

The Columban

ST. COLUMBA'S CHURCH, KNOCK, NOVEMBER 2025



In Remembrance



RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Parishioner,

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 9TH NOVEMBER

When we gather in St. Columba's on Remembrance Sunday, we will be joining people throughout the world in their places of worship and at war memorials to give thanks for all those who have made the supreme sacrifice for us, and to remember them. During our service we will give thanks for their great selflessness and courage which brought us peace.

How easy we can forget if we don't use this time to pause to remember. That is the reason our Remembrance Day service is so important. It is a very poignant service with powerful readings, prayers and music, incorporating the two-minute silence. It was King George V who called for this silence on the first Armistice Day in 1919 at the end of World War One, requesting that all activities should cease so that ***"in perfect stillness, the thoughts of everyone may be concentrated on reverent remembrance of the glorious dead"***. This has become such a powerful part of Remembrance Day services.

This silence, which begins with the Bugler playing ***The Last Post*** from the Baptistry and concludes with ***Reveille***, provides a personal opportunity for us all to express our thankfulness for those who gave their lives in the cause of our freedom. Amongst them are our predecessors from St. Columba's whose names are contained in the Rolls of Honour and also Constable Mark Evans who was killed whilst serving with the RUC in

Pomeroy in 1981.

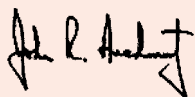
There are situations when, despite our best efforts, we are unable to find the necessary words to express our deep gratitude for those who “*gave their tomorrows for our todays*” and to have the strength to persevere in our prayers for peace and reconciliation throughout the world. It is at times such as these that we value immensely the opportunities which we gain from observing silence.

As we stand together representing different generations in the congregation, may the Two- Minute Silence provide a timely opportunity for us to encounter God afresh in the stillness, as we remember those who made the supreme sacrifice, and then to go forward from the service “to live and work to God’s praise and glory.”

As we will be singing in Psalm 46 at the beginning of the service:

“Be still, and know that I am God;”

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 NOVEMBER

Sunday 2nd The Fourth Sunday before Advent (Green)

8.15am Holy Communion
 Epistle 2 Thessalonians 1: 1-4, 11-12 Thanksgiving
 Read by Elizabeth Leonard
 Gospel Luke 19: 1-10 Jesus and Zacchaeus

10.30am All Age Worship *followed by refreshments*
 Reading Luke 19: 1-10 Jesus and Zacchaeus
 Read by Alexandru Brown

4.00pm A Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving for Those Who Have Died

Thursday 6th All Saints Day (Transferred) (White)

10.30am Holy Communion *followed by refreshments*

Sunday 9th Remembrance Sunday (Green)

8.15am Holy Communion
 Epistle Romans 8: 31-39 God's love in Christ Jesus
 Read by Joyce Forsythe
 Gospel John 15: 9-17 Commandment of Love
10.30am Morning Prayer with Act of Remembrance
 1st Reading Ezekiel 37: 1-14 The valley of dry bones
 Read by Michael Sadlier
 2nd Reading John 15: 9-17 Commandment of Love
 Read by Mark Wilson
 Occasional Prayers Clergy

Thursday 13th (Green)

10.30am Holy Communion *followed by refreshments*

Sunday 16th The Second Sunday before Advent (Green)

8.15am Holy Communion
 Epistle 2 Thessalonians 3: 6-13 Warning against Idleness
 Read by Patrick Good
 Gospel Luke 21: 5-19 The destruction of the Temple foretold

10.30am Morning Prayer *followed by refreshments hosted by Ladies Guild*
 1st Reading Isaiah 65: 17-25 The Glorious New Creation
 Read by Eleanor Launchbury

The destruction of the Temple foretold

Read by Caroline Auchmuty
Occasional Prayers:

Clergy

(Green)

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

(White)

8.15am Holy Communion

Epistle Colossians 1: 11-20 The supremacy of Christ

Read by Alan Boyd

Gospel Luke 23: 33-43

10.30am Holy Communion

Epistle Colossians 1: 11-20 The supremacy of Christ

Read by John Macpheson

Gospel Luke 23: 33-43 The crucifixion of Christ

Intercessions Elizabeth Leonard

(Purple)

10.30am Holy Communion *followed by refreshments*

(Purple)

8.15am Holy Communion

Epistle Romans 13: 11-14 An urgent appeal

Read by Joyce Forsythe

Gospel Matthew 24: 36-44 The necessity for watchfulness

10.30am Morning Prayer

1st Reading Isaiah 2: 1-5 The future house of God

Read by John Kerr

2nd Reading Matthew 24: 36-44 The necessity for watchfulness

Read by: Clare Best

Occasional Prayers Clergy

7.00pm Advent Carol Service

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".

LEST WE FORGET

During the years of the First World War, 48 parishioners from St. Columba's served in H.M. Forces, the vast majority in the Army. Tragically, twelve did not return, a truly horrific rate of attrition. The names of both the fallen and the survivors are shown on the memorial plaque in the south transept where, in 1919, the beautiful memorial window was erected to their eternal glory. No less than three MC's, one MM and one DFC were awarded for gallantry. In the Second World War, reflecting its far greater global reach, 120 parishioners from St. Columba's served in HM Forces, not only in the Army but also in the Royal Air Force, the Royal Navy, the Merchant Navy, the Women's Royal Naval Service, the Auxiliary Territorial Service and the Women's Auxiliary Air Force. Tragically, twelve also did not return, eight from the ranks of the Royal Air Force alone, as high a rate of attrition as that suffered by those parishioners who served in the army during the First World War.

St. Columba's Roll of Honour in two World Wars, inscribed on the front two pillars of the nave, reads as follows:

1914-1918

John Burke

Arthur Denman Deane

Thomas Brignall Elliot

Henry Hurst Hooton

Ian Campbell McCormick

Harold McCormick

Robert B. Nelson

William Nelson

John Purvis

Adam Rodgers

William Hubert Unsworth

Gilbert Watson Webb



1939-1945

Alexander Spence Craig

Robert Aubrey Alexander Doherty

Maurice David Green

James Carnegie Harris

A. R. Hill

Michael Christopher Hind

Hugh Graham Montgomery

Reginald Norman Morgan

Charles McConnell

Alexander McFarland

J. H. Rice

Dilworth Norman Turner

In more recent times, Constable William Mark Evans was killed on 7th September 1981 whilst serving with the RUC in Pomeroy, and his name is displayed on a memorial glass case towards the rear of the church.

Mindful of all current ongoing military operations, let us pause on Remembrance Sunday to remember those men and women who, in countless conflicts, made the ultimate sacrifice for their country and for our freedom. We also remember all worldwide victims of war, brutality, terror and oppression. Let us above all pray for those valiant young men who set forth from this parish in those dark and storm filled days, never to return home nor see their loved ones again.

They knew their duty and they died for it

LET US HONOUR THEIR MEMORY

A Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving for Those Who Have Died

Sunday 2nd November at 4.00pm.

All Souls' Day is known liturgically as the Commemoration of All Faithful Departed and is used to remember those known to us who have died or are dying. This year to make this service available to as many people as possible, it will take place on **Sunday 2nd November at 4pm.**

Last year we celebrated our second All Souls' Day Service, which was very well supported and deeply appreciated by those in attendance.

It is a short reflective service with quiet music, where the church lights are dimmed, and provides an opportunity to light candles for those whom we wish to remember.

Upon arrival, you will be provided with paper and invited to write the name(s) of people known to you who have died, and these names will be read out during the service. This will be a very personal aspect of our worship as we specifically remember those who have died.

Everyone is welcome to join us for this most poignant service.

THE RECTOR

PRAYER is an extremely important aspect of our Christian worship. It is our private way to connect with God on a personal level. We encourage you to spend time in prayer every day, as the power of prayer should never be underestimated.

Each month, Canon Ken Smyth carefully prepares a wonderful "prayer pull-out" for our Columban magazine, to assist you with your personal devotions.

Liz McCaughey prepares a list of people we pray for, which is read during prayers at our 10.30am Thursday morning Holy Communion service. If you would like to join the prayer chain, or have someone whom you feel prayers would be beneficial for, please contact Liz on 07849 554079



DID YOU KNOW?

It costs **£4000 per week** to run our parish

- Costs have increased by **43%** in the past 5 years
- Our **income** has **NOT** kept pace with rising costs
- By 2030 if we do nothing the forecast deficit would leave **NOTHING** in our general fund.

BUT – We DO want to do something and with YOUR help we can.

Our Vestry and its finance team want to nip any potential financial challenges in the bud and future proof the parish so that we can continue to heat, light and clean the church, pay our clergy and staff and do all the everyday tasks needed to keep our wonderful church buildings and parish ticking over.

We do appreciate that members of our congregation push the boat out when it comes to special, unique and expensive projects such as a new Church roof or hall refurbishments. For all that help and support we are eternally grateful.

However, it's important to keep the ordinary wheels turning now and for future generations.

Our treasurer Brian has created a simple graphic to illustrate what our everyday finances are used for and how costs have increased since 2020. Take time to have a look at these very useful financial charts.

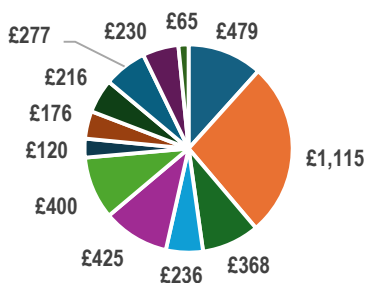
SO HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- **Make a % increase on your standing order – even a small amount will help**
- **If you currently don't give – please consider setting up a standing order**
- **Add a little bit extra to your church envelopes**
- **Make use of our smart new 'cashless giving' machine at the back of the church - 'every so often' donations will be a huge help**

Thank-you so much – we really appreciate it!

from the Select Vestry...

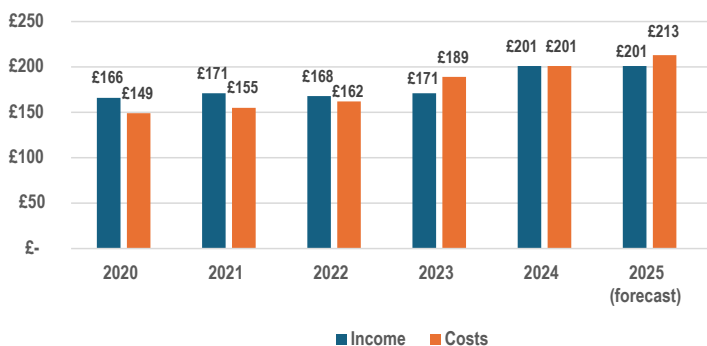
It Costs over £4,000 per week to run the parish



- Lay Employees
- Clergy Costs
- Employer Costs
- Rates
- Heat, Light, Water
- Property Repairs
- Cleaning
- Administration
- Printing & Stationery
- Diocesan Support
- Music & Worship
- Fees & Charges

**Costs have increased 43% in the last 5 years, income has not kept up
The forecast deficit in 2025 would fully deplete our General Fund within
the next 5 years**

Published Accounts, Unrestricted Funds (£000s)



Leader's Meeting

The Annual Meeting of Organisation Leaders took place on Wednesday 17th September at 8pm in the Choir Vestry. The leaders heard from Jim Stevenson about general housekeeping, use of the halls and heating, fire safety and security on the premises. Parish Administrator Karen Patterson discussed use of the Parish Office for printing and copying, posters etc with a lead time of 2 weeks. At this busy time of year, you may not be aware of the many tasks being performed by Karen, and the Rector reminded everyone that "last minute" was not an option! She also discussed the importance of Data Protection and how it is very important to understand the processes, with focus on the safe storage and use of data.

Dr Elizabeth Leonard discussed First Aid kits and reporting to her when items were removed, use of the accident book and what to do in an emergency, including looking after the injured as top priority. She also explained that the Defibrillator is accessed by ringing 999 first, and the emergency services will provide the code and instructions required to use the device. She discussed Safeguarding Trust, reminding everyone that training **MUST** take place every 3 years for all leaders, and how to report any incidents via the Rector in the first instance.

Questions were raised and addressed, and the meeting concluded with prayer.

Thank you to everyone who attended!



NOVEMBER FLOWER ROTA

Sunday 2nd	Vivien Stewart
Sunday 9th	REMEMBRANCE
Sunday 16th	John and Helen Proctor
Sunday 23rd	Eileen Anderson
Sunday 30th	The Launchbury Family

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 November:

Rector

Knocklofty Park
Knocklofty Court
Knockvale Grove
Lochinver Park
Martinez Avenue
Massey Green

The Ven. Leslie Stevenson

Knockdene Park
Knockdene Park South
Knockdene Park North
Castlehill Road

Canon Laverty

Knockwood Crescent
Lacefield
Lisleen Road
Manna Grove
Massey Avenue
Massey Court

PASTORAL SUPPORT



The Clergy would appreciate being informed if parishioners are in hospital, are being transferred or if they have been discharged, and will be pleased to offer them pastoral support. *Please do not assume that they already know this information.*

Please telephone the Rector (028 9047 1514) to enable him to take careful notes of the details. Thank you.

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.



SUNDAY SCHOOL & CRECHE

Welcome back to Sunday School & Creche!

Thank you to all those from Sunday School who read at our Harvest Service. The Harvest crafts and decorations displayed in church were lovely and I want to thank our Sunday School team for all their hard work in helping the children to make them. Over the next few weeks, we will be practising a song to perform at December's All Age Worship as well as putting on a version of The Christmas Story. The children will also begin Christmas crafts. It would be lovely to see as many children as possible out on the dates listed below.

2nd November – All Age Worship

9th November – Sunday School & Creche

16th November - Sunday School & Creche

23rd November - Sunday School & Creche

30th November - Sunday School & Creche

Looking forward to seeing everyone!

Lynn



DEFIBRILLATOR

A defibrillator has been installed in the church grounds, beside the hedge on the Kings Road. It is in a secured cabinet and Emergency Services have been provided with the entry code to the safe box it is housed in. Training will be available soon for those who require it.



ALWAYS RING 999 BEFORE USE

- the access code will be provided by emergency services and will activate medical responders immediately.

The LIFEPAK CR2 defibrillator is an automated external defibrillator (AED). For many years, defibrillators have been used by medical professionals to treat patients in sudden cardiac arrest. Today, the ability of defibrillators to save lives is so widely recognized that AEDs are being made available in public spaces worldwide.



After electrode pads are applied to the patient's chest, the defibrillator analyses the patient's heart rhythm. If a shockable rhythm is detected, the defibrillator will deliver shocks through the electrode pads on the patient's chest. This can preserve life until medical assistance arrives. The device provides full, clear instructions on how to use it. Speed is essential and the device will advise if chest compressions or rescue breaths are required, as well as helping to time the compressions by "tocking" each compression.



Thought for the Month

Thought for the Month: Can a Robot Pray? *Exploring faith, technology and what makes us truly human.*

Over the past year, you may have noticed a lot of talk about Artificial Intelligence – or AI for short. It means computers or machines that can do things we normally think need human brains – like learning, solving problems, recognising pictures or voices, or having conversations.

You have probably already used AI (maybe without even realising it). Below are a few ways AI helps many of us day to day:

- **Smartphones and tablets** – when your phone corrects your spelling or suggests the next word as you type, that's AI.
- **Voice assistants** – devices like Alexa or Siri can answer questions, tell you the weather and set reminders.
- **Navigation apps** – Google Maps or SatNav systems use AI to find the quickest route and warn you about traffic or roadworks.
- **TV and streaming services** – when you are recommended shows based on what you have watched before – that's AI at work.

Personally, I use AI daily – from my job advising clients on business transformation to helping the pressures of busy family life by using it to help organise holidays, create itineraries, plan weekly meals and produce shopping lists.

Some people find the potential of AI exciting; others find it worrying. But either way, it makes us think deeply about what it means to be human.

Whilst AI can process vast amounts of information and produce clever results – it doesn't feel love, wonder, or compassion. It can imitate creativity, but it can't experience joy. It can write a prayer, but it cannot pray.

Maybe this new age of AI is a chance to rediscover some old truths: that wisdom matters more than knowledge, that love matters more than cleverness, and that every one of us has something no computer can ever replace – a living, God-given soul.

So, as we read the headlines about AI, I asked it to provide a final thought for this article:

"Lord, thank you for giving us hearts that can love, create and care.

Help us to use every tool – even the clever ones – for good, and to live life with compassion and joy."



Lindsay Rothwell

Whether you love technology or find it baffling, I hope this piece makes you think about what really makes us who we are and that real wisdom, kindness, and faith come from people, not machines.

Picture of our family holiday to France – AI helped us find a campsite based on certain criteria (close to airport, beach, toddler friendly – amongst other things!)



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

The December/January 'Thought for the Month' will be written by Linda Jeffers.

Charity & Mission Allocations for 2025

Many families use their envelopes from their pack of church envelopes to very generously assist with our Charity and Mission donations, as part of the outreach from St Columba's in our local community. Each year, the Select Vestry meet to select the charities which we support, and each charity selected will receive an equal share of the money collected in 2025. The money is divided equally into around 7 or so charities, and the balance then goes to our local Marie Curie at Kensington Road as the eighth charity.



If you are involved in any particular charity which you would like the Select Vestry to consider, please contact the Rector with your suggestion and some details of your involvement, so that we can make a balanced decision.

Please speak to the Rector before Sunday 9th November for your charity to be considered at the Select Vestry meeting in November.

Thank you.

GUEST CONCERT

Please look out your diaries and save this date. On Tuesday 9th of December St Columba's Parish Church will host an early Christmas Concert presented by the students of voice coach Professor Graeme Danby. Prof Danby has recently been welcomed to the church where he has been using the Choir Vestry as a teaching base where he coaches advanced singing students from all over Northern Ireland. An international opera singer for many years, Graeme is enjoying the calm atmosphere and lovely acoustic of our Choir Vestry as an ideal teaching oasis.



On the evening of the Concert he will welcome other voice students working with the Belfast based soprano Alice Johnston to form a group of around 30 singers in music by Strauss, Handel, Rogers and Hammerstein, with a smattering of seasonal carols and other festive cheer. Theatre singers will be joined by acclaimed accompanist Frasier Hickland and our own Joe McKee will play a few popular organ pieces to give the singers something of a breather. The start time and ticket information will follow in the next issue of the Columban. Graeme has kindly offered that all proceeds from this event will go to Parish Funds. Please come along with your friends to attend what will surely be a memorable evening.

Prayers for your thoughts and comfort



Most readers will be familiar with the hymn 'Abide with me'. It was written in the mid 19th.Century by an Anglican cleric, Henry Francis Lyte, as he was dying from tuberculosis. Perhaps that it a reason why it is chosen often as a funeral hymn. It is ironic that the author, with the surname 'Lyte', included mention of 'the darkness deepens' and a reference to 'the gloom.' However, the hymn includes also the Christian hope of life after death.

Attention is drawn to this hymn for two reasons
Firstly, November is considered by some people to be the gloomiest month of the year when the darkness deepens and the weather tends to be dull and dreary. Apologies in stating that fact to those who suffer from sunshine deficiency, referred to as SAD.

Secondly, November is a month for reflection commencing with All Saints and All Souls Days, when we think of 'all the saints who from their labours rest, and then, later in the month, on Remembrance Sunday, focusing on the victims of war and strife, internationally and locally.

It is likely that 'Abide with me' will be sung at some commemoration ceremonies this month. A few prayers are included this month on the subject 'remembrance.' In addition, prayers have be chosen on a few other subjects.

It is hoped that you will find the prayers and scriptural references helpful, and perhaps thought provoking as you reflect on 'all the changing scenes of life.'

A NOVEMBER PRAYER

Lord God, as we enter the month of November, help me to reflect on the months that have passed. Through seasons of joy and trial, your constant love has been my anchor. As the leaves fall from the trees and the year approaches its conclusion, let my lips and thoughts find reasons to celebrate your goodness. Whether I face difficult challenges or times of peace and serenity, help me to recognise you as my strength. Finally, let November be more than acknowledging my blessings, but also about being a blessing to others. **Amen**

ALL SAINTS/ALL SOULS DAYS – 1st/2nd November

Almighty and eternal God, from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted, either by death or life. Hear our prayers and thanksgivings for all whom we remember at this time, and bring us to be with them, to your eternal joy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES

St. Matthew 5 v.4 'Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted.'

Psalms 147 v.3 'He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds'

St. John 14 v.1 'Do not let your hearts be troubled.'

Psalms 34 v.18 'The Lord is close to the brokenhearted'

TRUST IN GOD

"I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year (or any month)

Give me a light that I may tread into the unknown'

And he replied:- 'Go out into the darkness and put your hand in the hand of God.' 'So I went forth and finding the hand of God, I trod gladly into the night.'

REMEMBRANCE

God of the universe, we hold before you the memory of all who have suffered in times of war and conflict. We thank you for their courage and devotion, and commit to your care those who have died: those who have mourned, and those whose lives have been changed by acts of violence. We pray in the name of the Prince of Peace. **Amen**

SCRIPTURAL REFERENCE

St. John 15 v.13 'Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.'

PRAYER FOR PEACE

God of peace and justice, we cry out from a world weary of violence and conflict. We pray for an end to bloodshed and hatred. (*Insert areas and countries of violence here*). Bring unity and understanding to nations, and wisdom to world leaders, that they may choose paths of peace over selfish ambition. Help us to show tolerance to those who are our adversaries, and to display forgiveness. We pray in your name, the God and Lord of us all. **Amen**

THE CHURCH in its work of RECONCILIATION

Lord Jesus Christ, we pray for your Church in all corners of the world. Especially we pray for the Church in this parish – for our rector John, and for all who sense that they have been called to serve you and one another. Break down any barriers that may separate us from one another. Teach us as Christians to respect all people across the walls of colour, class, race and creed. Forgive us for excuses we make for our own prejudices and lead us forward in the cause of peace and goodwill on earth, for your name's sake. **Amen**

PRAYER ACKNOWLEDGING THE VALUE OF FRIENDSHIP

May the God who is the source of all affection for one another here on earth, take our friendships into His keeping, that they may continue and increase throughout life and beyond it, in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

A PRAYER FOR ALL TIMES

Lord, throughout each day and night
May the light of God shine ON us
May the love of God shine IN us
May the light of the Spirit shine THROUGH us. **Amen**

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Here is a gaping sore, Lord !!!
Half the world diets, while the other half hungers.
Half the world is housed, while the other half is homeless
Half the world pursues profit, while the other half senses loss.
Redeem our souls, redeem our people, redeem our times. **Amen**
(Composed by John Bell, one time leader of the Iona community)

FINALLY...Think and reflect on these words

'O Lord, build our hearts into a sense of the conditions and needs of all men'
(George Fox 1624 – 1691 Founder of the Society of Friends – The Quakers)

'Let us make our way together Lord. Wherever you go, I must go, and through wherever you pass, there too I will pass'
(Teresa of Avilla 1515-1582)

Grant us grace, Almighty Father, so to pray as to deserve to be heard
(17th.Century)

We welcomed a large group of members and visitors to our first meeting of the season.

Peter McCabe, a local historian reminded us of the beautiful "ghost signs" around the city centre - shop and building signs that still remain even though the shops have gone, "Robinson and Cleavers" (now the Ivy) and "The Ulster Bank" (now The Merchant Hotel).



This was a trip down memory lane for many of us and encouraged us to start looking upwards when next we visit the city centre.



There is much to appreciate in the architecture of the past.

At our next meeting on 4th November we welcome Lyn McCullough for Fitness and Fun for ALL no matter the age or mobility.

From the Registers

Our Joys

Holy Baptism

Sunday 19th October

Joseph James Amadeus Presho

Our Sorrows

Funeral Services

Tuesday 14th October

Angela Marie Smyth

Monday 20th October

Alan McQuillan

HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE AND LUNCH

*"Come, ye thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest-home;
all is safely gathered in
ere the winter storms begin;"*

The first few lines of the annual Harvest Thanksgiving Service's opening hymn....yet even the ragged remnants of Storm Amy failed to deter a large congregation of 174 parishioners, ranging in age from just a few months to 102 years, from attending St. Columba's on Sunday, 5th October at the customary later starting time of 11am.

Parishioners were welcomed by an abundance of fruit and vegetables that graced the window ledges of the Church porch and within, sumptuous arrangements of gorgeous flowers were on display at the windows, around the chancel and on the main and side altars. Thanks to the skill and hard work of many volunteers, St. Columba's was delightfully adorned once again in a blaze of colourful and dazzling autumn finery.

The Service proceeded with verve as our Organist and Choral Director, Dr Joe McKee, and the Choir, with inspirational musical aplomb, led the congregation in a series of much-loved Harvest hymns. The well known and apposite *Parable of the Sower* from St. Matthew's Gospel was beautifully read by Rachel Cairns, and no less than ten Sunday School children, of all ages, befitting the nature of the worship, participated enthusiastically in the reading of the prayers.

The highlight of the Service was a powerfully illustrated presentation by Hazel Macpherson, a 6th Form pupil at Strathearn School and the daughter of well-known parishioners, John and Emma Macpherson, on her experiences when visiting Kenya in the company of a group of other pupils and teachers during the summer holidays with **Jengana** - a charity that seeks to support people and children who live in extreme poverty, mainly in the urban areas of Kenya.

Hazel graphically showed us the appalling conditions of the slums that she visited in the suburbs outside Nairobi, and took part by helping to “street feed” the inhabitants who possessed absolutely nothing. She visited and assisted in a local orphanage and a primary school, taught lessons, played football and was made to feel so welcome by the friendly and highly curious local children - exchanging gifts and forming instantaneous friendships. Her team also assisted with the building of essential living facilities nearby, and the narrative and images of Hazel’s presentation made a searing impression on everyone, contrasting vividly the things in life that we take for granted here with the absolute destitution and abject poverty of so many young people living today in the suburbs of Kenya. It was an inspiring call to action for us all.

Following the Service, the congregation streamed down to the Church Hall, again beautifully decorated, which was filled to the extent that not an empty seat was to be seen. Parishioners were greeted by members of the Catering Committee in their chic branded pinafores - a quick fashion “tour” around the tables by popular demand took place at the end! A troop of ready and willing Scouts in their smart uniforms, along with Sunday School children, instantly sprang into action serving, with a smile and great dexterity, the delicious main course of cottage pie and seasonal vegetables – with second helpings readily available! At the same time, a choice of white or red wine was politely offered and expertly poured by our Rector’s Glebewarden and his able team of sommeliers. Apple pie and cream was followed by tea and coffee to round off a superb lunch – complimented by the constant buzz of chatter, banter, hilarity and mirth that filled the Church Hall to overflowing.

The entire occasion was an absolute delight, and our sincerest thanks must go to the Catering Committee, the Scouts and their leaders, the Sunday School children and their teachers, the Harvest decorators and the many willing helpers and providers who made the Thanksgiving celebrations such a magnificent and enjoyable success, enhanced throughout by a real sense of community, friendship and fellowship.

Generous donations (£3355) received on the day will go towards the Church Hall Fund, and specifically for the much needed replacement of the enormous window, originally installed in 1962, overlooking the main staircase.

Ian Noad







Back to the Scout Hall.

Scouts returned to St Columba's after a lengthy summer break following our sojourn to Cox Wood Campsite near Wrexham in early July. There is always a degree of trepidation amongst the leaders wondering if the school holidays would impact on the numbers of boys returning to the troop given there are so many opportunities for children outside the scouting programme. Aside from the scouts who had departed on reaching the upper age limit it was pleasing to see the full cohort returning to the Parochial Hall for our troop nights. The troop numbers were added to by four boys from the Campbell College Boarding department. Personally I believe it is very important for those boys to get some relief from the campus and meet new chums from other schools within scouts. Additionally we have four other new scouts coming on board bringing troop numbers to a healthy 60 plus.



The vacancies created by those leaving the troop affords an opportunity for other scouts to step up into leadership roles and we have 4 new patrol leaders and 5 new assistant patrol leaders taking up the mantle of responsibility of tutoring and in truth 'controlling' those younger scouts within their charge. So far I am relieved to say those scouts have earned their stripes in the competitions and challenges undertaken on our Thursday evenings at St Columba's and made progress in badge work. Currently we are examining world faiths and seeking to gain an understanding of what other scouts from around the world have as their spiritual beliefs.

We have postponed our gardening duties outside the halls until the windows are replaced, but scouts were happy to assist at the Harvest lunch performing



waiter duties. Remarkably there were no spillages and let's face it Emma, as a female Gordon Ramsey made sure they were meticulous in service to parishioners. As Scoutmaster I see these duties as very much an investment and repayment in the care shown to us as a troop by St Columba's hosting the troop and the Cub Pack.

During September and October we run our **"2 tins from Tesco"** appeal where we ask scouts to bring along 2 tins or other items each week for donation to Storehouse. With 50+ scouts coming through the doors each week it doesn't take long to build up a healthy supply for distribution. It is a useful lesson for scouts to be aware of just how significant a relatively small donation by one scout, added to by others can create a very real benefit to others who are much less fortunate than us within the troop.

At the time of writing we are preparing for our trip to Lisburn Leisureplex where scouts have free reign to splash about in the lazy river, glide down the slides on inflatable donuts and generally have a great night with each other. The District Volleyball competition will be hosted at St Columba's (Friday 17th) and hopefully I will be able to report success or otherwise in the December Columban. The following weekend (25- 27 October) will see around 30 scouts head off to Crawfordsburn for our Halloween camp. Hopefully Storm Amy will be a distant memory and there will be a great supply of wood for the frying pan for scouts to create delicacies for the leaders, even if Charles does sneak off camp for a pastie supper and a pickled egg.

Iain
Scoutmaster

You're Invited!

Sunday School & Creche

Christmas Party

with a Special Visitor!



Saturday 29th November

2pm - 3.30pm

Church Hall

GAMES, REFRESHMENTS & FUN!

Railway and Model Club

On the 1st October we held our Annual General meeting in our club rooms at 2.30pm. All members were present to hear both from the outgoing Chairman John Robb and Treasurer Jack Dunlop who delivered his financial report. Stewart Beckwith was voted in as the new Chairman and Jack Dunlop was re-elected as Treasurer. I will continue writing the articles for the Columban. By the time you have read this we will have served the refreshments after the 3rd Sunday service on the 19th October. We would like to thank you for your support.

If interested in seeing our own club rooms and what we are involved in, feel free to drop in any Wednesday afternoon from 2.30. We will be delighted to see you. Open to all ages and genders.

Our contact details are in the Columban

Until the next time, we hope you all stay on the right tracks

John Robb.

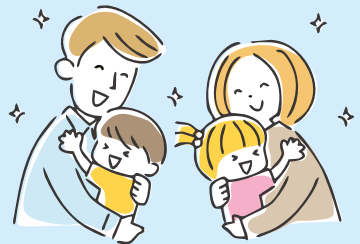
MUMS AND TOTS

Barbara and I recently attended a Playtime conference organised by Care for the Family. Their mission was to bring together church toddler group leaders to encourage, equip and resource them for this vital community work.

It was a most interesting and informative day - we attended workshops on how to motivate volunteers, how to use puppets for stories and songs and how to create a safe, loving environment where toddlers thrive and grow.

We left the conference inspired and thankful that we have a fantastic group of volunteers who are providing a caring, supportive environment for toddlers and their families every week.

Joyce





MEN'S FORUM

I'm glad to say things are fairly revving up for our members.

As you will see from the accompanying photos progress has been made to revamping our Scalextrix set donated some



time ago. It certainly brings out the competitive side of some of our members. Regular exercise also each evening with the introduction of a Cornhole set. Cornhole I would describe as an American version of quoits. So along with our dart board, members certainly don't sit around too much unless its for refreshments at the end of the evening. At the time of producing this article we were finalising the preparations for our guest speaker on Wednesday 29th October. A representative from Donaghadee Heritage Society will be or have given a presentation on the restoration work of the Sir Samuel Kelly Lifeboat. Arranged to be presented in the Church at 8.00pm.

John Robb

07956061929 john.robbs@ymail.com



PAUSE

It is a beautiful autumn morning. The sun is shining and dry leaves are gently blowing into my porch! It is time for me to venture out and have some exercise before the rain returns. PAUSE, of course, continues regardless of weather conditions. We will meet on two occasions in November.

WEDNESDAY 12th November at 10.30 am at the Castlereagh Hills Golf Club for refreshments.

Tuesday 25th November at The Poet at 10.30 am for tea/coffee and scones.

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

Eileen (028 9020 3684)



Church hall cleaning rota

November 15th - Fiona and Robin Haldane

November 29th - Isobel McDowell and Nan Hillier



DECEMBER 2025 MAGAZINE

Articles or photographs for publication in the December edition of the parish magazine should be handed or emailed to the editor, **Billy McAlpine**, by 6 pm **Wednesday, 12th November**

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



As winter approaches, we recommend checking our Parish Website and Facebook pages regularly for any important information, *as situations may change quickly.* We need to be prepared for sudden changes in our diaries and lives.

Our parish website is www.stcolumbas.down.anglican.org

Under the "News" tab will be any important information you need to know.

We also post our photos from events in the parish under "Gallery" – check out our most recent ones!



If you "like" us on Facebook, you can see important updates and information there also.

Search [St Columba's Knock](#) to join us.

We suggest that you save these to your "Favourites" section and to get into the habit of checking them regularly!

Finally, if you need to check something or are unsure of anything, you can email the Parish Office on: office.knock@down.anglican.org, or simply ring (028 9065 6891) during office hours.

Thank you!

PARISH ORGANISATIONS

New members are always welcome at any of our organisations!

Sunday	Sunday School Junior nursery to P5	2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays at 10.30am	Superintendent: Lynn Ryan
	Senior P6 and over		07955 479065
	Crèche	2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays at 10.30am	Lindsay Rothwell 07710 590574
	Choir	9.30am	Dr Joe McKee 07976 294574
Monday	MU Afternoon Group	2nd 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	3rd Tuesday each month 2.30pm in the church	Eileen Anderson 028 9020 3684
	Activity Group	Except 1st Tuesday 7.30pm	Maureen Irwin 9079 5155
	Mothers' Union	1st Tuesday each month 8.00pm	Caroline Auchmuty 9028 9047 1514
Wednesday	Bible Study Group	2.30pm - 4.00pm	Eileen Anderson 028 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 028 9020 3684
Monthly	Youth Etc. (11-15 years)	As arranged	Jonathan Martin, 07980 885990
	Young Families	Social events as arranged	Rachel Stewart 07812 247343

WHO'S WHO IN ST. COLUMBAS

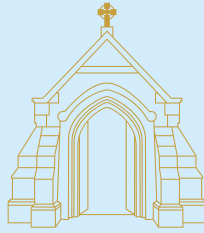
Parish website: www.stcolumbas.down.anglican.org

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 The Venerable Leslie Stevenson	3 Mount Royal Bangor BT20 3BG 028 9145 8706 6 Hanwood Heights Dundonald BT16 1XU 028 9573 8743 07727070969
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.

