

The Columban

ST. COLUMBA'S CHURCH, KNOCK, MARCH 2022



The latest parish news, events and notices.



Dear Parishioner,

SPRING

The signs of Spring are providing much needed encouragement and blessings to us during these days. **It is a real joy to see the daffodils, snowdrops and crocuses brightening up our gardens as the days lengthen.** This is all good news, and it lifts our spirits after the challenges of past months. These are real gifts from God to us!

As our gardens are displaying such colour and new growth so in this Spring season, we need to ensure that St. Columba's does likewise. While we must be vigilant as the pandemic has not gone away, we have fully embraced the opportunities of the recent easing of restrictions. We have witnessed the welcome return of Crèche and Sunday School, together with some of our popular parish activities.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU

During this Spring season we can ensure that St. Columba's grows and strengthens to meet future opportunities and challenges with confidence. **As a valued member of our church, you have an important contribution to make to St. Columba's as we slowly and cautiously emerge from the shadow of the pandemic.** Your church needs you as we move forward in creative ways in our service to God and one another.

YOUR RESPONSE

What is your response to this fresh Spring opportunity for a new season of worship and parish activities? **Should you not have been in St. Columba's for some time, I am inviting you to get going again by attending church in person. You have been greatly missed! A very warm welcome awaits you on your return.** While this will require energy and focus, we are fortunate

to have a large church building with plenty of room for social distancing and good ventilation. There is excellent fellowship being safely expressed to one another, however this is weakened by your absence.

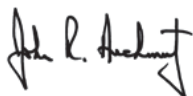
BACK TO CHURCH INITIATIVE

I am reintroducing the popular “Back to Church” initiative this Springtime in St. Columba’s. You will be familiar with it! All that is required is that you simply encourage one another back to church during these weeks and months.

It provides opportunities for people to re-engage with parish life especially for those who haven’t been attending. It also enables new members to easily join our church family. All are welcome and our church doors are open wide. This was very beneficial to our parish development in the past and I hope it will be again.

I invite you to encourage one another and conscientiously focus on our Back to Church Initiative this Lent during these weeks of Spring. May St. Columba’s fully embrace the opportunities of these weeks to strengthen through your support and involvement.

Yours in His Service



Your church needs you!

As a parish, we are at our strongest when we work together. We would like to encourage every family to make the time to come to at least one service during March – and bring someone with you! We welcome everyone!

CHURCH SERVICES

(Covid-19 Government restrictions permitting)

Wednesday 2nd Ash Wednesday **(Purple)**
7.30pm **Service for Ash Wednesday with Holy Communion**

Thursday 3rd **(Purple)**
10.30am **Holy Communion**

Sunday 6th **The First Sunday in Lent** **(Purple)**
8.15am **Holy Communion** *(Side Chapel)*

Epistle Romans 10: 8b-13 Confess and be saved
Gospel Luke 4: 1-13 The Temptation of Jesus

10.30am **All Age Worship**
Gospel Luke 4: 1-13 The Temptation of Jesus

Thursday 10th **(Purple)**
10.30am **Holy Communion**

Sunday 13th **The Second Sunday in Lent** **(Purple)**
8.15am **Holy Communion** *(Side Chapel)*

Epistle Philippians 3: 17- 4:1 Stand firm in the Lord
Gospel Luke 13: 31-35 The Lament over Jerusalem

10.30am **Holy Communion**
Epistle Philippians 3: 17- 4:1 Stand firm in the Lord
Gospel Luke 13: 31-35 The Lament over Jerusalem

Thursday 17th **Saint Patrick** **(White)**
10.30am **Holy Communion**

Sunday 20th **The Third Sunday in Lent** **(Purple)**
8.15am **Holy Communion** *(Side Chapel)*

Epistle 1 Corinthians 10: 1-13
A Warning against over-confidence
Gospel Luke 13: 1-9 The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree

10.30am

Morning Prayer

First Reading: Isaiah 55: 1-9

An Invitation to Abundant Life

Second Reading: Luke 13: 1-9

The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree

Thursday 24th

The Annunciation of our Lord (transferred) (White)

10.30am

Holy Communion

Sunday 27th

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

(Purple)

Mothering Sunday

8.15am

Holy Communion (*Side Chapel*)

Epistle 2 Corinthians 1: 3-7

Paul's Thanksgiving after Affliction

Gospel John 19: 25-27 Jesus speaks to Mary from the cross

10.30am

Holy Communion

Epistle 2 Corinthians 1: 3-7

Paul's Thanksgiving after Affliction

Gospel John 19: 25-27 Jesus speaks to Mary from the cross

Thursday 31st

(Purple)

10.30am

Holy Communion

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 web-site under "Church Service Recordings" at www.stcolumbas.down.anglican.org

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



Confirmation Service in St. Columba's

Sunday 26th June 2022 at 7pm

The Bishop of Down and Dromore, the Right Reverend David McClay will administer the Rite of Confirmation in our parish on Sunday 26th June 2022 at 7pm.

Those wishing to be considered for confirmation are asked to give their names to the Rector in writing before **Friday 25th March**. If you have previously done so there is no need to do so again.

Adult parishioners wishing to be considered for confirmation should also give their names to the Rector before **Friday 25th March**. They will follow a separate confirmation class.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

6th March	10.30 am	All Age Worship
13th March	10.30 am	Sunday School and Creche
20th March	10.30 am	Morning Prayer
27th March	10.30 am	Sunday School and Creche

We were delighted to welcome children back to Sunday school and Creche at the end of January after a considerable break over Christmas. We hope there will be no more breaks due to covid this year. A warm welcome awaits all children at St Columba's Sunday school.

Joyce



APRIL PARISH MAGAZINE

Any articles or photographs for publication in the **April** parish magazine should be handed or emailed to the editor, **Billy McAlpine**, by **Wednesday, 9th March**.

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



Women's World Day of Prayer

The World Day of Prayer worship service has a special annual theme which is developed by women of a different country each year.

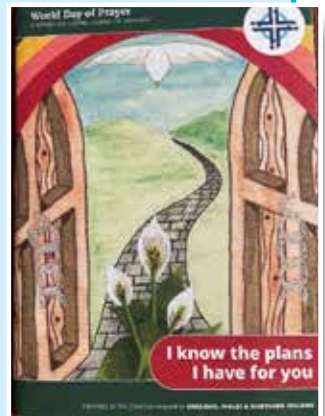
This year's service is written by the Women in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and the theme is based on Jeremiah 29: 11 - ***"I Know the Plans I Have For You"***.

The remainder of that verse reads, *"plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

What could be more relevant today?

Please join us for the service on **Friday 4th March** at **7.30pm** in **Bloomfield Methodist Church**, Grand Parade, Belfast.

All welcome to attend!



Thought for the Month

It has been a real joy and privilege to be able to join with you in worship at St Columba's Knock from 21st November to 6th February. In that time the parish church has changed from being a building that I simply drove by on a regular basis to a place that I have come to greatly admire and appreciate.

It is no small task to enter into a parish church when you know no one but the Rector! But it is very true what they say, 'a small smile goes a long way.' Your smiles and friendly hellos and conversations throughout these past weeks were a real source of blessing and encouragement; indeed, it felt like I was welcomed into the 'spiritual family' of your church.



The thought for the month that I would like to leave with you is along those lines. One of God's richest blessings that He bestows upon His people is the gift of being able to have fellowship with one another, joining together in worship as one people – one spiritual family.

Towards the end of Matthew chapter 12, the Gospel writer includes what seems at first to be a very peculiar account. Jesus' relatives are standing outside and they ask a man to tell Him that they want to speak to Him. But when He hears of it, He says to those that He is with, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers? ... Here are my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."

I believe that what Jesus meant by these words was that when we walk with Him, we walk in fellowship with Him and with one another. The Christian way of being is a way of life, and we become a sort of spiritual family with one another; walking with the same common purpose to bring glory to God. You and I both have a special and unique role to play in fulfilling that purpose, with no task being too large or too small, however God may call us.

Despite all the necessary health precautions such as social distancing and the wearing of masks, I still felt that wonderful sense of family at St Columba's, Knock. And so I may part with you for now by encouraging you to continue playing your part in the spiritual family of God and the Church. Whether it is in ways seen or unseen, whether from the front of the church or by your bedside

in prayer, everything that we do in acknowledgement of Him will one day be acknowledged by Him.

Thank you for all the ways that you made my time with you feel like family. I am deeply grateful, as is Anna; and as I drive by the parish church in the days and weeks ahead I will look at it far differently than before. My prayers and best wishes are with you, and I hope to see you again!

Kyle Flanigan

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

The March 'Thought for the month' will be written by Gillian Popplestone

PAUSE

After a weekend of driving rain and strong winds the weather has improved tremendously. The sun is shining, and it is warm - if you are inside!

PAUSE met on Tuesday 8th February and it was a very pleasant way to meet up with friends for refreshments and a chat. There were nineteen of us and three were friends but not parishioners. They are now regulars, I hope. The chat was great and we all left in a happy mood.

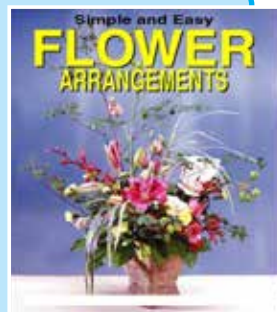
The next meeting of PAUSE will again be at the Stormont Hotel on **Tuesday 8th March 2022 at 10.30am**. There will be filter coffee, tea and scones. We will be following all the Covid -19 guidelines which are relevant at that time. If you are free do come along.

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

Eileen (9020 3684).

Decorating The Church For Easter Flower-Arranging Workshop

- When and where: Thursday 14th April at 2.00pm in the Parish Hall. Afternoon tea will be provided
- No previous flower arranging skills required. The purpose of the workshop is to prepare floral arrangements for the windowsills, etc in the church for Easter Sunday.
- Flowers, oasis and containers will be provided for which there will be a charge of £6.00 per attendee.
- Please bring foliage.
- If interested, please contact either Patricia (patriciaclements.new@gmail.com) or Eleanor (07709 917548).



Spring is fast approaching and already the days are longer and brighter.

We plan to meet on Tuesday 1st March at 8.00pm. and it is anticipated that we will in the hall but this will be confirmed nearer the date.

The speaker is Canon Laverty and he plans to give a talk entitled "Clothed in Majesty". This is about the historical context relating to garments worn in church.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Barbara

FLOWER ROTA

Sunday 6th March

Rosemary Simpson

Sunday 13th March

Ladies Guild

Sunday 20th March

Carol Willis

Sunday 27th March

Karen Patterson

40 Days of Lent Activity 2022

Each day in life, we need to take a moment to pause and enjoy whatever we see around us e.g. the wonder of God's earth and the beauty of nature – even rain, wind and storms! New life is developing all around us. We are all very busy with our own lives and often do not have time to take a few moments to appreciate our blessings.

Many apps on our phones, tablets and watches mention 'mindfulness', and advise of taking a minute of 'gratitude' each day to prepare well for the day ahead, or to relax your mind at the beginning and end of each day.

This Lent, we invite you to grow "a garden of mindfulness." The task is very simple!

First, find a notebook, and label 40 pages with the date, or simply "Day 1, Day 2" etc.

Each day, take a moment to write into your notebook something which has 'stood out' to you that day. It can be a phrase, lyrics of a song, a single word, a flower, a piece of music, a gesture, news clipping, photo - anything at all.

At the end of the 40 days of Lent, you can read your "garden of mindfulness" and reflect on all the things which brought you joy, sadness, stress and gladness during this important time of preparation.

This challenge is to remind you each day that God loves all of us, no matter what the circumstances, and He is with us always. It provides you with a powerful tool of reflection, and memories of what inspired or upset you each day and provides a focus on the positive things which we can do to enjoy our daily lives in our beautiful world.

Enjoy!

Karen Patterson



A polite notice: Please park respectfully!

We would be grateful if parishioners would take care when parking not to block entrances of our neighbours on Kings Road on Sundays. Please allow space for the residents to safely exit driveways by leaving plenty of clearance on either side of entrances.



Please make sure that you have enough time to park respectfully as you come to church.

We are grateful for the understanding of our neighbours and request that you park carefully, allowing safe use of Kings Road for everyone! Thank you.

CHURCH HALL 2022 CLEANING ROTA

Saturday 5th March

Fiona and Robin Haldane

Saturday 19th March

Sharon Wells and Nan Hillier

Saturday 2nd April

Nan Hillier and Isobel McDowell

Railway and Model club

BALTIC..... no, I don't mean the M62 class of diesel locomotives, I mean the temperature in the club rooms at the time of writing this article. So I'm sure you can guess that we are still having coffee/tea and a bit of craic on Monday afternoons, up at Hillmount. Our plans are all made and we will hit the ground running just as soon as COVID restrictions allow (and we get a little heat).

In the meantime, let's all Keep 'er Rollin'.

David (Rockie).

Prayers for your thoughts and comfort



If you had lived two thousand years ago in the Roman Empire, it is likely that you would have wished your friends and family a Happy New Year, at the beginning of March. It was the first month of the year. The tenth month, which we continue to call December, despite the changes in our calendar, was a distant memory, and the two cold nameless months of winter were over. Supposedly Julius Caesar was assassinated on the Ides of March (15th) in 44 BC. Marius (Mars), after whom this month is named, was the Roman god of war. It is a reminder that the affairs of politics and unrest can never be far from our prayers as we hope for a more peaceful society and world. There will, however, be many other reasons for noting events in the modern world in March, making them suitable subjects for prayer. Here is a brief and incomplete list for dates for March 2022:-

Ash Wednesday- First day of Lent (2nd) : St.Patrick's Day (17th) : second anniversary of Covid 19 in Ireland (20th) : The Annunciation (25th) : Mothering Sunday (27th) : Beginning of Summer Time (27th).

It remains to be seen whether 'March will come in like a lion and go out like a lamb', but hopefully you will find some of the prayers in this Columban helpful and encouraging.

Prayer at the beginning of a new month

Thank you Lord for bringing me to the beginning of a new month, and for the knowledge that you are with me. Even when burdened with cares and concerns, help me to look with confidence to the days and weeks ahead. May your Holy Spirit guide me and give me wisdom to trust you through all the days and changing scenes of life. **Amen**

The Hope of Spring

Lord, thank you for Springtime and the hope of warmer longer and brighter days. Thank you for the coming of growth and life and birth. Thank you, that things are coming alive around us. Now we ask that we may see in the sunlight and rain and wind, reminders that you bring renewal into our world and our lives, and enable us to walk with you into new moments of opportunity. May we praise you always. **Amen**

Ash Wednesday

It is recommended that you read Psalm 51 today. See also Job 42 5-6: Daniel 9 3 and St. Matthew 11 21 where there are references to 'sackcloth and ashes' – symbols of repentance.

Prayer

Lord, protect us in our struggle against spiritual weakness. As we begin the discipline of Lent, make this season holy and special through our self denial, and give us a heart to love, adore and follow you. **Amen**

A short Lent Prayer

Father, may this season of repentance bring us the blessings of your forgiveness, and the gift of your light, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

A Prayer for Peace in times of uncertainty

Almighty God, we acknowledge that all thoughts of truth and peace come from you. Guide with your pure and peaceful wisdom those in our country and world who influence the affairs of state, and the well being of people for whom they have responsibility, so that in the spirit of reconciliation we may go forward, until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

For peace in our City

Lord, at a time of economic uncertainty and concern, we pray for those who fear for the future, because of the alarming rise in the cost of living, and also because of political instability. Help us to contribute to the elimination of poverty and prejudice, that peace and justice may prevail, enabling people of differing cultures and talents to discover together a common humanity. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

St. Patrick's Day Prayer

May the strength of God pilot us

May the power of God preserve us

May the wisdom of God instruct us

May the hand of God protect us

May the way of God direct us

May the shield of God defend us

May Christ be with us

May Christ be before us

May Christ be in us

This day, Lord, and always. **Amen**

A Prayer for the sick and their carers

God of grace, we pray for all who are suffering from illnesses, some of which may be beyond the reach of human skill. As we recall the initial outbreak of Covid 19, two years ago, grant skill to all carers and those engaged in medical research, that their work may assist in alleviating pain and furthering the ministry of healing amongst people of every nation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

An All Age Prayer for Mothering Sunday

Thank you God for the love of our mothers

Thank you God for their care and concern

Thank you God for the joys they have shared with us

Thank you God for any pain they have borne for us

Thank you God for all that they give us

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

A Prayer suitable for Mothering Sunday/Annunciation to Mary

Lord Jesus, as we think of the time when Mary was told that she would be your mother, we give thanks for our mothers, and all mothers who bore the joys and sorrows of their children. May all women sense a vocation that they can carry you, as Lord, in their lives and find fulfilment and joy in you. **Amen**

(This prayer was included in Bible Reading Fellowship notes)

Mothering Sunday

As Mothering Sunday approaches, it is time to celebrate the wonderful women in our lives or those no longer with us, to give thanks for all that they have done and sacrificed for us, and for the unbreakable bond that ties us together. It may mean different emotions for other people and as Christians, we pray for all circumstances on this day.

What is Mothering Sunday?

Mothering Sunday is the fourth Sunday of Lent and is sometimes referred to as Mid-Lent Sunday. Traditionally, it was a day when children who had gone to work as domestic servants were given a day off to visit their mother and family. It was considered important for people to return to their home or 'mother' church once a year, instead of worshipping at their 'daughter' or local church.

On Mothering Sunday, the fasting rules for Lent were relaxed for the day. The children often gathered wildflowers from the country paths as gifts for their mothers or brought Simnel cakes from the kitchens where they worked.

Simnel is a spiced fruit cake featuring almond paste on top and is often decorated with 11 balls of marzipan icing on top representing the 11 disciples. (Judas is not included.) There is a theory that the cakes were named after Lambert Simnel, a baker during the reign of Henry VII. There is also a legend about an elderly couple named Simon and Nelly. They combined the unleavened dough left over at the end of Lent with the plum pudding left over from Christmas. Then they got into an argument over whether the cake should be boiled or baked. They finally compromised and decided to do both. The result was the "Simon-Nelly" cake. Whatever the origins, thousands of these cakes are sent around the world at this time of year!



A Mother's Day Prayer

I said a Mother's Day prayer for you
and asked the Lord above
To fill your heart and bless your soul
with the precious gift of love.
I asked him for sincere love,
the kind that's meant to stay.
Just like the generous love you give
to those you touch each day.
I prayed for love from family,
and from every cherished friend.
Then I asked the Lord to give you
His love that knows no end. **Amen**

For some people, Mothering Sunday, is a time to remember those mothers who are no longer with us. We think of all the wonderful mothers who are in heaven and give thanks for whatever time we had with them.

Prayer for a Mum in Heaven



Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of earthly life, in particular for the life of my mother. Thank you for all the years I enjoyed with her. I praise you that she stood with me through the good times and the bad times. I cherish the memories of times of joy and times of sorrow. As she is now at rest with you, I thank you for the hope of a future in your presence that we will share together. Now may you, the Lord of Peace, give me peace at all times and in every way. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, **Amen.**

As well as those who are missing from our lives, we also think of those who are about to become a mother, and the fear, excitement and other emotions which they are feeling.

Prayer for a Mum-to-be

Dear God,

Thank you for the life mothers bring into this world. There are some women among us who will soon enter motherhood. I pray that you would bless their endeavour with godly wisdom, patience, hope, faith, and oh so much love for the child they will bear.

I pray that you would bless their childrearing, that they would help teach their child to walk and stay on the path of righteousness. Though hard days will come, may you bring comfort to these new mothers, and an awareness that though raising a child will be tough at times, you will allow them to reap what they sow. Please help them to now be afraid to sow. Help them take that chance, confidently, loving, knowing their mothers did the same for them. Amen.

Finally, we remember those people who are struggling with relationships. Not all relationships are perfect and there are also people who find this day difficult for whatever reason.

Wherever you are spending Mothering Sunday, make time to share your love with those important people in your life. Thank you to all of those wonderful women – mums, aunts, grandmothers and caregivers. You mean the world to us all!

Karen Patterson

Bishop's Big Bike Ride

During Lent our Bishop, David McClay, will be cycling to every parish on the diocese to raise money for the Bishop's Appeal.

Each parish is asked to have a few parishioners available to meet Bishop David and the cycling team to have a group photo taken with them. He is due to arrive at St Columba's on Friday 4th March at approximately 6.15pm. Everyone is welcome to come along and cheer him on his way!

If you are interested in joining him on his cycle, for part or all of the journey, please see the Diocesan Website www.downanddromore.org for more information including a route plan and timings.



Words of gratitude

As we approach the Annual General Easter Vestry and conclude the previous year's activities in St Columba's, I would like to take an opportunity to convey some thanks to our hard-working Clergy Team.



Our Clergy Team enjoying a BBQ in the church grounds in June 2019, pre-pandemic!

As Parish Administrator, I have the great privilege of seeing the workings of the parish from close quarters. I can honestly say that the life of a clergyperson is not as easy as it can be perceived – it is not about waiting for funerals, weddings and taking a church service on a Sunday – certainly not in St Columba's! The clergy we have been blessed with are among the hardest working people I know. I have very regular, uplifting calls from parishioners who praise the clergy and who are delighted with parish life in St Columba's. I hope they do not mind me passing along thanks in this way.

Canon Walter Laverty is actively involved in the ministry of St Columba's through his conscientious pastoral support to our housebound parishioners, his participation in our Bible Study Group and also with his assistance with our Thursday morning Holy Communion services. Following the end of the vacancy in St Dorothea's we look forward to seeing some more of him in St Columba's. He and his wife Barbara are the Chaplains for Retired Clergy and Clergy widows in our Diocese, and he is involved in the Ministry of Healing. We all enjoy his sense of humour, kind, easy going manner and calm, gentle, approachable nature, and he makes time to speak to everyone.



Canon Walter Laverty and his wife Barbara

Canon Ken Smyth is also actively involved in many aspects of our parish life. This includes regular involvement Sunday worship services including our recorded Facebook services during the Pandemic, preparing prayers for the centre pages of our Columban magazine each month and his sensitive pastoral care to the many parishioners he chats to - in their gardens, at church, in the street or on the phone. He is actively supported by his wife Jenny, who also enjoys meeting parishioners. He makes time to speak to everyone, and his warm and gentle manner makes him a pleasure to listen to. He is also very approachable and calmly listens carefully to everything said. He presides over the parish when the Rectory family are on holiday – and he makes sure that no one disturbs them!



Canon Ken Smyth and his wife Jenny

Our Rector is one of the hardest working people I know. I can quite honestly say that he never stops, from early morning to late at night - I often see emails from after midnight! Our Rector is actively involved in all aspects of parish life. Through his strong emphasis on pastoral ministry, he embraces parish matters in a sensitive way. He knows everyone by name, and personal details which people have shared with him, which he remembers to ask about each time he meets someone. He knows every member in every organisation in the parish, and provides pastoral support to each family he encounters, ensuring that the church doors are always open for anyone who needs him.

As Rector, he is involved in many aspects of our local community and our Diocesan life, which includes being a member of the Board of Governors at Belmont Primary School and Chair of the Board of Management of Down and Dromore & Connor's Organ Scholarship scheme. He is currently the Area Dean of Lagan and assists in different ways



with our local parishes. He is the Canon Chancellor of Down Cathedral and also assists with the work of the St John ambulance. His involvement in these roles provides opportunities for St Columba's to be represented throughout our local community and beyond. He is a member of the Pension Board in the RCB in Dublin, as well as a member of the RCB's Complaints Committee. He conducts school assemblies at some of our neighbouring primary schools and takes occasional services in our local nursing homes.

He is wonderfully supported in his work and ministry by his wife Caroline and sons Charles and Henry. We thank the Rectory Family for sharing their time so selflessly with the parish.

The Rector liaises with me daily, making sure that we have covered everything correctly and in a timely fashion as well as confidently answering some of the more interesting questions we are asked from time to time! He takes all the parish matters in his stride and has a compassion for people which is endless.

I would like to thank our Rector for his dedication, hard work, pastoral care and his gracious involvement in every challenge he meets, for the 'above and beyond' time he spends caring for his parishioners, and for every contribution he makes to the local community. He is an inspirational leader who has made a huge difference to both the fabric and work of St Columba's.

Karen Patterson

Art Club

The first meeting of the Art Club took place on 17th February with 13 members present and 6 apologies received. The Rector welcomed everyone and expressed his delight that we were 'up and running' once more. Some painting and drawing did take place but it was really an opportunity to catch up on all the trials and tribulations of our friends. While no tea/coffee was available some cakes/biscuits appeared from those requiring their morning 'fix'.

Julian Friers, our honorary tutor and a past President of the Royal Ulster Academy, has offered to conduct a workshop for the club on 24th March on the theme of 'perspective'. The possibility of an exhibition/sale of paintings to take place in the church hall in November was mentioned.



KYLE FLANIGAN



It has been a great delight for us to welcome Kyle and Anna to St. Columba's for his ten-week placement. This was an important part of his ordination training and we had the benefit of their friendly personalities as they quickly settled into parish life here. It was a busy placement for Kyle as he led us in well prepared prayers at both the 8.15am and 10.30am services, read the lessons with confidence, preached a helpful sermon about Christingles and conducted an All-Age Worship service.

Kyle experienced the full range of our monthly schedule of church services and approached them all with confidence. In addition he also participated in one of the recorded video services for our parish Facebook page which is a very different experience from taking a service with a congregation in attendance. Kyle has also written the "Thought for the Month" in this edition of the Columban.

Kyle was well supported by Anna throughout the placement. She enjoyed many conversations with parishioners following the services.

On the final Sunday of the placement they both received a very strong applause from all of us in St. Columba's on that morning. Both Kyle and Anna will always be very welcome amongst us and I hope that we will see them again soon. We assure them both of our continued support and prayers.

The Rector

MARMALADE

Order your marmalade now for collection or delivery. Phone **Maureen 9048 6622**. Unfortunately prices have risen therefore I have had to increase the price to £3.00 per jar, I hope everyone understands.

With thanks.

Maureen Beckwith





AND WHERE HAVE I SEEN YOU BEFORE ?

This exquisite piece of art resides in our church. Have you looked at it recently? It depicts the Dove (in Latin – Columba), sometimes a symbol of the Holy Spirit, but here it represents our saint, the 6th century Irish monk Columba. Surely we know him well?

Our church is peppered with the Saint's symbols and often – but not always - it is the dove which reminds us of him. I always think of the dove and what St Columba means to us when I see our crucifer, Mark, bearing the processional cross every Sunday at the top of which is a dove looking down on us. The hymn '*Lift high the Cross*' is so appropriate for us, and I know is a favourite of the Rector.

The above lovely little panel is a masterful rendering of the glass worker's art. The map of the world is depicted in very fine detail with the dove traversing it in a mystical image with indistinct borders around it.

Surely an examination of this panel gives us hope and vision of the Holy Spirit embracing us wherever we may be in the world.

See if you can find this little gem in one of our windows and marvel at it.

As our Rector has told us in the previous edition of The Columban, we will be hearing much more about the stained glass windows in our church during the coming year. Let us see if we can understand better what they represent, and how we may be inspired by them.

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 The Reverend Canon Walter Laverty	3 Mount Royal Bangor BT20 3BG 028 9145 8706 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 Rector **028 9047 1514**

Patrick Good **028 9065 6908**

Elizabeth Leonard **028 9065 3162**

