

St Columbanus

Ballyholme



Easter Events
Storehouse
Alpha Course Update
Stainer's Crucifixion



..On the way
together..

The Parishioner

March / April 2023

It's our honour to host Holy Week for the Ballyholme churches this year, so please make the most of it. With every passing Easter, the better I grasp what many older Christians mean when they talk about the frustration of living in time here and now, as against the freedom that will be ours come eternity. That tension is laid starkly bare in Holy Week. The Cross and its bitter prelude are confinement writ large. The stricture and agony that week brought for Jesus, echo in the heart-aches that bear down on all of us periodically. The Empty Tomb however, opens the way out of time to an altogether greater dimension. The first disciples knew this better than anyone. For those who walked with Jesus through death to resurrection, the words God has set eternity in our hearts from Ecclesiastes (3:11) suddenly made sense and seemed to propel them for the remainder of their remarkable earthly lives. This and every year, it's that same heavenly yearning that draws us to Christ, as His dying and rising again prove that 'now' is only a transit flight, a train journey, a preparation for all that is wonderfully still to come.



SED

Parking considerably on the Groomsport Road

A new 'NO PARKING' sign has helpfully appeared outside the former Northern Bank on the Groomsport Road. To everyone in our local area, this is a good reminder that these premises are now a home rather than a bank, and that the tarmac outside it is now a private driveway rather than a public car park. The sign will be a particular benefit to the guests who join us for services at St Columbanus from time to time, whether returning home on holiday, just passing through on Sundays or attending the funerals or weddings of family and friends – anyone, in fact, who does not see this magazine and, hitherto, has had



no sign or boundary marker to realise their mistake. Of course, regular parishioners are aware of the need to avoid being an obstruction or inconvenience. But our concern as a church is always to park considerately and not to test the patience of any of our neighbours, even if it is just for an hour or two every so often. Thank you for your continued co-operation and please do help raise awareness for anyone who doesn't realise the situation.

St Patrick's Day 2023

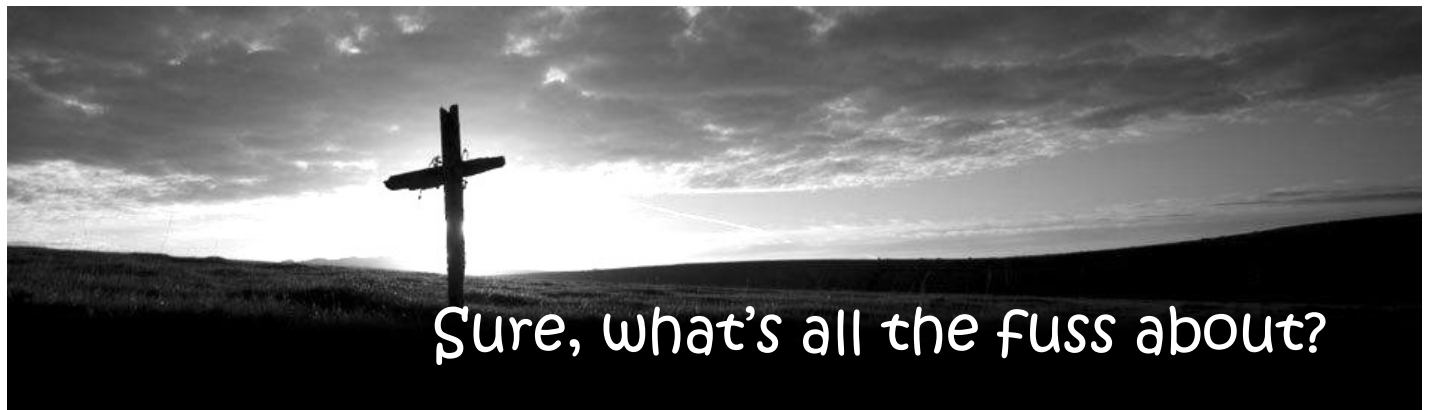
You are warmly invited to our Down and Dromore St Patrick's Day celebrations on Friday 17th March. The highlight is the Festival Service at Down Cathedral at 11.45am, although you are welcome to attend Holy Communion at Saul at 9.15am and to join the Prayer Pilgrimage to the Cathedral at 10.15am.

Our theme is 'Reconciliation', a topic familiar to Archbishop Laurent who has been at the forefront of helping many in Rwanda deal with the impact and aftermath of the 1994 genocide. The archbishop was himself a child refugee from the ethnic tensions that erupted into organised massacres in Rwanda in 1959. He fled to Burundi with his mother at the age of five and has written about his experiences in *From Barefoot to Bishop: A Rwandan Refugee's Journey*.

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

Holy Week for the Ballyholme Churches 2023

please be with us as we reflect on the 5 Gs of Holy Week



Monday to Friday each evening at 7.30pm
3 to 7 April at St Columbanus Ballyholme

Walking up from Shaftesbury Square to Botanic on a post-Easter break one year, a young man suddenly stopped us. He was brandishing what looked like a Geiger-counter and had positioned himself in front of a telecoms box. The closer he held his 'Geiger-counter' to the box, the louder it crackled. He was alerting people to the dangers of 5G.

Now at the time, 5G was surrounded by a swirl of conspiracy theories and misinformation, so we thanked the young man and kept on walking. Sure, what's all the fuss about? we said to ourselves and, as yet, there are no indications that it poses us any real danger, despite the graffiti we continue to see to the contrary.

But the concern of that young man for two random passers-by stayed with me. Probably because it was Easter-time, my mind turned to another young man 2000 years ago, whose primary concern was for other people, and whose life and death remain the subject of conspiracy theories and misinformation to this day.

So, turning to the Cross again this Holy Week, my question is: what's all the fuss about? Either it doesn't matter and never did, or, quite simply, it's the most momentous event in human history. Oh, and when I turned to the Gospels, lo and behold, five Gs were waiting for me: one for each evening: Galilee, Gethsemane, Gabbatha, Golgotha and the Garden.

Canon Simon Doogan



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.



muddy Church

Muddy Church has been focusing on families recently. Learning to value our families at home, our family in church and the Christian family across the world. I'm keen for the children to feel a sense of belonging to our church and the people they see Sunday by Sunday as I believe this will encourage their involvement over the years ahead. Numbers are good with new families still coming along.



BLAST have been enthusiastically engaging in the programme. They have shown an interest in the 'foreshadowing of Jesus' throughout the bible. To develop this, we have been creating a Jesse Tree, which studies stories throughout the bible, beginning with creation and thinking about how they point to Jesus. The questions they ask are amazing and it has been a delight to lead this group.

Tune Tots is remaining a regular part of the week for families, not all from Ballyholme Parish. It's lovely to watch the children grow in confidence, especially after they have taken their first steps!!

Crèche has formally restarted since Christmas with a group of very enthusiastic mums and dads on the rota. If you would like to be a part of this lovely group, please contact me and we can add

you (and your child/grandchild) to the list.

I am delighted that this has restarted, it lets families with young children know that they are welcomed and valued in Ballyholme.

Paula

Coming up!

Good Friday workshop – 7 April 10-12 noon (for all Muddys and Blasters)

Easter Jumpin' – 12-14 April

Summer Jumpin' – 14-18 August





On Sunday 22nd January 2023 at the 10am service we had the great pleasure of a visit from Linda from STOREHOUSE NORTH DOWN as our guest speaker. After Linda thanked us for the invite she began by asking the congregation “What do we understand to be the meaning of the word POVERTY!” Well the dictionary definition is “The state of being very poor, having scarcity and want”.

In the past Poverty was seen as happening just in Third World countries, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh etc. NOT NOW! It happens in the UK, it happens in Northern Ireland and it happens in North Down.

STOREHOUSE NORTH DOWN is in partnership with various charities. They connect with those in need and in cycles of POVERTY. They provide Food Packages for set periods of time which may be a few days to a few weeks but in some cases may well be up to 6 months! So therefore it is not necessarily just short term aid.

Linda explained it really is very easy to fall into NEED. It can be very cruel.

Linda explained that 100% of all groceries and money donated to STOREHOUSE go to families in need. All the staff from the chairperson down are volunteers, NO one is paid.

Over 50 churches across North Down from Holywood through Bangor to Donaghadee and down the Ards Peninsula support STOREHOUSE NORTH DOWN. Local Farmers provide fresh vegetables and even M&S donate groceries just reaching their Best Before date.

Every Bag (Asda plastic bags for example) is not only filled with groceries, cleaning products, toiletries etc but each will have a £10 Meat Voucher from local butchers purchased from monetary donations.

STOREHOUSE NORTH DOWN is busier than ever. Pre pandemic they were helping about 30 families every week. Now it is between 50-60 families. Nearly a 100% rise. An idea of what is provided to a single person would be between 4-6 bags but for a larger family it could be 12-16 bags or greater. The bags are collected and delivered by other volunteers, social workers etc.

Linda warmly thanked us for our weekly donation of groceries etc which were extremely well appreciated.

Linda finished and left the congregation with the following thought.

“ALTHOUGH WE ARE BUSIER THAN EVER WE MUST LOOK FORWARD TO THE DAY WHEN THERE WILL BE NO NEED FOR STOREHOUSE NORTH DOWN OR ANY FOOD BANK!”

We as a congregation MUST pray for that.

Trevor Smyth

STOREHOUSE NORTH DOWN PARISH CONTACT

WEDDING

December

21st - Dorothy Patricia Fawcett and William David Moore - Glendale Avenue, Bangor





What a great introductory evening we had; the Kajiado room was full. And even more people turned up the following week to do the 11 week course.

We now have 35 people in three separate groups for the discussion section. We start with coffee, some food and chat. Then we watch the updated Alpha videos together and afterwards break into the same small groups each week. In these groups we can start to get to know one another better and share the things that matter to us in the context of our faith journeys.

Rev Jan Stevenson & the Alpha team

Community Tree Planting in Brice Park

Love Ballyholme in partnership with the Ards and North Down Borough Council's Stand4Trees scheme are going to run a tree planting event in Brice Park (off the Donaghadee Road) on Saturday 11th March at 2.30pm. Please come, bring family and friends, plant a few trees and meet some new people. Planting is easy as the trees have bare roots, simply dig a small hole, put the native variety in the hole and stand on the soil round the sapling. Each tree planted is helping to green our urban environment. This is a family friendly event for all ages. The council will provide the trees, the equipment and the expertise. Dress warmly with sensible footwear.

Hope and I are pictured below at a similar event in Castle Park on Saturday 28th January.



As advertised last month, our annual General (Easter) Vestry takes place on Sunday 26 March in the Parish Centre over a church family lunch. We hope you can be there.

Written nominations will be gathered ahead of the meeting and we need 12 names. It is up to you to stand yourself or to propose someone else, and the basic commitment is one meeting a month. Nominations close on Sunday 19 March. Forms are available from the Churchwardens on Sundays, or the Parish Office on weekday mornings. We will take a digital photograph to use on the voting paper.

In addition to the reports, parish accounts and elections already on the agenda, 'any other notified business' should be brought to the Rector's attention the day before the meeting, at the latest. Across the Church of Ireland, 2023 is a "triennial" Vestry year, meaning that certain key parish positions filled once every three years fall vacant. Accordingly, we are seeking nominations for Diocesan Synod and Parochial Nominators (these will also close on Sunday 19 March).



Diocesan Synod Members

Once a year, the Bishop calls a Synod where representatives of all the parishes in Down and Dromore come together for a day of worship, discussion and encouragement. Effectively, this gathering is the AGM or Easter Vestry for the diocese. Time is spent on practical and accounting matters and motions are debated and passed or rejected. The overall aim is that the blessings of the previous twelve months are shared and celebrated. For the

last three years Ballyholme has been represented by (1) Trevor Smyth, (2) Stefan Andreasson, (3) Suzanne Beech and (4) Denise Wilson. Our junior synod member is Andrew Watson.

Parochial Nominators

In the event of the parish becoming vacant (through 'retirement, preferment or death in post!') the task of finding a new rector falls to four Parochial Nominators, elected from our own parishioners. The first stage is for a diocesan body called The Permanent Commission on Parochial Vacancies to establish that our parish remains viable and that it can pay for a rector and offer a rectory which meets the regulation Church of Ireland standard. After that,



the Nominators consult with the Bishop and an elected group of diocesan representatives known as the Board of Nomination. Together, they identify the particular needs of the parish, put a parish profile together and draw up a shortlist of candidates. The Nominators then meet the prospective clergy and bring the Board their recommendation. If called upon to act, it is a prayerful, time-consuming but fascinating responsibility so it's crucial that our team bring a range of outlooks and backgrounds and represent the whole sweep of the parish. Our four current Nominators are (1) Don Todd, (2) Rachel Brittain, (3) Roy Lawther and (4) Karen Baker.

Supplementalists

In addition, and just in case, 'supplementalist' Synod Members and Parochial Nominators are also required this year. These are people who only step forward should one of our Members or Nominators have to stand down during their three years in office. It is critical then, that we have a full list of nine 'subs' (Synod, Nominators and Junior) to ensure that Ballyholme is well served in every eventuality. Our current supplemental Synod members are (1) Leslie Adams, (2) Jim Shaw, (3) Margaret Magee and (4) Freda Woods and our junior is Ben Cavan. Our current supplemental Nominators are (1) Rory Wilson, (2) Jacqui Devlin, (3) Leslie Adams and (4) Caroline Gillan.

For further information speak to the Rector and please consider making yourself available for these important roles.

Quiet Morning in St Columbanus



Last year the ladies of Ballyholme and Christ Church Primacy (CCP), enjoyed a wonderful weekend of fun, food and fellowship at Dromantine Conference Centre. Everyone wanted to have another night away and so we have booked the same place for Saturday 21-22nd October 2023. Glynis Matchett will be our speaker. Please plan on joining us!

We decided to have a Quiet Morning to strengthen us in our faith, build friendships and encourage new ones! On

Saturday 4th February, Sandra Griffiths and the Committee led the women from the Ballyholme churches, and CCP, in a time of quiet reflection and prayer, based on the theme of Psalm 27:4, 'to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord'.

As we contemplated the passage in Luke 13:10-17, we heard how Jesus healed a crippled woman. We were reminded that Jesus also sees us and calls us to Himself. ***'When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her...'***



There was an opportunity to creatively respond to the passage through art and four prayer stations, created by Maura Mooney (CCP). The morning concluded with a Service of Holy Communion, led by the Rev Mercia Flanagan, a tangible reminder of His love for each one of us.

Thank you to the Committee for providing space and time to contemplate the beauty of the Lord.

Denise Wilson on behalf of the Rise committee

Keep Supporting These World Day of Prayer

Friday 3rd March 2023



The service for the World Day of Prayer will be taking place on Friday 3rd March 2023 in Groomsport Presbyterian Church.

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

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

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

Ruth Ruttle

Roberta Munnis

Representatives from St Columbanus, Ballyholme

Used Stamps Wanted

I would like to thank everyone who gave me stamps for the RNIB after Christmas, it is very much appreciated. Please continue to save your stamps, and they can be left into the Parish Office, where I will collect them. Any amount of stamps, large or small will be forwarded to help train guide dogs for visually impaired people.

Sue Bleakley

Easter at Holme

Remember the Easter Scavenger Hunt? Keep watching the Love Ballyholme Facebook page for details of this year's Easter activities.

EASTER AT HOLME

**FREE COMMUNITY
FAMILY FUN DAY**

Saturday 8 April 2.30pm - 4pm
Ballyholme Parish Church
68 Groomsport Rd

Free egg-rolling competition, Easter crafts,
bouncy castle.

Fun for all the family!

Don't forget to do the Easter Scavenger hunt and
collect your prize!



New Year Update For MU

Great news to report on Monday Coffee in the Parish Centre hosted by MU - it's become a very popular meet up in January, just look at a whole table of women and the photo of men on the frontpage. There has been a fantastic response, remember 10am to noon with new flavours of scone to enjoy each week.

Come alone or bring a friend each Monday during March and April except for Easter Monday (no half-term breaks).



Our December meeting was lots of fun, sewing star Christmas decorations while trying not to misplace the tiny little beads. Lots of chatting and laughing while we sewed.

Supper was non alcoholic mulled wine with mince pies, cakes, shortbread, sausage rolls etc.

Every member also received a hand knitted Christmas decoration with an assortment of sweets and mints inside to take home.

In January 2023 our meeting was dinner in Bangor Golf Club. A very enjoyable evening with good food and good company.

There was lots of socialising and catching up with people after the Christmas break. A general knowledge quiz was completed with the ladies at the winning table getting a small prize each. Everyone also got a small bag of sweets to take home.



Forthcoming Events

Mothers' Union invite you to **Spring Afternoon Tea** in the Parish Centre.

As well as the afternoon tea there will be some spring gifts on sale along with a ladies book swap.

Saturday **25th March** 2 pm - 4pm. Cost £10

Booking and tickets in advance from Parish Office, MU Committee members and Church on Sundays.

6th March - MU Meeting and light refreshments.

3rd April - MU members will be attending the Holy Week service in the Church. Light refreshments will be served after the service.

Many Blessings

Yvonne & MU Team.



AFTERNOON TEA

Sunday 2nd April, Palm Sunday will see our Holy Week services commence with a performance of John Stainer's "Crucifixion" in church. Last performed in March 2018, this time the combined forces of our own St Columbanus Church Choir and Ards Choral Society, will bring the beautiful words of this Victorian musical reflection for Passiontide to life once more.

It would be wonderful if you were able to come and sing with us each Wednesday evening from now till then, meeting new people and working together to make a joyful sound. Please come along from 6.45pm on Wednesdays.



Our performance will feature our own Patrick Crothers as Bass Soloist and Stanley Officer as Baritone soloist. We are delighted that the tenor soloist will feature Martin O'Hagan of "The Priests", who returns to our church again.

In February 1887, as part of a series of Lenten services, the choir of Marylebone Parish Church in London gave the first performance of this Passiontide cantata. Sir John Stainer, who was organist of St Paul's Cathedral was well versed in the music for Holy Week written by Bach, Handel and other notable composers, but he was keenly aware that there was little repertoire which was within the grasp of ordinary choirs to perform and in a musical language to which congregations could relate.

Stainer's composition comprises chorus elements, recitatives, arias and its hymns for congregational participation are a direct parallel to the Passion Chorales.

Further details about tickets will be notified through our Parish newsletter in the coming months and through the normal channels of the Church office and choir members.

Please do make a date in your diary for Sunday 2 April at 6.30pm to begin Holy Week with such a powerful and timeless message, "God so loved the world" .

Ian Bell



The Wednesday Club

We had a lovely afternoon for our Christmas meeting. We were joined by Simon and Jan, who entered into the spirit of things very willingly.

Our ladies had been asked to bring with them a photo of themselves from childhood, to see if the rest of us could guess who was who. This produced a lot of "do you think that is....." and "gosh I have no idea" it definitely encouraged a lot of conversations.

After we had all tucked into a scrumptious afternoon tea, we had a visit from Santa, who had brought a sack full of presents with him to give out to us all. We finished our afternoon with the singing of carols, which rounded off a great afternoon on a high note.

Our meeting at the beginning of February was well attended, and we welcomed Edith on her first visit. Our speaker was our own Catherine Darragh, who gave a short, interesting explanation of reflexology and its history, and then showed us how to massage our hands to experience the relaxing effect of the treatment. We then practised on our friend sitting beside us, which gave us a few laughs. To complete our relaxing meeting, we finished off as usual, with our very welcome cup of tea and buns.

The winner of our monthly draw was Margaret Magee.

The next meeting is on the 1st March at 2.00pm, so please feel free to join us.

Sue

Nurses, train drivers, teachers, university lecturers, fire-fighters, the list of public-sector employees desperate for more pay seems to grow by the week. Given the national clamour for a rise in line with the escalating cost of living, it's only right that I catch you up on a recent change in rates for clergy and church workers.

'Minimum Approved Stipend' is set centrally by the Church of Ireland General Synod. In order to cushion the effect of the global pandemic, an already overdue pay rise was postponed for a number of successive years. As of 1 January 2023, that cumulative rise of 9% has finally come into effect. As you know, when clergy pay rises in Ballyholme Parish, our other staff team salaries go up by the same percentage – except for our Youth and Children's Workers, who are paid according to the NICVA scale (the Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action).

Your response has been magnificent

'Though He was Rich' was our 2022 campaign to increase monthly Standing Order giving to the point where we completely cover our payroll. Your response has been magnificent, and with more and more families now returning to Church, thank God our income is slowly but steadily on the up. Yet the truth is, I didn't know that a 9% pay rise was coming – and certainly neither I nor the rest of the Staff Team was looking for it.

Thank you to everyone for honouring our respective ministries, in the venerable 1 Timothy 5 tradition of not muzzling the oxen as they tread out the grain (v.18). Confession time however. With income and outgoings thoughts suddenly flooding my head again, I closed our last Select Vestry meeting of 2022 in a passing moment of despair. I ended with the words: "just when you think you've got over the line, somebody moves the line!"

While those words reflected my concern there and then that more will be required of you this year than last, they were unworthy of God's faithfulness and your consistent and open-hearted generosity. For that: my apologies. All I can say, and I hope this isn't over-sharing, but as a matter of personal Christian duty, when my salary goes up, so does my giving. Proportional giving has its roots in the Old Testament idea of first fruits: giving back to the Lord the cream of what He gives to us.

Bible principle

Deuteronomy 26:10 puts it neatly: 'I give to the Lord the first part of the harvest that He has given to me.' Proverbs 3:9 makes the same point: 'Honour the Lord by making Him an offering of the best that your land produces.' It was a principle Jesus Himself endorsed in Matthew 23:23: 'Practise the really important teachings like justice, mercy and honesty without neglecting your tithes' (Matthew 23:23).

Likewise, the early Church followed Christ's lead. St Paul is unambiguous in 1 Corinthians 16:2: 'Each Sunday each of you must put aside some money, in proportion to what he has earned'. Basically, when our salary rises, our giving should too. People sometimes assume that I know what they give to Church funds. Not so. In fact I go out of my way not to know. Our parish bottom line however, I do know, and once again it needs to go up enough to cover our costs.

Meanwhile, the Lord bless you for doing your Christian part for the work and glory of Christ, as the Staff Team continue to do theirs. Thank you too, for moving your Bank of Ireland Standing Orders over to Danske – our three years' grace period is rapidly flying by!

SED

IF YOU'VE NOT ALREADY DONE SO, PLEASE NOW

STOP YOUR STANDING ORDERS

WITH



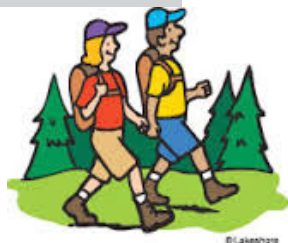
Danske Current Account "Parish of Ballyholme"
Sort Code 950229 Account Number 11063162

Danske Building Fund Account "Parish of Ballyholme"
Sort Code 950229 Account Number 51121367

AND START NEW ONES

WITH





January - Crawfordsburn Country Park

Twenty three walkers started the year with a walk in Crawfordsburn Country Park on a bright sunny day and managed to beat the Park Runners to the café for pre-walk refreshments.



We then proceeded along the valley of the lower burn passing under the fine skew arch railway bridge before reaching the gate lodge to the park. We then crossed the road to the Townswomen's Guild wood that leads to the Clandeboye Avenue. On reaching the station we proceeded to Golf Road that led us to Quarry Port bank, now a picturesque walk beside the golf course. Reaching Quarry Port we turned inland across Skelly hill with fine views of Crawfordsburn House and the coast towards Bangor.

We were glad to reach the Visitor centre (for the second time!) as the weather was deteriorating and warm refreshments were very welcome!

Thanks to Brian for leading and to Miriam for the photos.

Betty

With Brian leading we set off down to the beach and then up to the 21 Acres before heading to the Wildflower Meadow. Then it was down to the bridge just below the Waterfall and up the steps to get a better view. The Waterfall was in full spate after the recent heavy rains. We passed back under the magnificent Crawfordsburn viaduct that dates from 1863.



FUNERALS

December

22nd: Lloyd Morgan, formerly of Hazeldene Avenue

January

4th: Sally Thurley, formerly of Sandringham Drive

5th: Desmond (Desy) Longmore, formerly of Braemar Park

31st: Charles Edward Ruttle, formerly of Ardmillan Gardens

February

1st: Andy Young, formerly of Hampton Park



Picture of some of the children taking part in the Nativity on Sunday 18th December 2022

April - The Kiltonga Circular - A walk of two halves

Fifteen walkers met at St Mark's Church in Newtownards for the walk devised by Leslie which he called the Kiltonga Circular and led by Peter.

It proved to be a walk of two halves as several of the group decided to do only half of the route. The walk led us up the Belfast Road past the Kiltonga Nature Reserve and up the hill, stopping to look into Kilysuggan Graveyard on the right-hand side. It is the site of an old church, some stones of which are built into the wall and is now exclusively used by Roman Catholics. The oldest stone dates from 1712.

The Christian influence in the area is represented by such names as Kiltonga, the 'Kil' being the anglicised version of Cill, the Gaelic for church. An old stone building in the Kiltonga Industrial Park is thought to be a Quaker meeting house and the date on the door is 1796. It was built by the Bradshaw family, who lived in the townland and whose name lives on in the local placename Bradshaw's Brae, up which we were walking. It is now used for functions such as weddings.

On then along the Milecross Road which used to be called Water Street, perhaps because old OS maps show it had a lake alongside and a Flax mill. This took us to the dual carriageway to Belfast where we split, one group heading across to the Killynether Road (another 'Cil') and the other down the road to the roundabout at the Shopping Centre.

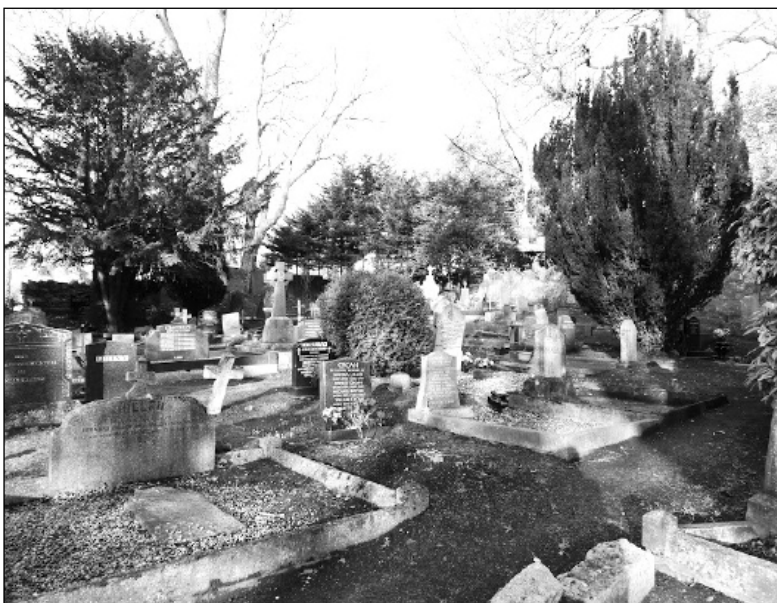
The 'Killynether' group headed for the Wood but now there is no sign of the grand house built in 1858 which gave the estate its name. The owner in 1937 was Jessie Helen Weir and in that year, she donated it to the National Trust. It was from then used as a Youth Hostel and at the start of the Second World War, the House and grounds were requisitioned by the Army. It gradually fell into disrepair and was demolished in 1966.

From there it was on to lunch at the picnic tables in Scrabo Country Park – at least lunch for all but two of the group whose lunches were in the boot of Betty's car, but she had been persuaded to have coffee in Starbuck's – big mistake! So, Willie and Rob had to wait for lunch.

The route then skirted the Scrabo Quarries and on back down the Old Belfast Road, passing Mount Pleasant, the birthplace of Blair (Paddy) Mayne who was a founder member of the SAS.

Just before the forecast rain arrived, the remains of the group enjoyed an outdoor coffee at Caffe Nero in Conway Square. The next walk on March 4th is on the Castlewellan Loanin to Drumee Cemetery – Peter's 5 mile Lollipop walk as, he says, it's shaped like a lollipop.

Thanks to Peter for leading, Leslie for devising and Miriam for the Walkers photo.



YOUTH-news

youth [youth] (youths)

news [nooz]

This year has got off to a fantastic start, with many great things having happened already in 2023.

The focus of our YF term is 'Prayer', and we've had some moving talks from young people like Tess Crothers and Ben Toogood, where they've shared with us their experiences of prayer and some of the ways God has impacted their lives. This is always encouraging for us as leaders to hear – and we especially love to see the young people grow in their confidence as they prepare and deliver these messages to their peers. It's a difficult thing to do but we love to hear them.



In Bible Study it's been great to see our young people engaging with the Bible and growing in their confidence and ability to understand it. We've been studying the book of James with one of the groups, and we're constantly reminded just how relevant God's Word is to us today; the other group, then have been enjoying a more topical approach rather than working through one specific book, exploring some of the big questions of life and seeing what the Bible has to say about them.

Something that was a little out of the ordinary was the Church of Ireland Youth Department's annual 'Youth Forum' which I attended with Tess, Annika and Amy. Having gone last year it was lovely to be back, with the discussion and conversations being headed up by the fantastic Susie Mapledoram – youth officer of Manchester Diocese. It was a great day of learning and discussing how we can look after the mental wellbeing of ourselves and others, and I have no doubt the contribution of our young people will be valuable to CIYD as they develop training, resources and more.

The biggest upcoming event, then, is our annual Youth Fellowship Weekend. We are delighted to be teaming up with our friends at Ballyholme Presbyterian and heading to the Kilbroney Centre for what will certainly be a brilliant weekend.

As ever, we appreciate your prayers and support as we disciple the young people of Ballyholme (and wherever else they come from).



Andrew



MARCH 2023**Wednesday 1st March**

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 5th March**Lent 2**

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Cafe Church - Parish Centre

11.30 Morning Prayer

Wednesday 8th March

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 12th March**Lent 3**

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Good News at Ten & Children's Church

11.30 Parish Communion

6.30 United Service - Ballyholme Methodist

Wednesday 15th March

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 19th March**Lent 4 - Mothering Sunday**

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Good News at Ten Prayer & Praise Children's Church

11.30 Morning Prayer

Wednesday 22nd March

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 26th March**Lent 5 - Passion Sunday**

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Parish Communion & Children's Church

11.30 Morning Prayer

Wednesday 29th March

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

March 2023

5th Sybil Robertson

12th Ruth Ruttle

19th Karen Baker

26th Sue Bleakley

Help needed to decorate church for Easter please on Saturday 8th April. Any offers of help and flowers will be very much appreciated. Thank you.

**APRIL 2023****Sunday 2nd April****Palm Sunday**

8.30 Holy Communion

10.30 Cafe Church - Parish Centre

11.30 Morning Prayer

Wednesday 5th April

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Friday 7th April**Good Friday**

12 noon Family Service

Sunday 9th April**Easter Day**

6.30 Dawn Service at Ballymaconnell Beach

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Holy Communion

11.30 Holy Communion

Sunday 16th April**Easter 2**

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Good News at Ten Prayer & Praise Children's Church

11.30 Morning Prayer

Wednesday 19th April

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 23rd April**Easter 3**

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Good News at Ten & Children's Church

11.30 Morning Prayer

Wednesday 26th April

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 30th April**Easter 4**

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Parish Communion & Children's Church

11.30 Morning Prayer

April 2023

2nd Irene Long

9th Easter Sunday

16th Margaret Magee

23rd Ian Bell

30th Jane Fitzsimons