

St Columbanus

Ballyholme



Photos from Children's Day
Second Defibrillator
Mothers' Union Update



..On the way
together..

The Parishioner

September/October 2023

The Pandemic robbed us of many things. Church-wise, alas, some of our losses were permanent. Yet, slowly but surely, the Lord is rebuilding us. New faces have made St Columbanus their home and I've taken heart from the faith of James the brother of the Lord. Amidst the controversy over admitting Gentiles to the Church in Jerusalem, James quotes the prophets: 'I will rebuild the dwelling of David, which has fallen; from its ruins I will rebuild it, and I will set it up, so that all other peoples may seek the Lord...' (Acts 15:16-18) This autumn, very happily, Scouts return to our weekday programme. The sad recent closure of Ballyholme Methodist Church left 4th Bangor Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts without a home. While our own Rainbows, Brownies and Guides were able to reform quickly following the lifting of Coronavirus restrictions, regrettably our 3rd Bangor Scout Troup could not. 4th were anxious to stay local to Ballyholme, and since the Parish Centre remained free on Thursdays and Fridays, Vestry were delighted to extend them a welcome. Children and Young People have been a priority for us for decades and they remain so. Praise God for blessing our investment.



SED



Parking Considerately

As we welcome everyone back from their holidays and return to our normal Sunday service format in September, a gentle reminder please to be good neighbours to those who live around us by parking considerately on the Groomsport Road and Grove Park.

On Sundays and for weddings and funerals, we have since September 2019 the formal and willing permission of the management and residents of Sandringham Court to park in their residents' bays. Some recent new

tenants may not initially have been aware of this arrangement, but we hope the understanding has now been clarified and, if they haven't, the police have been kept fully abreast of the situation. Please continue to take care not to park on the double yellow lines and not to cause an entrance/exit obstruction for emergency vehicles. Entirely separately, since a sign now makes it clear that the former bank premise and tarmac adjacent to Sandringham Court are private property, there have been no further problems with those unfamiliar with the area.

On a lighter note, have you heard this one? A minister parked his car in a "No Parking" spot and left a note on the car saying: "I am a minister. I have circled around the area ten times and I could not find a parking space. I am going to be late and so I am parking here. Please forgive us our trespasses." A police officer found the note, left him a ticket for his transgression but left a note for the minister: "I am a police officer. I've been going around this block for 10 years, and if I do not give you a ticket, I will lose my job. Lead us not into temptation!"

It's Smartie time again

This year a Smartie tube will be delivered to you at home. Please return the tube filled with 20p's at the Harvest service on Sunday 15th October.

Happy sharing of the Smarties!

Sandra Griffiths for the Mission Committee





Wednesday 20 September 2023 7.30pm in the Kajiado Room

At long last, it feels safe enough post-Pandemic to resurrect a vital part of our parish's pastoral ministry: home visits – to parishioners, by parishioners!

Before things took such a difficult turn three years ago, St Columbanus had a faithful team of home visitors (men and women, older and younger) who maintained a quiet but extremely precious ministry of keeping contact

with the senior members of our church family. Some visitors called with just one parishioner, others looked in on two or even three.

No doubt some of our former visitors will want to get involved again but we are also hoping for new faces. Those on the receiving end, have always valued the church remembering them in this tangible way. It speaks to them of a God who remembers them – a God who includes them and wants to keep them close, regardless of personal limitations or mobility issues. Being part of the visiting team can be a fulfilling and rewarding experience.

Please join us for a short meeting to find out more as the new season gets under way. We will have simple help/advice sheets for everyone who comes along.

Communion Lunch – Dates for your diary

The Communion lunch is an opportunity to welcome to the Parish Centre, senior members of our congregation, who are not able to attend church as often as they would like. Together we have the opportunity to celebrate Holy Communion followed by a light lunch and chat.

Following our Communion lunch in June, several Parishioners had asked about future dates, so we thought it would be useful to give advance notice of dates until December 2023.

Thursday 12th October 12.30pm

Thursday 14th December 12.30pm

An invitation will be sent nearer the time for you to respond re attendance, dietary requirements and if transport required.

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 look forward to seeing everyone in October.

Margaret

The Wednesday Club



We are meeting up for a new season on Wednesday 6th September at 2.00, and look forward to welcoming all our ladies, and we would also welcome anyone new who would like to come along and give it a try.

See you then. **Sue**



Wednesday 28 June at The Gathering was a memorable night for Ballyholme parishioner Sam Stevenson, husband of our Community Pastor the Reverend Jan, and dad of Ruth and Hope.

Many will know Sam as Dr Stevenson from his years teaching Maths at Bangor Grammar (latterly Sam taught at Grosvenor, Belfast Royal Academy and currently St Malachy's College). But foundational to Sam's life since his teenage years has been his Christian faith. For decades, Sam headed up Bangor Crusaders. After years at Ballyholme Methodist and worshipping latterly at King's Fellowship Church, Sam joined St Columbanus in September 2019.

A little over two years ago, Sam learned of the Diocesan Evangelists Course run in Down and Dromore and on further investigation felt that he would like to pursue it. It is a volunteer ministry, akin to that of Diocesan Readers but with a particular focus on outreach, especially to the unchurched. It is Bishop David's vision that every parish in Down and Dromore should have a Diocesan Evangelist and, as he said on the night of the Commissioning, only another 60 to go!

Passing through a selection panel chaired by Bishop David, Sam was offered a place to train. After completing all its requirements successfully, Sam and three other Evangelists received their red scarves from Bishop David and Church Army Captain George Newell (Down and Dromore coordinator) in a service which combined lively praise with a series of undertakings and promises. In Ballyholme, Sam will continue to concentrate his energies on working with young people, families and men's groups.

The Gathering was the perfect venue for the Commissioning service, and not just for its comfy sofas and atmospheric lighting. It meets at the former St Martin's on the Newtownards Road and is a church plant from the Titanic Quarter's Dock Café congregation. Led by the Reverend Ross Munroe, The Gathering represents the new growth/pioneer initiatives which are a key part of the Church's attempts to reconnect communities with God and faith, and touch many people for Christ for the first time.

FUNERALS

July

10th: Moira Evelyn Balmer, formerly of Maxwell Road

August

7th: Mark Cochrane, formerly of College Green

15th: Ivor Morrison, formerly of Portview



Calling all ladies, please join us in the lower carpark on Thursday 7th September at 7pm for a BBQ. (We will be in the hall if it is wet). You do not need to be planning on coming to the Ladies night away to join us. This is an open invitation to all the ladies in our church and please feel free to bring a friend. We simply ask you to sign the sheet at the back of church/office, so we cater generously. We will be introducing Glynis Matchett the speaker at the night away in Dromantine on Saturday 21st to Sunday 22nd October 2023. I have known Glynis for a few years now and I am really looking forward to having her input on the night away. Glynis is someone who prays a lot and has a very encouraging way of explaining how God's love and power can bring life to us all in our daily lives.



Here is how Glynis describes herself:

I work as an Evangelist and the Head of Prayer Ministry at Willowfield Parish Church in Belfast; I am also Head of Prayer Ministry at New Wine Ireland.

I am married to Chris and am mum to Jonny and Anna - both young adults.

I served with Youth With A Mission (YWAM) for 6 years in UK and abroad and I taught in primary and secondary sectors for quite some time too.

My heart is that people would encounter the Lord in a personal way and experience His presence for themselves.

Glynis Matchett



**BALLYHOLME
PARISH**

Parish Weekend
24-26 November

with Mones & Sally Farah



'friend
of
God'
יֵשׁוּעַ יֵשׁוּעַ

Mones (pronounced Monn-ezz), grew up as a Christian Arab in Nazareth, the eldest of ten children. Mones and his wife Sally have served in parish and university settings in the Welsh Diocese of St David's and the English Diocese of Chelmsford.

Exploring the Lord's longing for all His children

Please plan to be with us
and bring your friends!

Friday 7:30pm

'Play it by ear' Family Fun Drama

Saturday 11:30am

'Ole Buffers Brunch'

Saturday 7:00pm

Curry & Quiz night

Book at church on Sundays or through the parish office
9:00am - 12:30pm Monday to Friday

Sunday 26th November

8:30am - Holy Communion

10:00am - Good News at Ten

11:30am - Morning Prayer

6:30pm - Evening Celebration

02891274912 or office@ballyholmeparish.co.uk



Fantastic outdoor space at St Anne's Church Dungannon

All set for the shops at Linen Green

A little flavour of the wonderful arrangements from The Flower Festival



Lovely lunch

In June a group of members took a coach to visit the Flower Festival at St Anne's Church Dungannon to view the arrangements and have lunch. This was followed by some retail therapy at the shops at the Linen Green.

Monday morning coffee will begin on 4th September at 10.00am.

The first MU meeting for everyone is Monday 2nd October at 7.30pm in Parish Centre. The MU Enrolment Annual Service is on Sunday 8th October at 10.00am with hot dogs for everyone after the Service.

Many Blessings

Yvonne & MU Team.

WEDDING

4th August: Miss Emma Louise Darragh of Shaw Street Belfast (formerly Brooklyn Avenue) and Dr. Michael James Roberts of Ormeau Road, Belfast.

Emma is the daughter of Roy and Catherine Darragh and Mike is the son of Alex and Rose Roberts of Toronto, Canada.

Thanks to the Mothers' Union for the great spread after the service, prior to everyone leaving for the reception.





The full good-news story will appear in the next edition of The Parishioner but for now, the installation will take place shortly of a new Church & Community Defibrillator. Currently, there is no open-access outdoors defibrillator in Ballyholme village, despite several efforts over recent years to provide one. Following an approach to the Select Vestry by Love Ballyholme and a successful application for permission to the Diocese and the RCB, our parish is about to plug this gap.

Every care has been taken to balance the need for the unit to be visible so it can be located quickly in an emergency situation, without it being an eyesore on the wall of the church. As shown in the picture, the most discreet position in plain sight, seems to be the return adjacent to the porch next to the drain-pipe.

The hope with every defibrillator is that it should never have to be used, but back in the spring one of our parishioners, Chris Harte, was very glad a machine was available in his local neighbourhood. He tells the story in his own words.

Defibrillators & Guardian Angels

The end of April is a time of the year when our thoughts should be turning to summer and of course, cricket! For me in 2023 it was rather different with almost 2 full days “missing” and the Royal Victoria (ICU) and the Ulster’s Cardiac Ward being added to Kingsbridge and the Musgrave Park in my tour of Belfast hospitals.

My confident belief that I had watched Leinster beat Toulouse in the European Rugby Cup Semi-Final was proved to be unfounded as I had, apparently, retired to lie down, “not feeling great”. Son Michael was soon on his way from Marino as was daughter Jennifer from East Belfast along with her good friend Eimhear Kearney an A&E Consultant and “my guardian angel”. When they arrived Eimhear took over CPR and dispatched Michael to Carnalea Golf Club. She had recently been at a “post-funeral do” there and had noticed the presence of a DEFIBRILLATOR.

Since I am writing this you can work out that the rest of the tale has worked in my favour. I will for ever be thankful to all who helped and for the excellent care I was shown in the hospitals.

I am informed by the Rector that our Church is about to upgrade its Defibrillator provision in co-operation with those of Ballyholme Village. Can I urge us all to support this project and I know it is key to make the Defibrillator both accessible to as many as possible and yet discreetly situated. It may well save lives – we will all hope it doesn’t have to but you never know “what’s round the corner!”

CCJH





Café Church has continued to be a real blessing. We begin each service with tea, coffee, juice and treats. Some of our children and young people have joined the core team that pray and decide the content for each service. We thank God for a light bulb moment when we realized that involving our young people in the creative process as well as the delivery of the service would enable us the body of Christ to benefit from their creativity as well as enabling them to exercise the spiritual gifts God has given them.

There have been many moments of real blessing where we have felt God's anointing on this service and we want to express our deep gratitude to God and to give him all the glory for a monthly gathering that is very special.

Rev Jan Stevenson on behalf of the Café Church team



Harvest Flowers

Have you ever wondered what happens to all the lovely flowers that people kindly donate to decorate our Church for Harvest?

The Monday following Harvest Sunday a small team of people make up the flowers into bunches and deliver them to some of the housebound members of our Church family so that they can enjoy some of the Harvest decorations at home.

If you would like to help make up bunches of flowers and/or make some deliveries, please come along to Church on Monday 16 October at 10.00am. It would be great to see you there!

Many thanks.



Parish Giving Latest: from Bank of Ireland to Danske Bank

To every parishioner who has taken the time to stop their Bank of Ireland Standing Order and start a new one with Danske – thank you. You have also increased your giving so our post-Pandemic ministry of rebuilding can continue apace and for that we thank God.

Since Coutts came a cropper during the summer for closing Nigel Farrage's bank account, we have been wondering will the Bank of Ireland (and other banks it turns out) ever be answerable for its treatment of so many churches and charities two years ago. The circumstances of our sudden switch to Danske were extremely upsetting at the time, and undoubtedly cost us money. Extricating ourselves from the Bank of Ireland has also proved painfully slow, but at long last our Building Fund monies have now been switched to Danske.

Our 3 year automatic transfer arrangement with Danske is flying by, so if you haven't yet had a chance to help us cut our ties:-

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



Harvest

Season for Gratitude

Our harvest service will take place on 15th October when we have a speaker present from Church Mission Society Ireland. We hope you will also join us for lunch at 12.45 on that day. In order to assist us plan please sign the sheet at the back of the church if you wish to attend.

Along with your copy of this magazine you will find a Smartie tube. Do enjoy the treat and then fill the empty tube with coins. The proceeds from this endeavour are used by the Missions Committee for disbursements to organisations supported by the parish. Please return the filled Smartie Tubes on Harvest Sunday or as soon as possible.

Be assured your donation is very much appreciated by the organisations we support.

Sandra Griffiths

Look Around and Take Care

Next time you're in Church, or the Parish Centre, or car park, have a quick look around. Does everything look OK? Can you see anything hazardous? Could you, or maybe someone less mobile slip or trip while moving around? Could your coming or going be affected by bad weather?

Do you think our car park and grounds are safe night and day? Do you ever get involved in moving tables around in the Parish Centre? Have you ever had a glance at the instructions on the fire extinguishers? Could you follow these in an emergency? Have you ever spotted someone opening a cupboard and jumping out of the way as something falls out?

We hope you'll be pleased to know your Health and Safety Committee and Parish staff are constantly on the lookout around our premises to ensure risks of any sort are eliminated. But, no one's perfect and new hazards might crop up any time. So please keep an eye out as you come and go and if you see anything which looks like a safety hazard have a word with staff, or Church Wardens, or someone in charge of your organization to set the ball rolling and keep things safe.

And, by the way, if you play a leading role in any of our Church organizations, don't forget to complete the up-to-date Risk Assessment needed at this time each year covering your particular activities.

**July - The Newry Canal Way**

The St Columbanus Walkers travelled by train to Portadown and enjoyed a five mile walk along the Newry Canal Way to Moneypenney's Lock and Forge and back. The Newry Canal Way is a 20 mile long distance route running from Portadown to Newry along the restored towpath of the former Newry Canal. Highlight of the walk was the visit to the Forge at Moneypenney's Lock, where we were shown demonstrations by the blacksmith.

**August - The Walkers in Montalto**

Nineteen St Columbanus Walkers enjoyed exploring Montalto Estate near Ballynahinch last weekend. Despite the dire forecast the rain had stopped by the time they arrived. The leader, Brian Templeton, had combined some of the trails which included walking to the top of the hill to see the site of the 1798 Rebellion Battle of Ballynahinch. The find of the afternoon was The Lost Garden which was fascinating with its restored fruit orchard, bridges, sculptures, boardwalks and many interesting plants and trees.

Betty Armstrong**New Parish Sign, Stage 1** (see report at bottom of next page)

YOUTH-news

youth [youth] (youths)

news [nooz]

Summer feels like it's only half-way through at the time of writing this (probably because it is, I guess) – there's so much still ahead, but also so much that we've done already. The two biggest highlights have been Summer Madness and Kilbroney Senior Camp.



We had a great gang at Summer Madness this year, and it was (as usual) a fantastic programme full of worship, Bible teaching, praise, fun, activities, raves, concerts, and general late-night antics (all supervised and managed by responsible leaders of course!). I was incredibly grateful to my team, who helped run the whole thing AND helped me put the wet tents up in the hall when we got home...



We would all have much preferred to be home at that stage, but they stuck it out anyway. Also a big thanks to Zack, Annika, Charlotte, Mark, Megan and Cameron who helped me take them down when they were dry again – that saved me a few hours of unpleasant work!

The second highlight, then, was Kilbroney Senior Camp. This is a major part of the ministry of our diocese, and I'm always involved in some capacity – but it was made even more special by having Zack Graham and Chris Belshaw along for the week. They threw themselves into the life of the camp, made friends, had a good time, made fun of me (to keep me humble, of course) and generally had an amazing time. It was great getting to spend more time with my two die-hards, who are spending 20 out of a possible 20 days of their summer with me! Lucky them, eh?



With Jumpin' and X-Cess ahead, it's far from over; but I'm thankful for what God has done so far, and for what he will continue to do in the lives of young people.



Andrew

New Parish Sign, Stage 1

As previously reported, the Vestry has commissioned a new parish sign, something to be more visible from the road to passers-by. When permission to erect the sign was received from the council in July (to add to that already secured from the Diocese and RCB) we were good to go. On completion, the top part of the sign will carry our name and logo, and the lower part will be hung with changeable canvas banners so we can advertise specific services, events and activities. The sign will be painted to match the railings and the plan is to light it at night. Stage one was to mount and cement the galvanised frame and under project manager and Glebewarden Steven Nickell, Friday 11 August proved the first dry enough day to set about the task. Our thanks to Michael Hatch, Alan Long, Jack Montgomery and David Moorehead for the heavy-lifting and digging.

SEPTEMBER 2023**Sunday 3rd September Trinity 13**

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

Wednesday 6th September

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 10th September Trinity 14

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

Wednesday 13th September

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 17th September Trinity 15

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

Wednesday 20th September

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 24th September Trinity 16

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

Wednesday 27th September

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

OCTOBER 2023**Sunday 1st October Trinity 17**

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

Wednesday 4th October

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 8th October Trinity 18

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

Wednesday 11th October

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 15th October Harvest Trinity 19

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

Wednesday 18th October

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 22nd October Trinity 20

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

Wednesday 25th October

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 29th October Fifth Sunday before Advent

8.30 Holy Communion
10.00 Wholeness and Healing
11.30 Wholeness and Healing

Decorating the Church for Harvest

Help is needed to decorate the church for Harvest Sunday. Any donations of flowers would be very welcome but most of all we need willing hands. If you are free on Saturday 14th October it would be great to see you.
Many thanks.

September 2022

3rd Tracey Andreasson

10th Ruth Lynas

17th Anna Lemon

24th Patricia Stubbings

October 2022

1st Pat Shannon

8th Muriel Ryan

15th Harvest

22nd Christine Johnstone

29th Patricia Todd

