

Parish of Kilconriola and Ballyclug

PARISH MAGAZINE

DECEMBER 2014/JANUARY 2015



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 very seldom buy new clothes - and some of you might say it shows! However, I do make use of the charity shops and some good bargains you do get there. I nevertheless refrain from buying someone else's shoes - I always go for a new pair. I seem to have a hesitation in putting myself in another's shoes.

Yet this is what we should be doing. We often use that phrase about shoes to encourage a spirit of understanding and to try to identify with another in their situation. "Put yourself in their shoes," we say. It is of course a good thing to try to understand the attitude of others, to try to appreciate how they may be feeling.



We all come from different backgrounds - different cultures and religions, different political aspirations, different positions in society. Where there are differences and perhaps divisions greater understanding of each other is an important step to better relationships.

We need to try to appreciate what others may be going through. We try to put ourselves in the shoes of those who are foreign to this country and are trying to make their way in a strange land. We try to put ourselves in the shoes of those who have just been told that their employment is ceasing, those who have heard that their scan has shown up something that needs to be investigated, those who have just lost a loved one. If we are secure in our family and work how might it feel to be in a relationship falling apart or really not to know how one is going to cope financially. If we are sensitive and caring we will try to enter a little into others' hurts and we will try to stand in their shoes.

Of course we can only do so in a limited way. We cannot fully understand or really appreciate what the other person is going through. That

experience is unique to them and that's what makes it hard - they are in a sense on their own.

Soon, however, we will be celebrating one who did manage to truly stand in another's shoes. That is what Jesus did - he took human flesh - he truly took on our humanity when he was born at Bethlehem - he came to earth and stood in our shoes. Among other things that gives us great comfort and encouragement - he identifies with us wherever we are in life and truly understands what we are going through. That is one of the messages of Christmas which prompts us to genuinely celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Come to think of it when the festivities have been completed I might just go out to buy a new pair of shoes and I'll try to remember that he's there with me in those shoes.

Stuart Lloyd.





Parish News

FIRST AID COURSE

A six hour First Aid Course for Youth Workers will run on:-

- **Monday 2nd February 2015**
from 6 - 9 pm and
- **Monday 9th February 2015**
from 6 - 9 pm

Those in need of a Refresher Course will be notified individually but, if anyone else is interested please inform **Oliver Reid on 2565 5439**.

BISHOPS' APPEAL

Although we are confronted with many appeals for good causes we still want to support the annual Bishops' Appeal which is the Church of Ireland's World Aid and Development Programme. This does respond with immediate grants when there are disasters but mostly it is concerned with supporting ongoing development work. This is primarily in the areas of Health, Rural Development and Education. In 2013 from contributions from parishes throughout the Church of Ireland the fund was able to make grants to support the poor amounting to £497,105.

There will be envelopes for this appeal in our churches on the first three Sundays in December. There may be many pulls on our purse strings but we may still spend much on ourselves and our families. We should also support the poor and the stranger.

ADVENT

During Advent we will be having our mid week evening service in Ballyclug. This will take place on the first 3 Wednesdays of December - 3rd, 10th and 17th at 8 pm.

Also during Advent, as in the last few years, the Ballymena Church Members Forum is hosting a series of Advent Reflections in 4 of the local churches. Each lasts about 30 minutes starting at 12.30 pm and is followed by refreshments.

The details are:-

27th November - Methodist Church
4th December - St Patrick's Church
11th December - All Saints' Church
18th December - First Ballymena Church.

LIVING FAITH SERVICES

25th January 2015 - theme 'Armour of God'. Guest Speaker, Pat Mollan.

22nd February 2015 - theme 'Simple Conversational Prayer With God'. Guest Speaker, Brother David Jardine.

Everyone welcome.

Living Faith Team

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Our thanks to all who contributed to the Christmas Fair - the organising committee, those who ran stalls and special events, those who master minded the auction, those who donated goods and those who came along on the day to support. On the day £4,270 was raised, other money is still coming in, and there were supporting events which should raise the total sum considerably. Thanks again to all who participated.

FLASH MOB

Some of our folk along with people from other churches took part in a flash mob event just before Christmas last year. We intend to do the same again this year - this time in both the Tower Centre and Fairhill Centre - on Friday 19th December at 7 pm. Rehearsal - All Saints Parish Hall on Sunday 14th at 3 pm.

SAINSBURY'S ACTIVE KIDS 2014

Last year, over the three churches, we collected 4,619 Active Kids vouchers and were able to get a set

of badminton posts. Thank you to all who brought in their vouchers; it was much appreciated especially as there are more than 45 other groups in Ballymena collecting them.

The 2015 campaign will be starting in the not too distant future, so keep a lookout for the vouchers and the boxes at the back of the churches.

Christie Colhoun

SHOE BOXES

Thanks to all who responded to the 'Shoe Box' appeal, to the anonymous donor of the 'pre-prepared' boxes and to those who made a donation for them. The Parish sent a total of 170 and a grand total of 6641 boxes left for Kosovo on Saturday 22nd November.

Jean and Liz

LEPROSY MISSION

The total donated in the little red boxes in 2014 was £729.31, which was £55 more than last year which itself was our best total since 2009. I am very grateful to the 30 people (plus some Anons) who contributed to this very worthwhile cause.

If you wish to start, you can get a box in any of our three churches.

What is leprosy?

Leprosy is a mildly infectious disease associated with poverty. It is easily cured. Leprosy starts by damaging the small nerves on the skin's surface resulting in a loss of sensation.

Without the gift of pain, everyday activities are fraught with danger. Unnoticed burns and ulcers can lead to permanent disability. Due to the inability to detect grit in the eye, blindness is a common consequence of leprosy.

The mission statement of Leprosy NI is: To educate, challenge and involve the people of Northern Ireland in the Christ-like and unique mission of The Leprosy Mission worldwide, and to contribute to its overall operations and development.

The Leprosy Mission serves a population of **305 million people** in around **30 leprosy-affected countries**. Of particular interest to us is Nepal where over 3,300 patients are cared for at Anandaban Hospital near Kathmandu. This provides free, high quality treatment for leprosy complications and reconstructive surgery.

Your help is always appreciated by The Leprosy Mission (TLM).

Christie Colhoun

GIVING

It is good to report that despite the pressure on people's personal finances the giving to the church has kept pace with the giving recorded last year. We trust that if people need to make up their giving for the year that they will do so before the end of the year. The accounts will close on 31st December - any money received after that date will be assigned to the following year.

We had several successful fund raising events earlier in the autumn, we had our Harvest Appeal and just past our Christmas Fair. Clearly the bulk of our giving comes through our envelope scheme and in many ways it would be good not to have to organise special fundraising events - although many of these do help to build community. Our focus has to be on encouraging regular giving and giving that prioritises the work of the kingdom through the ministry of the church.

At the same time people do need encouragement and sometimes projects do provide this. As we look ahead to next year and to maintaining the ministry that is presently being provided we are giving consideration to a 'Spring Seed' project. This was undertaken quite a few years ago and did catch the imagination of many parishioners. Last year we had Ministry Sunday around St Patrick's Tide so we might tie this Spring Seed project in with this.



The Church's Ministry of Healing
162 Upper Knockbreda Road
Belfast, BT5 9QF 02890795832

Christmas Coffee Morning Plants and Gift Stalls

**Saturday 13 December 2014
10.30 am—12.30 pm**

Subscription
£5

Come and
bring your friends





Honorary Secretary's Notes

As we go into another winter it seems that all I have to tell you about is the constant battle against the elements and trying to keep the wind and rain outside of our buildings.

At Ballyclug the east end of the church continues to defy us by letting water in at a new location every time we plug an existing leak up, it's getting to be like the Dutch dykes having to be continually patched, but we'll keep on hoping that each one will be the last.

St Columba's has had further attention to the roofs, especially the low level one in the hope of improving the situation there. Of course just as we thought that that was all sorted out the building sprang another unwelcome surprise with swelling appearing under the newly laid floor, but at this point that is still being looked into to try to find out what is causing it. On a more positive note soon there will be newly installed doors, high quality ones reclaimed from the demolition of Harryville Chapel.

The main action has been happening at St Patrick's, where the scaffolding going up again provided ample evidence of the work underway in the tower again to tackle the dry-rot problem. It is progressing steadily and the interior scaffold was able to be dismantled in time for Remembrance Sunday.

For anyone who hasn't been up there the tower consists on the ground floor of the Clergy Vestry and above this is the organ loft (to allow access to the pipes and swell-box of the pipe-organ). Above that is an empty space of about 8-10 foot high and above that the ringing chamber from where the bells are rung. Above that is another smaller void which is filled currently with sawdust to prevent the ringers from being deafened over time, and above that the bell-chamber itself which is partly open to the air through louvres so that the sound of the bells is able to get out.

All of this is accessed by a spiral staircase running up the outside edge of the tower (stone steps to the ringing chamber and steel above that).

So far the work completed has been to strip out all of the affected timbers, both those lining the organ loft, void and ringing chamber and then to strip back the old damp render behind them to allow the walls to breathe and help them dry out. The false ceiling to the organ loft has also been removed to help improve ventilation in the tower, and the floor of the ringing chamber will have grills installed in it for the same reason. It isn't intended to replace any of the linings in either plaster or timber, but simply to lime wash the walls so that they can continue to breathe and be more easily inspected in the future for signs of any further damp penetration. Most of the structural supporting timbers are still sound, though a couple require replacement too due to the ends being affected by damp where they are set directly into the walls (these will be replaced with steel beams) and to guard against this some of the other timbers will also be set into end-caps so that they do not come into contact with the stonework.

Once the work was underway the ceiling of the ringing chamber was also found to be suffering from water coming in and was rotten where it came into contact with the walls, and so will also have to come down. The good news though is that the bell-chamber itself is largely sound, being well ventilated it dries out pretty quickly no matter how much rain gets blown in, but there is some concern that the timbers beneath the floor here too may be suffering to some degree from damp and at the time of writing this still has to be investigated more thoroughly.

Outside it is planned to treat the two faces of the tower which bear the brunt of the weather (the south and west being where most of our winds blow from in this part of the world) with water repellent to help prevent water getting in in the first place. Finally the gully around the join of the tower to the chancel roof will be remade and relined if needed to keep the drainage there as free flowing as possible.

At this point it looks as though the Renovation Fund will be able to cope with these demands as long as giving continues at the current level, so please don't forget your white envelopes along with the blue. God willing this will sort out the tower, not perhaps once and for all, but we hope for some years to come.

All the Best
Alastair



Youth club will finish for Christmas on Saturday 13th December and restart on Saturday 10th January 2015.

Thank you to all who helped with the fundraising for the Christmas Fair by buying ice creams, guess the lolly, donuts and chocolate fountain - we all enjoyed the munching while raising money for the church.

Five Sunday School teachers went to Building Blocks the children's ministry conference held in Belfast. The theme was 'Messy Church' and the speaker was Lucy Moore founder of Messy Church. Messy Church is the most exciting thing to happen in the church for many years! It is a church for all ages and encourages families who haven't been to church as well as those who are attending. Its values are Christ centered, hospitality, creativity and celebration for all ages.

Anyone wishing to experience Messy Church is invited to St Colmanell's, Ahoghill on Friday 19th December, 4 - 8 pm - the theme is 'Frozen' and is for all ages.

The Sunday School teachers met for their Christmas dinner at The Thatch Broughshane, and a good night was had by all.

Our Sunday School Carol Service will be held on Sunday 21st December at 11.30 am. Children should meet in church at 11 am. They will perform a nativity play during this service and there will be mince pies and tea at the end.

Christian Aid Family Appeal

Sunday School teachers and children will receive envelopes in which they can give a donation towards the Family Appeal instead of the giving and

receiving of presents. These envelopes will be collected at the Carol Service.

With grateful thanks

Thank you to all who brought Christmas presents for the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal. These will be distributed to needy children and are gratefully received.

Thank you also to all those who left donations for the Gilmour family. These have now been delivered and were most appreciated. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family especially over Christmas.

Sunday school will start again on **Sunday 4th January 2015.**

Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year for 2015 to all our young people and leaders.

Lucy and Alan



**CHRISTMAS
PARTY**

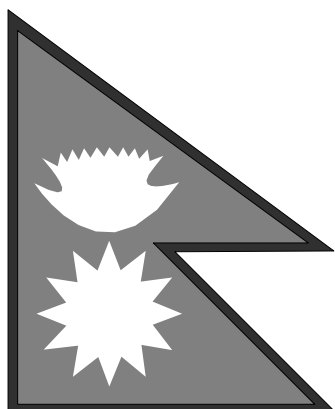
**For all primary school children in all
organisations of the church,
Sunday School and Youth Club**

***Saturday 13th December
St Patrick's Church Hall
7 to 8 pm***

**Games, Music, Christmas Jumper
Competition, Snacks and Santa.
Come along and join the fun!**



Missions



Nepal

For me this was the opportunity of a lifetime to become involved in mission away from home in a country with a vastly different nature and culture to our own.

There were six of us in the team and we quickly gelled together. We set off on our venture on 27th October, flying from Dublin to Abu Dhabi and then on to Kathmandu.

My first morning in Kathmandu was quite an assault on all the senses! Sounds of a multitude of car horns, brightly coloured market stalls, incense burning and crazy traffic: no road markings or traffic lights here - just push ahead and drive where you want! Such an array of buildings in Durbar Square in Patan: beautiful Hindu temples intermingled with houses which were barely standing. Poverty is never far away in Nepal: we saw many people struggling to even earn enough to feed their family.

Shortly after arriving we met up with Deirdre and Mark Zimmermann who are involved in Christian mission in Nepal. We learned from Mark about the work of the Nick Simons Institute which supports health care workers in the rural areas of Nepal. 83% of Nepalis live in rural areas and the health care system is so unlike our own. There is much need for health care in the rural areas where people trek for hours over dangerous terrain to try to get medical help. Deirdre is also doing great work with nutritional projects in Nepal, particularly in the slum areas of Kathmandu where she is educating women in nutrition of their children. Deirdre took us to the Transit Home where we were to work on our first project.

We spent time working with women with mental health issues. Nothing prepares you for some of the stories we heard. In Nepal there is no support for people with mental health problems, especially if they require long-term medication which is expensive. The ladies we met in

the Transit Home had been rescued from the streets in Kathmandu. Many of them, such was their trauma, that when found, had no recollection of their family, home or even their own name. It was the most humbling and harrowing experience of my life. They don't own anything of any material value. While working with them it made me think of the many gifts I have been given and for the need to thank God on a daily basis for the many blessings of home and family.

Every day when we arrived at the Transit House we were greeted with smiles and the ladies were so pleased to see us. We had great praise, singing choruses to them and then practiced morning exercises to the strains of 'Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes!' Cheryl and Debbie had prepared a plan for embroidery of bags with them (and had tutored us as to what to do beforehand!). We embarked on a sewing project which would teach the ladies sewing skills which could be a life skill that could be nurtured even after we left. At the end of our time there the ladies had all made the most beautiful embroidered bags and felt heart pendants. Each day it was 'all hands on deck' by the team and although Ian professed that he couldn't sew he was a first class cutter of threads and encourager of all. The rewards came in very unexpected ways: a smile, seeing some ladies being able to create something which seemed impossible a couple of days earlier and the sheer delight of all when the bags were hung above their beds to decorate otherwise plain walls.

We also visited HDCS where the first church mission team had been. I'm sure many of you remember meeting Shreya in May when she visited Ballymena and we were given a very special welcome when we visited the centre which houses a school for the disabled.

Morning devotions were an important part of our day: a time together to prepare for what lay ahead each day and also a significant time to reflect and come together as a team. The format was psalms, parables, praise and prayer and was a special time for us all.

On Saturday (their Sabbath) we attended Holy Communion in the local Christian church attended by the Zimmermann's. Everyone there was so friendly and welcoming and although the service was in Nepalese, Deirdre kindly interpreted and we were able to partake in the communion service. After a week being a part of the Transit Home community it was time to move on. A 9 hour journey by jeep took us to Jiri which is north east of Kathmandu, way up into the mountains. It was a long winding road with spectacular scenery. At certain points along the road we caught glimpses

of the majestic Himalayas and yet we caught sight of people along the roadside carrying heavy loads on their backs, herding goats or bent double in the terraced land caring for crops of rice and vegetables. The sight of such magnificent landscapes and yet a people struggling to work to provide for family was truly moving and humbling.

Our first glimpse of Jiri posed such a marked difference to the noise and bustle of Kathmandu: it's a small rural town nestling in the foothills of the Himalayas and the hospital was built by the Swiss about 50 years ago. There are no cars, street lights and much poverty. At the same time there was a great sense of community and everyone helping each other. We were taken to the hospital by Mark Zimmermann and introduced to the director, an energetic and friendly man called Tonka. We also met Dr Roshan Khatri who is in charge of the hospital and is making such a difference to the community with his team. They were both a great support to us while in Jiri and also encouragers of our work. We were initially shocked at the state of the wards and equally overcome when we saw latex gloves hanging outside the theatre washed and ready for the next operation! Thanks to all the generous donations of the good people of Ballymena the hospital had already erected a walkway between the wards and the building which houses the theatre and X-ray room. This means that during the monsoon season patients can be moved more easily. There was great excitement when we started our painting of the three wards in the hospital. We set to work each day moving beds, brushing down walls and cleaning. Then the painting of the walls began. The first ward was painted a bright pink (obtaining the paint proved to be quite an experience with a choice of only three colours!) The other two wards were painted green and really helped to freshen up the whole place. We were deeply moved the way that families came together to support those who were sick by feeding them, caring for them and making sure that they were comfortable. A decision was taken to buy material to make curtains for all the windows in the wards. There was great excitement when the curtains were made and ready to hang: an enthusiastic team of workers appeared and before long all the wards had beautiful purple curtains at the windows to provide shade from the beating midday sun and warmth in the winter cold. Cheryl had designed an amazing mural of butterflies for the main wall outside the hospital. While the rector and Ian worked hard at designing and painting the lettering for the hospital name, the 'girls' started work on painting designs on the array of butterflies which we drew on the walls. On a couple of days we were soon joined by doctors, nurses, health care workers who all wanted to paint a butterfly. There was a great sense of

working together and we very much enjoyed this interaction: it made our projects so much more worthwhile. Well done to Cheryl for her project management skills! The end result was really appreciated by the whole hospital community. In addition to this we also painted aluminium butterflies which were brightly decorated and now adorn the doorways of the wards.



We sang everywhere we went. It certainly lightens your heart praising God. In Jiri we even sang outside while people were waiting to be seen in the mobile eye clinic! The Nepalis also love to sing and on our farewell evening in Jiri, Nicola and Cheryl were encouraged to dance and sing with all the nurses and doctors. Nicola was applauded for her ability to dance Nepali style.

The day we left we were privileged to go to one of the slums on the banks of the Bagmati River in Kathmandu where we met and prayed with Pastor Daniel. It was humbling to see the efforts being made to school young children and to minister to these people who live there as they own no land and very few possessions. There is a great sense of God's presence in this community where many families live in such extreme conditions and yet work hard to support each other.

There really is even more that we could tell you about our experiences and hopefully in the months ahead we will have further opportunities to share with you all.

A very sincere thanks to one and all for your prayers and for your financial support of the projects which have already made an important impact on people's lives.

The last few weeks have been a wonderful experience for the whole team. We were challenged in many ways but indeed we were also truly blessed. We trust that God will continue to bless the work of the hospital and the Transit Home into the future.

Anne Todd and the team



CHRISTMAS

St Patrick's, Ballymena

Sunday 21st December 2014

- 8.15 am Holy Communion
11.30 am Sunday School
 Nativity Service
6.30 pm Festival of Nine
 Lessons and Carols
 by Candlelight

24th December - Christmas Eve

- 11.30 pm Holy Communion 1

Christmas Day

- 8.15 am Holy Communion 1
10.30 am Family Service
 a shortened form of
 Communion 2 for all
 ages

Sunday 28th December 2014

- 8.15 am Holy Communion 2
11.30 am Holy Baptism
 Christmas Carols
 and thoughts
6.30 pm Reflections and
 Carols

31st December 2014

- 11.15 pm Watchnight Service

SERVICES

St Columba's, Dunclog

Sunday 21st December 2014

11.30 am Holy Communion

7.00 pm Service of Nine
Lessons and Carols
by Candlelight
followed
by refreshments

Christmas Day

10.30 am Family Communion 2

Sunday 28th December 2014

11.30 am Carols and
Reflections

St Patrick's, Ballyclug

Sunday 21st December 2014

10.00 am Service of Lessons
and Carols

Christmas Day

10.00 am Holy Communion 1

Sunday 28th December 2014

10.00 am Holy Communion 1





Jesus is better than Santa

Santa lives at the North Pole. **JESUS** is everywhere.

Santa rides in a sleigh. **JESUS** rides on the wind and walks on the water.

Santa comes but once a year. **JESUS** is an ever present help.

Santa fills your stockings with goodies. **JESUS** supplies all your needs.

Santa comes down your chimney uninvited. **JESUS** stands at your door and knocks ... and then enters your heart.

You have to stand in line to see Santa. **JESUS** is as close as the mention of His name.

Santa lets you sit on his lap. **JESUS** lets you rest in His arms.

Santa doesn't know your name, all he can say is, "Hi little boy or girl, what's your name?" **JESUS** knew our name before we did, not only does He know our name, He knows our address too, He knows our history and future and He even knows how many hairs are on our heads.

Santa has a belly like a bowl full of jelly. **JESUS** has a heart full of love.

All Santa can offer is HO! HO! HO! **JESUS** says, "Cast all your cares on me for I care for you."

Santa's little helpers make toys. **JESUS** makes new life, mends wounded hearts, repairs broken homes and builds mansions.

Santa may make you chuckle but **JESUS** gives you joy that is your strength.

While Santa puts gifts under your tree. **JESUS** became our gift and died on the tree.

And Santa soon drifts from our beliefs while **Jesus** is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

It's obvious there is really no comparison.

We need to remember WHO Christmas is all about.

We need to put **CHRIST BACK IN CHRISTMAS**.

JESUS is still the reason for the season.

Yes, Jesus is better, He is even better than Santa Claus!





Around the Parish

FLOWER GUILD

We will be decorating St Patrick's for Christmas on **Tuesday 16th December** from 10 am onwards. Donations of evergreen foliage - especially ivy and holly will be much appreciated and can be left at the back of the church on Monday and Tuesday mornings. Anyone willing to help will be very welcome.



Jean and Etta



CHURCH LADS' BRIGADE

Thanks to all parents and friends for their support at the Enrolment Service. New recruits into the Martins: Josh Crawford, Jude Crawford, Josh Livingstone, Eli Culbertson, Alayna Wilson, Matthew Johnston and Callum Abernethy. Moving up to the Y Team: Michael Leetch, Harry Lamont, Alexander Bell, Carson Hume, Dan McGrattan, Sophie Leetch and Oonagh Lamont. Senior Boys: John Young and Sam Crawford.

Friday 12th December is the Brigade Christmas Party Night - usual times. No uniform required.

Our Annual Jumble Sale will be held on **Friday, 6th March 2015** - we hope this will give everyone time for a good spring clean and clear out around the house. More details in February magazine.

All the leaders would like to thank you for your continued support throughout the year and wish all your families a very Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year. Brigade will recommence on **Friday, 9th January 2015**.

Alan Ross

SQUIRRELS

The Squirrels have been having lots of fun with games, crafts and cooking. We had a fancy dress party for Hallowe'en. There were lots of very spooky costumes, even the adults joined in the fun by dressing up.



Christmas is now almost here and everyone is getting very excited. We all have to be very good Squirrels so that Santa will come to see us. We will be having our party night on **Wednesday 17th**, when we hope to have Santa with us and maybe some other visitors and surprises! Squirrels will then be on holiday for a couple of weeks and return on **Wednesday 7th January** for our new term.

We wish all our Squirrels, parents and friends a very Happy fun-filled Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Paul, Ann, Jack and Mr Squirrel



On the 22nd October some members of the choir travelled to Londonderry to attend a concert given by 'The Sixteen' conducted by Harry Christophers O.B.E. Harry Christophers is known internationally as founder and conductor of 'The Sixteen' as well as a regular guest conductor for many major symphony orchestras and opera companies worldwide. The programme entitled 'The Queen of

Heaven' provided a selection of religious choral music which we all really enjoyed. The choir attended the funeral of Stewart Allen who had been a member of the junior choir, we extend our sympathy and prayers to his mother Margaret and the family circle.

We are now preparing for the annual Carol Service on Sunday 21st December at 6.30 pm - we hope there will be a LARGE attendance of parishioners and friends. This service begins Christmas in a very special way and brings Christ into all our lives.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A PEACEFUL NEW YEAR.

Ella Duddy



It has been a busy, hectic and most importantly fun filled term in Cubs. We started off with the Cyclist Badge - Cubs learned about bicycle maintenance, importance of bike and road safety and, most importantly, how to mend a puncture. They had fun riding round the course set up in the car park. The Cubs designed a poster each on the topic of Road Safety, these are displayed on the notice board.

The second badge we worked on this term was the Communicator Activity Badge. This taught the Cubs how to use such technology as public telephone, email and mobile phone. As part of this badge the Cubs learned their promise in British Sign Language.

The highlight of the Communicator Badge was the visit to our hall by 3 members of Ballymena Amateur Radio Club. They brought along a variety of radios that they use and the Cubs were able to talk to another user in the car park and another member of the Club who was at home in Broughshane. The ARC also introduced the Cubs to Morse Code, and they all got a chance to 'tap out' their names as well as decode a message.

The main focus of this term has been the Disability Awareness Badge, which teaches the Cubs how to support young people with disa-



bilities and how to communicate effectively using methods other than speech. The Cubs had to complete at least one activity from each of Disability Awareness, Physical Disability Awareness, Deaf Awareness and Sight Awareness.

Cubs learned about various different disabilities, famous people with disabilities and how buildings are made accessible for people with disabilities.

We took the opportunity to team up with Cubs from First Broughshane (St Patrick's) for most of this badge work and this included a sponsored 1 Km blindfolded walk along the Buttermilk Path in Broughshane. Around 25 Cubs took part in this walk one dark Monday evening and an amazing £485 was raised.

Two local charities came to visit us, Guide Dogs NI and Northern Ireland Assistance Dogs. Each brought along one of their amazing dogs and we were given a talk on what the dogs do for their partner and how they are trained. The money raised from the Sponsored Walk was shared between these two charities.



Still to come with this badge, the Cubs will be playing wheelchair rugby, painting with only their feet, making sandwiches with one hand, and to finish off, a visit from the inspirational Brian Gault, a local man who has overcome his disability and wouldn't let it isolate him. Brian is one of the 456 UK survivors of the Thalidomide disaster 51 years ago.

We will finish off this term with a fun gaming night, involving Xbox, Playstation, Wii etc, before we take a short break to recharge the batteries.

We were helped out this term by Explorer Scout Danny, who has joined us and the Beavers as a young leader. Danny comes with years of scouting experience and can provide games on demand to tire out the Cubs. Also this term we have been joined by a pupil from Slemish College who is volunteering with us as part of his Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award.

It was our turn to host the Mid Antrim Cubs District Quiz in October, and one of our teams was the runner up, congratulations Faye, Helen-Jean, Emma and Ben.

We are always looking out for new members to join us, boys and girls aged 8 to 10½ are most welcome. We now meet on Monday evenings at 7 pm in St Columba's. Adults wishing to help out as helpers or assistant leaders can contact us via Facebook or call Heather Hughes 079 8071 5721.

To follow what we get up to during the term and to get in touch with us 'like' our Facebook page - www.facebook.com/ballymenacubs.

MOTHERS AND TODDLERS



In November we had our usual fun activities of crafts, toys, singing and healthy snacks. It's great to see so many parents, carers and children each week enjoying themselves. On 18th November we had Alison from Kirkinriola Play Group with us and on 25th November we enjoyed craft with Sure Start. Our Christmas Party and Carol Service will be held on **9th December** and this will be our last day until the New Year - **6th January 2015**. Once again we say thank you to Les Hughes for agreeing to do a very important job that day. We would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

We would also like to say a special thank you to the ladies in the kitchen, at the welcoming desk and the gentlemen who are bravely marshalling the car parking. In recognition of the help we receive week by week we will be inviting you to lunch in January DV. We send our best wishes to Martha Caulfield for a speedy recovery and we are delighted to welcome Mary Steele to our group of helpers.

Rota for December and January:-

| DATE | NAME | FUNCTION |
|-------------|--|-----------|
| 02 December | Rosemary Stacey, Sandra McKay, Mary Cochrane and Jean Cunningham | Tea |
| | Bee Robinson | Welcoming |
| | Alex McKay and Eddie McClelland | Car Park |
| 09 December | Evonne Stinson, Eleanor Burnett, Vera Owens and Marlene Gray | Tea |
| | Mary Steele | Welcoming |
| | Oliver Reid/David Oliver and Robert McGimpsey | Car Park |
| 06 January | Rosemary Stacey, Sandra McKay, Mary Cochrane and Jean Cunningham | Tea |
| | Bee Robinson | Welcoming |
| | Alex McKay/Eddie McClelland | Car Park |
| 13 January | Evonne Stinson, Eleanor Burnett, Vera Owens and Marlene Gray | Tea |
| | Mary Steele | Welcoming |
| | Oliver Reid/David Oliver and Robert McGimpsey | Car Park |
| 20 January | Dorothy Hegan, Isabel Halliday, Karin Agnew and Sandra Duke | Tea |
| | Ann Fisher | Welcoming |
| | Jackie McMaster/Jimmy Tuff | Car Park |
| 27 January | Ruth Murray, Isabell Adair and Nell McIlwee | Tea |
| | Liz Peachey | Welcoming |
| | Bob Peachey/Davy Nelson | Car Park |

Our thanks to you all for your continued support.

Dorothy (2589 2740), Anna, Anne and Liz

MOTHERS' UNION



Wednesday 10th December at 8 pm - members to attend Advent Service at **Ballyclug**. Supper will be served in the church after the service by Vera Greer and Ann Coid.

Wednesday 14th January 2015 - annual dinner in Tullyglass House Hotel. Meet at 7 pm dinner at 7.30 pm.

Jean Kennedy

Ever heard of **THE PARISH PANEL?**

Know what they do?



The Parish Panel is a group of 6 people set up to oversee the care of young people in the parish and to make sure that all our organisations/groups take place in a safe environment.

The Parish Panel is there to look after and protect young people and leaders, and to promote work with young people.

If you are upset about anything in your group you should tell a leader or tell a member of the Parish Panel.

The members of the Parish Panel are:-

| | |
|------------------|-----------|
| Canon S. Lloyd | 2565 2253 |
| John Nicholl | 2564 4264 |
| Judith Orr | 2564 5736 |
| Derek Bell | 2565 2595 |
| Oliver Reid | 2565 5439 |
| Margaret Telford | 2565 6893 |

Details of the above members can be found in all churches.



LET'S PUT OUR BUSY LIVES INTO PERSPECTIVE

Christmas preparations are well underway. But of course, Christmas preparations started commercially at least way back in October, even September.

The commercial rush to Christmas doesn't just have the effect of thoroughly draining the joy of Christmas out of most people by the time Christmas arrives. It also tends to completely ignore the season of Advent that precedes it.

The season of Advent is the time of year that reminds us of the fact that Christ will return.

Advent is a season that puts the whole of life into perspective. Some mistakenly view it as a kind of 'warm up' act to the main show of Christmas, but, standing at the beginning of the church's year, Advent is deliberately placed to show us how we must live life.

Annually, it impresses upon us that we are called to live 'eschatologically'! In other words, we are to live our lives in the light of the fact that Christ will return to earth as the judge of the living and the dead, and to set up his eternal Kingdom, the new heaven and the new earth.

Not only is history heading somewhere but our lives are too. Humanity will stand before our great God and Saviour Christ Jesus, with the righteous (those trusting in Christ crucified as the God-appointed way to be right with God) receiving eternal life, but the unrighteous (humanity in sinful rebellion to Christ, God's King) receiving eternal condemnation. Now, that puts our lives in perspective! Christianity isn't some existential metaphor whereby we try deliberately to give some meaning to our lives, rather it is the message of the King who is coming to set up his eternal kingdom to dwell forever with his people. Not only does this give perspective to our lives, it brings a certain urgency.

Will we meet Christ joyfully as our Lord and King and be with Him in His Kingdom or will we experience Him as the Righteous Judge who rightfully condemns us for our sins?

John McCune



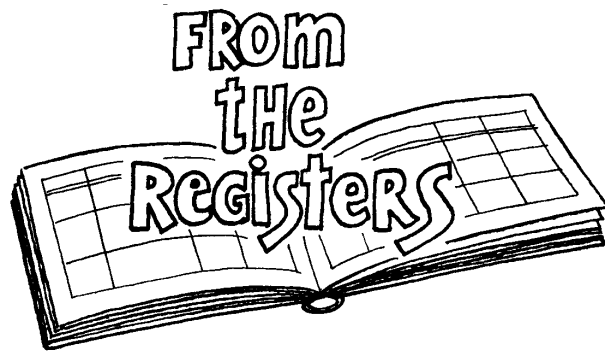
The Christmas Event



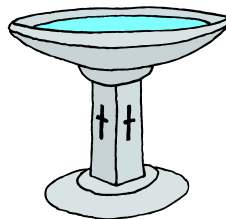
**Saturday 13th
December,
7.00-9.30pm
Antrim Parish Centre**

**Mark Ferguson Band
Hot dogs
Prizes for best
Christmas jumpers!!!**

**FOR ALL SECONDARY SCHOOL CHILDREN
BUS LEAVING ST PATRICK'S AT 6.45 PM
RETURN 9.45 PM**



HOLY BAPTISM



23rd November Daniel Raymond Millar 2 Glenaan Park, Kells

CHRISTIAN BURIAL



| | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|
| 3 rd November | Beatrice Caughey | 81 Lettercreeve, Ballymena |
| 5 th November | Agnes Cairns | 6 Moat View Court, Ballymena |
| 21 st November | Robert McComb | 127 Galgorm Road, Ballymena |
| 24 th November | Matthew Elliott | 12 Kew Link, Ballymena |

Beatrice Caughey

Beatrice was born in Belfast and grew up on the Shankhill. While working at Hall's brush factory she met Tommy her future husband and they were described as a happy couple who were always laughing. Tommy joined the army and his travels took the family to Germany and England. Later on Tommy did a tour of duty on his own in Cyprus. Later the Caughey family settled in Ballymena and made it home. Beatrice worked in

various cleaning jobs but the centre of her life was always her family. Beatrice had a lot of suffering in recent times with the death of Tommy and her brother and more recently the sudden breakdown in her own health. Beatrice was a devoted mother and always put her family first, she nursed Tommy through his final illness with the same dedication and selflessness that she also demonstrated in the long term care of Christine. Beatrice was a warm hearted person who will be sadly missed not only by her family but by many others. There was a large attendance at her funeral. Our deep sympathy goes to Diane, Joanne, Christine and Beatrice's grandchildren for their loss.

Agnes Cairns

Agnes loved her church at Ballyclug where she was a member for over thirty years. She would sit in the same row every week. The church meant everything to her. She loved the people and would comment "There is a great warmth in this church." Agnes was a lovely Christian lady with a great faith, well known and liked by everyone. If anyone needed help she was there. Our thoughts and prayers are with her husband Ken to whom she was married for 54 years and her son Robin and daughter-in-law Dorothy.

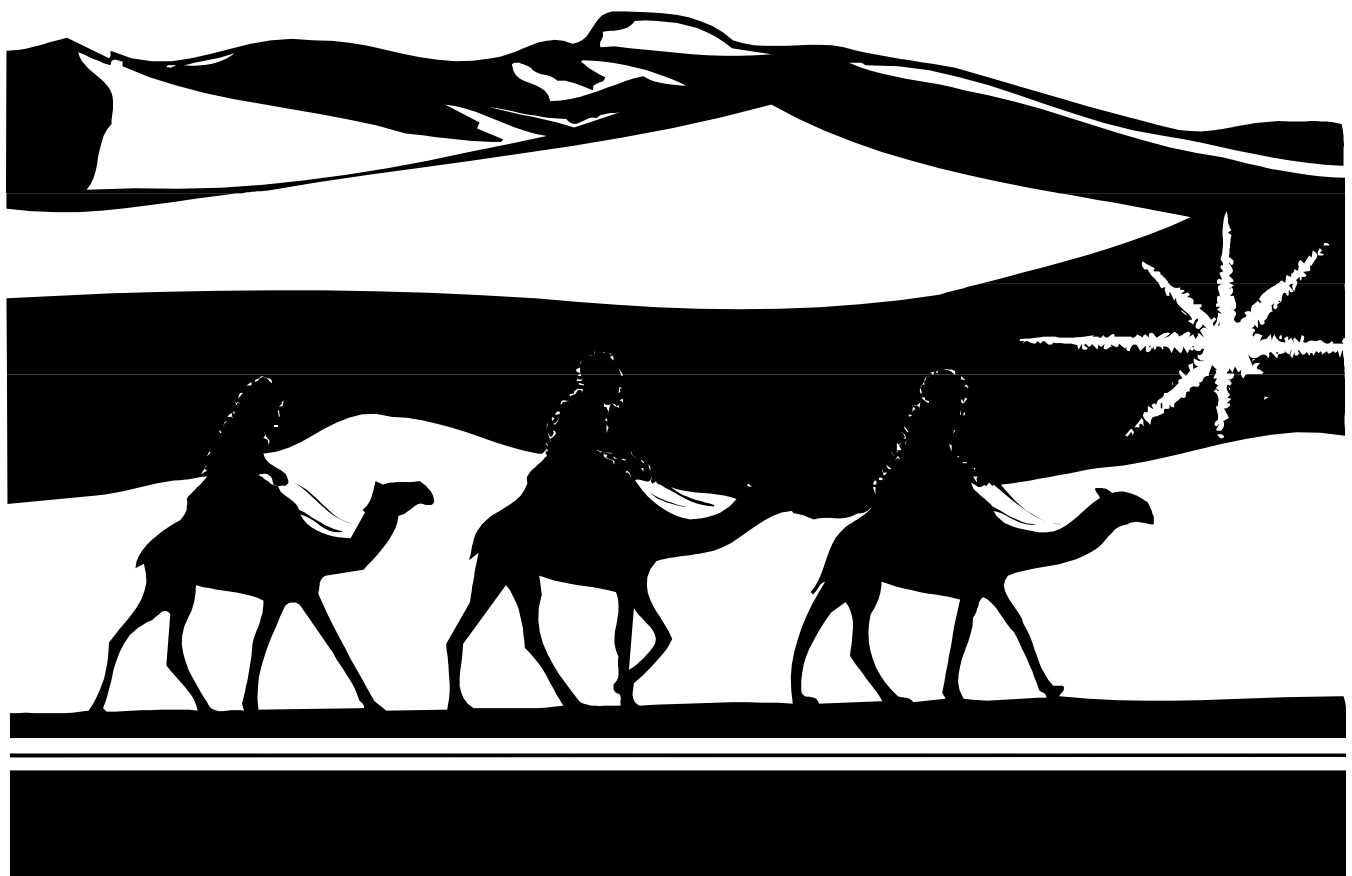
Robert McComb

Although Bob had health problems during these last years he had come through these and seemed to be managing well. It was therefore a shock to the family when it was discovered that he was in a very serious condition with only days to live. It was especially difficult for Irene his wife whom he had cared for through her many years of ill health. Brought up in Waringstown he was to have a life time of service in the RUC rising up through the ranks to become a Detective Chief Superintendent. He served in Londonderry, Antrim, Newry, Armagh and at Headquarters in Belfast. This service was rendered during the dark days of the troubles and for the quality of this service he was awarded an MBE. After he retired from the police he spent some years as head of security at Gallahers. Bob and Irene were married for over 50 years and he became quite domesticated in his many years of caring for Irene. They were blessed with 2 sons and Bob took a great interest in them and also in the progress of his grandchildren. He was a keen sportsman playing any game where a ball was involved. His more recent passion was bowls and he contributed a great deal to our own bowling club and the club at

Gallahers. Bob was a gentleman, well liked and respected and his quiet faith carried him through life and helped him to face death. We remember Irene and sons Alan and Gary.

Matthew Elliott

Matt had heart difficulties for some years and when these became severe and led to pneumonia, hospitalisation and a great tiredness, he simply wanted to go home and die there. He got his wish supported by his large family. He did not have an easy upbringing and had to do without much education yet he went on to work for all the years that health allowed - in the Mill, in Clingers, in Michelin and in other places - and to serve in the Territorial Army for many years. He provided for his 9 children and he and Margaret - who had nearly 60 years together - sought to help and support them and the numerous grandchildren that followed. Matt was always involved trying to help out and do jobs for some of the family. This work of parenting was indeed challenging. With work and family he had little time for anything else although for a time he did take up bowls. He and Margaret did manage amid all the demands made on them to get away for some holidays and he did fulfil one of his desires - to visit the Eiffel Tower. We remember Margaret, daughters Sylvia, Veronica, Jane, Rebecca, Margaret and Arlene and sons James, Matthew and David.





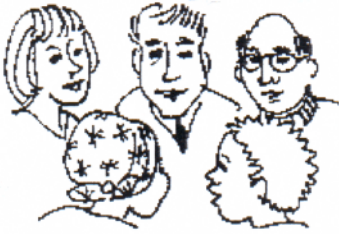
OUR ACTIVITIES

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 |
| Sewing Group | Thursday | 10.00 am | Parochial Hall |

SAINT COLUMBA'S

| | Day | Time | Contact |
|----------------|------------|----------|------------------|
| Beavers | Monday | 6.30 pm | Mrs L McCullagh |
| Cubs | Monday | 7.00 pm | Miss H Hughes |
| 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 |
| 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> |
|----------|-----------------------|

ST PATRICK'S, BALLYCLUG

SUNDAY SERVICES

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

ST COLUMBA'S, DUNCLUG

SUNDAY SERVICES

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

SUNDAY SCHOOLS

ST PATRICK'S

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

ST COLUMBA'S

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

HOLY BAPTISM

At Sunday services by arrangement