

# The Columban

ST. COLUMBA'S CHURCH, KNOCK, APRIL 2025



**Jesus on his final journey to Golgotha**



## RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Parishioner,

### THE CRUCIFIXION

**By John Stainer**

**PALM SUNDAY 13<sup>th</sup> APRIL AT 7.30PM**

**I encourage you to join us in St. Columba's for The Crucifixion by John Stainer on Palm Sunday evening.** This will be a timely opportunity for us to listen to the biblical narrative of the Passion and Crucifixion of our Lord through such magnificent and moving music at the beginning of Holy Week. It was composed in 1887 and contains many colourful arias and duets. There will be plenty of opportunity for congregational participation as we sing the five hymns which were specifically written for the Crucifixion. It will be a delight to welcome back to St. Columba's the Guest Organist, Tristan Russcher, the Singers and Cantors together with our many friends from the local community and beyond. The entire piece will last for just over an hour and will be followed by refreshments, giving us all an opportunity to meet up with one another.

### HOLY WEEK SERVICES

#### PREACHERS

**THE REVEREND STEPHEN SHERRIN AND  
THE BISHOP OF CONNOR**

Full details of all our Holy Week services are contained in the Columban. **We look forward to our welcoming our preachers and to sharing these services with our good friends in Knock Methodist Church**

**and the wider community.** As has been our long-established custom, the lunchtime services will be in Knock Methodist Church (Monday – Maundy Thursday) and the morning and evening services will be in St. Columba's. I hope you will make attendance at these services your priority as we journey with Christ from his triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to his crucifixion on Good Friday. As we reflect on Christ's suffering during Holy Week, we will have an opportunity to support Marie Curie on Kensington Road through the collections at each of these services. They provide much needed support through their staff and volunteers in a most caring environment.

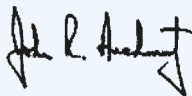
***I have often reflected that we need to first journey with Jesus to the Cross before we can fully proclaim the Easter Greeting "Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!"***

May we all enter into Holy Week as fully as our diaries permit to prepare ourselves for the hope and joy of the Resurrection on Easter morning. The joy of Easter is that Christ is alive.

As this familiar hymn reminds us:

***Tell of that glorious Easter morn:  
empty the tomb, for he was free;  
he broke the power of death and hell  
that we might share his victory.***

Yours in His service,



### **PARISH PRAYER**

**God, our Heavenly Father, make the door of our Church wide enough to welcome all who need human love, fellowship and a Father's care; but narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride and hatred. Here may the tempted find help, the sorrowing receive comfort and the penitent be assured of your mercy. And here may all your children renew their strength and go on their way in hope and joy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

***Amen.***

***Bishop Thomas Ken 1637-1711***

# SERVICES IN APRIL

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**8.00pm**

**Late Evening Office**

**Preacher: The Very Reverend Henry Hull**

**(Purple)**

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**10.30am**

**Holy Communion** *followed by refreshments*

**(Purple)**

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>**

**8.15am**

**The Fifth Sunday in Lent**

**Holy Communion**

Epistle      Philippians 3: 4b-14      Christ as our goal

Read by      Ronny Martin

Gospel      John 12: 1-8      Mary anoints Jesus

**10.30am**

**All Age Worship followed by refreshments hosted by Patrick Whiteside in aid of the projects he will be working on with GOMAD in Tanzania**

Reading      John 12: 1-8      Mary Anoints Jesus

Read by      Emma Ryan

**(Purple)**

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup>**

**8.00pm**

**Compline**

**Preacher: The Very Reverend Henry Hull**

**(Purple)**

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup>**

**10.30am**

**Holy Communion** *followed by refreshments*

**(Purple)**

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>**

**8.15am**

**Palm Sunday**

**Holy Communion**

Epistle      Philippians 2: 5-11      Imitating Christ's humility

Read by      Joyce Forsythe

Gospel      Luke 19: 28-40      Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem

**10.30am**

**Holy Communion**

Epistle      Philippians 2: 5-11      Imitating Christ's Humility

Read by      Richard Whiteside

Gospel      Luke 19: 28-40      Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem

Intercessions      Elizabeth Leonard

**(Red)**

<b>Monday 14<sup>th</sup></b> <b>10.30am</b> <b>1.15-1.45pm</b>  <b>8.00pm</b>	<b>Monday in Holy Week</b> <b>Holy Communion</b> <b>Lunchtime Service in Knock Methodist</b> <b>Speaker: Reverend Stephen Sheerin</b> <b>Location, Location, Location"</b> <b>Service of the Word</b> <i>followed by refreshments hosted by</i> <i>Men's Forum</i> Reading:     Isaiah 42: 1-9                     The servant, a light to the Nations  Reading:     Matthew 26: 36-46 <b>Preacher: The Bishop of Connor</b> <b>"Christ for the weary"</b>	<b>(Red)</b>
<b>Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup></b> <b>10.30am</b> <b>1.15-1.45pm</b>  <b>8.00pm</b>	<b>Tuesday in Holy Week</b> <b>Holy Communion</b> <b>Lunchtime Service at Knock Methodist Church</b> <b>Speaker: Reverend Stephen Sheerin</b> <b>"Location, Location, Location"</b> <b>Service of the Word</b> <i>followed by refreshments hosted by</i> <i>Mothers' Union</i> Reading:     Isaiah 49: 1-7                     The Servant's Mission Reading:     Matthew 26: 57-68 <b>Preacher: The Bishop of Connor</b> <b>"Christ for the</b> <b>defiant"</b>	<b>(Red)</b>
<b>Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup></b> <b>10.30am</b> <b>1.15-1.45pm</b>  <b>8.00pm</b>	<b>Wednesday in Holy Week</b> <b>Holy Communion</b> <b>Lunchtime Service in Knock Methodist Church</b> <b>Speaker: Reverend Stephen Sheerin</b> <b>"Location, Location, Location"</b> <b>Service of the Word</b> <i>followed by refreshments hosted by</i> <i>Ladies Guild</i> Reading:     Isaiah 50: 4-9a                     The Servant's Humiliation and Vindication  Reading:     Matthew 26: 69-75 <b>Preacher: The Bishop of Connor</b> <b>"Christ for the</b> <b>waverer"</b>	<b>(Red)</b>
<b>Thursday 17<sup>th</sup></b> <b>10.30am</b>	<b>Maundy Thursday</b> <b>Holy Communion for senior parishioners</b> <i>followed by</i> <i>refreshments</i>	<b>(White)</b>

<b>1.15-1.45pm</b>	<b>Lunchtime Service in Knock Methodist Church</b> <b>Speaker: Reverend Stephen Sheerin</b> <b>“Location, Location, Location”</b>	
<b>8.00pm</b>	<b>Holy Communion followed by the stripping of the altar</b> Epistle      1 Corinthians 11: 23-26    The Institution of the Lord's Supper  Gospel      Matthew 26: 17-30 <b>Preacher: The Bishop of Connor</b> <b>“Christ for the confused”</b>	
<b>Friday 18<sup>th</sup> 12-3.00pm</b>	<b>Good Friday</b> <b>The Three Hour Devotions</b> <b>Conductor: The Reverend Canon Tim Kinahan,</b> <b>Former Rector of Helen's Bay</b>	
<b>8.00pm</b>	<b>Tenebrae Service</b> Reading:    Matthew 27: 27-56 <b>Preacher: The Bishop of Connor</b> <b>“Christ for us all”</b>	
<b>Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> 8.15am</b>	<b>Easter Sunday</b> <b>Holy Communion</b> Epistle      Acts 10: 34-43  Reader      Ronny Martin Gospel      John 20: 1-18	<b>(White)</b>  Gentiles hear the Good News  The Resurrection of Jesus
<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b> Epistle      Acts 10: 34-43  Reader      Rachel Leacock Gospel      John 20: 1-18  Intercessions	Gentiles hear the Good News  The Resurrection of Jesus Clergy
<b>Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> 10.30am</b>	<b>Saint Mark the Evangelist (transferred)</b> <b>Holy Communion</b> <i>followed by refreshments</i>	<b>(Red)</b>
<b>Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> 8.15am</b>	<b>The Second Sunday of Easter</b> <b>Holy Communion</b> Epistle      Acts 5: 27-32  Read by      Alan Boyd	<b>(White)</b>  The apostles are persecuted

Gospel

John 20: 19-31

Jesus appears to the Disciples

**10.30am**

**Holy Communion**

Epistle

Acts 5: 27-32

The apostles are persecuted

Read by

Martin Moore

Gospel

John 20: 19-31

Jesus appears to the Disciples

Intercessions

Patrick Good

**Online Services**

***The audio recording of our 10.30am service each Sunday can be found on our parish website [www.stcolumbas.down.anglican.org](http://www.stcolumbas.down.anglican.org) under "Church Service Recordings".***



*Caroline, Charles and Henry  
join me in wishing you a very  
Happy Easter.*

**The Rector**

## LENT MID WEEK SERVICES

WEDNESDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> APRIL AND 9<sup>TH</sup> APRIL AT 8PM

**PREACHER: THE VERY REVEREND HENRY HULL**

I encourage you to continue attending our mid-week services each Wednesday night at 8pm throughout Lent which began on Ash Wednesday. These short mid-week services are a timely opportunity for us to allow our Christian faith to grow and develop to sustain us in the opportunities and challenges of daily life. *I am delighted that the former Dean of Down Cathedral, The Very Reverend Henry Hull is the preacher at these services.*

### The Rector



Dean Henry Hull provides this introduction about his series of sermons:

**The theme for our six Wednesdays in Lent is “Living out our faith amidst the challenges of daily life”.**

**A number of topics are being considered including family life; integrity in the workplace; anxiety; health; generosity and service.**

Each evening there will be a short scriptural reflection linked with some suggestions as to how we might apply it in a practical way in our lives.



### Private Holy Communion Services

It is always a privilege for the Clergy to conduct private Holy Communion services for those housebound parishioners who will not be attending Easter services in St. Columba's. **Please telephone the Parish Administrator (028 9065 6891) by Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April to make an appointment if you would like a private Holy Communion service in your home.**





## **Holy Week Lunchtime Services**

### **Knock Methodist Church**

**When:** Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April –Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April,  
1.15-1.45pm

**Where:** Knock Methodist Church.



We are delighted to welcome Reverend Stephen Sheerin to our lunchtime services during Holy Week. Reverend Sheerin is married to Ruth and as a blended family they share 3 adult children and 6 grandchildren. Reverend Sheerin is a retired Methodist minister and during his years in ministry he had the privilege of serving in Greenisland, Cookstown & South Derry, Dundonald,

Ballynahinch and Mountpottinger churches. During his time in Dundonald, he served as Superintendent of what used to be known as the Knock Circuit (Braniel, Dundonald & Knock).

**The theme of Reverend Sheerin's Holy Week sermons is "Location, Location, Location" and his chosen passages for the week are...**

Mon - Matthew 26 v6-13

Tues - Matthew 26 v14-16 &69-75.

Wed - Matthew 26 v 35-45

Thurs - Luke 22 V14-21.

# St Columba's Holy Week 2025

Theme: ***"Christ who is for us"***

Dear Friends at St Columba's,



I'm grateful to my friend John, your rector, for his kind invitation to join with you this year as you journey through Holy Week. I'm looking forward to being with you very much. I truly believe that the time that we spend carefully reflecting during Holy Week helps us to appreciate with greater understanding the reason for our joy in celebrating the Easter season that follows.

We live in times where divisions in societies around the world are as marked as they have been for many years. Competing ideologies have led to bitterness in politics, conflict and hostility towards those whose culture, race or point of view is different. We see it in our own country, in the United States, across Europe and indeed around the world. It can all be very worrying and wear us down very easily!

**My theme during Holy Week will be "Christ who is for us". As we share together I hope that the themes of our services will remind us that God offers humankind hope instead of despair, peace instead of war, unity instead of division and love in place of hatred. Christ is the remedy for our human failures!**

**May I invite you to join me each evening as we consider Matthew's account of the events of Holy Week?** I'm sure that we will see that what Matthew shares in his writing is just as relevant today as it was then and we will discover afresh that Jesus truly is the Christ who is for us!

I look forward to seeing you then.

Sincerely,

**George**

# **Good Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April**

## **3 Hours Devotions 12noon – 3pm**

### **Conductor Canon Tim Kinahan**

**This year our 'Three Hours' on Good Friday will be led by Canon Tim Kinahan, formerly rector of St. Dorothea's and, more recently, Helen's Bay.**



There is no over-arching theme to his presentation, other than to focus gently on the events of Good Friday. This will take the form of some Biblical readings, readings from a wide range of other sources as well as some thoughts from Canon Kinahan. Also, to allow time for personal meditation there will be short intervals of silence, some congregational hymn-singing as well as a variety of recorded music. This latter will be from a wide variety of genres and sources, all chosen to aid reflection. Some of it is specific Good Friday music, others, hopefully, quietly inspirational. When preparing this, Canon Kinahan was reminded of the words of the

philosopher Simon Critchley: 'It is impossible to be an atheist when listening to the music one loves.'

*Feel free to come and go as you wish.*

## **From the Registers**

### **Our Sorrows**

#### **Funeral Services**

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February

Dorothy (Doe) Osborne

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March

Cyril Alexander Thompson

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March

Joyce (Joy) Gloria Murphy

# Lent Lunch Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2025

It was joyful to experience the great fellowship and friendship being expressed in so many ways throughout the Lent Lunch on Sunday 2nd March. The conversations around the hall were buzzing as everyone shared delicious food, friendly fellowship and much laughter together.

Thank you to our hard working and conscientious Catering Committee for organizing a most successful lunch. The Hall was full, **and we raised £3390 for the Church Hall Fund!**

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

Thank you also to our Scouts who assisted with the parking and directing to Bloomfield Collegiate car park, under the careful supervision of their leader Iain Hall. Great job well done!

**The Rector writes...**  
***What a wonderful day! St. Columba's at its best with great laughter and delicious food involving parishioners of all ages and Scouts assisting our Catering Committee! Thank you to everyone who helped and supported the lunch so generously. A truly memorable day!***









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

### ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME 2025

#### CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

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

#### BENEFITS OF THE SCHEME

Free fortnightly lessons for the three year duration of the scheme.

Development of practical skills including hymn playing, choral training & performance of organ repertoire.

#### HOW TO APPLY

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

or downloaded from

[www.downanddromore.org](http://www.downanddromore.org)

[www.conor.anglican.org](http://www.conor.anglican.org)

Deadline for applications: **23rd April 2025**

Audition dates: **17th and 19th May 2025** - St John's Malone



# Prayers for your thoughts and comfort



This is the time of year when we may hear the words of the poem put to song entitled 'Sheep and Lambs' which describes a peaceful scene in the early evening of April. You will recognise the opening words:- 'All in an April evening.' It is used sometimes to evoke a sense of renewal and hope, particularly associated with Easter themes, due to the imagery of lambs representing the 'Lamb of God.'

We are in the season of Lent, which draws us towards Holy Week – the solemn observance of Good Friday, and then, the joyful celebration of Easter. That is the high point of the Christian year, for, as we are reminded in the Scriptures:- 'if Christ has not been risen from the dead, our faith is in vain.'

Some prayers this month focus on events we will commemorate and celebrate in April. Longer evenings remind us of beauty, especially in the countryside, and of the kind of pastoral scene to which reference was made in the title of the poem.

Parochially, in April, we note the election of a new Select Vestry who meet regularly with the Rector, to discuss and respond to, current needs and responsibilities.

Globally, we face many challenges. Our prayers should focus on seeking the guidance of God on how we might respond personally to the needs of the distressed, as well as praying for the leaders of nations.

As always, we hope that you will find some of the material helpful and appropriate. Your attention is drawn also, to a booklet supplied some weeks ago with prayers for each day in Lent.

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### **A Lent prayer**

Almighty God, you invite us deeper into your world, your people, your Lent. May this time be one of outward focus, seeking you in those we tend to ignore. Help us to live a Lent and Holy Week focused on freedom, generosity and encounter. Give us hearts of hunger to serve you and those who need what we have to give. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen**

### **An Easter blessing**

May the glory and the promise of this joyous time bring peace and happiness to you, and to those you hold dear, and may Christ, our risen Saviour, be there always by your side to bless you abundantly. **Amen**

### **St.Marks Day 25<sup>th</sup> April**

This prayer will be found in the Book of Common Prayer page 308

### **Prayer for the Select Vestry**

Heavenly Father, as we reflect on the recent General Vestry meeting at which parishioners were appointed and elected to serve on the Select Vestry, we pray that you will guide them in their deliberations. May your Holy Spirit enlighten their minds, enabling them to discover your will in all matters before them. Grant them unity of spirit as they make decisions that will impact our parish and community, always seeking to uphold your teachings and further your Kingdom. **Amen**



### **The Parish Choir, Cantors and Musical Director**

Lord, as we prepare for the solemn events in this season of Lent, including Stainer's Crucifixion, we pray for all who contribute to worship at St. Columba's. Help them to develop their skills and use their talents to glorify you. May their dedication, and our willingness to participate in supporting them, inspire others to seek you through music. **Amen**

### **The Joys of Spring**

Lord God, help us to use the springtime season to revive a 'newness' in our hearts, and a freshness of your Spirit in our lives. Help us to respond to life with mercy, consideration and love. As we live day by day, remind us of the beauty of your creation. Teach us as we praise you to pray for family, friends and for those with whom we disagree, and give us wisdom to live with courage and compassion. **Amen**

### **Prayer for Peace**

Almighty God, we pray to you, feeling helpless, as we watch the discord and violence in our world between people and nations. We pray that the hearts and minds of leaders may be softened and guided towards diplomacy and understanding. Give them wisdom to seek reconciliation. May your love and mercy prevail over hatred and violence, and may the cries of the innocent and suffering be recognised. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace. **Amen**

### **Refugees and Victims of Aggression**

Lord God, we pray for all who have suffered the loss of homes and family, including those who are living as refugees. We pray for them as they seek some semblance of security. Guide those who strive to offer aid and refuge, and inspire compassion in the hearts of people in their communities. May peace soon prevail in places where conflict rages, and may justice be served for all victims of discrimination and violence. **Amen**

### **Overseas and National Aid**

Loving Father, we recognise that individuals and families are suffering in every part of the world. We pray for churches, charitable organisations and all who are seeking to serve those in need, realising that the least able to help themselves may be greatly affected by government cuts. Grant aid organisations wisdom in distributing resources. Encourage all making difficult decisions in a troubled and volatile world, and bless the works of their hands in their attempt to provide both relief and hope. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### **Relief from personal stress**

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

### **A final thought and blessing**

Go, and know that the Lord goes with you. Let him lead you every day into the quiet place of your mind where he will speak with you. Know that he loves you and watches over you. Know that he is always with you, wherever you are, and however you may feel. May God's blessing be with you always. **Amen**

## Art Club

On Thursday 20th February 2025 The Art Club members were delighted to welcome the highly acclaimed Artist Paul O'Hare. Paul's paintings in watercolour and oils are especially vibrant and delightful capturing scenes around N Ireland.

The subject for the demonstration was a seascape of the coast at Portstewart with the beach and rocks in the foreground.

It was very enjoyable watching the painting coming to life with Paul's chat and expertise and the result was of course fabulous.

We were all inspired to produce a lovely painting ourselves and were convinced the results would be good !

I confess I'm still trying to accomplish that .

We really appreciated Paul coming to our club and we all learned very useful painting tips and techniques,

**Carole.**



## CHRISTIAN AID 2025 - 11th - 17th MAY

Just a reminder of our main fundraising event this year.

### A PRE - LOVED SALE OF LADIES CLOTHING AND ACCESSORIES

in the church hall on **SATURDAY 17th MAY** 2pm - 5:30pm.

I hope you have had an opportunity to look out any items and also encourage friends and family to do the same.

After Easter there will be collection boxes placed in the church and hall to place your items.

It would be great to have a group of volunteers who can help me organise this event - if you can sort clothes, help to set up for the sale, serve tea & coffee on the day please give me a ring. Your help and ideas would be much appreciated.

**Joyce (07772 128944)**

## Thought for the Month

### THE JOY OF FRIENDSHIP AND SHARED MEMORIES

What would we do without our friends? They enrich our lives in so many ways, there for us in good times and bad, sharing laughter and tears, always encouraging and seeing the best in us. Nowadays many people live alone for all sorts of reasons and families can often be scattered. This is when we rely on good friends to provide the support network we all need – “my friends are my family” is a phrase sometimes used.

It is said that friends come into our lives for a reason, a season or forever. For me strong bonds forged at school, university, work and social activities have led to enduring friendships spanning five and six decades – we even refer to ourselves as ‘living history’! Finding new friends as we go through different stages is an added joy – every new friend is a new adventure and the start of more memories.



**Marjory Stewart**

I have a German friend whom I met when we were students working for a year as assistant teachers in the French Alps, not far from the Riviera and Provence. Although that is now more than fifty years ago, we share so many wonderful memories of discovering that beautiful alpine region and the warmth of its people. When we talk or correspond (yes, we still write letters!), those memories are as vivid now as if it were yesterday – even my failed attempts on the ski slopes still make us laugh.

The value of shared memories has been brought into focus by a close friend diagnosed with a form of dementia two years ago. She and I spent many holidays together, mostly city breaks all around Europe. Our destinations of choice were usually determined by the culinary delights on offer so, enjoying all the sights and sounds of each city, we munched our way through Amsterdam, Barcelona, Budapest, Bologna, Lyons and Vienna to name just a few. In sharp contrast to those busy cities, we also set aside a few days each summer to spend closer to home in the little medieval village of Carlingford. This was truly



a haven of peace and tranquility, a place to refresh and recharge where, by the Lough, we would say you could almost hear the silence. As I watch her today, slowly declining, unable to find words and struggling to connect thoughts, I find it remarkable that, when I remind her of our holidays together, her face lights up, one memory prompting another so that we can enjoy reliving those happier times. I firmly believe that these holiday memories seem to bring her some comfort.

I shall be forever thankful for the wonderful friends who have been steadfastly by my side through the very best and also most difficult of times. I treasure all the memories we share and it is not over yet! Hopefully there is more to come, new friends to make and as I was recently reminded "The Road to a Friend's House is Never Long".

Marjory

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

*The May 'Thought for the Month' will be written by Scott Rutherford.*

## **The Cleaning Committee is appealing for helpers to assist in Spring Cleaning the Church in advance of Holy Week and Easter**

**When: Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April 10am-1pm**

**Why:** Our Church is like our own homes in that, while it is cleaned on a weekly basis, it occasionally needs a deeper clean and now is the time to give it an early spring clean.

**The following is a list of the areas in the Church to be spring cleaned:-**

- ❖ Groups of pews
- ❖ Choir stalls and chancel
- ❖ Main and side porches
- ❖ Back of Church and Baptistry
- ❖ Sundry areas

We are looking for at least **14 volunteers** so therefore is plenty of opportunity for everyone.

**In anticipation thank you very much for your help.**





## **Decorating the Church for Easter Flower Arranging Workshop**

**Thursday 17th April at 2pm in the Church Hall,**

**Afternoon tea will be provided.**

**No previous flower arranging skills are required.**

**The purpose of the workshop is to prepare floral  
arrangements for the windowsills etc in church for  
Easter Sunday.**

**Flowers, oases and containers will be provided with a  
charge of £6 per attendee.**

**Please bring plenty of foliage.**

**If interested, please contact either Fiona 07707 848 519  
or Eleanor (07709 917 548).**

### **Afternoon Group**

#### **An Easter Extravaganza**

**Monday 7th April at 2.30pm**

**A collection of Storytelling and Memories  
Everyone is welcome to attend**



**Please note the change of date due to Holy Week.**

**Rosemary and Joy**

## Clergy Parish Visiting

It is always a great privilege for the Clergy to visit parishioners in their homes. If you would like to request a Clergy Visit, please telephone the Rector (028 9047 1514) or Canon Walter Lavery (028 9573 8743).

The Clergy will be visiting parishioners in the Residential and Nursing Homes throughout the parish during April. The Clergy will also be conducting private Holy Communion services in the homes of those housebound parishioners who are unable to attend any of the Easter services.

## 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) or Canon Walter Lavery (028 9573 8743) to enable them to take careful notes of the details. Thank you.

## PAUSE

This morning as I opened the curtains I thought "oh what a beautiful morning!" A song immediately came to mind. It was from a film which was released in 1943. How many of you remember Oklahoma?

I always feel that I have more energy when the sun is shining, regardless of the temperature. Wouldn't it be useful if we could occasionally press the PAUSE button and have the sun shine all day.

This month PAUSE is meeting on two occasions.

**TUESDAY 8<sup>th</sup> APRIL AT 10.30AM AT HILLMOUNT GARDEN CENTRE FOR REFRESHMENTS.**

**TUESDAY 29<sup>th</sup> APRIL AT 10.30AM AT THE POET FOR TEA/COFFEE AND SCONES.**

If you are free on one or both of these dates please join us for some friendly chat. Bring a friend. ALL are welcome.

If you need further details or help with transport please call me.

**Eileen (028 9020 3684).**



# The Annual Service of Commemoration and Re-Dedication for the Order of St. John's



On Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January, St Columba's Parish Church hosted the Annual Service of Commemoration and Re-dedication for the Order of St John's. The Order is a major international charity which provides first aid, health care and support services in over 40 countries. In Northern Ireland they are recognisable by their attendance at many events and sporting activities, where they supply ambulances and first aid assistance.

The Order of St John's is perhaps best known by its insignia of a cross. The cross is the sign of a man's redemption, its arms symbolise the four cardinal virtues – Prudence, Temperance, Justice and Fortitude and its points stand for the eight beatitudes that spring from the practice of these virtues.



The Service of Commemoration celebrated the work of the 1400 adult volunteers, 1200 young volunteers and the dedicated Cadets and Badgers programme for school age children.

The service opened with the presentation of standards and a very warm welcome from the Rector. The Rector was delighted to welcome back the Reverend Canon Kevin Graham, a former curate of St.Columba's, who is Chaplain of the Order. The first lesson – Exodus 18: 13-26 was read by The Knight Commander, David McCorkell KStJ encouraged us to trust in God who





would lead others. The second lesson – Luke 10: 29-37 was read by The Commander's Cadet of the Year, Jashvita Kitta, which was the parable of the Good Samaritan, asking that we should love everyone including our enemies. The Chaplain of the Order, our Rector, then delivered his address. He very aptly spoke of the parable of the Good Samaritan and the message of Jesus, that we should do

likewise, to the assembled congregation.

The service then moved onto an Act of Commemoration when the Reverend Canon Dr Colin McClure recalled the names of the serving members of the Order who had passed away during the last year, concluding with a prayer of thanksgiving.

This was followed by the Act of Re-dedication to the service by the members of the St Johns Order in attendance. It reminded us that the Order of St Johns is in God's service and emphasised it's Christian calling and obligation as members to uphold the Christian values. The Investiture of a number of St John's volunteers then took place.

Throughout the Service the work of the Order of St John's was celebrated. Although the Order of St John is a Christian Order, it welcomes people of any faith who are motivated to share in its mission. Recently over 160,000 patients have received eye care from the Eye Hospital Group in East Jerusalem, Gaza and the West Bank all funded by the Order of St John's.

The Service concluded with Procession of members of the Order, The Knight Commander, Lieutenant, and members of the Commandery Chapter. There was an expression of thanks to the organist Mr Tristan Russcher, for the musical contribution and to the ladies' of the Catering Committee for their refreshments.

**Nicola Connery**



## Ladies Guild

Spring is definitely with us and how lovely to see the daffodils by the roadside coming into bloom as we travel around.

There was a good attendance at our February Meeting when we welcomed Chris Scott, a former Undertaker, who, with the aid of a visual presentation, gave an interesting talk about the history of one of the well known firms in this part of the city and how customs pertaining to funerals have evolved over the years.

A report of our Charity meeting which supported the Alzheimers Society will appear next month.

With Easter Tuesday falling on the 3rd Tuesday of April there will not be a Guild meeting this month.

We look forward instead to May and our AGM which seems to come sooner every year!

On behalf of the Committee may I wish all our members every blessing at this Eastertide especially remembering those who are ill at this time .

**Eleanor**

## Church hall cleaning rota

**April 6<sup>th</sup>**

Nan Hillier and Isobel McDowell

**April 20<sup>th</sup>**

Ronnie and Jayne Martin

## APRIL FLOWER ROTA

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>**

Wendy Killen

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>**

PALM LEAVES and GREENERY

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup>**

EASTER LILIES BY CRAMP FAMILY

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>**

April Mercer

Many thanks to Yvonne and Maureen who cooked pancakes at our meeting on Shrove Tuesday.

Diary Dates

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April** Branch Meeting 8.00 p.m. in the church.

Stepping into spring gently.  
(Dance to help with fitness)

**Wednesday 2nd April**  
Diocesan Festival service  
Seapatrack Banbridge  
7.30pm. Bus will leave  
Knockbreda at 6.45 £8

Holywood Parish Mothers Union is celebrating 125 years.

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April** Choral Evensong 5.30pm Reception after the service.

**Monday 28th April** Council Meeting, Knockbreda Parish 7.15pm.

Advance Notice

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May** IMPC Tea Party St Ignatius Carryduff.

Time to be confirmed.



**Happy Easter everyone**

**Barbara**

## Car parking



The carpark at Bloomfield Collegiate will be available for use on Sunday mornings – please make use of this very kind offer! This sharing of space allows us to be more courteous with our parking off the Kings Road. We kindly request that parishioners and visitors continue to park cars carefully and be considerate of our neighbours and road safety for all.

St Columba's Parish Church, Knock  
27 King's Road, Belfast BT5 6JG

# THE CRUCIFIXION



*by John Stainer*

Caolan Keaveny *tenor*

Ryan Garnham *bass*

St Columba's Cantors

Tristan Russcher *organ*

Joe McKee *director*

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 7.30pm**

Suggested minimum Donation of £15.

*There will be light refreshments after the performance.*



## MEN'S FORUM

Times marching on with our efforts within the Forum. As well as our normal nightly events we are striving to come up with a wider range of activities to encourage more members to join us on a Monday evening in the hall from 7.30pm. Our door is always open and a warm welcome awaits. Pop in for a chat or a cuppa. Talking of which, I would like to, on behalf of the Forum thank you for your generosity in supporting our hosting of the teas after the service on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday.

**John Robb**



## MAY 2025 MAGAZINE

Any articles or photographs for publication in the **May** parish magazine should be handed or emailed to the editor, **Billy McAlpine**, by **6 pm Wednesday, 9th April**

His contact details are:-

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

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

***Many thanks***

## Church grounds Work Party

**We invite parishioners to help us tidy the church grounds, car park and gardens on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April from 10am-1pm**



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

Any amount of help would be gratefully appreciated.

**Thank you.**

# SUNDAY SCHOOL & CRECHE

This month there is only one Sunday School morning. At this, the children will be making Easter crafts to display in church. We will then be taking a break for the Easter holidays.

A date for your diary – the Sunday School and Creche Prize Giving will be held on **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June.**

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

13<sup>th</sup> April - Sunday School & Creche – Easter Crafts

20<sup>th</sup> April – Easter Sunday - **No Sunday School & Creche**

27<sup>th</sup> April - **No Sunday School & Creche**

Looking forward to seeing everyone!

Lynn



## Railway and Model Club

Depending on when you read this we will or are about to have a 10<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Exhibition on 29<sup>th</sup> March in the church hall to showcase the talents of modellers in different genres. We will be happy to have the support from some of our fellow clubs/organisations who are in attendance. There will be train layouts and sales items ranging from aircraft, helicopters, boats, military vehicles and planes. There will be something of interest for everyone, including the ladies, as we have representatives from DAME showcasing miniature doll's houses dioramas, Lego gardens and sale items in aid of their supported charity. Refreshments will also be available on the day.

A couple of our members travelled, by train, to Londonderry to the Foyle Valley Railway Museum where an exhibition was held detailing the Foyle valley and Donegal light Railway. Perfect weather and day out.

A full report of the outcome of our exhibition will be forthcoming in the next Columban. Until then we hope to see you at the event.

**John Robb Chairman.**



## COLUMBAN DEADLINES

Magazine deadlines are always clearly noted in each edition of *The Columban*. The purpose of the deadline is to facilitate editing and printing of the magazine.

We are now asking for your helpful cooperation - if you wish to submit an article for inclusion, it needs to be with the Editor BEFORE the deadline. From April 2025, if the article is after the deadline unfortunately we will not be able to include it. Timely submission is everyone's responsibility – otherwise please keep the article if you wish to include it in the following month's magazine.

Thank you very much for your kind assistance with this.

**Rector**

## DOWN CATHEDRAL INSTALLATION OF NEW DEAN



As Canon Chancellor of Down Cathedral it was a great privilege to install the Reverend Henry Blair as Dean of Down during a service of Holy Communion on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March. This service took place four days after the Bishop of Down and Dromore instituted Dean Blair as Rector of the Lecale Area Mission Partnership (LAMP) in Downpatrick Parish Church.

The Archdeacon of Down, the Ven. Jim Cheshire presented the new Dean to me for installation which involved vesting him with his black scarf bearing the crest of Down Diocese and taking him to his stall in the cathedral and saying these words:

*I assign to you this stall in the Cathedral, and a place and voice in the Chapter thereof, and do invest you with all rights, privileges and emoluments thereto belonging, and do leave in you the quiet and peaceable possession of the same. In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

I have a great appreciation for Down Cathedral not least as I was ordained Priest there in June 1993 by Bishop Gordon McMullan. The Cathedral is for me a “Place Apart” where I receive so much encouragement in my ministry.

I have been grateful of the opportunity to serve as Acting Chair of the Board throughout the vacancy during these past fifteen months and am delighted that the Bishop has appointed a new Dean to take the Cathedral forward. I have greatly valued all the friendship and fellowship which has been shared around the table at the many Board meetings throughout the vacancy.

After much thought and reflection I retired from the Board on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March. I will continue to be actively involved in the ministry of Down Cathedral as Canon Chancellor.

I wish Dean Blair, his wife Helen, the Cathedral Board and all those involved in Down Cathedral God’s richest Blessing for the future.

**The Rector**





# PARISH ORGANISATIONS

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

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Sunday School</b> <i>Junior nursery to P5</i>  <i>Senior P6 and over</i>	2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Sundays at 10.30am	Superintendent: Lynn Ryan  07955 479065
	<b>Crèche</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Sundays at 10.30am	Lindsay Rothwell  07710 590574
	<b>Choir</b>	9.30am	Dr Joe McKee 07976 294574
<b>Monday</b>	<b>MU Afternoon Group</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday each month 2.30pm	Joy Montgomery 9029 5427
	<b>Men's Forum</b>	7.30pm	John Robb 07956061929
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Ladies Badminton</b>	10-00am - 12 Noon	Gillian Popplestone 07730479478
	<b>Ladies Guild</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday each month 2.30pm in the church	Eileen Anderson 9020 3684
	<b>Activity Group</b>	Except 1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday 7.30pm	Maureen Irwin 9079 5155
	<b>Mothers' Union</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday each month 8.00pm	Barbara Lavery 9573 8743
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Bible Study Group</b>	2.30pm - 4.00pm	Eileen Anderson 9020 3684
	<b>Cubs</b>	6.45pm – 8.15pm	Gareth McAuley 07884411354
	<b>Railway and Model Club</b>	2.00pm to 4.30pm	John Robb 07956061929
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Art Club</b>	9.30am	Carole Crothers 07979093956
	<b>Scouts</b>	7.30pm to 9.30pm	Iain Hall 07799 474111
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Mums and Tots</b>	10.00am	Joyce Stevenson, 07772128944
<b>Bi-monthly</b>	<b>Pause</b>	As arranged	Eileen Anderson 9020 3684
<b>Monthly</b>	<b>Youth Etc.</b> <i>(11-15 years)</i>	As arranged	Jonathan Martin, 07980 885990
	<b>Young Families</b>	Social events as arranged	Rachel Stewart 07812 247343

# WHO'S WHO IN ST. COLUMBAS

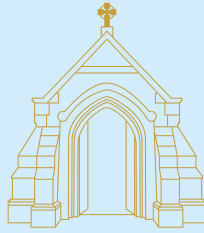
Parish website: [www.stcolumbas.down.anglican.org](http://www.stcolumbas.down.anglican.org)

<b>Rector</b>	The Reverend Chancellor John R Auchmuty	St. Columba's Rectory 29 Kings Road BT5 6JG 028 9047 1514 <a href="mailto:rectorknock@down.anglican.org">rectorknock@down.anglican.org</a>
<b>Assistant Priests</b>	The Reverend Canon Ken Smyth  The Reverend Canon Walter Lavery	3 Mount Royal Bangor BT20 3BG 028 9145 8706  6 Hanwood Heights Dundonald BT16 1XU 028 9573 8743
<b>Diocesan Lay Reader</b>	Karen McAlpine	<a href="mailto:readercolumba@gmail.com">readercolumba@gmail.com</a>
<b>Rector's Churchwarden</b>	Rosemary Allister	07880 504928
<b>People's Churchwarden</b>	David Connery	07801 738114
<b>Rector's Glebewarden</b>	Ian Johnston	07850 999909
<b>People's Glebewarden</b>	Mark Wilson	07714 658911
<b>Honorary Sexton</b>	John Proctor	028 9087 0526
<b>Assistant Honorary Sexton</b>	Geoff Launchbury	028 9028 1204 07814 498 241
<b>Select Vestry</b>	Rector, Churchwardens, Glebewardens, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, Assistant Hon. Treasurer, David Craig, David Kelly John Kerr, Louise Mercer, Martin Moore, Nigel Morrow, Scott Rutherford, Jim Stevenson, Richard Whiteside	
<b>Honorary Secretary</b>	John Macpherson	10 Sandhill Gardens BT5 6FF 028 9028 2076 <a href="mailto:jdmacpherson@hotmail.com">jdmacpherson@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Honorary Treasurer</b>	Brian Acheson	028 9042 4892
<b>Assistant Honorary Treasurer</b>	Victor Dukelow	028 9029 0625

<b>Gift Aid Secretary</b>	Jack Dunlop	028 9065 4103
<b>Parochial Nominators</b>	Victor Dukelow, Patrick Good, Elizabeth Leonard, Linda Wilson	
<b>Diocesan Synod members</b>	Patrick Good , Dr. Elizabeth Leonard Charles Auchmuty (Under 30)	
<b>Organist and Choral Director</b>	Dr Joe McKee	07976 294574
<b>Assistant Organist</b>	Brian Clements	028 9079 3641
<b>Magazine Editor</b>	Billy McAlpine	028 9042 4390 colmaged@outlook.com
<b>Parish Webmaster</b>	Dr Jonathan Stewart	<a href="mailto:office.knock@down.anglican.org">office.knock@down.anglican.org</a>
<b>C of I Gazette Distributor</b>	Moranne Noad	07754523065
<b>Bible Reading Fellowship notes</b>	Joan Madill	028 9065 6591
<b>Church flowers</b>	Eleanor Launchbury	028 9028 1204
<b>Premise's Convenor</b>	Stewart Beckwith	028 9048 6622
<b>Crucifer</b>	Mark Lavery	028 9573 8743
<b>Parish Office Administrator/ Financial Giving Secretary</b>	Karen Patterson Office hours: Monday to Friday 9.00am-1.00pm	 028 9065 6891 <a href="mailto:office.knock@down.anglican.org">office.knock@down.anglican.org</a>

### **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.

