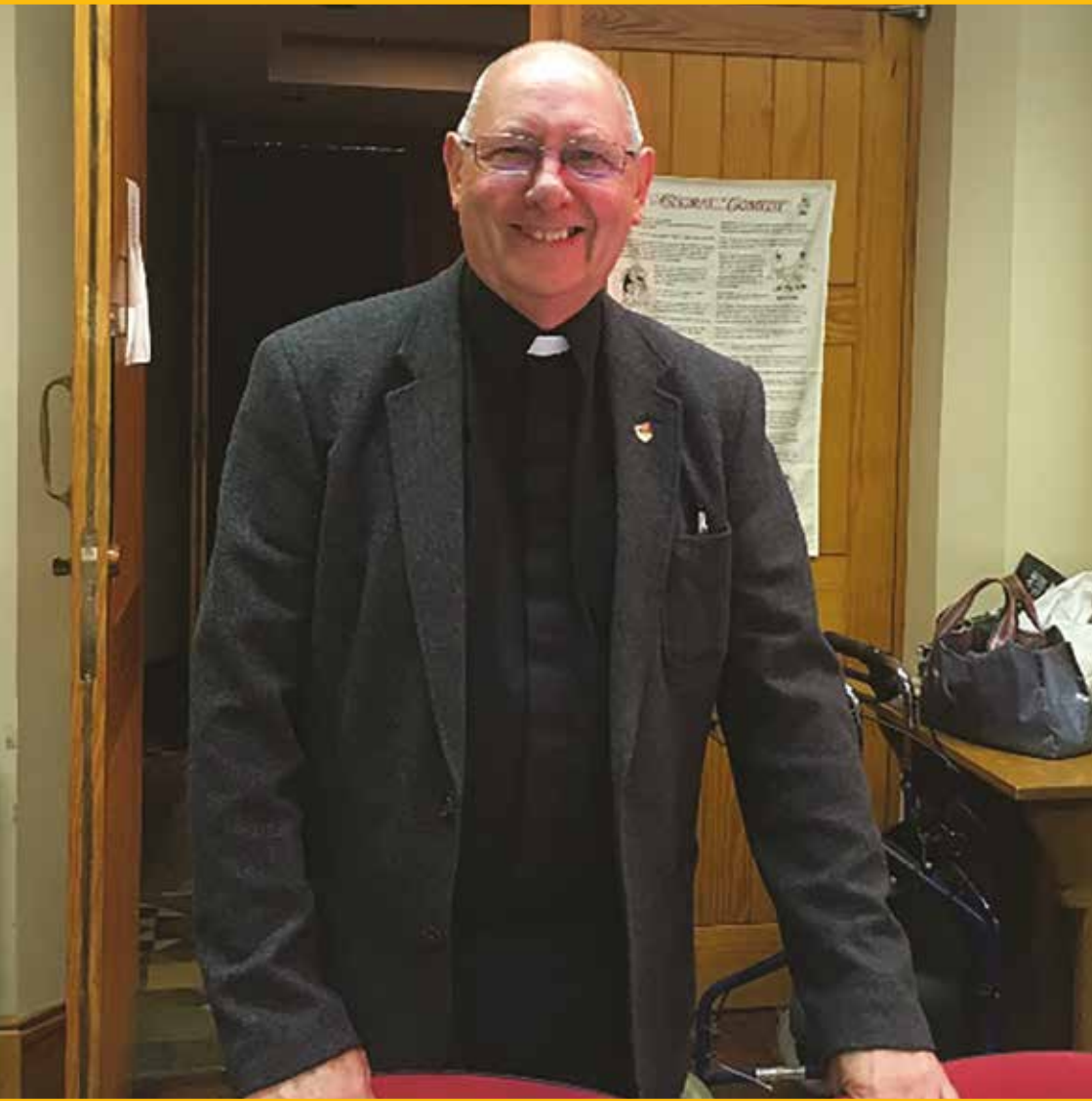
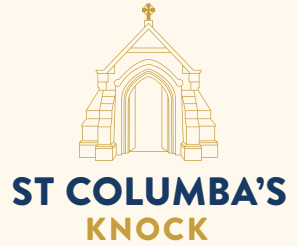


# The Columban

ST. COLUMBA'S CHURCH, KNOCK, JULY/AUGUST 2023



***Canon Walter Laverty  
Congratulations on 50 years service***



## RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Parishioner,

### FRONT OF CHURCH

**In my Easter Vestry Address, which was published in the March Columban, I referred to the plans to reconfigure the front of St. Columba's to provide flexibility for our current needs.** The Select Vestry and I have greatly valued all the positive and supportive comments during these past few months. We were very pleased that the plans, which were designed by Des Cairns, were recently approved by the Representative Church Body. Those plans which were first included in the March Columban are again included in this summer edition. **The Select Vestry subsequently unanimously agreed to proceed this work which will commence at the beginning of July.**

This work will involve:

- Replacing the front three nave pews with stackable chairs
- The fitting of a wooden floor in this open space identical to the wooden floor at the West End of the church
- Provision for wheelchair and rollator users in this new space
- The repairing of the damaged side aisle walls by water ingress from the old roof which will require the removal of plaster from those walls allowing them to dry out before they are replastered and painted.

*This work will all be in keeping with the architecture of our beautiful church. It will provide many new opportunities for us to develop our traditional musical liturgical worship and our parish ministry. It is timely to undertake this work now as a single redecoration project of our church interior can then be planned in the coming months. Tenders are currently being received for this work.*

The layout of the new chairs in front of the central pews will be realigned to face the side chapel Holy Communion table each Thursday to accommodate the congregation and also those parish organisations which now meet in the church.

***This project is being funded by a generous legacy from Hazel Reid who was a much respected and dedicated parishioner over many decades.*** Hazel devoted her parish work to developing the Sunday School, the Choir, promoting Christian Aid

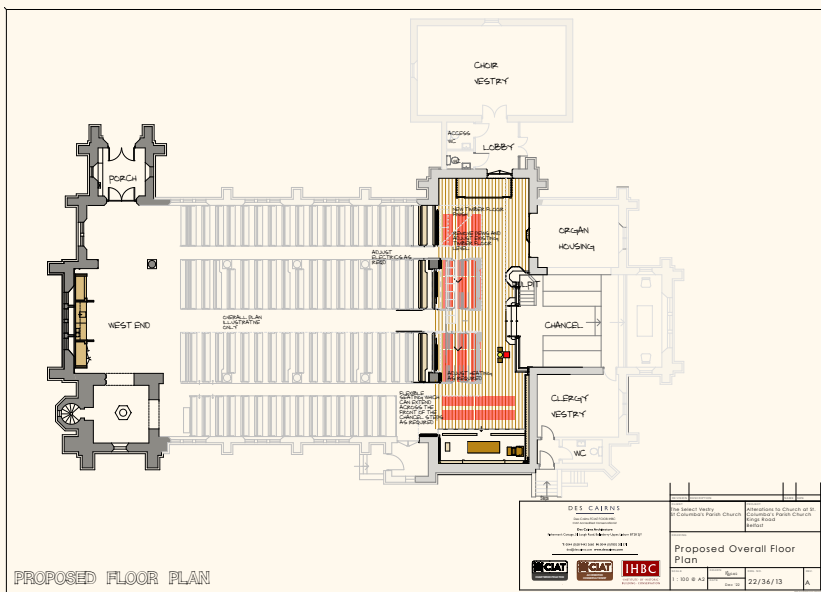
and Fair Trade. It is very fitting that her gift is being used to provide these new facilities for our growing parish.

To ensure continuity with the beautiful work which was done at the west end of the Church, the same architect and contractors who carried out that work have been appointed to undertake this project. **In order for it to be completed at the earliest opportunity and to comply with health and safety regulations, it will be necessary for the church building to temporarily close while the work is being carried out. Throughout this time our church services will take place in the hall.** The church will be deep cleaned before we return for an opening service of Dedication and Thanksgiving in September. This will mark a joyful commencement to our autumn activities with the immense benefits of the completion of all this work for this new season.



**I commend this project to your kind understanding and patience as we pray for the Architect and Contractors, together with all those who will be involved in it during the summer months.**

**Yours in His service,**



## SERVICES IN JULY

- Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup>**      **The Fourth Sunday after Trinity**      **(Green)**  
**8.15am**      **Holy Communion**  
 Epistle      Romans 6: 12-23      People of righteousness  
 Gospel      Matthew 10: 40-42      Rewards
- 10.30am**      **All Age Worship**  
 Reading      Matthew 10: 40-42      Rewards
- Thursday 6<sup>th</sup>**      **Saint Thomas (Transferred)**      **(Red)**  
**10.30am**      **Holy Communion** *followed by refreshments*
- Sunday 9<sup>th</sup>**      **The Fifth Sunday after Trinity**      **(Green)**  
**SEA SUNDAY**
- 8.15am**      **Holy Communion**  
 Epistle      Romans 7: 15-25a      The inner conflict  
 Gospel      Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-30      Jesus thanks His father
- 10.30am**      **Holy Communion**  
**Epistle**      Romans 7: 15-25a      The inner conflict  
**Gospel**      Luke 18: 31- 19:10      Jesus' journey to Jericho  
**Preacher: The Reverend Mark Reid, Chaplain,**  
**Mission to Seafarers**
- Thursday 13<sup>th</sup>**           **(Green)**  
**10.30am**      **Holy Communion** *followed by refreshments*
- Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>**      **The Sixth Sunday after Trinity**      **(Green)**  
**8.15am**      **Holy Communion**  
 Epistle      Romans 8: 1-11      Life in the Spirit  
 Gospel      Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23      The parable of the sower
- 10.30am**      **Morning Prayer**  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading      Genesis 25: 19-34      Esau and Jacob  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading      Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23      The parable of the sower
- Thursday 20<sup>th</sup>**      **Saint Mary Magdalene (Transferred)**      **(White)**  
**10.30am**      **Holy Communion** *followed by refreshments*

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> The Seventh Sunday after Trinity (Green)**

**8.15am Holy Communion**  
Epistle Romans 8: 12-25 Future glory  
Gospel Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43 The Parable of weeds among the wheat

**10.30am Holy Communion**  
Epistle Romans 8: 12-25 Future glory  
Gospel Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43 The Parable of weeds among the wheat

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> Saint James the Apostle (Transferred) (Red)**

**10.30am Holy Communion** *followed by refreshments*

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> The Eighth Sunday after Trinity (Green)**

**8.15am Holy Communion**  
Epistle Romans 8: 26-39 Our confidence in God  
Gospel Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52 Parables to the disciples

**10.30am Morning Prayer**  
1<sup>st</sup> Reading Genesis 29: 15-28 Jacob marries Laban's daughters  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52 Parables to the disciples

**Online Services**

***The audio recording of our 10.30am service each Sunday can be found on our parish website [www.stcolumbas.down.anglican.org](http://www.stcolumbas.down.anglican.org) under "Church Service Recordings".***

**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 AUGUST

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup>** (Green)

**10.30am** **Holy Communion** followed by refreshments

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>** **The Transfiguration of our Lord** (White)

**8.15am** **Holy Communion**

Epistle 2 Peter 1: 16-19 Eyewitnesses of Christ's glory

Gospel Luke 9: 28-36 The Transfiguration

**10.30am** **All Age Worship** followed by refreshments

Reading Luke 9: 28-36 The Transfiguration

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup>** (Green)

**10.30am** **Holy Communion** followed by refreshments

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>** **The Tenth Sunday after Trinity** (Green)

**8.15am** **Holy Communion**

Epistle Romans 10: 5-15 The fulfilment of the covenant

Gospel Matthew 14: 22-33 Jesus walks on the water

**10.30am** **Holy Communion**

Epistle Romans 10: 5-15 The fulfilment of the covenant

Gospel Matthew 14: 22-33 Jesus walks on the water

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup>** (Green)

**10.30am** **Holy Communion** followed by refreshments

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup>** **The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity** (Green)

**8.15am** **Holy Communion**

Epistle Romans 11: 1-2a, 29-32 That all may be of mercy

Gospel Matthew 15: 21-28 The Canaanite woman's faith

**10.30am** **Morning Prayer** followed by refreshments

1<sup>st</sup> Reading Genesis 45: 1-15 Joseph reveals Himself to His brothers

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Matthew 15: 21-28 The Canaanite woman's faith

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>** **Saint Bartholomew** (Red)

**10.30am** **Holy Communion** followed by refreshments

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity (Green)**

**8.15am**

**Holy Communion**

Epistle	Romans 12: 1-8	The new life in Christ
Gospel	Matthew 16: 13-20	Peter's declaration about Jesus

**10.30am**

**Holy Communion**

Epistle	Romans 12: 1-8	The new life in Christ
Gospel	Matthew 16: 13-20	Peter's declaration about Jesus

**Thursday 31<sup>st</sup>**

**(Green)**

**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](http://www.stcolumbas.down.anglican.org) under "Church Service Recordings".***

## JULY FLOWER ROTA

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Joan Madill

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup>**

Patricia Clements

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>**

Margaret McConkey

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Kathleen Acheson

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup>**

Karen Patterson

## AUGUST FLOWER ROTA

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>**

Yvonne Beatty

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>**

Eileen Anderson

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup>**

Joan Madill

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>**

Ladies Guild

## 50 Year Anniversary of Ordination of Canon Laverty



On Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June, parishioners at the Thursday morning Holy Communion service, along with the Rector, joined to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ordination of Canon Walter Laverty.

He was brought up in St Mark's, Dundela as a child and his father was the first organist in Garnerville when it opened. Canon Laverty was ordained as one of four in Waringstown, on the 29<sup>th</sup> June (St Peter's Day) 1973, for the Diocese of Down and Dromore. He was initially curate of St Donard's Church, Bloomfield from 1973 – 1977, where Bill Arlow was his first Rector. Bill retired shortly after Walter arrived, so he served the rest of his first curacy under Pat Synott before moving to St Patrick's, Ballymacarrett in 1977 - 1982 for his second curacy.

It was in St Patrick's that he met Barbara, and they were married by Bishop George Quin (who also had conducted the marriage of Barbara's parents many years before!). After a time in Upper and Lower Kilwarlin, he then moved to St John's, Orangefield in 1986 where he was Rector and Canon Precentor of Down Cathedral (Down & Dromore) until his retirement.



Many of us have experienced his warmth and natural humour, and his enthusiasm for meeting people as well as his deeply held Christian beliefs which he shares in a gentle and kind manner. He enjoys time spent chatting to everyone and loves to wander around in churches he has never been in before. We are extremely fortunate to have him assist with our services, home visits and many other aspects of parish life, and his wonderful and



very supportive family are involved in many ways in St Columba's.

### ***Congratulations!***

**Karen Patterson**

### ***The Rector writes...***

It was a great joy and delight to join Canon Laverty and his family together with parishioners at the Holy Communion service on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his Ordination as a Priest in the Church of God.



I well remember meeting Canon Laverty and his family following my appointment as curate of St. Mark's Dundela. We have shared ministry together on many occasions over the years not least in the former Rural Deanery where he was my predecessor as Rural Dean. Canon Laverty presided over the parish vacancy in St. Columba's following the retirement of Archdeacon Gregor McCamley and was of great support to me upon our arrival in the parish.

I have always valued his appreciation of well-ordered liturgical services and was delighted when the Laverty family moved to St. Columba's upon their retirement from St. John's, Orangefield where we continue to have the blessings of his ministry as assistant priest together with Canon Ken Smyth. Their support is invaluable to me as Rector.

Caroline, Charles and Henry join me in conveying our congratulations and all prayerful good wishes to Canon Laverty on this most significant anniversary and also to Barbara and his family who are of such support to him.

## Activity Group.

An excellent day was had at our outing on Saturday 13 May to Ballycopeland Windmill, Millisle.

On arrival we enjoyed a guided tour of the windmill by our bubbly and knowledgeable guide Lizzie. We walked around the various outhouses, saw the miller's cottage and climbed three floors to the top of the windmill. Quite an achievement!

Afterwards an excellent lunch was provided in the Ability cafe where the staff were so friendly and helpful.

It was a great day out with good craic and much laughter!

Activity has finished for the summer and we are now enjoying our Tuesday scenic walks followed by a hot beverage. Here's hoping for good weather over the summer.

The Activity Group will resume in the church hall for badminton and Scrabble in September.

**Maureen**





## Sea Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2023

The Mission to Seafarers was founded by John Ashley in 1856 to meet the spiritual needs of seafarers coming into the Port of Bristol. Gradually, under the auspices of the Anglican Church other Missions were opened in ports around the UK with the Belfast mission being opened in 1869. In addition to providing spiritual support, the Missions were seen as a place where seafarers could find a welcome, rest and safety.

This ethos has survived down the years with support services evolving to meet the changing needs throughout the world. The pandemic brought about radical changes in how support could be delivered and the great need was for mental as well as physical considerations to be met.

Belfast is very fortunate in having a well equipped centre near the port, easily accessible to seafarers who come to have a short period of relaxation away from the confines of their vessel. The Chaplain, Reverend Mark Reid, and a team of 'ship visitors' go into the port each day providing welcome, information and quite often practical help with urgent shopping, sourcing medical supplies or on occasion visiting a seafarer who may have been hospitalised for urgent treatment .

On Sea Sunday each year we remember in our thoughts and prayers, with thanks, the seafarers from many nations on whom we depend to transport the varied cargoes which we require for our material needs and which we all too often take for granted will be there when we need them.

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June was a great day for our Mothers' Union members as they headed off on their summer outing. Their first stop was the Linen Green for some coffee and retail therapy and then to St. Anne's Dungannon for lunch and a visit to their super Flower Festival. So many members were travelling that Caroline took the overflow in her car as the bus was full! Great to see a busy Mothers' Union branch out enjoying themselves. They all safely returned home after a wonderful day of friendship and fellowship in Co. Armagh.

**The Rector**





# NEW BEGINNINGS

Sometimes things are **'meant to be'** is a commonly used phrase. It was following a chance meeting with the Rector in March 2022 that we decided to seek out St Columba's church. Eventually we summoned up the courage and in May 2022 we arrived at the door of St Columba's.



**ST COLUMBA'S  
KNOCK**

*An open door to friendship,  
fellowship and faith*

As we walked into the open space, sunlight streamed through the beautiful stained glass windows, an organist was playing and there was animated chatting and laughter as people greeted one another. Two friendly churchwardens approached us immediately. "You are new? Does the Rector know you are here?" They sorted us out with Pew News and copies of The Columban magazine. The Rector made contact that afternoon by phone. What a sincere welcome and what a very special, inclusive Church this is. In St Columba's the people are remarkable. Their actions and interactions are responsible for the congenial, friendly and supportive environment. This is expertly fostered and led by the Rector, with Canon Laverty and Canon Smyth. In services and events throughout the past year we have also realised that our Columban community is well integrated with and supportive of the wider community in East Belfast.

Each month we anticipate the arrival of The Columban magazine. No wonder it recently won an award. The carefully chosen prayers in the centre fold are detached and kept for use. We have experienced the fellowship of the Ladies Guild, Pause coffee mornings, the Bible study group and Thursday Holy Communion. The Harvest and Lent Lunches were a delight. The buzz of lively conversation filled the room and as eating and drinking progressed the decibel levels rose! There is yet a parish BBQ and a parish picnic to enjoy. Baking for sales and refreshments is a pleasure. "It is all about the talking in St Columba's", our new friends informed us. Very true. Tea, coffee and biscuits help the conversations flow! New experiences for us have been assisting with the decoration of the church in Advent, mastering the kitchen at the back of the church and who knows what our second year will bring?

On Sunday mornings we arrive early to enjoy quiet reflection while listening to the music and choir practice before the service begins. The sermons are thought provoking, relevant to society, often have a touch of humour and, without fail, explain the positive value of the scriptures in these uncertain times. One's faith has been considerably renewed, strengthened and better understood.

Music plays an important role in the life of the church and St Columba's is blessed to have it in abundance and quality. Under the enthusiastic leadership of Dr McKee, the choir and cantors are a joy to listen to. In this historic year we have had such inspirational and uplifting music. The Christmas, Easter and Summer concerts, along with the moving services on the eve of the Queen's funeral and following the Coronation of the King, were exceptional. Two Radio Ulster broadcasts in our first twelve months!



With Alan's failing health we were unable to travel to London for Jane's wedding last August. At short notice the Rector offered to organise an abbreviated Marriage Service. We prepared the Order of Service and filled the porch with flowers. Alan's needs were accommodated, and Dr McKee kindly agreed to provide the music. Six of us and the bride and groom. The solemnity of the marriage service was interspersed with great humour and fun. It was joyous as we exited the Church to La Rejouissance from the Royal Fireworks. A photograph of us, including the Rector and Dr McKee, is prominent in our home.



So many good memories, enriching experiences and new friendships. We have lived in East Belfast for over 20 years and were oblivious of this hidden gem. Thankfully, by good chance, we have found it and are part of it.

It was **'meant to be'**.

**An open door to friendship, fellowship and faith? Yes, St Columba's Parish certainly is.**

**How apt and relevant today is Bishop Thomas Ken's 17<sup>th</sup> century Parish prayer.**

*Written by Heather McQuillan and Marjory Stewart*

# Have a LOOK!

[www.stcolumba's.down.anglican.org](http://www.stcolumba's.down.anglican.org)

We are delighted to announce that we have updated our parish website with 2 new videos!

The first is a drone flight around the interior of St Columba's, with views most people may not have seen before! The Rector warmly welcomes viewers and invites everyone to come along and experience St Columba's for themselves. **Dr Joe McKee** is playing the conclusion of the St Anne "Fugue" by Bach on the organ, filling the church and showcasing the wonderful music which we enjoy in our services.

The second video is a look at some of our stained-glass windows, described by the Rector in detail and commending the wonderful book "Stained Glass Windows in St Columba's" by Alasdair and Wendy MacLaughlin (£10 from Church). It shows the windows close up and with details which people may not have noticed before.

It beautifully complements the book as we see and understand the windows depicted.

These incredibly delightful videos have been very generously gifted to St Columba's by the **McQuillan Family**, for us to use to promote our parish church, and to whom we thank most gratefully.

We also thank the hard work and technical skills of our webmaster, **Dr Jonathan Stewart**, for enabling these videos to be viewed so clearly on our parish website.





# Prayers for your thoughts and comfort



As I prepare prayers for this issue of the Columban, we are enjoying a period of unprecedented sunshine. For over two weeks we have been basking in wall to wall sunshine – a rare feature here in Ireland. It brings to mind a hymn which was included regularly in 'Orders of Service' in my childhood years. It contains the following words:-

*Summer suns are glowing  
over land and sea  
happy light is flowing  
bountiful and free  
Every thing rejoices  
in the mellow rays  
all earth's thousand voices  
swell the psalm of praise.*

Should you wish to read the entire hymn, please turn to number 82 in the church hymnal.

Without doubt, fine sunny weather can lift our spirits although farmers and gardeners require some rain to ensure that plants and crops will grow.

The hymn to which I have referred urges us to show our appreciation of beauty and goodness by displaying the love of God in our lives. The hymn, however, acknowledges also that our experiences of life can contain dark clouds and difficult days. Hopefully, in the following prayers, which focus on the positive aspects of summer, you will find a recognition also that life for some can be likened to an uneven playing field, with its ups and downs.

In addition to the above subjects, there are prayers for our parish and community as well as a realisation that 'the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight' (to quote a Christmas hymn in mid-summer.)

I hope you will find the material helpful and useful, whatever your circumstances may be at present.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Prayers – Summertime and the beauty of creation**

**1. Lord God**, the creator and sustainer of life, we thank you for the gift of summertime – the long days of light, warmth and leisure. Thank you for the beauty that surrounds us – the multi-coloured flowers, the blue skies, families gathered together around picnic tables, and valued times spent in the open air with family, friends and carers. Give us the ability to see you as the divine author. Let all the benefits we receive this summer deepen our awareness of your love, so that we may share this with others and enjoy all the 'good gifts around us.'  
**Amen**

**2. Creator God**, who is seen in the harmony of nature, thank you for the summer sun which reminds us that you are alive and active. Your garden seems perfect and its scale immense, spoiled only by the clumsiness of all who inhabit the earth. May we, with your inspiration, respect the earth with all its beauty and challenges so that future generations may inherit it and continue to worship you in the beauty of holiness. **Amen**

### **20<sup>th</sup> Century Celtic prayer** (included in Summer 2022 Columban)

As the sun rises Lord, let your light shine on me  
Destroy the darkness before me  
Disperse the darkness behind me  
Dispel the darkness within me  
Let your light shine on me  
The warmth of your presence – the brightness of your love  
As the sun rises Lord, let your light shine on me. **Amen**

### **Prayer written by Terry Waite** – Captive in Lebanon 1987-1991

Lord, in a world where many are lonely, we thank you for our friendships.  
In a world where many are captive, we thank you for our freedom  
In a world where many are hungry, we thank you for our provision  
We pray that you will enlarge our sympathy and deepen our compassion.  
**Amen**

### **A prayer for every day**

Lord, I do not pray for tasks equal to my strength: I ask for strength equal to my tasks.

### **Prayer for those awaiting exam results**

Almighty God, the source of all knowledge, we pray for our friends and family members who are awaiting exam results. When the time comes, help them as they navigate their next step. Give grace to any who may be burdened and anxious. Regardless of the outcome may they be aware of the infinite value which you, and their loved ones place on them. Teach them and us to use the gifts we possess, and show us/them a way forward that will lead to personal satisfaction and fulness of life. **Amen**

### **Prayer for those contemplating further education or employment**

Lord, we pray that you will guide all students embarking on training for employment as they consider their options and seek support and encouragement. Grant to all who advise students and potential employers wisdom and sensitivity so that the potential of all, whatever their role, may be realised and their self-esteem enhanced. We ask this in your name. **Amen**

### **A personal prayer – the Way Forward**

Dear God. You know my needs. You know my desire for a job and/or some form of further education. I pray that you will guide me as I examine the next step on my life's journey. **Amen**

### **A prayer for peace in Eastern Europe**

Lord Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, we pray for those who have been devastated by the war in Ukraine, including thousands who have suffered bereavement and severe injury, lost their homes and have been forced to flee from their homeland. In a time of great turmoil and fear, give wisdom to those who have the means, not only to start wars, but to strive for peace so that they will be persuaded to turn their swords into ploughshares. Give to us generosity of spirit that all who have sought refuge in our land and city may find in us compassionate and caring hearts, as we are urged by you to give them hope and love in a confused and divided world. We ask it in your name. **Amen**

### **Words written by Alexander Pope in the 18<sup>th</sup>. Century**

Lord, teach me to feel another's woe  
To hide the fault I see  
That mercy I to others show  
That mercy show to me.

### **A prayer for all involved in our internal church project**

Almighty God, the foundation stone of our faith, as we pray for the internal work at St. Columba's, grant to all involved, including the planners, architect, project team, the Rector, select vestry and sub committees encouragement as they watch their dreams and visions transform into reality. We pray that on completion, it will enhance our worship and lift our minds and thoughts, through the beauty of our church, to the Lord in whom we live and move and have our being. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### **A prayer for family and friends**

God our Father we thank you for our homes and families: for love and understanding: for friends and for those we are challenged to like: for laughter enjoyed and sorrow shared: for the knowledge of your presence in good times and bad. At this holiday time, we think of our loved ones in other places and areas of the world. Bind us together in love in your name. **Amen**

### **A bedtime prayer**

O God, before I sleep, I ask you to bless the people I love, including my family, friends and neighbours. Bless those who are sad and lonely tonight: those who are ill and find it difficult to sleep: those who lie awake waiting for people to come home: those who are anxious and depressed about the future.. Lord, bless me now, helping me to sleep well and to waken in the morning, feeling refreshed, ready to face the new day. **Amen**

### **FINALLY Some words of advice from the Bible:-**

'Be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect' *Romans 12: 2*

'Draw near to God, and God will draw near to you.' *James 4: 8*

## Art Club

The Annual General Meeting was held on 8th June 2023, chaired by our President, the Reverend John Auchmuty. The minutes of last year's Annual General Meeting were circulated, read and adopted.

The Treasurer reported that our finances were very healthy. A cheque for £500 was given to the Rector as a donation to church funds.

Our Chairman, Billy McAlpine reported on the club's activities throughout the year, which included en plein air outings to Groomsport and Islandhill, two presentations by Julian Friers and our usual Christmas lunch at the Royal Northern Ireland Yacht Club, Cultra. The exhibition in November was a great success, and our thanks to all the artists, to the ladies from the church who helped with coffee and tea and to the musicians. Our club hosted refreshments after the church service on 16<sup>th</sup> April when we also set up a small display of our paintings. The Chairman then thanked Roy and George for their DVD presentations, Graham for his unique Christmas card design and all the committee members referring specifically to our Treasurer and Secretary..

The following officers were elected to serve for the year 2023-2024

<b>CHAIRMAN</b>	<b>Billy McAlpine</b>
<b>HONORARY TREASURER</b>	<b>Rena Robbins</b>
<b>HONORARY SECRETARY</b>	<b>Vida Shaw</b>
<b>ASSISTANT HONORAR SECRETARY</b>	<b>Betty Gregory</b>
<b>COMMITTEE MEMBERS</b>	<b>Roy Williamson</b>
	<b>George Burch</b>
	<b>Margaret Hirst</b>
	<b>Christine Baker</b>

The Rector congratulated the club on their hard work and dedication, and thanked the committee. He stressed the importance of the social aspects of the club and the contribution it made to the fellowship therein.

A reminder of some dates: Christmas card designs to be submitted by 12th October and a summer outing to Portrush is to be arranged for 7th September for some plein air painting.

Our first meeting back after the summer is Thursday 14th September and any parishioners who might be interested in joining us are invited to come on that date.

The Rector closed the meeting with 'The Grace'.

After tea and coffee we viewed a display of paintings produced by club members throughout the year. Our Vice President, Billy Nelson, was presented with some art books in gratitude for his 25 years service to the club.



## Thought for the Month

Eight years ago I was single, I did not go to church, I had also decided I would never have children. I certainly did not want to have a baby without being married. The state of the world was also playing on my mind. What would the world look like in thirty years? Eighty years? Would it be a real life '1984'? Would we be part man, part machine like 'Robocop'?

Then I met Catherine. She had moved to London (all the good men were taken in Bangor!) and I was working in Sloane Square in central London. It was rare for me to be working in that area so the fact we both went onto the Tinder dating app at the same time was total chance. It's quite amazing to think what the probability of that encounter was?

Catherine and I dated for a while, lived in Bromley, London and then moved to the Dordogne for six months. It was not for us so we moved to Bangor which, I really like. It is like London thirty years ago, in a good way!

For a number of years I had been thinking on and off about The Bible, God, who we are, where we were going and our purpose. I had also been listening to a number of American podcasts about psychology and sociology. These incorporated Bible readings and prayers as ninety percent of the hosts were Christians. I found them fascinating.

Meeting Catherine's parents and finding out Ken was a clergyman was very interesting. It gave me the push I needed to finally go to church, which I really enjoy. John and Ken are fantastic orators and Joe's organ playing is great. I particularly enjoy the early Holy Communion service and find it a great way to start the day. Having that time to sit and reflect, to think of other people rather than yourself and how you can improve yourself for your own benefit and for others. Catherine and I were married in St Columba's last year and I was baptised and confirmed there

We had conversations over the years regarding having children. Neither of us were convinced it was for us. We decided we were not getting any younger and said "What's the worst that can happen?!" We now have Rex, our beautiful baby boy. Nothing can quite compare to having your own mini me! St Columba's parishioners have been so kind to us and to Rex and we feel very blessed.

None of this would have happened without the Smyth's!. I am now married, I go to church and I have the world's biggest baby (20lbs and only 3 1/2 months old!)? Who knows what the next eight years will bring!

**Aaron Johnson**

*Our thanks to Aaron for sharing this 'Thought' with us.*

*The September 'Thought for the Month' will be written by Lynda Barrett.*

# Commissioning of Mothers' Union Chaplain

A service of choral evensong with the Commissioning of the Mothers' Union chaplain, trustees and officers took place in the cathedral church of St Patrick, Armagh on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June at 3.15p.m. Archbishop John McDowell said it was a joyful and important occasion with each office carrying great responsibility.



The Venerable Dr. Stephen McBride was appointed as 'All Ireland Chaplain' and shared the following prayer with all the members attending.

"Whatever today may hold, whatever tomorrow might bring the future is secure.

For Christ is with us the same yesterday, today and forever.

Live each moment with Him in quiet confidence and joyful celebration for He is ours and we are His for all eternity"

Lessons were read by June Butler, All Ireland President of Mothers' Union and Debbie Davidson, Armagh Diocesan President.

It was such a privilege to attend not least to hear the cathedral choir sing under the direction of Dr Stephen Timpany. The final voluntary "Finale from Symphonie no.1 composed by Vierne and played by the Venerable Dr. Peter Thompson made this a most memorable Service.



**Angela Kerr**

## Creche and Sunday School Prizegiving



**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June was a day of excitement for our younger parishioners. It was a great joy to welcome over 160 parishioners to our Prizegiving Service and that so many of the children actively participated in the service.** During my sermon I congratulated them together with their teachers and helpers on all of their achievements throughout this busy year. How incredible it would be if we were all as full of energy and enthusiasm as these young people!

After the prayers I invited the children to come and receive their prizes. This is a significant occasion each year as we recognise the development and progression of these young people in their journey of faith.

**Following the death of Louise Craig there was an additional prize, dedicated in her memory, of a Bible for the child who the teachers unanimously felt contributed in a significant way to our Sunday School. This will be an annual prize and this year it was awarded to Rebecca Albery.**

In addition gifts were presented to Michael Armstrong who has been a most enthusiastic helper in Sunday School during the past few years and to Emma Ryan who uploads our regular Facebook postings about forthcoming church services each week.





Our hard working Superintendent Linda Wilson also received a gift to mark her retirement. I am delighted that she will continue to assist with the planning and organising of the programme. The new Superintendent is Lynn Ryan and we look forward to welcoming Jayne Martin and Linda Jeffers to Sunday School in September. They will be joining our dedicated team of teachers.

Following the excitement of the prizegiving, we sang a particularly significant hymn, "One more step along the world I go", before we stepped out of the church to enjoy a delicious barbeque, kindly organised and hosted by Brian Clements and his team of willing helpers. The food was fantastic and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The church lawn was in great condition following some recent work to improve it, and everyone enjoyed the warm sunshine and fellowship. You can see from the photographs that many parishioners came along and had lots of fun! In fact, the fellowship outside lasted much longer than any service in church as everyone had time to chat and catch up! The encouraging comments about the service and the food were most uplifting.

If you have never experienced this, make a note in your diary to attend next year!

Thank you to everyone who helped make the day so enjoyable.

### **The Rector**





## Railway and Model Club

Here we are at another club year end. We have had a successful year under the chairmanship of John Robb and now prepare for our next Annual General Meeting on Monday 4th September.



Our last event, the talk about the Meeke/ Redmond act of bravery in World War One, drew an audience of twenty five, male and female, from both within the parish and beyond. The talk, given by historian Keith Beattie, was well received.

This event was also a “tester” for the type of event which could prove attractive as part of a programme of a revived Men’s Club. On 27th September a meeting will be held in the church hall, starting at 7:00pm, to seek out ideas for the programme of a Men’s Club. Please keep this date free and come along and let us know what you would like to see happening in a new Men’s Club.

Meanwhile work continues on the two new layouts, in the club room, and although we have “closed” during the summer I feel certain that various members will take the odd opportunity to go down and continue to develop these, and other, layouts.

When we officially “kick off” again, we would be delighted to have visitors and potential new members join us on Monday afternoons ..... 2:00 pm until 4:00pm(approximately).  
In the meantime....keep ‘er rollin’.

**Rockie.**

## PAUSE

Summer has arrived complete with summer weather – sunny, hot and dry. Let us hope that it lasts a little longer. I hope that every reader of the Columban will have time to relax and enjoy the season whether at home or away.

Many parish organisations take a break during the summer months but **PAUSE** continues. It provides an opportunity for those of us who are at home to meet with other parishioners and friends for a chat over tea/ coffee and scones.

Three dates have been arranged.

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July at The Poet at 10.30am.**

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> August at Hillmount Garden Centre at 10.30am.**

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August at Neill's Hill at 10.30am.**

If you are free on any or all of these dates please come. We would love to see you. If you require further details or help with transport please contact me.

**Eileen (028 9020 3684)**

### Church hall cleaning rota

**September 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Nan Hillier and Isobel McDowell

**September 16<sup>th</sup>**

Joyce Stevenson and Yvonne Robb

**September 30<sup>th</sup>**

Christine and Ian Johnston





## CHRISTIAN AID

We have just completed another successful Christian Aid week in St. Columba's raising the fantastic amount of **£4,552** which includes £570 of gift aided donations. The congregation and those living in the surrounding area have once again been most generous in their giving.

This was a real team effort with parishioners volunteering in many different ways - from sticking on labels, delivering envelopes, baking cakes, serving tea and coffee and finally counting the money.

I would like to thank everyone who volunteered and also the congregation for their continued support.

Well done everyone!

**Joyce**



## SEPTEMBER PARISH MAGAZINE

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

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**

# Summer

As we all look ahead and prepare for the summer months, with exams finished, school term finished and holiday time to look forward to, I would like to wish everyone a restful and enjoyable summer.

Due to the refurbishment taking place in the church, all of our services will take place in the church hall. If you are not usually around during term-time, please take an opportunity to join us for our summer services where you will be warmly welcomed!

Caroline, Charles, Henry and I wish you all a great summer!

**The Rector**

## 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.



## Ladies Guild

Following our April aerobics which was much enjoyed by members we met on 23<sup>rd</sup> May for our first Annual General Meeting in four years.

The meeting, chaired by the Rector, was well attended. The minutes of the 2019 AGM were read and agreed. The chair's report, given by Eleanor, gave a brief review of our meetings during the season and reflected on the successful 'rebirth' of the Guild after our enforced absence, with good attendance at all the meetings.

A casualty of the pandemic had been the 'Ladies Bowling' on Monday afternoons and a hope was expressed that perhaps members would give consideration to restarting the group in the Autumn.

The treasurer, Joan Madill, presented a clear and comprehensive financial statement covering the period from September 2019 to April 2023. This detailed the contributions to church funds, charities etc and shows a healthy balance going forward. Statements were proposed and agreed.

Presided over by the Rector there followed the election of officers and committee and we were pleased to welcome two new members. Thanks were expressed to Maureen Beckwith who is retiring as Honorary Chaplain. In his address the Rector shared his pleasure in seeing the Guild as an active part of the church family once more and thanked members for their ongoing support for the work of the church.

He then introduced our speaker, Canon Ken Smyth, who, in his own inimitable way, shared his varied experiences and thoughts relating to holidays, beginning with his family holidays as a young boy and reflecting on people and places he has encountered over the years.

The afternoon concluded with refreshments and an opportunity for chat and questions.

I wish you all a pleasant Summer break, recent days have given us a 'head start' I think. Enjoy being with family and friends, travel safely and I look forward to seeing you all in September.

**Eleanor**



# PARISH ORGANISATIONS


***New members are always welcome at any of our organisations!***

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Sunday School</b> <i>Candles (3 – 5 years)</i> <i>Lamps (6 – 10 years)</i> <i>Torches (11+ years)</i>	2 <sup>nd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> Sundays 10.30am	Superintendent: Linda Wilson 07850 309097 Deputy Superintendent: Lynn Ryan 07955 479065
	<b>Crèche</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> Sundays	Lindsay Rothwell 07710 590574
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Craft and Hobby Circle</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday each month 10.30am	Carol Willis 9079 9997
	<b>Railway and Model Club</b>	2.00pm	David Beattie 9028 5868
	<b>MU Afternoon Group</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday each month 2.30pm	Joy Montgomery 9029 5427
	<b>Mens' Club</b>	7.30pm	John Robb 9058 1438
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Ladies Badminton</b>	10-30am	Gillian Popplestone 9080 3799
	<b>Ladies Guild</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday each month 2.30pm in the church	Eileen Anderson 9020 3684
	<b>Activity Group</b>	Except 1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday 7.30pm	Maureen Irwin 9079 5155
	<b>Mothers' Union</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday each month 8.00pm	Barbara Laverty 9573 8743
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Bible Study Group</b>	2.30pm - 4.00pm	Eileen Anderson 9020 3684
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Art Club</b>	9.30am	Vida Shaw 90655063
	<b>Choir</b>	7.30pm	Dr Joe McKee 07976 294574
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Mums and Tots</b>	10.00am	Joyce Stevenson, 9058 3381
<b>Bi-monthly</b>	<b>Pause</b>	As arranged	Eileen Anderson 9020 3684
<b>Monthly</b>	<b>Youth Etc.</b> <i>(11-15 years)</i>	As arranged	Jonathan Martin, 07980 885990
	<b>Young Families</b>	Social events as arranged	Rachel Stewart 07812 247343

# WHO'S WHO IN ST. COLUMBAS

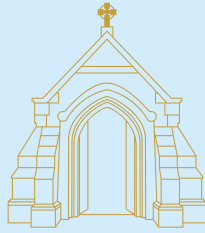
Parish website: [www.stcolumbas.down.anglican.org](http://www.stcolumbas.down.anglican.org)

<b>Rector</b>	The Reverend Chancellor John R Auchmuty	St. Columba's Rectory 29 Kings Road BT5 6JG 028 9047 1514 rectorknock@down.anglican.org
<b>Assistant Priests</b>	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
<b>Diocesan Lay Reader</b>	Karen McAlpine	readercolumba@gmail.com
<b>Rector's Churchwarden</b>	Dr. Richard Whiteside	07747 616105
<b>People's Churchwarden</b>	Louise Mercer	07742 113519
<b>Rector's Glebewarden</b>	David Kelly	07730 468684
<b>People's Glebewarden</b>	Ian Johnston	07850 999909
<b>Honorary Sexton</b>	John Proctor	028 9087 0526
<b>Assistant Honorary Sexton</b>	Geoff Launchbury	028 9028 1204 07814 498 241
<b>Select Vestry</b>	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	
<b>Honorary Secretary</b>	John Macpherson	10 Sandhill Gardens BT5 6FF 028 9028 2076 jdmacpherson@hotmail.com
<b>Honorary Treasurer</b>	Brian Acheson	028 9042 4892
<b>Assistant Honorary Treasurer</b>	Victor Dukelow	028 9029 0625

<b>Gift Aid Secretary</b>	Jack Dunlop	028 9065 4103
<b>Parochial Nominators</b>	Victor Dukelow, Patrick Good, Elizabeth Leonard, Linda Wilson	
<b>Diocesan Synod members</b>	Patrick Good , Dr. Elizabeth Leonard Charles Auchmuty (Under 30)	
<b>Organist and Choral Director</b>	Dr Joe McKee	07976 294574
<b>Assistant Organist</b>	Brian Clements	028 9079 3641
<b>Magazine Editor</b>	Billy McAlpine	028 9042 4390 colmaged@outlook.com
<b>Parish Webmaster</b>	Dr Jonathan Stewart	office.knock@down.anglican.org
<b>C of I Gazette Distributor</b>	Moranne Noad	028 9079 3704
<b>Bible Reading Fellowship notes</b>	Joan Madill	028 9065 6591
<b>Church flowers</b>	Eleanor Launchbury	028 9028 1204
<b>Premise's Convenor</b>	Stewart Beckwith	028 9048 6622
<b>Crucifer</b>	Mark Laverty	028 9573 8743
<b>Parish Office Administrator/ Financial Giving Secretary</b>	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.

