

The Columban

ST. COLUMBA'S CHURCH, KNOCK, FEBRUARY 2024



Lent, a season of renewal.



RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Parishioner,

NEW CHALICE ADMINISTRATORS

Our chalice administrators provide a great service through their specific role at our Holy Communion services. Through their participation, the administration is carried out in a most efficient manner. **This rota is co-ordinated by Jill Armstrong, who ensures that there are at least two chalice administrators available for these services.** I thank Jill and all those who serve so conscientiously in our parish in this way. It's good news that we now need additional chalice administrators to join this faithful and dedicated team.

I am therefore very pleased that the Bishop of Down and Dromore has approved the appointment of these five new chalice administrators for our parish:

Elizabeth Leonard, Emma Macpherson, Heather Brehcist,

John Kerr and Martin Moore

They are all regular communicant members of St. Columba's and are actively involved in many aspects of our parish. I congratulate them upon their appointment and wish them all God's richest blessing as they join their colleagues in the administration of the chalice. They have recently completed their training and I look forward to welcoming them to the Sanctuary during these weeks. Please remember them all in your prayers.

LENT

This year Ash Wednesday falls on the 14th February which marks the beginning of the penitential season of Lent. It's a timely opportunity for us all to creatively enable our faith to develop. As we move further into this new year with signs of spring growth all around, we need to ensure that our Christian faith has fresh opportunities to grow and strengthen. **How easy it can be through our busyness to adopt a casual approach to our faith and spiritual development. Lent is therefore coming just at the right time to focus afresh on our faith so it's strong enough to sustain us each day.**

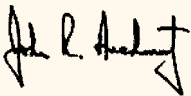
By way of helpful assistance, I encourage you to make church attendance a priority throughout Lent. In addition to our Sunday services and mid-week Holy Communion services each Thursday morning, there will be a short service each Wednesday at 8pm with opportunities for reflection and renewal. In the words of the Psalmist may "we be still before the Lord". (Psalm 37: 7)

The recently retired Bishop of Exeter, The Right Reverend Robert Atwell provides a helpful focus about Lent when he said:

"Originally the word meant the lengthening of days, from the Old English lencten. I see it as the springtime of the heart. The growth in nature that we see needs to be reflected in our inner life, in our souls.... There is hope on the horizon and reasons to be hopeful."

May it be so for us each day.

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 FEBRUARY

Thursday 1st Saint Brigid (White)
10.30am Holy Communion *followed by refreshments*

Sunday 4th The Second Sunday before Lent (Green)
8.15am Holy Communion

Epistle 2 Corinthians 3: 1-6 Ministers of the New Covenant
 Read by: Elizabeth Leonard

10.30am All Age Worship and Holy Baptism *followed by refreshments*

Gospel Mark 2: 13-22 The question about fasting
 Reading Mark 2: 13-22 The question about fasting
 Read by: Jack Moore

Thursday 8th (Green)
10.30am Holy Communion *followed by refreshments*

Sunday 11th Transfiguration Sunday (White)
8.15am Holy Communion

Epistle 2 Corinthians 4: 3-6 The light of God
 Read by: Ronny Martin

10.30am Holy Communion

Gospel Mark 9: 2-9 The Transfiguration
 Epistle 2 Corinthians 4: 3-6 The light of God
 Read by: Scott Rutherford
 Gospel Mark 9: 2-9 The Transfiguration
 Intercessions Elizabeth Leonard

Wednesday 14th Ash Wednesday (Purple)
10.30am Service for Ash Wednesday with Holy Communion
8.00pm Service for Ash Wednesday with Holy Communion

Thursday 15th (Purple)
10.30am Holy Communion *followed by refreshments*

Sunday 18th The First Sunday in Lent (Purple)
8.15am Holy Communion

Epistle 1 Peter 3: 18:22 Importance of baptism
 Read by: Karen McAlpine
 Gospel Mark 1: 9-15 The baptism of Jesus

10.30am **Morning Prayer** *followed by refreshments hosted by Ladies Guild*
1st Reading Genesis 9: 8-17 The covenant with Noah
Read by: Eileen Anderson
2nd Reading Mark 1: 9-15 The baptism of Jesus
Read by: Eleanor Launchbury
Occasional Prayers Karen McAlpine

Wednesday 21st (Purple)
8.00pm **Late Evening Office**

Thursday 22nd (Purple)
10.30am **Holy Communion** *followed by refreshments*

Sunday 25th **The Second Sunday in Lent** (Purple)
8.15am **Holy Communion**

Epistle Romans 4: 13-25 God's promise realized through faith

Read by: Ronny Martin
Gospel Mark 8: 31-38 Jesus foretells His death & resurrection

10.30am **Holy Communion**
Epistle Romans 4: 13-25 God's promise realized through faith

Read by: Linda Wilson
Gospel Mark 8: 31-38 Jesus foretells His death & resurrection
Intercessions Angela Kerr

Wednesday 28th (Purple)
8.00pm **Compline**

Thursday 29th (Purple)
10.30am **Holy Communion** *followed by refreshments*

Online Services

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

Thursday Communion Service

The practice of holding a service of Holy Communion on Thursday mornings at 10.30am has been an integral part of weekly worship in our church for many years. Attendances have varied over the years with sometimes only 5 or 6 people present but in more recent times since the reopening of the church following the pandemic the numbers participating have steadily increased with an average weekly attendance of around 20 sometimes increasing to as many as 30 on occasion. The additional space now provided at the front of the Church has allowed for a more integrated congregation with everyone able to worship as a complete group, not separated between the chairs and pews as before.

Following the service coffee is provided at the West End allowing an opportunity for fellowship and chat. A little jug on the table provides an opportunity for donations and during the past year the total donations have amounted to £1000 which has been allocated to church funds. I would like to sincerely thank all those attending for their generosity in achieving this wonderful amount.

We look forward to the New Year and hopefully welcoming some new faces to our Thursday service.

Geoff Launchbury



WEDNESDAY EVENING LENT SERVICES

Throughout Lent there will be a Wednesday service in St. Columba's at 8pm. We will be using the evening services of Compline and also Late Evening Office on alternative weeks.

These will be relatively short services lastly no more than forty-five minutes with a short devotional address connecting our faith with daily issues. Dr. Joe McKee and the Choir will be participating in these services with reflective music. **Please mark these services in your diary for this month:**

- | | |
|---|--|
| Wednesday 14th February | 8pm Ash Wednesday Service with Holy Communion |
| Wednesday 21st February | 8pm Late Evening Office |
| Wednesday 28th February | 8pm Compline |

I commend them to you.

The Rector

Bible Study

If you call into the church on a Wednesday afternoon you hear much laughter from a group meeting to study the scriptures in a light-hearted manner. As clergy, we admit to having fun as we tackled more difficult books such as "Romans" and "Revelation". Everyone was amazed to learn how much the Bible speaks to today's society as in every age. Anyone who thinks the Bible is irrelevant hasn't read it with any understanding.

This year we shall be reading through St Paul's letters to the Corinthians. They are among the most valuable letters for their presentation of the gospel as well as their vivid pictures of what any Christian community should be like. It has plenty to say to us as individuals.

We meet in the warmth of the choir vestry and enter via the choir door at the rear of the building close to the Rectory from 2.30-4.30pm with a quick cuppa at the back of the church before we leave. We are a small, but growing, group of 12 people; but would be delighted to welcome more to join us (including men- please). As we study the passages, we also cross-reference with other verses elsewhere in the Bible. Then we look at maps of the Holy Land and trace the footsteps of Jesus with his disciples. We also see the place names visited by Paul on his three missionary journeys. All of this helps us to understand the background scripture and its historical context.

If you are available on Wednesday afternoons, please do come. You are most welcome!

Walter

PAUSE

I am writing this on a cold, bright and sunny morning. Long may the brightness continue. It makes me feel like going out and meeting people.

Social interaction is what we all need and our parish organisations help us to achieve this.

PAUSE is different from other parish organisations in that it has no membership, no officers and no constitution! It provides an opportunity for parishioners, friends and anyone who reads the Columban to meet up for tea/coffee, scones and chat in local coffee shops or restaurants.

If you are free do come and join us in February.

We plan to meet on **Tuesday 13th February at 10.30am at The Poet.**

I look forward to seeing YOU there. Come on your own or bring a friend.

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

Eileen (02890203684)

Lent: A Practice of Prayer, Fasting, Giving & Preparation

During the holy season of Lent, we prepare ourselves for the spiritual events of Easter by fasting, praying and giving. However, this year is quite unusual!

Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day) is on 13th February, when tradition allows us to use up food items and enjoy food before the fasting, which begins on Ash Wednesday, 14th February. However, St Valentine's Day also falls on Wednesday 14th, providing us with a bit of a quandary. Do we enjoy the Valentines Day sweet gifts we receive, or do we fast? Perhaps the answer lies somewhere in between. We know that Jesus fasted for 40 days and 40 nights in the desert before he faced his crucifixion, as he mentally prepared to make the ultimate sacrifice. Do we need to fast? What is the most important aspect of Lent?

Many things have changed in recent years, including how we do things and how we interact. The Covid years have challenged us and made us think of new ways of doing things, especially as we could not worship together in church. We were able to join our church services via the internet and were still able to pray in our homes. We could still eat or fast, whichever we decided.

However, now this time of preparation, of praying together, attending church together, and joining together to help our local community is constant in our lives again. God didn't go away and leave us. **Instead, He made us stronger as we all 'dug deep' to find ways through the lockdowns and traumas we faced.**

Attending church can provide a comfort which we missed during the Covid years. It is the coming together in worship and prayer which provides us with stability for the future, safe in the knowledge that we have both God and our church family with us.

How you decide to spend Lent, fasting or not, make sure that you spend time with God. Come and join in the many church services offered. Give generously with your heart to charity. But most importantly, make time to pray – this is *YOUR TIME* to make a difference, to give thanks for His blessings, to ask for assistance in the lives of those we love and to make a better connection with God.

Lent gives us the perfect opportunity to attend church and pray together. Come and join us!

Karen Patterson

PARISH FINANCES - A YEAR END CHECKLIST

As we approach the end of another year, the Select Vestry would like to take this opportunity to thank parishioners sincerely for their continued financial support throughout 2023. Without that support, St Columba's would not be able to flourish, to grow or to be the beacon that it is across the Parish and beyond. As the year now draws to a close, there are a number of points you may wish to check:



I have donated all my intended 2023 contributions before Sunday 31st December 2023. Parishioners are reminded that any financial contributions for the 2023 year **must** be received by Sunday 31st December 2023. Any contributions received after that date will be allocated to the 2024 year.



If I am a UK taxpayer I have completed a Gift Aid form. Any UK taxpayers who have not already completed a Gift Aid form are reminded to do so. Gift Aiding means that the Parish can claim up to a further 25% of the value of contributions at no additional cost to the parishioner.



I contribute to Parish funds by Standing Order. The Select Vestry is very grateful for all financial contributions regardless of how those are made and is mindful of personal preference regarding the means of contributing. Nonetheless, the majority of parishioners now contribute to Parish funds by Standing Order. This is the preferred method for regular giving as it is secure, cost effective and attracts lower bank charges than cash or cheque equivalents.

If you require either Gift Aid or Standing Order forms, please contact Karen in the Parish Office Phone: 028 90 656891 or e-mail: office@coiknock.org, or download from our parish website:

<http://www.stcolumba's@down.anglican.org> under the "giving" tab.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Brian Acheson (Honorary Treasurer)

Victor Dukelow (Assistant Honorary Treasurer)

ST COLUMBA'S MISSION AND CHARITY ALLOCATIONS

During 2023, parishioners of St Columba's have contributed extremely generously to our local charities, whether through mission and charity envelopes, through specific standing orders, or through one-off donations. This has enabled allocations of £1,200 to be made to each of the following worthy organisations:

1. NI Air Ambulance
2. Lagan Search and Rescue
3. Kidney Care UK
4. Dean's Sit-out
5. St Dorotheas - for essential rewiring
6. Down Cathedral
7. St Saviours (Craigavon) – flood damage
8. St Martins, Newtownards Road (The Gathering)
9. Mission to Seafarers
10. St John's Ambulance
11. The Welcome Organisation, Belfast

Loose Plate Allocations

In February, we contributed £977.45 to the Turkey/Syria Earthquake Appeal from loose plate collections, and The Royal British Legion received £393 from the loose plate collection at our Remembrance Day services.

We allocated the loose plate collection from the Carol Service to the Dean's Sit Out at St Anne's Cathedral, which received £1453.80. The loose plate collection from our Advent Carol Service was allocated to the NI Children's Hospice, which received £308.

Our Holy Week services loose plate collections raised £754.90 for Marie Curie.

Finally, a further significant contribution will be made to Marie Curie once the final sum for mission and charity giving in 2023 has been calculated. All of these contributions make an immense difference to peoples' lives, and we know the charities are most grateful for this financial support. If you would like to know more about how you can give to these and other worthy causes via your contributions or how you can maximise the value of your giving by Gift Aiding then please contact a member of the Finance Committee or the Parish Administrator on 028 9065 6891 (Monday – Friday, 9am – 1pm).

Thank you for your generosity and support.

Church hall cleaning rota

March 2nd	Joyce Stevenson and Yvonne Robb
March 16th	Christine and Ian Johnston
March 6th	Nan Hillier and Isobel McDowell
March 30th	Isobel McDowell and Nan Hillier



Confirmation Service

It is hoped that we will be able to provide a Confirmation Service in 2024.

Those wishing to be considered for confirmation are asked to give their names to the Rector in writing before **Sunday 18th February 2024**. It is essential that they are:

- regular church attenders
- active members of the Senior Sunday School Class
- assisting with the Sunday School if over the age of 15

Adult parishioners wishing to be considered for confirmation should also give their names to the Rector before **Sunday 18th February 2024**. They will follow a separate confirmation class. Thank you.



Art Club

The club held their Christmas lunch in the Royal Northern Ireland Yacht Club on 14th December. An innovation this year was the appearance of a 'Secret Santa'. Club members had been asked to do a painting, on any subject, but not larger than 8" x 6". These were placed in envelopes and collected in a Santa sack. Everyone then picked an envelope and thus they got a painting produced by one of their colleagues. The general opinion was that the paintings were of a very high standard. After an enjoyable meal we embarked on the annual 'torture' of answering some 'Say what you See' images and also, this year, a wordsearch made from the names of the club members. The objective was to find your own name but also to identify whose name had not been include in the grid.



The Club started again on 4th January. We were reminded that a small exhibition would be set up in the church on 17th March when we would be responsible for the Tea/Coffee after the service. Our AGM would be held on 6th June when there would be an 'internal' exhibition of our work. Paintings on 'transport' and/or 'decay' were suggested as possible themes.

ACTIVITY GROUP

On 12th December we held a Christmas evening in the hall with festive food, music and fun.

We have resumed our badminton and Scrabble evenings in early January and it is great to see so many attending our group every week. We are looking forward to going out for a meal at the end of January to Neill's Hill.

Maureen

FLOWER ROTA

SUNDAY 4th

Margaret McKee

SUNDAY 11th

John and Sandra Little

SUNDAY 18th

Stewart Beckwith

SUNDAY 25th

Barbara Gibson

Prayers for your thoughts and comfort



Every year in religious and other circles, questions are asked about the date of Easter. That date affects the time when we observe Holy Week and Pentecost. Occasionally, articles are written suggesting reasons for making Easter a fixed date in the calendar. Historically, it is easier to justify the calendar date of Easter than it is to argue the case for the observation of Christmas on 25th. December. However, that would require a lengthy article in the Columban which is not the purpose of the section on 'Thoughts and Prayers' each month. Sufficient to say that Easter will be earlier than usual this year which means that we will observe Ash Wednesday in February. A prayer recognises that fact in this issue while reserving some Lent related topics until March.

In the ancient Celtic world, the start of the season Im boile and St. Brigid's Day - 1st. February - marked the dawning of a new age, including the beginning of new growth.

Whatever our views on the above topics may be, it is hoped that you will find some helpful material and prayers in this section of the Columban.

St. Brigid's Day 1st February

St. Brigid is one of the three national saints of Ireland along with St. Patrick and St. Columba. She was the founder of an early 6th. Century monastery at Kildare near the present day cathedral which bears her name. The St. Brigid's Cross is distinctive and unusual. Her name is associated also with Bride. As many as 40 townlands and parishes bear her name. For example, the word 'Kilbride' means the Church of Bride or Brigid. It is possible that Knockbreda means the 'hill of Bride or Brigid.

Prayer

Father, we rejoice today in the fellowship of your servant Brigid, who strengthened your Church in this land. Help us to follow the example of her life of work and loving service to our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen**

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple 2nd February

This marks the occasion when the parents of Jesus brought him to the Temple, forty days after his birth. The account includes the Song of Simeon known as the 'Nunc Dimittis'. Read St. Luke 2. The day is known also as Candlemas, when candles are sometimes carried in procession, commemorating the words of Simeon, describing Christ as 'a light to lighten the Gentiles.'

Prayer

Almighty God, who fulfilled the hopes of Simeon and Anna who welcome the Messiah to the Temple. Complete in us your will that, in Christ we may see your salvation, for he is the Lord for ever. **Amen.**

Ash Wednesday February 14th

Romantics may associate this date with the mythical figure Valentine, but the date this year, marks the beginning of Lent. The season will last until Easter at the end of March but more about that fact, next month. Ash Wednesday drives its name from the placing of repentant ashes on the foreheads of participants. Ashes were used in Biblical times to denote grief. Read St. Matthew 11 v.21 and St. Luke 10 v. 13. You will find suggested readings for this day on Page 34, Book of Common Prayer.

Prayer

Almighty God, who hates nothing that you have made, and forgives the sins of all who are penitent. Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, lamenting our sins, and acknowledging our weaknesses, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer for a faithful observance of Lent

Please note:- Mid week services in St. Columba's on Wednesday evenings

Almighty God, you invite us to enter deeper into your world. Enable us to do so this Lent. May it be a time of outward focus, seeking you in those we have ignored. Help us also to live a Lent of discipline, reflection, generosity and encounter, so that we may have the rock solid assurance of your unwavering faith in us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Support in times of Temptation

In Lent we recall the Temptations of Christ in the wilderness. Read St. Matthew 4 & St. Luke 4.

Prayer

Lord, who was tempted in all things as we are tempted. Out of weakness give me strength. Support me in time of temptation. Help me to do your work with courage and to continue as your faithful follower all of life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Encouragement in difficult times

Lord, give to us and all people, in times of anxiety, a sense of peace: in times of hardship, perseverance, and, at all times, a quiet trust in your wisdom and love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Christian hope

The following prayer was written about 1690, which was a period of considerable turmoil in Ireland and Europe. It seems appropriate at a time of great instability and violence in our world when we can become very dispirited.

Grant O God, that amidst all the discouragements, difficulties, dangers and darkness of this mortal life, we may depend upon thy mercy. On this build our hopes, as on a sure foundation. Let thine infinite mercy in Jesus Christ deliver us from despair, both now and at the greatest hour of darkness.

Amen

Peace in a troubled world

In recent months we've been made aware of dreadful suffering and death resulting from war and conflict in Palestine (including Gaza), Israel and Ukraine. While we may be fortunate, we should not overlook those problems, but through our prayers seek encouragement for those in distress.

Prayer

God of peace and justice, send your blessing on all people suffering the effects of violence, including those who have had to flee their own countries and have sought sanctuary in our land. Sustain them in their difficulties, and be for them the hope they desire. We pray for those with power over war or peace, for discernment and compassion in making their decisions. Our prayer is made in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. **Amen**

A Prayer for those in need

Thank you Lord for the blessing of life and for the variety of your gifts. However, food and other resources are wasted while millions are hungry. Open our hearts to the call to support all humanitarian organisations in this country and overseas. Enable us to be your hands and feet in bringing assistance and succour to all in need. We ask it in your name. **Amen**

An evening prayer

Watch over Lord, those who wake, or weep tonight. Tend your sick ones and rest your weary ones. Bless your dying ones. Soothe your suffering ones. Pity your afflicted ones. Shield your joyous ones, and all for your love's sake.

Amen

This prayer in a little amended fashion to taught to be hundreds of years old.

A prayer for our parish

Lord of light, shine on us

Lord of peace - dwell on us

Lord of might - strengthen us

Lord of love - enfold us

Lord of wisdom - enlighten us **Amen**

Useful sayings and comments

Sometimes things aren't clear immediately. That's when you need to be patient and see where things lead

Hope is the strength by which a shattered world will emerge into the light.

God makes everything beautiful in its time Ecclesiastes 3 v.11

Men's Forum

Yes, you have read it correctly. What was formerly known as the Men's Club is now replaced by the Men's Forum. Why the change you may ask? The change has been brought about after many hours of debate and discussions over the past few years. Leading up to the pandemic we had, even then, been considering the Men's Club future and what direction we saw it going. We were in the throes of arranging events to celebrate 60 years of the Men's Club. Sadly, that never happened thanks to the pandemic.

So where are we today? We are now kicking off 2024 with the formation of a new venture catering for the male members of our church. This is not simply to be a rebranding of a bowling club but an opportunity to reintroduce and further strengthen the original ethos of what was originally called the St Columbas Parish Men's Club when founded in 1959. It was created in response to views of the then growing church family of St Columba's. A dedicated group of men formed a club that allowed male members to meet, enjoy fellowship, socialise and experience a sense of belonging. During its tenure it created and strengthened friendships both in and outside the church. They held various functions from treasure hunts to barn dances, outings, debates, talks, facilitated local drama groups to put on plays in the church hall, assisted other organisations in the church when help was needed. Such was the ethos and drive of those early founders. In its heyday the bowling aspect (one of the items introduced for members) had taken over and such was the impact that when I joined St Columbas over 40 years ago, I still have a vivid memory of stepping inside the church hall for the first time to join the parish Men's Club, to be greeted with a throng of men bowling on 5 mats stretching the full width of our hall! Membership then numbered over 50 men. Sadly, those days are long gone. We suffered like many other clubs. Memberships dropped and clubs folded. Yet we still managed to hold the club together despite very poor numbers.

The work now begins. Initially we are meeting each Monday evening at 7.30 in the church hall. We aim to provide through time a varied programme offering a wide range of topics and events. A place to call in, have a chat with members, create friendships, share stories and enjoy company and refreshments. For this to work we need you, the men of the congregation, to assist us to achieve our aim by coming along any Monday evening and engage with us. We want to hear your views and ideas. You will be assured of a very warm welcome.

I will be the initial point of contact during the formation of the Men's Forum

John Robb Mob: 07956 061 929

Home: 028 9058 1438

Thought for the Month

A REMARKABLE COINCIDENCE OR DIVINE INTERVENTION?

Earlier this year I visited Edinburgh for one of my periodic reunions with my old university friend Malcolm, who was back home visiting from Australia, where he now lives. When we meet up, we often reminisce about a remarkable moment when we discovered, by chance, that my father and his uncle Colin Anderson had served together in the army and, inspired by (but unknown to) my dad, Colin had since been ordained in the Church of Scotland and pursued a career in the ministry.



Martin Moore

We became aware of this wonderful coincidence one day when I was at Malcolm's parents' house for Sunday lunch, and Colin and his wife Helen were there too. Colin, as a Church of Scotland minister was naturally inquisitive about my dad, a minister in the Church of Ireland. He remarked that he had once known a Church of Ireland padre called Moore during his time in the

army. Quickly it transpired that this was none other than my dad, Jim Moore! In the early 1960s, my dad was serving as a chaplain to the Parachute Regiment, which coincided with Colin's time in National Service, also in the Paras, and both were posted to Cyprus as part of 2 Para. I now discovered that, not only had both men served together, but they had been good friends, and Colin was a regular worshipper at dad's services. They did not, however, keep in touch after leaving the army, and so my dad was unaware that, influenced by his time with him, Colin had later put himself forward for ordination. As well as parish ministry, he had served as industrial chaplain on Clydeside and now as Glasgow University chaplain.

Both men were amazed and delighted to be put back in touch with each other, at first by phone

and letter, and soon to be reunited in person, when my mum and dad met up with Colin and his wife Helen, alongside Malcolm's parents, on a holiday to Scotland.



What were the chances that, thirty or so years after that time in Cyprus, one man's son and the other man's nephew would both choose to go to university in Edinburgh, to study for the same degree; that the two would become friends; and through that friendship, Colin and my dad would themselves be reunited discovering that the two now shared a vocation in the Church?

NOTE. See accompanying photograph of Jim Moore and Colin Anderson in Cyprus.

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

The March 'Thought for the Month' will be written by Caroline Higginson.

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 February:

Rector

Mount Merrion Avenue
North Road
Oakland Avenue
Orby Close
Orby Drive
Ormiston Crescent
Orby Gardens

Canon Laverty

Neill's Hill Park
Norwood Avenue
Old Dundonald Road
Old Hollywood Road
Orangefield Drive
Ormiston Park
Pembridge Court

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.

Welcome to 2024



Photographs from the Christmas Market December 2023

It may be cold at the moment but I see signs of spring throughout the garden!

Our thanks to everyone for supporting the local businesses who set up stalls for our Christmas Market evening. We have written expressing our thanks to all for their time and generosity.

February meeting - Tuesday 6th 8.00 pm in the church.

It is unfortunate that Canon Humphries, the speaker planned for this meeting, is unable to attend. Canon Laverty, who has accompanied Canon Humphries on a few trips to the Holy Land is going to step in and share his memories and photographs of these trips with us.

As usual our meetings are open to everyone.

Mothers' Union Festival Service

Thursday 21st March 7.30pm Dromore Cathedral

Maggie Murphy our area secretary informs me that a bus is to be booked for this event. I have no details yet regarding the cost or departure time. If you wish to travel on the bus, please speak to a committee member as soon as possible.

Barbara

Sunday 3rd March

11.00am All Age Worship followed by



Lent Lunch in the Church hall Come along and join us!

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



*A gentle reminder to everyone: Please do not forget to use your white Lent Lunch envelopes from your pack of church envelopes on Sunday 3rd March!
Thank you.*

From the Registers

Holy Baptism

Sunday 7th January

Zachary John James Taggart

Our Sorrows

Funeral Services

24th November

May Martha McKeown

15th December

Margaret Stewart

15th December

Professor Richard Samuel Jessop Clarke

19th December

Elizabeth Barton

11th January 2024

Joseph Devine

THE REGISTER OF VESTRY MEMBERS

During this month, the Register of Vestry members is open for review and is available for inspection from the Churchwardens. This register is separate from the parish database and only those whose names appear on it are eligible (subject to their consent at the Annual Vestry Meeting) for nomination and election to the Select Vestry. In addition, those parishioners are entitled to vote at the elections during the Annual Easter Vestry meeting.

If your name is not already on the Register of Vestry Members and you wish to have it added, you are required to:

- **Be over 18 years of age**
- **Be a contributor to church funds in a recognised form (Free Will Offering envelopes or Standing Order). Please contact the Parish Administrator, Karen Patterson (028 9065 6891) if you wish to support the work of St Columba's in this way.**
- **Sign a Form of Declaration, which can be obtained from the Churchwardens - please contact them directly. These completed forms need to be returned to them by **Sunday 25th February 2024.****
- **Should a parishioner's financial contribution to the parish have lapsed for a period of 12 months or more, their name may be removed from the Register of Vestry Members in agreement with the Select Vestry Review Meeting which will take place on **Tuesday 27th February at 7.30pm.****
- **It is the responsibility of parishioners to ensure that they are fully compliant with these requirements before the review meeting on **Tuesday 27th February. If in doubt, please contact the Parish Administrator, Karen Patterson on (028 9065 6891 Monday to Friday 9am-1pm) or by email: office.knock@down.anglican.org for more information.****

St Columba's, along with other parishes, is now registered as an individual charity with the Charity Commission (N.I.). As a recent communication from the Diocesan Office stated,

"Each member of the Select Vestry is considered as a Trustee of their parish – that is nothing new in terms of their responsibilities, it is just that these have been formalised under charity legislation".

The Supplementary Guidance on Charity Trustees provides this additional information for your assistance:

Anyone who is elected as a member of a Select Vestry must not be disqualified from being a trustee of a charity. Those disqualified under the Charities Act from acting as a trustee are anyone who:

- **Has been convicted of an offence involving deception or dishonesty, unless the conviction is a spent conviction under the Rehabilitation of Offenders (NI) Order 1978.**
- **Is an undischarged bankrupt or has made a voluntary arrangement with creditors**
- **Has previously been removed as a trustee by the Commission or by the Court**
- **Is subject to disqualification under company legislation.**

It is the responsibility of anyone who might fall into any of these categories, not to make themselves available for election to the Select Vestry.

Ladies Guild



Our very successful Christmas lunch is now fading into memory. The 39 ladies present, members and visitors, along with the Rector had a most enjoyable meal in wonderful surroundings and we look forward to repeating the experience at the end of this year.

We are already into our 2024 schedule having had our first meeting on Tuesday 16th January. We welcomed a speaker from the Consumer Council who told us about the role and work of the organisation and provided us with information on how we might protect ourselves from being defrauded by one of the many 'scams' or misinformation when using a computer or receiving unsolicited telephone calls, texts or emails.

Our February meeting will be on Tuesday 20th and we will welcome Ann Clark who is bringing along some doll's houses to show us and explain the work involved in this lovely hobby.

We continue to remember in prayer those of our members who are ill or are caring for a member of their family during illness.

As always, visitors are welcome at our meetings so bring along a friend or neighbour to join us for the afternoon.

Eleanor Launchbury

Railway and Model Club

The model shown is of HMS Eagle, an aircraft carrier, built in Belfast.....but this model was built by club member, Richard Beckwith and shows the high level of model building existing in our membership. Could you produce something similar, or would like to learn the techniques which would help?

This photo helps highlight the other side of our club.....it's not all railway layouts!!

As noted previously, we are moving toward the completion of the current work on our layouts. When that point is reached we will begin the complete re-vamp of our original OO gauge layout. That layout runs all the way around our initial clubroom, and will be an exciting project for the Club.

Rockie.



MARCH PARISH MAGAZINE

Any articles or photographs for publication in the **March** parish magazine should be handed or emailed to the editor, **Billy McAlpine**, by **Wednesday, 7th February**.

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

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
	MU Afternoon Group	2 nd Monday each month 2.30pm	Joy Montgomery 9029 5427
	Men's Forum	7.30pm	John Robb 07956061929
Tuesday	Ladies Badminton	10-00am - 12 Noon	Gillian Popplestone 07730479478
	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
	Railway and Model Club	2.00pm to 4.30pm	David Beattie 9028 5868
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

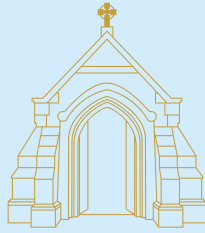
Parish website: www.stcolumbas.down.anglican.org

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.

