

St Columbanus

Ballyholme



Joy - 100 years and counting
Home and Away
Summer Services



..On the way
together..

The Parishioner

July / August 2023

Primrose, Iris and Marigold. Not my three favourite summer blooms, but three lovely sisters I met recently in our soon-to-be-filled neighbouring parish of Groomspout, currently vacant. Our introduction was a sad one: I was with Marigold's husband before he died and then conducted his funeral. But as the wider family gathered affectionately around them, the ladies' spirits were lifted with the prospect of an imminent birthday: all three were about to turn 90. Lo and behold, their application for the title of world's oldest living triplets is currently pending with the Guinness Book of World Records! They didn't look 90, they certainly didn't act 90, but the more I think about their combined 270 years, the more wonderful a tally it is. Among their constants were faith and church, worship and prayer, but what only struck me later was that simply living and loving really are God's most underrated blessings. Achievements, titles and plaudits come and go, but every day God gifts to us people to reach out to, to care for, to lift up. Incidentally, the last set of oldest triplets were the Cardwells born in 1899 in Texas USA. Their names? Faith, Hope and Charity (1 Corinthians 13).


SED


8.30am Holy Communion Order One

10.30am Summer Sunday Combined Service
including 2 July & 6 August Café Church in the Parish Centre
(or the lower church carpark if it's sunny!)
and a children's activity in the Parish Centre on
Communion Sundays

7.30pm United Epilogue Service
(9 July & 13 August Ballyholme Presbyterian;
23 July & 27 August St Columbanus)

Please plan to be with us every Sunday!



Just Older Youth

The Wednesday Club



Since the last magazine, we have had two meetings of the Wednesday Club. In May, as it was the weekend of the coronation of King Charles III, we decided to give our ladies an afternoon tea experience. Tables were laid, 2 tier plates were retrieved from boxes and so our tea progressed. Sandwiches, sausage rolls, scones and tray bakes were the order of the day, not forgetting the very necessary cups of tea. All our ladies seemed to enjoy this wee treat and would not say no to the experience being repeated at a later date. Our usual draw was held and this month the winner was Ruth Ruttle.



Following this meeting, our next meeting kept on the same theme of eating, as the ladies, on their last meeting of the year, were asked to come an hour earlier than usual, as the committee were providing their lunch. On a lovely sunny day in June, our ladies enjoyed a light lunch of quiche and salads, followed by trifle. All very much enjoyed by all. Simon joined with us and it was he who drew the winning ticket, awarding Doris Girvan with the prize.



We are now having a break for the summer, and will return fully refreshed in September, when we hope to welcome back all our ladies, and to certainly make room for any new people who would like to come along and see what we are about. The date for your diary is September 6th at 2.00 pm in the Parish Centre.

See you all then, enjoy your summer break
Sue



muddy Church

Muddy church is still full of vibrancy and fun with a summer focus towards Children's Day...which wasn't just like any Children's Day!!!

The children love feeling connected to the wider church, and the leadership team were keen to find a way to nurture this.



We asked the children to choose the songs and gave them leadership roles within the service so that they were clearly in charge of this day. They had a lot of fun thinking of ways to put their stamp on the order of service and using their talents. We wanted it to be a bright, colourful service so the children spent time making handprints and footprints to make their mark on the church.

BLAST! has continued to have good fun and fellowship together, with some 'Almost Reverends' doing a great job on Children's Day. I would like to congratulate all our P7s in their success in all the P7 events and I wish them many blessings as they move onto their new schools and the youth programme...they are a great bunch and will be missed.

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



Paula



Heather Whitfield – Rector’s Churchwarden

As many of you will know by now, I am the new Rector’s Church Warden. I have been a church member for the past 13 years but, as I usually only attended the 8.30 communion service, I am probably not a familiar face to many of you.

I am married to John and, we recently celebrated our Golden Wedding. We have 3 children: Michael who lives in Switzerland, Jonathan in Bangor and Claire in Bournemouth and we have 4 grandchildren. We previously lived in East Belfast where we were members of St Mark’s, Dundela and then at Seahill where we were active members of Glenraig Parish. When the children were in their teens, we spent a lot of time ferrying them back and forwards to Bangor so decided it was easier to move here.

I taught English on apprenticeship courses at SERC in Bangor and Newtownards, a job which I really enjoyed and was sorry to leave but the offer of early retirement was just too tempting. After retiring I volunteered with YMCA where I helped with adult learning programmes and, until COVID happened, taught English to some of the Syrian refugee families.

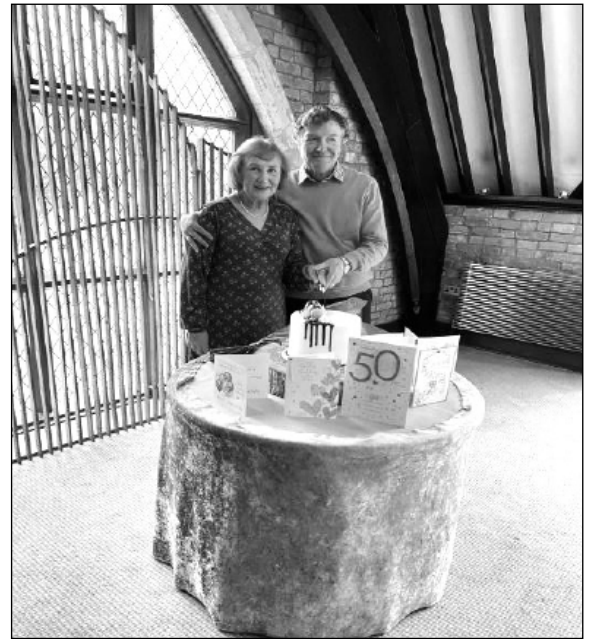
We travel regularly to Switzerland and Bournemouth to visit our children and grandchildren and to Lake Garda in Italy. We also look after our grandson a few days each week which is a real joy.

I was very apprehensive about taking on the role of church warden but so far, I have found it both interesting and enjoyable. It has been lovely to meet and get to know fellow parishioners at the church services.

Heather

Barony St John’s Presbyterian Church in 1991.

Our eldest two children, Jennifer and Jonathan, were born in Glasgow but in 1995 we decided to move to Omagh, where I took up a position in the local veterinary practice. Two

**Michael Hatch – People’s Churchwarden**

I was born in Dublin in 1963, into a strong Church of Ireland family and community. I was baptised in Duleek Parish Church, Co Meath (my late father Charlie’s home village), the last child baptised before it closed. Our family worshipped at St Philip & St John’s Church of Ireland, Booterstown before we moved house and attended church at St Philips, Milltown, where I was confirmed in 1977.

I was educated at Booterstown National School and The High School, Dublin before entering the Veterinary College in Dublin in 1981. After graduating in 1986 I worked in a number of veterinary positions in Coleraine, Carrickfergus and Melbourne, Australia. In 1988 I moved to Scotland and worked in practice in Saltcoats, Ayrshire as well as for the PDSA charity in Manchester and Glasgow. I met my wife Sharon at the local Ardrossan Academicals rugby/hockey club and we married in

years later our third child Sarah was born in Londonderry. We attended Lislimnaghan Parish Church, where I served as Glebewarden and on the Select Vestry.

I joined the NI Civil Service in 1997 and worked there for 25 years before retiring as Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer last Christmas. In Veterinary Service I was involved in animal health eradication programmes including BSE, Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Avian Influenza. I also took an interest in enforcement of animal welfare and livestock fraud and completed an Open University degree in Law in 2006. I spent 3 years as a criminal investigator in the NIEA Environmental Crime Unit tackling organised crime in the waste industry.

In 2003 we moved to Ballyholme and joined the church. I was familiar with the church since a child as my maternal grandparents Billy and Margaret Woods retired to Bangor and were founder members of the Parish. My mother Margaret, who also attends Ballyholme church, grew up in Somerdale, Belfast and was a primary school teacher at Riddell Memorial on the Shankill Road and Rosetta PS before marrying and moving to Dublin, where my father, also a vet, lectured in Veterinary Parasitology at the Veterinary College.

In 2009 I travelled to Kajiado diocese along with the Rector, Sandra Griffith and Robbie Jackson, where we were privileged to share in the Christian life and worship of our friends in Kenya.

My wife Sharon also retired last year, as a Classroom Assistant in Kilmaine PS. Sharon is a keen sportswoman and represented both Scotland and Northern Ireland in athletics. Our three children are now grown up with both Jennifer (Pharmacist) and Sarah (Physician Associate) working in NHS hospitals in London. Jonathan works in finance & accounting, most recently in PwC in Belfast.

My interests are mainly sport and I played rugby, hockey and cricket for many years but golf has now become the favourite pastime for both Sharon and myself.

I am delighted to take on the role of Peoples Churchwarden and look forward to meeting parishioners throughout the year at the Sunday services.

Michael



Confirmation: Sunday 15 October

In our turn-about Confirmation partnership with Bangor Parish, we get to host this year and so Bishop David will be joining us on the evening of Harvest Sunday.

Andrew our Youth Worker will be keen to gather young people of third year secondary or older for a series of sessions leading up to and following the Confirmation service. These will start in early September so anyone interested (or their parents) please contact him.

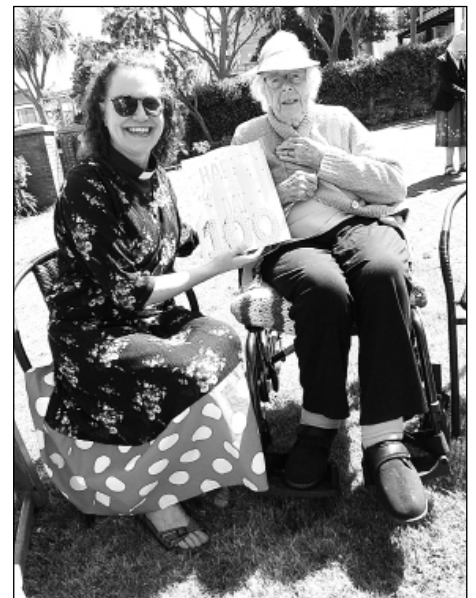
Likewise, the Rector will be happy to prepare any adults who might come

forward so if you have joined the Church of Ireland from another church tradition, or if Confirmation is simply something you never quite got around to, contact the Parish Office or Simon himself for more information. Again, September will be the start-date so please think and pray about whether now might be the time for you.

“What a great privilege to be invited to Joy’s 100th birthday party held in the glorious sunshine on the lawn outside Seaview House Nursing Home” said Ruth Ruttle, who attended as a friend and also to represent the St Columbanus branch of the Mothers’ Union, of which Joy has been a member for over 74 years. Rev Jan Stevenson brought a large card signed by many of the congregation wishing Joy many happy returns. We thank God for her long life and her lovely family gathered for the celebration from all over the globe including several of her great grandchildren.

Joy’s son William writes:

Mum was born Valerie Joy Elliott on 3rd June 1923 in Portadown. She met our dad William Henry Conn (Bill), got married 17th December 1945 and then moved to Omagh where she was a nurse in Tyrone County Hospital. Bill was a Pearl Insurance agent and worked in the town. They went on to have two daughters and a son who gave them five grandchildren and later seven great grandchildren. This meant many years of travel for Joy and Bill as their extended family was spread around the world namely Rhodesia, South Africa, Egypt, Australia and then Austria. Bill retired in 1969 and the family moved to Bangor. They had over 50 happy years together until sadly Bill passed away in 2001. Joy now lives in Seaview Nursing Home where she celebrated her 100th birthday on Saturday 3rd June.



We are not used to declamatory central directives in the Church of Ireland, but on St Patrick's Day past, one was received in relation to the distribution of Holy Communion. Bishop David has now requested compliance across the diocese. I bring a shortened version to your attention here, so that you have a couple of months to digest its ramifications. As you will see, it was intended to apply throughout the Church of Ireland from Pentecost Sunday (21 May) but I have informed the Vestry that we will fall into line from Sunday 3 September. SED

(photo below: the Archbishop of Armagh presiding at the General Synod opening service)



“From time to time, during and since the Covid 19 pandemic, the bishops have sought to offer counsel to the wider church particularly concerning the manner of the administration of the Holy Communion. In all our statements, we have sought to combine seemliness and safety and to take the best professional advice available to us.

It is approximately a year now since we encouraged the restored use of the common cup at Holy Communion. This is the traditional Anglican practice in relation to the administration of the sacrament and is enshrined in the formularies of the Book of Common Prayer. The sharing of the Cup of the Lord is rich in meaning and value for the communicant, and only in the most

extraordinary medical emergency could we take it upon ourselves to advise that the cup should be withdrawn, or that the consecrated wine of the Eucharist should be administered by other temporary means such as individual vessels.

We recognised a year ago that it would take some time for the cup to be restored across the whole church, that there would for a while need to be a degree of variety of practice, and that the position of those who remained nervous about receiving from it should be respected. Nevertheless, cognisant of the present situation in terms of public health, and mindful of professional wisdom which indicates the extremely low risk associated with the transmission of infection via a shared silver vessel containing the fermented fruit of the vine and used in an ordered liturgical context, we have all agreed to provide the following directions to the church.

- * Specific permissions given for the use of individual vessels at Holy Communion will lapse after Pentecost Sunday 2023. Thereafter the administration of the consecrated wine at Holy Communion in our churches should involve the common cup only.
- * Those who remain for their own reasons nervous about receiving from the common cup should be respected, and they should receive in one kind only, with an assurance that the Church teaches that the sacrament can be fully received in one kind.
- * We ask that communicants do not themselves intinct the consecrated bread they have received in the wine. This is based on clear medical advice that intinction can spread infection from fingers to the wine, and crumbs of bread left in the wine can be problematical for other people who wish to receive it, eg coeliacs
- * Chalices should be kept scrupulously clean and washed with very hot soapy water after services before being put away.

- * It is really important that chalices be wiped fully using clean cloth (preferably linen) purificators. The use of tissues can spread infection; the use of proper cloth purificators significantly diminishes it.

In issuing this guidance we are concerned that communicants feel safe, that they conduct themselves with mutual courtesy, and that above all the supper of the Lord is administered with reverence and with joy. The long period during which the common cup had to be withdrawn only served to remind us of how precious a thing it is, how full of Scriptural resonances, how it speaks to us of our utter equality before God as we gather in sacramental unity, how the beauty of its meaning must never be taken for granted. In that spirit we pray that the full restoration of the common cup, surrounded of course by care and courtesy, can be for the whole Church of Ireland a matter of the greatest joy."

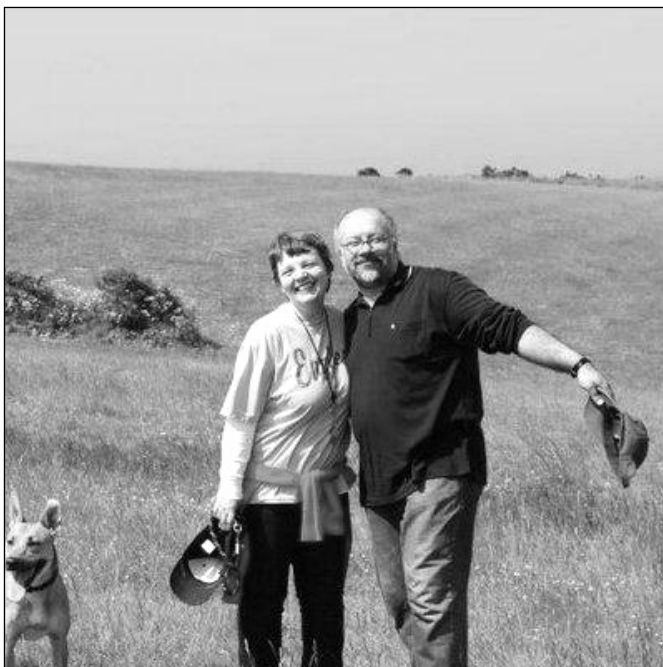
St Columbanus: a petition!

As we in the ancient Abbey town of Bangor know well, in the sixth to eighth centuries of our era, a time of upheaval throughout continental Europe, the monastic communities of Ireland were a haven of stability, promoting literacy and learning.

These centres sent monks to mainland Europe to found or develop communities that were later to become the great monasteries of the Middle Ages. Among the first to travel across Europe were Columbanus and Gall. 1400 years later, the memory of their journeys and their teachings is still alive wherever Columbanus and Gall travelled and settled.

A partnership has recently been formed between public and private organisations including faith communities, private groups, clubs and voluntary associations; indeed any private or public body may put forward their desire and intention to join and will be accepted if they actively work towards the promotion of this living Christian heritage. The purpose of this partnership is to facilitate exchange, collaboration and friendship between these organisations.

As parishioners we have been invited to sign a petition, by way of a simple expression of our support for this extremely worthwhile international initiative. You will find the page on a clipboard at the back of Church on Sundays or in the Parish Office on weekdays. We hope as many as possible will take the time to add their names and we will pass our completed list to the Friends of Columbanus at the end of the summer.



Save the dates:

24-26 November

**A parish weekend of events
for our church family
with special guests
Mones & Sally Farah**

**Mones is Archdeacon in the
Church in Wales Diocese of
St David's with special
responsibility for new Christian
Communities and Evangelism**

Sandcastles, Sunshine & a Great Community Event



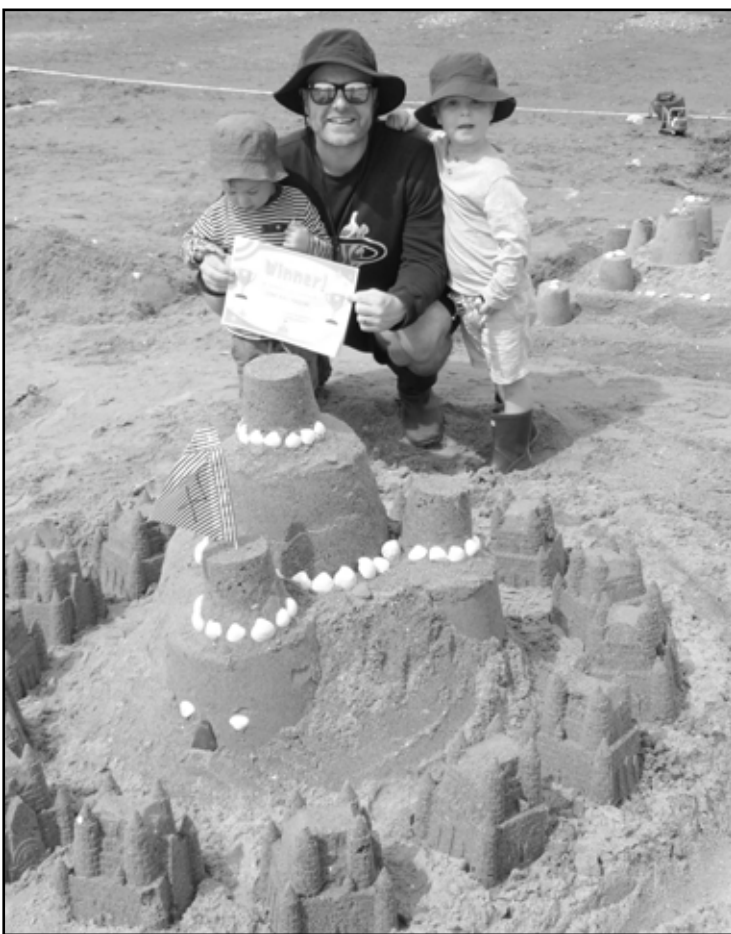
Love Ballyholme ran their second annual Sandcastle Competition on Saturday 10th June on Ballyholme Beach. Glorious sunshine in the week running up to the day meant it was even more popular than last year. 50 families pre-booked on Eventbrite, building started at 11am. Bishop David joined the judging panel and our “everyone’s a winner policy” meant every child received a small trophy and a certificate. Each family was given up to an hour but if you were finished sooner the judging panel came to celebrate

your efforts. One overall winner was chosen, with “A Family pizza night in” the prize donated by the Galley Restaurant. The Bangor Ukes, a ukulele band played adding to the festival atmosphere. Our thanks to everyone who volunteered to ensure this community event was well run and we left the beach cleaner than we found it.

#makingmemories

Rev Jan Stevenson Community Pastor

Love Ballyholme is a community group which seeks to bring together local residents, churches, businesses and schools, we started this group during lockdown.



SUMMER

Over the last year, it has been wonderful to welcome to the Parish Centre, Senior members of our congregation, to our Communion Lunch. Together we have the opportunity to celebrate Holy Communion followed by a light lunch.

We have come together in October, December and March and will meet again in June. Attendance has been steadily growing and it was brilliant to celebrate Holy Communion, with 33 senior members of our church family on 29th March, before Holy Week. It was so good to see everyone and thank you for making a special effort to attend.



What happens at the Communion Lunch? At the service, Simon or Jan lead us in the celebration of Holy Communion, and following the service we have a light lunch. Everyone is asked to confirm attendance with Heather in the Parish Office beforehand and at that time requests for transport can be made and notification given of any dietary requirements.

It is a lovely opportunity to meet together, catch up with old friends and enjoy each other's company. Everyone is welcome, so if you are unable to come to church as often as you would like, why not come along? If you would like to join us, please contact the Parish Office. We would love to see you.

I would like to thank all the helpers who make our service so special Thank you to Roberta, Sue and Linda, Jim, who organises transport requests, Heather in Parish Office and most importantly Ann, our wonderful cook. Thank you so much for all your help and I look forward to seeing everyone soon.

Margaret Moorehead



Everyone is Welcome!



Did you know that Ballyholme Parish has two wheelchairs available for anyone to use? There is one in Church and one in the Parish Centre. If you or someone you know would need a wheelchair to help you attend our Church services or Parish Centre events, please contact Heather McKee in the Parish Office Tel: 02891-274912. Our flexible seating arrangements mean we can easily accommodate a wheelchair and if you let us know in advance, we will have everything ready for you. So please do not let mobility issues prevent you from joining us as we would love to see you!



Many of us took up new hobbies during lockdown, but now that our lives are no longer restricted, some of those craft projects are sitting gathering dust. We would love you to donate any unused craft resources to “Peaced Together” a Craft and Wellness course we plan on running in Surburban Coffee Shop in September 2023. We are looking for scrapbooking materials, embroidery thread, wool, dressmaking fabric, tile nippers, sharp scissors, acrylic paint, paint palettes & brushes. Please drop off your craft materials to the Parish Office asap thank you!

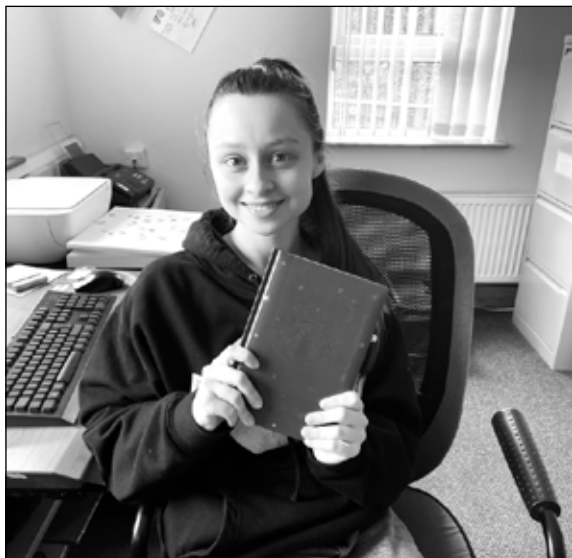
We would like to thank Mind Matters COI for awarding us a grant that has enabled Yvonne, Mandy, Megan and myself to attend the training to become “Peaced Together” facilitators and run the 10-week course in Ballyholme. We are now gathering all the materials we need to run a course in the community that provides a safe place to chat while learning new crafts.

To quote Heidi Singleton creator of the “Peaced Together” course; Yes, “peaced” is a made-up word, my definition of it is “the process of piecing together one’s life by making choices that leads to hope and peace.”

Rev Jan Stevenson, Yvonne Manogue, Mandy Bell-Watson & Megan Mack



Our Church has a diary!



I wanted to let you know about a new policy I have implemented in light of recent clashes regarding room bookings as things open up more and more after our years of lockdown. Moving forward, I kindly ask that all events be booked into our diary through me in the office. Please note that priority will be given to the events that occur most frequently and to those that are booked first. I understand that this policy may be inconvenient, but I believe it is the only way to ensure that everyone has equal access to our facilities. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. We appreciate your continued support and look forward to seeing you at our church and Parish Centre soon.

Parish Office through July & August

Through the summer the office will continue to open as close to our regular hours as we can manage but please be aware that these days and times may have slight variations. I highly recommend phoning into the office before making a trip down to save you a possible wasted journey - 02891274912.

Heather McKee

Giving to God's work in Ballyholme

St. Columbanus relies on the generosity of our church community to continue our mission and serve those in need. Every contribution, no matter how small, makes a difference and we are really grateful to those who have recently increased their regular giving. We also thank God for those who remember our church in their wills. Thank you for supporting our church and its ministry in whatever way you can.

Here's a reminder of how you can give :-

Monthly Standing Order – *set up by you with your bank*

Online Giving – *BACS Transfer through your banking app*

Free Will Offering Envelopes – *available from the office*

A Gift in your Will – *arranged with your solicitor*

Thank you to those who have already switched to Danske Bank as our handover time with the Bank of Ireland draws to a close.

Here are our new account details:

Danske Bank – Current Account

Name: Parish of Ballyholme
Account Number: **11063162**
Sort Code: **950229**

Danske Bank – Building Fund

Name: Parish of Ballyholme
Account Number: **51121367**
Sort Code: **950229**



Christian Aid Week

A total of £3,200.24 was donated this year, with a further £585.75 received through Gift Aid. Overall £3,785.99 was raised for Christian Aid. A big thank you to everyone who assisted with the organising of the collection. Also thanks to all our parishioners who donated to this very worthy cause, helping to ensure they can continue to carry out their good work.



“Turning the Tide” is a diocese-wide mission happening across Down and Dromore in around 35 parishes! Being part of one of these teams in the first week in June proved a most exciting and worthwhile experience for me.

We participated on the daily life of St Clements and Willowfield parishes. 3 successive barbeques for local children and teenagers filled an exhausting evening. How much table-tennis and pool can you play on the trot! Listening and chatting at a mental health morning club proved very rewarding. At other

times we went on prayer walks and praying on the streets for passers-by who requested it in darkest East Belfast. We also took part in mid-week bible studies and an early morning prayer meeting.

We shared what God has done in our lives and chatted to individuals informally, while helping to staff the larger events and speak when necessary. Testimonies were shared, relationships forged, and there was lots of opportunity to pray with those that asked.

Bishop David invited SOMA (Sharing Of Ministries Abroad) to send people from the Anglican Church worldwide to help run mission and outreach. My team comprised 8 people from England, Australia and a team leader from USA.

In the above photo, the team are in the front row and some of the Wednesday lunch time group behind.

Sam Stevenson

Easter Sunday Breakfast

A light breakfast of tea and coffee with croissants was served in the Church Centre after the Dawn Service at Ballymaconnell Beach.



Two different events are planned for ladies in the coming months.

First up, is a barbecue at **home** in the lower car park at the Church Centre. The second is an **away** stay at Dromantine Conference Centre.

The purpose of the barbecue is to enjoy fellowship and meet Glynis Matchett our speaker for the Dromantine event. The barbecue will take place on Thursday 7th September at 7pm with burgers, salads and desserts on the menu. Don't worry if you have dietary needs, just let us know with a phone call to the office or by signing the sheet at the back of church.

The Ladies Night Away will take place 21st -22nd October and it is hoped that the varied programme of topics and activities will facilitate each one of us to encounter God in fresh ways.

Positive feedback from last years' experience at Dromantine included the following comments-

"a great time meeting new people, walking in the beautiful surroundings and learning more about God".

"a room with a view"

"fabulous homecooked food and plenty of it"

"liked the craft and the talks. It was great fun."

Sign-up forms are available at the back of the Church and from the Office at the Parish Centre.

For further information please speak to Jan Stevenson or Sandra Griffiths

Our prayer is that you will join us for one or preferably both events.

Sandra Griffiths on behalf of the Rise Committee



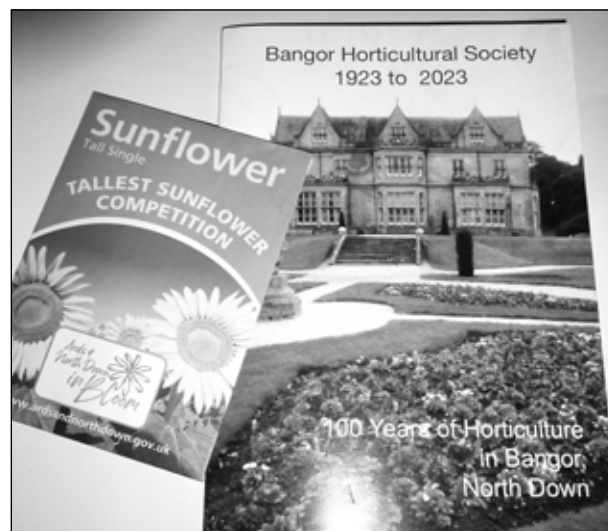
Stainer's Crucifixion

A photo from Sunday 2nd April when John Stainer's "Crucifixion" was performed in Church by the combined forces of our own St Columbanus Church Choir and Ards Choral Society. The tenor soloist was Martin O'Hagan of "The Priests". An awe inspiring evening of music.

A final flurry of flowery activity for Ballyholme MU

Our Maytime meeting was a lovely opportunity to chat about gardens, planters, even sunny kitchen window sills! We welcomed Derek McClure, a member of our church family, avid gardener and Chairperson of Bangor Horticultural Society.

He shared with us his life long interest in all things “green”, his passion and respect for our environment and his love & wonder of all growing opportunities. This year celebrates 100 years of Bangor’s Horticultural Society and as chairperson he was able to recount some of its history, its highs and lows, right up to the present day where a desire to “go green & grow your own” has flourished out of lock-down times.



Now our “green fingers” were twitching and we were soon eager to share our highs and lows of discovery from our very own green patches!! Olden day names, Latin names and nick names were all shared, while pictures and perfumes were all recalled. The SLUG was probably the ARCH-ENEMY on everyone’s lips that evening, with many remedies to halt their expeditions amongst our plants! Beer versus Blue pellets? Mmmmm and a few more deterrents in between. Thank you Derek for an entertaining and informative evening as well as for the copies of the society’s Centenary booklet and the sunflower seed packets for each MU member.

Keeping with the flower theme - I’d like to award a large garland of flowers to some MU members who volunteered to host the Coffee@holme on Monday Mornings from 10am. Thanks for the delicious scones, love and laughter! Great to be part of that team, We are having a wee summer break and then we’ll return in September - Fresh As Daisies!

As a final flurry to all things floral, a small Giles coach is taking some MU members on a sunny June Saturday to the Flower Festival in St Anne’s Parish Church Dungannon. We will return home full of fancy flowery ideas! Watch this space!!

Many Blessings

Yvonne & MU Team.

People enjoying the tea, coffee and scones on Monday 12 June, which was the last Morning Coffe before the Summer Break. Look for the date for it starting back in the next magazine.





May - The latest of our Railway Walks was to the Antrim Lough Shore and the Castle Gardens

Two trains from Bangor saw us in Antrim by 11.00 and Brian led us through the town to the start of the Mill Race Trail, and after a walk of about four miles along paths and country roads and through Rea's

Wood, we arrived at the Lough Shore car park.

Having left a foggy damp Bangor, we enjoyed warm and often sunny weather for our walk.

The Six Mile Water River which isn't six miles at all but 26 and rises west of Larne, is said to be named from a crossing point six Irish miles from Antrim, on the road to Carrickfergus.

Another story is that it was named by English soldiers, who calculated that it was a six mile march from Carrickfergus Castle to the ford at Ballyclare. The river is an important salmon spawning river and canoeing is restricted.



After lunch beside a very calm Lough Neagh just where the Six Mile Water enters the Lough, we headed to the Antrim Castle Gardens specifically to see the Diarmuid Gavin clockwork garden and an add-on of a visit to the coffee shop at Clotworthy House. The garden was fascinating with its music and moving trees and plants at 15-minute intervals.

Clotworthy House was built c1843 by the 10th Viscount Massereene as part of his creation of Her Ladyship's Pleasure Gardens and is believed to have been designed by Charles Lanyon who also designed Queen's University, Crumlin Road Gaol and Courthouse, and the Palm House in Botanic Gardens.

Of interest in the Gardens was a stone statue of a Wolfhound. It was in memory of the Wolfhound which, in the mid-17th Century saved the life of Sir Hugh Clotworthy's wife, first by fending off a wolf which was about to attack Lady Marion and secondly raising the alarm before an enemy attack.

There were some goings on at 5.30 after we left when Lough Neagh Rescue, which has HQ at the Lough Shore Park, was involved when a car entered the Six Mile Water but was recovered without anyone being injured.

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



June - A sunny day on the Quoile



Swans, ducks, dragonflies and wildflowers. There was much to interest our thirteen walkers last Saturday.

We met at the car park at the Quoile Bridge for our 31/2 mile walk along the Quoile to the Steamboat Quay. It is a tranquil place and we enjoyed the sunshine and admittedly the shade from the trees.

The building of the barrier built across the mouth of the river in 1957 to stop Downpatrick flooding changed the ecology from sea water to fresh water and plants and reed beds flourished in the wetland.

We passed the remains of the keel and ribs of a boat called The Hilda, but sadly it is so covered in long grass and it is difficult to make out the shape. The Hilda was apparently named after the daughter of the celebrated Irish nationalist, Charles Stuart Parnell. She was one of half a dozen such boats used for ferrying coal in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Sadly there is no display board to tell the story.

The dozens of tractors making their way towards the bridge to a rally, which turned out to be in Finnebrogue Woods where we gathered later.



On the way we crossed the road to Quoile Castle built around the 10th century to repel the Vikings. Alongside is the Quoile Countryside Centre with its admirable raised beds of herbs and flowers. Sadly it was closed (and at a weekend!)

At the end of the trail was Steamboat Quay, built in 1836 to serve the Liverpool Steam-Packet Company and the service carrying passengers and goods across the Irish Sea. The company closed three years later but the Quay was subsequently used by small trading craft.



After returning to the car park we made our way to Finnebrogue Woods where some of us bought lunch while others picnicked. After lunch we had another short walk in the grounds around the lake.

The usual after-walk refreshments found us again in The Conservatory – aka McCann's or the Muffler at Killinchy.

The next walk on 1st July is linear, from Portadown to Money Penny's Lock on the Newry Canal.

YOUTH-news

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news [nooz]

The summer break feels like a good time to look back on the youth ministry year that's passed and reflect on everything that's happened. It has been a crazy year that has seen a lot of change, but we're thankful as ever for the blessing of God on what we're doing here. We've seen growth in the lives of many of our young people – spiritually, but also emotionally and personally – and it's been a privilege to help them as they grow, mature, face difficulties and create memories.



One of the biggest changes has come in the splitting of YF into junior and senior; this was in response to an explosion of numbers which saw over 70 young people coming to YF on one night. The split has been largely successful as it's meant that we can spend more time talking to the young people, rather than having to do 'crowd-control' for 70 teenagers. It hasn't been without its challenges though; as a friend of mine said, "you can hardly expect the 70 young people coming every week to be the best-behaved in Ballyholme". Things

have been broken or damaged, and although we (hopefully) have the behaviour more under control, we're grateful for the patience and diligence of those who were called in for repairs when things got out of hand (particularly our Glebewarden Steven Nickell).

Other highlights of the year have included our youth weekend, which is an absolute delight every year; Easter Jumpin', where the young people always amaze us with their leadership abilities; post-church bacon with our Y11+ young people; praise band (if you've been to café church recently you know how awesome they are); weekly Bible study; drop-in; the Christmas bazaar; fancy dress party; all of the various trips and youth nights... There are too many to name!



All in all, it's been a great year. We appreciate the support, encouragement, and (most of all) the prayers, and we look forward to getting back into it come September.

Andrew



July**2nd Trinity 4**

8.30 Holy Communion
10.30 Cafe Church (carpark if sunny)

9th Trinity 5

8.30 Holy Communion
10.30 Summer Sunday Communion Service
7.30 United Service Ballyholme Presbyterian

16th Trinity 6

8.30 Holy Communion
10.30 Summer Sunday Service

23rd Trinity 7

8.30 Holy Communion
10.30 Summer Sunday Service
7.30 United Service Ballyholme Parish

30th Trinity 8

8.30 Holy Communion
10.30 Summer Sunday Service

August**6th Trinity 9**

8.30 Holy Communion
10.30 Cafe Church (carpark if sunny)

13th Trinity 10

8.30 Holy Communion
10.30 Summer Sunday Communion Service
7.30 United Service Ballyholme Presbyterian

20th Trinity 11

8.30 Holy Communion
10.30 Summer Sunday Service

27th Trinity 12

8.30 Holy Communion
10.30 Summer Sunday Service
7.30 United Service Ballyholme Parish

**July**

2nd Adeline Cully
9th Cathy Body
16th Heather Copelton
23rd Maureen Johnston
30th Janice Hewitt

August

6th Anne Adams
13th Pamela McNutt
20th Roy Rosbotham
27th Ella Walker

**FUNERALS****April**

27th: Doreen O'Brien
formerly of Ashbury Court

May

11th: William James
Johnston formerly of
Sandhurst Drive

12th: Renee Bradley
formerly of Broomhill Park

June

6th: Kathleen Taggart
formerly of Clandeboye
Nursing Home

BAPTISM**April**

23rd: Finlay Joseph Patrick
Rogan, son of Chris and
Ashley Rogan

