

St Columbanus

Ballyholme



New Staff members

Kelly's New Job

Leprosy Mission

Monday coffee & scones relaunch



..On the way
together..

The Parishioner

January / February 2023

“I must get back to Church” are words I’ve heard a lot lately and it’s such a joy to see familiar faces returning every Sunday. One of my earliest Ballyholme encounters was with someone who told me, without a shred of embarrassment, that she valued Church for life’s emergencies and disasters. It was an attitude I encountered repeatedly over my first few years and, aside from relegating the Saviour of the world to a 999 role, it lays bare a western parody of Church and faith which perhaps the global pandemic has finally laid to rest. I’m optimistic that folk reconnecting with Church now, and those connecting for the first time, are embracing not so much Jesus the ‘first-responder’ as Christ the firstborn from the dead (Colossians 1:18). The former is the Lord on our terms; the latter is God on His. First the Covid crisis, now the war in Ukraine and economic meltdown: of course, Church is glad to be here for when things get the better of people. So long as we’re clear at the start of this new year: any help we offer is an expression of God’s longing to gather all of us back to Himself.



SED

Register of Vestry Members and Easter Vestry 2023

In accordance with Chapter 3 of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland and Regulation 7 of the Down and Dromore Diocesan Regulations, the Register of Vestry Members for Ballyholme Parish is open for review and available for inspection in the Parish Office from Thursday 19th January 2023.

Our Select Vestry will meet to conduct the formal review at 7.45 pm on Thursday 16th February 2023 in the Parish Centre (Kajiado Room). All those seeking registration are entitled to appear at the meeting to support any claim.

To add your name to the Register, Forms of Declaration for both Resident and Accustomed (non-resident) members of the congregation must be submitted before the opening of the 16th February meeting. Forms are available either from the Churchwardens on the relevant Sundays or the Parish Office on weekday mornings.

The Easter Vestry meeting will take place on Sunday 26 March 2023. More details on this will be published in the next magazine.



Annual Vestry Meeting



World Day of Prayer

Friday 3rd March 2023

The 2023 World Day of Prayer service will be held in Groomsport Presbyterian Church.

The service will commence at 11.00am. Tea and coffee will be served before the service from 10.00am.

The World Day of Prayer Coffee Morning will be held at Groomsport Presbyterian Church on Saturday 11th February 2023 from 10.30am to 12noon.

Please come along and support both these events if possible.

Parishioner Cost/Envelope

As you know, The Parishioner comes to you free of charge. To help with our overheads we enclose an envelope once a year by which we hope you can make a contribution towards our running costs.

Although the gifts are anonymous and unrecorded we are allowed to aggregate them for Gift Aid purposes. If all of our recipients gave £5 we would certainly cover ourselves, but please bear in mind that less than 25% usually make a gift.

A quarter of you are paying for the other three-quarters, give or take! Please return your envelope by the collection plate on Sunday and do bear in mind that the full text of the magazine is now available on the parish website.

If this is the format that best suits you why not consider cancelling your paper copy and you won't have to worry about the envelope at all. What a difference it would make if everyone that read The Parishioner made a contribution towards it!

PRAYING THIS YEAR
BRINGS YOU A
Fresh Start



The November issue felt far too early to bring you Christmas greetings, so I opted instead this time for a

New Year Blessing!

Thank you for your fellowship in Christ throughout 2022 and for your continued commitment to the worship and witness of Ballyholme Parish... SED

Lord grow something new in all of us in 2023. By your Spirit bring forth green shoots from your people: stretch our service, enrich our care and deepen our understanding of your love for all of creation, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



What if the wilderness is more than a detour
in a travel agent's itinerary?

What if the wilderness is a can't-miss destination
on the journey of your life?

Introducing the 2023 Lent Course –

'A way through the Wilderness'

Our 6 week Bible adventure begins on Tuesday 21 February:
10.30am in Kajiado and 7.30pm in Church

Please join us for 60 minutes of discussion and eavesdropping
on 6 dramatic wilderness encounters.





Following on from our last successful Alpha Course we would like to invite you to join the next Alpha Course. The Launch Party is on Monday 23rd January at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. This is an opportunity to come and see what the Alpha Course is all about and if you like what you see come back the following Monday 7.30-9pm for a 12-week course.

Here is what some of the people on the last Alpha Course thought of it:

“Just brilliant”

“Alpha was an excellent course which allowed us to explore Christianity, ask questions and encourage each other in our journey of faith”

“It’s difficult to package the experience in words without the reality of feeling the warmth of the group”

“Great conversations about a great topic with great people, great leaders, great tea and buns, so altogether great fun!”

Rev Jan Stevenson

Christmas at Holme 2022

Christmas at Holme returned with a Living Advent calendar. Starting on 1st December a different window was revealed in Ballyholme each day. The children at Café Church decorated the window in our church vestry and it was lit up on 10th December. We posted a map of all the windows on the Love Ballyholme Facebook page for people to follow the trail and enjoy the creativity.

Santa, Pete Snodden and school choirs from Ballyholme PS and St Columbanus College meant the annual Christmas Tree Lights Switch On was bigger and better this year. Here are photos of the committee putting the Christmas baubles on strings. They were decorated again this year by every pupil in Ballyholme PS. They are then displayed in the windows of our local businesses for the whole community to enjoy.

We were delighted to partner with Ballyholme Primary School and promote an intergenerational coffee morning on Monday 19th December. The P7s served light refreshments and provided entertainment on what proved to be a lovely morning.

Rev Jan Stevenson





The observant among you will have noticed that over the last few months, three faces have been appearing rather more often and regularly about our parish premises. Our prayers, since the retirement of Karen Baker at the end of June and the departure of Kelly McCullough at the end of July, have largely been answered. As you will remember, aside from their roles as Pastoral Assistant to the Seniors and Parish Administrator, Karen and Kelly had been making up their hours as our Sextons since the retirement of Ann Browne.

Catherine Darragh

Our most urgent need was for someone to assume the caretaking duties in church and having stood in at various points and provided holiday cover in the past, Catherine Darragh took over as our new church house-keeper on 1 August. Formerly living in Brooklyn Avenue and now in Bryansglen Park, Catherine and her husband Roy (with their children Emma and John) are long-standing members of St Columbanus and the Vestry has appointed Catherine for 3 hours a week in addition to funerals and weddings. In her 'day job' Catherine is a reflexologist.

Trudi McBurney

At the beginning of October, we were hugely relieved when Trudi McBurney agreed to take on responsibility for the Parish Centre. Trudi will be working a 12 hour flexible week, sometimes coming in first thing, sometimes after everyone has left the building for the day. Trudi was Baptised and Confirmed at St Columbanus in 2016 and switches between 8.30 on Sundays and Wednesday mornings. Until becoming Carer for her Mum Liz, Trudi worked as an Artisan Baker and they live in Chippendale Vale.

Heather McKee

On 1st November, Heather McKee began in the church office as our new Parish Administrator. One of our youth volunteers since 2019, Heather is 23 years old and lives with her Mum and Dad on the Old Belfast Road. Until recently, Heather and her family belonged to Bangor Elim Church at Balloo. Heather comes to us with a wide range of IT skills and three years' experience as a church office intern at Bangor Elim where she also worked part-time in the café. Heather spent her first few weeks working closely with our Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer. For the next few years, Heather will be working her 24 hours on Monday through to Thursday but a rota of volunteers is now in place to ensure the office continues to be staffed on Friday mornings. If you are available to help in this way once every couple of months, please get in touch with Heather.

Thank you and keep praying!

Since our staff changes last summer, so many of you have helped in one way or another to plug the gaps in our ministry team – we really couldn't have done it without you. The list of stand-ins is too long to mention here, but co-ordinating much of it, and always ready to fill last-minute slots herself, has been the ever-willing Christine Johnston our Honorary Secretary. A considerable number of extra hours have also been put in by Liz Grant, our Honorary Treasurer. Please continue to pray for the right person to head up our seniors ministry. Life in the Parish Centre has been far too quiet lately – especially on Friday lunch day!

Hope you like our photograph with our very jaunty aprons?

It was the topic from our November meeting - Aprons!! Two fantastic speakers, Olive and Hilary brought us on a journey about the history of Aprons. It was amusing, informative and thought-provoking too, I have included a poem, similar to the one they shared with us; hope you enjoy it too. It was a great night, well supported and a lovely supper, thanks girls!

Next month was our festive night on Monday 5th December at 7.30pm, with Sheelagh Mason as our speaker for some Christmas Sewing Fun along with another fantastic supper too.

In January our meeting is Dinner in Bangor Golf Club at 7.15pm for 7.30pm. If you did not complete your menu choice and pay at our December meeting please can you complete it and leave it in a named envelope, in the Parish Office, before the date.

Following on our next meeting will be Monday 6th February 2023 at 7.30pm in The Parish Centre.

Finally the best news of 2023 is that

MONDAY COFFEE IS BACK!!

From Monday 9th January, 10am to 11.30am, Coffee & Chat will resume.

Make a date in your diary and we look forward to meeting up!!

Remember

Coffee & Chat @ Holme

Many Blessings

Yvonne & MU Team.



GRANDMOTHER'S APRON

The principal use of Grandma's apron was to protect the dress underneath, but along with that, it served as a potholder for removing hot pans from the oven. It was wonderful for drying children's tears, and on occasion was even used for cleaning out dirty ears.

From the chicken coop, the apron was used for carrying eggs, fussy chicks and sometimes half-hatched eggs to be finished in the warming oven.

When company came, those aprons were ideal hiding places for shy kids.

And when the weather was cold, Grandma wrapped it around her arms.

Those big old aprons wiped many a perspiring brow, bent over the hot wood-stove.

Chips and kindling wood were brought into the kitchen in that apron. From the garden, it carried all sorts of vegetables; after the peas had been shelled, it carried out the hulls. In the Fall, the apron was used to bring in apples that had fallen from the trees.

When unexpected company drove up the road, it was surprising how much furniture that old apron could dust in a matter of seconds.

When dinner was ready, Grandma walked out onto the porch, waved her apron and the men knew it was time to come in from the fields to dinner.

It will be a long time before someone invents something that will replace that 'old-time apron' that served so many worth-while purposes.

Remember:

Grandma used to set her hot baked apple pies on the window sill to cool. Her granddaughters set theirs on the window sill to thaw.

They would go crazy now trying to figure out how many germs were on that apron.

I don't think I ever caught anything from an apron --- except love.

Author Unknown



As the new parish administrator I would like to thank everyone I have met so far for the lovely warm welcome I have received. For those of you I haven't met, I look forward to being in contact with you in the new year as I put together a new database for the church to help us further connect with you. In the new year I hope to speak to all of you in regards to knowing how best we can serve you and your family as we know, this year has been very difficult for a lot of people. As the cost of living crisis takes hold of us all, we are increasingly encouraged by the support you have shown to the parish over the last year, especially involving our ongoing issues with the 'Bank of Ireland'. We appreciate all you have given and continue to give during this difficult time. If you give to the church by a standing order and have not yet switched it to our new 'Danske' account, I would encourage you to do so. If this is something that you need help with please do not hesitate to call or email me in the office and I will do my best to help.

Again I would just like to thank you so much for the welcome and support I have already received and hope that I may be able to return the favour with any help that you and your family may need during these hard times. Call or email into the office and I will do my best to support you.

Heather



Best News!

**Monday Coffee is back.
Begins 9th January 2023
10am to 11.30.
Join us & bring a friend.**

Remember -Coffee@ Holme

Come along on Monday mornings from the 9th January to meet up with friends and have a cuppa and scone.

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**



A cheque for £400.00 given to Joanne Boal from Cancer Focus NI. Thank you for your help in raising this money at our Book Swap in September 2022.



Did you know that our church has Home Groups that meet every two or three weeks in the homes of our parishioners or in the Parish Centre?

Recently all the Home Groups gathered in the Parish Centre to discuss the benefits of being part of a Home Group and to share encouraging experiences...over tea, coffee and buns, of course!

Those attending spoke about the sense of community and belonging that being in a Home Group brings to their lives. We also talked about how groups provide an opportunity to delve deeper into the Bible and into our faith and to learn from each other. Each group recounted the benefit of having a confidential “safe space” to ask questions, support each other and to pray into situations; and indeed, to witness that prayer works!

During the evening, Simon explained that gathering in groups has always been a feature of Christian life.

In the days following the Day of Pentecost when 3000 people became believers, what happened next? Acts 2:46 tells us *“Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts.”*

Either they organised themselves into house fellowships or the apostles sorted them out that way. One or other, the natural, organic next step for those new Christians was Home Groups – they continued to meet in the temple as a priority, but in one another’s homes as well.

Similarly, today where discipleship starts for all of us is preaching and teaching in Church on Sunday mornings. Hopefully every sermon you hear will help instruct, inform, inspire and direct your Christian lives practically and motivationally in the way that Jesus himself preached and taught. Alongside Sunday mornings however, next in line is weekday Home Group Bible fellowship.

Now every church will have those whose season of life stops them from joining a Home Group. Maybe it’s raising a young family, demands at work, or frailty and mobility problems. But at the heart of every church there must be community. Home Groups are and always have been essential to the development of that community life. In their informality, their flexibility and their intimacy they are a critical part of the backbone of the life of every New Testament church.

It’s the difference between having an assembly of individual Christians, and the creation of a family of disciples of Christ with a growing knowledge of the Bible and a growing relationship with God.

After reading this you might ask, *“But what actually happens in a Home Group and is it for me?”*

Each group is slightly different in its approach, tailoring what is studied to suit its members



Home Groups: their essential spiritual place in parish life Cont.d



and their needs. All groups study the Bible - this might be a study on a specific book of the Bible, or a person or theme. There is discussion about what we can learn from the passages studied and how we can apply this learning to our daily lives – it's a great opportunity to share and learn from each other. We also pray for each other and for others. Finally, I shouldn't forget to mention the hospitality – tea and coffee are a feature of each meeting!

Personally, I have been part of my homegroup for over 11 years and I have found that it has made me feel a greater sense of belonging to our church, it has helped me grow in faith and has brought people into my life who have cheered me on through life's highs and supported me through its lows. It is also really good fun!

If you're interested in joining a Home Group or just want to find out more, please contact the Parish Office.

Caroline Gillan



Storehouse North
Down
12 Balloo Ave.
Bangor
BT19 7QT

Storehouse North Down wish to thank all of the Churches for the tremendous support they have given us not only through your harvest appeal but throughout the year.

This support has been much appreciated and enables us to help those in need. From February until the end of August 2022 we have given out 788 hampers helping over 2000 people.

Such is the need. We expect to see the need increase due to the present economic situation.

We are also helping refugee families as well as the International Meeting Point in Belfast and homeless charities.

Thank you once again for your support and we ask you to pass on our thanks to your congregation.

God bless.

Margaret Bailie

Chairperson

Storehouse North Down



When I left Ballyholme Parish at the end of July, I reckon I knew almost all there was to know about how our Church operated, having completed 10 yearly cycles as Administrator and 2 years as Co-Sexton.

Then, on the 1st August, my world got a whole lot bigger and I'm not just referring to the backdrop of a busy city street compared to a seaside village! The commute is longer (thankfully I have always loved train travel), the staff team and the offices are larger and I now assist with the administration and finance of all 111 Churches within the Diocese. Thankfully, so far, they don't all need help at once!

From the first day, I felt very welcome at Church House. It was comforting having previously met a few folk, including Bishop David and already having a successful and long working relationship with Roy Lawther who has become my line manager and has

helped me with the transition. Roy has been so encouraging and has brought me along to meetings around the Diocese to enhance my visibility within Down and Dromore; his guidance and patience while I learn has been a real blessing!

Knowing how a Church and its ministry is structured has definitely helped me to "hit the ground running", there's a lot of terminology and processes that are familiar and it is fascinating to see first-hand how the Diocese effectively manages so many different parish networks. I am quickly learning how to facilitate and support individual Churches, their staff and lay members.

I do miss Ballyholme Parish, the office, Staff Team and of course the lovely parishioners coming and going, I get my fix on a Sunday morning and at the house group I co-lead with Paula Lown and I cherish my time with Karen Baker the odd evening here and there.

Luckily, I feel settled at Church House and there are many things I'm looking forward to working on and achieving in my new role...tackling the mammoth Triennial process in 2023, attending Diocesan Synod and the Clergy Conference and the top of the list is being a guest with Gareth at The See House (Bishop's residence) in early January!

I would like to sincerely thank everyone at Ballyholme for all the support, fun and teaching during my time there. 2012 was a turning point that changed everything, focused my heart and mind on The Lord and enriched my life in countless ways and I can safely say that the path He made for me has been a straight one!

God Bless,

Kelly McCullough

"In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight"

Proverbs 3:6



**Quiz
Night**

Quiz Night for Mission Disbursements

Join us on **Saturday 28th January 2023** at 7.15 pm for a 7.30 start for our quiz.

After the success of the quiz to raise funds for Ukraine we are hoping that it will be another good evening.

For decades, rectors of Ballyholme have looked forward to receiving a seasonal windfall of lovely cooking apples from the Hamilton Road Manse next door. Whether it was the age of the unpruned tree or the fact that it was in full leaf when the autumn winds whipped up, sadly our old friend is no more.

Admittedly, there was a bumper apple crop this year. When a couple of days later the fast-acting extremely helpful Reverend Ebbinghaus organised a man with a chainsaw, boxes and boxes of the finest Presbyterian Pippins were left out for passers-by on Ward Avenue to help themselves!

When strains of 'Jesus Christ the Apple Tree' wafted my way over the festive period, naturally it came to mind. There's a pitch-perfect rendition on YouTube by King's College Cambridge if you don't know the piece and can sit yourself down for 2 minutes 46 seconds. An eighteenth-century poem by an unknown New Englander, it begins:



*“The tree of life my soul hath seen,
Laden with fruit and always green;
The trees of nature fruitless be,
Compared with Christ
the Apple Tree.”*

It may be an allusion to both the apple tree in Song of Solomon 2:3 which has been interpreted as a metaphor representing Jesus, and to the Lord's description of the Kingdom of God in Luke 13:18–19.

No doubt the poet borrowed from the festive Old English custom of wassailing where drinks of hot apple cider greeted Christmas guests and carollers who came to visit. In Western culture generally, the apple has come to signify forbidden fruit which is why it seems a jarring image for Christ our Saviour who came to undo the curse of our human race's first transgression in the Garden of Eden. Of course, while by the first tree, all fell; by the second tree the cross, all are made alive.

Apple trees don't last for ever, and that's the whole premise of the poem. “I grew it from a pip”, remembered the late great author and illustrator Raymond Briggs in Ethel & Ernest. The then thirty-something Raymond, who died last year aged 88, was leaving his parents' home for the last time after their deaths to see his apple tree still growing in the garden. Returning to visit the house years later, the tree was gone.

Not to labour the spiritual point, but we have two small apple trees at our house in the Mournes. My mother-in-law visited last July and being from Kent where so many of our supermarket apples are grown, she set about nipping off the smallest in each branch's group of three or four baby fruit. Having watched silently in horror, come harvest time John 15's pruning of the vine came quickly to mind: it was the best quality crop we'd ever had.





“Come away with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.”

Jesus made a habit of withdrawing from the crowds to the hills, a lonely place, the wilderness, a high mountain or the seashore. His invitation to his disciples ‘to come away with me’ during busy periods is offered to us too.

If you want to find a quiet space and get away from the busyness of day-to-day life, then we would love you to join us in church on Saturday 4th February 2023 at 10am.

The team that is planning the next overnight at Dromantine invites you to join them for a quiet morning which will include guided reflection on the theme of the loving gaze of Jesus.

There will be time for personal prayer. The morning will encourage a sense of Christ’s peace by offering scripture, poetry, music, song and prayer stations to focus on our theme. But please note the theme is just a starting point and you may be led or want to go in a different direction.

Opportunities for silence and stillness will be created.

The morning will run from 10 am until 12.30 pm and start with coffee

Sandra Griffiths on behalf of the committee

Follow the Star Christmas Appeal

We partnered with The Gathering, Street Soccer and Street Ministries in Bangor to provide 30 hampers for asylum seekers being accommodated in Bangor while their claim for asylum is being processed. These hampers will bring a lot of cheer to many who are separated from their loved ones this Christmas. A huge thank you to all who donated men’s toiletries and treats and to those who put together the hampers. Simon and I had the joy of giving them out at the end of a weekly soccer session on 14th December.

Rev Jan Stevenson



Often those affected by Leprosy are seen as the lowest of the low in their communities. They are cast aside abandoned and forgotten. However when you hold out an outstretched hand and say "I AM WILLING TO HELP" then YOU represent the hands and feet of Jesus today.

Despite COVID last year there were still **140,594** cases of Leprosy diagnosed compared to **210,000** cases diagnosed in the year before COVID.

Through the Leprosy Missions those affected by Leprosy are FOUND, CURED AND SUPPORTED through all the stages of their journey.

To give an idea of the Global Triumphs the Leprosy Missions had in 2021 there were:-

- * **40,894** TRAINING DAYS OF TLM STAFF, OTHER NGOS AND GOVERNMENT HEALTH STAFF;
- * **626** RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERIES AND **1,236** PROSTHETIC DEVICES HELPING TO REINSTATE STOLEN INDEPENDENCE AND FREEDOM;
- * **21,702** PEOPLE RECEIVED INCOME SUPPORT, SUPPORTING THOSE IN NEED STRUGGLING FINANCIALLY;
- * **2,830** CHILDREN'S SCHOOL FEES WERE COVERED HELPING TO PROVIDE HOPE AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

These are just a few examples of the Work and Help done by the Leprosy Missions in helping our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ in places such as:-

- * Purulia Hospital in India where over **10,000** consultations were carried out;
- * Ethiopia. Refuge and security was provided for those seeking treatment during unrest;
- * Nigeria. The setting up of Youth Training workshops to spread Leprosy awareness and awareness around good hygiene to prevent diseases.

By continuing to support the Leprosy Mission in Northern Ireland we are helping to pave the way to a LEPROSY FREE WORLD for future generations.

These Global Triumphs are only possible because of our compassion with others across the world.

BUT! We are only scratching the surface of what can be enabled. It can be easy to be swept away with these numbers and think they are fantastic. AND THEY ARE! But they represent individuals affected by Leprosy who have been shown love, care and have had their lives transformed.

Step back and see the difference being made by supporting The Leprosy Mission NI.

WE MUST MAKE LEPROSY A DISEASE OF THE PAST!!!

Thank You.

Trevor Smyth

Parish TLMNI Representative

The Wednesday Club

The Wednesday club met up at the beginning of November to listen to a talk given by Ronnie McClements on Irish Showbands.

His talk was extremely interesting and revived old memories of our dancing days, especially as he had brought some music with him.

It was good to welcome our new member, Sylvia, who joined us for the first time. We all had a good chat over our cup of tea and cake, and the draw this month was won by Doris Girvan.

See you next month

Sue



November - The Walkers on the Coastal Path

On Saturday 5 November 19 intrepid St Columbanus walkers were not put off by a wet start to the day and travelled by train to Seahill to commence our walk to Holywood. Our train was rather full as our friends from Ballycrochan Walking group were heading to Holywood to walk back to Bangor! We



passed them later along the coastal path. And the Groomsport Walking for Softies group were also on the train going to Titanic.

Leaving Seahill we headed down Rockport glen to the shore passing through beautiful autumn scenes. Once at the shore we turned left for Holywood along the coastal path, very wet and muddy from the recent heavy rains. The views were spectacular as always but it was quite chilly and we had an unscheduled coffee break at Royal North of Ireland Yacht club who kindly took pity on a group of chilled walkers!

Afterwards we continued on to Holywood, some of our party going for lunch and others returning directly to Bangor on the train. A very enjoyable morning was had by all!

Betty Armstrong

December - The Orlock Loop

The last walk of the year in early December was a short one as we were having our annual Christmas Lunch on the same day. Twenty-two gathered at the Harbour car park in Groomsport to walk the Orlock Loop led by Peter who also told us about the new initiative called Discover Groomsport which aims to celebrate and promote the advancement of the rich history and heritage of the village.

We welcomed new members Rosemary and Nelson (who also belong to the Ballycrochan presbyterian church walkers) and Gwen.

The route took the group along the coast to the steps and path to Coastguard Lane. It is worth mentioning that despite the 'Private' notice at the Coastguard Lane end, this is not private property as Peter checked with the National Trust and it is in fact NT land. This was news to several of the group.



After the outing 27 gathered at Bangor Golf Club for an excellent Christmas Lunch at which we celebrated Peter's birthday.

The first walk of 2023 will be in the Newcastle / Dundrum area on 7th January.

We wish everyone a Happy and Peaceful Christmas.



YOUTH-news

youth [youth] (youths) news [nooz]

With the end of the calendar year in sight, it seems like a good time to reflect on everything that 2022 has brought us as the youth-team at Ballyholme Parish. It has been a great year, full of highs and lows (working with teenagers very much exposes one to the extremes of emotion) and through it all we've seen God's faithfulness to us.

The beginning of the year was a build-up to our YF weekend, where we returned to St John's Moira for a weekend of fun, games and fantastic Bible teaching. This was a huge highlight this year and there were many fond memories made and friendships developed there.

Skipping forward to Easter we ran a brilliant Easter Jumpin' programme – all thanks to Paula, Ross and Ben of course, whose experience and skill helped this to be one of the best ever, and a great set-up for Summer Jumpin'!

Before we got to Summer Jumpin', of course, we had Summer Madness. The sense of joy at finally being back to it post-covid was hard to put into words, and it was a delight bringing such a great group of young people to it. The teaching from the 24-7 Prayer team was superb, as was the worship, and it was endlessly encouraging to see our young people growing in their faith that week.

Summer Jumpin' and X-Cess came later in the summer, and building off the success of Easter Jumpin' we had something of a Jumpin'-revival, with parents itching to sign their children up and more arriving each day to join the programme. X-Cess, then, saw the end of the summer programme and the end of Ben Cavan's tenure at Ballyholme Parish; he made a massive impact for God's Kingdom in his time here and we know God will continue to use him at his new role in Ballycrochan Presbyterian.

Aside from all of the big landmarks in the programme, we've also had our usuals of Bible study, drop-in, praise band, Emerge and YF; and hearing the young people talk about the impact God has had in their lives, as well as just walking with them through their good and bad times, has been a massive privilege for the leaders and myself. It's also been a pleasure to officially welcome two new faces to the regular leadership team; Hannah and Heather have been, and no doubt will continue to be, a blessing to our young people.

We love that we get to do this, we love the young people and we love to show them a little of who God is. Here's praying for more of that in 2023.

Andrew



JANUARY 2023**Sunday 1st January Naming of Jesus**

8.30 Holy Communion
10.30 Cafe Church - Parish Centre

Wednesday 4th January

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 8th January Epiphany 1

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

Wednesday 11th January

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 15th January Epiphany 2

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

Wednesday 18th January

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 22nd January Epiphany 3

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

Wednesday 25th January

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 29th January Epiphany 4

8.30 Holy Communion
10.00 Wholeness and Healing & Children's Church
11.30 Wholeness and Healing

FEBRUARY 2023**Wednesday 1st February**

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 5th February**3rd Sunday before lent**

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

Wednesday 8th February

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 12th February**2nd Sunday before lent**

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

Wednesday 15th February

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 19th February**The Sunday next before lent**

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

Wednesday 22nd February

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 26th February Lent 1

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

FUNERALS**December**

5th: Robert Stranaghan, late of 16 Belgravia Crescent

6th: Jim Smyth, late of 84 Thornleigh Gardens

13th: Doreen McLean, late of 100 Ashbury Avenue

January 2023

1st Flower Fund

8th Susan Stockton

15th Jacqui Devlin

22nd Agnes Officer

29th Liz Foye

February 2023

5th Jean Law Taylor

12th Cathy Body

19th Ann McMurray and Marie McKee

26th Lillian Finch

