

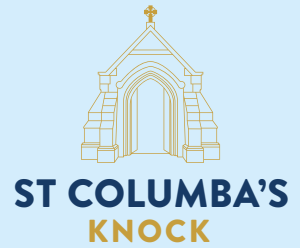
The Columban

ST. COLUMBA'S CHURCH, KNOCK, FEBRUARY 2025



Candlemas Day

The glow in the darkness represents, faith, hope and renewal



RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Parishioner,

THANK YOU

In this the first Columban of 2025 I wish you and your family God's richest Blessing for 2025 and express my grateful thanks for your support. In this midst of busy diaries and challenges I am extremely thankful that St. Columba's is a vibrant church with great friendship and fellowship enabling our Christian faith to grow. This is due to your loyalty and the welcome you give to our visitors – some of whom have joined the parish. Thank you for your ongoing support and encouragement.

OVERSEAS PROJECTS

2025 has started with the good news that three parishioners have been selected to travel overseas with groups of young people to assist those in great need.

Lucy Armstrong has just returned from Brasov in Romania with the charity School Aid Romania, with a group of 20 pupils from Methodist College. Their work involved:

- Delivering food parcels to a village which gets no support from the government
- Visiting an abandoned baby unit to deliver nappies, blankets and baby clothes.
- Delivering cleaning materials and food to orphanages, spending time playing with the children and giving them toys.

Patrick Whiteside will be traveling to Musoma which is in the Mara region of Tanzania. Musoma is in the North of Tanzania, about 1.5 hours from the Kenyan/Tanzanian border and a couple of hours from the Serengeti National Park. He will be getting involved in lots of community development projects including building water tanks, goat sheds, youth activities and healthcare programmes during the summer.

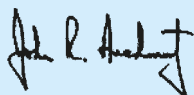
Hazel Macpherson will be travelling to Kenya with Jengana in July. She will be involved in home visits to slum-based families and street feeding in Nairobi, volunteering at the Kipepeo Home for orphaned and abandoned children, and helping at a rehabilitation home for street boys. She will also be assisting with a rural building project, visit slum schools, and contribute to manual work. She will also participate in Christian activities like church services, prayer, and a Kids' Bible club.

Lucy Armstrong hosted refreshments a few weeks ago in church for the Romanian project which was generously supported. Both Patrick Whiteside and Hazel Macpherson will each have a similar opportunity to raise money for their projects.

An important part of our parish work is to support overseas projects assisting those in great need. This is best done when parishioners are travelling overseas, and we can learn directly about their experiences through their Columban articles and presentations in church. Please remember them, their families and the individual projects in your prayers. We also have the reassurance that all the money raised will be allocated directly to these projects. The Select Vestry is also providing financial support for each of those projects from your Charity and Mission contributions.

These are good news stories full of hope providing much needed financial and prayerful support to those overseas in such great need.

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

Reader Ronny Martin The resurrection of the dead
Gospel Luke 6: 17-26 Jesus teaches and heals

10.30am Morning Prayer *followed by refreshments kindly hosted by Men's Forum*

1st Reading Jeremiah 17: 5-10 Judah's sin and punishment

Reader David Beattie

2nd Reading Luke 6: 17-26 Jesus teaches and heals

Read by Melissa Rutherford

Occasional Prayers Clergy

Thursday 20th **(Green)**

10.30am Holy Communion *followed by refreshments in the Choir Vestry*

Sunday 23rd **The Second Sunday before Lent** **(Green)**

8.15am Holy Communion

Epistle Revelation 4 A vision of Heaven

Reader Michael Sadlier

Gospel Luke 8: 22-35 Jesus heals the demoniac

10.30am Holy Communion

Epistle Revelation 4 A vision of Heaven

Reader David Craig

Gospel Luke 8: 22-35 Jesus heals the demoniac

Intercessions Linda Wilson

Thursday 27th **(Green)**

10.30am Holy Communion *followed by refreshments in the Choir Vestry*

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".

ST COLUMBA'S MISSION AND CHARITY ALLOCATIONS

During 2024, Parishioners of St Columba's have provided extremely generously to our local charities, whether through mission and charity envelopes, through specific standing orders, or through one-off donations has enabled allocations of £1,000 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 John Ambulance
6. Down Cathedral
7. GOMAD - Patrick Whiteside will be going to Musoma, Tanzania. He will be getting involved in lots of community development projects including building water tanks, goat sheds, youth activities and healthcare programmes.
8. St Martins, Newtownards Road (The Gathering)
9. Mission to Seafarers
10. British Heart Foundation
11. School Aid, Romania - Lucy Armstrong will be going to Romania with a team from Methodist College Belfast, and this will support the project they are working on to help those in great need.
12. Marie Curie – will receive the balance of £1112.

Hazel Macpherson has only recently confirmed that she will be going to Kenya and will be supported from next years allocation.

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.

Bible Study

Our study group meets each Wednesday in the choir vestry at 2.30pm and ends with refreshments around 4.00pm. We are reading through the letter to the Hebrews which was written by an anonymous writer prior to the destruction of the temple in A.D. 70.

The recipients of the letter were at the point of giving up their Christian faith and returning to their Jewish beliefs and the practices of their ancestors. Therefore, this letter was written to demonstrate the superiority of Christ over everything and everyone; His Priesthood over the human Jewish Priesthood; His sacrifice of his body over animal sacrifice even over the angels and Moses himself.

This is a good time to read this letter as we shall soon be reflecting on the atonement of Christ throughout Lent. Many of the liturgical readings will be from "Hebrews" especially as we journey through Holy Week! We can take comfort and agree with the author's conviction that Jesus Christ is "the same yesterday and today and forever" (Chapter 13 v.8). All very welcome especially anyone for the first time – including men! Why not?

Walter.

MEN'S FORUM



We trust you all had a peaceful start to 2025 after the hustle and bustle of Christmas. Despite a late start to our season on 13th January due to the weather conditions on the 6th, we are now in full swing trying to put in place some ideas and thoughts for our ongoing programme.

We continue to hone our skills on the dartboard most evenings. With a change now and again with Quoits or we set a mat out and bowl. Work will be ongoing with the Scalectrix items donated so Lewis Hamilton better watch out!

Following the success of our previous talk held in the Church we will also be exploring options for our next event. The Monday evening meetings ends each night with refreshments and chats round the table. So any gentlemen wishing to pop in are more than welcome even if its only for a cuppa-n-chat. We start at 7.30pm.

Until next time

John Robb

Thought for the Month



Ronny Martin

Cycling is my favourite leisure activity. I was in my late forties before I discovered the joys of cycling so, despite my best efforts, I had left it too late to achieve any success in competitive cycling. However I have always been inspired by the achievements of professional cyclists. In particular, Sir Chris Hoy has been a great source of inspiration.

Chris is an eleven-time world champion, and at his home Olympics in London in 2012 he held off the world's best sprinters to win Olympic gold, and became the first British athlete in history to win six Olympic golds. After retiring from competitive cycling in 2013 Chris became involved in Motorsport, including racing in the world's most demanding motorsport endurance race, 24 Hours of Le Mans, in June 2016. He is also an award-winning author, accomplished and inspirational speaker, TV pundit, business owner and mental health advocate.

In September 2023 Chris faced a life changing moment when he found out that an ache in his shoulder was in fact a tumour, and that he had incurable Stage 4 cancer. In his book entitled "All That Matters" Chris shares the next phase of his extraordinary life with exceptional bravery. He looks over the challenges he has faced thus far, and he shares how he has used these experiences to find ways to focus on the things that matter, showing us how to do the same.

As an elite athlete Chris had always prided himself on his mental strength, but he found that the mental effects of his diagnosis knocked him for six, and presented a much bigger challenge than dealing with the physical side effects of his chemotherapy treatment. He reflects that getting on his bike again played a big part in his recovery. Simply being out in the fresh air cycling along country lanes for a couple of hours most days helped him feel much better. He began to focus on enjoying the simple things in life, and this has been a huge and healthy shift in his mentality. He tries to immerse himself a lot more in the present moment, and is able to find pleasure in the more mundane aspects of life. As an Olympian Chris was always focused on following his dreams, but he has now come to realise that life is not here to be won or lost. It is here just to be lived.

In the concluding chapter of his memoir "All That Matters" Chris reflects that it is helpful to remember that the future doesn't exist, it is merely a concept in our minds which we may or may not have control over. Worrying about what might happen, trying to predict the future, is wasting our energy on something

that doesn't exist. The reality of our life is always now. The past is a memory and the future is simply a thought.

It is a privilege to be able to enjoy the here and now, and to appreciate the simple things in life.

Ronny Martin

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

The March 'Thought for the Month' will be written by Laura Wells.

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

Belmont Church Road
Belmont Grange
Belmont Park
Belmont Road
Belvedere Park
Bracken Hill Avenue

Canon Laverty

Burghley Mews
Cabinhill Court
Cabinhill Gardens
Cabinhill Mews
Campbell Chase
Campbell Park Avenue

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.

MUMS AND TOTS

Our highlight before Christmas was the visit of Santa who made his appearance as the children sang Jingle Bells. Most of the children were pleased to see him (but not all) as he presented each child with a book. Thank you Walter for playing the role so well.

We look forward to 2025 when we will welcome new babies to our group as well as the return of many toddlers.

We wish all our children, carers and volunteers a happy 2025.

Joyce

Sunday 2nd 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 2nd March!

Thank you.

SUNDAY SCHOOL & CRECHE

We have had a busy month in January. Our theme was "The Armour of God", based around a passage from Paul's letter to the Ephesians, how we need to be prepared and ready to face the world as Christians. We took time to discuss each section of "armour" – the belt of truth; the breastplate of righteousness; sandals of peace; shield of faith; helmet of salvation and the sword of the spirit. Importantly, we talked about how everything is surrounded by prayer. We made our own pieces of armour each week, which was very enjoyable. We finish the theme this month by learning about the story of David and Goliath.

2nd February – All Age Worship

9th February – NO SUNDAY SCHOOL & CRECHE - HALF TERM

16th February - NO SUNDAY SCHOOL & CRECHE – HALF TERM

23rd February - Sunday School & Creche – David & Goliath

Looking forward to seeing everyone!

Lynn



EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

St Columba's is known for its friendly parishioners and its warm welcome.

It is with this in mind that we are asking parishioners for *expressions of interest* in hosting one or two visitors from St Philip and St James Parish Church, Alderley Edge near Manchester during the first weekend of May. Some of their parishioners are planning their Irish pilgrimage accompanied by their Vicar, the Reverend Robin Pye to Belfast.

The Rector and Caroline have visited this church many times and know the Reverend Robin Pye. One of their parishioners is from this area and is a great friend of Caroline's, whose mother and sister attend St. Columba's. The Reverend Robin Pye will be preaching in St. Columba's on Sunday 4th May. It is hoped that we might make a return visit to them on a future occasion and be hosted by their parishioners.

If you would be interested in helping with hosting one or two visitors for bed and breakfast in your home for the weekend, *please contact the Rector by Friday 15th February for further information.*

At this stage, we are only requesting expressions of interest in hosting a visitor or two.

This is a wonderful opportunity with a reciprocal visit to Alderley Edge for those interested and a chance to make new friends!

FEBRUARY FLOWER ROTA

Sunday 2nd

Jean and Leslie Gorman

Sunday 9th

Eileen Anderson

Sunday 16th

Stewart and Maureen Beckwith

Sunday 23rd

Margaret McKee

Prayers for your thoughts and comfort



One of my earliest memories of school days was of my Primary teacher writing the date – 1st.February – on the blackboard, and informing us that it was St. Brigid's Day- the first day of Spring. Maybe that was wishful thinking, although the pre-Christian Celtic calendar began the season on that date, calling the new season 'Imbolc.' It is considered to be halfway between the Winter Solstice (21st.Dec.) and the Spring Equinox (22nd.Mar.). Perhaps it is of interest to some readers that a new Public Holiday was introduced last year in the Republic, on the Monday nearest St. Brigid's Day. While we may not be enjoying 'the darling buds of May', the first signs of life should be appearing on trees and at ground level. For that reason, a prayer anticipating Spring is included this month.

At the time of writing, a new President has been inaugurated in USA: a new Prime Minister is about to be appointed in Canada while a new government has been formed in the Irish Republic. It is right that we pray for all political leaders, whether we share their views or otherwise, aware that they may have the means of contributing to a cessation of violence in troubled parts of the world, as well as ensuring that the underprivileged and vulnerable in society can be assisted in achieving a better standard of living. Perhaps as Christians we should pray believing that 'hope springs eternal.'

Easter will not occur until late April this year so prayers and subjects appropriate to Lent will not feature until the March issue.

Finally, if there are subjects you would like to see included at some stage, please speak to the rector.

It is hoped that you will find some of the prayers and material helpful and appropriate.

Prayer as Spring approaches

Lord, as the days lengthen, and we spend longer in the light of day, grant that we may spend longer in the light of your presence. May the seeds of faith, which have been buried within us, grow into love and respect for you and for people, so that in this season there may be a springtime for our lives in Christ. **Amen**

New born children and families

Heavenly Father, creator and giver of life, we pray for new born children, infants and their families. We pray that the love which created them may continue to nurture them in their homes. As they grow in size, may they grow also in grace, and in the knowledge of that love which you have made known to us in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

St. Brigid's Day 1st. February

Lord, by the leadership of St. Brigid you strengthened the Church in this land. As we thank you for her service, inspire us with new life and light, and give us perseverance to serve you all our days, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Note:- Brigid is honoured as one of the great Irish saints together with Patrick and Columba. She is associated with Kildare where the cathedral is named in her honour. Tradition suggests that she died on 1st.Feb. 525 – exactly 1500 years ago!!

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (known as Candlemas)

2nd. February

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

Note:- Read St.Luke 2 v. 22 to 39, which includes the Song of Simeon or Nunc Dimittis. Candlemas is celebrated in many churches and is considered to be the conclusion of the Christmas/Epiphany seasons.

Leaders and Politicians (Worldwide)

Almighty God, the Lord of all nations, we pray for all who have been appointed to positions of leadership. Give them vision to see beyond their own political agenda, and integrity in their words and actions. Grant that their service to people and nations may promote the welfare and peace of mankind, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Leaders in Society (National & Local)

Lord God, in our prayers, we think of all men and women who can influence the life of society. We think of those who are involved in politics: those who make and administer our laws and strive to ensure security in our communities: those who influence public opinion through the radio, press and television: those who teach and influence in beneficial ways the young. May they and we recognise responsibility to the nation and locality, that people may be influenced for what is good, and not evil: for what is true and not false, and all for the glory of your name. **Amen**

Victims of War & Violence

Father of mercy, whose son, Jesus Christ, ministered to those in need, we pray for all who suffer through war, by loss of loved ones, friends or homes. Look upon our world, torn apart by violence and aggression, and encourage those who work for peace, through Him who reconciled people and nations with God, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Christian Hope

Grant Lord, that amidst all the discouragements, difficulties and dangers, and the darkness of this mortal life, we may depend upon your mercy. On this build our hopes, as on a sure foundation. Let your infinite mercy in Jesus Christ deliver us from despair, both now, and in the hour of death. **Amen**

Note:- *This prayer was written in 1690 in times of religious and political turmoil in Ireland.*

A prayer for ourselves

God be my comfort and my strength

God be my hope and support

God be my light and my way

God be with me through all the changes in life. **Amen**

Another prayer

In my journeys here and there

God direct me

In my happiness and joy

God bless me

In care, anxiety or trouble

God sustain me

In peril and danger

God protect me

Finally You may use this section as a facilitator as you pray.

Grant me grace, Lord, to pray as to deserve to be heard *(Jane Austen author)*

Lord, help me to concentrate my thoughts on you.

In me, there is darkness, but with you there is light. If I am lonely, I know that you do not leave me. If I am restless, I know that with you there is peace.

I may not understand all your ways, but you know the way for me.

(Words of Dietrich Bonhoeffer who was killed by the Nazis in 1945)

From the Registers Our Joys

Wedding

Thursday 12th December

Hannah Caldwell
and
Jason Patterson

The Rector conducted their wedding in St. Salvadores Parish Church in Glaslough

Our Sorrows

Funeral Services

Thursday 21st November

David Smith

Monday 16th December

Samuel Walter Lindsay

Tuesday 17th December

Margaret Esther Johnston

Conducted by the Rector in St. Philip and St. James' Parish Church, Holywood

Friday 10th January

Charles Calow

Tuesday 21st January

John Gibson

Wednesday 22nd January

John Anthony (Tony) De Maine
Greeves

Afternoon Group

We hope to be joined by Barry Stewart from the Neighbourhood Policing Team on Monday February 10th at 2.30pm followed by afternoon tea. everyone most welcome.

Rosemary and Joy

CUB SCOUTS

It was a great delight to welcome the Cub Scouts to St Columba's from Knock Presbyterian Church on Wednesday 15th January. This is great news and I hope they will enjoy our church halls. We now have both Cub Scouts and Scouts availing of our halls for their weekly activities.

The Cubs Scouts meet on Wednesday evenings in the church hall, led by Gareth McAuley (07884 411354).

The Rector



Ladies Guild

The first meeting of the New Year was held on 21st January when we welcomed a member of the NI Fire and Rescue Service who gave us practical advice on protecting our homes from various fire and safety risks. Although coal fires are less in use, electrical and gas appliances carry their own risks. Given the recent cold weather this information was particularly relevant.

The speaker at our February meeting will be Chris Scott who will tell us something about historical customs and practices relating to his profession. This promises to be an interesting talk so I hope you will try to come along. Visitors are always welcome.

We continue to keep in our prayers those members who are ill in hospital, recovering at home or caring for loved ones.

Eleanor

PAUSE

I hope that you have all had a happy and healthy start to 2025. It is snowing outside and below zero temperatures are forecast for the next couple of nights. I prefer moderation in most things including the weather! PAUSE met at Hillmount Garden Centre last month and it was great to catch up with the news.

This month PAUSE is meeting on:

Tuesday 18th February at The Poet in King's Square at 10.30am for tea/coffee and scones.

There is no need to book, just turn up. You can come on your own or bring a friend. All are welcome.

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

Eileen (028 9020 3684).

Art Club

The Art Club was delighted to host an exhibition of its talented artists' work, on Saturday 7th December. The church Hall looked very impressive with paintings in many mediums, including oils, watercolours, acrylic, sketches, and pastels. There were lovely tables set with tablecloths, china, tea/coffee, scones, and biscuits. All served by the very efficient parish catering group. We were very grateful for their fabulous help. The ballot was very popular, and well supported, the prize being a beautiful watercolour painted by Bob Killen: our mentor for many years. Two of our very skilled painters, George and Roy, worked on two canvases during the day with beautiful music playing in the background, supplied by Graham. We were delighted to see everyone who came to the event and braved the very inclement weather! A lovely day was had by all!

We met for our Christmas lunch, in the Royal North of Ireland Yacht club at Cultra, on Thursday 12th December, . This was a relaxing and enjoyable occasion.



SCOUTS

Our scouts were delighted to participate in two church services before the end of our autumn term. We attended the Remembrance Service in November and latterly provided assistance with the assembling and distribution of candles for the Christmas Carol service. As Scoutmaster I'm not sure whether I was more nervous that their scouting skills were sufficiently proficient to light the congregation's candles or that they'd start a campfire and toast marshmallows somewhere in the sanctuary with so many naked flames in the building. I'm glad the Rector filled out the risk assessment for that one.

Mid December we welcomed the Cub Pack to St Columba's for the moving up of Cubs Scouts into the troop. This saw 11 new scouts joining the troop with another lad, not currently in scouting to join us in January. The ceremony of moving cubs into scouts is a traditional 'over the rope' event with the formalities of welcoming the new scouts into the troop and their patrols. Adventure awaits them but be assured our new scouts and their parents were welcomed to St Columba's as warmly as has been evident since we took occupation in September.

Not wishing to let scouts become idle feasting on selection boxes or turkey trimmings over the Christmas break we held our annual 'lads and dads' football and rugby on the 27th December. We had a great turn out of around fifty scouts and competitive dads rolling around in the mud and some dads displaying their archived skills in a morning's fun and laughter. The reward of hot ribena and a bbq hotdog after the games was a great post Christmas treat and an opportunity for fellowship and stories of 'how fast the dads used to be' left a few of the scouts suitably embarrassed by dads' untamed tales of legendary skills more recently confined to the sofa.

Iain

Scoutmaster

4th and 24th Belfast Scouts



I trust you and your family had a good Christmas and wish you good health during this new year.

Election of Office Bearers.

The new all Ireland President for Mothers' Union is Kay Clarke from the Diocese of Derry, she has been an MU member for 35 years and served in many capacities during that time. Mrs June Butler has been elected as the zonal trustee for Ireland.

Linda Thompson, from Knockbreda Parish, has been elected as the new Diocesan President of Down and Dromore, and was commissioned on the afternoon of Sunday 5th January 2025. Linda will serve for the next 3 years and we send her our best wishes for her term of office. To Mavis Thompson, the outgoing president, we record our thanks for her commitment to the diocese and trust that she will enjoy a well-earned rest and the opportunity to spend more time with her family.

The theme for the 2025- 2027 triennium is **"Join us and join in."** Exploring ways Mothers' Union is changing lives.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 4th February.

All welcome.

Barbara



Church hall cleaning rota

February 9th Jayne and Ronny Martin

February 23rd Fiona and Robin Haldane

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 23rd February 2025.****
- **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 Thursday 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 Thursday 27th February. If in doubt, please contact the Parish Administrator, Karen Patterson on (028 9065 6891 Monday-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 spent conviction under to 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.



MARCH 2025 MAGAZINE

Any articles or photographs for publication in the **March** parish magazine should be handed or emailed to the editor, **Billy McAlpine**, by **Wednesday, 5th 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

Railway and Model Club 2014- 2024

Happy New Year to you all.

Things are progressing within the club. Members are still actively working on their individual projects. Prior to the Christmas break we were able to go out as a group for Christmas lunch in The Poachers Pocket at Lisbane. Very enjoyable meal and the usual banter thrown in too.

Many thanks to everyone who enjoyed the 3rd Sunday after service tea hosted by the Railway and Model Club in December. Your support and comments on the Winter themed train layout on display were very welcome and encouraging. We were delighted when asked to allow the layout to stay in-place over the festive period for all to see. It did follow a strict timetable with no delays or mishaps.

By now we will be attempting to finish off our existing projects with an aim to undertake a major refurbishment on our very first layout built when we formed over 10 years ago. Updates will be forthcoming in due course. There will be a few trips out this season with a few model and railway exhibitions coming up. Possibly our first will be in Londonderry going by train, details of the trip, if it happens, will also be posted in due course.

We also had mentioned previously of our intention to hold our own exhibition and coffee morning in March to mark our 10th anniversary. Discussions are ongoing as to the feasibility of the venture. More information to follow.

John Robb. Chairman 07956061929



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	John Robb 07956061929
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

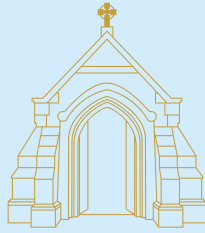
Parish website: www.stcolumbas.down.anglican.org

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 Glebwarden	Ian Johnston	07850 999909
People's Glebwarden	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, Glebwardens, 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	07754523065
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.

