

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



**Parish Magazine  
May 2017**



**Diocese of Connor - Parish of Kilconriola and Ballyclug**

**WHO'S WHO IN OUR PARISH**



**CLERGY**

Rector

The Revd Mark McConnell  
102 Galgorm Road, Ballymena (Tel 2565 2253)  
Mobile No 077 5954 5932  
Email mmccconnell60@yahoo.co.uk



**Curate Assistants**

The Revd Dennis Christie  
127 Whitesides Road, Ballymena  
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The Revd John McClure  
69 Parkgate Road, Connor (Tel 2589 2324)  
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**LAY READER**

Mr J Perry, 261a Galgorm Road, Ballymena

**YOUTH WORKERS**

Lucy McLaughlin  
3 The Commons, Broughshane  
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**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

**CHURCHWARDENS**

<b>St Patrick's</b>	Rector's	Mr Alex McNeill
	People's	Miss Ruth Dixon
<b>Ballyclug</b>	Rector's	Mr William Burnett
	People's	Mr Jackie Greer
<b>St Columba's</b>	Rector's	Miss Laura Doole
	People's	Miss Elizabeth Peachey
<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, Mrs Andrea Cotter, Mr Richard Cotter, Mr Barry Duke, Mr Ronnie Fleming, Mrs Vera Greer, Mrs Elizabeth Hughes, Mrs Emma McAleese, Mr Alex McKay, Mr Alastair Marrs, Mr Richard Todd and Mrs Helen Weir.

<b>Honorary Secretary:</b>	Mr A Marrs	32 Granville Drive, Ballymena
<b>Honorary Treasurer:</b>	Mr R Cotter	6 Markstown Crescent, Cullybackey
<b>Sextons</b>	<b>St Patrick's</b>	Mr John Linton
	<b>St Columba's</b>	Miss Margaret Mawhinney
<b>Organists</b>	<b>St Patrick's</b>	Mr Adrian Poston, Mr Frank Hewitt and Dr Iris Millar
	<b>St Columba's</b>	Vacant

THE RECTOR WRITES



# Rectory Ramblings

Be honest, have you ever thought about cheating in order to pass an exam? Sorry kids - I know we are getting close to that time of the year! It's a real temptation, to either take a short-cut to avoid all the hard work of revision and preparation, or, to make sure you get the score/grade you really need. Is the following cheating or just plain brilliance? You make your own mind up.

It is the end of year exam in a university, the subject is the Philosophy of Physics and the lecturer is a notoriously hard marker. He does, however, give his students one advantage, he allows each student taking the exam to bring one piece of A4 size paper on which they can cram as much information as they can to help with the exam. On exam day they all file in, each person clutching their precious A4 sheets crammed with tiny print, diagrams and various memory aids. All except for one pupil who has a blank A4 piece of paper - and a friend, who happens to be the Head of Philosophy at a nearby university. He sits down, puts the piece of paper on the ground beside his desk and his friend promptly stands neatly on it! You can image the reactions.

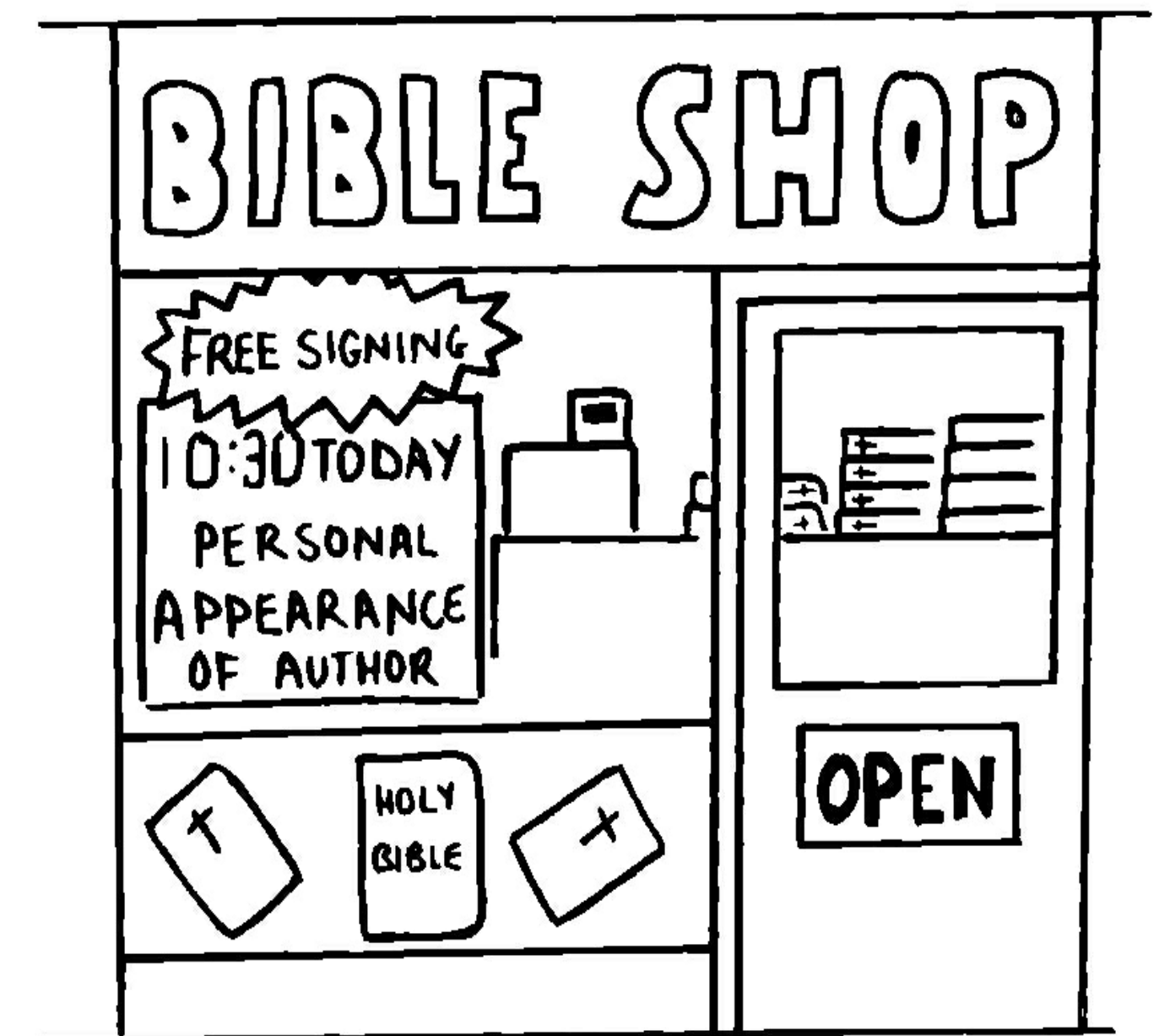
"You did say we could bring whatever would fit on the page, well he does." He was the only one to get an A\* that year. Cheating or just plain brilliant, you make your mind up. By the way if you are taking exams I am not suggesting that you try this.

I am reminded by this great story of some of the realities of Christian living. Firstly that we are tested or examined often to face opposition to our faith, to deal with painful personal circumstances, to try to keep

temptations from turning into sin, the list could go on and on. Yet our Heavenly Father has promised to help. Not just an A4 sheet in this case (the Bible I'm using as I prepare this article has 2,025 pages). God's word is crammed with promises and practical help to face and overcome the tests we face. There's more - every believer also receives the indwelling Holy Spirit of God that 'Parakletos', helper, guide, what a loving and generous God we have. So remember to use and call upon the resources God gives in order to face the examinations of life. It's not cheating, Just plain brilliant.

God Bless

*R.M.N.C. M.*





# Parish News

## CONCERT BY THE PSNI LADIES' CHOIR

St Patrick's Church Hall was the setting for a wonderful evening's entertainment by the PSNI Ladies' Choir on Friday, 24th March. While this talented Choir has toured throughout Ireland, the United Kingdom and Europe, helping to raise money for various charities, this was its first visit to St Patrick's. We were absolutely delighted that the ladies agreed to perform at this special concert to raise money for church funds.

The choir (formerly known as 'The RUC George Cross Ladies' Choir') was formed on 6th September 1976 during one of the bleakest periods in Northern Ireland's history. While, undoubtedly, each individual member would have some very poignant memories, their motto remains 'Singing for Pleasure' and that is precisely what they did for us in St Patrick's!

The choir, under its musical director, Yvette Anderson MBE, and accompanied by pianist, Donald Blair, treated the audience to a wonderful evening of music and storytelling. The varied repertoire included Songs from the Shows (featuring a beautiful performance of 'I Dreamed a Dream'), an American medley (incorporating 'New York, New York') a collection of Negro spirituals and some 'easy listening' (including 'Both Sides Now' and Leonard Cohen's haunting composition 'Hallelujah'). In addition to the beautiful harmonies of the entire choir, there were some wonderful solo performances which held the audience spellbound, including the Gershwin classic 'Summertime' sung by musical director, Yvette Anderson.

However, these ladies did much more than sing! Their chairperson and compère, Jennifer Stewart, had the audience in fits of laugh-

ter with her own brand of humour and storytelling! At the end of the evening the large and very appreciative audience agreed that there had definitely been 'something for everyone', irrespective of their musical tastes!

As always, so many people gave willingly of their time - both behind the scenes and front of house - to make the evening such a success. Our sincere thanks go to those who prepared and served refreshments/supper, sold tickets, prepared flyers, managed sound and lighting, took photographs, set up and tidied the hall and stage, welcomed, collected and counted money.

In particular, a huge 'thank you' to all of you who attended the concert or gave generous donations. Total proceeds raised were £2,030.

***The Fundraising Committee***

## **ACTION CANCER 'BIG BUS' - BACK AT ST PATRICK'S**

Following the 'Three Wide Men' fundraiser, the Men's Fellowship group have arranged for the Action Cancer 'Big Bus' to return to the Parish on **Saturday 24th June 2017**. The 'Big Bus' will provide a total of 42 breast screenings and

13 MOT men's health checks carried out on the day.

If you are interested please get yourself booked on. Appointments can be made online at [www.actioncancer.org](http://www.actioncancer.org) or by calling Action Cancer on 028 9080 3344. Please be sure to provide the following reference code when booking: HSW-1607.

Parishioners have already been very generous with donations to this cause and Action Cancer - the Men's Fellowship Group and the clergy team would like to say thank you for this.

## **BIG JOHN ON THE MOVE**

It was with a mixture of real sadness and real joy that we heard the news of Revd John McClure's appointment to be the next Rector of the Parish of Muckamore, Killead and Gartree. Please pray for John and Margo as they prepare for this new chapter in life and ministry.

We want to give everyone advance notice of the date, etc. of John's Institution which will be **Wednesday, 28th June at 8.00 pm** in St Jude's Muckamore. Do please put this date in your diary. I hope that many from Ballymena will be able to come along.

## **CIVIC SERVICE ALERT**

We look forward to hosting a special joint morning service in St Patrick's on **Sunday, 4th June at 11.30 am** (St Columba's and Ballyclug please note that there will be no morning services with you that Sunday morning - we want to come together as a church family to support and pray for our wider community).

If you are a part of any local civic group, any voluntary group, any business organisation, any local charity, please do **two** things, start personally inviting your group/organisation members to come along. Also please make sure that Lorraine/Sandra in the parish office have contact details in order to send out a formal invitation. There has been and continues to be much concern for the political, social, economic and spiritual well being of our town. Let's gather together to pray and encourage and seek God.

See you on the **4th June**.

## **NEW TEAM**

The Annual General Vestry of the parish met recently and a new team was chosen in terms of churchwardens, glebe wardens and select vestry. The names of

the new team appear on the inside cover of this magazine.

In addition the triennial elections of parochial nominators and synods persons took place with the following results:-

### ***Parochial Nominators***

Mr Ronnie Fleming  
Mr Alex McKay  
Mrs Patricia McWhirter  
Mr Jim Perry

### ***Supplemental Parochial Nominators***

Mrs Anne Adams  
Mr William Burnett  
Mr Richard Cotter  
Mrs Sandra Duke

### ***Synods Persons***

Miss Nicola Burnett  
Mr Peter Chestnutt  
Mr Ronnie Fleming  
Mrs Dawn McLean  
Mrs Patricia McWhirter  
Mr Richard Todd

### ***Supplemental Synods Persons***

Mrs Andrea Cotter  
Mrs Anne Crawford  
Mrs Debbie Crawford  
Mr Les Hughes  
Mr Alex McKay  
Mr Oliver Reid



# A Safe Place

## THE PARISH OF KILCONRIOLA AND BALLYCLUG QUALIFIES AS 'A SAFE PLACE'

At the end of March and beginning of April the rector and Mr John Nicholl attended two training events which were organised by ONUS Training. This training event allows the parish to qualify for the Safe Place Campaign, which has at its heart a condemnation of all forms of domestic violence or abuse. To make available through posters and discreet cards information allowing help to be sought.

It was both heart breaking and challenging to take part in this training event and both John and I, representing the Safeguarding Trust Committee and the wider parish family, are delighted that we can now be known as a Safe Place. With the help of our churchwardens, posters and information cards will be placed around our churches and halls.

Please pray for both victims and in line with scripture also those who engage in any form of domestic violence/abuse. Very sadly the statistics for Northern Ireland are grim.

This campaign has been given the backing of the Workplace Charter on Domestic Violence. Let's be prayerfully vigilant and seek to ensure that awareness of this widespread issue is raised and tolerance of this issue resolved.







# Around the Parish

## CHURCH LADS' BRIGADE

Our annual parents and friends evening took place on Friday, 7th March 2017. Our special guests were Mr Michael Warnock, Major of the 4th Battalion and his wife, Mrs Anne Warnock, the following awards were presented:



## MARTINS AWARDS

Boyd Shield for P.E. and Games:	<b>Charlie Stewart</b>
	Runner Up: <b>Alex Quigley</b>
Hamill Shield - Best Squad:	<b>Josh Crawford, Emeli Turner, Adam Nelson, Brooke Mawhinney, Matthew McAllister</b>
Stinson Shield - Best New Recruit:	<b>Reuben Rea</b>
	Runner Up: <b>Leighton Nicholl</b>
Scripture Competition:	<b>Alex Mawhinney</b>
	Runner Up: <b>Callum Abernethy</b>
Gillespie Cup - Best Overall:	<b>Lucy McKay</b>
	Runner Up: <b>Lewis McKay</b>
Willie Nelson Memorial Cup - Church and Sunday School Attendance:	<b>Jack Gillespie</b>
Special Achievement Award:	<b>Josh Livingstone</b>
	Runner Up: <b>Casey Parkhill</b>
Most Improved:	<b>Jack Turner</b>

All boys received their badges, attendance awards and Easter eggs.

## **Y.B.C. SECTION**

Andrew Dennison Shield for  
P.E. and Games:  
Black Cup - Best Squad:

McBride Shield for Scripture  
Knowledge:  
Elliot Cup for Best Overall Boy:

Stewart Allen Shield for Sunday  
School and Church Attendance:

**Jamie Quigley**  
Runner Up: **Graham McAleese,**  
**Thomas Adair, Dan McGrattan,**  
**Joe McGrattan, Harry Lamont,**  
**David McAleese, Austin McAleese,**  
**Graham McAleese**  
**Corey Black**  
Runner Up: **Kayden Kerr**  
**Michael Leetch**  
Runner Up: **Harry Lamont**  
**David Austin and**  
**Graham McAleese**  
Runner Up: **Jude Crawford**

All boys received scripture certificates, attendance awards and Easter eggs.

## **J.T.C. SECTION**

Iris Burnett Shield for P.E. and  
Games:  
McCullough Shield - Best Squad:

Rodgers Cup for Scripture  
Knowledge:

McCready Cup - Best Overall Boy:

**Carson Hume**  
**Wyatt Lorimer, Euan Hamill,**  
**Carson Hume**  
**Euan Hamill**

**Wyatt Lorimer**

All boys received scripture certificates and Easter eggs.

## **C.L.B. SECTION**

O'Hara Centenary Shield for  
P.E. and Games:  
Perry Cup - Best Squad:

Nevin Cup - Best Overall Boy:

Ann Johnston Cup for Scripture  
Knowledge:

**Adam Lamont**  
Runner Up: **John Young**  
**Anthony Shaw, Simon Bennett,**  
**Callum Hamill, Adam Boyd,**  
**Aiden Hoey, James McIlfatrick**  
**Adam Smyth**  
Runner Up **Aaron Adair**  
**Aiden Hoey**

## General Cups all Sections

Sally Ross Cup for Best Sportsman: **Adam Reynolds**

Sittlington Cup - Brigade Week: **Jack Gillespie**

Runner Up: **Joshua Livingstone**

Penny Cup for Church Duty:

**Callum Hamill and Simon Bennett**

Barr Cup - Best Overall in Company:

**Sophie Leetch and Oonagh Lamont**

Revd Mark McConnell was presented with his chaplain's certificate for the company.

Five Year Service Medals presented to:

**Zara Leetch, Callum Hamill, Adam Lamont, Adam Reynolds**

Ten Year Service Medals presented to:

**Karen McCartney, Deanna Lamont**

Thirty year Service Medals Presented to:

**Wallace Barkley, Rodney Quigley, Stephen Nevin**

The Company presented cheques for £300 to the Church, £200 to the Leprosy Mission and £220 was collected on the night for a Children's Cancer Charity. Our next event is the Martins Fun Day on **Saturday, 6th May, 1.00 pm - 3.00 pm** in the Church grounds. Thanks to all parents, boys and girls for a fund packed year. Brigade will start back on **Friday, 8th September**.

*Alan Ross*



### **MOTHERS AND TODDLERS GROUP**

The sun shone on 4th April and we all had fun rolling eggs in the church grounds before our Easter party. The ladies from Radio Cracker were delighted to make sales of £60 that day and we added a donation of £20 from our funds.

Angela and Sandra from the local library paid us a visit at the end of April. We learned new songs with the help of their two cute puppet friends and the children listened very attentively to two stories.

Many congratulations to Kathleen Thompson on the birth of her grandson.

Please note we will finish on **13th June**.

Rota for May:-

DATE	NAME	FUNCTION
2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Rosemary Stacey, Sandra McKay, Mary Cochrane and Jean Cunningham	Tea
	Bee Robinson	Welcoming
	Alex McKay and Eddie McClelland	Car Park
9 <sup>th</sup> May	Evonne Stinson, Eleanor Burnett, Vera Owens and Marlene Gray	Tea
	Mary Steele	Welcoming
	David Oliver and Derek Bell	Car Park
16 <sup>th</sup> May	Dorothy Hegan, Isabel Halliday, Karin Agnew and Sandra Duke	Tea
	Ann Fisher	Welcoming
	Jackie McMaster and Jimmy Tuff	Car Park
23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Ruth Murray, Isabell Adair, Vivien Gilmour and Kathleen Thompson	Tea
	Liz Bodel	Welcoming
	Bob Peachey and Davy Nelson	Car Park
30 <sup>th</sup> May	Evonne Stinson, Eleanor Burnett, Vera Owens and Marlene Gray	Tea
	Mary Steele	Welcoming
	David Oliver and Derek Bell	Car Park

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

## MOTHERS' UNION



Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday 10th May at 8 pm** - 'Decoupage' by Ester McDowell. All members of the parish will be made most welcome.

**Friday 26th May 2.30 pm** will be our afternoon 'Tea Party' - an informal gathering, we hope to have a few of our senior members and maybe lapsed members to enjoy a chat.

We hope you all have a great summer break, see you all back again in September.

*Jean Kennedy (Secretary)*

### 'LANDLUBBERS' - CHILDREN'S BIBLE WEEK

**MONDAY 12th - FRIDAY 16th JUNE  
ST PATRICK'S HALL FROM 7 - 8.15 PM**

**FOR ALL PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN**

Landlubbers are pirates searching for hidden treasure on a desert island. They discover the greatest treasure of all - knowing Jesus. That's what the apostle Paul discovered and shared with Jesus' followers in Philippi. Landlubbers is based on Paul's letter to the Philippians. Each night we will learning more about this through craft, song, stories, DVD and games.





# Christian Aid Week 2017

## Christian Aid Week 2017 The Final Countdown

We are now rapidly approaching, 'that week in May!' We are all set for the two lunches on **14th May** - at St Columba's and St Patrick's. We have everything in hand for collecting in all three churches. But, and it's a big but, we are still in need of some more people to offer to come out with us on the door-to-door collection. This is an important part of our effort in Christian Aid Week because it reaches out to people who are not regular church-goers but are willing to help Christian Aid reach out in turn to help those who are not in a position to help themselves initially but are willing to make an effort to turn any help they are given into making a difference for their families and communities.

As we mentioned back in March, Christian Aid is concentrating on the plight of refugees this year. We particularly mentioned Nejebar and Noor who had fled Afghanistan and were now in Greece trying not only to fend for their own children, but two others as well.

Please consider coming out to collect in the part of town allocated to us and ring me (2564 6701) or email me ([mer2201@ymail.com](mailto:mer2201@ymail.com)) or contact the parish office (2563 0741) and leave your name and contact details and we'll get back to you as soon as possible.

Remember:

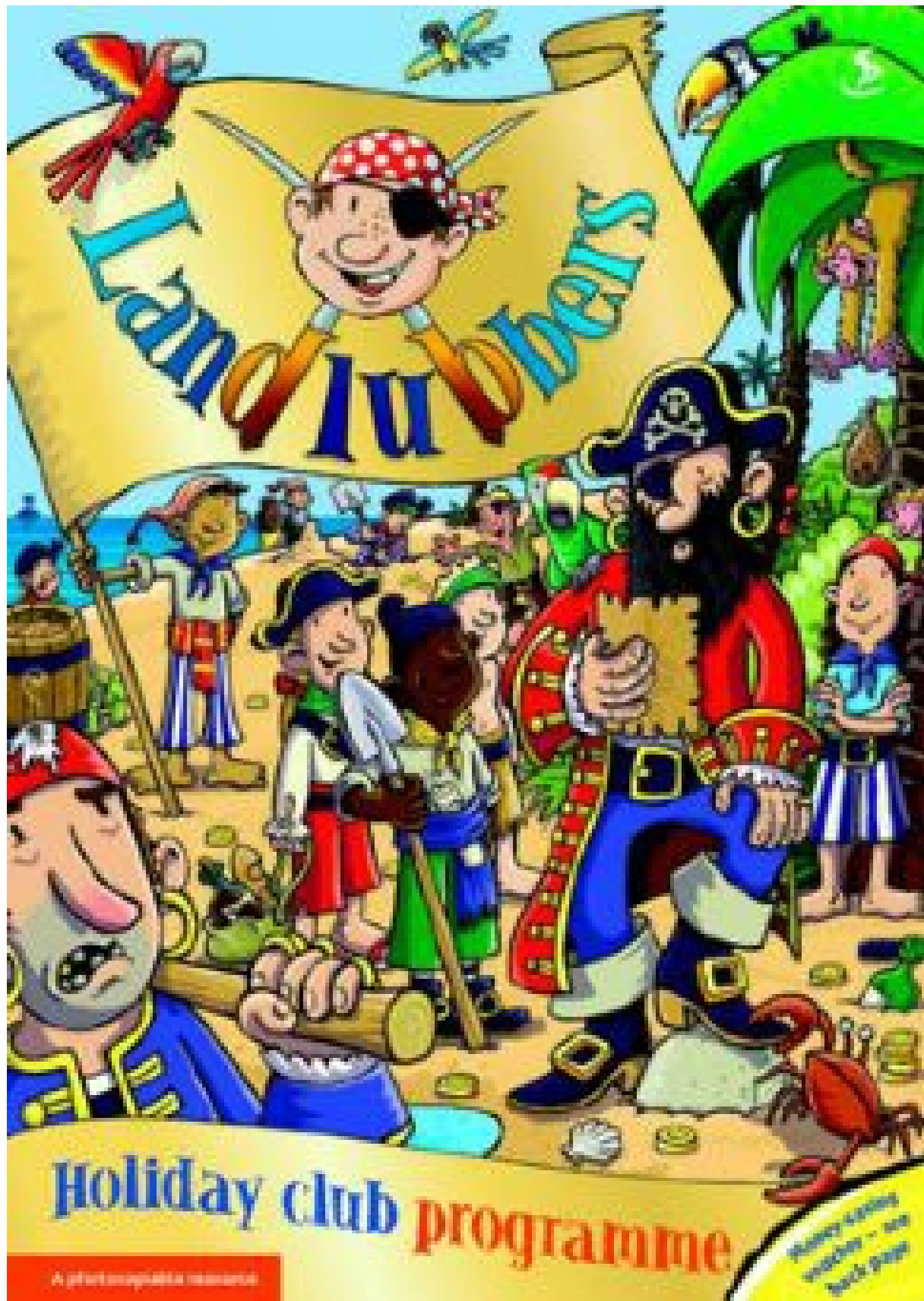
- Our parish needs your help,
- Christian Aid needs our parish's help and - most importantly,



- Nejebar and Noor and all the others like them need all the help that we can give them through our support of Christian Aid.

Please help to ensure that we don't let them down.

*Mary Campbell*







# Ballymena Parish Alpha 2017

## Alpha Course attendees explore 'what's next?'

This year's Alpha Course group celebrated their final evening together at Montgomery's Restaurant in Ballymena, enjoying a meal and a feedback session with prayer and worship. The course has proved to be very successful over the 10 Tuesday evenings, with as many as 40 people gathering to explore the Christian faith.

After the meal the group shared together how much of an impact the ten-week course had been on their faith and their walk with God. From the feedback received, nearly all felt that they had grown deeper in the Christian faith, and there is now a great hunger within the group to continue to meet together and to explore God's word. The group were also greatly encouraged by the fellowship they enjoyed, and the new people they got to know across the three churches within the parish.



## Youth Alpha to Continue....

Our Youth Alpha course has proved very successful with around 25 secondary school children meeting every week to explore the fundamentals of the Christian faith. We are now extending the course for another

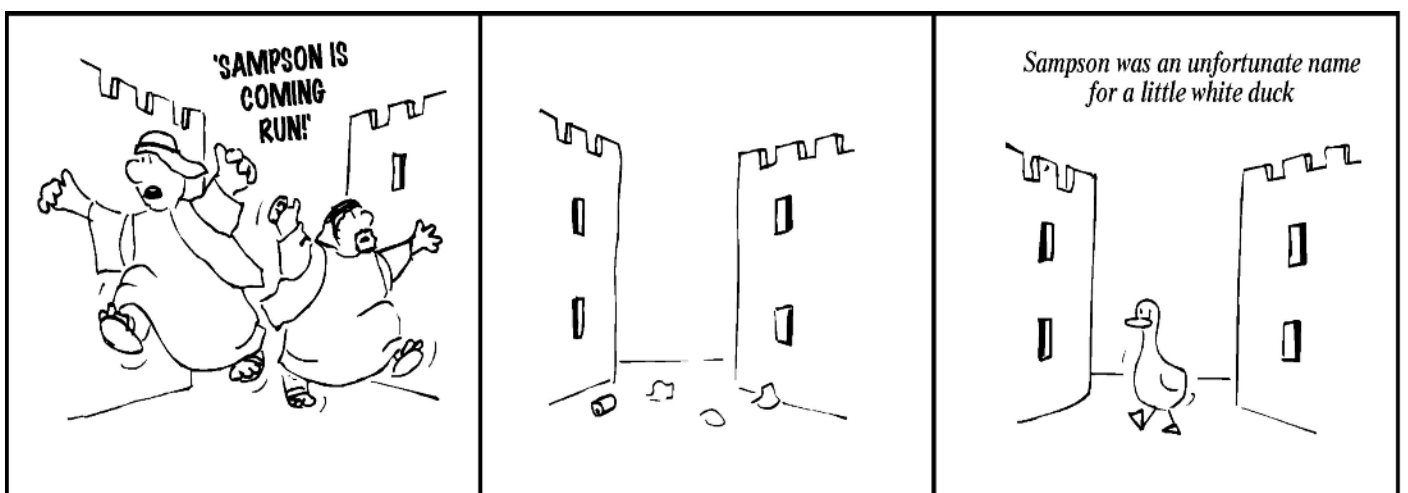
4 weekends from Sunday 30th April until the 21st of May. Please be sure to join us again.

## 'The Way' Youth Fellowship group

Please also keep a look out for our new youth fellowship group, called 'The Way', which is due to start in September 2017. Following on from the keen interest shown in the Youth Alpha course, it is intended that this group will meet on a regular basis to explore God's word, the Christian faith and to have a bit of fun and fellowship together. This will again be open to anyone of secondary school age. Further details to come.

## Confirmation

This year's confirmation service is due to take place in December. Confirmation classes, which will be led by Revd Mark, will begin in September 2017, taking place immediately after the youth fellowship meetings. Confirmation candidates will attend the youth fellowship meetings.

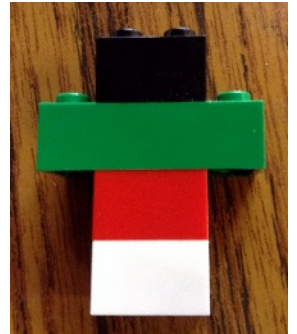




'Buns and Crosses' was held on Good Friday after the family service. We looked at the Easter story through the colours of Lego and built crosses using the colours. We also watched the Lego Easter story and sang about Good Friday/Bad Friday. We ended with a palm cross treasure hunt in exchange for an Easter egg.

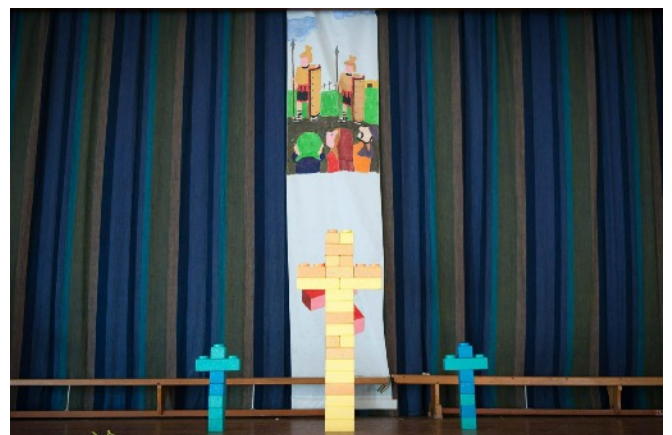
## Lego Colours

**Green** the colour of things growing and alive, a soothing peaceful colour. When Jesus needed comfort he went to somewhere green. He surrounded himself with the



beauty of a garden as he prayed for God's will. Jesus was troubled, afraid and sad but Jesus found comfort not just in the garden but in prayer. Prayer can give us comfort when we are troubled. Prayer can also help us grow in our faith.

**Black** represents the unknown and things we fear. Peter denied Jesus because he was afraid. He was afraid of the unknown, of what people would do to him if he stood up for Jesus. Years later Peter would conquer his fears because he gave his fears to Jesus just like we should.





**Red** is a bright bold colour. It is a colour that delivers a message when you need to get someone's attention. Red represents the blood and pain and suffering of Jesus. He was beaten, had a crown



of thorns forced upon his head, nails driven into his hands and feet. He shed a great deal of blood on the cross and he did this for us as it was the only way to save us so we can have our sins forgiven.

Sunday School has finished the CMS project 'Growing in God'. It's now time to bring in the full Smarties tubes so we can count our 20 pence pieces.



Well done to all those who took part in the GFS and CLB display - a credit to the young people in these organi-

sations and a big thank you to all the leaders for all their hard work throughout the year.



By the time you read this we will have just had our coffee morning - our final fundraiser for Summer Madness. We would like to thank everyone who came to the coffee morning, to those who donated cakes/buns and to those who helped setting up. We were really encouraged by the kindness and support of parishioners throughout our time of fundraising. Preparations are well under way and we are all looking forward to Summer Madness. Hopefully when we come back we can tell you all about it.

Winners of the Fireside Quiz - 1st Elaine Kenna, 2nd Jessica and Stuart Getty, 3rd Barbara Fleming.

*Lucy*

## **GIFTS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Donation from Student Lunches to Church - £100  
Donation from GFS to Church - £200  
Donation from Sewing Group to Church - £150  
Anonymous donation to defibrillator appeal - £500  
In lieu of flowers - £270  
Easyfundraising donation - £15.56  
Anonymous donation to Church - £20  
Donation from CLB to Church - £300



# The Curate's Letter

## All in for Christ

C. T. Studd was a missionary who dedicated his life to the mission fields of both China and East Africa (including Sudan and Congo), during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Having been impacted by the serious illness of his brother, Charles Studd began to following Christ and became committed to missional work and spreading the gospel to parts of the world that didn't know it. This dedication was made all the more significant because he also gave up a promising career as a professional cricket player. In his early twenties he played for England in the very first Ashes series against Australia, and his name is even inscribed on the famous Ashes urn that the two countries still compete for today.

In a personal testimony Studd once wrote: *'I was brought up in the Church of England and was pretty religious – so most people thought. I was taken to church and baptised the right day, and after a time I was confirmed and took communion. But I did not know anything about Jesus Christ personally .... The Sabbath was the duller day of the whole week, and just because we got hold of the wrong end of religion'*.

Studd eventually got hold of the 'right end of religion' and it radically transformed his life. He is a wonderful example of how a true personal relationship with Christ can dramatically turn a person's life around, when they give their whole life over to God and His will. C.T. Studd was 'all in' for Christ.

Most of us may never be asked to do such a dramatic thing as to completely 'up sticks' from Ballymena, for a different new life at the other end of the world (though it is of course possible); but it is still the case that a committed personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ will require us to completely hand over our lives to the will of God - and to hand over anything that is getting in the way of our obedience to God's will.



Studd writes about a key point in his journey of faith, before he began his missionary work, when he realised that he was not fully committed to Christ and that he was holding back in his relationship with Him.

*'[I gave Christ] the iron ring of my will, with all the keys of my life on it, except one little key that I kept back .... the key of a tiny closet in my heart, of which I must keep control.' ... [Jesus replied], "If you don't trust Me in all, you don't trust Me at all" ... I said, "Lord, I will be so devoted in everything else, but I can't live without the contents of that closet." .... [I finally conceded to Christ], "I am not willing, but I am willing to be made willing." It seemed as though He came near and took that key out of my hand, and went straight for the closet. I knew what He would find there, and He knew too. Within a week from that time He had cleared it right out. Why, what a fool I was! He wanted to take away the sham jewels, to give me the real ones. He just took away the thing that was eating out my life, and instead gave me Himself.'*

Recognising our condition before God and our need of a personal relationship with Jesus is one thing, but handing over everything that is dear to us to His will is another thing entirely. We need to be 'all in' for Christ, and that takes time and the prompting of the Holy Spirit in our lives, but as we do He continues to show us that it is far better to be in His will than our own. We are to hand it ALL over to Jesus, all our keys and allow Him to lead in our lives.

God bless,

*Dennis*



***Hannah brings baby Samuel to stay with Eli the Priest***





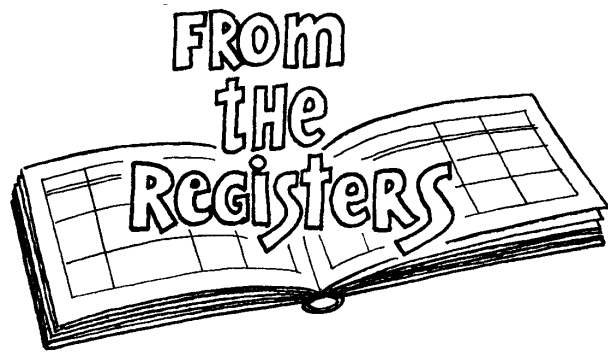
*The Castle Players*  
*present*  
*'Separate Beds'*

*It's by Sam Cree*  
*Need we say more?*

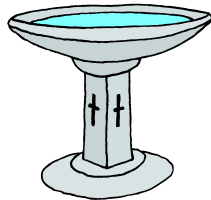
*For an evening of honest humour*  
*Come and have a good laugh*

*Friday 2nd June at 7.30 pm*  
*Saturday 3rd June at 7.30 pm*

*At the Braíd*  
*Ballymena*  
*Admission £8*  
*Concessions £6*



## HOLY BAPTISM



9 <sup>th</sup> April	Francis Hugh Patterson	40 Lisnamurrican Road, Ballymena
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## HOLY MATRIMONY



19 <sup>th</sup> April	Philip Miller	9 Ross Park, Ballymena
	Andrea O'Neill	9 Ross Park, Ballymena
21 <sup>st</sup> April	Mervyn Boyd	7 Grange Avenue, Ballymena
	Gayle Linton	7 Grange Avenue, Ballymena

## CHRISTIAN BURIAL



26 <sup>th</sup> March	Samuel (Sam) Letters	76 Grange Road, Ballymena
27 <sup>th</sup> March	Marian Paterson	10 Brookleigh Heights, Ballymena
8 <sup>th</sup> April	Joan McCrory	29 Deerfin Fold, Ballymena

## **Samuel (Sam) Hanley Letters**

Sam was born in Ballymena on 17 April 1931. He was an active member of St Patrick's Parish Church throughout his life. He attended Sunday School as a boy, became a teacher and later he was the Sunday School Superintendent. Sam was also involved with the CLB and the Church Choir but his great love was for bell-ringing. He was a member of the bell-ringers since 1945 and rang the bells every Sunday until he became ill. Sam was very interested in caravanning and spent many happy holidays with his family on various campsites throughout the world. He was also a member of the Masonic Order and Probus. He was a devoted husband and father to his wife Patricia and his girls, Tracey and Sharon. Sam had two brothers, John and Bob and two sisters Jean and Sadie. We extend our sincere sympathy to his wife Patricia, his daughters, sons-in-law, brothers, sisters, and his extended family circle. Our prayers are with all the family at this sad time.

## **Marian Paterson**

Marian was an only child born in Belfast who lived with her mother and father, Jim and Roberta in Chichester Park. Marian attended Harryville Primary School, the Old Model School, the new Intermediate School where she was head girl and finally Ballymena Technical School. She went from the Tech to work in James Ballentine, Solicitors, where she stayed for the rest of her working life. Through work Marian made many friendships which lasted the rest of her life. She retired early to look after her partner, Shaun who became ill and devoted her life to caring for him. Marian shared Shaun's interest in motorbike racing and his hobby of keeping racing pigeons. Marian was also very fond of cars and her car was her pride and joy. Marian also cared for both her mother and father. Her mother died a year ago and Marian appreciated very much the support of her Aunt Myra and her friends and neighbours during this time. Marian's own health was not good and she was devastated when her mother died. Marian will be missed by her family, friends and by all who knew her. Our prayers are with her family and friends at this sad time.

## **Joan McCrory**

Joan McCrory was born on 22nd May 1936. She was one of nine children and in her early days she lived in Clarence Street, Ballymena. Joan worked in the Braidwater Spinning Mill where she met her future hus-

band, Tommy McCrory. Tommy and Joan were married in 1961 and lived in Harryville. Both had a keen interest in pigeon racing and Joan would regularly be found in the pigeon shed on race days. In later years they moved to their bungalow in Deerfin Fold. Unfortunately both had health problems and on 29th March 2014, Joan lost her beloved husband Tommy. Both Tommy and Joan were very much involved in Ballyclug Church and Joan also attended the Holy Communion Services in St Patrick's where she enjoyed the company and the chat. During the past year Joan faced many challenges with her health. In December 2016 she moved to Rose Martha Court Nursing Home. We send our sincere sympathy to her daughters Sandra and Jennifer and to her grandchildren, Kerry, Connor and Craig and to her extended family circle.



### ***Service of Thanksgiving***

26<sup>th</sup> March - Leon Philip Samuel Marshall, 8 Sky Park, Ballymena



# 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
Men's Fellowship	1st Thursday	7.30 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*