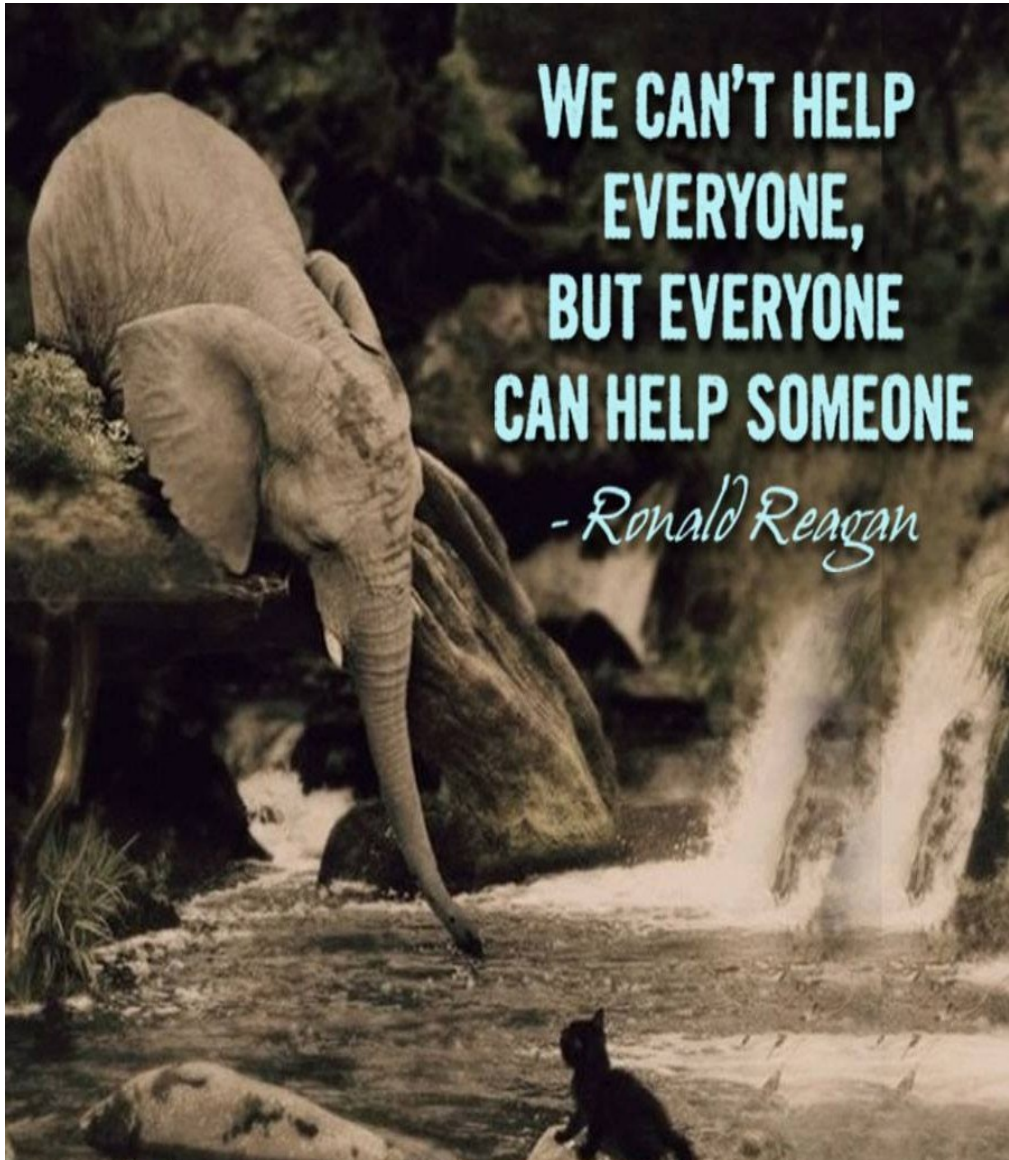


# CATHEDRAL LIFE

The Cathedral Church of Christ the Redeemer, Dromore

A photograph of a large elephant standing on a rocky bank, leaning its trunk down towards a small black kitten that is sitting on a rock in the foreground. In the background, a waterfall cascades over rocks. The scene is set in a lush, green environment.

**WE CAN'T HELP  
EVERYONE,  
BUT EVERYONE  
CAN HELP SOMEONE**

*- Ronald Reagan*

**MAY 2020**

## THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST THE REDEEMER, DROMORE



### Rector -

The Very Revd Geoff Wilson, B.Th  
Dean of Dromore

### Curate Assistant

The Revd Trevor McKeown, B.A. (Hons.)

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### Pastoral Duty

In the event of pastoral need or  
emergencies, please contact the  
Rector on 028 9269 2275 or if  
unavailable, the Curate on  
028 3832 1217

Deadline for articles and information  
for the next edition of Cathedral Life.

*No material will be accepted after  
this deadline.*

**Friday 22nd May 2020**

## Thank you!

Each Thursday evening, it is a privilege to be part of the big clap for our frontline workers, along with millions of others across the UK, as we ring out our church bells to say Thank You!

And I want to take this opportunity of saying thank you to the growing team of volunteers within our church who have stepped up and offered themselves and their gifts in service of God and others—it is deeply appreciated.

To Christine for the fantastic way in which she is continuing to encourage faith in our children and young people.

To Trevor for the faithful way in which he is engaging in the telephone ministry to a growing number of parishioners.

To June for the way in which she has engaged with members of MU in creative and imaginative ways thereby keeping a sense of cohesion and togetherness in the midst of us being isolated.

To Andrew for the amazing services which he is producing through the use of computer software which most of us would not have the first notion about!

To Steven for being so dedicated producing a growing number of copies of CDs each week, all without a hitch.

To Karen, Matt and Jeremy for creating the most amazing music to complement our Sunday services.

To Karen for keeping SOMA connected through the use of ZOOM! What a stretch that has been for some of the members!

To Billy for continuing to maintain the History Reading Group in a virtual sense.

To Jane for maintaining a real sense of fun through posts on MATCH and for keeping in touch with members of JOY.



To each and every one of you who has contacted me and offered your support and a greater measure of love—it is very humbling to see what God is doing in the midst of this dreadful crisis as He builds his church, albeit in a very different way to what we have become accustomed!

To the members of the Select Vestry for the decision to look beyond our own need and to recognise the much greater need of our family in Maridi as we give £750 per month for the next number of months to enable Bishop Moses to respond to the growing crisis in Maridi.

To those who have so kindly offered to be part of our response to community needs, because we want the community to know that we care for them because God cares for them.

But we can't help everyone! That is what Ronald Reagan is supposed to have said at some stage during his presidency. But he went on to say that everyone can help someone. Who is it you can help at this time with a text, a phone call or a card? Who is it that you live near who needs some support through the gift of some food? It doesn't have to be a big thing that you have to do to let someone know that you care...a simple bar of chocolate, a smile, putting their bin out for them, bringing it in again— all small things which communicate a big heart.

Christians are called to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. His feet took him to places where he showed compassion, love, tenderness and forgiveness. May we truly place our feet in his footprints and seek out opportunities to be more like him in this crisis as we love and support those whom we encounter in our lives.

***If you know of anyone in need, please do ring the number above at local rate—calls are transferred to the Rectory where Geoff will deal with any issues which arise.***

## History Reading Group

During the current restrictions associated to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic the **Dromore Cathedral History Reading Group** have decided to continue to meet in a remote or virtual sense.

The book which the group have now selected to read is -

**Dominion by Peter Ackroyd.**

In brief summary, the book provides a whistle stop tour of British history during the period between the Battle of Waterloo in 1815 and the death of Queen Victoria in 1901. Dominion is readily available in paperback format, and at reasonable cost, from the usual online retailers.

**At a time when people are spending much more time at home than might otherwise be the case, everyone is warmly invited to join with the group in reading this book.** Subject to any changes in Government instructions and Church of Ireland policy in relation to social gatherings, the group would plan to have a further remote meeting, by way of telephone and or text contact, by mid May 2020 (exact date to be confirmed). The purpose will be to select another book to read.

Details will be circulated by Parish web site and Facebook in due course and as they become available.

For any further information in relation to **Dominion** specifically, the **History Reading Group** generally or indeed if you would like to become involved in selecting the title of our next book to read please contact - **Billy McCallum**

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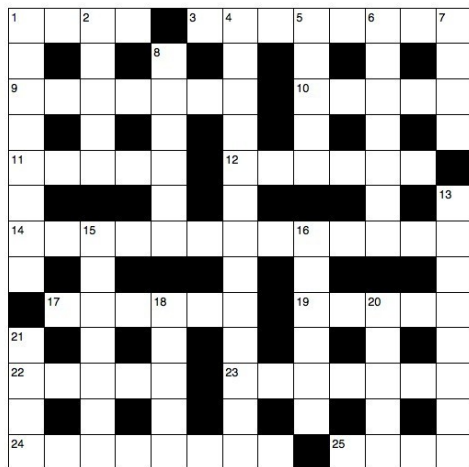
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## Across

1 'Therefore let us — passing judgment on one another' (Romans 14:13) (4)

3 'I — — these persons here present' (Marriage service) (4,4)

9 According to a prearranged timetable (Numbers 28:3) (7)

10 Group of eight (5)

11 The cell into which the Philippian jailer put Paul and Silas (Acts 16:24) (5)

12 — Taylor, pioneer missionary to China (6)

14 Otherwise known as the Eucharist, Breaking of Bread, the Lord's Table (4,9)

17 'So that after I have preached to others, I — will not be disqualified for the prize' (1 Corinthians 9:27) (6)

19 Attend to (3,2)

22 Approximately (Acts 4:4) (5)

23 Tea rite (anag.) (7)

24 Rule of sovereign (8)

25 Test (anag.) (4)

## Down

1 The name of the street where Judas lived in Damascus and where Saul of Tarsus stayed (Acts 9:11) (8)

2 'The playing of the merry — , sweet singing in the choir' (5)

4 'We have been saying that — — was credited to him as righteous' (Romans 4:9) (8,5)

5 Dr Martyn — Jones, famous for his ministry at Westminster Chapel (5)

6 Port at which Paul landed on his way to Rome (Acts 28:13) (7)

7 Observe (Ruth 3:4) (4)

8 Minister of religion (6)

13 'I am — of this man's blood. It is your responsibility' (Matthew 27:24) (8)

15 'Greater love has no one than this, that he — — his life for his friends' (John 15:13) (3,4)

16 Archbishop who calculated that the world began in 4004BC (6)

18 'No one can — the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit' (John 3:5) (5)

20 Establish by law (5)

21 Product of Gilead noted for its healing properties (Jeremiah 46:11) (4)

**Solution on page 8**

## News from Maridi and South Sudan.

COVID-19 worsens South Sudan hunger crisis. More than five million people in South Sudan rely on food aid to survive and the coronavirus pandemic is making their lives even harder. The outbreak is slowing down humanitarian operations that deliver essential food supplies. South Sudan announced its fifth case of the novel coronavirus on Thursday April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2020 found in Juba, raising concerns about the spread of the illness through the population. There are concerns a surge in COVID-19 cases would quickly overwhelm South Sudan's fragile health system. South Sudan government stepped up measures to arrest the spread of the illness last month, temporarily shutting schools and universities, Churches, sports events and telling citizens to observe social distancing.

Your brothers and sisters in Maridi are physically in great fear and confusion as many local people live in very remote areas where they do not have access to information, such things as mobile network, Radio stations, newspapers etc... are not there, the coming of Coronavirus which have spread all over the world, many people here are still green or blank of the information. Church was the only means of getting news and information; The outbreak of this pandemic is a great cultural shock here.

Christians are encouraged to support food to those who are in desperate need. What we are experiences now is the effects of the Coronavirus:

Such effects includes:

- The prices of commodities in the Market is now alarming for the local people to afford. We do not know for how long people are going to be lockdown. Pray for the displaced people who are still sharing household and food with the host communities in Maridi.
- Bishops, pastors, evangelists who depend on the Christians support. Pray that they may have means of food and soap.
- Pray for Maridi students cut off from their families in Uganda, when the borders closed, without food and their families in stress in Maridi.
- Pray that God continue to show us his favour to us. We have just emerged from War and lives of people depend on the support of others like you who are praying and supporting us.

–The light of Christ’s gospel is still burning in Maridi, as we enter Holy Week tomorrow, we still uplift Christ as our King and Saviour, Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna ... save us now, save us now, save us now ... Jesus!

### **Our Encouragement to all of You.**

I'm reminded of a wonderful Scripture in Psalms 46:1-3 (NIV) God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging”. With all my heart, I believe we continue to serve a good God who has already been to “tomorrow” and knows “the rest of the story”. While we continue to have great faith in God, we also must use our God-given wisdom during these times.

At meantime remain all protected by blood of Jesus. *Moses+*

### **And here is what our financial support will enable the church in Maridi to do....**

1. Mothers Union; making masks to be delivered to Bethsaida clinic and Maridi hospital as well as providing washing soap to the elderly people in the community. Need funds for mask making materials and soap for delivery to the community.
2. Pastors who are 80 in number are now in difficult situation of food and soaps. They depend on the congregations for their basic needs, but with closure of the churches they are now living in a difficult situation having not been able to build up any resources in recent months or years because of the war. Need funds for food and household necessities.
3. Pastoral students are stuck in Uganda, they are really facing much difficulties now in Uganda. They need funds for food and housing.
4. We as church need to reaching our people in archdeaconries with awareness of Corona. They do not have access to radio TV, newspapers or internet, we need simple microphone and fuel to reach our people in the villages.
5. Bicycles are now the safe means of transport. Pastors in the remote areas need bicycles to go around the villages on the roads to preach.



## Doing the same things differently.....

These are days when many of us are having to adopt to new and different ways of doing things. The current lockdown has meant changes to the way pastoral ministry is delivered throughout the Parish. No longer are pastoral visits to homes, hospitals or care homes permitted.

In response to these restrictions, Geoff and I have discussed how best to maintain contact with those in the over 80's/housebound group who would normally have been visited on a regular basis. At present, the only way we can continue a pastoral ministry is by telephone contact, and so a rota has been set up which means that this group is now contacted regularly by phone.

These telephone calls are well received and much appreciated. They provide an opportunity to talk about the many challenges that come from being isolated from family members and friends. Of course, the conversations can be, and often are, about everything and anything under the sun!

But what I believe means more than anything else to our people is just to know that the church cares enough about them at this time to lift the phone and say in a friendly and familiar voice, 'hello, how are you keeping'.

This ministry has been running over the past four weeks and is gradually expanding as other age groups are being added. If you would like a chat by phone, just let Geoff or myself know and we will be very happy to give you a call. *Trevor*

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### ASLEEP

A young man fell asleep in the Sunday morning service (hard to believe I know but it happens!), and soon began to snore. The preacher stopped and impatiently motioned to the young boy beside the man to wake him up. The boy said: "Wake him up yourself, you put him to sleep."



## **PALM & EASTER SUNDAY FAMILY CELEBRATIONS**

### ***PALM SUNDAY:***

Psalm 118 v 26: “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. From the house of the Lord we bless you...”

Although a very different Palm Sunday to what I imagined my first in Dromore Cathedral would be, it was nonetheless filled with Hosanna’s to the Highest. On Palm Sunday we challenged our Church family to make crosses and display them in their windows. In doing so, we wanted to send the message to our neighbours that our hope during this COVID-19 pandemic, is in the one who defeated death on the cross! Hosanna in the Highest!



We had colourful card crosses, beaded crosses, crocheted crosses, and even a beautiful flower arrangement of a cross surrounded by daffodils!

We want to thank everyone that took part! I know there are many crosses still displayed in windows along with rainbows of hope!

### ***GOOD FRIDAY & EASTER SUNDAY:***

On Good Friday & Easter Sunday our children were able to participate in Easter special services through our Youth & Children’s Facebook Page. These cyber services included memory verses, songs with dancing, stories, prayer activities and on Easter Sunday our children were encouraged to partake in an Easter Story Scavenger Hunt. The children were asked as a family to find objects that presented different parts of the Easter Story. I have been extremely encouraged by the response and by all of the families who took part.

Our church building might have been empty on Easter Sunday, but so is the grave! Rejoice that God is moving in the lives of our children, young people and families in these difficult days. *Christine*





## **MU Friends** – just sharing ‘things’.

‘MU Friends’ is the name of the WhatsApp group started on 17th March 2020 to keep MU members in touch with each other. This was the first day of isolation for many and a time of anxiety and fear.

The group started off greeting each other fondly and offering help if required, glad to be in touch and to know that while quoting reassuring and comforting words of scripture, each one of us was managing the uncertainty that was all around. After 6 weeks of sending and receiving messages to and from the twenty members taking part, friendships have grown through sharing and supporting each other, often in a light hearted and fun way.

Here is a quick sample of just some of the ‘things’ we have shared:

- the Facebook reflections etc that appear on DC Online so that these exciting developments are accessible by phone, keeping us in touch with our Cathedral family
- discussion about the state of our hair at the end of isolation, imagine getting sheep dip and hair colour mixed up!
- celebrating birthdays
- seeing family members who live in different parts of the world
- expressing love and prayerful support for the bereaved and those who are unwell at present
- passing around appropriate beautiful, funny and daft photos, poems, words of wisdom and little videos that are circulating at this time
- ‘isolation selfie day’ – no pouting or glamour allowed – just hilarious glimpses of what happens when forced to stay at home! What a revelation!
- Good news and positivity every day ~ how might we celebrate the end of isolation??

Anyone who is isolating need not be isolated from human contact. Sometimes a member may just want to see what’s going on and that’s all right too, no-one is forced to contribute. To join the group. Every member of the Cathedral Family is welcome to join this group, you just need a mobile phone with WhatsApp.

Contact June Reain on 07714702937 if interested.

# NI Scrubs.

Throughout NI many different groups of sewers are working to fulfil the demand for protective clothing for healthcare workers. I have recently been sewing scrubs as part of the Lisburn and Belfast area group. These are the protective 2 piece outfits worn in healthcare settings. Not only do they help protect staff but they also help to keep their family safe as well! I only work with new fabric and it arrives with me cut out and ready to sew. However some people are working with ‘used’ fabric, usually duvet covers or flat sheets and the interesting patterns and designs on these have been popular with the healthcare staff, especially when children’s patterns are used in a children’s department! The scrubs are put into a large bag when used and are washed in the same bag. Pillow cases are useful for making these bags. Arrangements can be made to collect / drop off unwanted duvet covers, flat sheets and pillow cases which will be passed to the Lisburn and Belfast scrubs team. Only good quality (not too many washes!) cotton or poly-cotton is acceptable and this must be freshly washed and ironed before collection.

Anyone interested in sewing should contact NI Scrubs on their Facebook page and those interested in donating fabric should contact June Reain 07714702937.

## Not everything is cancelled

- Sunshine is not cancelled
- Spring is not cancelled
- Love is not cancelled
- Relationships are not cancelled
- Reading is not cancelled
- Naps are not cancelled
- Devotion is not cancelled
- Music is not cancelled
- Dancing is not cancelled
- Imagination is not cancelled
- Kindness is not cancelled
- Conversations are not cancelled
- Hope is not cancelled

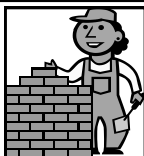
## FWO envelopes

Due to ongoing restrictions we have been unable to distribute our FWO envelopes– we will do this as soon as government advice permits us. In the meantime, if you are in the custom of setting aside your offering each week, simply place it in a plain envelope with your FWO number on the outside of it. **Do not give your envelope to anyone who calls at your door “on behalf of the church” as they are not genuine.** If you would like to consider your current means of supporting the church then either speak with our Treasurer (3832 7856) or the Rector (9269 2275) and they will discuss how you might make a bank transfer or set up a Standing Order.

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## PARISH REGISTER

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16th April	Kathleen Thompson, Church St, Dromore
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<b>Curate:</b>	Revd Trevor McKeown 39 Cedar Park, Bleary BT63 5LL e-mail: curate@dromorecathedral.co.uk	028 3832 1217
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<b>Organist:</b>	Orly Watson, B.A. Mus (Oxon), M.A. Mus (RAM) e-mail: organist@dromorecathedral.co.uk	0777 030 5491
<b>Praise Group:</b>	Karen Bowden e-mail: musicgroup@dromorecathedral.co.uk	0780 094 1256
<b>Sexton:</b>	Boyd McClurg	028 9269 3968
<b>Children's &amp; Youth Worker:</b>	Christine Shanks e-mail: dromore.youth.children@gmail.com	028 9269 3968

**Parish Panel:** Very Revd Geoff Wilson 028 9269 2275  
Robert Beggs 0777 160 7914 : Julie Orr 0774 067 4130

*Please contact the Office to request the issue of Weekly Envelopes or Cathedral Life, and for queries about Hall Bookings, Record Searches, Adverts, etc*

### Select Vestry 2019-2020

<b>Churchwardens:</b>	Ashley Silcock (Rector's)	Ian Doig (People's)
<b>Glebewardens:</b>	Johnny Gordon (Rector's)	Bill Forsythe (People's)
<b>Vestry Members:</b>	Colin Barr, Andrew Carson, Paul Cochrane, Andrew Cuthbert, Scott Mackey, Nan McMurray (Honorary Treasurer), Samuel Newell, Julie Orr (Honorary Secretary), Sue Pegrum, Joanne Silcock, Leanne Teggart, Agnes Thompson.	
<b>Honorary Secretary:</b>	Miss Julie Orr 54 Bishops Hill, Dromore, Co Down BT25 1FL email: honorarysecretary@dromorecathedral.co.uk TN 0774 067 4130	
<b>Honorary Treasurer:</b>	Miss Nan McMurray 10 Pines Grove, Lurgan, Craigavon BT66 7PE email: honorarytreasurer@dromorecathedral.co.uk TN 028 3832 7856	

# GOLDEN CHARTER



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## SOMA NEWS

On 30th May this year, Soma, our singing group were due to host their first ever concert, supported by Lurgan Salvation Army band. As such, we were working really hard rehearsing the songs, and building the momentum for that. As the Covid-19 crisis worsened and the government lockdown was announced it was clear that we were going to have to postpone the concert. So now we had no concert and were not able to meet either, so, what have we been doing? Well, thanks to the wonders of technology we have been able to continue to practice and even 'meet' together.

We have managed to have a couple of video practices, where folks can watch and sing along and also several Zoom meetings. If you haven't heard of Zoom, it allows a large number of people to see each other and to talk to one another online. These meetings have been great fun, especially at this time when we are forced to be apart, its nice to see each others faces and get to say hello. Of course the good craic continues with that too. Almost everyone has been able to avail of this and have all really enjoyed it. Even some of the more senior members were Zooming with us!

The other little project we did was to make a virtual choir song. To do this, each singer had to listen to the accompaniment with headphones and sing along, while recording themselves on their phones. They all then sent their recordings to me and I put them all together. This was great fun, and they all enjoyed hearing the end result. If you want to have a listen, go to the church facebook page and click on 'videos' on the left hand side and you will find virtual Soma there.

We are looking forward very much to being able to get together again to sing and to being able to hold our concert when things are settled and safe again.

Remember, new members are always welcome, no experience needed. *Karen*







I hope that you were able to join in on the Sunday service just past, when you would have seen our new Mothers' Union wall hanging on display in the background. Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April should have been our Service of Celebration for 90 years of Mothers' Union in Dromore Cathedral.

We had plans for our Bishop David McClay, all Ireland President, Mrs June Butler, our Diocesan President Mrs Roberta Macartney, Rev. Gerald Macartney Diocesan Chaplain and Trustees all to attend along with past and present members and Enrolling members.

The wall hanging was made by some members of our branch and would have been presented at this service. However as the present circumstances do not permit any social gatherings, we have postponed our celebrations to a later date but please be assured they will take place whenever we are permitted to do so. Of course there will be refreshments and a chance to catch up with others after the service.

*Helen Scott*



Dromore Cathedral is the Parish Church serving the Dromore and Kinallen areas and a Cathedral of the Diocese of Down and Dromore in the Church of Ireland.

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