

The image shows the interior of Saint Columb's Cathedral. The focal point is a large, multi-paned stained glass window with a blue and red color scheme, depicting various religious figures. Below the window, the altar area is visible, featuring several lit candles in holders. To the right, a large Gothic archway leads to another part of the church, where more stained glass windows are visible. The architecture is highly detailed with Gothic-style arches and carvings. The lighting is warm, primarily from the candles and the light coming through the windows.

Saint Columb's Cathedral Magazine

December 2024/January 2025
Volume 31 / 32 Issue 12/1



Today (Sunday 1st December) is Advent Sunday. It marks the beginning of a four-week period when Christians are encouraged to prepare spiritually for the Coming (The Birth) of Jesus.

Many people will use these four weeks to prepare for Christmas. Buying and sending Christmas cards; buying presents; stocking up on festive food.

And, of course, we all need to be prepared for **THE BIG DAY!**

Advent also reminds us about another Coming; that as Jesus came once (as a little baby) He will one day return as Judge.

The Second Coming will not be heralded by a fanfare of trumpets or bright lights. Jesus will come unannounced. Scripture tells us that He will come like a thief in the night.

The words **'Be Prepared', 'Keep Awake' and 'Be Alert'** occur in many of the Advent readings. Scripture paints a picture of the Second Coming. We read of signs that will precede the Day. We read of wars, earthquakes and famines throughout the world. People in past years have noticed these things and have said that the End of the World or the Second Coming would happen in a particular year. The years mentioned have all passed and we are still here.

No-one, not even Jesus, can predict when the Second Coming will be.

Jesus said, **'About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father'**. (Saint Matthew 24: 36).

It is certain that the Second Coming will happen one day, so it is important that we all are prepared when it does happen.

That means living our lives in such a way that when Jesus does return to judge the living and the dead we will be able to meet Him unashamed of our words and actions.

One day we will have to give an account of our lives to God. Will we be able to meet Him with confidence, knowing that we have done our best to love and serve Him and our neighbour? Or will we wish that we could hide from His gaze because we have not been as focused on Him and our neighbour as we should have been?

Yours sincerely

Raymond Stewart

CHAPTER NEWS

The Preacher at Choral Eucharist (Order Two) on SUNDAY 1st DECEMBER 2024 will be The Reverend Canon Robert Boyd, the Rector of The Parish of Glendermott and Newbuildings, Londonderry.

The Preacher at Choral Eucharist (Order Two) on SUNDAY 5th JANUARY 2025 will be The Reverend Canon Paul Hoey, the Rector of The Parish of Faughanvale (Eglinton).

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 County Londonderry.

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

BISHOPS' APPEAL / THE MIDDLE EAST

The Church of Ireland has launched a fresh appeal to help provide humanitarian aid for people in need across The Middle East through Bishops' Appeal, its world aid and development programme.

All parishes in The Church of Ireland are being encouraged to support this initiative.

The Middle East Appeal will continue throughout Advent and Christmas with funds raised being shared equally between the Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem and Tearfund.

If you wish to support this appeal Bishops' Appeal envelopes for your donation are available in the Vestibule.

THE REVISION OF THE LIST OF REGISTERED VESTRYPERSONS

A meeting of the Select Vestry of The Parish of Templemore will be held in Cathedral House, No 1 St Columb's Court on TUESDAY 4th FEBRUARY 2025 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 that he/she is a member of The Church of Ireland.

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 the names of parishioners and of people who are accustomed members of the congregation, ie. 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, ie. 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 yourself.

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.

CONFIRMATION 2025

The Right Reverend Andrew Forster, the Bishop of The Dioceses of Derry and Raphoe, will visit Saint Columb's Cathedral on SUNDAY 8th JUNE 2025 (11.00 am) 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 the Dean.

Those who wish to be confirmed –

Must be baptised members of the Church.

Must be 13 years and over in 2025.

THE SELECT VESTRY

A meeting of the Select Vestry will be held in Cathedral House, No 1 St Columb's Court on **TUESDAY 3rd DECEMBER 2024 at 7.30 p.m.**

THE CATHEDRAL MAGAZINE

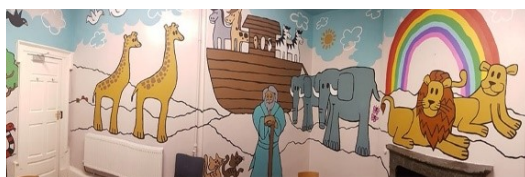
Notes / Articles for the February 2025 edition of the Cathedral Magazine are due by **SUNDAY 26th JANUARY 2025**



Sunday School

December	1	Sunday School in the Diocesan Centre 11am
	8	Sunday School & Christmas Party in the Diocesan Centre 11am
	15	Sunday School Nativity Presentation
January	5	No Sunday School
	12	Sunday School in the Diocesan Centre 11am
	19	Family Service to mark World Leprosy Day
	26	Sunday School in the Diocesan Centre 11am

ADOPT A GRANDPARENT:



Our Adopt a Grandparent visits are a great source of pleasure to children and those whom we visit. Sadly another of those we visited has passed away. Will Pomeroy talked of his return to the Hamilton Band to prepare for the Mayor's Parade in London. The children visiting loved hearing his stories and even though his eyesight had gone Will named those visiting. It is sad that we have lost so many over the last year, but we pride ourselves on the visits and what it meant to everyone. Our Christmas Nativity preparation is well under way and we have angels and shepherds as young as 3 and 4. We are working hard on increasing our numbers and are delighted to welcome Archie to the Sunday School. Birthdays this month – we have no birthdays this month – except for a very special one celebrated by everyone on 25th. Children are the future generation of our church congregation; they should be welcomed and taught the different aspects of the roles within our church whether it be readings or collections to allow them the opportunity to grow especially when the children take the lead during our family service. I am sure we will all welcome them with open arms and encouragement.

Competition time: - Well done Mark who was highly commended in the competition for the n:vision colouring competition for your favourite carol – 'Away in A Manger'.

Thank you to Mrs Sadie McLaughlin and Mrs Margaret Smyth for their kind donation to the Sunday School Christmas Party.



MAGAZINE COMMITTEE

We would like to wish all our readers and contributors a very Happy Christmas and a good New Year 2025. This year we were sad to say farewell to one of our most faithful helpers Georgie Dunseith, who, along with her late sister Isabel, was a most conscientious support when we needed any items delivered. They used to know every person in the Fountain by name and where they lived! Sadly missed and not forgotten.



Festive Greetings!

**Patricia and Dione join me
as I wish you
and your family a Holy Advent,
a very Happy Christmas
and a Blessed New Year.**

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

The customary Act of Remembrance was held at The War Memorial in the Diamond on **SUNDAY 10th NOVEMBER 2024 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, Bishop of Derry and The Right Reverend Andrew Forster, Bishop of Raphoe.

Prayers were read by The Reverend Canon John Merrick, The Most Reverend Donal McKeown, Bishop of Derry, The Reverend Colin Jones, Minister of First Derry and Monreagh Presbyterian Churches, The Reverend Peter Morris, Minister of Carlisle Methodist Church and The Right Reverend Andrew Forster, Bishop of Derry and Raphoe. The Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving was held in Saint Columb's Cathedral at 11.30 a.m. The Service was conducted by The Reverend Canon John Merrick and The Very Reverend Raymond Stewart.

Mr Simon McGonigle, Parish Reader, led the prayers.

The Service was attended by Mr Alan Moore OBE, His Majesty's Vice Lord-Lieutenant of the County Borough of Londonderry and by Councillor Darren Guy, Deputy Mayor of Derry City and Strabane District Council who read the Scripture readings;

by The Venerable Robert Miller, High Sheriff of the County Borough (City) of Londonderry;

by Mr Gary Middleton MLA; by Councillors from Derry City and Strabane District Council

and by The Right Reverend Andrew Forster, Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, who preached the Sermon.

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

The Service was sung by The Cathedral Girl Choristers and the Lay Clerks.

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

The Organist was Mr Louis Fields, Assistant Organist.



FROM THE ARCHIVES – DECEMBER 1999

Looking back at some of the Cathedral magazines of 25 years ago, I discovered the following articles of information. They may bring back memories for some people.

COMPUTER

Congratulations to the Cathedral Youth Club who won a lovely new computer and accessories in a recent environmental competition organised by the City Council. We all wish Jeanette and David every blessing as she receives her MBE at Buckingham Palace in mid-December. Don't forget the Cathedral, Jeanette!

CONGRATULATIONS

From all the family circle to **CANON IAN GALLAGHER** who was voted 'Sligo Person of the Year'.

ULSTER PROJECTS

As treasurer, I was given the privilege of representing Londonderry at the recent International Conference. This is the 25th year of teens going from the Province to various locations in the USA. The trip was very worthwhile as I met representatives from the groups where we send our teens, including a new centre in Memphis, Tennessee.

A special word of commendation must go to **JOANNE MACE** who went last year as leader. I received praise upon praise about her from the representatives of DuPage county – well done, Joanne.

MALCOLM HEWITT, TREASURER, ULSTER PROJECTS

CANDLELIGHT ADVENT PROCESSION

We are very much looking forward to the Candlelight Advent Procession on **ADVENT SUNDAY, 1st DECEMBER, at 7.30 p.m.**

This well established and much loved service of readings, hymns and anthems on the theme '**From Darkness to Light**' is extremely moving and inspirational.

The service 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 JOINT EMERGENCY SERVICES NORTHWEST COMMUNITY CAROL SERVICE

will be held in Saint Columb's Cathedral on **MONDAY 9th 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.

SCHOOL CAROL SERVICE

Fountain Primary School will hold a Christmas Service in Carlisle Road Presbyterian Church on **WEDNESDAY 18th DECEMBER 2024 at 10.00 a.m.**

FESTIVAL SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

will be held in Saint Columb's Cathedral on **SUNDAY 22nd DECEMBER at 7.30 p.m.**

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

CAROLS OF THE EPIPHANY

At the Service on **SUNDAY 5th JANUARY 2025 at 4.00 p.m.** we will celebrate the Epiphany in carols, hymns, anthems and readings.

THE LEPROSY MISSION NORTHERN IRELAND

World Leprosy Day will be observed on Sunday 26th January 2025.

A Family Service to mark World Leprosy Day will be held in Saint Columb's Cathedral on **SUNDAY 19th JANUARY 2025 at 11.00 a.m.**

The speaker will be Ms Rebecca Parnell, Church Partnership Officer, The Leprosy Mission Northern Ireland.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

The Inner City Centre Churches (Carlisle Road Presbyterian Church, 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 Service to mark The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Carlisle Road Methodist Church on the evening of **MONDAY 20th JANUARY 2025.**



CONGRATULATIONS

To Mark Hewitt whose drawing of his favourite Christmas hymn/carol (Away in a Manger) was '**Highly Commended**' in the recent n:vision Colouring Competition.

CONGRATULATIONS

Saint Augustine's, the Cathedral Youth Club and Ulster Project Derry/Londonderry who all received King's Awards for Voluntary Service.



Equivalent to an MBE, KAVS is the highest Award given to local voluntary groups in the UK, and they are awarded for life.

What a real blast of wintry weather we have had this week! I hope you have all managed to stay safe and warm in spite of the snow and icy wind.

On Tuesday 12th October we met in the cosy surroundings of the Diocesan Centre when May Boyd, our Worldwide Representative treated us to a whistlestop tour of some of the many countries where Mothers' Union makes such a difference to people's lives. It was rewarding to see how our donations are used to such good effect in promoting literacy, health and independence for women in so many places and to appreciate the courage and determination of these ladies. On behalf of the branch members, Jacqui presented May with a donation to the Worldwide Fund of £350.

Donations for the Women's Refuge Centres were received and bookings made for the 16 Days Breakfast on Saturday 30th November when our speaker was Lydia Monds from the Church's Ministry of Healing. The Mayor, Councillor Lilian Seenoi-Barr, was also present.

Many thanks to all who provided and served the delicious supper and to Malcolm and Irene. On Saturday 16th November Valerie kindly provided transport to the Big Sing in Ballymena which was a great success, so many thanks to her also.

Our Christmas meeting is on Tuesday 10th December at 7.30pm in Cathedral House, No.1 St Columb's Court.

Looking forward to seeing you then.



[Francine's story is one of transformation.](#) Thanks to the *One More Step* programme, Francine not only lifted her family out of poverty but strengthened her faith and her community.

"I learned to manage our household and save for our family's future. I also learned how to strengthen my relationship with God. I pray deeply and also I am able to pray for me, my children and others. I now have confidence and hope." she says.

With our help, MU can expand this successful pilot to 6 more dioceses in Burundi, reaching 4,000 people in the first year alone. By supporting literacy circles and savings groups, MU will empower women to overcome gender inequality, improve agricultural practices, build business knowledge and reduce gender-based violence in their communities.

From the 3-10 December, every donation made through 'The Big Give' will be DOUBLED, meaning each gift will go twice as far in transforming lives. [Your support will help families like Francine's](#) get the fresh start they need to lift themselves out of poverty. By empowering people to use their dignity, creativity, newly acquired skills and local solutions, we will contribute to breaking the cycle of poverty and creating lasting change.



Respond
Inform
Support
Empower
Unite
Pray

It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year. Well, until it isn't.

Over the Christmas period, reports of domestic abuse always go up, and this year we've had the added element of the World Cup - another point in the calendar when incidents of domestic abuse increase. It's important to remember that it's not the events themselves that cause this rise, but the opportunity for power and control to be exerted by the abuser.

In 2021 a survey by the UK's largest family law firm Stowe Family Law found that one in six respondents believed they were more likely to suffer emotional or physical abuse from their partner over the Christmas period.

Christmas can be full of mixed emotions. It can feel like the rest of the world is having a wonderful time while others are barely getting through the day. Accepting this time of year can be hard but may be important. Accepting our emotions enables us to find strategies to then work through them. So let's just take a moment to stop, reflect and put some strategies in place.

The [Mind website](#) suggests these things:

Be kind/gentle/patient with yourself
Look after yourself

Talk to others

Plan ahead
Get support

Manage relationships

As Victim-Survivors

Be honest. If things are feeling too much for you, ask for help. There is a list of helplines below, or contact a friend or family member if that's a possibility.

Be safe. If you'd like it, there are professionals who are available and willing to support you. Put your safety first in any decisions you make.

Be clear. If you're having to navigate complex relationships with family, or child contact with the perpetrator, it can be helpful to first be clear in your own mind about what you do and don't want. We may not be able to have it exactly as we'd like, but to be able to find our peace with what is possible will help. Maybe find someone to talk this through with and then communicate in a way that means as little contact as possible.

Be sure. For those who have been able to leave, one might need some extra confidence in the decision we made; rose-tinted glasses can mask the harsher realities of past Christmases.

Be. Christmas will bring up so many emotions and feelings for you, and some will be very difficult. Allow yourself to feel them; the more you try not to, the more they'll be there. If you feel like you can't deal with them right in the moment, it might be helpful to 'park them': write them down, text them to a trusted friend or family member...there'll be time to deal with them in the New Year.

In short: Be kind, gentle and patient with yourself - Plan ahead - Manage relationships - Look after yourself - Talk to others - Get support

You will find tips on how to cope and ways to support someone else at

www.mind.org.uk/information-support/tips-for-everyday-living/christmas-and-mental-health/christmas-coping-tips/

RESTORED: This blog was originally published for members of *Restored Survivors' Network*. It has been made publicly available so anyone can benefit from the suggestions. If you're a survivor of domestic abuse and would like to receive blogs like this, you can sign up to the RESTORED Survivors' Network. www.restored-uk.org/survivors/i-need-help/survivors-network/

Help is at hand from specialist domestic abuse services:

If there is ever an emergency, call 999.

Northern Ireland Freephone 24hr Domestic & Sexual Abuse Helpline [0808 802 1414](tel:08088021414)

Women's Aid NI website offers help and support: www.womensaidni.org

MAPNI – Men's Advisory Project - BELFAST: (028) 9024 1929; www.mapni.co.uk

The PSNI have an excellent section relating to domestic abuse on their website: www.psni.police.uk/safety-and-support/keeping-safe/domestic-abuse

ST COLUMB'S CATHEDRAL
**CHRISTMAS
FESTIVAL 2024**
2ND - 21ST DECEMBER



Bible Readings for December 2024

DAY	READING	THEME
Sunday 1	Isaiah 40:1-5	Prepare the way of the Lord
Monday 2	Psalms 130:1-8	Wait in hope
Tuesday 3	Isaiah 25:6-9	A celebration worth waiting for
Wednesday 4	Isaiah 40:25-31	Wait for the Lord!
Thursday 5	Romans 13:11-13	Wake up! The day is near
Friday 6	1 Corinthians 1:4-9	Waiting expectantly
Saturday 7	Matthew 25:1-13	Keep awake! Be ready
Sunday 8	Micah 5:2-5	He shall be the one of peace
Monday 9	Isaiah 11:1-9	A little child shall lead them
Tuesday 10	Isaiah 35:1-10	Joy and gladness
Wednesday 11	Isaiah 61:1-3	To bring good news
Thursday 12	Zephaniah 3:14-20	The Lord is in your midst
Friday 13	Jeremiah 31:31-34	A new covenant
Saturday 14	Psalms 85:8-13	Salvation is at hand
Sunday 15	Luke 1:5-17	God invades the ordinary
Monday 16	Luke 1:18-24	Zechariah asks for a sign
Tuesday 17	Luke 1:57-66	What's in a name?
Wednesday 18	Luke 1:67-80	Preparing the way
Thursday 19	Luke 3:9-14	A sense of urgency
Friday 20	Matthew 11:2-15	A crisis of faith
Saturday 21	Acts 19:1-7	On moving the sofa
Sunday 22	Luke 1:26-38	Here I am
Monday 23	Luke 1:39-45	Mary and Elizabeth
Tuesday 24	Luke 1:46-56	My spirit rejoices
Wednesday 25	Luke 2:1-7	And Mary gave birth
Thursday 26	Luke 2:8-14	Good news of great joy
Friday 27	Luke 2:15-21	Glory to God!
Saturday 28	Luke 2:22-35	A light to the Gentiles
Sunday 29	Luke 2:36-40	Anna's blessing
Monday 30	Luke 2:41-52	A child in the temple
Tuesday 31	Hebrews 2:5-11	Jesus made fully human

Bible Readings for January 2025

DAY	READING	THEME
Wednesday 1	1 Samuel 14:24-30	Plans, prayers and promises
Thursday 2	Daniel 5:13-30	Numbered, weighed and divided
Friday 3	Genesis 40	Promoted, demoted and forgotten
Saturday 4	Judges 11:29-40	Choices and consequences
Sunday 5	Ruth 1:6-18	Facing regret
Monday 6	1 Samuel 20:12-17	Making promises
Tuesday 7	2 Samuel 9	Keeping promises
Wednesday 8	1 Kings 5:1-12	Wisdom for the assignment
Thursday 9	Daniel 1:8-16	Godly values
Friday 10	Genesis 9:8-17	Mercy outweighs judgement
Saturday 11	2 Corinthians 1:16-20	Keeping promises
Sunday 12	Colossians 1:1-8	Firm and fruitful
Monday 13	Colossians 1:9-14	A people changed
Tuesday 14	Colossians 1:15-20	Heart of all creation, head of a new creation
Wednesday 15	Colossians 1:21-23	Renewing power and staying power
Thursday 16	Colossians 1:24-29	Struggle and glory
Friday 17	Colossians 2:1-7	Love's struggle
Saturday 18	Colossians 2:8-15	God made you alive
Sunday 19	Colossians 2:16-23	A new self: free from the past
Monday 20	Colossians 3:1-4	A new self: free for the future
Tuesday 21	Colossians 3:5-11	Reborn: beyond slavery and freedom
Wednesday 22	Colossians 3:12-17	Living in Christ: God's chosen ones
Thursday 23	Colossians 3:18—4:1	Turning the world upside-down
Friday 24	Colossians 4:2-6	Seasoned with salt: prayerfully and graciously
Saturday 25	Colossians 4:7-18	A new community of shared faith and love
Sunday 26	2 Samuel 12:1-6	The power of the loved sheep
Monday 27	Leviticus 8:18-29	The offering presented to the Lord
Tuesday 28	Genesis 29:1-10	Time to water the sheep
Wednesday 29	1 Samuel 25:2-8	Caring for the sheep
Thursday 30	Psalms 78:70-72	Transferable skills
Friday 31	Micah 2:12-16	God will give you rest

FORTHCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

DECEMBER / JANUARY

Sunday 1st December / The First Sunday of Advent

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

Monday 2nd – Saturday 21st December

Christmas Festival 24 at Saint Columb's Cathedral / 10.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m.

Saturday 7th December

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

Preacher: The Reverend Jackie Carson, Ordained Local Minister,
The Parish of Donaghmore, County Tyrone

Monday 9th December

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

Wednesday 11th – Saturday 14th December

Cathedral Quarter Initiative Christmas Market

Sunday 15th December / The Third Sunday of Advent

11.00 a.m. Sunday School Nativity Presentation

7.30 p.m. Festival Service of Nine Lessons and Carols in First Derry Presbyterian Church

Sunday 22nd December / The Fourth Sunday of Advent

7.30 p.m. Festival Service of Nine Lessons and Carols in Saint Columb's Cathedral

Tuesday 24th December / Christmas Eve

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion (Order Two) with intercessions for the sick

11.30 p.m. Choral Eucharist (Order Two)

Wednesday 25th December / Christmas Day (The Nativity of our Lord)

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

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

Celebrant and Preacher: The Right Reverend Andrew Forster,
Bishop of The Dioceses of Derry and Raphoe

Tuesday 31st December / New Year's Eve

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion (Order Two) with intercessions for the sick

11.00 p.m. Holy Communion (Order Two)

Sunday 5th January 2025 / The Second Sunday of Christmas

11.00 a.m. Choral Eucharist (Order Two)

Preacher: The Reverend Canon Paul Hoey, Rector of The Parish of Faughanvale (Eglinton)

4.00 p.m. Carols of the Epiphany

We are delighted to announce that **19** shoe boxes from the Cathedral were sent to the appeal this year. This is an encouraging response for which we are all most grateful.

Each shoe box was packed with lovely gifts and will be distributed at Christmas to a child overseas who would not otherwise receive a gift. Many thanks to everyone who responded to this very worthy project.





As we transition into the winter months, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to our Assistant Organist, Louis Fields, for his exceptional organisation and the vibrant energy he has infused into the Cathedral since his return in October. His contributions are especially invaluable as we approach the busy month of December.

December is filled with significant events. Each service holds meaning, but our four Cathedral Choirs particularly look forward to the cherished Advent Procession and the Nine Lessons & Carols.

Furthermore, our Boy and Girl Choristers will perform live on BBC Radio Foyle on Monday, December 23rd, and take part in a video recording of the carol "Tomorrow shall be my Dancing Day!" which will be streamed across various social media platforms on Christmas Day.

We also eagerly anticipate the Emergency Services' Carol Service - a special occasion for us to express our gratitude to these vital services for their tremendous support over the years. As you can see, December is bustling with activity for our choirs, filled with additional engagements alongside our regular Sunday schedule as we embrace this festive season and provide music for our Cathedral community.

On a lighter note, as a way of a thank you for their hard work, our Gentlemen Lay Clerks will enjoy an Advent Lunch at Bishop's Gate Hotel between services on Advent Sunday. Additionally, on Saturday, January 11th, 2025, our Choristers will embark on a much-anticipated outing to Belfast, celebrating their commitment to the Cathedral Choir.

Louis joins me in congratulating all our Primary 7 Boy and Girl Choristers who sat the SEAG (Transfer) Test in November. This can be a particularly stressful time for these young musicians, and we wish them the best of luck with their results! Moreover, we want to take this opportunity to recognise and warmly congratulate Clark McClintock for his outstanding contributions to the Boys' Choir. This Christmas may mark Clark's last in the Boys' Choir, as his voice transitions. We are immensely grateful for his dedication, and we look forward to seeing him join his older brother, Elliot, in the back row of the choir stalls.

Finally, Louis and I would like to extend our warmest wishes for a very Happy Christmas to The Dean, Canon Merrick, our Boy & Girl Choristers, Choir Parents, Gentlemen Lay Clerks, Chamber Choir Lady Sopranos, Irene and her dedicated Sunday School team, and all the parishioners of Saint Columb's Cathedral. A special mention must also go to our dedicated team of Chorister Supervisors: Janelle, Marion, Therese, Lucy and Anna. December brings an increase in commitment with regards to their volunteering - which they have met head on! Louis and I look forward to our Supervisor Christmas Dinner on Friday 6th December!

We eagerly await the opportunity to celebrate this festive season and continue to share beautiful music into the New Year!

Nicky

The Cathedral Choirs were saddened to learn of the death of Graham Gillespie - the Grandfather of Rachel Gillespie. Rachel is of course one of our Cathedral Girl Choristers. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family circle.



Saint Columba's Cathedral
CHOIR

DECEMBER 2024

SUNDAY 1ST

Advent Sunday
*Boy Choristers and
Lay Clerks*

The Cathedral Choirs

11.00 CHORAL EUCHARIST (order 2)

Hymns 126, 405, 369
Setting Mathias *Communion Service III*
Motet Vaughan Williams *This is the truth*

19.30 ADVENT PROCESSION

Special order of service

SATURDAY 7TH

14.00 THANKSGIVING SERVICE FOR THE SHUTTING OF THE GATES

Hymns 659, 488, Mine eyes have seen, 537

SUNDAY 8TH

2nd Sunday of Advent
*Girl Choristers and
Lay Clerks*

11.00 CHORAL MATINS

Hymns 124, 136, 125
Responses Nicholson
Canticle Venite (Stanford)
Psalm Benedictus
Canticle Urbs (Tallis)
Anthem Archer *Long ago, prophets knew*

16.00 EVENING PRAYER

Hymns 145, 136

MONDAY 9TH

Boy and Girl Choristers

19.30 EMERGENCY SERVICES CAROL SERVICE

Special order of service

SUNDAY 15TH

3rd Sunday of Advent
*Boy Choristers and
Lay Clerks*

11.00 FAMILY SERVICE & SUNDAY SCHOOL NATIVITY

Hymns 177, 172, 149, 174, 160
Anthem Archer *The Angel Gabriel*

16.00 EVENING PRAYER

Hymns 119, 706

SUNDAY 22ND

4th Sunday of Advent
*Girl Choristers and
Lay Clerks*

11.00 CHORAL EUCHARIST (order 1)

Hymns 119, 429, 712
Setting Rutter *Communion Setting*
Anthem Darke *In the bleak midwinter*

The Cathedral Choirs

19.30 NINE LESSONS & CAROLS SERVICE

Special order of service

TUESDAY 24TH

Christmas Eve
Cathedral Chamber Choir

23.30 CHORAL EUCHARIST (order 2)

Hymns 174, 182, 188
Setting Shephard *The Wiltshire Service*
Motet Normandy *Away in a manger*

WEDNESDAY 25TH

Christmas Day

8.00 HOLY COMMUNION (order 1)

Hymns 160, 149, 159

The Cathedral Choirs

11.00 CHORAL EUCHARIST (order 2)

Hymns 172, 151, 166
Setting Mathias *Communion Service III*
Anthem Ledger *Sussex Carol*

SUNDAY 29th

First Sunday of Christmas

11.00 MORNING PRAYER

Hymns 177, 632, 92

TUESDAY 31st

New Year's Eve

23.00 HOLY COMMUNION (order 2)

Hymns 103, 81, 436

Service & Music List

JANUARY 2025

SUNDAY 5TH

Epiphany Sunday

Boy Choristers

Cathedral Chamber Choir

11.00 HOLY COMMUNION (order 2)

Hymns 52, 160, 373

Setting Shephard The Wiltshire Service

Motet Elgar Ave Verum

16.00 CAROLS OF THE EPIPHANY

Special order of service

SUNDAY 12TH

1st Sunday after Epiphany

Girl Choristers and

Lay Clerks

11.00 CHORAL MATINS

Hymns 295, 204, 111

Responses Nicholson

Canticle Venite

Psalm Psalm 29

Canticle Jubilate

Anthem Britten A New Years' Carol

Cathedral Lay Clerks

and Boy Choristers

16.00 CHORAL EVENSONG

Hymns 576, 638

Responses Stewart

Psalm Psalm 46, 47

Canticles Stanford Evening Canticles in Bflat

Anthem Tallis If ye love me

SUNDAY 19TH

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Boy Choristers and

Lay Clerks

11.00 FAMILY SERVICE

Hymns 366, 374, 522, 517

Psalm 103: 1-8

Anthem Shephard I heard the voice of Jesus

16.00 EVENING PRAYER

Hymns 624, 453

SUNDAY 26TH

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Girls Choristers and

Lay Clerks

11.00 CHORAL EUCHARIST (order 1)

Hymns 104, 422, 443

Setting Darke Communion Setting in F

Motet Mozart Ave Verum

Cathedral Chamber Choir

16.00 CHORAL EVENSONG

Hymns 647, 594

Responses Stewart

Psalm Psalm 33: 1-12

Canticles Stanford Evening Canticles in C

Anthem Stanford O for a closer walk with God



The November meeting of the Men's Society was on Tuesday 19th in the Diocesan Centre and it was really well attended with the addition of a couple of new members.

The guest speaker for the evening was Mr Norman Thorpe, Curator BK International Air Museum who gave a very interesting talk on the RAF in Ballykelly, Eglinton and Limavady. Norman has a museum at his home and invited members to attend if they wish by contacting him in advance.

It is hoped to have a Christmas breakfast in the month of December and this will depend on finding a suitable date and a reasonable attendance. 21st January will see our Annual Dinner which will be at the White Horse Inn.

On behalf of The Dean and William, I would wish all members and their families a Very Peaceful and Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Robert
Secretary**

**Any unwanted books for the Book Stall
in the Sale on Saturday 14th December?
They can be left in the Cathedral
or Ian can collect them if people contact him
on 07803 005723.**



A Unique Christmas Bauble is now available in the Cathedral, at a cost of £10 each.

The Tea Towel is also available at a cost of £10 each.

Cathedral Heritage Tea Towel

Saint Columb's Cathedral

St Columb's Cathedral Heritage Tea Towel

This tea towel produced in 2024 is a montage of various buildings around the Cathedral and represents the rich heritage with which we have been entrusted.

The buildings represented are:-

1. The Cathedral
Opened in 1833 and nearly 400 years old. It took 5 years to build. It is the oldest and most historic building within the Walled City.
2. The Alexander Memorial Music Room and Parish Office.
Originally the stables for the Deanery. It was inaugurated in 1981 in honour of Mrs Cecil Frances Alexander, the famous hymn writer, and is now used for choir practice and Parish Office.
3. The Deanery, 30 Bishop Street
The Honourable The Irish Society built the present Deanery in 1833. It is the third Deanery on this site, believed to have 100 doors in the building.
4. No. 1 St Columb's Court-Cathedral House
The building had been used in the past as a haberdashery shop and for many years as the local headquarters of The Honourable The Irish Society. It is now used by St Columb's School of Music.
5. The Cathedral School, London Street
The funds to erect this building were partly raised in America by Bishop Alexander accompanied by his daughter Eleanor. Dean Smiley, who was passionate about education, personally raised the funds to build the Cathedral School in Bishop Street. The London Street school closed in the 1990's and was amalgamated with First Derry and Carlisle Road schools in the new Fountain Primary School.
6. The Brass Eagle
This lectern was the gift in 1868 of James Gilmore a local philanthropist.
7. Cathedral Organ
This was rebuilt by Wells Kennedy after it had been vandalised in a break-in and cost £500k to repair. It is a four-manual organ containing six thousand pipes. It was rededicated in 2006.
8. Pulpit
The pulpit and figure of St Columba are carved from Caen stone and rest on pillars of brown Cork marble.
9. Cathedral Gates
These were the gift of The Honourable The Irish Society in 1933 to mark the Tercentenary of the Cathedral.
10. Stone Cross
Originally on top of the spire from 1820-1980 it is presently outside the East window. It was refurbished in 2016 to commemorate the centenary of the Battle of the Somme and those who died in the Great War.

Saint Columb's Cathedral

We have included a free print of the buildings along with the tea towel for your enjoyment.
The Tea Towel was designed by Donnal Stankic, Artist & Designer

PARTNERS IN PRAYER 2024 / 2025

THE WEEK BEGINNING SUNDAY 1st DECEMBER 2024
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT / THE FEAST DAY OF SAINT ANDREW (by transfer)
The Province of The Episcopal Church of South Sudan

The Most Reverend Justin Badi Arama,
Archbishop and Primate of The Province of The Episcopal Church of South Sudan;
Bishop of The Diocese of Juba.

The Church of Ireland

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

The Dioceses of Cork, Cloyne and Ross. The Right Reverend Paul Colton.

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

The Parishes of Drumholm (Ballintra), Kilbarron (Ballyshannon) and Rosstown
The Reverend Canon Brian Russell, Rector. Mrs Esther Russell, Diocesan Reader.

MISSION FOCUS / THE BIBLE SOCIETY IN HOLY LANDS

Across the Holy Lands region our Bible Society colleagues produce materials that help families, adults and children to engage with the Bible.

By producing engaging resources and supporting the local church they are equipping and encouraging followers of Christ in this deeply divided land.

The Magdalena Project in Nazareth provides a space for women to engage with the Bible and with each other about issues concerning them. Often women don't have a voice in society; this is a largely patriarchal culture where men have more opportunities.

This project encourages women to share their experiences and learn from the Bible to equip and empower them to build strong family units.

In other parts of the Holy Lands children's materials are shared so that children and young people learn about Christian values and the Bible to help them through difficult circumstances.

THE WEEK BEGINNING SUNDAY 8th DECEMBER 2024

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The Province of The Episcopal Church of Sudan

The Most Reverend Ezekiel Kumir Kondo,
Archbishop of the Province of The Episcopal Church of Sudan;
Bishop of The Diocese of Khartoum.

The Church of Ireland

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

The Dioceses of Cork, Cloyne and Ross. The Right Reverend Paul Colton.

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. Miss Nuala Dudley, Diocesan Reader.

MISSION FOCUS / CHURCH MISSION SOCIETY IN KENYA

Thank God for the successful completion of six new classrooms in the Tujisaidie School, with the support of Misean Cara. Pray for the next phase of the project, furnishing these classrooms and engaging two new teachers.

THE WEEK BEGINNING SUNDAY 15th DECEMBER 2024

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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 Right Reverend Given Gaula, Bishop of The Diocese of Kondoa.

The Church of Ireland

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

The Dioceses of Cork, Cloyne and Ross. The Right Reverend Paul Colton.

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

The Parishes of Stranorlar, Meenglass and Kiltcevogue. Rector: Vacant.

In charge during the vacancy: The Reverend Canon Mervyn Peoples, Priest-in-charge.

MISSION FOCUS / THE LEPROSY MISSION IN GERMANY

TLM Germany is a small association that operates mainly in the south of Germany and is very much founded on personal contacts. We maintain partnerships with different churches and communities and have a large circle of supporters thanks to them.

'Good God, thank you for allowing us to start the new week with you.

Thank you for connecting us across national and continental borders and for being the reason for our work. Guide us so that we can be a blessing to others.'

THE WEEK BEGINNING SUNDAY 22nd DECEMBER 2024
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
The Church of The Province of Uganda
The Most Reverend Stephen Kaziimba,
Archbishop of The Church of The Province of Uganda;
Bishop of The Diocese of Mityana.

The Church of Ireland
The Most Reverend John McDowell, Archbishop of The Diocese of Armagh,
Primate of All Ireland and Metropolitan.
The Dioceses of Cork, Cloyne and Ross. The Right Reverend Paul Colton.
The Dioceses of Derry and Raphoe. The Right Reverend Andrew Forster.
The Parishes of Convoy, Monellan and Donaghmore. Rector: Vacant.
In charge during the vacancy: The Very Reverend Liz Fitzgerald, Rural Dean.

TUESDAY 24th DECEMBER 2024 / CHRISTMAS EVE

WEDNESDAY 25th DECEMBER 2024
CHRISTMAS DAY / THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

THURSDAY 26th DECEMBER 2024
THE FEAST DAY OF SAINT STEPHEN

FRIDAY 27th DECEMBER 2024
THE FEAST DAY OF SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST

SATURDAY 28th DECEMBER 2024
THE FEAST DAY OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS

SUNDAY 29th DECEMBER 2024
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
THE FEAST DAY OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS (by transfer)

The Church of Ireland
The Most Reverend John McDowell, Archbishop of The Diocese of Armagh,
Primate of All Ireland and Metropolitan.
The Dioceses of Cork, Cloyne and Ross. The Right Reverend Paul Colton.
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 and Dean.

MISSION FOCUS / CHURCH MISSION SOCIETY IN IRELAND
Pray for All Nations Ministries as they seek to make Christ known by supporting asylum seekers and refugees living in north Belfast. Pray that their volunteers will have ongoing resilience and spiritual strength as they are bombarded daily with multiple requests for assistance.

TUESDAY 31st DECEMBER 2024 / NEW YEAR'S EVE

WEDNESDAY 1st JANUARY 2025 / NEW YEAR'S DAY
THE FEAST DAY OF THE NAMING AND CIRCUMCISION OF JESUS

THE WEEK BEGINNING SUNDAY 5th JANUARY 2025
THE SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

The Church in Wales
The Most Reverend Andrew (Andy) Thomas Griffith John,
Archbishop of The Church in Wales;
Bishop of The Diocese of Bangor.
The Church of Ireland
The Most Reverend John McDowell, Archbishop of The Diocese of Armagh,
Primate of All Ireland and Metropolitan.

MONDAY 6th JANUARY 2025
THE FEAST DAY OF THE EPIPHANY

**THE WEEK BEGINNING SUNDAY 12th JANUARY 2025
THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY / THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD**

The Church of The Province of West Africa
The Most Reverend Dr Cyril Kobina Ben-Smith,
Primate of The Church of The Province of West Africa;
Bishop of The Diocese of Asante-Mampong.

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

MISSION FOCUS / CHURCH MISSION SOCIETY IN DR CONGO

Thank God for the success of the postponed gathering of Eglise Anglican du Congo Conference in October. Pray for Archbishop Ande as he leads the Church in a time of continued insecurity for DRC.

**THE WEEK BEGINNING SUNDAY 19th JANUARY 2025
THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**

The Church in The Province of The West Indies
The Most Reverend Howard Gregory,
Primate of The Church in The Province of The West Indies;
Bishop of The Diocese of Jamaica & The Cayman Islands.

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

**SATURDAY 25th JANUARY 2025
THE FEAST DAY OF THE CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL**

**THE WEEK BEGINNING SUNDAY 26th JANUARY 2025
THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
THE FEAST DAY OF THE CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL (by transfer)**

The Episcopal / Anglican Province of Alexandria
The Right Reverend Samy Fawzy,
Archbishop of The Episcopal / Anglican Province of Alexandria;
Bishop of The Diocese of Egypt.

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

MISSION FOCUS / THE LEPROSY MISSION (WORLD LEPROSY DAY)

**World Leprosy Day is an important day for many people.
It is a day of pride for persons affected by leprosy as we mark their distinctive contributions to their communities.
It is also a day to raise awareness of leprosy.
We do this for three reasons: so that all those at risk will be aware of the symptoms; so that people in endemic countries will be aware of the discrimination that persons affected by leprosy face; and so that more people can learn how a world without leprosy is possible and recognise the role they have to play.**

**Today is World Leprosy Day!
Pray for a successful World Leprosy Day, that many will be moved to take action – whether by giving, raising awareness, volunteering, or seeking help for symptoms.**

**SATURDAY 1st FEBRUARY 2025
THE FEAST DAY OF SAINT BRIGID**

**THE WEEK BEGINNING SUNDAY 2nd FEBRUARY 2025
THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
THE FEAST DAY OF SAINT BRIGID (by transfer)**

The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia
The Most Reverend Don Tamihere (Aotearoa)
The Most Reverend Justin Duckworth (New Zealand)
The Most Reverend Sione Ulu'ilakepa (Polynesia)

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

Obituaries

James Thompson 15th July 1964 – 14th November 2024

Saint Paul begins his Letter to the Philippians with his customary greeting:

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

He, then, adds these words: **I thank my God every time I remember you.**

These are words with which we can concur as we, today, meet to remember and to thank God for James Thompson. We thank God for every memory that we have of him.

The story of James' life takes us back sixty years.

James was born on 15th July 1964, the second of six children born to William and Mary Thompson of 17 Duke Street, Londonderry.

His siblings are Ann, Jacqueline (deceased), Robert (deceased), Rosemary and William.

The Baptism Register of The Parish of Templemore (Saint Columb's Cathedral) records that James Thompson was baptised on 30th August 1964.

The Officiant was The Reverend Cecil Bradley, Curate-assistant (perhaps better known throughout this City as 'Father Bradley' because of the dark suits that he wore).

The baptism entry also records the name of James' godmother and godfather – Mrs Sadie Byron and Mr Jim Thompson.

William and Mary, along with their children, lived for a time at 17 Duke Street, later moving to live at 31 Rose Court, and later again at 30 Mourne Drive.

At an early age, perhaps as early as 7 years of age, James spent a lot of his time with his grandparents Bobby and Annie. He formed a strong bond with them and his grandad Bobby ensured that he attended Sunday School and church every Sunday.

James received his early primary education at Clooney Primary School at the top of Simpson's Brae.

When he left primary school he moved on to Clondermott Secondary School.

Later he joined a YTP scheme where he learned the skills of joinery and upholstery.

Then he moved on to work at a local Garden Centre and saw the opportunity to make some money for himself.

So he bought a petrol lawnmower and cut the grass for his neighbours.

In later life James worked for many years in the Civil Service.

As a young boy James was a member of The Boys' Brigade based at Ebrington Presbyterian Church. As a teenager he joined the Orange Order and The Apprentice Boys and The Royal Black Preceptory and so began a life-long interest in the Loyal Orders of which he was very knowledgeable.

He was a faithful member of these loyal institutions, attending the meetings and parades with his brother William.

It gave him great satisfaction when his nieces joined the Junior Girls Orange Lodge and he watched their progress with interest.

The many photographs and framed certificates in this home are evidence of this life-long interest and commitment.

Apart from these interests James also enjoyed football and he was a loyal supporter of Leeds United and Rangers Football Clubs.

James also had a love for animals and many can recall seeing him walking his golden Labrador Juke up to three times every day.

James had a strong bond with his family and he was particularly proud when he became a great uncle in 2022 and was invited to be a godfather to his great-niece Heidi.

Family gatherings at the home of his sister Ann for birthdays and Christmas were special occasions with James playing devil's advocate and bringing humour and laughter to the proceedings. James will be remembered as a proud, independent and well-groomed person. Even during the past months when he had received news that he had been diagnosed with Cancer he did not let this illness prevent him from doing what he wanted to do and enjoying life as much as he able.

He remained independent and sought to make light of what could, at times, be a tense situation.

My last visit with James was on Monday evening.

I knew that he had medical complications and that his life-expectancy was getting shorter. So in our time together I read him some words of Scripture and prayed with him. Our final prayer together were words that James would have learned at a very early age: the words of the Lord's Prayer.

And I could see and hear that as I was praying James was saying those words too.

Also in our time together I read to him the words of one of the hymns:

Tell me the old, old story.

I explained to James that the words of this hymn tell us clearly that Jesus loves us. He died for each one of us and on the Cross of Calvary his gift to people then and to people ever since was salvation, eternal life.

The story of the Bible is that Jesus loves us. We must respond to that love by committing ourselves to Him and making Him the central part of our lives.

When life is going well for us we can, sometimes, forget about God and neglect the spiritual part of our lives.

When we face illnesses and tragedies our thoughts, often, go in another direction and we do concentrate our thoughts on the future; thinking about our relationship with God and about that day when we will see Him face to face.

None of us knows the day or the hour when we will be called away from our family and friends. We must always be prepared and be ready to give an account of our lives to God.

A good-living life is great but how much better to live a life that is Christ-filled and Christ-centred and to be assured of His love, blessings and spiritual gifts now and for all time. In this tribute today I have mentioned the places where James lived in the last sixty years. Duke Street, Rose Court, Mourne Drive and for the past twenty-five years in this home in Bann Drive. Today we can add another name to that list.

It is our hope today that James Thompson is experiencing the joys of another home that has been prepared for him by Jesus and of which we read in one of the readings today.

This home is Heaven (God's kingdom) where pain and suffering, death, sorrow and crying, hunger and thirst and all human limitations are no more and where he is protected by the Lamb (Jesus Himself) who gave His life for him and for all who put their faith and trust in Him.

**William (Will) David Pomeroy
3rd November 1932 – 18th November 2024**

We meet this afternoon to thank God for Will Pomeroy, to remember his long life and to support his sons, daughters-in-law, grandchildren and great grandchildren. On behalf of myself and Canon John Merrick I extend to all of you our condolences and those of the parishioners of The Parish of Templemore.

The story of Will's life takes us back 92 years.

Will was born on 3rd November 1932, the youngest child of James Alexander and Hannah Pomeroy of 10 George's Street. His siblings were Nan, Sheene, Phyllis and Mildred.

The Baptism Register of The Parish of Templemore records that William David Pomeroy was baptised on 4th December 1932.

The Officiant was The Reverend Robert Andrew James Kerr, the Curate-assistant.

This life-long association with Saint Columb's Cathedral continued through his involvement with the Sunday School and with the Cathedral Choir of which he was a member.

Music, as we will hear, played a major part in Will's life and he used every opportunity to encourage others – especially younger people - to engage with music through singing or playing a musical instrument.

As a young teenager Will met a young lady, Jean McCauley.

They met on 11th July 1950 on Bonfire night in the Fountain.

And romance quickly blossomed, with Will and Jean marrying in Great James' Street Presbyterian Church on 11th June 1955.

Following their honeymoon Will and Jean returned to live with Jean's parents until they purchased their first home in Rosemount Avenue.

Other house moves followed – to Cherryburn Gardens, Deanfield, Enagh Lough at Judges Road and finally to Grovemount Court where they spent many happy years before deciding for health reasons to move to Deanfield Care Home.

And this would seem to be an appropriate point to express the family's appreciation to the Management and Staff and Residents of Deanfield Care Home who cared for Will and Jean and engaged with them so wonderfully during the past few years.

After about six years of marriage Will and Jean started their own family. Three boys came along in quick succession – Philip, Allister and Grahame. With three boys under the age of three years it must have been a busy and at times a noisy home.

Will, as well as being a husband and a father, was a wage earner.

He began working at Londonderry and Lough Swilly Railway and later at Birmingham Sound Reproducers Factory. This factory, that closed in 1967, produced parts for record players and tape recorders and was one of the biggest employers in Derry during the 1950's and early 1960's, employing over 1,200 people in its heyday.

Will then moved to work at Altnagelvin Hospital.

He later moved to the Western Area Board where he had a very successful career until he took early retirement.

Will knew the old proverb, **All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy**, and he ensured that he and his family enjoyed some memorable holidays.

These family times were spent with Jean's sister Hazel and her husband Raymond and their children Brian and Brenda in a holiday home in Portrush or a caravan in Dunfanaghy or Arklow. Holidays were also spent in Wiltshire where Hazel, Raymond and their children were living.

There were also many holidays spent in Majorca and cruises to the Canary Islands.

Sport also featured highly on Will's agenda.

He was an accomplished all round sportsman, enjoying athletics, football, cricket and golf. I am told that on one occasion he had had a trial for goalkeeper but the competition that included the renowned Harry Gregg put an end to that!

Will enjoyed playing golf at City of Derry, Greencastle and Foyle Clubs with three good friends Craig Mowbray, Frank Simpkin and Stan Donaghey.

Stan is the only surviving member of that foursome.

As I have mentioned, music played a big part in Will's life.

As a member of Saint Columb's Cathedral Choir he enjoyed the friendship and camaraderie that this association provided. And in later life he was heavily involved in the local band scene as a musician, an arranger, a conductor and an adjudicator.

He had many highlights with Theipval Memorial Accordion Band before it disbanded and of course with Hamilton Flute Band.

He also was in a few showbands, including the Swingtones.

He also was in the Foyle Swing Orchestra and was associated with a trio of himself, Jim Goodman and Paul McKeever.

Hamilton Flute Band was in many respects Will's second family.

As well as being its conductor for many years he also was a Past President and at the time of his death he was the current Vice President.

The members, past and present, are indebted to Will for his dedication, enthusiasm and encouragement and on its Facebook page the Band pays tribute to Will, mentioning many of its achievements thanks to him – including participation in the Senior Flute Championships; participation in concerts and contests across Northern Ireland, Scotland, London, the European Parliament in Brussels and at the Ulster Tower in France.

This year's 12th July celebrations were held in Londonderry and Will was able to join his friends in 'The Field' where he enjoyed the music, the chat, a little drink or two, and the singalong during the break.

Will and his family also deeply appreciated the short openair concert held in Will's honour at Deanfield Care Home in May of this year.

When we think of Will Pomeroy we must also remember his lovely wife Jean. They were inseparable and Jean's illness and loss of memory and her death at the beginning of December of last year had a great impact on Will's life.

Will and Jean were faithful members of Saint Columb's Cathedral, attending the main morning service and in later years the early Service of Holy Communion.

Will also was involved in the life of the Cathedral through his membership of The Men's Society.

And he also was a member of The Men's Club at Kilfennan Presbyterian Church.

In recent years Will has been visited in Deanfield Care Home

by members of the Sunday School through its 'Adopt a Grandparent' project.

He enjoyed those visits just as much as the young people did as he shared with them memories of a long, varied and interesting life.

Will also enjoyed the visits from the Cathedral Clergy, particularly from Canon John Merrick who celebrated Holy Communion for him and Jean on the major festive occasions of the Church's Year.

As this Tribute shows Will was a man who enjoyed many aspects of life. He and Jean had a wide group of friends with whom they socialised regularly. And as the attendance at this Service shows Will was known and respected by so many people.

He had a number of jobs during his long life. He enjoyed a wide variety of sporting activities. He had a lifetime's interest in music and bands.

But at the end of the day he was a family man.

He loved his family (Jean, Philip, Allister and Grahame), his grandchildren (Keri, Jodie, Rebeckah, Alex, Ryan and Ben) and his great grandchildren (Sophie, Theo, Parker and Elliot).

His family remember him with love and affection and have recorded their memories of babysitting duties, of involving them in ball sports, pool, darts and art, of kitting out his grandchildren with accordions, flutes, tin whistles, keyboards, guitars and even saucepan lids as cymbals.

He loved to hear what his grandchildren and great grandchildren were doing and he was always brighter when they came to visit.

These are the people who are going to miss Will the most, because they loved him the most.

He was the rock that held the family together; the one who would always support and encourage; the one who would tell them never to give up on their dreams.

In the past year or so Will did not enjoy the best of health.

His sight and his mobility were greatly impaired and life had lost something of its joy and spontaneity.

Many of his close friends had died and Will felt that his time might be getting shorter.

He was prepared to go and to meet his soulmate Jean once again.

Today in the Christian faith that Will professed, in the faith by which he lived, we have this vision of Will and Jean united once again in the home that Jesus has prepared for them; where there is no more pain or suffering, no more trials and tribulations, but where all are at peace.

Sarah Janet Duncan **27th February 1967 – 23rd November 2024**

We meet this afternoon to remember Janet Duncan, to thank God for her life, and to support those who are bereaved, particularly her husband Andy, daughters Laura and Lesley Ann, brothers Billy and Edward and sister Ann, and sisters-in-law Jean Ann, Sadie and Nellie.

Let me first express condolences on behalf of Dean Raymond Stewart and myself and of the parishioners of The Parish of Templemore and offer to you our prayers and support.

Sarah Janet (or Janet as she was known) was born on 27th February 1967; the daughter of Billy and Lily Goligher of Bonds Street. The family later moved to Shearwater Way in Clooney Estate.

Janet's siblings are Billy, Ann and Edward.

Janet received her early Christian upbringing at Ebrington Presbyterian Church and her early primary education at Ebrington Primary School.

Having left Primary School she proceeded to Clondermott Secondary School.

Upon the completion of her studies Janet joined a number of training schemes and later found employment at Welch Margetson's Shirt Factory.

Her final place of employment was at Ebrington Army Barracks where she worked as a Cleaner.

Janet met her husband-to-be Andy Duncan at a function in the Royal British Legion Hall in May Street and they were married thirty years ago at the Guildhall Registry Office.

They were blessed with two children Laura and 'Baby Bear' Lesley Ann.

They began their home life at Lincoln Courts, later moving to Lapwing Way.

About eight or nine years ago they moved to live at Blackstone Park in Magheramason. It was during their time at Lapwing Way that Andy and Janet and their daughters came to worship at Saint Columb's Cathedral.

Being new to Church of Ireland worship and practice and unsure of her surroundings Janet found great support and encouragement in the person of the late May Arthur. May introduced Janet to The Mothers' Union of which Janet was to become a regular member. And she is still fondly remembered by many of the present members. Janet also played her part as a member of The Ladies Choir – a choir that was formed by Dean William Morton to sing during the Summer months and at other times when the Cathedral Choir was taking a break or was on holiday.

Five years ago Janet became quite ill and it was while she was a patient at Altnagelvin Hospital that Andy and Janet made contact once again with Saint Columb's Cathedral and received regular visitations from the Cathedral Clergy.

In recent months Janet's health began to deteriorate again and she was admitted once again to hospital just about one week ago where she died peacefully on Saturday.

The death of Janet at the young age of fifty-seven years brings with it a sense of shock, a sense of deep sadness. But even in this sense of disbelief we give thanks for her life and friendship and the fellowship that we enjoyed with her and we realise that the pain and discomfort of her physical illness over the past years is now over.

It is past. It is no more.

Today, the body that has endured so much has become a new body.

Saint Paul, in his First Letter to the Corinthians, tells us that when God raises us to new life He gives us a new body.

Listen to what he says.

The body that is sown is perishable; it is raised imperishable.

It is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory.

It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power.

It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.

May these words help us today and in the future as we remember that for Janet the old life is gone; a new life has begun!

With Heartfelt Sympathy

HEMPHILL

We remember the family and all of the relatives of **Chloe Hemphill**, Edenmore Crescent, Bendooragh who died, unexpectedly, at Causeway Hospital, Coleraine on Monday 4th November 2024.

Chloe was the dearly loved wife of Paul; the loving mother of Khrystan, Rosabelle and Ariella; the beloved daughter of (The Reverend) John and the late Heather Hemphill; the dearest sister of Geoffrey, Justin, Gail, Alistair, Stephanie, Sophie and the late Stephen, Victoria and Julian.

WHITESIDE

We remember the family and all of the relatives of **Elizabeth Whiteside** (nee Ward), Rockport Park, Londonderry who died, peacefully, at Altnagelvin Hospital, Londonderry on Wednesday 6th November 2024.

Elizabeth was the beloved wife of the late Gordon Whiteside; the loving mother of Rodger and Alison; a dear mother in law and a devoted grandmother and great grandmother.

Elizabeth was the grandmother of Anna Fields to whom, and to whose husband Louis and their son Alexander, we also express our sympathy.

TEMPLE

We remember William Temple and his family and all of the relatives of **Elizabeth (Lily) Temple** (nee Nutt), Ivy Mead, Altnagelvin, Londonderry who died, suddenly, at Altnagelvin Hospital, Londonderry on Thursday 7th November 2024.

Lily was the much loved wife of William Temple; the devoted mother of Trevor, Anne, Richard and Julie; the adored grandmother of Lloyd and Nicole; the loving great-grandmother of Aerith, Elora, Zach and Jake; the dearest sister of Sandra, Doreen, Violet, Carol, Christine, Sharon, Sylvia, Bertie, Sam, Lexie, Lawrence and the late Norman, Anne and Ruby.

With Heartfelt Sympathy

THOMPSON

We remember the family and all of the relatives of **James Thompson**, Bann Drive, Waterside, Londonderry who died, peacefully, at Altnagelvin Hospital, Londonderry on Thursday 14th November 2024.

James was the dearly loved brother of Ann, Rosemary, William and the late Jacqueline and Robert.

He was a Great-uncle to all of his nieces and nephews and a loving Godfather to Heidi.

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of James Thompson was held at his home in Bann Drive, Waterside, Londonderry on Saturday 16th November 2024.

The Service was conducted by The Very Reverend Raymond Stewart.

Following the Service James was buried at Glendermott New Cemetery, Londonderry.

POMEROY

We remember the family and all of the relatives of **William (Will) David Pomeroy**, Deanfield Care Home, Londonderry who died, peacefully, on Monday 18th November 2024.

Will was the beloved husband of the late Jeannie (Jean) Pomeroy

(died Tuesday 5th December 2023); the loving father of Philip, Allister and the late Grahame; the dear father-in-law of Janice and Adelle;

a devoted grandfather of Keri, Jodie, Rebeckah, Alex, Ryan, Ben, and great grandfather of Sophie, Theo, Parker and Elliot.

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of William (Will) Pomeroy was held at Adair and Neely Funeral Home, Foyle Road, Londonderry on Friday 22nd November 2024.

The Service was conducted by The Reverend Canon John Merrick and by The Very Reverend Raymond Stewart who gave the Tribute/Address.

Following the Service Will was buried at Altnagelvin Cemetery, Londonderry.

McGRATH

We remember Worthington (Worth) McGrath and his family and all of the relatives of **Dorothy McGrath**, late of Beverley Heights, Newtownards who died, peacefully, at hospital on Friday 22nd November 2024.

Dorothy was the dearly loved wife of Worthington (Worth) McGrath; the much loved mum of Patrick and Nigel and mother-in-law of Clare; a devoted and adored nanny of Cara.

(Worthington McGrath is a member and a former Lieutenant Governor of The Apprentice Boys of Derry).

DUNCAN

We remember Andy Duncan and his daughters, Laura and Lesley Ann, and all of the relatives of **Sarah Janet Duncan** (nee Goligher), Blackstone Park, Magheramason, County Londonderry who died, peacefully, at hospital on Saturday 23rd November 2024.

Janet was the beloved wife of Andy; the loving mother of Laura and Lesley Ann; the dear sister of Billy, Ann and Edward; the dear sister-in-law of Jean Ann, Sadie and Nellie (Andy's sisters).

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Janet Duncan was held at Adair and Neely Funeral Home, Foyle Road, Londonderry on Tuesday 26th November 2024.

The Service was conducted by The Reverend Canon John Merrick.

Following the Service Janet was buried at Ballyoan Cemetery, Londonderry.



**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

In loving memory of George Martin Mace BEM

Christmas memories of a dear husband, father and grandfather,
and also for his birthday on 7th January.

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

In memory of Georgina Dunseith

From Elizabeth Fielding

From Muriel Hamilton

From Ray Mace & Joanne Stamp

From The Very Reverend Raymond Stewart

From The Cathedral Youth Club

From Julie Temple

From The Temple family

In memory of my beloved wife Susan Hepburn

From Bobby

In loving memory of our mum, Margaret Moore

From Lynn, Alison & Suzanne

In loving memory of mum & dad, Meta & Herbie Street,

also brothers Herbie, Winston, Lexie & Raymond & sister-in-law Sylvia

From Freda

In memory of Will Pomeroy

From Muriel Hamilton

From the McGonigle family

From The Very Reverend Raymond Stewart

In memory of our dear sister, Winifred Nixon

From Fred & Sandra Simpson, Castlerock

In memory of John (Eric) McLaughlin

From his wife Sadie, children, grandchildren & great grandchildren

In loving memory of our parents, Billy & Ruby Adams and Archie & Chris McSparron

From Audrey & Gordon McSparron

In memory of The Reverend Thomas Alexander (Terry) Doherty

From his brother Garth

Christmas memories of our parents Lily & John Skeet and Annie & Sam Hughes

From Joan & Roland

In memory of our loved ones

From Billie & Fay Gallagher

In memory of James Thompson

From The Very Reverend Raymond Stewart

From Ruby McNerlin

In loving memory of my husband, Billy Walker and daughter, Sharon Slater

From Marion Walker & family

In loving memory of my parents Andrew & Lavina Hetherington

From Marion Walker

In loving memory of my husband, Trafford McIntosh

and my parents, George & Violet Stewart

From Sylvia & family

In memory of our dearly departed friend and fellow Sir Knight James Thompson

From the Worshipful Master and all Sir Knights of Maiden City RBP113

(Gordon Porter WM. Acting Registrar)

In remembrance of James (Joe) Thompson

From David Pentland, his late father Cecil Pentland, his mother Elizabeth and the wider Pentland family

CHOIR FUND

In memory of my parents, Morris & Helen Lynn

From William

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

Always remembered

From Ann, Mervyn, Michael & Alison Tweedie

Loving Christmas memories of my husband Ron

From Etta

Loving Christmas memories of dad Ron Dobson

From Joanie & family

From Rosaleen & family

Total £2,635

Parish Register

Burial

"The Lord is my Shepherd."

Friday 1st November 2024

**Georgina Dunseith, The Fountain, Londonderry
Altnagelvin Cemetery, Londonderry**

Saturday 16th November 2024

**James Thompson, Bann Drive, Waterside, Londonderry
Glendermott New Cemetery, Londonderry**

Friday 22nd November 2024

**William (Will) David Pomeroy,
Deanfield Care Home, Londonderry
Altnagelvin Cemetery, Londonderry**

Tuesday 26th November 2024

**Sarah Janet Duncan, Blackstone Park, Magheramason,
County Londonderry
Ballyoan Cemetery, Londonderry**

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: 07761585412
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
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

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



For donations

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



To website

FEBRUARY 2025 Magazine

Notes / Articles for the February edition of the Cathedral Magazine
are due by SUNDAY 26th JANUARY 2025

The Publication will be available from SUNDAY 2nd FEBRUARY