

# St Columbanus

Ballyholme



Lent and Holy Week 2022  
Spring into Life rescheduled  
All the latest kids news  
Twiddle muffs



..On the way  
*together..*

# The Parishioner

March / April 2022

False dawns have come too often over the last two years, but please God this is not another one. Not that I'm planning a 'farewell-face-masks service' quite yet. The fact is, we have kept the light of Christ burning all the way through the Pandemic at St Columbanus, complying with the restrictions as carefully as possible. The only thing that will convince me the worst of Covid-19 is over, is when you and your families start coming back out to Church and the Parish Centre again. At the start of Acts 28, a shipwrecked St Paul washes up on the island of Malta. It was cold, it was wet, but the locals had lit a fire on the beach and were ready with their welcome. My message is this: your seat in church is waiting for you, and so is the fire of God's Spirit to rekindle your love for Christ and His worshipping body. Lent is a good time to reconnect of course and, as you will see in this double magazine, there's plenty happening. But please, as you and your family finally rediscover your freedom, don't let church be the last thing you come back to.



## SED



### Adult Confirmation Preparation: Lent 2022

Every year as Lent approaches I issue an invitation to adults who might be interested in exploring Confirmation (or Baptism and Confirmation). More or less every year at least one person gets in touch and given the uncertainties we've had to navigate this last while, I'm wondering might there be anyone who has just been waiting for an opportunity to make a fresh spiritual commitment.

That's how Confirmation feels for some adult believers, by the way – less about a formal process of 'joining' the Church of Ireland, more about taking a new step on your personal journey with God, with a refresher course on what we believe thrown in. If that's you, please contact the Parish Office or the Rectory direct.

SED

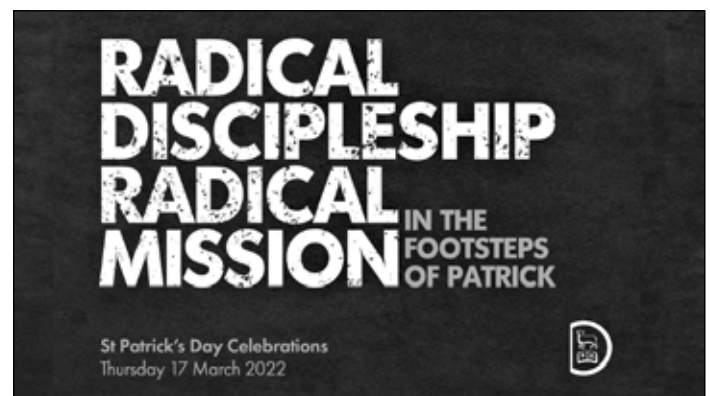
## St Patrick's Day 2022

You are warmly invited to our Down and Dromore St Patrick's Day celebrations on Thursday 17th March.

The highlight is the Festival Service at Down Cathedral (11.45am), although you are welcome to attend Holy Communion at Saul (9.15am) and to join the Prayer Pilgrimage to the Cathedral (10.15am).

Simon Guillebaud will speak at the Festival Service on the theme, Radical Discipleship, Radical Mission. Simon is an author and founder of the Great Lakes Outreach in Burundi and has lived in a war zone for many years.

Following the service we will provide a complimentary 'Picnic in the Pew' so please plan to stay around!







## Just Older Youth

### NUNC DIMITTIS

Waiting is a common human experience. Our lives are made up of waiting that leads to encounter, and the waiting requires patience and humility. Milton wrote in his blindness, 'They also serve who only stand and wait' as he wondered what he could do for God's kingdom now that his sight had gone.

Simeon in the painting of the 'Presentation of Christ' had been waiting. He belonged to a people who had been waiting for centuries. He was heir to the hopes and dreams of a nation waiting for a better world now that the holy city was in the hands of Roman invaders. With his people he clung to the hope that God would come to bring freedom and a new life. God's chosen one, the Messiah, would bring this about. When it came there was no fanfare, no warning, just an ordinary family from faraway Nazareth in the Temple, performing the religious duties for the firstborn son. But the waiting led to encounter, and the sight of the new-born child led to insight as Simeon recognised that light and salvation had at last come.

Rembrandt has captured all this in his painting, 'Simeon with the Christ Child in the Temple': the faith and patience, the hope and humility of an old man, a priest, who takes the babe into his arms and blesses God. It was the artist's last painting and left unfinished at his death in 1669. The figure of Mary by Simeon's side may have been painted by another artist at a later stage. It is the aged priest and the new-born babe that impresses us as we look: Simeon with his venerable beard and eyes half closed, and the tiny child cradled in his strong arms, looking up intently with his eyes open.

As Rembrandt painted this canvas, was he saying something about his own life? He had not been afraid to paint his portrait at various stages - at 21, at 35, at 53 - a total of 60 portraits covering the span of years.

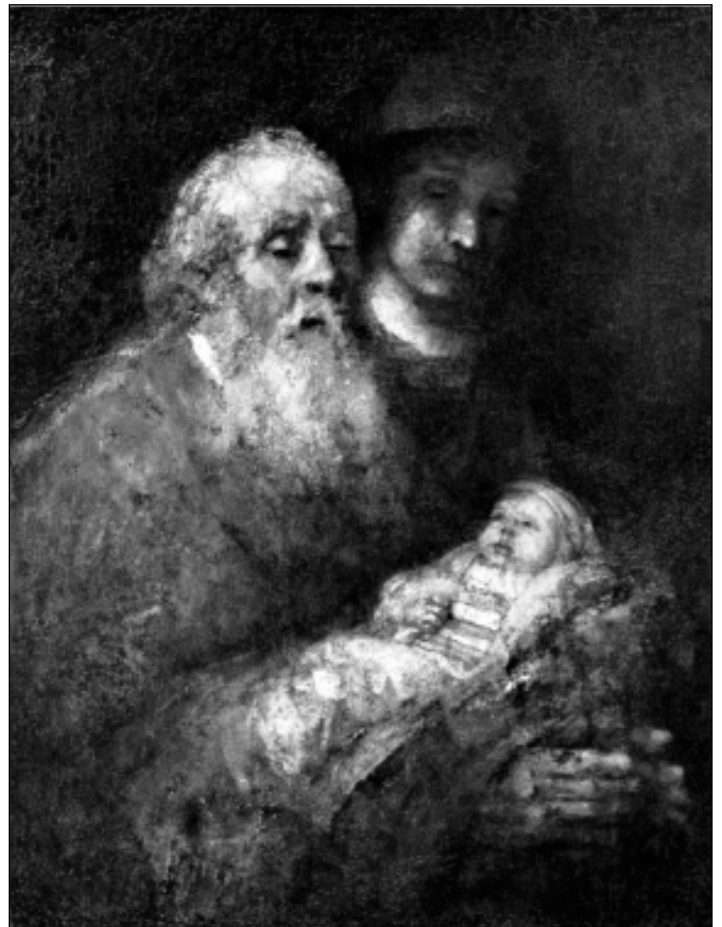
In this final painting the years have moved on as we see Simeon, mouthing 'Nunc dimittis' with his eyes half closed. Is the waiting over and the journey coming to an

### The Wednesday Club

The Wednesday Club has been up and running again after lockdown, much to the delight of our members. We had a Christmas high tea, (no Santa this year, because of regulations!), followed by a flower arranging session in January, with Margaret demonstrating the techniques of doing a small arrangement to take home.

This month, February, we were transported to Cornwall, while we watched the film *Ladies in Lavender*, starring Maggie Smyth and Judi Dench. Jam and cream scones rounded off the tranquil meeting. Lillian Finch was the winner of the monthly draw. Back again next month.

### Sue



**Picture used by kind permission of the National Museum, Stockholm.**

end, so that his eyes will fully close? Or will he open them to see that with the babe in his arms, God has more in store: the promise of a future as they step out together on a new journey?

# Wednesday Club Photos Christmas High Tea



## January Flower Arranging







Forget Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan, this year's Rector's Lent Course will explore the seven letters to the churches from Revelation. As we hope and pray for a re-boot of parish life over coming months, *You've got mail!* will explore God's vision for how church ought to be, what's important and what's really not. Each session will last 60 minutes. No tea/coffee.

**1, 8, 15, 22, 29 March & 5 April**

**TUESDAY MORNINGS 10.30 in Kajiado, repeated TUESDAY EVENINGS 7.30 in Church**



**Easter Vestry: 3 April 2022  
12.30pm**

You are warmly invited to our Annual General (Easter) Vestry meeting after the 11.30 service in the Parish Centre. Our plan at this stage is to revert to our practice of conducting business over a family lunch –

**SO PLEASE BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW.**

When Libby Beech and Larry Cheshire

first agreed to serve as our Churchwardens, little did any of us foresee what turmoil our worshipping life in St Columbanus would be thrown into. Not only did they face all we had to do in terms of chair cleaning and people management with grace and good humour but, as you know, they both readily agreed to remain in office for another full term. Long-serving and long-suffering, they made a great team, worked together extremely happily and struck just the right note of welcome and helpfulness. Sincere thanks to them both.

We are free constitutionally to conduct elections to the Select Vestry in whatever way we see fit. Written nominations will be invited ahead of the meeting in the hope that we will receive at least 12 names. It is up to you to stand yourself or to propose someone else and the commitment works out roughly as one meeting a month.

Nominations close on Sunday 27 March. Forms are available from the Churchwardens on Sundays, from the Parish Office on weekday mornings and from our Honorary Secretary Christine Johnstone (91459623). We need a digital photograph to use on the voting paper.

Agenda-wise, in addition to the elections, the adoption of the parish accounts and the submission of any reports, 'Any Other Notified Business' should be brought to the Rector's attention the day before the meeting at the latest. We hope you will make this important gathering a priority.



# muddy Church

**Muddy Church** has been a little bit less Muddy this term. We have been able to learn and play inside a bit more, which has been useful for the colder weather.

Our focus has been GIFTS. We have been thinking about why we give presents, while also learning about our own gifts or talents and how we can use these to help others and serve God.



These photos show the children creating their prayer hands and doing actions to their memory verses:

***'God loves a cheerful giver'***  
**2 Corinthians 9:7**

And, one of my favourites:

***'Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.'*** Isaiah 41:10



What a beautiful image for children, who will hold their parents' hand when they are worried or unsure!

Once again, thank you for the prayer and support you gave me during my time of recovery from my hip fracture and

replacement. God has been good and has been giving me comfort whilst I've been healing. Although I'm taking things slowly, it has been great to be able to get back to Muddy Church and spend time with our fabulous children again!



**Paula**



## “Though He was rich” plugging the pandemic hole in our finances

Your Pledge Cards have been coming in steadily since our mailshot last month and words cannot express how grateful we are. Your response has been not just open-hearted, but gracious and entirely sympathetic to our predicament. One parishioner was kind enough to say that since transferring from envelopes years ago, not once had they got around to increasing their monthly Standing Order and this was the prompt they needed. Some of you are getting in touch by phone or email to say you are raising your contributions and a number of you have come forward with generous one-off gifts. Every response means so much – thank you.

Just a reminder please that when you return your Pledge Card stating how much you are increasing your giving by, the instruction to your bank to change your mandate must come from you. **We have no power to stop, start or increase your Standing Orders: they are entirely under your control.** Existing Standing Orders to the Bank of Ireland will automatically transfer over to the Danske Bank without you doing anything, but some parishioners have decided to stop their Bank of Ireland SO and start an entirely new one with Danske. Others are setting up new Orders for the first time directly with Danske. The details again:-

### **DANSKE BANK BLOOMFIELD SHOPPING CENTRE**

**Current Account:                    SORT CODE 95-02-29 ACCOUNT NUMBER 11063162**

**Account name:                     PARISH OF BALLYHOLME**

**Building Fund:                     SORT CODE 95-02-29 ACCOUNT NUMBER 51121367**

**Account name:                     PARISH OF BALLYHOLME**



### **Bank of Ireland: not just us after all!**

It turns out, sadly, that our treatment at the hands of the Bank of Ireland in December was not an isolated incident.

It has not come as a surprise to learn that over recent weeks and months a succession of churches across the province, large and small, have suffered the same unpleasantness. At least we know now that it wasn't personal, and it's also vindication if any were needed that we did nothing wrong. With a significant number of churches throughout Northern Ireland now affected, press attention seems likely to follow so, as the journalists sometimes say, this is a

story that looks set to run and run.

On a cheerier note, my mobile rang at the beginning of February. “NO ID” the phone said and it turned out to be a long-distance call, all the way from up-state New York. “Simon: why did my Standing Order to the Building Fund bounce back to me?” It was our former curate Rev Alistair Morrison who still gives faithfully every month to the restoration project which was in so many ways his baby. On the subject of which, he sent his love to you all and cheered me up with the news that he had recently become a grandfather: his son Andrew (our former gap-year student and Rectory lodger) and daughter-in-law Rebecca now have a baby boy called Benji!

**SED**



All systems are finally go for our long-awaited parish weekend. Every time we re-set the dates with Jasper Rutherford we were determined that Spring into Life should wait for the end of the Pandemic so that Church and the Parish Centre could be full of people and full of joy.

At the time of writing, the public health restrictions look set to lift on 1 March. A full two months later, and let's hope we can all feel relaxed about being together, but if anyone still feels too nervous to attend, of course a refund will be available.

We had only a tiny number of returns early on and all your tickets from two years ago remain valid. The challenge may be remembering where you put your tickets but let us know if you're stuck. If you've forgotten who it was you invited to come with you, you're on your own!

Jasper spoke powerfully at the recent Belfast Four Corners Festival so we're thrilled he can be with us before commitments in the States in June. Pray please for a real sense of celebration as we come together and for a new spiritual start for our whole church family.



**Friday 7.30pm Gain & Sustain Fashion Night**  
supper and BYO drinks

**Saturday 9 to 10.30am Breakfast with Rugby**  
bacon butties and a local rugby star

**Saturday 3 to 4.30pm Releasing Rhythms**  
community drumming for all ages

**Saturday 7.30pm Community Gospel Choir**  
passionate praise from Belfast's finest

**Sunday: 8.30 Holy Communion, 10.00 Good News at Ten, 11.30 Morning Prayer**  
**moving closer – encountering God – family fun**

### **Remember Storehouse this Lent**



In the 'alms-giving' tradition which is such an ancient part of Christians keeping a holy Lent, our Ballyholme Storehouse trolley has come to find a natural place. Many parishioners have got into the good habit of bringing something every week, while some prefer to give a larger bag once or twice a month. Perhaps more would come in if everyone coming to church remembered to bring one item with them every time. However we do it, let's make Storehouse a real focus through the Sundays of Lent this year, especially with so many struggling families bracing themselves for more energy and fuel cost rises over coming months. Urgent requirements are as follows:-

tinned meats	long-life milk	instant noodles
shampoo	deodorants	toilet rolls
multi-purpose cleaner		kitchen rolls

**A P R I L**



Bishop David has filmed forty devotionals for Lent that take a fresh look at the Gospel of Luke and the lessons that will shape our living. He says:

“Living lives of fruitfulness and fullness requires us to discover what following Jesus looks like and what loving Jesus means in times of uncertainty and change. The story of Jesus as told by Luke is transformational when we allow

his story to change our story. I invite you to join me each day in Lent for a few minutes to look again at Luke’s account of Jesus then, and what that means for us now.”

The short films will be released early each morning on the diocesan website, Facebook, YouTube and Instagram accounts. Follow the links on [www.downanddromore.org](http://www.downanddromore.org)



## **Used Stamps Wanted**

Following an appeal on social media, I decided to collect stamps for the RNIB (Royal National Institute of Blind People). Now most of us get the vast majority of stamps over the Christmas holiday, or on a birthday, but I would like to collect any stamps you are willing to donate. Kelly has kindly agreed for the parish office to be a “collection point” for any stamps you wish to drop off, where I will pick them up. The RNIB have requested that at least a 1cm border be left around each stamp.

By collecting stamps you’re helping to break down the barriers that stop people with sight loss living life to the full. RNIB accept all stamps: new or used, first or second class, foreign, first day covers, presentation packs or abums. Stamps are sold by weight and raise £20 per kilo of stamps, so it’s a brilliant way to raise money.

I would like to thank you all in advance for your help and look forward to being able to send our contributions off to RNIB for their funds.

**Sue Bleakley**



## **World Day of Prayer**

**Friday 4th March 2022**

The service for the World Day of Prayer will be taking place on Friday 4th March 2022 in our own church at 7.30pm.

The service has been written by christian women from England, Wales and Northern Ireland and all denominations were represented on the writing group. The theme of the service is:

### **“I know the plans I have for You”**

Two significant parts of the service involve the lighting of seven candles - to celebrate hope, and the distributing of seeds - as a sign of hope.

We look forward to welcoming members from our local churches in Ballyholme, Groomsport and Ballycrochan Presbyterian.

Please join us on this occasion which is for both men and women.

**Ruth Ruttle**

**Roberta Munnis**

Representatives from St Columbanus, Ballyholme

Join us for the Ladies Night Away on Saturday 18-19th June 2022 with Hilary McClay as our speaker.

This will be a lovely break, an opportunity to make new friends, reconnect with people we know or quite simply some time on your own to enjoy the beauty of creation in the stunning setting of Dromantine Conference Centre, Newry.

All the rooms are single ensuite rooms and the meals are really good! Dromantine is approximately 1 hour away down the A1.

We start with coffee at 9.30am on Saturday and end with lunch on Sunday. The cost is £110. To book please contact the parish office.

This time away is for being refreshed and renewed in our knowledge of who God is and how much He loves us.

**Rev Jan Stevenson & team**

### **Is there more to life than this?**



**Alpha** is a series of weekly sessions where you can explore the Christian faith in an open-minded welcoming environment.

There is no cost and no pressure. Just lots of great conversation and space to think. Each session includes food, a short talk, and a time of discussion where you can share your thoughts about what you have heard.

**Everyone is welcome to the Alpha Supper** to find out more on **Wednesday 11th May** at 7.30pm in The Parish Centre. We plan on running the course every Wednesday until 22nd June.

**Rev Jan Stevenson & team**



### **Easter Family Fun**

Please spread the word: the Easter Scavenger Hunt will be available to download from the Ballyholme Parish and Love Ballyholme Facebook pages on Friday 8th April 2022. So get hunting for pictures in Ballyholme windows.

All you need to do is print off the clues and take a brisk walk around Ballyholme looking for the letters that spell an Easter phrase. Then come and collect your prize outside St Columbanus church on Saturday 16th April 2-4pm.

Wrap up and stay for craft, a bouncy castle and coffee for the adults.

**Love Ballyholme & Ballyholme Connect teams**





**JUMPIN'**

**Easter Jumpin' 2022**

**20-22ND APRIL**

**COST:**  
 £25 Tiggers and Roos (P1-P4)  
 £30 Wallabies (P5-7)



Save the date!

**JUMPIN'**

**SUMMER JUMPIN' 2022**

**25-29 JULY 2022**

**COST: £30 Tiggers and Roos (P1-4 Sept 2022)**  
 £35 Wallabies (P5-7 Sept 2022)



**GOOD FRIDAY WORKSHOP**

**15th April 10am-noon**

a time of craft and games for children aged 3-11yrs

**Save the Dates**

As you may remember I made a few announcements in church about a knitting project we were going to attempt in MU; namely provide some "twiddle" hand muffs for dementia sufferers.

As you can see Rev Simon followed my request and duly arrived at our Monday meeting complete with his very own set of knitting needles!! Mind you I believe he hoped they could be used as chop sticks to enjoy some tasty Chinese supper while Heidi was out at our meeting.

What great fun we had, swapping scraps of wool in many colours, chunky, double knitting and 4 ply. Much chat and the click of the needles made for a very enjoyable evening.

As our projects grew longer it was wonderful to look at the many different colours; everyone had different creative ideas and they could let these run riot!!



Next month we hope to add some crochet skills if we can.

We have an idea to use the finished items as decorations in our church for Mothering Sunday; won't that be very special? Just think how much LOVE has been shared in their making.

After that we will give them to places in our community where clients with dementia may meet.

Our next meeting is Monday 7th March at 7.30pm, please bring your knitting, (any decorations) and a crochet hook, if you have one.

In March can any members who have not yet paid please bring any outstanding subs of £25.

Often at this time of the year we support Women's Aid with toiletries or local hospitals with emergency toilet bags. All donations will be greatly appreciated.

Thanks for now. Many Blessings

**Yvonne & MU Team**



## BAPTISM

### December

**5th:** Theodore Edmund Donnelly Clegg - son of Andrew & Sara

### January

**9th:** Daniel Stephen Brian Speers & Cora Jennifer Mary Speers, son and daughter of Thomas & Stephanie

**16th:** Montague Ronald Beech Griffin, son of Carl & Suzanne



It is one of life's richest blessings when we meet people in our lives, who not only enrich ours but become integral to the people we are.

That's how we all feel about Gerald and Freda who have re-located to Portstewart having been part of the St Columbanus family for quite some years now.

It would be hard to imagine a more self-effacing, gentle and kindly couple. From first encountering Gerald and Freda, they wanted to throw themselves fully into the life and witness of our church even though they lived miles away in Holywood.

They both joined the choir together and became an integral part of the fun and craic we have there. This was despite Freda's protestations that she couldn't be heard behind tissue paper and that she couldn't imagine what use she would be to Meg in the alto line!! Gerald too, didn't take long to boost the tenor ranks and support Charles and Tommy. But it didn't stop there - no indeed! Treading the boards in Upstage Downstage's "The Music Man" production in the Web Theatre remains a highlight (mind you that depends on if you ask Gerald!)

Only choir members will truly appreciate Gerald's very practical support to all of us when we moved back into our newly refurbished church. The thought of 4 heavy books to carry without a choir stall resting place, saw Gerald's organisational skill and practicality come to the fore. For every service since, he has faithfully printed out canticles, psalms, chants and hymns to avoid any repetitive strain injuries from carrying so many books!

A real labour of love, done quietly and without fuss or desire for acknowledgement...the hallmarks of both Freda and Gerald.

We shall all miss their calm and gentle approach, their friendship and selflessness. We wish them well in their new home and trust that their new parish will value them as much as we have.

We rest secure in the knowledge that a little bit of all of us goes with them and will not forget their contribution to all our lives.

**Ian**



## FUNERALS

### October

**27th:** Betty Thompson, formerly of Sunnyside House

**29th:** Edna Rosbotham, formerly of Oakmont Nursing Home

### December

**1st:** Kenneth Johnston, formerly of Briarwood Park

**23rd:** Gloria Gracey, formerly of Ambleside Road

**30th:** Audrey Lunn, formerly Gavin Park.

### January

**10th:** Karen Browne, formerly of Chippendale Park

**14th:** Happy Parker, formerly of Mullaghboy Nursing Home

### February

**3rd:** Bob Killops, formerly of Towerview Avenue





# Nearly Back to Normal Monday Morning Coffee



# Friday Lunch for Christmas



# Nearly Back to Normal Cont.d Friday Lunch for Christmas



## Communion Lunch at Christmas





## United Ballyholme Churches

### Invite you to our Holy Week Services

#### Ballyholme Methodist Church

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> - Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April @ 7.30pm**

"The Preacher at our services during Holy Week will be the Reverend Dr Janet Unsworth. Janet is Director of the Ministries Team of the Methodist Church in Ireland and Principal of Edgehill Theological College. Before entering the Methodist ministry, Janet taught History at a school in London and then worked as the Children's Work Co-ordinator for the Methodist Church in Ireland. She served in pastoral ministry in Newry, before joining the staff of Edgehill College, initially on a part-time basis. Janet's PhD studies focused on John's Gospel, but also looked at how Scripture tells God's story. She is delighted to be joining us in Bangor for Holy Week 2022."

**We look forward to worshipping God together as we journey towards the cross**



**Rev Jan (Stevenson) as the chairperson of Love Ballyholme would like to thank everyone for supporting the Charity raffle that raised £1085 for Air Ambulance NI.**

**Louise Heatley (secretary) and Louise Close (treasurer) pictured handing over the cheque.**







© Lakeshore

## November - Tollymore Forest Park

The great thing about Tollymore Forest Park is that there are several trails to choose from. The Forest Service became the sole owner of the former privately owned Roden Estate in 1941 and has continued the forest management that was begun by the Earls of Clanbrassil. In 1955 the forest was opened as the

first Forest Park in Ireland to encourage the general public to visit the environment and enjoy its natural beauty.

In November, leader Brian led the group first of all on the River Walk and then after lunch to the Ivy Bridge and back.

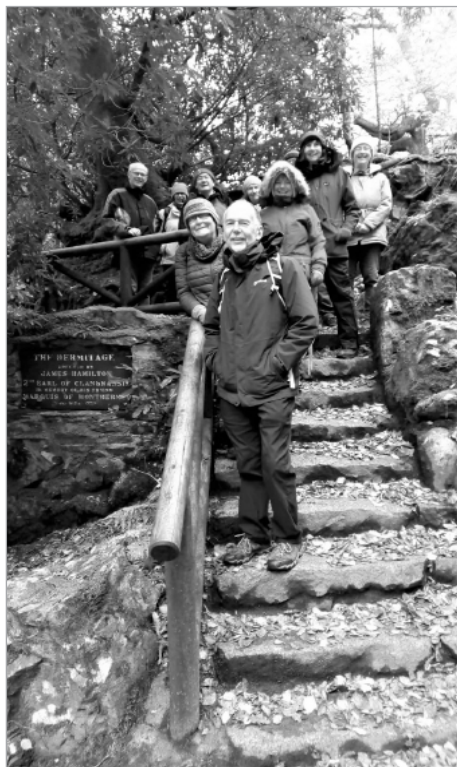
The colours in the Park in the autumn are spectacular and many of the walkers couldn't resist



kicking the fallen leaves! So, it was down towards the Shimna River and the Old Bridge, aptly named as it was the first of the present structures to be constructed in 1726 by James Hamilton. It is one of 14 bridges in the Park. Then a right along the Shimna River towards the Hermitage. Built into the edge of a gorge on the Shimna River this stone structure was also built in the 1770s by James Hamilton, 2nd Earl of Clanbrassil. When the lady gentry of the day needed shelter, they

would sit inside the Hermitage while the gentlemen fished for salmon in the Shimna below. Then over two newly renovated wooden bridges and carefully over two lots of stepping stones towards Parnell's Bridge, the last of the stone bridges, built in 1842, in recognition of Sir John Parnell's visits to Tollymore in the latter half of the 18th century. He was the great-grandfather of Charles Stewart Parnell, leader of the Irish Home Rule campaign.

Of interest was a group of nature photographers who climbed down close to the river for their shots! The path climbed steadily upwards and past the White Fort Cashel, where it was really windy with some huge gusts that bent the tall pines and branches were heard to crack and fall. From here the path headed down hill parallel to the Cascade or Spinkwee River, the Lake and to the Meeting of the Waters. The return was well timed as it by then was raining heavily so lunch was had in the cars.



After refuelling and in drier conditions, Brian suggested another short two mile walk so it was along the trail to Ivy Bridge, Shimna River past Foley's bridge admiring the colours and the

sounds of the water. The abundant fungi was admired too. The noise of the wind suddenly increased along with rain and a large tree gave adequate shelter. The rain eased and the next stop was to read the engraving on the Big Stone which said 'Stop. Look around and PRAISE the name of HIM who made it all.

After a total of just over 6 miles a stop at the Muffler Café in McCann's at the Balloo crossroads in Killinchy supplied the usual post-walk refreshments. (Your homework is to find out what a Killinchy Muffler is!)

Thanks to Brian for a great walk.

**Heather and Betty**





**December - Christmas Walking and Lunching**

Sometimes it pays not to trust the weather forecast and Saturday 11th December was one of those days. Despite the heavy rain on the charts, our walk in Cairn Wood had hardly any rain at all and eleven of us, led by Rob enjoyed a walk of two parts – on the original track and then on the new one which skirts the quarry – silent as it was a Saturday.

Afterwards we enjoyed hot chocolate and coffee from the kiosk in the car park.

Then a bigger group of us – 23 – gathered at Royal Ulster Yacht Club for lunch. This was a welcome return to the new ‘normal’ after not having been able to arrange it last year due to you know what.

**January - Crawfordsburn Walk**

On the morning of Saturday, 8 January, 22 walkers and an enthusiastic dog gathered at the Crawfordsburn Country Park centre for our first walk of the new year. We had planned to go to Antrim but circumstances did not permit this.

In spite of the cold, damp start we set off briskly up Crawfordsburn glen to the waterfall that was in magnificent full flood. Perhaps appropriately there was a brief shower of rain at this point. We then headed back down the glen under the impressive five arch railway viaduct before heading back up to the park entrance. Crossing the Helen’s Bay road, we entered the beautiful woodland walk that links onto the Clandeboye Avenue. On reaching the avenue we headed down to Helen’s Bay station before crossing over to Golf Road and then down a path beside the golf course to the shore. By now the weather had cleared and the views were stunning in the winter sunshine. Shortly, we reached the Crawfordsburn river outlet on the shore and decided to retire to the park centre for lunch! We had planned to go further but discretion is the better part of valour!



After lunch we headed home for a good rest, or in some cases sleep!

**Brian Templeton**

# YOUTH-NEWS

youth [youth] (youths)

news [nooz]

The first two months of 2022 have looked more like those of 2020 than 2021 – and praise God for it! Despite the vast number of young people who have had to isolate at various stages this year, we've been able to see young people 4-5 times per week at Serve, drop-in, Bible study, Emerge and YF. It's been a fantastic start to the year and we're even running a youth weekend this coming weekend! At the time of writing, it's 3 days away and the leaders and young people alike are so incredibly excited for it. With residential being given the green-light by the Education Authority, we breathed a huge sigh of relief as it has meant we are able (at long last) to go on a youth weekend again. It cannot be overstated how vital residential ministry is for the discipling of young people, and we fully expect this to be a massive milestone in the faith journeys of all who come.



Speaking of milestones, we concluded our 'Serve' young leadership programme in February, where we used a programme created by Tim Burns to teach our young people what service and leadership looked like in the Church, as well as how they could use their various gifts and talents to serve and lead. This course was run in conjunction with Bangor Parish and Ballyholme Presbyterian, and it was a joy to work with these two churches and meet their young people. The programme was concluded with a graduation ceremony, where Simon Henry from the Church

of Ireland Youth Department spoke; and then on our last night together we went out for a meal to celebrate. It's exciting to think how God can use these incredibly talented young people, and we look forward to seeing it.

Given the fact that we have been able to run so much, I want to take this opportunity to thank all those who have helped lead and disciple our young people; who have given up afternoons, evenings, and entire weekends to make the youth ministry at Ballyholme Parish possible. As I always tell them, nothing could happen without them and I'm incredibly grateful to have such a dedicated team. They make my job a whole lot easier and they're great role models for the young people who come through our doors.

**Andrew**





**MARCH 2022****Wednesday 2nd March - Ash Wednesday**

10.30 Holy Communion - Church

**Sunday 6th March Lent 1**

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Cafe Church - Parish Centre

11.30 Morning Prayer

**Wednesday 9th March**

10.30 Holy Communion - Church

**Sunday 13th March Lent 2**

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Good News at Ten

&amp; Children's Church

11.30 Parish Communion

7.30 United Service - St Columbanus

**Wednesday 16th March**

10.30 Holy Communion - Church

**Sunday 20th March Lent 3**

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Good News at Ten

&amp; Children's Church

11.30 Morning Prayer

**Wednesday 23rd March**

10.30 Holy Communion - Church

**Sunday 27th March Lent 4****Mothering Sunday**

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Parish Communion

&amp; Children's Church

11.30 Morning Prayer

**Wednesday 30th March**

10.30 Holy Communion - Church

**APRIL 2022****Sunday 3rd April Lent 5**

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Cafe Church - Parish Centre

11.30 Morning Prayer

**Wednesday 6th April**

10.30 Holy Communion - Church

**Sunday 10th April****Palm Sunday**

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Good News at Ten

&amp; Children's Church

11.30 Morning Prayer

7.30 United Service - Ballyholme Methodist

**Wednesday 13th April**

10.30 Holy Communion - Church

**Friday 15th April****Good Friday**

12 noon Family Service

**Sunday 17th April****Easter Day**

6.30 Dawn Service at Ballymacconnell Beach

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Holy Communion

11.30 Holy Communion

**Sunday 24th April****Easter 2**

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Good News at Ten

11.30 Morning Prayer

**Wednesday 27th April**

10.30 Holy Communion - Church

**March 2022****6th** Sybil Robertson**13th** Ruth Ruttle**20th** Karen Baker**27th** Sue Bleakley**April 2022****3rd** Irene Long**10th** Margaret Magee**17th** Easter Sunday**24th** Ian Bell

## Decorating the Church for Easter

Calling all green-fingered volunteers!

Vicky Hayes, our flower rota co-ordinator would love to see you on Saturday 16th April at 10.00am to help decorate the Church for Easter Sunday the next day.

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