

Saint Columb's Cathedral Magazine

A photograph of the interior of Saint Columb's Cathedral, showing the nave and choir. The architecture is Gothic Revival, with high vaulted ceilings and large stained glass windows. The space is decorated for Christmas with a large tree on the right, garlands on the altar, and various flags hanging from the pews. The lighting is warm, with some purple accent lighting on the columns.

December 2025/January 2026
Volume 32/33 Issue 12/1

The Dean writes.....



Dear Parishioners and Friends

This is my final letter to you as the Rector of The Parish of Templemore and Dean of Derry.

I was ordained a deacon in Saint Columb's Cathedral on Sunday 24th June 1979.

On the day of my retirement I will have completed 46 and a half years of active service in The Dioceses of Derry and Raphoe.

My association with Saint Columb's Cathedral goes back to 1977 when, as a young student, I spent 'Holy Week' in the City. My association with the Cathedral Chapter goes back 26 and a half years – to March 1999 when I was installed as a Canon.

For these and other reasons Saint Columb's Cathedral has a very special place in my life. I have enjoyed so much of my ministry here as Rector and Dean since March 2017. Thank you for welcoming me amongst you and for allowing me to share in your lives.

During my incumbency I have conducted 80 Services of Holy Baptism, 22 Services of Holy Matrimony and shared in 132 Services of Christian Burial.

My role as Dean has brought me into contact with Archbishops and Bishops of The Anglican Communion; with politicians and civic dignitaries; with people from many countries of the world. I have enjoyed meeting and greeting 'the great and the good' as well as many 'ordinary people' who visit the Cathedral during the year.

I wish to thank the churchwardens over the years; the members of the Select Vestry; the organists and choristers; the Sunday School teachers.

I wish to thank the Parish Readers - Jacqui Armstrong, Simon McGonigle, Heather Fielding, David Bell and the late Aubrey Fielding – for their ministry amongst us. I wish, especially, to thank my colleague and friend The Reverend Canon John Merrick whom I have known for 43 years (!) for his support.

My prayer for Saint Columb's Cathedral is that all of its members will work together for the good of the church; that everyone will contribute to its life and witness as you prepare to celebrate the 400th anniversary in 2033.

Yours sincerely

Raymond Stewart



A gift was presented to Lady Maryette after the service on Sunday 23rd November 2025 by the Dean for her success in graduating from University with a degree in English Literature.

FORTHCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS NOVEMBER / DECEMBER / JANUARY

Monday 24th November – Saturday 20th December
Cathedral Christmas Festival 2025

Saturday 29th November

10.00 a.m. Annual Christmas Sale at Saint Columb's Cathedral

Sunday 30th November / The First Sunday of Advent

7.30 p.m. Candlelight Advent Procession / 'From Darkness to Light'

Saturday 6th December

**2.00 p.m. The Apprentice Boys of Derry Service of Thanksgiving
for the Shutting of the Gates**

Preacher: The Reverend Joseph Andrews, Chaplain, Browning Club, Coleraine Branch

Monday 8th December

7.30 p.m. The Joint Emergency Services Northwest Community Carol Service

Wednesday 10th December

**7.30 p.m. Celebrating Christmas Together at Saint Columb's Cathedral
Cathedral Youth Club and Saint Eugene's Cathedral**

Friday 12th December

**7.00 p.m. Movie Night – Miracle on 34th Street
(Tickets can be purchased via the Nerve Centre website)**

Saturday 13th December

**4.00 p.m. Movie Matinee – Home Alone
(Tickets can be purchased via the Nerve Centre website)**

Saturday 20th December

**9.00 p.m. Candlelight Christmas Concert featuring music from Love Actually,
Home Alone, and more**

Sunday 21st December / The Fourth Sunday of Advent

11.00 a.m. Sunday School Nativity Presentation

**7.30 p.m. Festival Service of Nine Lessons and Carols,
We will be joined by members of The Inner City Churches**

Wednesday 24th December / Christmas Eve

11.30 p.m. Choral Eucharist (Order Two)

Thursday 25th December / Christmas Day

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (Order One) with hymns

11.00 a.m. Festival Choral Eucharist (Order Two)

**The Right Reverend Andrew Forster,
Bishop of The Dioceses of Derry and Raphoe**

**Sunday 28th December / The Feast Day of The Holy Innocents
(The First Sunday of Christmas)**

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (Order One)

11.00 a.m. Matins

Wednesday 31st December / New Year's Eve

11.00 p.m. Eucharist (Order One)

Sunday 4th January 2026 / The Second Sunday of Christmas

4.00 p.m. Carols of The Epiphany



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS – 21st DECEMBER

We look forward to our Christmas Celebration with a difference this year as we are looking back at the childhood memories of some of our congregation and how they spent Christmas while at the same time celebrating the true meaning of Christmas.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION REHEARSAL & PARTY: will be on Sunday 14th in the Diocesan Centre.

It is important that we do have all the very young children in to rehearse and finish classes with a small party.

THE SADIE McLAUGHLIN AWARD will be presented for the first time for attendance, showing kindness, consideration, and trying your best to live God's Commandments.

We look forward to announcing the winner in our February magazine.

FAMILY SERVICE:

We were pleased that we have seen a great increase in the families joining us at the front of the church. To those who were there thank you, it is still a work in progress and we hope we will see you all at the next Family Service.

BIRTHDAYS:

We have only one of our Sunday School celebrating their birthday in December: Happy Birthday Jonah



December	7 th	Sunday School in The Diocesan Centre
	14 th	Sunday School in The Diocesan Centre
	21 st	Sunday School Nativity Presentation
	28 th	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
January	4 th	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
	11 th	Sunday School in The Diocesan Centre
	18 th	A FAMILY SERVICE TO MARK WORLD LEPROSY DAY
	25 th	Sunday School in The Diocesan Centre

MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE

Irene & the teachers and children of the Sunday School

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.

Must be 13 years or over in 2026.



Saturday 29th November

Craft Sale, Official Opening Ceremony and Coffee Dock

Experience the Cathedral as it was in 2023 and 2024 with creatively designed trees and also Christmas craft creations such as wreaths, quilts, tree skirts, table centres and more all sparkling in every nook and cranny

Our model Victorian Christmas Village will return but larger and even more stunning than last year

There will be a Cecil Frances Alexander Christmas sitting room reflecting on times past.

Innovative tree creations and craft designs delivered by businesses, community groups, schools, musical groups and sports organisations using all types of material

Christmas Movie Evening and Matinee on the big screen in a beautiful seasonal setting with all sorts of goodies available from our coffee dock to enjoy while relaxing with your family

A programme of christmas Music throughout from schools, adult choirs, soloists and music groups

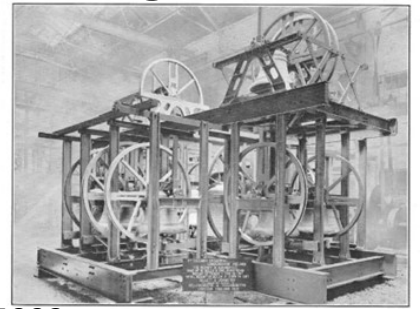
FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT robert@stcolumbs.net

St. Columb's Cathedral Honorary Bellringers

We are thinking this might be the right time to start building our number of Bellringers with a view to having some Service Rings over Christmas and into the New Year.

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 nights as registered with the IACR but we can be flexible depending on availability. We look forward to hearing from you.

Garth and the Ringers.

CANDLELIGHT ADVENT PROCESSION

The Candlelight Advent Procession will be held in Saint Columb's Cathedral on SUNDAY 30th NOVEMBER at 7.30 p.m.

This well established and much loved Service of Readings, Hymns and Anthems on the theme '**From Darkness to Light**' begins with the Cathedral Choirs singing in the Gallery, with the Cathedral in darkness, and then gradually making their way to the Chancel.

By the end of the Service the Cathedral is fully lit.

THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

The Inner City Centre Churches (Salvation Army Carlisle Road, Carlisle Road Methodist Church, First Derry Presbyterian Church, Saint Augustine's Church, Saint Columb's Cathedral and Saint Columba's Church, Long Tower) will host 'A Walking Service' to mark The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on the evening of MONDAY 19th JANUARY 2026.

The 'Service' will begin at Saint Augustine's Church at 7.00 p.m.

THE JOINT EMERGENCY SERVICES NORTHWEST COMMUNITY CAROL SERVICE

will be held in Saint Columb's Cathedral on MONDAY 8th DECEMBER at 7.30 p.m.

This Service recognises the work and contribution to society – particularly in the City of Londonderry – of many of the Emergency Services, including Northern Ireland Ambulance Service, Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service, Foyle Search and Rescue, Police Service of Northern Ireland and Air Ambulance Northern Ireland.

This year the Offering is in support of The Order of St John (St John Ambulance and St John Eye Hospital Group).

FESTIVAL SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

will be held in Saint Columb's Cathedral on SUNDAY 21st DECEMBER at 7.30 p.m.

This service is the traditional celebration of the Nativity of our Lord in words and music.

This year we will be joined by the Inner City Centre Churches.

CAROLS OF THE EPIPHANY

At the Service on SUNDAY 4th JANUARY 2026 at 4.00 p.m.

we will celebrate the Epiphany in carols, hymns, anthems and readings.

We will be joined by the members of the Cathedral Chapter.

THE LEPROSY MISSION NORTHERN IRELAND

World Leprosy Day will be observed on Sunday 25th January 2026.

A Family Service to mark World Leprosy Day will be held

in Saint Columb's Cathedral on SUNDAY 18th JANUARY 2026 at 11.00 a.m.

The Speaker will be Mr Stephen McCartney, Support Engagement Officer, The Leprosy Mission Northern Ireland.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

The customary Act of Remembrance was held at The War Memorial in the Diamond on SUNDAY 9th NOVEMBER 2025 at 10.50 a.m.

The Service was conducted by The Reverend Canon John Merrick.

The Scripture Readings (Micah 4: 1-5 and Saint Matthew 5: 1-12) were read by The Most Reverend Donal McKeown, The Bishop of Derry and by The Right Reverend Andrew Forster, The Bishop of Derry and Raphoe. Prayers were read by The Reverend Canon John Merrick, The Most Reverend Donal McKeown, The Reverend Stephen Hibbert, Moderator of Derry and Donegal Presbytery, The Reverend Peter Morris, Superintendent Minister of the North West Methodist Mission Circuit and The Right Reverend Andrew Forster.

The Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving was held in Saint Columb's Cathedral at 11.30 a.m.

The Service was conducted by The Very Reverend Raymond Stewart and The Reverend Canon John Merrick.

Mr Simon McGonigle, Parish Reader, led the prayers.

The Service was attended by Mr Ian Crowe MBE, CstJ, His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for The County Borough of Londonderry and by Alderman Niree McMorris, Deputy Mayor of Derry City and Strabane District Council who read the Scripture readings; by Mr Brian Dougherty, High Sheriff of The County Borough of Londonderry; by Lord Hay of Ballyore and Mr Gary Middleton MLA; by Councillors from Derry City and Strabane District Council; by representatives of The Royal British Legion; by The Foyle Cadets and by The Right Reverend Andrew Forster who preached the Sermon.

The wreaths were laid at The War Memorial in the Cathedral by Mr Richard Doherty, Mr John Wilson and Mr Maurice Brown.

The Service was sung by The Cathedral Choirs of Boy and Girl Choristers and Lay Clerks.

The Choirs were conducted by Mr Nicky Morton, Organist and Director of Music.

The Organist was Mr Louis Fields, Assistant Organist.

THE REVISION OF THE LIST OF REGISTERED VESTRYPersons

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

One of the items on the Agenda will be The Revision of The List of Registered Vestrypersons.

At the meeting the name of any parishioner who has died, or who has left the parish, during the year will be deleted and, hopefully, new names will be added.

Any resident parishioner or accustomed member of the congregation who is eighteen years of age and over may have his/her name added to the List provided that he/she fulfils the following requirements.

Signs a declaration form to confirm that he/she is a member of The Church of Ireland.

Signs a declaration form to confirm that he/she is either a resident parishioner or an accustomed member of the congregation.

Declaration forms will be available in the Vestibule during the month of January.

Please ask the churchwardens (William Lynn and Muriel Hamilton) for details.

Q. What is The List of Registered Vestrypersons?

A. The List of Registered Vestrypersons is the list of names of parishioners and of people who are accustomed members of the congregation, i.e. people who 'belong' to the parish but who live outside of the parish boundaries.

It is from this list that people are appointed and elected at the meeting of The General Vestry

i.e. The Annual Meeting of the Parish, held usually after Easter, to serve as churchwardens, glebewardens and members of the Select Vestry.

Q. To what will I be committing myself if I sign the Declaration Form?

A. By having your name on the list you will be doing two things.

- (1) You will be entitled to nominate, and elect, parishioners to various offices, and
- (2) you will be able – if you wish – to be nominated for office.

If you have never signed a Declaration Form, or have forgotten that you signed many, many years ago, we can check the List for you.



The Red Chair Project



The Christmas season is upon us again and amidst the fantastic displays of our Christmas Festival, you will find an empty RED CHAIR serving as St. Columb's Cathedral's support of the *Red Chair Project*.

What is the Red Chair Project?

The *Red Chair Project* has been adapted from a very successful campaign in French churches called *Une place pour Elles*. This action involves reserving a chair at a public place with a sign highlighting facts about domestic violence. The empty chair serves as a visual symbol of the lives lost to gender-based violence.

*Remember, globally, every 11 minutes a woman or girl dies at the hands of an intimate partner or family member. Since March 2020, **71 women and 3 girls** have died violently in Ireland.*

Of those 71 females, 43 have died in the Republic of Ireland and 28 have died in Northern Ireland. (November 2025)

What is the action about?

It is a simple but effective call to action is to individually and collectively speak out for the women and girls who have lost their lives to violence.

Why should we do it?

Women and girls' lives have been snuffed out around the world when their lights should have been allowed to burn strong and bright. These women and girls are missed. It is our chance to stand up and speak for them; help us protect others and ourselves from the control of current - and future - abusers.

How else to take action

Every single voice becomes part of a collective sound that reverberates around the world. Take a stand against this culture through your words and actions and model a different way. Then invite others to do the same.

St Columb's Cathedral is proud to have Safe Church Status and to hold a Gold RISE UP AWARD for the constant vigilance we take in standing up against domestic abuse and violence in our local community.

Some ideas to start:

Talk to a friend today.

Join the MU RISE UP Campaign Against Domestic Abuse

Put up a RISE UP poster or sticker in a community space

Support Foyle Women's Aid - they appreciate donations such as supermarket vouchers, pyjamas, towels, and bedding.

Many thanks to all who contributed to the **Foye Women's Aid Collection**. If you still wish to contribute, please speak to Jacqui. Hospital emergency wash bags and neo natal and new born knits have been

gratefully received by Janice for our MU Diocesan Project

Derry & Raphoe Mothers' Union in conjunction with The Churches Trust are hosting a 16 DAYS TWILIGHT SERVICE on Sunday 07 December in St. Peter's Church, Culmore at 4 pm. All ARE WELCOME



On 11th November members enjoyed a wonderful informative and interactive Ask The Panel evening with the combined wisdom of Vivien Keys, pharmacist, Dr Amanda Vaughan, and Elma Lynn, physiotherapist. During the evening we discussed social prescribing and loneliness, the availability of covid, flu, shingles and pneumonia vaccines, screenings, pain relief, effective medications, exercise, diet, routine and aging gracefully!

Many thanks to Elizabeth and Pauline for a delicious supper and to all who helped make the evening such a success.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 9th December and will be a Christmas get-together with carols and a quiz. Please bring along any personal Christmas stories you would like to share.

Our new programme for 2026 will be available in January. Our opening service will be a service of healing and wholeness as we join in with the Tuesday morning Holy Communion service on Tuesday 13 January at 10.30am, followed by a cup of tea in the Chapter House and the option of a catch up over lunch in Café Central.

FOCUS ON UGANDA

47% of rural families in Uganda live in poverty. Mothers' Union's transformational savings groups bring women like Miriam together in faith. They save, support one another and start small businesses, taking control of their lives.



When a Mothers' Union savings group started in her parish, Miriam joined. Each week she and her neighbours save, learn new skills, build businesses, and encourage one another in faith. Most of all, they're changing their mindset, trusting that with God's help, change is possible.

'There was a time I thought nothing would ever change. But today, thanks to my savings group, I can provide for my family and build hope for the future.' — Miriam, Uganda

This Christmas through the MU Big Give we hope our support will enable the expansion of the savings groups into four new dioceses, bringing essential life skills and hope for the future, lifting families out of poverty.

How to DOUBLE your donation - between 2 and 9 December 2025 only
Donate online at www.mothersunion.org/appeal/christmas25

Many thanks for your support during 2025...we leave you with a Christmas message from our Worldwide President, Kathleen Snow:
Wishing you a blessed Christmas and New Year. May the season bring you peace, hope, and light, and the year ahead be filled with God's love and lasting joy.



THE CATHEDRAL MAGAZINE

Notes and Articles for the February 2026 edition
of the Cathedral Magazine are due by **SUNDAY 25th January 2026**

THE SELECT VESTRY

A meeting of the Select Vestry will be held in The Diocesan Centre, London Street, Londonderry on **TUESDAY 2nd DECEMBER 2025 at 7.30 p.m.**

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





Well the happy season is here again, if you want to call it that! Cathedral Youth Club will be busy hosting Christmas Parties etc. Our First event will be an outing to the Pantomime Beauty and The Beast in The Millennium Forum on Wednesday 3rd December.

This is a real treat for the young kids, as of course we all love a pantomime! Our Christmas Cooking Classes continue with our chef from The North West

College. We are now in our 4th week and everyone has enjoyed trying out new recipes. A trip on Saturday 6th December to Christmas Wonderland Money more is high on the wish list for all age groups. A wide variety of Christmas Activities and of course a meeting with Santa Clause, as well as sampling tasty Christmas food and of course receiving a gift if you are very good!

We look forward to a special Christmas Celebrating Christmas Together Service in Saint Columb's Cathedral on Wednesday 10th December in partnership with Saint Eugene's Cathedral.

You can be sure of a truly inspiring evening due to the guest artists. The Retiring Collection will go to 'The Homeless in our City' which I am sure everyone will support generously.

What better cause at this time of year, to help people who are not as lucky as ourselves.

A Beetle Drive Night will take place at Cathedral Youth Club on Thursday 11th December 7.00pm. As you know from past years' this event is good fun.

So please come along and join in.

Of course we cannot forget the babies and toddlers so Mini Melo Beats will be having a Christmas Special on Friday 12th December 10.30am at Cathedral Youth Club, another event not to be missed.

The young people and not so young Christmas Party will take place on Tuesday 16th December in Cathedral Youth Club at 5.00pm - 8.00pm.

Games, Disco, Food, and of course a visit from Santa.

We are privileged to host a Christmas Party for The Praxis Care and The Mental Health Group, Pump Street, on Wednesday 17th December. The two groups play a huge part in the life of our club and avail of the use of the centre to carry out workshops and also help out at our Allotments.

We will be serving The Big Breakfast on Lundy's Day 6th December from 8.30am - 1.00pm. All welcome.

The Cathedral Youth Club will close for their well earned Christmas Break on Friday 19th December. - Monday 5th January .

We would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy Prosperous New Year.

Jeanette and all the staff, young people, at Cathedral Youth Club

THE LONDONDERRY PROTESTANT ORPHAN SOCIETY

At Christmas, when we celebrate the Birth of Jesus, we think about children.

We remember children and young people who have been left without a mother or a father or, in some cases, both parents. The Londonderry Protestant Orphan Society provides financial assistance to children who live in Couty Londonderry.

There will be a retiring offering in support of The Londonderry Protestant Orphan Society at Choral Eucharist (Order Two) on Christmas Eve, Wednesday 24th December, at Holy Communion (Order One) and at Festival Choral Eucharist (Order Two) on Christmas Day, Thursday 25th December.

LECTURE AT SAINT AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH

Thursday 8th January 2026 at 7.30 p.m. / The Dunmore Mystery

Speaker: Ken McCormack

Thursday 22nd January 2026 at 7.30 p.m. / The Martyr of Malaga –

The tragic tale of Robert Boyd

Speaker: Hazel Philson

ALTNAGELVIN HOSPITAL CHOIR CAROL SERVICES 2025

Tuesday 2nd December at 7.30 p.m. in First Derry Presbyterian Church

Tuesday 9th December at 7.30 p.m. in St Mary's Church, Ardmore

Voluntary donation in aid of Motor Neurone Disease Association, Northern Ireland

King's Award for Voluntary Service for Saint Columb's Cathedral Volunteers

Saint Columb's Cathedral Volunteers has been honoured with The King's Award for Voluntary Service (KAVS), an accolade that acknowledges exemplary contributions by local volunteer groups to the betterment of their communities.

A dedicated group of volunteers at Saint Columb's Cathedral has been honoured with The KAVS for 2025. This prestigious recognition represents the highest accolade available to local voluntary groups in the United Kingdom and is considered equivalent to an MBE. The award acknowledges their outstanding contributions to social cohesion, community relations, and tourism within a socially deprived area of Northern Ireland. Notably, this distinction is conferred as a lifetime honour.



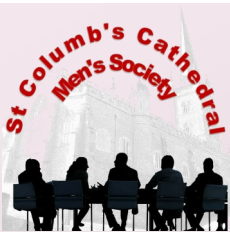
This recognition underscores the dedication of individuals who have supported various aspects of Cathedral life over the years. It further honours those who have welcomed visitors from both the local community and abroad to this historic church. All who have invested their time and effort in preserving the Cathedral as a prominent landmark of the city are part of this distinguished achievement and may take significant pride in their contributions. The Cathedral gratefully acknowledges the invaluable contributions of its dedicated volunteers, whose ongoing support is essential to maintaining its status as the 'Jewel in the Crown' of Derry/Londonderry's tourism sector. We extend our sincere appreciation for your exemplary service.

St Columb's Cathedral is one of 231 local charities, social enterprises

and voluntary groups to receive the prestigious award this year.

Their work, along with others from across the UK, reminds us of all the ways fantastic volunteers are contributing to their local communities and working to make life better for those around them.

The award will be presented to the Cathedral Volunteers by the Lord-Lieutenant at a special ceremony. This is likely to be in the Spring of 2026.



The Men's Society met on Tuesday 18th November in the Diocesan Centre at 7:30pm. There was an apology from the Dean and the meeting was opened with prayers by Canon John Merrick.

The guest speaker was Professor Aaron Peace who is a practicing Cardiologist, specialising in Interventional Cardiology with particular interest in performing Complex stent implantation procedures.

Professor Peace delivered a brief presentation discussing the different

aspects of heart disease and its effects on our lifestyles, particularly regarding high cholesterol and blood pressure. He also explained in detail how statins have revolutionised the successful treatment of cholesterol, while addressing their potential side effects.

After a brief pause, audience questions increased due to high interest in the talk.

Canon John ended the Q&A as time ran short. Professor Peace's clear delivery made the evening a success, and he has offered to return for another session.

December will bring our annual Christmas breakfast which this year will be held in the White Horse Hotel on Wednesday 17th at 10:00am. More details will be emailed to all members for January, February and March meetings.

On behalf of The Dean, William, and myself, I wish all our members a joyful Christmas, a successful New Year, and thank you for your support in 2025.

Robert

December 2025

SATURDAY 6TH	14.00	THANKSGIVING SERVICE FOR THE SHUTTING OF THE GATES Hymns 326, 488, 661
SUNDAY 7TH 2nd Sunday of Advent <i>Boy Choristers and Lay Clerks</i>	11.00	CHORAL EUCHARIST (order 2) Hymns 126, 405, 136 Setting Shephard <i>The Wiltshire Service</i> Motet Elgar <i>Ave Verum</i>
<i>Lay Clerks</i>	16.00	CHORAL EVENSONG Hymns 124, 346 Responses Tallis Psalm 11, 28 Canticles Morley Anthem Archer <i>Long ago, prophets knew</i>
MONDAY 8TH <i>Boy and Girl Choristers</i>	19.30	EMERGENCY SERVICES CAROL SERVICE Away in a manger
SUNDAY 14TH 3rd Sunday of Advent <i>Girl Choristers and Lay Clerks</i>	11.00	CHORAL EUCHARIST (order 1) Hymns 124, 417, 281 Setting Sumson <i>in F</i> Motet Darke <i>In the bleak midwinter</i>
<i>Cathedral Ensemble</i>	16.00	COMPLINE Hymns 66, 706 Psalm 134 Nunc Dimittis Plainsong
<i>Boy and Girl Choristers</i>	19.30	CANDLELIGHT CONCERT WITH MARGARET KEYS AND THE PRIESTS <i>Pennyburn Chapel</i>
FRIDAY 19th <i>Boy and Girl Choristers</i>		RENEWING THE CITY CENTRE - BBC FOYLE RECORDING <i>St. Columb's Hall</i>
SUNDAY 21ST 4th Sunday of Advent <i>Boy Choristers and Lay Clerks</i>	11.00	SUNDAY SCHOOL NATIVITY Hymns 177, 172, 149, 174, 160 Anthem Archer <i>The Angel Gabriel</i>
<i>The Cathedral Choirs</i>	19.30	NINE LESSONS & CAROLS SERVICE Special order of service
WEDNESDAY 24TH Christmas Eve <i>Cathedral Chamber Choir</i>	23.30	CHORAL EUCHARIST (order 2) Hymns 160, 188, 182 Setting Shephard <i>The Wiltshire Service</i> Motet Holst <i>In the bleak midwinter</i>
THURSDAY 25TH Christmas Day <i>The Cathedral Choirs</i>	8.00	EUCCHARIST (order 1) Hymns 159, 149, 166
	11.00	FESTIVAL EUCHARIST (order 2) Hymns 172, 147, 166 Setting Mathias <i>Communion Setting III</i> Motet Ledger <i>Sussex Carol</i> Rutter <i>The 12 days of Christmas</i>
SUNDAY 28th First Sunday of Christmas	11.00	MATINS Hymns 196, 164, 189
WEDNESDAY 31st New Year's Eve	23.00	EUCCHARIST (order 2) Hymns 81, 80, 457

Service & Music List

January 2026

SUNDAY 4TH 11.00
Second Sunday of Christmas
*Boy Choristers
and Lay Clerks*

CHORAL EUCHARIST (order 2)
Hymns 189, 194, 431
Setting Haydn *Little Organ Mass*
Motet How *Fairest Lord Jesus*
Motet Rutter *The Lord Bless You
and Keep You*

Cathedral Chamber Choir 16.00

CAROLS OF THE EPIPHANY
Special order of service

SUNDAY 11TH 11.00
1st Sunday after Epiphany
*Girl Choristers and
Lay Clerks*

CHORAL MATINS
Hymns 204, 190, 6
Responses Ebdon
Canticle Venite
Psalm 29
Canticle Te Deum
Anthem Britten *A New Years' Carol*

Cathedral Ensemble 16.00

COMPLINE
Hymns 66, 73
Psalm 4
Nunc Dimittis Dyson *in C minor*

SUNDAY 18TH 11.00
2nd Sunday after Epiphany
*Boy Choristers and
Lay Clerks*

FAMILY SERVICE
Hymns 10, 581, 597, 634
Anthem Shephard *I heard the voice of Jesus*

Lay Clerks 16.00

CHORAL EVENSONG
Hymns 501, 643
Responses Rose
Psalm 96
Canticles Lees *in E minor*
Anthem Victoria *Jesu dulcis memoria*

SUNDAY 25TH 11.00
3rd Sunday after Epiphany
*Girls Choristers and
Lay Clerks*

CHORAL EUCHARIST (order 1)
Hymns 522, 652, 199
Setting Sarsteiner *Communion Setting*
Motet Mozart *Ave Verum*

*Combined choir
and Parishes* 16.00

DIOCESAN 'FESTIVAL OF HYMNS'
Special order of service

CHOIR NOTES



The month of December is finally upon us — our busiest time as Cathedral Choristers! We look forward to singing our way through the festive period with joy and enthusiasm.

Alongside our usual Sunday services, we are excited to perform in the Emergency Services' Carol Service and the Magic of Christmas Concert at St Patrick's, Pennyburn, on Sunday, 14th December. We'll share the stage with the internationally acclaimed soprano Margaret Keys and the Priests! Tickets for this event are rapidly disappearing so if you would like to join us on the night - we recommend that you book now!

We are also eagerly anticipating our very own Nine Lessons and Carols service in the Cathedral on Sunday, 21st December. Amidst all these events, we will be recording our Christmas Day Chorister Carol, which will be shared across our social media platforms and beyond on Christmas Day itself.

To conclude, Louis joins me in wishing our Boy Choristers, Girl Choristers, and Lay Clerks a very Happy Christmas. Your dedication to singing all year round inspires us to strive to be the best we can be.

A special thank you to our Supervisors — Marion, Anna, Therese, Janelle, and Lucy — whose efforts ensure a safe and nurturing environment at the Cathedral for our Choristers. We are deeply grateful for all that you do.

Finally, we extend our warmest wishes to the Dean, Canon Merrick, the Select Vestry, and the wider Cathedral community for a joyful and blessed Christmas. We hope you enjoy the services and events during this festive season as much as we enjoy singing them!

Looking forward to what 2026 brings us!

Nicky

HOSPITAL / NURSING HOME ADMISSIONS

If you or a relative is admitted to, or discharged from, hospitals or nursing homes please let Dean Raymond Stewart or The Reverend Canon John Merrick 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, Monday – Friday, 10.30 a.m.
Monday: Morning Prayer. Wednesday: Morning Prayer. 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.

Free OCN Level 1 - Community Development Practice

Start Date: 13th January 2025

Time: 10-12 noon (fortnightly)

Duration: 8 weeks (4 sessions)

Location: The Churches Trust Office, Limavady Road

For more information or to register, please

email margaretbonner@thechurchestrust.org.uk



Margaret Bonner
Health Equalities Co-ordinator
Phone: 028 7131 1322
Mobile: 07955287085
Email: margaretbonner@thechurchestrust.org.uk

11 Limavady Road
Derry/Londonderry, BT47 6JU
www.thechurchestrust.org.uk



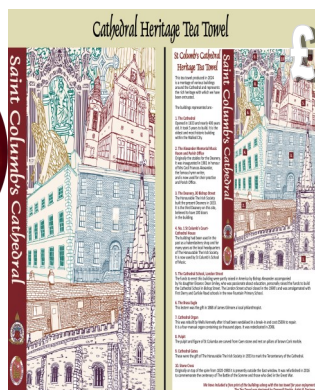
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Ideal gifts for family and friends



£10



£10



Church mice

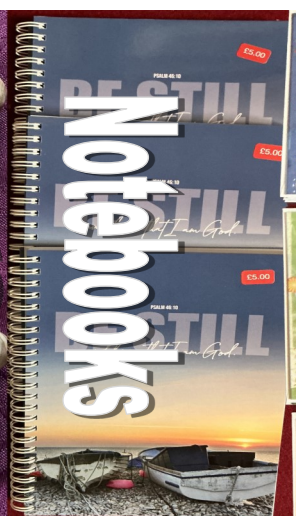


Prayer cubes

£3

Cross

£3.00



Notebooks



Birthday cards



Mugs

£8



Luxury Christmas cards



Luxury Christmas cards



Cross keyrings



Ceramic decorations



Christmas cubes



Cathedral Themed Stock

We are delighted to have new stock available for sale, the gift of generous donors. These are items which would make nice gifts for family. They have the Chapter Seal on them- these include small notebooks, beanie hats, and adult fleeces.

PARTNERS IN PRAYER 2025 – 2026

MONDAY 1st DECEMBER 2025: THE FEAST DAY OF SAINT ANDREW (by transfer)

**THE WEEK BEGINNING SUNDAY 7th DECEMBER 2025
THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

The Church of Bangladesh

The Most Reverend Samuel Sunil Mankhin, Moderator, The Church of Bangladesh.
Bishop of The Diocese of Kushtia.

The Church of Ireland

The Most Reverend John McDowell, Archbishop of The Diocese of Armagh,
Primate of All Ireland and Metropolitan.

The Anglican Church of Tanzania

The Most Reverend Dr Maimbo Mndolwa, Archbishop of The Church of Tanzania.
Bishop of The Diocese of Tanga.

The Diocese of Kondoa. The Right Reverend Given Gaula.

The Dioceses of Derry and Raphoe. The Right Reverend Andrew Forster.

The Parishes of Donegal, Killymard, Lough Eske and Laghey

The Venerable David Huss, Rector / Archdeacon of Raphoe.
Miss Nuala Dudley, Diocesan Reader.

MISSION FOCUS – THE BIBLE SOCIETY IN CAMBODIA

Scripture translation, publishing, and distribution depend on its audience being literate.

To address this issue The Bible Society in Cambodia has partnered with many local churches to offer approximately 500 literacy classes a year to both disadvantaged Christians and non-Christians who have not learned to read or write Khmer. Students who finish the course will receive a New Testament and New Reader Scripture Portions. 97% of Cambodia are Buddhist but there is such a hunger to learn to read that they are happy to attend the Bible Society's classes so this is a fantastic opportunity for The Bible Society to evangelise to those to whom they otherwise would not have a connection.

**THE WEEK BEGINNING SUNDAY 14th DECEMBER 2025
THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Igreja Episcopal Anglicana de Brasil (The Episcopal Church of Brazil)

The Most Reverend Marinez Rosa Dos Santos Bassotto,
Primate of The Episcopal Anglican Church of Brazil.
Bishop of The Diocese of Amazonia.

The Church of Ireland

The Most Reverend John McDowell, Archbishop of The Diocese of Armagh,
Primate of All Ireland and Metropolitan.

The Anglican Church of Tanzania

The Most Reverend Dr Maimbo Mndolwa, Archbishop of The Anglican Church of Tanzania.
Bishop of The Diocese of Tanga.

The Diocese of Kondoa. The Right Reverend Given Gaula.

The Dioceses of Derry and Raphoe. The Right Reverend Andrew Forster.

The Parishes of Stranorlar, Meenglass and Kiltreevogue. The Reverend Johnny Lowden.

MISSION FOCUS – THE LEPROSY MISSION IN BANGLADESH

The Leprosy Mission Bangladesh supports persons affected by leprosy across a variety of crucial community interventions. This includes support with livelihoods, children's education, women's empowerment, and self-help groups. Through all of this work we aim to improve quality of life for persons affected by leprosy.

Pray for the Hagar project that provides shelter, legal support, and counselling for destitute women.

Pray that the project's clients will be able to return safely to their communities.

**THE WEEK BEGINNING SUNDAY 21st DECEMBER 2025
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

The Anglican Church of Burundi

The Most Reverend Sixbert Macumi, Archbishop of The Anglican Church of Burundi.
Bishop of The Diocese of Buye.

The Church of Ireland

The Most Reverend John McDowell, Archbishop of The Diocese of Armagh,
Primate of All Ireland and Metropolitan.

The Anglican Church of Tanzania

The Most Reverend Dr Maimbo Mndolwa, Archbishop of The Church of Tanzania.

Bishop of The Diocese of Tanga.
The Diocese of Kondoa. The Right Reverend Given Gaula.
The Dioceses of Derry and Raphoe. The Right Reverend Andrew Forster.
The Parishes of Convoy, Donaghmore and Monellan
Rector: Vacant
In charge during the vacancy: The Very Reverend Liz Fitzgerald, Rural Dean.

WEDNESDAY 24th DECEMBER 2025: CHRISTMAS EVE

THURSDAY 25th DECEMBER 2025
CHRISTMAS DAY / THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

FRIDAY 26th DECEMBER 2025
THE FEAST DAY OF SAINT STEPHEN

SATURDAY 27th DECEMBER 2025
THE FEAST DAY OF SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST

THE WEEK BEGINNING SUNDAY 28th DECEMBER 2025
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
THE FEAST DAY OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS

The Anglican Church of Canada
The Most Reverend Shane Parker,
Primate and Archbishop of The Anglican Church of Canada.

The Church of Ireland
The Most Reverend John McDowell, Archbishop of The Diocese of Armagh,
Primate of All Ireland and Metropolitan.

The Anglican Church of Tanzania
The Most Reverend Dr Maimbo Mndolwa, Archbishop of The Church of Tanzania.
Bishop of The Diocese of Tanga.

The Diocese of Kondoa. The Right Reverend Given Gaula.
The Dioceses of Derry and Raphoe. The Right Reverend Andrew Forster.

The Raphoe Group of Parishes
Saint Eunan's Cathedral, Raphoe, Raymochy (Manorcunningham) and Clonleigh (Lifford)
The Very Reverend Liz Fitzgerald, Rector / Dean of Raphoe.

THURSDAY 1st JANUARY 2026
THE FEAST DAY OF THE NAMING AND CIRCUMCISION OF JESUS

THE WEEK BEGINNING SUNDAY 4th JANUARY 2026
THE SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
The Church of The Province of Central Africa

The Most Reverend Albert Chama,
Archbishop of The Church of The Province of Central Africa.
Bishop of The Diocese of Lusaka.

The Church of Ireland
The Most Reverend John McDowell, Archbishop of The Diocese of Armagh,
Primate of All Ireland and Metropolitan.

The Dioceses of Derry and Raphoe. The Right Reverend Andrew Forster.

TUESDAY 6th JANUARY 2026
THE FEAST DAY OF THE EPIPHANY

THE WEEK BEGINNING SUNDAY 11th JANUARY 2026
THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY: THE BAPTISM OF JESUS
Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America
(The Anglican Church of the Region of Central America)

The Most Reverend Juan David Alvarado Melgar,
Primate of The Anglican Church of the Region of Central America.
Bishop of The Diocese of El Salvador.

The Church of Ireland
The Most Reverend John McDowell, Archbishop of The Diocese of Armagh,
Primate of All Ireland and Metropolitan.

The Dioceses of Derry and Raphoe. The Right Reverend Andrew Forster.

THE WEEK BEGINNING SUNDAY 18th JANUARY 2026

THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo (The Anglican Church of The Province of Congo)

The Most Reverend Georges Titre Ande,
Archbishop of The Anglican Church of The Province of Congo.
Bishop of The Diocese of Aru.

The Church of Ireland

The Most Reverend John McDowell, Archbishop of The Diocese of Armagh,
Primate of All Ireland and Metropolitan.

The Dioceses of Derry and Raphoe. The Right Reverend Andrew Forster.

THE WEEK BEGINNING SUNDAY 25th JANUARY 2026

THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

THE FEAST DAY OF THE CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL

Iglesia Anglicana de Chile (The Anglican Church of Chile)

The Most Reverend Enrique Lago Zugadi, Primate of The Anglican Church of Chile.
Bishop of The Diocese of South of Chile.

The Church of Ireland

The Most Reverend John McDowell, Archbishop of The Diocese of Armagh,
Primate of All Ireland and Metropolitan.

The Dioceses of Derry and Raphoe. The Right Reverend Andrew Forster.

MISSION FOCUS – THE LEPROSY MISSION

World Leprosy Day takes place every year on the last Sunday of January.

This day is a day of pride for Organisations of Persons Affected by Leprosy (OPLs) and an opportunity for organisations and churches to celebrate the contributions of persons affected by leprosy to their communities.

Pray for God's blessing over all the OPLs that are marking this week.

May they rightly feel proud of all that they contribute to their communities.

THE WEEK BEGINNING SUNDAY 1st FEBRUARY 2026

THE THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE LENT: SEPTUAGESIMA

THE FEAST DAY OF SAINT BRIGID

The Church of England

The Right Reverend and Right Honourable Dame Sarah Mullally,
Archbishop-elect of The Diocese of Canterbury and Primate of The Anglican Communion.
The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Stephen Cottrell,
Archbishop of The Diocese of York.

The Church of Ireland

The Most Reverend John McDowell, Archbishop of The Diocese of Armagh,
Primate of All Ireland and Metropolitan.

The Dioceses of Derry and Raphoe. The Right Reverend Andrew Forster.

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.**

Bible Readings for December 2025

DAY	READING	THEME
Monday 1	Micah 5:2-4	One of the little clans of Judah
Tuesday 2	John 10:11-18	God the shepherd
Wednesday 3	Isaiah 9:6-7	The Son who is sent
Thursday 4	Genesis 49:10-12	God the ruler
Friday 5	John 6:25-40	The bread of life
Saturday 6	Numbers 24:15-19	The light will shine
Sunday 7	John 8:12-30	I am the light of the world
Monday 8	Isaiah 9:2-5	People have seen a great light
Tuesday 9	Psalms 94:17-23	A fortress
Wednesday 10	John 10:1-10	I am the gate
Thursday 11	Jeremiah 23:3-8	Raise up a righteous branch
Friday 12	John 15:1-7	I am the true vine
Saturday 13	1 Peter 5:1-6	Humility exalted
Sunday 14	Isaiah 8:11-15	Conspiracy!
Monday 15	Deuteronomy 18:14-22	A prophet
Tuesday 16	John 14:6-10	I am the way
Wednesday 17	Isaiah 53:9-12	He will see his offspring
Thursday 18	Ezekiel 37:26-28	An everlasting covenant
Friday 19	Revelation 3:14-22	Behold, I stand at the door
Saturday 20	John 11:21-27	I am the resurrection and the life
Sunday 21	Isaiah 60:1-6	Arise! Shine! The night is nearly over
Monday 22	Matthew 1:1-17	Who's who?
Tuesday 23	Matthew 1:18-25	The obedience and kindness of Joseph
Wednesday 24	Matthew 2:1-6	The star in the East
Thursday 25	Psalms 98	Make a joyful noise this Christmas
Friday 26	Matthew 2:7-12	Offering treasures
Saturday 27	Matthew 2:13-15	Refugees in a strange land
Sunday 28	Matthew 2:16-18	Flight to safety
Monday 29	Matthew 2:19-25	A different return
Tuesday 30	Isaiah 63:7-9	God with us—how do we know
Wednesday 31	Psalms 148	Thankfulness, the heart's reply

With Heartfelt Sympathy

HASLETT

We remember the family and all of the relatives of **Elizabeth (Betty) Haslett** (nee McMorris), Ross Bay, Limavady Road, Londonderry who died, peacefully, at 'Dunnfield House,' Ballykelly Road, Ballykelly, County Londonderry (the home of her daughter Joan and son-in-law Michael) on Saturday 1st November 2025.

Betty was the much loved wife of the late Holmes Haslett; the devoted mother of Keith and Joan; the loving mother-in-law of Michael and the late Lynne; the adored granny of Annika, Rowena, Sarah, Ruth and Rachael; and a great-granny to 10 great grandchildren; and the dearest sister of Avril Moore (Lincolnshire).

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Betty Haslett was held at Saint Columb's Cathedral, Londonderry on Wednesday 5th November 2025. The Service was conducted by The Very Reverend Raymond Stewart and by The Reverend Canon John Merrick who also gave the Tribute / Address.

Scripture readings were read by Sarah Corns (Psalm 121), Annika Haslett Symonds (Revelation 21: 1-7) and Rachael Halley (Saint John 14: 1-6, 27).

DOAK

We remember Gwen Doak and her family, Charlie, Amber and Connor, and all of the relatives of her husband **Christopher John Doak**, Kirk Road, Ballymoney who died, suddenly, on Thursday 6th November 2025.

Christopher was the dearly beloved husband of Gwen Doak; the much loved father of Charlie, Amber and Connor; the dearest son of Margaret and the late Joseph; and the dear brother of Philip, Joanne, Heather and the late Kenneth.

A Funeral Service for Christopher Doak was held in St James's Presbyterian Church, Ballymoney on Monday 10th November 2025, followed by interment in Ballymoney Cemetery.

Christopher was a nephew of Mrs Ray Mace, Rosstowney Road, Londonderry to whom, and to whose family, we also express our sympathy.

Parish Register

Holy Baptism

"Go and make disciples of all nations"

Sunday 9th November 2025

Ayda Tillie Gillespie

the daughter of Stephen James Gillespie and Joleen Elizabeth Jackson, The Fountain, Londonderry. Ayda's godparents are Gareth Johnston and Justine Gillespie.

Following The Rite of Holy Baptism The Very Reverend Raymond Stewart presented Stephen and Joleen with a Dorcas Pack for Ayda.

Sunday 16th November 2025

Kalila-Rae Olivia Murray

the daughter of Keelan Oliver Murray, Clon Elagh, Skeoge Road, Londonderry and Yasmin Shannon Carroll, St Breacan's Park, Londonderry.

Kalila's godparents are Holly McAnenny, Gerard Martin, Michele Houston and Edward Sharkey.

Following The Rite of Holy Baptism Ms Jacqui Armstrong, Chair of The Templemore Branch of The Mothers' Union, presented Keelan and Yasmin with a Dorcas Pack for Kalila-Rae.

Burial

"The Lord is my Shepherd."

Wednesday 5th November 2025

Elizabeth (Betty) Haslett

'Dunnfield House, Ballykelly Road, Ballykelly, County Londonderry (formerly of Ross Bay, Londonderry)

Altnagelvin Cemetery

Saturday 29th November 2025

George Winston Carson

89 Lincoln Court, Londonderry

Ballyoan Cemetery

Obituary
Mrs Elizabeth (Betty) Haslett
2nd August 1928 - 1st November 2025

We have prior to this service laid Betty to rest in Altnagelvin Cemetery beside her late and much loved, over many years, husband Holmes. We have now come together in this Cathedral Church to give thanks for Betty's life, a good life, a long life and a life filled with love, happiness and outreach. We are here, also, to support you her family and friends in your sadness and loss as you say farewell, in an earthly sense, to a much loved mother, grandmother, great grandmother, sister and friend. We extend to you our prayerful support as you face the coming days, months and years without her presence, advice, care and concern.

Betty was born in Princess Terrace on 2nd August 1928 she is survived by her only sister who lives in England and sadly she cannot be with us here today.

Betty attended the Model School until she was fourteen years of age.

Following this she attended Wallace Secretarial College and having qualified there she found employment with Thompson's Feeds working in their office for nine years.

She met her husband Holmes when she was sixteen and he was nineteen.

They were married six and a half years later, however, Betty had one stipulation that prior to the marriage Holmes had to purchase a house which he duly did and they moved into 1 Nicholson Terrace following their marriage

in St Augustine's Church on the 19th March 1951. Holmes, for his part, also had one stipulation that they would have to be married before the 5th of April to that he could claim the maximum married man's Income Tax allowance. They spent their honeymoon in Edinburgh and they went back there forty years later to retrace and revisit all the places they had been to.

Betty told me on one of my visits that while they were courting Holmes brought her on holiday to Dunfanaghy booking two single rooms in a local guesthouse. On arrival the landlady discovered that they were a couple and she insisted that Holmes stay in her sister's guesthouse next door.

In their marriage they were blessed with two children Keith born in May 1953 and Joan born in May 1955. In later years the family moved to a new home in Rosssbay. They had a long and happy marriage of fifty-four years. Later in life, as the family grew up she returned to work in her husband's business T.S. Magee and Sons in Castle Street in the city. Holmes retirement in 1990 gave them more time to travel and they enjoyed a visit to America with their good friends Scott and Margo McCarter.

For many years she was a very proactive member of Ballyarnett Women's Institute where she involved herself with their many charity fund raising events.

Betty took a great interest in her grandchildren and indeed her great grandchildren she had a remarkable memory for their dates of birth and significant events in their lives while growing up. The grandchildren provided me with some extremely endearing memories and reflections about their Grandmother and as I read them the letter 'P' was very much to the fore, let me illustrate! Pancakes, pavlovas, picnics, potatoes (mashed and chipped) Portrush, parties (Christmas in Rosssbay), phone calls, patience. Another chord running through those reflections was her innate intelligence and mathematical capability and wondering that had she been afforded the opportunity for further education what might her career path have been.

This brief reflection on Betty's life cannot encompass all that was good and true in that life but suffice it is to say her passing has and will leave a massive void in your lives but let me turn to our Gospel reading for today where 'Jesus speaks of a home, a place 'where there are many mansions, a place prepared just for us. As we gather today to remember the life of Betty, we are reminded of this beautiful promise: in the Father's house, there is room for us all.

Jesus has gone ahead to prepare a place for those who follow Him. And though we may not fully understand what this place looks like, we know that it is a place where God's love and peace abound. It is a place where we will find rest, a place where we will be united with our loved ones again.

The promise of a prepared place is not just for a distant future. It is a present comfort. We can hold onto this truth now. Even as we mourn, we can rejoice that Betty is already in the presence of the Lord, in that prepared place, free from suffering and pain.

In the Father's house, there is a place for all who trust in Jesus. Let this truth bring us peace today. Though you grieve, you do not grieve as those without hope. You grieve with the certainty that there is a place prepared for us, and through Jesus, we too will one day join our loved ones in that eternal home."



In Memoriam



In loving memory of my dear wife Gillian, on her first anniversary of her death

From her husband Galvin Dobson

In memory of our much-loved Mum and Granny, Gillian Dobson

From Jenna, Kieran and Callum Large

In memory of our much-loved Mum and Granny, Gillian Dobson

From Katie, Adam, Robbie and Archie Mitchell

In loving memory of Trafford McIntosh

From Sylvia and all the family circle

In loving memory of George & Violet Stewart

From Sylvia & all the family circle

In memory of a loving wife, Val Brown

From her husband Maurice

In memory of my beloved sister Valerie Kathleen Brown

From her brother Hayden McMullan

From Pearl Arbuckle

From Paul & Roberta Oldfield

In memory of my much loved sister and sister-in-law Valerie Kathleen Brown

From Honor & Maurice Kydd

In memory of my late sister-in-law, Valerie Brown

From Trevor Brown

From Dorothy, Terry Brown & family

In memory of Valerie Brown

From Garth Doherty

From Helen Jones & family

From Joan Hughes

From Bobby & Geraldine Sloane

In memory of Valerie Brown, wife of our member, Maurice

From St Columb's Cathedral Honorary Bellringers

In loving memory of my cousin Betty Haslett

From Brian McMorris

In loving memory of a dear aunt and great aunt, Betty Haslett

From Moyra, John, Conor, Owen & Laura

In memory of Betty Haslett

From Nicky Morton

From Bobby & Geraldine Sloane

From Heather Haslett & girls

From Audrey & Gordon McSparron

From Billy & Gillian Todd & Ian & Alison McCarter

Christmas memories of all our loved ones

From James & Grace McIntosh & Maureen Foster

Precious memories of our parents, Robert and Jenny Wilson, our siblings, Kathleen,

Kenneth, Ivan, Alwyn and Alistair

From Noreen, Lynne and Sharon.

Cherished memories of our darling children, Ryan and Trudy Wells

From Leslie and Sharon.

Precious memories of my beloved husband, Roland Hughes

From his wife, Joan

In loving memory of our dear father, Roland Hughes

From Allison, Keith & David

In memory of James Thompson on the first anniversary of his death

From Anne Thompson & family



In Memoriam



In memory of my mummy at Christmas and every day, Susan Hepburn

All my love from your Christmas baby, Linda Hepburn

In loving memory of mum & dad, Meta & Herbie Street, also brothers Herbie, Winston, Lexie & Raymond and sister-in-law Sylvia

From Freda

In loving memory of our mum, Margaret Moore

From Lynn, Alison & Suzanne

Precious memories of my husband Billy Walker & daughter Sharon Slater, also my parents, Andrew & Lavinia Hetherington

From Marion Walker & family

In memory of all our loved ones at Christmas

From the McLaughlin, Irvine & Smyth families

In memory of all my loved ones

From Ian Bartlett

We give thanks for the life of Billy McBride, who died on 2nd December 2024.

Beloved husband of Betty & father of Peter & Richard.

He is remembered with love & affection by all who knew him.

From Betty McBride & family

In memory of all our loved ones

From Billie & Fay Gallagher

In memory of my dear husband, David Warke, my parents John & Martha McBride

From Jeanette & family

Christmas memories of my family members,

my two brothers Billy & Christopher McBride & nephew Andrew McBride

From Jeanette & family

In memory of our loved ones

From Charlie, Joan & Gail and Cathleen Ferguson

Christmas memories of a dear husband, father and grandfather George Martin Mace, and also for his birthday on January.

Loved and missed every day by his wife Ray and family circle.

In memory of my late family (Warke)

From Lorraine Bradley

DONATION TO FABRIC FUND

From Bobby Hepburn

BAPTISMAL THANKOFFERING

For the Baptism of our daughter, Ayda Tillie Gillespie

From her parents Stephen Gillespie & Joleen Jackson

CHOIR FUND

In Loving memory at Christmas Time of Ron Dobson

From Etta

From Joanie, Gary & family

From Rosaleen & family

In memory of Jessie & James Jefferson and their sons, Jim, Bertie & Norman

From their daughter & sister Ann

Overall Total £4,350.00

The Very Reverend Raymond J Stewart M.A.
The Rector of The Parish of Templemore & Dean of Derry
The Deanery, 30 Bishop Street, Londonderry BT48 6PP
Tel: 02871262746 Mobile: 07563 028588
Email: deanofderry@stcolumbs.net

Pastoral Assistant: The Reverend Canon John Merrick B.A. H.Dip. Ed. D.A.S.E.

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

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

Services held Monday to Friday at 10.30 am

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)

Parish Administrator

Robert McGonigle BEM
Tel: **07794666754**

Email: robert@stcolumbs.net

Office Hours

(Tuesday & Thursday 2pm-6pm)

Parish Secretary/Webmaster

Mrs Linda McGonigle
Email: linda@stcolumbs.net

Hon Secretary

Ms Jacqui Armstrong
Email: vestrysecretary@stcolumbs.net

Sunday School Superintendent

Mrs Irene Hewitt BEM
Email: irenechewitt@outlook.com

Safeguarding Trust Panel Members

The Very Reverend Raymond Stewart
Mrs Elizabeth Fielding BEM
Mr Malcolm Hewitt MBE

**Sounding Fire alarm - Vestry members report
to the churchwardens immediately**



To website

FEBRUARY 2026 Magazine

**Notes / Articles for the February edition of the Cathedral Magazine
are due by SUNDAY 25th January 2026**

The Publication will be available from SUNDAY 1st FEBRUARY