

# *Parish of Kilconriola and Ballyclug*



**Parish Magazine  
October  
2018**



*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 Assistant

The Revd Dennis Christie  
6 Old Antrim Mews, Ballymena  
Mobile No 075 0060 7448  
Email revdennischristie@gmail.com

### LAY READER

Mr J Perry, 261a Galgorm Road, Ballymena

### YOUTH WORKERS

Lucy McLaughlin  
3 The Commons, Broughshane  
Tel 2586 1524  
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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

### 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



## Harvest

One hassled colleague told me how once just before harvest time, he was busy in the study putting together some outline ideas of harvest themes, talks and sermons that he knew were coming up in a couple of weeks when an envelope containing several parish magazine articles popped through the letterbox. They were all harvest related - how great the churches looked for harvest, how the rector's sermons brimmed with thanksgiving to God for his goodness, even how good the fruit loaf was this year. All these written while harvest was still two weeks away! Magazine deadlines aside, this all smacks of church life and worship being pretty predictable. This is sad because the farmer's harvest here and around the world is anything but predictable! The spiritual battle for the souls of men and women is anything but predictable and our links are far from predictable!

It is sad if we carry this attitude regarding the harvest (earthly and spiritual), life and God, that we could make a good attempt at writing a parish magazine article about them in some detail - before they have even happened.

My prayer for myself and each of us as we approach this special time of the year is for a freshness in our thanksgiving, appreciation and worship. That God would open our minds and hearts to the complex needs and difficult prayers as we live in a world where we are approaching a horrible statistic, 50% of the world's population are obese, 50% are starving. Where in Western Europe we live in a time when more people than ever need a 'New Faith' in a 'Real Saviour' and are needing to make regular use of our Foodbank system.

May God bless us and help us this harvest.



# Parish News

## ST PATRICK'S WELCOMERS PAST AND PRESENT

Dear Welcomers,

Having organized the rota of welcomers for quite a few years I feel that the time has come for me to relinquish the task and allow someone else to take up the responsibility. I thank all of you, past and present, for the cheerful manner in which you carried out your duties. As the name implies, there is no doubt that you do indeed make those attending worship feel welcome, whether they be faithful parishioners, those who have recently joined the church or those who may be visiting.

*Noel Millar*

## ST PATRICK'S HALLS

To All Key Holders,

Just a kindly reminder to everyone with access to the parish halls, before you leave can you please check to see that the heat is switched off. The heat has been left on with nobody in the

halls. Also check that all exterior doors are locked, this includes fire doors. We recently discovered that the fire doors in the main hall had been left open for almost two days. Fortunately no one had gained unauthorised access to the halls.

It should only take a few extra minutes to carry out these checks. Our halls are in constant use so you can imagine the disruption it would cause to all the various groups using the halls if they had been damaged in any way. It is in all our interests to keep the halls secure at all times.

Thank you for your cooperation.

*Ronnie Fleming*  
*Honorary Secretary*

## HARVEST ENVELOPES

Dear Parishioners,

This year the Select Vestry have agreed that only those monies received through the harvest envelopes will be used to fulfil the



missionary and charitable donations made by the parish each year.



Last year's harvest envelopes collected a sum of £4438, we as a parish paid out a total of £5775. We would wish to be able to maintain this level and we pray that

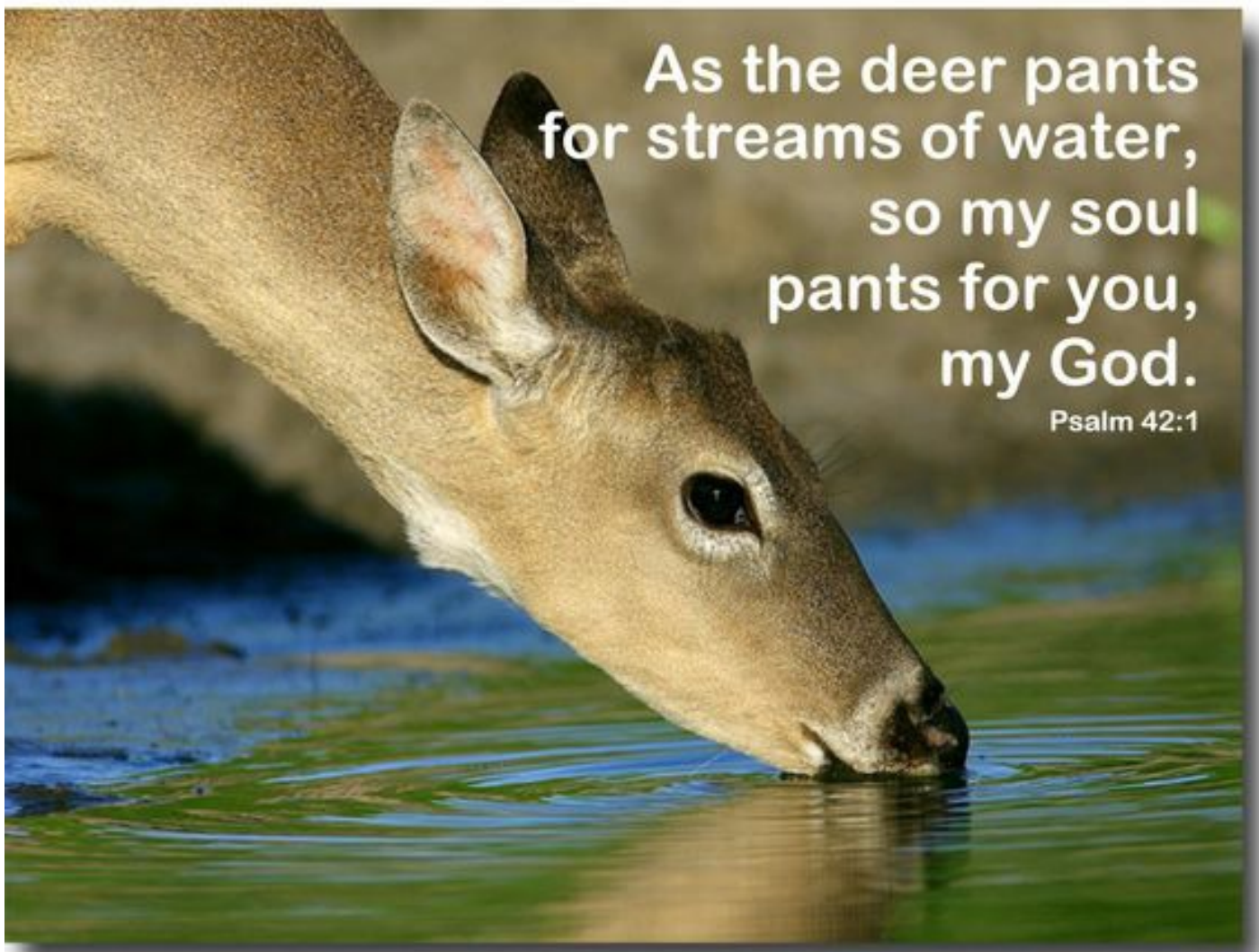
you would be strongly encouraged to find it in your hearts to be generous during the harvest collection.

Yours in Christ  
*Mr Richard J Cotter*  
*Parish Treasurer*

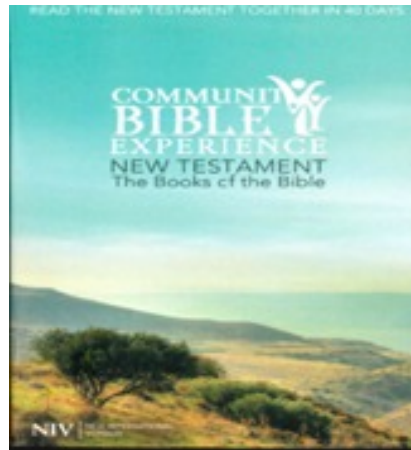
## **HARVEST - ST PATRICK'S SUNDAY 14th OCTOBER**

Gifts of fruit, vegetables, flowers for Harvest Sunday will be set up on Friday 12th October from 10 am, please please support.

*Jean Kennedy*



# THE GOOD BOOK



## BOOK CLUB

Our dates for Friday evening meetings are:

12th October 2018

26th October 2018

9th November 2018

23rd November 2018

7th December 2018

Venue: Choir Vestry

Time: New time of 7 pm

All welcome for tea/coffee, biscuits and conversation.



# Not so famous prayers

The very best theologians are rarely theologians! Take the former churchwarden in a rural parish. He often struggled to get to church on time because of all the farm chores that had to be done. His rector really appreciated his extra efforts in the parish and having a chat together one Sunday after church, the churchwarden let the rector know that when the final chore was done he would always say a prayer. “Like what?” asked the rector. “Well it would go like this, Dear Lord I’m sorry to have to leave you now, but I’ve got to go to church”.

Little did he know just how excellent his theology was or that his prayer was built on the same basis as King Solomon’s great prayer of dedication of the Temple in Jerusalem. We read this great prayer in First Kings Chapter 8, Solomon wisely prays v 27 ff, “But will God really dwell on faith? The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you. How much less this Temple I have built!”

In other words no building or part of a building can contain God. God may well be present but he is present and available and active everywhere. That former churchwarden may well and correctly have known and experienced that presence and the Glory of God as much on the farm as in the church.

Maybe you are reading this wee article and you haven’t been to church in years - that’s not good.

Maybe you are reading this wee article and the only time you pray is once a week in church and that’s not good either.

I hope that not so famous churchwarden’s prayer will challenge and speak to us all.



# A view from the pew



**9<sup>th</sup> Ballymena Guides - St Columba's 1999**







# Soup and Coffee 2018



I would like to base my thanks round a hymn mentioned by Revd Dennis in the magazine a few months ago. Hymn 375 in the Church Hymnal (**COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS**).

The first line (**WHEN UPON LIFE'S BILLOWS YOU ARE TEMPEST-TOSSED**) seemed appropriate on Wednesday with the 'stormy weather'! And we were certainly able to (**COUNT OUR BLESSINGS**). Far more people braved the weather than we had hoped for!

Moving on to the chorus---

## **COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS NAME THEM ONE BY ONE**

The following list covers just some of my MANY BLESSINGS!

- The whole Parish Family, with the support of the clergy, church wardens and Select Vestry.
- Lorraine and Sandra in the Parish Office (always smiling no matter what we ask of them!).
- Nina, Rosemary and Patricia - not only are they my friends, I would never survive the day without their amazing work and support in so many ways.

## **COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS SEE WHAT GOD HAS DONE**

All my wonderful neighbours, ex-colleagues and friends, some coming from as far as Belfast, Portrush and Dundrum! The many people who gave so generously even though they were unable to come (a donation even came from a parishioner in hospital!). All the faithful parishioners who were here. Well done to you all.

## COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS NAME THEM ONE BY ONE

- Mary C. for the lovely napkins.
- Liz B. for the delicious biscuits and tray bakes (I would kill for one of those wheaten biscuits!)
- Nina for the great broth.
- Rosemary for the ever popular wheaten bread!
- Lorraine W. our official photographer!

Yes, **COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS EVERY DOUBT WILL FLY** (how true!). We had two great days of fun, friendship and fellowship! As one neighbour said to me, “It is lovely to sit down and talk to your neighbours!” Last but not least, through your wonderful generosity £1,300 was raised for our parish.

The final line of the chorus seems a good way to finish!  
**AND IT WILL SURPRISE YOU WHAT THE LORD HAS DONE.**

*Irene*





# 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

## CHURCH LADS' AND CHURCH GIRLS' BRIGADE

The Church Lads' and Church Girls' Brigade will mark 125 years serving the Church of Ireland this year. In 1893, two companies were established in Dublin at Christ Church, Leeson Park, and St Peter's. Another two, at St Mary's, Donnybrook and St Stephen's were added in 1894.



The first company in Belfast for St Luke's, Northumberland Street, was formed in 1895 by Curate, Rev. James Archer. Soon every diocese, other than Meath, had its CLB companies and battalions were established in Armagh, Belfast, Derry, Dublin and Limerick.

Girls units were established to work alongside CLB companies. In 1909, St Columb's Cathedral, Londonderry established a Church Girls' Brigade, followed by All Saints, Clooney and they competed annually for the Marchioness of Hamilton's Shield. St Nicholas', Cork ran a very successful CGB company alongside its CLB for several years.

The Great War had dreadful consequences for the Brigade. Companies were closed as they lost their officers and members to the war effort. When the war ended, other than St Mary's, Limerick Cathedral Company and St Nicholas', Cork, CLB and CGB, the main strength of the Brigade was to be found in the north, in the First Down, Connor and Dromore Battalion.

A successful rebuilding process took place and new CLB companies were established across Northern Ireland. With the formation of a Second Battalion, and subsequently a Third Battalion, a higher formation was required and the Ulster Regiment was formed (1945), its first Commanding Officer being Mr Samuel Waring, DCM, of Christ Church, Lisburn.

New CGB companies were opened in Ballymena, Ballymoney, Dobbin, Grange, Newry, Magherafelt and Seagoe and the First Battalion Church Girls' Brigade was established, under the command of Mrs Margaret Twinem from Seagoe, Portadown. The CLB and CGB amalgamated in 1978.

In recent years, with the severe decline in attendances in churches and at Sunday Schools, the Brigade has experienced challenging times, losing strength in urban areas, particularly in Belfast. However, in the last five years the Brigade has worked hard, under its Commanding Officer, Melvyn Lockhart

and Development Officer, Victoria Jackson to make progress.



*This is the colourful badge designed by Lauren McClure from St Saviour's, Dobbin to celebrate 125 years of the Church Lads' and Church Girls' Brigade.*



*This is the medal designed to commemorate the 125th anniversary and will be issued to all Officers and Seniors. It contains the Archbishop's Mitre and the Brigade badge.*

*The ribbon colour is to represent the Archbishop's robes.*

Companies have been enrolled or re-enrolled at Aghalee, Dromore (Clogher), Drogheda, Drumurry, Killinchy, Lambeg, Christ Church, Lisburn and St Michael's, Belfast and there is interest being shown in other parishes. Approximately 400 members have been added to Brigade's strength.

As the Church Lads' and Church Girls' Brigade marks its 125th Anniversary it is in a confident and buoyant place and ready to serve our church for another 125 years at least.

The anniversary will be marked by a Parade and Service of Thanksgiving in St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh on Sunday 30th September at 3.30 pm. Special guest will be the Most Reverend Doctor Richard Clarke, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate

of All Ireland, who will dedicate a beautiful new colour in memory of former Commanding Officer Harry Anderson and present a new trophy, the Archbishop's Award, for the Champion Company of the Brigade.

A commemorative medal for junior and senior members and officers is being struck, and a colourful badge, designed by Brigade's member Lauren McClure from St Saviour's, Dobbin is being produced for younger members.

*Johnny Conn (CLCGB Staff Officer)*

## MOTHERS' UNION

At our next meeting in the Minor Hall on **Wednesday 10 October** at 8 pm, we will have a speaker from the Trading Standards, title 'Scams and Rogue Traders'. All welcome.



We hosted a Worldwide Evening on 11 September which raised £385 for the Worldwide Fund. The organising committee appreciated the support of our members.

*Patricia McWhirter*



## MOTHERS AND TODDLERS

Tuesday 18th September we said goodbye to Anne who has been a volunteer for many years. We are very grateful for all her help over the years; she will be missed on Tuesday mornings. We wish Anne all the best as she starts a new chapter of her life.

June, a regular volunteer helper, is stepping away for a while and we thank her for all she has done. Hopefully we will see her back with us in the future.

As one door closes another opens. Liz has agreed to volunteer on Tuesday mornings. Welcome to the team.

We have had a great turnout of children and carers in September all enjoying playing, singing, chatting and making new friendships. Our programme for October will include a **Hallowe'en Party 23rd October**. We will host a coffee morning for all our volunteers on **Monday 8th October at 10.30 am**.



Please note there will be no Mothers and Toddlers Group on 30th October.

Rota for October:-

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

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

## ST COLUMBA'S BEAVERS



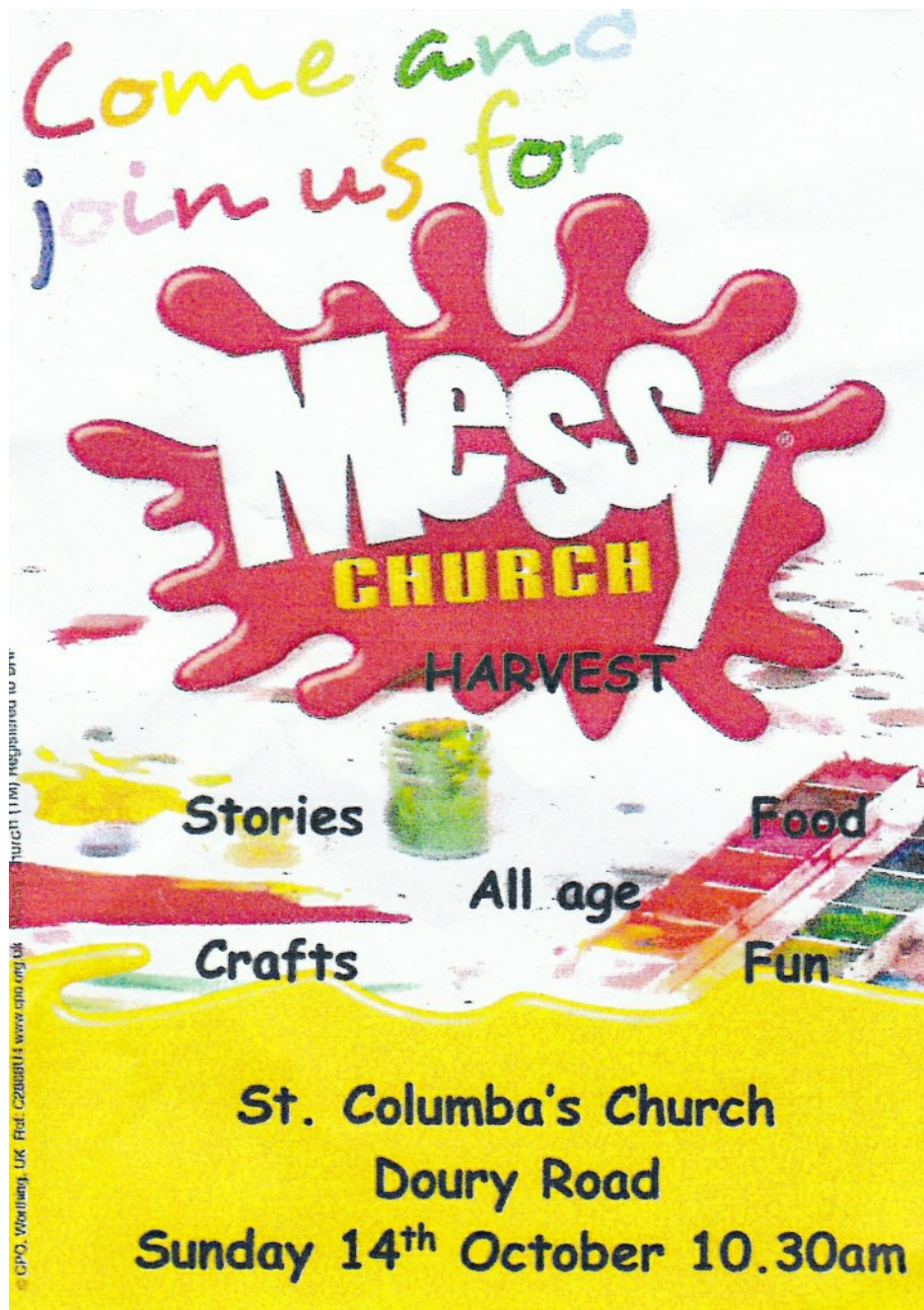
September and everyone was back at Beavers along with some new members who had moved up from Squirrels! Lots of the usual crafts and games coupled with a trip to Pets At Home to learn all about caring for animals.

We finished up the month with Beaver Camp for our older Beavers. This was lots of fun and involved canoeing and learning new camp craft skills.



Some of our Beavers are now moving on to Cubs and we wish them all the best. See us at [www.facebook.com/ballymenabeavers/](http://www.facebook.com/ballymenabeavers/)

*Lise, Keith and Helen 077 9001 2356*





**Did you know...?** The Church outgoings are approximately £3000 every month more than our income. Over the next few months in this magazine I will update you on the income and expenditure of our General Fund Account, so you can see a reflective picture of our monthly finances.

Our **August 2018** figures are as follows:

Income : £12,407.04

Expenditure : £20,896.40

This leaves a deficit for the month of **£-8489.36**

Our **Year to Date** figures are as follows:

Income : £182,430.48

Expenditure : £206,188.04

This leaves a deficit for the year to date of **£-23,757.56**

**Did you know...?** That for every pound recorded 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 13th October 2018** there will be a coffee morning in St Patrick's Church halls, with all funds raised going towards church funds.

**Thank You to...**

St Patrick's Indoor Bowling Club for their kind donation of £1,000.00 towards church funds.

St Patrick's GFS for their kind donation of £100.00 towards church funds.

Irene's Soup Lunch which raised a total of £1300 towards church funds.

***Treasurer:  
Richard J Cotter***





## **‘Conor takes the Castle’**

Castlewellan was a very fun weekend. On the Friday we finally arrived after having been lost, it took us about 2 hours but we had arrived.

As soon as we arrived we grabbed our bags, and headed inside. As we got to the top of the stairs, we met Christina, and we were told where our rooms were. Caragh and I were in the same room. We were with people from Broughshane, I knew some of them from school. They were very nice. After we got settled, we headed downstairs for worship, we had to bring our notebook and Bible. We sang a few songs and then we had supper. We had hot dogs. After that we went for a walk around the lake it was a very nice peaceful walk. After that when we got back, me and Caragh went up stairs to get our pyjamas on. The rest of our dorm was up there. One of the girls brought us up a bag of chips to share, we were laughing all night. Then we went to bed.

In the morning, the alarm went off at about 8.00 am, and we got up and got dressed for breakfast at 8.45 am. We headed downstairs for breakfast. We met up with the boys and Lucy and sat down at a table. We had morning worship. At worship they announced that we were going to be put into teams for sport and for the talent show later on. I was in team one with Caragh when I met my friend Aimee. She talked to me and we became friends that day, we were in each others group for everything. I still keep in touch with her now. We got into our teams and we had to go to the front to see what we had to do for the talent show. After that we had to go and practice. We left the hall as quickly as we could because we wanted the room with the sofas and we got it. We came up with an X Factor idea and we had judges and acts. We made up a song called ‘Castlewellan’ and we had to sing it in front of everyone. After we had practised we went outside for some sports with Salt Factory Sports. After the sports Emma had arrived as she could not come on the Friday so we

went back inside and had lunch - we had chicken curry and rice. We went and practised again and then there was another worship. After that we had some free time so we stayed in our room. It was time for dinner, so we went downstairs and ate dinner. After that we went and practised our talent show again. We went into the hall and we got into our group - we were second to go on. There was a winner announced at the end and it was team one! We won and we got a medal! There was a tuck shop so we went downstairs to that after and then the disco started. The music was amazing, and I was with Aimee and Kurtis. Then we went back to our rooms and went to sleep.

On the Sunday morning we woke up at 7.30 am because we had to get packed. We got packed and got ready for the day. We had breakfast again and met up with the boys. We went outside all together and played a game it was really funny, after that we had lunch and it was time to go home. There was a group photo outside. 'Connor takes the Castle' was a great weekend it was a chance to get close with people from our church and other churches.

*Ellen Mitchell*

This year I attended Castlewellan 'Connor takes the Castle'.

When we went to get checked into our dorms we were welcomed in by Christina who was the person who ran the event. We went up to our dorms to meet the people who we were sharing with and they were so nice I knew I was going to have a blast. We went down to the prayer/worship room and Christina introduced herself as well as the other leaders. After that, we had hot dogs and then we went for a walk around the lake. I thought it was so 'cool' because of the reflection of the moonlight shining off the water and I walked round with Christina and my friend Aiden. We had one of the best talks ever about God and our faith - it was interesting and inspiring. We then went to bed although we didn't get much sleep because our dorm was like the midnight disco - we had pillow fights and it was fun.

When we woke up the next morning we had to get changed and go down and get breakfast and the food was really nice - lets just say there was nothing on the plate when I was finished. We went into the prayer room and worshipped for half an hour, the singer was amazing. We were then put into groups and were given themes and props for a 'Castlewellan's got Talent'. It was good - we had to go down and practice in our groups.

After that we went out to do sports with Salt Factory Sport, which was really good. We then went up to do some last minute practice for our talent performance and then we had something to eat which was good. We watched a sermon and then we worshipped. It was then time for the talent show - we had to do baby shark, I was grandpa shark, and I was very embarrassed. I never did anything worse in my life. After that we got ready for the disco. Billy Fiffe did it although he wasn't as good as Summer Madness, but still great fun. Then Aiden from our church came down half way through it in his Star Wars 'jammies' and I nearly hit the floor laughing it was so funny. So then we went to bed.

When we woke up the next morning we went to prayer and worship. We had lunch and a group photo. Then we went home. Overall it was a really good trip and I would love to go again next year. Thanks to Mark for praying for us back home, we were very grateful.

*Kurtis Mitchell*





Youth Club has started back and we are glad to see some new members. We are still looking for volunteers to help so if you could give a hand that would be great. Over the next few weeks 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 what we have.

Sunday School has started back and it's great to see everyone including some new faces - you are very welcome. Children receive an attendance mark each Sunday they attend. It is important they attend as much as they can as this influences their prize at the end of the year.



This month we have been looking at Creation.

Youth Hangout - every second Saturday night 7 - 8 pm Youth Room.

## What is a youth hangout

- Youth hangout is a group of young people that come together to ask questions about the Christian faith and stuff they did not understand that they were taught about in the Bible.
- We also would like to play games and have fun with the aim of all being a close group and we all like each other.
- We also want to make sure everyone is fine and that they are not going through a tough time because that's what friends are for.
- Finally we are trying to make a relationship between you and the creator God and we would love it if we could pray for you to help you through tough times.



Y O U T H



H A N G O U T

Ladies' Night Chocoa, Ballymena - Friday 5th October 7 pm.

## CARE FOR THE FAMILY RAISING FAITH

Helping our children find a faith that lasts.

As parents, we all want our children to grow up to be healthy and happy. But do we ever stop to think about how we can help them grow up to love God?

As Christian mums and dads there are so many ways we can bring God into family life. We want to give our children the opportunity to build their trust in God, but with so many demands on our time and attention, keeping God at the centre of our everyday life isn't always easy.

Raising Faith will not only enable us to see how much we're already doing but will inspire us with simple things we can all do to help our children discover for themselves a faith that lasts. Speakers Katherine and Andy

will share what they've learned about building faith into family life and give you plenty of practical tips to put into practice right away.

*Glenmachan Church  
Belfast  
Thursday 15th November 7.30 pm*

If anyone would like tickets please contact Lucy: 077 5995 0497.

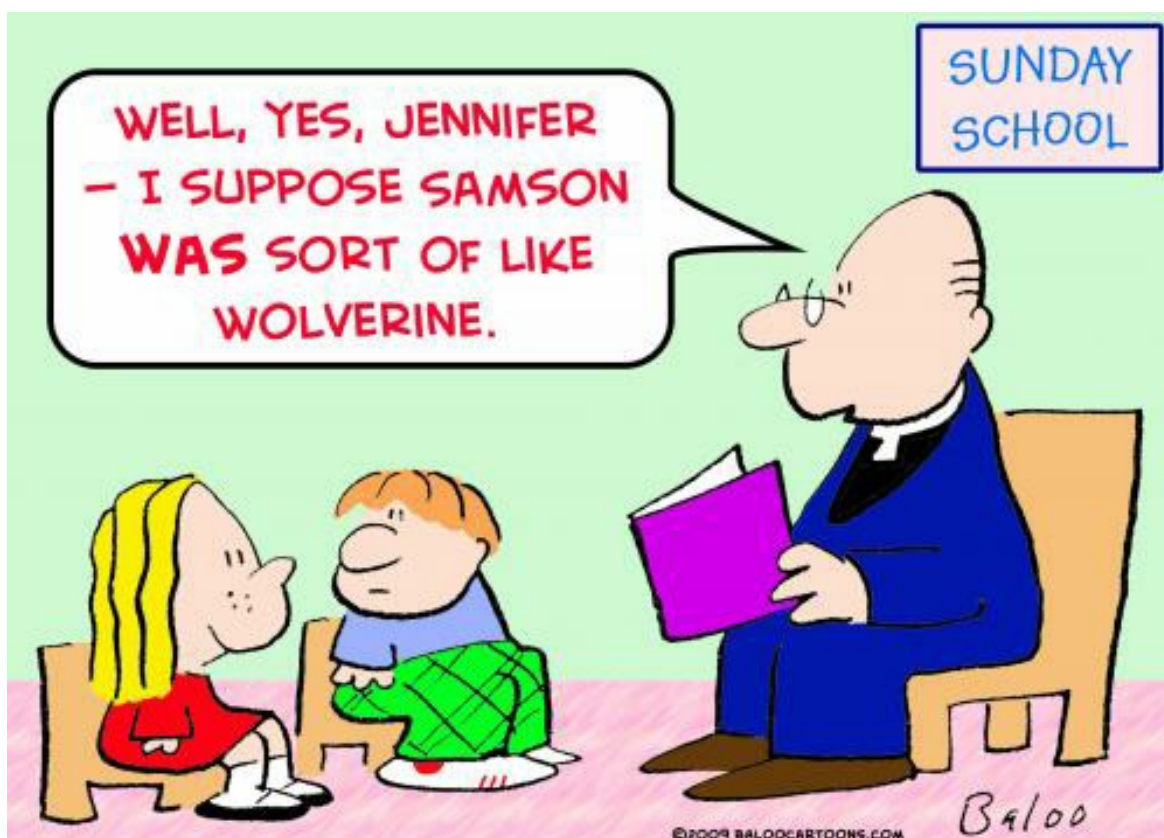
## **MESSY CHURCH**

We are looking forward to holding our 1st Messy church in St Columba's on Sunday 14th October at 10.30 am.

Messy Church is a format that families and others can enjoy together. It's an all age church with lots of fun, making things together to explore the Bible, then celebrating Jesus in a short time of story, song and prayer followed by food together.



Come and join with us at Messy Harvest and our celebration of God's World.  
*Lucy*





# Fancy Having A GO!

U don't need to  
read music, **but**  
U must listen to  
instructions

***Fancy A Go Then!!!***



**Could this be U ringing to mark the end of WW1  
11/11/2018 @ 11am**

**Could THIS be YOUR Challenge for 2018**

***If so Ring Colin 07783 305 112***

**Children UNDER 10 years are not permitted up the Tower**

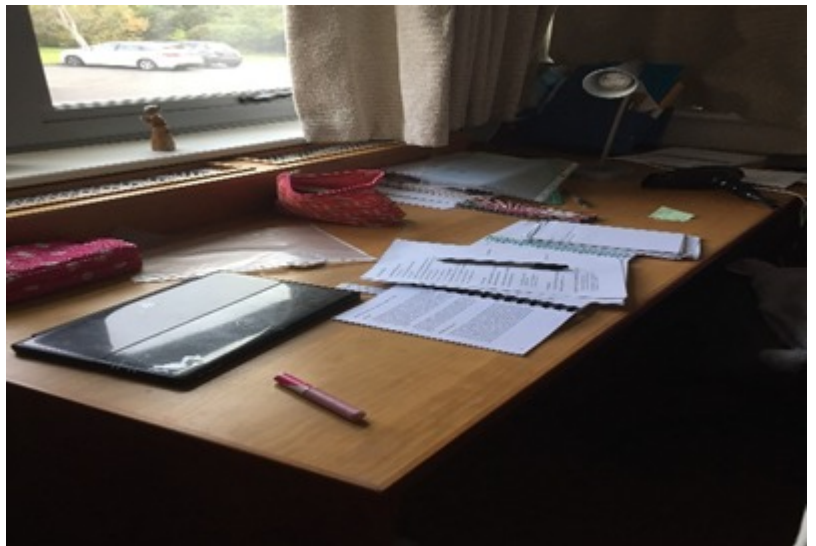
**A Parental Consent Form MUST be signed for U18's**

# A letter from Dublin

21st September 2018

Dear All,

This is just a short letter to thank you all for your support, kind words, encouragement, thoughts and prayers as I begin to study at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute, which is affectionately known to us as CITI. Or maybe as the pizza delivery guy calls it the Logical Institute.



Richard and I set off on Thursday 6th September shortly after lunchtime, so we arrived at the college around 4.30-ish. On arrival we discovered that no one was getting their allocated rooms for the year until the next day.... but they did put us up for the night, even if Richard did have to spend the night on a make shift bed in the registrar's office!

Up early on the Friday morning for a wonderful breakfast. The food at the college is of a high standard. Then at 9 am I was off on the bus to Trinity college to register for the Masters in Theology and to collect my student card. I am looking forward to Student Discount! Back on the bus after lunch and we were back to the college just in time for our orientation of the RCB library, which is right next door to us. Then it was time for dinner and after that we had our first seminar on Safe-Guarding Trust. That saw us through until 9-ish. Richard had done a great job of unpacking for me, getting the Wi-Fi set up and making the room feel a little homelier.

Saturday didn't stop either - I had 2 two-hour seminars that day, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. We did get to relax a bit in the evening as this was the day all the families of the students had come down to get acquainted with each other.

Sunday morning saw a seminar on how we should be living together in a shared space and getting allocated our respective chores for the year. I have been given the role of Sacristan. I along with another student are responsible for preparing the Chapel for services, maintaining all the linen and setting up for Communion.

Unfortunately, Richard had to head back to Cullybackey on Sunday morning and I was left to my own devices. It was time for a bit of a rest and to prepare for the busy week ahead. Some of us ordered pizza and then we had an early night.

Monday saw the start of the first full week and this term we have lectures and classes on Spirituality, Missiology, Greek, Christian thinking about God, Bible study, Pastoral Studies, Homiletics (Preaching) and Anglican Dogmatic Theology. And on top of these we have 3 church services a day (8.30/9 am, 5 pm and 9.15 pm) where all the students share the responsibility of taking a service.

The reading lists for the modules appear to go on forever and I pray that I will be able to get through it all. There are a few small essays and short presentations to do, along with the 3 main assignments for the start of December.

I eventually made it to Thursday and this would see another first, one of many this week, having to navigate into Dublin City to catch the train at 7 pm to head home. The Dublin taxis didn't help showing up 20 minutes late, but thankfully I had it booked in good time. I was so relieved to see Richard waiting for me at Belfast Station.





After a weekend of playing catch up with my sleep, watching Dave at football and filling Richard and others in on what had been going on in Dublin it was finally time to be heading back down for the 2nd week of studies. It took over 4 hours from Cullybackey to CITI.

The 2nd week has not just been as stressful as the first as I now know where I am going, am establishing a routine, have mastered topping up my Leap Card (bus ticket) and am getting to grips with living in a community environment and indeed a whole new city to explore. This week will see me commissioned as a student reader and I hope to start my Sunday placement with John McClure in Muckamore. Please do keep me in your thoughts and prayers and ask God that he will equip me with the ability and skills to fulfil his purpose for my life.

Now time to get that train again back to Ballymena and hopefully catch up with some of you.

*Andrea Cotter*

# **The Castle Players**

**Will perform the  
Sam Cree play  
*'The Mating Season'*  
in the Braid Arts Centre,  
Ballymena  
On Friday and Saturday  
12th and 13th October,  
2018  
at 7.30 pm**



**Tickets £8 (£6 concession)  
Available at the Braid Centre**

**You may also pay at the door**

# Coffee Morning and Cake Sale



*St Patrick's Church Hall*

*Castle Street  
Ballymena*



*Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> October  
10.30 am - 1 pm*

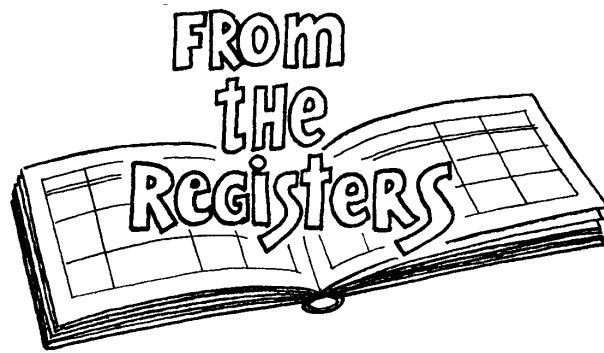


*Come along and join us  
for Morning Coffee/Tea, Scones  
and Tray Bakes*

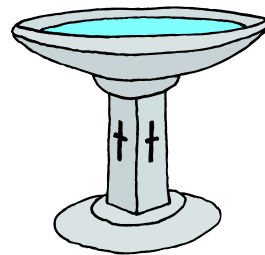


*Proceeds in aid of Church  
Funds*





## HOLY BAPTISM



30th September	Emilie Steele	219 Lisnahunshin Road, Ballymena
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## HOLY MATRIMONY



8th September	Stewart Kenny Lauren Watson	14B Main Street, Kells 14B Main Street, Kells
15th September	Ryan Balmer Amy McCosh	96 Rossdale, Ballymena 96 Rossdale, Ballymena

## CHRISTIAN BURIAL



14th September	Frank Smith	38 Meadowvale, Ballymena
27th September	Agnes Andrew	Rylands Private Nursing Home, Ballymena
28th September	Ellen Cooke	98A Orkney Drive, Ballymena



## Frank Smith

Frank was born in December 1926, one of 4 children, to William and Annie Smyth of Ballymena. Frank and his wife Nellie were married in St Patrick's Church, Ballyclug, in August 1955 and they lived together for most of their married life in Queen Street, Ballymena. We pass on our prayers and sympathies to all of the family circle.

## Agnes (Nancy) Andrew

Agnes was born in May 1939, the youngest of 7 children, to Andy and Agnes Higgins in Ballyclare. Agnes married James Andrew in July 1960 and they were blessed with 5 children Jane, Jacqueline, Josephine, Alison and Matthew. Agnes is remembered as a very caring and loving mother, grandmother, great grandmother and mother in law. Our prayers and sympathies are with the close family at this difficult time.

## Ellen (Ella) Cooke

Ellen was born in June 1934, one of 7 children, to Lyle and Nelly Greer in Ahoghill. Ella will be sorely missed by her partner Brian, her children, her close family and her friends. Our prayers and sympathies are with them all.





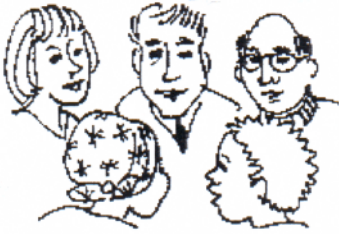
# OUR ACTIVITIES

## 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  
11.30 am

*1st Sunday in the month*

*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*