

14th DECEMBER 2014

Advent 3



WELCOME

To visitors and newcomers.

WORSHIP

We come not just to Church, but to worship - to focus on God.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Lord, we come together all with our different personalities, our different needs, at different stages of our lives. Grant us one voice now to sing your praises as we come to worship you. Amen.

MAKING FRIENDSHIPS

WITH GOD

NEXT SUNDAY

Sunday School Nativity Service in St Patrick's at 11.30 am.
Refreshments afterwards.
Lessons and Carols in all 3 Churches
Ballyclug at 10.00 am
St Patrick's at 6.30 pm
St Columba's at 7.00 pm.

ADVENT SERVICE

Ballyclug on Wednesday at 8.00 pm.

HEALER PRAYER GROUP

Tuesday at 7.15 pm in Clergy Vestry.

BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

Meet on Tuesday at 8.00 pm. Everyone welcome.

ADVENT

Interchurch Advent Reflection - Thursday in 1st Ballymena Presbyterian Church at 12.30 pm.

PRAYER SUPPORT

Team Leader - Doreen Cowan, Tel. No. 2564 4709.

MINISTRY OF PRAYER

Takes place after the 11.30 am service and the 6.30 pm service in St Patrick's.

Email - kilconriola@btconnect.com

Web address - www.ballymena.connor.anglican.org

WITH EACH OTHER

ENVELOPES Freewill offering envelopes for 2015 are being distributed. Some outlying ones at back of Churches. Books close on 31st December, so please try to make up any giving by then.

STEPPING DOWN The rector announced to the Select Vestry on last Tuesday that he will be stepping down as rector from 31st October 2015 when he will have reached the retirement age of 66.

WITH THE WORLD

BISHOPS' APPEAL For world development and disaster relief - envelopes available till next Sunday. If applicable please complete the Gift Aid Portion on the envelope.

FLASH MOB Inter church carol event - meet Town Centre next Friday at 6.45 pm. Rehearsal this afternoon at 3.00 pm in All Saints Parish Centre.

DUNCLUG COMMUNITY CAROL SERVICE This Thursday at 7.00 pm in Community Centre.

CHILDREN'S PRAYER

God our Father, as we prepare for Christmas, help us to prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Amen.



READINGS IN ST PATRICK'S

Isaiah 61:1-11 (Page No 702)

Words of restoration and hope - speaking of the one who brings liberty, justice and gladness to the world. Jesus took to himself this role.

St John 1:6-8 & 19-28 (Page No 88)

John the Baptist witnesses to the light of the world and points away from himself to the one who is to stand among us as God incarnate.

Advent 3 - Ballyclug

14th December 2014

A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah chapter 61 beginning at verse 1

Words of restoration and hope - speaking of the one who brings liberty, justice and gladness to the world. Jesus took to himself this role.

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; ² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³ to provide for those who mourn in Zion – to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. ⁴ They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. ⁵ Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, foreigners shall till your land and dress your vines; ⁶ but you shall be called priests of the LORD, you shall be named ministers of our God; you shall enjoy the wealth of the nations, and in their riches you shall glory. ⁷ Because their shame was double, and dishonour was proclaimed as their lot, therefore they shall possess a double portion; everlasting joy shall be theirs. ⁸ For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹ Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. ¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

This is the word of the Lord
THANKS BE TO GOD

A reading from the gospel according to St John chapter 1 beginning at verse 6

John the Baptist witnesses to the light of the world and points away from himself to the one who is to stand among us as God incarnate.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, ‘Who are you?’ ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, ‘I am not the Messiah.’ ²¹And they asked him, ‘What then? Are you Elijah?’ He said, ‘I am not.’ ‘Are you the prophet?’ He answered, ‘No.’ ²²Then they said to him, ‘Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?’ ²³He said, ‘I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, “Make straight the way of the Lord”’, as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, ‘Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?’ ²⁶John answered them, ‘I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.’ ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

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