

The Columban

ST. COLUMBA'S CHURCH, KNOCK, OCTOBER 2022



All is safely gathered in



*An open door to friendship,
fellowship and faith*



Dear Parishioner,

HARVEST THANKSGIVING SUNDAY 2nd OCTOBER

It is delightful to witness the rush of adrenalin across the parish as we settle into our autumn programme. We are experiencing increased church attendances and the welcome return of our parish organisations. This is good news! **However, if you have not been with us for some time, I invite you to join us for our Harvest Thanksgiving Services.** A warm welcome awaits!

YOUR attendance can strengthen YOUR parish!

The giving of your time and support to St. Columba's is a source of thanksgiving as we come together at Harvest to thank God for His Blessings and to support those in great need.

We are fortunate that our parish is situated in an area with many delightful aspects of nature all around us to sustain us each day. How much we experienced that to be case throughout the pandemic, and now we are experiencing it once more as we face the current uncertainties of rising energy costs and higher inflation. **In the current economic challenges, there are opportunities to be grasped through our care for those in need.**

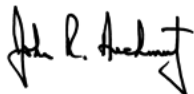
The Harvest services provide a timely opportunity for us to further support the Larder. The loose cash collection from both services on that day will be allocated to their work. I encourage you to be generous in your giving as we give back something to God of what He has first given us as these words in the Harvest Collect remind us:

*Eternal God,
you crown the year with your goodness
and give us the fruits of the earth in their season:
Grant that we may use them to your glory,
for the relief of those in need
and for our own well-being
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

We are looking forward to the welcome return of our popular Harvest Lunch providing us with an opportunity to share friendship, fellowship and faith with each other in the hall.

A beautiful new book about our stained glass windows will also be launched on that day. We will give thanks to God for the skill of those who designed our church windows. They inspire us in so many ways and yet in our rushing we can be oblivious to them. But not for much longer! An introduction to this new book and a Review of it are contained in these pages.

Yours in His Service,



DEATH OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II



The Rector writes...

We remember with gratitude the life and long reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II who died on Thursday 8th September at Balmoral. Her life was truly dedicated to serve faithfully right to the end as demonstrated in the appointing of her 15th Prime Minister just two days before she died. These days are ones of profound sorrow and mourning.

Throughout the many changes and challenges during the past seventy years the Queen's dedication to serve people as a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ remained constant. She was a servant to our Nation and the Commonwealth. The Queen was the only Monarch that many of us, including myself, can remember.

Her commitment and words conveyed stability and hope and they provided a focus to keep going and not give up, not despair, even in the worst of moments. The Queen's dedication to duty was greatly sustained by her strong Christian faith which was firmly rooted in the hope of the resurrection. May her powerful example inspire us this day and in the days to come.

God Save The King

Prayer for the King

Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness, we humbly pray that you would look upon your servant, King Charles III. Endue him with your Holy Spirit; enrich him with your heavenly grace; prosper him with all happiness; and bring him to your everlasting kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BBC RADIO ULSTER

BROADCAST SERVICE

It was a very great privilege for us in St. Columba's to be invited by the BBC to host the Radio Ulster Broadcast Service following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth 11.

I am most grateful for the trust placed in our parish by the BBC to prepare and conduct this significant service at such a solemn time. This was all done in very sad circumstances and at short notice.

We were very pleased to welcome back to St. Columba's the Archbishop of Armagh, The Most Reverend John McDowell who preached an excellent and most informative sermon which included reference to the role of a Deacon.

We were also very pleased to welcome back our guest organist, Graeme McCullough and the Cantors, who under the direction of our Parish Organist and Choral Director, Dr Joe McKee provided inspirational music and powerful singing.

I thank Patrick Good who read the Old Testament lesson, Heather Brehcist and Caroline Auchmuty who led us in the prayers together with the Churchwardens and all those who assisted with the many preparations for the service.

It was most encouraging to welcome so many parishioners to St. Columba's for the broadcast service who sang so enthusiastically and fully participated throughout the service.

The service is available on the BBC Sounds for 29 days using this link:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m001byqq>

The Rector

CHURCH SERVICES IN OCTOBER 2022

- Sunday 2nd** **Harvest Thanksgiving and Stained Glass Windows Book Launch**
- 8.15am** **The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity** (Green)
Holy Communion (*Side Chapel*)
 Epistle 2 Corinthians 9: 6-15 God loves a cheerful giver
 Gospel Matthew 13: 18-30 Parable of the sower
- 11.00am** **All Age Worship followed by Harvest Lunch**
 Gospel Matthew 13: 18-30 Parable of the sower
- Thursday 6th** (Green)
10.30am **Holy Communion** followed by refreshments
- Sunday 9th** **The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity** (Green)
8.15am **Holy Communion** (*Side Chapel*)
 Epistle 2 Timothy 2: 8-15 Being our best for Jesus
 Gospel Luke 17: 11-19 Jesus cleanses ten lepers
- 10.30am** **Holy Communion**
 Epistle 2 Timothy 2: 8-15 Being our best for Jesus
 Gospel Luke 17: 11-19 Jesus cleanses ten lepers
- Thursday 13th** **Saint Philip the Deacon (Transferred)** (Red)
10.30am **Holy Communion** followed by refreshments
- Sunday 16th** **The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity** (Green)
8.15am **Holy Communion** (*Side Chapel*)
 Epistle 2 Timothy 3: 14- 4: 5 Continue the good work of Jesus
 Gospel Luke 18: 1-8 The parable of the widow and the unjust Judge
- 10.30am** **Morning Prayer** followed by refreshments hosted by Ladies Guild
First Reading Jeremiah 31: 27-34 A new Covenant
Second Reading Luke 18: 1-8 The parable of the widow and the unjust Judge
- Thursday 20th** **Saint Luke (Transferred)** (Red)
10.30am **Holy Communion** followed by refreshments

Sunday 23rd Saint James, the Brother of our Lord (Red)

8.15am Holy Communion (Side Chapel)

Reader Acts 15: 12-22 The leadership of James
Gospel Mark 3: 31-35 Jesus's family

10.30am Holy Communion

Epistle Acts 15: 12-22 The leadership of James
Gospel Mark 3: 31-35 Jesus's family

Thursday 27th Saint Simon and Saint Jude (Transferred) (Red)

10.30am Holy Communion followed by refreshments

Sunday 30th The Fourth Sunday before Advent (Green)

8.15am Holy Communion (Side Chapel)

Epistle 2 Thessalonians 1: 1-4, 11-12 Thanksgiving
Gospel Luke 19: 1-10 Jesus and Zacchaeus

10.30am Morning Prayer

Old Testament Reading:

Habakkuk 1: 1-4, 2: 1-4 The oracle that the prophet
Habakkuk saw.

New Testament Reading:

Luke 19: 1-10 Jesus and Zacchaeus

Online Services

The audio recording of our 10.30am service each Sunday can be found on our parish website www.stcolumbas.down.anglican.org under "Church Service Recordings".

HARVEST

Are you available and willing to help decorate the Church for Harvest? If so, please contact Patricia at patriciaclements.new@gmail.com Your assistance would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.



OUR STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

Our stained glass windows in St Columba's are magnificent. But do we try to do more than simply admire their beauty and feel comforted by their familiarity? Throughout Christian times, stained glass windows have enhanced places of worship in Europe and Asia. Their presence in our churches forms part of our Christian Heritage, and we continue to value them highly today.

In medieval times, from the 5th to 15th centuries, ordinary folk could not read or write, and it was not until the 1470s that Caxton printed and sold the first books in England. Even then, only a miniscule proportion of the population could actually read these books and by 1790, historians estimate that still only very basic literacy had reached rather less than 50% in the general population. *William Caxton printed and sold his first books in the 1470s*



Most of us like to have illustrations, drawings and photographs with our reading material - they help us interpret and understand more fully the written word. For those early churchgoers, the windows were their illustrations, drawings, photographs and texts; they could see and absorb the messages they contained with little if any reading skills. Their constant presence and inspiration made places of worship more comfortable and comforting for everyone, with all the familiar stories depicted all around the buildings. And they served to enhance readings, sermons and prayers offered on their behalf by the clergy.

We too can benefit in this way; it is not long ago that Canon Ken Smith in his sermon told us the story of Dorcas, or Tabitha as she was known. In fact, there are two windows in St Columba's which depict her work – one of them is devoted entirely to her story. Do you know which one it is?

Today, we are lucky to be able to read the Bible, service sheets and prayer books for ourselves. For those of us who love the written word, perhaps

we rely less than we should on the wonderful pictorial stories and vivid messages our windows tell, and certainly less than those worshippers long ago with no reading skills. It is surely a marvel to consider this and to contemplate the depth and sophistication of the communication that the designers incorporated into their art, for the benefit of every worshiper down the ages.

A book published by the parish, entitled STAINED GLASS WINDOWS in St COLUMBA'S CHURCH, has been written to help us to revisit and study this part of our heritage. There are 20 stained glass windows in St Columba's – 15 in the Church and 5 more in the porches and the Choir Vestry. They are part of our treasury and heritage. The publication serves to remind us how each of the windows – which were donated in recognition of individuals who have served the parish in special ways, or in commemoration of activities and events – tells well loved stories from the Bible and the Liturgy. At the same time, they remind us of the work of those who have gone before – they must never be forgotten.

The book also tells how these artefacts are made and in doing so, help us to understand not only how subtle and full of meaning they are, but also how much work and scholarship goes into the design and manufacture of each one. They are powerful spiritual tools if we allow them into our conscience, but like anything else of great value, we have to work at them and on ourselves to get the best out of them.

The publication, prompted by St Columba's 1,500th Birthday and the focus of the Heritage Group in the church, has taken only six months to write from its inception at the end of October 2021 until a final draft was received by the Rector. In the interim, the research was initiated and completed, the photographs taken and processed, the text written and edited and the services of a superb computer layout specialist, Stephen Cullen, harnessed - all involving much time and resource. The Vestry asked the writers to assign the copyright to the parish which they have done, and the printers draft was received towards the end of May when it was donated to the church; the book is the result of this donation.

Since then, the Vestry has finalised the publication and it is to be issued on 2nd October 2022.

Book Review

Stained-Glass Windows in St Columba's Church

Authors: Alasdair and Wendy MacLaughlin

I was pleased to be asked by the Rector to review this book, especially as I have known Alasdair for many years through our membership of the Ulster Society of Organists and Choirmasters.



Stained Glass Windows in St Columba's Church

Parish of Knock, Knockcolumbkille in the Diocese of Down

Alasdair and Wendy begin by introducing us to the world of stained-glass, providing considerable information on the intricate process of design and construction of stained-glass windows, together with some useful-to-know technical terms, thereby affording the viewer a deeper appreciation of this art. A potted history of the companies that installed the stained-glass windows is included for good measure. Starting at the Great East Window, above the altar, the authors take us on a clockwise journey around the church as they discuss each window, which is reproduced in the book in striking detail and colour. The inclusion of a floor plan and window numbering assists the process. Alasdair's experience in the design and manufacture of stained-glass is used to highlight aspects of the windows that might not be noticed by the casual observer, such as the dramatic effect of contrasting colours in Window 7, which is enhanced further when viewed through the Baptistry arch.

The authors' description of each window is detailed, including helpful information on construction and on the biblical setting, yet sufficiently succinct to hold the interest. For example, at Window 4 on the south wall, we are invited to contemplate the expressions on the faces of the figures, which encapsulate their wonder and awe in the presence of the infant Jesus; while, at Window 13 on the north wall, we are encouraged to consider the perspective of the floor tiles on the left and right lancets. The authors also quote inscriptions, some of which are difficult to read from the floor, and rightly draw our attention to the quality of the calligraphy, for example, in Window 12. Additionally, there are some anecdotes that provide a broader perspective, for example, in regard to the Book of Kells, depicted in the quatrefoil atop Window 8.

While our attention is drawn frequently to the impressive 'Great' windows, this book reminds us not to overlook the beauty contained in the smaller windows above them, even though the detail may be difficult to discern. Window 8a is one example and the image in the book conveys superbly the vibrant colours of this little stained-glass gem. Here, again, Alasdair and Wendy provide an interesting anecdote about the window's subject matter. An example of what might be termed a window-within-a-window can be seen in Window 10, where the authors direct us to the little blue circle at the top of the central lancet which contains the Dove of Peace. Finally, we are reminded of the small windows in the North and South porches and in the Choir Vestry. All of these can be easily overlooked, yet their beauty invites us to pause, reflect and admire them.

Throughout the pages of this book the reader will be impressed by the quality of the photography, which conveys both the complexity and simplicity of the stained-glass windows within the church. St. Columba's has a beautiful and elegant interior which would be diminished greatly were it not for the quality and quantity of its stained-glass. Through their painstaking research and focus on detail, Alasdair and Wendy call our attention to what is around and above us as we enter our church and encourage us to appreciate the beauty of the stained-glass that surrounds us: light, art, colour and calligraphy. For anyone seeking more information about the windows, this book, beautifully adorned with a water colour painting of the church by Ms Liz Cole of the Art Club, will be an indispensable guide.

Gerald Hill

WOW!



Stained Glass Windows in St Columba's Church
P parish of Knock, Knockcolumbkille in the Diocese of Down

New Book Launch!

**Sunday 2nd October at our 10.30am
Harvest Service.**

The cost is £10.

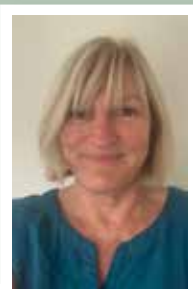
Thought for the Month

Teamwork

I am sure many of you watched the England Ladies football team win the Euros a couple of months ago. You could see in their post-match celebrations how much the win mattered to them. They also made a point of saying how grateful they were to all those women who came before them and had done a lot of the groundwork in order to gain recognition for their sport. I felt their actions epitomised 'Team Spirit'!

I have always preferred team sports to individual. At school I much preferred the winter terms playing hockey as opposed to running the 800 metres in the summer.

Hockey has played such a big part in my life. I started playing at 12 years old and played for Ballymena Academy in the morning and for Mid Antrim Ladies in the afternoon.



Louise Mercer

I came to live in Belfast when I was 19 and joined Grosvenor Ladies Hockey Club where I enjoyed playing up until my late forties. In 1997 my cousin and I decided to start a Mini/Junior section as a lot of schools only started hockey in Primary 6. The club played at Avoniel Leisure Centre then, which at that stage had one of the few Astro-turf pitches around. The Mini/Junior section began with just 12 players aged between 6 and 7, two of whom were my daughter Lindsay and my cousin Alison's daughter Kathryn, with the remainder being a few of their school friends! Grosvenor Ladies Hockey Club moved to CIYMS premises on the Circular Road in 2000 and rebranded to C I Ladies Hockey Club in 2016. It especially pleases me that the Mini/Junior Section continued to grow and there are now well over 200 young girls enjoying their hockey at C I. All three of my daughters (Lindsay, Claire and Anna) played when they were younger and I now enjoy being at the sideline with my grandson Max watching the eldest two who play for C I 1stXI.



Being part of the hockey team enriched my life in so many ways, the most important being the lifelong friends I have made. Even though we no longer

play we meet up at the club most weeks and still have great fun together. I enjoy being a parishioner at St Columba's and feel enriched by being part of the team there.

T ogether
E veryone
A chieves
M ore

*Our sincere thanks to Louise for sharing this 'Thought' with us.
The November 'Thought for the Month' will be written by Ruth McCartney.*

Ladies Guild



Our long wait is over at last – we held the first Guild meeting of the new season on Tuesday 20th September welcoming returning members and some new faces too. Full details will be in the November magazine.

With the continuing return to normal events refreshments on the third Sunday of each month will once again be provided by the various organisations. The Ladies Guild will be in charge on the 16th October and we look forward to sharing fellowship with members of the congregation.

Our next Guild meeting will be on Tuesday 18th October at 2.30pm in the church. The subject for the day will be Quizzes and Quizzing and hopefully will provide an opportunity for some fun and games in addition to information on the experience of being a contestant in a television quiz.

Please come and join us. A warm welcome awaits you.

Eleanor

From the Registers Our Joys

Holly Baptism

21st August Daisy Genevieve Leacock

Prayers for your thoughts and comfort



In preparing this month's prayers, I recall the words of our class teacher as an eight year old, who, having informed us that we had entered the month of October, added that this was the 'Season of Mists and Mellow Fruitfulness'. She was quoting words from the poem by John Keats which most children were taught and maybe expected to recite. October can be a month when nature is at its most colourful and therefore favoured by some people. However, for others, it can be very autumnal with mists a regular feature and the prospect that shortening days will soon lead to the advent of winter. Harvest Thanksgiving services occur in many churches in October when we thank God for the many good gifts around us. In whatever way you perceive it, hopefully you will find some of this month's prayers and thoughts helpful.

Harvest Prayers

- 1 We dare not ask you bless our harvest feast,
Till it is spread for poorest and the least
We dare not bring our harvest gifts to you
Unless our hungry people share them too

Not only at this time Lord; every day
Those whom you love are dying while we pray
Teach us to do with less, and so to share
From our abundance more than we can share. **(Author:- Lilian Cox)**

2 Almighty God, we confess that we misuse and ill treat your creation. Forgive us for every act of wastefulness that has treated the world merely as a playground: for every act of wastefulness that forgets the crying of the needy: for every act of selfishness that defies your requirements of us. Help us to see each other with your eyes, so that we may reverence, preserve and sustain all that is good, and use our own lives more faithfully in your service. **Amen**

3 Lord God, you made us fellow workers in your creation. Give us wisdom and reverence so to use the resources of nature that no one may suffer from our abuse of them, and that generations yet to come may continue to praise you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

4 Show us God, how to respect not only animals, birds and all growing things, but the soil, air, and water by which we live, so that we may not exploit or pollute them for our own profit or convenience. Help us to cherish these necessities of our survival, and guide those in authority to ensure that the human spirit may not be starved in pursuit of material comfort and wealth. **Amen**

5 Eternal God, source of life and light, whose love extends to all people, all creatures, all things. Grant us that reverence for life which becomes those who believe in you, lest we despise it, degrade it or come callously to destroy it. Rather let us save it, serve it and sanctify it, after the example of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

(Author:- Robert Runcie former Archbishop of Canterbury)

6 Lord, you ask us to work with you to protect our neighbours. Please shake us out of ourselves, so that we can stand up for those in need, raise awareness and call for change. When the issue feels too big or overwhelming, give us wisdom and courage to inspire one another to prioritise the needs of people living in poverty, so that we can make some difference towards creating a fairer and more equitable world. We ask it in your name. **Amen**

(Appropriate prayer to focus on Larder and charities at home and overseas supported by our parish.)

General Prayers

Lord, teach us to pray often, that we may pray oftener (Jeremy Taylor 1613-1667)

Teaching our children

Almighty God, in our family and parish life you have blessed us with the care of children. Give us calm strength and patient wisdom as they mature in years, that we may teach them to love whatever is just and true and good, following the example of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Elderly and Infirm

Eternal God, who through the passing years remains the same, be near to all who are infirm or limited by advancing years. Though their bodies fail, let their spirits be strong, so that with patience, they may cope with weariness and distress, and sense your presence with them always. **Amen**

Homeless and Refugees

Lord Jesus, when you walked this earth, you had no place to call your own and no place to lay your head. As we stand by those who have had to flee their native countries, and the homeless, and support those who struggle with them, may we stand by you, and show them, through our kindness, something of the image of your face. **Amen**

The Lonely

Accept my prayers, Lord, for those who have no one to love them and all who feel alone. Wherever and whoever they are, give them a share of my concern, and in your love, let them know that they are not forgotten. Amen

Social Justice

Strengthen us, O God, to relieve the oppressed, to hear the groans of the downtrodden, to reform the abuses of all professions, that many be made not poor to make a few rich, for Jesus Christ's sake. **Amen**

(You may be surprised to know that this prayer was written by Oliver Cromwell)

Reconciliation

O God, who has made of one blood all nations to dwell on the face of the earth, and sent your Son, Jesus Christ, to preach peace to them who are afar off, and to them who are nigh. Grant that all the peoples of the world may seek your way and find you. Hasten, O God, the fulfilment of your promise to pour out your Spirit upon all flesh, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen** *(Written in 1860)*

St. Luke's Day - The Sick

Almighty God, we are thankful that Luke the physician proclaimed your love in word and deed. Bless all who are your agents of help and healing in hospitals and in the community, that they may bring relief and hope to the weak, vulnerable and sick in our society. We ask it in your name. **Amen**

In conclusion

'Grant me to recognise in other people, Lord God, the radiance of your own face.'

Pour on us Lord, the spirit of love and kindness, so that, sprinkled by the dews of thy blessing, we may be made glad by thy glory and grace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

'Lord, make me see your glory in every place' (Michelangelo 1475-1564)

Clergy Parish Visiting

It is always a great privilege for the clergy to visit parishioners in their homes. If you would like to request a clergy visit, please telephone the Rector (028 9047 1514) or Canon Walter Laverty (028 9573 8743). In addition to requested parish visiting, the clergy will be visiting parishioners in the following districts during October:

Rector

Abbey Park
Alder Close
Ardvarna Park
Ascot Gardens
Avonnor Drive
Barnetts Road

Canon Laverty

Bell Rotary House
Belmont Avenue
Belmont Church Road
Belmont Park
Belmont Road

PASTORAL SUPPORT



The clergy would appreciate being informed if parishioners are in hospital, are being transferred or if they have been discharged, and will be pleased to offer them pastoral support. *Please do not assume that they already know this information.*

Please telephone the Rector (028 9047 1514) or Canon Walter Laverty (028 9573 8743) to enable them to take careful notes of the details. Thank you.



NOVEMBER PARISH MAGAZINE

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

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

PAUSE

Very often we do not miss something until it is no longer there. We assume that it will always be there until it isn't!

PAUSE met in September 2021 for the first time in eighteen months. I was worried in case no-one else turned up. There were thirteen there. What we realised then and more so now was that we had missed out on social interaction with family, friends, acquaintances, and strangers.

PAUSE is an ideal opportunity to meet up with fellow parishioners, visitors and friends (old and new) for news and chat over coffee and scones.

In **October** we will meet on two occasions:

Tuesday 4th October at 10.30am in the Stormont Hotel for coffee and scones.

Tuesday 18th October at 10.am in Neill's Hill for coffee and scones.

If you are free on one or both of these dates, please come along. It is a totally informal gathering. Come on your own or bring a friend or two.

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

Eileen (9020 3684)

Railway and Model club

By the time you read this we will have run our open day, on Saturday 17th September, and we are now planning the autumn/winter program. During the summer we have gained two new members.....Harold and Ralph. Our geographical spread continues throughout the East of the province, with a member in Coleraine, one in Island Magee, one in Comber and one in Downpatrick. The other half dozen are from the parish. Interests vary. While we all enjoy railways/railway models and railway layouts of various sizes, and gauges, we also have a large number of model ships, vehicles, military battle tanks and aircraft, built and on show in the club rooms.....why not visit some Monday afternoon to see for yourself. You would be very welcome.

As we progress through this new year we will keep you up to date with photographs and "gossip".

So, as we always say....keep'er rollin'!

Rockie.

Activity Group

During the summer months we continued to meet every Tuesday for walks in local parks as well as coastal paths in Holywood and Bangor. The Bangor coastal walk turned out to be a very special day as we enjoyed afternoon tea at the home of one of our group. A big thank you to Angela from all of us.

We also enjoyed an outing to Donaghadee on 6th September in which we had lunch at Pier 36 and then a walk afterwards around the picturesque town (see Clare's notes below).

We returned to the church hall on 13th September for badminton and scrabble and it is good to be back!

Maureen

Our Tuesday afternoon walks came to a lovely conclusion on the 6th September 2022.

We doubled up on cars to travel to Donaghadee, where we met up with Angela and Pauline outside Pier 36, as Maureen had made a booking for our party of nine to have lunch there.

We decided on our choice of food and very soon it was placed before us by the very helpful staff. Of course we had to have desserts - it would be rude not to.

What a joy it was to have a leisurely stroll along the 'Commons', under a blue sky and to feel the warmth of the sun, enjoying the 'craic' as we walked.

All too soon our wonderful outing came to an end, and we said our farewells before heading home.

Clare.



Crèche

It's great that Crèche is now underway for this academic year. All new members are welcome at any time - there is plenty of room on the play mats! If you have any questions, please let me know.

Lindsay Rothwell – 07710 590574

CHURCH ENVELOPES

You will notice that you have received your Church Envelope(s) for 2023 with this magazine.

Please keep your pack safe until January and once you open them **please do not use old envelopes** as monies may not be recorded against your name. This is really important as **everyone's number has changed for 2023**.



Those families who contribute annually will receive a single envelope. Those who do not contribute are encouraged to demonstrate their commitment to St Columba's by contributing whatever they can afford to do. Every contribution is important in these challenging times.

Costs continue to rise sharply and as a charity, St Columba's depends on the contributions of parishioners to survive.

If you can Gift Aid donations, this will help us tremendously as you can boost your gift by an additional 25% at no additional cost to you, providing you pay tax. Please see our website or speak to me in the parish office for more details or help.

Thank you for giving this your careful consideration.

Karen Patterson

Parish Administrator/ Financial Giving Secretary

FLOWER ROTA

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Sunday 2nd | Harvest |
| Sunday 9th | Nan Armstrong |
| Sunday 16th | Stewart and Maureen Beckwith |
| Sunday 23rd | Marjory Stewart |
| Sunday 30th | April Mercer |

We had a great day out for our September meeting. The sun was shining for our visit to the gardens at Antrim Castle. It was wonderful see the colourful flowerbeds in all their early autumn splendour and to stroll along the riverbank. Nature in all its glory. This visit had been planned before the announcement of the death of Queen Elizabeth II but we decided to proceed and enjoyed spending time together at this time of change for our country.

A letter, from the Worldwide President, was distributed. It honoured and thanked Her Majesty for her faithful patronage over many years. Antrim council had opened a Book of Condolence and we took the opportunity to record our thanks to Her Majesty.

Lunch was enjoyed in Colemans nursery, Templepatrick. Thanks to Joyce who made all the arrangements and to those who were the chauffeurs.

Opening Service Tuesday 4th October 8.00p.m. in the church.

Barbra





Larder at St Christopher's EAST BELFAST'S FOOD BANK UPDATE

The parishioners of St Columba's have been supporting The Larder for many years. This is a short update on our support to date, and some changes that Louise Ferguson, the leader at St Christopher's, is making in how the food bank operates.

St Columba's Cash Donations

The total cash donations from St Columba's parishioners, since March 2020, now stand at almost £25,000.

Meal Delivery

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.

By the end of January, we had cooked and delivered over almost 4,000 meals to 25 households.



Changes at The Larder

For the two years that Covid impacted us, the Larder moved to a very simple-to-operate model: making-up and delivering bags of groceries (as prescribed by the Trussell Trust) to households referred by recognised third-party organisations.

Whilst this allowed support to clients to be maintained, it limited the relationships that could be built up between volunteers and clients.

Membership scheme now operating

The Larder has returned to being a physical shop and now operates a membership model for what were previously known as “clients”. A once-off payment of a modest subscription entitles members to a weekly shop. The shopping list in the photo is for an individual member. These items can be purchased for £3 – about 10% of retail prices. Similar shopping lists exist for families (£5) and large families (£7).

The new model builds commitment and supports the client in budgeting and making good choices about food.



Membership for Volunteers

Louise’s vision is for volunteers to join with clients in becoming members. She is in the process of establishing an “eco-range”. Volunteers (and supporters like us at St Columba’s) will be able to become members of a refill shop. Members will be able to reduce

their packaging waste by purchasing dry-goods from vertical hoppers and taking purchases home in re-usable containers.

Louise is an exceptional leader and extremely thoughtful and creative in how she is addressing the needs of the community she serves. I would encourage everyone to visit her and her team in St Christopher's to understand better what she is doing and how we can become more closely involved.

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, Hollywood, BT18 9LZ.

Parishioners who wish to gift aid their donations, should contact our parish secretary, Karen Patterson (028 9065 6891, office.knock@down.anglican.org) to receive the necessary form. Thank you all for the support you have been giving. Please contact me if you are interested in volunteering or learning more.

Brian Acheson (077 6605 7473)

Harvest Thanksgiving Service 2nd October

All loose plate collections from our church services on Sunday 2nd October will be allocated to The Larder. Please help us to help our neighbours!
Thank you.

Church hall cleaning rota

October 8th
Christine and Ian Johnston

October 22nd
Fiona and Robin Haldane



A note from the Treasurer

ENERGY COSTS

Dear Parishioners,

This is a short note to give you some information on how the Select Vestry is addressing a matter that is now very frequently in the news – energy costs.

In recent years our annual energy bill has been around £10,000. This appears in our annual accounts as “Heating & Lighting” and covers all our natural gas and electricity bills. These costs usually consume between 3 and 4% of our income. Last year, they represented our 4th largest expenditure after, employee costs; property maintenance and charitable giving.



Increases in 2022

In the last six months alone, the cost of natural gas has doubled (from £6.7 to £13.4 per kWh). Further increases are anticipated.

You can expect to see “Heating & Lighting” appearing as a much larger cost in our 2022 accounts – perhaps closer to £20,000.

The Rector and Select Vestry are committed to ensuring that the church and hall remain warm and comfortable places to visit – the new roof certainly helps in this regard, as does regular maintenance of our boilers.

In addition, we have maximised the benefits of our charitable status. We avail of the lowest available VAT rate on our utilities and avoid the Climate Change Levy in relation to gas and electricity.

I expect that this subject will feature large in my report to the Easter Vestry.

Brian Acheson

PARISH ORGANISATIONS


New members are always welcome at any of our organisations!

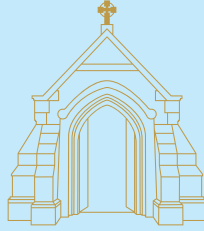
Sunday	Sunday School <i>Candles (3 – 5 years)</i> <i>Lamps (6 – 10 years)</i> <i>Torches (11+ years)</i>	2 nd , 4 th and 5 th Sundays 10.30am	Superintendent: Linda Wilson 07850 309097 Deputy Superintendent: Lynn Ryan 07955 479065
	Crèche	2 nd , 4 th and 5 th Sundays	Lindsay Rothwell 07710 590574
Monday	Craft and Hobby Circle	1 st and 3 rd Monday each month 10.30am	Carol Willis 9079 9997
	Railway and Model Club	2.00pm	David Beattie 9028 5868
	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
	Ladies Guild	3 rd Tuesday each month 2.30pm in the church	Eileen Anderson 9020 3684
	Activity Group	Except 1 st Tuesday 7.30pm	Maureen Irwin 9079 5155
	Mothers' Union	1 st Tuesday each month 8.00pm	Barbara Laverty 9573 8743
Wednesday	Bible Study Group	2.30pm - 4.00pm	Eileen Anderson 9020 3684
Thursday	Art Club	9.30am	Vida Shaw 90655063
	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

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	Jim Stevenson	028 9058 3381 07973 392 448
People's Churchwarden	Mark Wilson	07714 658911
Rector's Glebewarden	David Kelly	028 9079 6658
People's Glebewarden	Ian Johnston	07850 999909
Honorary Sexton	John Proctor	028 9087 0526
Assistant Honorary Sexton	Geoff Launchbury	028 9028 1204 17814 498 241
Select Vestry	Rector, Churchwardens, Glebewardens, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Assistant Honorary Treasurer, Suzanne Allen, Richard Caldwell, Andrew Hirst, John Kerr, Jonathan Stewart, Gillian Sadlier, Martin Moore, Nigel Morrow, Scott Rutherford	
Honorary Secretary	John Macpherson	10 Sandhill Gardens BT5 6FF 028 9028 2076 jdmacpherson@hotmail.com
Honorary Treasurer	Brian Acheson	028 9042 4892
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 Laverty	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



ST COLUMBA'S KNOCK

*An open door to friendship,
fellowship and faith*

YOUR attendance can strengthen YOUR parish!



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.

