

Parish of Kilconriola and Ballyclug

PARISH MAGAZINE

FEBRUARY 2016



Diocese of Connor - Parish of Kilconriola and Ballyclug

WHO'S WHO IN OUR PARISH



The Revd Iain Jamieson
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CLERGY

Rector (Vacant)

Curate Assistants

The Revd John McClure
69 Parkgate Road, Connor (Tel 2589 2324)
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LAY READER

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PARISH OFFICE

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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

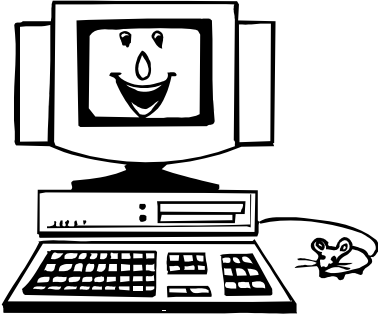
CHURCH WARDENS

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

GOD OF GRACE

In his book 'The Ragamuffin Gospel', Brennan Manning tells the following true story. One night in January 1935 the mayor of New York, Fiorella LaGuardia, turned up at one of the courts in a poorer area of the city. It was during the Great Depression and a woman was brought before the judge for stealing a loaf of bread. LaGuardia dismissed the judge and sat as judge in the case himself. He listened to all the evidence. At the end of the case he found the woman guilty and he said: a fine of \$10 or 10 days in jail. As he was saying those words he was reaching into his own pocket to pay the fine. He then said this: 'I am fining everyone in this courtroom 50 cents for living in a town where a woman has to steal a loaf of bread to feed her grandchildren. The total came to \$47.50, the last 50 cents coming from the pocket of the baker who had brought the case in the first place.

What an extraordinary moment of grace. Everyone in that courtroom experienced grace that night. What would it take for you to experience grace. Grace is God's favour freely given to those who do not deserve His favour. Or as someone else has put it more succinctly: God's Riches At Christ's Expense. The world in which you and I live says that 'everything in my life depends on what I do, who I am and where I am going.' Grace says the very opposite. In fact grace says: 'Everything depends not on you but on what God has done in and through Christ for you.' Grace not only confronts this self-centred, selfish idea of self but actually shatters the illusion that I determine the ways of this world, and my life in particular.

Bill Moyers is a documentary film maker. He made a documentary about the hymn 'Amazing Grace'. The last scene of the film is set in Wembley Stadium. A rock concert is going on and all sorts of groups, such as Guns

N' Roses, are playing. The last act is to be an opera singer called Jessye Norman. She decides to sing Amazing Grace. The audience are screaming for an encore from Guns N' Roses as she walks on to the stage. She starts to sing 'Amazing Grace how sweet the sound'. Bill Moyers does not have to say anything at all. He does not have to give a commentary it is there for you to see. The crowd fall silent. By verse three they begin to join in. Moyers says he does not know what happened. Philip Yancey says this about that occasion: "I think I know. The world thirsts for grace. When grace descends, the world falls silent before it."

John McCune

Children are ...

Amazing, acknowledge them.
Believable, trust them.
Childlike, allow them.
Divine, honour them.
Energetic, nourish them.
Gifts, treasure them.
Innocent, delight with them.
Joyful, appreciate them.
Kindhearted, learn from them.
Loveable, cherish them.
Magical, fly with them.
Noble, esteem them.
Open minded, respect them.
Precious, value them.
Questioners, encourage them.
Resourceful, support them.
Spontaneous, enjoy them.
Talented, believe in them.
Unique, affirm them.
Vulnerable, protect them.
Whole, recognize them.
Extra special, celebrate them.
Yearning, notice them.
Zany, laugh with them.

Meriji Stewart



YOUR VOTE

Now is the opportunity to register to vote at church elections. The Register of Vestry Persons is open for additions - until Sunday 6th March. If you are not on the register it's only a matter of putting your name on a form at the back of church.

ST COLUMBA'S HOSPITAL HAZARIBAGH

Thank you to all who contributed to our little milk container collection. Our total raised last year was £457.00. This shows a decrease on last year's total but we realise that there are so many charities and other calls on your cash and are grateful for your support.

The hospital is undergoing changes due to staff retiring and being replaced but they look forward positively to the future while maintaining the day to day efforts, such as keeping generators and wells serviceable, to carry out medical work.

Your support and especially your prayers are vital to the hospital's stability and progress and on behalf of the hospital we again thank you all.

Barry Duke
Secretary
*Friends of St Columba's
Hospital, Hazaribagh*

SAINSBURY'S ACTIVE KIDS 2016

Sainsbury's



© Sainsbury's Supermarkets Ltd

Vouchers are only available at Sainsbury's stores and petrol stations until 3 May 2016.

In Sainsbury's Supermarkets you'll receive 1 voucher for every £10 you spend. So if you spend £40 you'll get four vouchers, but what's new is that they'll all be printed on one piece of paper. These vouchers are white and

smaller in size, with no photograph on them.

St Columba's Scout Group (Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts) are taking part again and hope that you are bringing your vouchers to the collecting boxes at the back of each of our three churches. The boxes will be there until the end of May.

Thank you for your support. Look out for another report in the autumn to learn what equipment the Group was able to obtain with your vouchers.

Christie Colhoun

LEPROSY MISSION

The total donated in the little red boxes in 2015 was £665.07. I am very grateful to all those who contributed to this very worthwhile cause. If you wish to start, you can get a box in any of our three churches. Why not make it your Lenten Project for 2016?

Anandaban Hospital in Nepal is one of the largest leprosy referral hospitals in the country, providing free, high quality treatment for leprosy complications and reconstructive surgery. Patients are also trained in self care techniques to ensure that their injuries do not deteriorate.

The laboratory at Anandaban Hospital is one of the most important

research centres for leprosy in the developing world. It contributes to the development of improved diagnosis and treatment and aims to enlarge the current knowledge base about leprosy. This enables evidence-based policy making decisions by organisations and governments relevant to leprosy affected populations worldwide.

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

Christie Colhoun

GOOD MORNING BALLYMENA

Good Morning Ballymena which does such excellent work with vulnerable elderly people in our town is facing a very difficult funding cut. Please consider making a donation if possible and remember them in your prayers.

FOOD BANK

The Food Bank continues to be much in demand, and the parish continue to be a very significant donor providing a good chunk of what is needed. Thanks to all who give regularly. The Food Bank is happy to receive any item of dried or tinned foodstuff which is still in date, but is always particularly in need of items to build a main family meal around, such as tinned meat, pies, fish, stew etc. They also need toiletries.

CMSI NEPAL FOCUS NIGHT

As part of our Holy Week celebrations this year, we are pleased that Deirdre and Mark Zimmerman, missionaries to Nepal, well-known to many of the parish will be speaking both at an evening service and at a short meeting afterwards.

Please put that date in your diary - Thursday 24 March at 7.30 pm. This event is open to the general public and there will be refreshments. Please come along and support mission to Nepal.

THANK YOU FROM NEPAL

A thank you card received from Deirdre Zimmerman following Canon Lloyd's visit dated 4 December 2015 reads as follows:-

Dear friends in Ballymena,

A quick note to thank you once again for your faithful remembrance of folks in Nepal, as demonstrated by your financial generosity and no doubt your prayers also. I have handed over the 30,000 Rs (approximately £185) passed on to me by Stuart for use in NPC's 'Nutrition Project for Urban Communities' that many of you are familiar with.

This month we will complete our involvement at Balkhu Slum, with the community volunteers taking

over responsibility for continuing child growth monitoring each month. So one of the first jobs of the new year is to identify a new working area, to add to the 2 remaining communities we continue to work with. So please pray for that, as well as for NPC's overall: in May our current project with USAID will finish, and we are waiting to hear if we have been awarded an extension of the work for another 5 years.

Do pray for Nepal: Stuart and Ian will inform you of the fuel crisis and other shortages we are experiencing because of the Indian blockade, and its devastating effect on the general economy and on the earthquake recovery effort.

We enjoyed our Northern Ireland visitors as always, and welcome anyone who wants to make the trip!

With many thanks again.

Deirdre Zimmerman

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please keep free:-

- April (date to be confirmed) for a guest tea with music and speaker in aid of rectory funds at 7.30 pm.
- 24th September for Parish Auction.
- 26th November for Christmas Fair.



Secretary's Notes

As we move into a new month it is good to see the days getting a little longer again as the winter moves towards spring. In winter of course we all tend to hibernate and not much can be done because of the weather and darkness. Anyway, around the Parish this has been the case as far as looking after the properties goes.

The repairs to the hall roof were successfully completed and while the cherry-picker was on site the high gutters were cleared out. The gate lodge has been redecorated and cleaned up and is ready to be let again if and when we find a new tenant. The usual round of cleaning and tidying up went on around all three churches and the halls of course. Our thanks to everyone for their efforts in doing this.

A particular point needs to be made regarding looking after the church and more especially the halls at Castle Street. Towards the end of last year the Parish had to reapply for our Entertainment Licence from the Council. As part of this process they send an inspector to make sure that the venue is a suitable and safe place where entertainment may be offered. This year, although the licence was issued it was done so with the caveat that we need to pay more attention to keeping fire exits and escape routes cleared. When the inspector came round she found some fire exits partially blocked and also noted untidy and disorganised storage which was marked down as a potential fire hazard. At the same time the Select Vestry has received similar complaints from members of the congregation.

So an appeal to everyone who uses the premises, thinking particularly about the halls but the same applies to all our buildings - if you use it leave it as you would like to find it again. If you use equipment please

put it away afterwards, if you make a mess in the kitchen please clear it up before you leave. We are fortunate to have a sexton who does conscientiously work at trying to keep the place in order, and this is already a full time job without his having to run round after everyone else. Please can we all try to make sure the phrase, “Just leave that and John will look after it,” never crosses our minds, let alone our lips; John has already had more than enough to do as set out for him by the Select Vestry, and willing though he is to help, it is unfair to keep adding to his load with unexpected extras at no warning.

Turning to the topic of the rectory, after some more communication between the Parish representatives and the Diocesan Planning Committee we think, at last, we have arrived at a scheme which is acceptable to all. Consequently we have now asked our architect to prepare working drawings and a schedule of works which can go out to tender so that we can get a more accurate idea of the outlay, rather than relying on the quantity surveyor’s estimates. Our hope is that the tendering process will be completed by early March and we will be able to choose a contractor and have them approved by the R.C.B. in Dublin in order to get started on the actual work. God Willing the likely time scale of the work should allow the next occupants of the rectory to have their say in choosing the finishes and décor they’ll have to live with, otherwise everything will be in neutral, safe choices of wood and colour, but you will be kept up to date on this when the time comes.

The Select Vestry is currently of a mind to get the rectory sorted out before anything else is, but we are still aware of the needs to the rest of the estate. There is a growing list of problems which will need to be sorted once the rectory is out of the way. These items are not immediately urgent but they won’t get any better as time passes and will need to be attended to as soon as possible in order to prevent them from getting out of hand. As ever, please don’t assume that we have everything on our list, if you see anything that needs to be looked at around any of the properties, please let us know just in case it may have gone unnoticed.

Alastair

Older and Wiser Road Users

Free Driving Course

Are you 60+ years old and would like to improve and review your driving skills or your knowledge to become a safer pedestrian? All drivers and non-drivers welcome. It'll be a bit of craic!

Learn how to drive economically
Review your knowledge of the Highway Code
Hazard Perceptions
Keeping safe as a pedestrian
And much more!

In addition we can offer you a **pre and post driver assessment with a qualified driving agency**, the choice is yours!

Monday 8 February: Pre Driver Assessment.
Each hour from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm

Thursday 11 February: The Highway Code Review/Pedestrian.
9:00 am to 12:30 pm or 1:00pm to 4:30pm

Thursday 18 February: Post Driver Assessment.
Each hour from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm

Training will take place at All Saints Parish Centre,
9 Cushendall Road, Ballymena, BT43 6HA

Tea/Coffee/Sandwiches available over lunchtime.

To register, call Jackie on 02890941661, or email
Jacqueline@ctauk.org



Community
Transport
Association





We welcomed everyone back to Youth Club after the Christmas holiday. We started off the New Year by making calendars and thinking about our New Year resolutions. We also made Christingles and looked at the meaning of them and reflected on how we can share the light of the world with others. This month we will be making pancakes for Shrove Tuesday - looking at love and how we can share God's love. We will be having a visit from GODMODEX to do some computer gaming. Again we are looking for more help on a Saturday night so if you could spare an hour or two we would appreciate your support. It would only be once every 1/2 months - please speak to Alan or Lucy if you can help.



It's good to see some new faces in Sunday School - we welcome you all. We will be preparing for this year's CMS project 'The Meeting Place' which is based on bringing people together and will be focusing on Madi, West Nile, Uganda.

There will be a meeting for all Sunday School teachers and anyone else interested in the project on Sunday 14th February at 3 pm in the Minor Hall.

Sunday 7th February is the day of prayer for young people and youth ministry. We will be rededicating our youth workers and will be praying in the service for the young people and their leaders. The young people will then go to Sunday School to learn about prayer through arts and crafts, games and singing.

Lucy



Around the Parish

SQUIRRELS

The Squirrels had a busy time in the run up to Christmas. We were delighted to have Rev Iain join us to explain the meaning of Christingles and to show us how they are made. Everyone had a go at making their own.



We decided that this year we would have a Christmas outing for the Squirrels so we all headed off to 'We Are Vertigo' for a Saturday afternoon of fun and games. The Squirrels loved playing in the activity area, climbing the wall and balancing on the beams. We even had some who fell asleep on the bus on the way back home.

Our Christmas wouldn't be complete without a visit from Santa on our party night. We'd like to thank Santa for coming along with all those lovely presents for us all.

We're now back for a new term and some of our older Squirrels have now moved on to the Beaver's Section. We hope they will enjoy Beavers and continue along all the Scouting Sections. Perhaps some day they will return to Squirrels as a Helper/Leader like our Jack has done. He started in Squirrels and moved through all sections before deciding he would like to use the skills he had learned to help others. We are delighted to have him back with us this year again, and we are immensely proud of him.

Paul, Ann, Jack and Mr Squirrel



ST PATRICK'S CHOIR

The Nine Lessons and Carols took place on 20 December 2015. The church was so beautifully decorated and it really added to the atmosphere

of the evening. We are very grateful to Mr Adrian Poston and Mr Frank Hewitt for their contribution to the service.

The choir enjoyed Afternoon Tea at Oranmore on 8 December 2015 and a very special visitor arrived to give out presents.

Rehearsals have recommenced and we are learning new music. At the start of a New Year it would be great to welcome new members to the choir. If you would like to be part of the choir please speak to either Adrian, Frank, any choir member or just come along on a Thursday night at 8.00 pm. It will be great to see you!

On Thursday 21 January 2016 we had our Annual General Meeting and an election of officers took place. The following people were appointed:

- Chairperson - Mr Robert Stevenson
- Vice Chairperson - Mrs Sharon Doak
- Treasurer - Mrs Lynda Bell
- Secretary - Miss Ruth Dixon
- Librarian - Mrs Sharon Doak
- Wardrobe Mistress - Mrs Jean Kennedy
- Committee Member - Mr Jim Thompson

A belated Happy New Year to you all!

Ruth Dixon (Secretary)



MOTHERS AND TODDLERS GROUP

It was lovely to welcome back the little ones with their carers after the Christmas break.

On 11th January we shared a very enjoyable lunch with the volunteers who help us with catering and car parking.

We are looking forward to two visits from Sure Start this month and we plan to mark Shrove Tuesday and Valentine's Day with appropriate craft activities.

Rota for February:-

DATE	NAME	FUNCTION
2 nd Feb	Rosemary Stacey, Sandra McKay, Mary Cochrane and Jean Cunningham	Tea
	Bee Robinson	Welcoming
	Alex McKay and Eddie McClelland	Car Park
9 th Feb	Evonne Stinson, Eleanor Burnett, Vera Owens and Marlene Gray	Tea
	Mary Steele	Welcoming
	Oliver Reid and David Oliver	Car Park
16 th Feb	Dorothy Hegan, Isabel Halliday, Karin Agnew and Sandra Duke	Tea
	Ann Fisher	Welcoming
	Jackie McMaster and Jimmy Tuff	Car Park
23 rd Feb	Ruth Murray, Isabell Adair, Nell McIlwee and Vivien Gilmour	Tea
	Liz Bodel	Welcoming
	Bob Peachey	Car Park

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



CHURCH LADS' BRIGADE

The CLB 'Grand Spring Jumble Sale' will be held on Friday, 4th March. This is our only fundraiser for the year and we would appreciate the support of all the Parish for our sale. It's a great chance to clear out the attic and the garage of all that clutter. Donations of bric-a-brac, clothes, furniture, books, toys, unused gifts, groceries and cakes will be greatly appreciated. Contact Alan Ross (2589 2740) for collection.

The boys are working at their Scripture and Art and Craft Badges and also items for Parents' Night. A warm welcome and thank you to Gillian and Heather who are helping on Friday nights with the Y-team.

Alan Ross (2589 2740)

MOTHERS' UNION

Wednesday 10th February - Ash
Wednesday - we will attend the evening service at 8 pm followed by supper in the hall.



Programme for 2016 'Celebration of Faith' will be available at this meeting.

Jean Kennedy

engage
concern youth
together sharing the love of Christ

Prayer Event
Saturday 12th March
7pm
Ballymena Parish Halls

Featuring Emma Thompson from Prayer Spaces in Schools & 24/7 Prayer



Ballyclug Notes

At Ballyclug we had our Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols the Sunday before Christmas and our thanks go to the readers Andrew, Letty, Nicola, Ernie, Kerry, Dessie, Fiona, Adelaide and the Rev Iain. We also thank the organist Maurice, who recently reached that great milestone of 80 years of age.

Some of our volunteer cleaners have decided to retire, and we wish to express our sincere thanks to them for all their hard work over many years keeping the church immaculate. It has been greatly appreciated by the whole congregation. We are therefore looking for replacements to join the remaining helpers, so anyone willing to assist, please contact the church wardens for further information. The cleaning is on a rota basis and would not be too time consuming or arduous.

It has been very pleasing to have some new people joining in our worship recently and they are most welcome.

William Burnett

CHURCH LADS' BRIGADE GRAND SPRING



FRIDAY 4th MARCH 2016



Link letter from the Zimmerman family

Dear Friends,

Our helicopter banked northwards and followed its mate up the high, pine-covered valley towards the town of Jiri. As we swung past the main bazaar, the effects of the recent earthquake came into view: almost every building on the main street had either collapsed or had significant cracks in its facade. People meandered up and down a street littered with heaps of rubble.

Both copters then circled and touched down on a grassy knoll beside a stream, where local people rushed forward to greet us with flower leis and handshakes. I had brought Jim and Marilyn Simons to visit one of the hospitals that NSI has supported for the last eight years.

As we listened to speeches about the progress of Jiri Hospital, staff brought us hot milk and cheese, specialties of the dairy that the Swiss government established fifty years earlier. Our tour of the hospital included a visit to the maternity ward, where three women lay in beds. Two had newborns, one did not.

“What happened to that woman’s baby?” Marilyn asked Dr. Roshan, motioning to the woman lying alone under the window. “She came in late and her baby was already dead inside her,” he replied.

Outside the room, Marilyn remarked quietly to Dr. Roshan, “It must be so hard for her to be in the same room as two ladies who have their babies. I know your hospital is doing a great job and is very crowded, but is there

nowhere more private where she could be accommodated?” “You’re right. I suppose that’s something that only a mother thinks of.”

Because this was to be the last of my visits with the Simons to NSI’s partner hospitals, I’d arranged places in the helicopters for my sons Zachary and Benjamin. Two government officials and some of our NSI staff had also come. Earlier in the morning, Jim was half-hoping that the monsoon downpour would cancel our journey. He later told me that he’d grown nervous about riding in Nepali copters, which carry only one pilot and have no back-up engine. But the day broke clear, so off we rode into the sparkling mountains east of Kathmandu.

Now in its tenth year, NSI’s work had grown to touch many communities across the country. Our training programs equip rural mid-level health-care workers and nurses to perform patient care that in the cities would usually be done by doctors. These programs include emergency anaesthesia, complicated deliveries, minor surgery, and disease diagnosis. Our hospital support program, another branch of NSI, ‘adopts’ struggling hospitals, in which it places key medical staff, such as family practice doctors, anaesthesia assistants, and biomedical technicians. This is usually enough for the hospital to begin providing essential services like caesarean-sections and other operations, generally raising the level of care.

Helicopter rides are reserved for our donors. We local staff usually take a commercial flight across the country before travelling by jeep or occasionally walking. Over the years, I’ve logged many miles on rutted, dirt roads, been halted by plenty of landslides, and also seen my share of majestic scenery.

One universal feature of our field trips is the welcome that we receive. Whether living high in the Himalayas or down in the steamy Terai, people greatly appreciate having their local hospital’s services improved. For so many years, they would have had to face long journeys, often by foot, in order to reach a decent hospital. When we first come into towns, the common complaint we hear is, “Our government hospital only does minor treatment. For anything else we have to travel to the big city.” NSI’s hospital support program is now running in 14 rural districts and its management component will touch 30 more district hospitals over the coming year.

This past January, I came to the decision that this would be my last year with NSI. With a committed, cohesive team, a generous donor family, and work that is making a difference - one might wonder why I should leave. It wasn't a hasty decision, nor one that was forced on me. For the last 18 years I've been someone's director (eight in Patan Hospital and ten in NSI), and this seems enough time at the helm. I think it's also good for NSI to bring in some fresh blood, perhaps a Nepali director. As well, I've had a deeper sense that it's time to move on. I'll leave this job in March 2016 and our family will go on home assignment to the U.S. and Ireland at that time.

"What's next?" friends and family ask us. Well, we're still praying about that. In the past, our career changes had been preceded by a clearly-opening door, which we confirmed by prayer and then walked through. This time, we have only had the sense of, 'Move on, and I'll show you.' Several colleagues in Nepal have approached me to suggest future work here, but, as always, we want this next change to carry the Lord's blessing.

Deirdre has worked with the nutrition program NPSC for most of the last 18 years, her only hiatus being when our boys were infants. She has a close personal relationship with that team, but would welcome a professional change. I've urged her to re-enter hospital dietetics, the field she first trained for. She too waits prayerfully.

Zachary and Benjamin are both in secondary school now, which has been a good transition, since grade school had lost its challenge for them. Although the boys' classmates are diverse in country of origin (for example, Zach's four best friends have parents who are Chinese-Nepali, Nepali-Korean, Nepali, and Pakistani), both boys have formed tight cohorts within classes that have been together since first grade. Zachary would like to stay in Nepal and, at 13, going 'home' would be challenging. Benjamin still sees the U.S. as a place to improve his baseball and basketball skills, so he says he'd be open to a shift there.

Dear Nepal has had a rough 2015. The April/May earthquakes affected 14 (of Nepal's 75) districts, leaving 9,000 dead and half a million homes destroyed. The Nepal government has received pledges of over US \$3 billion in ear-marked aid, but still lacks a national reconstruction authority to utilize these funds. In part to allow the creation of this body, the government shifted into over-drive and in September finally ratified its

long-delayed new constitution. That night fireworks exploded across the city skyline.

But before the document's ink was dry, neighbouring India had expressed its displeasure with the constitution and soon imposed a goods blockade across the common border. (The Indian government initially denied that the blockade was their doing). The Indians openly express their conviction that Nepal's new constitution will disempower Nepalis of Indian origin living on the border. India's Hindu fundamentalist government is reportedly also unhappy about Nepal officially becoming a secular state.

The biggest effect of the Indian blockade has been fuel: Nepal gets 100% of its petrol, diesel, and cooking gas from India. Roads here in the capital have far fewer moving vehicles, but are snarled by lines of parked taxis, their drivers sleeping inside, and motorcycles double-parked for miles all queuing for a single petrol pump. Most restaurants have run out of cooking gas and now use firewood or have just closed.

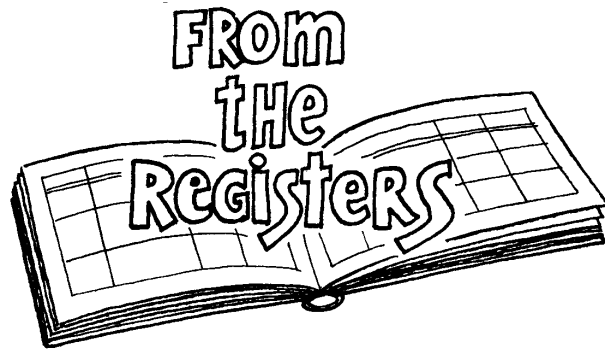
The economic blockade threatens to cause as much havoc as the earthquake - though with much less international fanfare. Many factories have stopped production, tourism has been cut by more than half, and even essentials like medicines are disappearing from shelves. Some of our remote NSI-supported hospitals have asked for help re supplying emergency drugs. Of great concern is the plight of earthquake victims in high mountain districts, who are unlikely to receive winter supplies before snow begins to fall.

This morning, our NSI night watchman told me that he had managed to scrape together 2½ of the 3 gallons of gas required for him to go by motorcycle to visit his mother in the hills of Ramechhap for this week's Desai festival. He is nevertheless determined to go, planning to search for the remaining gas on the 'black market'. They're a resilient lot these Nepalis.

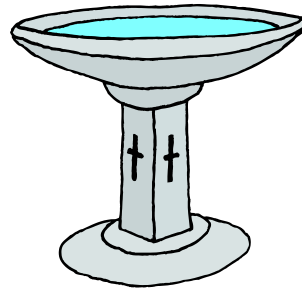
We cherish your prayers. This connection between you, God, and us in Nepal has sustained our family over many years.

Love,

*Mark, Deirdre,
Zachary and Benjamin*



HOLY BAPTISM



10th January

Isabella Wilson

78 Bally Road,
Ballymena

CHRISTIAN BURIAL



4th December

Valerie Johnston

27 Beech Drive,
Ballymena

7th December

William Smyth

8a Chichester Park,
Ballymena

16th January

George Foster

Slemish Nursing
Home, Ballymena

Valerie Johnston

Valerie died peacefully following a time of illness. She was born in Belfast and raised in Fivemiletown where she attended primary school and then went on to Enniskillen Collegiate. Valerie met Harry and a few weeks later they were married. They remained married for over 50 years. Valerie was very much a family person who loved and was greatly

loved by her children and grandchildren. During her long time in hospital she was very much concerned about her family travelling to Belfast on a daily basis, especially Harry who never missed a day. Valerie was a very gracious, generous, courteous and kind person. In her time of illness she met you with a smile. She honoured God and had a strong faith which influenced many of her friends. She had a great sense of humour and she certainly knew how to lift your spirit. You always went away feeling better after seeing her. We extend our very sincere and deepest sympathy to her husband Harry, children Deborah, Ian, Lorraine, Darren, Sinead and Damien and grandchildren and family circle.



The Bustle in a House

The Bustle in a House
The Morning after Death
Is solemnest of industries
Enacted upon Earth—

The Sweeping up the Heart
And putting Love away
We shall not want to use again
Until Eternity.

Emily Dickinson



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