

# St Columbanus

Ballyholme



Confirmation 2021  
Operation Chair  
Kiwoko Update  
Activities Resume

..On the way  
*together..*

# The Parishioner

Nov 21 – Jan 22

Everyone, believers included, had their own personal dread when Covid first crashed into our lives. In September, just when we thought we could relax slightly, my Mother tested positive and then so did my Father. Although they developed flu-like symptoms, they were over the worst of it three weeks later, largely thanks to being double vaccinated. I share it here as a cautionary tale but also as an answer to prayer. They did not catch it out-and-about because they always wear masks and are careful to keep a safe distance from everyone they meet, rather it was brought into their home by someone who didn't know they were infected. They are now getting out for coffee again every day and for Church on Sundays, but I don't mind telling you how frightened we all were at the time and how relieved and grateful we are now looking back. In November, Christians remember. We thank God for the ones whose faith, example and prayer were so formative for us. In December and in January we look forwards, trusting God that, whatever is round the next corner in this uncertain world, Christ has come, Christ is come, and Christ will come again.



SED

## Pray for the Suffering

Every day we'll stop  
And pray for the sick  
And suffering today  
And we'll light a candle  
And pray for them every night  
That the Lord Jesus Christ  
Heals them tonight, Amen

David P Carroll



**“Many thanks to everyone who helped us raise £609 for Macmillan Cancer Support at the 2 Community Book Swaps.”**



## Freewill Offering Envelopes

2022 boxes will be ready for collection from the Parish Centre foyer during December.

Please remember to look for your name rather than your offering number as it may have changed since last year!

Thank you for each and every donation.





## Just Older Youth

### St Andrew

Andrew, whose feast day ends the Christian year on 30th November, is probably best known to us as the patron saint of Scotland, though his only connection with the country is that some of his bones were reputedly transported in the 8th century to Fife and preserved at a church in a place now named St Andrews.

In fact, there are so many legends about him all over Europe and the Middle East that it's safest to stick to what the Gospels tell us - though the strong tradition that he was martyred by crucifixion is probably true and is perpetuated in the 'St Andrew's Cross', the 'saltyre of Scotland'.

The Gospels record that he was one of the first disciples of Jesus, and the very first to bring someone else to Christ - his own brother. Like many fervent Jews at the time Andrew and an unnamed companion had been drawn to the desert, to be taught by the charismatic prophet known as John the Baptist. Many thought that he was the long-promised Messiah, but John insisted that he was not. 'I am the voice crying in the wilderness,' he told the crowds. 'Prepare the way of the Lord! One comes after me who is greater than I am.' So when one day John pointed out Jesus to Andrew and his friend and described him as the 'Lamb of God', the two young men assumed that the next stage of their spiritual search was about to unfold. So as Jesus made off, they followed him.

All the more strange, then (though, on reflection, very true to human nature) that when Jesus turned and asked them what they were 'seeking', all they could come up with was a lame enquiry about his current place of residence: 'where are you staying?' Or, perhaps, they were hinting that what they were seeking could not be dealt with in a brief conversation. If they could come to his lodgings, perhaps their burning questions might be answered.

The reply of Jesus was the most straightforward invitation anyone can receive. 'Come and see'. Come and see what I'm like, what I do, the sort of person I am. What an invitation!

The results of their response were in this case life-changing - for themselves, and for many other people. Andrew brought his brother, Peter, to Jesus. The next day Jesus met Philip and called him to 'follow'. Philip then brought Nathaniel. The little apostolic band who would carry the message of Jesus to the whole world was being formed. They came, they saw, they were conquered! And right at the front of the column, as it were, was Andrew, the first disciple of Jesus.



### WEDNESDAY CLUB

We are so happy to let you know the Wednesday Club is restarting on Wednesday 3rd November at 2pm in the Parish Centre. Once again it's a time for fellowship and craic followed by tea and buns. Looking forward to seeing you all.





**Muddy Church** has been super fun this term! We started by looking at food stories in the Bible e.g. feeding the 5,000 and Jesus cooking breakfast, making some Rice Krispie buns of our own.

In October we focused on creation and used painting, games and science experiments to explore nature.



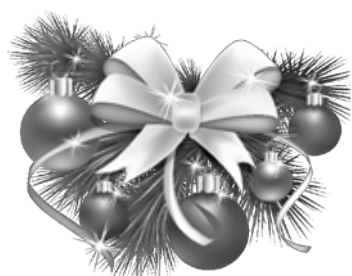
## The Nativity 2021

**This year we will be making a nativity movie!**

We hope to record this over a number of weeks, starting 21 November. I hope that all our budding actors will make it along!



The movie will be shown in church on 19th December.





Four churches from the local deanery presented candidates at Bangor Parish Church on Sunday 3 October.

It was lovely to join forces with Helens Bay, Primacy and St Comgall's itself and, along with Andrew Watson our Youth Worker, I was proud to present such a lovely group from St Columbanus. On the night, I received many compliments

on our 10-strong Ballyholme cohort. In reply I told everyone how touched I was to have watched them grow and mature as followers of Christ over the 13½ years I had known most of them.

Led enthusiastically in praise by the Bangor Parish worship band, the theme was 'Living the Good Life' and the Bible reflection was based on Jesus' call on His followers in Matthew 5:13-16 to be salt and light. After the Bishop's sermon and the presentation of the candidates, I briefly interviewed our own adult candidate Sam Stevenson on what had brought him to the point where he wanted to be Confirmed. Sam very helpfully traced his faith journey back to his own teenage years, and included among other things, his experience at Ballyholme CSSM.

Just as every candidate for Confirmation brings their own personal story, so every Bishop brings their own personal style and take to the service. What made Bishop David's approach particularly memorable was the individual word of prayer he offered for each candidate, as an extension to the laying on of hands. Diocesan Youth Officer Tim Burns was also there to give congratulations and to announce some upcoming events aimed at bringing together young people from across the parishes to meet for worship and fellowship.

Given current pandemic conditions, St Comgall's proved the perfect venue. Its mezzanine meeting rooms meant bubbled families were able to sit for refreshments between the rehearsal and the service and meet Bishop David informally. After the service, there was plenty of space to circulate safely and take pictures in the front foyer. Regrettably, there was no way of hosting the traditional Down and Dromore chocolate fountain and popcorn reception. Most of our young people dealt with their disappointment by descending *en masse* on McDonalds!

Although numbers in attendance were limited because of social distancing, many relatives,



friends and members of the wider parish tuned in at home via the live stream. It's the intention of our teenage candidates who are regulars at Youth Fellowship to continue to meet for a regular Bible Study. As reported in the September/October magazine, Sam Stevenson is training to be commissioned as a Diocesan Evangelist.

Please continue to pray for our candidates and don't be afraid to talk to them about how it feels to have confirmed their faith in Christ and to have been confirmed for His service in the world.



## Prepare to meet your God...

*For lo, the one who forms the mountains, creates the wind,  
reveals his thoughts to mortals, makes the morning darkness,  
and treads on the heights of the earth –  
the Lord, the God of hosts, is His name! (Amos 4:12-13)*

This combined November/December/January magazine is my 2021 opportunity to extend to all of you warm festive Christian greetings. To everyone who has faithfully supported our ministry at St Columbanus over these extremely difficult times: thank you and bless you.

SED

## Join us for worship this Advent and Christmas



## Community Carols

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

Thursday 16 December

5.30-6.30pm

Outside Heatherlea Bakery!



**‘Lighten our Darkness’**

**A Service of Remembering**

**Sunday 5 December 6.30 pm**

There is rarely a time when at least one of our parish families doesn't know the sharp truth of the words "In the midst of life we are in death". Mercifully, we have experienced a lower than average number of funerals since the start of the Pandemic. However for those who have suffered bereavement, an already difficult time was made even harder. The chance to say a proper goodbye to loved ones in hospitals and nursing homes was often curtailed. Gathering restrictions made it impossible for family and friends to come together and go through the traditional motions and emotions of loss. With churches, funeral parlours and the crematorium closed, short outdoor services seemed so inadequate for people who had lived long, fascinating

lives, and then there was the final cruelty of not being able to share hospitality and stories afterwards. All these elements are such an important part of the grieving process and having to do without them has thrown many back on our central Christian hope that "the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting." Please join us for what will be our first service of remembering for two years. If you would like to add a name to the Church Book of Remembrance now is the time to get in touch with the Parish Office. We compile a separate list for the service, and only those names added to that list are read out on the night.

**Solar Panels Update**

No sooner had the September/October magazine announced the solar panels project than your donations began coming in. Some donated panels in their own or their family's name; others did so very specifically to remember loved ones and former parishioners who have died over recent years. We are delighted to report that we are now in position to award the contract and schedule the work. The good news is that we will be able to install all the 'kit' in one go. This will keep our costs to a minimum and we will be asking for the work to begin as soon as possible.

The maximum number of panels we are allowed to install is 30. However we are also now in a position to install a battery bank so that we can safely store generated electricity through the hours of daylight to use in the evenings. Although the system is modular in the sense that it can be added to, we will install the size of battery which will secure the optimum return. The power we generate is worth much more to us if we can save and use it ourselves, than if we simply sell it back as surplus to the grid. Any extra electricity which we export will generate a small amount of income, but our primary objective is to reduce our own domestic electricity bills and thanks to your generosity we should now be able to do that dramatically.

Only to add, that with a hike in gas prices looming for all of us, there is no truth to the rumour that we plan to start 'fracking' in the church carpark!

BAPTISM	FUNERALS
<p><b>Sunday 29 August</b> - Ivo Thomas Lascelles Milliken, son of James and Claire.</p> <p><b>Sunday 10 October</b> - Theo Guy, son of Robbie and Sarah.</p>	<p><b>Friday 15th October</b> - Gillian Monan, formerly of Newtownards Road, Donaghadee.</p> <p><b>Thursday 21 October</b> - Eleanor Moore, formerly of Robinson Road</p>

We are delighted Monday Coffee with Scones and the Friday Lunch Club are resuming in November. It has been such a long time since we have been able to open our doors and offer hospitality, our dedicated team of volunteers are eager to see the return of familiar faces and hopefully many new ones too as we welcome everyone back to the Parish Centre. The dates for your diary are as follows:-

<b>Monday Coffee</b>	1st November	10th January
	8th November	17th January
	15th November	24th January
	22nd November	31st January
	29th November	
	6th December	
<b>Friday Lunch</b>	5th November	7th January
	19th November	21st January
	3rd December	

Please book your place at either of the above by phoning the Parish Centre.

Kindly book your table for Monday coffee by the Friday before.

Your place at Friday Lunch must be booked no later than the Tuesday before.

We will offer two sittings each Monday at 10am and 11am to allow as many people as possible to join us as we comply with the current social distancing guidelines.

Friday Lunch will have one sitting at 12.30pm and for now will run fortnightly. A maximum of four people per table (if not in a bubble) allows us to follow government guidelines.

Face masks should be worn on entering and leaving the Parish Centre.

We love our Church and know you do too. The Parish Centre has seemed so empty without you. Please encourage your family, friends and neighbours to join us as we celebrate getting together again.

God bless

**Karen**

### **Communion Lunch**





We approach 31 December 2021 following another year of on-and-off Coronavirus restrictions. Financially, the Pandemic has made things difficult for us and for all churches and charities. As you know we ended the 2020 financial year with our current account approximately £21000 in deficit. Twelve months on, we are heading for much the same shortfall. This is not sustainable.

Our Parish Team deserve all the plaudits they have received for their busyness through the continuing challenges. They have been creative and conscientious and when not able to minister face-to-face, they have been attentive on the phone and on-line. We owe them not just our gratitude but our practical support. To be blunt, we need to ensure there is enough money every month to pay them. As a Church we are not profligate and our staff are far from overpaid. There is only so much money we can save on printing costs and phone charges. Of course we are keeping a close eye on our outgoings but there are certain expenses that are unavoidably part of our ministry going forwards as we seek to reopen and rebuild.

Some parishioners are aware that other churches have received grants to help them through the current drop in income and asking have we received any money. The fact is we do not meet the criteria. Our Restoration Fund savings (planning for Phase 2) rule us out, but we would ask you to bear in mind that it has been borrowing from the Restoration Fund this last two years that has kept us covering our monthly costs. The simple truth is, when we are fully open, and running our usual weekly programmes, the current account is not such a worry. More than anything then, we need our parishioners to return to Church and the Parish Centre, and to resume their regular giving. The good news is, people are now feeling brave enough to come back out again and our financial situation should ease somewhat. It desperately needs to.

There has been a wonderful response to the solar panels project. Work that had been planned on our parish website and branding alongside overdue software upgrades and ongoing buildings maintenance are benefitting from separate individual gifts from parishioners who realise our need and are responding sacrificially.

My vision, however, is that we can reach a point where our monthly wage bill of £10,500 (including HMRC, NI and NEST), is entirely covered by standing orders. Our additional monthly income would then be enough to cover other overheads and to increase our missions giving closer to the 10% which many parishes commit to, and which Bishop David is keen that we all make our aim. Our current standing order income is £7,800 per month so we have some way to go.

For now, thank you for your support throughout what has been a difficult period for all our families. We remain in a position to help if your family has found things particularly tight and you are asked to get in touch with the Rector confidentially. Otherwise, please make our parish finances a matter for prayer as you review your personal giving and 2022 begins.

Thank you.

**Liz Grant**

PS - A copy of the Standing Order Form is included on page 18 of this magazine.

## **Welcome Service for MU**

**Monday 1st November 2021  
at 7.30pm**



Looking forward to joining together in the safe setting of our church building. We will enjoy this small step forward, please bring along a friend if you can to join us. Light refreshments will be served.

Thanks

**Yvonne & the team.**



## Christmas Bazaar

Saturday 4th December  
10am - 12 noon

SUGGESTED ADMISSION:  
AULTS: £2 OR 2 FOR £3  
CHILDREN FREE

### STALLS INCLUDE:

- tombola
- books
- toys
- cakes
- white elephant

### DONATIONS:

New or nearly new items will only be accepted  
from Monday 29th November



5TH DECEMBER 2021

## CHILDREN'S GIFT DAY at Café Church

WE WOULD LOVE TO  
RECIVE VOUCHERS FOR  
SMYTHS, TESCO, ASDA  
AND SAINBURY'S (TOYS  
CANNOT BE DISTRIBUTED)



'Operation Chair' took place on Tuesday 14 September, the last really lovely evening of summer weather. An advance party that morning cleared the church of the blue plastic chairs. They may not have been the most comfortable, but they certainly gave us the flexibility we needed when the 2 metre rule was in place. Thanks to the elbow grease of our Churchwardens, Sextons and other willing parishioners, they were the cleanest chairs in Christendom!



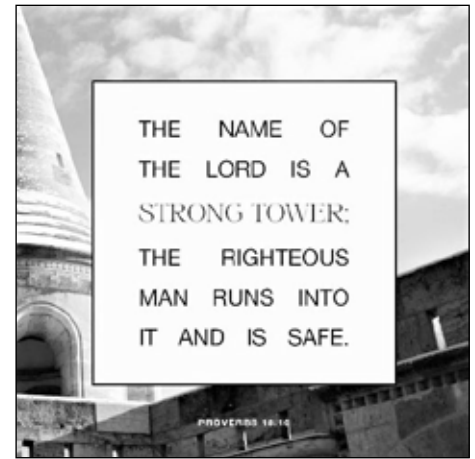
Emptying the Columbanus Room of 200 wooden upholstered chairs that night required more serious muscle and what a sight it was to see dozens of volunteers arriving to lend a hand. One team passed the chairs out of the Columbanus Room and down the fire exit stairs. Outside on the tarmac, a second team hoovered and wiped the chairs down. Everyone else who turned up joined the line to carry the chairs one-by-one down the path and into the Church through the new glass doors – except, of course, for our Youth Worker Andrew Watson. As if to prove how well recovered he was from his brush with Covid-19 in July, Andrew was the only one seen to carry a chair in each hand!



### **'Great to get out again, isn't it?'**

What a welcome relief it's been to go out for that coffee with a friend or that meal with the family. Get-togethers have resumed at our golf clubs, yacht clubs and bowling clubs, and while we're still trying to abide by the public health advice, it feels wonderful to see old faces and pick up life where we left off nearly two years ago. Where Church and the Parish Centre are concerned, everyone who has overcome their nervousness to return on Sundays or through the week has felt safe. Our Vestry and Staff Team continue to take the situation extremely seriously, and our Health and Safety Committee are regularly updating our Risk Assessments in line with the latest requirements. Hands, Face, Space remains the mantra and, when the 1 metre rule expires, our intention is to retain a one chair space between bubbles until infection levels persuade us we can do otherwise.





What a blessing it was to have Hilary McClay (Bishop David’s wife) on a return visit as the speaker at the coffee morning! Hilary spoke about the recent upheaval she and Bishop David experienced concerning the house move from temporary accommodation to their permanent property which had been delayed extensively due to the pandemic.

Her inspirational words based on a few significant verses in Proverbs (Chapter 24 v 3 & 4; Chapter 18 v 10) encouraged us to let go of long-held attitudes to allow God to bring “a fresh wave of things,” in the form of new wisdom and discernment concerning our place in His kingdom. We were reminded that although this can feel uncomfortable at times, it is “so worth it when we get to the other side.”



Hilary also recommended that everyone should “keep one eye on our strong tower” at all times, stay close to it and stay safe. These words held much significance in today’s context, highlighting our need for God and his grace in the midst of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Jude Frame (Knocknagoney Parish) and Paula McIlwaine led us in wonderful worship and praise. The music was the perfect accompaniment to the morning’s fellowship, managed perfectly by the A.V. team at the sound desk.

Jan and the prayer ministry teams were there to offer private prayer for those who needed it, meaning that no-one left Church with anything heavy on their heart.

Thank you to Jan for organising such an inspiring and thought-provoking event, to the musicians, the welcome team who greeted everyone so warmly, the prayer ministry, A.V. and catering teams and of course Hilary who will be our guest speaker at the “Rise” womens’ weekend in June 2022.

### **Kelly McCullough**





After much planning and prayer, a team from the 4 local Churches delivered the Gospel of John plus an explanatory letter to 1,700 homes in Ballyholme. Prayer was vital to this endeavour and a team stayed in the hall praying. A second team put the Gospels through the letterboxes. And a third team knocked on the doors and offered support to the people who were in. The whole team numbered 40+ on both days.



We were delighted by the positive responses we got from the people we spoke to, with people wanting to bring their children to Sunday school, cubs, Parents and Toddlers, etc. Two teams had garden tours and went home with cuttings and cut flowers. We met people we knew who had lost contact with their church over lockdown. Many told us how pleased they were that we came from the 4 local churches, Methodist, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian and Church of Ireland. Simon recently visited a home where the lady thanked him for the Gospel of John which she said she had read twice.



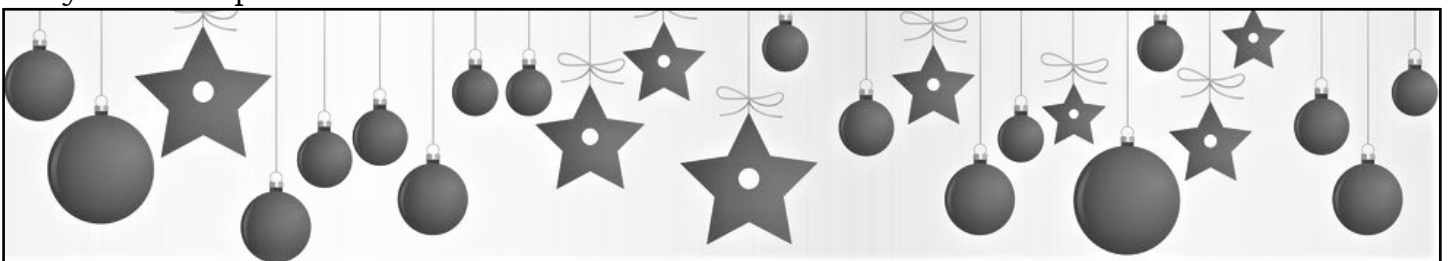
We would love you to join us in praying that people read these Gospels afresh and discover how much Jesus has done for them and for people to come to church.

**Rev Jan Stevenson Community Pastor**

### Outdoor Café Church back indoors

We really enjoyed Café Church in the Lower Carpark in July, August and September. Who could ever forget the dryland swimming sketch where Julie Monaghan and Paula McIlwaine reminded us that we need to be Jesus' followers in our schools and at work; not just on Sunday! Sunday 3rd October saw us back indoors in the light and airy hall, thinking about the clothes we need to wear to go to the party in heaven.

We are now planning to have **one service at 10am where you can just turn up, no booking required** on Sunday 7th November, Sunday 5th December and Sunday 2nd January. We realise that it is hard to plan ahead these days and easier just to be able to turn up to Café Church. We will use the smaller tables and we will continue to have everyone well spread out.





Storehouse North Down exists, as a charity, to be the real answer for those families and individuals who have no safety net. Storehouse North Down is supported by amongst others local churches to fight food poverty across Bangor, North Down and beyond. We in Ballyholme Parish are proud to be one of those churches!



With our help, and that of many others, we can see a day when no one

in North Down has to go hungry. We can continue to help by continuing to donate food, toiletries, money etc. 100% of what you give, whether it be food or money, will go directly to seeing those that are most vulnerable find HOPE and a brighter future. Every gift/donation makes a difference.

The past 20 months have been an extremely busy time for Storehouse North Down. There was an increase in parcel demand, and an increase in demand due to unemployment caused by lockdown with people struggling on lower incomes. Therefore the need for food deliveries increased significantly.

Although the demand for parcels was high, the support from the community has been fantastic. We along with our other brothers and sisters in Christ from our fellow churches continued to collect even when we were closed. This really is a great example of community fellowship in its highest form.

On average the Storehouse North Down at present is helping approximately 500 people a month although this number is expected to increase now that furlough has ended and the Universal Credit £20 top-up now removed and the extraordinary increase in heating costs to come. The need for service that Storehouse North Down provides is greater than ever.

We all know that the Covid 19 pandemic is far from over. The vulnerable individuals and families need our help more and more each day. Please continue and if possible increase your support. Christmas is less than 2 months away. Let's play our part in making it a joyous, happy and fulfilling Christmas for these people.

Remember the more we give out the more we receive. I'll leave the last word to St Luke when he said in Chapter 6 v 38 " Our Lord has been really faithful in providing all and indeed more than we need".

### Trevor Smyth

#### November 2021

**3rd:** Pat Todd  
**10th:** Ivan Reid, in memory of Dorothy  
**17th:** Margaret Horner  
**24th:** Ian Bell

#### December 2021

**5th** Raymond McCabe, in memory of Jackie and Graeme McCabe  
**12th** Yvonne Manogue  
**19th** Christmas  
**26nd** Christmas



#### January 2022

**2nd** Flower Fund  
**9th** Susan Stockton  
**16th** Jacqui Devlin  
**23rd** Agnes Officer  
**30th** Flower Fund

### Help needed to decorate the Church for Christmas

**Saturday 18th December at 10.00 am**

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





I first met Maura, who is a Columban Sister, when the four Ballyholme Churches came together in September to give a copy of St. John's Gospel to every household in the Parish.

The Columban Sisters are dedicated to serve the poor and needy in underdeveloped parts of the world. They were founded in Ireland in 1924 to collaborate with the Missionary Society of St. Columban in the Chinese mission. In 1926 a community of six sisters was sent to China and they and others continued to work there for three decades. Because of historical circumstances, the sisters had to leave China, but in the meantime had established missions in other parts of South East Asia - Hong Kong and the Philippines, in the '40s in Myanmar (formerly Burma), Korea in 1955, and later in South America and Pakistan.

Maura, who is from Rosslare Strand, Co. Wexford and her fellow Columban Sister, Susanna, who is from South Korea were assigned to the parish of Bangor because the Congregation felt it should have a connection with the place most identified with St. Columbanus, the patron saint of the Columban Sisters and Fathers. They moved to Ballyholme in March 2020, just before the Covid-19 'lockdown', and live along the Esplanade in the Parish House which was once occupied by Father Rooney. 'Lockdown' was a strange time to arrive, but Maura said it gave her and Susanna time for prayer and presence.

Maura told me how as a teenager she had felt a calling to be a missionary and spread the Gospel. She joined the Columban Sisters after secondary school, and went to live in the Motherhouse in Magheramore. There she completed a programme of spiritual formation to prepare her for life as a Missionary Sister of St. Columban. She also completed an Arts Degree and MA at University College Dublin. Maura said there were many young women in formation for religious life with her in the Motherhouse, but nowadays there are not many new vocations. The Columban Sisters remaining in Ireland now are mostly retired or elderly and not too many of them actively serve.

Maura has spent most of her life away from Ireland. On completion of her studies she went to the Philippines and spent 15 years in the southern island of Mindanao. She taught second and third level students and participated in leading retreats and many student activities. The college had an enrolment of more than 5,000 students between the different levels. Many of those studying Education worked as Catechists in the Public Schools. About 200 students at a time would also have been given working scholarships e.g. they would work in the Library or other departments. Many of these were poorer but bright students from the surrounding provinces. Maura found it a joy to work with them.

Maura also spent what she described as '23 happy years' in Peru where she was involved in more direct pastoral work and evangelisation in an enormous parish in a very poor area outside Lima in the foothills of the Andes. There were huge numbers in the Sacramental Programmes. She found people there to be filled with faith in God, but the same people had never had the opportunity to receive formal religious instruction. Many of them had come from the rural areas and towns in the Andes or the jungle with the exodus from these areas because of the violence and killings perpetrated by the Shining Path Maoist group who were responsible (together with the Peruvian army) for thousands of killings in the late '70s and '80s.





In Ballyholme, Maura is involved in pastoral work such as adult baptisms preparing people who want to become Catholics, bringing Holy Communion to the sick and uploading some readings, prayer and reflections onto the Parish of Bangor website.

Susanna was born in South Korea. As a Columban sister, she was assigned to Peru, and worked there for 12 years as an Occupational Therapist and Physiotherapist for children with cerebral palsy as well as for the elderly who had been affected by strokes or Parkinson's Disease: all those whom she treated were under-privileged people.

Susanna said she felt very privileged to work in Peru as a therapist with the poorest, most needy and often forgotten members of society. She said she had never faced such overwhelming poverty and while it was challenging, it made her very grateful for everything she had. She described it as a wonderful experience and she learned so much.

Sadly Susanna found that after spending so much time on her knees working with the children the cartilage in her knees had worn out. She had to return to Korea for rehabilitation and she found it hard to accept that she would be unable to return to Peru. Meanwhile, she did a postgraduate counselling/psychotherapy course in South Korea, because she witnessed that families with disabled children and their family were in dire need of emotional support.

Susanna told me she asked God why this had happened to her. She came to realise her pain gave her an insight into suffering. It enabled her to appreciate and have empathy with others in similar situations and so she regarded her pain as a blessing.

Once she was back on her feet again Susanna did missionary work in Korea until she asked for a missionary assignment which brought her to Ballyholme.

She currently works in St Columbanus College as a classroom assistant for students with special needs and as a counsellor/psychotherapist for the students, she also visits elderly people, and runs a private psychotherapy practice for the general public.

## **Christine Johnstone**

### **What's happening to the Co?**



As you may have read in the local press, planning permission has been granted to Bluebird (NI) Ltd for the demolition of the former Co-Op building next to St Columbanus, and the erection of “two semi-detached 2.5 storey dwellings and two semi-detached 2 storey dwellings with private cobbled parking, gated access and landscaped gardens to the rear”.

On behalf of the Vestry, our Glebewardens made a submission to the application process carefully highlighting

- (1) the need for an engineering solution/retaining wall to the shared boundary,
- (2) the existence of a live sewer at the front of the church grounds,
- (3) the peel of the church bell over the last 80 years (with a view to any new neighbours) and
- (4) given current amenities in the area, that the scheme would amount to over-development.

You can read more on the Ards and North Down Borough Council website (Case Officer's Report Application Ref: LA06/2019/0316/F). As this latest scheme is the fourth proposal for the site since 2011, might it be fair to say that we continue to await developments?

This summer, as life in Northern Ireland was starting to return to normal, Uganda started experiencing its deadly second wave of Covid infections. With a timely and strictly enforced lockdown for the first wave few covid infections occurred. Sadly that wasn't true second time round. Many were infected, and many died. The hospital had to reconfigure wards for covid patients, obtain extra oxygen concentrator machines, and develop a temporary covid delivery suite and covid theatre. Although some staff were infected, we praise God that none have come to lasting harm. Still it has been an especially difficult year and everyone is tired. Educational establishments have been shut for nearly 2 years now and are only expected to reopen in January. Children have been at home for 2 years and for most that has meant no education at all and a lot of extra pressure on staff caring for their families. Even the student nurses and laboratory workers' studies have been in hold.



The arrival of the container of medical equipment on 10th September was a welcome boost arriving 3 months after it left Carrickfergus. Various pieces of medical equipment decommissioned from hospitals in Northern Ireland along with some PPE and tools for the estates team. Thanks to those in the parish who donated tools and especially to Nickell and Richmond and their suppliers who donated some high quality professional items. Pastor William who leads the estates team was particularly delighted to receive tools to help his team keep the structures of the hospital working from the background.

Various pieces of medical equipment decommissioned from hospitals in Northern Ireland along with some PPE and tools for the estates team. Thanks to those in the parish who donated tools and especially to Nickell and Richmond and their suppliers who donated some high quality professional items. Pastor William who leads the estates team was particularly delighted to receive tools to help his team keep the structures of the hospital working from the background.

**Kiwoko Christmas cards** will be on sale again this year.

Due to our design team being unable to visit Kiwoko for 18 months we will have to wait until 2022 for fresh designs, but cards are available from the parish office.

Please remember Dr Peter and the team at Kiwoko in your prayers. The work has been extremely arduous over the last year and the finances have been even more challenging. Yet they continue to thank God for his faithfulness, protection and provision.

St Columbanus Ballyholme													
<b>Standing Order Mandate Form (Freewill Offering)</b>													
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## **August - The Walkers at end of the Ards Peninsula - Ballyquintin and Kearney**

The Walkers' August outing was delayed by a week because of inclement weather. In the event, some 13 walkers made their way, on a fine day, to Ballyquintin Point, the most southerly part of the Ards peninsula.



The National Trust owns Ballyquintin Farm and the surrounding land. The farm is managed by traditional mixed farming methods which are consistent with the encouragement of wildlife, including birds and hares.

Our walk started with a visit to the National Nature Reserve (owned by the Environment and Heritage Service) at the tip of the peninsula. The reserve lies on a low, exposed, rocky coastline. The point was formed by a raised beach of shingle and cobble stones, caused by the last ice-age, which gently slopes inland to low cliffs. Such deep banks

of raised beach shingle are found nowhere else in Northern Ireland. This is an ideal location for the low-growing burnet rose and, although its flowering season had passed, we were delighted to find its deep purple rose hips.

Our walk took us to Port Kelly, on the Irish Sea coast. We then crossed the peninsula to Strangford Lough, walking along green paths, where many emerging blackberries could be seen. On arriving at Barr Hall Bay we were greeted by the sounds of seals, and, with the aid of binoculars, we observed them in considerable numbers, on rocks not far off the coastline. We walked up a steep field towards Barr Hall Hill to get a the best view of the day of the Lecale and the Mourne Mountains. We then returned to the car park for lunch.

After lunch, having postponed the historical tour of Portaferry due to the large crowds there, we made our way three miles east to Kearney Point where we met a U3A walking group.

Kearney is a showpiece village carefully restored (but sadly not the toilets!) by the National Trust to give the authenticity of a traditional fishing village. The Trust owns a number of cottages at Kearney and these have been restored in the vernacular style giving authenticity to this place of character.

In the nineteenth century Kearney was a flourishing community, with fishing as the central occupation Kearney. It is now a place of recreation and a splendid place for bird watching.

We walked along the grassy path towards Cloughey as far as where it meets the rocky shore and then back. Off then to the recommended New Quays restaurant at Portavogie for refreshments – too late though for the tray bakes!

### **Peter Gibson and Betty Armstrong**

## **September - Woodburn Forest**

Travelling independently in keeping with Covid restrictions Saturday 5 September saw 15 St Columbanus walkers rendezvous in the Woodburn Forest car park six miles or so beyond Carrickfergus. Words of welcome and smiling faces soon dispelled the gloom of a sunless morning shrouded in cloud and with Brian in charge we were underway by 10.45am.

History tells us the Woodburn hills, up to the mid 1900's, consisted mainly of farming and bog land until taken over by the Forestry Commission. Scots Pine and other conifers now dominate the landscape and frame the descending chain of 3 Victorian reservoirs still supplying the Carrick area.





Underfoot a combination of grass and gravelly paths enabled easy walking as we circumnavigated the reservoirs, noticeably depleted from the deficit of rain over most of the summer months. We chatted as we progressed and with occasional stops to avoid straggling we climbed gradually towards the 1,150 feet Knockagh escarpment and its famous landmark.

A brief heavy shower or perhaps a scudding cloud greeted us as we came within sight of the 110 feet tall obelisk created originally as a monument to the 1914/18 men of Co Antrim but later re-dedicated to the fallen of that county from both World Wars.

The monument inscription from the old hymn 'O Valiant Hearts' reads

**'NOBLY YOU FOUGHT, YOUR  
NIGHTLY VIRTUE PROVED,  
YOUR MEMORY HALLOWED IN THE  
LAND YOU LOVED'**

For half an hour or so we lunched, huddled in the lee of the obelisk, and through the cloud watched a liner and tugs manoeuvring in Belfast Lough below. Then it was time to head back through the forest, back round the reservoirs and away by car to coffee and cakes in the super Hillside Garden Centre in Newtownabbey.

All in all another grand day out!

**Leslie** - Thanks to Miriam for the photos.

If you would like to join the Walkers on any of their outings on the first Saturday of every month, please contact Betty through the Church Office.

### Walkers 17th Anniversary Residential in Fermanagh

Mahon's hotel in Irvinestown was the base for our 'residential' in Fermanagh on 24th, 25th and 26th September for what was our 17th Anniversary. Eighteen of us enjoyed two days walking in what for many was unfamiliar territory with walks led by Brian in the Florencecourt and Necarne estates.

Florencecourt is one of Ireland's most beautiful Georgian houses. The house and demense, formerly the home of the Earls of Enniskillen (Cole Family) is one of the most important.

We enjoyed fine weather on the Saturday and travelled through Enniskillen to Florencecourt and had of course, the usual pre-walk refreshments in the Stable Yard before setting off on the long 5.6 mile red trail. It follows the Claddagh River upstream into the forest park which at the farthest point has a long incline to a height from where there were views through the trees across the



Fermanagh countryside.

There was much of interest to take in; the Lady's Well, Nelly Wooly's grave (Nelly was the Countess of Enniskillen's pet dog and died in 1923) and the Sawmill where the sleepers for the Giant's Causeway railway were made, a pretty Walled Garden and of course the special yew tree from which it is believed that almost all the Irish Yew specimens common in churchyards throughout the world come from.



Necarne is home to a huge equestrian centre where national and international dressage, show jumping and eventing are held. The surrounding parkland is stunning, with many horse jumps for cross country events. We had an interesting 3 mile walk there.



On the Sunday we visited the Necarne Demesne, a short distance from the Hotel. Built in the 17th century by Gerard Lowther as part of the plantation of Ulster, Necarne Castle has had many owners. In 1629, the lands were leased to Christopher Irvine and the Irvines remained there until 1922. In 1925 Captain Richard Hermon, from Sussex, bought the castle and in 1941 it was requisitioned by the US Navy and re-leased to the American Army. In 1988 the NI Department of Agriculture leased the estate on a 25-year basis but sadly now the castle and its outbuildings are just a shell.



As rain threatened for the afternoon, we visited the Garden of the Celtic Saints at the Sacred Heart Church in Irvinestown. It is filled with carvings of the Saints of the Golden Age of the Irish Church housed in beehive type huts with ample information and stories. It starts with St Patrick and ends with a magnificent Celtic Cross. St Columbanus is there



of course. Close by is the Famine Clachan, a memorial to the tragic time in Ireland, the Great Famine of 1845 -1850. The carvings in the Saints Garden and the Clachan are the work of a Lithuanian wood carver, Jonas Raiskas who came to Irvinestown in 2007 and was commissioned by Devenish Parish to carve the figures from Irish oak. It took him four years.

This weekend was an opportunity to venture in unfamiliar places, but importantly also, to have many conversations and interactions with each other.

# YOUTH-NEWS

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news [nooz]

Since the previous article, a lot has happened youth-wise! We had a somewhat normal-feeling September/October, with our programmes up and running again, and the usual September excitement and energy being very much present. After so long it feels great to be on the road back to normality (whatever that was in the first place!). It helped a lot that this came off the back of an incredible Jumpin' and X-Cess, which we ran back-to-back at the very end of August. A huge thanks goes out to Paula and Ross who carried the team at Jumpin' this year, and also to the Education Authority, whose grant allowed us to run what was possibly the best Jumpin' ever!



There were countless highlights from the summer; trips to We Are Vertigo, Newcastle, Let's Go Hydro; the Yoghurt Tree; basketball; our awards night; the 'dress like James' night; Jumpin' debriefs; the beach... I could go on! We are also so thankful for the truly amazing group of young people we were able to spend time with, whether at Jumpin' as part of the team or at X-Cess. They are all absolute legends, they have all been given a wonderful depth and variety of gifts by God, and they make it very easy to work here.

It hasn't all been about the summer, though. We've had a brilliant start to our term with YF, Emerge, Drop-In, Bible Study, Answered and Confirmation being back again. Doubtless the highlight of the pre-Christmas term has been the Confirmation service on October 3rd, where nine of our young people confirmed their faith in Jesus. Attendance was unfortunately restricted, but livestreaming made it possible for everyone to tune in and watch this special occasion. We at church are all very proud of our Confirmation gang.



In all of what we've done, God has been faithful in blessing the work we're doing for Him. Any successes or wins are directly attributable to Him, and we hope you'll join us in praying that He would continue to bless our ministry at this church.

**Andrew**

**NOVEMBER 2021****Wednesday 3rd November**

10.30 Holy Communion - Church

**Sunday 7th November****3rd before Advent**

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Cafe Church - Parish Centre

11.30 Morning Prayer

**Wednesday 10th November**

10.30 Holy Communion - Church

**Sunday 14th November****2nd before Advent - Remembrance Sunday**

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Good News at Ten

&amp; Children's Church

11.30 Parish Communion

6.30 United Service - Ballyholme Methodist

**Wednesday 17th November**

10.30 Holy Communion - Church

**Sunday 21st November****Sunday before Advent**

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Good News at Ten

&amp; Children's Church

11.30 Morning Prayer

**Wednesday 24th November**

10.30 Holy Communion - Church

**Sunday 28th November Advent 1**

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Parish Communion

&amp; Children's Church

11.30 Morning Prayer

**DECEMBER 2021****Wednesday 1st December**

10.30 Holy Communion - Church

**Sunday 5th December Advent 2**

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Cafe Church - Parish Centre

11.30 Morning Prayer

6.30 Service of Remembering

**Wednesday 8th December**

10.30 Holy Communion - Church

**Sunday 12th December Advent 3**

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Good News at Ten &amp;

Children's Church

11.30 Parish Communion

**Wednesday 15th December**

10.30 Holy Communion - Church

**Sunday 19th December Advent 4**

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Children's Carol Service

11.30 Morning Prayer

6.30 Nine Lessons &amp; Carols by Candlelight

**Wednesday 22nd December**

10.30 Holy Communion - Church

**Friday 24th December Christmas Eve**

5.00 Family Carols

11.00 First Communion of Christmas

**Saturday 25th December Christmas Day**

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Family Carols

**Sunday 26th December - St Stephen**

8.30 Holy Communion

10.30 Combined Service

**JANUARY 2022****Sunday 2nd January Christmas 2**

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Cafe Church - Parish Centre

11.30 Morning Prayer

**Wednesday 5th January**

10.30 Holy Communion - Church

**Sunday 9th January Epiphany 1**

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 12th January**

10.30 Holy Communion - Church

**Sunday 16th January Epiphany 2**

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Good News at Ten

&amp; Children's Church

11.30 Morning Prayer

**Wednesday 19th January**

10.30 Holy Communion - Church

**Sunday 23rd January Epiphany 3**

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Parish Communion

&amp; Children's Church

11.30 Morning Prayer

**Wednesday 26th January**

10.30 Holy Communion - Church

**Sunday 30th January Epiphany 4**

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Wholeness and Healing

&amp; Children's Church

11.30 Wholeness and Healing