

St Columbanus

Ballyholme



Farewell Kelly
Church Bell
Ladies Weekend



The Parishioner

September/October 2022

Thank God, many of our extra-curricular inhibitions over the last couple of years have now lifted. Across the board this autumn we are freer to get back to doing those things and being with those people that lift us out of ourselves. In lots of ways we will hope to pick up where we left off this time three Septembers ago – and therein lies the temptation of what a retired clergy friend of mine calls ‘doing the laps’. A ‘Back to Church’ September followed by an October Harvest, takes us back to the start of the Advent to Trinity cycle again and so another lap begins. Those ancient seasonal changes in focus and mood are so rich in devotional blessing. Yet the danger, as with so many things, is going through the motions for the sake of it. We risk falling foul of what Hebrews chapter 10 caricatures as year after year offering the same sacrifice which can never take away sin, over and against the for-all-time, single sacrifice of Christ which can. Going round and round in circles makes us dizzy. More worryingly, it also fixes us in one place, where what God wants to do is lead us onwards and ultimately upwards.



SED



New Sound Desk Recruits Required

Our ever-faithful Sunday morning sound desk team needs new volunteers. No previous technical experience is necessary but we now have a number of experienced ‘old hands’ and will be glad to arrange training for new helpers. Over the years since its installation, our splendid new kit has been lovingly tamed and, largely speaking, it knows who it works for!

Thanks to those who have persevered to ensure that, for the most part, things run really smoothly every week. The livestream Ballyholme Parish Church YouTube service has also established itself as a real life-line for people who cannot make it to Church and simply would not be possible without the commitment of our dedicated sound and vision engineers.

Please come and add to their number!

Contact the Parish Office for more details.

BAPTISM

Sunday 26th June: Isaac Baker, son of Stephen & Kylie Baker.



It's Smartie time again

This year a Smartie tube will be delivered to you at home. Please return the tube filled with 20p's at the Harvest service on Sunday 16th October.

Happy sharing of the Smarties!

Sandra Griffiths for the Mission Committee





Just Older Youth

At time of writing I am still trying to come to terms with my retirement, I think I'm on holiday but I'm sure this will change as the weeks go on.

In 2004 I had an overwhelming feeling that God had something big planned for me so you can imagine my delight when I was appointed Pastoral Assistant to the Seniors. I knew God's hand was on my new role and that He would guide me every step of the way. From day one I was welcomed and accepted by the staff team and the parishioners and it was clear to me that Ballyholme Parish was where I was meant to be.

Working with our Seniors has enriched my life and brought me much joy throughout the years. It was a privilege to visit people in their own homes, in hospital and in residential or nursing homes. To hold a hand and pray with them was a way of loving them as God loves us. I often came away feeling humbled and admiring the wisdom, strength and faith so many exhibited in the autumn of their lives and thanking God that He had given me the opportunity to meet such remarkable people. I came to know and love the quiet Christians many of whom were unable to make it out to Church but upheld our whole Church family in their prayers every day.

So many aspects of my ministry would have been impossible to achieve without the army of faithful volunteers. Some have walked with me from the beginning, others helped out when they were able, often behind the scenes, and others, well they just appeared and stayed with me when my need was greatest. Thanks to each and every one of you for your support, loyalty and friendship and for the memories I hold so dear.

To all of you who regularly attended the Lunch club, Coffee morning, Wednesday club and Communion Lunch seeing you walk through the doors of the Parish Centre with smiles on your faces made all the hard work worthwhile. The buzz of conversation and laughter reverberated around the Parish Centre particularly at Christmas when we could enjoy the togetherness and celebration of 'God with us'.

Sincere thanks to Simon, an incredible boss, mentor and friend, to the current and past staff teams, the Select Vestry, my wonderful husband Stephen (who has the patience of a saint), my children Stephen and Tanya and my extended family and friends, thank you for your encouragement, guidance and prayers.

To all who sent letters, cards, gifts, or attended my farewell reception, I give you thanks from the bottom of my heart.

I am so very grateful that in His wisdom God chose me to work and serve Him in Ballyholme, to Him I give my profound thanks for all the blessings He has bestowed on my life.

To God only is the praise. Praise God from whom all blessings flow, now and forever.

Love and blessings

Karen

Retirement Poem

Lord, here I stand with a new horizon ahead of me.

I know I am entering a later phase of life, yet I feel so much the same inside.

Help me to seize each sunrise and fully live each day. May I be guided by You, and walk into this new landscape with hope and confidence.

May I engage with the beauty of creation, and connect with the passions, hopes and dreams I had when I was young.

My prayer is not to leave anything behind, but to walk forwards into all I can be, all I can enjoy, and all I can give.

To this new page The next chapter of my life Shared with You. **Amen**

Just as we were coming to terms with Karen Baker leaving our staff team at the end of June, on 10 July the Diocese of Down and Dromore announced the appointment of its new full time Administration and Finance Officer, our own Kelly McCullough. Taking up her new position on 1 August, by the time most of you read this Kelly will be gone from the Parish Centre and a month in post.

Kelly joined our staff in 2012, taking over from Canon Mercer's long-standing secretary and another soul of discretion, the legendary Sue Bleakley. When the Church House vacancy arose, Kelly felt it was right to apply, just as she had felt it was right to come and work for St Columbanus 10 years previously (see below). Not that she expected to get her new job. Truth be told, Kelly was surprised when she was short-listed for interview with Down and Dromore, and even more surprised when they finally offered her the post. We aren't, though, are we?



For many, Kelly will for ever be their friendly and welcoming first point of contact with Ballyholme Parish. Whether over the phone, answering emails or opening the office door to callers, she had just the right combination of warmth and efficiency. Kelly was so much more than the manager of our diary and the payer of our bills. Having grown up in our parish, she had a head start with the names on our church database, and understood instinctively that church life is all about the families.

There was much for Kelly to learn in the early days, especially on the finance side. As a charity within the voluntary/faith sector, for anyone with a business background it was a major culture shift. But Kelly was quick to master her new environment and was as ready for the one-off projects, events and campaigns as she was for the day-to-day chores essential to ensure that a busy church like ours runs smoothly. It wasn't long before Kelly sensed the opening up of a fulfilling new world where God's kingdom and the glory of Christ take centre stage.

Of course, what's happened over the last decade, without most of us realising it, is that Kelly has grown into a whole new career as a church administrator, one where faith and service, vocation and ministry come first. Naturally, her appointment reflects very well on our parish and I think we can all be extremely proud of her achievement. To say we're going to miss her, though, doesn't begin to cover it. Not, I'm relieved to tell you, that Kelly and the McCulloughs will be leaving our congregation, but she does leave a chair in the office it will not be easy to fill.

Kelly has asked for a low-key send-off and so our plan is to make a presentation during the two main services on Sunday 25 September. Refreshments will be served between the services that day but there will be no speeches, only a chance for people to catch Kelly for a quick personal word. We thank God for gifting Kelly to us ten years ago, and though it's hard to see her go, like all God's best gifts, passing her onwards and upwards is always the right thing to do.

SED

Save the Dates



Quiz Night

The Missions Committee is planning to hold two quizzes and ask you to save the dates to attend to help raise funds.

Saturday 17th September 2022 - proceeds for Ukraine

Saturday 28th January 2023 - proceeds for disbursements

At the time of writing Vestry is agreeing terms and conditions with two parishioners about taking over the cleaning duties at Church and in the Parish Centre. We remain very keen to have conversations with people about the role of Pastoral Assistant to the Seniors and likewise the newly vacant position of Parish Administrator.



Kelly's Story

Ten years ago, when her children Ben and Zoe were 7 and 5 respectively, Kelly stepped aside from her career as a medical rep, to take over as our Administrator. With the full support of an extremely understanding husband Gareth, Kelly would tell you herself that she was consciously embracing a total change of direction. Increasingly unhappy with the demands of her job, her decision to step off the commercial treadmill meant a dramatic change in lifestyle but one which has come to prove more than worth it and she has no regrets.

Could that be you?

We were already praying up a new Pastoral Assistant to the Seniors. Now we are also looking to God for a new 24 hours a week Parish Administrator, so please make both these appointments a matter of serious and urgent intercession! As you will know by now, my unapologetic approach to parish appointments, paid and unpaid, is to try to discern who it is the Lord wants for the job. The hunt, accordingly, begins in our own worshipping congregation. Unlike the diocese which has no church family as such and needs to advertise, we have our own pool of capable, talented people, so we're not out for a competitive process.

It starts, I hope, with members of our own congregation asking themselves the question: might this be something God is calling me to do? Please talk to me if you think it could be, or if there are any other names popping into your head which just won't go away. The final, formal appointment, is made by the Vestry with the Honorary Secretary and Treasurer agreeing the contracts. If it's any incentive, we can be extremely flexible around the school holidays!

For now... volunteers please!

Members of Vestry and other volunteers will be covering us in the mornings in the office. Kelly has been as thorough as possible in identifying the daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual tasks by which everything can be kept ticking over until a new Administrator is found. Christine Johnstone our Honorary Secretary will co-ordinate the rota, and Liz Grant our Honorary Treasurer will ensure that our routine financial obligations are all being met. Please get in touch with the parish office or talk to me if you would like to make yourself available to help and thank you to those who have already done so.

SED





Everyone welcome to a Community Book Swap

Sat 24th Sept 2pm-3.30pm

Front lawn of the church

Bring books, take other books home

Stay for a coffee or a tour of the stain glass windows

Leave a donation for Cancer Focus NI

June Communion Lunch



A July holiday for the Church Bell!



For four Sundays from Sunday 3 July, the sound of our church bell calling us to worship was noticeable by its absence. It had rung in its usual faithful way before the 8.30 service on 3 July, as it has done dependably for the last 80 years. When the Rector threw the switch at 10.25 service, however: nothing. Approximately 20 years ago (no one is quite sure when exactly!), the motor had put us on warning that it was nearing retirement.

Back then, an engineer was found to re-wind the mechanism but, apparently, he told us that his repair would not last for ever and that we should be ready to source a replacement. That it continued to sound for another two decades is little short of a mechanical miracle but, on removal and inspection, this time it was declared well and truly clapped out! Thankfully a new replacement engine was found within a few short weeks and its safe installation was overseen by our Glebewarden Ivan Humphreys. By 31 July, the bell was ringing again.

Talking, in passing, to one neighbour who doesn't belong to our congregation, I was told how much he and his family had missed the bell over its July holiday. Another very local family, who are in Church every Sunday, shared that over the years when Mum and daughter heard the bell ring before worship, they knew they were running late. When Dad and son heard it however, they knew they still had time to make it!

SED



Our Wednesday morning service resumes in the Kajiado Room
at 10.30am on Wednesday 7 September 2022.

It's the familiar Holy Communion Two Prayer Book service, with the chance for us to pray for the names on our parish prayer list, many of whom are sick or ill.

Access to the Kajiado Room is easy, with disabled space parking available right outside the door and disabled loos in the foyer.

Coffee and biscuits afterwards are an important part of proceedings and feels like a natural extension of the service.

Everyone is welcome, especially those who can't make it on Sunday.



On 18th June 32 ladies from St Columbanus travelled to the Dromantine conference centre, where we were joined by 9 ladies from Primacy church. There, two days of fun, worship, prayer, camaraderie, and learning began. From the welcome to the farewell, our time was, undeniably, Spirit filled.

The last time I was invited to 'do crafting', it involved making pom-poms. Not on this weekend! I had graduated to (safely) smashing old decorative dinner plates to create the most beautiful ceramic heart. I have never seen women work with such intense concentration,

whilst covered in grout!

As for the food – it was tasty, nourishing, and in abundance, with tea and coffee on tap, and no cooking or washing up! What more could a gal ask for?

Sandra Griffiths guided us in listening to God, using the story of Mary and Martha. Following the guided listening, we were invited to reflect individually, or in small groups. The peace and beautiful spaces inside and outside of the centre, were a perfect setting for that reflection. For some, this was a new and different way of coming closer to God.



On Sunday morning we had a most beautiful and peaceful holy communion, in the chapel, led by Mercia.

Hilary McClay had joined us and talked to us about women of significance in the bible, including Ruth, Naomi, Deborah, Esther. We heard how much these women could teach us about searching for God's plans for our future, but to know this, we must listen for His promptings. It challenged us to ask how sensitive we are to hear His voice. Do we have the courage to do what God wants us to do, and accept that sometimes the difficult thing to do can be the right thing to do? It was

good to be reminded that our lives are meant to be significant, therefore, we should choose to be available to God.

We were reminded that we can sometimes 'miss out' in situations because we have not trusted God, but we can change this by preparing well in prayer, having courage to take steps, and not rushing ahead of God. We need to trust in God's timing and give Him time to work, accepting that His time is better than ours. If we do this, we can be confident that God will be in the situation with us.



It certainly was not a case of what happened in the Dromantine, stayed in the Dromantine. We were all challenged to come away, to be bold, and share with others, the love of God. This is why I came away from the weekend feeling I wanted to share this experience with you, and encourage all you ladies to attend the next weekend planned for 21st to 22nd October 2023. Please do save the date.

“Break these shackles from my feet so I can dance”.

Jacqui Devlin





There is nowhere quite like Down Cathedral for a red-letter Down and Dromore occasion like the commissioning of a new squadron of Diocesan Lay Readers.

Wednesday 29 June was the big night, and our newest Ballyholme recruit for this increasingly invaluable ministry was Dr Jacqui Devlin. The last week of June meant lots of people were already away on holiday and it was also in the middle of that early summer Covid spike which saw so many people testing positive. However, with seven new Readers being commissioned, and

lots of family, friends and church supporters determined to be there, none of those present will forget it.

Jacqui has already been in action leading and preaching this summer and it is great to have her as part of our Sunday team. Jacqui is Head of Safeguarding for the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and has a PhD in social sciences so to a natural gift for communication, Jacqui brings years of professional experience from her background in delivering safeguarding training. For Jacqui, it's all about serving God and sharing her faith – but don't take it from me. Talk to Jacqui herself about what prompted her to train and what was involved over her two years of preparation.

Here's my 8.30 Thought for the Day from the Sunday after Jacqui's commissioning. It was based on Jesus' words from Luke 10:2 *"The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest"*:-

"On Friday just past, Canon Derek Tyney was 60 years ordained – which makes my 25 years on the 8 June past feel like a probationary apprenticeship. The truth is though, I still pinch myself when Jesus instructs the disciples to pray for more labourers for the harvest field. First of all, the Lord is talking about me, and second of all and even more unnervingly that makes me an answer to prayer."

In the card I gave Jacqui as she was commissioned as our newest Diocesan Reader on Wednesday night I wrote of the delight and pride of the parish at the start of her new labouring ministry – I hope that was alright, by the way! But Jacqui is the fourth you have prayed up in my time: where would we (and Primacy and Sydenham) be without Sandra Griffiths, Denise Wilson and Paula McIlwaine and if you're thinking 'what, no men?' – please make that your prayer for the next one!



My fear when people get drawn a bit closer to labouring in the harvest field is that they see the worst as well as the best and it puts them off. But my hope, again, is that your prayer will carry them over the disappointment of that, so thank you and thank God, it seems to be working so far: Sam Johnston was the first youth worker appointed here in my time and you know what happened to him, he's now Rector of St Mary's Comber. Jade Irwin and Laura Jeffrey are both still in Christian ministry – Laura will be ordained next year. This August, Billy Fyffe leaves the YMCA to join the Lecale Area Mission Partnership, those 14 churches around Downpatrick.

Yet it's always a question of who's next? The serious answer to that question is: God knows, but it could be you. If our parish in our postcode ever stops actively expecting and encouraging new vocations to one or other of the Lord's labouring ministries, we may shut-up shop. Praying for those vocations isn't just obedience to the Lord's command, it's our ongoing spiritual responsibility." **SED**



Love Ballyholme is a small group of local volunteers of which I am the chairperson. This group aims to “Bring residents, churches, schools and businesses together”. We ran our first Sandcastle Competition for families on Saturday 11th June 2022 on Ballyholme beach. 47 families from the local community pre-booked on the Love Ballyholme Facebook page and arrived with plastic buckets and spades. Building began at 11.30am and judging at 12.15am. Every family got a prize with one overall winner. The standard was amazing, there was a great atmosphere with lots of good-natured banter. We hope this will become an annual event like our Christmas Lights Switch on in Ballyholme village and our Easter Family Fun Day on the church lawn.

Rev Jan Stevenson Community Pastor in Ballyholme Parish





Jan Stevenson, Don Todd, Billy Davidson and myself have been facilitating the Alpha course this year. At our initial leader meeting we prayed that God would equip us for the role and that He would provide us with participants. Oh boy, did He deliver! Our group are so engaged, encouraging and supportive that it really is difficult to think of a better bunch!

Each Wednesday evening we begin with a meal. This time together allows us to chat, catch up and bond a little more week on week. We have had some delicious suppers, and the final one in June was a pot luck supper where we each brought something and hoped for the best. An amazing feast was the result and we were all well fed with enough to take home for lunch the next day.

After our supper we watch the weekly Alpha study. For anyone who perhaps has completed Alpha in the past, the videos have been completely revamped, without losing any of the original teaching and message. Some of the discussions we have completed so far are 'Who is Jesus?' and 'How and why do we pray?' The discussions can challenge our thinking but, at times, have also spoken to us and reassured us that we're on the right path. We make sure we finish promptly at 9pm and every week without fail at least one person in the group voices that we could talk all night – and we really could!



We resume our studies in September with a weekend workshop looking at the Holy Spirit and knowing Jesus on a personal level. I hope I speak for the rest of the group when I say how much we are looking forward to meeting again. The fellowship and fun we have shared has been very special and the whole experience was summed up so well by one of our participants who simply said, "This has been one of the most worthwhile things I have ever done."

Michelle Savage





Every time we put a reminder in the magazine, another clutch of you who give regularly to our parish by Standing Order make the big switch. If you're only hearing about this, as part of moving our business to Danske Bank, we need you to stop your payments to our Bank of Ireland accounts and set up new ones with Danske. Many of you are also increasing the amount you give, which is nudging our electronic giving ever closer to our target of covering our monthly payroll. Thank you everyone, especially given all our current Cost of Living worries.

If you have yet to make your big switch, the sooner you can do so the better for us. Incidentally, 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. This should be no more than a 5 minute job, so thank you in advance for taking the time and responding so generously to our 'Though He was rich' appeal. The new account details are as follows:-

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

The Lady on the Train

I was on a train journey home from visiting my friends in Belfast a few weeks ago. The train was very crowded as there was a large concert that night so there weren't very many seats. When I finally sat down, I looked to my left and noticed an older woman sitting on the same row as me, across the aisle. She was covering her ears and had her head down. I imagine this was because it was so busy and noisy and people were singing. She looked really anxious so I asked her if she was okay. I would like someone to do the same for me if I was in that position. The lady told me that she felt scared and uncomfortable so I offered to give her my headphones so she could listen to music which might drown out the noise, but she didn't have the same phone as me so the headphones wouldn't work. I decided to lend her my phone to use, signed in to Spotify and told her she could pick any songs she liked.

Immediately she searched for "hymns" and started listening and straight away I just knew that God had wanted me to help this woman! I stayed with her until the train became quieter as people started getting off at each stop. She thanked me and was so grateful and even offered me money, but I could not take it, knowing that I had made her feel better was reward enough.

By Zoe McCullough (Age 15)



Summer Greetings to all members & friends.

You may remember reading about the large MU event happening in Belfast this September! Well I applied and received 12 tickets for the Special Service in St Anne's Cathedral Belfast at 7pm on Friday 23rd September. I have a couple of tickets left, ring me if you would like to go, it's a free event.

Then the next day, Saturday 24th September, there is an event in The Waterfront Hall which Ruth, Janice and I are hoping to attend. If anyone else wishes to attend they too can purchase a ticket from the box office at the Waterfront.

Just a few dates for your Autumn Diary:

First meeting will be on **Monday 3rd October** at 730pm in the Parish Centre.

Everyone is very welcome, let's invite a friend or neighbour along to share in our meet up if you can.

Still in October, we plan to have our Opening MU Service on the Evening of Sunday 16th October 2022 which is Harvest Sunday. How beautiful a setting for that special service, with the fruit and flower decorations still in place.

That's all for now.

Many Blessings Yvonne & the MU Team

Karen's retirement

Taking inspiration from the letters of Karen's name Christine Johnstone highlighted a few of the qualities we most admire about her:

K – kindness shown to each and every member of our church family

A – attention to detail, Friday lunches, receptions after funerals, lockdown gifts, everything was just perfect

R -radiant smile!

E – energy and enthusiasm for providing pastoral care for the more senior members of our church family

N – never to be forgotten!

Our Church Wardens Ann Browne and Peter Craig presented Karen with flowers and a gift as a token of appreciation on behalf of the church.

To conclude Simon led us in prayer using the words of Numbers chapter 6 verses 24 to 26 – *'The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.'*



Karen with some of the helpers at her last Monday Morning Coffee



The beautiful retirement cake at Karen's presentation on Sunday 26 June.



Karen along her colleagues Andrew, Paula and Kelly on her last day at work



Thanks to everyone who “bore the burden of the work and the heat of the day” (Matthew 20:12) turning up to tidy our church grounds and car park over two hot summer Mondays: 27 June and 18 July. In addition to a systematic weeding of our site all the way from the Groomsport Road up the hill to Grove Park, for the first time in a number of years we tackled the ivy and trees overgrowing the perimeter fence behind the Parish Centre. No fewer than four trailer loads went to the amenity site!

Following the retirement of Karen and the resignation of Kelly as our job-share

sextons, a post-holiday club deep-clean of the Parish Centre was required and we are so grateful to the parents and other volunteers who turned up to ensure all was “swept clean and put in order” (Matthew 12:43). The young people had made a good first pass on the job when Xcess finished on Friday night, but it needed the cold light of day and a team of experienced eyes to fulfil all righteousness before the start of the new season!



New Parish Website

By the time you are reading this, we hope to be on the cusp of launching our new-look, streamlined parish website, incorporating our recently completed parish graphics rebrand.

Expect more details in the November/December edition of *The Parishioner* but, in the meantime, keep checking online and listen out for the announcements in Church.

The Wednesday Club

The Wednesday club will start back on Wednesday 7th September 2022 at 2.00pm.

We are looking forward to meeting up again when we hope some more new people will join our merry band.

Sue



FUNERALS

June

28th: Irene Herron, late of Ambleside Drive

July

30th: Dorothy Nickell, late of Woodland Avenue

August

10th: William Edward Lown, late of Sunningdale Park

16th: Harriet Smyth, late of Oakmont Care Home



June - Killard Point and Strangford Village

Killard Point is a Nature Reserve, managed by DEARA, and is of such botanical and geological interest that it is an Area of Special Scientific Interest. From the car park at Mill Quarter Bay, we walked along the beach, which was quite stony at times, as the original path along the top of the 'cliff' had fallen onto

the shore. Then we took the grassy track along the reserve.

It is noted for, among other things, its butterflies, moths and orchids. We did see lots of wild flowers but no orchids and an occasional butterfly. The view across the Strangford Narrows to Ballyquinton Point was beautiful but there was a brisk wind blowing so coats were necessary – in June!

The same breed of cows graze on the meadow every winter. They are not allowed to be given any supplementary feed as that might affect the chemical composition of their dung deposited on the meadow.



Peter who led the walk in Brian's absence, took us a little higher to see the remains of the Killard Point Radar Station. Killard Point was the location of a Radar station which was built in 1952 and it had two purposes:

- 1 To detect enemy aircraft during the Cold War; and
- 2 To support civil air traffic control.

At that time, National Air Traffic Control (NATS) was not able to detect trans-Atlantic aircraft flying at high altitudes. Killard Point ensured that these aircraft were

detected and separated as they entered, and left, NATS airspace. When the new NATS Radar station in Stornaway, Scotland opened in 1978, the Radar station at Killard Point was closed. The concrete buildings that survive were the plinths of the height-finding masts.

After lunch at the picnic table at the car layby (no waste bins!) we met again in Strangford Village where we had a conducted historical tour by Peter. We started opposite the Cuan Restaurant and learned that from 1811 it was a Spirit Grocers owned by the Sharvin family and in 1989 it was bought by the McErleans who opened the restaurant. We walked on to the back of the Ferry Terminal where we saw the Watch House, almost hidden by trees.



Up the hill then towards the Old Court Demesne originally built in 1844 by the 23rd Baron de Ros. From there we walked through the Squeeze Gut, a narrow passage used by the Old Court servants and the less well-off public so that the elite occupants of the Old Court wouldn't see them. In 1903 King Edward VII visited his friend the Baron de Ros here.

After the Gut we walked through the woods, obviously a little visited area of the village, to Dufferin Avenue which was the original entrance to the Baron's estate and in 1853 Lord Dufferin of Clondeboye planted the avenue as a wedding gift to the Baron's son Dudley and his new wife Elizabeth Egerton. It is now a pleasant public path. We walked along it (saw llamas in a nearby field), and back into the town. A visit to Strangford Castle, a 16th century Tower House near the Harbour ended the tour.



Thanks to Peter for leading and to Miriam and Eleanor for the photos



July - Port Path to Portstewart

Twelve of the walkers (nicknamed the Dirty Dozen!) arrived in Portrush and set off on the Port Path to Portstewart. We welcomed our new member, Claire Pach.

It was a windy north easterly which greeted us at the start but soon eased as we made our way round the numerous headlands on a good path which had varied underfoot conditions, including dust paths, grass tracks, and formal surfaced promenades. The gently undulating route is an integral section of the Causeway Coast Way and the Ulster follows a stretch of the very scenic coastline between the two towns. It includes several sets of steps and hugs the coastline. The magnificent offshore views and various features of interest are illustrated on interpretation panels along the route. We saw across the entrance to Lough Foyle as well as the Inishowen and Fanad peninsulas. There was an abundance of wild roses and as someone remarked, beautiful grasses as well as numerous wild flowers.



One panel told a story of an aircraft practice range near Portstewart. The aircraft flew at low altitude from Limavady and dropped dummy bombs on a target out to sea, usually a pontoon or marker buoy. The previously hidden large concrete arrow used by bomber crews as a training target indicator is visible once again near Rinagree. Over the years the arrow had become overgrown and had faded from public view. Now, it is a popular point of interest at the edge of Portstewart Old Golf Course.

After a couple of hours, we reached Portstewart and headed for Morellis where we had a lovely lunch (to be recommended), followed for some by the famous ice cream.

Thanks to Brian for arranging an accurate timetable and leading.

Betty Armstrong

August - The Eagle's Rock and Randalstown

On a fine August morning, 15 Columbanus walkers set off to Moydamlaght Forest, near Moneyneaney, to climb the two mile trail to the Eagle's Rock, an outcrop on the side of Mullaghmore, the name of which, in Irish translates as "Falcon's Rock".

Some of us took a cross-country "scenic" route to the forest and arrived some time after the main party had started the walk. The wide track had some sections that were rather steep, and members made their way at their own pace.

Everyone who wanted to, reached the top of the trail. As we emerged from the treeline, we were rewarded with spectacular views of the Sperrins and local valleys. Maurice (who spent many years ensuring that microwave TV signals could be transmitted across the mountains and hills of Northern Ireland) was able to identify the Divis transmitter.

After lunch, two of the group left for another commitment. The rest travelled to



Randalstown and met up with four members who had not been on the earlier walk. After, the group, now 17 strong, took over the Truffles Cafe for refreshments, Peter led a tour of the town. He explained that, earlier in the week, Britain in Bloom judges had visited Randalstown which was competing with five other small towns in Great Britain.

From the 1650s the town was known as Iron Mills and later renamed Randalstown to mark the marriage of Randal MacDonnell 1st Marquis of Antrim to Rose O'Neill of Shane's Castle. The town has a strong history of linen and iron industries and a memorial to this history is the original turbine used to generate mains electricity for

the town, and items salvaged from the Old Bleach Linen Company displayed in the middle of the town. An old linen mill chimney from the Old Bleach factory beside the River Maine can be seen from most parts of the town.

Randalstown used to have a railway station which was closed in 1950 and the imposing seven piered viaduct was built in 1855 to carry the railway line over the river on the line to Cookstown.

As we walked around the town we admired the dozens of floral displays, on the street and in almost every house and shop.

The highlight of the tour was the new garden on the railway viaduct. This had been constructed this year with the only Millennium award for a community garden given in Northern Ireland. The garden has arches which reflect the shape of the trains which used to cross the viaduct and planted with perennials which attract insects and butterflies.

Peter



YOUTH-news

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Youth Report August 2022

Writing this near the end of summer, it's hard to believe that so much has already happened! It's been a crazy summer, but it's been wonderful having a 'normal' youth ministry summer again.

It all kicked off with Summer Madness, which was held at the new venue of Portglenone Monastery this year; we were joined by Pete Greig and Hannah Heather of 24-7 Prayer, who shared

with us on the theme of prayer (very fitting). All five of our young people this year were new to Summer Madness, and all had an absolutely fantastic time! There were many laughs, many pranks and many moments where we encountered God. Every day ended with our "highlight, lowlight and God-light", and these were really lovely times of sharing with each other about our days. We're super excited to go back, and hope to have a few more along with us!



Moving on from Summer Madness, we of course had summer Jumpin'. This was a brilliant week, with about 100 children enjoying our programme and 20 or so young leaders facilitating it. Speaking specifically about the youth, Paula and I were blown away by the enthusiasm and talents on display from our young leaders! We wanted to give them as many opportunities as possible this year to do something new or to step out of their comfort zone, and they certainly did that. It's an exciting time ahead for Ballyholme youth, with so many gifted leaders now getting to that age where they can lead these sorts of things.

Finally, we had our youth week programme, X-Cess. This was a bittersweet one given that it was Ben Cavan's last outing as a leader for Ballyhome youth, but it was certainly a great send-off for him. With trips to We Are Vertigo, Newcastle, Prison Island, then evening talks from Tim Burns, Ben McMechan and Ben Cavan (of course), it was an action-packed week where the young people got to foster friendships, make some memories and progress in their faith.



We're looking forward to getting into our September programme, and although Ben will be gone, we have many more ready to step up and take his place!

Andrew



SEPTEMBER 2022**Sunday 4th September Trinity 12**

8.30 Holy Communion
 10.00 Cafe Church - Parish Centre or outdoors weather permitting
 11.30 Morning Prayer

Wednesday 7th September

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 11th September Trinity 13

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

Wednesday 14th September

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 18th September Trinity 14

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

Wednesday 21st September

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 25th September Trinity 15

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

Wednesday 28th September

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

September 2022

4th Tracey Andreasson

11th Ruth Lynas

18th Anna Lemon

25th Patricia Stubbings

October 2022

2nd Pat Shannon

9th Muriel Ryan

16th Harvest

23rd Christine Johnstone

30th Libby Beech

**OCTOBER 2022****Sunday 2nd October Trinity 16**

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

Wednesday 5th October

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 9th October Trinity 17

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

Wednesday 12th October

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 16th October Harvest Trinity 18

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

Wednesday 19th October

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 23rd October Fifth Sunday before Advent

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

Wednesday 26th October

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 30th October Fourth Sunday before Advent

8.30 Holy Communion
 10.00 Wholeness and Healing
 11.30 Wholeness and Healing

Decorating the Church for Harvest

Help is needed to decorate the church for Harvest Sunday. Any donations of flowers or greenery would be very welcome, but most of all we need willing hands. If you are free at 10.00 am on Saturday 15th it would be great to see you. Thank you!