

# *Parish of Kilconriola and Ballyclug*

PARISH MAGAZINE

SEPTEMBER 2014



**Diocese of Connor - Parish of Kilconriola and Ballyclug**

**WHO'S WHO IN OUR PARISH**



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**CLERGY**

**Rector**

Canon S G E Lloyd, B.A.  
St Patrick's Rectory  
102 Galgorm Road (Tel 2565 2253)  
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**Curate Assistants**

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**PARISH OFFICE**

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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**

<b>St Patrick's</b>	Rector's	Mr Ronnie Fleming
	People's	Mr Jonathan Nevin
<b>Ballyclug</b>	Rector's	Mr Jackie McMaster
	People's	Mr Jackie Greer
<b>St Columba's</b>	Rector's	Mr Ivan McCombe
	People's	Miss Stephanie Allen
<b>Glebe Wardens</b>	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

Occasionally someone is found who has lost his memory - he does not even know his own name - it's hard to conceive of a nameless person. If an abandoned baby is found and is cared for in hospital the nurses give her a name. We need names to give us identity. When young children are brought for baptism and details are taken the question is asked - "What name are you giving her?" Mind you some of the names going about now are rather strange, but you say nothing even if you think the child growing up will hardly thank parents for lumbering her with that name. Hopefully readers are content with the names assigned to them!

I wonder how many parents consider the meaning of names before choosing - for all names do have a meaning. In the Old Testament we are told the meaning of many of those strange sounding names and they are meant in some way to define that person.

As well as our official names some folks also have a nick name. These can be related to some aspect of that person's character or may have arisen out of the blue. Teachers are often fair game for nick names - I wonder if you can remember any from your former teachers? We had a history teacher known only as 'Scratch'. He did tend to scratch his head regularly during the lessons but it was an unfair nick name in that in no way did it sum up his character. How different from the biblical character Joseph who was given the nick name 'Barnabas' which meant 'Son of encouragement,' and that did do justice to his character.

We worship God. Now a god is something or a being that takes a prominent position in a person's life. God with a capital G is the ultimate in godhood. Yet what is his name. This is a question that Moses asked when he encountered God in the burning bush - 'Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you,"

and they ask me, “What is his name?” What shall I tell them?” God replied, “I am who I am - I AM has sent you.”

God’s name - I AM. Does this not indicate that our God is beyond naming. He is beyond definition, beyond the scope of our limited brains and imaginings. I am everything that is and much more.

The Jews had various names for God but they had one special one ‘Yahweh’. However, they did not write it or speak it because they had such a reverence for their god. How sad that the word god is now so often unthinkingly used in everyday language without any reverence at all. When we consider our God or speak of him let us do so with awe - his greatness beyond our little understanding, and awe especially when we consider his central characteristic - love.

*Stuart Lloyd.*



***“Are you sure you want to call her Apple,  
Mrs Pye?”***



# Parish News

## SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER

### *Family Services*

St Columba's Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>  
at 11.30 am

St Patrick's Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>  
at 10.15 am

### *Living Faith*

St Patrick's Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>  
at 6.30 pm

### *Bellringers/Choir rededication*

St Patrick's Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>  
at 11.30 am

### *Service of Wholeness and Healing*

St Patrick's Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>  
at 11.30 am

## LUNCH TIME PRAYERS

We seek to offer prayer each weekday at lunch time in St Patrick's - 1.15 pm to 1.30 pm. We pray for the parish remembering a different aspect of ministry each day. We pray also for those on our sick list in the parish and for all those names that are left at

the back of the church by various visitors. There is a rota of clergy and lay folk who lead this prayer and while very often there may be no one else present this does not take away from the prayer offered. We would love to see parishioners from time to time joining us, so if you are about the town why not drop in?

## RETREAT

A one day retreat has been arranged for **Saturday 11th October** at Drumalis Retreat Centre in Larne. The Rev. Raymond Fox will be leading us. It is to be hoped that those who signed up for the retreat that was cancelled before the summer will sign up again and others!

## MISSION AHEAD

As you may be aware a parish group is setting out for Nepal at the end of October and preparations continue for this venture. We will be engaging in 2 main projects. The first will entail manual work at a hospital at Jiri

which is about 6 hours drive due east of Kathmandu. We will stay here for 4/5 days and as well as the work we will get a chance to appreciate life in that part of the country. The second project is back in Kathmandu and will involve craft work with homeless women with mental illnesses. Mark Zimmerman is arranging the trip to Jiri while Deirdre his wife is organising the work in the transit home. We would also hope in some measure to link up with Sundar Dhoka Church and also to meet Shreya from HDCS who visited the parish in April.

We are having just one fund raising event and that is a coffee morning organised by Joan Holden for **Saturday 4th October**.

Our local mission continues with the resumption of the monthly breakfast for those from the Hope Centre and others on **Saturday 6th September** and our Student Lunches will resume later in September.

## **MISSION SUNDAY**

As well as our regular weekly giving we have an opportunity twice a year to contribute through a St Patrick's tide envelope and a Harvest envelope. The select Vestry decided that these should be given a greater focus and emphasis and so they have been tied into a

Ministry Sunday and a Mission Sunday.

Back in March at St Patrick's tide we had our Ministry Sunday and raised over £10,000 and now we are looking forward to Mission Sunday when the harvest envelopes will go towards our mission and charity giving.

In the past the parish has been rightly generous in its giving to others, but it has become increasingly difficult to maintain that level of giving. Mission Sunday will give parishioners the opportunity to contribute directly to a range of mission organisations and charities at home and overseas.

Such special collections are common in other churches where the response is good. We trust that our own parishioners can step up to the mark and can engage in the grace of giving.

## **CATERING**

Thanks to all who helped with the catering on 11th and 12th July. Helpers on the 12th were a bit thin on the ground which put a heavy burden on those who did come to help. Special thanks go to the Rector, the Rev. John and his wife Margo who rallied round and helped tremendously. Their support was very much appreciated.

***Liz Hughes***

## BIBLE STUDY

St Patrick's Bible Study resumes on **Tuesday 9th September**. All welcome.

## A SEMINAR ON PRAYER AND PRAYER BLESSING

**When** 16th September  
at 7.30 pm  
**Where** The Minor Hall  
**Speaker** Canon David Brown

Please put this date in your diary and plan to attend.

This is open to all in the parish. We can all learn more about prayer and how this can impact on our lives, our parish and our community.

Through prayer we can make a difference. God hears and answers prayer.

## FOOD BANK

There has continued to be good support for the local Food Bank with parishioners bringing goods regularly to church. This is much appreciated by the organisers. At the same time a request has come that donors might consider giving tinned food including meat, fish, vegetables and potatoes instead of breakfast cereal and pasta - evidently they have more than an ample supply of this commodity. So please bear this in mind as you continue giving.

## SHOE BOX APPEAL

Boxes will be available in the three churches from mid September, (minimum donation of 50 pence per box will go to Christmas Fair). Please read the leaflet enclosed in the box regarding contents and instructions on how to donate postage payment per box. Please gift aid if possible. Boxes to be returned to the churches by Mid **OCTOBER**. Thanks for your support.

*Jean Kennedy/Liz Hughes*

## SAFEGUARDING TRUST

All those working with young people are required to attend a basic course in Safeguarding Trust. It is essential that those who may not have attended such a course do so. One will be held on Tuesday **16th September** at 8.15 pm in St Patrick's Church Hall. A letter is being sent to those who should attend - please ensure you come along.

## THANKS

A special word of thanks to some people. Parishioners may be aware that for safety reasons the old bell belfry in St Patrick's church grounds had to be taken down. We are grateful to Jackie Greer who crafted most of the new one which now has been completed. Jackie spent much time and skill in building the re-



placement and our thanks to him for this very good job.

Our thanks also to the team of painters led by Eddie McClelland who undertook the painting of the main church hall. Their work has certainly brightened and refreshed the hall. As well as Eddie who took a lead we thank Alex McKay, Peter Owens, George Orr, Ray Burbage, Michael Johnston, Ronnie Fleming, Alan Ross, Barbara Hutchinson, Loraine Watt and Millicent McClelland.

Over this last period a lot of work has been done at St Columba's in terms of the lighting, sound and audio visual systems. Here our thanks go to Kenneth Hughes for his expertise and hours of work.

We also acknowledge that over the summer everything grows and thus our thanks to all those who maintain the grounds at Ballyclug and St Columba's.

## **GORE TRUST**

Applications can now be made for grants from this trust. Any parishioner in third level education is eligible. Applications should be made in writing to The Parish Treasurer, c/o the Parish Office, St Patrick's Church, Trostan Avenue, BT43 7BT. Applicants should give their name and address and the course they are studying. Those who have applied in previous years and are continuing in

study should apply again. The grants may be relatively small but should help in some measure.

## **FORMER CURATE**

Older parishioners will be saddened to hear of the death of the Rev. Billy McCourt, a former curate who died in July. His wife Esme had died in 2012. Parishioners still talk of the contribution that the Rev. McCourt made to parish life.

## **NEW LEADER**

The Rainbows is now under new leadership - leader Hilary Strain assistant leader Caroline Kernohan, helper Jean Eaton and young leader Chloe Peachey. Rainbows will commence on Friday **19th September** from 6.30 pm until 7.45 pm. Looking forward to the return of existing members and any new members. Rainbows start at age 4 to 7 years.

This year our programme is 'Roundabout' - All about me. This allows rainbows to explore everything about themselves. Activities cover the 4 areas of the rainbow jigsaw (look, learn, laugh and love) this will consist of quiz, crafts, fun, games and tasty recipes to name but a few so why not come along to see and enjoy yourself. You can contact me on home no 028 2564 4404 or mob no 077 5321 2587. So see you all on **19th September**.

*Hilary Strain*



# Ministry of Healing 2014

It is a common statement, “If you have your health you have everything.” Clearly health is a great blessing but what about wholeness. There are those who are physically very healthy but at the same time are ungrateful, small minded and always finding fault. In terms of wholeness such people fall far short. Thus often those with disabilities or a serious illness can be more whole than some of their physically healthy neighbours.

When it comes to the Ministry of Healing in our parish we need to think not just of physical healing but of wholeness. Indeed the service provided in our Prayer Book connected with this ministry is titled a service of ‘Wholeness and healing’.

In the parish the ministry takes different forms. We have the Healer Prayer Group which meets weekly. We have the 6 Prayer Support Teams which provide ongoing prayer for healing. We have the prayer ministry after Sunday services in St Patrick’s and we have the occasional services of ‘Wholeness and healing’ in all 3 churches. The ministry is also explored at times by the Living Faith team and we include prayers for healing in our daily lunch time prayers in St Patrick’s.

In this ministry we are carrying people to God for his healing, recognising that he wants us to have life and have it in abundance - he wants to bring us to wholeness, even if this does not entail a physical cure. His healing may take different forms - we may desire a certain type of healing but ultimately we have to leave it to God to work his healing purposes. We believe that with God there is always healing, not necessarily a cure - that our prayers are never wasted - that he uses those prayers for his healing purposes - that in some manner enrichment is brought to the situation even if it is not in the form that we considered or maybe wanted.

Through the ministry of healing we seek to open ourselves to his healing purposes. Thus may come what we might call miraculous cures or people

may simply get better for a combination of reasons. There may be healing in the form of God working through the skills of medical folk and the modern means of surgery and medicine. Healing may take the form of people being better able to deal with their situation or receiving strength to cope with it. Sometimes in the face of difficulties families can be drawn closer to one another and there is a greater openness - that would be a form of healing. Through troubles people can better appreciate what they do have and come to appreciate what is important in life. Especially people can be drawn closer to God and be more at peace - surely here is healing. Thus many different forms of healing contribute to wholeness.

Our God desires to draw us to wholeness here and beyond. We assist in this process through our openness to him and our trust in him, though thankfully it is less dependent on us and more on his grace. Nevertheless it is good if we work to remove any stumbling blocks that might get in the way of his healing.

This ministry of healing does raise questions and is not as clear cut as we might like. In the face of illness or other trouble, people quite naturally want a quick fix. In their vulnerability they can see the ministry of healing as a possible magic wand to wave to make all things well. When in their terms this does not work they can easily dismiss the ministry. They need to be helped to understand the nature of the ministry and through that understanding they can come to appreciate how God is in fact at work, though perhaps in ways that are not so easily discerned.

With God there is always healing - this draws to wholeness. We acknowledge that it is sometimes very difficult to hold on to - but in faithfulness we seek to do so.



# Coffee Morning and Cake Sale



*St Patrick's Church Hall*

*Castle Street  
Ballymena*



*Saturday, 4 October 2014  
10 am – 12 noon*



*Come along and join us  
for Morning Coffee/Tea, Scones and Tray Bakes*

*Proceeds in aid of Nepal*





# Around the Parish

## MOTHERS' UNION



Opening meeting : Holy Communion and Admission Service (St Patrick's Church) on **Wednesday 10th September** at 8 pm - supper and chat in Minor Hall. Anyone in the parish who would like to come along to see what Mothers' Union is all about will be made most welcome.

Members please note due to a clash with the Harvest Supper again!! our October meeting will hopefully take place on **Wednesday 15th October**. More Later!!!!!!

*Jean Kennedy (Sec)*

## SCOUTS



Scouts will be resuming on **Friday 12th September** at 7.45 pm in St Columba's Church Hall. Scouts is open to both boys and girls aged 10½ - 14, and Explorer Scouts aged 14 - 18.

We are looking forward to a fun-filled and varied programme that will have something for everyone to enjoy. Anyone wishing to join will be very welcome to come along.

*Skip*

## MOTHERS AND TODDLERS

We would like to welcome everyone back after the summer holidays. Calling all babies and toddlers, would you like to run around, play with toys and have a snack? 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 9th September** from 10.00 - 12 noon in the main hall - £2.00 per adult, first two children free for each additional child 50 pence. New faces will be very welcome.

We look forward to our coffee morning for the ladies and gentlemen who help 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 willing to help with the car parking, please give Dorothy a ring, we would be very grateful for your help.

Tea 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

Our thanks to you all for your continued support.

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



## BADMINTON

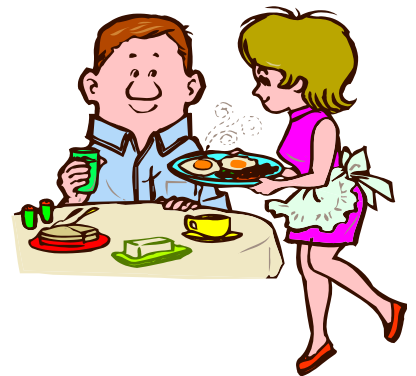
Hope everyone has enjoyed their summer holidays. Looking forward to return to some fitness?

Badminton resumes at St Patrick's main hall on **Wednesday 10th September**. If you or a friend are free Wednesday evenings come along 7.30 - 9 pm - all abilities welcome. Hope to see you there.

*Hazel Davison*

## CATERING TEAMS

There have been some changes to the Catering teams over the past year. We now have one less team leader and have decided to prepare a single list of helpers which the remaining four team leaders can use to put a team together when required. The list will be in alphabetical order to start with and when a person has helped, their name will go to the bottom of the list and so on. The list of helpers is as follows:-



Isobel Adair  
Ann Adams  
Karen Agnew  
Ann Bacon  
Ann Balmer  
Liz Beatty  
Pam Boreland  
Doris Clements  
Rosemary Colhoun  
Jean Cunningham  
Ann Crawford  
Deborah Crawford  
Maureen Curry  
Sandra Duke  
Myrtle Dunlop  
Jean Eaton

Barbara Fleming  
Tilly Fleming  
Mary Galbraith  
Rosalie Grainger  
Isabel Halliday  
Moirra Heaton  
Dorothy Hegan  
Joan Holden  
Heather Houston  
Stephanie Johnston  
Jean Kennedy  
June Livingstone  
Sarah McClung  
Nicola McCombe  
Vicky McCrum  
Patricia McWhirter

Nina Marrs  
Anna Mitchell  
Kelsey Monaghan  
Cathy Moore  
Ruth Murray  
Brenda Nixon  
Judith Orr  
Vera Owens  
Maureen Patterson  
Irene Rodgers  
Christine Soar  
Rosemary Stacey  
Evonne Stinson  
Margaret Telford



**The list of gentlemen remains much the same and is as follows:-**

Alan Adair	Jackie Greer	John Mawhinney
Jim Adams	Dave Heaton	Walter Murray
Bill Balmer	Les Hughes	David Nelson
St Clair Beatty	Harry Johnston	Ivan Stacey
Derek Bell	John McClung	William Stinson
Peter Chestnutt	Adrian McCombe	David Strain
Jim Clements	Alex McKay	Colin Watt
Christie Colhoun	Eric McKee	
Barry Duke	Alistair Marrs	

**Ladies available to make tray bakes etc:**

Florence Atkinson  
Moirra Cunningham  
Ruth Dixon  
Ella Duddy  
Helen Herbison  
Ann Kelly  
Lettie Kettles  
Florence McKinley  
Carol Sloan  
Marie Telford  
Irene Thompson  
Sandra Thompson



**The Team Leaders are:-**

Mrs Liz Hughes (Co-ordinator)	Tel: 028 25643088
Mrs Liz Bodel	Tel: 028 25645914
Mrs Vera Greer	Tel: 028 25642723
Mrs Hilary Strain	Tel: 028 25644404

If we have missed anyone please accept our apologies and let us know so we can put things right. Finally, if there is anyone in the Parish, male or female, who is not on the lists but would like to help please do make contact with one of the Team Leaders or one of the Clergy.

***Catering Committee***





## SQUIRRELS

Squirrels are returning on **Wednesday 17th September** 6.30 - 7.30 in St Columba's Church Hall. Boys 4 and 5 years old are welcome. Remember at 6 years old, you'll have to leave Squirrels and become a Beaver. If you're turning six before Halloween then it's time to move up. Those becoming six approaching Christmas should think about moving up in the New Year. After 6 year 2 months, you will not be insured fully to be a Squirrel.

There are a few exciting changes this year as the Squirrel Association is launching a new badge scheme. These are beautiful badges that the Squirrels will have to undertake certain tasks to obtain.

Our maximum intake of Squirrels is currently 16. Please contact us ASAP and let us know if you wish to have a child join. Our contact details can be found in the back of the magazine or on our facebook page.

*Paul, Ann, Jack and Mr Squirrel*

## CHURCH LADS' BRIGADE

We hope everyone had a nice summer break and enjoyed the holiday. It's back to school and C.L.B. on Friday nights.

Activities begin on Friday, **5<sup>th</sup> September** and we meet on Friday nights in four age groups.



Martins	4-7 years	7.00 - 8.00 pm
Y-Team	7-10 years	7.00 - 8.00 pm
J-Team	10-13 years	8.00 - 9.30 pm
Seniors	13+ years	8.00 - 9.30 pm

Our varied programme includes, craft work, Bible Study, gymnastics, volley ball, basketball, dodge ball, handball, badminton and any other games you can think up. All boys aged 4 years and upwards will be made very welcome, so come along and enjoy the Fun, Faith and Fellowship.

*Alan Ross (2589 2740)*



Hopefully everyone has had a good summer break. As many will know the organ has been having some work carried out on it during the summer and it will be a few weeks yet till it is finished.

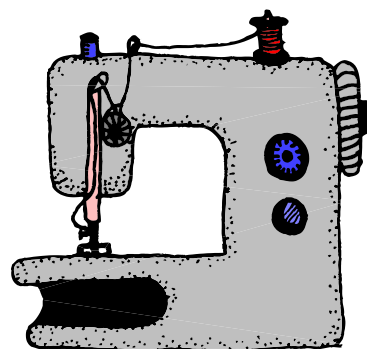
The choir practice will resume on Thursday, **4th September 2014** with Holy Communion at 7.30 pm and on Sunday, **14th September** at 11.30 am the Service of Rededication for the Choir and Bell Ringers will be held.

*Ella Duddy*

## SEWING GROUP

The Sewing Group will commence on Thursday, **11th September** from 10.00 am - 12.00 noon. We are a self help group so come along and bring your needle and thread, have a chat and a cup of tea. All welcome.

*M. Telford*



## HARVEST THANKSGIVING



**SUNDAY 5<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2014**

**BALLYCLUG - 10 AM  
AND ST COLUMBA'S - 11.30 AM**

*Preacher at both services the  
Reverend John Bach*

# 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*



# Mission accomplished

## Trip to Spain

This summer I was involved in an Exodus team to Valdepenas. Although there isn't a physical need in Spain there is a huge spiritual need. When our team was out there we helped to assist the Spanish Gospel Mission. This meant that we travelled around to a different plaza each night to play with the children, which involved balloon modelling, face painting and crafts. We also performed dances and a short drama. It was a brilliant experience to go on an Exodus team and I would definitely do it again.

I was also involved in Spark this year which ran from the 4th - 8th August, this was my fifth year doing Spark and it was still as enjoyable. The area I worked in this year was Ballee, the work that we did around this area involved kids clubs, gardening, prayer team, clean up and painting. We also ran various events at night including a ladies pamper night and a family sports day.

Lastly, on the 10th - 16th August, I was a leader at an SU camp in Ballycastle, called the Causeway Primary Camp. This was a great experience as it was the first camp that I had taken part in. We all had a brilliant time, we did a lot of different activities such as surfing, outdoor pursuits and a shopping day. Each evening we had a devotion with the children, this included songs, memory verses and a talk, it was amazing to see the way that they responded to God. I would definitely be interested in doing another camp in the future.

*Catherine McWhirter*

## Habitat for Humanity trip to Ethiopia

On the 7<sup>th</sup> July 2014, we travelled to Ethiopia as part of a cross-community team of 13 volunteers across 6 different churches in Ballymena. As

the majority of those living in urban areas of Ethiopia live in slum areas and don't have access to proper housing or sanitation, many face a wide variety of health problems. Habitat for Humanity seeks to put God's love into action by bringing people together to build homes, communities and hope. Families invest hundreds of hours of their own labour into building houses they can afford with the repayments being used to build more houses.



During our time there we worked on the water and sanitation programme to build a number of toilet blocks alongside local communities. From the onset of our trip we were made to feel incredibly welcome by the local homeowners and community who were keen to learn more about us and our lives back in Northern Ireland. Each day we worked alongside them mixing concrete, laying bricks and passing buckets of mortar. During our time there, it was clearly evident that despite the great need there was an overwhelming sense of faith, joy and love amongst those living there and as we all returned home, the overall feeling of the group was that we would be leaving a part of our heart in Ethiopia.

Thanks again for all your support.

*Stephanie Allen and Taylor Ross*



## Trip to Kenya

I travelled in early August to Kisumu in Western Kenya in a team of 18 people, run by 'Friends of VisPa' (Vision and Passion ministries). Our trip was for 10 days in total. It was only a short time but God helped us achieve a lot in a limited time period. The team members were carrying a wide range of skills, the main body of the team were planning to run two holiday bible clubs with students of different ages, doing bible studies, singing and games. The team was also composed of a group of men who were going to do maintenance work and I was there to run various art projects alongside the other activities. We travelled to Emmanuel High School, VisPa orphanage and primary school. The town of Kisumu was about 20 minutes away and the area was very rural. The High School was set on a large plot of land, it had only been built 2 years ago. The children were on school holidays and came back to the school for two holiday bible clubs which ran during the week.



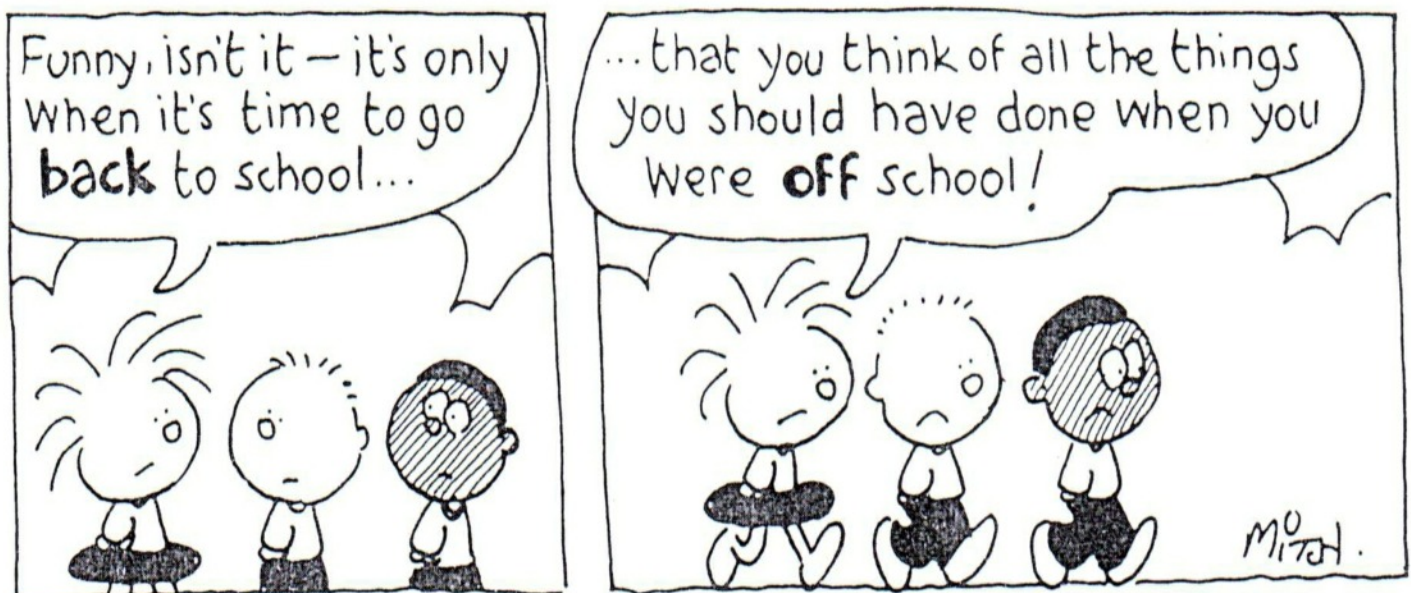
I planned to run a mural project with some of the students and intended to create a tree of butterflies that the students would paint. The idea was to cut the butterflies out of tin which is a very common material in

Kenya and then paint them with oil based paints. We did have some initial difficulties cutting the tin and the paint was quite a different consistency to what I was used to, however, in the end we managed to get the butterflies cut and around 40 of the children painted them. The young people were very diligent with their painting and did a great job. There is no art teacher in the school and they don't study art, so this was a novelty for them. The maintenance men on the team were a great help with the project and they assisted with nailing the butterflies onto the wooden panels and attaching the mural to the wall. It was very much a team effort. The mural was placed in the dining hall in the orphanage. The finished piece came together and brought a lot of colour to the dining room. It seemed symbolic of the children and students, the African tree with colourful, varied butterflies flying out of it, full of life and energy. We ran some further art activities with the older students, the girls decorated tee-shirts with specific designs using fabric pens, and the boys sketched and shaded pictures of animals. Because these were not normal activities in the school they were very keen to do them and approached the activities with great enthusiasm.

The team achieved a lot in a very short space of time, the children and young people were very appreciative of the new experiences. The team had a great dynamic and we enjoyed good times in the mornings of worship, psalm reading and prayer. I loved the experience of being in Kenya, it was more undeveloped than I had anticipated but full of colour and life.

*Cheryl Sinclair*

## **the mouths of babes**





# Harvest Supper

## St Patrick's Church Hall



Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30 pm  
Entertainment and Food

### PROGRAMME

Church Choir  
Taylor Ross and friends  
Patsy Bradley  
Tracy, Rod, Eamon (Bar Room Buddies)  
Eugene O'Dornan  
Billy McFarland  
Compere – Bill Balmer  
Cake Sale

Admission £7 – proceeds to Dementia and Click Sargent  
Tickets available from all Churchwardens



# Honorary Secretary's Notes

Another summer draws to a close and September arrives again. For me it keeps the feel almost of New Year, the habit of things starting again that we carry forward from the school calendar, and of course the organisations in our (and as far as I know every) church are no exception, and they would all be glad to welcome a few new faces to join the returning regulars.

Over the summer months the steadfast volunteers at St Columba's and Ballyclug persevered in keeping grounds and buildings in good shape and we thank them for it. At Castle Street we are fortunate to have John to do the heavy lifting around the place, indoors and out, but this summer we must offer our sincere thanks also to Eddie McClelland and the small team of volunteer decorators who did such a good job in re-painting the Main Hall. Not only does it look so much cleaner and brighter but, to my eyes at least, it seems to have grown a fair bit bigger too. Sincere thanks go to all who lent a hand.

In St Patrick's the first stage of tackling the dry-rot in the bell-tower was accomplished when Wells Kennedy took down the organ pipes and having inspected and renewed anything that was needed then carefully wrapped and sealed them and more importantly the organ itself to keep them as protected as possible against the next stages of work. Internally in the ringing chamber a series of holes were drilled into the south and west walls and a 'chemical solution' was injected into the walls as a remedial measure against the damp penetration (sorry, your guess is at least as good as mine as to what this magical elixir actually was). Next will be the stripping out and disposal of the old timber cladding which is now lining the walls and giving a home to the fungus infestation. This will be a rather slow and awkward process due to the limited space available to work in and the need to work carefully around the swell box of the organ. You are likely to see another scaffold going up the outside of the tower, but this time largely as a way to carry materials up so that they can go in

through the window of the ringing chamber. The centre of the floor of the ringing chamber is a big trapdoor and most of that material will then be lowered down again inside into the organ loft. At the moment there is a ceiling on the organ loft which divides it from an empty space below the ringing chamber, but this will have to be removed to allow the work and probably we won't replace it afterwards to improve ventilation up the tower. Finally the infested timbers of the ringing chamber floor and internal panelling will have to be stripped out and replaced, again we may not replace the decorative panelling so as to improve ventilation and allow us in the future to see any other damp ingress more easily.

I'll keep you updated on this project as it develops, there is some potential that it will change as the work progresses and things quite literally come to light that haven't been seen perhaps since the tower was built, certainly for many years.

*Alastair*





We hope everyone enjoyed their summer holidays and we look forward to seeing you all back in September.

## YOUTH CLUB

Youth Club starts back on Saturday **6th September**, juniors 7 - 8 pm, 50 pence for primary school children and 8.15 - 10 pm, £1 for secondary school children. Anyone wishing to be a member of the senior youth club must attend to enrol with their parents. Consent forms will be filled in and membership cards distributed. Anyone who would like to help at junior or senior youth club and could give up a couple of hours once every six weeks or any young person wishing to complete Duke of Edinburgh should speak to Lucy or Alan. We would be grateful for your help.



Sunday School starts back on Sunday **7th September**. Any child who is 3 years of age or over is welcome to attend. Sunday school starts at 11.45 am so everyone meets in church and then we go over to the hall. Anyone who is 14 years or over is encouraged to go to Fusion, a group for teenagers.

Forty children attended the summer scheme from the 11<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> August. A good week was had by all with lots of fun and fellowship together. Many thanks to the leaders for all their help.

To all those 16+ interested in doing a leadership course, 'Growing Leaders', speak to Lucy or Alan.

*Lucy*



## **Church of Ireland Youth Department Growing Young Leaders Course**

Research indicates that the teenage years are the key time to invest in leadership development as the experiences we have in this formative stage frequently form the basis of what we will do in later life.

This course exists to help develop young people in Christian leadership so that they will have an influence in their schools, in their teams and clubs, with friends and also in the church.

The intended outcomes of the course are -

1. To be led more by Jesus, knowing him and understanding his will.
2. To lead more like Jesus, enabling his people to be a reconciling community.
3. To lead more to Jesus, serving his redemptive purposes in our generation.

The course includes the following sessions -

4. Introduction: Leadership matters!
5. Foundation 1: Remember who and whose you are
6. Foundation 2: Getting to the heart
7. Foundation 3: Leading where you are
8. Skill 1: Growing your gift
9. Skill 2: Part of the team
10. Keeping 1: The bigger picture
11. Keeping 2: Keeping on growing

The course can also include a residential element, a mentoring partnership and small projects.

For more information please email [andrew@ciyd.org](mailto:andrew@ciyd.org) or speak to your youth leader.



# The Curate's Letter

## Has God a Body?

It's good to read, it helps you learn things and it's very relaxing. It's also cheap, what other pleasure in life gives you hours of pleasure for almost nothing?

I relax at night time by reading detective novels. It's amazing how many murders take places in English villages. It seems the English village is the most dangerous place on earth. If you are planning a trip to an English village then you'd best take some body armour, and never, ever accept a cucumber sandwich or a glass of wine, it could be the last thing you EVER do.

I don't read theology at night time, as a badly chosen book of theology can give you nightmares. But when sleep is along way off I often read theology. At the moment I am reading a fascinating book called 'The Bodies of God' by Benjamin Sommer. Sommer is an American Orthodox Jew so this book does not pretend to be Christian in any sense, but it is about our shared bible, the Tanak to the Jews and the Old Testament to us. (You can call it the Hebrew Bible if you want to be very politically correct, but I can't).

Sommer's book is gripping. It challenges the very long held idea that the God of the Old Testament has no body (incorporeal they call it), whereas the God of the New Testament (who is seen by many Christians as a considerably better version of God) begets Jesus and thereby gives himself a body to be more like us and come down to our level. I am not disputing that God has a body in Jesus, I am considering whether it was ever true to say that the God of the Old Testament had no body.

We usually think of God (apart from Jesus) as a disembodied spirit who has no need for a physical body, (Do you remember the old feminist phrase "A woman needs a man like a fish needs a bicycle?") and in some way perhaps even above bodies or disdainful of them. Such a view, of a bodiless OT God although extremely common, is like a lot of things we



know or think we know about God - not necessarily backed up in scripture. Sommer considers all that scripture has to say about whether God has a body. Sommer's definition of a body is 'something located in a particular place at a particular time, whatever it's shape or substance'.

Here are just a few:-

- Genesis 1: 26 God says let us make man in our image after our likeness (seems to suggest God has a body like ours).
- Gen 3: 8 they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden (to walk you need legs or something like them).
- Exodus 33.20 God said, "You cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live." This does seem to be saying not you can't see me because I have no body, but you can't see me because the sight of my body is too dangerous for you to look at. God's body is reported in several places in the Bible to give off blinding, deadly light.
- Ex 33: 11 the Lord speaks to Moses 'face to face, as one speaks to a friend'.
- Isaiah 6: 1 Isaiah says 'I saw The Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple'.
- Is 6: 5 he also says, 'Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King The LORD of hosts'.
- Ezekiel 1: 26 in a cloud of fire and lightning Ezekiel saw 'something like a throne, in appearance like sapphire: and seated above the likeness of a throne was something that seems like a human form'.

And many many more. Most of us might say well this is anthropomorphism, it's our way of talking about God as if he was a person, it's not LITERALLY true that God has a body like us. Yet Sommer says there is no verse anywhere in the Old Testament which in any way denies that God has a body, or suggest to say he does is a metaphor.

Sommer says Bible scholars over the centuries have done everything they possibly could to avoid the straightforward truth that God has a body. Sommer suggests says it's all part of a long-standing attempt to downplay the physical God because the idea of a purely spiritual God is much easier to handle.

Thank you all for donating to the Foodbank, please can all our kind donors please help out with tins of meat fish vegetables and potatoes. All people have physical bodies, and some of them go hungry.

Thank you.

*Iain James*



# COMING SOON!!



## STARTING DATES

### St Patrick's

#### ORGANISATION

Sunday School

C.L.B.

G.F.S.

Youth Club

Badminton

#### DATE

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>

Friday 5<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup>

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>

### St Columba's

Guides

Brownies

Rainbows

Cubs

Scouts

Beavers

Squirrels

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup>

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup>

Friday 19<sup>th</sup>

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>

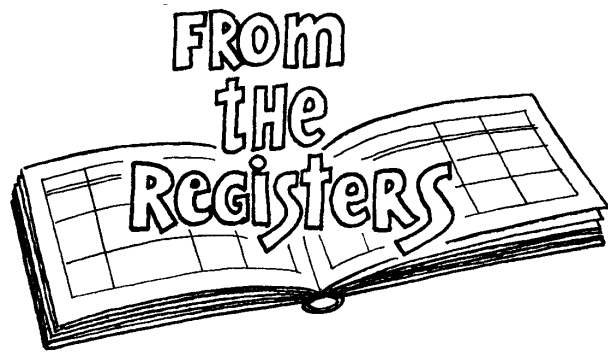
Friday 12<sup>th</sup>

Monday 1<sup>st</sup>

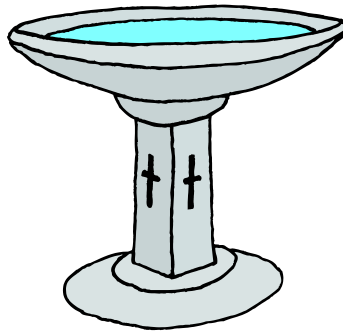
Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup>

DON'T MISS IT!





## HOLY BAPTISM



17 <sup>th</sup> August	Alanna Grace Virginia McConville	10 Redwood Grove, Dunmurry
24 <sup>th</sup> August	Mya Jayne Telford	4 Holstein Way, Lisburn

## HOLY MATRIMONY



14 <sup>th</sup> August	George Junkin	149 Ballymena Road, Portglenone
	Danielle Neilly	27 Carolhill Park, Ballymena
15 <sup>th</sup> August	Jason Burnett	12 Rosses Stables, Ballymena
	Rachel Donaghey	12 Rosses Stables, Ballymena
21 <sup>st</sup> August	Sean Hanna	18 Trench Avenue, Belfast
	Claire Close	44 Old Ballymoney Road, Ballymena

## CHRISTIAN BURIAL



15 <sup>th</sup> July	William Warwick	6 Carolhill Park, Ballymena
21 <sup>st</sup> July	Helen Finnegan	Andena Nursing Home
23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Gloria Balmer	44 Glenshesk Drive, Ballymena
5 <sup>th</sup> August	Samuel Watson	8 Glendun Park, Ballymena
18 <sup>th</sup> August	Joan Jones	Redford Nursing Home
23 <sup>rd</sup> August	Marion (Anna) Simmonds	17 Richmond Park

### William Warwick

Willie had been getting weaker over this last time and while he came to realise that his physical body was done he nevertheless retained a positive spirit and was simply thankful to be alive. To the end he remained clear in mind - and indeed always had a good memory. He was brought up in the town as part of a large family and after school trained as a baker working for different firms. In this trade finishing early each day he was able to help out with upholstery and when he retired he set up his own little upholstery business. Thus many benefited from his skilful hands. Willie could be quite adamant as to his views yet was a person of integrity and faith and that faith held him through life. Brought up in the Covenanter tradition he came to the Church of Ireland through marriage and came to very much appreciate his church. He was a churchwarden and a faithful worshipper and till recently participated in early communion each Sunday. He and Ethel enjoyed very many years together and we remember her at this time.

## **Helen Finnegan**

Helen only moved into the parish recently - to Andena Nursing Home - to be near her sister Anne Harrison. She spent all her life in Co. Down and for many of those years lived in Ballyhalbert where she was very much part of the community. All her working life was in the health service and she was also a Red Cross volunteer. With no family herself she involved herself greatly in the lives of the wider family. She was also very much part of the parish of Ardkeen where she was a regular worshipper and served on the vestry.

## **Gloria Balmer**

Born 7th May 1925. Died at Antrim Hospital on 21st July 2014 aged 89 years. Gloria's great love in her life was her family and her late husband Kennedy whom she met in Belize in central America. She had seven children, Irene, Kay, Isobel, Sandra, Kenneth, David and Marie. She also had grand children and great grand children. Gloria loved the family coming together especially at Christmas and on birthdays. Gloria would say to the family, "Don't change for anyone, be whom you are, so often people try to be something they are not." Her other great love was Chelsea Football Team and she always wore a Chelsea necklace around her neck. She would say, "You don't need make-up, only a wee bit of lipstick and mascara - natural beauty." She never had a bad word to say about anyone. Our prayers are with her family.

## **Samuel Watson**

Samuel enjoyed good health for most of his life but in this last year his quality of life diminished with cancer. From Harryville he worked in the Mill, in McDowell's factory and for many years with the Electricity Board as well as serving in the Territorial Army. He enjoyed his bowls and played them into old age. He was married to Mary for over 60 years and we remember her at this time along with sons Maurice and Dessie and daughters Carol, Elaine and Pauline.

## **Joan Jones**

Born 28th February 1924 in Stoke-on-Trent, England. She was the youngest of four, three girls and one boy. Married Arthur on the 25th October 1947, they had a long and happy marriage and were a great

support to each other. Arthur died several years ago and they had two daughters, Valerie and Hilary. Joan worked in the pottery industry in Stoke but during the war she worked in the munitions factory in Birmingham. She was originally in the Salvation Army, and then she got involved with the Mothers' Union in the Church of England where her church in Stoke held Jumble Sales and Fayres. She loved dancing to Big Bands, Fats Waller Jazz, listening to music on radio and singing along. Joan moved to Slemish Court Fold, Ballymena, to be closer to her daughter and straight away became involved in St Patrick's Church and the Mothers' Union. Joan moved to Redford Nursing Home in 2011. The staff at Redford Nursing Home were dear to her. Our prayers are with Joan's daughters Valerie and Hilary.

### **Marion (Anna) Simmonds**

Marion or Anna as she was know to all fought hard in the face of her terminal illness but eventually died peacefully at home. She spent most of her working life in the Mill - in the earlier days cycling in from Slemish. Her great partner in life was Willie - they were together for 50 years. They enjoyed dancing and going to music gigs. Anna was one who spent her time caring for others - she looked after her brother Ben till his recent death. As well as Willie we also remember her son Ian and his family.





# 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	7.00 pm	Parochial Hall
JTC	Friday	8.00 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	7.30 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	Mrs H Strain
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*