

# The Columban

ST. COLUMBA'S CHURCH, KNOCK, SEPTEMBER 2025



**Friendship  
Fellowship  
and faith**

**Welcomes You Back**



## RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Parishioner,

### A NEW SEASON!

September is a busy and exciting month in St. Columba's as we return recharged, refreshed and ready for a new season of worship and activities. As St Paul reminds us, ***"Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it"*** (1 Corinthians 12:27) This new season brings fresh opportunities, a new Assistant Priest, enhanced facilities and new resources for your benefit. What a good start! I hope you can join us on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September.

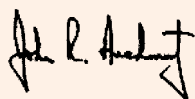
**BELONG** – We give thanks that we belong to a parish which has a beautiful church building in a lovely setting on the Kings Road where all are welcome. Our church logo depicts "An Open Door" where a warm welcome is guaranteed to those who come through it. If you haven't been for a while or don't already belong to the parish this is an ideal time to come along and get involved. Our award-winning magazine "The Columban" is delivered to your home, keeping you up to date with all the parish news!

**CONTRIBUTE** – There are many ways in which you can contribute to preserve and develop St. Columba's for your benefit and also for future generations. This can be done through the giving of your time, talents and finance in a way which is both practical and convenient. I would be delighted to discuss options with you. To assist with financial contributions a Card Payment machine for donations was recently installed at the back of our church.

**ENJOY** – There is so much to enjoy in St. Columba's. Fellowship, friendship and faith are expressed to one another every time we come together and are key features of our parish. There is such a positive atmosphere throughout our parish which we all enjoy. How often the refreshments take longer than the services as we catch up with each other before heading home!

**I look forward to welcoming you back – new parishioners are always welcome to join us!**

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***



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.

## SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>** (Green)

**10.30am** **Holy Communion** *followed by refreshments*

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>** **The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity** (White)

**8.15am** **Holy Communion**

Epistle Philemon 1-21 Paul's letter to Philemon

Read by Alan Boyd

Gospel Luke 14: 25-33 The cost of discipleship

**10.30am** **All Age Worship**  
***with the Commissioning of Parish Leaders*** (Green)

Reading Luke 14: 25-33 The cost of discipleship

Read by Emma Ryan

***Presentation: Patrick Whiteside "Experiences in Tanzania with GoMad"***

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup>** (Green)

**10.30am** **Holy Communion** *followed by refreshments*

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>** **The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity** (Green)

**8.15am** **Holy Communion**

Epistle 1 Timothy 1: 12-17 Gratitude for mercy

Read by Ronny Martin

Gospel Luke 15: 1-10 Parables of the lost sheep and the lost coin

**10.30am** **Holy Communion**

Epistle 1 Timothy 1: 12-17 Gratitude for mercy

Read by Fiona Haldane

Gospel Luke 15: 1-10 Parables of the lost sheep and the lost coin

Intercessions Linda Wilson

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>** (Green)

**10.30am** **Holy Communion** *followed by refreshments*

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> Saint Matthew (Red)**

**8.15am Holy Communion**

Epistle 2 Corinthians 4: 1-6 Treasure in clay jars

Read by Joyce Forsythe

Gospel Matthew 9: 9-13 The calling of Matthew

**10.30am Morning Prayer** *followed by refreshments hosted by Activity Group*

1<sup>st</sup> Reading Proverbs 3: 13-18

The true wealth

Read by Joyce Stevenson

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Matthew 9: 9-13

The calling of  
Matthew

Read by Angela Kerr

Occasional Prayers Clergy

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> (Green)**

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

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity (Green)**

**8.15am Holy Communion**

Epistle 1 Timothy 6: 6-19 The good fight of Faith

Read by Ronny Martin

Gospel Luke 16: 19-31 The rich man and Lazarus

**10.30am Holy Communion**

Reader 1 Timothy 6: 6-19 The good fight of Faith

Read by Josephine Kelly

Gospel Luke 16: 19-31 The rich man and Lazarus

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".***

## OUR NEW ASSISTANT PRIEST

We are delighted to welcome Archdeacon Leslie Stevenson to our clergy team as Assistant Priest!

### **The Rector writes...**

"It is a wonderful privilege for me to welcome Archdeacon Leslie Stevenson, whom I have known for many years, to join us here in St Columba's. We both served our respective curacies at St Mark's, Dundela under the careful direction of Archdeacon Jimmy Moore, who provided us with an excellent training in parish ministry.

Leslie brings a wealth of experience and insight to our parish, and he will be assisting Canon Ken Smyth, Canon Walter Laverty, Karen McAlpine and myself during services as well as visiting you in your homes as part of our monthly Clergy Visiting schedule. I know you will make him very welcome!

The appointment of Archdeacon Stevenson is very timely as Canon Ken Smyth, who is hugely respected in St Columba's, has indicated that he would like to further reduce his commitments from late autumn.

We look forward to welcoming Archdeacon Stevenson and his family on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September at the 10.30am service."

### **Archdeacon Leslie Stevenson writes...**



*"I am honoured that your rector asked me to be an assistant priest. St. Columba's is not a parish I know even though I began ministry, like your rector, not far away in St. Mark's, Dundela. But I do have a connection as my late mum and dad were married in St. Columba's in May 1951. I was brought up in Belfast, going to school in Methody and then onto third level. I was made deacon by Bishop Robin Eames in 1983.*



*I was assistant curate in Dundela for four years before moving to Kilmore and Inch, near Downpatrick, in 1987 as Rector. Thereafter, I served as rector in the parish of Donaghadee before moving to the diocese of Meath and Kildare and the parish of Portarlinton, where I spent the last 26 years until retirement. For part of the time in Meath and Kildare I served as the Archdeacon of the diocese.*

*I am married to Ruth, a pharmacist, who retired on the same day as I did! We have one daughter, Judith, who is presently working as a microbiologist for Pfizer.*

*I am looking forward to becoming a part of the St. Columba's parish community and hopefully getting to know you."*

## **Dedication of Parish Organisation leaders**

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September**

**On Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September, we will be holding the Service of Dedication for our Parish Organisation leaders**

**during the 10.30am All Age Worship Service.**



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

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

# SUNDAY SCHOOL & CRECHE

## Welcome back to Sunday School & Creche!

We hope you have had a very restful summer break. Sunday School and Creche recommences on **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September** at **10.30am** in the Church Hall. We continue with our 2 classes. Our Junior Class is led by Lynn, Rachel, Helen & Emma and is for children from Nursery (age 3) to Primary 5. Our Senior Class is for Primary 6 and over and led by Jayne & Linda. Creche is led by Lindsay and for all children under 3.

We look forward to seeing everyone again, but we also hope to see some new children too – all are most welcome! On 14<sup>th</sup> September, we would like you to come down to the hall after the service to collect the children and hope you can stay for a short time for tea and coffee. It will be an opportunity to meet and chat too.

We will be at the **All Age Worship Service on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September** – it would be great to see you there – do come and say hello!

### Sunday School Dates

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September – All Age Worship**

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September – Sunday School & Creche**

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September – Sunday School & Creche**

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September - Sunday School & Creche**



Lynn





## 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 September:

### Rector

Grangewood Grove, Dundonald  
Greer Park Drive  
Hanwood Avenue  
Holland Drive  
Holland Park  
Kensington Drive  
Kensington Road

### Canon Laverty

Green Road  
Hewitt Parade  
Hillmount Cottages, Moneyreagh  
Houston Road, Crossnacreevy  
Kensington Court  
Kensington Gardens South  
Kilhorne Gardens

## Hospital Visiting

It is always a wonderful privilege for the Rector to visit parishioners when they are in hospital. This is only made possible by keeping the Rector or the Parish Administrator informed of when people are admitted, which ward they are in, and when they are discharged.



***PLEASE HELP US TO HELP YOU by keeping us up to date.*** While we appreciate that this can sometimes slip parishioner's minds in the stress of hospital life and illness, it is important that we are kept up to date so we can schedule visits. St Columba's has a wonderful church family which we always want to help, and *this is only made possible when we are kept informed of changing circumstances.*

Contact: **The Rector:** Tel 028 9047 1514 or email [rectorknock@down.anglican.org](mailto:rectorknock@down.anglican.org) or **Karen Patterson:** Tel 028 9065 6891 Monday- Friday, 9am-1pm or email [office.knock@down.anglican.org](mailto:office.knock@down.anglican.org)

Thank you. **Karen Patterson, Parish Administrator**

## Thought for the Month

This month I reach a milestone – no, not a significant birthday – but 30 years in teaching. What makes it even more special is that I'm still in the same school. I've taught various ages and I'm now in Literacy

Learning Support. I always knew I wanted to be a teacher. Early in my career, I remember being asked "What do you do?". I replied: "I teach". The person responded by saying how refreshing it was to hear that, rather than "I'm a teacher". It has remained with me ever since, especially during challenging times, and reminds me why I am in education.



Lynn Ryan

I am also the music coordinator, a role I thoroughly enjoy. Music plays a huge part in my life. I play various instruments and sing. Many of my family are musicians; I first met my husband Mark when we sang together at a concert in Bangor Abbey (I don't remember, much to

his annoyance!). Our daughter Emma also plays the flute and piano. My experiences of music in my own education are what has inspired me when taking the choir and orchestra. Music is an area that every child can participate in. I have heard it said many times how children remember the concerts, productions etc. I agree – I still have vivid memories of my own school concerts, Carol Services and choir trips to sing in many of the cathedrals in England. I still enjoy visiting cathedrals on holiday! I always try to ensure those children in my school choirs and music groups have fun and make memories.

Education is always changing. It can be hard, but it is how you deal with change that makes the difference. While still loving traditional choral music, I do look for upbeat songs for the school choir which I enjoy teaching. You always hope you have helped children in any way possible, no matter how small. Nevertheless, you learn to adapt to changing times. I am about to go through my 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> curriculum review and digital technology is now an integral part of education. I am now teaching children whose parents I remember as pupils at

the school. While it makes me feel a little old, I see it as a privilege that they are happy to send their own children to the school. However, let's hope I'm not asked if I remember a grandparent!

So, no matter what changes are around the corner in education, I will continue to teach, and it is as rewarding now as it was 30 years ago.

**Lynn**

*Our sincere thanks to Lynn for sharing this 'Thought' with us.  
The October 'Thought for the Month' will be written by Iain Hall.*

## From the Registers

### Our Joys

#### Holy Baptism

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June      James Clarke Scott

### Our Sorrows

#### Funeral Services

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June      Harold Dermot McKee

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July      Barry Eoin Kelly

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> August      John Knox Gass

## SEPTEMBER FLOWER ROTA

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>**      Barbara Laverty

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>**      Esther Templeton

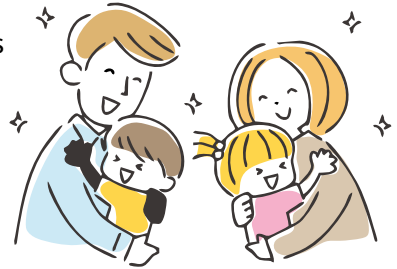
**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>**      Roger and Yvonne Beatty

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>**      Margaret McConkey

## MUMS AND TOTS

I hope all our Tots and families have had a great summer. We look forward to welcoming them back on Friday 5th September along with new babies and tots from 10am - 11.30.

Our lovely team of volunteers have just completed a cleaning / tidy up session in preparation for the new school year and I thank them for all their hard work and dedication.



All children from new born babies to 3year olds are warmly welcome with their parents/ grandparents or minders.  
Looking forward to lots of fun on Friday mornings.

**Joyce ( 07772 128 944)**



## Ladies Guild

Our lovely warm Summer has been and gone and it is time, once more, to think about our Autumn/Winter activities. I hope that all our members have had a chance to enjoy the (unexpected) good weather and were able to spend relaxing days with friends and family.

The opening meeting of the Guild will be on **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September** at 2.30pm in the Church. The yearly subscription will remain at £12 with a donation of £1 per meeting for tea. Please return your envelope as soon as possible.

Our Speaker will be Rosemary Hamilton who will speak to us about the Amish Community, a traditional Christian group, who live primarily in Pennsylvania. Some of you may have encountered them on a visit to USA.

The Committee looks forward to welcoming you all back and we invite you to bring along a friend or family member too. A warm welcome awaits!

**Eleanor**

## PAUSE

I hope that every reader of The Columban will have had time to relax and enjoy the Summer, whether at home or away.

Autumn is here and the children have returned to school ready for the new academic year. Parish organisations have begun or about to do so very soon. As usual PAUSE continued throughout July and August. In September we will meet on

**Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> September at 10.30am for refreshments in the Castlereagh hills Golf Club.**

**Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> September at 10.30am for tea/coffee and scones in The Poet.**

All are welcome.

If you require further details or help with transport please contact me at 02890203684.

**Eileen**

## ACTIVITY GROUP

During the summer months the Activity Group have continued to meet up to enjoy walks in the vicinity of the church and further afield . We would normally follow our walk with a visit to a coffee shop which was not always easy to find at 8 o'clock in the evening. Mauds cafe at Ballyhackamore did come to the rescue on a number of occasions.



We will finish our summer outings with a visit to Templemore Baths where many of our members learned to swim followed, of course, by a coffee and something sweet.

We will be back in the hall on Tuesday 9th September to resume playing badminton and scrabble followed by lots of chat over tea / coffee.

**Yvonne and Joyce**

## Art Club

Hello everyone, it's hard to believe we're in the middle of August already!

This year, the Art Club will end the holidays with an excursion to Crawfordsburn Country Park, on Thursday 28th August at 10 am, where members will have the opportunity to do outdoor painting and create landscape artworks using various media. We anticipate an enjoyable outing, subject to favourable weather conditions.

The Autumn term will commence on 11th September with our Annual General Meeting, where members can also display their own work. It promises to be a productive day, and we look forward to many engaging meetings in the months ahead.

If anyone is interest in joining us at the Art Club, please give me a call for more information.

Regards Carole. (07979093956)



## St Columba's and European Heritage Open Days

We are looking forward to participating in The European Heritage Open Days due to take place on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of September. The theme is ***"Heritage and Architecture: Windows to the Past, Doors to the Future"***, which will explore how historic buildings, structures, and landscapes shape our communities - preserving the past while inspiring the future. This event invites people to explore various heritage sites across Europe, celebrating the rich cultural history.

**The event ties in beautifully with our "Open Door to Friendship, Fellowship and Faith" logo, as well as being a wonderful opportunity for people to explore our beautiful church building.**

We look forward to welcoming visitors and also to visiting local venues during these two wonderful days!

**If you can with assist with stewarding, please sign the list at the back of church. Thank you.**

**The Rector**



# Prayers for your thoughts and comfort



While most readers will have enjoyed the benefits of lengthy warm summer days, the gradual reduction in daylight hours is a gentle reminder that the autumn beckons. In fact, September in the Irish language – Mean Fomhair – means ‘mid-autumn.’

September can be a colourful month. Indeed we may be fortunate to enjoy an Indian summer!

The month marks the beginning of a school year and a period when many parish and community activities resume. This is recognised in the subject matter of some prayers.

During the summer a number of racial and sectarian incidents occurred in Northern Ireland. Such actions should have no place in our society. Constantly at services and in this section of the Columban, we pray for reconciliation and peace. Of course, such prayers are not confined to our land. We are aware on a daily basis of the misery and suffering of people in Gaza, Ukraine and Sudan, to name but three areas featured by the media. Our prayers need to be directed towards all leaders and any who may be able to contribute to a just and lasting peace.

In preparing this section each month, it is evident that many other topics could be included. Should you have any suggestions, please bring those to the rector.

Hopefully, you will find some of the subjects and issues featured this month helpful and thought provoking, maybe assisting you with your daily prayers.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Creation**

Lord God, the creator and sustainer of life, we thank you that the beauty evident in our world, and the love that created it, can be expressed through our lives, and be a blessing to others, at this season and always. **Amen**

## **Early Autumn**

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

## **All seasons in life**

Lord, from the rising of the sun to its setting, guide us  
From our birth to our death, lead us  
In our grief and sorrow, comfort us  
In our joy and celebration, uplift us  
From the beginning of our lives to their ending  
Encompass us with love. **Amen**

## **Prayer of Hope**

Lord, when evil darkens our world, give us light  
When despair numbs our souls, give us hope  
When we stumble and fall, lift us up.  
When doubts assail us, give us faith.  
When nothing seems sure, give us trust.  
When ideals fail, give us vision.  
When we lose our way, be our guide.  
So that we may find peace in your presence and purpose in doing your will. **Amen**

### **Thoughts for every day and every season**

'As long as the earth endures, seed time and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, will never cease.' *Genesis 8 v.22*

'There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the heavens.' *Ecclesiastes 3 v.1*

'Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sister, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.' *James 1 v 2&3*

'Faith is confidence in what we hope for, and assurance about what we do not see.' *Hebrews 11v.1*

### **Prayer for Schools**

Lord Jesus, we pray for teachers and students, including young pupils beginning their education, as they commence a new year. May the classroom and schools be places where joy, patience, kindness and self-control, flourish. Grant to teachers at all stages, energy, creativity and an abundance of compassion. Protect their physical and mental health as they strive to create safe places of learning. Give to students, a sense of direction as they prepare for what lies ahead. We ask it in your name. **Amen**

### **Parish and Community Organisations**

Thanks be to God for those who are willing to serve in our parish organisations, including Sunday schools, and also all who contribute to healthy activities in our community. Give leaders and all who assist, the sense that they are valued, and supported in what they undertake. May all participants experience a welcome, and a growing confidence that they are members of a caring parish and community, committed to doing your will. **Amen**

### **All age groups in our parish**

Grant God, that in our parish, its activities and worship, the younger may respect the traditions of the older, and the older may understand the impatience of the younger, so that all may share together in your service and recognise that we are one in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### **Community Relations**

God of the nations, we pray for people of every race and creed who live in our community. May all of us enrich one another's lives and benefit our society. Help us to challenge and dispel any prejudice that may exist. As Christians, make us aware that you broke down the dividing walls resulting from intolerance and fear, and unite us in ensuring that all can live together in security, harmony and peace. **Amen**

### **World Peace**

Lord, we pray for peace in a divided and disordered world where many are victims of violence and civil unrest. Give us the vision to see and the faith to believe in a world emancipated from violence. Help leaders and all people of good will and influence to affirm our common humanity, so that, in our differences, we may attempt to build together for justice and peace. **Amen**  
*(Readers may wish to pray for individual countries and people)*

### **Finally .....reminders of resilience and perseverance**

'When you go through deep waters, I will be with you.' *Isaiah 43 v2*

'The darkest hour is just before the dawn.'

'If you can't control what's happening to you, control how you respond.'

'Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.'  
*Romans 12 v 12*





## MEN'S FORUM

Our new season is upon us already and I trust you all had a good break and are looking forward to renewing friendships from the end of last season. My first article of the new season starts with a repeat of the plea at the end of last season. We are hoping to attract new members to join our small dedicated

group. There are no specific skills required to join us. We are a friendly group and guarantee a warm welcome to any visitor who wishes to pop in for a chat and refreshments. We have a varied programme and intend to host a few talks or demonstrations on different subjects. Details will be posted on the notice boards and website once confirmed. So, please remember Monday evenings in the Church hall starting from 7.30. Every Monday in September will be classed as open nights allowing anyone interested in coming along and trying out some of our activities. More details if required can be obtained from myself at the number and e-mail listed below.

**John Robb**

**07956061929 [john.robby@gmail.com](mailto:john.robby@gmail.com)**





**On Thursday mornings at 10.30am**, there is a 30-minute Holy Communion service which takes place in the Side Chapel. This reflective service, similar to the 8.15am Holy Communion services on Sunday mornings, includes Prayers for the Sick, where we pray for all those on our parish Prayerchain. This service also includes a short “Thought for the Day”, and it is followed by refreshments at the back of church. If you are free, please come along and join us. There is a wonderful feeling of friendship and fellowship, and we promise that you will be warmly welcomed. If you have not been before, the summer months are the ideal opportunity to come along and see for yourself – (often, the refreshments last longer than the service!).

We look forward to you joining us!

**The Rector**

## Church Projector Screen



The church projector screen is in frequent use by organisations and those giving presentations in church and is a valuable piece of equipment for us. Our current projector screen is sadly in need of an update due to wear and tear, and we would be most grateful for any expressions of interest from parishioners and groups who would consider contributing together or as individuals to help us replace this screen.

If this is something you would like to help us with, please speak to the Rector for more information: 028 9047 1514

or email: [rectorknock@down.anglican.org](mailto:rectorknock@down.anglican.org)

Thank you for your consideration.



As summer continues to put on an extravagant display a little judicious pruning in the garden is encouraging more blooms. I have been enjoying all the scents of summer this year, the warmer spring has delivered a profusion of flowers! I hope you have all had a chance to sit back and appreciate all that nature has had to offer.

The following information was circulated on 14<sup>th</sup> July by the Faith and Policy Trustee for Down and Dromore, Roberta Macartney: -

- The All-Ireland Holy Communion Service was hosted by Armagh Dioceses in St. Andrew's Church Killyman on 7<sup>th</sup> August.
- A Prayer Walk to celebrate Mary Sumner Day 9<sup>th</sup> August that took place in Tobar Mhuire, Crossgar.
- Our next meeting will be in October; details will be published in church and the parish magazine.

**Barbara**



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

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

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

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

Thank you.

# Cashless Giving

*From The Parish Finance Team*

St Columba's Finance Committee has introduced a new form of giving for the convenience of both parishioners and visitors. Cashless giving is now possible, by card or phone, on a terminal at the back of church.

The system is very simple to use – just like presenting your card in a shop. It is currently set up for tea/coffee purchases and free will offerings. If the latter, it is possible to gift aid your donation by entering your name, email address and post code (which the machine remembers for future giving). Any giving in this way will be included in your annual statement from the parish administrator.

We hope you find this a convenient addition to parish administration, and a helpful way of keeping us up-to-date in a fast changing world.

**Brian Acheson**

Hon. Treasurer

**Nigel Morrow**

Finance Committee



## OCTOBER 2025 MAGAZINE

Articles or photographs for publication in the October edition of the parish magazine should be handed or emailed to the editor, **Billy McAlpine**, by 6 pm **Wednesday, 10th September**. 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

Officially we are again open for business as they say on September 11<sup>th</sup>. Although we will admit we never stopped. Members have been accessing the rooms during the summer break and tinkering with their own specific projects. We are this season undertaking a major revamp of our large layout anchored in what was our very first club room when formed over 10 years ago. We intend to reduce its size and alter the layout to allow more space in the room for other projects. Progress updates will be placed in the Columban. We also have been out and about supporting various Model Club exhibitions across Northern Ireland. Most recently will have been the Ulster Model Railway Club who hosted their large exhibition in RBAI for the first time ever on August 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Details of that visit will be posted in our next article. September will see some members visiting the Exhibition held by the Erne Model Railway Club in St McCartan's church hall in Enniskillen.

Our doors are always open each Wednesday afternoon from 2.30 to 4.30pm. A warm welcome awaits (and a cuppa) for anyone who cares to drop in and see what we are about. We have been blessed with the generosity of parishioners and outside contacts who have kindly donated many items for use in our club. We would ask anyone who wishes to donate items at any time to please contact myself first of all. We have found many a bag or box of railway items set against our clubroom door with no indication of who they were from. Always nice to know who has left them.

We look forward to seeing you in our clubroom set in the lower hall.

John Robb. 07956061929 E-mail [john.robb@ymail.com](mailto:john.robb@ymail.com)



## WORKING OVERSEAS FOR CHARITIES

As a busy and generous parish, we consider the work of our younger people as very important, enriching their lives and helping others. We enjoy their engagement during our church services, and also when they provide us with presentations following their experiences working overseas on various projects.

During 2024-2025, we were delighted to support **Lucy Armstrong, Patrick Whiteside and Hazel Macpherson**, both financially and by active encouragement, to fulfil their charitable work overseas, and to report back to us on their experiences. **Patrick will be sharing his experiences with us on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September, and Hazel will be sharing her experiences with us at our 11.00am Harvest service, prior to the Harvest Lunch in the hall. We look forward to hearing from them!**

I would like to encourage more young people to engage with overseas work, through schools or missions, and we would be delighted to continue supporting them financially and prayerfully. This is extremely important work, supported by parishioners, to change not only the lives of those who benefit from the financial aid, but for the life experiences and development of our young people.

Please contact me on 028 9047 1514 or email: [rectorknock@down.anglican.org](mailto:rectorknock@down.anglican.org) if you are about to engage in any activities in this way. Thank you.

**The Rector**



### Church hall cleaning rota

**September 6<sup>th</sup>** Nan Hillier and Isobel McDowell

**September 20<sup>th</sup>** Jayne and Ronnie Martin



Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October  
2025

following the  
11.00am All Age  
Worship service

Tickets available  
for catering purposes only

**Voluntary donations for Church Hall  
Refurbishment Fund.**

# SCOUTS



Although scouts set off for camp on the 28th June there had been significant planning of programme, transport and assembly of equipment well before the minibuses revved up and zoomed off to the Dublin ferry. For that, the teamwork of scouts and leaders cannot be understated and it is the 'be prepared' attitude that enables any camp to have the opportunity to be successful.

A party of 25 scouts, forming 5 patrols accompanied by 6 adult leaders arrived at Cox Wood near Wrexham in fine fettle and ready for what the 'outdoors' had in store. A campsite with abundant birch and beech wood supplies made the foraging for cooking material relatively comfortable and after setting up tents and kitchen shelters with tables made from pioneering poles the patrols were well set for the camp's competition.

Throughout the camp the patrols are tested on their scouting skills, food and personal hygiene, care for their kit and the ability not to poison the scout leaders with cremated offerings from the frying pans.

An eventful programme saw the camp travel to Zipworld for several hours underground in the former Welsh slate mines. Clambering up slate walls and then rushing feet first along meters of zip line to the next platform. This was an excellent adrenaline filled afternoon.







A sunny Monday morning saw our traditional hike during camp. Some testing climbs and heavy breathing by the more mature leaders culminated with a triumphal arrival at the summit of Moel Famau and Mad King George's jubilee tower.

Great excitement met the camp arrival at Alton Towers theme park where, despite the length of the queue's, scouts enjoyed many rides and many more sugar

filled snacks. This energetic engagement by scouts made this trip to Wales one of the most successful we've had and memories and friendships created to last into adulthood.

I am so glad to have a hearty team of dedicated, witty and enthusiastic leaders willing to impart knowledge, skills, discipline and fun to the troop not just at camp, but weekly in the halls and grounds of St Columba's.

Our reward is returning scouts back to the arms of their parents after camp in one piece regaling stories of adventure, fun and friendships.

### **Iain**

Scoutmaster

4th and 24th Belfast Scouts





On behalf of the Belfast Missions to Seafarers Centre we wish to thank most sincerely all those parishioners who so generously donated Mens' Clothing following the appeal made by the Rector on Sea Sunday. We were overwhelmed by the response. All the clothes were transported immediately and added greatly to restocking the rails. The number of seafarers using the Centre has been increasing and because of that, demand has risen, causing stock to be depleted more rapidly. As we head into cooler days you can be assured that all your donations will be put to good use.

Thank you

**Geoff and Eleanor**



During October your new church envelopes for 2026 will be delivered.

**PLEASE STORE THESE CAREFULLY! THESE ARE ONLY FOR USE IN 2026.** Please do not use 2025 envelopes during 2026 – any unused envelopes must be destroyed at the end of December as your number may have changed for 2026.

We will be holding our Harvest Sunday Lunch on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October following the **11.00am Harvest Service**. Hazel Macpherson will be sharing details of her trip to Kenya with *Jengana* during the service.

Tickets (for catering purposes only) will be available to collect during September from the back of church.

Don't forget that the clocks also go back on Sunday 26th October!

Thank you.

**Karen Patterson**

**Parish Administrator**

# PARISH ORGANISATIONS

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

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

# WHO'S WHO IN ST. COLUMBAS

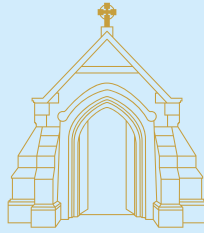
Parish website: [www.stcolumbas.down.anglican.org](http://www.stcolumbas.down.anglican.org)

<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>	Michael Sadlier	07801 690234
<b>People's Churchwarden</b>	Mark Wilson	07714 658911
<b>Rector's Glebewarden</b>	Ian Johnston	07850 999909
<b>People's Glebewarden</b>	Iain Hall	07799 474111
<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, Rosemary Allister, David Craig, David Kelly, Louise Mercer, John Macpherson, Nigel Morrow, Scott Rutherford, Jim Stevenson, Richard Whiteside	
<b>Honorary Secretary</b>	Martin Moore	07964 422574 <a href="mailto:martin@mooremj.plus.com">martin@mooremj.plus.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>	<b>Karen Patterson</b> <b>Office hours: Monday to Friday</b> <b>9.00am-1.00pm</b>	 <b>028 9065 6891</b> <b><a href="mailto:office.knock@down.anglican.org">office.knock@down.anglican.org</a></b>

### **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.

