

VISION

SUNDAY



Parish of Kilconriola & Ballyclug

VISION SUNDAY

Sunday 15th October 2017

A combined service for all parishioners where we will share our vision for the future. Bishop Ken Clarke will join us today bringing encouragement and blessings from the diocese and wider Church of Ireland family.



You are all very welcome to this special combined service today. Since joining the parish in June 2016 I have, together with Dennis and John before his departure, been prayerfully watching and listening, and seeking after God's will for the ministry within the parish and within the community of Ballymena. We now believe the time is right to share our vision with you.



Having Bishop Ken Clarke with us today is a real blessing. We have already taken advantage of Ken's wisdom and enthusiasm in the preparation of these plans and we are delighted that he can be with us as we share them with you.

Highlighted in this leaflet are a number of new initiatives, which we intend to get underway in the coming Church year. As highlighted in our October magazine, we are hopeful that, with the ongoing prayerful and practical encouragement of our Church family, we will realise something of God's vision for Ballymena, and that the ministry of this church will bring new members for God's Kingdom and to our parish.

Rev. Mark

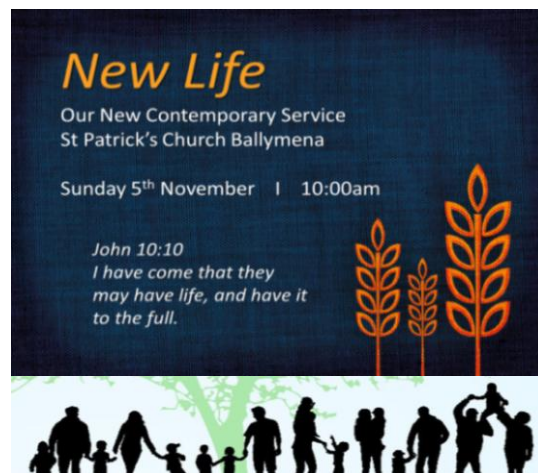


'New Life' Service

Our New Contemporary Church Service, will be launching on Sunday the 5th November. This will be a service for all the family, run every Sunday morning at St Patrick's Church from 10 to 11am. The service will have a more modern feel, designed for all, regardless of age or church background.

'New Life' will include a dedicated Sunday School, from 10.30 to 11am in the Parish Hall. Tea, coffee and treats will be served in the hall directly after the service.

'New Life' will be an addition to the existing Sunday services on offer at St Patrick's, providing current and future church goers with greater choice. All of our current weekly services will continue to run as normal. We look forward to seeing you on the 5th November if you are interested and please be sure to invite anyone else along.



Town Centre Chaplaincy

A regular visitation ministry in Ballymena town centre is planned to begin in the coming months, where local shops and offices can be visited and supported by our church members. This chaplaincy will offer direct prayer support, including a dedicated prayer line, friendship, appreciation, listening and gentle evangelism.

Like much of Northern Ireland, politics and economics have hit local businesses very hard. If we are to be relevant as the recognised town centre civic church we must do more than merely host big services now and again. This service will be clergy-led, but not exclusively, and we are hopeful others will be called to join us and be trained up in this ministry.

Community Visitation & Prayer Walk

Concentrated 'area-by-area' visitations and prayer walks will be carried out to help us connect with present and lapsed members. The heart of this project will be to offer prayer ministry to all and it will include:

- prayer walking around the area asking for God's wisdom, grace and that Godly appointments might be made;
- prayer leaflet drop through every door offering prayer/visit; and
- response visits to those who request it.

Obviously this is a major undertaking for the parish, and Mark and Dennis cannot manage it on their own. If you have a passion to see our church grow, if you have a personable nature and if you feel called to be involved in prayer ministry with people, then please speak to the clergy team.



The 'Three T's' Parish Development Programme

Working with our Select Vestry, our financial committee, and under the guidance of Mr Murray Hunter (former Col Stewardship Co-ordinator), in the Spring of 2018, we will be implementing the 3T's Parish Development Programme. This will include the delivery of an information pack, with our new and existing ministries, giving every parishioner an opportunity to respond in terms of their **Time**, their **Talent** and their **Treasure**. As many of you will know, in our society today, people are not inclined to regularly attend Church out of a sense of tradition or civic duty. Encouraging a genuine faith in Jesus

Christ as Lord and Saviour and providing a Church environment which is welcoming, supportive and encouraging to every believer is more important than ever and remains our first job as a parish. The new initiatives, outlined in this leaflet, are also key steps towards providing an environment where people can develop and grow a genuine and living faith in the Lord Jesus, and feel encouraged to attend and serve as part of God's Kingdom.

Other Ministry Opportunities

We will seek to encourage **Christ-Centred Fellowship Groups & Home Groups** throughout the Parish. Our Men's Fellowship group, a new Woman's Fellowship recently started and a new Youth Fellowship group ('The Way') now underway, are all fellowships centred around the study of God's word and growing in our faith, as well as having some fun together. Home group bible studies are also a great way to encourage the spiritual growth of individuals and provide a way for people to connect and to foster community. We have active home groups, but there is great opportunity for more.



At St Patrick's Ballyclug we will be seeking to develop the church as a regular venue for **Gospel Music Evenings**. Given the setting of this church community, it is envisaged that such events will be very popular and will help promote the Christian faith to a wider audience.

It is intended that many elements of the 'New Life' contemporary service will be incorporated into the **Monthly Family Service** at St Columba's Church providing a more open and contemporary worship style for parishioners. It is also envisaged that the **Messy Church Services** which have been well attended during recent years at St Patrick's can also be run at St Columba's, once or twice a year. This will encourage many of the families involved with St Columba's through the various well attended groups such as Scouts, Cubs and Guides etc. to begin attending.



Overseas Mission Opportunities will also be explored throughout the three parish churches. Existing church links with Nepal and CMS Ireland will be reviewed and re-established, and other potential links such as supporting the persecuted church throughout the world will be explored.

Our combined parish has so many **Existing Activities & Organisations**, which offer so much to the community of Ballymena. Valued and essential groups like the Church Choir, the Bellringers, the Bible Fellowship, the Healer Prayer group, Still Active, Mothers' Union, the Fit-4-Life group, the Ladies Circle, Mothers and Toddlers, the Sewing group and the Badminton and Bowls clubs, will continue to be encouraged in the service they provide and the work they do in our church community.

There are also many well run youth-focused organisations affiliated with the parish including the Church Lads' & Church Girls' Brigade, the Girls Friendly Society, Youth Club and the various institutions hosted at St Columba's. These organisations provide a valuable and wholesome outlet for many children and they will continue to be encouraged as part of the life of this parish.



If you would like to give us your feedback on any of the above, or to see how you can be more involved, please contact us.



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