

# ***Parish of Kilconriola and Ballyclug***

**PARISH MAGAZINE**

**OCTOBER 2016**



Northern Ireland Charity number: NIC103115

## WHO'S WHO IN OUR PARISH



### CLERGY

#### Rector

The Revd Mark McConnell  
34 Frys Road (Tel 2565 1625)  
Mobile No 077 5954 5932  
Email mmccconnell60@yahoo.co.uk



#### Curate Assistants

The Revd Dennis Christie  
127 Whitesides Road, Ballymena  
Mobile No 075 0060 7448  
Email revdennischristie@gmail.com

The Revd John McClure  
69 Parkgate Road, Connor (Tel 2589 2324)  
Mobile No 078 4186 6414  
Email mcclurejohn@hotmail.com

### LAY READER

Mr J Perry, 261a Galgorm Road, Ballymena

### YOUTH WORKERS

Lucy McLaughlin  
3 The Commons, Broughshane  
Tel 2586 1524  
Mobile 077 5995 0497

Alan Ross  
70 Maine Road, Shankbridge, Ballymena  
Tel 2589 2740  
Mobile 077 5991 6755

### PARISH OFFICE

St Patrick's Hall - Tel 2563 0741 E-mail - kilconriola@btconnect.com **OR** ballymena@connor.anglican.org  
Web Site - ballymena.connor.anglican.org and Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/ballymenaparish>

Open - Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings

**PARISH ADMINISTRATOR:** Mrs Lorraine McBride

### CHURCH WARDENS

<b>St Patrick's</b>	Rector's	Miss Ruth Dixon
	People's	Mr Richard Cotter
<b>Ballyclug</b>	Rector's	Mr William Burnett
	People's	Mr Jackie Greer
<b>St Columba's</b>	Rector's	Mr Bert Kernohan
	People's	Mr Larry Cunningham
<b>Glebe Wardens</b>	Rector's	Mr Kenneth Hughes
	People's	Mr Peter Chestnutt

### SELECT VESTRY

**Clergy, Church Wardens, Glebe Wardens and:** Mr Alan Adair, Miss Nicola Burnett, Mr Barry Duke, Mr Dessie Dunlop, Mr Ronnie Fleming, Mrs Rosalie Grainger, Mrs Elizabeth Hughes, Mr Alex McKay, Mrs Patricia McWhirter, Mr Alastair Marrs, Mr Oliver Reid and Mr Richard Todd.

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

**Honorary Treasurer:** Mrs L McBride 29 Ballylummin Road, Ahoghill

**Sextons** St Patrick's Mr John Linton  
St Columba's Miss Margaret Mawhinney

**Organists** St Patrick's Mr Frank Hewitt and Mr Adrian Poston  
St Columba's Vacant

THE RECTOR WRITES



# Rectory Ramblings

This parish magazine for the month of October sees us as a parish visit the theme of harvest - and I must confess I find this a difficult season and an uncomfortable subject. In many churches across the land there will be preaching about spiritual hunger and that is true! However, the existence of the global disaster of physical hunger is still present in our world today. It is not new, its reasons are many and complex yet the ongoing tolerance of global hunger is simply a harrowing sin. It rarely wins elections and our TV heroes tend to fight crime rather than hunger. Our ability to live alongside this sin is equally shocking - I challenge you to look up any of the recent figures about how many people in this world die daily from starvation and hunger and remain unmoved. I for one no longer want to remain used to living in a world where this is seen as, 'Just the way things are'!

Passive familiarity kills faith, hope and expectation. Passive familiarity stopped those from Bethlehem and many in Nazareth from recognising and accepting Jesus as God's Son and Messiah.

Passive familiarity allows us even as God's people to gloss over the clear call of scripture a call for global justice [read Isaiah Chapter 58:6-8a]. Feeding the hungry at least some of the hungry of our world is not an option but an obligation. It is to follow the example and teaching of Christ to love one another [John 13:34].

We will remind ourselves this harvest time of God's goodness, man's stewardship, the Christian commission, because man cannot live by bread alone. To share the life-giving, eternally satisfying Gospel of Redemption. All this is right but let's not forget the bread! Perhaps this harvest you and I will find a way to begin to change the world, one hungry person at a time! But whatever you do - don't do nothing.

*R.M.N.C. [Signature]*



# Parish News

## **SOUP AND COFFEE - (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> September)**

‘Soup and Coffee’ seems like such a good idea - that is until the day approaches! Then I am filled with doubts - “Will anyone come? Will everything turn out alright?”

Once my ‘reinforcements’ arrive everything is fine - I just couldn’t do it without Nina and Rosemary. They aren’t just my helpers and friends! They are the back bone of proceedings and they don’t go home until every last dish has been washed. They work while I have the pleasure of ‘meeting and greeting’.

I have many more people to thank - the clergy and Select Vestry for their support. It was lovely to have all three clergy with us. Then there’s Lorraine and Sandra in the Parish Office who do all my fliers, thank you notes etc. Ivan who looks after the financial side. The many parishioners from all

three churches who came, as well as those who couldn’t come but gave such generous donations. Last but by no means least a big thank you to my wonderful neighbours, friends and ex-colleagues from many different denominations! As one of my neighbours said to our rector, “We are not all yours, you know!”

But we are all one in friendship and fellowship. And we hope you enjoyed our soup and coffee!

Total amount for Christmas Fair fund - £1000.

Thank you all. And thank God for the joy of sharing with you all in this small way.

*Irene*

## **CHURCH ENVELOPES**

Thank you to everyone who contributes to the church through the CRG (blue) and Renovation and Maintenance (white) envelopes.

Your generosity is much appreciated. The count teams would be grateful if parishioners would write the amount on the front of each envelope as this greatly assists them in the task of counting and recording the weekly income. Please keep giving.

## **MID WEEK BIBLE STUDY**

Looking forward Mid Week Bible Study starts again on **Tuesday 4th October** at 8 pm in the Robing Room. Theme - 'Letters to the churches - what God likes and dislikes' from the Book of Revelation. Please bring your bible and a notebook! See you there.

*The Rector*

# **PARISH OF KILCONRIOLA AND BALLYCLUG**

**Saturday Night Youth Club**

**Youth Leader required  
For 3 hours: 7 - 10 pm  
Funded by EA**

**Qualifications in youth work or a willingness  
to undertake training essential**

**Job specification and  
application form available from:  
The Parish Office, Tel. No. 2563 0741  
Email - [kilconriola@btconnect.com](mailto:kilconriola@btconnect.com)**

**Closing date for completed applications  
Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2016**



# HARVEST SUPPER

Strick's  
Hall  
Castle  
Street  
Ballymena

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October  
At 7.30 pm sharp

## ENTERTAINMENT AND SUPPER

Mandy McCullough  
Ballykeel School Choir  
Castle Players  
Milltown Accordion Band  
Blaz'in Bellows

Compère – Andy Kennedy

Admission £7 by ticket  
Or pay at the door (Supper included)  
Contact Jackie Greer on  
077 1061 8196 or 028 2564 2723

Proceeds to Salvation Army and  
Laurel House







# Secretary's Notes

This month I don't have very much to tell you apart from a brief update on the progress of the renovations at the rectory. Happily the work there is progressing on schedule and no unexpected problems have come up in the course of the jobs completed so far. At the time of writing all of the old services in the house have been removed and replaced, and the house is now at 'first fix' stage, that is, the new wiring and plumbing is in and all work that needs to be completed but will in the end be unseen behind new plaster is just about done. God Willing at the same rate of progress all will be completed in early November.

Other than that we hope to soon be able to hang a set of good salvaged doors in St Columba's which will be a welcome ornament to the building, and on a more practical point at Ballyclug move the sound desk controls to the back of the church so that adjustments may be made as needed without the wardens having to run up and down to do so as happens now.

There are lots of events coming during the autumn which hopefully will get your full support, and thanks go once again to all those working away to make these happen for the benefit of the whole parish.

That's all I have to report to you this month, but as ever please don't hesitate to draw the attention of the Select Vestry to anything around the parish which might concern you.

All the Best,  
*Alastair*

## **GIFTS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

In lieu of flowers - Laura Allen (for Ballyclug Church) - £400  
Donation to church funds from Still Active Club - £100

# **Widow's Paradise**

## **Presented by the Castle Players**

### ***Recipe for laughter***

Take five ladies who have forsworn men  
Place in a cramped caravan  
Add a pinch of jealousy and a spoonful of animosity  
Toss in five scrambled men  
Allow to simmer overnight



***Come and see the half-baked outcome***

**At 7.30 pm**

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> and Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

**St Patrick's Parish Hall**

**Admission £8.00 - Concessions £6.00**

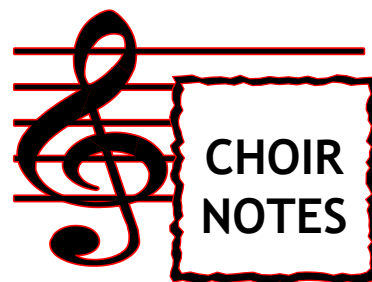




# Around the Parish

It is so difficult to believe that our summer recess is over and choir practices have once again resumed.

We had the absolute pleasure of singing at Leanne Cameron (nee Penny's) wedding during the summer. We remember Leanne singing with us from an early age and have many happy memories. We also sang at the wedding of our chairperson and his wife's (Mr Robert and Mrs Lorna Stevenson's) son, Geoffrey in September.



We are already practising for the up and coming harvest services and look forward to singing at our annual visit to Ballymarlow.

The choir would like to thank Miss Rachel and Miss Laura Smyth for their contribution, not only singing with the choir but also playing the piano as and when necessary. We are happy to hear that both girls now sing with St George's Youth Choir and we certainly wish them well.

We welcome Dennis and Jen to the church and their three lovely children and hope that they will enjoy their worship at all three churches.

*Ruth Dixon (Secretary)*



## MOTHERS AND TODDLERS GROUP

It was lovely to welcome so many new faces in September and we look forward to a visit from Sure Start this month. There will be no Mothers and Toddlers on **1st November** as we will take a break for Hallowe'en.

Many thanks to Jean Cunningham for making tabards for our kitchen helpers; they are perfect and the ladies love them. In recognition of her work, we will give Jean a donation for a charity of her choice.

The annual coffee morning for our catering and car park volunteers will be held on **Monday 10th October at 10.30 am.**

### **Rota for October:-**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>FUNCTION</b>
04 October	Rosemary Stacey, Sandra McKay, Mary Cochrane and Jean Cunningham	Tea
	Bee Robinson	Welcoming
	Alex McKay and Eddie McClelland	Car Park
11 October	Evonne Stinson, Eleanor Burnett, Vera Owens and Marlene Gray	Tea
	Mary Steele	Welcoming
	Oliver Reid and David Oliver	Car Park
18 October	Dorothy Hegan, Isabel Halliday, Karin Agnew and Sandra Duke	Tea
	Ann Fisher	Welcoming
	Jackie McMaster and Jimmy Tuff	Car Park
25 October	Ruth Murray, Isabell Adair, Vivien Gilmour and Kathleen Thompson	Tea
	Liz Bodel	Welcoming
	Bob Peachey	Car Park

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

### **FLOWER GUILD**



We will be decorating St Patrick's for the harvest services on **Friday 7th October from 10.30 am onwards.** Donations of fruit, vegetables etc, would be much appreciated and anyone wishing to stay to lend a hand will be very welcome. No qualifications needed!

***Jean and Etta***



Youth Club has started back and we are encouraged by the numbers attending. We are still looking for new people to volunteer so if you could give up an hour or two on Saturday nights we would love to hear from you. We will be starting to think of others and especially children all over the world who are less fortunate than ourselves. We will be filling shoe boxes to give to these children and remembering them and being grateful for all we have.

Sunday School has also started back and it's great to see everyone including some new faces - you are very welcome. Children receive an attendance card in church with a sticker on it which is placed at the front of the church. It is important that children attend as much as they can as this influences their Sunday School prize at the end of the year.

We are going to 'Kids Big Adventure' in Ballymoney on Saturday 8th October. This is for primary school children and will include a drumming workshop, singing, puppets, arts and crafts and games. The bus is leaving St Patrick's at 1.30 pm, returning at 5.30 pm. Contact Lucy to book a place 077 5995 0497.

Our next Messy Church take place on **Sunday 20th November** at 10.15 am with an Advent theme. We hope that many people will come along and bring their friends.

'Care for the Family' is a national charity which aims to promote strong family life and to help those who face family difficulties. The work is motivated by Christian compassion with resources and support available to everyone of one faith or none.

Being a parent brings some of life's biggest joys, as well as its greatest challenges and it seems to require every ounce of available energy!

‘Parentalk’ is all about helping mums and dads do the best job they can at bringing up their children. It gives parents the opportunity to share their experiences, learn from each other, and explore some essential parenting principles.

‘Parentalk’ has started but if you are free on a Tuesday night 7- 8.30 pm we would love you to join us. The dates and topics are:-

- |                                    |                               |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ● Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> October  | Love them and let them know   |
| ● Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> October | It’s good to talk             |
| ● Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> October | Boundaries and battles        |
| ● Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> October | Parenting with elastic        |
| ● Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> November | Creating a sense of belonging |
| ● Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> November | Meal out together             |

***Tea and coffee provided***

Energize Ballymena will meet in St Colmanell’s, Ahoghill on Sunday 16th October 6.30 - 8.15 pm.

***Lucy***



***Revd Jacks had a strict 'No Confetti' rule***

# Christmas Fair



*St Patrick's Church  
Hall*

*Castle Street, Ballymena*



*Saturday,  
26 November 2016*

*10 am – 1 pm*

*Interested in organising an event  
or having a stall at the Fair?*



*Please get in touch with a  
member of the Fundraising  
Committee by 24 October*

*Committee members: Debbie Chestnutt,  
Lynda Bell, Sandra Duke, Ronnie  
Fleming, Jackie Greer, Joan Holden,  
Stephanie Johnston, Trevor Montgomery  
and Alan Ross*





# The Curate's Letter

My family and I have been settling in very well to our new surroundings here in Ballymena. Jen and I have found that the people, across the three parish churches, have been extremely welcoming and generous and gracious with their time towards us. Abby, David and Jonathan have also been getting on great in their new school years and are making new friends. God is good, we are trusting in His guidance and we feel greatly blessed by Him in this community and excited about what He has in store for us. We are also very grateful to those who are praying for us as we settle in. I have now taken part in all the various weekly worship services. I have greatly enjoyed getting involved in busy parish work, getting along to events and activities and getting out to meet people in their homes.

By the time you are reading this October issue of the parish magazine, we will have had our re-launch of the Men's Fellowship Group across the three churches. I am looking forward to getting this group up and running in the coming months. I am passionate about the role of Christian men not just in church but in the home, the workplace and the community. Please come along to our next evening on Thursday 20th October at 7.30 pm in the minor hall of St Patrick's Church. You are more than welcome. Men are busy so it is intended to meet usually once every 3 weeks on a Thursday evening with some other activities taking place on the occasional Saturday morning.

Mark, preaching a few Sundays ago from Acts on the importance of Christian unity and fellowship towards each other, really challenged and

reminded me about the significant impact we can all have for God's kingdom when we focus on really supporting each other and building each other up in the Lord. When we as a church can focus on doing this, for God's glory, we can be a great and attractive example to those outside the church of what it is to be a follower of Christ. Connected to this I was also reminded during a visit of the following passage, Colossians 3:12-14 - Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Yours in Christ



## HARVEST THANKSGIVING



**9th OCTOBER 2016**

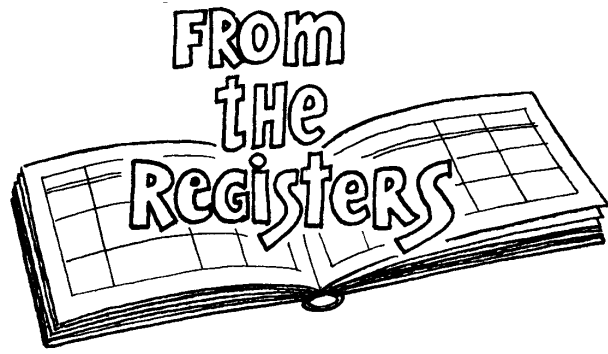
**ST PATRICK'S PARISH CHURCH**

**11.30 AM AND 6.30 PM**

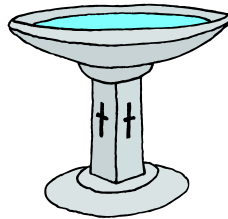
*Preacher at both services*

*The Reverend Mark McConnell*





## HOLY BAPTISM



11<sup>th</sup> September

Ellie May Payne

98 Beech Drive,  
Ballymena



## HOLY MATRIMONY

21<sup>st</sup> September

Geoff Stevenson

Apt 3 Dunmore House,  
37 New Street,  
Randalstown

Christine Hanlon

Apt 3 Dunmore House,  
37 New Street,  
Randalstown

## CHRISTIAN BURIAL



2<sup>nd</sup> September

Mary (Molly) Wiseman

Rose Martha Nursing Home,  
Ballymena

9<sup>th</sup> September

Amelia Thompson

15 Kincora, Ballymena

17<sup>th</sup> September

Thomas Craig

6 Sandmount Park,  
Ballymena

**Mary (Molly) Wiseman**

Molly Wiseman (nee Cathcart) was born on 24th June 1918 at Craigywarren. She was one of thirteen children and is survived by her sister Nell. Molly was married to Archie in Cloughwater Church and together they had one daughter Gwendoline. Molly worked in Rathkenny Creamery, the Hillmount Linen Factory and in the Buick Memorial Primary School as a lunch/playground supervisor until the age of 76 years. Molly was born with a strong positive work ethic. She was devoted to her daughter Gwen and her family and enjoyed seeing her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. For the last six years Molly has been a resident at the Rose Martha Care Home. She had Alzheimer's and as one of her family members said, "We loved Molly with all our hearts and we are sad to lose such a great lady. However, we rejoice that her Christian Spirit is with God until we meet again. We thank God for such an amazing lady and a life well lived." Our thoughts and prayers are with her daughter Gwendoline, her sister Nell and all her family circle.

**Amelia Thompson**

Amelia was born on the 19th November 1934 in Kells. She met her husband Jack in Templemoyle Mill in 1955 and they were married in St Saviour's Parish Church, Kells. They had just celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary on 27th April 2016. Together they had six children, Jacqueline, Margaret, Mervyn, Hazel, Wendy and Mandy. Amelia loved her family and was a wonderful granny and great granny. She was a regular parishioner at Ballyclug Church since 1987. Amelia had a strong faith and loved her church. She was a very caring person. Our prayers are with her family at this time.

**Tommy Craig**

Born outside Kells, Tommy was one of a family of seven children. He attended school until he was 14 and then worked on farms around the area. He also worked in Klingers and with other firms, his final job being with Flexibox where he worked as a machinist. Tommy and Jean first met at the Flamingo Ballroom and were married in 1964. They were devoted to each other and both worked hard to provide a good home for their

family. They had two children Liz, who sadly passed away on 13th May 2010, and Thomas. Tommy was a good neighbour and a good friend to all as he enjoyed helping other people. He loved sport and was very involved with football both playing as a goalkeeper and helping to manage junior football teams. He also played badminton, snooker and golf. In his later years he took up bowls and really enjoyed this sport. Tommy and Jean attended Ballyclug Church where he was a Church Warden on three different occasions and he was also involved in other church activities. Tommy and Jean were both very fond of their grandchildren and always looked forward to looking after them when they were asked to do so. Tommy was diagnosed with the early stages of Alzheimer's in 2001 and Jean lovingly cared for him over the next eight years until he had to go into a care home where she visited him many times every week for the next seven years. Alzheimer's separated them but could not separate the love that they showed to each other and to their family. Our thoughts and prayers are with Jean, Tommy and all the family circle at this time.

## David Watson

David grew up on a farm outside Ahoghill and throughout his life was very proud of being a native of this part of County Antrim. At school, while at Queen's and for many years afterwards, David was a keen sportsman with rugby and athletics amongst his many passions. David's working life was entirely within Northern Ireland Electricity (NIE). David was an adept scientist, engineer and a keen inventor throughout his life. David was a man of firm civic beliefs which he passed on to his family. His son Nigel gave a moving eulogy and the rector spoke on the essential nature of love in both life and faith from 1 Corinthians 13. Our sympathies to Judie, Nigel, Joanne and the whole family circle at this time.





# OUR ACTIVITIES

## SAINT PATRICK'S

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

## SAINT COLUMBA'S

	Day	Time	Contact
Beavers	Monday	6.30 pm	Mrs L McCullagh
Cubs	Monday	7.00 pm	Miss H Hughes
Ladies' Circle	4th Monday	8.00 pm	Mrs L Hughes
Brownies	Tuesday	6.30 pm	Mrs S Cardwell
Squirrels	Wednesday	6.30 pm	Mr P Houston
Guides	Thursday	6.30 pm	Mrs K Black
Senior Guides	Thursday	8.00 pm	Mrs K Black
Rainbows	Friday	6.30 pm	Mrs H Strain
Scouts	Friday	7.45 pm	Mr K Hughes



# OUR WORSHIP

## ST PATRICK'S PARISH CHURCH

### SUNDAY SERVICES

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

### EVERY WEDNESDAY

10.30 am	Holy Communion
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## ST PATRICK'S, BALLYCLUG

### SUNDAY SERVICES

10.00 am	Morning Prayer
	Holy Communion
	4th Sunday in the month

## 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
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### ST COLUMBA'S

11.30 am	Church	Superintendent - Mrs S Foster
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## HOLY BAPTISM

*At Sunday services by arrangement*