

Parish of Kilconriola and Ballyclug

PARISH MAGAZINE

SEPTEMBER 2013



Diocese of Connor - Parish of Kilconriola and Ballyclug



WHO'S WHO IN OUR PARISH

CLERGY

Rector

Canon S G E Lloyd, B.A.
St Patrick's Rectory
102 Galgorm Road (Tel 2565 2253)
Email sgelloyd@btinternet.com

Curate Assistant

The Revd. Iain Jamieson
38 Ballee Road East (Tel 2564 7049)
Email i.jamieson@hotmail.com



LAY READERS

Mr J Perry, 261a Galgorm Road, Ballymena

YOUTH WORKERS

Lucy McLaughlin
3 The Commons, Broughshane
Tel 2586 1524
Mobile 077 5995 0497

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

CHURCH WARDENS

St Patrick's	Rector's	Mrs Patricia McWhirter
	People's	Mrs Rosalie Grainger
Ballyclug	Rector's	Mr Eric McKee
	People's	Mr Jackie Greer
St Columba's	Rector's	Mrs Hilary Strain
	People's	Mr Ivan McCombe
Glebe Wardens	Rector's	Mr Kenneth Hughes
	People's	Mr Peter Chestnutt

SELECT VESTRY

Clergy, Church Wardens, Glebe Wardens and:

Mr Alan Adair, Mr Bill Balmer, Mr William Burnett, Mrs Anne Crawford, Mrs Debbie Crawford, Mr Barry Duke, Mr Dessie Dunlop, Mr Alastair Marrs, Mr Alex McKay, Mr Jackie McMaster, Mrs Adelaide Nimick and Mrs Loraine Watt.

Honorary Secretary:
Honorary Treasurer:

Mr A Marrs
Mr J Carson

32 Granville Drive, Ballymena
19 Valley Road, Ballymena

Sextons

St Patrick's
St Columba's

Mr John Linton
Miss Margaret Mawhinney

Organists

St Patrick's
St Columba's

Dr Jonathan Drennan
Mrs Sandra Montgomery

THE RECTOR WRITES



The Rector Writes

The rectory grounds are quite extensive but thanks to David Curry who cuts the grass they are usually in reasonable condition. There is a dumping area and this presently is host to a patch of large nettles. Indeed nettles have made their way into some of the numerous flower containers that I have about the rectory and they can easily catch you unawares. As we all know from bitter experience you only have to brush against a nettle and it can give you a nasty sting. Sometimes when I am weeding the containers I just happen to touch a nettle and I pay for it.

Nevertheless you can approach the challenge differently. Nettles inject toxins into the skin if you brush against their stiff hollow hairs. However, if you grasp it firmly, especially in the direction of the hairs, those hairs tend to be pushed flat and do not penetrate the skin. The challenge of course is not to be tentative and to grasp it firmly. Thus the origin of the well known phrase, 'Grasp the nettle' which encourages us to tackle a challenge or difficult problem boldly.

I wonder does the saying have something to say to us. The Christian faith is indeed a difficult and daunting challenge. We have to take a leap of faith and believe that behind everything and behind the mystery and mess of life as we know it, is a God of love. In faith we dare to say that the life, death and resurrection of Jesus is pivotal for the story of mankind and that he ultimately is our hope for life. We are called to respond whole heartedly to the claims of Jesus and to place him central in our lives. We are asked to strive towards an almost impossible standard of behaviour - to live sacrificially and to love with all our heart.

Yes difficult and daunting - especially in the midst of an increasingly secular or pagan society. The encouragements can all be in an opposite direction. We can easily be diverted or distracted.

We can be attracted rather to a little bit of religion - an occasional trip to church, the odd prayer, a readiness to help now and again. It may seem easier just to be touched by the faith rather than grasped by the faith. We don't want to get too involved - we shy away from commitment.

The challenge of the Christian faith is indeed daunting but if it is grasped it ultimately is so rewarding. Jesus said that it was in giving that we would receive and that if we, as it were, let go of life we would actually find it.

The question then for all of us is - to what extent are we grasping the nettle in terms of the faith. Are we just brushing against it with ill consequences or are we committed to a whole hearted engagement. This engagement will be reflected in our family, work, church and community life and will take different forms for different people. Grasping the nettle does mean our Christian faith showing. Maybe now there are specific ways in which we need to grasp the nettle.

Stuart Lloyd.

energize

Energize 2013/2014 Launch Night
15th September @ 6.30pm – 8pm
with Mark Ferguson Band



& Martin Montgomery

St. Patricks Church of Ireland, Ballymena

Church of Ireland



Priorities Fund





Parish News

PRAYERS FOR HEALING

For some time now we have provided a ministry of prayer immediately after the evening service in St Patrick's. People may ask for prayer for themselves, members of their family or for friends. This ministry is provided in a gentle sensitive manner so that people are put at their ease. The parish has a group of people trained for this purpose and two of them help each Sunday evening.

Clearly the majority of parishioners attend worship in the morning and thus we intend to extend this ministry to after the 11.30 morning service. Most of us probably know of folk who would appreciate prayer being offered for them - so please do think of making use of this opportunity.

PRAYER RESOURCES

Parishioners may not be aware of booklets we have produced to be used as resources to encourage prayer. Four of these can be mentioned:-

1. ***Prayer Partners***. This is quite an extensive booklet which has been on the go for some time and contains a wide range of prayers. These include a daily prayer scheme with subjects for prayer and prayers to accompany the theme for the day. It also contains morning and evening prayers, thanksgiving prayers, prayers for different seasons of the year and much more as well.
2. ***Connections***. This is a recent publication and is suitable especially for older folk and especially for those who may be confined to home.
3. ***Prayers for Children***. Another recent work - this is probably most suitable for primary school children and their parents and covers topics relevant to them.
4. ***Reflections***. This was printed commercially some years back and has been widely distributed. It contains prayers, bible verses and reflections for most of the states we experience in life.

These prayer resources should all be available at the back of the churches. Please consider making use of them.

HELPING YOU READ

Bible Reading Notes encourage us to read the bible, to try to understand scripture and to apply it to our daily lives. Because there is a set reading for each day this provides us with a discipline and often we need that discipline. If we just have good intentions but never really get round to it or if we just pick up a bible occasionally our knowledge of scripture will be very limited and we will not be taking our faith in anyway seriously. It is a challenge but it will be a fruitful challenge if we undertake to engage with the Word of God daily. The bible is not always straight forward reading and that is why most of us need the assistance of notes.

There are 3 resources available throughout the parish:-

1. ***New Daylight*** - is the name of the notes from the Bible Reading Fellowship. Over several weeks you work your way through a book of the bible or a section of a book covering a passage each day.
2. ***Daily Bread*** - a set of notes from Scripture Union which follows much the same format as the BRF notes. Both of these sets of notes come out each quarter and are usually ordered and paid for on a yearly basis.
3. ***Word for Today***. These notes do not follow through a whole section of scripture. Rather a verse or two is given for each day and a reflection for that day is given. These are published on a twice monthly basis and do not have a cost. They are available at the back of the church and can be taken by anyone although a donation is always appreciated.

If there is a commitment to the Christian way then we will be striving to engage with scripture regularly. We will be encouraging people to consider one of these schemes as we enter on a new season.

CONFIRMATION

For those young people considering confirmation their group will start on **Sunday 8th September at 7.30 pm** in the Minor Hall. We will be contacting most parents/young people that have indicated an interest but if anyone else would like to join the group please let the rector or youth workers know. Also if there are

any adults who might consider confirmation please speak to the clergy.

NEW MEMBERS

Over the last year quite a few people have found their way to one of our 3 churches and having experienced something of our worship and parish life have decided to become parish members. Before the summer we invited these newcomers to a meal in the hall where they were able to meet up with each other and also to meet some of our Ministry Team. It seemed to be a good night and hopefully it encouraged the newcomers in their membership of the parish and more importantly in their Christian walk.

CAR PARK

Most will know that there is a part of the church car park at St Patrick's which is operated on a commercial basis. Spaces are rented out at a very reasonable rate to any who may be working in the town. Over the years it has provided the church with a considerable source of income.

At the present time there are a few spaces vacant. If anyone knows of a person who might be interested the office could be contacted and Debbie Chestnutt, the car parking secretary, would be notified. It is a pity not to get the benefit from all our spaces.

NOTICES

There are quite a few notice boards about St Patrick's Hall as well as some in the church. It is good if these can be kept in reasonable order. It would be helpful if people wishing to place a notice on any board would leave it in the office and then it can be displayed appropriately. Only parish staff have the authority to place these notices. Of course if it is a notice board belonging to an organisation then that organisation should monitor its own board.

GATE LODGE

Thanks to those who helped to clean and decorate the Gate Lodge over the summer and to do repairs. It is now ready for renting and this renting will take place through an estate agent. Anyone interested should contact the office for further details.

GORE TRUST

Applications can now be made for grants from this trust. Any parishioner in third level education is eligible. Applications should be made in writing to The Parish Treasurer, c/o the Parish Office, St Patrick's Church, Castle Street, BT43 5BT. Applicants should give their name and address and the course they are studying. Those who have applied in previous years and are continuing in study should apply again. The grants

may be relatively small but should help in some measure.

SEMINAR ON MENTAL HEALTH

This seminar on mental health which had to be postponed last year due to bereavement will now be held on **TUESDAY 17th September** at 7.30 pm in the Minor Hall.

Billy Moore, commissioned minister for Lisburn Cathedral is the speaker. Others who have come through various forms of mental health problems will share how their faith has helped them to be able to lead a fulfilled life.

Mental health affects us all at some time in our lives, whether it be ourselves, a family member or a friend.

There are many different ways that mental health can affect us and so it will be helpful to hear at first hand how others have coped. There will be information on the help that is available. Do please come. I look forward to seeing you there.

Adelaide

CYCLE RUN

In support of Christian Aid - **Saturday 5th October**. 50, 25 and 2.5 mile courses around Strangford Lough. See leaflets in churches.

SHOE BOX APPEAL

Hot on the heels of the end of summer comes our annual appeal for Christmas Shoe Boxes so look out for further details in the next month's notes.

Jean and Liz

ST PATRICK'S PARISH CHURCH HALL Castle Street

TABLE QUIZ

At 7.30 pm on
WEDNESDAY
23rd OCTOBER 2013



Proceeds to CROCUS



Around the Parish

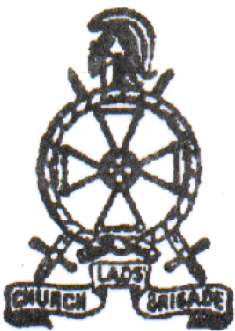
SQUIRRELS

Now that September is here, Mr Squirrel has packed away his bucket and spade and sunglasses and has been very busy getting his uniform ready. Squirrels will return on **Wednesday 11th September** at 6.30 pm in St Columba's Church, Doury Road, Ballymena.



We are looking forward to seeing our older Squirrels back again, as well as lots of new ones. If any 4 - 5 year old boys would like to join the fun of cooking, crafts, games and general madness then come along, you will be very welcome.

Paul and Ann



CHURCH LADS' BRIGADE

'Fun, Faith and Fellowship'

We hope you all had a nice summer break and enjoyed your holidays. It's back to school and CLB on Friday nights.

Activities begin on **Friday 6th September**. We meet on Friday nights in four age groups:-

Martins	4 - 7 years	7 - 8 pm
Y Team	7 - 10 years	7 - 8 pm
J Team	10 - 13 years	8 - 9.30 pm
Seniors	13 - 18 years	8 - 9.30 pm

Our varied programme includes sports, craft work, bible study, gymnastics, games and outings during the year. We have over 40 boys in St

Patrick's CLB - so come along on Friday nights to meet new people, make friends and have some fun.

Our first event of the year is the very popular car boot sale and coffee morning with the GFS - **Saturday 28th September**. Everyone in the parish is very welcome - £5 per car.

Alan Ross (2589 2740)



During September the church will be open each Thursday night from 7.30 pm - 9.30 pm for open choir practices where parishioners can come along to listen, take part in, observe and just sample the experience and fun without obligation or pressure and share in our usual cup of tea and fellowship. If you require further information please contact Dr Drennan, the rector or any of the choir members.

The youngest members of the choir Rachel and Laura have written the following notes of their experience of being members.

'We have been in the choir for just over a year and joined because we went to Dr Jonathan Drennan for singing lessons. We both studied 'A' level music in school and Jonathan thought that coming along to the choir would help our reading of music and help us develop our singing abilities in a range of music.

It was a daunting prospect to join a choir where we didn't know many people but we soon realised that the other members were friendly and welcoming and were pleased to welcome us into the choir. Straightaway we began to learn psalms, canticles and anthems for the upcoming Sunday services. From the outset, we learnt these in a digestible way - sections of the music in a manageable amount before moving on to something different and then returning to the piece later in the practice to build on what we had done. This got easier for us week to week as we became more familiar with the music. Half way through the practice we had a cup of tea together and this gave us the opportunity to get to know other members of the choir and have a laugh with them. Since we joined the choir we have thoroughly enjoyed it. The choir has helped us to develop our sight reading abilities as well as making us more confident within the choir. We would encourage anyone who enjoys singing to

consider joining the choir as it is a brilliant opportunity to develop singing abilities as you lead worship within the church’.

Rachel and Laura

We as a choir are delighted to have these two girls and appeal to more young people to come along and enjoy the experience. We need new members to join the bass, tenor, alto and soprano sections to continue the fine choral tradition which has been built up in St Patrick’s over generations.

News update

We would like to congratulate Rachel and Laura who have both been awarded organ scholarships from the Church of Ireland. This is a very prestigious scheme which is available to anyone who is willing to commit to music. We wish them every success in their future studies and we hope to be able to hear them both play the organ in the future.

Ella Duddy



ST PATRICK’S INDOOR BOWLING CLUB

Are you tired and bored stiff looking at the same old TV repeats night after night on your own? What about some good company and fun instead? The answer - St Patrick’s Indoor Bowling Club. For beginners bowls are available, and for former members a warm welcome awaits. Just come along and give it a try. New season begins **Monday 2nd September at 7.30 pm.**

Anne Agnew 2564 1859

MOTHERS’ UNION

Our opening meeting of the new session will be on **Wednesday 11th September 2013 at 8.00**

pm. We will meet for Holy Communion and Admission Service and will ‘admit’ some new members. We look forward to welcoming our existing members back and we would extend an open invitation to any in the Parish to join us.

Mothers’ UNION 
Christian care for families

www.themothersunion.org

Jean Kennedy, Secretary



MOTHERS AND TODDLERS

We would like to welcome everyone back after the summer holidays. We wish Anne Harrison well and thank her for her support and kindness, we hope to see her at our coffee morning in October. We are very pleased to welcome Liz Peachey to our team.

Calling all babies and toddlers, would you like to run around, play with toys and have a snack? We have the perfect place, come and bring whoever pushes the buggy - mum, dad, granny or even your child minder! They might get to put their feet up, drink tea or coffee and chat to some other grown-ups! See you there - Tuesday 10th September from 10.00 am - 12 noon in the Main Hall - £2.00 per adult, first two children free, for each additional child 50p. New faces will be very welcome.

If there are any gentlemen who are free on a Tuesday morning between 9 and 10.30 am who would be willing to help with the car parking, please give Dorothy a ring, we would be very grateful for your help.

Tea Rota for September:-

DATE	NAME	FUNCTION
10 September	Evonne Stinson, Eleanor Burnett, Rosalie Grainger and Martha Caulfield	Tea
	Vera Owens	Welcoming
	Oliver Reid/Robert McGimpsey	Car Park
17 September	Martha Rainey, Dorothy Hegan, Isabell Halliday and Karin Agnew	Tea
	Ann Fisher	Welcoming
	Trevor Halliday/Jimmy Coleman	Car Park
24 September	Ruth Murray, Isabell Adair and Nell McIlwee	Tea
	Liz Peachey	Welcoming
	Davy Nelson	Car Park

Our thanks to you all for your continued support.

Dorothy (2589 2740), Anna, Anne and Liz

BADMINTON

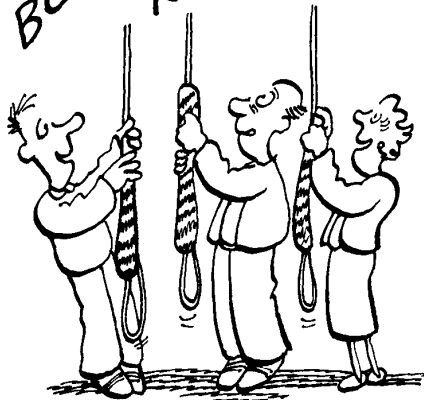
Badminton resumes 11th September 7-30 pm in the Main Hall.

If you are 11 years - adult, beginner or professional why not come along have some fun and exercise?



Hazel Davison

BELL RINGERS



BELLRINGERS

The combined Choir and Bellringers' Service will once again be held on the second Sunday in September (8th). The bells of St Patrick's have rung out over Ballymena since 1895 and I'm sure the parishioners, as well as the wider community, would want them to ring out for many years to come. St Patrick's has one of the finest ring of bells and has the only ring of 12 bells in a parish Church in Ireland. However, the bells do not ring

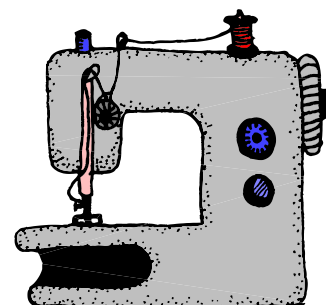
themselves! There is a dedicated team of ringers who ring for Sunday services week by week, but the team is small and we need new recruits between the ages of 12 and 80! While our main purpose is the call to worship, in addition we ring from time to time for special occasions especially weddings. Regrettably, there are times when we do not have enough ringers available for one reason or another, and have no option but to decline.

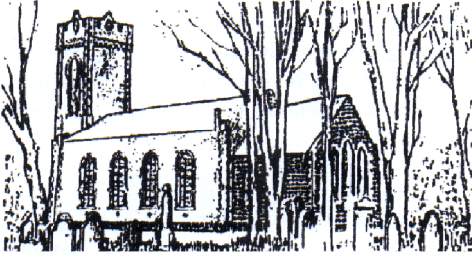
We would encourage you to give it a try - don't leave it to others. You will find that you actually enjoy it! We will teach you. You don't have to be musical and you will have a hobby which you will enjoy for the rest of your life.

If you would like to come up the tower and see what's involved contact Sam on 2565 3508, or Colin/Lorraine on 2564 2774 or the Rector.

SEWING GROUP

The Sewing Group will start again in the Minor Hall on Thursday, 19th September at 10.00 am. We look forward to seeing all our members back and will be delighted to welcome any new members who may wish to join us. Please come along and make some new friends.





Ballyclug Notes

Ballyclug's Annual Harvest Supper will be held in St Patrick's Church hall on **Wednesday 9th October** at 7.30 pm. Please keep this date free and come along to enjoy a great night's entertainment and supper for only £7. Tickets are available from Vera Greer. There will also be a cake sale, so all donations would be most welcome. We always greatly appreciate your support.

During the summer the tower is being repaired and work is ongoing to point the outside, in order to remedy the damp at the altar. Apologies to everyone for any inconvenience caused but hopefully the work will be completed by the beginning of September.

At the end of June we were delighted to welcome Ballymarlow Orange Lodge to our morning service, the preacher was Rev. Lloyd.

As usual the church has been kept clean inside and the grounds outside kept neat and tidy. Our thanks to all those people who help every week with these duties.

William Burnett

ANNUAL C.L.B. Car Boot Sale and G.F.S. Coffee Morning



Saturday 28th September 2013
St Patrick's Church Car Park - £5 per car



Hopefully everyone enjoyed their summer break. We look forward to seeing you all back at Sunday school and Youth Club.

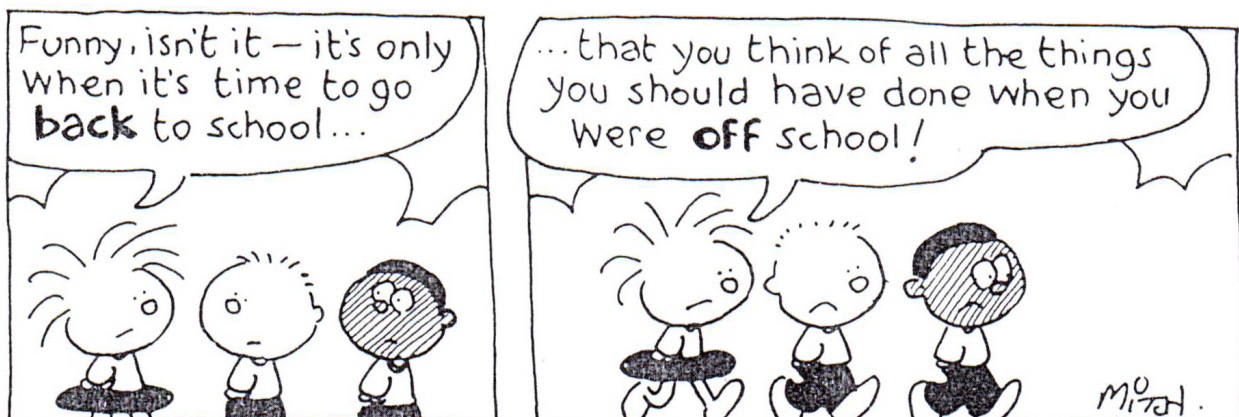
Sunday school starts back on **Sunday 1st September** any child who is 3 or over is welcome to attend. Sunday school starts at 11.45 am so everyone meets in church and then we go over to the hall. Anyone who is 14 or over is encouraged to go to Fusion, a group for teenagers.

Youth Club starts back on **Saturday 7th September** juniors 7 - 8 pm for primary school children and seniors 8.15 - 10 pm for secondary school age. Anyone wishing to be a member of the Senior Youth Club must attend an enrolment evening with their parent at 8.30 pm on the 7th September where consent forms will be filled in and membership cards distributed. Anyone who would like to help at Junior or Senior Youth Club and could give up a couple of hours on a Saturday night should speak to Lucy or Alan. We would be grateful for your help.

25 children attended the Summer Scheme from the 12th -16th August. A good week was had by all with lots of fun and friendship together. Many thanks to all the leaders for their help.

Lucy

the mouths of babes





Giving

We enjoy giving to those nearest to us. Our love is expressed through our giving.

If we speak of love for God this will lead to giving and we will take pleasure in this giving. And so when it comes to monetary giving to God this is not so much duty as delight. Thus as we bring financial challenges before people we are not trying to extract a little more money from you but rather encouraging parishioners to discover the joy of giving.

Paul in his 2nd letter to the Corinthians uses a lovely phrase. He speaks of 'the grace of giving'. This indicates that giving should be free and generous and that blessings come to both the receiver and the giver. Thus giving is not an onerous chore but a joyful opportunity. Entered into in the right spirit it is a lovely thing to do and many have discovered this. God loves a cheerful giver and one who gives generously and freely. And again and again people find blessing in giving. Not that this should be a surprise, for Jesus himself said that it is in giving that we receive. That seems to turn the way of the world upside down but many can verify it through their experience. Their giving does not lead to them missing out but rather to a gain and often the more they give the more they discover they have to give.

How much should we give? The bible sets guidelines. We are to be generous and to consider sacrificial giving. After all Jesus commended the widow for giving so much from what she had to the temple collection. Yet He does not expect all of us to sell everything and give to the poor - as He told the rich ruler. There is rather the advice that in giving to others we should not leave ourselves in trouble. At the same time there is in the Bible the idea of 'first fruits'. God comes first and giving to Him should take priority and we should give of our best. This means that He should definitely not get the leftovers or that we give Him what amounts

to a mere tip. The Bible warns of robbing God of what He deserves - our giving should indicate His worth.

As we think how much we should give the Bible encourages us to give proportionately - that is to give a percentage of our income. The New Testament does not explicitly say what this should be but can it be less than what is required in The Old Testament? Here tithing is laid down - that is giving a tenth of income to God. That certainly is a challenge, as probably very few of us manage that level of giving. Yet those who do find that they are not impoverished but rather enriched in many ways.

There is sometimes the complaint that the Church is always looking for money. The early church was looking for money to fund God's work in Jerusalem. As we read in Paul's second letter to the Corinthians chapters 8 and 9 he was direct in asking. Yet his request was in the context of a Christian view of giving. As we seek to encourage increased financial giving to fund restoration work and the development of ministry and mission needs here in our parish we do so likewise within the context of living out our faith through joyful giving. Our appeal is primarily a call to discover 'the grace of giving'.

UP FOR THE CHALLENGE

In the last edition of the magazine we referred to the public admiration of the newly restored St Patrick's Church. We also commended parishioners for their generous response to the Restoration Appeal and how well they had risen to the challenge.

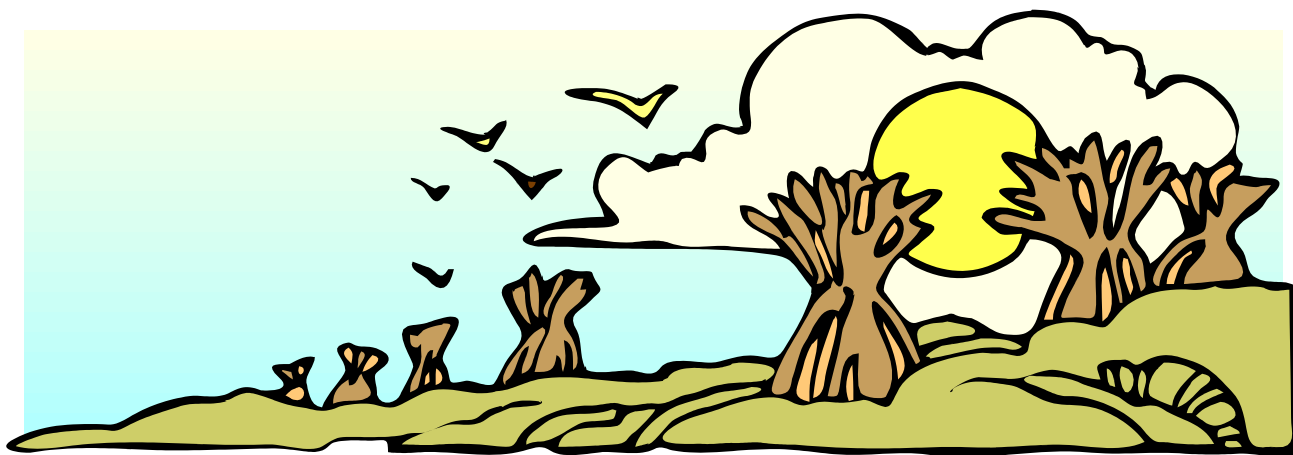
We now have another challenge to seize and that is in connection with the General Fund which deals with the day to day running expenses of the parish and the funding of all our various ministries. Our CRG or blue envelopes are paid into this fund.

Would parishioners know how much it does cost to run the parish? Some work was done recently by our new treasurer in terms of estimating these costs. The figures show that it costs approximately £4,400 per week or £628 per day!

The income into the General Fund per week through the giving of parishioners is approximately £3,000. There is clearly a substantial shortfall weekly between envelope giving and expenses. The shortfall is reduced when other income is added such as income from investments, the commercial car park and other donations.

In 2012 over the year the eventual deficit amounted to £11,500. The challenge for us now is to try to increase the regular giving so that we 'pay our way'. If everyone who presently contributes were to respond in some measure then the challenge would be widely shared and could surely be accomplished. So we bring the challenge before our people and we do so in the light of the Christian teaching on giving which has been outlined in the article above. We appreciate the economic pressures that many are under but also we cannot avoid the fact that our Christian faith is also demanding. As we rose to the challenge last year trustingly we can do so again this year.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING



SUNDAY 6th OCTOBER 2013

**BALLYCLUG - 10 AM
AND ST COLUMBA'S - 11.30 AM**

*Preacher at both services the
Reverend Ron Elsdon*

living faith

I am one of the few people who love autumn more than the summer. I love the new year like feel of September as the kids go back to school. I love how the trees change from green to golden brown. I love the lead up to Christmas and the freshness of the New Year. Now don't get me wrong, I enjoy the summer too and this summer was no different. Amongst our work, holidays and other commitments the Living Faith team continued to meet to review the past years programme and to create a programme for the incoming year from September through to June. Its been a challenging process behind the scenes, but I am blessed to be part of a gifted and committed team of Christians trying to follow God's calling. We always commit our planning to God, seeking His guidance for the way ahead. It's refreshing to know that despite the difficulties we may face, He will always provide us with a solution, as long as we keep our focus on Him and listen.

Our next service is on the **22nd of September** at 6.30 pm in St. Patrick's. It will be followed by refreshments and fellowship in the Choir Vestry. The service will be focused on family and its importance to God. In October we will focus on what happens when our time on earth comes to an end. This is followed by the November service where we will explore how we as Christians could prepare for Christmas and embrace the reason for the seasons of Advent and Christmas.

We hope to share a little with you each month in the magazine and for those who are a little more digitally orientated amongst us, you can find some additional information on www.john15v12.com/living-faith.

Please come and join us on Sunday the 22nd of September. We'd love to see you there.

Sam Wilson

Joining the Team

Dougie Tyler was commissioned as a Diocesan Lay Reader at the end of July. Our own Jim Perry has been a Diocesan Lay Reader for many years and so Dougie over the coming years will be assisting in parishes as Jim does.

For his first year, as training, he has been assigned by the Bishop to our parish and thus will join our team. He will assist on at least one Sunday per month and may help in other ways.

Dougie was brought up in Castledawson and has been living for many years in Carnlough where he has been an active member of the local parish. He is married with three grown up children and works with Barnardo's as a Children Services Manager. He has a passion for cycling and enjoys hill climbing and swimming. He visits Romania annually to work with homeless children and is also a volunteer with the Corrymeela Community. We look forward to his ministry in the parish and trust that he will appreciate his time with us.





Prayer and Healing Ministry

The prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. (James 5 v 15b)

Healer Prayer Group commences Tuesday, 3rd September at 7.45 pm in the Clergy Vestry. All interested in this Ministry are very welcome to come along, also anyone wishing to have prayer for themselves or a loved one. Prayer after evening service in St Patrick's is available each Sunday. Prayer after morning service in St Patrick's will be available from Sunday, 6th October. The Prayer Support Teams are still widely used. Team Leader and contact number is on the notice sheet each week.

In January we said goodbye to June McMaster. We still miss her and continue to remember Jack and the family in prayer. Tommy and Liz McIlroy have been members of the teams since they began in 2000. They feel that for health reasons they can no longer play their part in this prayer ministry. Two very faithful and valued members. Our thanks to you both for your contribution, friendship and fellowship over the years.

We welcome seven new members to the teams and pray that God will richly bless them as they undertake this prayer ministry. To Anne, Debbie, Rosanne, Eileen, Patricia, Isobel and Rosalie thank you for joining our prayer teams.

Team Leaders are:-

Millicent McClelland	2564 6407
Adelaide Nimick	2564 0865
Alex McKay	2564 4698
Heather Barr	2564 1047
Eleanor Burnett	075 1736 5589
Doreen Cowan	2564 4709

COMING SOON!!



STARTING DATES

St Patrick's

ORGANISATION

DATE

Sunday School

Sunday 1st

C.L.B

Friday 6th

G.F.S

Tuesday 10th

Youth Club

Saturday 7th

Badminton

Wednesday 11th

St Columba's

Guides

Tuesday 17th

Brownies

Tuesday 17th

Rainbows

Friday 13th

Cubs

Thursday 12th

Scouts

Friday 13th

Beavers

To be arranged

Squirrels

Wednesday 11th

DON'T MISS IT!





The Curate's Letter

I have been wondering why it is that there are more women than men in church? Does this mean women are naturally more 'spiritual' than men (whatever 'spiritual' might mean) or is there something about church that puts men off? Yes I think there is. While I was wondering why working men seem to hate church (let's not mince words here) I came across an interesting blog written by the organization Christian Vision for Men which makes many important points. I have mentioned some of them below and I have added a few of my own as well.

Well firstly yes, maybe men's spirituality is different to women's. Women are normally more outwardly demonstrative or emotional than men. Men are less demonstrative and less comfortable talking about their feelings. However, this doesn't mean that men can't engage in faith at a deep level. And we shouldn't confuse men's lack of outward enthusiasm for lack of interest, because men communicate their enthusiasm differently. Some men have an active prayer life who have never dreamed about talking openly about faith or regularly coming to church.

Men tend to respond to worship which is gritty and stirring and which isn't too vague or sentimental. The Church is seen by many men as an irrelevance, for women and wimpy men. Surveys among men report that men see church as having nothing at all to say of any interest to them. All aspects of church: worship, prayers, sermons, music and teaching can be perceived as not man-friendly (even though worship is normally led by men). Men can see church buildings as pretty and feminine spaces complete with flower arrangements. Church music is often perceived as feminine, soft songs about how Jesus loves us. It suits some men no doubt but is I expect a struggle to many others. Men are stirred by songs that declare who God is and speak about his character and strength and which also offer a challenge and men like songs that declare objective truth. Men want a gospel with hairs on its chest.

The Church often seems to ignore the issues which are vital to men: sex, power, money, status and work. The world of work is more likely to be a source of significance and meaning to men than it is to women, yet churches rarely, if ever, discuss work in a direct way. When are there prayers or sermons about work? You could spend a lifetime in a Church of Ireland parish and come to the conclusion that God is only interested in what men do in their spare time. It is easy to pray for men in the so-called 'caring professions' but why don't we pray for supermarket delivery drivers, or postmen? When do ministers visit their male parishioners at work or perhaps even show much interest in their work at all?

Men need robust environments where they can forge friendships. Friendship is critical to men even though they don't discuss it. Men don't necessarily require deep emotional bonds but they respond to being in a team where they can be a 'band of brothers' that they can stand together. Fortunately for men there are many places to get this - pubs, football match Orange Lodges and Freemasonic lodges. Sadly most men would never think of looking to the church for this.

The verbal reasoning part of a man's brain is smaller than a woman's. As a result men can struggle with small talk and find it difficult to express emotions in front of strangers. In church men are expected to smile at strangers and shake their hands and make eye contact from the moment they arrive, yet men don't like to get too close too soon. Men hate being broken down into small groups to discuss things and worry that they will be shown up as stupid. Men prefer being given a practical problem to solve or something to fix.

It is difficult for men to have to sit still and not move too much while they listen to a long talk which doesn't seem to have anything to say.

Men do respond to a God who has authority and power and who holds out challenges, and men will submit to discipline and authority. Men respond better to leadership and role models whilst the church is more interested in 'pastoring' them.

While men are always thinking about sex, power, money, achievement and status (especially within the world of work), preaching normally deals with general issues, or feelings, not with the things that interest men or absorb so much of a man's time. Men sit through sermons thinking about the next week's work and as a result many are being spiritually

starved in church. Men have been voting with their feet for many years, and if things don't change the future church might be a men free zone. And that wouldn't be good for anyone.

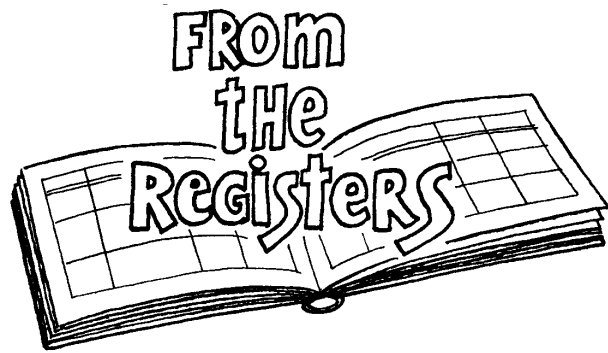
What are we doing about it? In any church paper such as the COI Gazette any week there are adverts for children's and youth workers. Important yes, but perhaps it is missing the heart of the matter. What we really need are men's workers. Men, not children are the missing group in church, and if men come to church boys and girls will come too. Because they look up to the men. If the men think it's ok the children will probably think so too. Men's work is an urgent priority for the Church of Ireland.

As well as suggesting a men's worker I want to tell men about the brilliant organization Christian Vision for Men which is active in the Ballymena area and organizes men's worship. I went to one of their worship sessions recently and it was a brilliant experience. It started off with bacon sandwiches (lots of them and you could have extra). That was a good start because men like bacon sandwiches, and because it broke the ice. It is easier for men to talk to each other over food than do it directly. One man might say, "Great sandwich," and another man might say, "Needs more ketchup," or "Bit stingy with the bacon."

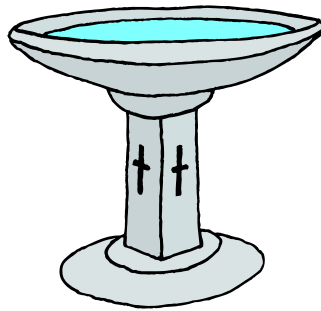
How can we beef up our own worship to make men feel more at home in our churches?

John Turner





HOLY BAPTISM



11 th August	Rebekah Elizabeth Adams	126 Shellinghill Road, Cullybackey
	Jacob James Ferguson	5 Hope Street, Ballymena

HOLY MATRIMONY



26 th July	Peter Nixon	21 Killane Manor, Ahoghill
	Michaela Cromie	21 Killane Manor, Ahoghill
2 nd August	Simon Moore	15 Tullyglass Park, Ballymena
	Pamela Currie	47a Tully Road, Glenarm
5 th August	Adam Fulton	13 Morel Court, Cardiff
	Robyn Crossey	13 Morel Court, Cardiff
8 th August	Louis McLaughlin	13 Cromlech Court, Portstewart
	Jillian Coid	13 Cromlech Court, Portstewart
10 th August	Gordon Montgomery	33 Kildrum Road, Kells
	Rachael Galloway	24 Waveney Avenue, Ballymena

CHRISTIAN BURIAL



5 th July	Andrew Gillespie	20 Markstown Close, Cullybackey
9 th July	James O'Hara	13 Forthill Park and Rose Martha Nursing Home
15 th July	Mona McGaughey	Gannanon Nursing Home, Dungannon
17 th July	Sammy Fullerton	Demesne Avenue and Kintullagh Nursing Home
22 nd July	John Balmer	28 Douglas Terrace, Ballymena
1 st August	Lucinda Spiers	19 Glenariffe Crescent, Ballymena
2 nd August	Thomas Caughey	81 Lettercreeve, Ballymena
6 th August	Annie Heggarty	44b Devenagh Way and Andena Nursing Home
8 th August	Christina Hayes	7 Waring Street, Ballymena

Andrew Gillespie

Andrew's death was tragic - in his early twenties something came over him and he ended his own life. While acknowledging the awfulness of his going from us and the scourge of suicide in our society we rather celebrate what went into the too short years of his life. Andrew had a great interest in body building and put his heart and soul into this discipline. He was also an enthusiastic member of the Pride of the Maine Band and the band honoured him at his funeral. Andrew was a big lad but was soft in heart - he was scared of creepy crawlies. By nature he was generous and even though he did not have much he was always wanting to share with others and ever ready to help. Andrew had been brought up in St Patrick's, had been confirmed and more recently had been attending evening service with his partner Zara. We continue to remember his parents Billy and Ann, sister Gillian and granny Joan.

James O'Hara

James who over the years had influenced so many people and won their respect, during these last few years had been cared for in a home due to diminishing mental awareness. His wife Etta had lovingly cared for him as his illness progressed and continued to be there for him till his departure. Jimmy was brought up in Harryville and was employed for many years in the Braid Mill as a wood turner. When plastic replaced wood he moved to BT and there he finished his working life. However, he continued wood turning as a hobby and many a parishioner has a piece of his work. Jimmy and Etta had 53 years together and he was a good father to Susan and Beth being proud of their achievements. In his earlier days Jimmy was very much to the fore in a local gymnastic club and being an outdoor person he was for ever going on long walks. He had a life time involvement with our CLB Company and rose to be captain. He set high standards and he had a strong influence on so many young men over the years. He was also a bellringer and contributed to this ministry over a long period of time. An upright Christian gentleman, Jimmy's life was anchored in his faith and so much of it revolved around the church. We remember especially Etta and Susan and Beth.

Mona McGaughey

Mona had been away from the town for some years in residential care. After her husband Thomas' death in 2007 she had found things very difficult and never really recovered. She was brought up in Newcastle upon Tyne and with her husband had lived in many parts of the world. She worked for a time in O'Kane's Poultry Factory and for quite some time the family lived in Orkney Drive. She loved reading - she said it took her mind off other things. In her time she had occasionally attended Ballyclug. We think of her two sons Thomas and David.

Sammy Fullerton

Sammy for some years had health problems but when his wife Margaret died 4 years ago he soldiered on in his home in Demesne Avenue. In the end, however, it became too much for him and in this last while he had settled into Kintullagh Nursing Home. He had been keeping reasonably well so his death was quite a shock to the family. Sammy was brought up out at Connor and had served in the Navy during the war and then in the TA and UDR. For many years he worked in the building trade and also in

Gallahers. He and Margaret were married 60 years - she kept order in the house while he enjoyed his garden. In his time he played bowls for St Patrick's and the Services Club and he also enjoyed his sport on TV. We remember his Daughter Lorna and grandchildren.

John (Jack) Balmer

Jack was a well known pigeon-fancier in Ballymena. He held different jobs in manufacturing before having a career change in his last job and becoming a gardener for the council. When not out pigeoning Jack was in a local Orange Lodge. Jack died suddenly and unexpectedly while out walking and his death came as a shock to his family. Our sympathy goes to Lily and family in their loss.

Lucinda Spiers

Lucinda's health had been declining over quite a few years but although she was poorly towards the end she was able to remain in her own home cared for by her family. She was very much a family person. Although she did work in the Mill and had some other jobs her main work was caring for her own family and indeed for others as well. She and husband William stuck together over so many years and came through so much. She herself had to deal not only with William's death but the death of daughter Alana and sons Billy and Roy. She worried about everyone, carried their hopes and hurts and tried to give direction. She was the lynch pin in the family and will be greatly missed. Prayer and bible reading were part of her daily life and it was her faith which held her through challenging times. We remember her daughter Lucinda and son Maurice as well as the grandchildren.

Thomas Caughey

Tommy was originally a soldier with the Royal Irish Rangers. He left the army to raise a family in Ballymena but continued to work part time for them as a bar steward. He remained friends with his old army colleagues for the rest of his life. Tommy also collected army memorabilia and liked to bet on horses. Tommy died after a difficult illness which he faced with courage and characteristic good humour and our thoughts and prayers are with Beatrice and family in their loss.

Annie Heggarty

Annie lived for many years in Regent's Park in the Doury Road Estate with her sister Margaret and brother David. When Margaret died back in 2001 she still had David and he was very good to her. She was left on her own after David's death in 2006 but she soldiered on in her little flat in Devenagh Way even if living conditions were not ideal. She was determined to stay there despite the best efforts of social workers. It was only when she was hospitalised that she could be moved from there to Andena Nursing Home and she seemed to prosper there. Annie was down to earth, spoke her mind and good fun. She was also quite deaf so communication was a real challenge. Over the years she attended St Patrick's with Margaret and David and always appreciated the visits of clergy and some other parishioners. We remember her sister Mary and nephews and niece.

Christina Hayes

Although Christina had been baptised and married in St Patrick's it was only recently when she was not well that she came to the attention of the clergy. Some years back she had lost one of her legs and the loss of the other leg recently was hard to bear. Although she had regular periods in hospital she was cared for primarily at home by her husband Martin. In her time she had worked in O'Kane's, in security and in a Chinese Restaurant. She loved her pets, her bingo and it has to be said a coffee and cigarette. Although she was quite a private person she was good chat and craic and she loved having her family about her. She had come to a living faith some years back through her involvement with another church and when visited more recently by the clergy that faith was apparent and kept her through times of suffering and poor prospects. We remember Martin and daughter Caroline.





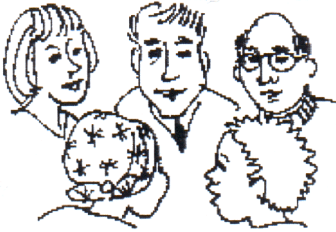
OUR ACTIVITIES

SAINT PATRICK'S

	Day	Time	Venue
Bellringers	Friday	7.30 pm	Tower
Bible Fellowship	Tuesday	8.00 pm	Choir Vestry
Church Choir	Thursday	7.30 pm	Choir Vestry
Church Lads' Brigade			
YBC	Friday	6.45 pm	Parochial Hall
JTC	Friday	6.45 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
Youth Club	Saturday	8.00 pm	Parochial Hall
Junior Youth Club	Saturday	7.00 pm	Parochial Hall
Youth Fellowship	3rd Sunday	7.30 pm	Parochial Hall
Badminton	Wednesday	7.30 pm	Parochial Hall
Theology Group	1st Thurs.	7.45 pm	Jubilee Room
Sewing Group	Thursday	10.00 am	Parochial Hall

SAINT COLUMBA'S

	Day	Time	Contact
Beavers	Monday	6.30 pm	Mrs L McCullagh
Ladies' Circle	4th Monday	8.00 pm	Mrs L Beatty
Brownies	Tuesday	6.30 pm	Mrs S Foster
Guides	Tuesday	6.30 pm	Mrs K Black
Squirrels	Wednesday	6.30 pm	Mr P Houston
Cubs	Thursday	6.45 pm	Miss H Hughes
Choir	Sunday	10.15 am	Mrs S Montgomery
Rainbows	Friday	6.30 pm	Miss E Peachey
Scouts	Friday	7.45 pm	Mr K Hughes



OUR WORSHIP

ST PATRICK'S PARISH CHURCH

SUNDAY SERVICES

8.15 am		<i>Holy Communion</i>
10.15 am	<i>3rd Sunday in the month</i>	<i>Family Service</i>
11.30 am		<i>Morning Prayer</i>
	<i>1st Sunday in the month</i>	<i>Parish Communion</i>
6.30 pm		<i>Evening Prayer</i>
	<i>3rd Sunday in the month</i>	<i>Holy Communion</i>
	<i>4th Sunday in the month</i>	<i>Living Faith Service</i>

EVERY WEDNESDAY

10.30 am	<i>Holy Communion</i>
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ST PATRICK'S, BALLYCLUG

SUNDAY SERVICES

10.00 am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
	<i>Holy Communion</i>
	<i>4th Sunday in the month</i>

ST COLUMBA'S, DUNCLUG

SUNDAY SERVICES

8.30 am	<i>1st Sunday in the month</i>	<i>Holy Communion</i>
11.30 am		<i>Morning Prayer</i>
	<i>2nd Sunday in the month</i>	<i>Family Service</i>
	<i>3rd Sunday in the month</i>	<i>Family Communion</i>

SUNDAY SCHOOLS

ST PATRICK'S

11.30 am	<i>Church</i>	<i>Leaders - Mrs L McLaughlin and Mr A Ross</i>
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ST COLUMBA'S

11.30 am	<i>Church</i>	<i>Superintendent - Mrs S Foster</i>
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HOLY BAPTISM

At Sunday services by arrangement