

Parish of Kilconriola and Ballyclug

PARISH MAGAZINE

DECEMBER 2015/JANUARY 2016



Diocese of Connor - Parish of Kilconriola and Ballyclug

WHO'S WHO IN OUR PARISH



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Web Site - ballymena.connor.anglican.org and Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/ballymenaparish>

Open - Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR: Mrs Lorraine McBride

CHURCH WARDENS

St Patrick's	Rector's	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 St Columba's	Mr John Linton Miss Margaret Mawhinney
Organists	St Patrick's St Columba's	Mr Frank Hewitt and Mr Adrian Poston Mrs Sandra Montgomery



The Curate's Letter

Every Advent magazine readers are told that Advent is a time of waiting and reflection. This year it is even more so. We are uncertain about the future. Who will be our new rector? What will he (or she) be like? Will they be young and energetic and brimming over with new ideas - and if so how are the traditional types going to deal with that? Or will they be reassuringly older and traditional, and if so how are the contemporary types going to deal with that? Or might they be like our former rector, heroically trying (and to a large extent succeeding) to tread, with diplomacy and moderation, a delicate and perhaps ever-vanishing line between both approaches? Like a pilot guiding a vessel through dangerous underwater rocks, over and over again. (We might call this the 'Rowan Williams' approach to Church leadership). Or what if they are young and traditional, or old and contemporary? There are endless permutations and we await the future with baited breath. We do not envy the parochial nominators who will make the decision.

It is suggested that it will be six months before we have a rector. Let's hope that's so, because for that to happen everything will need to go smoothly with no hold-ups, and vacancies can extend to a year or longer.

Giving through the CRG envelopes has dropped this year. Although giving for buildings and renovations has remained steady. Interesting. People clearly value their church and its buildings and that is no bad thing. We have a beautiful church. There could be different reasons for this of course, the town is entering something of a financial decline, our congregation is getting older, secularism is rising. It's too early to know whether we are seeing a trend, but if this is a trend we have to look at what the implications of this will be. If giving drops at the rate it has this year then in ten years (I imagine) this parish will not be able to employ any paid staff and in twenty years we will perhaps not even be able to pay a

minister. Or perhaps only a minister paid by the hour for his services. We would be a very different sort of church then.

This church and the worldwide church are not going to die. Christianity is a very powerful idea and will survive because it explains so much, and offers a hope which no other organization can. But the actual set up of the church may change very dramatically. Some people feel this is a bad thing, to be avoided at all costs, but the church has always been in a state of flux since the earliest days, and will continue to do so. Some of us had lunch yesterday at Hillside Community Church, the immediate neighbour to St Columba's. Hillside has no salaried minister or paid staff, and so far as I could see it is a fine church with (I believe) a strong tradition of Bible teaching and a warm and welcoming community spirit. We cannot say that Hillside is any less of a church than we are. But if we appreciate the things that we have, our paid clergy and staff, our fine buildings, and all the many and varied activities which make our parish life so busy and full, then they have to be paid for. Please consider whether you might not be able to give a little more. Some of you own properties and might consider bequests in your will. A few legacies like the moderate sized one we received this year would make a lot of difference.

There are many different sorts of rectors who have different ideas about what a good church should look like. I am going to take this opportunity, just in case I never get another! to say what I think a good church is.

I am struck by Jesus' famous 'Two Commandments'. Jesus was asked by one of his followers, "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" That is rather a difficult one to be hit with on the spot, don't you think, and Jesus gave a very interesting answer. He took as his starting point the famous Shema (Deuteronomy 6:4) the most important verse in the Bible, the call of Israel, the foundational statement of Judaism. He then moved to the following verse, Deuteronomy 6:5 "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and with all your strength" and he amended it slightly and came up with a new instruction: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. The second is like it, you shall love your neighbour as yourself." This is very important for two reasons, firstly because Jesus demands that love is not just for God but has to be demonstrated towards other people as well. So love now becomes the very centre of our faith. Secondly is the inclusion in Jesus version of the word 'mind'. One of the greatest problems of the church

at the moment is what you might call 'anti-intellectualism'. It seems more and more common to play down learning, study and theology and reduce Christianity to talking about love and feelings. Even among trainee ministers you may meet many who seem suspicious of the whole enterprise of study, Bible scholarship is neglected, biblical languages are less and less studied, many Christians will tell you how important the Bible is, and yet show little interest in actually studying the Bible in depth. There is also a lack of interest in the world of the Bible and in theology generally.

You may feel I am going on too much. But let me say this: after Jesus died, and for the first few years afterwards, Christianity was not in any sense a 'religion' it was a tiny movement of isolated terrified individuals, who were in fear of their lives. Within 300 years it became the religion of the Roman Empire, and even now is still the most influential and geographically widespread religion in the world, the largest religion on every continent of the world except Asia. How did the Christian faith make this extraordinary and astonishing transformation from micro movement to mass-religion? Because it was intellectually credible. It satisfied the heart and the mind. It offered a coherent account of the world: How it was created, who created it, what was expected of the world, how it fell into sin and corruption, why people are wicked and cruel, of the creator's despair and his continuing love for his children, and of his plan to rescue us from what we deserve through Christ. It tells of the birth and life of Jesus, his teaching, how he was killed and how he was resurrected, how his death saves us from death because he has died for us, how we can be redeemed, and made perfect again, as we were meant to be. No other faith or creed has ever offered all this. The Christian faith is a rich, powerful and complex body of thought which is capable of explaining everything, and therefore people flocked to it. This new intellectually superior religion offered much more than the previous shallow worship of the false Roman and other pagan gods. Unfortunately Christianity sometimes now seems to be stepping back from explaining and teaching this intellectually-satisfying faith. We need to resist this emotional feeling-based approach to faith very vigorously.

So in my opinion a good church is one which does a lot of teaching, Bible Study and preaching. We need to offer the people of Ballymena something much better than they believe in already. Which seems to me to be a mish-mash of paganism, Unionism, Orangeism, vague post-Christian

ethics, humanism and New-Age spirituality, mixed with a heavy dose of selfishness, materialism and sentimentality.

Secondly, and this is related to Jesus' 'Second Commandment', a good church needs to be a loving community. Newcomers to our churches should be able to enter and feel the love that is in us. They should not come in and hear the talk about love from the pulpit and not see it in the behaviour of the people. The theory and the practice. Not the practice without the theory because that is not the Christian faith, nor the theory without the practice for that is hypocrisy.

So in summary a good church needs to be of the head, (intellectually stimulating and satisfying) and of the heart (a warm loving community). Ultimately all other things don't perhaps matter so very much.

So we wait for a new rector, we also wait the birth of Christ over the next month of Advent: God in human form, the in-breaking of the goodness and hope of God, into a brutal and fallen world.

Ian Turner



**I want some better hymns
for Christmas vicar!**



Thought for this time of year

Why the table is the secret ingredient?

One of the central occurrences of the holiday season is the gathering of family and friends around a table. It is one of the rare times in our modern lives that the table becomes central in our homes. But what if this wasn't just the case during Thanksgiving and Christmas? Turns out, if we brought back the table, we would dramatically change the world we live in and help return us to our rootedness in Christ.

If we were to make the table the most sacred object of furniture in every home, in every church, in every community, our faith would quickly regain its power, and our world would quickly become a better place. The table is the place where identity is born - the place where the story of our lives is retold, re-minded, and relived.

Humans are wired for story. We become our stories. When we go in search of our identity, we don't look for values or principles or world-views; we look for fireworks in the sky, synapses that cause our cells to fire together and wire together. Story and image are the protons and neutrons swirling in the cells of our self-concept. At the sub cellular level, we don't crave a tablet full of values and principles and props; at the core of who we are, we crave a *narraphor*, (a story with metaphors that help us understand the world, ourselves, and God better).

Given that our culture's primal, primary language of identity is narraphor, our families and churches ought to be flourishing! But something is missing from our lives - something that nourishes us with the narraphors that build our identity and stabilize our relationships. We know that families are defined by the stories they generate, by the stories they remember together over and over. Christian families are defined by the story of Jesus and God's relationship to humanity throughout history. And this story of our identity as a Christian people is relayed through the

narraphors we tell ourselves, our children, and our grandchildren around the table generation after generation. Narraphors are our 'table talk'. But modern Christianity has sold out to a fast-paced, word-based, verse-backed, principles-driven template for truth, a handy little tablet of rules and regulations.

The thing is, truth is not a template. Truth is a person. And our relationship with Jesus - the Way, the Truth, and the Life - happens when narraphors are passed around the table. Stories build our identity as a person and as a people, and the server, the platform, is the table.

The story of Christianity didn't take shape behind pulpits or on altars or in books. No, the story of Christianity takes shape around tables, as people face one another as equals, telling stories, sharing memories, enjoying food with one another.





Parish News

BISHOPS' APPEAL

Although we are confronted with many appeals for good causes we still want to support the annual Bishops' Appeal which is the Church of Ireland's World Aid and Development Programme. This does respond with immediate grants when there are disasters but mostly it is concerned with supporting ongoing development work. This is primarily in the areas of Health, Rural Development and Education. In 2014 contributions from parishes throughout the Church of Ireland amounted to £212,917.

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

ADVENT

During Advent we will be having our mid week evening service in Ballyclug. This will take place on the first 3 Wednesdays of December - 2nd, 9th and 16th at 8 pm.

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

The details are:-

2nd December - St Patrick's Church
9th December - West Church
16th December - Ballymena Methodist
23rd December - All Saints.

**ADVANCE NOTICE - 12 DECEMBER
2 - 5.30 PM - YOUR COMMUNITY
NEEDS YOU! YES YOU!**

After last year's successful summer and Christmas events St Columba's hope to join again this year with Ballyloughan and Hillside churches in a Christmas collaboration to serve the Doury Road/Dunclug Community. This year we hope to join SPARK at a one off Christmas Club for children which they are providing at Dunclug Community Centre between roughly 3 - 5 pm. We need people (who like children) to do the following things: mingle and talk with children, join in with games and

activities, help cook some food, help serve a little informal 'Christmas Dinner' to the children at the end of the event, entertain children by telling stories, singing or being funny, wash up. The main part of the club will last 90 minutes and our slot perhaps half an hour after that. Please consider whether you might help as we need to be serving God by engaging with our community. It could also hopefully be a lot of fun. If you can't do the whole slot one hour is fine or whatever time you have.

2016 ENVELOPES

CRG envelopes for 2016 are now available for distribution - bags at the back of churches. A sincere thank you to the small faithful team who prepare the envelopes for distribution and to the many who complete the task by delivering them directly to your door. Without the help of everyone involved this would be a huge task and we are extremely grateful to you all. Those living in the country areas will find their envelopes at the back of church.

Please note the accounts will close on 31st December - any money received after that date will be assigned to the following year.

STUDENT LUNCH PROGRAMME

A small team provide a lunch for students and/or staff of the Northern Regional College, Ballymena: toasted cheese and ham sandwiches and hot dogs. Small donations are

accepted if offered but not required. Please spread the word. Many interesting conversations have been had with people we would not normally meet.

Please help us on a Thursday if you are free.

Those who offer to help may eat toasties. These are strangely addictive.

Iain - On behalf of the Student Lunches Team

FOOD BANK

The parish continues to be a large and important donor to the Food Bank. Thank you very much indeed to everyone who donated. You don't just talk about charity you do it. In October we donated 313.7 lbs.

The Food Bank sometimes runs a little short of particular types of food and at the moment is in need of - *powdered mashed potatoes, tinned vegetables, tinned meats, toiletries, selection boxes and children's sweets.*

Please keep on giving as you are doing us proud.

Iain

A WORD OF THANKS FROM ST COLUMBA'S

A big THANK YOU to all volunteers who served as welcomers, lesson and prayer readers, Powerpoint compilers and car park attendants during the past year, not forgetting

Lorraine and Sandra in the Parish Office who helped make it all possible.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Jimmy Tuff, Rota Organiser

PRAYER SPACE IN ST PATRICK'S

I would like to thank all those involved in the setting up of the Prayer Space - To the Glory of God and in Memory of Maurice (25th October, 2015).

A big thank you to the Clergy, particularly the Rector for all his hard work and for the lovely dedication.

Thanks also must go to the Church Wardens of Saint Patrick's and the Select Vestry, to Lorraine and Sandra in the Parish Office, to Richard Todd for drawing a selection of plans, to Ronnie Fleming for his carpentry work, to Jim Lynch for organising the dedication plaque, and to Jean Kennedy for her sewing skills.

A special word of thanks to John our sexton, whose hard work over the past few weeks is really appreciated. Everything looks so well.

I trust that many people will use the Prayer Space and that God will bless them and continue to bless the great work of prayer which means so much in our parish. Since January 2014, I have been blessed with the wonderful friendship given to me by so many people. All your prayers are much appreciated.

Irene

SHOE BOX APPEAL

This year we collected 140 boxes from the Parish - a great effort and thanks to all who participated. We are grateful to the anonymous donor for continuing to supply the project with the boxes.

*Jean,
Liz and Les*

RECTOR'S PRESENTATION

It was a privilege and pleasure for me to be able to make a presentation to the rector on behalf of the entire parish at the service of thanksgiving for his ministry on 1st November. The final total was £12,000 - included with the cheque was a list of the names of those who contributed.

Thank you to all who helped in any way to give the rector a fitting 'send off' and for your generosity.

Lorraine

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

'First Light' Christmas Celebration in aid of Cancer Focus NI. This is a choir with singers from different churches in First Ballymena Presbyterian on 12th December at 7.30 pm.

CHRISTMAS TREE - ST PATRICK'S

Volunteers required please to help decorate the Christmas tree in St Patrick's on Monday 14th December. Please contact the Rev. John on 078 4186 6414 if you are able to help.



Secretary's Notes

The Select Vestry continues to meet as usual because even though we do not have a rector in place the business of the parish and our dealings with the outside world still carry on. For the time being we meet under the Chairmanship of our Rural Dean, Rev. David Ferguson who is rector of Ramoan (Ballycastle) and we are grateful to him for keeping us on track. The work of looking after the buildings and grounds carries on anyway, and although there are some things which we don't perhaps want to address until we have the new management in place, much of the maintenance and upkeep is self-evident and more or less decides for itself that it has to be carried out. This month that means the hall roof, where many of you will have known for a while that there was a leak where a slate had come adrift. That particular problem has been fixed but an inspection of the rest of the roof while the cherry-picker was on-site has identified a further problem which wasn't visible from the ground and will now need to be dealt with before it gets worse.

You will have noticed too I expect the loss of another of the chestnut trees in the Castle Street grounds, sadly that tree did indeed carry a lot of rot and was dying anyway. We will now look to replace it in the spring with one or two new plantings for future congregations to enjoy. I imagine we will try for native deciduous trees again, but let any member of the Select Vestry know if you have a particular favourite that you'd like to see planted, or indeed any that you really do not want.

The big issue at the moment for us of course is the rectory and how to bring it up to the standard expected now by the R.C.B. Our plans having been drawn up, were sent to Dublin for approval by the R.C.B. Planning Committee, but I regret to say they would not give approval, telling us to re-think a couple of areas. There will be another site meeting at the rectory with the Diocesan Plans Group before you read this, and in the meantime the official 'Vacancy Survey' has been carried out by the Diocesan appointed surveyors, although we have not yet had their report.

It is all very frustrating when we had hoped to be able to seek tenders for the work by now but I suppose it isn't surprising to be delayed when the decisions we hope to take have to be ratified by other Committees in higher places. For now all I can tell you is that I'll keep you up to date as and when anything concrete is agreed. It is doubly disappointing of course because not knowing when the house will be ready does not help attract candidates for the rector's post.

For now though we can all look forward to Christmas coming up again fast, and I hope you will all enjoy a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Alastair





CHRISTMAS

St Patrick's, Ballymena

Sunday 20th December 2015

- 8.15 am Holy Communion 1
11.30 am Sunday School
 Nativity Service
6.30 pm Festival of Nine
 Lessons and Carols
 by Candlelight

24th December - Christmas Eve

- 11.30 pm Holy Communion 1

Christmas Day

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

Sunday 27th December 2015

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

31st December 2015

- 11.15 pm Watchnight Service

SERVICES

St Columba's, Dunclog

Sunday 20th December 2015

11.30 am Holy Communion

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

Christmas Day

10.30 am Family Communion 2

Sunday 27th December 2015

11.30 am Carols and
Reflections

St Patrick's, Ballyclug

Sunday 20th December 2015

10.00 am Service of Lessons
and Carols

Christmas Day

10.00 am Holy Communion 1

Sunday 27th December 2015

10.00 am Holy Communion 1





On Sunday 15th November Energize took the theme of social media as this is very prevalent to the lives of young people. Firstly we enjoyed some one minute challenges with our friends from Ahoghill. We then looked at the different types of social media and how commonly they are used. We got into groups and discussed the positives and negatives of social media and how it affects us and then we looked at what the Bible says in Matthew 15:10-20. After discussions we played the jam relay. This was to show us that what we add to social media can become stuck, and just like jam it can never come off once it has been put on. We then got back into our groups and looked at how God wants us to act towards social media and how we should use it to glorify God. We finished by looking at a video clip, reflection and prayer and of course food. We hope to meet our friends from Ahoghill at Engage in Antrim for the Christmas party on Saturday 12th December.

On Wednesday 4th November four parents went to a parent talk in Green Pastures which was very good. From this we were able to get some resources on giving our own parent talks - one for the primary years and one for the teenage years. We hope to run these courses in the New Year.

Confirmation classes are nearing the end and we hope the young people have enjoyed them and feel that they are more prepared for their confirmation. This month we covered the topics of The Creed, The Commandments, Baptism and Holy Communion. We also attended the Living Faith Service together. There will be a short service of preparation and rehearsal on Saturday 5th December at 6.00 pm. The Bishop will take the Confirmation service on Sunday 6th December at 6.30 pm. We will meet again on Monday 7th December to look at how we can move on as members within the church after confirmation.

Youth club had a pyjama and DVD night on Saturday 21st November to raise money for Children in Need. We were nice and snug in our pyjamas

while it was raining outside. A great night was had by all and we raised £100.



Youth Club will finish for Christmas on **Saturday 12th December** and restart on **Saturday 9th January 2016**.

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

Our Sunday School Carol Service will be held on **Sunday 20th December at 11.30 am**. Children should meet in church at **11.10 am**. They will perform a nativity play during the service and there will be mince pies and tea at the end.

Christian Aid Family Appeal

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

receiving of presents. These envelopes will be given with the collection at the Carol Service.

Sunday school will start again on **Sunday 4th January 2016**.

On **Sunday 17th January** we will have a Family Christingle Service at 10.15 am in church followed by refreshments and arts and crafts in the hall.

Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year for 2016 to all our young people and leaders.

Lucy and Alan



**CHRISTMAS
PARTY**

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

***Saturday 12th December
St Patrick's Church Hall
7 to 8 pm***

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

**No Senior Youth Club
INSTEAD
Engage Christmas Party
Saturday 12th December
Antrim
Bus leaving St Patrick's at 6.30 pm**



Around the Parish

CHURCH LADS' BRIGADE

Thanks to all the boys and girls for their splendid turnout at our Enrolment Service and to the parents for their support.



Friday, **11th December**, it's the Christmas Party night - usual times - no uniforms required.

Our Annual Jumble Sale will be held on Friday, **4th March 2016**. This will give everyone a good chance to have a clear out over Christmas and New Year. More details in February magazine.

All the leaders would like to thank you for your continued support throughout the year and wish all your families a very Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Alan Ross

MOTHERS AND TODDLERS



We had two visits to our group in November; the Gideon Organisation and Surestart. The children and leaders enjoyed making cute hedgehogs and you can see photographs of our efforts on the church Facebook page - Ballymena Parish. Many thanks to Helen Weir for taking photographs each week for Facebook.

Our year finishes on **8th December** with a Christmas Party when we will have a very important guest! We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the helpers involved in the successful running of our group throughout 2015 and we will host a lunch for you on Monday **11th January 2016**. Invitations to follow.

The group resumes on **5th January 2016.**

Rota for December and January:-

DATE	NAME	FUNCTION
1 st Dec	Rosemary Stacey, Sandra McKay, Mary Cochrane and Jean Cunningham	Tea
	Bee Robinson	Welcoming
	Alex McKay and Eddie McClelland	Car Park
8 th Dec	Evonne Stinson, Eleanor Burnett, Vera Owens and Marlene Gray	Tea
	Mary Steele	Welcoming
	Oliver Reid and David Oliver	Car Park
5 th Jan	Rosemary Stacey, Sandra McKay, Mary Cochrane and Jean Cunningham	Tea
	Bee Robinson	Welcoming
	Alex McKay and Eddie McClelland	Car Park
12 th Jan	Evonne Stinson, Eleanor Burnett, Vera Owens and Marlene Gray	Tea
	Mary Steele	Welcoming
	Oliver Reid and David Oliver	Car Park
19 th Jan	Dorothy Hegan, Isabel Halliday, Karin Agnew and Sandra Duke	Tea
	Ann Fisher	Welcoming
	Jackie McMaster and Jimmy Tuff	Car Park
26 th Jan	Ruth Murray, Isabell Adair, Nell McIlwee and Vivien Gilmour	Tea
	Liz Bodel	Welcoming
	Bob Peachey	Car Park

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

FLOWER GUILD

We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Tuesday **15th December** from 10.00 am onwards. Donations of



greenery, especially ivy and holly will be greatly appreciated. Our church is large and so it takes a lot of decorating to do it justice!

Jean and Etta

MOTHERS' UNION

Our December meeting will be our Advent Service in Ballyclug at 8.00 pm with supper afterwards.



On 13th January 2016 we will be going to Oranmore, Galgorm Road for our post-Christmas dinner. As numbers will be strictly limited it is essential that those members who wish to attend let me know by 31st December 2015.

Jean Kennedy, Secretary



"I see that the season of peace and goodwill is almost upon us . . ."



Ballyclug Notes

Ballyclug Harvest was held early October, Canon Lloyd led the service with our visiting preacher being the Rev. Barry Dodds. We would wish to thank the Parish choir for leading the singing under the leadership of Adrian Poston. The church was as usual beautifully decorated with flowers, fruit and vegetables and we thank all who brought them and helped with the decorating.

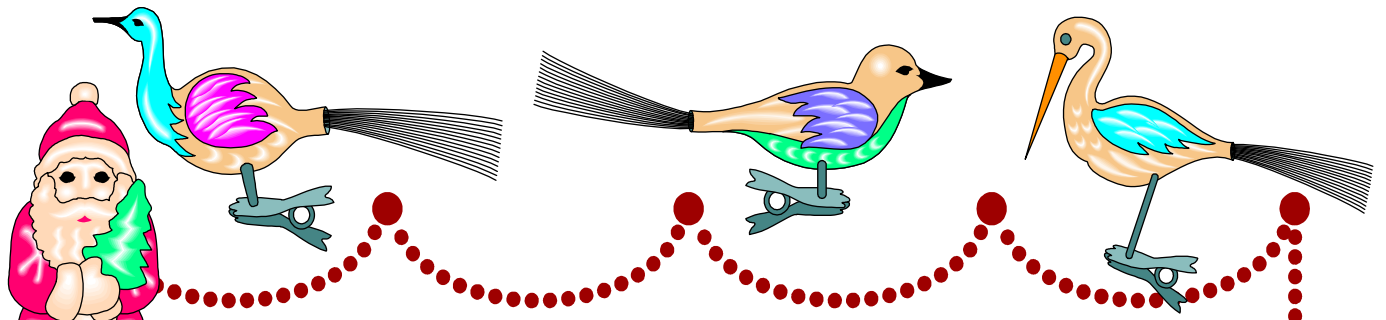
At the end of October the annual Harvest Supper was held in St Patrick's church hall and everyone enjoyed a good night's entertainment compared by Andy Kennedy. Our thanks go to Andy, all the artists, especially Cannon Lloyd, who took part, to those who provided and served the supper, the people who set up the hall and cleared everything away afterwards and our car park attendants. A special word of thanks to Jackie and Vera Greer for all their hard work in organising the night's event and to the following businesses who donated raffle prizes - The Blackstone Restaurant, Braid Arts Centre, Freshways Fruit and Veg, Lifestyle Fitness, Pennybridge, McAtamney's Butchers, Greenvale Street, Oranmore Guesthouse and Tea Rooms, George Orr Rugs and Sainsbury's, Ballymena. A total of £1150.00 was raised for church funds, the Royal Hospital for Sick Children and Nepal Missions.

Now that autumn has descended our thanks go to all those workers who maintained the grounds around the church and to those people who cleaned inside the church, provided flowers for the communion table, our organists, the readers, the Church Wardens and all those who led or helped with the services.

It was with sadness that Canon Lloyd held his last service as rector of the parish on Sunday 25th October. We wish him a long and enjoyable retirement and extend our sincere thanks for his contribution to Ballyclug and it's parishioners over the last 26 years. He will be greatly missed but will always be very welcome to join with us at any of our services.

Can I take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

William Burnett



Christmas is for kids and for adults too *Christmas Sorry!*

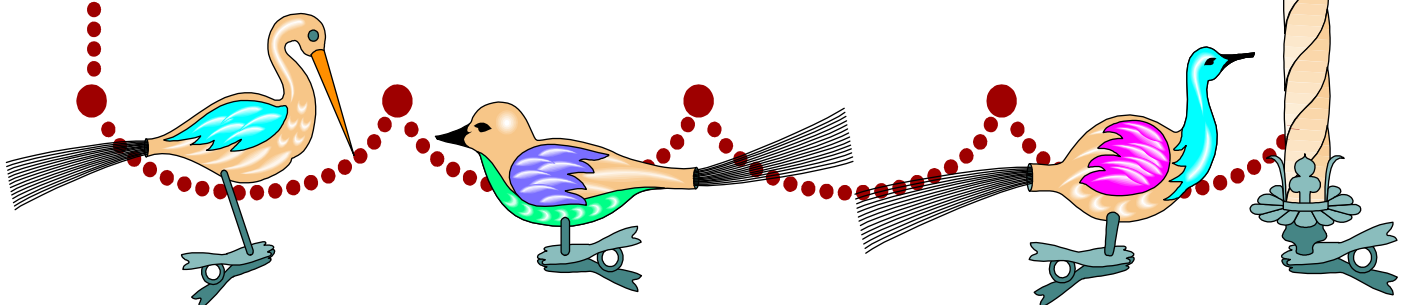
'Twas the month before Christmas when all through our land, not a Christian was praying nor taking a stand. Political correctness gone mad, had taken away, the reason for Christmas - no one could say. The children were told by their schools not to sing about shepherds and wise men and angels and things. It might hurt people's feelings, the teachers would say December 25th is just a 'Holiday'.

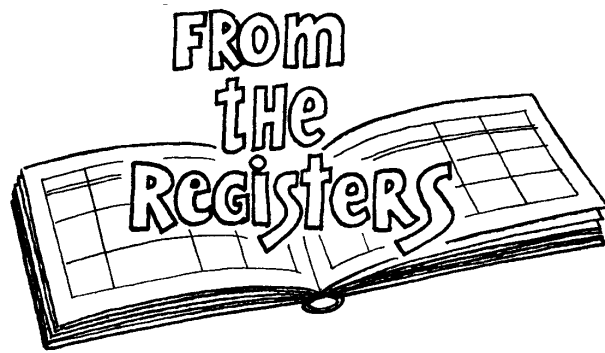
Yet the shoppers were ready with cash, cheques and credit, pushing others away in a hurry to spend it! CDs and games, an X Box or I-Pod. Something was changing, something quite odd! In small local shops and large Department Stores the real meaning of Christmas is evident no more; also within Government there is rising a clatter to eliminate Jesus, in all public matter. And we speak not a word, as they dilute our faith, forbidden to speak of salvation and grace. The true Gift of Christmas is exchanged and discarded the reason for the season, stopped before it started.

As Christmas approaches and you put up your tree, decide to be different and join with me. Choose your words carefully, mean what you say, **Shout Happy Christmas**, not Happy Holiday! Decide to make known that **Christ is the Reason** you celebrate this **Christ-mas** Season!

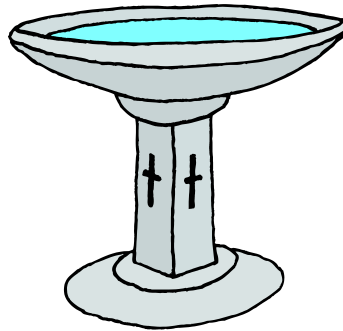
God's Gift is still the greatest ever given. And the greatest our hearts will ever receive!

Jesus is the reason for the Season.





HOLY BAPTISM



29th November

Harry Peter Johnston

36 Parkfield Road,
Ahoghill

CHRISTIAN BURIAL



30th October

4th November

14th November

25th November

26th November

William McCauley

Leslie McKinstry

Tweedie

Andrew James

Mawhinney

Roy Barr

Gillian Jayne McNeill

11 James Street

32 Rockfield Heights,
Kells

75 Rossdale,
Ballymena

69 Albert Place

54 Brigadie Gardens

William (Booey) McCauley

William was born in Ballymena in 1954 into a large family of eleven siblings and grew up in Alexander Street. He attended Ballymena County

Primary School, Ballymena Boys' School and St Patrick's Sunday School. Later he worked for S J McDowell's processing eggs and then went to Moy Park, where he stayed a long time. Billy's health deteriorated over the last few years with two heart attacks and breathing difficulties but he was well looked after by his sister Norah who offered him a home with her when he could no longer manage the stairs in his own flat on the Larne Road. Billy was well known in Harryville as a local character. He was quiet but also friendly and was well liked. We extend our sympathy to all his family and friends especially Norah on the loss of William at a relatively young age.

Leslie McKinstry Tweedie

Leslie was born in Glengormley where he lived until he and Colleen married 10 years ago. This was the happiest time of their lives. Leslie had a love for sport which started at Methodist College, where he played hockey at senior level. He eventually took up golf and played on courses all over the world. He watched most sports except darts and horse racing. Over the past three years Leslie battled a number of serious illnesses but the worst burden was pulmonary fibrosis and in the later months he found it impossible to move around the house without being attached to oxygen. His recent quality of life has been very poor but he had Colleen and the two dogs, Toby and Bailey who were a great comfort to him. Colleen and Leslie were known as 'Darby and Joan'. Our thoughts and prayers are with Colleen at her sad loss of a dear husband.

Andrew James Mawhinney

Previously a Sergeant Major in the Royal Irish Rangers Drumming Corps, Andrew had a large funeral service with military honours. We extend our sympathy to the Mawhinney family circle.

Roy Barr

Roy was born in 1925 in Hope Street in Ballymena, and his father was a tailor. Roy was born into a large family and had 5 brothers and 4 sisters. He attended Guy's School in Ballymena and was also a member of the Boy's Brigade. When he left school, Roy worked as signaller on the railway and later at Clingers Factory in Harryville before moving to Michelin where he spent the rest of his working life. Roy married Mary and Martin was their only child. As a younger man Roy liked to follow

football and regularly watched Ballymena play. He was a quiet man who liked a peaceful life. He was very fond of Carnlough and district where he had a summer house. After he retired Roy split his time between Ballymena and Carnlough, so it is fitting that Roy's funeral service was in St Patrick's he worshipped, and that his burial was in Ardclinis where he also worshipped. He was buried in the same graveyard as his wife Mary with whom he had a long and happy marriage. Roy is remembered as good-natured, a pleasant, helpful man, a life-long teetotaler and a family man. We extend our sympathy to Martin, Mary, Gail, Kelly, Karen, Martin Jnr, Abigail and Sophia-Rose for the loss of a loved father, grandfather and great grandfather.

Gillian Jayne McNeill

Gillian was the youngest of three children. She attended Dundonald High School and went on to work in her father's post office and later in Clarke's Engineering in Belfast. Sadly, due to ill health, this was her last job because of epileptic seizures. Alex and Gillian met in 1997 and were married two years later. They moved from Bangor to Brigadie Gardens, Ballymena where they lived up to the present time. Three months into marriage Gillian was diagnosed with cancer at 31 years of age. Gillian was a great cook and she was also very interested in arts and crafts. She was generous and kind in how she gave to others. A gift was chosen with much consideration to help a person or to make them happy especially Gillian's daughter Hannah. We remember Alex and her daughter Hannah.





OUR ACTIVITIES

SAINT PATRICK'S

	Day	Time	Venue
<i>Bellringers</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>7.30 pm</i>	<i>Tower</i>
<i>Bible Fellowship</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>8.00 pm</i>	<i>Choir Vestry</i>
<i>Church Choir</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>7.30 pm</i>	<i>Choir Vestry</i>
<i>Church Lads' Brigade</i>			
<i>YBC</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>7.00 pm</i>	<i>Parochial Hall</i>
<i>JTC</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>8.00 pm</i>	<i>Parochial Hall</i>
<i>CLB</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>8.00 pm</i>	<i>Parochial Hall</i>
<i>Girls' Friendly Society</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>7.15 pm</i>	<i>Minor Hall</i>
<i>Healer Prayer Group</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>7.15 pm</i>	<i>Church Vestry</i>
<i>Indoor Bowling Club</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>7.30 pm</i>	<i>Parochial Hall</i>
	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>7.30 pm</i>	<i>Parochial Hall</i>
<i>Mothers and Toddlers</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>10.00 am</i>	<i>Parochial Hall</i>
<i>Mothers' Union</i>	<i>2nd Wed.</i>	<i>8.00 pm</i>	<i>Minor Hall</i>
<i>Still Active Club</i>	<i>3rd Wed.</i>	<i>2.00 pm</i>	<i>Minor Hall</i>
<i>Youth Club</i>	<i>Saturday</i>	<i>8.00 pm</i>	<i>Parochial Hall</i>
<i>Junior Youth Club</i>	<i>Saturday</i>	<i>7.00 pm</i>	<i>Parochial Hall</i>
<i>Badminton</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>7.30 pm</i>	<i>Parochial Hall</i>
<i>Sewing Group</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>10.00 am</i>	<i>Parochial Hall</i>

SAINT COLUMBA'S

	Day	Time	Contact
<i>Beavers</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>6.30 pm</i>	<i>Mrs L McCullagh</i>
<i>Cubs</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>7.00 pm</i>	<i>Miss H Hughes</i>
<i>Ladies' Circle</i>	<i>4th Monday</i>	<i>8.00 pm</i>	<i>Mrs L Hughes</i>
<i>Brownies</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>6.30 pm</i>	<i>Mrs S Cardwell</i>
<i>Squirrels</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>6.30 pm</i>	<i>Mr P Houston</i>
<i>Guides</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>6.30 pm</i>	<i>Mrs K Black</i>
<i>Choir</i>	<i>Sunday</i>	<i>10.15 am</i>	<i>Mrs S Montgomery</i>
<i>Rainbows</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>6.30 pm</i>	<i>Mrs H Strain</i>
<i>Scouts</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>7.45 pm</i>	<i>Mr K Hughes</i>



OUR WORSHIP

ST PATRICK'S PARISH CHURCH

SUNDAY SERVICES

8.15 am		<i>Holy Communion</i>
10.15 am	<i>3rd Sunday in the month</i>	<i>Family Service</i>
11.30 am		<i>Morning Prayer</i>
	<i>1st Sunday in the month</i>	<i>Parish Communion</i>
6.30 pm		<i>Evening Prayer</i>
	<i>3rd Sunday in the month</i>	<i>Holy Communion</i>
	<i>4th Sunday in the month</i>	<i>Living Faith Service</i>

EVERY WEDNESDAY

10.30 am	<i>Holy Communion</i>
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ST PATRICK'S, BALLYCLUG

SUNDAY SERVICES

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

ST COLUMBA'S, DUNCLUG

SUNDAY SERVICES

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

SUNDAY SCHOOLS

ST PATRICK'S

11.30 am	<i>Church</i>	<i>Leaders - Mrs L McLaughlin and Mr A Ross</i>
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ST COLUMBA'S

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

At Sunday services by arrangement