

*Saint Columb's Cathedral
Magazine*



March 2026

Volume 33

Issue 3

**The Canon
writes.....**



Dear Parishioners and Friends

A number of Christian people, and maybe even to some extent ourselves, travel through life impeded by two basic misconceptions. The first is this. If you are faithful to your calling as a follower of Jesus, you will never be perplexed. That is to say, if you are doing your best to live the Christian way of life, you will never get in a tizzy, you will never shed a tear, you will never buckle under pressure, in life you will always have success. The experience, not only of the great heroes of the faith, but also of countless ordinary men and women down the ages, and around us today, blows such notions out of the water as total nonsense. Whatever else it may accomplish, our faith does not render us immune to the hard knocks which are part of the price we pay for being human.

The second misconception is this. Life should always be a bed of roses. Now it is nice when it is a bed of roses, if it ever is for you, but do we really imagine that the idea of life as a bed of roses can be compatible with taking up your cross and following Christ?

Yet somehow, we can easily be subsumed into the dream world concocted by advertisers and persuaders, a world where nothing goes wrong and we don't expect any trouble, a world where fairy tales come true by means of talent, good looks, money and success.

In reality, as we know well, life simply is not like that. Each of us, sooner or later, must grapple with unexpected misfortune, tragedy, illness or bereavement in our own experience or among those dear to us. It is through these harsh realities that the true value of our faith is challenged. The interesting thing is that the Lord we follow does not offer us easy answers or plausible solutions to the situations which perplex us.

Instead, He invites us, as we explore the tapestry of life, to place our trust in Him. Whatever happens "trust in God, trust also in me"

The One who tells us that the hairs of our head are numbered asks us to trust in Him and to realise the extent of his care and concern for each of us. "Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unperceived by your Father. So do not be afraid you are of more value than many sparrows." Throughout the Middle East sparrows were sold in the market places as inexpensive food for the poor. Curiously enough, in Chapter twelve of Saint Luke's Gospel Jesus tells us that five sparrows are sold for two pennies. Why should that be? Well, it would seem that when a man was buying four sparrows, the person who was selling them threw in an extra sparrow for nothing. In other words, the fifth sparrow was of such little value, so worthless and insignificant, that it was simply given away with the other four. Yet the Gospel teaches us that our heavenly Father cares for that one surplus sparrow. What the world regards as disposable and worthless is precious and priceless in the sight of God. So for us the message is clear and comforting. Since we are of more value to God than many sparrows, how much more will he take notice of us in the midst of our troubles, hardship and difficulties! Our trust is in the One who created sparrows and the sunshine of another day.

Saint Patrick's Day

There will be a celebration of the Holy Communion on **Tuesday 17th March at 10.30am** to celebrate St Patrick's Day. Please come along and celebrate the life, witness and example of our Patron Saint by receiving the sacrament.

THE CATHEDRAL MAGAZINE

Notes and Articles for the April 2026 edition
of the Cathedral Magazine are due by **SUNDAY 22nd March 2026**

THE SELECT VESTRY

A meeting of the Select Vestry will be held in The Diocesan Centre, London Street, Londonderry on **TUESDAY 3rd March 2026 at 7.30 p.m.**



Sunday School

Attendance at Sunday School has been fantastic this year so let's keep up the good work. The younger children especially are so committed to all the learnings it is great to witness. Well done teachers Katie & Sam.

Calendar for March:

March	1	Sunday School in The Diocesan Centre
	8	Sunday School in The Diocesan Centre
	15	Sunday School in The Diocesan Centre
	22	A FAMILY SERVICE

RITE OF CONFIRMATION:

We have 7 candidates from Sunday School who will be presented before Bishop Andrew on Sunday 10th May:

Ifeoma, Leah, Lillie-Mae, Jamie, Ijeoma, Molly & Safia

Classes commenced Sunday 22nd February with Irene & Canon John

We attended The Derry & Raphoe Confirmation Day in Limavady on 28th February.

I know we will all keep the candidates in our prayers.



Ben McLaughlin 14th March

Ronan Duffy 14th March

Sarah McLaughlin 21st March

and our teacher Lynsey Hewitt on the 11th March



ULSTER PROJECT 2026

Our table quiz was fantastic we had 59 teams and 285 people we also raised a brilliant £2498 which was shared on a ratio with the teens and leaders.

Tristan thanks Ian and Muriel for their support and although one of his teams came second it was not this team but they scored a very respectful 102 points.

There will be a retiring collection for Ulster Project on Sunday 22nd March, which is also the Family Service at 11am.

More events will be published next month!

Confirmation 2026

The Right Reverend Andrew Forster, the Bishop of The Dioceses of Derry and Raphoe, will visit Saint Columb's Cathedral on SUNDAY 10th MAY 2026 to administer The Rite of Confirmation.

Parishioners (young people and adults) who wish to be presented for Confirmation are asked to give their names to Canon John Merrick, or to Mrs Irene Hewitt.

Those who wish to be confirmed – Must be baptised members of the Church of Ireland. Must be 13 years of age or over in 2026.



The Cathedral Church of Saint Columba



The King's Award
for Voluntary Service

You are cordially invited to attend a service
to be held in

Saint Columba's Cathedral

on

Sunday 29th March 2026

at 4.00 p.m.

for the formal Presentation of the Kings Award for Voluntary Service
recently conferred upon the Volunteers of Saint Columba's Cathedral.

Reception

A reception will follow immediately afterward the service,
to be held in The Deanery, 30 Bishop Street, Londonderry BT48 6PP

All welcome.

Ending hunger
together



Give in Lent

Help support your food bank this Lent

In the six weeks of Lent, the food bank will provide food and household essentials for local individuals and families facing hardship.

Donate food

Donate an item or two from our shopping list, ensuring we can provide food for people facing hardship in your community.



Donate money

Help to cover the costs of storing and distributing food, as well as developing sustainable projects, scan the QR Code below



Shopping list

Tinned fish	_____
Deodorant	_____
Cooking sauces	_____
Coffee	_____
UHT Milk	_____
Cooking Oil	_____
Washing Up Liquid	_____
Dilute Juice	_____
Nappies Size 6	_____
Baby Wipes	_____

Scan to donate:



028 71 263699

foyle.foodbank.org.uk

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (107714)
Foyle Foodbank, Unit 15 Springtown Industrial Estate, Derry BT48 0LY



Lenten Bible Reflections

The weekly Bible Reflections continue throughout the month of March. Each session is stand alone therefore if you have missed one or more you can still come along and join. Please note they are being held in the Diocesan Centre each Wednesday from 2:30pm to 3:30pm.

Wednesday 4 March St Luke 21: 1-6 Widow's Mite, St John 13: 1-15

Jesus washes his disciples feet

Wednesday 11 March St Matthew 26: 69-75 Peter's Denial, St Matthew 27: 22-26

Jesus before Pilate

Wednesday 18 March St John 19: 16-37 The Crucifixion

Wednesday 25 March St John 20: 11-18 The Resurrection



MID-WEEK SERVICES FOR LENT

The office of Compline will be read each Wednesday evening at 7.30pm. As part of these Services Canon John Merrick will deliver a series of short reflections based on the 'I am' sayings of Jesus. We look forward to your support as we journey through Lent.



The Men's Society met on Tuesday 17th February at 7:30pm in the Diocesan Centre and the Rev Canon John Merrick opened the meeting with prayer. The guest speaker for the evening was Mr Ryan McCreedy, Chairman of the Londonderry Port & Harbour Commissioners and he spoke about his career in the army from the age of 16 and his tours of duty in Iraq and particularly Afghanistan.

The talk was very well-presented, using images and videos to show the realities of frontline war. Ryan described a life unfamiliar to most, which many found astonishing. By the end, members better understood what being a modern soldier involves and how warfare is advancing with new technology. It took almost 10 years after leaving the army to discuss his experiences and said giving talks and presentations on the subject has greatly benefited his mental health.

Our next meeting will be in The Newgate Centre, Kennedy Street and will be on the fourth Tuesday of the month, 24th April, to avoid conflict with St Patrick's Day.

Robert

Commissioning of MU All-Ireland President at St Columba's Cathedral

Mrs Kay Clarke will be commissioned as All-Ireland President of Mothers' Union at a service in St Columba's Cathedral at 4pm on Sunday 8th March.

Kay, and members of the All-Ireland Trustee Board, will be commissioned by the Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, Most Rev John McDowell. The Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Right Reverend Andrew Forster, will give the address.



**The Leprosy
Mission**
Northern Ireland

**A letter received from The Leprosy Mission
Northern Ireland**

Dear friends at St Columb's Cathedral

Thank you. Your gift of £260.67 is so gladly received, your kindness is transforming lives.

For young people like Satendra (pictured opposite) hope can feel far away. He experienced the early signs of leprosy when he was still in school, but doctors didn't diagnose it correctly. He was sent away with allergy medicine, Satendra's health plummeted. His friends-began to tease him and he dropped out of school.



Leprosy was affecting his hands so badly that he could barely hold a pencil.

Discrimination and exclusion took a deep toll on him, and at a point of crisis he took poison, trying to end the pain he felt. Thankfully he was found by a family member and saved. They brought him to Anandaban Hospital in Nepal. There he received the cure to leprosy, but more than that, he also received the help and support to rebuild his life.

Things aren't perfect for Satendra. There is still a long way to go through physio to repair some of the damage, and the time spent away from school cannot be recovered. But thanks to you there was hope when he needed it most. Your support meant that a TLM Hospital was able to cure his leprosy. Your kindness has started Satendra on the road towards healing.

Every Blessing

**Stephen McCartney - Support Engagement Officer
The Leprosy Mission, Northern Ireland**

Please note. Stephen returned from his trip to India on 12th February. A new supply of Leprosy boxes is now available in the vestibule. If you would like to subscribe to the Leprosy Mission and help people like Satendra please feel free to take a box. It is such a worthy cause. The £260.67 was received during the period January to mid-February 2026.

THE LEPROSY MISSION PRAYER

Almighty Father, the giver of life and health, look mercifully on those who suffer from leprosy. Stretch out your hand to touch and heal them as Jesus did during His earthly life. Grant wisdom and insight to those who are seeking the prevention and cure of the disease. Give skill and sympathy to those who minister to the patients.

Reunite the separated with their family and friends.

And inspire your people with the task set before The Leprosy Mission that it may never lack the staff or the means to carry on its healing work in accordance with your will and to the glory of your holy name.

We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

THE CHURCH MISSION SOCIETY PRAYER

May the God of Light shine brightly on the CMSI family, bringing blessing to – and through – staff, volunteers, members, mission personnel and Global Partners.

May the God of Life bring hope and renewal to those living in despair, in the places where CMSI's partners work.

May the God of Love bring healing and transformation to churches and individuals in Ireland as they encounter Him afresh and engage in His work of mission.

May the God of Peace and Justice reign in our world.

May His Kingdom come on earth as in heaven. **Amen.**

MODERN SLAVERY IS CLOSER THAN YOU THINK

MODERN SLAVERY

Modern slavery is a global crisis that requires urgent action to support victims and bring perpetrators to justice. In Northern Ireland, the number of individuals referred through the National Referral Mechanism has, in recent years increased by 1,000%, highlighting the need to understand the complexities of human trafficking.

Human trafficking is a form of modern slavery where individuals are forced into labour or sexual exploitation through physical, financial, or psychological control. It involves three key elements:

The Act: Recruitment, transfer, harbouring, or receipt of persons.

The Means: Threats, force, abduction, fraud, or the abuse of power and vulnerability.

The Purpose: Exploitation through forced labour, sexual exploitation, servitude, or the removal of organs.

In Northern Ireland, recovery is supported by organisations such as Flourish NI, which provides survivors with long-term care plans addressing material, physical, and psychological needs. Without this specialised support, survivors face severe risks, including social isolation, re-exploitation, homelessness, and mental health issues.

Efforts to combat these crimes are guided by the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Criminal Justice and Support for Victims) Act (Northern Ireland) 2015. A review of this Act's effectiveness is currently underway, incorporating feedback from frontline organisations such as Flourish NI and Women's Aid.

Read more at www.flourishni.org, [Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking | PSNI](#) and [Local groups - Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland](#)



MOTHERING SUNDAY – The Gift of Belonging

This year, the Mothers' Union theme for Mothering Sunday is "The Gift of Belonging." Mothering Sunday stirs deep emotions for many of us, including gratitude, love, remembrance, and sometimes sorrow. Around the world, many teenage mothers long for the comfort

and protection of a family yet find themselves alone when they need love most.

On Mothering Sunday, we praise God for His constant love and the sense of belonging He provides. We give thanks for those who mother and care for others, persevering through the challenges of family life. We also recognise the support the Mothers' Union offers to those seeking hope, dignity, and God's love in action.

If you wish to purchase a "Gift of Belonging" this Mothering Sunday, you can help young mothers find the support they need to thrive at www.makeamothersday.org

February Meeting

The snowdrops were bravely peeping through in my garden when we met on Tuesday 10th February, to remind us that in spite of the weather Spring is not too far away. The cosy atmosphere of the Coffee Dock in the Diocesan centre was conducive to an enjoyable evening of learning and fellowship. Our readings and prayers took the form of a reflection on the life of Annabella Hayes who set up the first branch of the Mothers' Union in Ireland, in Raheny in 1887 and whose commemorative day falls on Saturday 7th February.

Our speaker was Mary McGuigan who is a member of Zero Waste North West which is an organisation dedicated to reducing waste and conserving resources. They are involved in many projects such as a Toy library, a Repair Cafe and the Ethical Weigh Co-op and it is well worth visiting their website at www.zerowastenw.org to see what is available in our area.

Our Fireside Quiz raised £155 and the winner was George Keys. Many thanks to Geraldine and her helpers for a delicious supper and to all who helped organise the evening. Our next meeting will be a combined meeting with CCCSMP MU on Tuesday 10th March in the Diocesan Centre. Our speaker will be Rev Canon Judi McGaffin.



SUNDAY 1ST 2nd Sunday of Lent <i>Boy Choristers and Lay Clerks</i>	11.00 Hymns Setting Motet	CHORAL EUCHARIST (order 2) 657, 305, 303 <i>Fields Communion Setting de Séverac Tantum Ergo</i>
<i>Cathedral Ensemble</i>	16.00	COMPLINE
WEDNESDAY 4TH	19.30	COMPLINE
SUNDAY 8th 3rd Sunday of Lent <i>Girl Choristers and Lay Clerks</i>	11.00 Hymns Responses Psalm Canticle Anthem	CHORAL MATINS 431, 346, 553 Plainsong Venite Stanford <i>Benedictus in C</i> Vaughan Williams <i>O taste and see</i>
<i>Boy and Girl Choristers and Lay Clerks</i>	16.00	MOTHER'S UNION SERVICE CHORAL EUCHARIST (order 2) <i>Special order of service</i>
WEDNESDAY 11TH	19.30	COMPLINE
SUNDAY 15th Mothering Sunday <i>Boy Choristers and Lay Clerks</i>	11.00 Hymns Anthem	FAMILY SERVICE 20, 644, 651, 576 <i>Evans Be still for the presence of the Lord</i>
<i>Lay Clerks</i>	16.00 Hymns Responses Psalm Canticles Anthem	CHORAL EVENSONG 643, 712 Tallis 31: 1-8 <i>Sumsion Evening Canticles in G</i> <i>Tallis If ye love me</i>
TUESDAY 17th	10.30	ST PATRICK'S DAY SERVICE HOLY COMMUNION
WEDNESDAY 18TH	19.30	COMPLINE

Service & Music List

March 2026

SUNDAY 22ND 5th Sunday of Lent <i>Girl Choristers and Lay Clerks</i>	11.00 Hymns Setting Motet	CHORAL EUCHARIST (order 1) 226, 93, 104 <i>Mathias Communion Setting III</i> <i>Maher Soul of my Saviour</i>
<i>Cathedral Chamber Choir</i>	16.00 Hymns Responses Psalm Canticles Anthem	CHORAL EVENSONG 528, 537 Ebdon 30 <i>Moeran Evening Canticles in D</i> <i>Bruckner Christus factus est</i>
WEDNESDAY 25TH	19.30	COMPLINE
THURSDAY 26TH <i>Boy and Girl Choristers</i>	19.30	CONCERT WITH ST. MARY'S COLLEGE <i>Christ Church, Londonderry</i>
SUNDAY 29TH Palm Sunday <i>Girl and Boy Choristers and Lay Clerks</i>	11.00	PALM SUNDAY SERVICE <i>Barnard Were you there?</i> <i>Barnard Steal away</i> <i>Barnard Deep river</i>
<i>Girl and Boy Choristers and Lay Clerks</i>	16.00 Hymns Responses Psalm Canticles Anthem	CHORAL EVENSONG 10, 327 Stewart 80 <i>Sumsion Evening Canticles in B-flat</i> <i>Barnard Were you there?</i>
MONDAY 30TH Monday of Holy Week <i>Lay Clerks</i>	19.30 Hymns Psalm	COMPLINE 66, 247 91
TUESDAY 31ST Tuesday of Holy Week <i>Boy Choristers</i>	19.30 Hymns Psalm	COMPLINE 66, 226 31: 1-6



We are delighted to welcome a new Boy Chorister Probationer, Ronan Duffy, who joins us on the first Sunday of March. Ronan is the younger brother of Ellen Duffy, one of our Girl Head Choristers. After completing a series of rehearsals, Ronan is eager to try out his first service in the Cathedral! We wish him all the best and hope he enjoys his time in the Cathedral Choir.

March is a busy month as we continue through Lent and approach Holy Week. Please keep an eye on the Music List to see the repertoire the choir will be singing at each Service - some of which is not to be missed!

Mark your calendars for **Thursday, 26th March!** Our Boy & Girl Choristers will perform in concert alongside the St Mary's College Orchestra. The concert will be held at **Christ Church, Infirmary Road**, starting at 7:30 pm. We look forward to seeing you there for an evening of wonderful music!

Nicky

Canon Bertie Kingston along with daughter Shirley and granddaughters Emma and Sophie were in Derry (from Carlow) over the weekend and called with me today.

Bertie was a curate in the seventies and lived in St Columb's Court when Dean George Good was Rector of Templemore and Dean. They were delighted to visit the Cathedral today and were able to attend the Holy Communion service at 10.30am for the Presentation of Christ at the Temple. Bertie's wife Frances died a year ago. Shirley was born in Derry and then the family moved to Kildallon parish in the Diocese of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh.

Bertie's brother was Canon Kenneth Kingston.

Alison Howe



St. Columb's Cathedral Honorary Bellringers

This could be the right time to start building our number of Bellringers and we are also conscious it is only four years until 2029 which marks the 100th anniversary of the recasting of the bells in 1929, so it would be great if we had a team of Bell Ringers trained and ready to mark the anniversary.

If you are willing to give the bells a try please let us know, our email address is garth_bells@stcolumbs.net or you can leave a voice message including contact Tel number on 02871345093.

Initially we can arrange for learning sessions to be held on Saturdays between 13:30 and 15:00 and Monday nights between 19:30 and 21:00. Traditionally our normal practice night has always been Monday as registered with the IACR but we can be flexible depending on availability. We look forward to hearing from you.

Garth and the Ringers.

**Plumber available for weekends and afternoons
any enquiries contact Jake Hewitt. 07752 305304**



Bible Readings for March 2026

Date	Bible Reading	Title
1 st March	Psalms 78 : 1 - 39	And yet
2 nd March	Matthew 8 : 1 - 13	Winds of change
3 rd March	Matthew 8 : 14 – 22	The decision to follow
4 th March	Matthew 8 : 23 – 27	Wet and wild
5 th March	Matthew 8 : 28 – 34	Even the demons
6 th March	Matthew 9 : 1 – 8	Commissioned to love
7 th March	Matthew 9 : 9 – 13	A life transformed
8 th March	Psalms 78 : 40 – 72	Into skilful hands
9 th March	1 Kings 1 : 1 – 27	God's will be done
10 th March	1 Kings 1 : 28 – 53	Power and mercy
11 th March	1 Kings 2 : 1 – 12	Passing on the baton
12 th March	1 Kings 3 : 1 – 15	A humble leader
13 th March	1 Kings 3 : 16 – 28	Wisdom and boldness
14 th March	1 Kings 4 : 29 – 34	Bucketloads of wisdom
15 th March	Psalms 79	Lord, have mercy
16 th March	1 Kings : 5	Honourable and honoured
17 th March	1 Kings 6 : 1 – 13	Keeping promises
18 th March	1 Kings 8 : 1 – 21	The glory of the Lord
19 th March	1 Kings 8 : 22 – 30, 54 – 66	None like you
20 th March	1 Kings 9 : 1 – 9	The Lord hears
21 st March	1 Kings 10 : 1 – 13, 23 – 25	Fame and fortune
22 nd March	Psalms 80	Restoring the broken
23 rd March	Matthew 26 : 1 – 16	Love and betrayal
24 th March	Matthew 26 : 17 – 30	More than a meal
25 th March	Matthew 26 : 31 – 35	Strike the shepherd
26 th March	Matthew 26 : 36 – 46	Watch with me
27 th March	Matthew 26 : 47 – 56	The moment of truth
28 th March	Matthew 26 : 57 – 68	Worthy of death ?
29 th March	Psalms 98	Sing a new song
30 th March	Matthew 26 : 69 - 75	Godly sorrow
31 st March	Matthew 27 : 1 – 10	Dark despair

Readings are taken from Daily Bread brought to us by Scripture Union

Eulogy of Bobby Hepburn - 1st February 2026

We are gathered here this afternoon in this family home to support you Bobby's family in this your time of loss, to share in your grief and to give thanks for the life of a much-loved father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother and friend. Bobby's life can be summarized in one word 'service!' Service of love for his family, his community and his country. Bobby was one of ten children born to David and Matilda Hepburn with the family eventually establishing their lifelong home in Culmore. He was baptized in St. Augustine's Church on the City Walls. He was educated in Christ Church school proceeding from there to Templemore. The family ensured that his formal education was but one part of his nurture and saw to it that his spiritual growth was also cultivated through regular attendance at Sunday School and Church where he was awarded many prizes.

He had a varied employment history starting with a job as a message boy in Pollock's cycling to his work in the city. He often recounted stories about deliveries to Lawrence Hill. Following this he was employed in the Furniture Department at Austin's Stores, within Austins he found himself being moved around Departments to meet the needs in each area of the Store. Part of his training within the Store was being taught how to wrap a parcel. This was followed by a period of employment in Malseed's Supermarket in Rosemount. Sadly, the Troubles had broken out during this time and the shop was subjected to an arson attack while Bobby was within the store.

He joined the Ulster Defence Regiment as a reservist; he later joined the RUC as a part time policeman also holding sown civilian employment as a breadman. Sadly, and shockingly in November 1976 he was shot and gravely injured while delivering bread to Long's Supermarket on the Strand Road.

Following a miraculous and determined recovery he joined the Police as a full-time recruit. He retired after a long and distinguished career in which he was awarded commendations for Good Police Work, Good Conduct Award, Long Service Medal and of course the George Cross Medal awarded to the entire force for their bravery in extreme and dangerous conditions. Sadly, many lost their lives during this sad time. He had a great love and respect for the men and woman he served with and remembered everyone of them fondly.

On the 19th December, 1970 he married Susan McClay in First Derry Presbyterian Church a young woman from the Fountain whom he met and fell in love with immediately, a mutual love that grew stronger with every passing year of the marriage. They spent their honeymoon in a Salvation Army Hostel in Belfast with Susan insisting that they return to Derry after one night as she was embarrassed because everyone realised that they were a newly married couple.

Bobby was a devoted husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather. He would always put his late wife Suan and his children and their children before everything else and continued to do so throughout his entire life. He looked forward to visits from his grandchildren and great grandchildren. In recent years this brought a smile to his face. From an early age he had a passion for motor bikes and cars, he crashed his first motor bike racing down the road with his parents behind him in their car, needless to say his younger brother was not allowed to acquire a motor bike. I understand that his love of speed often saw him in trouble and his family remember that travelling with him in the car could often be a source of butterflies in their stomachs.

Please allow me to quote some words given to me by you his family "We all greatly loved and respected our Daddy. He taught us so much about how to live, how to treat others and a great deal about kindness. He will be remembered for his practical jokes, good advice and loyalty."

Today you are saying an earthly farewell to someone who has meant so much to you, gave so much to you and has left you with so many wonderful memories, you are feeling empty and heartbroken, however, I love the farewell in French "au revoir" which translated means "until I see you again" Bobby had a very strong and confident faith in Jesus Christ and because of this we believe that he is now in the nearer presence of his Lord

and Saviour and through the death, resurrection and ascension of our Lord we know that one day we will be reunited with those whom we know and loved in this life yet see no longer. I want to say to you Terry, Roberta, Linda, Kingsley, Georgia your families and in particular, Bobby Lee, Philip, Clayton, Travis, Melissa their families particularly Emi Rose, Ryla, Luella, Robin, Holly and Harry and to all Bobby's family and many friends hold fast to that great Christian truth, believe in it, practice it and through it you will receive the strength and courage to come through these sad days. Of Bobby we say may he rest in peace and be raised in glory.

Eulogy of Sarah Kathleen Hughes - 9th February 2026

We are gathered here today in this Cathedral Church of St Columb to give thanks for the life and witness of Sarah Kathleen Hughes, of equal importance we have come here today to support you Kathleen's family in your sorrow and sadness as you prepare to say an earthly farewell to a greatly loved wife, mother, mother – in – law, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister and friend. Sadly, some members of Kathleen's family are unable to be with us today and we extend our sympathy to you as you join us on line for this Service of Thanksgiving.

Kathleen passed away quietly on Friday afternoon in the care of the amazing Staff in the Foyle Hospice with her immediate family at her bedside. Kathleen's passing brought to a close a protracted illness which she bore with great fortitude, courage and dignity. Kathleen was born on the 28th December 1946, one of seven children born to Herbert and Martha Norris. Her siblings are Deidre, Sandra, Pamela and Heather she was predeceased by her brothers David and Joe. She was born at 24 Fountain Place and grew up there. She began her formal education in Carlisle Road Primary School proceeding from there to Templemore Secondary School where she excelled both academically and on the sports field. Her faith life was nurtured in Waterside Presbyterian Church augmented by her membership of the Girl's Choir in this Cathedral Church.

Terry's first introduction to Kathleen was seeing her on the bus as they travelled to school. They met when Kathleen came to work at David Irvine's Printers, Waterloo Street where Terry had just begun his apprenticeship while Kathleen was a paper worker in the firm's Bookbinding Department. Romance blossomed and they were married in Waterside Presbyterian Church on 20th November 1965, celebrating sixty years of marriage a few months ago. The family moved to Belfast in search of employment returning eventually to the City in 1975. They both found employment with the Civilian Search Unit, sadly a part of the necessary security facility in the City at that time. Kathleen moved to the Health Service as a Domestic Supervisor. A nurse in the Hospice remembered Kathleen with great fondness describing her as an 'excellent Supervisor'. She followed this employment moving to Maydown Ebrington Group where she enjoyed her interaction with the elderly clients. Her final employment was with City Centre Initiative as a City Centre Ranger retiring from this role in 2010. This role involved meeting with business owners, the public, and tourists. It was during this time that I got to know Kathleen, I was immediately impressed as I witnessed her amazing insight and knowledge of the City and more importantly it's people. She was an ambassador 'par excellence'

Retirement saw Kathleen using this period of her life to spend more time and get lovingly involved in the life of her family and in particular her grandchildren. She loved knitting and crocheting and baking. She produced hats and jumpers for everyone and I'm sure the tins in her kitchen were worth raiding.

Kathleen was a very astute and observant lady. On one occasion she witnessed a man, in suspicious circumstances, interfering with a car parked near her car, thinking he was breaking into the car, she returned to find that he had planted a bomb under the car. She ran to the police Station in Spencer Road and raised the alarm. She returned with the Police and proceeded to get into her own car with the Police pleading with her not to do so to which she replied "It's the only car we've got" and drove off. She refused to be the recipient of a Bravery Award for her courage on that occasion as she feared for the welfare of her family.

At a personal level she loved music her favourite performers were George Michael, Fleetwood Mac and the Eagles.

At the beginning of this service you heard me read the words "I am the resurrection and the life" says the Lord 'Those who believe in me, even though they die yet shall they live and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die' because of this promise from Christ himself, we know that while you Kathleen's family today have hearts and minds overflowing with loss and sadness, this is not an end. There is no finality in today's events. We know and believe that through the death, resurrection and ascension of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ one day we will be reunited with those whom we knew and loved in this life yet see no longer. Please be assured that Kathleen is now in the nearer presence of her Creator God and Saviour Jesus Christ. Hold fast to this Christian truth; a truth that has been real source of comfort to families and individuals as they come to terms with the realization that a loved one is no longer in their midst. Today we extend our heartfelt sympathy and support to you Terry to you Moira, Brian and Gareth to your spouse's Peter and Lisa, the grandchildren Edward, Simon, Katherine, Sam and Evie great grandchildren Ida, Heidi, and Hana also Kathleen's siblings Deidre, Sandra, Pamela and Heather, I conclude with a line from George Michael's lyric, Kathleen's favourite artist 'I think there's something you should know, I think its time I stopped the show!

Sandra Boyd (Wilson) - 23rd January 2026

Sandra Boyd (Wilson), died 23rd January 2026, was born on 12th May 1943. She was one of seven children belonging to the late Isaac and Elizabeth Wilson. Sandra was the third youngest. Her siblings being, David deceased, Isaac Dec, Irene Dec, Rosemary, Lawrence and June. Her early years were spent at 54 Bishop St, (without) before the family settled at No 6 St Columb's Court in the shadow of St Columb's Cathedral. As like the rest of her family, Sandra had great affection for the mother church and its organisations.

She attended the Cathedral Primary School until the age of 14. She also was a member of the cathedral badminton club, brownies and the Cathedral girls choir.

Whilst as a young girl Sandra planted apple seeds in the graveyard adjacent to No 6.

This grew into a beautiful apple tree. Only in recent years, given its proximity to the house, the tree had to be felled.

John Wilson

HOSPITAL / NURSING HOME ADMISSIONS

If you or a relative is admitted to, or discharged from, hospitals or nursing homes please let The Reverend Canon John Merrick or The Reverend Canon Mervyn Peoples know if you would like a Pastoral Visit.

Under Data Protection (GDPR) we **do not** have access to the Hospital Admissions Forms, so we can only know that you are a patient in a hospital or a nursing home if the Chaplain notifies us or if you or a relative notifies us. Thank you for your co-operation.

THE DAILY OFFICE

The Daily Office is read in Bishop William Alexander Chapel at 10.30 a.m.

Tuesday: Holy Communion with Intersessions for the sick

Thursday: Morning Prayer.

Friday: The Litany.

The Tuesday morning service of Holy Communion (Order Two) with intercessions for the sick is celebrated in the Sanctuary of the Cathedral.

Holy Communion on Saints' days and holy days is celebrated in Bishop William Alexander Chapel.

Those who conduct the daily services would be delighted to have your support.



In Memoriam

In loving memory of Ted Malcor
From Sandra

In memory of Andy McCorkell
From Tom & Maude Gault

**In memory of Robert George Hepburn, husband of late Susan,
beloved father of Terrie, Roberta, Linda, Kingsley and Georgia.
Loved grandfather of Bobbie-Lee, Philip, Clayton, Travis & Melissa,
great grandfather of Emi-Rose, Ryla, Robin, Harry, Holly & Luella**
From the Hepburn family

In memory of my brother Bobby
From William & Eileen Hepburn

In memory of Bobby Hepburn
From Muriel Hamilton
From Mrs Maureen Foster
From Owen & Lesley Rosborough, Portstewart

In memory of Kathleen Hughes
From Muriel Hamilton
From Ian Bartlett

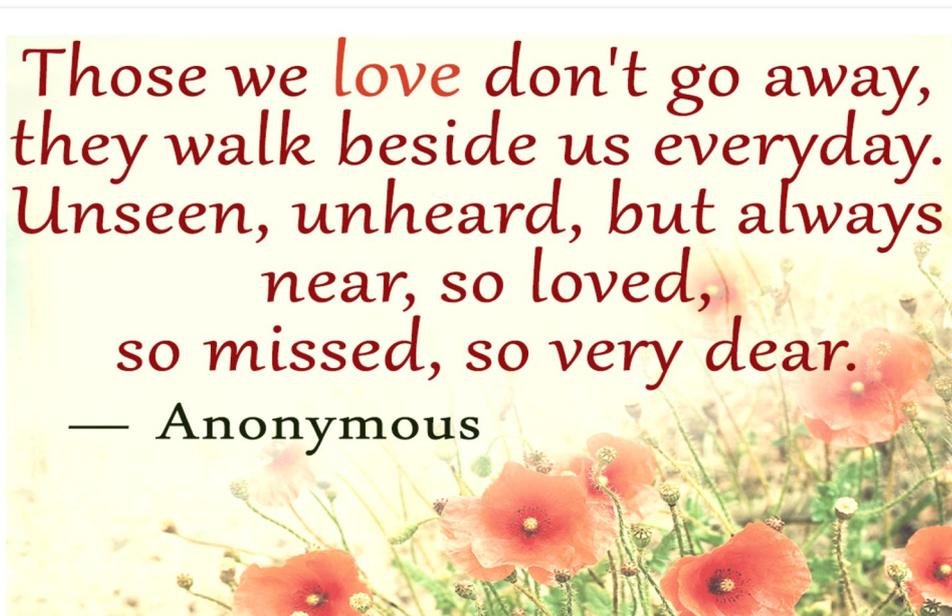
In loving memory of Norma Glenn
From Trevor & Sylvia Cadden

BEQUEST
From the Estate of Hazel Sidebottom

Overall total £3,340.00

*Those we love don't go away,
they walk beside us everyday.
Unseen, unheard, but always
near, so loved,
so missed, so very dear.*

— Anonymous



Priest in Charge: The Reverend Canon John Merrick B.A. H.Dip. Ed. D.A.S.E.

Contact: 00353 749136971

Priest Assistant: The Reverend Canon Mervyn Peoples

In Emergency please contact Canon Peoples at 07843 906444

Saint Columb's Cathedral Tel: (028) 7126 7313

Web Site: www.stcolumbscathedral.org

Saint Columb's Cathedral

SUNDAY SERVICES:	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	11.00 am	(1st & 3rd Sunday of the month) Choral Eucharist
		(2nd Sunday of the month) Choral Matins
	4.00 pm	Choral Evensong
4th SUNDAY:	11.00 am	Family Service
EACH TUESDAY:	10.30 am	Holy Communion
EACH THURSDAY	10.30 am	Morning Prayer
EACH FRIDAY	10.30 am	The Litany



To website

Organist & Director of Music

Mr Nicky Morton
directorofmusic@stcolumbs.net

Assistant Organist:

Mr Louis Fields

Rector's Churchwarden

Mr William Lynn
(Email: wlynn_geology@hotmail.com)

People's Churchwarden

Miss Muriel Hamilton

Hon Treasurer

Mr Louis Fields
treasurer@stcolumbs.net

Assistant Treasurer

Mr Alan Thompson 12 Torrens Avenue
(Email: alan@stcolumbs.net)

Miss Muriel Hamilton 28 Lansdowne Road
(All Donations/Thankofferings)

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Robert McGonigle BEM

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Office Hours

(Tuesday & Thursday 2pm-6pm)

Parish Secretary/Webmaster

Mrs Linda McGonigle
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Hon Secretary

Ms Jacqui Armstrong
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Sunday School Superintendent

Mrs Irene Hewitt BEM
Email: irenechewitt@outlook.com

Safeguarding Trust Panel Members

The Reverend Canon John Merrick
Mrs Elizabeth Fielding BEM
Mr Malcolm Hewitt MBE



**The King's Award
for Voluntary Service**

The MBE for volunteer groups

APRIL 2026 Magazine

**Notes / Articles for the March edition of the Cathedral Magazine
are due by SUNDAY 22nd March 2026**

The Publication will be available from SUNDAY 29th March