

Parish of Kilconriola and Ballyclug

PARISH MAGAZINE

JULY/AUGUST 2014



Diocese of Connor - Parish of Kilconriola and Ballyclug

WHO'S WHO IN OUR PARISH



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

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 John McClure
69 Parkgate Road, Connor (Tel 2589 2324)
Mobile No 078 4186 6414
Email mcclurejohn@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 and Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/ballymenaparish>

Open - Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR: Mrs Lorraine McBride

CHURCH WARDENS

St Patrick's	Rector's	Mr Ronnie Fleming
	People's	Mr Jonathan Nevin
Ballyclug	Rector's	Mr Jackie McMaster
	People's	Mr Jackie Greer
St Columba's	Rector's	Mr Ivan McCombe
	People's	Miss Stephanie Allen
Glebe Wardens	Rector's	Mr Kenneth Hughes
	People's	Mr Peter Chestnutt

SELECT VESTRY

Clergy, Church Wardens, Glebe Wardens and:

Mr Bill Balmer, Mr William Burnett, Mr Barry Duke, Mr Dessie Dunlop, Mrs Rosalie Grainger, Mr Les Hughes, Mr Alastair Marrs, Mr Alex McKay, Mrs Patricia McWhirter, Mrs Adelaide Nimick, Mr Richard Todd 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 don't know, if when you are out and about, you go round in something of a daze or whether you notice things. I wonder for instance if you ever notice the stickers on cars. These can be quite funny, rude or maybe challenging. I saw one the other day and it read, 'God loves you but I am his favourite'. What do you make of that? Is it rather misguided, is it poking fun at Christianity or does it make you think?

Does Jesus have his favourites? Usually when we think of people having their favourites there is a somewhat negative tone to our reaction. We may not think it is a good thing for teachers or parents to have favourites. Mind you we do not see anything negative about people having their favourite football player or singer.

Jesus chose 12 disciples - might they in anyway have been favourites? It does seem that within those 12 there was an inner core - Peter, James and John - he took them apart for special occasions. Were they his favourites? And what about John who is referred to on several times as 'The one whom Jesus loved'. That seems to single him out as in some way a favourite.

Again Jesus had a lot of time for 'tax gatherers and sinners' and for the outcast, the sick and the poor. He seemed to favour them. On the other hand he lambasted the scribes and Pharisees and other religious leaders - they were not among his favourites!

God is love and he loves everyone equally. It does not matter who we are or what we have done, how good or bad we are - the fundamental fact remains that this in no way limits the love of God that flows out to us. And if Jesus is the 'spitting image of God' as we believe, then his love is

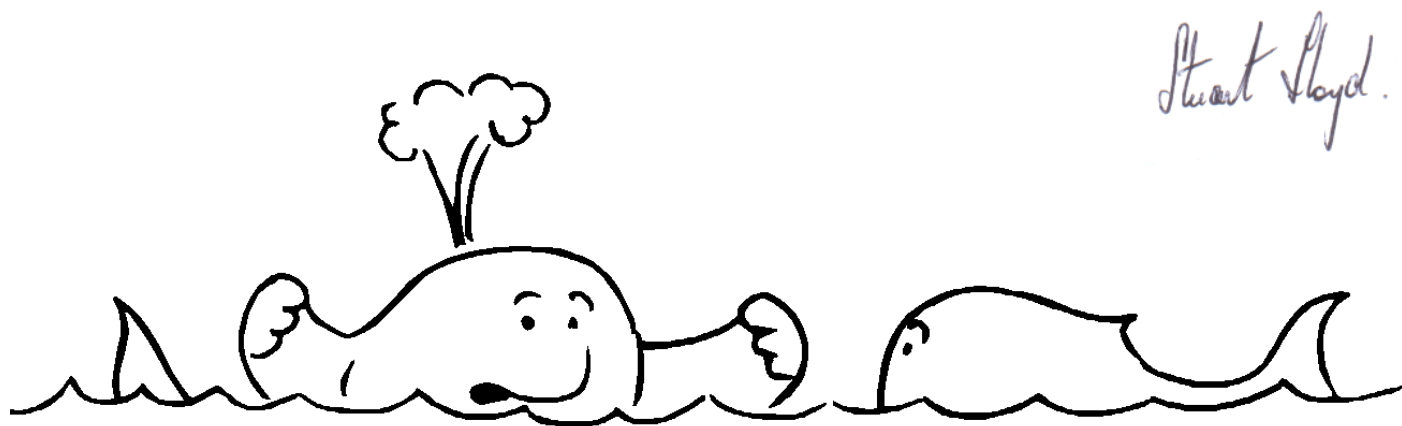
similar. Jesus loves each of us equally. Now true, we may not feel the love of Jesus and our circumstances may be such that it seems we have been abandoned but we must somehow hold on to the reality that 'Jesus loves me' and perhaps wait until we can own that reality.

In response to God's love in Jesus we are to love in return and we are challenged to set no limit to that love - we have to love even our enemies. If that appears too much, remember we are called to love and not necessarily to like, and there is a difference. There will be those whom we may dislike but nevertheless we are called at the same time to be positive towards them - to seek their well being.

Jesus loves each of us equally but there will be those to whom he is attracted - those who find favour with him because their attitude is pleasing to him. The ones who did not seem to please him were those who set themselves above others. Remember the religious leader who prayed to God giving thanks that he was rather good at religious observance and not like others. And the tax gatherer whose prayer consisted of a plea for forgiveness. It was the latter who found favour with Jesus - who in this case was his favourite.

So Jesus does have his favourites but hardly the one featuring in our car sticker 'God loves you but I am his favourite'. That note of pride probably excludes him from being a favourite of Jesus!

Let's not claim to be his favourite - let's just try to please him in everything that we do and thus find favour!



'Honest! - It was a prophet T-H-I-S big!'



Parish News

ADVANCE NOTICE

For many years now we have held a Christmas Fair in alternative years - which means that we hope to go again this year. The date selected is **Saturday 29 November** so people can begin to think how they might contribute to this event.

A DAY APART

The parish retreat has been re-scheduled for **Saturday 11 October** at Drumalis in Larne. This gives people plenty of time to plan ahead and to put that date into the diary.

MOVING HOME

Parishioners may be interested to hear that the Rev. Neal Phair, a former curate, is moving home. Since leaving us he was a rector in Ballintoy, a chaplain in a third level institute in Dublin and a rector of 7 small rural churches in England. He has now been appointed as rector of the parish of Ballybay - centred on Castleblaney just south of the border not far from where he was brought up. He takes up the work at the end of July.

ATTENTION

Some of our assistant leaders still have to attend a basic training

evening in Safeguarding Trust. Thus we will be inviting them to a training evening on **Tuesday 16 September** at 8.15 pm and they should make every effort to attend.

GIVING

Please don't forget that over the summer the running costs of the parish continue and thus the need for giving to continue. Please try to make up your envelopes so that we do not miss out because of the holidays.

KEEP FREE!

Saturday 4 October for a coffee morning in St Patrick's Hall from 10 am - 12 noon.

CATERING

It's that time of year again when we appeal for help from anyone who is free on 11/12 July. The usual lists will be in the three churches.

Catering Committee

FOODBANK

Thanks to all who give food regularly to the Foodbank. We would like to encourage as many people people to bring one item each

time they come to church. If everyone did that we'd be sorted.

Since the Foodbank started 3463 lbs of food has been donated and 506 adults and 391 children have been assisted. That's brilliant.

Iain

ST COLUMBA'S COFFEE MORNING

We would like to thank everyone very much for their support for our coffee morning which was held on Saturday 14 June 2014 in St Columba's. £871.15 was raised which will be going towards our trip to Ethiopia as part of a cross-community team in July with Habitat for Humanity.

We would like to offer our thanks to the various organisations who kindly donated raffle prizes or cakes for the cake sale including: Jane's Kitchen, Sally's Floral Studio, Primrose Boutique Ltd, Woodgreen Furniture, Style 'N' Sport/Luke Marshall, Rosemary Colhoun, Sandra Montgomery, Liz Taylor, Blackstone Restaurant, Montgomery's, Scoffwell Cafe, Dragonfly Boutique, Medicare Pharmacy, The Mustard Seed Cafe, Ian McKay, Flamingo Fitness, 7 Flours Home Bakery, Courtyard Coffee House, James Wilson Hardware Shop, Barr's Butchers and Tesco's.

Thanks also must go to those who provided the lovely music on the day and to the local artists for displaying their beautiful paintings. Sincere thanks has to go to those involved in

setting up the church in preparation for the morning, those who helped on the day and to those who coordinated the smooth running of the event!

Taylor Ross & Stephanie Allen

VACANCY

For several years now the NEELB has funded a youth leader to work for a few hours each Saturday night in the Parish Youth Club. There is now a vacancy and a post to be filled and thus the advertisement underneath.

PARISH OF KILCONRIOLA AND BALLYCLUG

Saturday Night Youth Club

**Youth Leader required
For 3 hours: 7 - 10 pm
Funded by NEELB**

**Qualifications in youth
work or a willingness to
undertake training
essential**

**Job specification and
application forms
available from:
The Parish Office,
2563 0741**

Engaged in Mission



Catherine

Over the summer at least 5 parishioners will be engaged in mission outside this country. In July Catherine McWhirter and Peter Todd are going with an Exodus team (11 - 22) to Spain, to Valdepenas a small town 127 miles south of Madrid. They will be



Peter

working alongside several small Christian churches helping them to run their annual outreach campaigns in local Spanish plazas. In particular each evening they will be in charge of the kid's clubs.



Taylor

Also in July Stephanie Allen and Taylor Ross are part of a local churches team going to Ethiopia. The team is sponsored by the Ballymena Church Members Forum and consists of people of varying ages from different local churches. They are going as part of the Habitat for Humanity



Stephanie

organisation and will be based in the capital Addis

Abba. They will be engaged in a water and sanitation programme and an important part of the trip will be coming alongside the local community and identifying with them.

There have been several fund raising events in connection with these trips in July and thus parishioners have already contributed to the mission. Please continue to remember those going overseas in your prayers.



Cheryl

In August Cheryl Sinclair is going with a local charity called Vispas to Kenya. Vispas is an education - focused Christian mission in western Kenya, caring for impoverished children from preschool level through to university. Cheryl will be involved in organising and running an arts and crafts programme.

All 5 were commissioned during the morning service in St Patrick's on Sunday 22nd June. A team of 8 from the parish is to travel to Nepal late October and already some projects have been identified for this group.



John loved baptising the Pharisees



Around the Parish

SQUIRRELS

All good things must come to an end, and so on Wednesday 11 June, we had our final meeting of the season. All Squirrels, parents and siblings gathered together for a barbecue in the People's Park. The weather was very kind to us and we all had a fun night.



The summer term has been about having fun and getting out into the great outdoors. We've had nights backwoods cooking and searching for different types of leaves from the trees and teddy bear picnics! We have all gone home tired but with big smiles on our faces (even the adults). Paul and Ann have to give a big thank you to all the helpers who turned up each night to help keep a watchful eye and keep the campfire burning while we were outside. We couldn't have had half as much fun without you all.

We also have a very special young person to thank - Jack Anderson. Jack came along to help out for several weeks while he was doing his Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. Those weeks turned into months, and we are delighted that he is going to come back again in September. The Squirrels loved having a younger leader to join in the fun, while at the same time supervising them. His energy and enthusiasm with the Squirrels has been fantastic and the help he has given the leaders is invaluable.

The Squirrels will be returning for more fun and madness on **Wednesday 17 September** at 6.30 in St Columba's Church Hall. This year the Squirrels will be taking part in the new Proficiency Badge scheme. All 4 - 5 year olds are very welcome to come along and join the boys. Unfortunately, for insurance purposes we cannot accept anyone under 4 and anyone over 6 years, 2 months. If your child is over 6 then they will be encouraged to

move to the Beavers section. For more information on the different scouting sections please see our website www.stcolumbasscouts.co.uk.

We look forward to seeing plenty of new faces along with the old ones back again in September. To our older boys moving to Beavers, we wish you all the best for the future and hope that God will continue to bless you all as you move through the different scouting sections.

Paul, Ann, Jack and Mr Squirrel



CHOIR NOTES

It was with regret that we received a letter of resignation from Laverne Jordan who had been a member of the choir for 20 years. She sang soprano on joining the choir, then later moved to the alto line and then to the tenor line. We hope that at some stage Laverne will come back.

In June the choir enjoyed an evening out at the Adair Arms Hotel where we were joined by three guests, Eileen Caldwell, Laverne Jordan and Roy Bennett. After our lovely meal we had a short table quiz organised by Judith Orr which was enjoyed by everyone.

The winner of the Fireside Quiz was Ian Duddy.



Choir present proceeds from recent Table Quiz to Habitat for Humanity

STILL ACTIVE CLUB

We have reached the end of another year for the Still Active Club.



Our guest speakers this year have included Willie from the Ballymena Food Bank, who described how it works and praised our congregation for their contributions and thanked the one or two people from the parish who give of their time to help; a lady from the PSNI who talked about personal safety both at home and when out and about; Sadie Peachey from Sainsbury's who brought a display of some Christmas products and talked about Fair Trade. She also gave us mince pies for our tea and a rich fruit cake which we used at a later meeting. We also had Gladys Smith who gave an illustrated talk to show how she fuses glass, and sold some items she had made; Alan Ashenhurst with his collection of ornamental pigs. He had a story to tell about many of these; Tracey McCausland (nee Letters) who gave an illustrated talk about her son Sam's illness and finally representatives of the Mid and East Antrim Age-well partnership who are interested in the well-being of senior citizens in the new local council area. Trevor also chaired a meeting entitled Reminiscing about Life in the Good Old Days! There was lively chat in the audience and some people brought along items from earlier years and talked about them. There was a musical quiz of songs from the fifties and sixties. We also had our special Christmas meeting with lunch cooked by Liz Hughes and her team of workers. At this we were joined by representatives of Ballymena Senior Citizens' Club, Ballykeel Community Association, 1st Ballymena, Elim and Methodist Churches and by Major Elizabeth Pritchard of the Salvation Army who gratefully received the gifts which our members so generously donated. We were entertained by musicians George McFall, Kathleen McGarvey, Hugh Graham and Leslie Craig and by Esther McDowell who showed us how to wrap awkward presents and how to wear a scarf in two or three different ways.

We went out of the hall on three occasions - in January to the Riverside Theatre to see 'Jesus Christ Superstar' and for tea afterwards at The Lodge Hotel. In May we had our end of year outing to Sentry Hill at Carnmoney, the Abbey Centre, and a drive round the coast road to Ballyrashane where we had a lovely tea at our former Curate, Revd Amanda Adams' parish church. This year we did something different in

March - instead of our usual St Patrick's tide lunch and entertainment in our hall, we accepted an invitation from our former Curate, Revd Alan Irwin to his parish at Lack in Co Fermanagh. There we were warmly welcomed, fed and entertained by his 'Young at Heart' group. We thoroughly enjoyed our visit.

Finally, I would like to thank Adelaide, Jean and the other members of committee for their hard work and support - each of them Irene, Eva, Vera, Alex, Adelaide and myself with some helpers provide and serve tea at our meetings. Thanks also to Revd Iain Jamieson for coming each month, to the rector for his support and for chairing the AGM, to John the caretaker, Lorraine and Sandra in the office, Liz Hughes and her catering team, Eileen for leading the singing and to all our members who make our meetings fun. We think about the members who haven't been well enough to join us this year - Elsie, Valerie, Georgie, Ailish and Jean Lamont, Leah McConnell and Joan Jones in residential homes. We have a strong club (over 60 members) but there is always room for more especially our own parishioners - only two hours per month and really good value! Have a good holiday and see you in September.

Isabel Halliday



MOTHERS AND TODDLERS

We finished the year with a visit from 'Surestart' who gave us a morning of action songs. Then on 10th June we had our party when we had some treats and sadly said goodbye to some of our little ones who are moving on to nursery school. Thank you to all our helpers, friends and members for their commitment and support which all helped make this another successful year for the Mother and Toddler Group.

We send our sincere sympathy to Dorothy Ross on the loss of her mother.

We start back on **9 September** and would welcome new faces - we have the perfect place, come and bring whoever pushes the buggy mum, dad, granny or your child minder! They might get to put their feet up, drink tea or coffee and chat to some other grown ups! See you there - Tuesday September from 10.00 - 12.00 noon in the main hall - £2 per adult, first two children free for each additional child 50 pence.

We hope everyone has a good summer and look forward to seeing everyone in **September**. God Bless.

Rota for September:-

DATE	NAME	FUNCTION
09 September	Rosemary Stacey, Sandra McKay, Mary Cochrane and Jean Cunningham	Tea
	Bee Robinson	Welcoming
	Alex McKay and Eddie McClelland	Car Park
16 September	Evonne Stinson, Eleanor Burnett, Vera Owens and Marlene Gray	Tea
	Martha Caulfield	Welcoming
	Oliver Reid and Robert McGimpsey	Car Park
23 September	Dorothy Hegan, Isabel Halliday, Karin Agnew and Sandra Duke	Tea
	Ann Fisher	Welcoming
	Davy Nelson	Car Park
30 September 2014	Ruth Murray, Isabell Adair and Nell McIlwee	Tea
	Liz Peachey	Welcoming
	Bob Peachey	Car Park

Dorothy (2589 2740), Anna, Anne and Liz

MOTHERS' UNION

The summer event will take place on Friday 1 August 2014 with a trip to the famous St George's Market in Belfast.

This will be an opportunity to shop, browse, have lunch and return home at whichever time suits the individual. We will meet at Ballymena Railway Station in time for the 10.00 am train.

Jean Kennedy, Secretary



Christmas Fair



and Auction

St Patrick's Church Hall

Saturday, 29 November 2014

10 am – 12.30 pm



*Interested in organising an event or
having a stall at the Fair?*

*Please get in touch with a member of the
Fundraising Committee by 26 October*

*Committee members: Debbie Chestnutt,
Debbie Crawford, Sandra Duke, Jackie Greer,
Joan Holden, Alan Ross, Lynda Bell*





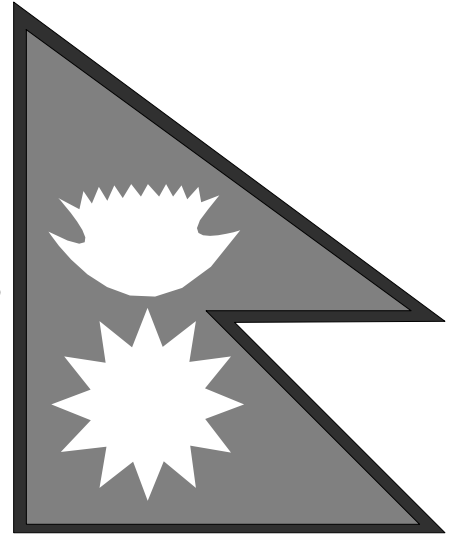
Missions

Kathmandu, June 2014

Dear friends,

“Hear my voice when I call, O Lord; be merciful to me and answer me. My heart says of you ‘Seek his face!’ Your face, Lord, I will seek.”

Psalm 27:7 and 8



Nepal

Living long-term as a foreigner in another country, you have days when you wonder: where on earth do I belong? Despite all the warmth and generosity of Nepali friends and colleagues, there are still times when you just don't seem to fit. Yet, even with e-mail and Skype facilities, how do you even start to tell family and friends overseas about the situations you are facing? Some camaraderie can be found amongst other expats, as you joke about the frustrations of living in a developing country, or roll your eyes at the misunderstandings of people from your home country. But even the expat community is transient, and our understanding and interpretation of situations varies with our own national backgrounds.

Over the last 17 years, and particularly since being married, I have had the privilege of attending several special prayer/fellowship groups which have helped me find my place and keep afloat amidst the particular challenges of life here. For years, my 'Friday feeling' was fed by an expat mothers and babies/toddlers prayer group, a lifeline throughout those years of teething, potty-training, and other development crises. Living far from relatives and friends, in an Asian culture with different childcare practices and expectations, the camaraderie and home-baking we shared on Friday mornings was the high point of my week. Talking seamlessly

through nappy changes and toy-sharing squabbles, we listened to each others issues and struggles, offered advice and encouragement, and brought it all before the Lord in prayer.

The exhaustion of motherhood - with nights broken by frequent breast-feeds, soaked nappies, coughs and blocked noses, street dogs at full moon, early morning pressure cookers, the rituals of Hindu festivals, or a neighbour's avid rooster - was perhaps top of the list of issues. Close on its heels would be frequent illness, a serious challenge in Kathmandu's dusty, dirty and water-deprived environment that would leave some families out of action for literally weeks. The absence of husbands during fieldtrips to rural areas, schooling choices (something with a local Nepali flavour but lower education standards, or joining an elite international school to maximise your child's potential?), and managing household help that is economically-dependant on the provision of work in our homes, also featured regularly. Visitors might have wondered at the spiritual value of prayer held in such a noisy environment, and usually brought to an abrupt close by an impatient child announcing 'snack time!', but we all knew that by His grace and love each and every one of those prayers was heard and responded to with His compassion and concern. Even when our family went on extended home leaves, I would share prayer requests by e-mail with this group back in Nepal, knowing they were the ones who could most relate to our crazy lifestyle and the challenges it brought to family life.

As Zachary and Benjamin have grown to become boys, and young men, with some sadness (and a realisation that I was now 10 years older than most current members!) last summer I stepped away from that Friday group. I now meet with a different set of women on Thursdays, and our focus is more on Bible study, which I thoroughly appreciate for the chance of some Christian teaching in English. Our meetings again take place in each other's homes, and are laced with generous amounts of tea, coffee and baked goods. Nevertheless, it is our 'shared experience' as foreigners and our closing time of prayer together that make this group so important to me. Our prayer concerns include those familiar to women around the world, as well as those peculiar to our overseas circumstances, and we have an unwritten rule that anything you share that leaves you

tearful requires immediate prayer before conversation moves on. Prayer topics in a recent week included homesickness, an overworked husband, a visit by elderly parents, a first trip home to do church visits, depression and sleeplessness related to a difficult work situation, anxiety over fund-raising, homeschooling, and our own boys' issues with behaviour at school. We stopped for immediate prayer for a dear friend preparing to travel home, who didn't know how she would face friends with new babies as she herself grieves over a recent miscarriage.

Since the time my boys have both been in school, I have also been attending the weekly women's fellowship at our Nepali church. At 1 pm on Wednesdays, a small group of women come together, seated on a circle of floor mats in the main sanctuary room at the church. After a couple of hymns, accompanied by Ratna Maya on the Nepali 'madal' drum, we share the blessings we have experienced in the last week. Ratna Maya herself was grateful for God's presence and provision throughout an extended period when she had no money, with money-lenders pressing her for repayments. Gyaani Maya gave thanks that after a lifetime of washing her family's clothes by hand, her engineer son bought her a washing machine during a recent visit. An elderly Mahila was relieved that she had been able to be baptized the previous week without any opposition by her family; the pastor's wife was relieved that children who had come for a residential holiday club at the church had stayed safe and well throughout the time; and Laxmi was relieved that medical investigation of a growth on her shoulder had shown it not to be cancerous. We give thanks for these blessings in songs and prayer before proceeding on to a time of Bible teaching.

After the teaching, we come again to an essential part of our meeting together, a time of sharing needs for prayer for one another. Again the issues vary from those common to women around the world, to those very particular to the women of Nepal. The ladies in the group come from a very different economic, social and cultural background than me, but I feel that the prayer times we share in this fellowship really bind us together, as we experience our commonality before God. Health concerns often top the list for Nepali Christians: the pastor's wife was preparing to travel to a remote region of the country and was concerned

about the cold climate and her own health. Mahila, the newly baptized lady, had an ugly sore under her eye and Laxmi was facing another surgery on her shoulder. For Ramila, it was another common issue: the tension and pressure on Christians living within Hindu households. Her father-in-law, after years of anger about his son becoming a Christian, had recently become one himself after undergoing serious heart surgery. His wife, Ramila's mother-in-law, was very upset by this and was consequently carrying out extra amounts of Hindu worship and propitiation in the house, in which Ramila and her husband and son share a room.

The most upset, however, was Saanu Chori, a woman whose youngest teenage daughter suffers from behavioural problems and poorly controlled epilepsy, resulting in neighbours labeling her as 'abnormal' and weird. Saanu Chori became a Christian as a result of seeking prayer for Pratina, and perseveres in her faith in the face of minimal change in Pratina, and ongoing derision by her husband and neighbours. Related to her other challenges, Pratina has started to fail academically and so it was decided to give her a fresh start by enrolling her in a new high school. Unfortunately, Pratina's first day coincided with her first menstrual period, which left her overwhelmed before students and teachers, and incapable of dealing with her dress and personal hygiene. Her mother was called that very afternoon to come and help deal with her, and all hope of the 'fresh start' was shattered.

What can you say to a mother in this position, with a minimum of healthcare options or social support for her child in this poverty-bound country? There is certainly some comfort, and even practical advice, to be had when we find our challenges have been faced by other women, but that is often not enough. Perhaps some of you ladies reading this letter have also experienced times when a friend has stepped into that discouraging space of hopelessness. Unable to offer solace herself, she comes on our behalf before the One who is filled with compassion for us, reminding Him and us of His love and His promises. I am grateful for the provision of many women who have prayed such prayers for me over the years...perhaps you too are one of them? And I hope that you also may experience being caught up in that net of prayer when feeling overwhelmed and 'at sea'.

We are looking forward to visiting family in Ireland and America during the month of July, and hope you also enjoy your summer. With thanks for all your prayers and support.

Deirdre, Mark, Zachary and Benjamin

UPDATE ON SUNDAR DHOKA

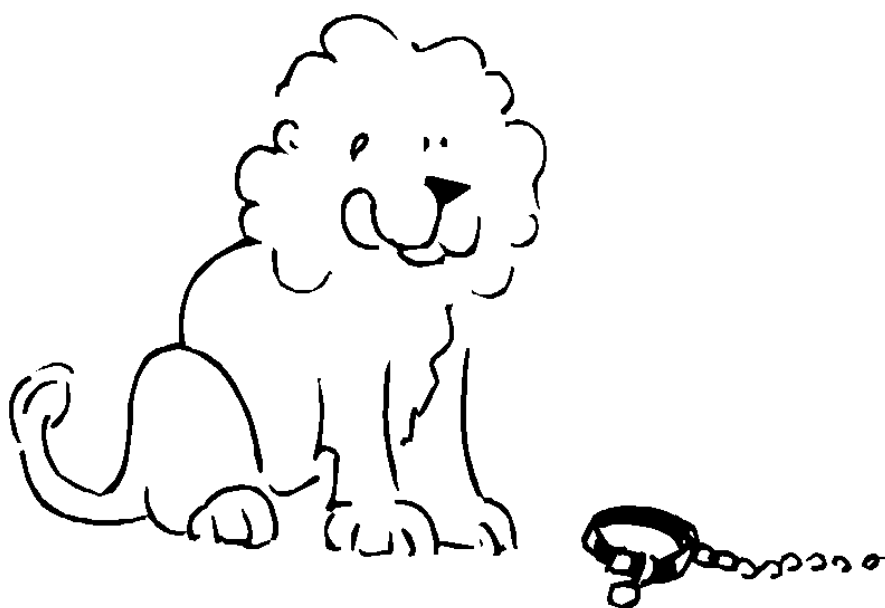
Thought I would write a line or two just let you know I met with Bikash from Sundar Dhoka church Nepal this week in Northern Ireland. Our whole parish helped so much in raising money for the mini bus, I thought you all would be interested in the latest news.

Bikash told me the mini bus is used morning, noon and night every day which is fantastic. He joked that the bus had more miles done in the past year than any of the Kathmandu taxis! Practical everyday things like transporting folk in wheel chairs was now much less of a problem.

I feel that the whole venture was really worthwhile. It was a privilege to be a small part of such a successful venture.

Bikash was keen to pass on his thanks from everyone at Sundar Dhoka to all of you in the parish who helped purchase the mini bus.

Stephen Brown



Unfortunately, Daniels's poodle
did not fare as well



Honorary Secretary's Notes

At the time of writing we seem to have a lot of jobs to be done which are all waiting for contractors to be able to come and do them, a situation I'm sure anyone who needs work completed by tradesmen is familiar with.

At Ballyclug the continuing ingress of water at the east end of the church has been investigated further and new gaps found in the mortar, thankfully quite a minor job of re-pointing will fix this again. Let's all pray that that will be the end of it for a good number of years again. By the end of the summer all of the other building work at Ballyclug will be over again too, God willing.

Sadly at St Columba's another old problem has returned once more, namely the damage caused by kids climbing up onto the roof. In any event the sky lights there need attention again and we have decided to remove them and board over the voids so as to eliminate one source of leaks. To go along with repairs to the roof it is planned to install CCTV to try and deter at least a portion of our after hours visitors.

In St Patrick's there has been some interim work carried out in the ringing chamber to try to slow the progress of the dry rot. Pricing of the main job is now being sought - it may well need to go out to tender to get the best value. In the meantime the organ builders Wells Kennedy have been contacted with a view to getting the organ stripped down, cleaned and given a good overhaul while the building (or perhaps more accurately) demolition work goes on in the tower just above it. Stripping out all of the infected woodwork will also go some way to improving the ventilation of the tower again we hope and keeping it dryer in the future.

Around the halls it is planned over the summer to have some of the car park re-lined and renumbered and to improve the serving hatch between the kitchen and main hall. The main hall is also in line for a fresh coat of paint to try to lighten it a little. We would also be glad to hear the

views of everyone who uses the halls as to how they might be improved and updated in the next few years. Being now 50 years old, they are starting to show their age, but perhaps more importantly do the design and layout still meet the needs of the current users? Any suggestions to improve the usage or appearance of the building would be gratefully received, we need to take into account as wide a range of views as we can get.

Keep an eye out for any and all of the above happening in the next couple of weeks, and have a good summer.

Alastair Marrs

FIT FOR LIFE

Each Tuesday night over the summer

Starting at 7 pm in the hall

A walk to suit your needs

Healthy refreshments

A reflection to give us food for thought

Good chat

Sponsored by local firms



Any money raised for Marie Curie Foundation



Our children's week 'Mega Makers' was based on how wide, long, high and deep God's love is for us. We had over 60 children each night learning wide wider; deep deeper; strong stronger; great greater and forever and ever. A great week was had by all thanks to all the leaders who helped.



On Saturday night we had the family fun night. Over 200 people came and the weather stayed dry. We had bouncy castles, Blackberry mobile farm, face painting, tattoos, chocolate fountain and BBQ. Special thanks to William Allen Meats for providing the sausages for the BBQ.

Sunday ended the week with the young people's service where the children received their Sunday School attendance prizes. They also sang the songs from children's week and the CMS project song. We raised over £1000 which will go to provide transport.

The following were awarded:-

Minnie McAuley Cup -
best overall in kindergarten
Magee Cup - runner up in kindergarten
McKervill Cup - best overall seniors
Stuart Dixon Memorial Cup - runner up seniors
Robert Adair Cup - best overall in Fusion
Youth Shield - contribution to youth
Lauren Minford - best all rounder and
contribution to music
Family Service Attendance

Abbie McDowell
Ellie Mayo
Sam McDowell
James Moore
Simon Bennett
Callum McCarrison

Emma weir
Graham Austin
David McAleese

Thank you to all the leaders who have helped throughout the year. We hope everyone has a great summer and look forward to seeing you all back in September.

Youth Club starts on **Saturday 6th September** 7 - 8 pm for juniors and 8 - 10 pm for seniors. Anyone wanting to become a member of senior youth club this year must bring their parents on the first night to register.

Sunday school will start on **7th September** - we would love to see any children from 3 years of age.

On Sunday 29th June a group of young people and leaders went to Summer Madness. A great time was had by all and we enjoyed meeting with our friends from the Rural Deanery and Connor Diocese at the Bishop's BBQ.

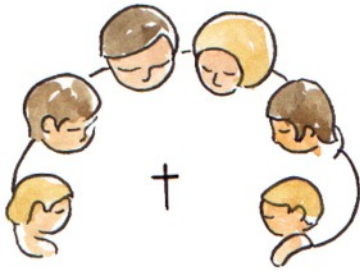
Friday **18th July 7.30 - 9.30 pm** we will be having an Energise event in Broughshane with a scavenger hunt and food.

Summer Scheme **Monday 11th - Friday 15th August** from 3 - 6 pm for primary school children. £1.50 per day per child. Please contact Lucy to book a place 077 5995 0497.

There will be Children's Church during the summer months when the children will go out during the 11.30 am service.

Anyone willing to help with any organisation - Sunday school or Youth Club or anyone wanting to complete Duke of Edinburgh volunteer work please speak to Lucy or Alan or one of the clergy.

Lucy



Prayer Ministry

Prayer ministry will continue to be available after morning and evening service in St Patrick's during July and August.

The prayer support teams will have no designated team leaders during July and August.

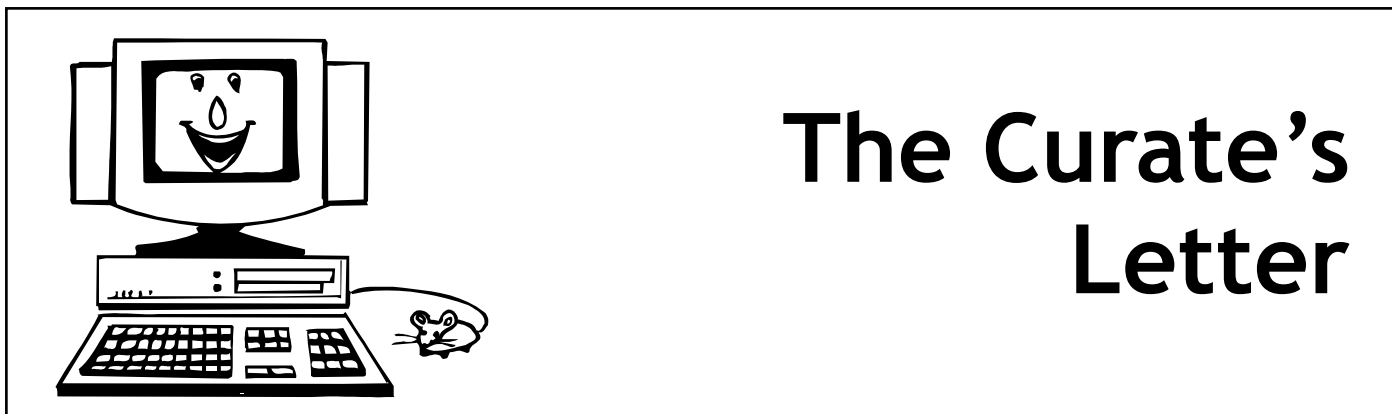
Should you have a prayer request, please contact any one of the team leaders or one of the clergy and this will be passed down a team.

There will also be the 8.00 am prayer time on the 5th July and 2nd August. This takes place in the Jubilee room.

Team Leaders:-

Adelaide Nimick	2564 0865
Alex McKay	2564 4698
Heather Barr	2564 1047
Eleanor Burnett	075 1736 5589
Doreen Cowan	2564 4709
Millicent McClelland	077 9173 6117





The Curate's Letter

Hello, I am Revd John McClure and from June 2014 I have been serving in the parish as curate assistant. Firstly I would like to thank you all for the very warm, encouraging welcome that I have received to date, and with your assistance in helping me settle in and feel welcome.

Please allow me to tell you a little about myself.

I am married to Margo and we have two daughters, Stephanie and Rachel. Margo has worked with Extern Organisation for the past nineteen years. Margo works within Extern Adult Services in a hostel which provides temporary emergency accommodation to homeless persons in Belfast. Stephanie (29) is keen on sport and Rachel (28) is very musical and lives in Londonderry with her husband Sean. Margo has a strong love for horses whereas my heart is drawn towards football and golf.

In 2000 I took up the position of Deputation Secretary for Irish Church Missions (I.C.M.). I.C.M. is the oldest mission in the Church of Ireland. My work with I.C.M. involved church development and support, and expanded to include raising awareness of current social issues.

As Deputation Secretary for I.C.M., in conjunction with statutory and voluntary agencies, I have assisted in developing advice and support projects in the areas of homelessness, suicide awareness, mental health and addiction issues.

My involvement with two groups working with persons who have addiction issues in the North Belfast area, expanded to other areas of social need. I was involved in the development and implementation of one of the first

Suicide Awareness Groups in Northern Ireland. This work has developed and expanded to provide various support networks presently available throughout the island of Ireland. My work involved interaction with those affected by addictions and risk of suicide. Due to the nature of my work I spent a lot of time with families who have lost loved ones as a result of these issues. I have spoken at various churches and groups throughout Northern Ireland to raise awareness of the impact of homelessness, mental health and addiction issues.

Since 1982 I have been a director of the Martin Residential Trust, a home for nineteen adults who have physical and mental health difficulties. This home is situated in the Newtownabbey area. I have been involved in all aspects of developing this home, from its outset in 1982 when it was then a relatively new concept in the provision of care for persons with complex difficulties.

I was also a director of Forum Against Substance Abuse (FASA) which currently has fifty-eight employees who support persons affected by addiction issues throughout Northern Ireland.

I am privileged that my position of serving as a Christian within the church has given me the opportunity to speak at many and various churches and meetings to raise awareness of today's social issues and also preach the Word of God. I am grateful to be able to join the Revd Canon Stuart Lloyd and the Revd Iain Jamison. I look forward to sharing my life and ministry with you over the next while.

I would like to leave you with some food for thought.

A Rabbi and soap maker went for a walk together. The soap maker had some negative things to say about religion. "What good is religion? Just look around you. What do you see? Trouble, misery, wars - even after all these years of preaching and teaching about goodness, truth, peace! What good is religion with all its prayers and sermons if all this evil still exists?"

The Rabbi kept quiet as they continued their walk. Then they noticed a child playing in the gutter. The child was filthy with dirt and mud. The Rabbi said to the soap maker, "Look at this child! Now you say that soap makes people clean, but what good is it? With all the soap in the world this child is still dirty. What good is soap after all?"

The soap maker immediately answered him "But Rabbi soap can't do its job if it isn't used!"

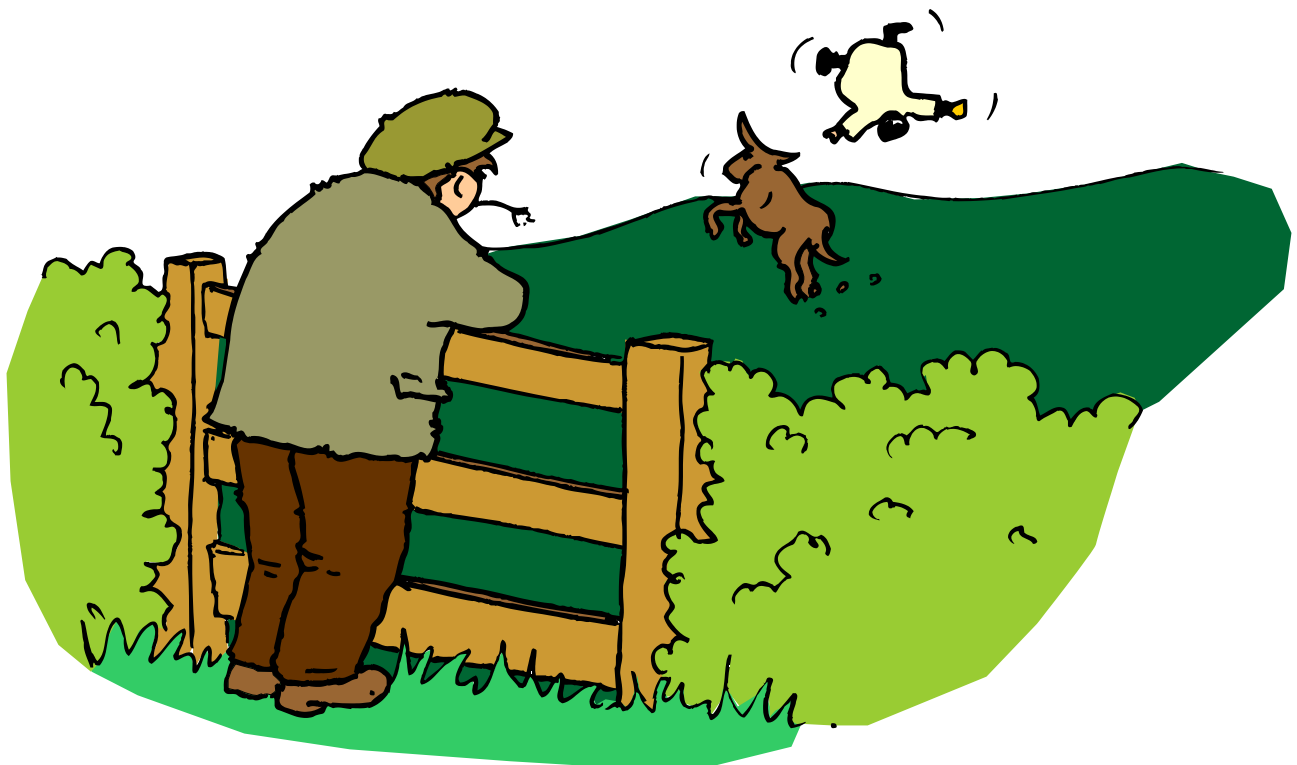
The Rabbi said, "The same is true with religion!"

As a Christian we have a purpose and are guided by God,

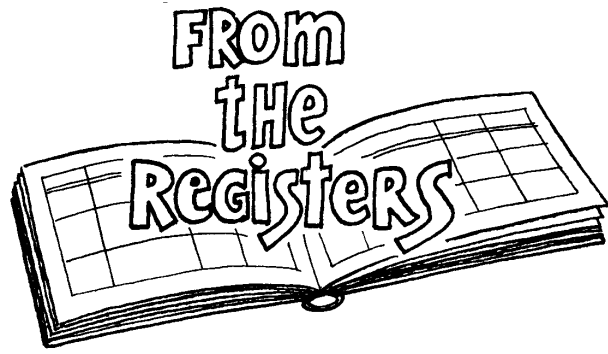
"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:19-20.

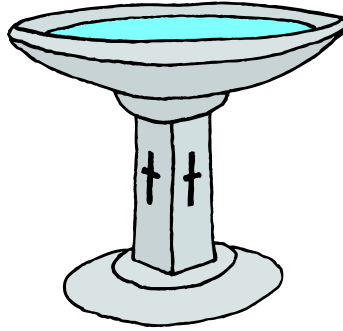
John McCune



Maybe blessing that bull isn't such a good idea after all vicar



HOLY BAPTISM



22nd June

Zach Darryl George
Moore

59 Chichester Park Central

CHRISTIAN BURIAL



17th June

Esther Gardiner

31 Collinwood

27th June

Margaret McKay

20 McNeill Park

28th June

John McConnell

Kintullagh Nursing Home

Esther Gardiner

Esther had come through treatment for cancer some years ago but when a further difficulty was diagnosed recently her health declined rapidly and her stay in hospital was short. Esther was from Gilford but moved to Luton in England with Derek her husband when he was posted there.

They were to be married for 58 years and when there was the opportunity to return to Northern Ireland they settled in Ballymena. Esther worked for many years for a vending company out at Michelin. They both enjoyed caravanning, first touring and then having a static caravan at Newcastle where they regularly attended the local Church of Ireland church. Esther was in many ways a home bird, not being involved in any organisations, but she appreciated her circle of friends who all speak highly of her. She had no immediate close family and so we especially remember Derek at this time.

Margaret McKay

Maggie, as she was known, had health difficulties for much of her life and for the last number of years was confined either to her special chair or bed. However, she had a strong spirit which carried her through often difficult times. She was rooted in the community at Moorfields and was one of 11 children. For many years she worked as a dinner lady in Moorfields Primary School and she also worked at caring for others. She had the responsibility of caring for both her ageing parents and indeed for a brother. Her house in McNeill Park was to be a gathering point for the numerous members of the family and she talked of having 3 sittings to feed them! Her chief care was for her only son Karl and the 2 of them were very close. Maggie enjoyed her cooking, her newspapers and her friends visiting. She was quite a character - not slow to tell you what she thought and to call a spade a spade. Although she could be quick to find fault behind that readiness there was much kindness and generosity. She was very attached to Ballyclug Church and when the parish used the old school hall at Moorfields she was very involved in preparing the hall. She didn't often talk about her faith but she was clear that it carried her through the difficulties of life. At this time we remember Karl and Jennifer and also her only surviving sister Nellie who is also a parishioner.

John McConnell

John had reached the end of a long and fulfilled life. For the last number of years he had been a resident in Kintullagh Nursing Home, and although

his communication was very limited, he was well cared for and seemed quite content. From a farming background in County Down, he continued through his life to have a love for the soil and his garden was his pride and joy. Apart from his professional life he laboured here with delight - providing vegetables and flowers for many. Neighbours and friends will remember his hedges, cut with love and to perfection. He gave a life time of service to the Royal Ulster Constabulary, serving in many places and being awarded a medal for gallantry. Wherever his home, he was a faithful member of the local church and thus in Ballymena where of latter years he was a regular worshipper at Ballyclug, along with his companion in life Leah. They had a long and happy marriage and were a great support for each other. John was a quiet gentle man, always well disposed to others, whose faith kept him through the trials of life. We especially remember Leah at this time, who herself is in Andena Nursing Home, but keeping reasonably well for her years.





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

EVERY WEDNESDAY

10.30 am	Holy Communion
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ST PATRICK'S, BALLYCLUG

SUNDAY SERVICES

10.00 am	Morning Prayer
	Holy Communion
	4th Sunday in the month

ST COLUMBA'S, DUNCLUG

SUNDAY SERVICES

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

SUNDAY SCHOOLS

ST PATRICK'S

11.30 am	Church	Leaders - Mrs L McLaughlin and Mr A Ross
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ST COLUMBA'S

11.30 am	Church	Superintendent - Mrs S Foster
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HOLY BAPTISM

At Sunday services by arrangement