

Parish of Kilconriola and Ballyclug



NEW YEAR'S NEWS



Diocese of Connor - Parish of Kilconriola and Ballyclug

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>

Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday 9.30 am - 13.30 pm

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR: Mrs Ruth McNeill

February 2022 Timetable of Services

2nd February - Wednesday *Holy Communion One* 10:30am
St Columba's

6th February

10:00 am *Morning Prayer 1* Ballyclug

11:30 am *Morning Prayer 2* St Columba's

11:30 am *Morning Service* St Patrick's

9th February - Wednesday *Holy Communion One* 10:30am
St Columba's

13th February

10:00 am *Morning Prayer 1* Ballyclug

11:30 am *Morning Prayer 2* St Columba's

11:30 am *Morning Service* St Patrick's

16th February - Wednesday *Holy Communion One* 10:30am
St Columba's

20th February

10:00 am *Morning Prayer 1* Ballyclug

11:30 am *Morning Prayer 2* St Columba's

11:30 am *Morning Service* St Patrick's

23rd February - Wednesday *Holy Communion One* 10:30am
St Columba's

27th February

10:00 am *Holy Communion One* Ballyclug

11:30 am *Holy Communion Two* St Columba's

11:30 am 'New Life' St Patrick's

6:30 pm *Holy Communion Two* St Patrick's



Anxious for

Nothing

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.”

Philippians 4:6

New mini-sermon series for the New Year and what a good theme this is!

Let’s all ask God to help and strengthen us through His word and these messages - and please do pray for the preachers - We get anxious too!

There is a prevailing sense of anxiety in the world around us. All of us face worries and many of us struggle with anxiety or know others who do. Thankfully, the Bible isn’t silent about this. Our new sermon series will help us face the anxieties of life with the truth of the Word of God and the spiritual and practical applications it provides us today.

Why not read ahead? You could take some time and reflect on the passages we will be reading over the next few weeks -

- Isaiah 54
- 2 Corinthians 12:1-10
- Matthew 11:25-30
- Psalm 61A

Rev Emma and Rev Mark

WHAT DOES A PARISH

READER DO?

Assists in the leading of public worship in a local Parish context.

Over the years we have (and when more normal times return) will continue to be blessed by a small team of Parish Readers, and we would like to add to this Team.

If you would like to know more, and if you sense a call to serve the Lord in this way, please contact

Rotary Christmas Hamper Scheme

Once again, the demand for hampers has been high. In view of the challenges currently faced by schools, we have been totally overwhelmed by the support for the annual Rotary Christmas Hamper scheme.

A total of 25 local schools participated, enabling us to provide parcels for around 300 elderly and needy persons in the Ballymena area. These will be distributed via 13 local charities/organisations. These include British Legion, Good Morning Ballymena, Harryville Seniors, Inter Ethnic Forum,

Mark or Emma, we would love to speak with you.

FOODBANK

Thanks to all who continue to contribute to the foodbank it is very much needed, and appreciated. We are often asked what is the greatest need, this varies week on week but things like long life milk and tinned meat products in any form are usually low in supplies. Giving is a blessing on those who receive and on those who give.

Lighthouse Hostel, MEA
Community Advice Services,
NHSS Elder Care, St Vincent de Paul, Salvation Army, Simon Community, Slemish Court, Women's Aid and staff from the former Hope Centre.

Schools participating included Ballymena Academy, Braidside Integrated Primary & Nursery, Buick Memorial Primary, Cambridge House Grammar, Camphill Primary, Carnaghts Primary, Carniny Primary, Castle Tower School, Clough Primary, Cullybackey College, Diamond Primary, Dunclug College, Dunclug Primary, Fourtowns Primary, Gracehill Primary, Harryville Primary, Hazelbank

Primary, Kirkinriola Primary, Moorfields Primary, Portglenone Primary, St Brigid's Primary, St Colmcille's Primary, St Mary's Primary (Portglenone), St Louis Grammar and Slemish College. The Rotary Club would like to extend its sincere thanks to the pupils, parents and staff of each of these schools for their continued support at this very difficult time.

This year, the Rotary Club would like to express its sincere thanks to the Select Vestry of St Patrick's Parish Church for the use of the Church Hall for the purpose of making up the hampers ready for collection and distribution by the local Charities. This is very much appreciated, both by the Rotary Club and those who receive the parcels.





Our next meeting will be on 9th February at 2:30 pm. when we will welcome Mary Waide who is Regional President of St. Vincent

de Paul and we look forward to learning something of its work. Visitors will be especially welcome.

Mothers' Union members are reminded that the annual subscriptions are due and Mary will welcome any that are outstanding.

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Questions and Answers from Mr Finn Sloan

Finn, tell us a little about the very first time you played any kind of organ?

I played St Patrick's organ for the first time when I was seven and Dr Jonathan Drennan was the Director of Music. I really enjoyed it because I always loved the grand sound it made.

Where did the enthusiasm come from Finn? Have you always loved choirs and church music?

Yes, ever since I was a little boy, I always wanted to join the choir. I used to wear my Mum's blue dress as a cassock and a white Manchester United top as a surplice to look like a choir member and I have always loved

church music too. When I was younger, I loved Jubilate Deo!

Is anyone giving you lessons, or any kind of help as you continue to learn your craft?

Yes, I have been going to Stuart Beattie for piano lessons for a few years now and I am currently doing my Grade 3 exam in March.

Ian McKay was a big help when I first started playing the organ properly in Church at St Columbas. Adrian Poston, our current Director of Music, has really helped with teaching me chants for canticles and psalms. I have known Adrian for a long time because I have been in the choir for eight years and we are great music buddies. We really like our traditional Church Music!

Where do you see yourself in 10 years from now?

My dream is to work in Westminster Abbey as Director of Music and Master of the Choristers. I really hope to do the Church of Ireland Organ Scholarship Programme at St Anne's Cathedral, and continue to play in St Patrick's as well. I cannot wait for the church to re-open so I can finally get to play the big three manual organ properly.

Questions and Answers for Ms Mel Sloan

Mel, second year student at CITI now. How is your serve of call to serve God after your experiences and training so far?

In my first year at CITI, I was overwhelmed with the workload and the responsibility of just being on the course which was, for the most part, online. I found trying to achieve the balance of work, life and study difficult and I am sure I spent most of the year looking like a rabbit caught in the headlights.

However, this year I have been able to relax much more and take time to appreciate and enjoy being in community with the

other student ordinates as we study together in person down in Dublin and to enjoy the experience of being part of this journey together - I love it!!

I am learning a new language of theological terms and my fellow student Ordinands are learning how to cope with my goofiness.

God's call on my life has been affirmed in many ways through this process and I have no doubt that this is where I am meant to be right now, and I never forget what a privilege it is.

I think you will be involved in a placement this year, can you tell us a little more about that? What are you most looking forward to, or dreading!

My placement for this year begins on Sunday 30th January for ten weeks at Belfast Cathedral. I am very excited to experience Cathedral life and take part in the variety of services. It is a real privilege to have the opportunity to participate in and lead worship there and I am very grateful. I really want to use my placements over the four years to gain as broad an experience of church life and the different styles of worship as I can. The Cathedral will certainly be a different

experience to my first placement in Ahoghill and Portglenone with Rev Dennis Christie and I hope I enjoy it as much as I did that one.

I can't say that I am dreading anything about it, I am really looking forward to it and I can't wait to get started. I just hope the congregation can cope with and get used to my goofiness - I am afraid that is something I am unable to change no matter where I am!

How can we pray for you in the months to come Mel?

I really appreciate the prayers and support of my church family, feeling that love and support has got me through some difficult days of studying and writing assignments. Prayers for the knowledge, skills, time and spiritual strength I need to complete the assignments would be amazing and for a successful placement at the Cathedral. The academic side of things does not come easy to me and I really have to work hard to get through. I cannot emphasize enough how much the prayerful support I have

received from everyone has helped me, as well as the kindness and encouragement that has been shown to me.

What would you say to anyone reading this if they sense a call of God in their lives?

Don't ignore it - because He won't let you!! However, do take time to sit with it, get comfortable with it, pray about it, and take time to understand it. Do speak to a loved one and Mark or Emma and talk it through. God calls us in so many ways and it can be overwhelming and terrifying, but also an incredible privilege. I feel like I have experienced a complete spectrum of highs and lows on the path to explore and live out God's call on my life so far and I wouldn't change any of it because my relationship with Him is deeper, stronger, more powerful. As a result and the peace that I have in walking this path with our Lord is not something I want to lose or let go of easily. God doesn't just call you, he equips you with the skills you need. Step out for him and he will step up for you and with you

A fund raising event, Christmas Cuddles 2021 took place on 18th December 2021 and £1,061.48 was raised to be divided between St Patrick's Parish Church Renovation Fund, and 5th Ballymena Scout Group. Thank you to all to helped and to those who attended.



Carols for Everyone held on Monday 20th December 2021 and 'Brave the Shave'. Thank you to all who attended and who contributed in both time and those who made donations for the Repair Fund.





Youth Activities





Start dates 2022

Friday 28th January Juniors
Friday 4th February Seniors
Friday 11th February Juniors
Friday 18th February Seniors
Friday 25th February Juniors
Friday 4th March Seniors
Friday 11th March Juniors
Friday 18th March Seniors
Friday 25th March Juniors

Every Sunday at 11.30 am in Minor Hall



St. Patrick's except New Life Sunday

At the end of the last Select Vestry Meeting held before Christmas, the Select Vestry wanted to take the opportunity of thanking Richard Cotter, for all the work he undertook during his tenure as Treasurer. A painting by our very own local artist, StClair Beatty, was presented to Richard.



On Sunday 16th January 2022 there were two Confirmation Services held in St Patrick's Parish Hall.

Bishop George Davidson attended along with Archdeacon Dr Stephen McBride and Rev Peter Blake from All Saint's in Antrim.



Dear Parishioners

Update on the funding for the repair work at St Patrick's.

You will recall in our parish magazine in late September we had a target of £175,000 to raise and we had asked for you the parishioners to support this by giving before the end of December 2021.

We are **delighted** to say we have now raised just over £115,000 by the end of December. The select vestry would like to say a huge **THANK YOU** to those who have donated and made this possible.

This still leaves us a target in the region of £60,000, so if you have not yet made a donation, or you feel that you wish to give a little more, then the vestry would encourage you do this by the end of February 2022.

We are anticipating that works will complete late February or early March and then the redecoration can take place immediately thereafter.

We have applied to a further couple of grant bodies, but we will not hear about these until mid-March 2022.

Thank you all so much and we continue to pray that God continues to bless our parish.

Regards

Richard Cotter

David Megaughin



Meeting to Review Registry of General Vestry

**Tuesday 15th February
2022 @ 7.00 pm**



St Patrick's Parish Hall



**Please telephone the
Church Office to
book your Seat
028 2563 0741**

ANNUAL
VESTRY
MEETING



Tuesday 26th April 2022 at St Patrick's Parish Hall.

Please telephone Ruth at the church office
to book your seat

028 2563 0741

Church Registry

We welcome Georgie McClure



We welcome Charles Jacob Kelly





IN MEMORY

Sarah Jane McCartney - 5th June 1929 - 28th October 2021

Dawn Brennan - 6th January 1966 - 19th November 2021

William Harte - 19th June 1934 - 18th December 2021