

The Columban

ST. COLUMBA'S CHURCH, KNOCK, APRIL 2023



He has risen



RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Parishioner,

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

I invite you to join us for our Holy Week services as we walk with Jesus to the foot of the Cross. The full schedule of all the services is in the Columban. Please note the details in your diary. **The Reverend Fiona McCrea from Knock Methodist Church** will be leading us in the lunchtime services and **the Right Reverend Patrick Rooke, formerly Bishop of Tuam, Killala and Achonry** will be leading us in the evening services. The Good Friday Three Hours will be conducted by **the Bishop of Connor, Right Reverend George Davison.**

Holy Week is the most solemn and dramatic of weeks in the churches year. It begins with Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and the crowds shouting *"Hosanna to the Son of David - Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, Hosanna in the Highest"*. Those in the crowd were swept away with the joy of that day. But the mood of the crowd was short lived. How quickly human emotions can change as we know only too well from our own experiences. **There was a fickleness of that crowd having shouted "Hosanna"; that they would a few days later join with those who cried out "Crucify him, Crucify him".** On Palm Sunday they were calling Jesus the *"Son of David"* but by Good Friday the crowds were saying *"we have no king but Caesar"*.

As we will discover in our journey with Jesus to the cross, it wasn't just the crowd who were fickle. **What about the disciples?** Oh yes – they were only too pleased to share in the good times but what about when Jesus really needed them as He neared the cross? Where were they then? **How they deserted Jesus when the soldiers came to arrest Jesus.** *"Then all the disciples deserted him and fled. Those who arrested Jesus led him away to the house of Caiaphas the high priest where the scribes and elders had gathered. (Matthew 26: 56-57)"*

What about Peter – Peter the rock? How he spectacularly denied Jesus when questioned. We can understand how he went outside when the cock

crowded. After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, *"Certainly you too are one of them, for your accent betrays you..."* "I do not know the man". And immediately the cock crowed. And Peter remembering the saying of Jesus, *"Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times. And he went out and wept bitterly."* (Matthew. 26: 73-75)

But what about us?

What is our response in times of triumph and sorrow, in times of abandonment and forsakenness, in times of despair and loss, in times of betrayal and friendship, in times of fear and forgiveness? **Is there a fickleness in our approach depending on the circumstances to one another?**

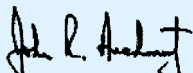
It is through Jesus' own sufferings that He can give us the strength to sustain us. Even in the moment of great pain and exhaustion Jesus is still in command as he speaks poignant words from the Cross which we will reflect on during Good Friday. **Jesus is able to use His voice for one moment as He says *"it is finished"* meaning it is accomplished. Rather than words of defeat, they are the ultimate words of His triumph. Here is our hope.** It wasn't finished. It was just the beginning.

On Easter Day we will rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. We will greet the risen Christ with joy. But first we must walk the way of the cross.

It is my prayer that all of our Holy Week services and the ministry of our visiting preachers will give strength and blessing to us all. **Let us all make attendance our priority.**

Caroline, Charles and Henry join me in wishing you a very Happy Easter.

Yours in His Service.



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



Holy Week Lunchtime Services

Knock Methodist Church

Reverend Fiona McCrea, minister of Knock Methodist Church, will lead this year's Holy Week lunchtime services from 1.15-1.45pm, Monday 3rd – Thursday 6th April. The theme for these services is – Jesus' words from the cross.

Monday – The Word of Forgiveness Luke 23: v 34

Tuesday – The Word of Salvation Luke 23: v 43

Wednesday – The Word of Relationship John: 19 v 26-27

Thursday – The Word of Reunion Luke: 23 v 46



CROSS PURPOSES

As an introduction to our Holy Week Evening Services, Bishop Rooke writes ...

Monday	Caiaphas	St John 11:45-53
Tuesday	Pilate and Herod	St Luke 23:1-25
Wednesday	Judas	St Matthew 26:14-16 & 47-56
Maundy Thursday	Peter	St John 13 1-17 & 31b-35
Good Friday	The People	St John 19:14-42



It is always a great joy and a privilege to join you in the pulpit at St Columba's. My theme for the five nights of Holy Week is CROSS PURPOSES and it is taken from a book of the same name written by the late Eddie Askew, who had a long association with the Leprosy Mission. In the introduction to the book he writes; 'Jesus faces his critics with integrity and when they are at cross purposes with him he steadfastly faces death rather than compromise; the purpose of his cross to cancel out the cross purposes of the world.'

I shall present some of the evidence and reflect on the motives of those at the heart of the passion narrative who appear to be at cross purposes with our Lord. Thus, I hope we might be better equipped to understand the part they played in the Crucifixion and discover some of the learning for our own lives.

Bishop Patrick Rooke

GOOD FRIDAY THREE HOURS DEVOTIONS



CONDUCTOR: The Right Reverend George Davison Bishop of Connor

The “Three” Hours on Good Friday is a traditional service of devotion recalling the time when Our Lord was upon the cross. The service is one primarily of reflection and includes many periods of silence. The reading of the Scriptures, the singing of hymns and the listening to a series of short addresses provides us with food for imaginative contemplation during the silences.

For those unable to remain for the duration of the devotions it is possible to leave at the end of each section or during the singing of the hymns.

SERVICES IN APRIL

Sunday 2nd	Palm Sunday	(Red)
8.15am	Holy Communion Epistle Philippians 2: 5-11 The humility of Christ Gospel Matthew 21: 1-11 Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem	
10.30am	All Age Worship <i>followed by refreshments</i> Gospel Matthew 21: 1-11 Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem	
Monday 3rd	Monday in Holy Week	(Red)
10.00am	Holy Communion	
1.15-1.45pm	Lunchtime service in Knock Methodist Preacher: The Reverend Fiona McCrea	
8.00pm	Service of the Word <i>followed by refreshments hosted by the Men's Club</i> Preacher: Bishop Patrick Rooke "Caiphas" 1 st Reading Isaiah 42: 1-9 2 nd Reading John 11: 45-53	
Tuesday 4th	Tuesday in Holy Week	(Red)
10.00am	Holy Communion	
1.15-1.45pm	Lunchtime service in Knock Methodist Preacher: The Reverend Fiona McCrea	
8.00pm	Service of the Word <i>followed by refreshments hosted by Mothers' Union</i> Preacher: Bishop Patrick Rooke "Pilate and Herod" 1 st Reading Isaiah 49: 1-7 2 nd Reading Luke 23: 1-25	
Wednesday 5th	Wednesday in Holy Week	(Red)
10.00am	Holy Communion	
1.15-1.45pm	Lunchtime service in Knock Methodist Preacher: The Reverend Fiona McCrea	
8.00pm	Service of the Word <i>followed by refreshments hosted by The Ladies Guild</i> Preacher: Bishop Patrick Rooke "Judas" 1 st Reading Isaiah 50: - 4:9a 2 nd Reading Matthew 26: 14-16, 47-56	

Thursday		
6th April	Maundy Thursday	(White)
10.30am	Holy Communion for Housebound Parishioners <i>followed by refreshments</i>	
1.15-1.45pm	Lunchtime Service in Knock Methodist Church Preacher: The Reverend Fiona McCrea	
8.00pm	Holy Communion <i>followed by the stripping of the altar.</i> Preacher: Bishop Patrick Rooke "Peter" Epistle 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26 Gospel John 13: 1-17, 31b-35	
Friday 7th	Good Friday	
12-3.00pm	The Three Hour Devotions Conductor: The Right Reverend George Davison Bishop of Connor	
8.00pm	Tenebrae Service Preacher: Bishop Patrick Rooke "The People"	
Sunday 9th	Easter Sunday	(White)
8.15am	Holy Communion Reader Acts 10: 34-43 Gospel John 20: 1-18	Gentiles hear the Good News The Resurrection of Jesus
10.30am	Holy Communion Reader Acts 10: 34-43 Gospel John 20: 1-18	Gentiles hear the Good News The Resurrection of Jesus
Thursday 13th	(White)	
10.30am	Holy Communion <i>followed by refreshments</i>	
Sunday 16th	The Second Sunday of Easter	(White)
8.15am	Holy Communion Reader Acts 2: 14a, 22-32 Gospel John 20: 19-31	Peter addresses the crowd Jesus appears to the disciples
10.30am	Morning Prayer <i>followed by refreshments hosted by the Art Club</i> First Reading Second Reading	Genesis 8: 6-16, 9: 8-16 The flood subsides John 20: 19-31 Jesus appears to the disciples

Thursday 20th Saint Joseph of Nazareth (Transferred) (White)

10.30am Holy Communion *followed by refreshments*

Sunday 23rd The Third Sunday of Easter (White)

8.15am Holy Communion

Epistle Acts 2: 14a, 36-41 The first converts

Gospel Luke 24: 13-35 The walk to Emmaus

10.30am Holy Communion and Holy Baptism

Epistle Acts 2: 14a, 36-41 The first converts

Gospel Luke 24: 13-35 The walk to Emmaus

Thursday 27th Saint Mark the Evangelist (Transferred) (Red)

10.30am Holy Communion *followed by refreshments*

Sunday 30th The Fourth Sunday of Easter (White)

8.15am Holy Communion

Epistle Acts 2: 42-49 Life among the believers

Gospel John 10: 1-10 Jesus the Good Shepherd

10.30am Morning Prayer

1st Reading Nehemiah 9: 6-15 National Confession

2nd Reading John 10: 1-10 Jesus the Good Shepherd

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".

APRIL FLOWER ROTA

Sunday 2nd

Palm leaves and Greenery

Sunday 9th

Easter Lilies by Caroline Cramp

Sunday 16th

Wendy Killen

Sunday 23rd

April Mercer

Sunday 30th

Barbara Laverty

An Easter Reflection

For a few weeks, the Bible Study group has been reading through the book of Revelation. It is not an easy book by any means as it is full of strange visions which often refer to the prophets Ezekiel and Daniel. However, the book is also full of hope and encouragement – both to the early Christians going through terrible persecution from Rome; but also for us today!

Many in our society are going through hard time with no end in sight. Some have financial worries and others have health problems with long delays for treatment. In many parts of the world innocent victims are torn apart by wars, greed, famine, and earthquakes. We can relate to all these as mentioned in Revelation. Yet, the book also gives us many wonderful passages and hymns which we use today in our worship such as Canticle 17 “Great and Wonderful” (Revelation 15) and Canticle 21 “Glory and Honour” (Revelation 4). The second Thanksgiving Prayer at the Holy Communion ends with the great act of praise “Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours for ever and ever. Amen” (Revelation: 5. 13) Many modern worship songs are based on Revelation as well as classic choral pieces such as the majestic “Hallelujah Chorus” from Handel’s Messiah (Rev 19).

All of this takes us to the eternal message of Easter. However, we remember that the first Easter Day did not begin with joy and celebrations. Mary Magdalene was one of the women who had remained near the cross and watched Jesus die. Then, at the first opportunity according to Jewish law, she hurried to the tomb to attend to the body, only to find it gone. Her first Easter began in pain and grief beyond words reminding us that Easter joy is hard earned. True Easter joy is something we begin to discover in the midst of whatever life throws at us. That is why it is important that we stay near the cross of Jesus as we journey throughout Holy Week. Without beginning with the suffering of Christ; how can we enter the real joy and celebration of Easter?

A short while ago St Columba’s reintroduced the common cup at the communion service, for those who wish. Judging by the fact that most parishioners who receive it, it has been greatly missed since the pre-pandemic days! That cup does two things. First it reminds us that it is “the cup of sorrow”. It is about the shedding of Christ’s blood as a sacrifice for our sins. Then secondly it is the “cup of victory” in a similar way that a sports team wins the hard-fought cup at the end of a match. As we enter

the watch of the Passion, so we partake of the cup of sorrow and as we rejoice in the Easter message, so we partake of the victory cup!

There is an Easter hymn (No 254) not widely known by most congregations.

The first verse is:-

"At the Lamb's high feast we sing
praise to our victorious King,
who hath washed us in the tide
flowing from His pierced side
Praise we Him, whose love divine
gave his guest His blood for wine,
gave His body for the feast;
Christ the victim, Christ the Priest."

May you and yours have a blessed and enjoyable Easter.

Walter Lavarty

From the Registers

Our Sorrows

Funeral Services

13th February 2023

Barbara McNeill



Church hall cleaning rota

April 8th

Isobel McDowell and Nan Hillier

April 22nd

Christine and Ian Johnston

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).

The clergy will be visiting parishioners in the Residential and Nursing Homes throughout the parish during April. The clergy will also be conducting private Holy Communion services in the homes of those housebound parishioners who are unable to attend any of the Easter services.



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.



Private Holy Communion Services

It is always a privilege for the clergy to conduct private Holy Communion services for those housebound parishioners who will not be attending Easter services in St. Columba's. **Please telephone the parish administrator (028 9065 6891) by Tuesday 4th April to make an appointment if you would like a private Holy Communion service in your home.**

We had a busy March. Thank you for all your gifts which enabled us to make 66 toiletry bags. These have been forwarded to the Ulster Hospital to be given to patients who are admitted to hospital in an emergency. In addition, several syringe driver bags were made. These will be given to our local cancer unit and hospice, and we hope to continue supporting these initiatives. It was encouraging to learn that some projects were initiated during the Covid lockdown and that established projects are being revived. In April instead of our usual meeting we will attend the Holy Week Service.

May I wish you and yours a Blessed Easter.

Barbara



Clare Stewart meeting
with the Rector and
members



Preparing
Mothering
Sunday
gifts





Donated items made into
toiletry bags for Ulster
hospital



Prayers for your thoughts and comfort



Introduction:- The Gospel tells us that the Death and Resurrection of Christ happened during the Jewish Festival of the Passover. The date of Easter, which has been a subject of controversy, is determined by the lunar calendar. It was agreed as far back as the Synod of Whitby in 664 AD, (in which the Church based at Iona established by St. Columba, had a major input) that the most important day in the Christian calendar, celebrating the Resurrection, should be marked on the Sunday following the first full moon after the Spring Equinox. Confused? You are not the only one! Attempts have been made to reach agreement on a fixed day every year i.e. 2nd Sunday in April – but until now, that has not been accepted everywhere.

The name 'Easter' has little to do with the Resurrection of Jesus. It is derived from the Anglo-Saxon pagan festival Eostre. At the beginning of Spring the pagan god bearing that name, was honoured. Strangely (perhaps) the name remains in common usage.

Some of this month's prayers will focus on the Resurrection of Christ and on the solemn days that precede it, known as Holy Week. In recognition that the Christian Festival and the Jewish Passover are usually observed at the same time, a prayer has been included for the Jewish people.

The Holy Week narrative includes some violent incidents. The destructive war in Ukraine reminds us that prayers for peace should be foremost in our minds.

Palm Sunday/Holy Week

Almighty God, as we enter Holy Week, turn our minds again to Jerusalem, as we recall the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Stir up within us the gift of faith, that we may not only praise Him with our voices but may follow Him in the way of the cross. **Amen**

Holy Week preachers and services – A traditional prayer

Lord God, we commend to your care the people of the churches in our area with whom we will share services in Holy Week. We pray for Bishop Patrick Rooke and Bishop George Davison who will preach in St. Columba's, and for those who will lead worship in Knock Methodist Church. Grant that, as we listen, we may hear, learn and inwardly digest their words, so that through the comfort of your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Holy Week

Jesus you know what it's like to feel abandoned, lost and afraid. Walk with us, and show us how to walk with others who live in fear, and who may face death through earthquake, hunger or war. Show us how to respond to the distressed in generous and practical ways, and to pray for those we do not know and will not meet, but, who are loved always by you. **Amen**

Easter Morning

Lord, as the dawn breaks, help us to share every moment, aware that we are with the risen Christ. Lord, as the sun rises, may we be reminded of the truths of this day. Lord, as we rise to greet this day, may we celebrate that darkness has been overcome and the world is bathed in your resurrection light. Lord, help us to see always that you are the true light who lightens everyone who comes into this world. **Amen**

An Easter family prayer

Lord of life, we rejoice at this Easter time in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Visit our homes and families with your blessing of peace. Bless all who share our lives on a daily basis with the love and joy of Easter. **Amen**

An Easter prayer

Father we thank you for the miracle of life – abundant life on earth and eternal life in heaven. Help us to celebrate our lives positively every day. As we seek to follow you, make clear your path and way, so that we may know you always as the Way, the Truth and the Life. **Amen**

Another Easter prayer

Lord, your Resurrection has given us new life and renewed hope. Help us to live as those in pursuit of the Christian ideal. Grant us wisdom to know what we must do, the will to want to do it, the perseverance to continue to do it, and the strength to complete it. **Amen**

An Easter children's prayer

God made you and God made me
He made the world for us to see
God loves you and long ago
He sent Jesus to tell us so.
Jesus showed us many things
To love and share and play and sing
To learn and pray, to help and care
He promised that he'd always be there.
He died but then came back to life
Let's celebrate now that he's alive.

(author unknown)

Readings for Good Friday – Psalms 22 and 130

Reading for Easter Day Easter Anthems page 120 Book of Common Prayer

Read Holy Week/Easter accounts in the latter chapters of the Gospel accounts

The Ukraine and freedom from the threat of greater violence

Lord, lead us from death to life – from falsehood to truth. Lead us from despair to hope – from fear to trust. As we continue to pray for the leaders and people of Ukraine, including refugees in our country, give wisdom to those who have the means, not only to start wars, but to strive for peace also. In crying out for an end to war, which brings with it death and destruction, may we continue to acknowledge that you are light, hope and love in a confused and divided world.

Amen

Our Environment

Lord our creator, as we enjoy the lengthening days of Spring, we thank you for blessing us with the beauty of creation. Help us, as individuals, and together as a nation, to be wise stewards of your creation, so that we may respect our natural resources for those who inhabit the earth now, and in generations to come. We ask this in your name. **Amen**

Prayer for St. Mark's Day – 25th April Page 308 Book of Common Prayer
Easter 4 is observed often as Good Shepherd Sunday. This year 30th April

Good Shepherd prayer

O God, the Shepherd of your people, deliver us from all troubles, worries and cares that upset us, that we may do what is pleasing to you. May all who are sick vulnerable or bereft of loved ones sense that they are in the care of our Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

A prayer associated with St. Columba

Lord, be a bright flame before me
Be a guiding star above me
Be a smooth path before me
Be a kindly shepherd before me
Today, tonight and forever. **Amen**

In conclusion

Lord, give me grace and mercy when I fail: guidance when I'm not sure which way to go, and wisdom to trust you in all things. I know that your love brings life and light to all who seek it. May I seek you always as I walk with you in life. **Amen**

Thought for the Month

Despite having run (on and off) for nearly 20 years, I still do not consider myself a runner.

Back in October, I ran the London Marathon, to raise funds for Marie Curie, an organisation that provided my family with essential support at a truly difficult time. Thank you to St Columba's for supporting me and my fundraising efforts.

As I finished my training, fairly injury and pain free, I probably felt the best prepared that I had ever been going into a marathon.

But, as those who have taken part in a large race, particularly long distance, will know they rarely go to plan. And so it was for me – after 4 gruelling hours in the London sunshine, the wheels came off as an old hip injury came back with a vengeance.....I shuffled across the finishing line, emotionally drained and physically exhausted.

Just when you think all is well, life has a nasty habit of bringing you back to reality!



Nigel Morrow

There are a couple of things I have learnt, through trial and (lots and lots of) error whilst running, that have helped me stay the course, so here they are!

- Try not to get overwhelmed – take a breath, and keep moving
- Everyone struggles no matter how well prepared they are, so give yourself a break
- Keep focused on what is ahead of you, but not so far that you miss what's happening around you
- Show up and be consistent
- Remember why you're doing it
- Drink plenty of water, and get plenty of sleep

Nigel Morrow

Our thanks to Nigel for sharing this 'Thought' with us.

The May 'Thought for the Month' will be written by Lindsay Rothwell.

An Easter Reflection

Our culture in the 21st. Century in Western Europe has assimilated two great Christian stories, and their associated festivals in very different ways.

People prepare for Christmas months in advance, without necessarily accepting its religious significance. Every school puts on a Nativity play with no more than a muted objection from secular and humanist sources.

As far as most people are concerned, Easter is merely an extended holiday with chocolate eggs for the children. It is very unlikely that many schools will put on Easter plays. To some extent, that may be because of the complex nature and mystery of the Resurrection of Jesus. In addition, Easter doesn't have the same appeal to human emotions that we associate with the birth of a baby.

The ways in which those two festivals are observed by the community in general has changed greatly in my lifetime. For example, when I was a child, Holy Week was a very solemn period when cinemas, dance halls and all places of entertainment, closed. Then, we lived in what many people believed to be a Confessional State. That description would have applied to both the Republic and Northern Ireland. Today, we accept as practising Christians that we cannot impose our beliefs and practices on those who are indifferent or hostile to what we consider to be of enormous significance.

I'm preparing this reflection three weeks before Easter. While undervalued and ignored by many in our own faith community, the significance of Easter far outweighs that of Christmas. Put simply, the Easter account of the Resurrection is the foundation of Christian belief. 'If Christ has not been risen from the dead, our faith is in vain'.

While the accounts of the first Easter Day may differ in detail, the central part of the empty tomb is present in all four Gospels. Unlike most other world religions, Christianity and Judaism are founded on historical events. While the Old Testament events cannot be overlooked, the life, teaching and Jesus Christ, including His death and resurrection, are of paramount importance. Such events are open to discussion, but they are based on historical reality. You and I are challenged to accept the uniqueness of Jesus Christ, who, because of the fact of the event we will celebrate on Easter Day, is as real and relevant now as it was over 2000 years ago. That is a cause for celebration. In the words of the Gospel, 'Christ is risen. He is risen indeed!'

I wish you a happy and holy Easter!

Ken Smyth

Turkey Earthquake Disaster

On Monday 6th February at 4:17am local time, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck southern Turkey (officially known as Türkiye) near the city of Gaziantep, devastating parts of Türkiye (Turkey) and Syria. It was followed by a series of powerful aftershocks. On the same day, at 13:24 local time, a second earthquake (magnitude 7.5) hit the Elbistan district around 80 miles north of Gaziantep.

Rescuers raced to save people trapped beneath the rubble and to get shelter and support to those in Türkiye (Turkey) and Syria who had lost their homes or were afraid to return inside.

Then, on 20th February, two weeks after the first earthquake, there was another 6.4 magnitude earthquake near Antakya in Türkiye (an area already severely affected by the first earthquakes), again followed by significant aftershocks. More lives were lost as further buildings collapsed. So far, it has been reported that more than 50,000 people have died as a result of the earthquakes, with many thousands more injured.

During February, we allocated our Sunday loose cash collections to the humanitarian appeal, launched by Bishop David, to assist those in desperate need. The money will be channelled through the Bishop's Appeal. The agency and its partners are already providing winter kits to people seeking shelter in the region, where over four million people are in need of aid due to the civil war. They will scale this work up to meet the immediate humanitarian needs of those affected by the earthquake.

The main needs according to its partner field teams are:

- winter kits including blankets, mattresses, food parcels and heating material – partners had already procured 40,000 of these kits prior to the earthquake and have started distributing these immediately within collective shelters;
- preparing shelters to help people find some safety indoors from the weather; and
- working with other local organisations to remove debris and continue rescue efforts.

It is also expected that donations will be used to provide basic food, water and sanitation, shelter and healthcare, education and mental health support, particularly for children and young people.

At St Columba's, we have collected **£1,177.45 towards this appeal and paid it into the Bishop's Appeal. Thank you very much to everyone who supported this very important work.**



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 14th - 20th MAY 2023

I recently attended a Christian Aid Conference in Hillsborough in preparation for Christian Aid week 2023. Last year over £ 426,000 was raised in Ireland during that week which is an encouraging amount in post pandemic and financially challenging times. Rosamond Bennett, the CEO spoke about developing a new strategy which was to encourage resilience in communities in the face of severe climatic changes.

It was so beneficial to talk to other church representatives about their experiences since the pandemic. Each church has their own strengths which they have tried to utilise - a few have continued door to door collections, others delivery only and some have introduced new ideas such as soup lunches or sponsored events.

In St Columba's we have a long tradition of giving generously to Christian Aid - this year we will again include two Christian Aid envelopes in Mays Columban to be returned at a church service. We will also deliver to some of the roads / streets in the vicinity of the church. Our volunteers will also serve tea/coffee and host a cake/bun sale after church on May 21st to bring Christian Aid week to an end.

We are always looking for new volunteers to spare 1 hour - it could be delivering envelopes, making buns, serving tea/coffee. All ages welcome.

Joyce (07772 128 944)

The Rector Retires as Lagan Area Dean.

On Tuesday 28th February, The Bishop of Down and Dromore and all the clergy in the Lagan area Deanery met in St Columba's for a communion service which marked the retirement of our Rector as Area Dean of Lagan Deanery.

The Diocese of Down and Dromore is sub-divided into deaneries and as Area Dean of Lagan our Rector, who has been in this role for fifteen years, has chaired all the Select Vestry meetings in all the Churches during vacancies.

Following the service and during coffee time, Bishop McClay thanked our Rector for his dedication and hard work in looking after so many parishes during vacancies. He referred to his ability to get 'alongside' all vestries regardless of their individual situations. He also spoke of his pastoral care to clergy in the deanery and all agreed this had been greatly appreciated and he would be missed from his role.

Elizabeth Leonard.

The Rector writes...

"I have been greatly privileged to serve as **Area Dean of Lagan** for fifteen years. I was appointed by Bishop Harold a few months after coming to St. Columba's and succeeded Canon Walter Laverty who was Rural Dean for many years. I have presided over vacancies in each of the parishes in the Area Deanery throughout that time and have been fortunate to share in their respective ministries. This has been of immense benefit to both me and also St. Columba's. The experiences which I have gained over these years have been helpful to me in my ministry in St. Columba's.

As there are currently no parish vacancies in the Area Deanery, I indicated to Bishop David some time ago that this would be a timely opportunity for him to appoint my successor.

I am grateful for the trust placed in me by Bishop Harold and in more recent years by Bishop David, together with the Select Vestries and parishioners in each of the parishes in the Lagan Area Deanery. I have greatly valued this opportunity to serve in the wider diocese over many years."

The Parish Administrator writes...

We take this opportunity to thank our Rector for all of his dedicated work and support to our local parishes in the Lagan area. This is the largest Area Deanery in the Diocese, and he has given guidance and advice to many people during his tenure. It is wonderful for him to 'hand over the reins' when the area is in such a fantastic position, and we wish his successor, The Reverend Clive Atkinson, every best wish as he begins his new role as Area Dean. It has been a wonderful privilege for St Columba's to be recognised in this way.

Art Club

Painting Demonstration and Workshop with the artist Julian Friers

Art Club members were, once again, delighted to welcome back the artist Julian Friers for a painting demonstration/workshop on Thursday 16th March 2023.

Using a seascape as the subject, Julian started by explaining how the artist goes about painting water. He focused on the use of colour and tone to create the effects of reflections, waves, transparency, depth, etc.



Painting in oils, Julian began to create a seascape image from his memory. Art club members, using various media, followed his lead and started their own individual works.

The participants worked studiously to create their images. Having spent almost two hours with their works, all the members had successfully produced their own interpretation of Julian's canvas.

During a short break, as well as at the end of workshop, Julian took time to provide feedback and guidance to individual participants. This was extremely well received by all.

The session ended with Roy Williamson thanking Julian for the effort he put into the making the demonstration/workshop such a success.

Shirley Huet

PAUSE

There was lots of social interaction taking place in The Poet on Tuesday, 14th March as fifteen parishioners and friends met for tea/coffee and scones! PAUSE provides an opportunity to meet and have a chat with friends and perhaps make new friends. All are welcome. You can come on your own or bring a friend or two.

We are returning to **The Poet on Tuesday 25th April at 10.30am.**

If you need help with transport please contact me.

Eileen (028 9020 3684)

Ladies Guild



It has been a long held practice for the Ladies Guild to designate one of their meetings each year as a charity event to give support to charities working in our community. At our February meeting we welcomed Cormac McMullan from the Childrens' Cancer Foundation as our speaker. Cormac gave a most interesting and informative talk and video presentation outlining the essential work done by the Foundation for the support of children from receiving their shattering diagnosis, through treatment and recovery and also the support for their parents and siblings as they deal with the many challenges which arise within the family when a child falls ill. The work carried on at Daisy Lodge in Newcastle was explained fully and surprised us with the range and quality of the services available. Members had several questions which Cormac was able to answer for them and, thanks to their great generosity, we were able to hand over a donation of £350 which we know will be put to excellent use. Joyce Stevenson was welcomed to our meeting and on behalf of the Mums and Tots group brought a donation of £100.

Our April meeting will have a "fitness" theme when Marietta Lammey will introduce us to Armchair Aerobics which will help us get fit for our Spring activities.

We continue to remember in prayer members who are ill or housebound at present.

Eleanor



MAY PARISH MAGAZINE

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

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

MARMALADE

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

Thank you for your continued support.

Maureen



Railway and Model Club



Our photograph this month shows our members, at a Communion Service, which the Rector led on 27th February 2023. This was our opportunity to give thanks for the blessings we have received, as a Club, since our formation in May 2014. It is so wonderful to be supported by our clergy and vestry in what we undertake as a church organisation.

In the photograph, our newest members are prominent. Hugh is there in front, second from left, and big Ralph our Presbyterian member, peering over his head.

We will soon be starting our tenth year, now under our latest Chair, John Robb (4th from the right). New layouts have already been started, with Hugh and Ralph in the teams. Why not come along and visit us, on a Monday afternoon, and give as a bit of your 'craic'. You will be very welcome.

In the meantime we will, of course, be keepin' 'er rollin'

Rockie (that's me on the Rector's left)



LENT LUNCH

A hugely enjoyable day was had by all who attended the All Age Worship service on March 5 and then made their way down to the hall for the Lent lunch.

The buzz of the whole occasion was greatly enhanced by the large numbers who came to both events ensuring that they were a great success.

At All Age Worship, children of the parish assisted with the service by reading prayers and it was marvellous to see so many of them being involved.

The general sense of uplift brought by the service then continued to the lunch where the hall was thronged with diners who thoroughly enjoyed the excellent food provided by the Catering committee and served so well by both the hard-working committee members and the younger members of the parish.

The atmosphere in the hall was terrific and the chat and 'craic' very much mirrored the words which accompany the parish logo with its message of 'friendship, fellowship and faith'.

Old acquaintances were renewed in relaxed surroundings as well as new connections made in the convivial atmosphere with many availing of the opportunity to have a glass of wine with their meal. All in all, a great occasion.

Sincere thanks to the Catering committee for making it all happen and to Joan Whiteside for providing the flowers on all the tables.

All proceeds from the lunch (£3000) will go towards the current refurbishment of the hall roof.

Michael Sadlier

New Beginnings in the West

“Will there come a time when Presbyterians will once again raise their hearts and minds to God here on the Falls Road?” These could be the words of a visionary within the Presbyterian church. They were, however, delivered by the former Sinn Féin Mayor of Belfast, Tom Hartley. He was speaking at an event in the former



Broadway Presbyterian Church, whose building is now the home of Cultúrlann, an Irish cultural centre at the junction of the Falls Road and Broadway in West Belfast.

He has researched, written, and spoken extensively on the Presbyterian contribution to the development of Belfast, especially as it expanded in the nineteenth century. What he discovered about the academics, scientists, politicians, philosophers, and social activists of that era is fascinating.

The event Tom addressed was in September 2022, two weeks after I had been installed as Minister in Special Work for West Belfast. The creation of this new post over the course of the previous year was a bold initiative, a sign of courage and vision for the spiritual welfare of the city.

Building on good relationships already established, this four-year post has the goal of presenting the gospel in a culturally appropriate way to the local community through word and action. The desire is that, as people encounter Jesus Christ, they will be drawn to faith and trust in him as Saviour and Lord and be built up in discipleship. It is hoped that, over the duration of this current post a living, worshipping and reformed community of Christians be established in the area, from which a new and culturally appropriate congregation may emerge.

Formerly there were several Presbyterian Church in Ireland congregations and centres of outreach across West Belfast, though with the troubled history of conflict which the city has experienced these all closed, the last around 30 years ago. There is still a strong sense however that the Presbyterian Church was a part of the

community here, and a willingness for this not simply to be part of history, but also of the present and the future.

Tom Hartley made this explicit when he included the following in his speech last September, "We need to get Presbyterians back on the Falls Road. Why? Because they are so much a part of us."

Could a door of welcome be opened any wider? From that point I have been networking among the people who live and work here. My wife Elaine and I have also had the privilege of sharing alongside others seeking to help refugees, who live in the area, settle into new lives here in Belfast.

It has been fascinating to meet people from across West Belfast who are engaged in community development, which is remarkable in the results it has produced in education, arts, media, culture, politics, sport, tourism, policing, justice and more.

There are a few ways our shared history can help us reconnect with the local community. For instance, I am hoping to hold an exhibition about one of the former congregations of West Belfast, Albert Street. At one point in its history, it had even been known as Falls Road Presbyterian!

Albert Street closed in 1971. It amalgamated with Argyle Place to form what is now West Kirk. There are still members of West Kirk who remember the closure. They did not want to leave, nor did those who lived beside the church want them to leave, however at the time there was no alternative. One idea is to try to reconnect some of the former Albert Street congregation with former residents of Albert Street at this exhibition, which we plan to hold during the West Belfast festival in August 2023. We hope the Glider will bring you almost to the door of the exhibition so you will find it easy to take up an open invitation to attend. Please come!

I would also like to express my thanks to the Select Vestry of St Columba's for their financial support toward this project, which was a great encouragement, as has been the interest of your Rector and my friend, Canon John Auchmuty.

If you would like to support the work in prayer, please email mission@presbyterianireland.org to sign up for quarterly updates.

The Reverend David and Elaine Moore

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

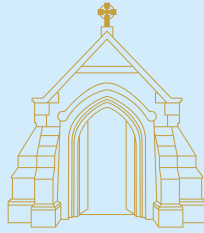
Parish website: www.stcolumbas.down.anglican.org

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	Dr. Richard Whiteside	07747 616105
People's Churchwarden	Louise Mercer	07742 113519
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, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, Assistant Hon. Treasurer, David Craig, Andrew Hirst, John Kerr, Martin Moore, Nigel Morrow, Scott Rutherford, Gillian Sadlier, Jim Stevenson, Jonathan Stewart	
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 , Dr. Elizabeth Leonard Charles Auchmuty (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.

