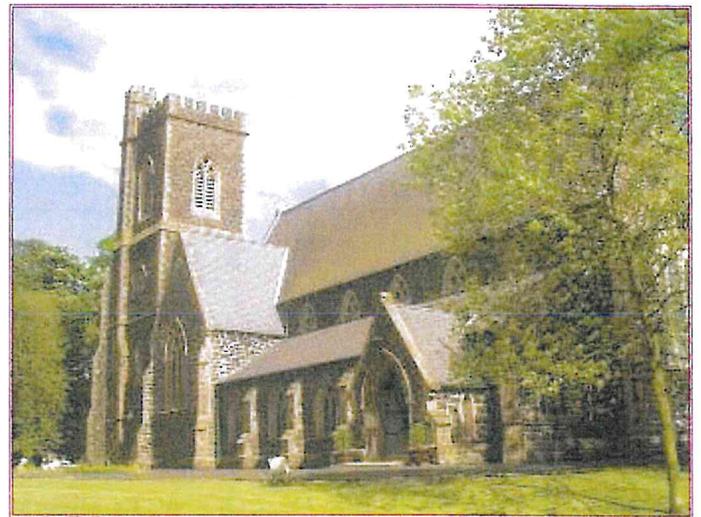
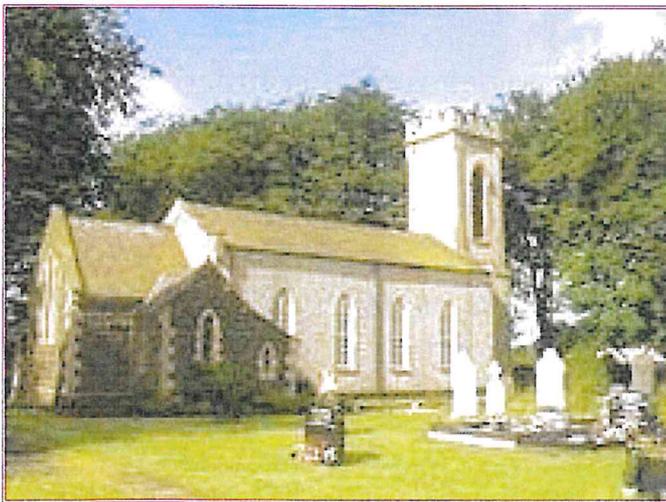
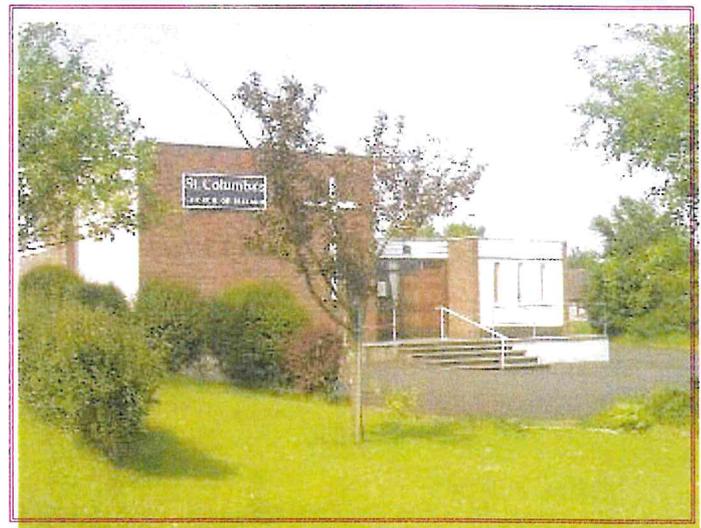


# *Parish of Kilconriola and Ballyclug*



**AUTUMN/WINTER  
Parish Magazine**



## **Parish Office**

The Parish Office opening hours are Monday – Wednesday (9:30am – 1:30pm).

You can contact Ruth in the office via email at [kilconriola@btconnect.com](mailto:kilconriola@btconnect.com) or via telephone on 028 2563 0741.

Until further notice, please book in for services via the office.

Due to the ongoing COVID situation, please be aware that if you need to visit the Parish Office you need to phone ahead. For track and trace purposes you will need to sign in and out. Masks should be worn, and social distancing should be observed.

## **Contact Information**

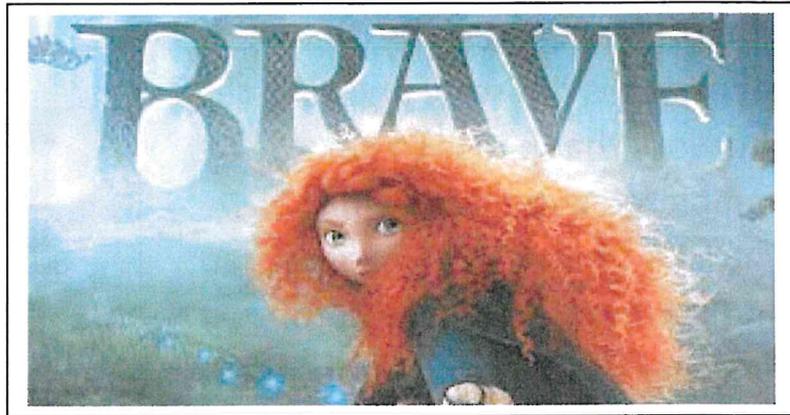
For booking in for services and for general enquiries please contact the office via [kilconriola@btconnect.com](mailto:kilconriola@btconnect.com) or 028 2563 0741.

For pastoral issues or concerns please contact Rev Mark on 07759 545932 or Rev Emma on 07568 943272.

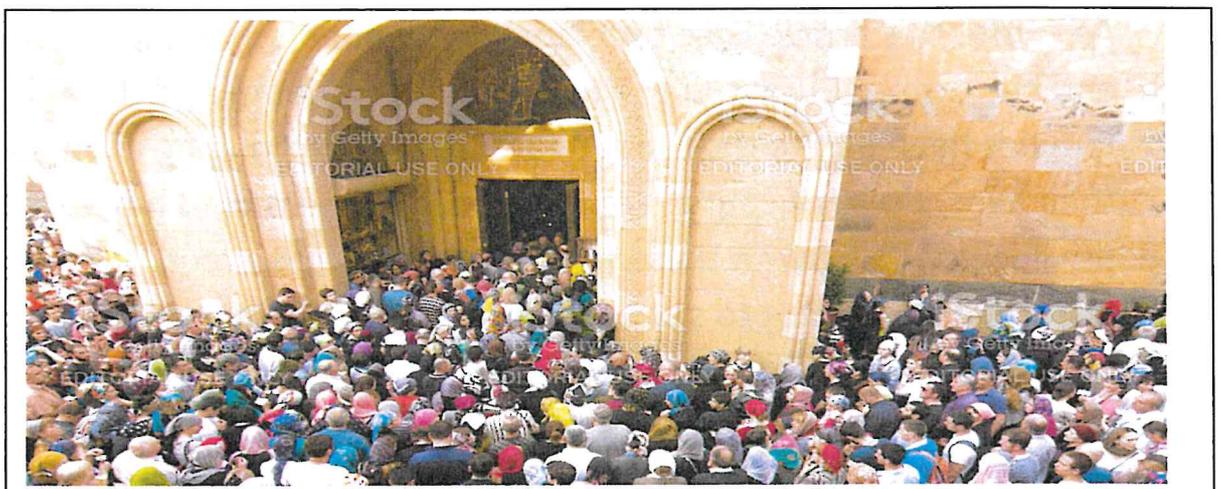
For other enquires you feel may need the attention of the Vestry, you can contact the Rector or you can also contact our Honorary Secretary Ronnie Fleming (07368 133788) or our Honorary Treasurer Richard Cotter (07946 445290).

Time to be Brave?

As I put pen to paper (or more correctly fingers to keyboard) for this introductory article



for our magazine, this theme of bravery sits very prominently on my heart. It also happens to be one of my fav. Movies (perhaps because of all the redheads!). During the past challenging months I have seen and experienced bravery in so many people facing heartbreaking situations. I have even had to face challenges in ministry life that have tested my own ability to be brave in some small ways. There is a need for us now in terms of faith and the tiny steps we hope lie ahead as we try to put the worst of the pandemic behind us, to ask ourselves the question – **is it my time to be brave?** Of course safety and health must be carefully considered, having carefully and prayerfully considered these questions is it right for you to come back? Come back to our gathered church worship? Is it right to come back to our Church groups as they slowly begin?

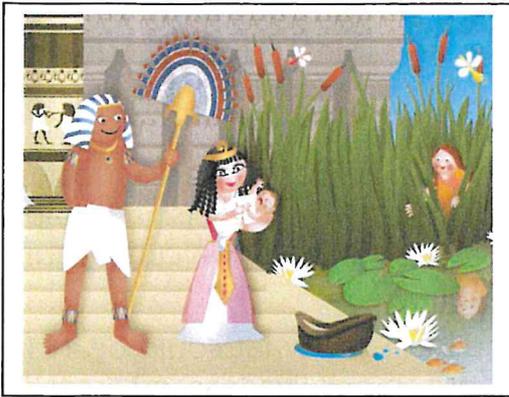


One of the big messages within this magazine is the scale and cost of the work that needs to be completed and paid for in St. Patrick's Church. The job is bigger and although through careful financial management in recent years we were able to make a great

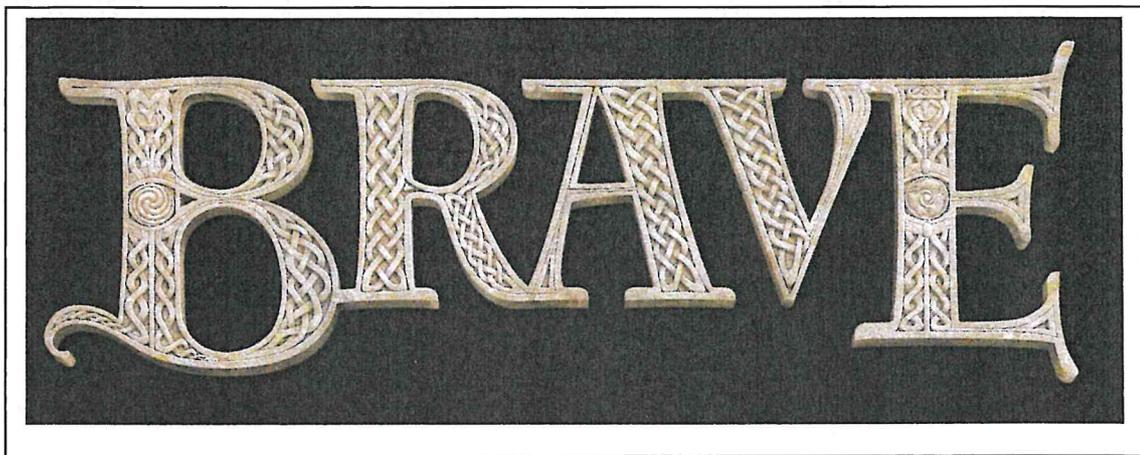


start we still need to find a huge sum of extra money, somewhere in the region of £175000 to do all that we need to do! I ask the question again – **are you prepared to be brave** – in terms of giving. Are you prepared to faithful and obedient to God and be brave – in participating in and creating funds and fundraising in a difficult climate? If you could make a difference by giving and participating in any [or all] of the ways suggested elsewhere in this magazine before we reach December – that would be really helpful as we have a staged payment system with our contractors. Some ideas are contained elsewhere in this magazine, and I'm sure you can think of many others, will you be brave in getting us beyond Easter and paying our bills and beginning to fill the pot again to sort out the next problem – there will always be a next problem!

As I write this article I see two faces in my mind's eye Audra Irvine and our former Curate John McClure both of whom and their families have had to deal with near-death, life-changing events in their lives, there of course are many many others but I have had the privilege of being with these remarkable folk quite recently – if you ever read this I want to say – you are an inspiration and may God Bless you.



I wonder if you have heard of Shiphrah, Puah, Miriam and PD? No they are not the next Spice Girls, they are not the next mystery ingredients in your daily dose of vitamins and health supplements – designed to keep you young and fit. Rather they are all extraordinary brave women



without whom Moses may not have ever got started and God would have needed another route to rescue His people from their horrible time in Egypt. Read for yourselves how they risked everything, when the danger was great, things seemed hopeless, and possibly one of the most difficult expressions of bravery – waiting was all that could be done all to be found in Exodus chapters 1&2 – it should be easy to work out who PD is? The more I read these chapters the more amazing their bravery becomes.

So in difficult times, be brave, when things seem hopeless – be brave, when many say you can't or I told you so – be brave and may God help us and guide us in these days that have changed the world.

Mark



# From Rev Emma ...

Dear friends,

There is a book sitting in my bookcase called 'Curacies and How to Survive Them.' Unfortunately, there isn't a chapter in this book explaining how a curate survives a curacy during a global pandemic!

But fear not! I have some ideas for what could be included in a chapter like that! It got me thinking about things I've learned, heard, and seen during this past 18 months. What would I tell someone about these experiences? Are there things we can all learn and take from 2020/2021. We are still living through a Covid situation and I have some tips that might be useful for us all as we keep going in these days.

So, here are some of my top tips.

## 1. Don't be too hard on yourself

We've all been facing an unprecedented situation. (If you'd asked any of us during Christmas 2019, no one would have believed that we would soon be facing a pandemic and still be going through it in October 2021.) We've all been feeling our way through. None of us has known what would happen in the days, weeks, and months that were ahead of us.

So, don't be too hard on yourself. Take each day as it comes. Don't beat yourself up because you've found yourself in an unexpected place or found that you're not where you'd thought you'd be by the end of 2021. Why worry and be hard on yourself? *Lean on God*. HE knows the score even if we don't. He holds us in the palm of His hands. Psalm 139 is one of my favourite Psalms (why don't you take a moment to read it for yourself.) Psalm 139:16 says this –

*In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.*

Trust God and what He is doing with our lives. He knows the paths and plans He has for us.

## 2. Kindness is worth spreading

*Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body.* Proverbs 16: 24

Kindness is really worth spreading, especially in these days. The past 18 months have taught me how a kind word goes a long, long way. A harsh word goes even farther and is impossible to take back. If we're unsure what the future holds then it stands to reason that other people probably don't know either. It's tough when things don't go our way or don't go

the way we had planned. If 2020 and 2021 have taught us anything its *adaptability*. We need to have patience and grace with those around us, with those who work with us, lead us, govern us because we're all learning on our feet. So let's go easy on each other.



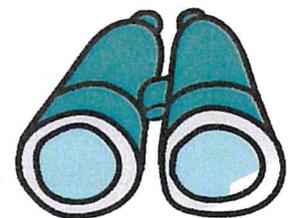
Phone calls, FaceTime, Zoom, texts, WhatsApp, letters, cards – all of these things have become part of pandemic life. How easy is it to send an encouraging text? How easy is it to spend 20 minutes on the phone with someone who needs a good chat? How wonderful is it when you are on the receiving end of these things? That warm, fuzzy feeling is something we all love, and we all need sometimes. Let's spread love and kindness because that what Jesus tells us to do –

*I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. John 13:34*

### **3. Look inside and look outside**

We've all had to spend lot more time at home. We may have worked from home, played the role of teacher; we may have given more time to those we live with whilst changing our daily routines and making compromises. We've also had more time to reflect; reflect on our past, our current situations, our faith, our hearts, and minds. I have spent a lot of time over the past year and a half reading more about God, listening to podcasts about faith and discipleship and doing Bible study on Zoom with some of my friends. This time to focus on the inside – on my heart and mind and soul has been really valuable but I have to remind myself that it's *not about me*.

God calls us to look outside of ourselves; to consider other people, to care, share with and for those close to us and for others around the world. So much of Scripture points us to the importance of loving others, to be concerned with the things that go on in our world, to act and pray about the injustices in the world (remembering prayer as an incredibly powerful weapon.)



*Galatians 6:2 tells us to - carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ.*

*Philippians 2:3-4 tells us to do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not*

*looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.*

God's call to look outside ourselves to care about and love others is challenging. It's challenging to love those we don't like very much or agree with or those we don't even know. But this is what we're called to as followers of Christ and it's something we're all able to do with the strength of God's Holy Spirit.

#### **4. Remember, Remember, Remember – This too shall pass!**

With restrictions, not seeing friends/family and the daily dose of bad news; a life of normality and enjoying the things we love seems very far away.

But Remember! We go forward in the hope and joy of the Lord knowing, that in His timing, things will change and improve. Jesus has the ultimate victory – over earthly powers, over illness and disease, over trials and temptations. He tells us in John 16:33 –



*"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."*

So take heart friends, these things are temporary; hard times will end; whatever trial is facing us – big or small – will eventually be behind us as we look to and seek after God. God, in the Word and the witness of His Son, shows us that He has already defeated then enemy. He remains present with us always, goes before us in all things.

These are a few things I've learned during lockdown and during the two years of my curacy here with you in Ballymena Parish. You'll probably have a list of your own top tips for surviving a pandemic!

So, I'll tell you this – don't be too hard on yourself or on others; remember to share the love and kindness of the Lord God; remember to spend time looking out for others as well as yourself and remember that this too shall pass. Brighter days are on the horizon.

God Bless you all!

With love and prayers,

Rev Emma

**"Now to him who is able to keep you from falling, and to make you stand without blemish in the presence of his glory with rejoicing, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen."**

**Jude 1:24-25**

Dates for Sunday Services

<b>October</b>		
3.10.2021 (Sunday)	10.00 am – Harvest service 11.30 am – Harvest service 11.30 am – Harvest service	Ballyclug St Columba's St Patrick's
<b>6.10.2021 (Wednesday)</b>	<b>10.30 am - Holy Communion Service</b>	<b>St Columba's</b>
10.10.21 (Sunday)	10.00 am – Morning service 11.30 am – Morning service 11.30 am – Morning service	Ballyclug St Columba's St Patrick's
<b>13.10.2021 (Wednesday)</b>	<b>10.30 am - Holy Communion Service</b>	<b>St Columba's</b>
17.10.2121 (Sunday)	10.00 am – Morning service 11.30 am – Morning service 11.30 am – Morning service	Ballyclug St Columba's St Patrick's
<b>20.10.2021 (Wednesday)</b>	<b>10.30 am - Holy Communion Service</b>	<b>St Columba's</b>
24.10.2021 (Sunday)	10.00 am – Morning service 11.30 am – Morning service 11.30 am – Morning service	Ballyclug St Columba's St Patrick's
<b>27.10.2021 (Wednesday)</b>	<b>10.30 am – Holy Communion Service</b>	<b>St Columba's</b>
31.10.2012 (Sunday)	10.00 am – Morning service 11.30 am – Morning service 11.30 am – All Age New Life Service 6.30 pm – Evening Prayer	Ballyclug St Columba's St Patrick's St Patrick's
<b>November</b>		
<b>3.11.2021 (Wednesday)</b>	<b>10.30 am – Holy Communion Service</b>	<b>St Columba's</b>
7.11.2021 (Sunday)	10.00 am – Morning service 11.30 am – Morning service 11.30 am – Morning service	Ballyclug St Columba's St Patrick's
<b>10.11.2021 (Wednesday)</b>	<b>10.30 am – Holy Communion Service</b>	<b>St Columba's</b>
14.11.2021 (Remembrance Sunday)	10.00 am – Morning service 11.30 am – Morning service 11.30 am – Morning service	Ballyclug St Columba's St Patrick's
<b>17.11.2021 (Wednesday)</b>	<b>10.30 am – Holy Communion Service</b>	<b>St Columba's</b>
21.11.2021 (Sunday)	10.00 am – Morning service 11.30 am – Morning service 11.30 am – Morning service	Ballyclug St Columba's St Patrick's
<b>24.11.2021 (Wednesday)</b>	<b>10.30 am – Holy Communion Service</b>	<b>St Columba's</b>
<b>24.11.2021 (Wednesday)</b>	<b>7.30 pm - 1<sup>st</sup> Advent Service</b>	<b>Ballyclug</b>
28.11.2021 (Sunday)	10.00 am – Morning service 11.30 am – Morning service 11.30 am – All Age New Life Service 6.30 pm – Evening Prayer	Ballyclug St Columba's St Patrick's St Patrick's
<b>December</b>		
<b>1.12.2021 (Wednesday)</b>	<b>10.30 am – Holy Communion Service</b>	<b>St Columba's</b>
<b>1.12.2021 (Wednesday)</b>	<b>7.30 pm – 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent Service</b>	<b>Ballyclug</b>
5.12.2021 (Sunday)	10.00 am – Morning service 11.30 am – Morning service 11.30 am – Morning service	Ballyclug St Columba's St Patrick's
<b>8.12.2021 (Wednesday)</b>	<b>10.30 am – Holy Communion Service</b>	<b>St Columba's</b>

8.12.2021 (Wednesday)	7.30 pm – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Advent Service	Ballyclug
12.12.2021 (Sunday)	10.00 am – Morning service 11.30 am – Morning service 11.30 am – Morning service	Ballyclug St Columba's St Patrick's
15.12.2021 (Wednesday)	10.30 am – Holy Communion Service	St Columba's
15.12.2021 (Wednesday)	7.30 pm – 4 <sup>th</sup> Advent Service	Ballyclug
19.12.2021 (Sunday)	10.00 am – Carol service 11.30 am – Carol service 11.30 am – Virtual Nativity Drama 6.30 pm – Carol Service	Ballyclug St Columba's St Patrick's St Patrick's
24.12.2021 (Christmas Eve)	No Services	
25.12.2021 (Christmas Day)	10.00 am – Morning service 10.00 am – Morning service 10.00 am – Morning service	Ballyclug St Columba's St Patrick's
26.12.2021 (Sunday)	3.00 pm – Evensong	St Patrick's
31.12.2021 (Friday)	11.30 pm Watchnight Service	St Patrick's

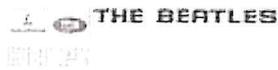
Itinerary for over the coming months:

- Winter Sing scheduled to take place on 13 October, 17 November and 9 December at Ballyclug at 7.30 pm. (Please book your place with Ruth at the office).
- Mid-week Advent Reflections at Ballyclug on 24 November, 1 December, 8 December and 15 December at 7.30 pm. (Please book your place with Ruth at the office).
- Carol Service at Ballyclug and St Columba's on 19 December. A Virtual Nativity Drama to take place in St Patrick's on 19 December. There is also a Carol Service in the evening at 6.30 pm in St Patrick's.
- There will be no services on Christmas Eve.
- Christmas Day Holy Communion Service will also be in all churches at 10.00 am
- Boxing Day (Sunday 26 December) there will be an Evensong at 3.00 pm in St Patrick's
- Watch Night Service (Friday 31 December) in St Patrick's at 11.30 pm

--oOo--

On Monday 20 December - 'Carols for Everyone' in the grounds of St Patrick's at 7.00 pm. Wear warm clothes! Hot chocolate will be served!





As the Beatles Sing ... HELP! - Some Ways to Assist with our Fundraising Efforts

Here are some things to consider:

**1. £100.00 for £100.00**

Are you applying for one or more of the Shopping Vouchers? Why not make 'a like for like' donation to help with our Building Project? (Please note we cannot accept any of the Voucher Cards themselves). If you would like assistance in applying for the Vouchers please contact Ruth in the Parish Office (Monday – Wednesday 9.30 am – 1.30 pm - 028 2563 0741) – WE CAN HELP!

**2. Gift Aid Awareness**

If you give to the Church and are a tax-payer we can add on 25% to every pound you give by taking part in this scheme – Please contact our Treasurer for more details.

**3. Cleaning out for Christmas**

Why not sell some unwanted items on the many online platforms – like Gumtree/Ebay, etc., and donate what you make to our Building Project. (Ask any teenager for more details).

**4. Legacy Possibilities**

Many folk have and will shortly be updating their Wills. Many charities now ask that you think of them and leave a gift in your Will. Well the Church is now a registered charity too. So why not think of us when making or amending your Will – and a big thank you to those who have already done this.

**5. COINSTAR**

Become a 'coinstar'. Those machines you find in nearly every major supermarket – gather up your loose change week in week out but bring it to the Church Coinstar aka Ruth in the Church Office. You know the old saying 'Look after the pennies....'

Please consider taking part in any, some or all of the above to HELP! with the shortfall we are facing to fix and secure St Patrick's.

Thank you

Mark

## 'IF THESE STONES COULD TALK'

The year 2021 marks several important milestones in the history of our Parish. It is 300 years since the Parish Church in Church Street was consecrated and it is 200 years since the tower was built. There are also several other significant anniversaries this year.

To help celebrate this very important year Mid and East Antrim Borough Council has produced a Tercentenary Commemorative Guide. Copies have already been made available within the Parish and additional copies are available from the Parish Office. We very much appreciate Council's support in producing the leaflet which also includes a short guide to St Patrick's Parish Church.

In addition to producing the commemorative guide, Council has produced a video as part of European Heritage Open Week. This can be accessed via the Council's web page and Parish Facebook page. A small exhibition has been arranged in the Atrium in the Braid. This remains open until 1 October. After this, it is hoped to have a display in Midtown Makers in Church Street. Hopefully parishioners will support both of these events by going along and reviewing some of the artifacts and the range of photographs on display.

The Tercentenary is significant not just for the parish but also for the town of Ballymena. The history of the Church of Ireland is an integral part of the development of the town. We therefore hope to continue to raise the profile of the Tercentenary during the remainder of 2021. As well as our appreciation to Council in this regard, we also recognise the excellent support being provided by the Ballymena Guardian in keeping both our Tercentenary and our current fundraising challenge in the public domain.

This year also marks the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the re-opening of St Patrick's in Castle Street after a fire had destroyed the newly constructed building in 1879. As we all know, the Parish now faces a major challenge in terms of addressing significant dry rot issues within the building. The Treasurer, in his report, has outlined the financial implications of this important restoration project. As parishioners, the majority of the financial challenge will fall on our shoulders but it is also hoped to encourage non parishioners to make donations to help ensure the future of what is arguably, from an architectural perspective, Ballymena's most important civic building. It has, therefore, been decided to launch a public appeal through the Parish Just Giving page which allows for online donations and we are trying to make the 'links' widely accessible by promoting the following links:

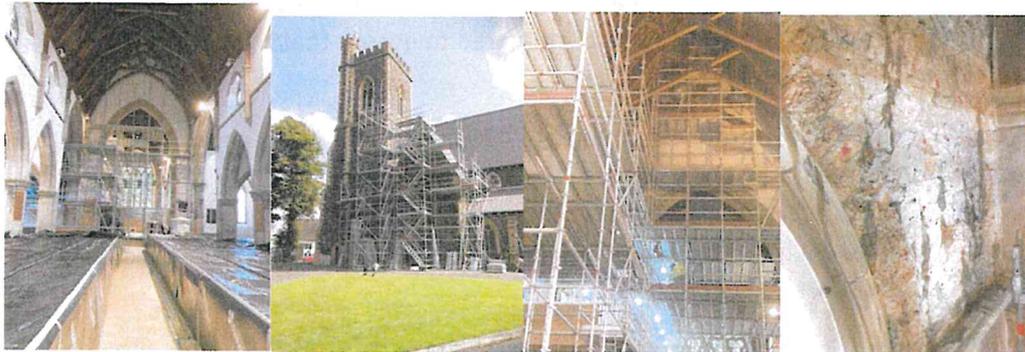
JIM PERRY

Member of the Finance Team and Very Keen Amateur Historian!

<https://www.justgiving.com/stpatricks-ballymena/donate>



Work is well underway with the necessary repair work. It is hoped to keep everyone up to speed on progress over the next few months. For those who have already had the opportunity to inspect the work being undertaken you have undoubtedly been impressed by the immensity of the challenge we face. The following photographs illustrate some of the work which is being undertaken:



If we are to complete, and pay for, all of the necessary repairs then it is going to require an enormous effort by all of us. Sometimes it may feel discouraging to have to make such a significant investment but yet to have no additional facilities at the end! The work being undertaken simply allows us to maintain the building 'as is'. On the other hand, however, we have an enormous responsibility to ensure that all three of our worship centres are maintained to a level which allows for their ongoing use for many generations to come, allowing us to continue to exert our influence in the local community. Rather than regarding the current challenge as a 'burden', therefore, let us instead regard it as a 'privilege' to be custodians of such a wonderful building. So, as we continue, with all of our fundraising efforts let us celebrate and promote all that is good about our Parish.

The Rector sets out an exciting challenge for us all in the final section of the Tercentenary Commemorative guide.....

"What will these stones, some 300 years from now, say about us- history will judge? I remain sure that the calling of the people of God in every age is to discover and share the revelation of God, chiefly in His Son Jesus. The 'how to' might have to change but the 'who' and 'what' stay the same".

So, as we celebrate our Tercentenary, may we each do what we can to support the fundraising effort – and encourage others to do the same. As we move forward may we continue to *respect* all of the rich history of this Parish, remain *realistic* about the many challenges we face but, most importantly remain *optimistic* about the future of the Church of Ireland in this area.

## Financial Update on the Cost of Repairs to St Patricks Church

Dear Parishioners

It's been a strange year and a half with this old Coronavirus about, but I do pray that each and everyone is keeping safe and well at this time.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for being supportive to the church during this period and helping us financially in being able to keep going.

As you are all well aware by now there is a major repair project on the go at St Patricks in Castle Street. We pray that the work being done will be what is required to ensure that the parish can be of service to the Ballymena community for a further 300 years.

The overall cost of repairs is currently estimated at £470,000 of which the parish has approximately £280,000 adding on the sale of the site at Galgorm Road of £115,000 will give us a total of approximately £395,000. Thus, you may already know from local press reports that there is currently a shortfall in what monies we have and that which is required to ensure the project is completed. The current estimate on the shortfall is **£175,000**.

We currently have approximately 450 families on our books, of which slightly over 250 make regular contributions to the parish. It would be great if everyone could make a contribution to their parish. With the shortfall of £175,000 and the 250 regular givers then if each giver can give us additional support of **£500 each**. This would ensure that we move significantly towards our shortfall. Please if you can respond by December this too would assist with our Staged Payments Plan.

If you are a taxpayer and have completed a gift aid donation form, then the target lowers to £240 as the government make gift aid donations of 25% and this would bring your contribution up to **£500**.

Where possible make your contributions through your white envelopes to support the property fund, but if you cannot do that that please indicate your donation is for the roof repair project.

Contributions can also be made through our just giving page <https://www.justgiving.com/stpatricks-ballymena/donate> or scan the QR code below.

May I take the opportunity on behalf of the select vestry to thank your in advance for your support for this work.

Yours in Christ  
Mr Richard J Cotter  
Treasurer of Select Vestry

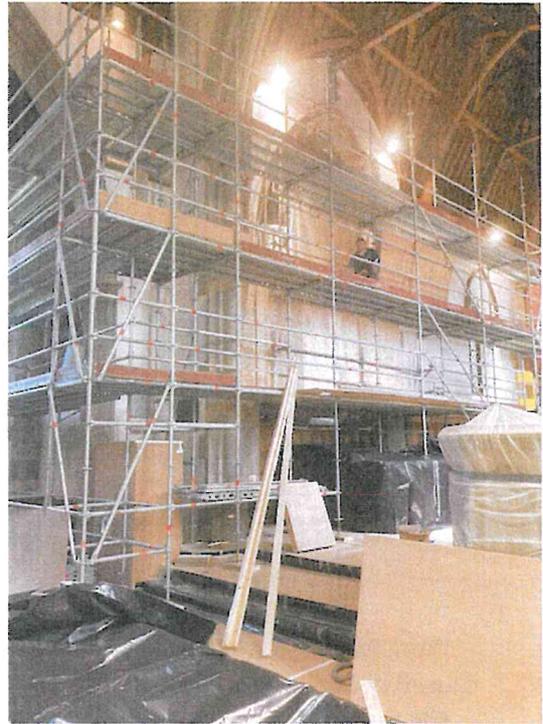


## Renovation Work at St Patrick's, the story so far

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Select Vestry, to update you all as to where we are with the major renovation work at St Patricks; before our main contractor, Stronghold, took control of the site everything had to be removed from inside the church this included all the banners and anything else of value. The contractors arrived on site on the 5<sup>th</sup> July and immediately began work on protecting all the pews, floors, organ, stained glass windows etc, the photograph below shows the level of protection used, this procedure took three weeks to complete.

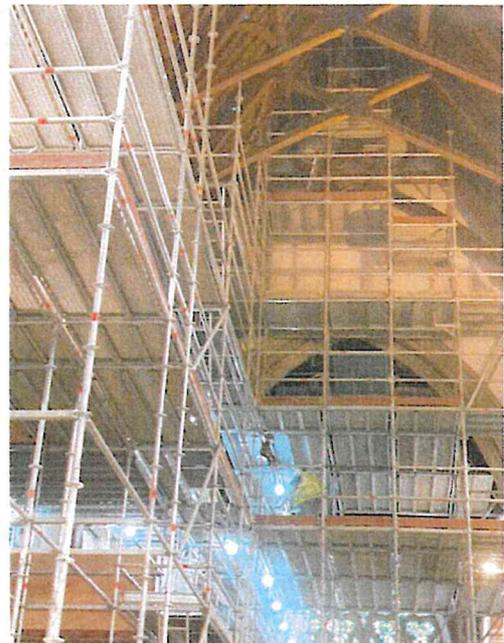


Pews and Floors



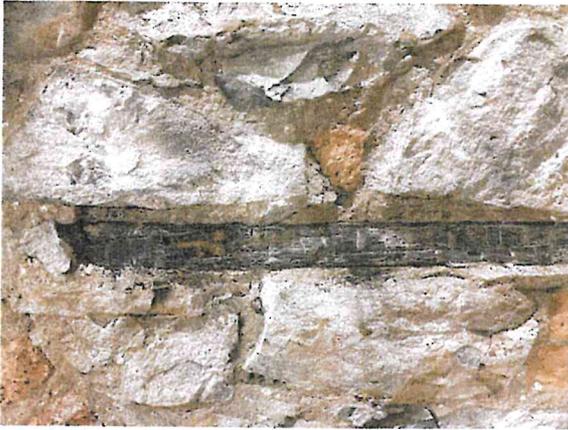
Organ

The next stage was to completely install the internal scaffolding, owing to the extent of the repairs this was a very complex and time consuming activity, the north transept along with the nave of the church was completely filled from floor to roof



With all the internal scaffolding now in place work began to strip back all the plaster on the walls so that the area infected could be inspected and treated with fungicide, as you can imagine this was a very dusty job. All of the infected timbers in the roof can now be easily inspected to discover just how far the dry rot has spread over the last few years. The work area started from above the choir stalls, past the organ, all around the North transept and into the nave of the church. Unfortunately during this time additional areas of dry rot had been discovered affecting the roof timbers and the walls below, we are still waiting for the quote for this additional work to arrive. We are expecting it to be a substantial amount.

As a result of the walls now being completely exposed a timber that had been embedded in the wall showed severe scorching from the fire that destroyed the church building in 1879



1879 Fire Damage



Live dry rot at work

Work has been continuing testing all the exposed timbers just to see the extent of the damage caused by the dry rot.

The repairs to the affected trusses has begun and owing to the nature of the church building there will always be a risk of damp in the walls, we have been advised and in order to stop the dry rot attacking the timbers again, the ends of the timbers going back into the walls will be made from a special resin material. The photograph below shows one these resin ended trusses being prepared for fitting back into the roof.



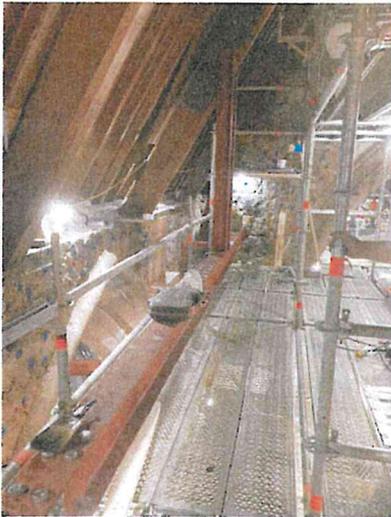
Truss repair with resin end



This is where the new truss is going, above the Organ

The contractors now have the steel support structures in place to allow them to start repairing the other truss ends sited within the North Transept and the nave of the church; this will take quite a while to complete as each one will have to be left to set for one week.

With the external scaffolding now completed and the protective roof fitted you will be able to see a lot of activity in that area, Stronghold will now start to remove the slates and the coping stones so they can begin the repairs to the troublesome area between the tower and the church.



Steel support structure



Protective roof

We are now approximately twelve weeks into an original twenty six week schedule but with the additional repairs that have been indentified this timeline will slip. We will keep you all updated when we receive the new information, we currently hold a site meeting between ourselves and the contractor every two weeks. The next site meeting will be 19<sup>th</sup> October.

The Select Vestry would like to thank everyone for their prayers and support and would ask if you could continue doing the same.

If anyone would like more information or would like to come along to St Patrick's to see the scale of the work, I will be happy to arrange it. Photographs cannot communicate the size of this job, it is much better to see it for yourself!

*Ronnie Fleming*

On behalf of the Select Vestry

**Ronnie Fleming** Honorary Secretary

Parish of Kilconriola and Ballyclug

☎ +44 (0)7368133788 ✉ [rjfleming1954@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:rjfleming1954@tiscali.co.uk)

## **BRAVE THE SHAVE!!**

This is a very highly respected fundraising activity usually associated with various cancer support charities and several members of my own extended family have recently taken part!

So I had a brainwave!!!! This Rector will brave the shave!! My wife and many others really don't

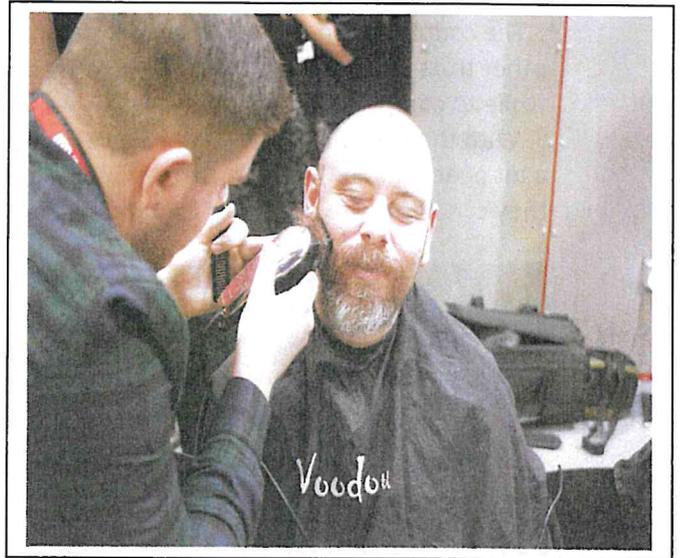
like my beard or long hair, so I'm prepared to do something about it! I will brave the shave...but it will cost – **AT LEAST £5000 SPONSORSHIP** all of which will go towards our building project in St. Patrick's.

Beard and hair all off – I hope some will grow back! Sponsorship forms will appear at the back of church and Ruth in the office will also hold one if that is handier.

So come on please dig deep, see this Rector in a new light (literally hairless) and support our fundraising efforts.

Thank you

Mark McConnell



## ***Wednesday Holy Communion – On the move!!!***

From October we will re-locate to St. Columba's, each Wednesday morning at 10.30am, everything else will remain the same, a quiet traditional service of Holy Communion followed by safe fellowship and a cuppa.

Please continue to adhere to all Covid-19 precautions and remember to book your slot in the usual way via Ruth in the Church Office – looking forward to re-starting this much-loved ministry, see you there.



Shoe Boxes are available at the back of the three churches.

The leaflet provides the necessary information and describes what can and what cannot be put into the shoe boxes. There is an additional item which can be included - disposable face masks. (B&M have reasonably priced disposable face masks).

Please note that a donation of £5.00 per box is requested to cover shipping and other project costs. This can be enclosed in your box, in cash or by cheque, and can also be donated on-line.

Boxes to be returned by the end of October.



# KOSHISH

## National Mental Health Self-Help Organization

P.O.Box: 8975, EPC: 2706, Kusunti, Lalitpur, Nepal  
Tel: +977 1 5190103, Email: info@koshishnepal.org, Website: www.koshishnepal.org

Date: 21 Sep 2021

### Acknowledgement Letter

Dear Rector/ Treasurer/Secretary St Patrick's Ballymena, Broughshane, Coleraine

Greetings in the name of Jesus, our Lord and savior!

Hope this email finds you and your teams and families in good health.

We would like to heartily acknowledge for your generous support of £7,385 for the construction of **emergency rescue center** for the mentally and physically distressed, severely traumatized women and girl child. Your donation amount has been received in the bank account of KOSHISH.

It is submitted that there is a vicious circle in which women suffering from the violence develop mental health /psychosocial distress and those having mental health or physical distress are subjected to the various forms of violence. These vulnerable women and girls are exposed to gender(physical) abuse specially in the streets and many of them eventually give birth to the fatherless children in the streets itself. The fate of these children can be well imagined. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9sO55KzKTZs&t=15s>. Would you believe 61% of these women do not make any report against the violence suffered by them due to the fear of stigma and prejudice? They silently suffer with no avenues for the ventilation of their feelings and many of them, who cannot cope with it are compelled to commit suicide as the only recourse available. Not surprisingly, the leading cause of death amongst the women of the reproductive age group between 15-49 years in Nepal is suicide.

I am reminded in my heart Luke 9:58 & Matthew 8:20, wherein Lord has said "Foxes have dens and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay His head", as these dejected and the distressed women have no practical protection and support. we started an emergency rescue center in a rented premises in the year 2011 for such women. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C7rYR1LuBFA>

However, since the rent of the center premises is getting expensive and there is no space for the skill enhancement as also the therapeutic activities, and also considering the good response to our existing center, we have been encouraged to purchase our land in Kathmandu (Nepal) for the construction of KOSHISH's own center. The details of the construction are in the attached video for your kind perusal.

It is submitted that anyone can fall prey to these forlorn circumstances and need support and rescue. We see in them precious images of our Lord, Jesus. We are making efforts in terms of Matthew 25:36-40, "I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me" to rescue and rehabilitate them and request your support and solidarity.

Looking forward to a sustainable association,

*M. Devkota*

**Matrika Devkota**  
Executive Director



**cmsireland**  
equipping the church in mission

17<sup>th</sup> September 2021

St Patrick, Broughshane  
Sarah Gamble  
7 Rectory Meadow  
BALLYMENNA  
BT42 4LG

Dear Sarah

On behalf of CMSI, I write to thank St Patrick, Broughshane for the generous donation of €6402.07 that we recently received.

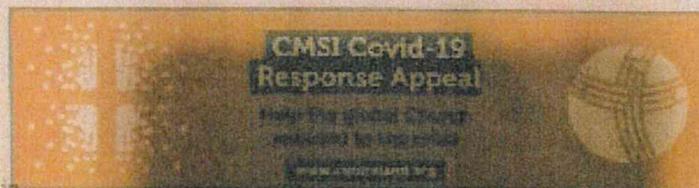
*Roger Thompson (Partnership Coordinator for Nepal) writes, "Many, many thanks for sending this generous donation of €6402.07 from the wonderful Everest via Slemish fundraising challenge that Canon Stuart Lloyd carried out in June. It has been added to the €1,000 we had already received from other supporters making a grand total of €7,402.07. This money will be used to assist ongoing projects bringing much needed help to poor and marginalised communities in Nepal which are being implemented by our partners and associates (Deirdre & Mark Zimmerman, NPCG, HDGS and SDSS). Once I know more specifics of how the funds are to be used, I will communicate this with Canon Stewart and also Rev Dr Carrubell.*

*If you are interested in hearing directly from Nepal regarding the current situation you would be welcome to register for our CMS Ireland annual Ignite Conference taking place tomorrow (Sat 18 September) at 10am. We are hoping to hear from both Mr Bikash Adhikari (Executive Director, SDSS) and Mrs Tulsa Sharma (HDGS – Project Coordinator of ABBS schools for children and adults with learning difficulties). If you would like to attend please go to <https://bit.ly/3wMf4Fd> to register, and you will be sent info re the zoom link and seminar options."*

Thank you for continuing to walk with CMSI and for playing your part in God's great work of mission.

Yours in Christ

Anne Buckley  
Finance Coordinator



Dublin  
Church of Ireland League

Belfast

Letter received from Canon Stuart Lloyd following his 'Everest's Climb via Slemish!



## **MOTHERS AND TODDLERS**

What a very strange year and a half we have had!

We hope everyone is keeping safe and well in these unusual times. We have missed not having our little chats over tea and toast.

Unfortunately, the circumstances of a few of our helpers have changed and they are no longer able to help on a Tuesday. Eleanor has decided to stepdown, Rosemary has moved further afield, and Catherine has moved to England. We wish them all the very best and a huge thank you for all their help with Mother and Toddlers over the last number of years, we will miss you.

Hopefully things will improve in 2022 and we may be able to resume Mother and Toddlers and welcome back the children and their families and carers to have some fun and friendship.

Take care,

Dorothy, Anna and Liz



**ST PATRICK'S PARISH CHURCH YOUTH CLUB**

Hi All,

Hope you are well. It's such a long time since we have seen you all, and we hope to get back to some normality soon.

At the minute the church is being renovated, so all services are being held in the hall.

Unfortunately, this means it's hard to maintain services and organisations in the hall under Covid restrictions, so Youth Club will be held on different dates to allow this. Also, at the minute admission into Youth Club is by **invitation only** so we can maintain numbers.

The cost will be £1.00 each, which will include, a drink and a snack, as we are trying to minimise the use of money.

Junior Youth Club is for those nursery to P7 from 7.00 pm – 8.00 pm and Senior Youth Club, which is secondary school age is from 8.15 pm to 9.30 pm. Please adhere to these times so there is no congestion in the hallways.

You are invited to attend Youth Club on the following dates:

Saturday 18 September	Saturday 6 November
Saturday 2 October	Saturday 20 November
Saturday 16 October	Saturday 4 December
Saturday 23 October	Saturday 11 December

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Lucy and Alan

**Please contact Lucy on 07759950497 if you haven't received an invitation**

Hi All,

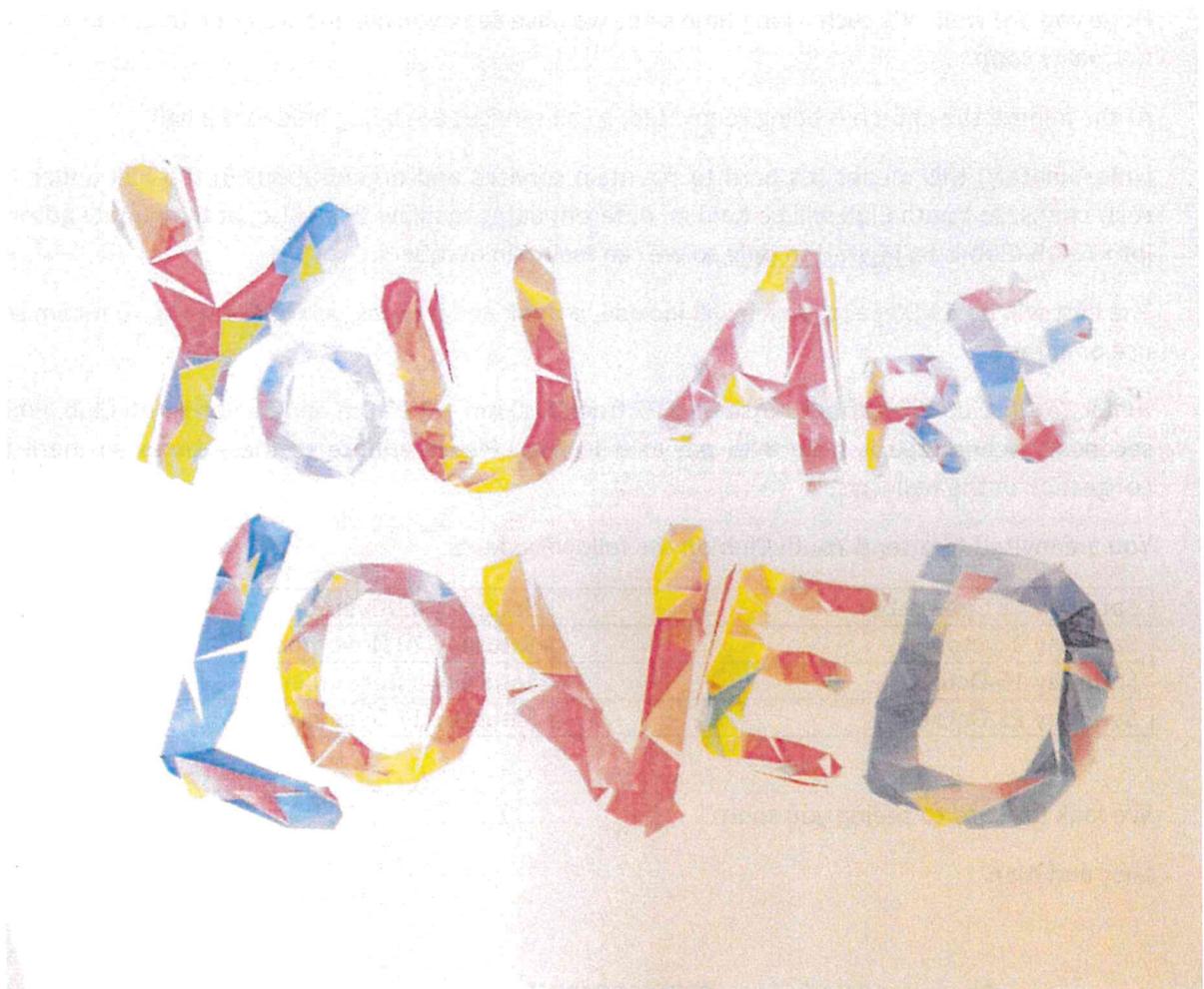
Hope you are well!

From Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2021, we will hold Children's Church in the Minor Hall at 11.30 am. Parents are encouraged to go to church in the Main Hall, and children to go to the Minor Hall. Numbers are limited, so please send Lucy a text, as soon as you can to book the children in. You can also book in with her (if it is more convenient than ringing the Church Office) for parents who are attending the church service.

On Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021, we hope to relaunch our All Age New Life Service for everyone in the Main Hall at 11.30 am.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Lucy & Alan

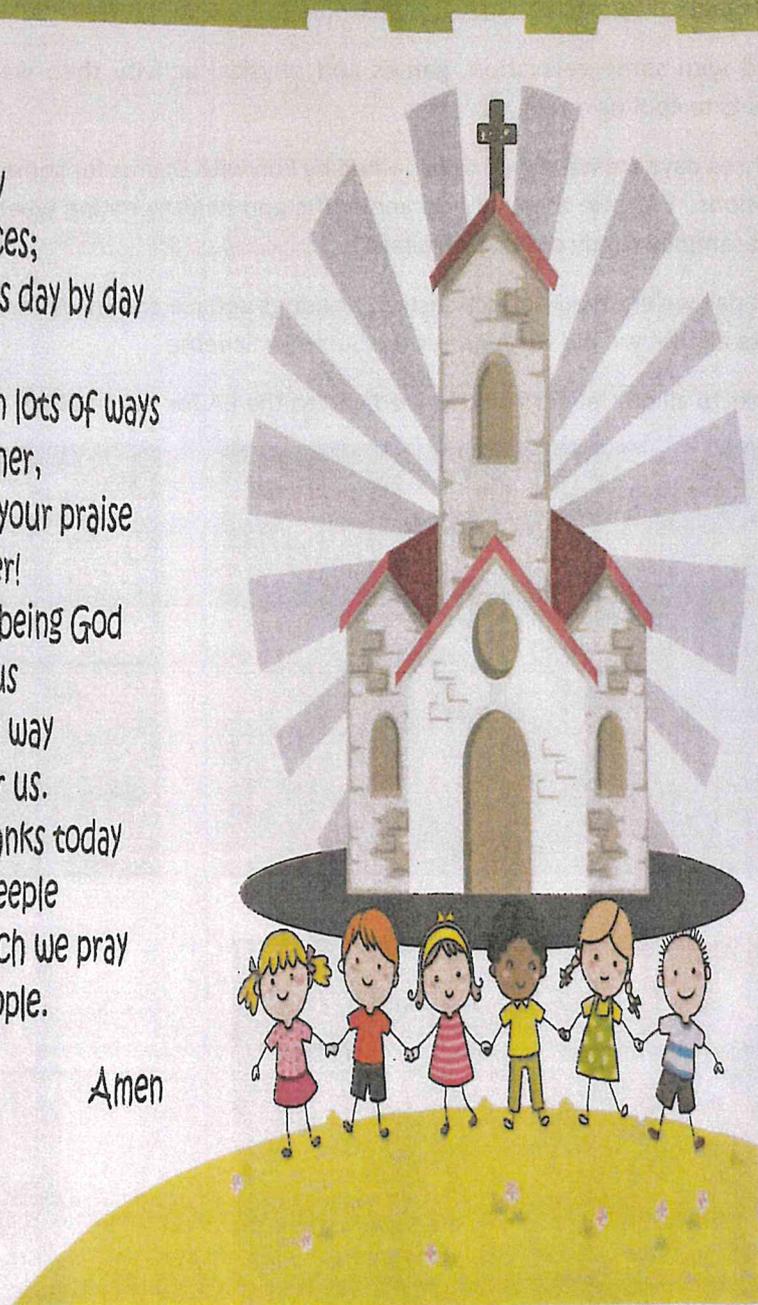


Dear God,

We've been so long away  
in lots of different spaces;  
And you've been with us day by day  
In many other places.  
We've worshipped you in lots of ways  
and in all types of weather,  
and now we get to sing your praise  
in church again together!  
We give you thanks for being God  
And always being near us  
For guiding us along the way  
And taking time to hear us.  
So God, we give you thanks today  
from floor to pew to steeple  
for every church in which we pray  
and all your faithful people.

Amen

*Cathy Hallssey*



## SUMMER SCHEME

During August we held an EA funded summer Scheme. The theme was health and wellbeing and it was our first opportunity to connect with some of our young people that we hadn't seen for over a year due to Covid. We had 3 great days filled with fun and the weather was unreal. Three of the hottest days ever! We were able to spend most of our time outside sheltered under the trees.

We started with some relaxation, games and physical activity then we went inside to watch a DVD and get some refreshments to cool us down.

Over the three days we were glad to be joined by Fun with Drums for some drumming sessions and Play It By Ear for some drama sessions. We also enjoyed arts and crafts and healthy eating where we made animals from fruit enjoyed frozen yogurt and sampled many different fruits.

On the last day we enjoyed bouncy castles, hot dogs and ice cream. We were glad to be joined by the parents of our kids to celebrate all that we did throughout the Summer Scheme.

Many thanks to all our leaders who helped and to the EA for the funding.



At the end of the summer scheme we said goodbye to Andrea. We thanked her for all that she had contributed to Children's and Youth work within the parish over the years and wished her and Richard God's richest blessing in their new parish All Saints Clooney.

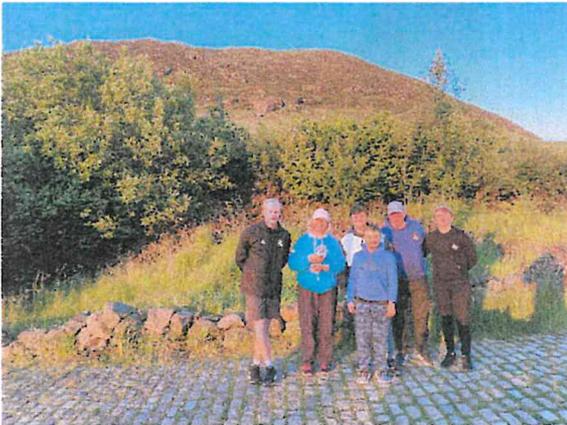
## YOUTH

The young people were delighted to meet up again after a long period of not seeing each other due to Covid.

We supported our former Rector on his challenge for Nepal climbing Slemish. We met him for his final lap and enjoyed some food with him.

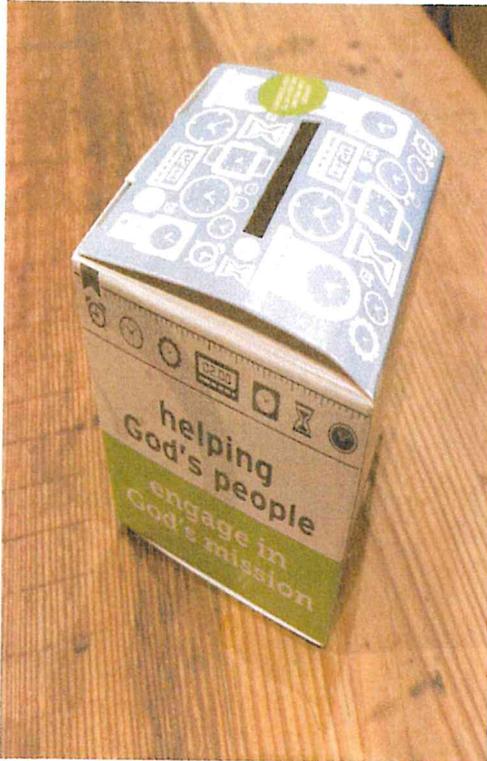
We were glad to get back to Summer Madness as we missed it a lot last year. We met our friends from Connor Diocese at the new venue at Ulster University Coleraine along with others from many places. A great day was had by all taking part in worship, workshops and sports events.

We hold a drop in every Thursday night from 6.30-8.00pm for the young people to come along and chill out. The young people have found this very beneficial to come together and support each other in these strange times. The young people also enjoyed an evening at The Lake Kilrea and a wipe-out bouncy castle at the church.



Have you got any of these lying boxes about the house? If you have, please get them in to Lucy and Alan, as soon as possible. We would like to get the money from these boxes to the charities, as soon as we can.

Thank you



## IN LOVING MEMORY OF CHRISTINA HOEY

During the summer we were shocked and saddened to hear of the death of Aiden's mum Christina. Christina was a great supporter of the youth and encouraged and brought Aiden up in the church and to attend Sunday School, CLB, and Youth Club and other youth events. She was an avid supporter of Messy Church and we have very fond memories of her. Aiden has grown up within the church got a qualification in Youthwork OCN level 1 in Youth Work Practise and is now a leader. We are so proud of him and so was his mum. We send our prayers and sympathy to Aiden and his family at this very sad time.



## Patron - HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN



The Church Lads and Church Girls Brigade met over the summer months on Friday nights outside for some fun games. This was the first time they could meet after a long break due to Covid. It was a great opportunity to connect again and build on friendships which were disconnected due to Covid. It was great to have somewhere to go on a Friday night, enjoy the fresh air, good weather, get exercise and meet with friends.

Unfortunately, Covid Restrictions means we have to use the halls differently.

As Leaders, we have decided Martins and Y+J Team, will meet on alternative Friday nights 7.00 pm – 8.00 pm on the dates listed below:

MARTINS (4 to 7 year olds)	Y+J TEAM (8 to 14 Year olds)
17 September 7.00 pm – 8.00 pm	24 September 7.00 pm – 8.00 pm
1 October 7.00 pm – 8.00 pm	8 October 7.00 pm – 8.00 pm
15 October 7.00 pm – 8.00 pm	22 October 7.00 pm – 8.00 pm
29 October 7.00 pm – 8.00 pm	5 November 7.00 pm – 8.00 pm
12 November 7.00 pm – 8.00 pm	19 November 7.00 pm – 8.00 pm
26 November 7.00 pm – 8.00 pm	3 December 7.00 pm – 8.00 pm
10 December 7.00 pm – 8.00 pm	17 December 7.00 pm – 8.00 pm

We look forward to seeing you all soon.

Contact Alan Ross (07759916755)

## A life changed at the back of St. Patrick's

I have had the privilege of visiting Audra Irvine in Rylands Nursing Home over the past number of months. Audra was a long-term employee in the Diocesan Office and agreed to share her story in our magazine.

Audra, where was your childhood spent and do you have any special childhood memories?

*“Home was Ballyclare with 3 sisters and one brother, (plus a donkey called Snowball). One time I tried to paint my sisters hair with white exterior paint! We both got in trouble and Mum used butter to try and clean us up. We all walked to and from school which was the Thompson Primary in Ballyrobert.”*

Audra, were you always Church of Ireland?

*“My earliest memories of Church are of being in the Girls Brigade in the local Presbyterian Church. We also attended the Sunday School in the local Church of Ireland. It was at Church that I heard about the job available in the Diocesan Office. I applied and got the job, that was back in 1986. I stayed in the same post for the next 30 years and was **one** the longest serving member of staff.”*

Audra, we know that your life changed one night at the back of St. Patrick's. Tell us what happened and the journey you have been on since that night?

*"It was the 19<sup>th</sup> December 2019 and we were all at one of the last services Bishop Alan would lead before retiring. I was meeting and greeting the Bishop's personal guests at the rear of St. Patrick's. When the Lord Lieutenant arrived I jogged through the rain to find Mark. On the way back to the church I started to feel unwell, my head was very sore. I lay down at the back of the church and can remember all the different socks and shoes people were wearing as they came into church. Friends found some family members and a couple of retired Doctors who were in the congregation. We were advised to get to hospital a.s.a.p. I remember nothing else at all until 10<sup>th</sup> February 2020 waking up in hospital to realize a bunch of nurses and doctors were talking about me!*

*\*\*Audra (who at this point was 53 years of age) had suffered a major bleed on the brain requiring major surgery, she still has another operation ahead to repair a part of her skull that had to be removed and get three teeth removed at the same time! For many weeks Audra had no speech and very little physical movement, then beginning with drawing then writing (badly) then some speech and movement the Audra we know started to come back to us – thank God.\*\* Mark's input.*

*I don't remember a thing about all those weeks. I was in Antrim Hospital, followed by the Royal and Musgrave and currently in Rylands I'm doing well and glad to be alive!"*

Audra, without giving away too many church secrets, what was life in the Diocesan Office like?

*"I made lots of friends and was able to help parishes with new legislation. The office was always busy and interesting. You never knew what was round the corner, or, what job I'd be involved in next. We always had to chase clergy who didn't return forms on time (Ok Audra enough about me – Mark again)! Many of my old colleagues are still in touch and some recently were able to take me for Afternoon Tea at the Ross Park Hotel which was a great adventure. I'm sad that I've had to retire on medical grounds as I really loved my job."*

Audra, Does faith remain even after all you have been through and have you a word of advice for us all?

*My faith has grown over the past year, many clergy have supported me during these tough days. I have had time to read some great Christian books and have had more time to pray.*

*I hope to work hard to build up my strength mobility and independence. I would love to paddle in the sea and get more family time. My advice, don't take life and loved ones for*

*granted, you never know what's around the corner. They are a wonderful gift from God – who knows I might even get back to church one day soon – maybe even St. Patrick's, we'll see*

God Bless you Audra, and thank you for agreeing to share your story with us.

Mark

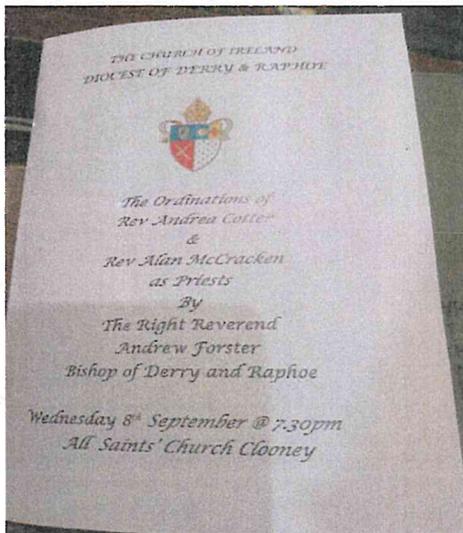


## ***A New Ministry Journey Begins***

Rev Andrea Cotter was recently ordained to serve as curate in the Parish of All Saints Clooney in Londonderry.



Our prayers are for Andrea and Richard both as they begin this new chapter of serving God.



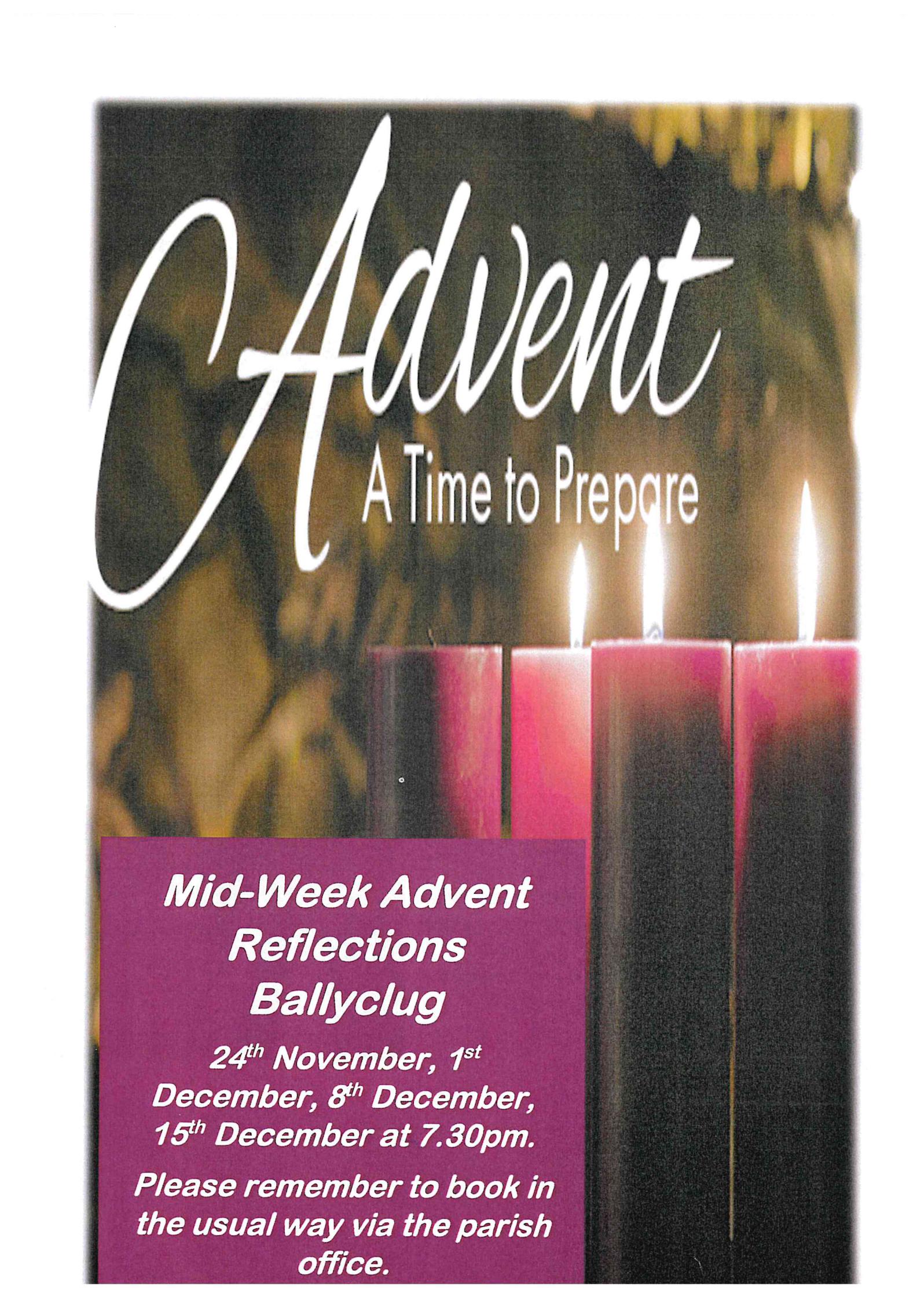
The local Archdeacon Ven. Paul Miller reminded us all that we are "sent, equipped and belong to the family of faith".

God Bless Richard and Andrea – we will miss you.

*"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace."*

*Numbers 6: 24-26*





# Advent

A Time to Prepare

***Mid-Week Advent  
Reflections  
Ballyclug***

***24<sup>th</sup> November, 1<sup>st</sup>  
December, 8<sup>th</sup> December,  
15<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm.***

***Please remember to book in  
the usual way via the parish  
office.***



***Autumn and Winter  
Sing***

***Ballyclug Church***

***13<sup>th</sup> October***

***17<sup>th</sup> November***

***9<sup>th</sup> December (Christmas Carol  
special) 7.30pm***

***Please book your hymns and  
yourselves in the usual way via  
Ruth in the church office.***

***All proceeds to St. Patrick's  
Building Repairs fund!***



IN MEMORIUM

Mildred Neilly Hill

Anna Murray

Joan Holden

Baby McMeekin

Clifford Parker

Hugh Murphy

Carolyn Barton

Elizabeth Leonard

John Cully

Agnes (Matilda) Beckett

Chester-Lee Lamont

Robert Courtley Gilliland

Elizabeth Violet Booth

James Wright Kerr

Winifred Faulker Finlay

Thomas (Tommy) Douglas

Francis Hubert Gordon

John (Jackie) McDowell

Nora Marks

Mary Willoughby

Sarah (Sadie) Poston

William (Billy) Allen

Brooke Reid McMaster

Audrey Clarke

Dr Robin King

Ellen Duffy

Alex Penney

Jennifer Turtle

Maurice McQuitty

Peter Kernohan

James Adams

Caleb Jack Brown

George Richards

Margaret Allen

Audrey Deacon

Sarah (Sally) McDonnell

Gary Nelson

James Bell

Mary Anne McDowell

Violet Ward

Kaye Allen

Margaret Andrews

George Soar

Sarah Wilson

Robert Thompson

Ivan Elliott

David Barr

Henrietta Ayliffe

Eileen Young

Robert Kernohan

Myra Jordan

Fiona King

Agnes McAuley

Noel Porter

Robert R Stinson

Brian William Johnston

William Moore

Fiona Blair

Reid Mitchell

John James (Jim) Martin

Brian Noel Gratton

Robert John (Bertie) Leetch

John James Mawhinney

William Millar

Elaine O'Brien

William Ernest (Ernie)  
Moore

Christina Margaret Suzanne  
Hoey

Margaret Elizabeth Pope

Mark William Hillis

William Henry Adair

Benjamin George Bell

Elizabeth Ann Harrison

