

Parish of Kilconriola and Ballyclug

PARISH MAGAZINE

MAY 2013



Diocese of Connor - Parish of Kilconriola and Ballyclug



WHO'S WHO IN OUR PARISH

CLERGY

Rector

Canon S G E Lloyd, B.A.
St Patrick's Rectory
102 Galgorm Road (Tel 2565 2253)
Email sgelloyd@btinternet.com



Curate Assistants

The Revd. Brian Lacey
50 Castle Street (Tel 2564 7040 or 075 1429 2107)
Email brianlacey1978@hotmail.com

The Revd. Iain Jamieson
38 Ballee Road East (Tel 2564 7049)
Email i.jamieson@hotmail.com

LAY READER

Mr J Perry, 261a Galgorm Road, Ballymena.

YOUTH WORKERS

Lucy McLaughlin
3 The Commons, Broughshane
Tel 2586 1524
Mobile 077 5995 0497

Alan Ross
70 Maine Road, Shankbridge, Ballymena
Tel 2589 2740
Mobile 077 5991 6755

PARISH OFFICE

St Patrick's Hall - Tel 2563 0741 E-mail - kilconriola@btconnect.com OR ballymena@connor.anglican.org
Web Site - ballymena.connor.anglican.org
Open - Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings
PARISH ADMINISTRATOR: Mrs Lorraine McBride

CHURCH WARDENS

St Patrick's	Rector's	Mrs Patricia McWhirter
	People's	Mrs Rosalie Grainger
Ballyclug	Rector's	Mr Eric McKee
	People's	Mr Jackie Greer
St Columba's	Rector's	Mrs Hilary Strain
	People's	Mr Ivan McCombe
Glebe Wardens	Rector's	Mr Kenneth Hughes
	People's	Mr Peter Chestnutt

SELECT VESTRY

Clergy, Church Wardens, Glebe Wardens and:

Mr Alan Adair, Mr Bill Balmer, Mr William Burnett, Mrs Anne Crawford, Mrs Debbie Crawford, Mr Barry Duke, Mr Dessie Dunlop, Mr Alastair Marrs, Mr Alex McKay, Mr Jackie McMaster, Mrs Adelaide Nimick and Mrs Loraine Watt.

Honorary Secretary:
Honorary Treasurer:

Mr A Marrs
Mr J Carson

32 Granville Drive, Ballymena
19 Valley Road, Ballymena

Sextons

St Patrick's
St Columba's
St Patrick's
St Columba's

Mr John Linton
Miss Margaret Mawhinney
Dr Jonathan Drennan
Mrs Sandra Montgomery

Organists

THE RECTOR WRITES



The Rector Writes

It's that time of year when people begin to think about the garden. Some will already have sown seeds, some will be planning visits to a garden centre. Many people like to try their hand at growing things - some are naturals and some, well they try!

Now if I was to say to you "So and so has got green fingers," what would your response be? Would you be amazed, would you declare that could not be or would you take it on board as an interesting fact about that person. Hopefully we realise when we use that phrase about having green fingers that we are not declaring a literal truth but rather we are using an arresting turn of phrase which conveys a truth - the person is very good at growing things. We convey that everything they touch seems to grow well while so often for others there is a lot of effort with little success.

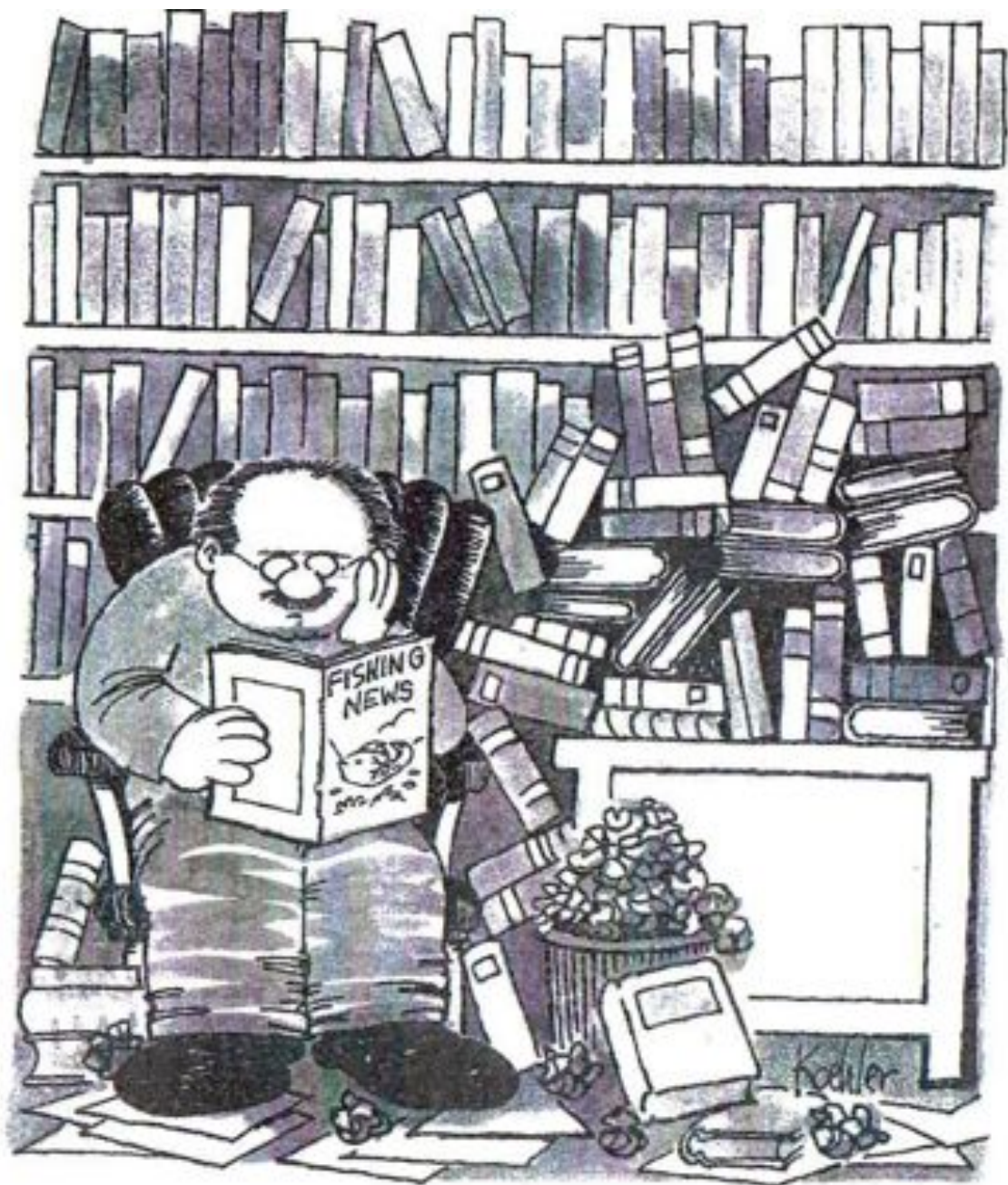
The bible, and that word simply means the books, is a library of books with all sorts of styles of writings. Many people see one of these styles as using an arresting story form not to convey literal truths but nevertheless to declare what is profoundly true. Thus in the first chapter of the bible we have the wonderful and arresting story of creation. You remember how it moves through the 6 days with God opening up a new part of creation on each day and then resting on the 7th day. And what God makes is deemed good and when it is all done it is declared very good.

Now many see this attractive and memorable story not as the author trying to give a scientific account of how things came into being - it's not meant to be literally true - but as the author using a powerful tool to enunciate a very important truth. That truth is that God is behind the whole of creation and ultimately everything that is comes from God. So while scientists may have explanations for how things came into being that in no way takes away from the truth that behind the whole scheme

of things is God and that he has good intentions for his creation. Rather than trying to give a scientific account, and his knowledge in that regard might have been very limited, he gives us a story which we won't forget in the hope that we won't forget that all important truth - God is ultimately behind everything and in charge.

So next time you sow those seeds or pot up that plant - whether you have green fingers or not, whether there is good growth or not, remember that behind that marvel of growth is our God, worthy of worship.

Stuart Lloyd.



Saturday evening, 9.45 p.m. While cramming for a sermon the Revd Ramswell is tempted to throw in the towel.



Around the Parish

MOTHERS AND TODDLERS

We hope everyone has enjoyed their Easter break. We enjoyed Audrey Vance coming to give a talk on baby and child resuscitation in April. We hope to have Sadie Peachy with us on 14th May to talk about healthy eating. Our congratulations to Rosemary Stacey on the birth of a granddaughter and also to Rosalie Grainger on being appointed churchwarden.



We send our sympathy to Isobel Adair on the loss of her mother-in-law. We will continue our usual crafts, singing and healthy eating in May.

DATE	NAME	FUNCTION
7 May	Rosemary Stacey, Sandra McKay and Mary Cochrane	Tea
	Bee Robinson	Welcoming
	Alex McKay	Car Park
14 May	Evonne Stinson, Eleanor Burnett, Martha Caulfield and Rosalie Grainger	Tea
	Vera Owens	Welcoming
	Oliver Reid/Robert McGimpsey	Car Park
21 May	Martha Rainey, Dorothy Hegan and Isabel Halliday	Tea
	Anne Fisher	Welcoming
	Trevor Halliday/Jimmy Coleman	Car Park
28 May	Ruth Murray, Isabell Adair, Nell McIlwee and Karin Agnew	Tea
	Ann Harrison	Welcoming
	Davy Nelson	Car Park

Our thanks to you all for your continued support.

*Dorothy (2589 2740),
Anna, Anne and Liz*

MOTHERS' UNION

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

www.themothersunion.org

The speaker at our next meeting will be the Rev. Derek Kerr, the vicar of Randalstown, who will be speaking on the Royal Family with special emphasis on the Jubilee celebrations. We extend a warm welcome to any member of the Parish to join us on **Wednesday 8th May at 8.00 pm** for what promises to be a most entertaining evening. (Supper Ann Coid and Pam Boreland).

*Jean Kennedy
Secretary*



FLOWER GUILD

It was great that the work being carried out at the church was finished in time for our Easter Celebrations at St Patrick's. It looks amazing - especially coming into town from the Cullybackey Road.

The flower displays on the windows etc, were beautiful and our thanks go to the small band of ladies who so ably arranged them.

Our thanks also goes to your continuing support in the form of donations for the flower arrangement placed in the church each Sunday.

Looking back to May 2003 - ten years ago, it was a very different situation that our Flower Guild found itself in - our Flower Festival!

The following is an excerpt from our secretary's report, September 2003.

'As Basil Fawlty kept saying in one episode of the 'sit-com Fawlty Towers', "Don't talk about the war." Well it's time to talk about the war! Our Flower Festival! May 2003.

The initial skirmishes started in May 2002 with hardly a shot being heard or fired! All through the year reconnaissance visits were arranged to

locate the enemy or to ascertain strategic features. But still, like Nevill Chamberlain, we thought it would be 'Peace in our Time' and as the weeks wore on, having no conception of the enormity of our task or of the bomb that was about to hit us, we ambled on in blissful ignorance.

On hindsight 'Lambs to the Slaughter' springs to mind as an appropriate metaphor! Although the Flower Guild was not, mercifully in the front line, it played a vital role indeed, willingly working in the background and out of direct firing range, making their work, I venture to say, almost enjoyable. A mention in dispatches must go to our excellent Catering Corps - no army rations for this troop of soldiers. All the conscripts were well catered for - morning, noon and sometimes night time too, 'Gung a-Din - eat your heart out!

The first bomb fell on Monday 12th May - the flowers began to arrive! We knew in our hearts that there was no going back - no sounding the retreat - do or die time! We fought them in the porch, we fought them in the aisles and in the chancel - we even fought them from above - on ladders! We would not surrender until the fight was over and our Flower Festival opened officially on Friday, 16th May with a buffet reception in the Parochial Hall afterwards.

We had a great response from the public and over £13,000 was raised for charities and our church. We had a memorable celebration of 150 years of worship in our beloved St Patrick's Church.

Of course, our great victory didn't come without some hardship. One of our soldiers fell during the battle, and is now recovering back home. Sadly, many others will live with their pains for ever. It must be said that without the great leadership of Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery - did I say Montgomery - I meant Mrs Sandra Carson, we would still have been knee-deep in mud in the trenches - but with her encouragement and courage in leading from the front - we took heart and fought like warriors. The battle over and won, we now felt like soldiers being demobilized - was their life after all the excitement and camaraderie - of course there was!

The church's life still flows on from week to week, year after year, and with God's help will still be there as a shining light to lead and guide us for generations to come.

I wonder, as I wander! Can Flower Guilds be awarded the 'Victoria Cross' for valour in the face of the enemy?'

*Etta O'Hara and
Jean Kennedy*

CHURCH LADS' BRIGADE

Our annual Parents and Friends evening was held on Friday 19th April. Thanks to Michael and Anne Johnston for presenting the following awards:-



MARTINS AWARDS 2013

Boyd Shield for P.E. and Games

1st Carson Hume

Hamill Shield - Best Squad

Runner Up **Michael Leetch
Harry Lamont, Thomas
Adair, Alexander Bell,
Carson Hume, Finn Sloan,
Corey Black**

Stinson Shield - Best New Recruit

Bobby McIlwaine

Scripture Colouring Competition

Runner Up **Finn Sloan**

Gillespie Cup Best Boy

Dan McGrattan

Special Achievement Award

Runner Up **Thomas Adair**

W. Nelson Memorial Cup
Church/Sunday School Attendance

Harry Lamont

Runner Up **Alexander Bell**

Michael Leetch

Runner Up **Robert Johnston**

Euan Hamill

Badge work Badges
Bible

**All Boys Received their
Badges**

All boys received Attendance Awards.

Y.B.C. SECTION

Andrew Dennison Shield for
P.E. and Games

Joe Monaghan

Runner Up **Macenzie McIlwaine**

Black Cup Best Squad

Adam Lamont, Andrew Johnston, Adam Boyd, Aiden Hoey, Mason Hume, Rico Kirk

McBride Shield - Scripture Exam

Joint winners - *Callum Hamill, Simon Bennett*

Runner Up *James McIlfatrick*
3rd *John Young*

Elliott Cup - Best Boy

Aaron Adair

Runner Up *Wyatt Lorimer*

All boys received Attendance Awards and First Aid Certificates.

J.T.C. SECTION

Burnett Shield for P.E. and Games

Anthony Shaw

Runner Up *Trai Hume*

McCullough Shield - Best Squad

David Leetch, Anthony Shaw,

Adam Smith, Neil McAllister

Rodgers Cup - Scripture Exam

Adam Smith

Runner Up *Neil McAllister*

McCready Cup - Best Boy

Callum Ross

Runner Up *Scott Norris*

All boys received Attendance Awards.

C.L.B. SECTION

O'Hara Centenary Shield for
P.E. and Games

Cameron Neilly

Runner Up *Luke Cunningham*

Perry Cup - Best Squad

Callum McCarrison,

Matthew Boyd,

Luke Cunningham

Nevin Cup - Best Boy

Callum McAleese

Runner Up *Matthew Boyd*

Scripture Exam

Callum McCarrison

Runner Up *Callum McAleese*

Ross Cup - Best All Round

Trai Hume

Runner Up *Sam Crawford*

All boys received Attendance Awards.

Sittlington Cup - Highest collection
Brigade week

Matthew and Adam Boyd
Runners Up *Aaron and*
Thomas Adair

Penney Cup for Church Duty

Luke Cunningham

Barr Cup - Best Boy overall in
Company

Runner Up *Simon Bennett*
Adam Boyd

All boys received Attendance Awards.

LONG SERVICE MEDAL

20 years

Wallace Barkley

The C.L.B. presented the following cheques - £300 to the Parish and £200 to Leprosy Mission.

Over the summer break we are looking for any parents or parishioners who could spare one hour on a Friday evening to help out with C.L.B. This is not a big commitment and it would make such a difference to have an extra pair of hands. Please consider this and contact any of the leaders so that we can have you in place for September.

Congratulations to the boys who attended the annual Sports Day and won the overall 4th Battalion Sports Shield. The U-14 and U-15 Football Teams also enjoyed success with both teams qualifying to represent Ulster at the national finals in Blackpool in June.

Thanks to all parents and boys for their continued support over the year. We hope you have a nice summer break and that we will see you all back again on **Friday, 6th September.**

Alan Ross



SQUIRRELS

We are now well into the summer term and we are hoping for some good weather so that we can visit the park and play outside. We have arranged to visit the local Fire Station on **Wednesday 1st May**. This is a visit that the Squirrels always look forward to.



The Squirrels took part in the Scouts annual St George's day parade on 21st April. The boys enjoyed parading along the streets and waving to everyone. The weather was very kind to us as we got to church and back home again, warm and dry. If any boys aged 4 or 5 would like to join our Squirrels, then please feel free to come along to one of our meetings or to get in touch with the leaders.

Paul and Ann

CUBS

It only seems like yesterday that the last update was written, but here we are again.

Since then, plans have progressed well for our annual camp. This year we are going back to Tipperary Wood, Newcastle where we will step back in time with a medieval theme. The cubs have been split into three kingdoms and each have a king/queen. With swords, shields and banners to design and make, they will have a busy few weeks before even getting to camp.

The Cubs took part in the annual St George's day Parade on Sunday, 21st April in the town, parading to St Patrick's Church and it was great to see such a good turnout. A special thanks to Ellie Hughes who carried the Cub flag and Faye Eagleson for leading the Cub law in church.

A few of the Cubs have now moved to our Scout group. Ben, Chris and Joshua made the switch and by all reports have settled in very well.

Looking forward, we still have two more fun filled busy months of Cubs ahead getting the older Cubs through their chief silver badge (the highest award in Cubs) and other badge work with the younger ones.

Some of the pack took part in the District Orienteering at Portglenone forest where a record time of just over 17 minutes was set by Josh Coates and John Clarke and 1st place shield was won. Well done lads. Great effort was put into this by all who took part.



Josh Coates and John Clarke who won first place in District Orienteering at Portglenone Forest

We would like to thank the parents who help support the pack in various ways, especially transporting them to different events.

Well, must go now and get the tents sorted and packed, shop for food and other supplies for camp well, maybe one more cup of coffee first!

Roy McPeake Chil



BADMINTON

Badminton has now stopped for a well deserved summer break. Good luck to Stephen and Ollie who are heading off to university, hopefully we shall see you during your holidays. Badminton will resume on September 4th at 7.30 pm. All new players are welcome (year 8 - adult).

Have a great summer!

Hazel Davison

GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY

We had our annual GFS display on 23rd April. We would like to thank everyone who attended as your support means a lot to us. We hope everyone had a good night. A special thank you to our guest of honour Ady Cama-



cho, to our musicians Cheryl, Michael and Taylor and our photographer Loraine. A big thank you to the parents who bring the girls along every Tuesday night and lastly to all the girls - you did us proud. Well done to all of you! Awards were given to the following girls:-

UNDER 5

<i>Maya Grainger</i>	Best Newcomer
<i>Katie McIlwaine</i>	Attendance
<i>Issy Workman</i>	P.E.
<i>Zoe Moore</i>	Art and Craft
<i>Gemma McClelland</i>	Most Improved
<i>Libby Millar</i>	Best Behaviour
<i>Kaitlyn Gibson</i>	Best Overall

CANDIDATES

<i>Alex Workman</i>	Marching
<i>Jess Workman</i>	Choir
<i>Anna Coid</i>	Most Improved
<i>Anna Service</i>	Best Overall

JUNIOR MEMBERS

<i>Bethany McClelland</i>	P.E.
<i>Jessica Farrar</i>	Marching
<i>Yasmin Carly</i>	Most Helpful
<i>Caragh Hamill</i>	Attendance at GFS and Church
<i>Louisa Shaw</i>	Best Behaviour
<i>Megan Cathcart</i>	Best Overall

MEMBERS

<i>Jenna Andrews</i>	Marching
<i>Amber Orr</i>	Drama
<i>Hannah Crawford</i>	Music
<i>Tamsin Orr</i>	Attendance at GFS and Church
<i>Celine Mitchell</i>	P.E.
<i>Allegra Shaw</i>	Most Helpful
<i>Louise Andrews</i>	Best Behaviour
<i>Kelsey Monaghan</i>	Best Overall

SHIELDS

Cotter Shield
Adair Shield
Molly Carson Shield
Galbraith Shield

Kaitlyn Gibson
Anna Service
Anna Coid
Megan Cathcart

GFS will start again on **Tuesday 10th September 2013** from 7.15 pm to 8.15 pm. We hope to see you all back again - have a lovely summer.

GFS Leaders



CHOIR

Choral Evensong **Sunday 5th May 6.30 pm.**

Fireside Quiz 'FAMOUS SAYINGS/QUOTES' - £1 available from any choir member, closing date 31st May.

Ella Duddy





Ballyclug

The change of churchwardens has taken place and we wish to welcome Eric McKee as the rector's churchwarden and thank Jackie Greer for continuing as people's churchwarden. Those elected to the Select Vestry are - Alan Adair, Dessie Dunlop, Adelaide Nimick, Jackie McMaster, Bill Balmer and William Burnett. We extend our sincere thanks to the outgoing churchwardens Mary Galbraith and Kelsey Monaghan for their hard work during the last year.

On Sunday 14th April our service took the form of favourite hymns led by Canon Lloyd, who introduced and gave an excellent explanation as to their meanings and reasons for them being written. We wish to thank Dr Jonathan Drennan for playing the organ, which greatly assisted the congregation in their superb singing. For such a small church we certainly raised the roof!

Now that spring has arrived the grass in the graveyard will require cutting and the graves maintained. So if you are free on Thursday evenings do come and help or if your family own a grave please keep it tidy. Inside, the church is cleaned every week and our thanks go to those who regularly carry out this duty. Many thanks also to Adelaide for bringing the flowers, which are kindly donated to Ballyclug Church by Sainsbury's. The flowers are then taken by members of our congregation to parishioners who are ill or housebound.

The monthly coffee morning continues to be a great success, with quite a few parishioners staying after the service to enjoy those lovely home-made tray bakes and cakes. It is much appreciated and creates an excellent atmosphere bringing everyone together and enables Jackie to keep us all up to date. Restoration work is soon due to start on the front wall of the church, where water is penetrating. We apologise for the disruption this will cause but the work is necessary.

William Burnett

Churchwardens

ST PATRICK'S

Patricia McWhirter



Patricia is married to John and they live just outside Ballymena. They have three grown up children, one son and two daughters. Last year Patricia became a granny to Emmanuel. Her family have had a long connection with St Patrick's where she has been baptised, confirmed, married and now has the pleasure of being rector's churchwarden. On leaving school Patricia became a bank official, followed by various clerical jobs. In recent years she has cared for elderly relatives. Her interests are Mothers' Union, cooking, reading and long walks along the beach in Donegal where the family have a caravan, while her husband is glued to the TV especially when Man U are playing. Ultimately she says that when we have our faith, family and friends, everything else falls into place.

Rosalie Grainger

Originally from Whitehead, Rosalie moved to Ballymena in 1976. She is married to David and they have three grown up children. At the age of six she joined the Girl Guides and has held many positions within the Girl Guiding Association. Rosalie has been a member of Ballymena Trefoil Guild for some years and was recently appointed North Antrim County Chairman of that organisation. Her main interests are the Belfast Geologists' Society and the Belfast Naturalists' Field Club. In 1980 she joined St Patrick's Branch of Mothers' Union and recently has been actively involved in the Theology Group, Mothers and Toddlers, catering and student lunches.



2013/2014

BALLYCLUG

Eric McKee

Eric and his wife Irene are both originally from Bessbrook, Co. Armagh. They moved to Ballymena in 1982 because of Eric's work which was in the public sector. Since then they have been regular worshippers at St Patrick's Ballyclug. Eric's professional working life ended with his retirement in August 1992. His interests include - travel, dining out, reading (everything and anything), soccer, rugby, golf and he is an active member of both the Masonic and Orange Orders.



Jackie Greer

Jackie served his time as an engineer with the Merchant Navy and has worked with several local companies since leaving the Navy. He became a member of St Patrick's when he met his wife. They have three grown up children and two grandchildren. He would like to thank the congregation of Ballyclug for choosing him once again to serve for another year and for their continued support. Jackie thoroughly enjoys his role in the Parish and his involvement with the various work parties where he uses his many skills in the upkeep of the church and graveyard. His hobbies are music and caravanning.



ST COLUMBA'S

Hilary Strain

Hilary was born in Londonderry. She moved to Antrim in 1970 and then to Ballymena in 1978. Hilary is married to David and works in Community Mental Health in the Carrickfergus/Greenisland area. Her hobbies include singing in the Living Faith choir as well as St Columba's choir. She is also Assistant Leader in St Columba's Rainbows. Hilary feels privileged to be working alongside her brother Ivan who is the people's churchwarden in St Columba's, so this is a



brother and sister team. Hilary says that this will be a tribute to their late mum, Mrs Linda McCombe, who passed away earlier this year. She says that their mum always encouraged them to get involved in the work of the church and she would have been proud of them both.

Ivan McCombe

Ivan was born in Londonderry back in 1957, moved to Antrim in 1970 and then to Ballymena in 1978 where his parents ran a grocery shop in Harryville. Married since 1985 to Joanne, they have one daughter Jade, a qualified optometrist. A self employed businessman most of his working life, he is now a master franchiser in Ireland for an online marketing business specialising in search engine optimisation and providing online offers. Ivan is a sports fanatic with a passion especially for cricket which



he still plays, captaining this year the second team at Muckamore Cricket Club. Since joining the family at St Columba's in 2011, Ivan has enjoyed the fellowship and worship and wants people to 'arrive with a smile on a Sunday, leave with a smile and encourage a lot more people to join us'. Ivan is delighted to serve the congregation at St Columba's as people's churchwarden especially when accompanied by his sister Hilary as rector's churchwarden.



Parish News

ANNUAL CIVIC SERVICE

This will be held on **Sunday 26th May at 11.30 am** in St Patrick's. As with last year it will be a joint service as our 3 churches host the wider community. Thus there will be no service in Ballyclug or St Columba's. The Parish does write to invite representatives from a host of voluntary and statutory groups. This year we would like to extend the net further. We will be offering printed invitations to parishioners and we would like them to use these to encourage others, whom they know to be involved in the community, to come to this service.

WALK TO JERUSALEM

Well done to everyone who was involved in this project. Not everyone who participated gave us their mileage but what we have at hand shows that the folks at St Patrick's and Ballyclug achieved 4851 miles and those at St Columba's 2848. The distance to Jerusalem is 2787 so we got to Jerusalem and back home again and indeed nearly reached Jerusalem a second time! Hopefully

all benefited from the exercise but what is more we managed to raise £1075 for children with different abilities in the Holy Land.

And now that folk are in the way of exercising you can look forward to our Fit for Life walks which will be starting as we come towards summer.

RADIO CRACKER

It is very commendable that Radio Cracker has continued to function over the last 22 years and has brought benefits to the lives of thousands of people in many different countries of the world. It is a challenge to maintain this outreach and an increasing burden is being borne by a core of dedicated but ageing volunteers. An appeal therefore has gone out for new volunteers who might in any way help the work of this charity. If anyone would be interested to find out more please speak to the rector.

NEW TEAM

The names of those who will be serving as churchwardens, glebe-

wardens and select vestry members for the coming year appears on the inside of the front cover of this magazine. We are grateful to those who have agreed to serve in this manner and we trust that they will be encouraged by the rest of the parishioners on whose behalf they serve.

Martha Caulfield has stepped down as Treasurer of the parish. She has served in that particularly demanding post for 7 years and we owe her a great debt of gratitude for all her work. Few appreciate the amount of work involved and the multitude of monies that have to be managed. Martha faithfully sought to carry out her duties to the best of her ability and as a rector who had to work closely alongside her I valued her approachability and her support. As a parish we must commend her for her commitment to this area of ministry.

As to say the least, there was no rush to take over this post the Select Vestry has asked Jonathan Carson, a parishioner and accountant by trade, to take over the oversight of parish finances for the immediate future. We are grateful to Jonathan for agreeing to do this and he will be assisted by Colin Watt, Ivan Stacey and Martha.

EMAIL

Please note that the parish has a new email address. This will al-

ways appear on the magazine inner cover but for you to add to your email addresses it is kilconriola@btconnect.com.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Brian our curate on his appointment as rector of the Parish of St Peter on the Antrim Road in Belfast. Brian's last Sunday with us will be the **9th June** and he will be instituted as rector on Monday **17th June**. Clearly we will miss Brian but wish him well as he begins to pack his boxes and prepare the cats for pastures new! We will have opportunity to say more in next month's magazine.

VIGIL

Some will remember that we had a prayer vigil back in October. This did attract a goodly number and most stayed for the 4 hours. The experience was appreciated but more important such a time of openness to God can only be good for the spiritual life of the parish. God willing we will have a similar style vigil on the Friday before Pentecost - that is **Friday 17th May**. Again it will be from 8pm - 12 and there will be short times of communal prayer followed by longer periods of quiet when people can simply be open to God and what he might be saying. As before the vigil will conclude with an informal service of Holy Communion. We will be encouraging people to come before God to seek to discern what he might be

saying concerning our parish family - what might he want us to do to enhance the life of the parish. We want to be open to how he might be moving among us and how he wants us to fit in with his plans.

People can come and go as they please during this vigil. Do consider coming for part or the whole of this evening.

CONFIRMATION

We are looking ahead to confirmation in December. While the young people's group will not start meeting regularly till September we do try to bring any young people considering confirmation together over the summer. We have a fair idea of those who might be eligible for confirmation but would still like to hear from the young people themselves or their parents of their intentions. Do speak to our youth workers - Alan or Lucy - or to the rector. Also if there are any adults who might like to be confirmed please let us know.

PENTECOST

As we move towards Pentecost we will have a short series of sermons on the person of the Holy Trinity. The theme on May 5th will be 'The Holy Spirit leads us to the Truth', on May 12th 'The Holy Spirit leads us to each other' and on May 19th 'The Holy Spirit lead us to good works'.

NOTE OF THANKS

It was a privilege to serve as the rector's church warden at St Patrick's. I would like to thank the rector, Brian and Iain for all their support and encouragement. The churchwarden duties provided me with an opportunity to make new friends in the parish family. Thank you to everyone who took part in collecting, alms and welcoming. To Stephanie - I will always value our friendship and lovely memories of the time we shared together. A special thanks to Finn for his support and hard work as churchwarden. I hope the new churchwardens have a positive and fulfilling year as they take on their duties this year.

Carol Sloan

ALL STAR COUNTRY SHOW

On Tuesday 21st May in St Patrick's Parish Hall - doors open 7.15 pm - starts 8 pm. Featuring **Gloria** (One Day at a Time Recording Star), Ireland's favourite Daniel O'Donnell impersonator **Gary Gamble** with special guests Ireland's sweetheart of country music **Eileen King** and **Jason Kernohan**. Tickets now on sale at Cameron's Music Department, Broughshane and Portglenone Post Offices and Party Zone, Greenvale Street.



Honorary Secretary's Notes

At the time of writing the last stages of the work in Castle Street are drawing to a close, with a few bits of re-pointing being completed at low levels around the church. When all is done we will have to arrange for a deep clean to be made and then the building will be as good as new. To go along with that it will be prudent to have the organ cleaned professionally too, all that pipe work is bound to have trapped more than its fair share of dust and dirt and we need to get it back to where Dr Drennan can use every stop that he might want to.

Our thoughts will now be turning to getting underway at Ballyclug with the necessary renovations there to the east wall, east window and roof of the tower. As ever such things take longer in reality than we would all like, but, God willing, by the summer these jobs too will all have been completed.

You won't fail to notice too that the campanile in the grounds at St Patrick's is also receiving some attention, indeed it is now removed. That bell is a fair old weight and there was a little too much rot in some of the timbers for comfort, so before it got to be a serious danger it was taken down. Sincere thanks to Richard and George for volunteering to undertake this job. The bell is now in safe storage.

Congratulations to all of the new churchwardens on their appointments, and we welcome some other new faces to this year's Select Vestry too. If any new (or indeed existing members of the S.V. who haven't yet done so) would like to send me their e-mail addresses I will add them to this year's contact group so that you don't get left out of any messages and will receive copy minutes of the previous meeting to peruse in advance. You can reach me on a.1.marrs@btinternet.com and I look forward to seeing you all on the second Tuesday in May.

Alastair

The Young Members' Committee of
Connor Diocese invites you to

An evening of Glitz & Glam!

FASHION SHOW AND MARKETPLACE

in St Patrick's, Ballymena,
on Tuesday 28th May, at 7.30pm.

Fashion by 'Joli' Ballyclare

Browse our marketplace:

Petal Perfect Jewellery, Love from Above,
Chocolate Memories, The Good Book Shop,
Neal's Yard Skincare, MUe Stall,
Barley Cove Artisan Breads.



Come and bring a friend!

Cost £5, including supper (all profits to Mothers' Union projects)

Please confirm numbers to Jean Kennedy 2563 0671



The Youth Club and Sunday school are still busy collecting 20 pence pieces in their Smartie tubes. Please remember to bring your full tubes back.

We all enjoyed the family service on Good Friday with Buns and Crosses. Afterwards we had an Easter egg hunt, played an egg and spoon race, looked at different scenes from the Easter story and did some craft.

The GFS and CLB displays were enjoyed by many. Everyone put a lot of work into the two nights. Well done to the girls and boys and all the leaders. The parish is very proud of you.

The young people from the Rural Deanery enjoyed the last night of Energise for this year in Broughshane parish. The theme of the evening was 'Lost and Found' and we enjoyed games, food and had a very interactive talk where we had to make different scenes from the story of the prodigal son using plastercine. We will be having a day out in the summer and hopefully going to summer madness together.

We have enjoyed having Ady with us. He has attended Youth Club and talked and sang with the young people. He has also attended Sunday School and helped lead the singing at the Family Service. We are having an evening on Sunday 12th May when Ady will speak to the young people. After some fun and fellowship together we will make a presentation to Ady who has enriched the youth within the church. We wish him a safe journey home, as he leaves on the 20th. We hope he will return again soon.

Night out for all leaders of the parish - Wednesday 22nd May at 6.45 pm in The Thatch, Broughshane. Please let Lucy know if you can attend.

Lucy and Alan

Prayer Ministry

Prayer ministry continues in the parish with our Prayer Support Teams, Healer Prayer Group and Prayer Ministry after evening service in St Patrick's each Sunday. Should you wish to make other arrangements for prayer ministry, please contact one of the Clergy or any of the Team Leaders. We can arrange for prayer at a time suitable for you. Members of our Prayer Ministry Team will make themselves available.

Healer Prayer Group meets each Tuesday at 7.15 pm in the Clergy Vestry. If you wish to join this group, you will be made very welcome.

Prayer Teams - should anyone wish to join our prayer teams, please get in touch with me. We have six teams whose members pray individually in their own homes for those who request this service.

'Goodbye' - to a team member.

At the end of January we said our 'earthly goodbyes' to June McMaster. June had been a member of the Prayer Support teams for quite a long time. All through her illness she remained faithful in prayer for all who were sick. It was a privilege and a pleasure to know June. Her faith in, and love of, her Saviour shone out in that wonderful smile. We shall miss not only her presence but also her input into the prayer teams.

We assure Jack and the family of our continued prayer support.

For me Psalm 112 v 7b sums June up - 'His (her) heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord'.

***Adelaide Nimick Telephone No. 2564 0865
Mobile No. 077 8059 0733***



The Curate's Letter

Easter is over and we are back to normal life. Normal life is quite tough for a lot of people at the moment because of higher than normal levels of unemployment.

Years ago in England I was on interview panels trying to find people for jobs paying £18,500 - we couldn't find anyone to do them. Despite advertising in the national press we received hardly any applications. No one wanted to work in the Thames Valley in the late 90's for less than £20,000 a year and there was reverse unemployment, there were more jobs available than there were people to fill them. Sadly we are in a different world now, ridiculous numbers of people in Ballymena are applying for even low paid jobs. And many people are caught up in a vicious circle of poverty, depression and unemployment. I feel perhaps that men take unemployment in a more personal way because so much of male identity is about coping, providing and being independent. Men often ask other men "What do you do?" meaning "What's your job?" Men are often defined by their jobs and if you have no job you have lost one of the things which makes you a full individual in the eyes of other people.

Jesus was often moved by compassion at the sight of people in difficult circumstances. From the blind, to the sick and women who had been unfaithful. Fortunately we don't live in a time that was as grim as Ancient Israel. The pages of the gospels show that in Ancient Israel there were very many people who were absolutely destitute, leprous crazed, disabled or rejected, wandering around in search of food and compassion. However, Ballymena is not as prosperous as some parts of it might look. There is a large amount of hidden genteel 'middle class' poverty as people who previously were able to live comfortably are plunged into poverty by unemployment.

The Ballymena Foodbank is now open and looking for regular donations of food time or money. Even small amounts of food, time or money make a difference. Newtownards Foodbank serves 350 people. Newtownards is smaller and more prosperous than Ballymena so you can imagine the number of people who may come to use the Ballymena Foodbank. If people brought just one item of food to each service, even a tin of beans or sardines or something small, this would make a real difference to the lives of Ballymena people needing food. Providing food does not solve the problems of the unemployed but it does give them some breathing space.

I hope this initiative led by Christians to extend the love of Christ will be a success. Ballymena is said be the heart of a 'Bible Belt'. Let's hope the people of Ballymena are able to prove this by their generosity.

Blessings.

Iain Turner

CHILDREN'S WEEK

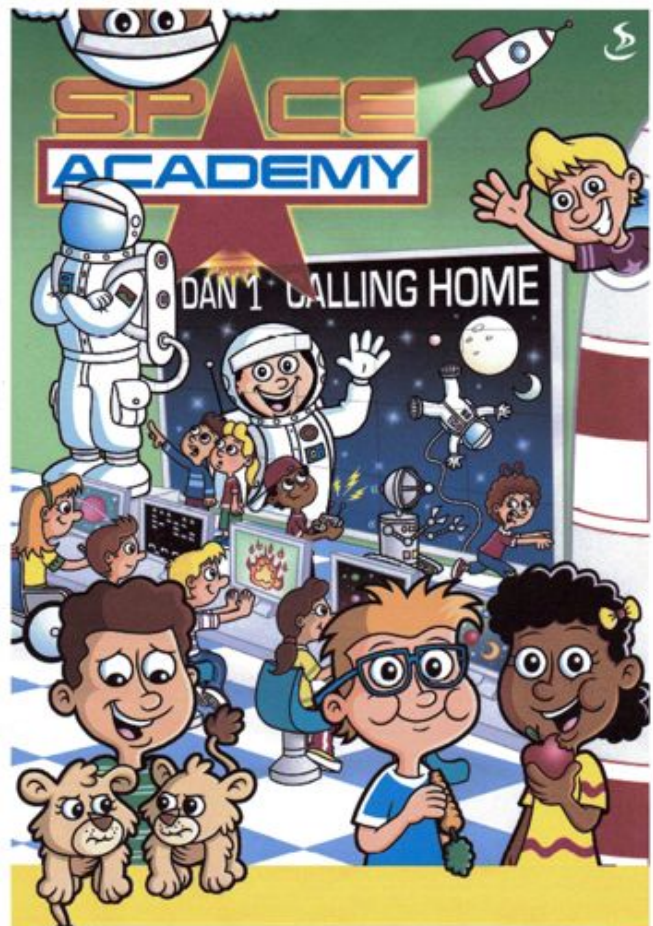
SPACE ACADEMY

**Monday 10th
Friday 15th June**

7 - 8.15 pm

**For all primary school
children**

**Come discover and
explore God's amazing
universe**



Christian Aid Week

This Christian Aid Week we are challenged to 'Bite back at hunger'. Every day we throw away 7 million slices of bread, yet every night 1.2 billion people go to bed hungry. The world has enough food for everyone, yet 1 in 8 people go without food each day.

Christian Aid has a vision - an end to poverty and while it is easy to claim this will never happen we can all make the effort to move towards the realisation of that vision.

This year Christian Aid Week runs from **Sunday 12th May - Saturday 18th**. In the resources for the week there are stories from Zimbabwe, Bolivia and Kenya which illustrate the very practical ways in which Christian Aid partners are combating the effects of hunger and reducing the vulnerability of poor communities to drought and food shortages.

In the parish we will be having our usual soup and cheese lunches in St Patrick's and St Columba's. We trust those who have come in the past will return and others as well. It is good for us to make a bit of a sacrifice and also to sit down to eat together.

During Christian Aid Week we will as a parish be participating in the door to door collection covering a particular area of the town. We have a faithful team of collectors but would appreciate further volunteers. Mary Campbell is coordinating the volunteers and can be contacted at 2564 6701. People can also give through the envelopes in church.

ZIMBABWE: CLEAN AND RELIABLE WATER

The south of Zimbabwe is arid and prone to droughts, leading to failed harvests and acute hunger for many people. Unable to access clean and reliable water sources means many struggle to harvest even their strongest crops or provide safe drinking water to their families.

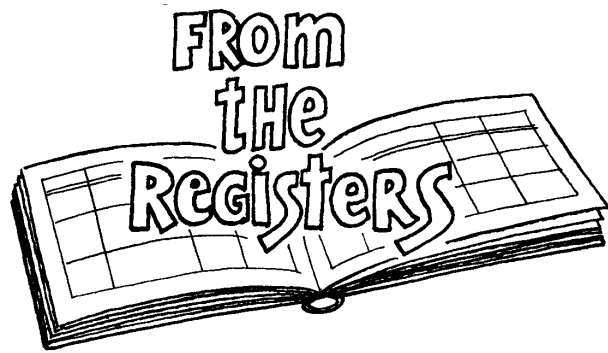
Working closely with the community, Christian Aid partner, Dabane Trust, has helped to build a sand dam, transforming not only their harvests but the life of the whole community. Thanks to the sustainable farming techniques being taught by Dabane Trust, families are able to grow a range of crops to meet their own needs and even have a surplus to sell.



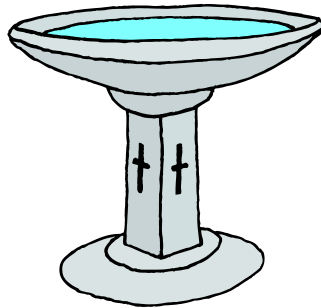
Thanks to a sand dam providing clean and reliable water, Zuzeni Nyathi's family now enjoy a rich and varied diet. Zuzeni Nyathi and her husband Jabulisa Ndlovu have experienced first-hand the life-changing impact of Dabane Trust's work. As members of their market garden group they grow a wide variety of crops irrigated by the newly established wells linked to the sand dam, which provides a reliable water source and ensures a harvest for their family and the whole community. The sand dam stores water deep under the sand of a nearby riverbed and serves the communities in the Gwanda region. Taking months to build, with the location crucial and excavations deep, the sand dam is a brilliant achievement from which the whole community is able to benefit.

The contrast couldn't be greater: whereas once they only had one meal of maize porridge a day, Zuzeni explains, 'We now eat every day at any time - we are always full!' Zuzeni and Jabulisa's 11-year-old son, Brighton, helps his parents in their market garden after school and at weekends. He loves getting the fresh vegetables from the garden and says 'they are tasty and make my body strong'. Zuzeni and Jabulisa no longer have to experience the painful hunger of the past. Instead they are able to provide a rich and varied diet for their family, ensuring that they can thrive.

The community's plans have developed and with the support of Dabane Trust they have built a processing centre that buys their surplus crop, dries it and sells it back to the community - and further afield - in the dry season. Sikhanyisiwe Ndlovu, known as Skha, is one of Zuzeni and Jabulisa's neighbours and the chair of the market garden group. Like her neighbours, she too has gone from struggling to feed her children to having a surplus to sell. 'Life is now better because I can cultivate my garden,' she says. 'When I look at my children, I see that they are so much healthier than before.' 'Innovation and training have meant that many supported families across Gwanda no longer have to worry about tomorrow, or the day after. Hunger is firmly in the past and the future looks rich with possibility'.



HOLY BAPTISM



31 st March	Laura Wilma Ann McNally	5 Kilgad Close, Moorfields
	Cruz John Brian McNally	5 Kilgad Close, Moorfields
	Jude Hugh John McNicholl	5 Kilgad Close, Moorfields





OUR ACTIVITIES

SAINT PATRICK'S

	Day	Time	Venue
Bellringers	Friday	7.30 pm	Tower
Bible Fellowship	Tuesday	8.00 pm	Choir Vestry
Church Choir	Thursday	7.30 pm	Choir Vestry
Church Lads' Brigade			
YBC	Friday	6.45 pm	Parochial Hall
JTC	Friday	6.45 pm	Parochial Hall
CLB	Friday	8.00 pm	Parochial Hall
Girls' Friendly Society	Tuesday	7.15 pm	Minor Hall
Healer Prayer Group	Tuesday	7.15 pm	Church Vestry
Indoor Bowling Club	Monday	7.30 pm	Parochial Hall
	Thursday	7.30 pm	Parochial Hall
Mothers and Toddlers	Tuesday	10.00 am	Parochial Hall
Mothers' Union	2nd Wed.	8.00 pm	Minor Hall
Still Active Club	3rd Wed.	2.00 pm	Minor Hall
Youth Club	Saturday	8.00 pm	Parochial Hall
Junior Youth Club	Saturday	7.00 pm	Parochial Hall
Young Adult Fellowship	2nd Sunday	7.30 pm	Jubilee Room
Youth Fellowship	3rd Sunday	7.30 pm	Parochial Hall
Badminton	Wednesday	7.30 pm	Parochial Hall
Theology Group	1st Thurs.	7.45 pm	Jubilee Room
Sewing Group	Thursday	10.00 am	Parochial Hall

SAINT COLUMBA'S

	Day	Time	Contact
Beavers	Monday	6.30 pm	Mrs L McCullagh
Ladies' Circle	4th Monday	8.00 pm	Mrs L Beatty
Brownies	Tuesday	6.30 pm	Mrs S Foster
Guides	Tuesday	6.30 pm	Mrs K Black
Squirrels	Wednesday	6.30 pm	Mr P Houston
Christian Living Group	3rd Wed.	7.30 pm	Rev B Lacey
Cubs	Thursday	6.45 pm	Miss H Hughes
Choir	Sunday	10.15 am	Mrs S Montgomery
Rainbows	Friday	6.30 pm	Miss E Peachey
Scouts	Friday	7.45 pm	Mr K Hughes



OUR WORSHIP

ST PATRICK'S PARISH CHURCH

SUNDAY SERVICES

8.15 am		<i>Holy Communion</i>
10.15 am	<i>3rd Sunday in the month</i>	<i>Family Service</i>
11.30 am		<i>Morning Prayer</i>
	<i>1st Sunday in the month</i>	<i>Parish Communion</i>
6.30 pm		<i>Evening Prayer</i>
	<i>4th Sunday in the month</i>	<i>Living Faith Service</i>

EVERY WEDNESDAY

10.30 am	<i>Holy Communion</i>
----------	-----------------------

ST PATRICK'S, BALLYCLUG

SUNDAY SERVICES

10.00 am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
	<i>Holy Communion</i>
	<i>4th Sunday in the month</i>

ST COLUMBA'S, DUNCLUG

SUNDAY SERVICES

8.30 am	<i>1st Sunday in the month</i>	<i>Holy Communion</i>
11.30 am		<i>Morning Prayer</i>
	<i>2nd Sunday in the month</i>	<i>Family Service</i>
	<i>3rd Sunday in the month</i>	<i>Family Communion</i>

SUNDAY SCHOOLS

ST PATRICK'S

11.30 am	<i>Church</i>	<i>Leaders - Mrs L McLaughlin and Mr A Ross</i>
----------	---------------	---

ST COLUMBA'S

11.30 am	<i>Church</i>	<i>Superintendent - Mrs S Foster</i>
----------	---------------	--------------------------------------

HOLY BAPTISM

At Sunday services by arrangement