Parish of Kilconriola and Ballyclug

PARISH MAGAZINE

JULY/AUGUST 2015



Northern Ireland Charity number: NIC103115

Diocese of Connor - Parish of Kilconriola and Ballyclug



WHO'S WHO IN OUR PARISH

CLERGY

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PARISH ADMINISTRATOR: Mrs Lorraine McBride

CHURCH WARDENS

St Patrick's	Rector's	Mrs Stephanie Johnston
	People's	Mrs Rosalie Grainger
Ballyclug	Rector's	Miss Nicola Burnett
	People's	Mr Jackie Greer
St Columba's	Rector's	Mr Jimmy Tuff
	People's	Mr Les Hughes
Glebe Wardens	Rector's	Mr Kenneth Hughes
	People's	Mr Peter Chestnutt

SELECT VESTRY

Clergy, Church Wardens, Glebe Wardens and: Mr William Burnett, Miss Ruth Dixon, Mr Barry Duke, Mr Ronnie Fleming, Mrs Liz Hughes, Mr Stuart Jackson, Mr Alastair Marrs, Mr Alex McKay, Mr Jackie McMaster, Mr Jonathan Nevin, Mr Oliver Reid and Mr Richard Todd.

Honorary Secretary: Mr A Marrs 32 Granville Drive, Ballymena

Honorary Treasurer: Mrs L McBride 11 Ballyloughan Park, Ballymena

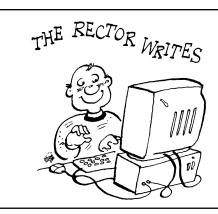
Sextons St Patrick's Mr John Linton

St Columba's Miss Margaret Mawhinney

Organists St Patrick's Dr Jonathan Drennan

St Columba's Mrs Sandra Montgomery

2



The Rector Writes

I hope you don't mind me introducing you to Izzy again - yes that was the name of the tiny insect that crawled across my book whose world was so restricted in comparison to mine. I learnt from her because she taught me that likewise my world is so restricted in comparison to God's world - there is so much I cannot expect to understand about God. Again last month I introduced you also to something even smaller than Izzy and that was the nanometre. As an example of nanotechnology I detailed how the whole of the Hebrew Bible had been written on matter smaller than a grain of sugar. This helped me to understand how the vastness of God could be reduced as it were to take the form of the person of Jesus.

This month we want to consider Izzy again. Now she has made it to Rome. I was there many moons ago on a hitch hiking expedition. Naturally I went to see one of the great sights - the Sistine Chapel and especially the world famous painting on the roof accomplished by Michelangelo. Unfortunately when I arrived the chapel was closed for repairs so I saw nothing.

Not so Izzy. She has made it to the Sistine Chapel and didn't even have to pay an entrance fee. Not only that she has a prime view. She is actually on the ceiling and walking across this priceless scene. She is face to face with this great work of art - but she is not aware of it. She does not know what is in front of her nose. She misses out on the glory that is before her.

I wonder could some of us be somewhat like Izzz. The Christian gospel is not closed off to us - it is there before us but we fail to recognise it for what it is - good news, indeed the greatest news of all. Our 'blindness' is indicated by our lack of excitement or enthusiasm - indeed we are hardly touched by it at all. Or maybe our sight is blinkered - we see it as something which makes life difficult and God almost as someone who is

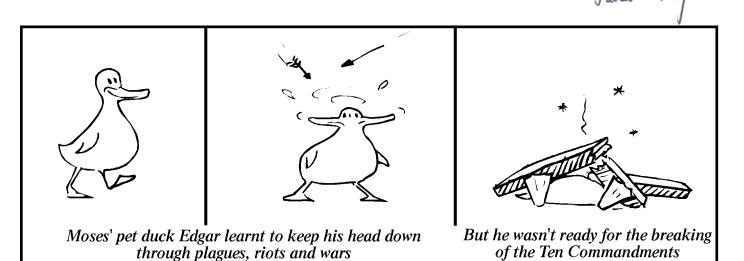
out to get us. The gospel almost comes across as bad news and even if we are attracted to some of the things Jesus said we just see the gospel as rather good advice - not great news.

For many years a painting hung in one of the houses of a religious order in Dublin. No one paid much attention to it because it seemed rather old and grubby. Until an art expert spied it and decided it needed to be examined. After extensive examination it was discovered to be a painting by Caravaggio worth many millions.

I wonder is the gospel sometimes like an ancient work of art which over the centuries has become encrusted with layers of dirt which hide its real nature. All sorts of things have added to this encrustment - religion itself and especially sectarianism, political and cultural influences and material and worldly values. These need to be scrapped away to reveal the true glory of what lies beneath.

Yes there is good news at the heart of our faith - how God is for us and the whole of creation. How it was all brought into being in love and was good, and how despite it getting into a mess God is determined to restore it. And central to the good news is that the restoration has been launched in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus and will be brought also to completion when the kingdom will come on earth as it is in heaven. Yes good news in the broad perspective of which we live our daily struggles and challenges.

So let's not be like Izzy on the Sistine Chapel roof - lets be able to stand back and admire what God has done and is doing and appreciate that we have been given this gospel, this good news.





Parish News

BALLYCLUG NOTES

Ballyclug Harvest Supper preparations have started with the date being **Wednesday 28th October**. Help will be required on the night and also support for the programme.

The wall at the front of the church and the vestry has been plastered and painting will be completed sometime in July when they have dried out. We apologise for any inconvenience but unfortunately this work was essential hopefully it cures the damp problem.

While the grounds are looking well the grass continues to grow so please if you can help on a Thursday night it would be greatly appreciated.

GIVING

We do have to be aware as to the state of giving towards the work of the parish. Responsible stewardship requires that we monitor this.

The figures for almost the first 6 months of the year show that the giving through the Renovation envelopes has increased slightly over the same period last year - up from £23,863 to £24,941. This may partly be because parishioners were aware of renovation work going on.

The figures for giving through the CRG envelopes - to the general fund show a decrease from last year - down from £70,970 to £67,715. Thus overall the giving through both sets of envelopes is down £2,177.

If we are to see any trend, it is not so much that fewer people now attend worship, abandoning church. Rather it is that while they still worship they do more irregularly and this has an impact on the giving.

HOUSE GROUPS

There are presently 4 house groups operating in the parish. Those who are involved very much appreciate the experience. Dur-

ing Lent we had our Discipleship Explored course and again this was valued. As a follow up to this course we approached some people to ask whether they might be interested in joining a house group. There were some positive replies. However, there may be others, and they may or may not have attended that course, who would nevertheless be interested in participating in a house group. If any reader is thus attracted please speak to the rector.

CONFIRMATION

Already a small group of young people has been gathered who have expressed an interest in being confirmed this year. There may well be others who have not been approached and yet would think of going forward for confirmation. Please speak to the clergy or either Lucy or Alan if that is the case.

DUNCLUG FAMILY FUN DAY

This event took place on Saturday 13th June at Dunclug College Premises and was run by Ballyloughan Presbyterian, Hillside Community Church and St Columba's. The purpose was to get the Church out into the Community. St Columba's was doing the catering - serving food to 350 - 400 people, quite a feat! This could have been a problem but not

when you have such a keen and enthusiastic bunch of people in Nothing was too our church. much trouble, even for the marquee builders who stood back to admire their work, and a huge gust of wind blew it over the fence! The ladies coped very well serving tea, coffee, juice and tray bakes under difficult conditions. Meanwhile the men started barbecuing burgers and sausages. At 4 pm it was all hands on deck to serve the long queue with their BBQ food. In the grounds there was lots going on - an inflatable assault course, puppet show, fairground games and jumbo slide. Some of us were dying to have a go!

Our thanks to the many in our church who supplied food and who helped on the day. Special mention and thanks to Allen Meats for all the delicious sausages and burgers. Thanks for food from the Spar on the Doury Road, the Co-op Dunclug and R. J. Kerr.

SAINSBURY'S ACTIVE KIDS 2015

Thank you one and all for a magnificent response to our request for your Active Kids vouchers.

We received 4733 vouchers from the three churches. We have ordered quite a number of small items such as compasses, orienteering equipment and games equipment, all of which will be useful for activities within the group.

All concerned are very grateful for your support.

Christie Colhoun St Columba's Scout Group

ST COLUMBA'S ANNIVERSARY DINNER

Our 40th Anniversary Dinner took place on Thursday 25th June at Leighinmohr House Hotel. Canon Lloyd welcomed everyone and said grace before our sumptuous meal. Canon and Mrs Bell and Canon and Mrs Lloyd cut the two cakes baked and iced by Sandra Montgomery.

After the meal our special guests Canon and Mrs Bell spoke to us. This was followed by a musical solo by Julie Kernoghan who sang a piece from Phantom of the Opera followed by Tori McCullough from Oklahoma. Both girls were accompanied by Sandra Montgomery.

Canon Lloyd reminisced on his 27 years in the Parish. Barry Duke read a poem that he wrote for the occasion.

The next event was another musical duet by Paul Brush and Tracey Martin who sang two sacred songs and a beautiful song entitled 'Songbird'.

Thanks was expressed to all who made the evening such a success. A round of applause to Adrian, Nikki and the staff of the Leighinmohr House hotel for a delicious meal.

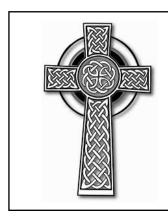
- To Liz Hughes for her help in planning the event.
- To Sandra Montgomery for the cakes.
- To Rosemary Colhoun for the flowers.
- To the Tuff family for the table decorations.
- To St Clair Beatty for taking the photographs.
- To Canon and Mrs Bell for supporting our event.
- To Canon Lloyd for all his years of support.
- To all the artists performing Tori and Julie and to Tracey and Paul.

We remembered all those who normally would have joined us at the event but couldn't because of illness.

After the speeches there was plenty of chat and craic as people mingled and exchanged memories. These memories were stirred by old photographs brought by several people.

The evening ended with 1975 hits arranged by Steve Andrews.

Sandra Duke



Pilgrimage

Tuesday June 23rd saw 34 parishioners setting out on pilgrimage to visit ancient Christian Sites. At each site we heard something about the place, listened to a section of St Patrick's work 'The Confession', had a prayer and sang a hymn. A lovely summer's evening added to the appreciation of the pilgrimage.

We started at St Patrick's church where we identified the ancient stone built into the porch. This is the oldest artefact in the area and depicts a Celtic cross with the words 'Ord de Degan' or a prayer to Degan. This dates back to the 6th or 7th century and was found at the old graveyard at Kilconriola. We also heard that a copy of Secundius' 'Prayer to St Patrick' is buried beneath the foundation stone of St Patrick's Church. In this Secundius links Patrick with Slemish, one of the few clues to that possible link.



We then journeyed to Templemoyle in Connor where there is the ruins of an old abbey at the present Dinsmore Factory. St McNissi who is said to have been baptised by Patrick established some form of Christian settlement here and this later became an Augustinian Monastery. Like other monasteries this was closed down by Henry V111 and fell into disrepair. Only one wall now remains. On then to St Saviour's Church in Connor. Once the diocesan system was established in Ireland in the 12th century Connor was the centre of the diocese. Only in the 17th century did Lisburn Cathedral take over this role and it was also known as the Church of St Saviour.

Our next stop was at the old graveyard at Kilconriola where there are the ruins of an old church. It seems that the church here has been in ruins since before the Reformation. We could say that this is where our original

parish church was and of course this is where the parish gets its name. Kilconriola (Irish) or Kirkconriola (Scottish) has been given several meanings - church of the pure Riola, church of Con King of Ulster, church of Conry of Ulster - or quite differently- the hound of the cemetery. It was hear that the stone in St Patrick's Church was discovered in 1827 and one of the last acts of the Rev William Reeves, the builder of St Patrick's was to install it in 1857.

Next it was off to the hill of Skerry outside Broughshane and of course the parish in that area is known as Skerry. The name is derived from the word 'sciric' meaning rocky. The tradition is that Milchu, the chieftain who bought Patrick the slave, later took his own life burning down his fort and from the ashes a church arose. It certainly is an ancient Christian site and there is a certain air about it which seems to confirm this. There is also a splendid view of Slemish across the valley from here. It has been a place of pilgrimage in the past and maybe this had something to do with the myth that St Patrick's footprint is to be seen on one of the stones. Most of the party made it up the hill, through the undergrowth and over the steps into the ancient site. Mind you we had to beat a hasty retreat back to the bus attacked by midges - nevertheless singing a hymn!



Finally we made our way to Slemish. Is this the mountain which Patrick refers to in his Confession where he said a hundred prayers day and night and where he came to a deep and living faith? Although as we mentioned Secundius makes this link there is no verifiable proof. Nevertheless those who spend time on Slemish appreciate that it does provide the at-

mosphere where there might be an encounter with God and where a spiritual experience might be engendered. Patrick and Slemish do seem to go together.

We are fortunate to have Patrick as our patron saint and to have 2 of our churches named after him. As we learn from his Confession he was a humble man of deep faith and that faith rooted in the bible. He was also totally committed to his call to work for the spread of the gospel and despite all the hardships and challenges he showed great courage, determination and perseverance in that task. We who honour him today have a powerful example to follow.



Our Children's Week 'Polar Explorers' was a great success. The children enjoyed coming each night to learn that we are all part of God's big expedition. We learnt about Jesus' friends and how they made kingdom footprints and spread the good news of God and how we can do this too.

On Saturday we had our Family Fun Night - it was great to see so many people and the weather was good. Special thanks to jumping clay, William Allen meats and Liz and Les Hughes for the BBQ. Thanks to all leaders who helped with face painting, tea and coffee, chocolate fountain and supervising the bouncy castles. We had a great finale with our Children's Day Service on the Sunday when the children sang songs and received their prizes. A cheque was presented for £600 for the CMS project 'Little Lights' which will help projects in the Dr Congo.

The following awards were presented:-

- Minnie McAuley Cup best overall in kindergarten -Matthew McLaughlin
- Magee Cup runner up in kindergarten Maggie Lorimer
- McKervill Cup best overall seniors Naomi Nevin
- Stuart Dixon Memorial Cup runner up seniors Ellen Mitchell
- Robert Adair Cup best overall in Fusion Callum Hamill
- Youth Shield best overall youth Callum Ross
- Lauren Minford Memorial Cup contribution to youth and music -Simon Bennett
- Family Service attendance Euan, Caragh and Callum Hamill

Thanks to all the leaders who helped during Children's Week and the Fun Night with special thanks to Stephanie Johnston for helping with art work and Helen Weir and family for helping to decorate the hall and church and for all photos during the year for Facebook. To everyone who welcomed and made tea during the year and to all Sunday School teachers and Youth Leaders of organisations we greatly value you and appreciate your time and commitment. To celebrate this we had an evening at The Thatch -

35 leaders attended from both St Patrick's and St Columba's. A great time was had and the rector commended their work and noted the connection with all the leaders. The rector was thanked also for his support and encouragement throughout the years.

On Sunday 5th July young people from the parish went to Glenarm to join with others from the diocese in the 'Summer Madness' Christian festival.

During the summer months Children's Church will be available for the children during the 11.30 am service.

Summer scheme for primary school children Monday 17th - Friday 21st August from 3 - 6 pm £1.50 per child per day - contact Lucy to book a place 077 5995 0497.

Youth Club starts again on Saturday 5th September 7 - 8 pm for juniors and 8 -10 pm for seniors. Anyone wanting to become a member of senior Youth Club must bring their parents on the first night to register.

Sunday School will start on Sunday 6th September we would love to see any children from 3 years of age.

Anyone willing to help with any organisation, Sunday School or Youth Club or anyone wanting to complete Duke of Edinburgh volunteer work please speak to Lucy or Alan.

Have a blessed summer.

Lucy



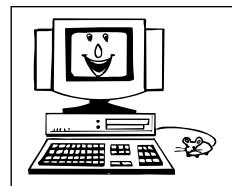
PLEASE KEEP FREE!

COFFEE MORNINGS

September - Saturday 19th November - Saturday 28th

In aid of Church Funds





The Curate's Letter

Honey, camel's hair and locusts: A Day in the Life of John the Baptist

On 25 June the Church celebrates the birth of the prophet known as John the Baptist, an almost exact contemporary of Jesus and possibly also a relative.

Israel is a land which has had a great number of prophets. Some of them made it into scripture - they are the biblical prophets, most of them didn't. The prophets are divided into the 'Former Prophets' such as Elijah and Elisha, and the later prophets. The Golden Age of prophesy ran from Amos in the eighth century BC to the fifth century. There were also later prophets such as John. It is difficult to be exact about dates in the There was a sort of job description for a prophet. A Ancient World. prophet was meant to spend the whole of his life alerting everyone by every means possible to the certainty of God's judgement on the nation in the very near future. 'By every means possible', meant everything from endless sermons to obnoxious stunts like cooking food over your own dung (Ezekiel) or hiding your underwear in a rock until it was rotten and then waving it around (Jeremiah). Prophets (like curates desperate for a Children's Talk) seemed to have a gift for using anything to hand as props in an emergency. But obviously prophets wouldn't care if they went beyond the bounds of taste, whereas a curate, of course, always would.

The remuneration package for a prophet was somewhat lacking but a successful mid-career prophet could expect some or all of the following: hatred, ridicule and misery, a few slavish followers (the biblical prophets) imprisonment and beatings (Isaiah), and for people to be afraid of them. A thoroughly miserable life was certain probably followed by exile and/or a premature death.

It is interesting that the great age of prophesy died out within a century of the Exile. It appears that the Exile was so awful that prophets could no longer make sense of it, or explain it. The terrible suffering caused by the Exile was experienced disproportionately by the innocent and vulnerable, the very people who the prophets accused the powerful of mistreating. The Book of Lamentations tells us that mothers were left to fend for themselves in Jerusalem and forced to eat their own children. As God was felt to be at the root of it, a simple connection between the behaviour of the people and the reward they could expect from God (the stuff of traditional prophesy in other words) was broken.

Anyway back to John the Baptist. John was a New Testament Prophet. Even in prophet-hardened Israel the arrival on the scene of John the Baptist, the original wild hairy prophet created a stir. Even by the

standard of prophets John was wild and weird. The Bible describes him as wearing camel's hair and eating locusts and wild honey. Just those facts alone would tell you what you need to know about John: fanatical and uncompromising, very little attention to clothes or food because they are a distraction from the important business of Salvation and Judgement. John preached a radical message of



repentance and baptism to mark a new start.

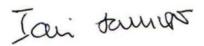
John sounds at first like a most obnoxious character. You can imagine many people crossed the road (or dirt track perhaps) or hid behind a bush when they saw John. He was clearly an abrasive man who was also in possession of an exceptional charisma. Like many cult leaders (although he was not exactly a cult leader in the true sense) he may have had powerful sexual attractiveness to women such as masculine brute strength and piercing eyes. He also appears to have had great integrity. People seem to have sensed that John was a genuine prophet and godly man even though he may have been thoroughly obnoxious.

We think today of John as a herald of Jesus but at the time it would be more correct to think of Jesus as a disciple of John the Baptist.

It has been a controversy amongst theologians as to whether John was associated with, or even an actual member of, a very austere desert sect of monks called the Essenes. They hated the city because it was so sinful and they had a monastery at Qumran in the Judean desert, near the Dead Sea. The Essenes were also great believers in baptism and immersed themselves several times a day in fact. Personally I think he was connected - call it a hunch. I know about John and the Essenes and they seem to go together somehow. It has also been suggested by Shusaku Endo in his brilliant biography of Jesus, that Jesus may also have been strongly attracted to the life of the Essenes and may even have visited Qumran himself on retreat, and may also have considered joining the monastery. Endo suggests that this is the real meaning of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness. I suspect this is true too. I don't think a man like Jesus with strong leanings towards being on his own could have avoided a trip to the dessert to see what was going on there. Even though he did not in the end decide that that life was for him.

Back to John the Baptiser and locusts and honey. As you know honey is remarkable, it is a powerful anti-biotic when applied to the skin and has other important benefits. Locusts although they sound (and most likely are) quite disgusting are insects and there is a move afoot to get us to eat more of them. (When I say 'us' I mean people worldwide, not just people in Ballymena of course). Insects are cheap, easy to breed, environmentally friendly and high in protein. The combination of locusts and wild (i.e. organic) honey is a good one for providing slow-release energy, and would have been a good thing to eat if you were busy making prophesies every minute you were awake.

John met a horrible end when he was incarcerated for saying that Herod's second marriage to Herodias (formerly his brother's wife) was illegal. Herodias' daughter Salome's dancing pleased Herod and he said she could have anything she liked as a reward. Salome asked her mother and her mother said, "Ask for John's head," which was then served up at dinner. It was said that Herod regretted this act, but did not want to lose face. John died in the confrontational and uncompromising way in which he had lived. Jesus was much more gentle in his teaching but was always shaped and influenced by John, whose influence is still felt in the Church, and whose legacy we honour.





Around the Parish



One of the roles of the Choir Committee is to provide opportunities for choir members to access wonderful music.

On the 4th June, armed with Jean Kennedy's delicious homemade scones, 11 members of the choir travelled on the enterprise from Belfast to Dublin.

The main purpose of the day was to attend Choral Evensong in St Patrick's Cathedral. After a lovely lunch in the Hibernian Club which is situated on St Stephen's Green and some retail therapy, we headed off to St Patrick's Cathedral for Choral Evensong. Choral Evensong is held in the cathedral every day at 5.30 pm and we were amongst a congregation of about 80 people. We were welcomed prior to the service by the Rev Canon Charles Mullen, Dean's Vicar, and we were also given a special mention during the service.

The choir was very polished and professional, we counted 18 choir boys and 9 men. It was such a memorable opportunity to participate in a service in what is designated as the national cathedral for the whole of Ireland. How fortunate we are to be able to access such an uplifting experience.

Ruth Dixon

SQUIRRELS

As all good things must come to an end, Squirrels are now on their summer holidays but we will be back in September. This term we have had lots of fun outdoors. We have been playing in the park and also doing some backwoods cooking, with sausages,





Squirrels enjoying the outdoors

marshmallows and bread twists.

As always at this time of year we would like to thank our helpers, Lucy and Christine, who have given up their time throughout the year. We are always grateful for exhelp with the tra children, so if you are over 18 and would like to help out next term, then please don't be shy, Paul and

Ann would be delighted to see you. There is no upper age limit!

are also very grateful to all our special visitors who along have come throughout the year, lain, Andrea, Rev Ken, John and Santa. Last but not least, is our Scout helper Jack. Jack's energy and enthusiasm is infectious and all miss him we when he needs to take time off for his school/exam work. our little team is not complete without Without our him. helpers and visitors



Squirrels attend St Columba's for the Uniformed Organizations Service

we would not be able to produce such an adventurous and fun filled programme for the children. So a very big thank you to you all.

We look forward to seeing all the Squirrels back again in September. If you have any 4 - 6 year olds who would like to join us then please get in touch. Our meeting time is Wednesdays 6.30 - 7.30 pm.

We will miss our older boys who will be moving on to Beavers. We wish them all the best and look forward to watching them progress through the different sections of scouting.

Paul, Ann, Jack and Mr Squirrel

SCOUTS

The Scouts are currently on summer holiday, but will return again in September. During the last few weeks of term the

Scouts enjoy the outdoors

enjoyed recently. There was a sausage sizzle held at Skip's house. The scouts made their own camp fire, chopped the

s of term the scouts were very busy. We attended the local Civic Service held in

St Patrick's Church and our Youth Service held in St Columba's Church.

Scouts always enjoy being outdoors, especially in the good weather which we have



Scouts attend St Columba's for the Uniformed Organizations Service

wood, and cooked the sausages, fish and marshmallows. We were

delighted to welcome Revd Iain along to help out with the cooking. Our last night of term was a trip to Waterfoot along with the Cubs.

We would like to thank everyone who has helped us out this year, and indeed everyone who has helped out in all the Scouting Sections. Your kindness is very much appreciated. For information on all Scouting Sections, or if you would like to enrol in any of our sections, please feel free to approach any of our leaders or visit our website www.stcolumbasscouts.co.uk

Skip

CUBS

Another year comes to an end, and once again it's been fun filled and action packed. The Cubs have worked hard all year and numerous badges have been awarded through their dedication to both attendance and the programme provided.

Badge work this year included disability awareness, fitness, communicator, first aid, fire safety and navigator. The Cubs got to try out some new activities this year, archery and wheelchair rugby, both of which were thoroughly enjoyed. We were assisted by visits from Disability Sports NI, Brian Gault, Ballymena Amateur Radio Club, Guide Dogs NI and Northern Ireland Assistance Dogs. As always the Cubs took part in various Mid Antrim District Events, coming in as runners up in the Cub Quiz we hosted in October.

We had some success at District Football, and by coming second we were able to attend the County competition and subsequently the Northern Ireland Football finals in Fivemiletown. Well done to all who took part in representing us at these events.

For this year's camp we continued our close links with St Patrick's Broughshane as 10 cubs headed off to the Baronscourt Scout Centre in Tyrone. Activities included bush-craft, orienteering, canoeing, treasure hunts and rafting. For many young people from both packs this was their first taste of camping, and the experience and memories will live long with them. Thanks must go to our Scouts who helped throughout the camp and especially with the canoeing activity.

Special Prizes for this year are:

Camp Awards

Cub of the Camp - Ben Millar Most Improved Cub - Robbie Hunter

Cub of the Year Awards

Winner - Emma Adams Runner-Up - Dylan Caldwell Third Place - Cameron Eagleson

Good luck to our older Cubs as they continue their adventure in Scouts, all of whom move on having attained the Chief Scout Silver Award, the highest award available to Cubs.

You can follow all our exploits at www.facebook.com/ballymenacubs. If anyone has a child aged 8 to 10 who would be interested in joining Cubs contact me on 079 8075 1721. We meet on Monday evenings in St Columba's from 7 pm to 8.30 pm.

We start back on **Monday 14th September 2015** and are always delighted to welcome new Cubs and Leaders. If anyone has any skills or resources they feel may be useful to our pack please get in touch.

Heather Hughes Cub Scout Leader

STILL ACTIVE CLUB

Another successful year has passed in the life of our club. We have had a varied programme.



In September our guest speaker was the Rev. John McClure who told us about his life and work experiences which culminated in him becoming an ordained minister. In October we had a full day meeting. In the morning Cheryl Sinclair talked about her forthcoming visit to Nepal and taught us how to make origami swans. We had lunch and in the afternoon three young people from Ballymena Council organised games for us - nothing too exhausting! We had tea prepared and served by Liz and Len Hughes and their band of helpers. November's speakers were

Elizabeth Nelson and Angela McClintock from West Church whose presentation was entitled 'Parable of a Cake Stand'. At our Christmas meeting we had Christmas dinner and then were entertained by Sandra Thompson who sang, accompanied by her brother Jim, and his wife Kathleen who recited some verse.

In January we decided to raise funds by having a bring and buy sale and we had a few rounds of a quiz. In February our speaker was Helen Allen with her House of Colour presentation. In March we had our traditional St Patrick's tide lunch and entertainment; Rod and Tracey McAuley played and sang, Alma Suthers recited some verse and Kirstin and Sophie did Irish dancing. We were joined on this occasion by the Rev. Alan Irwin and thirty of his parishioners from Lack in Co Fermanagh. In April we held our AGM and then our speaker was Robert Dick on the subject of old cures and medicines. The May meeting took the form of our summer outing to Hillmount Garden Centre, Newtownards, the Somme Heritage Centre and to Ballyblack Presbyterian Church for tea. We also had our usual visit in January to the Riverside Theatre to see 'Hairspray' followed by a meal in the Lodge Hotel.

I must thank people who helped make the year's programme run smoothly, especially the committee of Jean, Adelaide, Eva, Irene, Vera and Alex. They are willing workers who help to produce the year's programme and it is they, plus their friends who provide the afternoon tea each month. A big thanks has to go to Liz and Les Hughes who with their helpers cooked and served a meal for us at the October, December and March meetings. There are others who help and support us throughout the year; Lorraine and Sandra in the church office, John our caretaker, the Curates and the Rector and Ballymena Council for their grants to help us with meals and transport. We mustn't forget our club members who by their positive attitude and spirit make our meetings enjoyable. We have a strong club but there is still room for people from St Patrick's, especially men!

We are sorry that we lost Martha Caulfield this year, and we are thinking about members who have not been so well recently. We hope they will feel better over the summer.

Have a good holiday everybody, and see you in September.

Isabel

MOTHERS AND TODDLERS

We finished the year with a visit from Surestart who gave us a morning of action songs. Then on 9th June we had our party when we had some treats and sadly said goodbye to some of our little ones who are moving on to nursery school. Thank you to all our helpers, friends and members for their commitment and support which all helped make this another successful year for the Mother and Toddler Group. We start back on **8th September** and would welcome new faces, we have the perfect place, come and bring whoever pushes the buggy mum, dad, granny or your child minder! They might get to put their feet up, drink tea or coffee and chat to some other grown ups! See you there - Tuesday 8th September from 10.00 - 12.00 noon in the main

hall - £2 per adult, first two children free, for each additional child 50 p.

We hope everyone has a good summer and look forward to seeing everyone in September. God Bless.

Rota for September:-

DATE	NAME	FUNCTION
8 th Sept	Rosemary Stacey, Sandra McKay, Mary Cochrane and Jean Cunningham	Tea
	Bee Robinson	Welcoming
	Alex McKay and Eddie McClelland	Car Park
15 th Sept	Evonne Stinson, Eleanor Burnett, Vera Owens and Marlene Gray	Tea
	Mary Steele	Welcoming
	Oliver Reid, Robert McGimpsey and David Oliver	Car Park
22 nd Sept	Dorothy Hegan, Isabel Halliday, Karin Agnew and Sandra Duke	Tea
	Ann Fisher	Welcoming
	Jackie McMaster/Jimmy Tuff	Car Park
29 th Sept	Ruth Murray, Isabell Adair and Nell McIlwee	Tea
	Liz Bodel	Welcoming
	Bob Peachey	Car Park

The Mothers and Toddlers group are very sorry that Liz Bodel has decided to step down as a leader. However, we are most grateful to her for agreeing to help us once per month by remaining on the tea and welcoming rota. We would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all her help and assistance over the past years.

Dorothy, Anna and Anne



CHURCH LADS' BRIGADE

Just to let the Parish know that £150 was collected on Parents' Night. The money was sent to the Leprosy Mission in Nepal who sent the following reply:

You have done something really wonderful. Thank you.

We have safely received your gift for Nepal and it is already being used to send supplies to Anandaban Hospital so that injured people can be treated and helped. Staff at the hospital have been in tears at the overwhelming generous response of people like you - people who are standing with them in their need and distress. It means such a lot.

The Mission's Country Leader for Nepal, Shovakhar, asked me to pass his message of thanks on:

"I am Shovakhar Kandel the National Director for Leprosy Mission Nepal.

I would like to really say thank you for your amazing response to the appeal that we made for the brothers and sisters in Nepal. On behalf of our dear friends, family, patients and neighbours from miles around, who are very badly affected by the devastating earthquake - thank you.

The world is with us. That is one of the amazing things that I will share with my team. We are very, very grateful for your support and we really appreciate the value of your help."

Because of your kindness and generosity the staff at Anandaban Hospital are able to carry out life-saving treatment on many injured people who are continuing to arrive every day. They have also been able to travel out to remote areas and help people there who have lost everything. Please continue to remember the people of Nepal in your prayers.

Thank you for your support at this time of great need.

With every blessing.

Joanne Briggs, National Director



national The five-a-side football was played in Lisburn on Saturday 20th June.



Ballymena U-15 and Ballymena U-16 were champions once again.

The officers and boys deeply regret the death of former officer William Killen and pass on sympathies to the family.

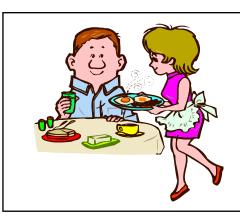
Alan Ross

MOTHERS' UNION

'Afternoon Tea' at Galgorm Manor - Fri- Mothers day 31st July at 2.30 pm. Cost £19.95. Christian care for families Please let Anne or Jean know by 17th July if you intend to be present.



Jean Kennedy (Sec)



Catering

Catering for funeral teas continue to be provided within the parish. We provide sausage rolls, cocktail sausages, sandwiches and tray bakes at a cost of £5 per head. As well as providing a service to the congregation it also provides a small income for the Church. However, helpers are becoming a bit 'thin on the ground' for various perfectly understandable reasons such as illness, family commitments etc. None of us are getting any younger and catering can be very tiring but also very rewarding. So, if there is anyone who feels they could help with catering please make contact. We desperately need some younger people to volunteer and believe it or not that would include recently retired people. To those already on the list, please don't be offended re the age thing! You are a very important part of the team and much appreciated.

The names of those who are presently on the catering team list are as follows:

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

Jean Eaton Barbara Fleming Tilly Fleming Mary Galbraith Rosalie Grainger Vera Greer Isobel Halliday Moira Heaton Dorothy Hegan Joan Holden Heather Houston Liz Hughes Stephanie Johnston Jean Kennedy June Livingstone Sarah McClung

Nicola McCombe Vicky McCrum Patricia McWhirter Nina Marrs Anna Mitchell Kelsey Monaghan Cathy Moore Ruth Murray Brenda Nixon Judith Orr Vera Owens Maureen Patterson Irene Rodgers Christine Soar Rosemary Stacey **Evonne Stinson**

Hilary Strain Margaret Telford Joan Weir

Some ladies are unable to help at the actual events but are happy to make tray bakes, etc, often at short notice, and this is also greatly appreciated. Their names are listed below:-

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

A list of gentlemen willing to help also exists as follows:-

Alan Adair
Jim Adams
Bill Balmer
St Clair Beatty
Derek Bell
Peter Chestnutt
Jim Clements
Christie Colhoun
Barry Duke

Jackie Greer
Dave Heaton
Les Hughes
Harry Johnston
John McClung
Adrian McCombe
Alex McKay
Eric McKee
Alastair Marrs

John Mawhinney Walter Murray David Nelson Ivan Stacey William Stinson David Strain Colin Watt

Gentlemen, please let me know if you wish your name to be removed from this list. This list was originally compiled from the list of helpers when we catered at the Traction Engine Rally at the Showgrounds. However, your help is invaluable on many occasions so you might find yourselves being called upon more regularly in the future - so get your aprons ready!

As well as providing funeral teas the Catering Team is asked, on occasions, to provide a catering service for other functions and it has now become difficult to continue this service. One of these functions is coming up very soon ie the traditional catering for the Orangemen on the 12th July (Monday, 13th this year). Last year the helpers for this were few so I am appealing for more help this year. When I receive confirmation of the numbers attending this year the usual lists will be placed at the back of the three churches.

Liz Hughes, Tel: 2564 3088



Stepping Down

Canon Stuart Lloyd is stepping down as Rector of Kilconriola and Ballyclug at the end of October. His has been a truly remarkable 26 year ministry. During his tenure he has played an immensely important role, not just in our parish but also within the Diocese and indeed within our wider community. His self-effacing modesty belies his unique ability to manage the whole range of responsibilities - and expectations - which come from being incumbent of a large urban parish such as ours. Never one to seek the limelight or public recognition we, as parishioners, realise the incredible dedication he has shown to this place. A man of remarkably strong personal faith his prayerful approach to all situations has allowed him to deal with many difficult situations in a sensitive and effective manner.

As he and his family plan to leave our parish and move to their new home in Broughshane, we have an opportunity to show our appreciation for his selfless dedication to this parish. We are aware that in his characteristically humble way he would try to ensure the minimum of fuss. It is planned to hold his final service in St Patrick's. This will be a combined parish act of worship, which will adequately reflect the rich diversity and quality of worship, which Canon Lloyd has nurtured during his ministry in Ballymena. After the service we will retire to the church hall where we can enjoy a time of fellowship with the Rector and with one another, also a bite to eat, followed by the presentation of gifts and a few speeches. The churches music groups will provide some background entertainment.

It is hoped that as many parishioners as possible will be able to attend as this provides us with a unique opportunity to show our appreciation for his faithful service, his wise counsel and his thoughtful leadership. More details will follow in our September magazine.

After much consideration we have decided that we should give every parishioner the opportunity to contribute, in a tangible way, to the Rector's 'farewell presentation'. We appreciate the significant financial contribution which you already make to the running of our parish, but we know that you will want to make a contribution to this very special 'collection'. Hopefully we will be in a position to make a presentation, which appropriately recognises the long and faithful service of ministry from which we have all benefited.

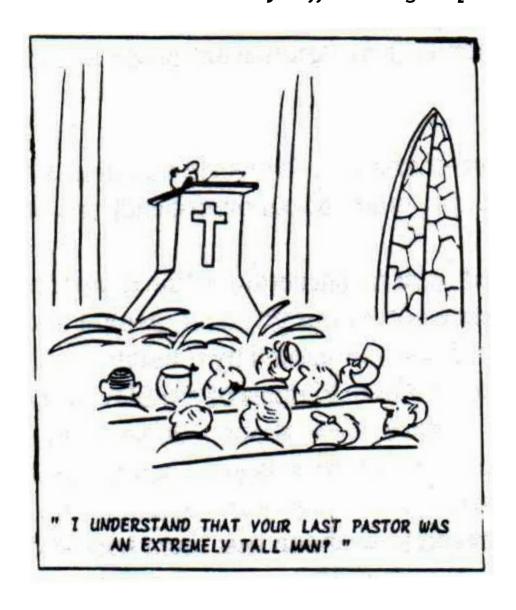
Thank you in anticipation of your support and we look forward to seeing you at the Rector's final service for our parish.

Hopefully we can, together, ensure that this day will be long remembered not just by Canon Lloyd and his family but also by our whole parish family.

Stephanie Johnston: Rosalie Grainger [St Patrick's]

Nicola Burnett: Jackie Greer [Ballyclug]

Jimmy Tuff: Les Hughes [St Columba's]





Secretary's Notes

It has been quite a quiet month since the last magazine came out, with no obvious work to be seen going on around the Parish, but in the background things have been moving on.

Regrettably another outbreak of dry-rot has appeared in St Patrick's, this time in the timber above the chancel arch at the top of the nave, and this will have to be treated again and monitored to see if it shows any sign of spreading further or if it is just an isolated occurrence. The organ is all back in working order again and it is good to hear it once more at services. We have been giving some thought as well to providing a more permanent and appropriate space within the church for the ministry of prayer, perhaps creating a small side chapel in the south transept which is never used now.

At Ballyclug the work to damp-proof the walls has been carried out and it is now a matter of allowing enough time for it to dry out again before any redecorating can be done, while at St Columba's the exterior rendered surfaces will be getting new paint to try to protect the surface a bit better.

The report on the rectory has now been received and the Glebe-wardens are examining the proposals with a view to drawing up and costing a schedule of works for the necessary renovations there. Once this is done we hope to proceed to have the work carried out as quickly as possible to make the house an attractive proposition for any possible new clergy who might be interested in coming to Ballymena. Thanks to Ronnie Fleming for making a start on the work we can do ourselves by cleaning and repairing the render on the garden walls there prior to repainting. Thanks also to David and Stuart for their good work in renovating and re-painting the summer seats around St Patrick's front lawn.

I hope that you all have a good summer and enjoy your holidays when they come.

All the Best, Alastair



Dear friends,

Kathmandu, Nepal June 1, 2015

Nepal

"There is no one like the God of Jeshurun, who rides on the heavens to help you and on the clouds in his majesty. The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms." Deut. 33:26 and 27

It is now over a month since Nepal experienced 'the great earthquake'. You may remember that on April 25, an earthquake measuring 7.8 on the Richter scale struck, with an epic enter in Gorkha district, northwest of Kathmandu. Its effect spread east and south, rippling through the Kathmandu valley and surrounding districts, with devastating avalanches in the Langtang and Everest Himalayas. The worst-affected district was Sindupalchowk, northeast of Kathmandu, where more than 90% of houses in the small towns and rural villages were destroyed. The death toll from this first earthquake was about 8,000.

Amongst the frequent strong aftershocks was a further earthquake of magnitude 7.3 on May 12th. This time the epic enter was northeast of Kathmandu, and it brought significant destruction to the district of Dolakha, which neighbours Sindupalchowk. In Dolakha many houses damaged in the initial earthquake were brought completely down, but the death toll was much less because so many people were already living outside in tents.

Throughout this time, many of you have been in touch with us to express your concern and to encourage us. Thank you for all your support and prayers. This is a brief update of the situation now that Nepal has dropped off the international media's agenda!

Life in Kathmandu is returning to normal, a process has taken an important step forward with the reopening of local schools, albeit many in 'temporary learning centres'. Unfortunately, the frequent aftershocks, particularly the May 12 earthquake, frightened many residents so that they no longer trusted that the worst was over, and further delayed returning to their homes and workplaces. In fact, just 10% of buildings in Kathmandu collapsed or need demolishing, and so residents who continue to live in tents are a significant number, but definitely a minority. Three very distinct areas in the city suffered the most destruction and deaths, and here dangerous buildings have been marked with red paint or ribbons, propped up with anything from steel scaffold to strong bamboo poles, and are being dismantled by hand to recover as much of the building materials as possible. Beyond these areas, the small piles of rubble, the holes in the road to repair water pipes, and the labourers patching broken walls don't look so out-of-place in a city that is always somewhat dusty and dishevelled. Hospitals in the city have coped well with the medical emergency and, with a little help from some foreign teams, were able to deal efficiently with both local injuries and critical cases referred from surrounding districts. The government has announced compensation for those made homeless as well as authorizing low interest loans for rebuilding, although many are concerned about how to access these facilities. These measures also do not address the needs of the many poor tenants whose shoddy housing collapsed and who are now struggling to find cheap rooms as landlords dramatically increase rents.

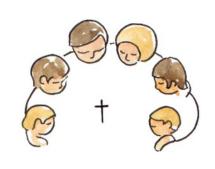
Out in surrounding rural areas, both within the Kathmandu valley and beyond to the worst-affected districts, the situation is much more severe. Frequently whole villages have collapsed as the traditional mud-and-brick 2-to-3 storey houses were literally shaken apart. Aftershocks have led to deadly landslides, including one on May 12 which wiped out an aid convoy and a village in Dolakha where our church has a daughter fellowship. Relief agencies continue to struggle to get aid to the most remote villages, but in many communities emergency supplies and shelter have now been delivered. The courage and resilience of Nepalis, sadly earned through a history of floods and landslides, can be seen as families deal with the dead and then patiently begin the enormous task of rebuilding their lives, recovering what they can from the debris and starting to construct shelters from wood frames and tin sheeting. The race is on now to ensure that communities have adequate protection before the monsoon rains arrive mid-June, and also that they are secure enough and have sufficient seed to be able to go out and plant their rice paddies at that time. A longer-term effort is underway to address such areas as sanitation, nutrition, child protection and gender-based violence, chronic issues that are of even greater concern in stressed and displaced communities.

We ourselves are living very normal routines at present: our home has just a few superficial cracks, our boys are back at school, and Mark and I are going to work as usual. Neither of our organizations has expertise in relief work, nor do we have close ties to the worst-affected districts, so on the whole we are carrying on with the chronic challenges related to improving health care and nutrition status for communities throughout the country. The one exception to this is that NSI does have a relationship with Dolakha district hospital in Jiri, which suffered major damage to almost every building in the May 12 earthquake. NSI will be developing plans with the hospital to support their long-term reconstruction. Coincidentally, NPCS carried out a small nutrition training project in the Jiri area some years ago, and we are now hoping to deliver some supplementary nutrition packages to those communities over the monsoon months.

As a family, we feel we are managing the stress of the last month reasonably well. Certainly we have not endured any significant difficulty, although we have Nepali friends who have lost family members or are trying to work out new accommodation. Mainly we have had to deal with a greater level of uncertainty and a more disrupted routine than usual. We do feel a bit tired, but that is normal for this time of year, as the heat and humidity increase rapidly before the monsoon rains, the school year draws to a close, and many expatriate friends leave Nepal either permanently or temporarily for the summer. We are thankful for your prayers that have given us strength and peace throughout this time, and also for a wonderful gift from friends to take a break and visit them for their daughter's wedding next week. We of course continue to ask for your prayers for Nepal: for wisdom and integrity in the entire process of distributing aid and planning longer-term reconstruction, that the poorest and most marginalized groups will not be overlooked as they so often are. Please also pray that God's hand would be over the weather: adequate and timely rains are needed across the country for good rice production, but communities are more vulnerable than ever to floods and landslides this season.

With continued appreciation for your support,

Deirdre, Mark, Zachary and Benjamin.



Prayer Ministry

Prayer ministry will continue to be available after morning and evening service in St Patrick's during July and August.

The prayer support teams will have no designated team leaders during July and August.

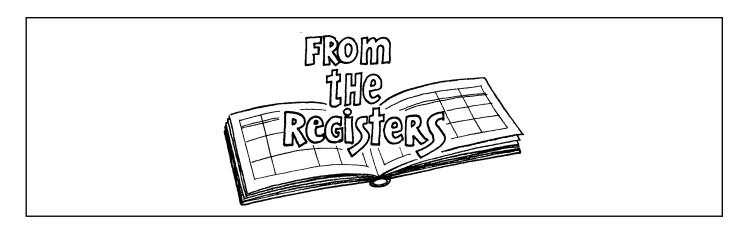
Should you have a prayer request, please contact any one of the team leaders or one of the clergy and this will be passed down a team.

There will also be the 8.00 am prayer time on the 4th July and 1st August. This takes place in the Jubilee room.

Team Leaders:-

Adelaide Nimick	2564 0865
Alex McKay	2564 4698
Heather Barr	2564 1047
Eleanor Burnett	075 1736 5589
Doreen Cowan	2564 4709
Millicent McClelland	077 9173 6117





HOLY BAPTISM



28th June Isaac Robert Wilson

4 Kildrum Court, Ballymena

CHRISTIAN BURIAL



13th May Violet Gilmour 25 Circular Road, Ballymena

13th June William Killen 35 Old Park Avenue, Ballymena

26th June Rosamund McCrory 1 Bellville, Ballymena

Violet Gilmour

Having reached a good age Violet died peacefully in her own home. She was brought up in the parish and was a quiet person with a quiet but strong faith. She liked to read and was reading novels up until weeks before her death. She was a good mother to Vivien, Jennifer, Mavis, Sandy and the late Wilfred and spent much of her life caring for others. Her family recognise that her devotion to them and love for them was very strong and she will be sadly missed. We remember the family as they seek to cope with their loss.

William Killen

William (Billy) Killen had not enjoyed good health for some time. He faced many challenges with his health but these he faced bravely and with good humour making his family smile even on his most difficult days. St Patrick's and Ballyclug were a major part of his life. As a boy he sang in the choir. He joined the C.L.B. with his brothers Bobby and Fergus. He went on to become an officer and trained the Bugle Band and the boys in gymnastics. His family remember with pride every time he played the Last Post on Remembrance Sunday. He always found this particularly nerve wrecking but felt this was a job he should do. Billy liked military memorabilia and history and was also very good at mending things. Billy had a guiet personality but was a faithful servant of the Lord. His family were central to his life. He did all he could to make sure that his wife Wilma, son Liam and daughters, Helene and Barbara were all cared for and wanted for nothing. He doted on his grandchildren Matthew and Lyla who adored their wonderful grandfather. Billy and Wilma were a devoted couple who were married for 55 years. Billy was lovingly and tenderly cared for by Wilma and this will leave a great void in her life. Our sincere and heartfelt sympathy to Wilma, son Liam, daughters Helene, Barbara and the family circle.

Rosamund McCrory

The death of Rosamund was sudden and a great shock to the family. It was especially a great blow to her husband Billy who is greatly handicapped physically. Not only was Rosamund his loving wife but also his chief carer - there for him at all times. She grew up in the Rectory Estate though with Harryville links and was pleased later in life to move to that

area. She loved her gardening and indeed had spent the last day of her life planting. She and Billy were not ones for going too far afield and took great pride in looking after their house. Rosamund doted on her grandson Finn - indeed she had already bought his birthday presents. At this time we remember not only Billy and young Finn but of course Amanda, Rosamund and Billy's daughter.





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 Hughes
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 35	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