

St Columbanus

Ballyholme



Easter Vestry Reports
Solar Panels Update
Easter Fun Day
Tree Planting



..On the way
together..

The Parishioner

May / June 2023

The Rambling Rector

Is the visit of Presidents Biden and Clinton for the anniversary of the Belfast Agreement a sign that a way through the protocol impasse and back to power-sharing can and will be found? If a sigh of relief does come soon, we forget what an even more monumental burden was lifted 25 years ago and what a global symbol Northern Ireland became. Granted, it took a number of 'fudges' to secure the breakthrough back then, and resentments do still linger about certain assurances given and undertakings made. But for most people of faith, surely the Agreement ushered in a new future they had been praying for fervently for decades. No one would seriously argue that the Northern Ireland we live in today isn't immeasurably better than that of 1998. Détente, power-sharing (however stop-start) and somehow a real change in atmosphere all proved possible. Behind the scenes were countless Christian men and women with a dream or a vision or whatever it was, a picture of how our country could be. That picture can only have come from God. Which I guess is why it still feels fragile. We owe those faithfully praying brothers and sisters more than we know.



SED



Bishops' Appeal Supports Relief Efforts in Turkey and Syria

Devastation caused by the earthquakes (Photo: Christian Aid)

Thank you for your blue-bucket donations to the Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal for World Aid and Development to help the people of Turkey and Syria following the February earthquake which resulted in over 50,000 deaths. Our total was £2040.

Bishops' Appeal immediately released €10,000 from its reserves

to Christian Aid for its work in the area, and encouraged parishes to contribute over subsequent Sundays. In a joint endorsement, Archbishop John McDowell and Archbishop Michael Jackson said:

"The disastrous earthquake which has so suddenly overtaken and overwhelmed the people and resources of Turkey, and stretched beyond breaking point the already ravaged infrastructure of Syria, requires a swift response from aid agencies in the Western world... We would encourage prayer that the God of all comfort would be very near to all who are suffering through injury, bereavement and anxiety, and for all relief workers."



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK VOLUNTEERS

14th - 20th MAY 2023

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

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

If you can assist with envelope distribution this May please contact

Susan Stockton 07790359991 or Fiona Oliva 07856678877



We have a slope at the perfect gradient for Easter egg rolling in between the parish centre and the church. Over 100 children enjoyed eggs rolling races on Saturday 8th April. It was a lovely dry afternoon ideal for bouncy castles and fun on the front lawn of the church.

The children were treated to glitter tattoos, their faces painted and then they could make Easter cards and origami Easter bunnies. Over 100 children completed the Easter Scavenger hunt and came to collect their prize.

We did an Easter trail inside the church this year and many families loved seeing the inside of a building they pass everyday and yet many had never been inside. We hope they will return soon having had such a positive introduction to our church family.

A big thank you to the many volunteers from our church and Love Ballyholme who made such an ambitious event possible.

Rev Jan Stevenson (Community Pastor)



muddy Church

We had some very creative Sundays at Muddy Church, painting our very own Kingdom of God. We spent time thinking about what it would look like, and where we can find it and what it feels like to be there. We used God’s creation to help us experience peace and planted our own mini-iris flowers to remind us of God’s provision and care.



During Lent we used the theme of environ-lent. We thought about how to protect God’s world and how we can use our God-given talents to make the world a brighter place. This ended with a fabulous talent show, judged by the BLAST! group.

After Easter, we took time out to practice prayer in a

creative prayer space, which Heather McKee took a leading role in developing.

In BLAST!’s ‘Church takes over plan’, they thought about how they could become more connected to the wider church. They drew posters to help raise money for the earthquake in Turkey and asked if they could give out symbolic Easter buns on Good Friday. At the Good Friday workshop they made Rice Krispie buns with white chocolate crosses and mini eggs to remind us of Jesus’ death and the new life we receive as a result.



The **Good Friday Workshop** also provided an opportunity for children to hear the tea-bag gospel, make their own lambs, decorate crosses, and create some beautiful eggs.

Our **Disney Easter Jumpin’** was also a great success with the buzz of anticipation starting in early March! Leaders all wore their Disney ears and children got to make their own! Talks were based on Disney stories with our memory verse being a line from The Jungle Book, ‘Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. John 15:13’.

Can’t wait until **Summer Jumpin’** (14-18 August)!

Don’t forget **Tune Tots**: Thursdays 10-11am, and **Creche** on Sunday mornings.

Paula





Since the start of the new year, the return of Creche and increasing numbers at Muddy Church, Emerge and Youth Fellowship has led to a welcome rush of new volunteers and ACCESS NI applications. This was the post-Covid good news we were so desperately waiting for!

The uplift is a real encouragement to the team who have persevered so faithfully over the last few difficult years, but it's also great news for our children and young people. They seem so glad to be back on our premises and are bringing their friends along with them in ever greater numbers, which is what it's all about and very much in the long-standing Ballyholme tradition of offering as much as possible for young people.

The more children and young people who come along to our activities, the better our programme can be. Of course, we also need more leaders to ensure that everything is running smoothly and safely and that we are working within the required adult/child supervision ratios. If you would like to get involved on the leadership side, please talk to Andrew or Paula. The all-important Safeguarding training for our volunteers is now available online.

We have taken this opportunity to refresh our Parish Panel poster, so here seems like a good place to repeat the mantra that should you have any concerns at all about child protection in St Columbanus, please contact one or other of our Parish Panel members: Libby Beech (9145 5943), Stanley Officer (9146 1650) or the Rector (9127 4901).

Police Visit

Back at the beginning of the year the police paid a visit to the Tiddli-Winks Playgroup to show the children their van and talk to them about safety etc.

Fun along with learning for the children and their leaders.

Great morning.

Sandcastle Competition!

Entry fee
£5 per
family

11am, 10 June, Ballyholme Beach at
Banks Cane Carpark

Confirm your attendance
on facebook @loveballyholme



Skipping into Spring with MU

Greetings to everyone from Mothers' Union; what a busy time we have shared over the last number of weeks. We have enjoyed fun, fellowship and a "wee" chat each Monday morning at Coffee Time. Our barista skills are progressing (think the frothy milk is on the wish list), certainly the scone makers have excelled themselves, with cherry, fruit, treacle, apple & cinnamon and lemon & blueberry scones on offer. Just fantastic ladies, thank you.

My thanks too must go to all the church family who have so readily volunteered to provide sandwiches and traybakes to allow us to host several family funerals; we remember those households in our prayers.

At our monthly meeting in March we welcomed our very own



Rev Mercia Flanagan to share with us her Faith journey and ordination; it was very special to share in the high points and some of the prejudices of the Priesting of Women at that time. Mercia had many photographs and press cuttings to enhance those memories. Thank you Mercia, we enjoyed sharing in your happiness.

Springtime for MU is a time for turning our thoughts to our MU members worldwide; we usually embark in some fundraising to assist in MU work all around the world... So this year it

was time to spring-clean the kitchen and dust down the cake stands and launder those special tablecloths because Afternoon tea was on offer, complete with our very own Ian Bell tinkling the ivories, (thank you so much Ian). It was simply fantastic, lots of chat, lovely scones, laden cake stands, loaded with calories; no one counting that day. Thanks to everyone who supported the event, we're still SKIPPING at the joy of the afternoon.

See you soon for Monday scones (check the dates with Rev Simon's Sunday announcements). Our May MU meeting is Monday 15th May at 7.30 in the Parish Centre with a Spring-Time theme. Hope to see you there.

Many Blessings

Yvonne & MU Team.



Saturday 11th March was a triumph for community engagement: 130 plus people came in response to an invitation they read on the Love Ballyholme Facebook page or on Instagram or in response to the leaflets delivered to local shops and houses in Thornleigh. Stephen, the Ards and North Down Borough Council Park Ranger, arrived with spades and 500 saplings. All native varieties, selected to provide the best habitat for insect life and enhance our local green space. Love Ballyholme ran this event in co-operation



with the Council initiative Stand4Trees. Permissions were sought and given about where the trees would be planted.

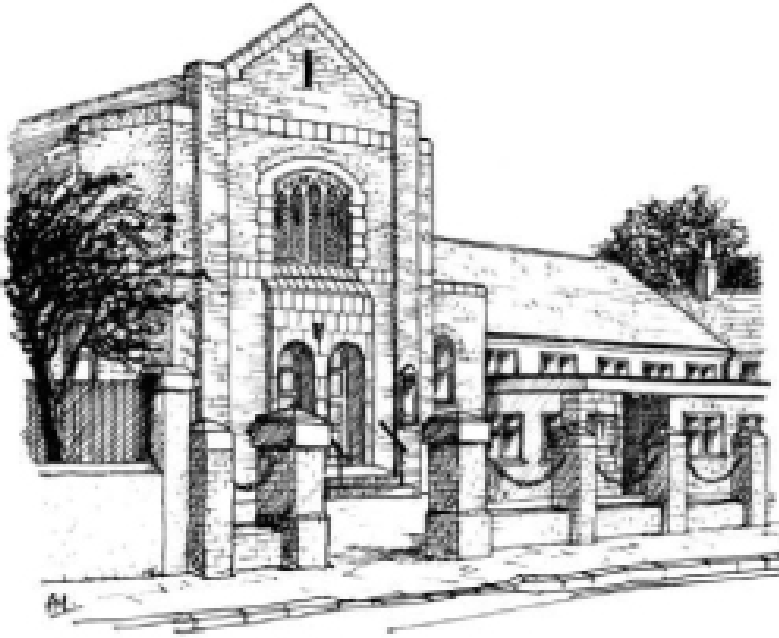
Although the forecast was poor, we had a dry afternoon and we were delighted when over 130 people from our church and area came. Some planted a tree in memory of a loved one, others planted a handful of trees then stopped to chat to friends and neighbours. There was a lovely atmosphere and people really appreciated being able to do something so positive for the environment and Ballyholme.

Rev Jan Stevenson, Community Pastor and Chair of Love Ballyholme



More Pictures from the MU Afternoon Tea





Ballyholme Church was built at a time of rapid growth in the town of Bangor and in the Methodist community there. The Rev Hugh M Watson was appointed Superintendent of Wesley Centenary circuit in 1933. In 1934 a grant of £250 was allocated to the circuit by the Church Extension Committee towards the cost of building a new church in Ballyholme. This was duly built at a cost of £4,500.

The Opening Ceremony took place on Saturday 13 June 1936, and was relayed to hundreds of people outside. As the Methodist Conference was taking place in Belfast at the time, one of the speakers was the Vice-President of the British Conference, Mr Edmund S

Laplough. The President, the Rev William C Jackson, preached on the texts, 'There is a river the streams whereof make glad the city of God', and 'We have an altar'. The Rev Hugh M Watson referred to the generosity of the Bangor people that had made the erection of the church possible, and also to the fact that the pulpit chair used by Mr Laplough during the service was one that had been used by John Wesley himself.

The first Sunday services in the new church were held the following day. The preacher at the morning service was a British representative to the Conference, the Rev Dr Archibald W Harrison. He preached from Matthew 16: 18. 'Upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it'. The soloist, Miss Margaret Stewart, sang 'How lovely are thy dwellings'. The Rev E Clifford Urwin of London preached at the evening service. Interestingly enough he took the same text as Dr Harrison! The soloist, Miss Gretta McCausland, sang 'Open the gates of the temple'. The Choir, under the direction of Mr Cecil Pierce, led the praise.

The first minister appointed to the church was the Rev Samuel H Baxter. He conducted his first service there on Sunday evening, 12 July 1936.

During the ministry of the Rev J Frith Little a new church hall was opened on Saturday 27 March 1965 to cater for the needs of the congregation.

Author **Thomas Deacon** and Illustrator **Peter Murray**

Extract from Storehouse North Down Easter newsletter 2023

I would like to thank all our volunteers, supporters, Churches and businesses for their tremendous support throughout the last year. Without all your help we would not be able to operate.

I just want to bring you up to date with all that has happened in the financial year February 2022 - February 2023. In this year we have helped almost 4000 adults and children. The value of the hampers given out was approximately £135,000. We are now seeing an increase in requests due to the economic situation and expect this to continue to increase. We are all finding it more difficult with the increase in heating and electricity costs.

We have found that as the requests increase our food and money donations have also increased. The Lord has provided the wherewithal to fulfill the need.

We are still working with our COVID setup. We have 2/3 volunteers packing and 2/3 sorting the food donations. We were open on Mondays and Thursdays 9 am to around 3 pm.

We thank all who have supported us in many ways. The Donaghadee Male Voice Choir were celebrating 90 years with a concert in Hamilton Road Presbyterian Church on Friday 31st March in support of Storehouse. This is only one example of this support. Many businesses, schools and Golf clubs etc. have been very generous.

I would especially want to thank our manager Pauline and Valerie for all the work they do in making the day to day running of Storehouse so smooth. Thank you both.

Margaret (Chairperson)



On Saturday 18th March 28 of the 34 people attending the Alpha course headed to Helen's Bay for our Alpha Day Away. This cemented the growing friendships that have been developing between everyone on the course. The three sessions focused on the third person of the Trinity, God the Holy Spirit. The final session ended with a time of asking God to refresh and fill us for the challenges of daily life. Feedback from everyone who went was very positive with some lovely answers to prayer.

Nuala Duffy, one of the Alpha team, had this to say about the Day Away:

“What a great day was had by all on the Day Away in the beautiful Helen's Bay Presbyterian Church. Everyone was wondering how the day was going to turn out but by the end of it we were going home on a Holy Spirit high.

Last year I was wondering what path I was going to take? I seemed to have come to a halt on my journey with Jesus. It wasn't until I did the Alpha Course last year that by the strength and light of the Holy Spirit I am now in the best place I could ever be in. I'm in wonderful company, in a church of very welcoming friends that I call extended family. I hope everyone will get the same outcome as I have.

Love in the Holy Spirit, the Father and the Son.”

Nuala



What items do Storehouse North Down need.

Here are just a few:-

Cooking oil
Tinned meals to have with potatoes
Tinned meals to have with rice
Fray Bentos pies
Breakfast juices
Jam
Men's and Women's toiletries
Cleaning products
Long grain rice
Pot noodles
Sugar

Wednesday Club

The Wednesday club met at the beginning of March with a good turnout of members, including Pat and Laura who joined us for the first time.

This month was a film show and we all enjoyed watching Paddington, which gave us all a good laugh and put us in good spirits to enjoy the chat and our pancakes and traybakes after the film. Simon was able to join us for a cup of tea, and before the end of the meeting, we had our usual draw, which Pat, our new member, won.

We will meet up again on 3rd May.

See you all then.

Sue

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



Ballyholme Methodist Church 1936-2023

The imminent closure of Ballyholme Methodist Church after more than eight decades is a deep sadness for our whole community.

As you have probably heard by now, declining numbers and a rising age profile over recent years have led the local Methodist Circuit to much soul-searching and some difficult decisions. From the end of May, most of Bangor's Methodist congregations will relocate for worship to Carnalea Methodist on the Springhill Road. Ballyholme Methodist and Wesley Centenary will close, and Queen's Parade will be re-purposed for seafront outreach. Primacy Methodist share ownership of their building with the Church of Ireland parish of Christ Church, and they have recently begun conversations about becoming a Covenant Congregation.

Our Ballyholme fellowship of churches, incorporating all four main denominations, is losing a valued member.

Things will not be the same without them. Aside from the grief we feel, the Methodist Church in Brooklyn Avenue was the place of so many landmark moments for local families. Their outreach to children and young people touched so many lives for Christ. As we mourn their loss, so we thank God for their faithful friendship and pray that the Spirit will lead them through to a new vision for their future. On our own doorstep, however, we could ask for no more poignant an instance of the crisis currently facing the Western Church.

Sadly, a sign of the times

The 2021 GB census delivered two stark headlines: (1) less than half the population now describe themselves as Christian; and (2) more people across the water now go to a mosque each week than attend a parish church. Things remain very different in Northern Ireland. But where for most of our parents and the vast majority of our grandparents, church on Sunday was a 'given', for the next generation worship of God is now increasingly worship of other things. Truth be told, only since Christmas have our own St Columbanus numbers returned to anything like where they were three years ago.

Not for a second would I want to downplay the frightening effects of the Coronavirus Pandemic. As we were warned it would, you might say for our Methodist brothers and sisters Covid-19 proved most dangerous to the most vulnerable. Yet it's hard not to feel our friends' fate should be a wake-up call for all of us. I remain convinced that neglect and changed weekend family routines are what it comes down to – far more than any conscious rejection of God or things Christian. It's been such a joy to welcome so many back home where they belong for praise and prayer, and I share the heartfelt longing of the Lord for those others yet to return.

What I'm describing this year then is mourning on the one side, but on the other side celebrating anew and afresh the freedom God brings to the whole of creation through His Son. The prophet Habakkuk draws both those moods together in these words:

*Though the fig tree does not blossom,
and no fruit is on the vines;
though the produce of the olive fails
and the fields yield no food;
though the flock is cut off from the fold
and there is no herd in the stalls,
yet I will rejoice in the Lord;
I will exult in the God of my salvation. (Habakkuk 3:17-18)*

Churchwardens: Ann Browne & Peter Craig



Over her lifetime's association with St Columbanus, the one parish office Ann Browne had not passed through was Churchwarden. Her retirement as Sexton created the ideal opportunity. With his friendly manner and gentle courtesy, Peter Craig could not have been a more perfect partner. Peter's retirement early in 2022 made his year as Churchwarden perfect timing, and it has been a chance for many to get to know him for the first time after many years of faithful worship. Our warm thanks to them both and, by the way, for future candidates, Ann and Peter are happy to speak to anyone about what's involved in the role. It has been a happy and extremely fast 12 months, and a much-valued ministry of meeting and greeting.

Parish Administrators: Kelly McCullough & Heather McKee

On 31 July last year, we lost our Parish Administrator of ten years Kelly McCullough to a tailor-made full-time job in Church House. I don't mind telling you that 1 August to 1 November were the busiest months of my entire ministry! Heather McKee didn't arrive a moment too soon. A fast-learner, she is proving herself an asset in every way, in addition to her expanding volunteer role with our young people. Heather has already given her new workplace the Marie-Kondo onceover, and next in her sights is the parish database. Meanwhile, with Heather in the Office Monday to Thursday, we are so grateful to the rota of Friday helpers who are there to ensure all enquiries are dealt with as efficiently as possible.



Sextons: Catherine Darragh & Trudi McBurney



Following the resignations of both our sextons last summer, Catherine Darragh came to our rescue almost immediately. At that point the needs of the church were the most pressing, but by the beginning of the new autumn programme Trudi McBurney was ready to take over care of the halls. As things have settled down over the early months of this new year, Catherine has decided to step back from her church responsibilities and be there to stand in for us, as and when she's needed. We are so pleased Trudi is enjoying her new role, and is now able to take on Catherine's hours and look after both buildings. Praise God for raising up both these special ladies, who share such an obvious love for our parish and its facilities.

At the time of writing...

Thank God, our finances seem to be moving in the right direction. Given our substantial wages saving last year, it's an indication of how slowly our finances are recovering from the pandemic, that we only just made it home in the black. As you know, there is a significant wages rise this year so please continue to support our ministry generously and help us ensure that we aren't living 'hand-to-mouth' from month to month. Our solar panels have certainly helped, and so have the increased numbers at church. A major thankyou to all those of you who have switched your Standing Orders from the Bank of Ireland to Danske, and increased your giving.

While it's been great to maintain our quarterly Communion lunches, other familiar fixtures have returned more recently. What with MU Coffee and Scones, the resumption of weekday Parish

Centre activities including Tune Tots and Creche, new voices for the choir, two Alphas, some wonderful community events, an explosion in numbers at Youth Fellowship and being able to offer receptions for funerals once more (the list could go on) it feels much more like St Columbanus again: buzzing, friendly, serving and reaching out to all with the love of Christ.

Finance Report from Easter Vestry 2023

The following is a summary of the report given by Liz Grant, Honorary Treasurer, at the Easter Vestry on Sunday 26th March 2023.

In addition to the management accounts that were presented at the Easter Vestry, *The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015*, relating to charity accounting and reporting commenced on 1 January 2016.

Even though the Parish income was less than £500,000 the Parish has to:

- * Prepare accruals accounts.
- * Will have accounts audited and this must be in compliance with Section 65(2) of the Charities Act NI.
- * Complete a trustees' annual report that also reports on how our charity has met the public benefit requirement.
- * Complete an annual monitoring return.

The Parish accounts, Auditors report and Trustee Annual Statement will be submitted online to the Charities Commission NI this year.

Unrestricted Funds

Overall the Parish income (excluding Missions, Youth and Pastor accounts) this year was £240,086 increasing by £46,041. Expenditure stayed very similar increasing marginally from £225,735 to £228,505. This gave the Parish a closing surplus balance of £11,581.

General Fund Income

General income is from the following sources:

- * General giving increased from £156,745 to £199,688.
- * Property related income, which includes renting the Curatage and the Bay increased from £13,077 to £14,597.
- * General Parish income from sources such as hall rental, magazine donations, catering was up from £8,943 to £ 11,613.
- * The Parish did not receive any unrestricted legacies.

Expenditure

Overall expenditure very similar to last year increasing from £225,735 to £228,505.

The main areas of expenditure are:

- * Clergy staffing costs which increased from £71,500 to £72,803.
- * Staff costs reduced from £72,620 to £65,846.
- * Repairs and maintenance increased from £7,643 to £16,097.
- * Premises costs, including heating, lighting, rates etc. increased from £20,135 to £23,900.
- * General Parish expenses e.g. consumables, postage and printing reduced from £20,194 to £17,055 (including interest).
- * The Diocesan levy reduced from £16,080 to £13,175.

Restricted Funds**Development Funds**

The Development fund started in 2016 and throughout the year voluntary giving to the restoration project by way of monthly standing orders, donations or fund-raising events came to £37,125 including gift aid. The Parish did not receive any legacies in this financial year. We have seen a reduction in the amount of standing orders for the development fund in the last year and, on average, there is £2,702 (£2975 in 2022) of monthly standing orders going into the Development Fund, amounting to approx. £32,434 for the current year.

In summary:

Opening balance	£337,272
Incoming Funds	£37,125
Funds Used (net)	Nil
Closing Balance	£374,397

Missions

Income into the Missions fund was £2,686 and outgoings of £10,300 was given to charitable causes.

Youth Fellowship

Income into the Youth fund was £7,712 and £8,179 was used for activities relating to youth.

Pastor Account

A pastor account was set up this year to keep income and expenditure separate from the church funds. Income was £3,736 and expenditure was £1,150.

Look Ahead

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

“Though He Was Rich”

- * Continue to push the generous giving initiative with the aim of aiding recovery from the effects of Covid-19 and offsetting inflationary pressures on finance.
- * Continue to move away from Free Will Offering envelopes to electronic giving and continuing the move from Bank of Ireland to Danske Bank.
- * Continue to plan for the next phase of the development plan to build the link between Church and Halls.



Time to book for the Ladies Night Away 21st – 22nd Oct 2023

We are delighted to announce that we are now taking bookings for the very popular Ladies Night Away on **21st to 22nd October 2023**. Forms are available in Church and from the Parish Office, Heather is happy to take your form at any stage. We are returning to Dromantine Conference Centre in Newry for the good food and wonderful accommodation. Glynis Matchett is our speaker this year, she ministers in Willowfield Church of Ireland and also runs Prayer Ministry at

New Wine Sligo. We are planning a **BBQ on Thursday 7th September 2023 at 7pm** to meet Glynis and have a great ladies night out in the lower Carpark! You'd be amazed what beautiful friends, bunting and burgers can achieve! It'll be a great night so please put it in your diary.

The following is a summary of the report given by Steven Nickell, Rector's Glebewarden on behalf of himself and Ivan Humphreys, People's Glebewarden at the Easter Vestry on Sunday 26th March 2023.

Church

Planning permission has been submitted for new signage in the grounds fronting the Church which, if granted, will give us the opportunity to communicate up-coming events to Ballyholme residents.

Demolition of the neighbouring Co-op building has commenced with four residential units anticipated to be built through the course of this year.

All will have noticed that the entrance to the Church was cleared by a work party last August and, thanks to a legacy from the late Flo Huggins, a new landscaped area was created to accommodate an annual outdoor Christmas tree and other temporary installations throughout the year.

The St Columbanus Way information board was relocated adjacent to the Church Notice Board.

We wish to thank all those who helped and participated in creating this new space.

In July 2022 the Church bell stopped ringing requiring a new hammer mechanism. Ivan was instrumental in organizing a replacement of what is not an 'off the shelf' item minimizing the length of time our bell remained silent. We benefitted from a generous Parishioner donation which covered the cost of the repairs.

A recent drop in pressure with the heating system and subsequent service engineer call-out has identified a pressurization unit which needs to be replaced. The unit has been ordered and we await confirmation of an install date.

The Glebewardens continue to work with Atlas World to address ongoing maintenance issues with the security alarm system.

There continued to be several Church clean-ups in and around the grounds through the year and we wish to take the opportunity to thank all the volunteers and helpers for their invaluable hard work and elbow grease to keep our grounds and buildings looking so well.

Rectory

We investigated a minor leak from the boiler at the Rectory in October 2022 and carried out a repair which has resolved the issue. Otherwise there is nothing else to report.

Parish Centre

Our solar panels were installed and commissioned thankfully in advance of the increases in utility bills now imposed on homes and businesses. Due to the increase in electricity prices we can report that the panels have reduced the Parish Centre electricity bill to the tune of £3,750 per annum with a small proportion of surplus units exported to the grid bringing in an additional £250 to offset against our energy costs. In total a £4,000 saving.

In the Main Hall all the fluorescent light tubes and ballast in each fitting were replaced last year however a small number continue to present an issue which we will continue to monitor.

We have engaged Anderson Mechanical to replace some heating equipment (valve and sensor) in the boiler room with repairs to the heating controls already attended to.

We continue to be kept busy with a variety of minor running repairs to the Parish Centre and we wish to thank the diligence of the Sextons and staff who keep us informed of any items requiring attention.

34 Beverley Gardens

Works were undertaken and completed in accordance with the Quinquennial Inspection of the property with the exception of essential electrical works.

After more than a year of unsuccessful attempts to gain access to Beverley Gardens to address the electrical and other repairs the difficult decision was taken to serve notice on the tenant to vacate.

It is anticipated the property will need re-decorated and the intention is to re-let the property at the earliest opportunity.

A generous donation by Parishioners covered the first phase of work and is waiting to pay for the second.

The Bay Apartment.

There has been no change to the tenancy.

The annual rent was increased in line with current market expectations late last year when the tenancy agreement was renewed.

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

Easter Vestry Elections and Appointments

Churchwardens - Heather Whitfield (Rector's) and Michael Hatch (People's)

Glebe Wardens - Steven Nickell (Rector's) and Ivan Humphreys (People's)

Select Vestry - Stephen Baker, Libby Beech, Ann Browne, Peter Craig, David Crooks, Billy Davidson, Jacqui Devlin, Liz Grant, Christine Johnstone, Roy Lawther, Yvonne Manogue and Trevor Smyth.

Diocesan Synod Representatives – 1) Trevor Smyth, 2) Stefan Andreasson, 3) Suzanne Beech and 4) Andrea Kelly.

Supplementals – 1) Christine Johnstone, 2) Larry Cheshire, 3) Yvonne Manogue and 4) Ian Bell.

Junior Synod Representatives – Andrew Watson and Heather McKee (Supplemental)

Parochial Nominators – 1) Don Todd, 2) Karen Baker, 3) Roy Lawther and 4) Jacqui Devlin.

Supplementals – 1) Leslie Adams, 2) Caroline Gillan, 3) Kelly McCullough and 4) Michelle Savage



Sunday 7 May 2023

The day after the Coronation will be our opportunity to mark this moment before God as the eyes of the world once again fall on Westminster Abbey. Praise, prayer and promises will be the order of the day for King Charles, and no doubt we will all be tuning in at home on television or radio.

We will pick up the mood at all three Sunday services: 8.30 Holy Communion, 10.00 Café Church in the Parish Centre and 11.30 Morning Prayer. Here is one of the prayers specially written for the occasion, on the King's threefold themes of community, faith and service:-

**Blessed are you, Lord Jesus,
for as you were sent by the Father,
so you send us.
Equip Charles our King
and all your people
with the gifts to fulfil our calling,
that we may love as you loved,
serve as you served,
and willingly follow wherever you lead.
Blessed be God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen**



(King Charles and Queen Camilla arriving at St Anne's Cathedral for the Queen's thanksgiving service)



10.45 am Coronation Cup-Cakes

To catch a little of the party spirit of what will be a national weekend of family and community get-togethers, we hope you can be with us for coffee and celebration buns in the Parish Centre. Please join us between the two main morning services for one of several hundred Coronation Cup-Cakes, lovingly baked for us by the Mothers' Union in honour of our new King.



The solar panels have been installed for one year and this is a brief update on the benefit which they have contributed over the past 12 months.

As previously outlined, solar energy must be used as it is generated during daylight hours, otherwise it will be exported back into the Utility network.

In 2021 the cost of a unit of electrical energy was approximately 26.23 pence per unit, however each unit was sold back to the Utility at approximately 5.00 pence per unit.

It was therefore important to use as much of the energy generated as possible.

To reduce the amount of solar energy exported we incorporated a storage battery which allows the stored energy to be used

in the evenings. The inverter is the interface between the solar panels, the storage battery, the electrical equipment within the buildings (Church and Parish Centre) and the utility network. The inverter initially directs the solar energy to be used to cater for the electrical demand within the buildings, with any surplus directed to charge the battery.

Once the battery is fully charged and the electrical demand within the buildings is being catered for, the remainder is exported. During the evenings, the battery would discharge the stored energy to power the lights and other equipment being used.

With the increasing global energy costs, the tariff which we are currently on with Airtricity has seen progressive rises in the cost of a unit of energy. The latest being from 44.6 pence to 55.3 pence per unit from November 2022. The current rate for exported units is 9.5 pence per unit.

The system was completed at the end of January 2022 and the figures recorded for the past year are as follows –

Units of energy generated by our panels –
11199 Units

Units of energy exported to the Utility –
2810 Units

A total of **8389** of the generated units have been used within the Church buildings with a saving of **8389 units x 44.6 pence (**)** = **£3741.49**.

The income from the exported energy was **2810 units x 9.5 pence = £266.95**.

The total cost benefit from the solar panels for the past 12 months is approximately **£4008.44**.

(** With the constant changing cost per unit, it is difficult to use an exact figure).

The energy generated by the solar panels is generally in line with the figures quoted by the manufacturer.





March - Two Texans and a Lollipop

Named the Lollipop Walk by Peter (as it's shaped like a lollipop) who led last Saturday when we walked from Castlewellan on a mixture of quiet roads and Loanins to Maghera Old Church. This walk will be remembered for the fact that we met two Texans within a couple of miles

of each other, one working on a farm and the other settled in the area. And apparently they didn't know each other!

The Loanin network of paths formed part of an intricate transport system connecting the settlements of Castlewellan, Annsborough, Maghera, Dundrum, Bryansford and Newcastle. These laneways offered the shortest, easiest routes for horse and cart, eg transporting coal from Dundrum to Castlewellan, avoiding the steep hill at Ardnabannon.

Seventeen walkers met in

Castlewellan to revisit the Drumee Walk to Maghera Old Church and Round Tower. We headed south from the town and took a diversion to walk the mile-long Bunker Hill, a trail made in 2014 after the felling of a forest. From the top there were stunning views of the Mourne's ranging from Slieve Bearnagh to Donard; Slieve Croob and Dundrum Bay. Evidence of its regular use was there with tokens hanging on trees and painted stones on a tray with an invitation to take them. The word Bunker is said to mean an earthen seat, a heap of stones or country dance.

On then to the first grassy lane. These Loanins have built up sides and provide safe secluded paths and this one led us to Maghera Old Church where we had our lunch in the 13th century ruins of the original church. The present church was built in 1887 but is surrounded by a graveyard with very old gravestones, many of which were illegible. On a previous visit one dated 1783 was found. The nearby ruined Round Tower marks the site of an early church founded by the 6th-century St Domongart (Donard), after whom the mountain is named. The tower stood to its full height until the early 18th century, when it fell in a storm, and is now a stump 5.4m high.

After lunch we walked the other side of the Lollipop along Smiley's Loanin (couldn't find out who Smiley was) and the man from Texas working in the farm didn't know either!

After a short stretch of busy road, it was back on to another Loanin and near the end the second Texan offered us seats in his garden! The refreshments in the Conservatory Café (previously the more mysterious Muffler) at Balloo Crossroads beckoned so we tackled the last hill and were off towards Killinchy.

Betty



April - Slievenamaddy and the Bogie Line

Eleven walkers set off from the church car park on 1st April with some concern about whether or not the forecast band of rain would travel as far east as Newcastle and the Mournes. Light rain at Downpatrick and the mountain tops shrouded in mist did not bode well but, although our walk began in overcast conditions, we had no rain all day. As the cloud lifted and, as we ascended, we often had great views of south county Down and across the sea to Cumbria.

Maurice, of us all, the most experienced walker in the Mournes, led us up the Glen River to the first bridge. It was here that we first appreciated the sight and sounds created

by the excessive March rainfall. Throughout the walk we would hear and see rushing water and a waterfall.

Our route took us on a loop on the lower slopes of Slievenamaddy, gradually climbing until we met the river again at the third bridge. From there, we headed to Thomas' Quarry with an impressive waterfall over the quarry's edge into a small lake. Neatly stacked fencing poles which are being stored in the quarry provided ideal seating for our lunch stop. Maurice told us that this quarry was the source of the Millennium Stone in Delamont Country Park.

Also lunching in the quarry was a young couple who were carrying their 6-month old daughter in a backpack for her first experience of the Mournes.

After lunch it was downhill all the way as we followed the Bogie Line that had been built to transport the granite stone down to the harbour in Newcastle. The steep descent, sometimes a path, sometimes steps, proved for some of us that going downhill can be as challenging as walking uphill.

Back at sea level, we returned to the car park and enjoyed refreshments at the nearby Niki's Country Kitchen.



Peter Gibson

Youth Holy Week Prayer Room

YOUTH-news

youth [youth] (youths)

news [nooz]

Looking back on this term, it's seen a lot of continuity but also a lot of change. We've continued on with our weekly Bible studies (which are great); drop-in is as enjoyable and chilled as ever; our studies of the Torah have been lovely. As for the change, our praise band had their first runout at café church in April and they did fantastically! I was super proud of them all and it's been so lovely seeing them grow in confidence in their playing. We've also experienced a burst in numbers at



YF – where we once had around 30 coming every week, we now have around 50. That has been brilliant, though not without its challenges in managing it all with the same number of leaders.



Perhaps the biggest event since our last update (indeed, one of the biggest events in the youth ministry calendar) was our annual YF Weekend – and it didn't fail to live up to the expectation! We joined with our friends at Ballyholme Presbyterian to take 42 young

people to the Kilbroney Centre in Rostrevor in mid-March, and once again were reminded of the power of residential ministry. The Bible teaching was brought to us by Rebekah from 'Made For More', a well-known youth charity in Northern Ireland who go into schools and churches and teach young people about God and how he sees them. It was an amazing time for people to grow in their faith and develop friendships, and we're so grateful to Rebekah, the leaders and all the amazing young people who made it such a great weekend.



Next up on the horizon is the summer programme, which entails Summer Madness, SU camp, Kilbroney camps, Jumpin' and X-Cess. An action-packed summer, but as ever a rewarding and exciting one!

Andrew



MAY 2023**Wednesday 3rd May**

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

**Sunday 7th May - Coronation Sunday
Easter 5**

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Cafe Church - Parish Centre

11.30 Morning Prayer

Wednesday 10th May

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 14th May**Easter 6**

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Good News at Ten & Children's
Church

11.30 Parish Communion

6.30 United Service - Ballyholme

Presbyterian

Wednesday 17th May

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 21st May**Easter 7 Sunday after Ascension**

8.30 Holy Communion

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

11.30 Morning Prayer

Wednesday 24th May

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 28th May**Pentecost**

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Parish Communion & Children's
Church

11.30 Morning Prayer

Wednesday 31st May

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

**May 2023****7th** Heidi Doogan**14th** Libby Beech**21st** Joan Larmour**28th** Trevor Smyth**JUNE 2023****Sunday 4th June****Trinity Sunday**

8.30 Holy Communion

10.30 Cafe Church - Parish Centre

11.30 Morning Prayer

Wednesday 7th June

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 11th June**Trinity 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 14th June

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 18th June**Trinity 2**

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Good News at Ten Children's Day

11.30 Morning Prayer

Wednesday 21st June

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 25th June**Trinity 3**

8.30 Holy Communion

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

11.30 Morning Prayer

Wednesday 28th June

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

FUNERALS**March****22nd:** Elizabeth Maureen Aiken, formerly of
Carolhill Park**April****21st:** John Cleland (Jackie) Emerson,
formerly of Ambleside Drive**June 2023****4th** Pat Davidson **11th** Olwyn Aiken**18th** Lillian Ward **25th** Barbara Wallace