

Parish of Kilconriola and Ballyclug



**Parish Magazine
November
2018**



Diocese of Connor - Parish of Kilconriola and Ballyclug

WHO'S WHO IN OUR PARISH



CLERGY

Rector

The Revd Mark McConnell
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Curate Assistant

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6 Old Antrim Mews, Ballymena
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LAY READER

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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

St Patrick's	Rector's	Mr William Gillespie
	People's	Miss Gillian Gillespie
Ballyclug	Rector's	Mrs Letty Kettles
	People's	Mr Jackie Greer
St Columba's	Rector's	Miss Elizabeth Peachey
	People's	Miss Marie Semple
Glebe Wardens	Rector's	Mr Kenneth Hughes
	People's	Mr Peter Chestnutt

SELECT VESTRY

Clergy, Church Wardens, Glebe Wardens and: Mr Alan Adair, Mr William Burnett, Mr Richard Cotter, Mrs Anne Crawford, Mrs Debbie Crawford, Mr Ronnie Fleming, Mrs Mary Galbraith, Mr Les Hughes, Mr Alex McKay, Mr Alex McNeill, Mr Richard Todd and Mrs Helen Weir.

Honorary Secretary:	Mr R Fleming	44 Meadowvale, Ballymena
Honorary Treasurer:	Mr R Cotter	6 Markstown Crescent, Cullybackey
Sextons:	St Patrick's	Mr John Linton
	St Columba's	Mr Andrew Clarke
Organists:	St Patrick's	Mr Adrian Poston, Mr Frank Hewitt and Dr Iris Millar
	St Columba's	Vacant



Perhaps during this month - November with all its Halloween overload, Christians and Christian families come into direct conflict with the world we live in - Halloween has become completely disconnected from its Christian roots. Is it harmless fun for the little ones and not so little ones - well read Romans Chapter 12 verse 2 and make your own mind up - at the very least either carve a Jesus into your pumpkins or a really, really good scary face. They of course come from the gargoyles that adorn the inside and outside of many ancient churches - their function? To keep evil spirits at bay - not bring them into your home!!



My simple rule as we navigate through Halloween - Remembrance Day and to the beginning of Advent is this:-

- Stand Out

Don't compromise what you believe to fit in or look cool.

- Stand Up

Always have a respective answer ready for the Christian hope you have.

- Stand Firm

In your commitment to the Lord. He is the Rock of Ages after all!

R.M.N.C. M.



Parish News

BALLYCLUG

Thank you to everyone who donated and helped decorate the church for Harvest. Thanks also to all who helped at the coffee morning and provided cakes, tray bakes and jam. Also to everyone who attended and gave generous donations. The total at present is £700.

Thank you all.

Vera and Jackie

CHRISTMAS FOODBANK

We would be grateful if all items for the Christmas Foodbank could be brought to church before **2nd December** to allow time for distribution.

BALLYCLUG - ADVENT SERIES

As is our custom we will have a mid week service on the Wednesday evenings of Advent in Ballyclug Church at 7.30 pm - **Wednesday 5th, 12th and 19th**. We will use the service of Compline and will be looking at 3

aspects of prayer - Thanksgiving, Confession and Intercession.

BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

Please note Bible Fellowship in St Patrick's finishes for 2018 on **Tuesday 27th November**.

THIS CANON (TO BE) IS NOT ON THE MOVE!

Firstly, thank you for the many messages of support and encouragement following the news that I was recently invited to be the newest Canon of Lisburn Cathedral by Bishop Alan.

Can I quickly dismiss a rumour that seems to be going round, that this means I will be leaving Ballymena. This is not the case, I will be remaining as Rector in Ballymena - every Canon (nowadays a largely honorary title) is attached to a Diocesan Cathedral - hence the Lisburn bit.

No news yet of any dates for the service but I hope that perhaps

some Ballymena folk would join the McConnell Clan for this event.

Thanks again everyone.

Mark

ST PATRICK'S CAROL SERVICE

Our Carol Service will be held in St Patrick's Church at the end of December. If you can sing and if

you would be willing to join us in the Choir for this occasion only, you would be most welcome. We practise in the Robing Room each Thursday evening from 8.00 pm - 9.00 pm, but you need only come to Choir Practices for the 4 weeks prior to the Carol Service. If you are interested, please contact Adrian or any member of the Choir for more information.

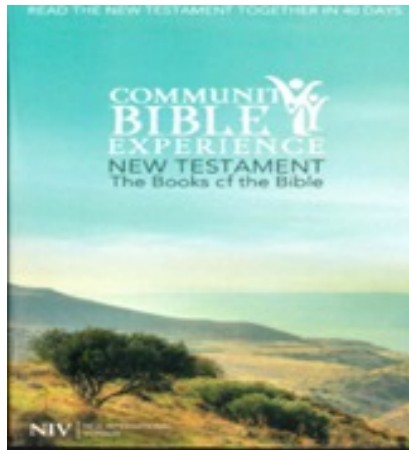
Remembrance Sunday



11th November

**Act of Remembrance at morning services
in all three churches**

THE GOOD BOOK



BOOK CLUB

Our dates for Friday evening meetings are:

9th November 2018

Venue: Choir Vestry

23rd November 2018

7th December 2018

Time: New time of 7 pm

All welcome for tea/coffee, biscuits and conversation.



Famous Prayers

A miner's son who became the darling of the Reformation - monk, philosopher, lecturer and doctrinal revolutionary. The next prayer in our 'Famous Prayers' series comes from Martin Luther. His stance on faith matters was long in the making. He wrote prolifically and his German translation of the Bible is highly regarded and helped in the development of the German language as we know it. The Wittenberg Theses sparked a century of debate, thought, prayer and writing, leading to the formation of the Protestant Church. Here is a beautiful prayer written by Luther.



The Empty Vessel

Behold, Lord, an empty vessel that needs to be filled.

My Lord, fill it.

I am weak in the faith; strengthen me.

I am cold in love; warm me and make me fervent,
that my love may go out to my neighbour.

I do not have a strong and firm faith:
at times I doubt and am unable to trust you altogether.

O Lord, help me.

Strengthen my faith and trust in you.

In you, I have sealed the treasure of all I have.

I am poor, you are rich and come to be merciful to the poor.

I am a sinner: you are upright.

With me, there is an abundance of sin;
in you is the fullness of righteousness.

Therefore, I will remain with you, of whom I can receive,
but to whom I may not give. **Amen.**

A view from the pew

Lest We Forget



This photograph was taken on Remembrance Sunday 2003. Let us remember all those who are no longer with us this Remembrance Sunday, including:

Margaret McCrea, Sam Moore, Drew Thompson and the Rev. Denzil Caldwell

Also included are our then curate the Rev. Neal Phair and the Rev. John Bach



5TH BALLYMENA (ST COLUMBA'S)



SCOUT GROUP CURRY & QUIZ NIGHT!



FRIDAY 2ND NOVEMBER 2018 - 7.00PM



ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH

TICKETS - £10.00



THIS WILL BE A GREAT NIGHT WITH A QUIZ, RAFFLE,
MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT AND CURRY!

PROCEEDS FROM TICKET SALES WILL BE SPLIT BETWEEN PARISH FUNDS AND 5TH BALLYMENA SCOUTS WHO ARE RAISING FUNDS FOR ELLIE HUGHES, WHO IS TAKING PART IN THE 24TH WORLD SCOUT JAMBOREE WHICH IS BEING HELD IN WEST VIRGINIA, USA NEXT YEAR.

Around the Parish

MOTHERS' UNION

Dates for the diary:

- Monday 12 November 7.30 pm
- Diocesan Council - All Saint's, Antrim.
- Wednesday 14 November 8.00 pm - Branch meeting - Speaker from Women's Aid. Also BRING AND BUY.



Our branch has been asked to provide items for BABY BASICS which is run by Church Army and the Diocese of Connor, situated in the Connect Base, Shankill Road, Belfast. It works alongside health professionals who refer families in need with essential equipment, clothing and toiletries. 'Reaching out to the local community with God's love and practical help

Knitted items, second hand newborn clothing, bedding, Moses baskets, baby baths are gratefully accepted.

Many thanks to a local knitting group who are producing knitted teddies. These will be passed on to our local A&E who in turn give them to young patients - a wonderful ministry.

Patricia McWhirter



SQUIRRELS

The Squirrels have been having fun playing games and cooking. We have cooked scrambled eggs which were delicious. We still have some spaces left in Squirrels so if any girls or boys aged 4 or 5 wish to join us on Wednesday evenings they would be very welcome.

We will be having our Halloween party on Wednesday 24th October and then we will be off on Wednesday 31st October.

When we come back on Wednesday 7th November we will be starting to look forward to Christmas. We will be giving out our 'Smartie' tubes to be filled with 20 pences in aid of 'The Lily Foundation'. Last year we raised a fantastic amount for The Cancer Fund for Children. We hope we can raise another good amount this year for The Lily Foundation, but every little helps in the fight for a cure. So if you see any of our Squirrels and can spare some change please feel free to help them fill the 'Smartie' tubes.

Thank you so much.

Ann, Paul & Mr Squirrel

CHURCH LADS' AND CHURCH GIRLS' BRIGADE

Thank you to the parents, girls and boys who turned out for our Enrolment Service on Sunday, 21st October. We welcome Beau Jackson and Alfie Young into the Martins and Jack Gillespie, Matthew McLaughlin, Cameron Ward, Matthew McCallister and Casey Parkhill into the Y-Team.



The CL&CGB will be on parade at this year's Remembrance Sunday, 11 th November and will lay a wreath in remembrance of all the former members who gave their lives in the First and Second World Wars, we will meet at the Services Club at 10.15 am.

Everyone enjoyed the fun and games at our Alternative Halloween Party, The Light Party, and we are looking forward to our Christmas Party on Friday, 14th December.

Alan Ross

MOTHERS AND TODDLERS GROUP



The volunteers enjoyed the coffee morning last month at which Anna presented a statement of our accounts. Dorothy thanked the welcoming, catering and set up volunteers for their continued support and emphasised how important they are to the Mothers and Toddlers team. She also welcomed Patricia, another new volunteer, to the group.

16th October Billy gave a short talk on fire prevention in the home and carried out a successful fire drill. Many thanks Billy.

We had a great party for Hallowe'en and the children enjoyed dipping apples into white chocolate. Dorothy carved a pumpkin and Patricia read a Pumpkin Carving Prayer which reminded everyone that God's light shines on everything we do.

In November we will be thinking about Remembrance Day with some craft activities and Surestart will be joining us on 13th November for some singing.

Rota for November:-

DATE	NAME	FUNCTION
6 th November	Rosemary Stacey, Sandra McKay, Jean Ross and Jean Cunningham	Tea
	Bee Robinson	Welcoming
	Alex McKay	Hall Set Up
13 th November	Evonne Stinson, Eleanor Burnett, Vera Owens and Marlene Gray	Tea
	Mary Steele	Welcoming
	Ray Burbage	Hall Set Up
20 th November	Dorothy Hegan, (Isabel Halliday)/ Eva McCarthy, Vera Greer and Sandra Duke	Tea
	Ann Fisher	Welcoming
	David Oliver and Rodney Gourley	Hall Set Up
27 th November	Ruth Murray, Isabell Adair, Vivien Gilmour and Kathleen Thompson	Tea
	Liz Bodel	Welcoming
	Davy Nelson	Hall Set Up

Dorothy (2589 2740), Anna, Catherine, Liz and Patricia



Saturday 24th November 2018 the Men's Fellowship are hosting a Parish Breakfast in St Patrick's Church halls, with all funds raised going towards church funds.



CHRISTMAS PARTY



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



**Saturday 8th December
St Patrick's Church Hall
7 to 8 pm for primary
school age
8 - 10 pm for secondary
school age**



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



How to nurture a child's mental health



Actively listen before offering your advice



Be patient



Share your feelings and validate theirs



Tell the truth



Model healthy behavior



Surround them with healthy adults



Be consistent and follow through with what you promise



Teach them how to be safe



Believe them and in them



Use open ended questions



Have scheduled family time



Limit electronic time for everyone



Reach out and hug them



Practice relaxation exercises together



Model forgiveness



Respond calmly when their emotions are elevated



View their behavior as a window to their needs and feelings



Make play and exercise a requirement



Recognize positive choices



Be present



Set and respect boundaries





Did you know ... Acts 20:35 ESV

'In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."'

Our September 2018 figures are as follows:

Income: £19,467.65

Expenditure: £21,778.41

This leaves a deficit for the month of **£ -2310.76**

Our Year to Date figures are as follows:

Income: £201,898.13

Expenditure: £227,966.45

This leaves a deficit for the year to date of **£ -26,068.32**

Did you know ... That for every recordable pound in Free Will Offerings (FWO's) if you are a taxpayer we can claim gift aid of 25 pence per pound. This means your offering can be worth up to 25% more. If you don't already gift aid, please consider it and contact Lorraine in the office for details.

Did you know ... That on Saturday 24th November 2018 the Men's Fellowship are hosting a Parish Breakfast in St Patrick's Church halls, with all funds raised going towards church funds.

Thank You to ...

Adrienne Watson and her daughter Sharon - £5,000 to Ballyclug Church in loving memory of Billy Watson.

Irene's Soup Lunch which raised a total of £1,300 towards church funds.

Treasurer: Richard J Cotter

YOUTH STUFF!

Messy Church - ventured to St Columba's to share with their congregation the 5 values of Messy Church, all age, Christ centred, celebration, creativity and hospitality. We explored these within the theme of 'Harvest and Creation' - celebrating and thanking God for all he has given us. We did this through singing,



videos, arts and crafts and food. We had a great morning and were extremely encouraged to see so many people of all ages. Thanks to those who came to set up the hall on Saturday and to all who helped with activities, Kenneth for sound and visuals and Liz and Les for food.



Youth Club has had a busy month. We had a Macmillan Coffee evening and raised £50 and we made up shoe boxes for operation Christmas Child. We also enjoyed making fruit kebabs and thanking God for all that he has given us.



GOOD NEWS. GREAT JOY.

Sunday School has been finishing our topic of creation by looking at how God made Adam and Eve and how they were tempted and made the wrong choice. We also looked at how we were created and how special we are - that we are all so different and unique.



GFS/CLB/CGB Enrolment - Sunday 21st October.



Lucy and Alan

**Connor's
Christmas Cracker
& Giveaway**

**St Patrick's Parish, Ballymena
Saturday 1st December**

Come along at 7pm for our Christmas Party
finishing up at 10pm!

Also, you can join us at 3pm for our
afternoon of outreach around Ballymena,
stay for dinner & the party!

 engage
Engagement. Empowerment. Inspiration.



The Curate's Letter

Access to God

I was at a meeting recently where I was asked to describe how I was feeling in one word! Never an easy thing to do, why not try it for yourself now, how are you feeling in one word? Anyway after a few moments to think about it I came up with the word 'reliant'. When I thought about how I was doing, I felt I was very reliant, over the past few years especially, on help from God. We are always reliant on God, even though we don't realise it or feel it, but for me I have been regularly running to God to help get me through.

It might seem a bit weak, being so reliant on God, but it is a good place to be. As a Christian it is a great reassurance to know that through Jesus we have direct access to God. And when we know that we have a God who is full of compassion, who knows everything we are going through, and who loves and cares for each one of us - then who better to turn to?

Furthermore scripture tells us that Jesus continually intercedes for those who come to God through him: 'He is always living to make petition to God and intercede with him and intervene for them' (Hebrews 7:25). Robert Murray M'Cheyne wrote, 'If I could hear Christ praying for me in the next room, I would not fear a million enemies. Yet distance makes no difference. He is praying for me'.



God wants us to go to him, through Jesus we have direct access, so use it, and be reassured Jesus even prays for us too as we turn to God.

5th Ballymena Squirrel Drey Squirrel Appeal

2018/19



Following on from our previous years success, we will be carrying out a charity fund raiser for our chosen charity this year – The Lily Foundation.

The Lily Foundation is the UK's leading charity dedicated to fighting mitochondrial (mito) disease. Their mission is to support people whose lives are affected by the condition, raise awareness and fund research into its prevention, diagnosis and treatment. 10 million people in the UK suffer from diseases in which mitochondrial dysfunction is believed to be involved, and every day in the UK a baby is born that will develop mitochondrial disease. The Lily Foundation is fighting to change this, with their ultimate aim being to one day find a cure. Mitochondrial disease is a complex condition that affects people medically in a wide variety of ways.

We have chosen this charity as Ann's cousin's young 3 year old son, Alex has been diagnosed with this disease. He was born a healthy baby, but without warning he started taking epileptic seizures aged 7 months. That began his journey of endless tests, scans & appointments. After nearly 18 months from him having his 1st seizure, it was confirmed from a muscle biopsy that he had Mito. The term Mitochondrial Disease, refers not to one specific illness but to a number of diseases caused by faulty Mitochondria. Alex currently suffers from Epilepsy, Developmental Delay, Left Ventricular Hypertrophy, Bilateral Pes Planus, Joint Hypermobility & Sensory Ataxia. This is because his Mitochondria (we all have them) don't store / produce energy correctly. Without the right amount of energy, his cells cannot do their job and they stop performing. Mito is a complex disease that affects each person differently. It can occur at any age and it can affect almost any part of the body. People with MITO are immunocompromised and illness / infection can cause disease progression. There is **NO CURE** for Mitochondrial Disease and it is treated symptomatically. It can be fatal and is considered life limiting at best. It can also be inherited or be sporadic. No one is exempt.

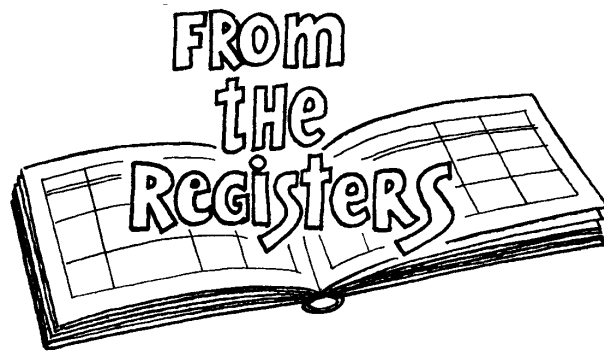
Alex is a charismatic, happy little boy. He brings a lot of joy to those around him and he has huge determination to enjoy life to the full. We don't know what lies ahead for him, but what we do know is we need to help to find a cure. Alex's mum Hazel and dad James are currently fundraising for The Lily Foundation, and this year we have decided to help them by collecting 20 pence pieces in Smartie tubes. All proceeds will go directly to The Lily Foundation to help in their efforts to find a cure and provide other respite.

Check out www.thelilyfoundation.org.uk for more information on them.

We will be sending the tubes home in the second half of our first term.

Please help us by supporting The Lily Foundation.





CHRISTIAN BURIAL



2 nd October	Robert Mooney	14 Sandown Park, Ballymena
5 th October	Jean Tennant MBE	62 Woodtown Road, Ballymena
10 th October	Raymond Cochrane	4 Spafield Fold, Holywood

Robert Mooney

Robert was born in 1944, one of 6 children, to Mary and Hugh Mooney of Ballymena. We pass on our prayers and sympathies to all of the family circle.

Jean Tennant

Jean was born in January 1929, the eldest of 3 children, to Jimmy and Sadie Graham in Belfast. Jean married Alex Tennant in December 1958 and they were blessed with a son David. Jean was a devoted and successful Irish Dancing teacher, and was awarded an MBE in 2003 for her charity work for Marie Curie Cancer Care. Jean was also a dedicated member of St Patrick's Church in Ballymena. Our prayers and sympathies are with Alex and David, and all of the close family at this difficult time.

Raymond Cochrane

Raymond was born in Castle Street, Ballymena, but he spent most of his childhood in Dromona, Cullybackey. He attended Tullygrawley Primary School and it was here that he discovered a love of art and design that would remain with him for the rest of his life. Raymond married Mary in 1969 and they were a very happy and loving couple. After leaving college Raymond worked with the Irish Linen Industry in textile design but his love of art and his artistic ability enabled him to become a full time artist in 1985. His paintings depicted a lot of Irish life, its people and the countryside. Raymond and Mary had two children Sarah and David. They were devoted parents and grandparents who loved attending all of the events involving their children and grandchildren. Raymond was very outgoing and he and Mary enjoyed attending concerts, plays, the cinema and their favourite destination for a day trip was Portrush. Family was most important to Raymond and he will be very much missed by his wife Mary, his daughter Sarah and son-in-law James, his son David and daughter-in-law Jenny and all of his grandchildren. We extend to Mary and all the family circle our sincere sympathy at this sad 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
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
'The Way'	Sunday	6.30 pm	Minor Hall
Youth Fellowship	(Fortnightly)		

SAINT COLUMBA'S

	Day	Time	Contact
Beavers	Monday	6.30 pm	Mrs L McCullagh
Cubs	Thursday	6.45 pm	Mrs H Clarke
Ladies' Circle	4th Monday	8.00 pm	Mrs L Hughes
Brownies	Tuesday	6.30 pm	Mrs K Black
Guides	Tuesday	6.30 pm	Mrs K Black
Squirrels	Wednesday	6.30 pm	Mr P Houston
Senior Guides	Tuesday	6.30 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

10.00 am

11.30 am

1st Sunday in the month

6.30 pm

3rd Sunday in the month

4th Sunday in the month

Holy Communion

New Life Service

Morning Prayer

Parish Communion

Evening Prayer

Holy Communion

Living Faith Service

EVERY WEDNESDAY

10.30 am

Holy Communion

ST PATRICK'S, BALLYCLUG

SUNDAY SERVICES

10.00 am

4th Sunday in the month

Morning Prayer

Holy Communion

ST COLUMBA'S, DUNCLUG

SUNDAY SERVICES

8.30 am

1st Sunday in the month

11.30 am

2nd Sunday in the month

3rd Sunday in the month

Holy Communion

Morning Prayer

Family Service

Family Communion

SUNDAY SCHOOLS

ST PATRICK'S

10.00 am

Church

Leaders - Mrs L McLaughlin and Mr A Ross

ST COLUMBA'S

11.30 am

Church

Superintendent - Mrs S Foster

HOLY BAPTISM

At Sunday services by arrangement