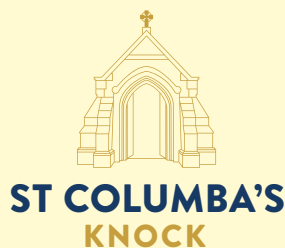


The Columban

ST. COLUMBA'S CHURCH, KNOCK, MARCH 2023



Mothering Sunday



EASTER VESTRY ADDRESS 2023

2022 was another busy and exciting year for St Columba's. Following the challenging months of non-**interaction** during the Covid pandemic, we were anxious to get back to meeting in person again, sharing friendship, fellowship and faith. Despite the many issues facing us in 2022 including the war in Ukraine, cost of living crisis, NHS crisis and finally the various strikes, we have so much good news to share!

AN INTERACTIVE CHURCH

Acts 14:27 *And when they arrived and gathered the church together, they declared all that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles.*

Church attendance has been increasing, our parish organisations have resumed, we introduced some 'new' initiatives in our parish to enjoy, and support has been enthusiastic and encouraging. The key to all of the excitement and joy we have experienced has been **interaction**. How we have missed **interaction** during the long months of lockdown. This **interaction** has been increasing as we now move forward, bravely facing the changes and challenges in our world with renewed confidence.

We marked several special occasions, starting in June, when we were able to **interact** at our celebration of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee. This bank holiday weekend began with an invitation to host the BBC Radio Ulster Broadcast Service on Sunday 5th June. In my sermon I reflected on Her Majesty's ability to **interact** at all levels and with all people, from greeting tiny babies to engaging with world leaders. Her commitment and words conveyed stability and hope and provided a focus to keep going and not give up, and not to 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.

Several of our parish organisations arranged celebratory meetings during the Platinum Jubilee, with parishioners enjoying afternoon teas and wearing beautiful hats.

Our Patronal Festival was a thoroughly historic occasion on Sunday 12th June, when we were joined by Archbishop Robin Eames for the dedication of our new church roof. This was only achieved through



your hard work and generous support together with legacies and grants. We enjoyed the celebratory cake on the lawn following the service, with plenty of time spent **interacting** in conversations and catching up!

Twelve of our parishioners were confirmed on Sunday 26th June by the Bishop of Down and Dromore, followed by two candidates being confirmed in St Finnian's on Thursday 30th June, and one who was confirmed in Drumbeg Parish on Saturday 16th April by the Bishop of Madhya Kerala Diocese in the Church of South India, The Right Reverend Dr. Malayil Sabu Koshy Cherian. This was preceded by the very popular Sunday School and Creche prizegiving at our All Age Worship service, where many parishioners attended to support the children as they each received their gifts in church.



We were all deeply saddened to hear the news that Queen Elizabeth II had died on the 8th September, aged 96 years old. People were devastated by the tragic loss of our longest-reigning monarch, and services were amended to allow people time to grieve together and watch the state funeral. The church was opened for those wishing to pray or for personal reflection. St Columba's was privileged to host the BBC Radio Ulster broadcast service the following Sunday, where the Preacher was The Archbishop of Armagh, the Most Reverend John McDowell, who is well known to us.

Following this sad time, the Railway and Model Club Open Day was hastily rearranged for the 17th September, when parishioners came along to support the parish and each other.

We had so much to give thanks for at our Harvest services as a sense of normality returned to parish life. The delicious lunch supplied by the catering committee was thoroughly enjoyed (for the first time in over 2 years!), and the **interactive** atmosphere was convivial and joyous. In fact, £3,328.50, including Gift Aid (the largest amount to

date) was raised for the Church Hall Fund!

On the same day we launched a brand-new book, "Stained Glass Windows in St Columba's Parish church", carefully researched and written by Alasdair and Wendy McLaughlin. This beautiful book describes and explains all of the stained-glass windows in our church building, and retails at £10 per copy.

In November, the Young Families group met for the first time in several years, for an **interactive** Wine & Cheese evening in the Rectory. It was wonderful to see some new



people join in, and a great evening was enjoyed by all.

St Columba's Art Club held an exhibition and sale on 26th November, which was very well supported by both parishioners and our local community.



We celebrated the Advent Carol Service on Sunday 27th November with inspirational music and where we invited Principals from local schools to **interact** by reading bible lessons during the service. This was a wonderful way to bring members of our local community into our parish as well as build relationships for the future.

We hosted an **interactive** Children's Christmas Party which was held in the grounds of Campbell College on Saturday 10th December. The children had great fun on a scavenger hunt, picnic, and no

Christmas Party is complete without the North Pole visitor, who created quite a stir of excitement for our youngest parishioners!

It is a great privilege for us that our dedicated Assistant Priests Canon Ken Smyth and Canon Walter Laverty together with our Diocesan Lay Reader, Karen McAlpine, are actively involved in many areas of our parish work. I greatly value and thank them for their friendship, support and encouragement which they express in so many ways.

INTERACTIVE FINANCE

2 Corinthians 9:7 says, "Each person should do as he has decided in his heart—not reluctantly or out of compulsion, since God loves a cheerful giver."

Our parish accounts reflect your strong financial support for the work and ministry of St Columba's. Thank you for your generous giving at this time of financial, economic and personal challenge. This is greatly appreciated by the Select Vestry and myself. We have claimed the VAT back on our work on the Church roof, and we need to continue to support further initiatives as we are charged with looking after our beautiful church building, ensuring that it can embrace future opportunities with confidence. Gift aid is an essential element for our finances, where during 2022 we received around £30,000. This is an extremely important aspect of financial giving which boosts donations and helps us immeasurably.



It is essential that we create a little more space at the front of church for circulation, in keeping with the tradition and ethos of St Columba's. This is to help us grow and develop even further and will be particularly helpful to the choir and Cantors singing at festival services and concerts, Sunday School and Creche children's participation in our All Age Worship services, parish organisation meetings and visits

from school and Historical Groups at the front of our church.

The welcome and refreshment space created at the west end of the church building in 2017, which was designed by Des Cairns, has been a great success. It is good news that due to increasing numbers attending our services and greater participation, that we need to create a similar open space at the front. This will involve replacing the three front pews with stackable chairs, in keeping with our beautiful church, which can be easily removed when the space is required. A new wooden floor similar to the rear of church will be fitted which will also greatly enhance the acoustics. It will all make our church a more inclusive experience for wheelchair and rollator users, as spaces can be made between the new seats to allow those with mobility issues to sit among their families.

'The layout of the new stackable chairs in front of the central pews will also be realigned to face the Side Chapel Holy Communion table each Thursday to accommodate the increased numbers attending this service which has now exceeded thirty. The Property and Finance committees and the Select Vestry have been closely involved and contributed to the plans, designed by Des Cairns, from the outset.

This required work will all be in keeping with the architecture of our beautiful church and will provide new opportunities for us to develop St Columba's by **interaction** through new initiatives. The plans, supported by the Bishop, have been approved by the Diocese and sent to the Representative Church Body for their consideration. The plans also have the approval of the Historic Environment Division. It is timely to undertake this work now, as a single redecoration project can then be undertaken once the areas damaged by water ingress from the old roof, and otherwise, have had time to dry-out.

This proposed work will be funded by a generous legacy from Hazel Reid. Hazel was a much respected and dedicated parishioner over many decades, who devoted her parish work to developing the Sunday School, the choir and promoting Christian Aid. The Select Vestry and I feel, after careful consideration, that these proposed plans are a most fitting tribute of Hazel's legacy. Upon completion we will have new opportunities to further develop our liturgical worship and wider parish ministry.

A detailed floor plan of this work can be viewed on page 9 of this magazine.

We will continue to fundraise so that we are able to paint the inside of the church building and repair the plasterwork, and I know that you will all help to remain **interactively** involved in all future events.

The recent Lent Lunch provided by the catering committee was extremely well enjoyed. The money raised will help towards new guttering for the church hall. The lunch proved to be a wonderful way for everyone to **interact** together over shared friendship and fellowship.

As a parish, St Columba's **interacts** with our local community on many levels, from supporting local businesses to helping our neighbours in need, which



we do in many ways. We actively support local businesses in the area, and PAUSE meets regularly to enjoy coffee and scones at local eateries.

On Sunday 26th March at 7.30pm, we are delighted to have guests join our parish choir and Cantors for John Stainer's "The Crucifixion", where, through music, readings and fellowship we can reach out in a very poignant way to support our community and parishioners at the beginning of Passiontide.

I thank the Honorary Treasurer, Brian Acheson, who has had a busy time following his appointment last year; the Assistant Honorary Treasurer, Victor Dukelow, who advises us on the Charity Commissioner's Regulations; the Finance sub-committee, the Lodgement team, the Parish Administrator and Jack Dunlop for all their hard work looking after all our financial matters so efficiently. I also thank our auditor, Nigel Skillen for carrying out the audit so efficiently.

INTERACTIVE SERVICES

Our new Christmas schedule of services was very popular and will be continued going forward following the positive comments. Our annual Christingle service on Sunday 18th December was followed by the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols at 8pm that evening. We were therefore able to share in Midnight Eucharist on Christmas Eve, which was particularly popular and very well attended.

Our Parish Organist and Choral Director, Dr. Joe McKee constantly provides inspirational music to such a high standard. He is greatly supported by the Assistant Organist, Brian Clements, the Organist Emeritus, Gerald Hill, and Alasdair MacLaughlin along with our Guest Organists, Graeme McCullough and Alfred Casement. I thank them for all their hard work, support and friendship. This past year has seen the retirement of four choir members Mary Beard, Kate Morphey, Joy Murphy and John Proctor, who have given distinguished service to music in St. Columba's. We have also welcomed many Cantors to our parish who share in our worship on the second Sunday of each month.



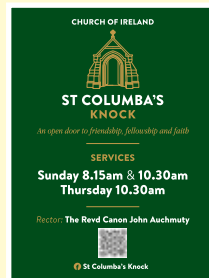
We continue to encourage our youngest parishioners to join Sunday School and Creche, for **interaction** with those of a similar age, and to develop their Christian faith and

friendships. We are very fortunate to have a thriving Sunday School and Creche with such a dedicated team of teachers and volunteers.

We have also ordered a new Church Noticeboard, as you can see, which shows our service times and a QR code, allowing visitors to immediately access our parish website for further information.



The design of the church on the sign resembles the Parish logo which you see on our Pew News each week – *an open door to friendship, fellowship and faith.*



INTERACTIVE PARISHIONERS

1 Peter 4:10 *Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.*

We encourage those people who have skills to volunteer their use whenever possible in the ministry of St Columba's. As an **interactive** church, we value the hard work done by those who quietly work behind the scenes to provide the support required for such a vibrant church, from flower arranging, cleaning, tidying gardens, delivering magazines to preparing the church and grounds for services, our counting and banking team. I thank everyone who contributes of their time and talents to our church, who **interactively** encourage other parishioners to join in and who "bring people along with them" to make St Columba's such a friendly and welcoming parish with Christ at its centre.

We thank our Webmaster Dr Ivan Roche for all his hard work over many years in developing and maintaining the lovely Parish website. Ivan has worked tirelessly to get the website up to date with new information and services, all done quietly behind the scenes. Ivan has retired from this role due to work commitments and has handed over all of the information to Dr Jonathan Stewart, who has continued the work with a very smooth handover in December. I am delighted that Jonathan has agreed to succeed Ivan in this important role and wish him every blessing as he assumes his new responsibilities.

We thank Emma Ryan, who conscientiously posts important information onto our Facebook page.

I would like to thank the Select Vestry and all the sub-committee members for their hard work, loyalty and generous giving of their professional skills and time during this busy year as we continue to embrace new opportunities for our parish.

Our Parish Administrator, Karen Patterson provides invaluable support to both me and the wider parish. Her great attention to detail ensures that all our administrative work is fully compliant with all many regulations and that all our files are clearly recorded. I thank Karen for her essential contribution to the smooth running of our parish.



I would like to thank Caroline, Charles and Henry for their dedicated support and patience as they often have to arrange family things around my busy diary. They are a wonderful source of encouragement for me, they **interact** at all times with parishioners and selflessly give of their time to join in parish activities as often as they can. They provide me with the strength and encouragement in my ministry and outreach for St Columba's.

INTERACTIVE CONCLUSION



The drive and determination of our parishioners has been most encouraging, as together we can strengthen bonds and grow our parish. It is only by **INTERACTING TOGETHER** that we can achieve our goals, and it is essential that every single parishioner plays their part. Please contact me to discuss how you can assist with our parish ministry, or Karen Patterson in the parish office who can advise you of help we require across the parish.

St Columba's is well known locally for the warm and welcoming greeting for those who walk through our doors. It is only by **interacting** and working together that we can enjoy the friendship, fellowship and faith of our parish life

together and help each other.

May the parable of the Good Samaritan inspire us – who proved how a simple **interaction** can change someone's life. Let us all be **interactive** Samaritans too!

Acts 20:28 Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with His own blood.



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 MARCH

Wednesday 1st (Purple)
8.00pm Compline "Listening"

Thursday 2nd (Purple)
10.30am Holy Communion *followed by refreshments*

Sunday 5th The Second Sunday in Lent (Purple)
8.15am Holy Communion
 Epistle Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17 God's promise realized through faith
 Gospel John 3: 1-17 Nicodemus visits Jesus
11.00am All Age Worship followed by Lent Lunch
 Gospel John 3: 1-17 Nicodemus Visits Jesus

Wednesday 8th (Purple)
8.00pm Compline "Lectio Divina"

Thursday 9th (Purple)
10.30am Holy Communion *followed by refreshments*

Sunday 12th The Third Sunday in Lent (Purple)
8.15am Holy Communion
 Reader Romans 5: 1-11 Results of justification
 Gospel John 4: 5-42 Jesus and the Samaritan woman
10.30am Holy Communion
 Reader Romans 5: 1-11 Results of Justification
 Gospel John 4: 5-42 Jesus and the Samaritan Woman

Wednesday 15th (Purple)
8.00pm Compline "Examen"

Thursday 16th (Purple)
10.30am Holy Communion *followed by refreshments*

Friday 17th St. Patrick (White)
10.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 19th The Fourth Sunday in Lent (Purple)
Mothering Sunday

8.15am Holy Communion
Epistle Colossians 3: 12-17 Guidance for God's chosen ones
Gospel John 19: 25-27 A son's Love

10.30am Morning Prayer
followed by refreshments kindly hosted by Mothers' Union
1st Reading Exodus 2: 1-10 The birth of Moses
2nd Reading John 19: 25-27 A son's Love

Wednesday 22nd (Purple)
8.00pm Holy Communion "Eucharist"

Thursday 23rd The Annunciation of our Lord (Transferred) (White)
10.30am Holy Communion *followed by refreshments*

Sunday 26th The Fifth Sunday in Lent (Purple)

8.15am Holy Communion
Epistle Romans 8: 6-11 Life in the Spirit
Gospel John 11: 1-45 The death of Lazarus

10.30am Holy Communion
Epistle Romans 8: 6-11 Life in the Spirit
Gospel John 11: 1-45 The death of Lazarus

Wednesday 29th (Purple)
8.00pm Compline "Struggle"

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

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".



SERVICES

Our Holy Week services will begin on Palm Sunday 2nd April. This marks the beginning of the most solemn week in the church's year.

The Preacher at the evening services will be the former Bishop of Tuam, Killala and Achonry, The Right Reverend Patrick Rooke and the conductor of the Good Friday Three Hours Devotions will be the Bishop of Connor, The Right Reverend George Davison.

As has been our established custom, the lunchtime services (1.15pm-1.45pm, on Monday 3rd April to Maundy Thursday 6th April) will be in Knock Methodist Church and the evening services at 8pm here in St Columba's.

By way of introduction, their new minister The Reverend Fiona McCrea writes...

Hello St Columba's and thank you for this opportunity to introduce myself. First and foremost I am a wife to Ken, mum to Jacob, Jonah and Eden and 'Marmee' to our grandson, Bodhi. I am in love with God and endeavour to live out His call on my life as a pastor and preacher, a prayer-er and ponderer. Before entering ministry I worked as a nurse and later a health adviser in the Royal Victoria Hospital so I love the caring side of ministry. I appreciate what a privilege it is to meet people in their homes, to listen to their stories and share my love for God with them. My heart's desire is that all whom I meet and minister to would live their lives for God's glory. I was stationed to Knock Methodist Church as their minister July 2022 and prior to that I served on the Bangor and Holywood Circuit for 12 years, 4 years as minister of Primacy Methodist Church followed by 8 years as minister of Carnalea Methodist Church. I have loved getting to know the congregation of Knock Methodist over the past 8 months and look forward to sharing with your congregation this Holy Week.

There will be further details about these services in the April *Columban*. Please mark these dates (Palm Sunday 2nd April to Good Friday 7th April) in your diaries and make attendance a priority.

The Rector.



Bishop Patrick Rooke



Bishop George Davison



Reverend Fiona McCrea



Women's World Day of Prayer

Women's World Day of Prayer is on **Friday 3rd March at 7.30pm in St Dorothea's Parish church**. The theme "**I have heard about your faith**" has been written by the women of Taiwan.

The artist, Hui-Wen HSAIO, has used several motifs that highlight Taiwan's best-known features to express how the Christian faith brings peace and a new vision to Taiwan.

The women in the painting are sitting by a stream, praying silently and looking up into the dark. Despite the uncertainty of the path ahead, they know that the salvation of Christ has come.

Contact the Rectory (028 9047 1514) if transport is required.





LENT SERVICES

Theme: "RESTING IN GOD"

Preachers: Bishop Alan Abernethy and The Rector

Throughout this penitential season of Lent, there will be a short series of midweek services each Wednesday at 8pm.

The former Bishop of Connor, The Right Reverend Alan Abernethy commenced this series of sermons on Ash Wednesday when he preached on the importance of "Silence". By way of Introduction to all these services he writes: ***"So much of our lives are about being busy and talking to or at God. Prayer begins and ends in silence as we learn to rest in God and listen to the "gentle whisper".***

We look forward to welcoming Bishop Abernethy back for two of the midweek services this month.

This will be an opportunity for us to come together in the middle of our busy weekly schedules to pause and reflect on our Christian faith. I encourage you to join us for these devotional services. Please note the dates in your diary:

Wednesday 1 st March	Compline	"Listening"
Wednesday 8 th March	Compline	"Lectio Divina"
Wednesday 15 th March	Compline	"Examen"
Wednesday 22 nd March	Holy Communion	"Eucharist"
Wednesday 29 th March	Compline	"Struggle"

THE RECTOR

Prayers for your thoughts and comfort



March was the first month in the early Roman calendar. Some readers who studied Shakespeare's writings at school will recall that Julius Caesar was assassinated on The Ides of March (mid month), which signified a new year. The month was named after the Roman god of war, Mars. Acknowledged as the beginning of a new year, it marked the time when war would recommence after the winter break. The months of January and February were added many years later.

It seems particularly appropriate in linking the name of the month to the Roman god of war, that prayers should focus on the volatile situation in the Ukraine. There are fears that this month could mark the beginning of a major and violent offensive on the field of battle. Praying for peace should be near the top of our list of priorities. We should pray that, in areas of conflict as well as climatically, March may 'come in like a lion and go out like a lamb'!

March brings us to the Spring Equinox and lengthening days. Before the end of the month, on 26th March, summer time will commence.

We will observe Lent throughout this month. Elsewhere your attention will be drawn to extra services on Wednesdays. Also, during the month, we shall recall the life of our national saint, Patrick.

Before the month concludes, the Annual General Vestry may take place. Your prayers and active attendance at this important event would be appreciated, and an encouragement to the Rector and to those who are elected to undertake important tasks and responsibilities on behalf of the parish.

As you will note, there are many subjects worthy of our prayers in March. Let us be regular and disciplined in our prayers!

A prayer for patience and peace

Lord God, teach us what it means to have faith in silence. When we face difficult challenges that are beyond our understanding, help us to find peace, so that we may be a light for others to discover renewed strength of mind, body and spirit, through, and in you. **Amen**

A personal prayer for inner peace

Lord, I come to you overwhelmed with anxiety. Help me to trust you as I cast my worries at your feet. As I walk with you, may it still the turbulent waters in my mind. Help me to nurture harmonious bonds with the people in my life, and guide me to do so in a way that reflects your will. **Amen**

For peace of mind - Celtic prayer

Lord - Be the peace of the Spirit mine this night.
Be the peace of the Son mine this night
Be the peace of the Father mine this night
The peace of all peace be mine this night
Each morning and evening of my life. **Amen**

A prayer for peace between Nations of all races and creeds

Lord, forgive us the hatreds and prejudices which pull the rug from all our so-called love for others and for you. Those of every nation, including fellow Christians, Jews, Muslims, Arabs, Atheists, Serbs, Ukrainians and Russians – so many feed on hatred for one another, endlessly suppressing the truth of our common humanity. Give courage and compassion, and opening of heart and mind and freedom from fear, so that we may respond to hatred with love and to injustice with total dedication TO justice. We pray through Christ, who is a stranger to no one land more than another, and who proclaims peace to all nations. **Amen**

A prayer for Ukraine

God bless UKRAINE
Guard her people
Guide her leaders
And give peace within its boundaries
or Jesus Christ's sake. **Amen**

Brief reflections on peace

'Lord, make us children of quietness and heirs of peace.' (Clement of Rome 1st.C)

'If possible, as far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.' Romans 12 v.16

'Cast all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.' 1 Peter 5 v.7

The Serenity prayer

Lord, grant me the serenity of mind to accept that which cannot be changed, courage to change that which can be changed, and wisdom to know the difference, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Prayers suitable for Lent

(The following prayers have been in use for hundreds of years but are suited to any age)

In Lent, may we experience joy with peace, amendment of life, time for true repentance, the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit, and perseverance in good works. Help us, O almighty and merciful Lord. **Amen**

Grant, we beseech thee Lord, that by the observance of this Lent, we may advance in the knowledge of the mystery of Christ, and show forth His mind in conduct worthy of our calling, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

St. Patrick's Day (17th March)

During the day, you may wish to read the words of St. Patrick's Breastplate in your Hymnal number 322.

The following is an ancient Irish Blessing:-

May the strength of God pilot us

May the wisdom of God instruct us

May the hand of God protect us

May the word of God direct us

May thy salvation, O Lord, be always ours, this day and for evermore. **Amen**

St. Joseph the Worker (19th March)

God our Father who raised up Joseph the carpenter of Nazareth to be the guardian of your Son and husband of the Virgin Mary. Give us grace to follow His example of faithful obedience to your laws, through our Lord Jesus Christ who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

The Annunciation that she would be the mother of Jesus to the Virgin Mary- 25th March.

It is appropriate to thank God today for all mothers. Pray for Mothers' Union

Thank you Lord, for all mothers, for those who nurtured us when we were young, and, for those who care for the young and vulnerable today. As we honour Mary and think of our own mothers with love, help us, whatever our circumstances may be, to find true happiness in loving and befriending one another. Encourage our parish branch of the Mothers' Union, led by its Enrolling Member, Barbara Laverty, that members may see themselves as part of your family on earth. We ask this in your name. **Amen**

Springtime

As the days lengthen and we spend longer in the light of day, grant that we may spend longer in the light of your presence. Lord, may the seeds of faith, which have been buried within us, grow into love and respect for you, and for people, so that in this season and in Lent there may be a springtime for our lives in Christ. **Amen**

**

Easter General Vestry

Prosper with your blessing Lord, the work to which you have called us in this parish. We pray for those elected to serve on the Select Vestry and for the Rector as he chairs meetings. As we prepare for the Easter General Vestry meeting, give us the enthusiasm to share in the tasks that are set before us, so that we may use our time, talents and resources in your service, for the good of your Church and the glory of your name. **Amen**

(Note also the Parish Prayer in each issue of the Columban)

Parishioners are encouraged to pray for our society in a time of economic insecurity. In addition, please pray for the sick, for all carers and for the bereaved.

Conclusion

Lord, teach us to pray often, that we may pray oftener!

(Jeremy Taylor 1611-1667)

Grant us grace, almighty Father, so to pray as to deserve to be heard.

(Jane Austen, Novelist, 1775-1817)

Thought for the Month

Eithne Hobson

On our way home, late morning last Spring, my daughter, Gillian and I noticed a lot of outriders' bikes and a few people standing outside the gates of the Marie Curie Hospice. Gillian said "let's park and return to see which royalty is there".

On returning we stood and chatted to the few other people standing outside the gate. It was a lovely warm, sunny day and we were enjoying the sunshine.



Diana Fox and Eithne Hobson

After a while a plain-clothed official came out and asked us if we would like to come inside the gates and stand nearer the front door of the building as PRINCE CHARLES was due to leave. Well, yes of course! After a while he stopped, shook hands and spoke to each person. He showed such interest in each of us and he went up in our estimation. Little did we know that we would be shaking hands and talking to the future King!

Diana Fox

I don't usually brag BUT I have the best job ever!

Not everyone can say that they actually enjoy going into work, Monday to Friday, and that you work with the best team.

I am a full-time additional special needs classroom assistant in a lovely little school called Mitchell House School. The fact that it has 'house' in its name describes the atmosphere entirely. It is nestled off the Hollywood Road and educates and cares for children with physical disabilities and associated learning difficulties aged between 2 to 19 years. It is a small school with a big heart.

Everyone (staff, therapists and pupils) know each other's name and nobody passes in the corridor without smiling and personally saying 'hello' to one another.

Now don't get me wrong, it can be hard, especially watching the children whenever they are struggling, heading for surgery or taking ill in school. What our children cope and manage with on a daily basis is awe-inspiring. Their strength, courageousness and resilience put me to shame.

That's why this was my choice of topic for 'Thought of the Month'. If only everyone could share some of our pupils' attributes... how they all look out for each other and support their peers; how they show positivity and strength and how they always see the sunshine on a dark and cloudy day. Surely this is food for thought!

Our sincere thanks to Eithne and her daughter, Diana, for sharing these 'Thoughts' with us.

The April 'Thought for the Month' will be written by Nigel Morrow.

PAUSE

As many of you know the Bible Study Group meet in the choir vestry on Wednesday afternoons at 2.30pm. We then retire to the back of the church for refreshments and a chat. Today, for the first time in 2023, there was no need for lights in the church. Spring is on the way!

PAUSE, of course continues throughout the year regardless of seasons or weather. In March we are meeting on two occasions.

Tuesday 14th March at 10.30am in The Poet, Kings Square, for tea/coffee and scones.

Tuesday 28th March at 10.30am in Hillmount Garden Centre for tea/coffee and scones.

If you are free on one or both of these dates please come along. Come on your own or bring a friend or neighbour! All are welcome.

If you need help with transport please contact me.

Eileen (028 9020 3684)

THE ANNUAL EASTER GENERAL VESTRY MEETING

will take place in Church
on **Thursday 23rd March at 7.30pm promptly.**

All parishioners are encouraged to attend but only those who are registered can vote to elect:

The People's Churchwarden

The People's Glebewarden

12 Select Vestry Members

4 Parochial Nominators

4 Supplemental Nominators

2 Diocesan Synodspersons

2 Supplemental Synodspersons

Diocesan Synodsperson and

Supplemental Diocesan Synodsperson under the age of 30 years old.

Appointment of Auditors



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, 15th March.**

His contact details are:-

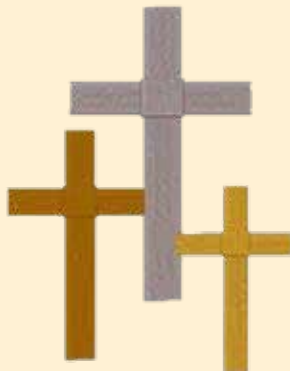
10 Old Quay Court, Holywood BT18 0HT
Tel: **9042 4390** Email: **colmaged@outlook.com**

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

St Columba's Parish Church, Knock
27 King's Road, Belfast BT5 6JG

THE CRUCIFIXION



by John Stainer

Fr Martin O'Hagan *tenor*
Adam Reaney *bass*

St Columba's Cantors & Choir
Alfred Casement *organ*
Joe McKee *director*

Sunday 26th March 2023 at 7.30pm

Voluntary Donations to church funds

Tea and coffee will be available after the performance.



March marks the beginning of meteorological Spring and by the end of the month daylight saving hours will be operating as we await the promise of Summer.

It is a busy month in the church too.

World Day of Prayer Friday 3rd at 7.30pm in St Dorothea's

Mothering Sunday 19th March

Thursday 30th March Festival Service 8.00pm St Marks Newtownards

Our parish meeting on 7th March will be led by Clare Stewart. Clare is the Action and Outreach Coordinator for Down and Dromore and she will update us on the work currently supported by Mothers' Union in this diocese. We hope to give Clare some toiletry bags for local hospitals at this meeting, please remember to bring suitable items to the meeting. We are also making syringe driver bags for the cancer patient's pattern available. In addition, we have patterns to knit the hats used by premature babies, trauma teddies and more. If you wish to help we will provide you with a copy.

Looking forward to seeing you at the March meeting and as always everyone is welcome to join us.



Joyce, Peter and Yvonne following his talk on the street names of east Belfast.

Barbara



Church hall cleaning rota

March 11th

Jayne and Ronnie Martin

March 25th

Clare and Jim Best

MARMALADE

Marmalade is for sale on the 3rd Sunday each month, on Thursday mornings or by contacting me on **9048 6622**.

Thank you for your support.

Maureen



Railway and Model Club

Activity increases. We are planning some "outdoor" events, including railway journeys to places around the country. Also in the new programme will be talks on various topics. Some of these will be "open" to any others interested in the subject of the talk. So watch this space!! We have been encouraged by recent visitors becoming members. They have already joined teams working on new layouts. We are still open to others visiting or joining!! So don't be shy.....come down any Monday afternoon.....we are there from 2:00pm till 4:00/4:30pm. Till then....Keep'er Rollin'.



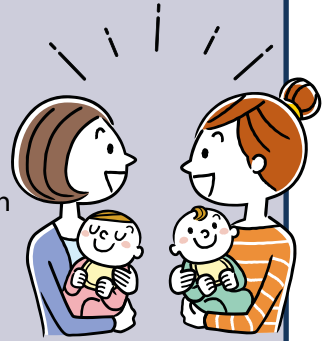
Rockie

MUMS AND TOTS

Our numbers were smaller after the Christmas break due to illness and poor weather. However, we have welcomed many new families in the past few weeks resulting in our numbers reaching the highest since we returned after Covid.

There is a real buzz in the hall on a Friday morning with children playing and adults chatting. Thank you to all our lovely volunteers who provide such a welcoming environment for the children.

We will finish on 31st March for Easter.



Joyce

Ladies Guild

On a particularly cold and frosty afternoon 20 members attended our rearranged January meeting. Our very successful Christmas lunch was still fresh in our minds as we met at the start of a new year. It was a great pleasure to welcome our speaker Dr Joe McKee, who kindly stepped in at very short notice. At his suggestion we took our seats in the choir stalls, much cosier than being spread out in the pews.



Dr McKee had prepared a programme of chat and music for us which began with a 'tour' of our lovely church organ, demonstrating the range of sounds available. We also learned things about our church building design and the importance of acoustics within it. Stories of Joe's journey as a church organist were interspersed with appropriate pieces of music. It was a most enjoyable and informative afternoon appreciated by all present.

Our March meeting (postponed from 2020!) will have an Irish flavour with entertainment provided by some of our talented members. Please feel free to bring along a friend or neighbour.

We continue to keep in our thoughts and prayers members who are ill at this time and wish them a full and speedy recovery.

Eleanor

Sunday 5th March

11.00am All Age Worship followed by



Lent Lunch in the Church Hall

Come along and join us!

Admission: Voluntary contributions
in aid of the Church Hall Refurbishment
Fund.

*Tickets for catering purposes only available
from the back of church.*

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 Lavery (028 9573 8743). In addition to requested Parish visiting, the Clergy will be visiting parishioners in the following districts during February:

Rector

Finchley Gardens
Finchley Park
Finchley Vale
Gilbourne Court
Gilnahirk Road
Grand Parade

Canon Lavery

Forthill Close
Glenbrook Avenue
Glencregagh Park
Glenmachan Drive
Glenmachan Park
Grangewood Grove

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 Lavery (028 9573 8743) to enable them to take careful notes of the details.

Thank you.

MARCH FLOWER ROTA

Sunday 5th

Rosemary Simpson

Sunday 12th

Men's Club

Sunday 19th

John and Barbara Gibson

Sunday 26th

Eileen Anderson

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 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 Lavery 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

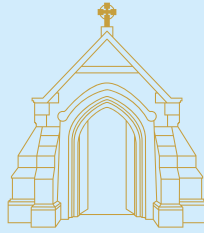
Parish website: www.stcolumbas.down.anglican.org

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 07814 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	Dr Jonathan Stewart	office.knock@down.anglican.org
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

Safeguarding Panel

**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 02890471514 Patrick Good 02890656908 Elizabeth Leonard 02890653162**



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.

