

# The Columban

ST. COLUMBA'S CHURCH, KNOCK, APRIL 2024

He is not here.

*He has Risen,*  
just as He said.

MATTHEW 28:6



*Alleluia*



## RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Parishioner,

### EASTER HOPE

***Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!***

Those are the words of the Easter greeting which we will be saying at the beginning of our services throughout this month. The message of Easter fills us with hope. This is good news which we need to hear just as it was for Mary and those disciples at the empty tomb on that first Easter morning. It made a real difference to them after all they had experienced at the foot of the cross. How we can all be encouraged by the hope and fresh sense of purpose which we receive at Easter in the midst of the challenges and opportunities of daily life. As Archbishop Desmond Tutu once wrote in a powerful and comprehensive Easter message:

***Goodness is stronger than evil.***

***Love is stronger than hate.***

***Life is stronger than death.***

***Light is stronger than darkness.***

***Victory is ours through Him who loved us.***

This is the good news which we celebrate and share during these weeks of Easter. We give thanks that goodness, love, life and light are much greater. Our hope is in the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. While this will be reflected in our worship at St. Columba's, it also needs to be reflected in our lives and work. We are Easter people who endeavour, with God's help, to demonstrate acts of kindness, support and generosity to those around us each day. May God give us the strength and focus to demonstrate a love for our neighbours, wherever they may be. **I encourage us all to explore fresh ways to serve the risen Christ and one another.**

This Easter as we see signs of hope and new life around us in our gardens and countryside, we give thanks for this opportunity of a fresh start in the way we live our own lives. **May we therefore embrace the Easter Hope with enthusiasm by bringing light to situations of darkness and hope to those aspects of life which are difficult for us and those around us.**

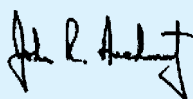
As we sing in this well known hymn:

*"Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;*

*Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;"*

May we be inspired and encouraged this Easter to live out the Good News that Christ is alive.

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 APRIL

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>** (White)

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

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>** **The Second Sunday of Easter** (White)

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

Epistle Acts 4: 32-35 The believers share their possessions

Read by: Ronny Martin

Gospel John 20: 19-31 Jesus appears to the disciples

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

Gospel John 20: 19-31 Jesus appears to the disciples

Read by: Sam Kerr

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup>** **The Annunciation of our Lord (Transferred)** (White)

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

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>** **The Third Sunday of Easter** (White)

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

Epistle Acts 3: 12-19 Peter speaks in Solomon's portico

Read by: Alan Boyd

Gospel Luke 24: 36b-48 Jesus speaks again to His disciples

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

Epistle Acts 3: 12-19 Peter speaks in Solomon's portico

Read by: Josephine Kelly

Gospel Luke 24: 36b-48 Jesus appears again to His disciples

Intercessions Barbara Laverty

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>** (White)

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

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> The Fourth Sunday of Easter (White)**

**8.15am Holy Communion**

Epistle Acts 4: 5-12 Peter and John before the Council  
Read by: Ronny Martin  
Gospel John 10: 11-18 Jesus the Good Shepherd

**10.30am Morning Prayer followed by refreshments hosted by Sunday School & Crèche**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading Ezekiel 34: 1-10 Israel's False Shepherds  
Read by: Louise Mercer  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading John 10: 11-18 Jesus the Good Shepherd  
Read by: Laura McCombe  
Occasional Prayers Lynn Ryan & Rachel Albery

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> Saint Mark the Evangelist (Red)**

**10.30am Holy Communion followed by refreshments**

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> The Fifth Sunday of Easter (White)**

**8.15am Holy Communion**

Epistle Acts 8: 26-40 Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch  
Read by: Michael Sadlier  
Gospel John 15: 1-8 Jesus the true vine

**10.30am Holy Communion**

Epistle Acts 8: 26-40 Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch  
Read by: Andrew Scott  
Gospel John 15: 1-8 Jesus the true vine  
Intercessions Elizabeth Leonard

**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".***

## Churchwardens 2024



***Photo left to right:***

Incoming Churchwardens David Connery, Rosemary Allister, the Rector, and out-going Churchwardens Louise Mercer and Richard Whiteside

Congratulations to our new Churchwardens for 2024-2025, Rector's Churchwarden Mrs Rosemary Allister and People's Churchwarden Mr David Connery, who were commissioned on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March. We look forward to their guidance and help during their term of office.

We also give our most grateful thanks to our retiring Churchwardens, Dr Richard Whiteside (Rector's Churchwarden) and Mrs Louise Mercer (People's Churchwarden) for their exceptional dedication and hard work during the front of church reconfiguration and painting works, as they carefully and meticulously made the smooth transition for all of us to the Church Hall for the work to begin, and then back to church once the work was completed. We wish them well as they now retire from their roles, with our deepest appreciation and gratitude.

## COMMISSIONING OF NEW CHURCHWARDENS

**We congratulate the new Rector's Churchwardens Rosemary Allister, and the new People's Churchwarden David Connery following their Commissioning on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March.**

**Rosemary Allister** writes... I'm looking forward to the coming year working alongside David and meeting lots of parishioners. Our family has been a part of St Columba's for over 30 years and Colin (my husband) was a churchwarden 25 years ago. We're proud parents of Claire and Matthew who were both christened and confirmed at St Columba's and also attended Sunday School, Bunnies & Squirrels and Brownies.

Whilst originally from South Belfast, I have East Belfast connections as my mum and her sisters were married in St Mark's Dundela and my Gran and Granda were members of St Mark's and later St Dorothea's (where their minister was Canon Ken Smyth!)

I studied History of Art (and English) at Aberdeen University and spent over 36 years working in the PR, marketing and promotions industry before 'retiring' towards the end of 2021. I'm currently enjoying working part-time with the Mary Peters Trust.

**David Connery** writes... I am very honoured to have been elected as the new People's churchwarden, I see it as a real opportunity to get to know the parishioners of St Columba's, as a relatively new member of the congregation. I look forward to my year working with Rosemary. I am married to Nicola, who is much better known than me locally as she is the Principal of Strathearn School. I work for NatWest bank, though I'm not a banker, I look after their technology governance and yes, it is as dry as it sounds. We have 2 boys both at Queens University, Jonathan year 3 of 4 in Computer Science and James year 2 of 3 doing Biological Sciences. In my spare time I enjoy swimming, hill walking and reading.



## LENT LUNCH

Thank you to our hard working and conscientious Catering Committee for organising a most successful Lent Lunch which raised **£3,318.25** for the Church Hall Fund. This was a terrific result. It was delightful to see so many parishioners and friends in attendance on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March for the delicious lunch. The Hall was full!



Thank you also to all the willing volunteers who assisted in so many ways with the preparations and the tidying up afterwards. It was lovely to see many of our young people enthusiastically serving everyone so efficiently. A career in the hospitality industry beckons for them!



It was joyful to experience the great fellowship and friendship being expressed in so many ways throughout the lunch. As I made my way down to the hall after the All Age Worship service, it was lovely to hear all the laughter and chat long before approaching the hall door. It was an excellent start to a most successful and enjoyable occasion.

The photographs taken during the lunch are displayed on the church noticeboard for you to enjoy.



### The Rector



## Confirmation



**Confirmation classes have commenced for those parishioners who will be confirmed by the Bishop of Down and Dromore on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May at 3.00pm in church.**

Please remember all the candidates and their families in your prayers, as they prepare for this most significant occasion in their lives:

Alexandru Brown  
Elena Brown  
Caroline Fairley  
Alexander Kerr  
Samuel Kerr  
Emma Ryan

Charlie Leckey  
James Leckey  
Robert Macpherson  
Jack Moore  
Thomas Morrow

## Church Grounds Work Party

**We invite parishioners to help us tidy the church grounds, car park and gardens on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April from 10am-12.30pm**

Please bring along your own tools and equipment, and we will provide the refreshments!

Any amount of help would be gratefully appreciated.

**Thank you.**



# Thought for the Month

## The Clumsy Runner

In the loneliness of the long distance runner Alan Sillitoe said:

The thing with running is that sometimes you have good days and sometimes you have bad days, and the bad days are the ones where you fall over.



**John Kerr**

For those of you who are occasional runners like myself you will know that the joy of running mostly comes at the end when the run is over. It was in that vein that at 6am on November 16th I headed out on my 158th consecutive daily run, that day also happened to be my birthday. So filled with dreams of lots of cake and celebration, little did I know that I had a different surprise in store right at the end of my run. This would be a day where I would fall over...

At the end of my run, tired, hungry and ready for a birthday breakfast but with all the grace of a newborn giraffe on ice skates, I stumbled, tripped, and tumbled my way to a fall landing square on the cold hard concrete face first, proving once and for all that gravity has a wicked sense of humour. Happy birthday to me, indeed!

At the, as usual, sound advice of my wife, I arrived at the Ulster minor injuries clinic. Unfortunately it was at my insistence that we should head there immediately and that she should drop me off without my realising that this drop off was a full 40 minutes before minor injuries opened. With an increasingly swelling face and a not insignificant amount of pain flooding the right side of my head I could perhaps have been forgiven for not having the wit to read the opening hours of the unit as I proceeded to shake the door furiously convinced that I had been locked out. However, soon time passed and other injured parties arrived and informed me of the opening hours, handily placed in large red letters, next to the door I had been shaking.

A nurse saw me relatively quickly, I had a longer wait then for the consultant who after a quick x ray confirmed that I had broken my cheekbone and I was booked in for a CT scan given I had landed on my head. The CT scan confirmed the damage as a cheekbone broken in 3 places and an eye socket fractured in 2 places. I spoke with a surgeon who offered a correction involving plates and screws and notable risks, so I decided to forego the surgery and let the bones heal naturally. Over the next few days my face remained numb entirely on one

side like I had been in the hands of a very determined dentist who had filled my cheek with more lidocaine than needed. The numbness made eating difficult but luckily my wife and my mother in law are experts in the culinary arts and so I was blessed with soups, cottage and shepherd's pies to sustain me whilst the healing process took hold.

As my face continued to heal and the numbness gradually subsided, Christmas rolled around, and with a cheekbone held together by very little, I ventured forth with my wife Lauren and sons Alex and Sam, on our planned holiday to Florida and Disney World where my face continued its recovery aided by the Florida sun over both Christmas and the New Year.

In conclusion, I'd like to thank the kind people who tended to me at the Ulster Hospital from the first nurse at the minor injuries through to the maxillofacial surgeon who saw me last. So if you ever find yourself hobbling through Disney World with a cheekbone held together by sheer force of will, just remember: every stumble is a step closer to your next great adventure.

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

*The May 'Thought for the Month' will be written by Heather Brehcist.*

## PAUSE

Spring has arrived bringing lots of rain and some sunshine. Spring flowers are appearing and some shrubs are in bloom. We are enjoying longer days. Now is the time to meet up with other people and have a chat, preferably over a cup of tea or coffee!

It is great to meet up with friends but also with people you have not met before or someone you do not have an opportunity to talk to, apart from the occasional greeting.

PAUSE provides an opportunity to meet and chat with others over tea or coffee. If you are free do come and join with us on:

**TUESDAY 9th APRIL AT 10.30 am at THE POET for tea/coffee and scones.**

If you need help with transport please contact me.

**Eileen (02890203684)**

## Clergy Parish Visiting

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

### Rector

Quarry Road  
Richhill Crescent  
Richhill Park  
Sandhill Gardens  
Sandhill Parade

### Canon Lavery

Roddens Crescent  
Rosepark  
Rosepark Gardens  
Rosepark Meadows  
Rosepark South

## 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.



## MAY PARISH MAGAZINE

Any articles or photographs for publication in the **May** parish magazine should be handed or emailed to the editor, **Billy McAlpine**, by **Wednesday, 10th April**.

His contact details are:-

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

*We all love to see photographs of people enjoying our Church activities. So we can all benefit fully from this and for reproduction purposes, it is very important that photographs are clear and in focus.*

**Many thanks**

## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 12<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> May

I recently attended a Christian Aid conference in Carnmoney Presbyterian church

which was most interesting and inspiring as we prepare for Christian Aid week in May.

Rosamond Bennett, the CEO explained that Christian Aid works alongside many partners who are locally based in the countries where there is extreme poverty. These partners can identify how to help the poorest and most vulnerable people by training them and empowering them to help themselves. Christian Aid can enable communities to plan for a better future that they'll build together and has always been generously supported in St Columba's.

This year we will repeat the strategies used in 2023:

- two Christian Aid envelopes will be included in May's Columban to be returned at a church service,
- envelopes will be delivered to some of the surrounding streets/roads.
- at the 10:30am service on 19th May tea and coffee will be served alongside a cake/bun sale .

We have a busy 7 days during Christian Aid week and I would encourage new volunteers to come forward - can you spare 1 hour to deliver envelopes, make cakes/buns or serve tea/coffee. All ages are welcome.

**Joyce (07772 128 944 )**



### Church hall cleaning rota

**May 11<sup>th</sup>**

Jayne and Ronnie Martin

**May 35<sup>th</sup>**

Joyce Stevenson and Yvonne Robb

## FLOWER ROTA

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>**

Wendy Killen

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>**

Rectory Family

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>**

Helen Coates

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>**

April Mercer

## From the Registers

### Holy Baptism

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March

Harriet Louise Rothwell

### Our Sorrows

#### Funeral Services

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February

Josephine Kilpatrick

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February

Etain Thompson

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February

Rosemary (Bobbie) Ann Henshall

## Men's Forum

Work in progress is the best way to describe the new groups situation now. Since the last article we have restored a table-tennis table to a useable condition and mounted a dart board to be used in a designated area within main hall. Thanks to Jim Stevenson for overseeing that project. We have in our possession three Back gammon sets and a table-football game. This along with a Quoits board and target mats( for use on bowling mats), we certainly won't be bored on our evenings together. Games nights will be one of the activities that will form part of our programme. We also will be looking at a large selection of Scalextric track and items donated. Could be enough for a Race night? Watch this space. No announcement yet on the topic or speaker for our first venture as a club. More to follow on that subject. Our invitation still and always will be open to every gentleman within the congregation to come meet with us and see if we can all move forward in establishing an organisation worthy of the men of our church. All suggestions welcome. Remember its Monday evenings 7.30 in the Hall.

**John Robb.**

**Mob: 07956 061929**

**E-mail :**

**john.robby@gmail.com**

# Prayers for your thoughts and comfort



This year, the entire season of Easter in the christian calendar falls in the month of April. The English word, 'Easter', is of uncertain origin. It is thought to be derived from the Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring and fertility and was in use by the 7<sup>th</sup> Century. The festival celebrated by christians in the early centuries was called 'Pascha' which was associated with the Passover festival. Note that St. Paul wrote that 'Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us, therefore let us celebrate the feast.' In time, that became associated with the christian celebration of the resurrection of Christ. However, in much of the English speaking world, the name 'Easter' which has very limited faith significance, remains in common usage.

Some of the prayers acknowledge the fact that we are in the season of Easter. This month there is a varied selection of subjects, some of which recognise events that are of contemporary significance. Hopefully, you will find some of the contents helpful in your personal prayers and thoughts One writer states that to pray is to live. Some may agree with me that it is the sum of our relationship with God.

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## **Easter Prayers**

Christ is risen: the world lies desolate.

Christ is risen: the spirits of evil are fallen

Christ is risen: the angels of God are rejoicing.

Christ is risen from the dead.

Glory and power are His forever.

A 2nd.Century prayer of Hippolytus of Rome

Lord God, give to us such a vision of Christ's risen glory that we may trust him; that we may know that nothing can separate us from your loving presence or defeat your will. Enable us to rise up from all our distress and despair, and take heart again. My we walk with Christ, to whatever lies in store for us, to find that faith has its own reward- that we have not missed our way- that the Son of Man came to seek and to save that which seemed lost for ever.

Leslie Weatherhead 1883-1975

Eternal God, in whom is all our hope in life, in death and to all eternity: grant that, rejoicing in the eternal life which is ours in Christ, we may face whatever the future holds for us calm and unafraid, always confident that neither death nor life can part us from your love in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Lord Jesus Christ, by your resurrection from the dead you have made the first day of the week as a day of worship for your people: may we be worthy to offer our prayers and praises on this and every day, to the honour and glory of your name. **Amen**

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

Author unknown. Parents and family may wish to show this prayer to children

### **A Springtime prayer**

Creator God, as we enjoy the fresh days of Spring, and the longer April evenings, help us to experience you with us, like those who travelled on the road to Emmaus. Be with us as we gaze into the distance of fresh hopes and dreams, new opportunities, challenges and uncertainties. Take our concerns and turn them into strengths. Take our lack of faith and empower us through the Spirit who breathes life into this world. Walk with us every day of this month wherever we find ourselves. We ask it in your name. **Amen**

Read St. Luke 24 verses 13 to 35 The road to Emmaus



O God, the Shepherd of your people, deliver us from all troubles and cares that upset us, that we may do what is pleasing in your sight, and remain safely in the care of the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Read St.John 10 verses 11 to 16 & Psalm 23. Passage read often in Easter season

### **A Prayer for our Parish**

Lord, as a parish you have given us a neighbourhood to serve and a gospel to proclaim. Give us enthusiasm to share the task with those you have called to serve you in certain ways, including the members of the new select vestry. Renew us with your Holy Spirit, that, in worship and service, we may be true to our calling as fellow workers with Christ in His mission to the world, for the glory of His name. **Amen**  
Names of Select Vestry and other elected representatives can be found elsewhere in this issue.

### **A Prayer for Confirmation Candidates**

God our Father, we pray for those in our parish who will be preparing for confirmation. May their journey of discovery be an opportunity for them to deepen their faith and friendships with others in the group. Send your Holy Spirit upon them, to be their helper and guide. Give them the spirit of understanding, and the spirit of knowledge as they seek to know you better. Grant wisdom and a guiding hand to the Rector and any others, who may be their encouragers at this time. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### **A Prayer for Family and Friends**

God our Father, we thank you for our homes and families: for their love and understanding, including that of our friends. We thank you for laughter enjoyed and sorrow shared: for the daily bread of your bounty in good times and bad. Help us to be mindful of your gifts and glad to express it in praise, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Anon

### **Responsible care of our environment**

Lord our Creator, as Spring bursts into life and we admire the beauty of our surroundings, help us to be wise stewards of your creation, so that we may respect and protect our natural resources for those who inhabit the earth now, and in generations to come. We ask it in your name. **Amen**

### **Refugees and victims of War**

Lord Jesus, when you walked this earth, you had no place to call your own and no place to lay your head. Help us to display practical generosity in addition to generosity of spirit in supporting those who have been forced to flee their native countries and have sought refuge in our land. May we be constant in our prayers also for those who are suffering beyond our imagination in areas of the world experiencing violence, invasion and civil war. Help us to show them, inspired by your kindness and compassion, something of the image of your face. **Amen**

### **For those at work or seeking employment**

Lord, you knew rejection and disappointment. Help me/us if work seems boring or unpleasant. Encourage me/us when new work opportunities are in short supply. Help me/us to think about what to do next or what to do better. Grant determination that I am go the extra mile and maybe many more miles ahead. **Amen**

From a New Zealand Prayer Book

### **Relief from stress**

Father, give to me, and to all who need your peace in times of anxiety,  
Serenity- in times of hardship  
Courage – in times of uncertainty  
Patience – at all times, and trust in your wisdom and love. **Amen**

### **A night Prayer**

Teach me Lord, that you have not given to me the spirit of fear, but of love, peace, and of a sound mind, to live each day inspired by you. So now, I will lay down my head and take my rest. **Amen**

### **Practical christianity**

Pour on us Lord, the spirit of love and kindness, so that, sprinkled by the dews of your blessing, we may be inspired by your goodness and grace, in all we do and say, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### **A final thought ...for now**

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 verse 2

In March we enjoyed an impromptu quiz night. The aim was to encourage participation and enjoy chat and fellowship thus everyone was rewarded with a bunch of seasonal daffodils as we step into spring.

**Question.** Who invented Custard Creams?

**Answer** Huntley and Palmer 1891

There will be no meeting as our branch evening falls on Easter Tuesday.

Our next meeting will be 9<sup>th</sup> May. A Speaker from "Horatio's Gardens" will tell us about their work engaging with those who have suffered a spinal injury. The garden in Belfast is the 7<sup>th</sup> garden opened in the UK. This meeting is open to all

**Barbara**



## Art Club

As the Art Club hosted the tea/coffee after the morning service on St Patrick's day we took the opportunity to set up a small display of our paintings to encourage members of the congregation who might have an interest to come along on Thursday mornings and join us.

Subject matter is personal choice, style is varied, talent is boundless and imagination is everything. The 'work' covers a wide range e.g. portraits, landscapes, seascapes, abstracts and still life.

The Art Club is a social organisation sharing an interest in painting and is very welcoming to all.

**Betty**



## Railway and Model Club

Once more some kind person has left a box of models etc. at the door of the Railway Model Room, but again we do not know the name of that kind person. The Club really appreciates these gifts ...but it would be great if we could express our thanks, in person, to the kind person who left the gift. Many of these gifts go straight onto layouts which are currently being built, and the others go into our growing stock of models and rolling stock. Again many thanks to you all. If you would like to view our growing number of layouts and models, we would be happy to see you at the club room on any Wednesday afternoon.....between 14:00hrs and 16:30hrs. Just think, you could become a railway driver for a day. OK a model railway driver!!! Our layouts will be on display at a number of big model railway shows in the coming weeks and months, so keep your ears/eyes open for news.

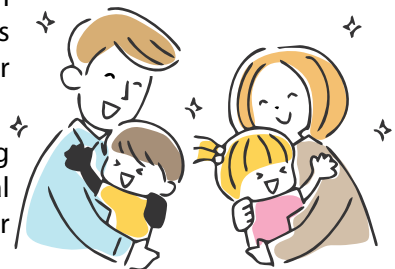


**Keep 'er Rollin'  
Rockie**

## MUMS AND TOTS

We have been very busy on Friday mornings at Mums and Tots since the start of 2024. Our numbers have been increasing steadily, on many occasions we have 25- 30 toddlers along with their parents.

We have a fantastic group of hardworking volunteers but are still looking for additional help - if you have 2 hours to spare once or twice a month please contact me.



**Joyce ( 07772 128 944)**



## CHURCH OF IRELAND - DIOCESES OF DOWN & DROMORE AND CONNOR

# ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME 2024

## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Applications are invited from candidates of all ages who are Grade 4 & above.

## BENEFITS OF THE SCHEME

- ♪ Free fortnightly lessons for the three year duration of the scheme
- ♪ Development of practical skills including hymn playing, choral training & performance of organ repertoire

Applications may be requested from the Honorary Secretary  
[downdromoreconnororganinfo@gmail.com](mailto:downdromoreconnororganinfo@gmail.com)

or downloadable from  
[www.downanddromore.org](http://www.downanddromore.org)  
[www.connor.anglican.org](http://www.connor.anglican.org)

Deadline for applications:  
30th April 2024

Audition date:  
18th May 2024  
St John's Malone



# ST. COLUMBA'S TEAM



**Chancellor John Auchmuty**  
Rector



**Canon Ken Smyth**  
Assistant Priest



**Canon Walter Lavery**  
Assistant Priest

## SELECT VESTRY



**Rosemary Allister**  
Rector's Churchwarden



**David Connery**  
People's Churchwarden



**Ian Johnston**  
Rector's Glebewarden



**Mark Wilson**  
People's Glebewarden



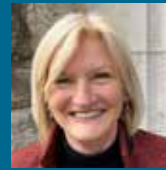
**David Craig**



**David Kelly**



**John Kerr**



**Louise Mercer**



**Martin Moore**



**Nigel Morrow**



**Scott Rutherford**



**Jim Stevenson**



**Richard Whiteside**



**Karen McAlpine**  
Diocesan Reader



**Karen Patterson**  
Parish Administrator &  
Financial Giving Secretary



**Joe McKee**  
Organist & Choral Director



**Brian Clements**  
Assistant Organist

## OFFICE BEARERS



**John Macpherson**  
Honorary Secretary



**Brian Acheson**  
Honorary Treasurer



**Victor Dukelow**  
Asst. Honorary Treasurer



**Jack Dunlop**  
Gift Aid Secretary

## PARISH OFFICERS



**John Robb**  
Honorary Sacristan



**Yvonne Robb**  
Honorary Sacristan



**John Proctor**  
Honorary Sexton



**Geoff Launchbury**  
Asst. Honorary Sexton



**Stewart Beckwith**  
Premises Convenor



**Mark Laverty**  
Crucifer



**Jonathan Stewart**  
Parish Webmaster

# SUNDAY SCHOOL & CRECHE

I hope everyone is enjoying a restful Easter break. It is hard to believe that we are looking ahead to the summer term. Sunday School and Creche will now be held on the **2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays only for April and May** when we are going to be learning all about Moses and his life. We are also providing refreshments after Morning Prayer on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April so please do come and support us!

7<sup>th</sup> April – All Age Worship



14<sup>th</sup> April – Sunday School & Creche – Moses

21<sup>st</sup> April – NO Sunday School & Creche – providing refreshments after Morning Prayer service



28<sup>th</sup> April – Sunday School & Creche – Moses

Looking forward to seeing everyone!

Lynn



*Some photos of making "pig buns" after hearing the story of The Lost Son!*





## Ladies Guild



On a dark and very wet Thursday it is hard to believe that we are now in Spring but the daffodils nodding outside the window bring promise of brighter days.

At our February meeting Ann Clark shared her knowledge and talents relating to the furnishing of Doll's Houses. It was fascinating to learn how the miniature items were created with much skill and patience.

In March we welcomed, at last, Tom Hartley with a talk originally scheduled for 2020. The subject was 'Forgotten Women and their contribution to life in the City'. A fuller report will be given in May magazine. Our speaker on April 16<sup>th</sup> will be from the Woodland Trust. Could I remind members to note that our AGM will be on 21<sup>st</sup> May.

We continue to keep in our thoughts those members who may be ill or recovering from accidents.

May I wish all our members and their families the Blessings of this Easter time and the hope of new beginnings.

**Eleanor**

## Committee Members 2023-2024

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

The Rector (Chairman)  
Brian Acheson (Hon. Treasurer)  
Victor Dukelow (Ast. Hon. Treasurer)  
Stephen Armstrong  
Richard Caldwell  
Nigel Morrow

### **PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

The Rector (Chairman)  
Ian Johnston  
David Kelly  
Jim Stevenson  
Mark Wilson  
Barrie Elkin

### **CATERING COMMITTEE**

Alison Acheson  
Caroline Auchmuty  
Nan Hillier  
Emma Macpherson  
Isobel McDowell  
Clodagh Reid

### **CLEANING COMMITTEE**

Rector (Chairman)  
Nan Hillier  
Eleanor Launchbury  
Geoff Launchbury  
Isobel McDowell



The Rector writes...I commend this invaluable initiative to your prayerful consideration. Supporting children in their formative years with reading skills will provide them with important skills for their lives. I recently had a most helpful meeting with the former Principal of Bloomfield Collegiate School, Dr. Darrin Barr who is the Equipping for Life Area Support Officer.

**This is a wonderful opportunity to share skills and experiences with children to make a lasting difference to their lives. I will be inviting Dr. Barr to talk about his work with Equipping for Life in St. Columba's in the near future. The contact details for further information are provided in this very informative article.**

### **Equipping for Life**

We are a Belfast faith-based charity, established in 2018, and we seek to offer people of Christian faith volunteering opportunities to support children in local primary schools. We prioritise working in areas which have, and continue to experience, generational disadvantage. From humble beginnings, working with a few schools on the Shankill Road, we have grown to working with about 25 primary schools across Northern Ireland.



### **Reading Programme**

A child's ability to read is the cornerstone of a successful and rewarding life and our volunteers are passionately committed to helping primary-aged children to improve this vital life skill. Equipping for Life is working in partnership with primary schools to place teams of volunteers who read to children on a regular basis. Our 130+ volunteers each have two



30-minute sessions per week with two different children. Each session opens with a prayer of blessing for the child followed by reading. The children come from P2 to P7 and the volunteers are encouraged to use a flexible approach to each session. In consultation with the schools, the volunteers may use other resources such as mini whiteboard or educational games to help build self-confidence and communication skills.

*“Our pupils have benefitted greatly from the one-to-one reading experience they have had through Efl. The children have blossomed academically, socially and spiritually. They look forward very much to their weekly sessions with the devoted group of volunteers.”*

**Judith Stevenson (Principal) Forth River Primary School**

*“One of my pupils came in mid-September at the start of his primary 3 year with just a handful of recognised words in his vocabulary. Praising, patience and pushing just 30 minutes a week saw him taken off the ‘programme’ a few months later because he no longer needed support. He was an independent reader!  
What a joy this is for us as volunteers to know that small amounts of time can have such a big impact.”*

**Jean Matchett, Volunteer**

**If you would like to be involved in the Reading Programme please contact Efl at [pat@equippingforlife.org.uk](mailto:pat@equippingforlife.org.uk) 07889572800**

## NATIONAL CHURCHES TRUST



It was a great joy to welcome the National Churches Trust committee members to St. Columba's for their recent meeting. I was grateful of the opportunity to meet with them during refreshments

to thank them for their very generous grant of £25,000 towards our new roof.



The committee members were very interested to hear about our project and how we went about the work. They were extremely complimentary about our beautiful church and how this essential work has been successfully completed.

As their Support Officer for Northern Ireland said in her email to me following their meeting:

***"The committee was extremely impressed with the upkeep of your church and delighted to see that the investment has been put to excellent use."***

**The Rector**

## PARKING

We respectfully request that parishioners and visitors to our parish park in a considerate way by not blocking entrances to the homes of our neighbours. It is also very important to leave a clear road available for emergency vehicles which may need to pass at speed while a service is taking place.

Cones have been placed to assist with considerate parking and we ask that they are not moved.

PLEASE make sure that vehicles can pull out of driveways safely and have enough space to see each direction, and do not park tight to the hedge as pedestrians legally need the space of a double buggy to walk past parked vehicles. Police can leave tickets on badly parked vehicles. Remember – being late for church is not a viable excuse for poor parking! Thank you.

# PARISH ORGANISATIONS


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

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Sunday School</b> <i>Junior nursery to P5 Senior P6 and over</i>	2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Sundays at 10.30am	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>MU Afternoon Group</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday each month 2.30pm	Joy Montgomery 9029 5427
	<b>Men's Forum</b>	7.30pm	John Robb 07956061929
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Ladies Badminton</b>	10-00am - 12 Noon	Gillian Popplestone 07730479478
	<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>Railway and Model Club</b>	2.00pm to 4.30pm	David Beattie 9028 5868
<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

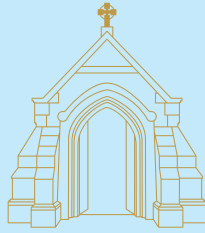
Parish website: [www.stcolumbas.down.anglican.org](http://www.stcolumbas.down.anglican.org)

<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>	Rosemary Allister	07880 504928
<b>People's Churchwarden</b>	David Connery	07801 738114
<b>Rector's Glebewarden</b>	Ian Johnston	07850 999909
<b>People's Glebewarden</b>	Mark Wilson	07714 658911
<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, David Kelly John Kerr, Louise Mercer, Martin Moore, Nigel Morrow, Scott Rutherford, Jim Stevenson, Richard Whiteside	
<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.

