

# St Columbanus

Ballyholme



Ukraine Response  
Bishop David's Visit  
Easter Vestry



..On the way  
together..

# The Parishioner

May / June 2022

Thank God that the fear of the last two years is starting to lift. There's no denying that some memorable Gospel episodes reveal raw family fear. Think of Jairus, a leader of the synagogue who kneels at Jesus' feet in the busy street and begs Him to heal his sick daughter. There's the unnamed father of the boy with epilepsy. For a man desperate for his child, the crowd surrounding Jesus is no obstacle and, as if to underline the panic, the father takes the Lord to task because His disciples have failed to heal him. But it's not just parents frantic over sick children. Remember the centurion who takes Jesus at His word that He has healed his slave without touching or even seeing him; or 'The Capernaum Four' who care enough for their paralytic friend to stretch him to Jesus before dismantling a roof to lower him into the building. All these examples show familial or fraternal love driving a bulldozer through the social hierarchies and religious niceties of the day. If Pandemic fear still has you in its grip, try the peace of God which passes all understanding. It awaits you in Church every Sunday and Wednesday.



SED

### Revd Ivan Betts (1938 – 2022)

“From a tribute to Revd Ivan Betts (1938 – 2022) written by the rector of St Mark's Dundela, Revd Canon Helene Steed.

Revd Ivan Betts died on 19 March 2022. Ivan, Belfast born and bred, was a good friend to many of us and a faithful servant in God's Church. This coming July would have been the 60th anniversary of his ordination as deacon.

Ivan began his ministry in the Church of Ireland as a curate in Ballyholme parish before arriving for a second curacy in St Mark's, Dundela in 1965. After four years he moved on and became a chaplain to Seamen, a ministry that took him to England, Sudan and Trinidad. Eight years later, Ivan returned to the Church of Ireland where he served as incumbent in Drumglass (Diocese of Armagh), Augher and Newtownsaville (Clogher Diocese) before returning to Belfast and St Martin's, Ballymacarrett.

One word that comes to mind in capturing Ivan, is the word faithful. Ivan was a faithful father – Andrew and Stephen's dad; he was a faithful servant of God; he was a faithful minister in the Church of Ireland and chaplain to seamen; he was a faithful pastor and preacher and he was a faithful friend.”



## Coffee Morning



**Join us for a coffee morning on Saturday 28th May, 10-12 in the Parish Centre.**

**All welcome, bring friends and family.**

**Tea, coffee and tray bakes.**

**Suggested donation £5 in support of ladies night away.**



Photo from the World Day of Prayer which took place on Friday 4th March 2022 in our church.



## Just Older Youth

### The story behind 'Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son'

Here is a hymn that is so well known and loved that it has simply burst the bounds of Easter and gets sung regularly at other times of the year. It has two stories behind it.

First, the music. The rousing music did not start out as a hymn, but instead was written by Handel for his opera 'Judas Maccabaeus' first performed in 1746. Originally the words ran 'See the conquering hero comes' for Handel's opera tells the story (found in the Apocrypha) of the leader of the Jews, Judas Maccabaeus, who led an army against the Syrians and restored worship at the Temple. With its triumphant refrain after each verse, the music is easy to learn and sing, and can be (and has been) played to great effect either by the trumpets, on an organ in a large resonant church, or even on guitars.

Secondly the words. They were not written until 1884, which was 138 years after the music. We owe them to the Revd Raymond Budry, a Swiss pastor from Lausanne. Ordained in the Free Evangelical Church in Vaud, he spent 35 years as the pastor of Vevey on Lake Geneva. Budry wrote the hymn in French ('A Toi La Gloire!') to console himself after the death of his first wife, and a year later (1885) it was published in Chants Evangeliques. Soon it found its way into English, translated by a Baptist minister from Kingston-upon-Thames, Richard Hoyle.

It is not clear who had the happy idea of teaming those words with that music, but when they did, the hymn really took off. By 1904 it was being translated into other languages.

The theme of 'battle' is never far from this hymn, whether it was the battle of Judas Maccabaeus, or the battle over sin which was won by Christ on the cross and in rising from the tomb. Easter, of course, marked the biggest victory over the biggest enemies of all time: sin and death.

What would Handel make of it, if he could know that his battle music had become one of the world's most popular and well known Easter hymns? He was a devout man, working for the poor, praying twice each day and attending Saint Paul's Cathedral. So, it seems pretty certain that he would be delighted.

### Reach Out

A recent survey by Age UK found that as many as 27 percent of people aged 60 and over admit that they speak less to their families now, and 24 percent of older people say they feel less close to their relatives than before the pandemic.

The survey also found that millions of older people have lost the confidence to go out, and suffer more from memory loss, disturbed sleep and anxiety.

The charity is urging people to reach out to their older friends and relatives and encourage them. "The pandemic has had a big impact on everyone and very few of us are emerging from the last two years completely unscathed".

### Monday Morning Coffee





How terribly distressing it has been to see images of the Russian invasion of Ukraine on our screens since 24th February. As a church the first thing we began to do was pray for a ceasefire; at PUSH - our parish prayer meeting, Wednesday Communion, Sunday services. Then in a United Prayer Service on Sunday 13th March at 6.30pm Fr Joe Gunn, Rev Mandy Durrell, Rev Peter Lyle, Simon and I all led prayers asking God to help the people of Ukraine.

We also began collecting donations of toiletries and bedding for the many people displaced by the conflict. These were sorted, packed and then driven by Trevor and Freda Smyth to "The Gathering", a new church plant in Belfast, where Ross Monro arranged for the supplies to be transported to Ukraine.

Please continue to pray for this dreadful war to end. This prayer was written by a member of the congregation at the United Prayer Service in our church.

**We pray Lord that your truth may prevail.**

**Truth for the Russian people,  
that they may know what is being done in their name.**

**Truth for the Russian politicians,  
to understand the catastrophic results of their actions.**

**Truth and wisdom for the world,  
and the right reaction to help Ukraine.**

**We pray for the peace talks to bring an end to the war.**

**We pray for all in need of medical attention, food and shelter.**

**Lord, please help the people of Ukraine, in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Rev Jan Stevenson, (prayer anonymous)



### **Ann Browne 30 year award**

Congratulations to our former Sexton, Ann Browne for her 30 year service award from Girl Guiding Ulster!

Ann is such a selfless volunteer and what a blessing she has been to each and every Brownie at Ballyholme.



# Spring Into Life

**6-8 May 2022 – finally!**

We are going for it – whatever happens over the next few weeks! This is something we have been looking forward to and praying for since 2020. The wonderful Jasper Rutherford remains our guest speaker for the whole weekend. While this is about our Church family getting back together again, it's also about those beyond our doors. The Friday and Saturday events are mostly pre-booked (contact the office for last minute spaces) but please feel brave about inviting friends and neighbours to Church on the Sunday. Masks are optional and we will be encouraging everyone to sanitise on entry and to respect each other's space.

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

**Saturday 9 - 10.30am Rugby Breakfast**  
bacon butties with a sports theme

**Saturday 3 - 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 & Children's Church**

**11.30 Morning Prayer**

Choc Ices will be served between 10 & 11.30



***moving closer  
encountering God  
family fun***



Back in February we started knitting "twiddle" hand muffs for dementia sufferers. Following on from this, in March we tried to learn how to crochet as this skill could be used to embellish the muffs.

To date about 60 muffs have been completed and lots of them were put on display in the Church for Mothering Sunday. If anyone knows of a person who would benefit from having one of the muffs please contact the Parish Office to pass a message to the MU committee to arrange for delivery.



Our April meeting was to be about gardening; however the guest speaker cancelled that Monday morning. Fortunately Mercia Flanagan stepped in to fill the void, giving a very informative powerpoint presentation on the life of C S Lewis.

She talked about his happy early life in Belfast up until the death of his mother when he was nine years old. He was then sent to boarding school in England, which was very hard on him, and this along with the death of his mother led to him losing his faith in God.

As an Irishman, Lewis was not compelled to serve in the British Army, but nevertheless he chose to volunteer. Lewis completed his military training, and shortly before his 19th birthday he was shipped to the front line near Arras, France.

After the war he went to Oxford to attend University College, meeting other writers and scholars including J R R Tolkien. Meeting these scholars who were Christians led him back to faith in God. Mercia talked about where he lived in Oxford and the people who were with him including Joy Davidman.

Our thanks again to Mercia for stepping in at such short notice to give us a view of C S Lewis's life.

Our May meeting will be on the 9th when we will be having a late Afternoon Tea at Suburban on the Groomsport Road. The evening is called May Hats and Handbags, so if you have a hat please wear it. The cost is £10 per person. If you wish to attend please let Yvonne or the Parish Office know by Friday 6th May at the latest.

Thanks for now. Many Blessings

## Yvonne & MU Team



Cool but dry, Monday 7 March turned out to be a pretty good day for Bishop David's fundraising bike tour of his North Down parishes. What many of you won't realise, is that he had to postpone days one and two of his itinerary the previous week on testing positive for Covid. To a man in his 60's forced to self-isolate for 10 days of his pre-ride training, Bishop David looked in remarkably sprightly form and it was great we were able to give him such a warm welcome as he raised money for the two Bishops' Appeal projects:



### **Honduras with Christian Aid**

Together with our partner The Christian Organisation for Integral Development of Honduras (OCDIH) we are working with 80 rural families to help them adapt their agricultural practices to be more suitable for the changing climate.

### **The Jordan with Tearfund**

This is the first church and community mobilisation project based in Jordan and facilitated by the Diocese of Jerusalem and is particularly significant because the church in the Middle

East has such a rich Christian heritage, but faces the complex challenges of urban contexts, growing refugee populations and the need for peacebuilding across dividing lines.

### **Ballyholme Blue Buckets Total: £450.25**

It was a lovely surprise to see our former rector Bishop Alan Abernethy as part of the supporting team but those who gathered were asking for the names of the other less familiar riders, so, for the record: Rev Colin Darling Rector of Killinchy, Rev Ken McGrath Vicar of Holywood, the Very Rev Geoff Wilson Dean of Dromore Cathedral and Canon Ronnie Nesbitt Rector of Bangor Abbey. (Communications Officer Annette McGrath is also pictured)



### **Solar Panel Dedication**

As announced in Church over the previous weeks, before heading in to the Parish Centre for his well-earned lunch, Bishop David was good enough to say a prayer and pose for a photograph with our Glebewardens Ivan Humphreys and Steven Nickell as we commissioned our new solar panel system. For those who couldn't catch everything Bishop David said with the competition of the seagulls in the lower carpark, here is what he read:

'I am the light of the world' says the Lord. 'Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.' (John 8:12)

'The night is far gone, the day is near' says St Paul. 'Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light'. (Romans 13:12)

And the Apostle James writes 'Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.' (James 1:17)





Let us pray.

Gracious God,  
 may we experience Your ever-renewing bounty  
 with awe and gratitude, and may we use it wisely.  
 We pray Lord, that this simple act of harnessing the sun  
 may help offset the effects of global warming  
 wreaking such havoc over Your creation  
 and among the poorest peoples of the planet.  
 Father we thank You for these solar panels,  
 for those who designed and installed them,  
 for the power they will provide  
 and for the worship, ministry and outreach they will serve.  
 We remember with gratitude  
 those who sponsored them and the loved ones they remember,  
 and we lift before You those in our wider community  
 for whom the reality of fuel poverty is really starting to bite.  
 Bless us Lord with vision and energy for change  
 as we care for the earth and for each other,  
 in the name of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen

'Lord with you is the fountain of life... in your light, we see light.' (Psalm 36:9)



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

## The lows and the highs

Two years to the day from the start of the first national lockdown, I finally test positive for Covid-19! I write this year's Easter Vestry report on self-isolating Day 0, feeling beyond-frustrated that among other things I cannot lead the funeral of our much-loved parishioner Mrs Rosemary Thompson. And yet I'm also feeling glad beyond measure that Ballyholme Parish is blessed with a talented and willing church family who are ready to ensure that our worship, witness and pastoral care do not depend on their Rector.



Christians meet, eat, sing and visit one another – it's what we do and who we are. The global Pandemic imposed restrictions which disabled us on all those fronts. On reflection, there have only been two real low points during my fourteen years in Ballyholme. The first came over Christmas 2015 when it became clear that we had not raised sufficient funds to connect the church to the Parish Centre in one building project and would have to do it in two phases, taking longer and costing more. The second cast a shadow over this Christmas and, as you all know, I'm talking about our treatment at the hands of the Bank of Ireland in December just past.

where the first year hit us hard financially, the second year proved doubly painful. Thank you for responding so sympathetically and generously to the "Though he was rich" campaign and please keep those responses coming. Thank you too, to those individuals and families who supported our solar panels project, who paid for the current repairs to Beverley Gardens and who will be sponsoring our new website and rebranding, an upgrade begun but on hold for the last two years. Other surprise and extremely timely gifts have come in and you have all been answers to our prayers.

But what Godly joy there has been in our reunions. What blessing there has been in finding safe ways



around the limitations so that we can renew our fellowship and rekindle our devotion. It's been such a relief to see so many familiar faces back again and there's even the excitement of meeting some new ones! The return of the Choir marked a real turning point. While the seniors have proved indomitable from the start of the Pandemic, the families and children are still finding life uncertain. Yet with creche, mothers and toddlers, Children's Church and Easter Jumpin' all cranking back into action, and new contacts being made through our community outreach projects like the Easter Family Funday and Scavenger Hunt, it really does feel that the Lord is drawing us back together.

There's a Getty song I've found gently assuring over the last while and you could do worse than join the other 4 million people who have listened to it on YouTube ('The Lord is my salvation'):

*"I will not fear when darkness falls  
His strength will help me scale these walls  
I'll see the dawn of the rising sun  
The Lord is my salvation."*

## Libby Beech & Larry Cheshire & Vicky Hayes

You will have heard and read me saying thank you to our outgoing Churchwardens several times, but their ready offer to serve the extra year did make such a difference. Consistency was what we needed and it gave both Libby and Larry personally a more satisfying sense of serving



through the whole Christian calendar of festivals – albeit poor Libby succumbed to Covid immediately before Christmas missing out on the two big days! They were a happy and efficient team and combined to offer a warm and easy welcome to everyone coming through the doors. This is also the occasion to recognise the floral flair and faithfulness of Vicky Hayes as she hands over the running of the flower rota. Vicky will still be involved in decorating the church but over the last two years in particular when so many felt unable to come out themselves to do their own flowers, Vicky stepped in to ensure the sanctuary always looked (and frequently smelled) beautiful. Sometimes that was up to three

Sundays a month. Our formal thanks to Vicky today, flowers are only one expression of her gift for cheering up everyone she meets.

## Karen Baker, Pastoral Assistant to the Elderly

Credit where it's due, the appointment of Karen Baker in 2004 by your then Rector and Select Vestry was a masterstroke. Karen's affectionate, caring qualities, her confidence and expertise in the kitchen and her infectious personal faith were as obvious to me when I arrived as they had been to Alan Abernethy. Watching Karen tend to her own elderly mother, Alan and the Vestry could see the potential for a whole new ministry. And so it proved. My saddest duty today is to inform you that Karen has given notice of her intention to retire at the end of June – from both her Pastoral Assistant role and her duties as part-time Sexton.

Of the many impressive features I found on my appointment to Ballyholme Parish it was the seniors programme that took the light from my eyes. From my first Monday morning coffee and scones in Kajiado (with an overflow into the foyer and Choir Room in those days)



through to my first Friday lunch with upwards of 50 people (and more than 80 for the Christmas special), not to mention the Glenada holidays (which invariably involved at least one trip to A&E), I had never seen anything like it. It was the wonderful sense of Christian community those things created, all led so capably by Karen and her various teams, undergirded by a constant schedule of pastoral visits to homes and nursing homes. She spread the love of the Lord in everything she did.

Sad as we are, it would be wrong to record our thanks to Karen here with anything less than fulsome praise to God and appreciation for everything she has so solidly established for us. And that is how we need to see it. No other Church I know boasts a seniors' ministry on our scale, because it simply cannot be done without a paid member of staff. It goes without saying that all our members of staff contribute to the overall growth and vibrancy of our parish. However, through the lunches, the coffee and scones and regular catering at funerals, Karen's ministry is the one that most directly pays for itself. Pre-Pandemic sets of annual accounts prove my point.

Family life has changed for Karen (and Stephen) with the arrival of their grandsons Harry and Isaac. Although tempted to retire when Stephen finished work, Karen simply loved her job too much! How

grateful we are that she was able to see us through the last two years, working hard to keep our seniors connected and finally re-open some regular hospitality. With so many of her volunteers unavailable through the Pandemic, Karen has shouldered much of the additional labour herself and she now feels a full rebuild of the programme is what's called for and under new energetic leadership. Don't worry, our search has already started and Kelly McCullough our other part-time Sexton is keen to take on Karen's extra hours on the caretaking side! Meanwhile, the love and gratitude of the whole parish go today to Karen Baker – and our relief that she and Stephen will remain as Ballyholme parishioners in Karen's well-deserved retirement.

## **Finance Report from Easter Vestry 2022**

The following is a summary of the report given by Liz Grant, Honorary Treasurer, at the Easter Vestry on Sunday 3rd April 2022.

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 has to:

- \* 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 £194,045 down by £4,620 (£198,665). Expenditure increased from £220,302 to £226,414. This gave the Parish a closing deficit balance of £32,369.

### **General Fund Income**

General income is from the following sources:

- \* General giving fell from £163,367 to £156,745.
- \* Property related income, which includes renting the Curatage and the Bay was slightly down from £13,531 to £13,077.
- \* General Parish income from sources such as hall rental, magazine donations, catering was up from £8,408 to £8,943.
- \* The Parish did not receive any unrestricted legacies.

### **Expenditure**

Overall expenditure was up from £218,530 to £226,414.

The main areas of expenditure are:

- \* Clergy staffing costs which increased from £70,915 to £71,500.
- \* Staff costs were up from £70,542 to £71,527.
- \* Repairs and maintenance increased from £8,649 to £23,876.
- \* Premises costs, including heating, lighting, rates etc. increased from £20,487 to £23,161.
- \* General Parish expenses e.g. consumables, postage and printing reduced from £18,425 to £16,786.
- \* The Diocesan levy increased from £14,242 to £16,080.

**Restricted Funds****Development Funds**

The Development fund started in 2016 and throughout the year voluntary giving to the restoration project by way of monthly standing orders, donations or fund-raising events came to £42,545 including gift aid. The Parish did not receive any legacies in this financial year. We have seen a reduction in the amount of standing orders for the development fund in the last year and, on average, there is £2,975 (£3,260 in 2020) of monthly standing orders going into the Development Fund, amounting to approx. £35,700 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 £6,000 and £5,200 was given to charitable causes.

**Youth Fellowship**

Income into the Youth fund was £9,044 and £8,736 was used for activities relating to youth.

**Look Ahead**

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

**“Though He Was Rich”**

- \* Continue to push the generous giving initiative with the aim of aiding recovery from the effects of Covid-19 on the Parish’s 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.

**Glebewardens Report from Easter Vestry 2022**

The following is a summary of the report given by Steven Nickell, Rector’s Glebewarden on behalf of himself and Ivan Humphreys, People’s Glebewarden at the Easter Vestry on Sunday 3rd April 2022.

**Church**

The rear glass doors have been problematic and needed intermittent attention. The original supplier has been contacted to inspect and advise.

The external lighting bollards around the Church which were installed as part of the refurbishment have been repaired.

There were several clean-ups in and around the Church grounds. These took place in June and October in all types of weather. In June we used the opportunity to give the railings a fresh coat of paint. A big thank you to all those who volunteered. It is our intention to organise another one in the near future and we would welcome your support.

**Rectory**

A small number of items were attended to:

- \* A faulty element in the oven was replaced; and

- \* The rainwater goods (spouting/downpipes) required minor repairs.

### **Parish Centre**

32 Solar panels have been successfully installed on the roof of the Parish Centre. These supply power to a battery pack which helps to reduce the monthly electrical bill. The installation was dedicated by Bishop David in March.

A number of fluorescent lights in the main hall have been giving problems so all 20 fittings have been inspected and all fluorescent tubes have been replaced.

The heating system controls have been inspected by a specialist contractor with a recommendation they be replaced. This work has been actioned and is to take place imminently.

The extraction system and gas sensors serving the kitchen have had to be repaired over the course of the past 12 months.

The Tiddli-Winks playgroup asked Vestry to consider giving them permission to erect a canopy over the double doors into the main hall, an external removable sign board and coat rail. Permission was granted and these items were organised and installed under the supervision of the Glebewardens.

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

The Quinquennial Inspection of the property was finally undertaken in November 2021 and a number of maintenance issues were identified for attention.

A contractor was appointed to undertake the works and they have been attended to through the month of March and are ongoing.

There has been no change to the tenancy.

### **The Bay Apartment**

There has been no change to the tenancy.

Some minor maintenance items have been reported and addressed directly by the managing agents.



**St Columbanus**  
Ballyholme

### **“Though He Was Rich” 2022**

*Standing Order Details  
Our transfer from Bank of Ireland  
to Danske Bank*

#### **Current Account:**

Sort Code: 950229

Account Number: 11063162

#### **Building Fund Account:**

Sort Code: 950229

Account Number: 51121367

### **Standing Orders**

”This is a copy of the Standing Order Details card given out at church and the Easter Vestry.

As we are moving our business from the Bank of Ireland, parishioners now have 3 years to transfer their personal Standing Orders over to our Danske account – but we hope the vast majority of our church family will make the move sooner rather than later!

Your co-operation with this relatively quick job which only you can do, is very much appreciated”.

## A Pastoral Letter from the Archbishops of Armagh and Dublin regarding the return to the use of the Common Cup in Holy Communion

Receiving the consecrated wine in the Holy Communion by means of the Common Cup (Chalice) is the norm in the teaching and tradition of the Church of Ireland and in the Anglican Communion in general.

However, in light of public health advice issued at various times during the Covid-19 Pandemic, the House of Bishops circulated guidance, first on the spiritual efficacy of receiving Holy Communion in One Kind, and subsequently giving permission for the use of individual cups in strictly regulated circumstances. Mindful of the unambiguous injunction

contained in Article 30 of the Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion, we took these decisions reluctantly and with the stated intention of a return to the Anglican norm as soon as it was considered safe to do so, following independent advice, as has been our practice throughout the pandemic.

With the general phasing out of restrictions in most social settings, the House of Bishops has sought independent expert scientific advice on the return to the use of the Common Cup in Holy Communion. The advice we have received is that such a return would be reasonable now, especially in a vaccinated population and where anyone displaying symptoms of Covid-19 is encouraged to stay away from church services.

We have also been advised that wiping the rim of the chalice between each communicant (preferably with a linen cloth) will reduce the bacterial burden by up to 90%. Needless to say, great care should be taken in the cleansing of linens (purificators, corporals) and vessels (flagons, cruets, chalice, ciborium, lavabo etc.) before and after Holy Communion. The Bishops received this scientific advice prior to the recent meeting of the House of Bishops and, with great joy, returned to the use of the Common Cup at our celebration of the Eucharist on that occasion.

Many of us were taken by surprise at how rapidly most social restrictions were relaxed or completely removed and have continued to practise our own forms of mitigation and self-restraint, so there will be those who will be cautious about receiving communion from a chalice.

Finally, we would emphasise that while no individual communicant should feel under immediate pressure to drink from a common vessel, the expert advice is clear in its implication that there is now no pressing reason to withhold the shared cup from faithful people who earnestly desire to partake of it.

+John Armagh  
+Michael Dublin  
St Patrick's Day, 2022

***To minimise the logistical complications of Communicants requesting two different sorts of cups, our plan at St Columbanus is to return to receiving Communion at the rail but to continue with the personal disposable cups for everyone while infection levels remain high and we all adjust to the general relaxation of public health restrictions.***



### Vicky Hayes

I don't know about you, but I love looking at the flowers decorating the chancel in church each week. Vicky Hayes took over co-ordinating the flower rota from Daphne Hamill more than ten years ago and it is thanks to Vicky's faithful commitment that we can be sure of always having beautiful flowers to admire each week. Thanks also go to all those parishioners who willingly take their turn on the flower rota.



Vicky is a very talented flower arranger. At Easter, Harvest, Christmas and other special occasions, as well as creating wonderful displays herself, she organises an enthusiastic band of helpers who lovingly decorate the whole church with flowers and greenery generously donated by parishioners. This is particularly evident at Harvest when nearly every available surface of the church is adorned by a combination of flowers, fruit and vegetables.

The last two years of the pandemic was a particularly busy and demanding time for Vicky. Access to the church was restricted and some parishioners felt unable to come out to arrange their own Sunday flowers but

true to form, and without any hesitation, Vicky stepped in and arranged the flowers herself.

### Irene Long

Vicky has decided the time has come for her to take a bit of a back seat and many thanks to Irene Long who has very kindly agreed to take on the role of flower rota co-ordinator. Irene has been part of the flower rota for many years and a lifelong member of St Columbanus. Some of you may remember Irene from her days as Church Warden or when she was part of the magazine committee.

The good news is that Vicky is not totally setting aside her secateurs and we will still be able to admire her floral creations at Easter, Harvest and Christmas. We are so glad that Vicky remains as a vital part of our festival flower team!

We would love new people to get involved in the flower team and no previous experience is required, in fact Irene would be the first to say that she is not an expert when it comes to flower arranging.

If you would like to help at Easter, Harvest and Christmas why not come along and offer to lend a hand and work alongside those already there. The flower team is a very friendly, helpful, supportive bunch and you won't be expected to decorate a whole windowsill by yourself. Sometimes it is just a matter of putting some flowers in a vase or artistically arranging some ivy or apples depending on the season! The next festival on the horizon will be Harvest so that gives you plenty of time to think about it.



Regarding the Sunday flowers, our new underfloor heating system means that the later the flowers go into church the fresher they stay. Most people come in on a Friday morning and it's a good idea to give the Parish Office a ring beforehand just to check that the church will be open and available for you to come down and arrange your flowers. Saying that, occasionally people have been known to arrive with their flowers at 8am on Sunday morning just as the Church Wardens are setting up the church for the first service!

Whilst the hope is that most people can come into church to arrange the flowers themselves, for some people on the flower rota this is simply not possible and if that applies to you, please don't



worry as Irene is more than happy to help so just give her a ring.

It would be great to see some more people volunteer to join the flower rota. I'm on the rota and I don't claim to be an expert but once a year I buy two bunches of flowers and put them in the silver vases that sit at the front of the church. If you get those prearranged bouquets from the shops all you need to do is trim the ends, add some water and that's it! It really isn't any different from arranging a bunch of flowers in a vase at home, so why not give it a go?

I know Irene will appreciate any offers of help as she finds her feet in her new role. If you would like to be part of the Sunday flower rota or would like more information about anything in this article, please contact Irene Tel: 91-452517 or Mobile: 07923-576683.

All that remains is to wish Irene good luck and every success in her new role!

### **Christine Johnstone**

## **Refresh and Rise - Ladies Night at Dromantine, 18th-19th June 2022**

We are called to inspire one another and spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let me encourage you then to come away to Dromantine to escape the chaos of everyday life. And let's face it, who doesn't need a time of refreshment after lockdown!

The main purpose of the event is to make space to encounter Jesus. It is our hope that you will find spiritual refreshment during this time.

The ladies' night away will be held in the stunning surroundings of Dromantine Conference Centre. Dromantine is located 5 miles north of Newry and just off the Belfast/Dublin Road. The tranquil surroundings and modern facilities (all the rooms are single with ensuite) led the planning group to choose this venue. We are confident you will enjoy the place.

Aside from the location what is in store?

The programme includes – the talk by our speaker, Hilary McClay, craft, a quiz, offer of prayer ministry, time for quiet reflection, worship music and song, a walk in the beautiful surroundings.

The plan is to arrive on Saturday morning and finish after lunch on Sunday. If you have special dietary needs those will be catered for.

One of the most important aspects of being together with other women is the fellowship. When surveys are conducted about the best parts of a residential, common answers include making new friends and uplifting conversations with others. There will be plenty of time for chat and craic. But if you relish the idea of quiet time and being on your own that's fine too.

The cost of the event is £110 per person but don't let this prevent you from coming. Please speak to me privately if you would like to come but finances are tight.

It is our fervent prayer that you will be blessed by the experience.

### **Sandra Griffiths**

07712286419





In March we had the pleasure of welcoming two special guests in one day. Bishop David called in for a quick pitstop on his Bishop's Big Bike Ride Lent Appeal and also managed to dedicate our solar panels during his brief visit.

The Rev Phil Goodey from Maidstone in the Canterbury Diocese also happened to arrive the same day. I spent a very enjoyable and informative afternoon with him and he told me about himself and what had prompted him to visit Bangor.

Phil was ordained as a Church of England vicar over thirty years ago and has served in various parishes all over England mostly in rural churches apart from two in Hull and East London. He explained his ministry using the metaphor of a plough in that he was placed in churches which needed a new direction. To continue the metaphor, he went in and turned over the soil to prepare it for new planting and opportunities. Obviously you can't just go on ploughing so as he moved on someone else came behind him to sow the seeds.

Phil is responsible for two churches in Canterbury Diocese, St Peter's Boughton Monchelsea Parish in North Downs Deanery and Christ Church, Park Wood in Maidstone Deanery. St Peter's also has a church plant named 'Junction' which meets in the village hall. This is a new fresh expression of church and an informal way of worshipping similar in style to Café Church. To help with finances: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/h85q5>

Phil is currently on a period of three months study leave researching the life and service of St Columbanus. He will spend one month in Ireland before returning to Kent for Easter. He then plans to resume his travels in June by following St Columbanus' European journey travelling through France, and Switzerland before ending up in Bobbio Italy. Phil is married and has two grown-up daughters and his wife plans to join him on this second leg of the journey.

Phil told me that parallels between St Columbanus' ministry and society today were the reasons why he chose to study this saint in more detail. He intends to reflect on how the life of St Columbanus affects us today.

Phil explained how St Columbanus took the gospel to a post-Christian culture following the collapse of the Roman Empire. St Columbanus was intent on bringing back to faith people who had lost their way and were doing their own thing. Today we can see this mirrored in a modern society where people may maintain a cultural form of religion but without any true meaning. For example, people bring children to church to be baptised but fail to follow through the baptismal promises to help the child 'take his or her place within the life and worship of Christ's Church'.

Phil told me that in the time of Emperor Constantine it was common practice to get baptised at the point of death because sins could only be forgiven once. St Columbanus introduced the concept of being forgiven many times which was quite radical at that time. Nowadays we believe we can seek forgiveness at any time, all we have to do is turn to God and ask. Phil is interested in changing how people think and re-visiting how we engage with God spiritually and culturally in these post-Covid times.

Phil described how St Columbanus left his safe haven of Bangor Monastery to practise evangelism in Europe and in doing so effectively went into exile because he knew he could never return. St Columbanus felt the call of God and was prepared to sacrifice his relationship with his Christian home community to do the work of the kingdom of God in Europe. St Columbanus wanted to change Europe's view of what church meant and in the same way Phil believes we need to change the way the people think about church.

During his short stay Phil spoke to a number of local people to get different perspectives on St Columbanus. He visited St Comgall's Church where he met Father Gunn and Sister Maura of the Columban Sisters. After attending Mass there, he dashed down to Bangor Abbey just in time for a Communion service before having a chat with Rev Ronnie Nesbitt who showed him round the Abbey.

Phil went to the North Down Museum and met a couple of people from the Friends of Columbanus Bangor, namely the musician David Lennon and Alderman Deborah Girvan, former Mayor of Ards and North Down. Phil told me Deborah had been extremely helpful in providing names of contacts and opening doors for the European part of his journey.

Phil also spoke to our very own Simon to find out how the Church of Ireland views St Columbanus and told me how Simon had been great helping him to plan his week to make the best use of his time in Bangor.

Phil recorded daily video logs or vlogs of all his meetings and when he completes his trip he will produce a documentary video and post this on YouTube. I'll certainly look forward to watching this.

Phil told me he was overwhelmed by the wonderful hospitality he received from everyone he met on his short stay and this reminded him of a Polish saying, 'A guest in the house is God in the house'.

**Christine Johnstone**



## **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK**

### **VOLUNTEERS**

**15 - 21ST MAY 2022**

Ballyholme Parish is urgently looking for additional collectors to help with the distribution of envelopes along our well-established Ballyholme / Ballycrochan routes.

Volunteers are no longer required to return to collect the envelopes as we are once again using local collection points for the donations. Parishioners have always been very generous in helping us to raise a substantial amount every year for Christian Aid to bring hope to those facing crisis around the world, from Ukraine to Zimbabwe.



A Give Star online giving page has also been created where donations can be made by following the QR link above. Simply open your smart phone camera, hover over the image and click the pop-up link which will direct you to the Ballyholme Parish Church Collection page.

If you can assist with envelope distribution this May please contact

**Susan Stockton 07790359991**

**Fiona Oliva 07856678877**

In my role as Community Pastor it has been exciting to see God blessing the ways we have tried to show the residents of Ballyholme that we their local church cares for them.

Running a Free Community Family Fun Day on our front lawn on Sat 16th April was a clear signal that we want to be a community church, a church without walls where everyone is welcome and valued.

Café church is a welcoming community of faith where families can explore what it means to follow Jesus together. We hope people from outside our church could come, feel welcome and return.

Another opportunity for some will be an Alpha course which is a



fantastic way to examine what Christianity is all about. Please speak to the office or Jan if you are interested in coming to the Introductory Evening on Wed 11th May in the Parish Centre at 7.30pm.

Jan and Catherine Darragh have just finished a course called Peaced Together which we hope to run next year. This course uses craft activities to provide space to chat about life in a safe and supportive group.



Love Ballyholme is planning a Community Picnic in Ballyholme Park with free live music and kids' entertainment on Saturday 2nd July starting at 1pm.

There will be a Sandcastle Competition for families at 3.30pm on the same day. This will be a fantastic community event so save the date and bring friends; no tickets needed. Registration for the Sandcastle Competition is on the day at the picnic. All the information is on the Love Ballyholme and church Facebook pages.

**Rev Jan Stevenson** (Community Pastor & Chair of Love Ballyholme)





## February - Craigavon and Brownlow House

One thing the Walkers have learned is to take the weather forecast with a pinch of salt (most times). That was so for the February walk when we visited the Craigavon Lakes and nearby Brownlow House when the forecast was dire. But it didn't deter the thirteen who turned up.

The Lakes were created during the early 1970's when an area of low lying, poorly drained land was excavated to create the two lakes in Craigavon. The South Lake was designed to act as a balancing lake, releasing rainwater collected from the built-up areas of Craigavon at a controlled rate into streams which flow into Lough Neagh. Craigavon was a planned settlement started in 1965 intended to be the heart of a new linear city incorporating Lurgan and Portadown but this plan was mostly abandoned and later described as having been flawed.



The Lakes were also intended to provide recreational opportunities for the population of this new city. During the late 1990's over ten thousand trees were planted creating the new woodland around the lakes. In 2008 much of the site, including the North Lake, was designated as a Local Nature Reserve. Between the two lakes, on either side of the railway line, is an important area of species-rich grassland. This part of the Nature Reserve contains areas of wet meadow and dry grassland

On arrival at the Leisure Centre in what proved to be the only rain until we were leaving, we braved the busy café (full of park runners) and afterwards set off on the 4-mile trail led by Peter, past the water sports centre around the two lakes. The walk took us through the Tannaghmore Gardens and Animal Farm where we saw chickens, pigs, goats and horses. The walk was mostly flat made-up paths with a mountain bike trail which we walked for a short distance. We discovered early primroses and lots of swans.

Having had lunch outside the Leisure Centre we drove a couple of miles to Brownlow House in Lurgan Park. The Rt. Hon. Charles Brownlow commissioned the building of his family home in his grand country estate. The house, known locally as 'The Castle', is built from Scottish sandstone and was designed by the famous Edinburgh architect, William Henry Playfair. It was designed and built as a 'Calendar House' with four wings, one for each season of the year. It had seven external doors, one for each day of the week and twelve external corners, one for each month of the year. And there were fifty-two chimneys, one for each week of the year and finally three hundred and sixty-five rooms, one for each day of the year.

Some of us of a certain vintage may remember a famous race dog called Master McGrath, who was born and raised in the grounds of Brownlow House. Master McGrath is the only dog to win the Waterloo Cup three times; to commemorate this event a statue was made of the famous greyhound and today stands in Lurgan town centre.

We spent some time in the fascinating Museum dedicated to the time the house was a base for American troops. General Dwight D. Eisenhower (later President Eisenhower of the USA) visited Brownlow House and from here helped plan the famous D-Day landings. In the early 1900s,

Brownlow House was sold by the Brownlow family to the Lurgan District of the Orange Order who continue to own and run the building today.

After the tour, four took the 40-minute walk round the lake in the grounds, and Maurice who knows the area well, pointed out the site of the old watermill. The water in the lake comes from the confluence of nearby streams and was the outlet for the water course which used to power the Brownlow estate mill located on North Street. The others succumbed to the Tea Room temptation!

Thanks to Peter for organising and leading.

### Betty Armstrong

#### March - Lagan Canal – Moira to Aghalee

What a glorious day! Twenty-three turned out for the 6 mile walk on the stretch of the old Lagan Canal from Moira train station to Aghalee, having travelled by train to the start. We were pleased to welcome Rosemary Adams to the walk.

Construction of the Lagan Canal was in three stretches, the more familiar section from Belfast to Lisburn, opened in 1763 and the remainder to Lough Neagh later. In their wisdom and without foresight, in the middle 1900s our politicians built the M1 motorway on the canal bed from Sprucefield to Moira, so we are lucky to have yesterday's walk.

We started the walk at the station car park, under the railway bridge where you can see the unusual "skew brickwork" used to add strength to the bridge and how the strain of the tow rope cut notches in the iron guard at the foot of the bridge. There seemed to be more choking reeds and grass since we were there in 2019. On then past Soldierstown to the artificial lake called the Broadwater, which is the headwater for the canal.

The engineer responsible for the Lisburn-Lough Neagh section of the canal, Richard Owen, was buried in 1830 in the church there. Apparently, his dying wish was to be buried overlooking the Broadwater, where, according to Brian Cassells' book on Lough Neagh, "when resurrection day came and he was raised from the grave, his first view would be his beloved Broadwater". Sadly, a new church hall was built in direct line of the view.

The whole canal is a haven for wildlife, with swans swimming majestically, ducks, moorhens all worth stopping to look at.

At the western end of the Broadwater there was a derelict lock keepers' house (with curtains still on the windows) and opposite a picturesque house known as George Weir's, He was a canal bank ranger and the walls in front of the house are flood gates!

On the return we had lunch just there and then walked back to the Alchemy restaurant close to the station where we had booked tables for refreshments in good time to return on the 3.28pm train.



# YOUTH-news

youth [youth] (youths)

news [nooz]

Since our last youth report we have had (I still can't quite believe it) a YOUTH WEEKEND!! Given the tumultuous nature of the last two years, with everything stopping and starting, it was so amazing to be able to take the young people away on a residential. By popular demand, we returned to St John's Parish in Moira and spent the weekend there, and we were joined by some of our friends from Ballyholme Presbyterian Youth. Our guest speaker shared on the theme of God's love, and it was an incredibly encouraging time for our faith, as well as just being a total blast.

Shortly after the weekend, we had a YF trip to see the Belfast Giants – and what a night that was! The Giants won 6-3 in a thrilling game, and it was great to have a crowd from YF down at that.

In the recent months we've also had a run of birthdays and it's been lovely to celebrate those and make a big deal of all the young people. We celebrated Felix Niblock-Hamill's on the youth weekend with an ENORMOUS cake and a giant party popper; we've celebrated Stephanie Sherlock's, Katie Irvine's, Charlotte Gough's and, of course, James Nickell's 18th. This has naturally resulted in lots of cake and great food being eaten... All for the kids of course.

We can't wait to get into the upcoming events, with Easter Jumpin' just around the corner and summer fast approaching. As ever, we thank you for your continued support and prayer for everything we do.



**Andrew**



**MAY 2022****Sunday 1st May Easter 3**

8.30 Holy Communion  
10.00 Cafe Church - Parish Centre  
11.30 Morning Prayer

**Wednesday 4th May**

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

**Sunday 8th May Easter 4**

8.30 Holy Communion  
10.00 Good News at Ten  
& Children's Church  
11.30 Parish Communion  
6.30 United Service - Ballyholme  
Presbyterian

**Wednesday 11th May**

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

**Sunday 15th May Easter 5**

8.30 Holy Communion  
10.00 Good News at Ten  
& Children's Church  
11.30 Morning Prayer

**Wednesday 18th May**

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

**Sunday 22nd May Easter 6**

8.30 Holy Communion  
10.00 Parish Communion  
& Children's Church  
11.30 Morning Prayer

**Wednesday 25th May**

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

**Sunday 29th May Easter 7**

8.30 Holy Communion  
10.00 Wholeness and Healing  
11.30 Wholeness and Healing

**FUNERALS****February**

**18th:** Joseph Whitfield, formerly of Cleland  
Park North

**March**

**7th:** Lorna Kilpatrick, formerly of Oakmont

**25th:** Rosemary Thompson formerly of  
Riverside Road

**JUNE 2022****Wednesday 1st June**

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

**Sunday 5th June Pentecost**

8.30 Holy Communion  
10.00 Cafe Church - Parish Centre  
11.30 Morning Prayer

**Wednesday 8th June**

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

**Sunday 12th June Trinity Sunday**

8.30 Holy Communion  
10.00 Good News at Ten  
& Children's Day  
11.30 Parish Communion  
6.30 United Service - St Columbanus

**Wednesday 15th June**

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

**Sunday 19th June Trinity 1**

8.30 Holy Communion  
10.00 Parish Communion  
& Children's Church  
11.30 Morning Prayer

**Wednesday 22nd June**

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

**Sunday 26th June Trinity 2**

8.30 Holy Communion  
10.00 Parish Communion  
11.30 Morning Prayer

**Wednesday 29th June**

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

**May 2022**

**1st** Jane Fitzsimons

**8th** Heidi Doogan

**15th** Joan Larmour

**22nd** Libby Beech

**29th** Lillian Finch

**June 2022**

**5th** Pat Davidson

**12th** Alwyn Aiken

**19th** Lillian Ward

**26th** Audrey Carroll

