plans – the fact that we still can't really make any! With our premises eerily quiet through the week, so many of the joys and pleasures of church life remain a way off. So long as we are clear that the Lord has brought us this far, and He won't abandon us now. The first epistle of John reassures us timelessly: (1 John 4:4): *the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.*

The following is a summary of the report given by Liz Grant, Honorary Treasurer, at the Easter Vestry on Sunday 24th April 2021.

In addition to the management accounts that were presented at the Easter Vestry, *The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015*, relating to charity accounting and reporting commenced on 1 January 2016.

Even though the Parish income was less than £500,000 the Parish must:

- \* Prepare accruals accounts.
- \* Have accounts audited and this must be in compliance with Section 65(2) of the Charities Act NI.
- \* Complete a trustees' annual report that also reports on how your charity has met the public benefit requirement.
- \* Complete an annual monitoring return.

The Parish accounts, Auditors report and Trustee Annual Statement will be submitted online to the Charities Commission NI this year.

### **Unrestricted Funds**

Overall the Parish income this year was £198,665 down by £5,350 (£204,015). Expenditure also decreased from £228,806 to £220,302. This gave the Parish a closing deficit balance of £21,637.

#### **General Fund Income**

General income is from the following sources:

- \* General giving fell slightly from £165,314 to £163,367.
- \* Property related income, which includes renting the Curatage and the Bay was slightly down from £13,836 to £13,531.
- \* General Parish income from sources such as hall rental, magazine donations and catering was down from £21,483 to £8,408.
- \* The Parish did not receive any unrestricted legacies.

#### **Expenditure**

Overall expenditure was down from £228,806 to £220,302.

The main areas of expenditure are:

- \* Clergy staffing costs which increased from £68,008 to £70,915, this was as a result of employing an additional clergy person.
- \* Staff costs were up from £67,227 to £70,542.
- \* Repairs and maintenance decreased from £47,360 to £8,649.
- \* Premises costs, including heating, lighting, rates etc. reduced slightly from £22,073 to £20,487.
- \* General Parish expenses e.g. consumables, postage and printing reduced from £19,248 to £18,425.
- \* The Diocesan levy reduced from £21,283 to £14,242.

### **Restricted Funds**

#### **Development Funds**

The Development fund started 2016 and throughout the year voluntary giving to the

restoration project by way of monthly standing orders, donations or fund-raising events came to £48,970 including gift aid. The Parish did not receive any legacies in this financial year. We have seen reduction in the amount of standing orders for the development fund in the last year and, on average, there is £3,260 of monthly standing orders going into the Development Fund, amounting to just over £39,000 per year.

There was no expenditure on the refurbishment of the Church last year.

Since 2013, when the Parish started the restoration project it has cost a total of £701,655:

*	2013	£4,900
*	2015	£109,535
*	2016	£493,987
*	2017	£37,391
*	2018	£13,455
*	2019	£42,387
*	<b>Total</b>	<b>£701,655</b>

### **Missions**

Income into the Missions fund was £7,980 and £11,800 was given to charitable causes.

### **Youth Fellowship**

Income into the Youth fund was £675 and £2,111 was used for activities relating to youth.

### **Look Ahead**

The following are financial priorities for the Select Vestry and Parish in the coming year:

- \* Continue to push the generous giving initiative with the aim of aiding recovery from the effects of Covid-19 on the Parish finances.
- \* Continue to move away from Free Will Offering envelopes to electronic giving.
- \* Continue to plan for the next phase of the development plan to build the link between Church and Halls.
- \* Update the Parish Website and other means of communication.

## **Easter Vestry Glebewardens Report 25 April 2021**

Below is a summary of the report given by Steven Nickell, Rector's Glebewarden on behalf of himself and Ivan Humphreys, People's Glebewarden.

### **Church**

The Quinquennial Report carried out in October 2020 recommended the following minor repairs which will be carried out in the Spring/Summer:

- \* Clean out rainwater gutters.
- \* Re-stain Vestry door.
- \* Clear drainage gullies.

Costs have been obtained for some minor electrical works that are required, and these will be carried out in the next few weeks.

An insurance inspection of the Church heating system was carried out. It highlighted that



a safety valve required replacement after 4 years. The valve has been replaced and the certification passed to the insurance company.

There was a problem with pigeons nesting in the external louvres of the bell tower and creating a mess around the Vestry door and steps to the basement. A contractor who has carried out similar work throughout the Dioceses was engaged. Additional wire mesh has been installed between the louvres and the mess has been removed.

The external lighting bollards around the Church which were installed as part of the refurbishment are starting to fail. The architect has been contacted and the issue is under review.

An outdoor Christmas Tree was erected in December 2020. It is anticipated this tradition will continue and the Glebewardens plan to provide a suitable outdoor socket to service future lighting.

### **Rectory**

Some minor plumbing works have been carried out in the Rectory over the past 12 months. The Quinquennial Report carried out in October 2020 recommended the following minor repairs:

Minor repair of roof slates to the main roof to be carried out within 12 months.

- \* Replacement of the garage roof within 5 years.
- \* Drainage manhole partially blocked.
- \* Only the drainage issue has been addressed so far.

### **Parish Centre**

The front doors of the Parish Centre had been problematic to lock but have been repaired. The Glebewardens intend to have the doors replaced and get an automatic opening mechanism fitted.

### **The Curatage at 34 Beverley Gardens**

The tenancy remains unchanged. Due to the Covid 19 restrictions, the Quinquennial Inspection of the property is yet to be carried out. Some minor maintenance issues were attended to promptly through the year and to the tenant's satisfaction.

### **The Bay Apartment**

There has been no change since the new tenant arrived in November 2020. A gas safety inspection identified a problem which required replacement of the heat exchanger within the boiler. The boiler was over 10 years old and after a review of the costs, it was decided to replace it. This property is managed for the Church by a letting agency and some minor maintenance items have been reported and addressed directly by the agents.

The trolley will be in the Church porch during the Summer for you to bring your donations on Sunday mornings. **Summer Appeal for Storehouse**

Items that are needed include:

**Tins:** Tuna, meats, custard, sweetcorn, beans, fruit, soup

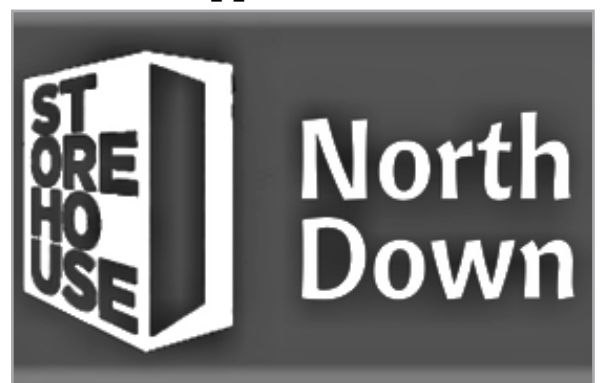
**Jars:** Baby food, jam, pasta sauce, coffee

**Drinks:** Diluting juice, breakfast juice, long life milk

**Boxes:** Cereals, biscuits, sugar, pasta, tea bags, jellies

**Bottles:** Washing-up liquid, cleaning products

**Other Items:** Male & Female toiletries, nappies, wipes



## **A Few Messages from the All Ireland Council Meeting held on 17 April 2021.**

**The Annual Gathering** has been postponed yet again and is now planned for Belfast on 23/24 Sept 2022.

**Diocesan Returns** have unfortunately shown a significant decline in membership country wide. Council members were asked to encourage Diocesan membership in the event that branches may have closed.

**Website:** the new All Ireland (AI) website has been operational for ten months and is updated regularly. There is now also a Youtube channel to which videos are uploaded and links appear on both website and Facebook pages. *(Why not have a look at what is online)*

**“21 in 21”** : The All Ireland President June plans to walk 21 km in every diocese in Ireland as part of the 2021 fundraising effort for Mums in May(MIM). Members are being encouraged to raise money through sponsorship for any 21 activities (swimming, baking, walking, running, knitting, reading books, chapters of the bible etc). Fundraising for MIM will continue throughout 2021 and members can donate through the Just Giving page [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/MumsinMay21](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/MumsinMay21) or give donated monies to their branch treasurer who will pass it to the MIM Fund through the Diocese.

*(To date June Butler has completed all her walks in Northern Ireland and as lockdown eases in the rest of Ireland she hopes to be able to start completing the rest of the walks soon.)*

**Worldwide:** Funds totalling £65,000 had been sent from All Ireland to the MSH Worldwide Fund in March 2021 and a further £4,300, sent at the end of 2020, had been allocated to projects in Uganda and South Africa.

**Prison Outreach:** Mothers' Union will be participating in in the annual “Prisons Week” beginning on 10th. October 2021.

### **At midday the MU Worldwide President, Sheran Harper was welcomed to the meeting.**

She led the Council in Midday Prayers, using the wave of prayer for that day which also included the diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross. Sheran commenced her talk by saying how wonderful it was for her to be able to join the Council meeting virtually and thanked AI for their very generous giving at all times and also the quick response to the Emergency Appeal. Sheran asked that the love and gratitude of the Board of Trustees should be conveyed to every member for their support.

She praised the work undertaken by MU in Ireland, mentioning in particular work with prisons, the way that we are reimagining Away From It All (AFIA) to suit the challenges of today, and the MIM Campaign, especially how it helped to transform lives at home and overseas. Sheran also answered several questions posed by members.

### **Letter from June ~ All-Ireland President ~ June 2021**

In her letter online June Butler said “I will leave you with a lovely prayer which brings together the Trinity and that special Mothers' Union theme for 2021.”

Our hope and confidence is in you,  
our loving Father;  
you have opened the door of heaven  
through your plan of salvation.

Our hope and confidence is in you,  
our saviour, Jesus Christ;  
you have paved the way for us to know  
joyous relationship with God.

Our hope and confidence is in you,  
our counsellor, Holy Spirit;  
you have shined a light for us to see  
the love of the Father and Son.

**Thanks be to God,  
for our sure and steadfast confidence,  
for the Holy Spirit within us giving us  
the hope in which we glory. Amen**

**Many Blessings and good wishes to you  
all from Yvonne & the Team.**



## May - The Walkers at Orlock

There was a feel-good feeling among the 22 walkers on the first Saturday in May when we were able to get back together again after a long break. We met at the layby at Orlock Head. The weather was kind, sunny but a cool breeze.



Led by Peter and Miriam the two groups walked west along the coast, taking the steep steps and rocky terrain in their stride, though stopping to admire the view and brilliant yellow gorse en route. Continuing to Sandeel Lane and along the back of the 'Park Homes' to the Seahaven entrance road we then walked to the Donaghadee Road and headed east again. Near Orlock we crossed the road to Lowry's Wood, a lovely area of immature trees managed by the National Trust on the edge of Portavoe reservoir. A zigzag one mile walk through the wood found us identifying the native trees.

There were Scots pine, Oregon white oak, hazel, crab apple, common oak, copper beech and rowan. One group took a slightly shorter route and we all met up at the starting point for our socially distanced picnic lunch.

Thanks to Peter and Miriam for organising.

## Betty

### June - Bangor Parks Walk

Who would have thought a walk round Bangor would total 6.6 miles but Leslie's Bangor Parks outing did just that!

Twenty walkers gathered at the playing fields on the Gransha Road and headed off round Ward Park. We welcomed back Ella and Mary and it was great not to have to split up into two groups!

On our way through Ward Park, we stopped to read about the Big Gun beside the Cenotaph. It was taken from the German submarine U19 and given to Bangor by the Admiralty in recognition of the valorous conduct of Commander the Hon. Edward Barry Stewart Bingham of H.M.S. Nestor at the Battle of Jutland on 31st May 1916 for which he received the Victoria Cross. He was taken a prisoner of war by Germany.



Returning to the start it was off up the Bloomfield Road to the path behind Aurora which took us to Skipperstone Glen and hence to the top of the Valentine Playing Fields which was very busy with youngsters playing football.

The next stage was through the woods, stopping to look at the family grave of Barry Bingham, 5th Baron Clanmorris and Maude Ward, daughter of Robert Ward, 3rd Viscount



Bangor for whom Bangor Castle was built in 1852. Maude Ward inherited the Castle on her father's death and after her husband Barry Bingham's death in 1916 she retained possession of the house. The then Bangor Borough Council bought the Castle for its offices in 1952. (I will admit I remember the old wall around the grounds which had a gate in it near the Post Office!) The Edward Barry Bingham, Commander of HMS Nestor was their son.



On past the Museum and down Dufferin Avenue, along Southwell Road to the coast and thence towards Pickie Fun Park. There we found benches and a wall to sit on for lunch.

After lunch the destination was Stricklands Glen through which the Bryans Burn runs to the sea at Smelt Mill Bay. The bay itself was named after an old lead mill near the coastline that was powered by the river running through the glen. There was also once a famous refreshment room 'tea house', known as 'The Bungalow'

before it was demolished in 1948. The pond, which some of us remembered having an island in the centre, is sadly overgrown. What a pity these features haven't been looked after.

Reaching the top of the Glen at Connor Park (where Leslie remembered playing football in his youth!) we headed for Brunswick Road and back through Castle Park. Some took the opportunity of refreshments in the Museum Courtyard.

A lovely day with only a hint of drizzle!

## Ladies Night Away Postponed

**Until 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> June 2022**



*"They will*

**rise**

*on wings"*



**Coffee with Hilary McClay  
Saturday 2nd October 10.30am**

Creator God, stretching out your hand with power  
bringing the universe into being –  
ordering the planets' paths, the myriad stars  
in space.

Creator God, crouching down, puddling  
mud,  
with delicate touch moulding the first man,  
and breathing your life into him.

Loving Father, loving with terrifying  
faithfulness,  
"I will not leave you or forsake you,  
whatever you do, I will continue to love you.  
You do not deserve my love,  
you cannot earn my love.  
But I made you, so that I could love you."

Loving Father, loving each of us with  
tenderness,  
knowing us inside-out and upside-down.  
Showering us with blessings,  
holding and healing when we are weak or  
hurt,  
setting us back on our feet  
stretching out your hand for us to hold.

Lord Jesus, sent by the Father to walk in  
our streets  
living your love in word and deed –  
mending broken bodies and minds;  
feeding hungry minds and bodies;  
cherishing souls and fearful hearts;  
touching the loveless untouchables.

Lord Jesus, in love, the light and life for all –  
in parable and miracle,  
in helplessness and frustration –  
finding acceptance and affirmation;  
and rejection, fear, and death –  
turning all the right way up again in  
Resurrection.

Holy Spirit – the breath of God hovering over  
the deep,  
bringing order out of the chaos.  
Inspiring, uplifting, enlivening;  
filling creation with movement and energy;  
and love in lavish outpouring  
on all that was created.

Holy Spirit, peaceful dove and burning fire –  
the rushing mighty wind and flame of  
Pentecost,  
the inspiring Spirit for truth and prophecy.  
The wisdom of God, to lead us into truth;  
the truth of God, to highlight our  
misapprehensions;  
the presence of God, to fill us with life.

Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
distinct, and yet the same  
in ceaseless relationship of love.  
Reigning in Heaven, yet here on earth,  
living in those who love you  
to draw all creation back to yourself.

**Valerie Jill Boal © 2011**



# YOUTH-news

youth [youth] (youths) news [nooz]

It's hard to believe that I'm reflecting back on the end of the school year and that, as of printing time, we will be into our summer programme. After months of feeling like we weren't doing much, it was amazing to get back to running youth programmes in person – restricted to 15 young people at first before opening up to allow everyone back at once.

At YF we thought we would keep the teaching-element a little lighter this term, and so we as leaders took turns to share our stories of how we came to faith and why we love Jesus. It was great



for the young people to be able to hear this and many could relate to the different life and family circumstances that we leaders grew up in.

At Emerge, then, we'd been looking at different aspects of our faith and how they impact the way we live – specifically thinking about God's love being unconditional and about the Church. It was nice to see all of them again, especially because we hadn't been meeting over lockdown.

Bible study has been a great opportunity to disciple and train our young leaders, and I'm

always so encouraged by their passion and commitment to God. We've covered all sorts of things this term and we've always had a good laugh doing so.

Homework club has also been such a joy to run. We have a group of regulars who come every week and it's always a great time getting to hang out with them on Thursday afternoons.



Finally, it has been great to have started Confirmation classes ahead of the Confirmation service in October. We have a great group of young people and I'm looking forward to restarting with them in September again.

**Andrew**

**JULY 2021****Sunday 4th July Trinity 5**

8.30 Holy Communion  
 10.00 Cafe Church - Parish Centre  
 11.30 Morning Prayer  
 7.30 United Service Ballyholme Parish

**Sunday 11th July Trinity 6**

8.30 Holy Communion  
 10.00 Good News at Ten  
 11.30 Holy Communion  
 7.30 United Service Ballyholme Methodist

**Sunday 18th July Trinity 7**

8.30 Holy Communion  
 10.00 Good News at Ten  
 11.30 Morning Prayer  
 7.30 United Service Ballyholme Presbyterian

**Sunday 25th July Trinity 8**

8.30 Holy Communion  
 10.00 Good News at Ten - Parish  
 Communion  
 11.30 Morning Prayer  
 7.30 United Service Ballyholme Parish

**July 2021****4th** Ann Adams**11th** Flower Fund**18th** Flower Fund**25th** Maureen Johnston**August 2021****1st** Janice Hewitt**8th** Flower Fund**15th** Pamela McNutt**22nd** Edna Rosbotham**29th** Sue Bleakley**Volunteers Needed**

Volunteers are needed to join the Flower Rota to arrange the flowers in the Church.

If you can help or want information on what is required contact Vikki Hayes on 02891455774.

**AUGUST 2021****Sunday 1st August Trinity 9**

8.30 Holy Communion  
 10.00 Cafe Church - Parish Centre  
 11.30 Morning Prayer  
 7.30 United Service Most Holy Redeemer (TBC)

**Sunday 8th August Trinity 10**

8.30 Holy Communion  
 10.00 Good News at Ten  
 11.30 Holy Communion  
 7.30 United Service Ballyholme Methodist

**Sunday 15th August Trinity 11**

8.30 Holy Communion  
 10.00 Good News at Ten  
 11.30 Morning Prayer  
 7.30 United Service Ballyholme Presbyterian

**Sunday 22nd August Trinity 12**

8.30 Holy Communion  
 10.00 Good News at Ten - Jumpin  
 11.30 Morning Prayer  
 7.30 United Service Ballyholme Parish

**Sunday 29th August Trinity 13**

8.30 Holy Communion  
 10.00 Good News at Ten - Parish  
 Communion  
 11.30 Morning Prayer  
 7.30 United Service Ballyholme Methodist

**FUNERALS****April****21st:** Thelma Hearn, late of Seaview Nursing Home**26th:** Norman Taylor, late of Fifth Avenue, Baylands**27th:** Irwin Bonar, late of Brooklyn Avenue**May****5th:** Phyllis Crawford, late of Mullaghbuoy Nursing Home**7th:** Joyce Stock, late of Bayview Road**June****4th:** Robin Jones, late of Ashley Drive**6th:** Phyllis Brennan, late of Windermere Drive