

The Columban

ST. COLUMBA'S CHURCH, KNOCK, NOVEMBER 2023



REMEMBRANCE



RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Parishioner,

ALL SOUL'S DAY THURSDAY 2nd NOVEMBER



On All Soul's Day, Thursday 2nd November there will a service in St. Columba's at 8pm to remember those who have died. We will specifically remember family members and friends who have influenced us and supported us in so many ways.

This will primarily be a quiet and reflective service where we will have an opportunity to pray and to light a candle for those known to us who have died. Whether a relative or friend who has died a long time ago or in more recent times, lighting a candle can assist us to reflect, pause, pray and remember them in a very poignant way. The newly created space at the front of St. Columba's will enable us to come forward to light candles around our Memorial Chapel as we remember those we know and love but see no longer. The church lights will be

dimmed enabling the light from the candles to shine brightly throughout the church. There will be short bible readings and some familiar music as we come together with our memories to seek God's strength to sustain us.

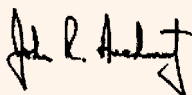
Those attending this service will be invited upon arrival to write the name(s) of people known to them who have died on the paper provided which I will read out during the service. This will be a very personal aspect of our worship as we specifically remember those who have died.

As this prayer reminds us which will be used in the service:

God our refuge and strength, close at hand in our distress; meet us in our sorrow and lift our eyes to the peace and light of your constant care. Help us so to hear your words of grace that our fear will be dispelled by your love, our loneliness eased by your presence and our hope renewed by your promises in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

On this day many people similar to ourselves will have an opportunity to attend their church to remember those who have died. I commend this service to you in St. Columba's which I hope will provide you, your family and also my own family in the Rectory with strength.

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

SERVICES IN NOVEMBER

- Thursday 2nd All Soul's Day (Purple)**
10.30am Holy Communion *followed by refreshments*
8.00pm A Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving for Those Who Have Died
- Sunday 5th The Fourth Sunday before Advent (Green)**
8.15am Holy Communion
 Epistle 1 Thessalonians 2: 9-13 A life worthy of God
 Read by: Elizabeth Leonard
 Gospel Matthew 23: 1-12 Jesus denounces Scribes and Pharisees
- 10.30am All Age Worship** *followed by refreshments*
 Reading Matthew 23: 1-12 Jesus denounces Scribes and Pharisees
 Read by: Emma Ryan
- Thursday 9th (Green)**
10.30am Holy Communion *followed by refreshments*
- Sunday 12th Remembrance Sunday (Green)**
8.15am Holy Communion
 Epistle Romans 8: 31-39 Our confidence in God
 Read by: Ronny Martin
 Gospel Matthew 5: 1-12 The Beatitudes
- 10.30am Morning Prayer with Act of Remembrance**
 1st Reading Micah 4: 3-5 Peace and security through obedience
 Read by: David Kelly
 2nd Reading Matthew 5: 1-12 The Beatitudes
 Read by: Michael Sadlier
 Occasional Prayers Clergy
- Thursday 16th (Green)**
10.30am Holy Communion *followed by refreshments*
- Sunday 19th The Second Sunday before Advent (Green)**
8.15am Holy Communion
 Epistle 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11 Waiting for salvation
 Read by: Ronny Martin
 Gospel Matthew 25: 14-30 The parable of the talents

10.30am Morning Prayer followed by refreshments hosted by *The Railway and Model Club*

1st Reading Judges 4: 1-7 Deborah and Barak

Read by: David Beattie

2nd Reading Matthew 25: 14-30 The parable of the talents

Read by: Geoff Launchbury

Occasional Prayers Heather Brehcist

Thursday 23rd (Green)

10.30am Holy Communion followed by refreshments

Sunday 26th (White)

8.15am Holy Communion

Epistle Ephesians 1: 15-23 Paul's prayer

Read by: Patrick Good

Gospel Matthew 25: 31-46 The judgement of the nations

10.30am Holy Communion

Epistle Ephesians 1: 15-23 Paul's prayer

Read by: Richard Caldwell

Gospel Matthew 25: 31-46 The judgement of the nations

Intercessions Jenny Smyth

Thursday 30th (Red)

Saint Andrew

10.30am Holy Communion followed by refreshments

Online Services

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

Our Sunday School Creation



Our wonderful Sunday School children made a beautiful cross to explain how we are all part of the Body of Christ. We felt it was important to share this picture as we are indeed all part of the Body of Christ. I thank our Sunday School children and the Teachers for their lovely work which is in the Side Chapel. This is a charming reminder of an important aspect of our Christian parish life!

As we read in **1 Corinthians 12: 27** *"Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it".*

THE RECTOR



PRAYER is an extremely important aspect of our Christian worship. It is our private way to connect with God on a personal level. We encourage you to spend time in prayer every day, as the power of prayer should never be underestimated.

Each month, Canon Ken Smyth carefully prepares a wonderful “prayer pull-out” for our Columban magazine, to assist you with your personal devotions.

Liz McCaughey prepares a list of people we pray for, which is read during prayers at our 10.30am Thursday morning Holy Communion service. If you would like to join the prayer chain, or have someone whom you feel prayers would be beneficial for, please contact Liz on 07849 554079

Prayers for World peace

Archbishop John McDowell and Archbishop Michael Jackson have asked all members of the Church of Ireland to pray for peace in the Holy Land, following the outbreak of renewed conflict.

The rapidly escalating and degenerating situation in Israel and Palestine awakens within us our deep compassion for our brothers and sisters of all faiths in the Land of the Holy One. Where lives are lost through military attack and response, humanity in its entirety is diminished. We all grieve.

A prayer for the Peace of the World – from the Book of Common Prayer

Almighty God, from whom all thoughts of truth and peace proceed; kindle, we pray thee, in every heart the true love of peace; and guide with thy pure and peaceable wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth; that in tranquility thy kingdom may go forward, till the earth is filled with the knowledge of thy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

LEST WE FORGET

During the years of the First World War, 48 parishioners from St. Columba's served in H.M. Forces, the vast majority in the Army. Tragically, twelve did not return, a truly horrific rate of attrition. The names of both the fallen and the survivors are shown on the memorial plaque in the south transept where, in 1919, the beautiful memorial window was erected to their eternal glory. No less than three MC's, one MM and one DFC were awarded for gallantry. In the Second World War, reflecting its far greater global reach, 120 parishioners from St. Columba's served in HM Forces, not only in the Army but also in the Royal Air Force, the Royal Navy, the Merchant Navy, the Women's Royal Naval Service, the Auxiliary Territorial Service and the Women's Auxiliary Air Force. Tragically, twelve also did not return, eight from the ranks of the Royal Air Force alone, as high a rate of attrition as that suffered by those parishioners who served in the army during the First World War.

St. Columba's Roll of Honour in two World Wars, inscribed on the front two pillars of the nave, reads as follows:

1914-1918

John Burke

Arthur Denman Deane

Thomas Brignall Elliot

Henry Hurst Hooton

Ian Campbell McCormick

Harold McCormick

Robert B. Nelson

William Nelson

John Purvis

Adam Rodgers

William Hubert Unsworth

Gilbert Watson Webb



1939-1945

Alexander Spence Craig

Robert Aubrey Alexander Doherty

Maurice David Green

James Carnegie Harris

A. R. Hill

Michael Christopher Hind

Hugh Graham Montgomery

Reginald Norman Morgan

Charles McConnell

Alexander McFarland

J. H. Rice

Dilworth Norman Turner

In more recent times, Constable William Mark Evans was killed on 7th September 1981 whilst serving with the RUC in Pomeroy, and his name is displayed on a memorial glass case towards the rear of the church.

Mindful of all current ongoing military operations, let us pause on Remembrance Sunday to remember those men and women who, in countless conflicts, made the ultimate sacrifice for their country and for our freedom. We also remember all worldwide victims of war, brutality, terror and oppression. Let us above all pray for those valiant young men who set forth from this parish in those dark and storm filled days, never to return home nor see their loved ones again.

They knew their duty and they died for it

LET US HONOUR THEIR MEMORY

Advent and Christmas Services Dates for your Diary

Sunday 3rd December

8.15am Holy Communion
10.30am All Age Worship
7.00pm Advent Carol Service

Wednesday 6th December

8.00pm Compline Service for Advent



Wednesday 13th December

8.00pm Compline Service for Advent

Thursday 14th December

10.30am Blue Christmas Service



Sunday 17th December

8.15am Holy Communion
10.30am Morning Prayer
7.30pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols



Wednesday 20th December

8.00pm Compline Service for Advent

Thursday 21st December

10.30am Holy Communion for Senior Parishioners
followed by seasonal refreshments



Sunday 24th December

8.15am Holy Communion
10.30am Holy Communion
11.15pm Midnight Eucharist

Monday 25th December

10.15am Family Communion



Sunday 31st December

10.30am Christingle Service

We hope you can join us for as many of these services as possible!

Clergy Parish Visiting

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

Rector

Knockvale Grove
Laurelgrove Avenue
Leadhill View
Lisnabreeny Road
Locksley Park

Canon Laverty

Knockwood Crescent
Lacefield
Laurelvale
Lisleen Road
Lochinver Drive

PASTORAL SUPPORT



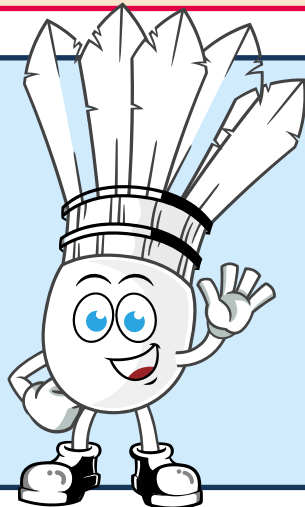
The clergy would appreciate being informed if parishioners are in hospital, are being transferred or if they have been discharged, and will be pleased to offer them pastoral support. ***Please do not assume that they already know this information.***

Please telephone the Rector (028 9047 1514) to enable him to take careful notes of the details.

Thank you.

LADIES BADMINTON

The Ladies Badminton has restarted on Tuesday mornings - please note the new start time of 10 o'clock. We are always looking for new members (no experience necessary) so come along for the exercise, a cup of tea and the craic.



NOVEMBER FLOWER ROTA

- Sunday 5th** Christine Johnston
Sunday 12th REMEMBRANCE
Sunday 19th Helen and John Proctor
Sunday 26th April Mercer

Church Flower Rota for 2024

The new Flower rota chart is now available on the notice board adjacent to the baptistry. Please add your name against the date you would wish to donate flowers. Your support is always welcome and I can be contacted for information at any time.

My telephone number is in the parish magazine or you can call my mobile 07709 917 548.

Thank you.

Eleanor

Charity and Mission allocations for 2023



Many families use their envelopes from their pack of church envelopes to very generously assist with our Charity and Mission donations, as part of the outreach from St Columba's in our local community. Each year, the Select Vestry meet to select the charities which we support, and each charity selected will receive an equal share of the money collected in 2023. The money is divided equally into around 7 charities, and the balance then goes to our local Marie Curie at Kensington Road as the eighth charity.

If you are involved in any particular charity which you would like the Select Vestry to consider, please contact the Rector with your suggestion and some details of your involvement, so that we can make a balanced decision.

Please speak to the Rector before Sunday 12th November for your charity to be considered at the Select Vestry meeting in November.

Thank you.

Thought for the Month

When I was approached to write 'Thought for the Month,' I questioned what could I possibly share with you, what has made a difference to me. On reflection I realised that walking has been the source of countless smiles, deep friendships, enriching experiences, newfound wonders, and a profound appreciation of nature. My walking journey began years ago with my friend Karen, initially exploring our local area. Over time, we spread our wings and ventured to various venues, like Helen's Bay, where even without the sun, the walk remains delightful amidst the blowing wind.

Among our treasured spots is the towpath at The Lock Keepers, Stranmillis, where we encountered a very busy woodpecker and shared touching moments with little robins eating from our hands. Observing kingfishers, herons, and playful otters added to the enchantment as well as the tall trees, vibrant greenery, and the array of colourful flowers.

Another favourite destination is Mount Stewart, where friendly robins and great tits graced

us with their presence. The great tits eating happily from our hands and not in a hurry to move away, made our encounter truly heart-warming. The surrounding gardens and the tranquil walk around the lake offer a refreshing and serene experience. Of course, after all that walking we need to refuel - a coffee shop is a welcome sight.

During the summer months, I also enjoy walking with the Activity Group in St Columbas, where we share a special bond filled with laughter and camaraderie. Victoria Park at Sydenham is a popular spot for our walks, offering new sights each time, including airplanes flying overhead with breathtaking proximity. Our walks culminate with a cup of tea and friendly chats, leaving the previously full car park deserted as we head home.



Jennifer Corrin



As October approaches, we see the changing of the season as the leaves turn into beautiful shades of red, orange and gold. A crispness in the air that signals autumn is coming. Equipped with warmer coats, gloves, and scarves, we look forward to the times ahead.

The beauty of walking lies not only in the physical activity but also in the cherished moments it brings, the unexpected encounters and the opportunity to reflect, chat, laugh, and contemplate the world.



Go on, try it.

Jennifer Corrin

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

The December/January 'Thought for the Month' will be written by Richard Whiteside.



Church hall cleaning rota

December 9th Joyce Stevenson and Yvonne Robb

December 23rd Christine and Ian Johnston

Harvest Happenings!



Thank you very much to everyone involved in making our Harvest service and Lunch such a wonderful day!

There was tremendous support and enjoyment on Harvest Sunday, as the children actively participated in our All Age Worship service and created beautiful decorations for church at Sunday School. The church was beautifully decorated, coordinated by Fiona Haldane and a willing team of helpers as you can see from the pictures, and the atmosphere was simply buzzing! Following the lovely service, we shared fellowship and friendship in the packed church hall, where a wonderfully delicious Harvest Lunch was served by our amazing Catering committee and enjoyed by all. The spirit of St Columba's was thriving.

There were large numbers of parishioners at both the service and the lunch, and the tremendous

atmosphere was most encouraging as everyone was in great form.

A huge thank you to everyone who prepared the church, donated items for decorating the church, participated in the service and prepared and served a most incredible lunch.

THE RECTOR

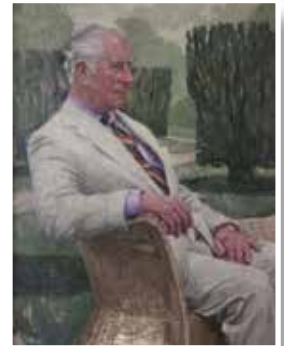


Award-Winning Artist Gareth Reid

It is a great joy to congratulate Gareth Reid, son of parishioners Clodagh and Tony Reid, on being named "Portrait Artist of the Decade" for his magnificent charcoal impression of Dame Judi Dench. Gareth received this prestigious accolade "Portrait Artist of the Decade" on Sky TV, as part of a special 90-minute edition to celebrate its 10th anniversary. **As Gareth said "I was utterly shocked when my name was read out, I expected nothing so I feel extremely fortunate and honoured to have been chosen. Winning the first time was already extraordinary, but this is way beyond that"** He previously won "Sky Portrait of the Year" in 2017, beating 54 other competitors to win the award.



He has shown at the BP Portrait Award in the National Portrait Gallery in London, and he won the BP Travel Award in 2007. Previous commissions include Graham Norton for the National Gallery of Ireland, retirement portraits of Sir George Mathewson and Stephen Hester for RBS, Lord Gill and Billy Connolly. His work is held in the collections of RBS, Ralph Lauren, The Old Bailey, the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and the National Gallery of Ireland. He was also commissioned to paint a portrait of King Charles in 2019, then the Prince of Wales.



He recently painted a portrait of a former Archbishop of Armagh, The Most Reverend Dr. Richard Clarke who retired in 2020. This portrait can be seen in Church House, Armagh.

New paintings by Gareth will be featured as part of a group exhibition in La Roche House, Belfast and can be viewed by appointment from October 27th – 31st.



The portraits of Dame Judi Dench featured in the programme including Gareth's will be on display at the National Portrait Gallery in London from the 19th October – 31st December.

Many congratulations to Gareth from us all St. Columba's!

The Rector

Prayers for your thoughts and comfort



November is a particular time in the year for remembering, and reflecting, on the lives of loved ones, and, in a more formal way, recalling those who have suffered and died in global conflicts and civil strife. It seems probable that our editor, a few years ago, with a similar thought in mind, chose words of Mahatma Gandhi for the front cover of the Columban. They read:-

'There are no goodbyes for us. Wherever you are, you will always be in our hearts.'

Many churches include a service of remembrance for loved ones in November. You will find two prayers in this copy with that theme.

This month heralds the darker days of winter. As long ago, as pre Christian times, bonfires were lit at the beginning of the period known as 'Samhain' in the belief that it kept evil spirits at bay. Some of those pagan practices are associated with Hallowe'en. However, All Saints and All Souls Day at the beginning of the month have an important Christian significance. Prayers are included in recognition of that fact.

Each year, Remembrance Sunday is observed at St.Columba's when some appropriate prayers are included.

While human conflict and personal suffering may be recognised in this issue, it is important that we pray also for a greater spirit of reconciliation in a troubled and divided world and community.

Each month, selected subjects are chosen in addition to comments from scripture and other sources.

It is hoped that you will find some of the material helpful, whatever your circumstances may be at this time.

A personal prayer

Lord, in my time of prayer and reflection, at the turn of the season, as the temperatures fall, help me to be aware that I gather in the warmth of your presence. As the darkness grows, help me to seek your light. As the earth and nature rest from their labours, may I know your peace. **Amen**

A Hallowe'en prayer

Lord, on this hallowe'en day, we thank you for your presence with us, guiding us through the interplay of darkness and light.. You are the beacon of light that dispels fear. Thank you for showing us that, even in the shadow of doubt, your love prevails. As we reflect on this night of mystery, may your grace lead us towards truth and understanding. **Amen**

All Saints day 1st November

For all the saints who from their labours rest
Who thee by faith before the world confessed
Thy name, O Jesus, be for ever blessed
Alleluia, Alleluia.

All Saints Day

Lord, you called people to be your saints throughout the ages. Help us in our daily lives to follow the example of all whom we honour as saints, and to share with them in your heavenly joy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

All Souls day 2nd November

Eternal God, we recall with thanksgiving those faithful souls who, having served you here on earth, are now at rest in your presence. Give us grace to follow their faith and good example, that we may share their joy and be numbered with your saints, through the mercy of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Remembering our loved ones

Thank you Lord for all who have influenced for good our lives and personal wellbeing, who are no longer physically with us. We are aware that the greater the love and experiences we shared through the ups and downs of life can result in a greater sense of loss. Help us to bear our sense of sorrow without bitterness, and to gain comfort from those amongst our families and friends who support and encourage us day by day. Give us greater confidence that nothing, neither life nor death, can separate us from them or from your love. We ask this in the name of Him who has overcome death, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The bereaved

Lord Jesus Christ, God of all consolation, whose heart was moved to tears at the grave of Lazarus: look with compassion on all who have suffered the loss of loved ones and are stricken with grief. Strengthen in them the gift of faith, and give to them the light of hope. That they may live as one day to be united again, where tears shall be wiped away, in the kingdom of your love. We ask it in your name. **Amen**

(A traditional prayer from a funeral service)

Remembrance Sunday

On this Remembrance Sunday we recall, Lord, with sadness millions who have suffered and died in conflicts and wars in other countries and during violence and unrest in our own land. Turn our feelings of sadness into determination, and our determination into deeds, that we may live for peace in the name of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

A prayer for peace

God our Father, we pray for peace in our world: for all politicians who can influence the affairs of nations that they may have wisdom to know and the courage to do what is right: for all men and women, that their hearts may be turned increasingly to a search for justice and truth: for those who are working to improve international relationships, that they may find the true way to reconciliation: for those who suffer as a result of war- the injured and the mentally distressed- the homeless and refugees and all who mourn their dead, and especially for those who are without hope or friends to sustain them in their grief. **Amen**

Our parish

Lord, we rejoice in the fact that we have been drawn together in our parish and at St. Columba's to share our faith and develop friendship and understanding with others in this community. Encourage our Rector and all who give of their time, talents and resources in promoting your church as a true and loving witness to you as Lord. Help us to reflect on the words of scripture that while we may be one body, we have many members, and that not all members have the same function. May that prompt us to offer ourselves, as circumstances allow, to play our part in leading others to you whom we honour as the light and life, hope and peace of this world, for ever and ever. **Amen**

St. Andrews day 30th November

Heavenly Father, by whose grace we have been called into the fellowship and service of your church. Help us to follow the example of the apostle Andrew who brought his own brother to Jesus, that we may share the good news of our salvation with those near us in our neighbourhood, to the advancement of your kingdom and the glory of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen** *(Frank Colquhoun)*

A thought for every day

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

Another thought.

'Let us make our way together Lord. Wherever you go, I must go, and through wherever you pass, there too I must pass.' *(Teresa of Avila c.1550)*

In conclusion

May the thoughts of our hearts: the words of our mouths, and all that we do with our lives speak of grace and truth, as we seek to live in the way of Christ. **Amen**

Dogs of the First World War

People used dogs in battle long before World War One. We can see them in murals and on artifacts from Egypt and Greece from thousands of years ago. The Romans used war dogs and maintained whole companies of them. The German Army had 6,000 trained war dogs ready when war broke out 1914, and they went straight to the fronts with their regiments.



Germany led the warring nations in the use of dogs in WW1 and utilized over 30,000 canine soldiers. They tried using mostly gun dogs at first. Large Poodles were selected for their intelligence and sharp scent, but they suffered in high heat and they were short-sighted. The St. Bernard was tried unsuccessfully, then Pointers, who, despite having intelligence and physical strength, also had a deep-rooted hunting instinct that was almost impossible to train out. Scottish farm

collies were considered as well as Airedales, and finally the other newer breeds such as the German Shepherd, Doberman and the Boxer.

The German Shepherd soon proved its ability to perform assigned tasks as military dogs. They proved extremely brave in combat situations and were smart enough to train for many defence roles. In Germany after the war, the German Shepherd became the first "seeing eye dog" to guide blinded soldiers. German Shepherds are among the most popular breeds for use in military situations today. More recently they have even been trained by the military to parachute out of airplanes and transport explosives that would later be detonated to destroy enemy tanks in combat.



The prince of Red Cross dogs in war was the Boxer. The Boxer also guarded and patrolled, acted as messenger dogs and served as pack-carriers and attack dogs, guarding troops. The ancestors of German Pedigreed "Boxers" were dogs owned by Kaiser Wilhelm and King Edward VII of England, the result of a cross between the German Mastiff /Great Dane and the English Bulldog, a combination suggested by the Kaiser. These dogs can manoeuvre much more easily over unstable landscapes making them a great asset in wartime. Boxers have been used at times to help soldiers hunt for food and sniff out where enemies are hiding. Nowadays, they serve as military dogs, police dogs, seeing eye dogs and search and rescue dogs.

Despite their playful nature, Boxers are known for their steady temperaments and highly trainable natures. As Mercy Dogs, their ability to connect to humans and their alertness to situations made them perfect to comfort the injured and dying.

Mercy dogs were trained to find the wounded and dying anywhere on the battlefield. Sometimes they carried medical supplies to help the wounded care

for themselves until they could find care from a doctor or medic. If the soldier was too far gone for medical care, the dog would stay with him as he died, to ensure he wasn't alone. Messenger-dogs constituted an integral part of the German army, a job that required great courage and skill, sometimes under heavy fire, to carry messages between troops. They also transported communications wires by wearing a spool of wire that unwound as the dog ran between its battlefield targets. An infantry regiment was allotted a maximum of 12 dogs, while a battalion might have six.



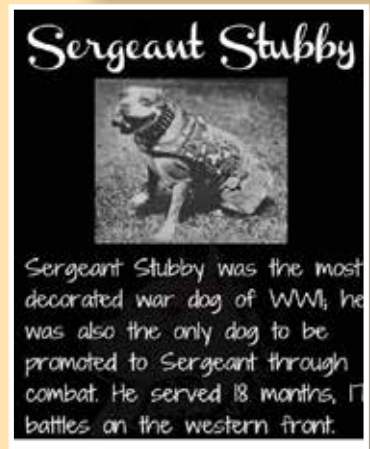
Our canine companions can do much more than just fight alongside us in times of war. Modern-day uses of dogs in combat include bomb-sniffing and locating the bodies of the fallen. World War I saw some uses of dogs unique to that war, especially in terms



of hunting the rats that spread disease and ate corpses in the trenches. Dogs were used in scouting parties; their unique senses, especially smell, allowed them to detect the presence of enemy troops long before their human counterparts. When on guard duty, sentry dogs alerted their handlers to even the most silent of a human presence. But the Dogs of Mercy were truly the most unique among them. Boxers are still used today to find victims of earthquakes, floods and war to name a few. Their friendly demeanour brings love and hope to those they find, and they have saved many people.

My love of Boxer dogs in particular led me to research their role in war, and while there are many breeds in the "Working Dogs" category, the Boxer has stolen my heart! They often have a reputation for being stupid, or acting as clowns, but they are smart, loyal and loving as pets, and make us laugh with their antics! What else do we need?!

Karen Patterson



Railway and Model Club

Our next event will be the 19th of this month, when we provide tea/ coffee after the morning service. Two members of the club will be reading the lessons (including yours truly, Rockie) and we will also have an 'n gauge' layout at the back of the church. We felt that this would be important to prove that we do actually build these models.

Those of you big youngsters, in the congregation, may be surprised to see the amount of detail which can be included in a fairly small space. That is, in comparison to 00 gauge.

Early next year, we will probably be upgrading our own large 00 gauge layout. This was the very first layout built by the club and we have decided it needs a big re-vamp. That will be our major club project for 2024. So keep your eyes and ears open for more news on that one. Until then, remember our club door is always open, from 2:00pm to 4:00pm each Monday afternoon.

In the meantime, keep 'er rollin'.

Rockie.



DECEMBER/JANUARY PARISH MAGAZINE

Any articles or photographs for publication in the **December/ January** parish magazine should be handed or emailed to the editor, **Billy McAlpine**, by **Wednesday, 8th November**.

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

Ladies Guild



Our Meeting in October saw us visiting Sinclair Seamen's church at Corporation Square. This historic church provided a wealth of information on the history of the Presbyterian church in that location and how the worship there related to the sea and seafarers. The pulpit, of course, is a well known feature and we also learned so much about the building. A welcome cup of tea and chat ended the afternoon.

The November meeting will be in the church, making use of the wonderful new space and we hope to enjoy a film. This will be our first film show since 2019 and should be special.

We always welcome visitors to our meetings without any obligation to become a member, so please bring along a friend or neighbour if you wish.

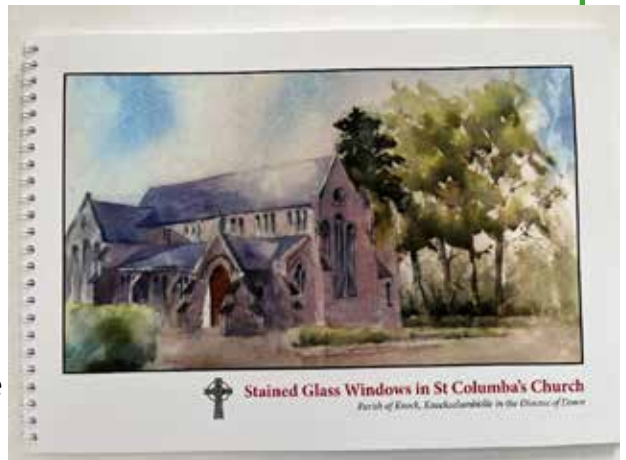
Eleanor

Stuck for a Christmas Gift idea?



Copies of our beautiful parish book pictured above are still available

to purchase for £10 at the back of church each Sunday. The inspirational pictures of the gorgeous stained-glass windows are of great interest to many people.



A perfect gift for friends, neighbours or family, or even for your own personal use, this book explains the stories behind each of the beautiful windows. Get your copy while stocks last!

SUNDAY SCHOOL & CRECHE

Thank you to all our young people for reading so well at our Harvest Service. It was lovely to get so many compliments from many parishioners. The Harvest crafts and decorations displayed in church were amazing and I want to thank our Sunday School team for all their hard work in helping the children and for coming down beforehand to put them up. This month, both classes will be learning about "Advent", so it would be lovely to see as many children as possible out on the dates listed below.

6th November – All Age Worship

13th – Sunday School & Creche

20th - Sunday School & Creche

26th - Sunday School & Creche

Looking forward to seeing everyone!

Lynn

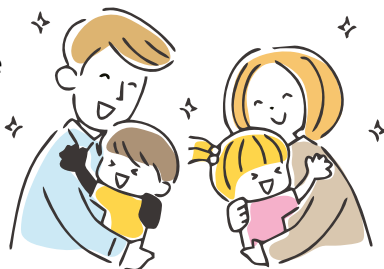


MUMS AND TOTS

We are delighted to welcome so many babies and toddlers to our group every week.

There is a great buzz of activity from the children and lot of conversation among the adults. Recently the toddlers were involved in making autumn crafts and we look forward to special activities on Children in Need day - 17th November.

Joyce (07772 128 944)



**Mothers Union invite you to join them on
Tuesday 7th November, 2023. 8.00 in the church**

“Help I can’t draw”.
An evening with Roy Williamson.



Roy writes

“Have you ever done art?”

That was the question asked of me, as I prepared to drive my golf ball from the 7th. tee at Knock Golf Club. The occasion was a club competition, in which my wife, Olive, and I were playing a match against Bob Killen and Rosemary Nixon. Bob and I had been chatting for the first six holes, with little attention being paid to the serious business of getting through to the next round (after all, it is supposed to be a social activity, isn't it?).

My answer to Bob's enquiry was a simple one of “No”, but it was one of fourteen subjects in which I intended to engage in the future.

Having retired, Bob was keen to tell me that I must keep occupied during the years ahead, a view to which Olive gave her full hearted agreement, her opinion being that she had lived with a “couch potato” since my retirement. During play on the 7th hole, I accepted an invitation to Bob's art studio, for an introduction to watercolour painting, I dutifully turned up and found it to be both interesting and enjoyable. I had not known that Bob was an artist, nor that he ran an Art Group in St. Columba's. Bob was the Vice President of the Royal Ulster Academy, and this came as a surprise. I was obviously in very good hands. Hours work on acrylics a week later confirmed my interest, and so I was invited to join the waiting list for St. Columba's Art Group I was pleased to accept and it only took three years to get me to the top of that list before being accepted as a member!

In the interim period, I joined Dundonald Art's Club and became the Chair within a few months. Without any knowledge of the local art scene. I survived and so did the club! In this regard, Bob's expertise and assistance was critical.

For the last few years, I have been pleased to help in St. Columba's as mentor to the Art Group.

That's about it, except to say that Bob and Rosemary won the match on the 18th hole!

Come along and have a go it should be fun!



It was a joy to have the Rector enrol 3 members to our fellowship at the service on 3rd October, we welcome Maureen Beckwith, Christine Johnston and Imelda Shephard and look forward to many years of fellowship. Thanks to all who took part in the service, the Rector who officiated and Dr McKee for the music.

Generous donations made after the service enable us to purchase the items requested by nursing staff in A&E which offers practical support to someone experiencing the trauma of miscarriage. St Columba's Mothers' Union has been able to put together more than 20 packs which have been given to Clare the Diocesan outreach coordinator who liaises with the hospital and makes any deliveries on behalf of the diocese. This is a worthwhile addition and adds to the work we do to provide emergency admission toiletry bags and items made for premature babies.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 7th November 8.00pm which has a theme of 'personal art'

All very welcome.

Barbara

From the Registers

Our Joys

Holy Baptism

Sunday 15th October Rex Charlie Johnson

Our Sorrows

Funeral Services

15th September Frederick ALAN Dundas



Our children's Christmas Party will take place in
Campbell College Junior School on

**Saturday 2nd December, from
3pm-4.30pm.**

Come along for some fun and games, scaven-
ger hunt, picnic, and

meet the very special visitor
from the North Pole!

***Adults: please speak to a leader or Sunday
School teacher to see what you need to do.
Please bring along your picnic and a bag for
your rubbish. Thank you.***

Men's Club

The idea of a new Men's Club has been talked about, for some time, so now a few of the men are planning to investigate further.

We need to get some idea of what the club would actually provide. For example, do we want talks? If so on which subjects, and what about the speakers? Do we want to organise visits or walks, and where would we go? What about a regular games evening? What games would we play... darts, board games, bowls? When, and how often would we meet. Would that be monthly or weekly, and would that be afternoon or evening and where would we meet? These are a few of the ideas which we would like to discuss with any MEN who might be interested.

To that end, we plan to meet any interested MEN, during each Monday evening in November, at the church. There will be someone on hand to chat, note your ideas etc., So if you are interested, why not come along, between 8:00 and 9:00pm on a Monday evening and let's have your ideas. Then we can have a general meeting to put forward what we hope will attract the MEN of the parish.

Hope to see and hear from you guys.....soon!!

Sincerely, David Beattie

PAUSE

Summer has definitely ended! The temperature has returned to what it would normally be at this time of the year and the summer clothes are safely packed away. Some animals are preparing for hibernation.

Fortunately some of us can still be out and about meeting and chatting with other people.

This month PAUSE will meet on:

Tuesday 7th November, at 10.30am at Hillmount Garden Centre.

Tuesday 21st November, at 10.30am at The Poet for tea/ coffee and scones.

If you are free on one or both of these dates please come along. All are welcome.

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

Eileen (02890203684)



As winter approaches, we recommend checking our Parish Website and Facebook pages regularly for any important information, as situations may change quickly. We need to be prepared for sudden changes in our diaries and lives.

Our parish website is www.stcolumbas.down.anglican.org

Under the "News" tab will be any important information you need to know.

We also post our photos from events in the parish under "Gallery" – check out our most recent ones!



If you "like" us on Facebook, you can see important updates and information there also.

Search [St Columba's Knock](#) to join us.

We suggest that you save these to your "Favourites" section and to get into the habit of checking them regularly!

Finally, if you need to check something or are unsure of anything, you can email the Parish Office on: office.knock@down.anglican.org, or simply ring (028 9065 6891) during office hours.

Thank you!

PARISH ORGANISATIONS


New members are always welcome at any of our organisations!

Sunday	Sunday School <i>Junior nursery to P5 Senior P6 and over</i>	2 nd , 3 rd and 4 th Sundays at 10.30am	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	10-00am - 12 Noon	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 Laverty 9573 8743
Wednesday	Bible Study Group	2.30pm - 4.00pm	Eileen Anderson 9020 3684
Thursday	Art Club	9.30am	Vida Shaw 90655063
	Choir	7.30pm	Dr Joe McKee 07976 294574
Friday	Mums and Tots	10.00am	Joyce Stevenson, 9058 3381
Bi-monthly	Pause	As arranged	Eileen Anderson 9020 3684
Monthly	Youth Etc. <i>(11-15 years)</i>	As arranged	Jonathan Martin, 07980 885990
	Young Families	Social events as arranged	Rachel Stewart 07812 247343

WHO'S WHO IN ST. COLUMBAS

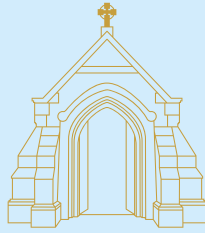
Parish website: www.stcolumbas.down.anglican.org

Rector	The Reverend Chancellor John R Auchmuty	St. Columba's Rectory 29 Kings Road BT5 6JG 028 9047 1514 rectorknock@down.anglican.org
Assistant Priests	The Reverend Canon Ken Smyth The Reverend Canon Walter Laverty	3 Mount Royal Bangor BT20 3BG 028 9145 8706 6 Hanwood Heights Dundonald BT16 1XU 028 9573 8743
Diocesan Lay Reader	Karen McAlpine	readercolumba@gmail.com
Rector's Churchwarden	Dr. Richard Whiteside	07747 616105
People's Churchwarden	Louise Mercer	07742 113519
Rector's Glebewarden	David Kelly	07730 468684
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
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.

