

Parish of Kilconriola and Ballyclug

PARISH MAGAZINE

NOVEMBER 2013



Diocese of Connor - Parish of Kilconriola and Ballyclug



WHO'S WHO IN OUR PARISH

CLERGY

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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

I have put my electric hedge clippers away for the season. Recently I gave the rectory hedges their last cut. I was tackling the large lengthy hedge at the back of the rectory and was going well and near to the finishing line. Suddenly the clippers went dead and I was at a loss to know what was wrong.

At first I thought it might be either the power switch or the safety switch. They had been a bit loose so maybe there was the problem. I played with these for a time but to no avail. Then I thought that maybe because I had been going at it hard for some time that the clippers had overheated and maybe if I left it a while it might work again. No joy there either. Then I reflected on how I had chosen rather a cheap model so maybe I could not expect too much. Yet I had only had it for a season and had not used it that much. Ahh, at least it might still be under guarantee. I had time that day to go back to the shop, get another one and complete the job.

All these thoughts were running around in my head along with the idea that maybe I could take the machine apart and I might discover the fault. While I was thus musing I happened to look down and would you believe it? Yes somehow I had cut the connecting flex! No wonder the machine did not work.

Relief all around. I soon had the offending piece of flex cut out and the two good pieces connected together and taped and yes off we went again and soon the hedge was completed.

In life things don't always work the way we would want. We run into difficulties and dead ends. We can blame others, we can blame circumstances, we can blame ourselves. The source of the difficulty could be a

cut connection - that we do not have a connection with God and thus are not receiving his perspective and his power and these can make such a difference. It's not that if we have a connection we won't have any problems. Rather that he enables us to see the problem in perspective - in the perspective of his understanding and his care. And facing up to the problem we discover that we receive an inner strength that allows us to make our way through.

I could still be looking at a half finished hedge but thankfully the truth dawned. Into the future I will have to take great care of that connecting cable. It is far more important, however, that we all take care of that other connection.

Stuart Lloyd.





Parish News

PEACE PROJECT

Mention has been made in previous magazines of the peace initiative in which the rector, other clergy in the town and their parishioners have been involved. We are seeking to work together to find ways of improving understanding and building relationships. To further this all those who were involved in the conference last August in the Bushtown Hotel and those who attended a recent day at which Terry Waite was the chief speaker - all of these people are to come together for a breakfast and further discussion on **Saturday 16th November**.

JOINT SERVICE

As we have done in previous years we are joining together with our Methodist brethren for another Joint service. This will be on **Sunday 17th November at 6.30 pm** in the Methodist Church. There will be no evening service in St Patrick's.

CENSUS

The General Synod of the Church of Ireland has called for a census to be carried out in all our churches throughout Ireland on Sundays 3rd, 17th and 24th November. This is a simple exercise and the figures gathered will help the Church better understand trends in the Church of Ireland population and patterns of worship and church observance.

SAINSBURY'S ACTIVE KIDS

This year we collected 3,274 vouchers in the three churches and were able to order a selection of bean bags and a bean bag game.



These are much appreciated by our younger members.

A big Thank You to all who brought in their vouchers - we really did appreciate it.

Christie Colhoun
Group Scout Leader



Around the Parish

BEAVERS

Beaver Scouts (6 - 8 years) meet weekly on Monday evenings from 6.30 - 7.30 pm to take part in a wide range of activities including games, crafts and visits, along with plenty of outdoor activities.



If you would like to help our Leader, Lise McCullough, please get in touch with me. We both would really appreciate hearing from you.

Christie Colhoun, Group Scout Leader
christiecolhoun@gmail.com



SQUIRRELS

October has been an exciting month for Squirrels. We were delighted to have a visit from Alison, Torrie and Ushi from Guide Dogs for the Blind. The boys enjoyed the talk and asked lots of questions. Ushi was kind enough to let the boys take it in turn to pat her soft fur. We

were amazed to hear how much money it takes to train and look after a guide dog and to hear about how much help Ushi is to Torrie in her everyday life. The guide dogs are remarkable animals.

The Squirrels were so thrilled with the visit that they wanted to do something nice

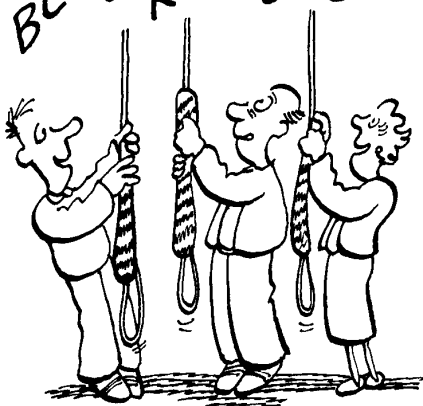


for Ushi and the rest of the hard working guide dogs. So since their visit the boys have been busy eating 'Smarties'. How does that help a guide dog? Well, after we have eaten our 'Smarties' we are filling up the empty tubes with coins. We will then donate this money to the guide dogs. We hope to have all the 'Smarties' eaten and tubes refilled before Christmas. We will let you know our total money raised in due course.

In the meantime a very big thanks to Alison, Torrie, Ushi and also thanks to Elizabeth Taylor for giving up their time to come along to see us.

Paul and Ann

BELL RINGERS



BELLRINGERS

Following the article in the September issue of the church magazine and the joint choir and bellringers' service, we recruited four new ringers. Luke, Sophie, Catherine and Dawn have been attending practices over the past three weeks and are progressing well, and we hope to have them all ringing soon for Sunday services. While this is very encouraging we still need more new ringers in all age groups. If you want the bells to continue to ring for years to come for Sunday services and weddings etc don't be shy - come and give it a try! Practice night is on Fridays from 7.30 pm till 9 pm. Just turn up in the tower, you will be most welcome. Hopefully, we might have you helping us to ring the New Year in. Any former ringers would also be very welcome back again.

Colin Watt

MOTHERS AND TODDLERS

In October we had our usual activities with toys, books, crafts and singing. We had our coffee morning for the ladies and gentlemen who help us each week on 14th October - it was enjoyed by all who were able to attend. Our Hallowe'en party was on 22nd October - everyone enjoyed themselves with fancy dress, chocolate apples and lots more. We are sorry to lose Martha Rainey and Trevor Halliday after many years of helping in the kitchen and with car parking. If there are any gentlemen who are free on a Tuesday morning between 9 and 10.30 am and are



willing to help with the car parking, please give Dorothy a ring, we would be very grateful for your help.

We send our sincere sympathy to Isobel Adair on the loss of her brother. Mothers and Toddlers will return after the Hallowe'en break on Tuesday on **5th November**.

Rota for November:-

DATE	NAME	FUNCTION
5 November	Rosemary Stacey, Sandra McKay and Mary Cochrane	Tea
	Bee Robinson	Welcoming
	Alex McKay	Car Park
12 November	Evonne Stinson, Eleanor Burnett, Rosalie Grainger and Vera Owens	Tea
	Martha Caulfield	Welcoming
	Oliver Reid and Robert McGimpsey	Car Park
19 November	Dorothy Hegan, Isabel Halliday, Karin Agnew and Sandra Duke	Tea
	Ann Fisher	Welcoming
	Jimmy Coleman	Car Park
26 November	Ruth Murray, Isabell Adair, Nell McIlwee and Kathleen Thompson	Tea
	Liz Peachey	Welcoming
	Davy Nelson	Car Park

Dorothy (2589 2740), Anna, Anne and Liz



At the beginning of October the choir attended the funeral of William Barr. He was a life long member of St Patrick's Church and was a member of the choir earlier in his life. In the years when he wasn't in the choir he always made a worthwhile contribution to the singing from the pews. We extend our sincere sympathy to his family and remember them in our prayers.

The choir have had a busy month preparing for the Harvest services, the Ulster Special Constabulary service and the Harvest Supper. Many thanks to Sandra, Harry and Jack for their leading part in the Harvest anthem, to Jim for conducting and Jim and Betty Drennan for their continued help to the choir. Also thanks to Jonathan our organist for all the preparation for these events.

On **Sunday 3rd November at 6.30 pm** there will be a service of Choral Evensong - please come and join us, we would appreciate your support.

Ella Duddy

CHURCH LADS' BRIGADE



Everyone enjoyed the Hallowe'en fancy dress party - plenty of fun and games. The CLB will parade at this year's Remembrance Day Parade on **10th November** in Ballymena and lay a wreath at the Cenotaph.

We would like to pass on our sympathy to the Barr family on the death of William Barr, an honorary member. We especially remember Madge, Stephen and the family circle.

Alan Ross

MOTHERS' UNION

Wednesday 13th November at 8 pm - speaker Melanie Phillips Coordinator of Belfast Child Contact Centre all welcome.



Mid-Connor M U Area Event - 'Coffee Morning' will be hosted in our own parish hall on **Saturday 23rd November 10.00 am - 12.00 noon** (details on page 11) we would welcome all parishioners to support this event.

Jean Kennedy (Sec)

PARISH TABLE QUIZ



Yes! This really is our 20th Annual Table Quiz. The first quiz was 'born' in the old count room

(now the Parish Youth Room) one Monday evening. The two 'Young Staceys' were teenagers. I mentioned the possibility of running a table quiz to Eleanor, who with David was full of enthusiasm. With 'youth' on my side it was time to persuade Maurice (who thankfully is more cautious than me) and Ivan and Rosemary. Now all these years and thousands of questions and tray bakes later, we are delighted to say that with your generosity, thousands of pounds have been raised for our own church and many charities. We have had a lot of fun too and Eleanor and David certainly played their part in making the quizzes a success. Since they have married and moved away we are privileged to have Nina, Trevor and Isabel with us.

Rodney our excellent Car Park Man, surely merits a place on our team after twenty quizzes.

We also appreciate the support given to us at all times by the Rector, Curates and Select Vestry.

Back to the Present. There are so many people to thank:-

- Lorraine in the Parish Office (presently assisted by Sandra) for all the photocopying and printing.
- Loraine Watt who is our Publicity Person.
- John our sexton who helps in so many ways, not least with the setting out of the hall.
- St Columba's for the use of their tables.
- The Badminton Club for the use of the hall.
- Alex who is always there to help us clear the hall.
- Anne, Letty, Mary and Vera who did a super job with the dishes and clearing of the kitchen.
- The many folk who can't come to the quiz but give us generous donations.
- Last but by no means least YOU - once again we had a great crowd of faithful friends making the evening one of fun, fellowship and friendship.

Many parishioners came from all three churches, as well as many friends, some coming from as far away as Ballyclare.

Our chosen charity this year was CROCUS a local charity which gives support to young people with special needs. We were delighted to welcome many people from this charity especially Jim, Patricia and Sarah.

Now for the Prize winners:-

- First Prize - 'The Lifeboat Girls' (ex colleagues of mine who come every year) and 'Rival Factions' (our neighbour and her friends, again faithful supporters).
- Third Prize - 'The Brain's Distrust', (Barry and friends).
- Best Name - 'Baffled of Ballymena' (Liz Taylor and friends).
- Booby Prize - 'The Winners' (Sarah and family).

Amount raised to date £720. A big thank you to everyone.

See you next year D.V.

Maurice and Irene



MOTHERS' UNION AREA EVENT

COFFEE MORNING

**ST PATRICK'S CHURCH HALL
BALLYMENA**

**SATURDAY 23rd NOVEMBER
10.00am – 12 noon**

**MORNING COFFEE : £2.50
BRING & BUY STALL : CAKES
Proceeds to MU Projects**



For 8 weeks on a Monday afternoon, for 2 hours, there is an increased buzz of activity in the Dunclug Primary School hall, where the FAST programme takes place. Five members of St Columba's trained as leaders: Jean Cunningham, Sandra Duke, Sandra Montgomery, Elizabeth Peachey and Ian Semple all decided we could do something in the community.

After the first day's training we were having second thoughts: could we cope with scribbles, charades and 'fun activities'? We decided onward and upward would be our approach as we were determined to help.

FAST stands for families and schools together and its ultimate purpose is help all children succeed at home, in school and in the community by building up relationships. It is a programme that allows time to be spent together in different parent/children/leader groupings. To encourage communication all instructions for the children are delivered through the parents.

On the first day the families each made their own flag. This is put on their table in a holder which also contains their family photograph.

Each meeting begins with introductions of families and team leaders, and then we sing the Fast song. Following this each family gets a turn to suggest another song which we sing together.

We play a game called Scribbles which is described as a structured family communication exercise. The results are put on display. Next it is charades when the families are encouraged to discuss their reactions to various emotions such as happiness, sadness, anger etc.

The parents or adults can then have a welcome cuppa and chat while the hard work begins for us - entertaining the children with games or

playground activities. We have been lucky to have extra help from St Clair Beatty and Debbie Chestnut - thank you so much!

The parents are then encouraged to play with a chosen child for 10 minutes while we entertain the rest; then comes the good part of the afternoon. The children serve a meal to all the family and they sit, eat and chat together. Thank you to Angela for this lovely food. Every week a family wins a FAST 'door prize' and each family will get a prize once. This is presented after the meal. The afternoon ends with an exercise involving everyone in a circle doing actions called 'rain'. Everyone claps, shouts, "See you next week," and goes home. This programme is a positive example of St Columba's reaching out to the community.

THE CASTLE PLAYERS

PRESENT



**'YOU NEVER KNOW
YOUR LUCK'
and
'THE DOCTOR AND
MRS MACAULEY'**

**TWO ONE ACT COMEDIES
IN ST PATRICK'S HALL
CASTLE STREET
BALLYMENA**

**15th NOVEMBER 2013 AT 7.30 PM AND
16th NOVEMBER 2013 AT 7.30 PM**

**ADMISSION £7.00
(Includes a bowl of Irish Stew at the interval)**

Tickets for the above may be obtained from the Church Office or the News Rack, Ballymoney Street. If you are unable to call at the office but wish to reserve tickets please put your name and number on list at back of churches. Please come along and support us. We look forward to seeing you all there.

The Drama Club



Fundraising Event for St Columba's Lighting Appeal

COFFEE MORNING & CAKE SALE

St Columba's Church Hall, Doury Road

Saturday 9th November 10-12

Donation of £2.50 towards the "let there be light project"





Honorary Secretary's Notes

All the work to the outside of Ballyclug has been successfully completed. We now have to wait for a couple of months over the winter and watch what happens to the inside of the east wall, hoping and praying that it will dry out successfully and the problems there are fixed. Even if the water has been successfully prevented from coming in again, it may still be that the inside will need to be re-plastered in the spring, but we'll cross that bridge if we come to it.

Also at Ballyclug another vote of thanks to Jackie and Dessie for the remedial work which was needed to the plumbing and septic tank, their continued willingness to cheerfully shoulder any and all jobs which need doing puts most of the rest of us to shame.

Water getting inside also caused trouble at St Columba's in recent times, making it necessary to replace the floor covering and upgrade the drainage around the building to try to prevent a recurrence of the problem. God willing all these issues are now resolved, perhaps the recent weather has just been to let us test the workmanship in each case.

St Patrick's has had a few upgrades in recent weeks too, most visibly (to drivers at least) the new sign over-looking the Larne Road dual carriage-way, but also, in a bid to help us all see a little better, improved lighting in the church porch and the restoration of the street lighting around the west end after dark. Thanks to Peter and Ken for all of their work with these matters, their generosity with both time and effort is outstanding.

The Select Vestry has been thinking again about the entrance to the Chancellor Craig Halls, but I must confess we haven't had much in the way of inspiration so far as to how we might lift the appearance of the

front doors and hallways - any ideas that you might have would be welcomed for consideration.

November will see all of the buildings around the Parish getting their five yearly inspection from the surveyors appointed by the Diocese to make sure that we're not letting everything fall into rack and ruin. It is likely that they will provide us with an extensive list of things that will need to be improved around the parish estate. Some of these things will no doubt be important, others not so much but we will be able to look forward to that report coming along in early 2014, or maybe just in time for Christmas. Let's hope that they don't spring any really nasty surprises on us this time round.

All the Best,
Alastair

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

10th NOVEMBER 2013



Act of Remembrance in all three churches
Preacher in Ballyclug and St Patrick's
The Reverend John Bach



It is very encouraging to see large numbers at Youth Club on Saturday night. We give thanks for the work of all our leaders, for their time and commitment. If you feel you could give up an hour or two please speak to Lucy or Alan. We have been collecting items and making up shoe boxes for the Christmas appeal for Samaritans purse and learning about the dangers of fireworks. We made cat masks and chocolate apples for our Hallowe'en party where everyone was in fancy dress.



Seven Sunday School teachers will be attending a Children's Ministry conference called Building Blocks on **Saturday 16th November** and others will be attending a Church of Ireland essentials course for working with young people on **Saturday 2nd November**.

The family service in November will be in the church hall at 10.15 am on the theme of the Lord's Prayer.

Energise will take place on **Sunday 17th November** at 6.30 pm in Broughshane church hall. We will meet there and and for those arranging a pick up it will finish at 8.00 pm. The theme is 'My School'.

Lucy



Missions

Mission letter from Zimmerman family in Nepal

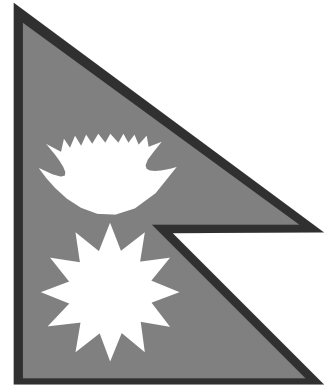
Mark tells the story of a recent road trip

The monsoon arrived around midnight with a gentle, steady patter on the leaves outside my window. By dawn the persistent rain was conjuring visions of the muddy road to Kalikot.

We drove through the downpour following the Karnali River, our route hugging the flanks of forested mountains and cliffs. The hills funneled torrents; we passed through their roaring cascades. Freshly-prized boulders ranging in size from leaves to coffee tables littered the road.

Around 10 o'clock we stopped for tea in a village and I noticed a fallen tree that lay across the top of a tractor. These small farm vehicles are the most reliable means for carrying goods into the hilly regions to the north. The shopkeeper told us that the previous night the driver was sleeping

on the roof of his tractor when the tree came crashing down on to him. He was rushed by ambulance to India. I pondered the odds - the reason - for such a thing happening.



Nepal

It will be 10 years this summer since Nick Simons died. He'd come to Nepal, worked for about 9 months, and later drowned while swimming in Bali. We still occasionally run into someone who confirms the portrait of an ebullient young man who made friends and enjoyed life wherever he went. Since that tragedy, Nick's parents Jim and Marilyn have come to Nepal more than 15 times. This past March, we flew together by helicopter out to Kalikot, one of their many visits to NSI's work in Nepal's remote areas. "Nepal is a gift that Nick gave us," Marilyn once said to me,

“And we’ve made so many wonderful friends since coming here.”

Though they never met, Amogh Basnyat was studying in his second year of medical school during the time Nick was in Nepal. Amogh is from a middle class Kathmandu family, his father an airline official and his mother a nurse. After graduating from Nepal’s best medical school - half of whose graduates emigrate to the U.S. - Amogh still held on to the aspiration to serve the poor. In 2009, he applied for a Nick Simons Institute scholarship to study to become a MDGP (Family Practice) doctor, of which there are too few in this country. In exchange for this 3-year training, doctors commit to working for 3 years in one of the 7 rural district hospitals that NSI supports. A year ago, Amogh sat in the NSI office with four other newly-graduated MDGPs and pulled out of a hat a folded slip of paper on which was written ‘Kalikot’ - the name of one of Nepal’s toughest districts. He read it out and smiled bravely.

Our last climb up the hill to the Kalikot district headquarters started with a drive straight into a falling stream. We were glad for 4-wheel drive and a capable driver who had taken us on many trips before. The hospital is a

cluster of about 15 buildings with blue corrugated roofs perched on the brow of a mountain. Bigger peaks loomed on all sides and 1500 feet below the Karnali River wound southward. The place is often windy and dusty, guarded by austere granite cliffs, but in this season it was a luxuriant, deep green.

We made rounds with Amogh and his junior colleague Rudra, walking through the wards of very basic, crumbling concrete buildings. There were no electric lights on. Holes had been cut in the roof and replaced with clear plastic to emit some light. Despite hanging strips of tape, flies were abundant and tenacious in the rooms. The patients’ stories gave a glimpse into the challenges of life in those parts.

“This girl fell from the path and has a supracondylar fracture of the arm,” Amogh said. “As is the custom out here, they first applied a poultice of herbs mixed with chicken blood - an attempt at spiritual cure. Now she’s wound up with an infection of the skin, so we have to wait for the abscess to heal before we reduce her fracture.”

Amogh cradled her thin arms as he spoke to his colleague about the

treatment plan. The girl was about 10 years old and smiled winsomely. You wouldn't know she was in pain.

We came to a dark cubicle that serves as the hospital's emergency room. Three men lay on beds crowded into the room. We squeezed in and waited for our eyes to adjust.

"I think I saw this man being carried down the path in a stretcher yesterday," I said. "He's one of the victims of the landslides, isn't he?" "Yes, all these three came from that disaster. 30 houses were taken out. Many people evacuated to higher ground, but a few were badly hurt. Six died. The army took the critical ones out by helicopter. We got a few of the 'walking wounded'. None too serious. The flood also damaged the district's hydroelectric plant, so we'll be without electricity for the next few months."

We walked to the main building and entered a room where a young woman nursed a newborn lying beside her. This was Koki Kala's fifth child and first boy.

"They just keep trying until they get one boy," Amogh chuckled. "She wasn't progressing in her labour, so we did a Caesarean

section three days ago. Look how happy she is now."

A C-section to deliver a child is a life-saving operation. It's one important component towards reducing maternal mortality, which is about 25 times higher in Nepal than in the U.S. Hospitals that can do even basic operations are a source of hope in a remote community, so NSI's hospital support programme give this a high priority.

After rounds I came and joined Amogh and Rudra sitting on the log bench by the canteen. The cook came out of his smoky kitchen carrying steaming tea in elegant white cups with curved handles. I nearly spilled mine taking it from his hand.

"So, how does it feel to be back in Kalikot?" I asked. Amogh had been away for a month of ultrasound training in Kathmandu. He let out a long breath and just raised his eyebrows at me. He was far from home and friends. With the roads the way they were, he'd probably stay in the district hospital until the monsoon ends in October. And he'd be needed. Patients would not be able to travel to large city hospitals and a district of 120,000 people would look to him to provide their main emergency service.

“You know how it is,” he said, his round face breaking into a smile.

One of the reasons we went out to Kalikot that week was because of an incident that occurred 10 days before.

Someone brought a boy to the hospital with a broken arm. The X-ray technician was away on vacation and his substitute had trouble finding the right X-ray plate. The injured boy’s uncle got angry over having to wait and got into an argument in which he pushed a nurse. Our doctors sent us an email saying that they wondered how safe this place was.

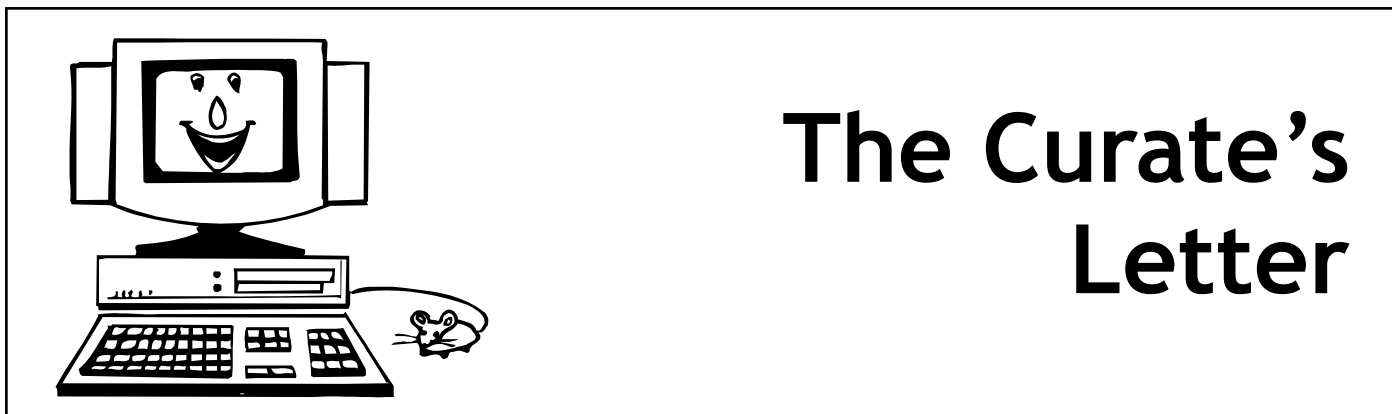
Our district hospital coordinator Bal Sundar and I met with the Kalikot government officials, the police, and about ten political leaders. “We in Nick Simons put our doctors in your hands,” I told the group in a community meeting. “You become their guardians. Our partnership depends on your care of these doctors ...” The locals were a rag-tag bunch, some quite rustic, but they all made it clear they valued our support and that such episodes will be dealt with better in the future. No one mentioned the central role that alcohol plays in many of these ‘security incidents’.

The deluge continued through the next day and night. In the distance we saw the Karnali River swelled to twice its usual girth and the only road out a brown thread drawn across vast mountainsides. There is no room for an airport out there. We could only watch the road for signs of tractor movement. We twice called Kathmandu to say that we’d be late coming home.

Finally, after two days of sunshine, we began to see road traffic on the far mountain. Early the next morning we drove tentatively down the hill. Over the 8-hour journey we came to countless places where the hillside had released heaps of rock and soil down on to the road and we often got out to clear the way. Then we caught a flight from a regional airport in the south to the capital city.

So now I’m riding home in a taxi through the dust and smoke of congested Kathmandu. I’m longing to be with my family again. And those wild mountains gushing with monsoon and the desolate hospital seem part of another world, maybe just a dream.

*Love,
Mark, Deirdre,
Zachary and Benjamin*



The Curate's Letter

SCIENCE AND RELIGION

Many people say that religion and science are incompatible. On this view science is a way of looking at the world which is very careful, rational and evidence-based while religion is all about superstition. Many people may say this but it isn't true. Many scientists are Christians and being Christian doesn't make them less good scientists. The organist at my home church, St George's in Belfast has a PhD in chemistry, she came to faith at university while studying science because she came to the strong belief that there must be a God behind the universe. Science studies the way the physical world fits together into a whole, while religion addresses questions of the ultimate meaning direction and purpose of the universe. They are two separate questions. Science cannot answer very large questions about meaning, nor can religion help much if you want to know the structure of DNA or how to enrich uranium. It is a shame that many scientists have given up on religion and many people of faith have given up on science. This state of affairs is bad for both science and religion. Although religion is a more important enterprise than science they are both important.

Evolution is a key battleground here. Nobody except the very extreme today doubt that people are descended from apes. The key question is what does 'descended' mean? And how did this transformation come about, and why? I believe that 'evolution' - the mutation over time into better adapted life forms - while it does happen as outlined by Charles Darwin, is part of a plan God has for the development of intelligent life. The existence of free intelligent creatures who will love God is God's ultimate goal for creation. Teilhard de Chardin the famous French philosopher (I am reading one of his books at the moment) sees the 'Survival of the Fittest' - the main driver for evolution - as applying also to matters of faith. People who are so well adapted to their environment that they recognize God as their creator will evolve to the next stage of life - life in heaven. Those who cannot see God despite the opportunities they are given are not well suited enough and will not survive into the next life.

If you are interested in Religion and Science there is a very interesting event coming up in Ballymena. At West Church on Saturday 23rd November 9.30 am - 5.00 pm there is a day conference 'Has Science Buried God' led by Professor John Lennox of Oxford University. I hope people may be able to go so we learn more to lead a fight-back against the atheist presumption that we just need to get more scientific and less religious.

ISRAEL

I am a member of an organization called Christian Friends of Israel. It is active in the UK and Ireland. Its purpose is to pray for Israel, to keep abreast of events in Israel, to draw the attention of Christians to the unique importance that Israel has in our faith, to encourage Christian Jewish relations, to support Christian organizations in Israel and to support Israeli humanitarian charities. It does not seek to convert Jews who are already faithful to God to Christ because it believes that they have a relationship with God which is already valid through the original covenant. The nearest group is in Bangor. I am interested in starting another local group and am looking for a minimum of two or three people who are sufficiently interested in this to commit to meeting each and every month whatever the weather, for at least an hour an a half to pray for Israel and the Jewish people. If anyone is interested or knows of anyone else who might be could they let me know?

Tan Jones

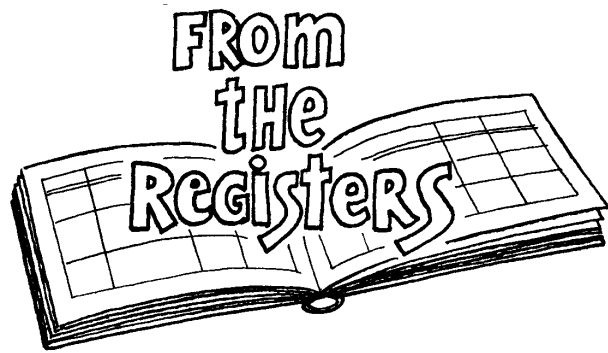
CHORAL EVENSONG

ST PATRICK'S PARISH CHURCH

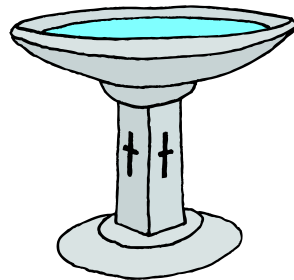
**Sunday 3rd November at
6.30 pm**



All welcome



HOLY BAPTISM



October 13 th	Lewis Jason McCormick	44 Gleneagles, Cloughmills
October 20 th	Curtis Roy William McKeown	8 Rockfield Heights, Connor

HOLY MATRIMONY



October 30 th	William Stewart	8 Willowfield Park, Coleraine
	Elisha Tuff	8 Willowfield Park, Coleraine

CHRISTIAN BURIAL



October 3 rd	William Barr	Rose Martha Nursing Home
October 5 th	Myrtle Adair	10 Grange Road, Ballymena
October 21 st	Ethel Tennant	81 Moat Road, Ballymena

William Barr

With the years had come deteriorating health and despite good care at home this necessitated a move to Rose Martha Nursing Home. Despite the limitations of health and times in hospital William could still be aware of what was going on around him. The quality of life was not good and thus his death came in some ways as a release. He was one of a family of 10 all of whom had close contacts with the church. All his working life was spent in Gallahers and when he retired he was one of the longest serving members of that firm. He was a keen sportsman, played as a semi professional for Ballymena United and was part of the team that won the County Antrim Shield. He will especially be remembered as one who put great emphasis on family. He and Madge had 62 years together and he was a good father to Stephen and Ruth - supporting them in sport and taking great pride in all their achievements. He was also supportive of his own brothers and sisters and was especially close to his twin Florrie. The church family also meant a great deal to William and he was a faithful member of and worshipper at St Patrick's all his life. In his time he sang in the choir and was involved in the CLB. He was very fair minded, had a clear sense of right and wrong, and prayer and a strong quiet faith sustained him through all his years. We remember Madge, Stephen and Ruth.

Myrtle Adair

Although there were concerns about her health and she was in hospital there was little warning as to what lay ahead and her death was a shock to her immediate family and to all who knew her so well. Myrtle was from Castleblaney in Monaghan and that was where she met her husband Bob. All her life she retained a great fondness for the place of her upbringing and Castleblaney remained very much part of family life over all these years. Myrtle came to train as a nurse in the Royal Victoria Hospital and then she and Bob moved to Ballymena to settle and set up a business. Bob had the skills required to provide the expertise for the jewellery while Myrtle had the personality, drive and business acumen to make it successful. She continued to be very much at the heart of the business till a few years ago and managed to combine the business with

rearing a family of 5 children. She was a very caring person not only in terms of family members but also others out in the community. Many a person she took under her wing. One of the ways she continued her association with Castleblaney was organising the Annual Service of the Friends of St Maeldoid's each year and she put her heart and soul into this. As someone who loved music, for many years she played when our parish was providing the worship in the Braid Valley and then for many years she was part of the team of people who played the organ at Ballyclug. Myrtle was very forthright in her views and very much called a spade a spade. Yet behind this apparent strident tone there was a great kindness. Above all she valued her faith and this held her and motivated her through all the challenges of life. We remember sons John and Stuart and daughters Carol, Jane and Judith.

Ethel (Peggy) Tennant

Ethel was born in 1929 in Moneymore and moved to Ballymena when she was a child. She married Robert and they settled in Harryville. Robert died of cancer at the early age of 55. Ethel and Robert had 2 sons and a daughter Roberta who died 2 - 3 years ago. For many years Ethel worked as a cleaner at Maybin's. She enjoyed watching cowboy films and taking holidays locally. Our sympathy goes to Shea, Ronnie, Sammy, Alan, Tristan, Sylvia, Bessie, Stephanie and Leanne.





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
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
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>3rd Sunday in the month</i>	<i>Holy Communion</i>
	<i>4th Sunday in the month</i>	<i>Living Faith Service</i>

EVERY WEDNESDAY

10.30 am	<i>Holy Communion</i>
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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>
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ST COLUMBA'S

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

At Sunday services by arrangement