

The Columban

ST. COLUMBA'S CHURCH, KNOCK, MAY 2025



**All Things Bright and Beautiful
The Lord God made them all**



RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Parishioner,

ALDERLEY EDGE PARISH VISIT

We are looking forward to welcoming the Vicar of St. Philip and St. James, Alderley Edge together with his wife and some parishioners and friends to our parish from the 2nd – 5th May. They are coming on pilgrimage and will be exploring local historical sites with a particular focus on St. Patrick. Going on pilgrimage is an important part of their ministry and this year they have chosen Northern Ireland.

The Vicar, The Reverend Robin Pye and Marian will be staying with us in the Rectory and I am most grateful to those members of our parish who are kindly providing accommodation during their stay.

Their pilgrimage will start on Friday 2nd May at 6pm with a service of Holy Communion in St. Columba's and it would be delightful if a number of parishioners could attend. On Saturday they will be travelling to Down Cathedral where I will conduct a service of Morning Prayer before they explore Strangford and Portaferry. They will be participating in our All Age Worship service on Sunday where they will be able to experience the **Friendship, Fellowship and Faith** of St. Columba's for themselves.

This is a wonderful opportunity to make new friends and to be enriched throughout the ministry of our visiting pilgrims. Plans for a reciprocal visit to St. Philip and St. James parish will be made in due

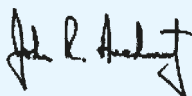
course. Caroline and I have always benefited from the warm welcome we have received there during our visits to one of their parishioners, who is a great friend of Caroline's and whose mother is a regular attender at our services. It's a small world!

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

11th – 18th MAY

I encourage you to generously support the work of Christian Aid by using the envelope in this edition of the Columban. These can be left at the Rectory or placed on the offertory plate during our church services. We have an opportunity to support those in such great need throughout the world by placing our donation in the Christian Aid envelope *which can be increased further by completing the Gift Aid section.* I thank Joyce Stevenson and the Christian Aid Team, our Parish Administrator, Karen Patterson and all those who assist with this important work in St. Columba's and our local community. Please see further details in this edition of the Columban.

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 MAY

Thursday 1st	Saint Philip and Saint James, Apostles	(Red)
10.30am	Holy Communion <i>followed by refreshments</i>	
Sunday 4th	The Third Sunday of Easter	(White)
8.15am	Holy Communion	
	Epistle Acts 9: 1-6 The conversion of Saul	
	Read by Joyce Forsythe	
	Gospel John 21: 1-19 Jesus and the miraculous catch of fish	
10.30am	All Age Worship <i>followed by refreshments</i>	
	Reading John 21: 1-19 Jesus and the miraculous catch of fish	
	Read by Sam Kerr	
	Preacher: The Reverend Robin Pye, Vicar of St. Philip and St. James, Alderley Edge	
Thursday 8th		(White)
10.30am	Holy Communion <i>followed by refreshments</i>	
Sunday 11th	The Fourth Sunday of Easter	(White)
8.15am	Holy Communion	
	Epistle Acts 9: 36-43 Peter in Lydda and Joppa	
	Reader Ronny Martin	
	Gospel John 10: 22-30 Jesus Is rejected by the Jews	
10.30am	Holy Communion <i>followed by refreshments hosted by Hazel Macpherson in aid of her trip to Kenya with Jengana during the summer.</i>	
	Epistle Acts 9: 36-43 Peter in Lydda and Joppa	
	Read by Hazel Macpherson	
	Gospel John 10: 22-30 Jesus Is rejected by the Jews	
	Intercessions Linda Wilson	
Thursday 15th	Saint Mathias (transferred)	(Red)
10.30am	Holy Communion <i>followed by refreshments</i>	

Sunday 18th The Fifth Sunday of Easter (White)
8.15am Holy Communion

Epistle Acts 11: 1-18 Peter's report to the Church at Jerusalem

Read by Patrick Good

Gospel John 13: 31-35 The New Commandment

10.30am Morning Prayer *followed by refreshments hosted by Christian Aid Group*

1st Reading Leviticus 19: 1-2, 9-18 Ritual and Moral Holiness

Read by Richard Caldwell

2nd Reading John 13: 31-35 The New Commandment

Read by Joyce Stevenson

Occasional Prayers Karen McAlpine

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

Sunday 25th The Sixth Sunday of Easter (White)
Rogation Sunday

8.15am Holy Communion

Epistle Acts 16: 9-15 The conversion of Lydia

Read by Ronny Martin

Gospel John 5: 1-9 Jesus heals on the Sabbath

10.30am Holy Communion

Epistle Acts 16: 9-15 The conversion of Lydia

Read by Andrew Scott

Gospel John 5: 1-9 Jesus heals on the Sabbath

Intercessions Heather Brehcist

Thursday 29th The Ascension Day (White)
10.30am Holy Communion *followed by refreshments*

Online Services

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

PILGRIMS FROM ST. PHILIP AND ST. JAMES CHURCH, ALDERLEY EDGE IN THE STEPS OF ST PATRICK 2nd- 5th MAY 2025

We are a group of pilgrims from St Philip and St James Church, Alderley Edge, Cheshire, England and we are very excited about our upcoming parish pilgrimage "In the Steps of St Patrick" and also very grateful to the Rector and hosts at St Columba's for your invitation and hospitality.



As a church, we have found that going on pilgrimage is a wonderful way of deepening our spiritual life by exploring God's world together, being prepared to be surprised by God in different places, and experiencing the delights and challenges of pilgrimage in each other's company.

In the last few years, different groups of pilgrims have walked (part of) the Camino de Santiago in Spain (2019), visited the Passion Play at Oberammergau (2022), walked to Chester Cathedral (2018), and walked St Cuthbert's Way from Melrose to Holy Island (2024).

On this year's pilgrimage, we look forward to discovering the history of St Patrick's mission to Ireland and our debt as members of the Church of England to the Irish church, getting to know you and your church and enjoying the beauty of God's creation in a different place. We very much

hope that we will one day be able to welcome you as friends when you come to visit us in Cheshire.

You can visit our church website at <https://www.stphilipandstjames.co.uk>

St Philip & St James forms a joint benefice with St Catherine's Church, Birtles, Over Alderley: <https://www.stcatherinebirtles.org.uk/welcome.htm>

Reverend Robin Pye & Reverend Loveday Alexander



NEW CHURCHWARDENS 2025

We congratulate the new Rector's Churchwarden, Michael Sadlier, and the new People's Churchwarden, Mark Wilson, following their commissioning on Sunday 30th March.



Michael Sadlier writes...I am honoured to take on the role of Rector's Churchwarden and am looking forward to working alongside Mark Wilson as well as meeting the parishioners and assisting the clergy. I have been a member of St Columba's congregation since 2004 and have previously been in the Parish choir (six years) while my wife Gillian has served a decade as Honorary Treasurer. We are proud parents of Jamie (24), Daniel (20), and Rebecca (17). Jamie and Daniel have previously been junior churchwardens.

I have been a journalist for 35 years and have worked across various fields from politics to sport and particularly rugby. I am a graduate of Queen's University where I was also a postgraduate and a graduate of Dublin City University. I enjoy all aspects of fitness and regularly run or volunteer at Park Run.



Mark Wilson writes...This is my third time as People's Churchwarden, so hopefully I'll get it right this time! I'm married to Linda, who is principal of Stranmillis Primary School. I have one son, Aaron who lives in England and a daughter, Hollie who still lives at home. I also have one granddaughter, Sophie.

My interests include fishing, cooking and motorcycles. Last summer (after gathering enough brownie points from Linda!) I was able to spend two weeks motorcycle camping in France and the Alps.

ST COLUMBA'S PARISH CHURCH KNOCK

PARISH OFFICE BEARERS 2025-2026

RECTOR – The Revd Chancellor John R Auchmuty

ASSISTANT PRIEST – The Revd Canon Ken Smyth

ASSISTANT PRIEST – The Revd Canon Walter Lavery

RECTOR'S CHURCHWARDEN – Michael Sadlier

PEOPLE'S CHURCHWARDEN – Mark Wilson

RECTOR'S GLEBEWARDEN – Ian Johnston

PEOPLE'S GLEBEWARDEN – Iain Hall

HONORARY SECRETARY – Martin Moore

HONORARY TREASURER – Brian Acheson

ASSISTANT HONORARY TREASURER – Victor Dukelow

SELECT VESTRY

Rector, Churchwardens, Glebewardens,

Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, Assistant Hon. Treasurer,

Rosemary Allister, David Craig, David Kelly,

Louise Mercer, John Macpherson, Nigel Morrow,

Scott Rutherford, Jim Stevenson, Richard Whiteside

REGISTERED AUDITORS

Diamond & Skillen Chartered Accountants

PAROCHIAL NOMINATORS

Victor Dukelow, Patrick Good, Elizabeth Leonard, Linda Wilson

SUPPLEMENTAL PAROCHIAL NOMINATORS

David Craig, Karen McAlpine, Scott Rutherford

DIOCESAN SYNOD MEMBERS

Patrick Good, Elizabeth Leonard

DIOCESAN SYNOD MEMBER AGED UNDER 30

Charles Auchmuty

SUPPLEMENTAL DIOCESAN SYNOD MEMBERS

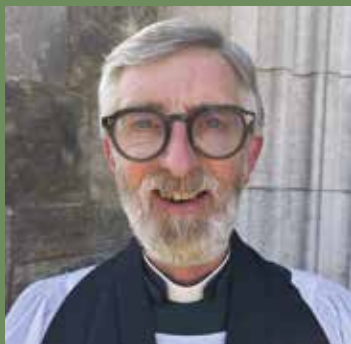
David Craig, Elizabeth Miller

Churchwardens 2025

We welcome our new Rector's Churchwarden, Michael Sadlier, and People's Churchwarden, Mark Wilson as they begin their roles following their Commissioning Service on Sunday 30th March.

We also convey sincere thanks to our former Churchwardens, Rosemary Allister (Rector's Churchwarden) and David Connery (People's Churchwarden) for their enthusiasm and hard work during their time in these roles.





Chancellor John Auchmuty
Rector



Canon Ken Smyth
Assistant Priest



Canon Walter Lavery
Assistant Priest

SELECT VESTRY



Michael Sadler
Rector's Churchwarden



Mark Wilson
People's Churchwarden



Ian Johnston
Rector's Glebewarden



Iain Hall
People's Glebewarden



John Macpherson



David Craig



David Kelly



Rosemary Allister



Louise Mercer



Nigel Morrow



Scott Rutherford



Jim Stevenson



Richard Whiteside

MBA'S TEAM



Karen McAlpine
Diocesan Reader



Karen Patterson
Parish Administrator &
Financial Giving Secretary



Joe McKee
Organist & Choral Director



Brian Clements
Assistant Organist

OFFICE BEARERS



Martin Moore
Honorary Secretary



Brian Acheson
Honorary Treasurer



Victor Dukelow
Asst. Honorary Treasurer



Jack Dunlop
Gift Aid Secretary

PARISH OFFICERS



John Robb
Honorary Sacristan



Yvonne Robb
Honorary Sacristan



John Proctor
Honorary Sexton



Geoff Launchbury
Asst. Honorary Sexton



Stewart Beckwith
Premises Convenor



Mark Lavery
Crucifer



Jonathan Stewart
Parish Webmaster

Thought for the Month

April is here, and with the clocks going forward, winter is a distant memory and we are fully into spring. I have recently taken up gardening after moving to our new home in Bangor. After four years of looking out at an unloved square of grass, this has finally been the year I've decided to brighten up my little patch of earth.

So, off I went to the garden centre, and a few boot loads of pots, compost, and bulbs later, I was all set. Many of the benefits of gardening are well-documented—both the physical health benefits from functional exercise and, perhaps more importantly, the mental health boost that comes from being outside in nature.

But there are other, slightly less obvious benefits. Patience is definitely one of them. Many seeds have been sown and bulbs planted, and then there's nothing

left to do but wait. Gardening has also made me more observant. I've started to notice the subtle changes in the seasons—the shifting light, the first hints of new growth, and the different birds that visit the garden. It's easy to overlook these small details in the rush of daily life, but in the garden, they become moments to savour.

There are also inevitable setbacks. One morning, I discovered that slugs had devoured my young seedlings. Another time, an unexpected frost stunted the new growth. It was disheartening. Yet, over time, I noticed that plants are surprisingly resilient. With a bit of care, they bounce back—sometimes stronger than before. It struck me how true this is in life. Setbacks, while frustrating, often make us more determined and adaptable.

I've also found that gardening encourages creativity. Choosing which plants to pair together, deciding on



Scott Rutherford



colours and textures, and experimenting with different layouts makes each garden unique. Even small spaces can become vibrant and full of character with a bit of imagination.



So, in my short experience as a gardener, I've learned that you need hope—to believe it is possible to create something beautiful. You need patience—to wait for your efforts to bear fruit. And you need trust—that if you follow the process, all your labour and care will lead to something amazing.

And perhaps, most importantly, you need a willingness to keep going—despite the weeds, the slugs, and the setbacks—knowing that growth is still happening, often when you least expect it.

Maybe a lot like faith.

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

The June 'Thought for the Month' will be written by Sharon Elkin.

PAUSE

PAUSE recently met at Hillmount Garden Centre. It was a glorious morning. I thought that we have skipped Spring and gone directly to Summer (keeping the magnificent spring plants). Long may it last! Summer clothes before the May blossom is out?

This month PAUSE is meeting on two occasions.

TUESDAY 13TH MAY AT CASTLEREAGH GOLF CLUB AT 10.30am FOR TEA/COFFEE AND SCONES/TRAY BAKES.

TUESDAY 27TH MAY AT THE POET AT 10.30am FOR TEA/COFFEE AND SCONES.

If you are free on one or both of these dates do come along for some friendly chat. ALL are welcome.

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

Eileen (028 9020 3684).

Clergy Parish Visiting

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

Rector

Clarawood Crescent
Clarawood Park
Douglas Court
Drinagh Manor
Earlswood Court
Earlswood Road

Canon Lavery

Cumberland Drive
Cyprus Avenue
Cyprus Gardens
Cyprus Park
Drumbeg Road
Eastleigh Dale

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.

APRIL FLOWER ROTA

Sunday 4 th	Pauline Scott
Sunday 11 th	Barbara Lavery
Sunday 18 th	Ladies Guild
Sunday 25 th	Barbara Lavery

Prayers for your thoughts and comfort



Most parishioners will read these remarks at the beginning of the month of May. At an early stage in primary school, my class teacher would speak about the significance of each month in the school year. Sometimes, having spoken about 'May Day' she would draw attention to an old Celtic festival called 'Bealtaine.' In pre Christian Ireland, this marked the beginning of summer and was celebrated with bonfires, maypoles (note Holywood) and rituals related to the renewal of life. Bealtaine in the Irish language is the name for the month of May. It is one of four major Celtic festivals associated with the four seasons of the year.

This month, there are many reasons for reciting the words of the hymn 'All things bright and beautiful'. Nature is bursting with vitality and colour. As those who acknowledge that God is the one in whom we live and have our being, we should express thanks to him for the beauty of the earth. Some prayers have been chosen as a recognition of the particular significance of this time of year.

However, despite the beauty most of us are fortunate to observe around us, we live in very uncertain times, facing economic and political turmoil at home and overseas. As always, we turn to God who is ever present, in trouble and in joy.

Current global difficulties and upheavals have resulted in considerable reductions by governments to overseas development and charities. This makes a generous response this month to appeals from Christian Aid and other humanitarian groups, both urgent and important.

Hopefully, some of the prayers based on subjects highlighted, will prove thought provoking and encouraging, as we attempt to come to terms with everyday opportunities and challenges.

A prayer as the month begins

Lord, as the new month begins, help us to look back on your faithfulness as we look forward to what lies ahead. As Spring bursts forth with new life, we pray that you will breathe freshness into all areas of our lives. As we pray, we do so in your name. **Amen**

Springtime

Almighty God, the creator of life, we ask your blessing on this planting season so that every seed and sapling is coated with the mystery of your touch. May we see in a little flower the smile of welcome, the look of kindness and the beauty of life. Enable us, as we reflect on such things, to respect and protect all we have received. **Amen**

Garden prayer attributed to John Newton, author of the hymn 'Amazing Grace'

Lord, on your garden deign to smile
Raise the plants, enrich the soil
Soon your presence will restore
Life to what seemed dead before

A proverb and text for May

March winds and April showers bring May flowers
Some plant: others water and God provides the increase (1 Corinthians 3 v.6)

The lesson of the seed

Lord, you taught people the lessons of the seed. The seed that springs up and grows in multiple ways. The seed that though the smallest becomes a great plant. The seed that gives its life, that new life may be multiplied. Write these lessons of faith, hope and love on our hearts and minds, that we may yield an abundant harvest in your service, to the glory of your name. **Amen**

Note:- While Rogation is observed at the end of May, it is our duty to pray for all who work on land, sea, factory, schools and elsewhere. Please remember also those who are seeking to find work and greater satisfaction in what they do.

Prayers for Christian Aid Week 11th.-17th.May

Lord, in your world, we know that the strong need the weak, the rich can be transformed by the poor and the fortunate welcomed by the homeless. Give us the inspiration and courage to build your kingdom, here and now. **Amen**

Creator God, enable us in this week and throughout the year, to work together for change, and the relief of suffering, so that everyone can thrive and share life in its fulness. At all times, grant us the courage to stand up for what we believe to be right, guided (we pray) by your Holy Spirit. **Amen**

God of all nations, so many people in this world are crying out and worn down by injustice, hunger and suffering. Help us to fulfil your goal in establishing the vision you gave us in Christ of the beauty of the kingdom of God on earth. Help us to foster compassion for one another. May we use our energy, imagination and resources in whatever ways we can to bring peace and hope to a world in turmoil. **Amen**

Note:- We are reminded regularly by Christian Aid of the need to 'live more simply that others may simply live.'

A prayer for an anxious and troubled world

Lord God, we live in troubled times, with problems in many countries which affect all of us. We think of the ongoing suffering facing people in parts of the world, with so many losing lives and homes, and others seeking refuge. Alongside this, is the future economic uncertainty resulting from the imposition of tariffs. Help us in times of uncertainty to remember that you are unchanging and faithful. Therefore, when we feel overwhelmed by all that is happening in our world, may we turn to you for encouragement and a sense of peace, knowing that you are there to sustain us. We ask this in your name. **Amen**

Difficult economic times

Lord, in these days when many are worried about the cost of living and how they will cope, encourage all who despair about rising prices and employment prospects. Guide those who have responsibility for tackling the challenging commercial and economic problems. Make us sensitive to one another's needs, and generous in our response, when opportunities arise. We ask it in your name. **Amen**

Prayer for the General Synod of the Church of Ireland

Lord Jesus Christ, send forth your Spirit of love and truth on the bishops, clergy and lay people in Synod this month. Make them faithful to what the Spirit is saying to the Church and lead them forward in the same Spirit. **Amen**

Note:- Space is limited but we commend our parish and its leaders, who welcome our prayers. In addition, pray for the sick and the bereaved, known and unknown

A final thought!

'Truth shall spring out of the earth and goodness shall look down from heaven'

Psalm 85



CHRISTIAN AID 2025 - 11th - 17th MAY

Christian Aid is fast approaching and we look forward to another successful week in St Columba's.

This year we are thinking of the people of Guatemala where climate change has resulted in extreme weather ravaging the farms of indigenous communities. Our donations can fund vital agricultural training and tools that facilitate climate resilient farming methods, hence protecting their communities from hunger and poverty.

Every Columban magazine has an envelope attached . This can be returned at a church service or to the rectory. Please gift aid your donation if possible, to increase your giving by 25%.

We will once again be doing a delivery only service to the roads/streets in close proximity to the church.

PRE- LOVED SALE OF LADIES CLOTHES AND ACCESSORIES

New for 2025 is a PRE- LOVED SALE OF LADIES CLOTHES and ACCESSORIES on Sat 17th May 2:00 to 5:30pm. Boxes will be located in the church and in the hall in which you can leave your donations of clothes etc. A huge amount of effort has gone into organising this event so please invite your friends and family to come along to make it a great success.

On Sunday 18th May we will bring our Christian Aid week to a close by hosting tea and coffee after the 10.30 service. We will once again sell some delicious homemade produce such as cakes, buns, jam and chutney which were so popular last year.

We need a big group of volunteers to bring this all about so if you wish to help in any way please contact me at the number below.

Thank you for your continued support.

Joyce (07772 128 944)



Pre-Loved sale of Ladies Fashion & Accessories in Church Hall on

Saturday 17th May 2:00 – 5:30

Come along and bring a friend.

Enjoy tea / coffee & homemade treats

Admission by Voluntary Donation
(£5 suggestion) Payment by Cash ONLY





Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Thanks to those who helped prepare the roses as gifts for Mothering Sunday

Hollywood Parish marked their 125th Anniversary with a service of Choral Evensong on 6th April. The preacher, at the service, was Bishop Ken Clarke who grew up in the parish. Canon Gareth Harron introduced the service and our

Bishop delivered the blessing. An exhibition of memorabilia was on display in the hall after the service.

May meeting Tuesday 6th 8.00 pm in the church.

Tea Party Thursday 15th May St Ignatius Carryduff

Saturday 17th May. Christian Aid Pre-loved Sale

Barbara



SUMMER CONCERT

Saturday 28 June at 7.00pm

Following a very successful similar event last year, the Cantors, in a varied programme of music with guest instrumentalists, will present a one hour concert in the church on Saturday 28th June. The concert will be followed by drinks and light refreshments, ideally on the front lawn if the weather is suitable. There will be no admission charge, but there will be retiring collection (gift aid) to support music in the Parish. Please make this event known to friends and the wider community.

Joe Mckee



From the Registers

Our Sorrows

Funeral Services

Friday 11th April

Elizabeth Leslie Mackay

Railway and Model Club

A huge thank you to all who supported us at our Coffee Morning/Exhibition held on the 29th March in the church hall. The support received from the visiting exhibitors and also from friends and family who assisted in various roles during the day was very much appreciated. Visitors to the exhibition were shown Railway layouts from different clubs as well as our own and also a display of Plastic model kits and a range of kits were for sale. The ladies from DAME (Dolls house and Miniature Enthusiasts) displayed an amazing range of handmade creative items on their subject of miniatures. Refreshments were very well received, and the positive comments of the event were most welcome and encouraging. The voluntary donations, boosted by the ballots, teas and sales enabled us to present a sizeable cheque to the Rector for the Hall refurbishment fund. Your support helped a small organisation achieve great things. Thanks again.

John Robb Chairman.





MEN'S FORUM

Already we are now discussing when our season will end. Where's the time gone? With everything that has been going on lately we now find ourselves looking ahead to next season, hopefully with a much fuller programme to be developed than this year has had. Onwards and upwards as they say. We will take this opportunity to say thank you for the support this year and hope you were able to attend the Monday night Holy Week service and avail of the refreshments served by our members on the night. Hopefully you all had a pleasant Easter.

Until next time.

John Robb

SCOUTS



A busy spring term for Scouts at St Columba's saw the investing of 12 new Scouts into the troop in a time-honoured investing ceremony. The new scouts are put through the Scout Promise and Law in the presence of all the other scouts as well as 'emotional' parents and siblings with

the Scoutmaster seeking to ensure that all assembled are well versed with their new responsibilities. We were delighted to have Canon Auchmuty in attendance to keep an eye on proceedings and welcome the new scouts to the troop and to the Parish.

On a lighter note, 46 Scouts and 4 leaders enjoyed a night at the Belfast Giants ice hockey match at the SSE Arena against the Cardiff Devils. The Giants ran out eventual 4-1 winners on the night although it was tight until the very end. Huge buckets of popcorn and trays of cheesy nachos were consumed by Scouts seemingly in an effort to display an ability to eat their own body weight to the disgust of the hungry leaders who forgot to bring pocket money.



Our Scouts have been delighted to assist the Church with parking duties guiding parishioners to the newly acquired facilities at Bloomfield Collegiate School car park off Knockhill Park. It is a lesson for the Scouts to appreciate their own input in assisting the Parish for so willingly hosting

us during the building programme at Knock Presbyterian Church. Scouts were also pleased to provide waiter service for those attending the Parish 'Lent Lunch' and after a briefing from Emma which was something akin to organising the 'D' Day landings, the Scouts set about their tasks with rigour and keen spirit. As Scoutmaster, I was delighted to hear the feedback from those attending at how well mannered and helpful the scouts had been throughout the lunch and how careful they had been during service.



The troop participated and played a prominent role in the Centenary parade from Stormont grounds to Campbell College school for a celebration service of 100 years of scouting in East Belfast. In addition to the attendance of scouting dignitaries our local MP Mr Gavin Robinson and a well known Rector were present to see hundreds of Beavers, Cubs and Scouts on parade behind the pipes, drums and bugles of CCB band. Patrol leader Toby read the new testament scripture and senior patrol leader Connor recited the seven scout laws flawlessly before the packed congregation.



Easter camp is upon us and we trust the recent dry spell will continue sufficiently to permit plenty of scouting fun and skills in the demesne at Saintfield.

Iain

Scoutmaster 4th and 24th Belfast Scouts



"My name is Hazel Macpherson and in July I will be volunteering in Kenya. During my trip to Kenya, I will engage in a variety of activities that support local communities. These include home visits to slum-based families with food packages, street feeding in Nairobi, volunteering at the Kipepeo Home for orphaned and abandoned children, and helping at a rehabilitation home for street boys. I will assist with a rural building project, visit slum schools, and contribute to manual work at the **Jengana** land. I will also participate in Christian activities like church services, prayer, and a Kids' Bible club."

There will be coffee and treats at the back of the church following the 10.30am service on Sunday 11th May. Everyone welcome, it would be great to see you there.

All proceeds will go entirely to the charity.

Many thanks

Hazel Macpherson

Church hall cleaning rota

May 4th

Ian and Christine Johnston

May 18th

Joyce Stevenson and Yvonne Robb





Ladies Guild

At our March meeting we welcomed Carol Noble who spoke to us on behalf of the Alzheimers Society. Her talk gave us an insight into what each of us might do when we know or meet someone suffering from dementia. Carol explained the types and stages of dementia in a positive way leaving us, with perhaps, a new perspective on how we think of the condition and its effects.

A voluntary collection raised £175 which was augmented by a generous donation from Maureen Beckwith of £100 from the sale of marmalade and the addition of a speaker's fee. The total sum sent to the Alzheimers Society was £350. The Committee wishes to thank everyone for their great generosity.

Our next meeting on **May 20th** will be our **AGM** and our speaker will be Brian Clements who will tell us something of his career in the China and Glass field.

I hope you will all be able to attend this last important meeting of our current season.

Eleanor

THANK YOU

I would like to thank everyone at St Columba's for their support after church at the fundraising coffee and traybakes to raise money for my trip to Tanzania this summer with GOMAD. Every pound raised will go directly to the projects we will be working on in Tanzania so we really appreciate your generosity. I would like to thank the Rector in particular, for all his encouragement and support and for allowing me to host this fundraiser. I would also like to thank all those who helped bake the delicious traybakes which went down a treat and finally, I would like to thank all the parishioners who gave generously and for all their kind words of support and encouragement. I look forward to reporting back on my return.

Thank you

Patrick Whiteside



MUMS AND TOTS

We have had a busy term since Christmas welcoming new babies and a new volunteer (Yvonne). We usually have about 20 babies and toddlers and there is a great buzz in the hall of children playing and adults chatting. Barbara has been busy doing crafts - first of all Mother's Day cards and then bunny headbands for Easter.

We will return from our Easter break on 2nd May. New members are always welcome.

Joyce



JUNE 2025 MAGAZINE

Any articles or photographs for publication in the **June** parish magazine should be handed or emailed to the editor, **Billy McAlpine**, by **6 pm Wednesday, 7th May**

His contact details are:-

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

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

Many thanks

PARISH ORGANISATIONS

New members are always welcome at any of our organisations!

Sunday	Sunday School <i>Junior nursery to P5</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 Lavery 9573 8743
Wednesday	Bible Study Group	2.30pm - 4.00pm	Eileen Anderson 9020 3684
	Cubs	6.45pm – 8.15pm	Gareth McAuley 07884411354
	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

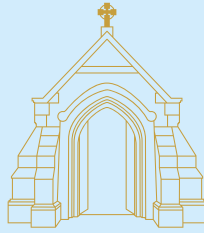
Parish website: www.stcolumbas.down.anglican.org

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 Lavery	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	Michael Sadlier	07801 690234
People's Churchwarden	Mark Wilson	07714 658911
Rector's Glebewarden	Ian Johnston	07850 999909
People's Glebewarden	Iain Hall	07799 474111
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, Rosemary Allister, David Craig, David Kelly, Louise Mercer, John Macpherson, Nigel Morrow, Scott Rutherford, Jim Stevenson, Richard Whiteside	
Honorary Secretary	Martin Moore	07964 422574 martin@mooremj.plus.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 Lavery	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.

