

St Columbanus

Ballyholme



Easter Vestry Reports
Communion Lunch
Youth Update
Wednesday Club



..On the way
together..

The Parishioner

May/June 2026

Until recently, which of us had heard of Dame Sarah Mullally? Sadly, especially for a former Chief Nurse, her election as Archbishop of Canterbury has laid bare divisions in the wider Anglican Communion. Which makes it timely to remember that whereas our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters look to the Vatican 'curia' centrally for what defines them, we belong to an affiliation of disparate Provinces, most of which share historic roots in the Church of England. We are governed by four 'Instruments of Communion': the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lambeth Conference (a ten yearly meeting of all Anglican bishops), the Primates' Meeting (for all the archbishops) and a body called the Anglican Consultative Council which will gather for its nineteenth session in Belfast this June. However we may feel about the new Archbishop's doctrinal positions, she preached at her enthronement on the Angel Gabriel's assurance to Mary: *For nothing will be impossible with God* (Luke 1:37). Mary trusted that God was with her and, through her, God did a new thing. To me, with secularism, individualism and nationalism still draining the west dry of Christian hope and values, it feels right to pray that God would do so again.



SED

Missions Committee

At the Missions Committee meeting on 13th April we were delighted to approve gifts of £500 to each of the following. Leprosy Mission, NI Bible Society, CMJ Ireland, North Down Store House, Samaritan's Purse, Christians Against Poverty Bangor and Ards combined, All Nations local ministries, and International Justice Mission.

Significantly three new overseas Christian Communities have been recommended to us by CMSI. They are, The Anglican Diocese of Egypt, Tujisadie Community School Project in Kenya and the work of Bishop Hassan in the Diocese of Kadugli Sudan.

We have been blessed with balance funds of just over £7000 thanks to fund raising and gifts including our allocation from the Building Fund.

As you can see we have disbursed most of this. Whilst we will have a small reserve going forward, we strongly believe that we are merely stewards of God's wealth and that he wants it used for his Glory.

The Summer Quiz will replenish our funds to some extent but as ever we remain reliant on the Congregation's constant generosity. Pray that these gifts will make for a real difference in the work of our partners.

IH

Easter Sunday and Jumpin'



Stay with Me

Ballyholme Holy Week 2026



Ballyholme Presbyterian were our hosts this year for a moving blend of scripture and silence following Jesus' haunting plea to the disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane: Stay with me.

Music was led by June and Christopher, and we were met with a warm welcome at the doors by members of the Ashley Drive congregation each evening. A wonderful supper was hosted for us on the Wednesday and a generous breakfast after the chill of the dawn service on Easter morning. For most of us though, it was the Reverend Peter Lyle's nightly reflections that will live longest.

On Palm Sunday evening we were invited to place ourselves in the crowd which greeted Jesus at the gates and ask the question: had we been there that day what would we have wanted Jesus to do? What situation would we want Him to change or what problem would

we have wanted Him to fix? The crowd's expectation and vision was wrong, basically because it was too small. Would those who turned up in Palm Sunday still be there on Good Friday?

We were welcomed on Monday with a spray of perfume on our hands. As the exquisite smell of nard filled the house in Bethany in lavish anointing of Jesus' feet, we were transported in 4D to consider our response to the extravagant love of Christ. However much we pour out to Him, He poured out everything for us – and we proclaimed as much in modern song (I'm coming back to the heart of worship) and age-old hymn (Take my life and let it be, consecrated Lord to thee).

The mood turned darker on Tuesday as Jesus was challenged: by what authority are you doing these things? After an immersive reading with voices speaking up from the congregation, a vox-pop video revealed the answers of a series of modern-day high-street shoppers to the question: who do you say Jesus is? Meanwhile, in Jerusalem, it was Jesus' uncomfortable truths that were getting under people's skin, as religion fell away from real living to mere performance.

It was the sound of thirty coins being counted into a bowl that will haunt many of us from Wednesday evening. While Judas' betrayal started with a gentle drift away from Christ, there came a quiet moment of internal decision which amounted to a point of no return.

This unsettling observation confirmed all our suspicions that in the end it's more about us than about Judas. Is there any one of us who hasn't defended ourselves with the words 'surely you don't mean me?'

On Maundy Thursday, the noise faded. Everyone present sensed the weight there was in the air that night for the disciples. As yet, they still didn't fully understand – even as Jesus



Ballyholme Holy Week 2026 Cont.d



began washing their feet – that demeaning task they protested against so strongly. Jesus knew full well the feet He was washing: Peter with his denials, Thomas with his doubts, Judas with his betrayal. But Christ's love was in no way dependent, and it was a love that would stay to the end.

Indeed, only those who stayed to the end with Jesus would be there on Good Friday to hear: 'It is finished'. To look past the cross impatiently and uncomfortably to what would happen next is to miss out on the blessing of being together

with Christ – like the women and the remaining disciples. Peter spoke poignantly of our great gift in Ballyholme over so many years of staying with one another in worship, prayer and fellowship through the good times and the bad.

Easter morning, on the other hand, is all about what's next. A large crowd for the dawn service was swelled by members of Hamilton Road Presbyterian and Christ Church Primacy and Sr Maura Gallahu represented our friends at Most Holy Redeemer. Casting our eyes out over the water to the horizon and beyond, Peter spoke with joy of the ever-unfolding reach of God's love. Because of the empty tomb, there will always be more to come and the assurance of Christ's presence at every turn...

Good Friday Cross and Easter Morning Cross



DUE TO POPULAR DEMAND!

Summer Quiz Night!

IN ST. COLUMBANUS PARISH CENTRE

SATURDAY 13TH JUNE
— at 7.30pm —

Tables bookable through the Parish Office

Raising funds to support the
MISSION WORK OF
Ballyholme Parish Church

QUIZ MASTER:
RONNIE McCLEMENTS

⛪ Bring your friends | 💡 Test your knowledge | See you there!

TABLES BOOKABLE through the Parish Office

BALLYHOLME

SAVE THE DATES



Sandcastle Competition

11am, Saturday 9th May

Banks carpark



Love Ballyholme By The Sea

2-5pm, Saturday 13th June

Ballyholme Yacht Club



Find out more on
Facebook/LoveBallyholme



FUNERALS

March 2026

16th: Robert (Roy) Rosbotham, late of Vail, Donaghadee

April 2026

14th: Norma Muriel Lown, late of Sunningdale Park

Stamp Collection

Unfortunately, owing to the price of stamps and the convenience of modern technology, fewer letters are now being sent, so I am reluctantly giving up the sending of used stamps to RNIB, which I have been doing for some years now. I will be sending my last stamps at the end of June, so if anyone has any used stamps lying around, please leave them in the parish office, where I will collect them. Thank you all who have given me their stamps regularly and those who gave them seasonally. All were very welcome and much appreciated. Thanks again for your support.

Sue



Alpha Away Day

A Time to Pause, Reflect and Encounter the Holy Spirit

This year's Alpha Away Day was held in the beautiful surroundings of Groomsport Parish Halls, where we gathered on a bright and sunny morning with a sense of anticipation for the day ahead. The Alpha Away Day is always a special part of the Alpha course. It offers a chance to step away from the busyness of everyday life, spend time together as a community, and explore more deeply the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

The day began with warm welcomes, cups of tea and coffee and croissants, and plenty of friendly conversation as everyone arrived. There was a relaxed atmosphere as people caught up with one another and settled in for a day of learning, reflection, and fellowship.

Throughout the day we watched three of the Alpha video sessions together. The first session explored the question, "Who is the Holy Spirit?" It helped us understand more about the Spirit as part of the Trinity and how God continues to work in our lives today. The second session asked, "What does the Holy Spirit do?" and encouraged us to reflect on the many ways the Spirit guides, comforts, strengthens, and transforms us. The final session, "How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit?", invited us to consider how we can open our hearts to God and welcome His presence more fully in our lives.

Following this last session, we spent some quiet time together in reflection and prayer ministry. Many people chose to respond during this time, and the room seemed to take on a deep sense of peace and stillness. It was a powerful and meaningful moment for many, as people took time to pray, listen, and simply be present with God.

Of course, no Alpha day would be complete without plenty of opportunities for fellowship. Throughout the day there were many chances to enjoy a cuppa and a bun, keeping everyone refreshed and giving us time to chat and share stories.

At lunchtime we enjoyed a lovely hot meal together. The tables were filled with laughter and conversation as we got to know each other better and continued building the friendships that have been forming throughout the Alpha course.

After lunch, we also discovered everyone's competitive side. Don had kindly brought along a great selection of games, and once people realised there was a prize for the top score, the competition quickly became very lively! It was a lot of fun, with plenty of good-natured rivalry and laughter as everyone tried their best to claim the winning spot.

The Alpha Away Day is always a highlight of the course. It's a time not only to learn more about faith and the Holy Spirit, but also to grow closer as a community. Spending a whole day together allows space for deeper conversations, shared experiences, and moments of reflection that are often hard to find in the middle of a busy week.

As the day drew to a close, many left feeling encouraged, refreshed, and thankful for the opportunity to spend time together in such a welcoming and peaceful setting. It was a reminder that Alpha is not just about learning—it's about journeying together, supporting one another, and discovering more about God along the way.

Natalie Gough



Patricia Fawcett - Rector's Churchwarden

Arriving in Bangor in 1982 from Finaghy, where we worshipped at St Polycarp's, my son Jonathan and I visited a number of local churches in the Anglican Communion, before finding ourselves at St Columbanus. Whilst it fulfilled our requirements regarding the Alternative Prayer Book and a thriving Scout Troup, our initial impression was of a warm and welcoming place of worship, initially headed by Canon and Mrs Mercer, which emphatically remains the case today.

Regular worship was interrupted for a time by work commitments, a return to study and family requirements. In between times, the 08.30 service of Holy Communion formed a spiritual anchor, followed, in later years, by the Wednesday 10.30 service of Holy Communion and Prayers for the Sick, further cementing fellowship and forming friendships.

Throughout our lives, we will encounter challenges, which will test us on a number of levels. At such difficult times, faith may falter. At St Columbanus, it doesn't miss a step. Our Clergy and support systems come into their own. Sometimes, a challenge emerges when you need it most.

It is a privilege to have been invited to be Rector's Churchwarden for the incoming year. I shall try very hard to be up to the task, to continue the warmth and welcome of my predecessors.

Patricia Fawcett**Ben McCabe – People's Churchwarden**

What a privilege – and I have to say, a surprise – to be asked to serve as Churchwarden for the coming year. I am very grateful both for the opportunity and for the words of advice and support I have received from parishioners and in particular outgoing People's Churchwarden Brian Kelly.

I started attending St Columbanus after the Covid pandemic, having moved to Bangor with my wife Eleanor in 2020. We both hail from the north coast but met while living and working in Brussels. We moved to Northern Ireland shortly after getting married and as a Portrush boy my main priority for relocation was to be by the sea. While north Down still feels quite new to us, Bangor is now very much 'home'.

I work as a public relations director for a communications agency based in Hollywood and previously worked in political adviser and press office roles in the European Parliament and Northern Ireland Assembly.

My family was and remains very active in Portrush Presbyterian Church where I was baptised and growing up, I enjoyed moving up the ranks at 1st Portrush Boy's Brigade. But for many years I have had an appreciation for the rhythm and literary beauty of the Book of Common Prayer and the rich liturgical heritage of the Church of Ireland. That is what first brought me to the Parish and in particular the 11.30am and occasionally the 8.30am services. The kind welcome from Simon and the parishioners has kept us at St Columbanus and it has been great to build so many new relationships.

One thing I am very much looking forward to in the coming year is getting to know more people across all the services. I apologise in advance if I get muddled up with people's names and please do correct me if I get it wrong!

Ben McCabe



Thank you to everyone who attended the Communion Lunch on 26th March 26, which was so enjoyed by everyone.

We were delighted to welcome 36 senior members of our congregation to celebrate Holy Communion together, followed by a light lunch and plenty of chat. We met the week before Holy Week and the service of worship was very poignant in the lead up to Easter. A bunch of daffodils was given to everyone to enjoy over Easter and remind us of the first signs of Spring.

Our next **Communion Lunch will take place on Thursday 11th June at 12.30pm.**

If you would like to join us, please contact the Parish office. We would love to see you. An invitation will be sent nearer the time for you to respond re attendance, dietary requirements and if transport required.

Without our wonderful volunteers, Winifred, Caroline, Sharon, Pamela, Olwyn and Linda preparing the lunch and the help of our voluntary drivers Billy and Edgar, the day would not be such a success. Thank you to everyone.



If anyone is interested in becoming a volunteer to join the food preparation team or as a volunteer driver, please contact myself or the parish office to find out more. You would be very welcome.

I look forward to seeing everyone in June.

Margaret





In March our monthly meeting started with a very informative talk given by Wendy on the subject of preventing falls called "Falls Awareness". She also provided information to take home for those who wanted additional advice.

Note: The South Eastern Trust has a Falls Co-ordinator where you can self-refer if required. (Age 65 and over). Details can be found on the Trusts website e.g a referral form.

Our April meeting was more energetic as we all participated in a Chair Aerobics session which also included background music. When this was completed everyone was ready for their tea and Easter treats which included a variety of scones, cake and buns.

The Wednesday Club Team



Christian Aid Week

Christian Aid week is 10th to 16th May this year. This year, Christian Aid Week will help mothers in Nairobi, Kenya, facing the devastating reality of urban poverty and the daily struggle to feed their children.

We would really appreciate help with delivering envelopes in the Ballyholme and Ballycrochan areas. We have designated roads to deliver to.

Again this year we are only delivering envelopes with designated collection points at the Eurospar - Ashbury Avenue, Clear Pharmacy - Thornleigh and the Parish Office.

If you would have a little time to help deliver envelopes please leave your name and contact number with the Parish office.

Thank you

Susan and Jonnie Stockton, Fiona Oliva

Rector's Report to the Annual General (Easter) Vestry on Sunday 22 March 2026

The traditional Easter General Vestry agenda of reports, accounts and elections also included the following remarks by the Chair, Canon Simon Doogan:



What a difference a year makes

Thanking God for His blessings over the last year in Ballyholme, there is only one place to start. This time twelve months ago, the Reverend Jonny Watson was a name, a CV, a hope – the object of a tide of questions, the focus of a wave of prayer. What a lot of joy Jonny, Lisette, Rosa and Cara have brought to our Church family in a very short space of time. None of us should be blind to everything they left behind to come to Bangor: home, job, schools only begin the list. Speaking as

Rector, and I'll put this down to growing older and maybe even a little bit wiser, the sense of responsibility I felt for the Watsons' move was significantly greater than for any of my previous clergy colleagues. Looking back now, I can pray in the words of today's Gospel from John 11:42 I knew that you always hear me! We would not have Jonny at all without the central grant from the RCB and the corresponding generosity of our parishioners, but the Lord was in Jonny's appointment from the outset so to Him be the glory. While you are already alert to the difference the Watsons have made to our life in Ballyholme, make no mistake Jonny's arrival has transformed my life as your Rector.

Key personnel changes

In terms of the wider parish programme, Ian Hardstaff has taken over as Chair of the Missions Committee and, thank God, Sandra Griffith's passion for the world Church and social justice has found a wise and worthy new champion. The Wednesday Club, for so long a valued rendezvous for our seniors and lovingly run by Sue Bleakley, Roberta Munnis, Agnes Officer and Ann Browne, has acquired both a wonderful new team of volunteers and several new members. Our thanks to Winifred Craig, Wendy Forsythe, Angela Latimer and Sharon Mohan for continuing this important monthly get-together. As mentioned in the Parish Magazine, Leslie Adams and Trevor Smith both stood down at the end of December as our Health and Safety committee. Their faithfulness to this responsibility, especially the paperwork that goes with it, made picking up the reins significantly easier for our new volunteers Brian Kelly and Neil Devlin so please give them your support and co-operation as they seek to keep us all both healthy and safe. As a church which has always sought to invest in our children and young people, Safeguarding remains of fundamental importance. While Stanley Officer stays on as a serving member of our Parish Panel, Libby Beech resigns this year. Libby brought her experience and instincts as a senior secondary school teacher, a mother and latterly a grandmother to the Parish Panel and we are so grateful for her close interest and care. I am pleased to announce that Dr Jacqui Montgomery-Devlin has agreed to take on Libby's role. We could ask for no better qualified or more highly respected successor.



Vestry Officers: comings and goings

In terms of Select Vestry, David Moorhead stands down as People's Glebeward.

Contractors come and go from our Church and Parish Centre on an almost constant basis and there is much to supervise and stay on top of. Along with the ever-faithful Peter Craig who remains in post, David brought a forensic eye to the invoices, quotations and grant applications that go with being Glebewarden. I was thrilled when Ann Adams agreed to serve as Rector's Churchwarden – thrilled and pleasantly surprised. Ann was already a member of Vestry and what many parishioners won't know is that for many years Ann has also overseen our parish book-keeping. Together with Larry Cheshire and her husband Leslie, Ann is the one who organises the opening of our FWO (and other) envelopes and then enters figures and makes bank lodgements. A natural in the Church Vestry, Ann was always ready with the kettle and the snacks and brought a quiet solemnity to administering the Chalice when called upon. As People's Churchwarden and almost invariably the last to leave every Sunday, we also want to thank Brian Kelly for his faithfulness. Technology would appear to hold no fear for Brian! Between the sound-desk and the screens, Brian was not prepared to let new kit get the better of him, and who can forget the friendly welcome Brian extended to homeless summertime visitor Karl (and his dog) – exactly the right note for a Churchwarden to strike. If he doesn't mind me saying so, Brian is a good example of a faithful worshipper who when the time was right and the invitation came his way, found not only a joy in service but an opportunity to put a lifetime of professional skills and insights to the use of the Lord and His Church. In many, many respects, Ann's and Brian's year of office might be over, but not their service to God's Church and His kingdom.



Phase 2: how long?

Many of you have been asking anxiously about Phase 2 of the Restoration project. How near we are to getting started on connecting the Church and the Parish Centre? I was conscious of this again at dear Roy Rosbotham's recent funeral. Friends who easily accessed the Church for Edna's funeral, felt the intervening five years very sharply, both getting into the service and scaling Mt Everest for the reception. Last summer, when someone came up with the genius idea of serving coffee after the combined 10.30 service in Church, the effort involved in fetching and carrying up and down the slope quickly became apparent – though it didn't put them off a single Sunday! Phase 2 has never been a glamour project for me: loos and lift remaining the driving objectives. Yet an imaginative use of the dead space between our two main buildings will offer us a host of new opportunities for ministry and outreach.



Also, self-evidently, the Parish Centre is now ten years older than when we finished work on the Church. Alas, the signs of wear and tear through simple everyday use are ever more obvious. £500,000 remains the target before we press the green light, but such is your enthusiasm, nay your impatience for the project, that I will be asking our new Vestry to form a sub-committee straightaway. We need to be ready to go, and we need both a thorough review of the original plans and a survey of the needs of the Parish Centre, our use of which has changed so much since its opening in 2005.

John 11: in Christ, there's always more!

In the meantime, as the Lent Course and Alpha wrap-up, a new Men's Group is just beginning. Holy Week will bring us together with our friends and neighbours at Ballyholme Presbyterian and then we're expecting a full house for Easter Jumpin'. The MU will soon be gearing up for their spring afternoon tea and the Youth Fellowship continues to rebuild following its recent review and restructuring. Against a seemingly ever-rising tide of western secularism, reports of Church attendance in a tailspin and a beleaguered Anglican Communion can get us down at times. But our vibrancy in St Columbanus is proof that the light of Christ has been far from extinguished. The Lazarus episode in today's Gospel insists that nor can it ever be, so watch this space.

Our New People's Glebewarden

Glebewardens are appointed to assist with the care and management of the glebe house (or rectory) and lands. Given the size and complexity of our church buildings there is nearly always some maintenance issue to be addressed.

At Easter Vestry Simon paid tribute to David Moorehead who has decided to step down as People's Glebewarden. He has served us faithfully since 2024 alongside Peter Craig our Rector's Churchwarden who is remaining in post. David is a keen gardener and I'm sure he will be glad to forget about the challenges of his Glebewarden role and get back to the peace and quiet of his garden.

David's successor is Brian Kelly who has just completed his year as People's Churchwarden welcoming us into Church each Sunday. Brian has also recently taken over responsibility for health and safety matters along with Neil Devlin.

Easter Vestry Elections and Appointments

Churchwardens

Patricia Fawcett – (Rector's) and Ben McCabe (People's)

Glebewardens

Peter Craig (Rector's) and Brian Kelly (People's)

Select Vestry

Ann Adams, Stephen Baker, David Crooks, Billy Davidson, Neil Devlin, Carl Griffin, Ivan Humphreys, Roy Lawther, Jenny McKay-Kyte, Yvonne Manogue, David Morehead and Steven Nickell.

Liz Grant and Christine Johnstone were co-opted onto Select Vestry as Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Secretary respectively.

Diocesan Synod Representatives

(1) Stefan Andreasson, (2) Suzanne Beech, (3) Andrea Kelly and (4) Christine Johnstone.

Supplementalists - (1) Ian Bell, (2) Yvonne Manogue, (3) Larry Cheshire and (4) Ralph Walker.

Junior representatives - Andrew Watson and supplementalist Heather McKee.

Parochial Nominators

(1) Roy Lawther, (2) Karen Baker, (3) Don Todd, (4) Jacqui Devlin.

Supplementalists - (1) Leslie Adams, (2) Caroline Gillan, (3) Kelly McCullough and (4) Michelle Savage.

On Monday 2nd March 2026 our members took part in an energetic evening of line dancing. This was followed by light refreshments to replace all the calories burnt off during the dancing.



Many Blessings
Yvonne & The MU Team.



Peter Craig, Rector's Glebeward, presented the following report on behalf of himself and David Moorehead, People's Glebeward, at the Easter Vestry on Sunday 22 March 2026.

It has been an eventful and interesting year for the Glebewardens.

Church

Over the course of the year, a number of leaks were found in the Church roof, particularly above the sound desk area. Several tiles, flashing and ridge work were replaced. This appears to have addressed the issues, which was fortunate given the winter rain we were to experience.

Following the Quinquennial Inspection of the church properties on 17 November 2025, full reports for the Church, Rectory, and Curatage were issued in January 2026. Each report provided comprehensive inspection details, which were summarised in a conclusions and recommendations section. These were discussed at the January 2026 Select Vestry meeting.

Both the Church and the Rectory received a 'Good' maintenance standard rating meaning a 'proactive approach'. Some of the recommendations listed for repair, namely clearing and overhauling the guttering and fixing downpipes, have been carried out since the inspection.

The Curatage at Beverley Gardens received a report listing slightly more remedial work. Several recommendations for repair included the drains and this has been fixed since the inspection. Any other work on the Curatage can be carried out over the next 12 months or so.

The Glebewardens were pleased with the findings of the Quinquennial inspection, which generally indicated a proactive approach to dealing with Church maintenance issues as they arose.

In November 2025 Ballyholme Parish applied to the National Churches Trust Winter Ready Grants Scheme. After the submission of the application form and several quotes, we were successful in being awarded a £450 grant towards clearing the guttering and spouts around the church building. This was a very welcome financial contribution to the maintenance of the church building.

Fire and intruder alarms were maintained on a 3 monthly basis when Building Protection Systems (BPS) came out to check both systems. This included removing faulty alarms as required. The annual maintenance on the church boiler was also carried out.

The Church was informed that solicitors were appointed to pursue any excess payment recovery of church monies with regard the oil contamination claim, caused by the oil tanks at Sandringham Apartments.

Parish Centre

During the summer work was started and completed to remove sections of the ceiling in the Parish Hall. Over the years several interior tiles had become dislodged and needed to be replaced, so a new ceiling system was installed by CCL Interiors. At the same time DMG Electrics Ltd fitted new lights in the Parish Hall ceiling, and BPS fitted new smoke detectors. After the work was completed, roller blinds were put up on the higher windows, and the Hall was ready for the start of the autumn season.

Special thanks to Steven Nickell and Ivan Humphreys for organising and overseeing the progress of the work on the Hall over the summer. This was greatly appreciated.

Gas and Controls came out bi-annually to inspect the gas detection system used in the Parish Hall and kitchen.

An engineer from Geoff Castles Boiler Services Ltd. came out in September 2025 to carry out the annual service on the Church/Parish Centre double boilers. This turned out to be the start of a period of call-outs and boiler breakdowns which lasted until January 2026.

Different reasons were identified for the boilers not working and heat not coming on, requiring urgent call-outs which generally happened at the start of a busy day, during this cold period.

The cost of the regular call-outs rocketed and caused concern for the Church from a financial perspective. After compiling a timeline of visits and costs etc, a delegation from the Church had a meeting with the senior management of Geoff Castles Boiler Services Ltd. We discussed concerns about the boiler and the spiralling cost of call-outs. After a very cordial meeting, the company made an offer to credit the Church with a substantial rebate towards incurred costs, as well as an apology for being unable to bring the boiler issues to a swifter conclusion.

The events were a learning experience for all concerned, and although we got a rebate, there was still a sizable cost to maintaining a fairly complex system.

Another job that will need doing in the near future is the replacement of the pressurised hot water cylinder in the boiler house. This is showing signs of rust and leaking and will require several tenders prior to replacing as it is an expensive piece of equipment.

Over the year there were plenty of ongoing maintenance jobs around the Parish Centre, including repairs to the fire door in the Parish Hall, resolving issues with the automated door mechanism sticking, a number of plumbing and radiator issues and also electrical sockets around the building which required attention. The replacement of a broken mirror in the Gents toilets and a new lock on the Parish Office to name just a few of the varied issues that arose over the year.

The Rectory

Work was carried out in the Rectory to fix a number of plumbing jobs, and to resolve the issue with the radiator system.

Outside work was completed to fix a number of downspouts, which were coming loose from the walls of the house. A piece of fascia which had come off during a storm was also replaced.

Replacement of the Rectory garage roof tiles took place and was completed over the summer period. A sample test done on old roof tiles had found an asbestos cement material identified as Chrysotile. A waste contractor came to remove and dispose of these tiles.

Further work was done on the Rectory roof in February 2026 for a dry ridge installation, and some slate and lead repairs.

The annual maintenance check on the boiler was carried out in June.

The Curatage 34 Beverley Gardens

A small group of Parishioners helped paint and clean the property to get it ready for our new Curate, Jonny and his family, when they moved in. A work party was also assembled to tidy up the garden areas.

The annual maintenance check on the boiler was carried out in October.

The Bay Apartment

Some maintenance and remedial work was completed on the property over the course of the year. Over the summer, Electrical Installation Condition Report (EICR) checks, Portable Appliance Testing (PAT) and Smoke Testing took place to ensure the apartment was up to date with these new regulation requirements.

The letting agent John Minnis also contacted the Parish Office to advise that the fuse box currently in use at the apartment was outdated and needed to be upgraded and replaced in order for the property to be compliant with current electrical standards.

Charles White (NI) Ltd now own the apartments and indicated a number of major expenditure items for the apartments complex, including the replacement of a lift, and removal of a large tree. These resulted in an increase in the service charge rate of £115 per month to residents. Work is also planned for painting the car park area.

In November 2025 Select Vestry agreed for John Minnis to renew the lease of the property with the current tenant for a further 12 months. No rent increase was sought at this time, but the Select Vestry decided that prior to renewing the lease in 2026 we would be seeking an increase in the rent.

An interim inspection report of the Bay apartment was completed in November 2025. The property was in good order and the tenant had no maintenance issues to report.

Finance Review from Easter Vestry 2026

The following is a summary of the report given by our Honorary Treasurer Liz Grant at the Easter Vestry on Sunday 22 March 2026.

In addition to the management accounts that were presented at the Easter Vestry, The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, relating to charity accounting and reporting commenced on 1 January 2016.

Even though the Parish income is less than £500,000 the Parish:

- * Prepares accruals accounts.
- * Has accounts audited and this must be in compliance with Section 65(2) of the Charities Act NI.
- * Complete a trustees' annual report that also reports on how our charity has met the public benefit requirement.
- * Complete an annual monitoring return.

The Parish accounts, Auditors report and Trustee Annual Statement will be submitted online to the Charities Commission for Northern Ireland this year.

Unrestricted Funds

Overall, the Parish income (excluding Missions, Youth and Pastor accounts) this year was £280,612 increasing by £12,587 (£268,075 in 2024). Expenditure decreased from £276,192 to £254,790. This was mainly due to the reduction in building and property expenses following the completion of the refurbishment of the Curatage at Beverley Gardens. This gave the Parish a closing surplus of £25,822. Gift Aid has been fully claimed and is included in the accounts.

General Fund Income

General income is from the following sources:

- * General giving has increased from £198,562 to £202,029, the main contributor to this is donations for the Curate appeal.
 - * Property related income, which includes renting the Curatage and the Bay Apartment decreased from £13,708 to £10,523. This is due to Beverly Gardens being taken off the rental market from April for use by the Curate.
 - * General Parish income from sources such as hall rental, magazine donations, catering increased from £6,622 to £27,140 mainly due to receiving a contribution of £22k towards Curate costs from the Representative Church Body (RCB) in Dublin.
 - * The Parish did not receive any unrestricted legacies.
-

Expenditure

Overall expenditure decreased from £276,192 to £254,790. The main areas of expenditure are:

- * Clergy and staffing costs which decreased from £146,566 to £140,376.
- * Repairs and maintenance decreased from £58,856 to £34,525.
- * Premises costs, including heating, lighting, rates etc. reduced from £25,252 to £20,060.
- * General Parish expenses e.g. consumables, postage and printing increased from £32,038 to £43,809.
- * The Diocesan levy increased from £15,480 to £16,020

Restricted Funds**Building Fund**

Throughout the year voluntary giving to the restoration project by way of monthly standing orders, donations or fund-raising events came to £31,213 including gift aid. The Parish did not receive any legacies in this financial year.

We have seen a reduction in the amount received from standing orders for the Building Fund in the last year. The monthly standing orders average £2,118 amounting to £25,420 for the current year.

At the end of December 2025, the balance in the Building Fund was £416,704 (£390,951 at the end of 2024).

Missions

Income into the Missions fund was £6,200. £6,450 was given to charitable causes and the deficit of £250 was taken from the balance remaining from 2024.

Youth Fellowship

Income into the Youth Fund was £19,108 and £18,008 was used for activities relating to youth.

Pastor Account

The pastor account was set up to keep income and expenditure from restricted donations separate from the church funds. Income was zero and £10,383 was spent on repairs to the Parish Centre hall ceiling and lighting and some repairs to the Rectory.

Look Ahead

The following are financial priorities for the Select Vestry and Parish in the coming year:

- * Asking the congregation to review their giving and if possible, increase it in line with the cost of living.
- * Continue the change from Free Will Offering envelopes to electronic giving and continuing the move from giving into the Bank of Ireland to Danske Bank.
- * Working towards the next phase of the development plan to build the link between the Church and Parish Centre.



**March - Mossley Mill to Whiteabbey**

On a sunny March spring morning eleven walkers and two dogs boarded the 09.41am train from Bangor to Mossley West.

Sadly the Mossley Mill complex was closed. We strolled down the riverside path to Monkstown and continued along the Three Mile Glen, under the railway arches to the lough shore for a picnic lunch before getting the train at Whiteabbey back to Bangor. A lovely walk in fine weather.

Maurice**April - Slievenacloy Nature Reserve**

Twelve walkers and one dog walked two miles round Slievenacloy Nature Reserve in the Belfast Hills. They enjoyed spectacular views. The trail was curtailed to just over two miles and they couldn't do any more of the reserve due to 'beware of the bull' signs! After the walk the group retreated to the Colin Glen cafe for lunch. A few went for a walk in Colin Glen afterwards.

Betty

YOUTH-news

youth [youth] (youths)

news [nooz]

As we approach the summer term, we're gearing up for our annual summer programme, with Summer Madness (26th – 30th June), Jumpin' (10th – 14th August) and X-Cess (17th – 21st August). We as leaders are really excited about these as they play such a key role in the life and faith of young people – many of us decided to follow Jesus at a summer camp or festival, and the same goes for many of our young people.

As well as looking forward, we're also able to look back on a great term of youth stuff, where we were able to connect with young people at drop-in, Emerge, YF, Easter Jumpin', a youth weekend and various other events and trips. The new format of YF has been really great, and the ones who come have loved it, have made friends at YF, and they've been encouraged a lot in their faith. What more could you ask for?

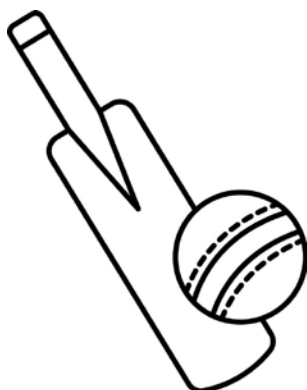
As ever, your prayers and support are much appreciated – thank you!



Andrew



Annual Cricket Match



The Annual Cricket Match will take place in Ward Park on a date to be confirmed later.

Come along and support whichever team you want to!

Details about the time and date will be announced in Church nearer the time.

MAY 2026**Sunday 3rd May****Easter 5**

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Cafe Church - Parish Centre

11.30 Morning Prayer

Wednesday 6th May

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 10th May**Easter 6**

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Good News at Ten & Children's Church

11.30 Parish Communion

6.30 United Service - Ballyholme Presbyterian

Wednesday 13th May

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 17th May**Sunday after Ascension**

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Prayer & Praise and Children's Church

11.30 Morning Prayer

Wednesday 20th May

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 24th May**Pentecost**

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Parish Communion & Children's Church

11.30 Morning Prayer

Wednesday 27th May

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 31st May**Trinity Sunday**

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Wholeness and Healing

11.30 Wholeness and Healing

JUNE 2026**Wednesday 3rd June**

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 7th June**Trinity 1**

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Cafe Church - Parish Centre

11.30 Morning Prayer

Wednesday 10th June

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 14th June**Trinity 2**

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Good News at Ten Children's Day

11.30 Parish Communion

6.30 United Service - Ballyholme Parish

Wednesday 17th June

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 21st June**Trinity 3**

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Prayer & Praise and Children's Church

11.30 Morning Prayer

Wednesday 24th June

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 28th June**Trinity 4**

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Parish Communion

11.30 Morning Prayer

May 2026**3rd** Jane Fitzsimons**10th** Libby Beech**17th** Olwyn Aiken**24th** Joan Larmour**31st** Trevor Smyth**June 2026****7th** Pat Davidson**14th** Lillian Ward**21st** Barbara Wallace**28th** Adeline Cully