

Church of

# St Columbanus

Parish of Ballyholme



September 2010



## Anyone for cricket?

Full story on page 5



The Church is open every weekday morning for private prayer and meditation

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Our latest book review - Pat Peel on Small Wars

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Photos galore - a Parish summer

◆ **Magazine Contact email:**

office@ballyholmeparish.co.uk

**The Rambling Rector**



Introducing this month, at long last, Tori Craig, our new part-time Children's Ministry Co-ordinator and Sam Johnston, our new Youth Ministry Co-ordinator. This is the point where I ask you all to add Tori and Sam to your daily prayers for our Ballyholme ministry team. Tori will be working hard to build on the new energy we have been giving to Children's Church and Crèche over the last twelve months. As we have seen already the potential for our children's ministry in Ballyholme is enormous. On the youth front, Sam Johnston hopes to develop the relationships with our teenagers, forged so successfully since 2006 by David Cavan.

One of Sam's priorities will be to try to integrate our youth programme more fully into the life and worship of the wider parish. Both these talented young people have a tangible love for God and the Church of Ireland. We are blessed indeed to have them as part of our St Columbanus family and they deserve all we can give them by way of welcome, encouragement and practical support but please don't forget the prayer: it's the power-line for all those called to God's service - full time, part time or voluntary.



**Elderly Relatives**

Currently, the pastoral team come and go from at least a dozen local residential care or nursing homes on a regular basis. Please have a think about whether you might have any aging relatives that we don't currently know about, either still at home or in residential care. If you do, we would love you to get in touch with us at the Parish Office. Sometimes we are called in only when someone is gravely ill and we are always disappointed not to have had an earlier opportunity to get to know them, especially if they've been living somewhere we routinely visit anyway. We know some people may not really be in a great state to get to know us by that stage, but we still feel it is, in a very simple way, a privilege to sit and to pray with them, however briefly. They are every bit as much God's children as we are and just as cherished - to Him and to us. This is no attempt to poach anyone who has strong ties to another church. We are certainly not thinking of anyone who is already being conscientiously ministered to by their own church and clergy, but if you can think of anyone in your family who is not currently receiving spiritual care and whom you may later be getting in touch with us about, please let us know in the Parish Office 9127 4912.

**UPSTAGE DOWNSTAGE MUSICAL COMPANY**

proudly present

100 years of BROADWAY

featuring



**ARDS CHORAL SOCIETY & UPSTAGE  
DOWNSTAGE MUSICAL COMPANY**

SATURDAY 18<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2010, 7.30 p.m.

BALLYHOLME PARISH CENTRE,

Tickets (including Wine & Canapes) £10

Tickets available from Parish Office, Choral Society  
and Bangor Tourist Information Centre



## What's on your iPod (or MP3 Player)?



**NICOLA TODD**

Nicola is 23 years old and works in Clifton Special School as a Classroom Assistant. This year she will be helping to lead Sunday School.

- |    |                            |                             |
|----|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1  | Dream a little dream of me | Mama Cass                   |
| 2  | Cigarettes and coffee      | Otis Redding                |
| 3  | Nobody does it better      | Carly Simon                 |
| 4  | First of July              | Foy Vance                   |
| 5  | Many of Horror             | Biffy Clyro                 |
| 6  | Defying Gravity            | Wicked Broadway Cast        |
| 7  | Winter Winds               | Mumford & Sons              |
| 8  | Bang Bang Bang             | Mark Ronson & Business Intl |
| 9  | New York State of Mind     | Billy Joel                  |
| 10 | A Sunday Kind of Love      | Etta James                  |

### Indoor Bowling Club



The new season commences in the Parish Centre (main hall) on **Wednesday 8th September at 7.30pm** (and Saturday 11<sup>th</sup>). Membership is currently 30 and is well balanced between male and female. Membership Fee is terrific value at £15 (approx. 25p per night!!).

The Club, which has just celebrated it's 50<sup>th</sup> year, is always looking for new members and especially younger ones and you don't have to be a member of the parish to join. The Club can supply bowls, together with expert tuition, and a few weeks free trial, so you can 'try before you buy'. So why not come along on the 8<sup>th</sup> (or 11<sup>th</sup>) and enjoy the fun, friendship and challenge of indoor bowls.

For further information please contact Derek Coates (Secretary) on 02891455471 or mobile 07710 112002 or Sue in the Parish Office on 91274912

### Things I love - by Kathryn Taylor



When I was asked to write this, it made me think carefully about the things I love. After some consideration, I came up with the following:

- Spending time with friends and family, in particular my niece and goddaughter Chloe. She lives in England with my brother and sister-in-law, but I try to go to see them as often as possible.
- Waking up early in the morning and realising that I don't have to go to work because it's the weekend and I can go back to sleep for a while!
- Being a Squirrel leader at St Columbanus with Jennifer and Jacqui. It's great to see the boys every week, ready to enjoy games, craft, cookery and lots of running - dodgeball is a special favourite!
- Finally, I love reading and always have my nose in a book! It's my ideal way to relax and unwind at the end of the day.

### Mothers' Union Notes

We will begin the new season of Mothers' Union with an Enrolment Service on Sunday 5th September at 6.30 pm



Looking forward to seeing you all after the summer break.

Pat

### \*WANTED!\*

Volunteer contributors for Book Reviews, Things I love and the Quiet Corner.

We have uncovered some considerable talent among our Parishioners who now write on many topics. Maybe you could help us by contributing as well.

Please contact Betty on 9146 5372 or email [mearmstrong@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:mearmstrong@tiscali.co.uk) if you're interested.



## Summer Walks

### Vinegar Hill

It took a while to find out what how Vinegar Hill got its name but it turns out that the word is rooted in Irish and means The Hill of the Wood of the Berries. And indeed there were lots of



Blueberry bushes around which provided us with snacks on the way.

Eleven of us set out from the car park at the Barnes Gap in the

Glenelly Valley (the site of the Barnes National School) and with the High Sperrins behind us, tramped uphill accompanied by an attendant Dalmatian and met, as we did in June, a rather large Charolais bull with a herd of Friesians, Left then on a good gravel lane past Vinegar Hill and contouring Mullaghbolig, enjoyed the beautiful views of the Gortacashel glen, a huge bowl sculpted by an Ice Age glacier. The Scutch Mill from here was re-erected at the Folk Museum some thirty years ago. The route was well signposted and brought us back through the gap at a higher level to our starting point.

What makes our walks really interesting as well as exercising our legs is the knowledge within the group on all manner of things outdoors - birds, plants, trees, beetles and even the meaning of Irish words.

Well done Don, Peter and Christine!

### Carntogher - Re-visited!

The weather for our return visit to the Sperrins was just perfect for the 6 mile walk in this historic spot near Maghera. The History Trail in the area is full of sites of archaeological and environmental importance and well worth visiting.

Thirteen of us set off on a quiet minor road from the car park at Cotters' Row, crossing the Grillagh River before heading up the open grassy mountainside of Carntogher itself on a well way-marked trail. The name derives from the Irish for cairn and causeway, the latter referring to a type of roadway made of oak planks used on wet ground. This is the route called the Emigrants' Trail, marking the way emigrants travelling to the port of Derry by this ancient road would have taken The cairn on the top was the

spot where they would leave a stone which gave them their last view of home before leaving for



the New World. How they did it without the sophisticated gear we have today is impossible to imagine. After lunch on the mountainside, timed just as the sun appeared, we made our way back down again on the loop contouring the mountain on a good gravel path, feasting frequently on the wild raspberries in the hedgerows.

Our next outing on 4th September is to the Boyne Visitor Centre, meeting at 8.30 am in the Church car park.

## Ballyholme's answer to "Strictly Come Dancing"

*Sequence Dances*



Pre-Christmas supper dance  
on **Friday 19th November**  
in the Parish Centre  
at 7.45 pm

*Ballroom*



Limited places available so please book  
your ticket now!

*Spot Prizes*

£5 per ticket

*Ballots*

## Howzat!!!!

I have met some ferocious competitors in my job. I have watched the steely determination with which Tiger Woods approaches a golf round. I have stared into the cold, clear eyes of Roy Keane and seen only a battle hardened desire for success. I have heard the crunch of a young Irish winger tackling a twenty five stone pig farmer from New Zealand just to prevent a try.... but none of these sportsmen, none of them, match the single minded desire to win as that shown by the Reverend Simon Doogan at Ballymacormick playing fields earlier this summer. Picture the scene. It was balmy early evening. The seagulls were circling overhead, the light wind ruffled the trees around the cricket pitch at what Grammarians refer to as "Ballymac". All was silent, apart from the pre game rallying call from Doogan. I can't remember the words exactly, the emotion was too great, but here are some of the key phrases... "12 months of hurt"... "I want to beat David Cavan (Parish Youth Worker) in this cricket match more than anything else in the world!".... "If we win I will never let him forget it". The Reverend's team was beaten in the Parish cricket match a year earlier, and the pain of that defeat clearly still rankled. For his part, David Cavan, the captain of the youth cricket team, had never let him live it down. Ballyholme has two major sporting events of the year. The traditional Boxing Day football match and the new annual cricket contest, instigated by the Reverend. Both involve the church's young people taking on a team made up the not so young. For the 2010 Cricket match, Simon did what any good captain does after a defeat, he recruited. He added steel to the batting line up by signing Chris Harte, former Ireland International and ex-Bangor Grammar School cricket coach. He also poached a South African, (always a good move in sport) Jarred Smith, son



of curate, Stephen Smith. They proved crucial to outcome of the match. The old were put in to bat against the young. A rule was added which meant that if you reached 25 runs you had to retire. In a sign of the dominance of the old, that the team reached 100 runs without a wicket being conceded. Chris Harte made 25, Chris King made 25, I made 25 (although I was dropped at least half a dozen times)

and Jarred made 25. There were also contributions from Steven Baird, Stanley Officer and Stephen Smith, to name just three of the lower order. Simon, when he came in, batted valiantly although he had to put up with the constant sledging from



David Cavan at midwicket. (Sledging in cricket is when a member of the opposition tries to put you off by hurling abuse at you - Dave is particularly good at it). The tension between youth worker and minister was palpable on the field as Doogan, resplendent in MCC colours, steered his side toward an impressive total in excess of 130.



When it came to their turn to bat, the young ones wilted in the cricketing spotlight. Wicket after wicket fell as their top order, middle order and tail end were caught out, bowled out and run out in quick succession. Chris Harte showed that he remains as brilliant with the ball as he is with the bat. Cavan went cheaply, much to the delight of the Reverend Doogan. I must report that the sledging on the night went two ways. Even while Dave was making his way out to bat, Simon was chipping away at his psychological defences. As is often the case when you are the subject of sporting abuse, you try too hard - Dave did just that and got out. With Cavan gone, Doogan sensed victory. He rallied the troops for one last effort and then, as the last ball of the 25th over was bowled it was clear - the young ones weren't going to reach our target - the win was ours!



So, I can report that in the great cricket battle of 2010, it was the oldies who came out on top. Experience triumphed over youth and Simon Doogan came up trumps against David Cavan. It was a great night, enjoyed by all and I for one can't wait for the game in 2011!

# Around the Parish Summer 2010



Parish  
Garden  
Party



Parish Garden Party



MU Outing



Parish Golf Outing

## New Appointments



### Children's Worker

**I**t has been a hectic few weeks for our new Children's Worker Tori Craig. Not only was there the excitement of looking forward to her new job but also the whirlwind of preparations for her

wedding to Ryan and the honeymoon in Cuba afterwards.

Tori was formerly a youth worker at St Mary's in Comber and she also worked for five years in Christ Church, Carrowdore in a voluntary capacity. She says she has always had an interest in youth work and is currently a student at Belfast Bible college, hoping to go into the Ministry in the Church of Ireland.

Her new post in St Columbanus means she will be changing to children's worker, which she says she has more experience of. "I am looking forward to doing that. That is where my heart lies. It is a very important step to get them on from childhood and nurture them at youth and confirmation stage," she added.

As part of her duties Tori will be visiting the various schools in the area, taking assemblies and services, which she has already experienced in Comber. "I am very excited and a bit apprehensive as well," she added although the wedding preparations were uppermost in her mind when she learned of her appointment.

The wedding was held at Christ Church Carrowdore and Tori paid tribute to her mum whom, she said, had been an absolute "Godsend" helping her with the many preparations.

Her family were supportive and very excited for her too, she added. Ryan will also be attending St Columbanus "It is not only just a job but it means so much more being able to worship and being part of a bigger family", she added.

Tori has many and varied interests - rock climbing, canoeing, dancing, playing the piano, drama and musicals, which should ensure that she has a part to play in forthcoming St Columbanus musical productions. Tori and her husband Ryan will be living at Connsbrook Avenue, Belfast.

### Youth Worker



**T**he church's new Youth Worker, Sam Johnston, will be a familiar face to many in the congregation.

A regular worshipper at St Columbanus for more than 20 years, Sam is really looking forward to being able to devote himself to this full time post and teaming up with Tori, the new children's worker.

"I am privileged that I have been in the various youth organisations including Sunday School, Jam and Youth Fellowship both as a member and as a leader," he added.

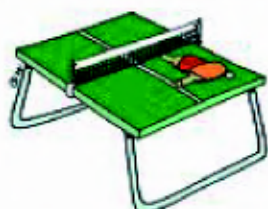
Sam was part of a CMS Ireland team that went on a three week trip to Rwanda in August. He took part in a youth camp and was also a member of the team that helped build two houses while they were there. In the afternoons, he taught and visited refugee camps.

"It is an interesting country. There was no sense of racial tensions. The view is, that we are all Rwandans working together," he went on. There are also attempts to get the country back on its feet with lots of roads being built and development going on.

However, the flip side is that there are still many refugees, as Sam discovered. He also had the sobering experience of visiting two genocide memorials and a church where 2-3,000 people were killed.

"That was really extreme but it was important to see that and also see how far the country has come. It is also important to know that this is still going on in areas such as Darfur and the Congo," he added. He even ended up with a few marriage proposals once they discovered that he had reached the ripe old age of 25 without being married but he tactfully declined.

Many will know Sam as a talented musician who has often played at church services, but his main focus now will be on his new post, though he might just be found singing in his band at the occasional wedding!



### Table Tennis Club

**T**he table tennis club is due to resume on Monday 6th September. Anyone interested can come along each Monday evening from 7.30 until 9.30 p.m. Bats and all equipment are available. Age and gender is no barrier. Nominal fee £1 per night.



## St Columbanus parishioners confirmed

All three of our parishioners who were confirmed this year were not born into the Church of Ireland tradition but have found a sense of belonging in St Columbanus.

Audrey Lunn was born and raised in the Methodist tradition and continued to worship and witness in this church until the children had “flown the nest” and her husband George retired.

“We then felt led to change direction in our spiritual journey so we joined St Columbanus and the Church of Ireland. Following on from this I felt the need to renew my faith and commitment. It was a fresh challenge to be led in that journey through the fundamentals of the faith in confirmation,” said Audrey.

Audrey, proudly displaying the prayer book they were all given after the confirmation service in Holywood, explained that it was their daughter Joanne who persuaded them to go to St Columbanus. Although George was born and raised in the Church of Ireland he attended the Methodist church for 40 years with Audrey but realised he was not happy.

When they decided to move, Audrey said George was very supportive of her decision but he wanted her to be sure she was doing it for the right reasons.

“He wanted me to be sure I was doing it for myself and not for him. I think it is a great church and we are very happy in it. I had been going for quite a few years before taking the decision to get confirmed,” she added.

Earlier this year, Audrey made up her mind and, it was “full steam ahead” with weekly visits from Simon to prepare her. The only thing that worried her during with confirmation was her knee - “I thought if I got down I would have difficulty getting back up,” but she said the clergyman got hold of her and “hauled” her to her feet so she was fine!

Audrey and George also have a son Timothy and two grandsons.



David Byers, who was brought up as a Presbyterian and his wife Eileen, a practicing Catholic, had been attending St Columbanus for some time. They were also regular worshippers at St Comgall’s, Brunswick Rd and David thought he would “rationalise the situation” by getting confirmed so he could have communion in the Church of Ireland. David is a Bangor man but was in the air force in England when he met and married Eileen and worked in the aircraft industry there for many years. When they moved back to Bangor the couple initially lived in Ballyholme and both their children were confirmed and married in St Columbanus.

As David says, the “attachments” were already there so he decided that he would get confirmed in order to take communion in the church. “I just thought it was the thing to do - if I was going to attend and be a member of the church I should be a full member,” The confirmation ceremony was especially important for David as Bishop Harold Miller personally came out to the Marie Curie Hospice where David was resident at the time. In fact, the bishop lives so close he was able to walk there from his own home.

“The staff laid on a wonderful spread with sandwiches and tray bakes,” he added, paying tribute to the efforts they went to ensure everything was just right.

He and Eileen have two grown up children Jacqueline and Kevin

The third and youngest of the trio was Adam Smyth. Having come to the church 2 years ago, when he was just 14, he decided to wait until he had been here a while before being confirmed. Describing the whole process as “very laid back” he too met Simon on a weekly basis when different aspects of Church of Ireland life and belief were explained to him. Adam gained a different perspective on the Church of Ireland, having grown up in the Church of England in South Africa. “It is slightly different in practices and beliefs, but there are not really big differences,” he said. Adam completed his GCSEs at Bangor Grammar in the summer and returned in September to continue his studies. Coming from South Africa, Adam says it was hard in the beginning, but he was lucky that he joined in Year 11 when the pupils were moving around to different classes, making it easier for him to fit in. “Living here, it is easy to go to school and I have met some very nice people,” he added.

