

The Columban

ST. COLUMBA'S CHURCH, KNOCK, DECEMBER/JANUARY 2021-22



The latest parish news, events and notices.



Dear Parishioner,

RECTOR'S LETTER

JOYFUL NEWS

Our journey through this season of Advent begins with the joyful news that the work to replace our church roof is complete. This has been the biggest project that we have undertaken in the history of our parish. By working together with each of us making our unique contribution through the generous gifting of our time, talents and money we now have a new church roof to protect our church building.

This essential work has been a regular item on our Select Vestry agenda for many years and it is source of immense thankfulness that we were able get the entire roof replaced during the pandemic in our 125th anniversary year. This has only been possible through your terrific support and hard work which you have generously expressed in so many ways.

We were very fortunate to have had a number of successful fundraising events which were so well supported by parishioners and members of the local community before the start of the pandemic together with the receipt of two significant legacies from Bryn Harris and Leonard Pugh and a generous grant from the National Churches Trust. This enabled the Select Vestry to move forward with this work at a much earlier stage than had been originally planned.

There have been many meetings of the Select Vestry, the Property and Roof sub-committees with all the members giving tirelessly of their professional skills with the preparations to commence this project and also with the overseeing of the work. This has been of major benefit to the parish resulting in decisions being made quickly and efficiently without unnecessary delays.

Our contractors have gone about their work in a most efficient and careful manner. They were always extremely accommodating to the daily workings of the parish as they advanced the project. They were greatly assisted by the good weather during these past months and always left the church grounds each day in a tidy and secure way. The Diocesan surveyor has provided excellent guidance at every stage and was invaluable in getting the various approvals to commence this work with the submission of the required plans at each stage.

We were very fortunate to be able to continue using our church each Sunday. This was not without its challenges as there was so much additional dirt and dust coming from the roof. The altar frontals and brasses were all safely removed each week and a lot of additional regular cleaning was required. I thank those parishioners and our cleaning contractor who carried out this essential work on a regular basis. I also thank those who made the preparations for our Thursday morning Holy Communion services in the main church hall which enabled the contractors to continue with their work without interruption.

Clear communication has been essential throughout the project and I'm most grateful to all those who have contributed in this way keeping us so well informed of developments.

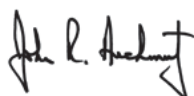
This has undoubtedly been One Church, One People, One Congregation – with a common goal travelling together to raise the roof. We have all travelled and stood together to reach this goal and create a roof to stand the test of time for the future. Together we are safeguarding our church building for both our use and that of generations to come. Thank you for your personal contribution to this work. I am most grateful for your support, hard work and understanding.

There will be a Thanksgiving service next year when we will come together as a parish to dedicate to the Glory of God the new roof and also ourselves to His service in our daily lives.

This is not the only joyful news at this time. These weeks of advent provide all of us with an opportunity to prepare ourselves for the arrival of Jesus Christ, the light of the world. We focus on the joy that comes into our lives through His birth on Christmas day. Now that is good news! May we be messengers of this good news by sharing the true joy of Christ's birth with those in need and with one another. I hope you will be able to join us for our Christmas services.

Caroline, Charles and Henry join me in wishing you God's richest blessing for Christmas and throughout 2022. May we all experience the joy of Christ in our lives and parish.

Yours in His service,



SERVICES IN DECEMBER

Thursday 2nd (Purple)

10.30am Holy Communion followed by refreshments

Sunday 5th (Purple)

8.15am The Second Sunday of Advent
Holy Communion (*Side Chapel*)

Epistle Philippians 1: 3-11 Thanksgiving

Gospel Luke 3: 1-6 The Preaching of John the Baptist

10.30am All Age Worship followed by refreshments

Reading Luke 3: 1-6 The Preaching of John the Baptist

Thursday 9th (Purple)

10.30am Holy Communion followed by refreshments

Sunday 12th (Purple)

8.15am The Third Sunday of Advent
Holy Communion (*Side Chapel*)

Epistle Philippians 4: 4-9 Celebrate in the Lord

Gospel Luke 3: 7-18 John's Summons to Repentance

10.30am Holy Communion

Epistle Philippians 4: 4-9 Celebrate in the Lord

Gospel Luke 3: 7-18 John's Summons to Repentance

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE – AVAILABLE ONLINE ONLY

Thursday 16th (Purple)

10.30am Holy Communion with Carols for Senior Parishioners
followed by seasonal refreshments

Sunday 19th (Purple)

8.15am The Fourth Sunday of Advent
Holy Communion (*Side Chapel*)

Epistle Hebrews 10: 5-10 The Only True Sacrifice

Gospel Luke 1: 39-45 Mary visits Elizabeth

10.30am CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

Reading Luke 10: 25-28 A Lawyer's Question

Thursday 23rd (Purple)

10.30am Holy Communion followed by refreshments

Friday 24th (Purple)

8.00pm Christmas Eve
FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

11.15pm MIDNIGHT EUCHARIST

(White)

Epistle Hebrews 1: 1-4 The Prologue

Gospel John 1: 1-14 The Word Became Flesh

Saturday 25th **Christmas Day** **(White)**
10.15am **Family Communion**

Gospel Luke 2: 8-20 The Birth of Jesus

Sunday 26th **Saint Stephen** **(White)**
8.15am **Holy Communion** *(Side Chapel)*

Epistle Acts 7: 51-60 The Stoning of Stephen

Gospel Matthew 10: 17-22 Sheep among Wolves

10.30am **FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS**

Thursday 30th **(White)**
10.30am **Holy Communion** *followed by refreshments*

Online Services

Each Sunday at 10.30am, there will be a service of Holy Communion on our parish Facebook page (St Columba's, Knock) and on our parish website under "Church Service Recordings" at www.stcolumbas.down.anglican.org

From the Registers

Our Joys

Holy Baptism

Sunday 7th November

Christian Terrence John Kirkwood

PARISH PRAYER

God, our Heavenly Father, make the door of our Church wide enough to welcome all who need human love, fellowship and a Father's care; but narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride and hatred. Here may the tempted find help, the sorrowing receive comfort and the penitent be assured of your mercy. And here may all your children renew their strength and go on their way in hope and joy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Bishop Thomas Ken 1637-1711

SERVICES IN JANUARY

Saturday 1st 10.30am	The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus Holy Communion	(White)
Sunday 2nd 8.15am	The Second Sunday of Christmas Holy Communion <i>(Side Chapel)</i> Epistle Ephesians 1: 3-14 The Choice and the Plan Gospel John 1: 10-18 The Word Became Flesh	(White)
10.30am	All Age Worship Reading John 1: 10-18 The Word Became Flesh	
Thursday 6th 10.30am	The Epiphany Holy Communion <i>followed by refreshments</i>	(White)
Sunday 9th 8.15am	The First Sunday after the Epiphany The Baptism of our Lord Holy Communion <i>(Side Chapel)</i> Epistle Acts 8: 14-19 Things which cannot be bought and sold Gospel Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22 Activity of John the Baptist	(White)
10.30am	Holy Communion Epistle Acts 8: 14-19 Things which cannot be bought and sold Gospel Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22 Activity of John the Baptist	
Thursday 13th 10.30am	Holy Communion <i>followed by refreshments</i>	(White)
Sunday 16th 8.15am	The Second Sunday after the Epiphany Holy Communion <i>(Side Chapel)</i> Epistle 1 Corinthians 12: 1-11 Spiritual Gifts Gospel John 2: 1-11 Jesus changes Water into Wine	(White)
10.30am	Morning Prayer Reading Isaiah 62: 1-5 The Vindication of Zion Reading John 2: 1-11 Jesus changes Water into Wine	
Thursday 20th 10.30am	Holy Communion <i>followed by refreshments</i>	(White)
Sunday 23rd 8.15am	The Third Sunday after the Epiphany Holy Communion <i>(Side Chapel)</i> Epistle 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a The Body and its Members Gospel Luke 4: 14-21 In the Synagogue at Nazareth	(White)

10.30am	Holy Communion	
	Epistle	1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a The Body and its Members
	Gospel	Luke 4: 14-21 In the Synagogue at Nazareth
Thursday 27th	The Conversion of St. Paul (Transferred)	(White)
10.30am	Holy Communion	<i>followed by refreshments</i>
Sunday 30th	The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany	(White)
8.15am	Holy Communion	<i>(Side Chapel)</i>
	Epistle	1 Corinthians 13: 1-13 The Way of Love
	Gospel	Luke 2: 22-40 Simeon and Anna
10.30am	Morning Prayer	
	Reading	Ezekiel 43: 27- 44: 4 Temple Ordinances
	Reading	Luke 2: 22-40 Simeon and Anna

Online Services

The 10.30am service is recorded each Sunday and is available at your convenience under "Church Service Recordings" at www.stcolumbas.down.anglican.org

DECEMBER FLOWER ROTA

Sunday 5th December	Christine Johnston
Sunday 12th December	Pauline Scott
Sunday 19th December	CHRISTMAS FLOWERS
Sunday 26th December	Karen Patterson

JANUARY FLOWER ROTA

Sunday 2nd January	Ladies Guild
Sunday 9th January	Christine Johnston
Sunday 16th January	Launchbury Family
Sunday 23rd January	Linda Mason
Sunday 30th January	Imelda Shephard



Back to Church!

Our parish prayer for 2022 is that every parishioner will have an opportunity to attend any of our church services in St. Columba's, with the confidence that all the Covid-19 Guidelines including the social distancing measures are being strictly adhered to - in fact, we have gone further than Government restrictions have dictated in providing a safe place for worship, with your safety in mind!

Every parishioner is greatly valued, and our parish ministry is weakened when you are not with us! And so, after careful reflection, we have decided to conclude our Facebook services from the end of December. I thank all those who have assisted me with these weekly services since the start of the pandemic: Canon Ken Smyth, Dr. Joe McKee, Brian Clements, The Cantors (*Dr Christine McKee, Lynn Ryan, Lynda Barrett, Ruth McCartney, Dr Morven Bremner and Lauren Cheshire*) together with Mark Ryan, Alan Boyd and Charles Auchmuty for their technical support.

Each Sunday, the 10.30am service is recorded and will be available in audio form on our new parish website, where recorded services can be very quickly and easily accessed. These recordings will be available every Sunday afternoon. Those listening to these weekly services will have the benefit of the full monthly service schedule similar to those physically attending St. Columba's, rather than a shortened form of Holy Communion.

www.stcolumbas.down.anglican.org

So, make this **YOUR** New Year's resolution, and we hope to see you soon!

The Rector

Christingle Service 10.30am Sunday 19th December

Christingle is a joyful celebration that brings families and communities together to share the light of Jesus and spread a message of hope.

Due to its popularity last year, we will be holding a Christingle Service on Sunday 19th December at 10.30am.

We invite **everyone – not just children** - to make their own Christingle at home and bring it along to the service.

Each element of a Christingle has a special meaning and helps to tell the Christian story:



The orange represents the world

The red ribbon (or tape) symbolises the love and blood of Christ

The sweets and dried fruit represent all of God's creations

The lit candle represents Jesus's light in the world, bringing hope to people living in darkness.

We especially look forward to seeing our younger members of the parish bringing along their Christingles!

Church Envelopes Reminder



Please use any church envelopes for 2021 before Sunday 26th December. After this date, monies will be allocated to your 2022 donations. Also, please destroy any old church envelopes after 26th December as your number has probably changed for 2022, and numbers may have been reallocated to other parishioners. This means that your donations may not be allocated to you, and instead recorded under another family's name.

All families should now have received their packets of church envelopes for 2022. If you have not, please contact Karen in the Parish Office on 028 9065 6891 (MONDAY-FRIDAY 9am-1pm).

As with previous years, we have supplied every family with a packet of envelopes, even when they contribute by Standing Order, to allow them to contribute to Lent, Harvest, Building Fund and Christmas Fundraising.

Thank you very much for your generous support of St Columba's.

Karen Patterson

Columba 2021

Here is your starter for ten: Can all you Columbans name the two hymns attributed to St Columba which can be found in the Church Hymnal? If I were there with you, I would offer a prize for the correct answer! They are 'Christ is the world's Redeemer' (257) and 'Alone with none but thee my God' (560). It is the second of these I want to focus on in this article.

I have only heard 'Alone with none but thee my God' sung on two occasions: the funeral of a much beloved parishioner in Cork, called Harriet Wood, which took place in St Fin Barre's Cathedral many years ago; and the recent online seating of archbishop John McDowell in his cathedral in Armagh. But I have come to love it by regularly playing it in my own devotions at home, to the wonderful tune Email Macha, written by Charles Wood for the 1919 edition of the Irish Church Hymnal.

From my explorations on line, it would appear that the Church of Ireland hymnal is the only hymnal in which this marvellous hymn appears, so I trust you will enjoy singing it when Joe McKee puts it into the repertoire soon!!

The only other version of this hymn I know is a track by our good singing friends 'The Priests'. You can find it online, entitled 'King of Kings', and sung to a different, but also beautiful, tune. But it is the powerful, strong, comforting and challenging words we will focus on, and especially those of us who are older! Do read them all. They remind us that there are times when we have only God left, and indeed these are the most important times of our lives. They reveal to us what is temporary and what is lasting. We are on our own with God. But, says Columba, that is all we need:

What need I fear when thou art near

O King of night and day?

I will never forget the people of Maridi diocese, the first time Liz and I visited, saying to us: 'In the West you have God and things. We have only God'. And yet they had such a depth of faith and trust that they, like Columba, discovered that being in the hands of the Sovereign God is the only safe place to be, in this world and the next. The part of this hymn which strikes most forcibly is that it sometimes appears almost fatalistic:

**My destined time is fixed by thee
and death doth know his hour....**

No walls of stone can thee defend

When thou thy messenger dost send....

**We leave our fate with thee, and wait
thy bidding when to go.**

This is not some arbitrary fate, however. This fate is in the hands of the one of whom we can say, in the words of Psalm 31:15

'My times are in your hands.'

It is the peaceful and joyful fate of the child of God who knows the King of Kings as a Heavenly Father, and who gladly yields their life to God's control. Chance is not our future, but the loving, firm hands of God:

Tis not from chance our comfort springs,

Thou art our trust, O King of kings.

Enjoy singing it:

Enjoy even more believing it!

And thank God for St Columba writing it, and for the translation by Anon

Bishop Harold Miller

SUNDAY SCHOOL

5 th December	10.30 am	All Age Worship
12 th December	10.30 am	Sunday School and Creche
19 th December	10.30 am	Christingle Service
26 th December		Holiday
2 nd January	10.30 am	All Age Worship
9 th January	10.30 am	Sunday School and Creche
16 th January	10.30 am	Morning Prayer
23 rd January	10.30 am	Sunday School and Creche
30 th January	10.30 am	Sunday School and Creche

In November we looked at the season of ADVENT and what it really means in the Christian church.

On 12th December we will be making Christmas decorations which will adorn the church over the Christmas period. We will also make Christingles on this date and the children will bring these to the special Christingle service on the 19th December. Adults are also very welcome to bring Christingles to that service.

Preparations are still ongoing for our children's Christmas event on Saturday 4th or Sunday 5th December. We will send out information to all our young families very soon.

Wishing all our children and teachers a very happy Christmas.

Joyce

Thought for the Month



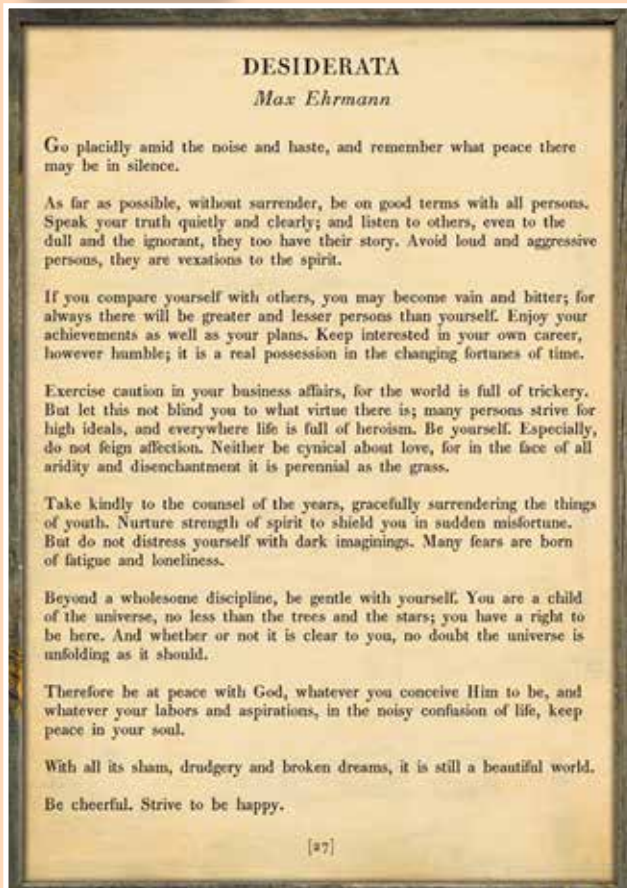
Moira Saunders

I would like to share a poem, Desiderata, with you that I am often encouraged by. I was introduced to it for the first time almost 20 years ago. I think it spoke to my spiritual self as this was before my regular return to church. For a long time I carried a very dog-eared copy in an old purse, although now technology means I always have it to hand on my mobile phone.

At times when overwhelmed by pressures or moments in life I find it a helpful reminder to refocus on priorities.

Over the years I have shared it with many friends and family and I hope it resonates with you as it did me.

Our sincere thanks to Moira for sharing this 'Thought' with us.



The February 'Thought for the Month' will be written by Joan Whiteside.

Desiderata is a poem written by Max Ehrmann. Its theme is 'your lifestyle' which involves loving oneself, being true to oneself, valuing one's employment, being dignified and self-assertive without being disrespectful to others. It is claimed the poem helps you achieve peace and joy as you learn to be gentle with yourself and to be cheerful.



As we draw to the close of 2021, the year which marks the 75th anniversary of St Columba's branch of Mothers' Union, we give thanks for the blessings received through friendships which have developed through our shared membership of this worldwide fellowship. We continued to mark this momentous event as we met for an Afternoon Tea Party at the Secret Garden Restaurant. It was a pleasure to simply sit and chat together again and let the staff take care of us. We are also grateful that the Rector, Canon Smith and Canon Lavery were able to join us. The pandemic has placed limitations on the type of event we could organise to celebrate our 75 years but our joy at reaching this milestone has not been diminished. As a branch we remember with thanks the ladies who over many years have given generously of their time and talents to lead and serve in both this branch and diocese. This tradition continues in the current committee and is embodied by Joyce and Yvonne, who as office bearers, have implemented changes in administration caused by the pandemic. They have done so with grace and humour ensuring that we have met all our commitments, many thanks to you all.

Things are moving cautiously forward in the Diocese with a limited number of events being organised to enable us to meet safely. We will keep you informed as details become available.

Yvonne has sent £200 to the Overseas Fund on your behalf. She will be happy to accept and forward any additional donations.

Our next meeting is in the parish hall on Tuesday 7th December 8.00pm and will have a Christmas theme. The January meeting is on Tuesday 4th January 8.00pm in the parish hall.

Have a blessed Christmas and peaceful new year.

Barbara

DECORATING OUR CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS



Saturday 18th December. Between 10.00am and 4.00pm, a limited number of volunteers are sought to assist with decorating the church for Christmas. There is no requirement for flower arranging experience and time slots will be allocated in advance.

If you are willing to help, please contact

Patricia – 07470 474 527. Thank you.

Christmas Card 2021

This year, our parish Christmas card depicts a beautiful Christmas rose, with the words "Joy to the world".

"Joy to the World" is a famous Christmas hymn written in 1719 by Isaac Watts, an English minister and hymn writer, and it is based on Psalm 98 of the Bible, as well as extracts from Psalm 96 and the book of Genesis. It writes about heaven and earth rejoicing at the coming of the King.

Helleborus Niger, commonly called the Christmas Rose, is a very hardy evergreen plant which flowers at a time when many others have stopped blooming. Despite its name, it is not actually a rose - it is part of the buttercup family and adds a beautiful colour to the garden from mid-winter to spring.

The legend of the Christmas Rose is a story of how Madelon, a young, poor, female shepherd was tending her sheep on a cold snowy night and saw the three wise men bringing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to the baby Jesus. She was so sad because she did not have a gift for the baby, not even a simple flower. An angel heard her crying and brushed away the snow to reveal a beautiful white flower with tips of pink, our Christmas rose, a gift for her to give to the baby Jesus. The angel told her that the flower represented purity, and it was the greatest gift she could give. Rejoicing, she presented it to baby Jesus, and this flower has been a symbol of Epiphany ever since.

I hope that this card brings joy into your home as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, our Lord, and that you can spread joy to friends and family around the world with this thought-provoking depiction.

Our parish Christmas card has been designed by Betty Gregory whose inspirational design was selected from a beautiful range of cards from the Art Club. I thank everyone in the Art Club who submitted designs for consideration.



My Pills

A row of bottles on my shelf
Caused me to analyse myself
One yellow pill I have to pop
Goes to my heart so it won't stop
The purple pill goes to my brain
And tells me that I have no pain
The capsules tell me not to wheeze
Or cough or choke or even sneeze
The red ones, smallest of them all,

Go to my blood so I won't fall
The orange ones, so big and bright,
Prevent my legs cramp in the night
Such an array of brilliant pills
Helping to cure all kinds of ills
But what I'd really like to know
Is what tells each one where to go?

Maureen Irwin

Prayers for your thoughts and comfort



December, as the name suggests, was the tenth month of the year which began in March, in the ancient Roman calendar. It was replaced by the Julian calendar in the days of Julius Caesar about the time of Christ. That was replaced in the Western world by the Gregorian calendar in 1752, which we use today. The Anglo Saxons referred to December-January as 'Yule.'

January is named after the Roman god, Janus.

For a great many people, December is associated with Christmas, while January marks the beginning of a new calendar year.

Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ in December. His birth brought 'Joy to the World.' The first of the prayers in this issue reflects that theme.

Prayer : Joy to the World

Author- Jean van de Laar

It may seem wrong in a world of grief to choose to live in joy. It may seem cruel in a world of suffering and injustice to speak of light and celebration. But you have come, Lord, to bring joy to our grief and light into our darkness, and it is an act of healing and faith to embrace the joy we offer.

Joy to the world. The Lord is come! Hallelujah!

A Christmas prayer (1)

Author- Robert Louis Stevenson

God our Father, help us to reflect daily on the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the joy of the shepherds and the worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good intentions with every greeting. May Christmas make us happy to be your children and, in all things, may we be forgiving and forgiven. **Amen**

A Christmas prayer (2)

Author 20th Century American Theologian

Lord God, when the songs of Christmas joy are stilled: when the star in the sky is gone: when the kings and princes have returned home: when the shepherds are back with their flocks, then may the work of Christmas begin which is to find the lost: to heal the broken in spirit: to feed the hungry: to release the oppressed: to rebuild the nations: to bring peace among all people, and to radiate the Light of Christ every day, in every way, in all that we do and say. That is when the work of Christmas begins, with you help. **Amen**

A Christmas prayer (3)

Help us Lord, to understand and share with our hearts and minds in the profound mystery of Christmas. We live in a fearful and divided world which seeks your peace and which you alone can give us. At moments when we walk in darkness, help us to see that great light which enlightens everyone who comes into the world. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

A Christmas prayer for Children

Dear God, thank you for the most special person who ever lived – Jesus. Thank you for sending him to us and teaching us how we should live. Thank you for our families and friends. We know that some people will feel sad at Christmas. Please help them to know your love for them, today, and every day. **Amen**

A prayer for Family and Friends

God our Father, we thank you for our homes, our families and our friends: for laughter and sorrow shared: for the knowledge of your presence in good times and bad. As we think of our loved ones nearby and in other places and countries who are unable to be with us at Christmas, bind us together in love in your name. **Amen**

In the next two months we will celebrate and recall some special days and occasions in the Christian year. The following prayers may remind you of some dates.

Advent season (commencing on 28th November)

O God our Father, as we prepare to celebrate the birthday of Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born as a tiny baby in weakness and humility, may we be reminded that one day He will come in power and glory when all things will be subject to Him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit. One God, world without end. **Amen**

St. Stephen's day 26th December

Read Acts 7

Lord Jesus, help us by your grace, and the example of your first martyr, Stephen, to be fearless in our witness before a hostile world and to live and die in our faith, for the glory of your name. **Amen**

St. John the Evangelist – 27th December Thank God for St. John's Gospel

Eternal God, who through the witness of the apostle and evangelist St. John, revealed the mystery of the Word made flesh. Grant that we, who rejoice in your love, may walk in the light of your truth, and be partakers of the life eternal, by faith in your Son, Jesus Christ. **Amen**

The Innocent's day 28th December

Read St. Luke 2:16

Heavenly Father, on a day when we remember the cruelty and anger of Herod, enable us to understand and make sense of all children who suffer undeservedly, and through us free the world from cruelty and oppression, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

New Year's day

The Circumcision of Christ

Lord Jesus as we recall the circumcision and your naming on the 8th, day, may we always honour your name and hope that in you is our salvation. **Amen**

The Epiphany season which commences on 6th January

O God, who by a star guided the wise men to the worship of Jesus. We ask you to lead the wise and the great of every land that they may recognise His significance and work to bring about peace and goodwill amongst all peoples. We ask this in His name. **Amen**

The Conversion of St. Paul 25th January

Read Acts 9 verses 1 to 9

Lord, as we recall today the conversion of St. Paul, we thank you for calling him, the enemy and persecutor of the church, to be your dedicated servant and apostle. Grant that we may know the same grace in our lives and like him never be ashamed of the gospel. We ask this in your name, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Christian Unity Week mid-January

Heavenly Father, in whose eyes the church is one in spite of human prejudice and intolerance. Give to us your disciples such regret for our divisions, such love for one another and such devotion to your service, that we may find again our unity in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Our Parish

As the 125th anniversary of the building of St. Columba's is marked and we celebrate the completion of the restoration of the church roof, we thank you for all who served you faithfully in the intervening years and also those who have through their faithfulness and commitment brought the recent work to a successful conclusion. Bless our Rector and all who contribute to the life of our parish and make us true to our calling as fellow workers with Christ in His mission to the world, for the glory of His name. **Amen**

Concluding Prayer

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Mary and Joseph, and the peace of the Christ child, be with all, this Christmas, including the sick, the lonely and the bereaved and may the blessing of God be with all for whom we pray now, and in the days ahead. **Amen**

The Roof, Almost Finished

First Steps for the Heritage Society

At the time of writing (9th November), the re-roofing of church has been completed. All elevations have been stripped, repaired, re-felted and re-slatted. The rainwater goods and perished stonework have been replaced. The scaffolding has been removed and most of the carpark returned to its intended use.

Two phases of the project remain to be completed: groundworks/siteworks and internal repair and decoration.

During November, the focus will be on groundworks and siteworks. The church lawn will be removed. The area will be excavated to enable a hard-standing to be established. This will ensure that all elevations of the new roof can, in future, be accessed by a "cherry-picker" high-access machine for cleaning and maintenance. This had been a major drawback of the old lawn – it would not support such equipment. The new hard-standing will be covered in a mesh and topsoil and planted with grass – the visual appearance and utility of a lawn will be restored. All other areas of the site will be cleared, cleaned and returned to us in good condition.

Internal repair and decoration is another matter. The deterioration of the old roof covering, over the years, resulted in many walls being saturated with water. In some cases, this resulted in serious damage to the internal plasterwork and decoration. The impact is particularly visible in the transepts, as the photograph below shows.

As part of the re-roofing project, all such areas have been accessed with high-level scaffolding and tap-tested to determine the extent of the damage. Loose and damaged plaster has been removed. Where possible, repairs have been carried out. The purpose of this work was two-fold: to ensure the safety of those using the building; and, to determine the extent of future refurbishment needed.

As so many of the walls are saturated, permanent repairs and redecoration are not possible. Now that the building is water-tight again, the walls will be able to dry out. This will take 18-24 months. Once we are confident that this is the case, another project can be undertaken to replaster the effected areas. The Select Vestry will assess the extent to which redecoration takes place at this time. The work of maintaining an old building is never done.



We have had no accidents or health and safety issues so far. I hope our good fortune continues.

Brian Acheson

Christmas reflection-Canon Walter Lavery

For many, Christmas means a time for family gatherings. Our experience is meeting together for the Christmas dinner at about 3-00pm. after church services. There are usually eleven of us around the table. Normally the female company, clad in uniform festive aprons which are homemade, would keep an attentive eye on the cooking while the men set the table and keep the excited children, who want to play with their new toys and games all at once amused! Perhaps next year we might try the kitchen!!!

The house family.

Yes, it is a time for household families to be together; especially members living away from home and in particular those members looking forward to being together for the first time since the pandemic began.

However, we also pause to remember those whose family circle has grown very small and who may be spending Christmas alone with very little festive food in the house. There will also be those who are self-isolating either through their own wish or have to do so if having just been diagnosed with COVID-19. We need to remember as well that many families in our society will not be able to afford the seasonal spread this year and will eat a simple meal

The church family.

As Christian people, we will not want to neglect our meeting together at church services. The Pandemic has taught us to appreciate our church buildings so much more after two lengthy lockdown periods. How we have missed worshipping together as the family of St. Columba! The on-line services have been a blessing; but surely it is so much better to be able to come together! Yes of course there are still restrictions surrounding COVID-19 and we will have to work with them for some time to come. However, we can still hope to gather to sing our carols and hear the familiar bible readings of Christmas. As we join together in our church family there will be a great sense of joy and comfort which provide us with that necessary feeling of belonging

The family of God's Children

The message of the gospel accounts and the letters of St. Paul the apostle are very clear. If we adhere to the faith once delivered to the saints, then through the sacrifice of Christ on the cross we rest in the promise that we have become his children and members of his family. The Christmas gospel reminds us: "To all who receive him, who believed in his Name, he gave power to become children of God." (John 1:12). He actually becomes our Father. What a powerful thought that no other religion in the world offers! In addition to that St. Paul declares that we are "heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ" (Romans 8:17) When Jesus was informed that his family was looking for him, he said "Hear are my mother and brothers! For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother" (Matthew 12:50)

All this is possible because "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son"
(John3:16)

This Christmas, let us take time to rejoice with our home family, our church family and, in particular, as a beloved member of God's own family and a joint-heir of his kingdom.

A very happy Christmas and a peaceful new year to you and yours.

Art Club

We have been unable to meet for almost two years but we hope that, subject to things beginning to improve, we may be able to return in the New Year.

Club members met recently at the museum to view the Royal Ulster Academy exhibition (which runs until 2nd January 2022) and it was lovely to see everybody after such a long time. During our enforced absence, due to Covid, Roy Williamson encouraged us to keep painting and showed our results online in a project called The Flying Colours Painting Challenge. We mounted an exhibition, in June, on the life of St Columba to honour the church's 125th anniversary and this exhibition will be repeated on Sunday 5th December 2021 to celebrate the 1500th anniversary of his birth. Designs for the parish Christmas card have also been produced. So we have done a little bit but all agree that we need to get back to the camaraderie of our meetings to inspire us to start painting regularly.

Our Christmas lunch, which had to be cancelled last year, will be on Thursday 2nd December at the Royal North of Ireland Yacht club at Cultra.

Vida



BIBLE STUDY

The Bible Study group will recommence on Wednesday 12th January 2022 at 2.30pm.

Eileen

My quizzing experience on Mastermind

Why would you want to do that? This is a question I have been asked quite often following my participation in, to date, three television quiz programmes. I enjoy the challenge of doing something new and different and the opportunity to be on television in a show which has popular appeal. Geoff and myself are regular viewers of many of the quiz shows on the different channels.

I suppose for all quizzers the ultimate goal is 'Mastermind'. It has been on our screens for over 30 years and many of the past winners have gone on to appear as 'experts' on other programmes, notably 'The Chase' and 'Eggheads'.

Early last year I decided to apply, without any great expectation of being accepted, I might add. The most daunting thing on the application form was having to list five subjects, three of which could be your specialist subject. However, to my great surprise I was called for an audition at the production company's offices at Weaver's Court. Following some more 'form filling' and an interview with all the usual personal questions the five of us who were there were asked some general knowledge questions. A few days later I received a call telling me I had been selected as a reserve contestant. The series is recorded here in Belfast, as it has been for the past three series, so it was felt necessary to have 'back-up' contestants locally who could fill in quickly in the event of a 'no-show', for whatever reason, by a contestant from the mainland. My three subjects, one for each stage of the series (should I progress) were decided and I awaited a call.

Then the pandemic arrived! As the first victims of Covid 19 were predominantly in the older age group the Company insurers were not prepared to cover my appearance. A promise was given that if circumstances allowed I would be given first refusal when the next series was planned. Good as their word, I was asked along for the 2021/22 series. Everything happened very quickly after that – from the first call until the recording was a matter of four weeks.

I had to report to the Maldon Hotel in Brunswick St at 08.30 on 7th July. The other contestants who had travelled from various parts of the UK had stayed overnight or flown in that morning. We went through the legal business of contracts etc. and were briefed on how the day would go. Three programmes per day were recorded. Our clothes (three different outfits) were taken away to the studios for camera testing and then the four contestants for the first recording, which included me, walked around the corner to the studios. On arrival we were shown to separate dressing rooms and waited for a call to 'make-up'. On returning, the clothes chosen for me were in the room and it was time to change before going into the darkened studio and be seated in our allocated places. Camera checks were done, the new quizmaster, Clive Myrie came in and suddenly the dreaded music began. I was third in the line-up and got through my specialised subject – Sir Roger Moore – quite easily with only two passes. The recording took about 50 mins and we

were then quickly ushered out to collect our belongings and leave the premises. The whole process was complete in four hours!

I was very surprised to receive a call just five weeks later giving a transmission date for 23rd August – first of the new series. I think I have fulfilled my quizzing ambitions for now - but you never know!

Eleanor Launchbury

MUMS AND TOTS

It is our intention to welcome our Mums and Tots back to St Columba's on Friday 7th January (10.00 - 11.45), covid restrictions permitting. We will have to make a few changes to our routine to ensure safety for everyone.

You will find more information on our church website in December :
www.stcolumbas.down.anglican.org

St. Columbas, Knock, Belfast – Anglican community in East Belfast

'I hope our website will provide you with a 'taster' of our parish life whether you are a parishioner or consider joining St Columbas. St Columbas is a thriving, friendly parish with a strong musical tradition. There are plenty of activities and opportunities for all ages.

Please tell any friends / neighbours with young babies / toddlers about our group.

They will be ensured of a warm welcome.

Joyce

A Christmas Reflection - Canon Ken Smyth

Some years ago I realised a long-term ambition to visit Iceland with my wife, Jenny. The time chosen was deliberate – the Summer Solstice which falls on 21st June. It is a fascinating country containing some of the great geological wonders of the world. As a cockney from London might say when referring to some of his neighbours, it is full of geysers!! A highlight for me, however, was the fact that it never darkens completely in mid-summer. To prove that fact, I crept out of our hotel in Reykjavik at 3.00am and walked to the local park where I sat on a bench and read the paper. When I arrived back in our room two hours later, with a look similar to the cat who had just got the cream, Jenny was suggesting that I might have temporarily taken leave of my senses.

For me, it is hard to beat the long days of summer. This year, on the summer solstice, we stood in a harbour in County Clare watching the sun sinking into the Atlantic Ocean at 10.20pm. What an experience!

As you read this, we are less than four weeks away from the Winter Solstice on 21st December. As you might deduce, it is not my favourite time of the year. It is dark when we get up in the morning and dark in the evening before many people return from work. Nature seems to have gone to sleep while the gardens are dead!

In pre-Christian times, the pagan god, Sol Invictus was prayed to by the people in mid-winter. They believed that Sol Invictus would rise again and warm the earth, transforming darkness into light.

While we do not know the precise date of the birth of Jesus, it is no accident that the Christian church celebrates His birth, as one who is the true light that comes into the world, within a few days of the Winter Solstice. He is not the sun god, but He IS the Son of God. The prophet Isaiah predicted that on those who lived in a land of darkness a light would shine!

In our world, in every age, there will be a struggle between darkness and light. That can apply at a personal level and also globally, as we reflect on tragic circumstances that contribute to war and civil strife. The world has experienced its share of darkness since the current pandemic struck almost two years ago.

The story of the birth of Jesus resonates with the story of humanity at its darkest hour. The infant Jesus and family had to flee the wrath of someone else's quarrels.

Christians, and many non-believers, proclaim at Christmas the universal message of the need for peace on earth. I'm convinced that each of us has a

responsibility to create some of that peace in our lives, not least in our efforts to create a more just and equitable society. Those are the hopes and fears that are met in us in the dark days and nights of winter.

May you celebrate the birthday of the Prince of Peace, whatever your circumstances may be, in the knowledge that Jesus is the Light of the World.

Wishing you a Happy Christmas and Hopeful New Year.

Belfast in Bloom

Well done to Eleanor Launchbury.....

Eleanor was surprised, first of all, to hear that she had been nominated in the category of Best Front Garden in the Belfast in Bloom 2021 Awards and then again to be told that she had been awarded runner-up in the East Belfast section.

Many congratulations.



CHURCH HALL CLEANING ROTA

Saturday 8th January

Isobel McDowell and Nan Hillier

Saturday 22nd January

Patricia and Adrian Clements

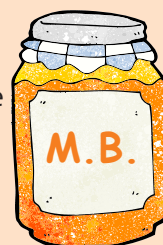
Saturday 5th February

Christine and Ian Johnston

MARMALADE

A big thank you to all who have supported me in marmalade sales. To date £1040 has been raised.
Please feel free to phone for collection or delivery.

Maureen Beckwith. 9048 6622.



Railway and Model Club

Well, as promised last month, here is a view of Ian's shunting yardall in 'n' gauge. Seven lines all coming from one main line and all are controlled remotely from one little electronic "map". Each one of the points is electrically powered, so no big fingers are needed. All this designed, built, wired, tested, and scenery added etc., by our "Technical Director"...we just call him Big Ian from Comber. Our Club has eight members. Five are from our own parish, one from Comber, one from Island Magee, and one from Coleraine. The main objectives are fellowship and friendship. Model railway building is a wonderful way of achieving these objectives and "the banter is great".

We are now approaching another year and we pray it will be easier than the last two. None of our club efforts would be possible without our very supportive Rector and vestry, and we offer our heartfelt thanks to all of them.

So, from the Railway and Model Club members, we wish everyone a blessed, happy and safe Christmas, and do not forget to keep 'er Rollin'.

David (Rockie)



FEBRUARY PARISH MAGAZINE

Any articles or photographs for publication in the **February** parish magazine should be handed or emailed to the editor, **Billy McAlpine**, by **Wednesday, 12th January**.

His contact details are:-

10 Old Quay Court, Holywood BT18 0HT
Tel: **9042 4390** Email: **colmaged@outlook.com**

We all love to see photographs of people enjoying our Church activities. So we can all benefit fully from this and for reproduction purposes, it is very important that photographs are clear and in focus.

Many thanks

THEOLOGICAL STUDENT PLACEMENT

Hello parishioners of St Columba's,



My name is Kyle Flanigan and I look forward to joining with you in Sunday worship from mid-November until the end of January. I will be joining with you as part of a placement organised with Canon Auchmuty and the Church of Ireland Theological Institute, where I am currently studying part-time towards ordination. I hope to learn more about your parish life over the coming weeks, and I am very thankful to Canon Auchmuty and you for having me.

A little bit about me: I grew up in a small village not too far from St Columba's, called Crossnacreevy, and studied Finance at Queen's University Belfast. Since then I have had the privilege of living and working in a number of cities across the world, including London and New York City, before I moved back to Belfast in 2016. Presently I work at the Port of Belfast and have another half (or perhaps I should say better half) by the name of Anna, who is training to be a doctor. I worship at Willowfield parish church where I also serve as the Honorary Secretary of the Select Vestry, and it was there during our recent vacancy that Canon Auchmuty and I first crossed paths.

Please do come and say hello to me if you have the opportunity over the coming Sundays, and I look forward to meeting and worshipping with you!

Kyle Flanigan

The Rector writes...It is a great joy that Kyle has started his ten week placement in St. Columba's as part of his training for ordination. I had the opportunity of experiencing his conscientious approach to parish work during the vacancy in Willowfield parish where Kyle serves as Honorary Secretary of the Select Vestry. In my wider diocesan responsibilities as Area Dean of Lagan I valued his support and great attention to detail which assisted me at the Easter General Vestry meetings. During his placement with us Kyle will be assisting with our Sunday services which will include preaching. I am also delighted that Anna is accompanying Kyle during these weeks. Please remember them in your prayers and ensure that they experience many of the friendly characteristics of St. Columba's during these weeks.

Larder at St Christopher's EAST BELFAST'S FOOD BANK AN END OF YEAR UPDATE

The parishioners of St Columba's have been supporting The Larder for many years. Our support has increased significantly as a response to the COVID-19 crisis. This is a short update.

St Columba's cash donations

The total cash donation from St Columba's parishioners, since March 2020, is now almost £17,500. Therefore, we continue with a monthly "run rate" during the pandemic of giving about £1,000 per month to our local food bank.

Meal delivery and volunteers

A group of our parishioners have answered the call from the Larder to support clients who are in particular need. Since October 2020, this team has been preparing and freezing meals. Every other Friday they make deliveries to referred clients who are in palliative care, undergoing cancer treatment or suffering from chronic conditions.

I attended the Mother's Union Commencement Service in October and spoke about the meal delivery service. Since then, we have an influx of new volunteers. Currently, 13 parishioners are involved in this work.

We have 7 volunteers cooking meals: Liz McGaughey, Caroline Dunbar, Barbara Laverty, Caroline Auchmuty, Joyce Stevenson, Jenny Smyth and Alison Acheson.

Fortnightly delivery runs are made by three teams: Stephen and Janet McConkey; Colin and Rosemary Allister; and, Liz McGaughey and myself.

Over the last year we have cooked and delivered nearly 1,800 meals to 18 families.

Please contact me if you would like to get involved.

What is The Larder?

Operating from St Christopher's Church of Ireland church on Mersey Street, The Larder is the main food bank provider in east Belfast.

Financial support

To support the work of The Larder financially, please send a cheque, payable to “**Boring Wells**”, to me at Fernbank, 117 Downshire Road, Holywood, BT18 9LZ.

Parishioners who wish to gift aid their donations, should contact our parish secretary, Karen Patterson (9065 6891, office.knock@down.anglican.org) to receive the necessary form.

Thank you all for the support you have been giving.

Brian Acheson (07766 057473)

PAUSE

Summer 2021 is a distant memory! Autumn has almost gone. In a short time the leaves will have disappeared as the trees prepare for winter. Hopefully you are reading this on or before the first Sunday of Advent, when we prepare for Christmas day.

It has been a very unusual year for all of us. Now, however, we are able to return cautiously to a more social life.

PAUSE made a tentative return in September and has been meeting monthly since then. The numbers have been increasing gradually. There were 24 parishioners and friends at the Stormont Hotel this morning.

We are returning to the Stormont Hotel on **TUESDAY 14th DECEMBER 2021** and on **TUESDAY 11th JANUARY 2022** at 10.30am. There will be filter coffee, tea and scones. We will be following all the Covid- 19 guidelines which are relevant at that time.

If you are free do come along. It is a very informal occasion and I do not know who will turn up. All are welcome!

If you require further details or help with transport please contact me.

Eileen (9020 3684).

THE COLUMBAN

We are very fortunate to have an excellent parish magazine in St. Columba's which keeps us all fully informed of our church services and activities. There is a rich diversity of articles and photographs covering many different subjects. The Columban provides effective parish information for us all in a professionally produced publication.

As we approach the end of this calendar year I thank our hard working and conscientious editor, Billy McAlpine for all his support. As Rector I am deeply conscious of the many hours Billy generously allocates to the Columban each month collating and editing all the various articles.

I thank Mike Fee, the Graphic Designer at Minprint for all his professional skills and advice preparing the draft copy of each edition for Billy to sign off before printing. His graphic art greatly enhances the articles. Billy and Mike successfully adjusted to new working practices in line with the Covid-19 Guidelines.

I also thank the Parish Administrator, Karen Patterson for all her creative work each month drafting and preparing articles which is of great assistance to me.

I wish Billy, Mike and Karen a well-deserved rest over Christmas and every blessing in their work throughout 2022.

The Rector



Victor Stacey

The remains of the Very Reverend Victor Stacey will be interred in St Patrick's Cathedral Dublin after the morning service (11.15) on Sunday 30th January 2022.

Victor passed away on the 30th December 2020, at the age of 76, in Brabazon House, Sandymount after a long illness. His funeral in January 2021 was very much limited by covid restrictions.

Victor was ordained a deacon in 1972 and priested the following year. He served his second curacy in St Columba's from 1976 to 1979. He prepared many young people for confirmation, started a youth club, and made life-long friends while in our parish.

In February 2012, Victor was elected as Dean of St Patrick's – the National Cathedral. He will be remembered with great respect and fondness throughout the Church of Ireland.

What does New Year mean to you?

There are many weird and wonderful ways to start the New Year with a bang – literally! In the UK, we tend to celebrate the New Year with parties, drinks, fireworks and of course Big Ben in London chiming at midnight. Around the world though, some countries have some very different customs!

In Buddhist temples in Japan, the bells are sounded 108 times to ward off the 108 evil spirits which they believe dwell within people.

In Russia, at midnight people write down a wish on a piece of paper, then set fire to it and drop the paper in their champagne, which must be consumed by 12.01am for the wish to come true.

In Thailand, people throw water on others and smear beige-coloured talc on random people. Throwing water originated as a way of paying respect, and the talc is meant as a blessing for the New Year.

In Puerto Rico it is traditional to fill your pots and pans with water and then throw the contents out of your front door at midnight.

In Columbia, it is customary to stroll around on New Year's Day with an empty suitcase to enjoy a year of travel!

In Denmark it is traditional to grab your old plates and hurl them at the front door of anyone you want to have good luck for the year ahead.

In Spain, it is customary to eat 12 grapes – one at each stroke of the clock at midnight on New Year's Eve. Each grape represents good luck for one month of the coming year.

In Greece, an onion is traditionally hung on the front door of homes on New Year's Eve as a symbol of rebirth in the New Year. On New Year's Day, parents wake their children by tapping them on the head with the onion.

Armenians conduct a Ritual of Fire where all troubles related to the previous year are symbolically burnt.

In South Africa, be careful! There is an old tradition of ridding oneself of unwanted household items by chucking them out the window!

In Chile, New Year's Eve masses are held not at church, but in cemeteries. This allows for people to sit with their deceased family members and include them in the New Year's Eve festivities.

In Turkey, it is considered good luck to sprinkle salt on your doorstep as soon as the clock strikes midnight on New Year's Day, to promote both peace and prosperity throughout the new year.

So however you decide to mark the New Year, may you all have a peaceful and happy 2022! **Karen Patterson**

Birth of Jesus Foretold Word Search



Read the story below. Find and circle the words that are **underlined**. The words can appear in any direction: horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backwards.

Birth of Jesus Foretold - Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month after Elizabeth had become pregnant, **God** sent the angel **Gabriel** to **Nazareth**, a town in **Galilee**. He was sent to a virgin. The girl was **engaged** to a man named **Joseph**. He came from the family line of David. The virgin's name was **Mary**. The angel greeted her and said, "The Lord has **blessed** you in a **special** way. He is with you."

Mary was very upset because of his words. She wondered what kind of **greeting** this could be. But the **angel** said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary. God is very pleased with you. You will become pregnant and give **birth** to a **son**. You must call him **Jesus**. He will be **great** and will be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make him a king like his father **David** of long ago. The Son of the Most High God will **rule** forever over his people. They are from the family line of Jacob. That **kingdom** will never end."

"How can this happen?" Mary asked the angel. "I am a **virgin**."

The angel answered, "The **Holy Spirit** will come to you. The **power** of the Most High God will cover you. So the holy one that is born will be called the Son of God. Your relative **Elizabeth** will have a child even though she is old. People thought she could not have **children**. But she has been pregnant for six months now. That's because what God says will always come **true**."

"I serve the Lord," Mary **answered**. "May it happen to me just as you said it would." Then the angel left her.



Why not colour in
this Angel?

PARISH ORGANISATIONS

New members are always welcome at any of our organisations!


Sunday	Sunday School <i>Bubbles (3-5 years)</i> <i>Splash (5-8 years)</i> <i>X-treme (8-11 years)</i> <i>The Grid (11-14 years)</i>	2 nd , 4 th and 5 th Sundays 10.30am	Superintendent: Joyce Stevenson 9058 3381
	Crèche	2 nd , 4 th and 5 th Sundays	Christine Johnston 07811 599291
Monday	Craft and Hobby Circle	1 st and 3 rd Monday each month 10.30am	Carol Willis 9079 9997
	Ladies Bowling	2.00pm	Helen Coates 9065 8977
	MU Afternoon Group	2 nd Monday each month 2.30pm	Joy Montgomery 9029 5427
	Mens' Club	7.30pm	John Robb 9058 1438
Tuesday	Ladies Badminton	10.30am	Gillian Popplestone 9080 3799
	Ladies Badminton	2.00pm	Anne Clarke 9065 1412
	Activity Group	Except 1 st Tuesday 7.30pm	Maureen Irwin 9079 5155
	Mothers' Union	1 st Tuesday each month 8.00pm	Barbara Lavery 9573 8743
Wednesday	Bible Study Group	2.30pm - 4.00pm	Eileen Anderson 9020 3684
	Railway and Model Club	7.00pm	David Beattie 9028 5868
	Ladies Guild	3 rd Wednesday each month 7.45pm	Jennifer Beattie, 9028 5868
Thursday	Art Club	9.30am	Billy Nelson 9048 3889
	Choir	7.30pm	Dr Joe McKee 07976 294574
Friday	Mums and Tots	10.00am	Joyce Stevenson, 9058 3381
Bi-monthly	Pause	As arranged	Eileen Anderson 9020 3684
Monthly	Youth Etc. <i>(11-15 years)</i>	As arranged	Jonathan Martin, 07980 885990
	Young Families	Social events as arranged	Rachel Stewart 07812 247343

Requests for the occasional use of the church halls must be submitted to the Premise's Convenor.

WHO'S WHO IN ST. COLUMBAS

Parish website: www.stcolumbas.down.anglican.org

Rector	The Reverend Chancellor John R Auchmuty	St. Columba's Rectory 29 Kings Road BT5 6JG 028 9047 1514 rectorknock@down.anglican.org
Assistant Priests	The Reverend Canon Ken Smyth	3 Mount Royal Bangor BT20 3BG 028 9145 8706
	The Reverend Canon Walter Lavery	6 Hanwood Heights Dundonald BT16 1XU 028 9573 8743
Diocesan Lay Reader	Karen McAlpine	readercolumba@gmail.com
Rector's Churchwarden	Martin Moore	07964 422574
People's Churchwarden	Scott Rutherford	07896 835979
Rector's Glebewarden	Jim Stevenson	028 9058 3381 07973 392448
People's Glebewarden	David Kelly	028 9079 6658
Honorary Sexton	John Proctor	028 9087 0526 07989 469773
Select Vestry	Rector, Churchwardens, Glebewardens, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Assistant Honorary Treasurer, Brian Acheson, Suzanne Allen, Richard Caldwell, Andrew Hirst, Ian Johnston, John Kerr, Jayne Martin, Jonathan Stewart, Linda Wilson	
Honorary Secretary	John Macpherson	10 Sandhill Gardens BT5 6FF 028 9028 2076 jdmacpherson@hotmail.com
Honorary Treasurer	Gillian Sadlier	548 Upper Newtownards Road BT4 3HE sadliergillian@gmail.com
Assistant Honorary Treasurer	Victor Dukelow	028 9029 0625

Gift Aid Secretary	Jack Dunlop	028 9065 4103
Parochial Nominators	Victor Dukelow, Patrick Good, Elizabeth Leonard, Linda Wilson	
Diocesan Synod members	Patrick Good, Elizabeth Leonard Hollie Wilson (under 30)	
Organist and Choral Director	Dr Joe McKee	07976 294574
Assistant Organist	Brian Clements	028 9079 3641
Sidesperson's rota Co-ordinator	Rosemary Coffey	028 9754 2198
Magazine Editor	Billy McAlpine	028 9042 4390 colmaged@outlook.com
Parish Webmaster	Ivan Roche	028 9514 0141 ivan.roche@me.com
C of I Gazette Distributor	Moranne Noad	028 9079 3704
Bible Reading Fellowship notes	Joan Madill	028 9065 6591
Church flowers	Eleanor Launchbury	028 9028 1204
Premise's Convenor	Stewart Beckwith	028 9048 6622
Crucifer	Mark Lavery	028 9573 8743
Parish Office Administrator/ Financial Giving Secretary	Karen Patterson Office hours: Monday to Friday 9.00am-1.00pm	 028 9065 6891 office.knock@down.anglican.org



CHURCH CAR PARKING

When parking to go to church services or Parish Organisations please be sensitive to the residents in the local community by taking care not to block entrances or pavements.

Thank you!



Facebook

St Columba's Knock is now on Facebook. **'Like'** our page to see updates on events, services and photos.

Search coiknock on Facebook or Messenger to find us easily.

For those who are new to St Columba's and would like more information about the life and membership of the parish, please give your name and phone number to our Churchwardens or contact the Parish Office during office hours Monday-Friday, 9.00am-1.00pm on 028 9065 6891.

Pastoral Care: If anyone has a pastoral concern and would like to speak to someone, please contact the Rector (028 9047 1514) or Canon Ken Smyth (028 9145 8706).

SAFEGUARDING TRUST

The Rector, Select Vestry and parish leaders are committed to upholding good practice in the parish's ministry with children and young people. Should you have cause for concern or suspicion regarding child welfare in the parish, please contact:

The Rector028 9047 1514

Patrick Good028 9065 6908

Elizabeth Leonard028 9065 3162

