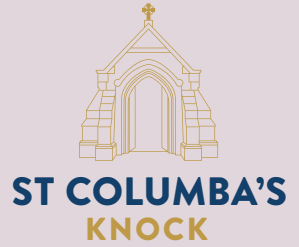


The Columban

ST. COLUMBA'S CHURCH, KNOCK, SEPTEMBER 2024



**Welcome Back
For
Friendship
Fellowship
and Faith**



RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Parishioner,

RECOMMENCEMENT OF PARISH ACTIVITIES

September heralds the restarting of our parish activities as we plan ahead with enthusiasm for this new season. During these days a lot of detailed planning is being done, enabling us to start September in top gear. This month provides a timely opportunity for us to embrace new parish opportunities with confidence. **A warm welcome awaits especially if you have not been in St. Columba's for some time. You can be assured of an open door to friendship, fellowship and faith as illustrated in our Parish Logo above.**

By way of preparation to ensure that we have the best possible start for our new season, I thank our Organisation Leaders together with the Glebewardens, Property Committee members and all those who are working hard tidying our church, hall and grounds.

SCOUTS

I am extremely encouraged by all the positive comments following the relocation of the 4th and 24th Belfast Scout Troop to St. Columba's. It is a source of immense blessing that Scouts are back once more in the Church Hall. I am thankful for the many opportunities which Scouting gave me in Galway and I encourage parishioners to get involved. Please remember their Leader, Iain Hall, and all those in this vibrant Scout Troop in your prayers as they settle into their new surroundings.

NEW SIDE CHAPEL CHAIRS

I am extremely grateful to David, Emma and Sarah Craig for the most generous gift of forty bespoke chairs for the Side Chapel in memory of Louise. They are beautifully made and compliment the renovation work at the front of the church in a delightful way. Those who attend the Holy Communion service on Thursday morning and on Sundays at 8.15am like myself are absolutely delighted with the new chairs which are very fitting and comfortable.

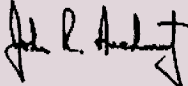
May the words of this hymn focus our thoughts, words and actions as we recommence our parish activities:

*Let us build a house
Where love can dwell
And all can safely live
A place where
Saints and children tell
How hearts learn to forgive.*

*Built of hopes and dreams and visions
Rock of faith and vault of grace
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions*

*All are welcome, all are welcome
All are welcome in this place.*

I look forward to welcoming you in St. Columba's where we are called to demonstrate a love of God and neighbour in our lives especially following the disturbances on our streets in recent weeks.

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

Sunday 1st	The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity	(Green)
8.15am	Holy Communion Epistle James 1: 17-27 Hearing and doing the Word Read by: Michael Sadlier Gospel Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23 God's Law and human tradition	
10.30am	All Age Worship with Commissioning of Parish Organisation leaders and Sunday School Teachers <i>followed by refreshments</i> Reading Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23 God's Law and human tradition Read by Emma Ryan	
Thursday 5th		(Green)
10.30am	Holy Communion <i>followed by refreshments</i>	
Sunday 8th	The Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary	(White)
8.15am	Holy Communion Epistle Galatians 4: 4-7 The days of childhood Read by: Elizabeth Leonard Gospel Luke 1: 46-55 The Magnificat	
10.30am	Holy Communion Epistle Galatians 4: 4-7 The days of childhood Read by: Emma Macpherson Gospel Luke 1: 46-55 The Magnificat Intercessions Patrick Good	
Thursday 12th		(Green)
10.30am	Holy Communion <i>followed by refreshments</i>	
Sunday 15th	The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity	(Green)
8.15am	Holy Communion Epistle James 3: 1-12 Taming the tongue Read by: Ronny Martin Gospel Mark 8: 27-38 Jesus foretells His death and resurrection	
10.30am	Morning Prayer <i>followed by refreshments hosted by Mothers' Union</i> 1 st Reading Proverbs 1: 20-33 The Call of Wisdom Read by: Angela Kerr 2 nd Reading Mark 8: 27-38 Jesus foretells His death and resurrection Read by: Caroline Auchmuty Occasional Prayers Barbara Laverty	

Thursday 19th Saint Matthew (Transferred)

(Red)

10.30am Holy Communion *followed by refreshments*

Sunday 22nd The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity (Green)

8.15am Holy Communion

Epistle James 3: 13 -4: 3, 7-8a Friendship with the world

Read by: Alan Boyd

Gospel Mark 9: 30-37 Who Is the greatest?

10.30am Holy Communion

Epistle James 3: 13 -4: 3, 7-8a Friendship with the world

Read by: Fiona Haldane

Gospel Mark 9: 30-37 Who Is the greatest?

Intercessions Heather Brehcist

Thursday 26th

(Green)

10.30am Holy Communion *followed by refreshments*

Sunday 29th Saint Michael and All Angels

(White)

8.15am Holy Communion

Epistle Revelation 12: 7-12 The vision of the dragon

Read by: Ronny Martin

Gospel John 1: 47-51 Philip and Nathanael

10.30am Morning Prayer

1st Reading Genesis 28: 10-17 Jacob's dream at Bethel

Read by: Helen Armstrong

2nd Reading John 1: 47-51 Philip and Nathanael

Read by: Rachel Leacock

Occasional Prayers Karen McAlpine

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".

The Afternoon Group

Any ladies who enjoy a bit of craic please join us in the church on **Monday 9th September at 2.30**. Afternoon tea will be provided.
Do come and bring your friends.

Rosemary and Joy



You are invited to The Annual Meeting
of Organisation Leaders
on Wednesday 11th September
at 7.30pm
in the Church Hall

We look forward to welcoming all of our leaders for the new season of activities here in St Columba's! This is a great opportunity to catch up with other leaders and see what plans they have for this year.

The meeting is to discuss general housekeeping and SafeGuarding Trust. Important documentation will be distributed on this evening as well as guidance and answers for any questions you may have.

The meeting will last no longer than 1 hour, and we request that if you are unable to attend, that someone from your organisation will attend in your place.

It is important that each organisation is represented at this meeting as we have a few updates for you!

Refreshments will be available!

Thank you.

The Rector



Church hall cleaning rota

September 1st

Nan Hillier and Isobel McDowell

September 15th

Fiona and Robin Haldane

September 29th

Joyce Stevenson and Yvonne Robb

From the Registers

Our Joys

Wedding

Saturday 29th June

Claire Mercer
with Richard John Miles

Holy Baptism

Sunday 23rd June

Ralph Sloan

Our Sorrows

Funeral Services

Friday 5th July

Caroline Avril Cramp

SUNDAY SCHOOL & CRECHE

Welcome back to Sunday School & Creche!

We hope to see many of our young people on **Sunday 15th September** at **10.30am** in the Church Hall. We continue with our 2 classes. Our Junior Class is led by Lynn, Rachel, Helen & Emma and is for children from Nursery (age 3) to Primary 5. Our Senior Class is for Primary 6 and over and led by Jayne & Linda. Creche is led by Lindsay and for all children under 3.

We look forward to seeing everyone again, but we also hope to see some new children too – all are most welcome!

All parents will have received an email with a newsletter attached outlining more details on dates. Data forms were also attached to this. Please print these off for each child, complete and bring to the first Sunday School. We will have extra forms available if unable to this.

We will be at the **All Age Worship Service on Sunday 1st September** – it would be great to see you there – do come and say hello!

Sunday School Dates

Sunday 1st September – All Age Worship

Sunday 8th September – NO SUNDAY SCHOOL/CRECHE

Sunday 15th September – Sunday School & Creche

Sunday 22nd September – Sunday School & Creche

Sunday 29th September - Sunday School & Creche



See you soon!

Dedication of Parish Organisation leaders

Sunday 1st September

On Sunday 1st September, we will be holding the Service of Dedication for our Parish Organisation leaders during the 10.30am All Age Worship Service.



Welcome back to a new season of activities as we look forward to enjoying time and fellowship together! Our leaders have been busy organising new programmes of activities, and we thank them for all that they do to make our organisations so successful.

We invite each organisation to bring along as many members as possible as we would like to celebrate the inspirational and dedicated hard work and commitment of each group at this service.

Harvest
LUNCH

Sunday 6th October 2024
following the
11.00am All Age Worship service

Tickets available
for catering purposes only

Voluntary donations for Church Hall Refurbishment Fund.

A decorative border featuring pumpkins, autumn leaves, and acorns. The text is centered and reads: "Harvest LUNCH" in a mix of cursive and bold fonts. Below that, it says "Sunday 6th October 2024 following the 11.00am All Age Worship service". At the bottom, it says "Tickets available for catering purposes only" and "Voluntary donations for Church Hall Refurbishment Fund."

Thought for the Month

We are surrounded by phrases and motivational quotes made famous over the years reminding us of the ups and downs of life and how we should be navigating these but one surely resonates with us all, 'Life is a rollercoaster.' Regardless of class, status or wealth, everyone faces times of great joy, sadness, anxiety and too often trauma. Throughout big events in life whether happy or sad, I have been blessed with a wonderful husband, children and wider family with whom I've walked through them.

Whilst I am not someone who turns to phrases or quotes to make it through the day there are two that I keep close and have helped me to move forward particularly at difficult times. The first I heard on that dreadful day, 8 November 1987, after the 'Enniskillen Bomb.' Like so many, I remember the day in detail. My two sisters, both trained nurses at home enjoying a rest day, went to the Erne Hospital immediately we heard the news as an urgent call was sent out from anyone with medical training to attend. The telephone rang all day with a constant drip of names of the dead & injured. The sense of disbelief

increased as the day unfolded and then a call which told us, 'Marie Wilson isn't going to make it!'

Marie was only a few years older than me training to be a nurse in The Royal Victoria Hospital. She had also been Deputy Head girl in The Collegiate Grammar School where I was a pupil. Marie was known to be a very kind, calm, respectful young girl who was always there to support. I remember a moment in school when I was on the receiving end of a very severe dressing down by a rather scary teacher in front of a large audience of pupils across year groups. My crime was not being where I was supposed to be when I was supposed to be, which did happen from time to time! Marie came behind me very quietly and whispered, 'Don't worry, I'll help you to sort this.' I have never forgotten that kindness. I could not fathom or grasp how a young girl of such character and who surely would have followed a path of good could have her life cut short in this way.

Marie's father, Gordon Wilson, spoke very bravely about what had happened. He said, 'It's part of a greater plan, and God is good.' At that time those words struck me, 'It's all part of God's plan.' There was no sense to what happened but we had to believe that there was a reason for the greater good, otherwise how could people keep going. In 1987 those words were a



Linda Wilson

crutch. Since then as my faith has grown and deepened when life has thrown challenges my way just saying those words aloud has helped me to feel God's presence and to move forward. Whether the challenge is small or large believing and trusting that it is all part of God's plan has been a mainstay of my life.

Today's world is a hectic one in which we move at pace. Mindfulness is very much promoted as a way to seek balance. The second phrase which resonates with me is one repeated to me often as a young mum many years before the word mindfulness became fashionable. My husband's grandma was a lady of deep faith and much loved by everyone. I was always on the move, planning the next thing and she would often stop me in my tracks and repeat, 'This too shall pass.' What a great reminder to be present. In good times and in bad this has served me well. I have repeated this to myself when sitting outside an interview room feeling tongue tied through nerves, when watching a dearly loved family member dealing with illness and also through some wonderful family occasions, in particular our son's wedding. It has helped me to steer through the difficulties and to savour the good times.

As a teacher I am sometimes asked what I wish for my children's futures. I wish them to be happy and fulfilled in whatever path they choose. I hope that like me, they will see that God has a plan for them and gain strength from that knowledge and finally remember whatever the event, it will pass.

*Our sincere thanks to Linda for sharing this 'Thought' with us.
The October 'Thought for the Month' will be written by Rosemary Allister.*

SEPTEMBER FLOWER ROTA

Sunday 1st	Barbara Laverty
Sunday 8th	Esther Templeton
Sunday 15th	Alan and Dorothy Martin
Sunday 22nd	Margaret McConkey
Sunday 29th	Stewart and Maureen Beckwith



On Thursday mornings at 10.30am, there is a 30-minute Holy Communion service in church. This is a short, reflective service which allows us to meet mid-week, and it is followed by refreshments. If you are free, please come along and join us. There is a wonderful feeling of friendship and fellowship, and we promise that you will be warmly welcomed. If you haven't been before, the summer months are the ideal opportunity to come along and see for yourself – (often, the refreshments last longer than the service!).

We look forward to you joining us!

The Rector



Have you changed address, mobile number or email address recently?

It is very important to keep our records up to date. At the start of this new season of activities, we are asking everyone to take a moment or two and advise us of any recent changes. We respectfully request that any changes are highlighted to the

Parish Office as soon as possible so that we can carefully note these changes and amend the necessary records accordingly.

Please contact Karen Patterson on 028 9065 6891 (Monday– Friday, 9am-1pm) or email the parish office on: office.knock@down.anglican.org

Thank you.

PAUSE

As I was walking to Neill's Hill to PAUSE this morning I passed a barber's shop. Seated at the window was a father and his young son. I immediately thought - preparing for school!! Summer has passed, intermittently, and autumn is almost here. Parish organisations have begun or are about to do so. We are all in 'autumn term mode'.

PAUSE met on four occasions during July and August, frequenting Neill's Hill, The Poet and Hillmount Garden Centre.

In September we will meet on:

Tuesday 24th September, at 10.30am at Hillmount Garden Centre.

If you are free do come along. it is never the same group. Come on your own or bring a friend or neighbour. All are welcome.

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

Eileen (028 9020 3684)



Churches, chapels and meeting houses are impressive, exciting and surprising places. Working together with churches across all four nations, we help to maintain these wonderful historic buildings and keep them thriving today, and tomorrow

St Columba's Parish Church will be hosting the European Heritage Open Days on Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th September.

Choir dates for your Diary

Saturday 16th November at 7.30pm Vocal and Instrumental Recital in the Church

Sunday 1st December at 7.00pm Advent Carol Service

Sunday 22nd December at 7.30pm Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols

At St Columba's we strive to carry on our distinctive style of music and worship in the community of East Belfast as best we can. The Parish Choir and the Cantors continue to do their very best to provide good choral music that will enhance our worship and raise our spirits week by week. I would very much like to provide a new Choral Scholarship for the year ahead, if someone would like to sponsor this. And if you think you might like to join the choir, even on a trial basis, then please speak to the Rector, or me or Brian Clements, at any time. Thanks.

Joe McKee

Art Club

The Art Club will start on 12th September at 9.30am when Julian Friers will conduct a workshop based on producing a painting using only three colours – an exercise on colour-mixing.



Club members are reminded that designs for the parish Christmas card should be submitted by 10th October.

We shall be continuing this year with our monthly video presentations on the work of a specific artist or on examples of painting techniques.

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 June:

Rector

Wandsworth Road
Winston Gardens
Brompton Road, Bangor
Glenannesley Park, Bangor
Helens Wood Place, Bangor
Old Belfast Road, Bangor
Riverwood Vale, Bangor

Canon Laverty

Wynchurch Road
Ailsa Park, Bangor
Bryansburn Gardens, Bangor
Maxwell Lane, Bangor
Kinwood Court, Bangor
Mount Royal, Bangor
Osborne Drive, Bangor

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.

Church Envelopes

The October magazine will be delivered with your new 2025 pack of church envelopes. Please store these safely! Any old envelopes used after December 2024 may not be allocated to your donations, so please remember to use **ONLY 2025 envelopes from January onwards, as your number will have changed.**



Approximately 66% of St Columba's parishioners donate to the work of the church, and we are actively encouraging the remainder to join in too!

- Each family which does not contribute will receive a Standing Order form and a single Annual Donation envelope, which we ask you to consider using. Please remember that the church needs funds for heating, lighting etc to function.

Please make sure that you fulfil your obligations as a member of the parish by attending and/or contributing. We all have a responsibility to support the parish practically and financially.

This is your opportunity to assist your church as we begin a new season of services and activities.

- For those families who use **Free Will Offering envelopes**, we encourage you to consider changing to Standing Order.
- Thank you very much to those who currently contribute by **Standing Order**. This allows us to plan ahead for the future and is much more convenient for everyone involved.

If you can assist by **Gift Aiding** your donations, please contact me in the Parish Office to discuss how to do this or download the form from the Parish Website under "Giving" and complete it and return it to the Parish Office.

We appreciate that times are difficult for many, and it is through your generosity that we can help others during their time of need. Thank you.

Karen Patterson

Parish Administrator & Financial Giving Secretary

Prayers for your thoughts and comfort



The prayers and introductory comments for this issue have been prepared on 8th August which some meteorologists suggest is the warmest day of the year. That is not the case in 2024, which may put in question the suggestion that global warming is a fact of life. However, climate change is a serious matter, with many environmentalists warning that future generations could be at risk unless the human race takes the topic seriously. It is a subject of one or more prayers this month in addition to a prayer that recognises that autumn is approaching. September is a month of new beginnings, with parish organisations, and schools, recommencing. That should be a focus of our prayers. Your attention is drawn also to recent civil unrest and violence on the streets of our city, resulting from anti-immigrant protests. Those at the receiving end of violence and threats deserve our prayerful support. Hopefully, you will find some of the material helpful and maybe thought provoking.

Climate change

Almighty God, the Lord of the Universe, we pray that you will impress on the leaders of every nation, the needs of the most vulnerable communities affected by climate change. **Amen**

Lord, we are thankful for the gift of creation. Fill us with humility, wisdom and strength, so that, as heirs of the gift of life, together with the whole creation, we may grow in an awareness of the impact of our deeds. Help us to act responsibly in acknowledging the urgency of safeguarding the wonders of your creation, and protecting what we possess in the world around us for future generations. May we remember at all times that you are the Lord of Creation. **Amen**

Lord, as members of the human race, we pray for the whole of humanity and especially for those facing drought, floods and severe storms, that we may give hope to the afflicted by supporting all who work to adapt to the changing climate. We ask it in your name. Amen

Early Autumn

Lord, the turning of the seasons can remind us of our own frailty in a changing universe. As nature goes through the yearly cycle, it can remind us of changes in our own lives. We praise you for sustaining many forms of life in every season, and for the diverse beauty of your creation. May our faith help us to find greener leaves and fresh fruit in every season and to hold on to the hope which is found in you. **Amen**

Parish Organisations

Lord, as organisations in the parish recommence and in some cases, anticipate new beginnings, we pray that you will guide and encourage all leaders as they prepare to implement their programmes. May all who participate, experience a welcome and growing confidence that they are members of a caring community which, at all times, is committed to doing your will. **Amen**

Our Parish

Lord, inspire all associated with leadership in our parish. Grant them wisdom, understanding, courage and enthusiasm in all they seek to achieve. Help them, in whatever role they fulfil, to sense your guidance and the presence of your Holy Spirit, so that individually and together, they may display the marks and reality of your love. **Amen**

Schools and Education

We pray for all engaged in the work of education in schools and colleges. We think of children and pupils at every stage in their education, that they may learn a true sense of values. May they discover the joy of learning, and ways of equipping themselves for the future, whatever their circumstances and opportunities may be. We pray as we honour the ultimate teacher, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Civil Unrest

God our Father, we pray for the victims of civil unrest and violence, especially in areas that have been hit by angry rioting. Bring healing to race relations in our city. Help us to acknowledge any racism or prejudice in ourselves. Enable us to build a community in which everyone's dignity is respected. As Christians, make us aware that Jesus broke down the dividing walls resulting from intolerance and fear, and unite us in creating a society and community where all can live together, in peace and security. **Amen**

Immigrants or Refugees

God of the nations, we pray for all immigrants and exiles who have found refuge in our land. May their presence be a benefit both to them and to our nation. Despite any problems, help us to work together to build an order of society founded on justice and peace. **Amen**

The Police and Emergency Services

Lord God, we pray for those who are responsible for maintaining order and security in our community. Help them to be diligent in their duties and impartial in their judgement, so that through their work, the cause of truth and justice may be promoted, and the life of the community safeguarded, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Saints Days in September

Readers may wish to use the appropriate prayers in the Prayer Book as follows:-

The Birth of the Virgin Mary	8 th .Sept.	Page 318
St. Matthew	21 st Sept.	Page 319
St. Michael and All Angels	29 th .Sept.	Page 319

A personal prayer for inner peace

Lord, I come to you overwhelmed by personal anxiety. Help me to trust you as I cast my worries at your feet. As I walk with you, may it still the turbulent waters in my mind. Help me to nurture harmonious bonds with the people in my life, and guide me to do so in a way that reflects your will. **Amen**

Well known petitions and prayers

Lord, grant me the serenity of mind to accept that which cannot be changed, courage to change that which can be changed, and wisdom to know the difference. **Amen**

Lord, teach us to pray often, that we may pray more often (17th.Cent)

Grant us grace, almighty Father, so to pray as to deserve to be heard (19th. Century)



A Global Mission to Seafarers

When the Reverend John Ashley looked out at the ships on the Bristol Channel in 1856 and felt God's call to minister to the seafarers, I wonder if he thought that what is now called the Mission to Seafarers would be a global mission of care to all seafarers. That includes such ports as Vancouver, British Columbia on Canada's west coast where I am the Senior Port Chaplain some 4586 miles from Belfast.

The Port of Vancouver is not what brings most people to the city. However, by tonnage it is the 3rd largest port in North America with ships coming and going around the world especially from Asia. The seafarers make the movement of goods, which in Canada's case includes a lot of exports such as grain and potash, possible.

In Vancouver there is a team of Chaplains from the Anglican (Mission to Seafarers), Roman Catholic and Christian Reformed traditions with 2 Seafarer Centres in the Port one a large single-story trailer and the other a heritage building known as the big blue house. The centres are a sanctuary a 'home away from home' where seafarers come to get information about Vancouver, to relax, to use the Wi-Fi to communicate with loved ones and to talk to someone who is willing to listen and is not a fellow crew member. Seafarers appreciate greatly the transportation provided to the centres and local shops and attractions. Ship turn-around time and seafarer duties means that worship including blessings take place onboard and ship visits remain a priority.



We run a program to support the most vulnerable onboard often the messman in the galley. A highlight of the year is the delivery of Christmas gifts called 'Christmas at Sea'. Chaplains around the world work together under the banner of the International Christian Maritime Association (ICMA) to care for seafarers. One tool we use is an app that enables us to record and share information especially incidents onboard and statistics about the



crew and another being joint training where we connect and share ideas.

Collaborating in ministry enhances our services to seafarers which would not be possible without the dedicated support of others including parishes like St Columba's. I consider it a privilege to be able, because of the efforts of others, to make it known to seafarers that we care, to express our collective gratitude and to hear and see their joy and appreciation.

May God continue to direct our hearts and minds in response to those who provide such an essential service, who live with perils on the sea who come to our shores be it Vancouver or Belfast or wherever the water ways of the earth take them

The Reverend Peter Smyth, Senior Port Chaplain, Mission to Seafarers, Port of Vancouver.

The Rector writes... Thank you to the Reverend Peter Smyth for kindly supplying this informative article with the accompanying photographs of his work and ministry with the Mission to Seafarers in Vancouver. I greatly enjoyed meeting up with him and his family on their recent visit to his parents Canon Ken and Jenny Smyth and family. They received a very warm welcome when they joined us in St. Columba's for Morning Prayer which was conducted by his Dad!

We assure them of our prayers and look forward to seeing them on their next visit to Belfast.

Geoff and Eleanor Launchbury write:-

On behalf of the Mission to Seafarers (Belfast) we would like to express our warmest thanks to the Rector and congregation for their great interest and support on Sunday 14th and Sunday 21st July for the work of the Mission. The Rector's sermon outlining the needs of seafarers was greatly appreciated and did much to raise awareness of the work carried on around the world in support of seafarers and their families. The very generous sum of £670 was raised by your contributions over the two weekends and this will be put to good use in furthering the services and support available here in Belfast Port.



Ladies Guild

It is time once more to turn our thoughts towards Autumn and the recommencement of our Ladies Guild meetings. Despite our disappointingly cool and very wet Summer I hope you have all managed to have some relaxing and enjoyable days with family and friends.

Our first meeting will be on Tuesday 17th September at 2.30 in the Church. Our speaker will be Aidan Campbell, well known to you all I am sure, who will speak about our area. You should have received the programme of events for next year but there are some more available if we missed you. Our subscription for this year will remain at £12.00. The committee look forward to welcoming back existing members and perhaps each of you could persuade a family member, friend or neighbour to join you. A warm welcome awaits.

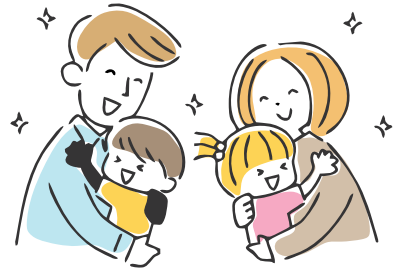
Eleanor

MUMS AND TOTS

The new season of Mums and Tots will start on Friday 6th September from 10:00 - 11:30. Our lovely volunteers have just completed a cleaning / tidying up morning in preparation for the first session and I thank them for their hard work and dedication.

All children from new born babies to 3 year olds are warmly welcome with their parents / grandparents or minders.

Looking forward to lots of fun on Friday mornings.



Joyce (07772 128 944)

World Veteran Fencing Championships

I am delighted to hear that Fiona Haldane has been selected to fence epee for GBR at the World Veteran Fencing Championships to be held on Dubai Oct 14-17th. Fiona is thrilled to be selected and we wish her every success! Fiona is in section C and you can follow the events on the website: <https://dubaivwc.ae>

Good luck Fiona!

The Rector



A SCOUTING CHALLENGE

Part of Baden Powell's skill when he envisaged 'Scouting for boys' was to provide challenges for boys that tested them and enhanced their abilities as individuals and as team members. Learning with the help and guidance of others is critical in overcoming any challenge and so with the help of St Columba's parishioners, scouts have overcome the challenge of relocation from Knock Presbyterian to the Church Hall this summer.

Our migration along the Kings Road occurred after a successful and thankfully dry camp at Kilcully in County Cork. Three patrols of scouts supported by 6 adult leaders travelled by minibus to just north of Cork City for our summer sojourn under canvas.



Our scouts camp in patrols led by a senior scout as patrol leader who has primary responsibility for the guidance of his scouts in food prep, cooking and remarkably for teenagers, cleaning up afterwards. Maintenance of kitchens, fire area, tentage, personal kit and hygiene is ruthlessly marked as part of the camp competition challenge by the leaders who supervise and enjoy the meals prepared over open fires.



However, camp is not just about keeping a tidy tent. We enjoyed a fishing trip around Bantry Bay observing seals, crabs and lobsters and even a dolphin came to visit our boat. A day at Ballyhass adventure centre with archery, high net trampolines, team challenges and inflatable aqua park was a real highlight as was the cliff walk at Ballycotton where slightly colder sea water took our breath away.

Friendships were made with neighbouring campers on our site from County Roscommon with competitive games of rounders and an exchange of badges and scout 'necker's' (scarves). Our fellow scouts from Scouting Ireland were wholly impressed with the traditional scouting skills displayed by our scouts and the challenge of self sufficiency with minimal leader supervision is rewarded when a healthy dish of chicken korma is prepared, cooked over a wood fire by a 12 year old and is not only edible, but actually delicious.

The camping experience suggested by Baden Powell permits boys of different skills and backgrounds to be part of something timeless and special and creating memories of a lifetime. Whether it's a song, a joke, a story round the campfire or a home run against the Roscommon scouts they all bring something to the

camp that creates an immeasurable togetherness for scouts and leaders too. Our return from camp was followed by the quite considerable logistical move of our scouting equipment from the Scout Hall at the Presbyterian Church to St Columba's. I am sad to leave the scout hall with its familiar smells and character having been there as a troop since 1964. For me personally having started as a cub scout in the 1970s it holds many happy memories and I trust for all those who passed through the scout hall doors to learn of 'trust, loyalty, friendship, courage, self respect and respect for others'.

Seven van loads of equipment was transferred to the downstairs halls at St Columba's by a party of scouts working like ants to make ready our new meeting den. We are indebted to the Parish for permitting us to use your accommodation and particularly for the warm and helpful welcome we have received.

The troop currently stands as 63 boys strong with a cohort of cubs to move up to the troop at Christmas. Our mantra has always been similar to that of Canon Auchmuty as "All welcome" and our consistent strength comes from never turning away any boy who wishes to give scouts a try. There have been several boys from the parish who have in the past and some currently enjoying scouts, including the Rector's son Charles who is embedded as one of the leader team.

Whether as an adult volunteer, whether as a young person undertaking Duke of Edinburgh or as a boy wanting to meet the challenges in scouts you will be most welcome. We are aware not everyone does or likes the camping bit and not everyone feels they have the skills of what they perceive as essential scouting talents from their youth and thus are reluctant to come forward but volunteering to help a scout's mental wellbeing and creating new friendships is a challenge BP made to adults on formation of the world's largest youth organisation. That's a great challenge to us all.

Iain

Scoutmaster

4th and 24th Belfast Scouts



Welcome back! I hope you all had an opportunity to relax over the summer months. Time just seems to fly these days.

Our meeting in September is a planned visit to Crumlin Road Jail on Saturday 7th September at 10.30 a.m. We will leave the church at 10.00 to ensure we arrive in good time for the tour. The we are booked in to the coffee shop for "The Warden's Lunch" consisting of soup, a selection of sandwiches and tea or coffee. Total cost £24.

Please ensure your name is on the list if you plan to attend. Please put the correct money required for the trip in the envelope that will be provided.

Moving into the Autumn season, the meeting on 7th October will be in the church hall when Sharon Elkin will help us make the most of our wardrobes. More details in next month's magazine.

Barbara

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

It is always a great joy to support our young people who assist our parish in practical ways as part of their voluntary service for the Duke of Edinburgh Award. James Cairns is working hard sweeping the church carpark and keeping it tidy. This is a challenging job with so many trees around. It always uplifting to see James' great smile and to experience his friendly personality as he completes this section of his Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. Thank you, James! There are always opportunities for those who wish to undertake such projects. I will always welcome enquiries.

The Rector

GLORIOUS CHARGE or MILITARY BLUNDER?

(Part 1)

*Half a league, half a league,
Half a league onward,
All in the valley of Death
Rode the six hundred.
"Forward the Light brigade!
Charge for the guns!" he said;
Into the valley of Death
Rode the six hundred.*

Stirring lines from the first verse of Alfred, Lord Tennyson's epic poem, *The Charge of the Light Brigade*, with which most of us have probably been familiar since childhood...and yet, are we aware of what actually happened on that fateful morning of 25th October 1854, during the Battle of Balaclava in the Crimean War? Moranne and I, along with our friends, fellow parishioners, Freda and Rodney McDonald, had the privilege of visiting the site of the famous charge during a Black Sea cruise in October 2013, six months before the Crimean Peninsula was annexed by Russia and closed thereafter to tourists.

The Crimean War lasted from 1853 until 1856 and was a joint military attempt by the Ottoman, French and British forces, supported by Austria and Sardinia, to stem the southward expansion of the Russian Empire towards the Black Sea, the latter having already advanced into the Turkish controlled territories of Moldavia and Wallachia (modern day Romania). Britain was keen to maintain access to the Black Sea via the Dardenelles for trading purposes with Turkey, whilst both France and Russia had had separate disputes over the rights of Christians in Palestine which was controlled by the Ottoman Empire at the time. The French resolved their differences with Turkey but Napoleon III of France continued to head butt with Nicholas I of Russia as the European empires jostled with each other at the extremities of their territories. However, Britain was the junior partner in the Allied triumvirate, supplying some 98,000 troops compared to France's 310,000 and Turkey's 236,000. The Russian forces amounted in total to around 889,000 men.

The Allied objective was to capture the port and fortress of Sevastopol, Russia's principal naval base on the Black Sea, on the western coast of the Chersonese Peninsula, Crimea. Men, horses and supplies were shipped from Europe to Varna on the eastern coast of Bulgaria, thence onwards to a point on the Chersonese



The Port of Balaclava



The North Valley, looking towards the Causeway Heights and South Valley beyond

Peninsula north of Sevastopol, before marching southwards to encircle the Russian naval base from all sides. The British chose to supply their troops through the small southern port of Balaclava; and an opening inconclusive battle took place on the river Alma as the Russians attempted to break out of Sevastopol, leading to their decision to drive a wedge through the British supply lines between Sevastopol and Balaclava. Whilst the senior British military commander, Lord Raglan, who had last seen action at the Battle of Waterloo some forty years previously, enjoyed cordial relations with his French counterpart, General Canrobert, the same

could not be said of Lord Lucan, overall commander of the cavalry including both the Heavy and Light Brigades, and his brother-in-law, Lord Cardigan, who commanded the Light Brigade. The two men detested each other intensely.

The British defences around Balaclava were mainly positioned in the South Valley, separated from the North Valley by the Causeway Heights, both valleys running in parallel west to east and lying north of the port. The 93rd Highland infantry under Sir Colin Campbell was lined up in the South Valley whilst British naval guns from the battleship HMS Diamond, manned mainly by Turks, were positioned on the southern side of the Causeway Heights. The Heavy and Light Brigades were stationed at the western end of the North Valley, and the main Russian field artillery, some 50 guns, plus infantry, were ranged about two kilometres away on both sides of, and at the eastern end, of the North Valley.

At 6.00 am on the morning of October 25th, Russian infantry and artillery launched a surprise attack on the British naval guns dug into in their earthen redoubts on the southern slopes of the Causeway Heights, eventually gaining the upper hand and by 9.00 am started to drag them away. At the same time a large force of Russian cavalry charged at the 550 men of the 93rd Highland infantry, formed up in the famous 'thin red line', but was successfully repulsed. The Heavy Brigade pursued the disarrayed Russian cavalry to the eastern end of the North Valley but failed to fully press home their advantage. Meantime, the Light Brigade under Lord Cardigan took no part in the action, much to Lord Lucan's fury, leading to a bitter exchange between the two commanders.

From his command vantage point on the Sapoune Heights to the west of the two valleys, Lord Raglan could survey the entire battlefield and particularly the Russians' attempt to drag away the British naval guns. He immediately despatched an order to Lord Lucan and his two cavalry brigades to urgently intervene – it was considered bad form militarily to lose vital guns to the enemy. Lord Lucan, however, from his much lower position in the North Valley, had no view of what was happening to the British guns on the Causeway Heights;

moreover, Raglan promised Lucan the support of additional infantry which did not materialise – in fact, it was still at Sevastopol, a two hour march away. The only guns that Lucan was aware of were those of the Russian batteries surrounding the other end of the North Valley. It was absolutely against all accepted military practice of the day for cavalry to charge headlong into the full fire power of field artillery. Perplexed by the order, Lucan didn't move.

Three more similarly ambiguous orders followed from Raglan, each more frantic than the previous one. The fourth order was accompanied in person by an aid-de-camp, Captain Nolan, who confronted Lucan and Cardigan, urging them to attack the guns at once, with a broad (and ambiguous) wave of his arm. Again, the only guns that Lucan and Cardigan could see were those at the eastern end of the North Valley. Stung into action by the young captain, Lucan ordered Cardigan to advance with the Light Brigade towards the Russian guns, both men fully aware that such a manoeuvre was, and could only be seen as, utterly suicidal. This time, the Heavy Brigade did not support the Light Brigade and remained in place as spectators of the unfolding events.

With Cardigan leading from the front and slightly contrary to Tennyson's poem, some 670 men set off on their horses in three closely serried ranks down the valley (around 200 were absent due to sickness), trotting most of the way until finally able to reach a full gallop and charge. However, they were quickly caught up in an enfilade of infantry and artillery fire from both sides of the North Valley before even coming within range of the enemy guns at the eastern end, and Nolan was killed within minutes. The Russian gunners could not believe their eyes at the sight of the Light Brigade riding steadily towards them for well over a mile, providing perfect targets, and they assumed that the British Hussars, Light Dragoons and Lancers could only have been intoxicated. Somehow, however, despite the smoke, thunder and din of exploding shells, the chaos and mayhem of dying and wounded troopers and charging horses, the Light Brigade managed to reach the Russian guns at the far end of the valley and overrun them, only to find themselves suddenly confronted by some 2000 Russian cavalry who had regrouped after their rout earlier that morning, and were now in no mood for compromise....it was a bridge too far....

Ian Noad

To be continued next month



Captured British gun at Odessa



The Charge of the Light Brigade

ACTIVITY GROUP

During the summer months we have been meeting in various parks on Tuesday evenings to enjoy walks followed by a coffee/tea or an ice cream. Some of our favourites destinations have been Victoria Park and Hollywood.

In July we had an outing to Hazelbank where we admired the Coronation garden followed by a bracing walk at the shore. We finished off at Hillside garden centre where we had a delicious lunch and some retail therapy.



We will return to the hall in September to play badminton/scrabble and enjoy the chat over supper.

Joyce and Yvonne



OCTOBER MAGAZINE

Any articles or photographs for publication in the **October** parish magazine should be handed or emailed to the editor, **Billy McAlpine**, by **Wednesday, 11th September**

His contact details are:-

10 Old Quay Court, Hollywood 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</i> <i>Senior P6 and over</i>	2 nd , 3 rd and 4 th Sundays at 10.30am	Superintendent: Lynn Ryan 07955 479065
	Crèche	2 nd , 3 rd and 4 th Sundays at 10.30am	Lindsay Rothwell 07710 590574
	Choir	9.30am	Dr Joe McKee 07976 294574
Monday	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	Carole Crothers 07979093956
	Scouts	7.30pm to 9.30pm	Iain Hall 07799 474111
Friday	Mums and Tots	10.00am	Joyce Stevenson, 07772128944
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

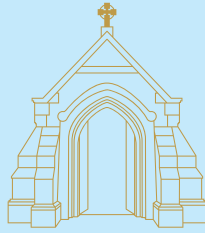
Parish website: www.stcolumbas.down.anglican.org

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

