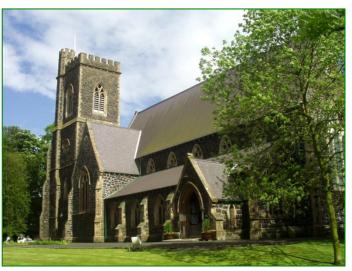
# Parish of Kilconriola and Ballyclug







Parish Magazine November 2017



Northern Ireland Charity number: NIC103115

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



# WHO'S WHO IN OUR PARISH

#### **CLERGY**

#### Rector

The Revd Mark McConnell 102 Galgorm Road, Ballymena (Tel 2565 2253) Mobile No 077 5954 5932 Email mmcconnell60@yahoo.co.uk



#### **Curate Assistant**

The Revd Dennis Christie
127 Whitesides Road, Ballymena
Mobile No 075 0060 7448
Email revdennischristie@gmail.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 - <a href="https://www.facebook.com/ballymenaparish">https://www.facebook.com/ballymenaparish</a>

Open - Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings **PARISH ADMINISTRATOR:** Mrs Lorraine McBride

#### **CHURCHWARDENS**

St Patrick's	Rector's	Mr Alex McNeill
	People's	Mrs Ruth McNeill
Ballyclug	Rector's	Mr William Burnett
	People's	Mr Jackie Greer
St Columba's	Rector's	Miss Laura Doole
	People's	Miss Elizabeth Peachey
Glebe Wardens	Rector's	Mr Kenneth Hughes
	People's	Mr Peter Chestnutt

#### **SELECT VESTRY**

Clergy, Church Wardens, Glebe Wardens and: Mr Alan Adair, Mrs Andrea Cotter, Mr Richard Cotter, Mr Barry Duke, Mr Ronnie Fleming, Mrs Vera Greer, Mrs Elizabeth Hughes, Mrs Emma McAleese, Mr Alex McKay, Mr Alastair Marrs, Mr Richard Todd and Mrs Helen Weir.

**Honorary Secretary:** Mr A Marrs 32 Granville Drive, Ballymena

**Honorary Treasurer:** Mr R Cotter 6 Markstown Crescent, Cullybackey

Sextons: St Patrick's Mr John Linton

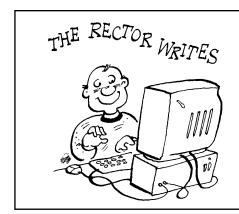
St Columba's Vacant

Organists: St Patrick's Mr Adrian Poston, Mr Frank Hewitt and

Dr Iris Millar

St Columba's Vacant

2



# Rectory Ramblings

#### IN FOCUS - TAKE 2

Following on from my theme last month in which we put the early/midweek Holy Communion Services and the Men's Fellowship 'In Focus', I wish to do the same this month. I want to concentrate firstly on prayer ministries in our parish life. There's an old saying 'Seven Days Without Prayer Makes One Week (Weak)!' Very true.

I want to pass on a word of encouragement to our faithful prayer teams whether this be the parish prayer time, the first Saturday of each month at 8.00 am, the weekly/emergency phone-based prayer team or those who offer prayer support after services (chiefly St Patrick's). I am regularly encouraged to hear of many and amazing answers to prayer by our faithful God through these various prayer ministries. Perhaps I can encourage everyone to pray more. Perhaps I can encourage all those who lead/help in every parish organisation to be regular in prayer at the start/end of each organisation session. Perhaps I can encourage more of our parishioners to come along and join in with some of our prayer ministries. Alex McKay or Adelaide Nimick would be only too glad to tell you more and point you in the right direction.

In the last chapter of the Book of Ephesians and very much part of the famous passage about putting on the armour of God - the Christian daily survival guide, we hear these words Ephesians Chapter 6:18-19, 'And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. Pray for me also that whenever I open my mouth words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the Gospel'. Amen.

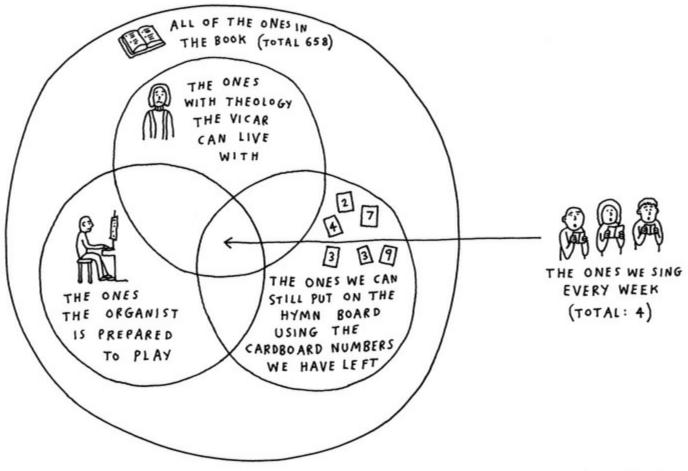
This might seem a strange partner to the above but I also want to highlight the work and possibilities provided by our bowling club. I am a very part-time, very enthusiastic and very unskilled bowler. So I can say that this is a very competitive and very addictive sport. But this is only a part of what our bowling club provides - friendship, love, support, focus, interest,



RM.MC M

escape, laughter, practical help for many at a time of their life when they could be tempted to give up and shut themselves indoors - the bowling club has come to the rescue. I really love my all too infrequent visits to the club. I love the hugs, the teasing and the fact they all think I'm actually pretty good at the game (pretty sure that bit's all lies). So are you dreading a long, lonely winter? Why not try joining our bowling club. Davy and Ann would be delighted to hear from you.

# CHOOSING THE HYMNS



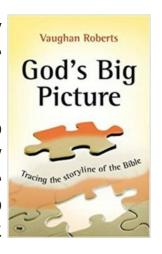


## **Parish News**

#### **WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY**

Our weekly Bible Study continues to take place every Tuesday night at 8 pm in the Choir Vestry at St Patrick's. We are currently working through 'God's Big Picture', an extremely useful book by Vaughan Roberts, which helps us trace the storyline of the Bible. The Bible itself is no ordinary book - made up of 66 books with 40 different authors, and written over nearly 2,000 years in many different It is important, therefore, that as we read it, we have a firm grasp of how it holds together as a coherent story of God's salvation of fallen men and women.

The Bible Study continues to be very well attended, but we are always keen to encourage new people to come along who want to learn more about God's word.



Mark & Dennis

#### **HOSPITAL MINISTRY**



Owing to a number of changes in hospital management policies, chiefly fuelled by the Data Protection Act, it is much more difficult for hospital chaplains to access information about patients admitted to hospital. Add to this the number of circumstances that can lead to missing the chaplains on their rounds, being asleep, too poorly to communicate, away for an X-ray, scan or other test and you can begin to see the difficulties we face.

Some of the above in recent times has led to parishioners being in hospital for some time and we simply did not know. Can Dennis and I ask that, if possible, family members or the patients themselves (pre-admission) let us know so that we can provide prayerful pastoral ministry as required?

Thanks.

Mark

#### **BALLYCLUG COFFEE MORNING**



Thanks to wonderful support from the parish our coffee morning was a great success. A big thank you to all the people who came along to help set up and who helped on the day. Also many thanks to our small team who work very hard to maintain the grounds at Ballyclug. Thank you to everyone who came along on the day to support and and also to those who sent donations as they could not be there.

All donations are lovingly and gratefully received, however, I must make mention of one lady (whose husband is buried in Ballyclug) who came in on the day and gave me a box 6" x 6" x 3" deep. She told me she had been saving up pennies, two pence pieces and 50 pence pieces and wanted to give the box to us for taking good care of her husband. This brought a lump to my throat and a tear to my eye and when counted it came to £50.

The total raised to date is £1465.40 less £140 expenses, leaving us £1325.40.

Once again thank you for your great support. This will make our work a lot easier and take away the pain of our loss of equipment.

Jackie Greer

#### DAILY BREAD

We will shortly be ordering the Bible Reading Notes 'Daily Bread' for 2018. As payment is made with the order we would appreciate it if those wishing to cancel next year would let the office know as soon as possible.

#### WEDDINGS IN CHURCH

Just a little reminder to anyone planning a wedding in the near future. It is church policy not to allow naked candles or confetti. We would ask you to make guests aware of the policy with regard to confetti.



# A view from the pew

#### **LEST WE FORGET**

As we are coming up to Remembrance Sunday our thoughts are with those who didn't make the return journey home. One such person was Francis Cavendish Roche who came to our parish as a curate. Francis had fought as a trooper in the North Irish Horse during the South African Boer War. Upon returning from military service in South Africa he took up Holy Orders.

He arrived in Ballymena in 1908 as a curate to the Reverend Austin and it didn't take long for him to become one of the parish family who was held in high esteem by children and adults alike. When he arrived one organisation that had been closed for several years was the CLB. Reverend Roche



took on the job of getting it up and running again and became chaplain. It is said the CLB flourished again during his time in the parish.

In 1911 he took up a curacy in England and again it was reported how this parish too, took him to their hearts. When WW1 broke out in 1914 he immediately applied to become a chaplain to the forces. His application was quickly accepted and now Captain The Reverend Francis Roche was on his way to the Dardanelle's. In November 1915 he became ill with typhoid fever and died. He was buried at Chatby Cemetery, Egypt.

When word got back to England that he had died St Mary's parishioners added a canopy and memorial plaque to him in the Priest's Stall which still stands to this day.

# The Vision

#### **VISION UPDATE**

It may not be for you - but someone you know and love

I hope by now you have been pouring over our Vision Outline Document - and not just to spot errors and bad grammar! Alongside our normal Sunday Service routine, we are adding a weekly contemporary 'New Life' Service at 10.00 am at St Patrick's, the first of these being **Sunday, 5th November**.

It may not be for you but perhaps for someone you know! Could all our parishioners with children who might benefit or be encouraged through this style of worship please be busy inviting. Perhaps you know a family that used to come but no longer come, can you send an invitation?

If you are part of the leadership team of any of our youth and children's ministries, can you please make sure invitations go home with all your members.

The aim of this first step of implementing our Vision is to add a little more choice to our weekly worship in St Patrick's and we prayerfully hope that our New Life Service will provide a creative challenge for a younger and as yet unchurched generation.

St Patrick's Sunday School families, please be on the alert. Our Sunday School is moving to this new service so that children will leave the service for their own teaching time. There will be refreshments served at the

end of each New Life Service over in the entrance to the church halls, so please come and enjoy a cuppa as you wait for the children to emerge from Sunday School - or if you are an early bird for the 11.30 am service.

If you would like extra copies of the Vision document or some New Life Service fliers, Lorraine or Sandra in the parish office will be glad to help.

\*\*Mark\*\*

# Remembrance Sunday



12th November
Act of Remembrance at morning services
in all three churches



# Around the Parish

#### **MOTHERS' UNION**

Our November meeting is on **Wednesday 8th November**, in the Minor Hall at 8 pm.



Our speaker is from MERCY SHIPS (a voyage of hope and healing by an international, faith-based organization).

This is a visitors evening - all welcome!

Bring and Buy Sale on the evening.

Patricia McWhirter



#### CHURCH LADS' AND CHURCH GIRLS' BRIGADE

Everyone enjoyed the fun and games at our Hallowe'en fancy dress party and we are looking forward to our Christmas party on Friday 15th December.

The CLCGB will be on parade at this year's Remembrance Sunday on **12th November** in Ballymena and will lay a wreath at the Cenotaph. We will meet at the Services Club at 10.15 am.

\*\*Alan Ross\*\*

#### MOTHERS AND TODDLERS GROUP

We continue to have good numbers each week, which is very encouraging and rewarding for all the volunteers.

At our coffee morning last month, we learned that Evonne had just celebrated her Golden Wedding



#### Anniversary - Congratulations Evonne and Billy!

We are delighted to welcome Eva McCarthy to our catering team and are very grateful for her help.

Unfortunately, our team has been hit again with sad news and we send our deepest sympathy to Derek Bell following the death of his father.

#### Rota for November:-

DATE	NAME	FUNCTION
7 <sup>th</sup> Nov.	Rosemary Stacey, Sandra McKay and Jean Cunningham	Tea
	Bee Robinson	Welcoming
	Alex McKay and Eddie McClelland	Car Park
14 <sup>th</sup> Nov.	Evonne Stinson, Eleanor Burnett, Vera Owens and Marlene Gray	Tea
	Mary Steele	Welcoming
	David Oliver and Derek Bell	Car Park
21st Nov.	Dorothy Hegan, Isabel Halliday/Eva McCarthy, Karin Agnew and Sandra Duke	Tea
	Ann Fisher	Welcoming
	Jackie McMaster and Jimmy Tuff	Car Park
28 <sup>th</sup> Nov.	Ruth Murray, Isobell Adair, Vivien Gilmour and Kathleen Thompson	Tea
	Liz Bodel	Welcoming
	Bob Peachey and Davy Nelson	Car Park

Dorothy (2589 2740), Anna, Anne, Catherine and June

#### MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Our Men's Fellowship group will be hosting a Men's Breakfast on Saturday morning **25th November 2017.** Breakfast will be served from 9 am and money raised will be in support of the NI Children's Hospice.



Please let Dennis or the parish office know if you are planning to attend so that we can estimate numbers.



The NI Children's Hospice are also hosting a 'Jingle All The Way' parade through the town centre later in the day, and a few of the staff/volunteers will join us at the breakfast to give a short talk. All parishioners are of course invited to attend the parade also.

Our next Men's Fellowship meeting will take place on **Thursday 2nd November**, 7.30 pm in the Minor Hall, all welcome.

Dennis

#### 'THE WAY' YOUTH FELLOWSHIP'

Our youth fellowship group, 'The Way', will be going on a trip to Belfast Ice Hockey Arena. Some of the best American University teams will be playing exhibition games. Tickets are free! Transport will also be provided free of charge. The event is on **Friday 24th Novem-**



**ber** and children will be picked up and returned to the Parish Hall on the evening. Timings to be confirmed.



The next get together for 'The Way' is on Sunday night the **19th November**, from 6.30 pm in the Minor Hall.

**Dennis** 



# Christian Aid

#### **Christian Aid**

Christian Aid in Belfast has sent us a letter thanking us for our efforts during Christian Aid Week back in May. You will remember that as a parish we were able, through church collections, lunches at St Patrick's and St Columba's and door-to-door collections, to raise the sum of £3,116. 26. A considerable amount of that sum was Gift Aided so the overall total that Christian Aid will have at their disposal is much more. As you know, this year Christian Aid was focusing on the plight of refugees - a problem that, as we see from the news, has not gone away; indeed it seems to be raising its head in more places than ever before.

It was inspiring to see a picture of Theodor Davidovic, a refugee after the Second World War, on this year's envelopes and to read his comment, 'It was Christian Aid who fed us, and I will never forget it.' Theodor himself is now a Christian Aid volunteer!

The office in Belfast is still busy processing all the Gift Aid forms and so we are not yet sure of an overall total for Northern Ireland - but can be fairly confident that it is up on last year; this can only be reassuring when you consider the many scenarios in which Christian Aid will be working throughout the year, not only with refugees but also with others caught up in the aftermath of natural disasters and the like. It will be interesting to see the final total for Northern Ireland, with contributions from groups belonging to so many different Christian denominations and organisations - this is certainly one instance in which we all pull together!

Mary Campbell



Youth Club welcome our new leader under the Education Authority Robbie West.

Robbie is no stranger to us. He grew up as a young person within Youth Club and then went on to become a young leader. Robbie has gained employment with Marks and Spencer through the Prince's Trust and is currently involved with ENGAGE in Ballymena were he gained an OCN level 2 in youth work. He is very involved with ENGAGE and has set up a men's group



which plays football every week. Robbie has also been very involved in youth activities within the church and was a leader at our recent trip to Summer Madness. We welcome Robbie to our team and look forward to working with him.

In Sunday School we have been busy learning about Noah's Ark, Harvest and how special we are to God.





In Youth Club we made fruit kebabs and thanked God for all that He has given us.



We have also been busy making up shoe boxes for those less fortunate than ourselves

A Bereavement Course took place on Saturday 30th September which was facilitated by Meryl and Ruth from Care for the Family. This was an excellent course - 12 people attended, 11 from our Parish. The aim of the course was to develop knowledge, skills and understanding of how churches can be involved in providing appro-



priate levels of ongoing support after the funeral for people who have been bereaved following the death of a close family member or friend.

We hope that those who attended can form a bereavement team. A bereavement policy will be produced together with follow up



leaflets and information. We are also thinking of setting up a befriending group for those who have been bereaved.

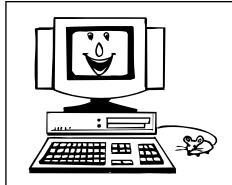
**Ladies Night** - A great night at Go Sun Chinese restaurant to support 'Good Morning Ballymena'. Thanks to all involved £1062.00 was raised for such a good cause. Well done to Emma for winning a prize in the raffle. Our next night out will be **Wednesday 22nd November** at Creative Gardens.



**Sunday School Note** - Please remember if you are going to the 10 am service or the 11.30 am service to use the self registration for the children as this will still be counted for each service. If children are coming to the 11.30 am service there will be an opportunity for them to go out and have their own time like children's church during the summer.

Lucy





# The Curate's (Wife's) Letter

Dennis is cheating a bit this month, and has asked me, his wife Jen, to share with you a recent blog which I wrote for my work in CMSI (Church Mission Society Ireland).

In the early pages of Charles Dickens' perennially popular novella, 'A Christmas Carol', the main character Scrooge is displaying his disdain for humankind. Two men have come calling on business on Christmas Eve to fund raise for the poor and destitute, many of whom would rather die than end up in the poor house. Scrooge's attitude to such folk is clear when he states, "If they would rather die, they had better do it and decrease the surplus population." Later in the story, Scrooge is taken by the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come to a deprived part of London and the house of his poorly paid clerk, Bob Cratchitt. Scrooge silently observes Bob's family mourning the loss of their young son Tiny Tim, whose death from illness might have been prevented had they had more income. Scrooge is deeply moved by the tender scene of sadness and despair mingled with humility and thankfulness for the life of Tiny Tim. Then the ghost reminds him of his earlier words to the fund raisers in his office ... "If they would rather die, they had better do it and decrease the surplus population." Scrooge is greatly chastened and saddened by his former attitude - his heart is beginning to soften.



This story brings me to tears on an annual basis, especially when performed by Michael Caine in the Muppet Christmas Carol and when I watch it alongside my own children. Something happens to Scrooge when he actually sees the Cratchitt family first-hand and bears witness to their experience.

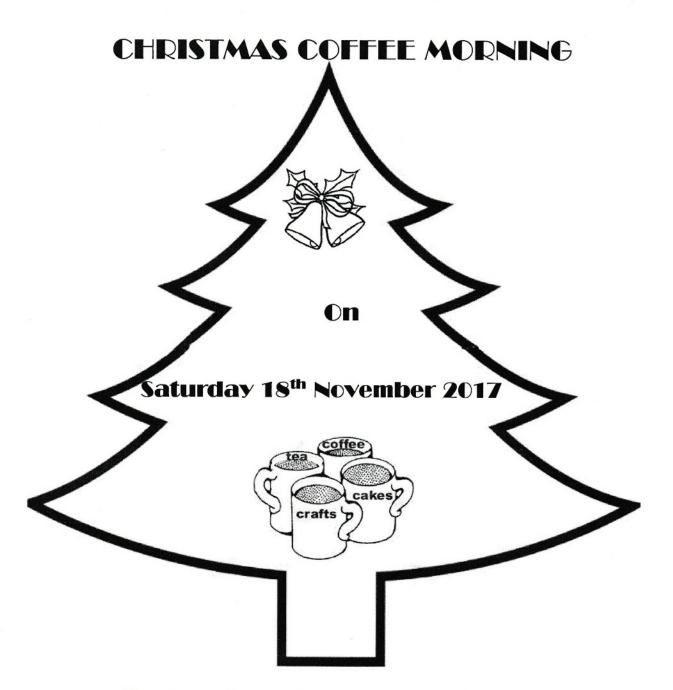
Scrooge's observation is part of leading him to becoming a new man with a heart for kindness and justice.

The stories that we, at CMSI, regularly tell are an attempt to provide an insight into the real lives, struggles and trials, hopes and achievements of our Global Partners as they walk by faith in Christ. These stories regularly chasten us and our supporters as we learn from our Christian brothers and sisters across the world and motivate us to think, act and respond in new ways. In my own role as Administration Coordinator for CMSI, I often see these responses first hand - when I open the post and see a handwritten note from one of our supporters who was greatly moved by a recent story we shared on the drought in Kenya, often accompanied by an offer of prayer over our work and a donation. When one of the CMSI family calls in person and hands me an envelope of cash because they couldn't carry on with their day until they had done something for those displaced from their homeland because of civil war in South Sudan. Or when I book the airline tickets for teams and individuals who have felt called to visit and spend time with our Global Partners in order to strengthen a parish link and build up the family of God.

Many of CMSI's members and supporters already understand and try to live out Jesus' call to love God and love others and the stories from our Global Partners encourage them to keep going with this call. For others, like Scrooge, as Dickens describes his wonderful transformation from miser to carer, the Holy Spirit can mightily use these real-life stories of love and perseverance within hardship to radically transform hearts. Scrooge went on to become, "... as good a friend, as good a master, and as good a man, as the good old city knew ..." May we have hearts that hear God's call to us as we listen to the stories we are told.

Jenny

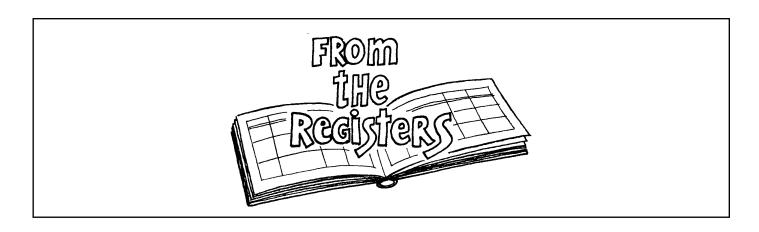




Seasonal goods and cakes for sale

10am to 1pm St Patrick's Church Hall

All proceeds in aid of St Patrick's Church



#### **CHRISTIAN BURIAL**



29<sup>th</sup> September Denise Wilma Hillis 55 Chichester Park Central,

Ballymena

Ballymena

2<sup>nd</sup> October Samuel Norman Slemish Nursing Home,

McElroy

24<sup>th</sup> October Colleen Black 118 Lettercreeve,

Ballymena

#### **Denise Wilma Hillis**

Denise was born on 25th May 1970 and was one of three children. She attended primary school and loved mixing with other young people. After leaving school, and for a short time, she worked in the retail trade where she enjoyed assisting and chatting to her customers. Unfortunately because of ill health she had to give up her work and was confined to her home. Denise loved children and her nephews, whom she spoiled, became known as 'her boys'. Although Denise had many health problems she was a source of great joy to her mother, father, brothers, nephews and her wider family circle. We extend to all of them our prayers and sympathy at this sad time.

#### Samuel (Norman) McElroy

Norman was a man of the old school who respected his friends and was in turn respected by them. He dearly loved his wife Jean and his daughter Grace. In his youth he was a good sports person and was very involved in playing rugby and cricket. Norman treasured his daughter Grace and passed on to her what he thought was important in order to prepare her for adult life. He travelled widely during his life and enjoyed keeping photograph albums of all his experiences. Norman loved reminiscing over these photos and enjoyed showing them to his many friends and colleagues. He will be sadly missed by Grace and all his family circle to whom we extend our sincere sympathy at this time.

#### Colleen Black

Colleen was born on 5th June 1955. As an adult she lived for some time 'across the water' but she returned to Ballymena and her extended family circle. Although Colleen had long term health issues she always thought about others first. She was a caring, generous and kind person who loved helping other people. She loved seeing and talking to her family and was always there for them if they were in need of her help and support. Colleen also had a passion for animals and cared for quite a number of cats and dogs. She will be very sadly missed by her mother Margaret, her sons Stephen, Leroy, Tyrell and her daughter Sharon and all her grandchildren. We extend our sincere sympathy to all of the family circle at this very sad time.





# **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	8.00 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
Men's Fellowship	1st Thursday	7.30 pm	Minor Hall
Junior Youth Club	Saturday	7.00 pm	Parochial Hall
Senior Youth Club	Saturday	8.00 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 Hughes		
Brownies	Tuesday	6.30 pm	Vacant		
Squirrels	Wednesday	6.30 pm	Mr P Houston		
Guides	Thursday	6.30 pm	Mrs K Black		
Senior Guides	Thursday	8.00 pm	Mrs K Black		
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 Holy Communion
10.15 am 3rd Sunday in the month Family Service
11.30 am Morning Prayer

1st Sunday in the month Parish Communion

6.30 pm Evening Prayer

3rd Sunday in the month Holy Communion 4th Sunday in the month Living Faith Service

#### **EVERY WEDNESDAY**

10.30 am Holy Communion

#### ST PATRICK'S, BALLYCLUG

#### **SUNDAY SERVICES**

10.00 am Morning Prayer

4th Sunday in the month Holy Communion

#### ST COLUMBA'S, DUNCLUG

#### **SUNDAY SERVICES**

8.30 am 1st Sunday in the month Holy Communion 11.30 am Morning Prayer

2nd Sunday in the month Family Service
3rd Sunday in the month Family Communion

#### **SUNDAY SCHOOLS**

#### ST PATRICK'S

11.30 am Church Leaders - Mrs L McLaughlin and Mr A Ross

#### ST COLUMBA'S

11.30 am Church Superintendent - Mrs S Foster

#### HOLY BAPTISM

At Sunday services by arrangement