



CATHEDRAL LIFE

The Cathedral Church of Christ the Redeemer, Dromore

"Light at the end of the tunnel"

APRIL 2021

THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST THE REDEEMER, DROMORE



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Dean of Dromore

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**Dromore Cathedral
Online**



Annual General Vestry Meeting - Sunday 11th April at 11.00am

We have been informed by the Honorary Secretaries to General Synod that our Annual General Vestry meeting must take place within the period prescribed by our governing constitution. Our options for making this happen in a satisfactory manner are very limited indeed; either a Zoom meeting which would exclude those who haven't access to the internet, or an in person meeting in church following a church service. I'm sure that all of you will agree that it is best for all that we hold our meeting in the Cathedral with the meeting taking place at 11.00am on Sunday 11th April between the earlier service at 9.45am and the later service at 11.45am.

The meeting itself will only cover those matters that we are required to cover, ie the election of the Select Vestry, adoption of the Parish Accounts and the appointment of Auditors. We would encourage a good attendance at this important meeting as we conduct the necessary business of our church in the midst of an ongoing crisis.

Dear friends

“Are we nearly there yet?”

I wonder how many parents can identify with this question? Often posed in the first few miles of a long journey by a young child with little concept of time and distance, it represents a question which can be put by many of us throughout our lives as we reflect on changing circumstances.

It can be felt by young adults half way through a degree course.

It can be asked by someone buying their first home as they become increasingly frustrated with hurdles and delays in the purchase process.

It can be felt by someone going through a recruitment process for a new job.

It can be experienced by an expectant mother for whom pregnancy has been particularly challenging.

It can even be expressed by someone counting down the days to retirement!

And as we emerge from our current period of lockdown bit by bit, there is a growing sense of *“When will it all end?”* But end it will. You only have to look back over your shoulder and remind yourself how terrible things have been for so many people only a short time ago and how much more positive things are today due to careful management of circumstances and immeasurable sacrifice by so many people.

There is light at the end of this dark tunnel we have all been travelling through.

A light which is getting brighter almost on a daily basis as hospital admissions, new Covid-19 cases and the number of deaths due to the virus continue to go down.

A light which is getting brighter as more and more people are receiving their vaccine and confidence is growing that something resembling what we used to call normality is not that far away.

A light which is getting brighter as some financial analysts predict that our economy could recover to pre-Covid levels as early as the end of this year.

We are not there quite yet, but I would encourage us all to stay focused on those shafts of light around us all which are undeniably getting brighter and brighter if we only have eyes to see it.

And as we continue to travel towards the light, remember that we have not travelled this path alone. We have done so with family and friends. With neighbours and work colleagues. With the loving presence of God’s Holy Spirit. Sometimes we only recognise that presence as we look backwards, just like the disciples did as they reflected on the words of their close friend Jesus. Things must have appeared very dark indeed for them as they faced a future without Jesus following his death on the cross. But imagine the shafts of light which broke into their darkness as they heard reports of his resurrection. Imagine the shafts of light

which broke into their darkness as they experienced the risen Jesus for themselves. Imagine the shafts of light which completely dispelled the darkness as they understood that his death on the cross brought life and life in all its fulness. And once that light shone in the darkness it helped them to see that they were never alone on the journey and never would be.

This Easter my prayer is that each of us would know more fully that Jesus is risen, the tomb is empty, death has no sting. My prayer is that this knowledge would help us as we focus on a growing sense of the darkness of Covid-19 coming to an end and the fact that God has been with us throughout these dark and difficult days.

A very happy and Christ-centred Easter to each and every one of you.

Your friend in Christ.

Geoff

Update from Maridi

Maridi has been known for its tropical forest and nearly between eight months of rain fall. And a dry spell which usually starts from December to late February. During the dry spell many citizens around Maridi would be battling with wildfire which takes days to subside. This usually covers miles and miles between two to three days. And it causes immense destruction to crops, huts personal belongings and other basic need such as food, in the garden and in traditional granary stores. Communities have not been given enough fire safety regulation and are often caught unaware when there is fire outbreak.

On 23rd February 2021 wild fire started in five different villages in Maridi in two separate archdeaconries of Cathedral archdeaconry and Amaki archdeaconry in the north of Maridi.

This fire lasted for three days as the fire brigade department in the county has no capacity not even a single equipment that can save communities from wild fire. The fire left destruction in property in five villages. 51 households were affected, 114 homes were destroyed, 18 granary stores were burnt to the ground and lives were lost. In very recent days the fires have affected Maridi town itself with the Diocesan Guest House being burnt to the ground; this guest house has served as a source of income for the Diocese as visitors would have stayed there. Those most affected by the fires are women, children and the elderly.

In response to this situation, the Church in Maridi are providing tarpaulins, round poles or bamboos, bundles of grass and emergency food packs. To date our Parish have designated over £2,000 in response to the acute needs which have arisen as a consequence of these wildfires.



Some of this family members you see have been left with nothing. These are single mothers. Other family members have visited to pray with them. They are worried about where to begin from as rains are almost coming.

Property Update

Cathedral Hall

Work at the Cathedral Hall continues to progress extremely well following the water damage sustained as a consequence of a burst pipe in January. The transformation in the toilets and foyer is nothing short of remarkable and we continue to be indebted to Bill Forsythe for his tireless work and oversight of this project. Work should be complete by the end of this week if all goes to plan.

Cathedral

Water ingress and damage to stonework in the region of the Baptistry was identified during the Quinquennial Inspection which was carried out a few years ago. Preserving the integrity of our building and making it watertight is a priority for the Select Vestry, on your behalf, as we develop our use of the building for ministry and mission. However the cost of such work can place a heavy burden on the finances of the

Parish. The Select Vestry are always on the look out for ways in which financial assistance with such work can be availed of and are delighted to announce that a grant of £12, 760.00 (50% of the cost of the work exclusive of VAT) has been awarded by the National Churches Trust. We hope to commence this work in May and it is hoped that it will in no way interrupt our normal pattern of services.

Children’s Ministry Zoom Specials!

Where would we be without technology this past year? Never did I imagine I would be praying prayers of gratitude for "zoom", in fact this time last year I did not even know what it was! This technology has enabled us to hold weekly youth fellowship meetings, fun quiz nights and recently two very special zoom meetings:

Bedtime story zoom

On Thursday 4th March we celebrated world book day. This is usually a major event within schools. Due to school closures and knowing the excitement world book day brings, I did not want the children to miss out. Therefore, we held our own event on zoom. The children got dressed up as a book or movie character and listened to a reading of "You are special" a beautiful book teaching about our value in God’s eyes by Max Lucado.



Zoom call with Milo the Gospel Dog

On Saturday 27th February fifteen families joined a zoom call to meet and learn about Milo the Gospel Dog. Milo is an extremely talented springer spaniel from Aughnacloy who uses tricks and videos to share the gospel message. We got to watch all his videos, participate in an animal quiz and ask Milo's owners David and Amy, questions about Milo. We also got to meet Grace (their other springer spaniel) who had recently had a litter of puppies! This was such an enjoyable evening.



I want to thank the children, young people, parents and guardians for their participation and their continued support and encouragement during these times.

Christine

We are indebted to David Weir for sharing with us a poem which his mother Beverley penned during lockdown last year. As you read, allow God's Spirit to take you places where you are lifted from immediate concerns to the shelter of God's loving arms. Beverley is a parishioner in the Parish of St John's, Fivemiletown and the townlands referenced in her poem lie within her home Parish.

Lockdown

There is a little corner of my garden, where
In springtime, speedwell, violets and bluebells grow.
As nature paints the reawakening earth,
The palette turns through lilac, blue and indigo.

Down where the meadow slopes towards the lough,
Sunlight is filtered through the lacework of the trees,
(Contrasting patches, now of light and then of shade)
Revealing swathes of buttercups and wood anemones.

In these surreal and uncertain days I wander here
To feel the slow rhythms of Creation, as evening falls,
And swallows, searching insects, swoop and dive
Above the hawthorn hedges and the farmyard walls.

It is no hardship then, to spend long days confined
Here in these pleasant places where my boundary lines are lain.
There is a little bit of Heaven here on earth
In Annagh, Aghingowley, Aghinlark and Aughentaine.

Then like the swallows, I can let my spirit soar
And rise above the anxious cares of earthly things.
I can escape beyond the marches and be free,
Uplifted by the Father's love and sheltered by His wings.

May 2020



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Audio/Visual Update and Gift Day

Further to the item in our last magazine regarding a very necessary upgrade of our Audio/Visual system, the Select Vestry are delighted to announce that Rea Sound from Cookstown have been awarded the contract and will hopefully commence work in May, assuming all necessary consents are granted at both Diocesan and Central Church level. Some of the key things which will be upgraded are as follows:

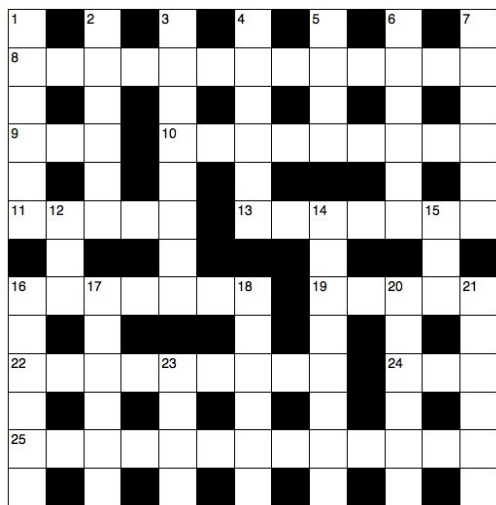
- Installation of 3 cameras;
- Replacement of current sound desk;
- Installation of speakers in Chancel/Sanctuary area;
- New microphones and stands for band;
- New projectors to sharpen/brighten images;
- Installation of video recording capacity;
- Introduction of broadband to enable live feed of services.

The cost of this investment is considerable at just over £40,000.00, but the benefits are much, much greater. This is a major step on the part of the Select Vestry on your behalf and something which we believe will be a blessing to absolutely everyone for many years to come. One way in which you can be part of this blessing is to support the Gift Day which the Select Vestry have specifically set aside in support of this upgrade.

Our Gift is on Sunday 18th April and Bishop David McClay will be our guest preacher at both the 10am and 11.30am service. If you wish to be part of this blessing, you will find a Gift Day envelope in your box of envelopes in the month of April. If you don't have a set of envelopes your offering can be placed in a plain envelope marked "Audio Visual Gift Day", with your name or FWO number on the outside of the envelope to indicate who the gift is from.

As this Gift Day is part of a wider Diocesan Gift Day, 10% of the amount raised will be given to the Diocese to use in the development of church plants and 10% will be given to Maridi Diocese in South Sudan for a specific project yet to be identified.

Please do give this project your full support as we seek to enhance our technology in a sensitive way with a mind to building up the body of Christ in the building and beyond.



Across

8 'He poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the — ' (Isaiah 53:12) (13)

9 'When they had sung a hymn, they went — to the Mount of Olives (Matthew 26:30) (3)

10 Comes between Galatians and Philippians (9)

11 'Your heart will — and swell with joy' (Isaiah 60:5) (5)

13 Muslim holy month (7)

16 Ten ears (anag.) (7)

19 Under (poetic abbrev.) (5)

22 How Abram described himself to God when he complained that his inheritance would pass to a servant (Genesis 15:2) (9)

24 'Go to the — , you sluggard' (Proverbs 6:6) (3)

25 Debar from receiving Communion (13)

Down

1 My — for His Highest (Oswald Chambers' best-known book) (6)

2 Festival of the resurrection (6)

3 'His sons will prepare for war and — a great army' (Daniel 11:10) (8)

4 'Let not the — string his bow' (Jeremiah 51:3) (6)

5 Name of the River Thames in and around Oxford (4)

6 'From then on Judas watched for an opportunity — — him over' (Matthew 26:16) (2,4)

7 'But Christ is faithful — — — over God's house' (Hebrews 3:6) (2,1,3)

12 Long-handled implement used to till the soil (Isaiah 7:25) (3)

14 Order to which monks and nuns devote themselves (8)

15 Appropriate (Proverbs 15:23) (3)

16 I, uncle (anag.) (6)

17 'They gave him — — of broiled fish' (Luke 24:42) (1,5)

18 'Weren't there three men that we — — and threw into the fire?' (Daniel 3:24) (4,2)

20 Mountain where Noah's ark came to rest (Genesis 8:4) (6)

21 'Don't you know that friendship with the world is — towards God?' (James 4:4) (6)

23 Prominent architectural feature of large cathedrals such as St Paul's (4)

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Diocese of Down & Dromore

We invite all members to spend time each day from 30th March – 1st April 2021 in prayer, worship and reflection using these guidelines.

A message from Bishop David McClay

As followers of Jesus in today's challenging world when so many lives have been deeply impacted in negative ways by Covid-19 putting in place regular prayer patterns is an essential part of our Christian discipleship.

When we read through the stories of men and women both in the scriptures and in church history those who were change agents were people who prioritised prayer.

I commend to you this useful resource to guide your prayers each day and I thank the Mothers' Union for making this available to so many at a time when God calls his people to pray.

+David Down and Dromore

"REBUILDING HOPE AND CONFIDENCE"

PREPARATION:

Psalm 139: You have searched me Lord, and you know me.

You know when I sit and when I rise;

You perceive my thoughts from afar.

You discern my going out and my lying down;

You are familiar with all my ways.

REPENTANCE:

Psalm 51: Have mercy on me oh God, according to your unfailing love;

according to your great compassion

blot out my transgressions.

Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

HYMN 606: As the deer pants for the water

“A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER”

Lord we thank you for your love, protection and guidance during this year when our world has been transformed due to Covid19.

We are thankful for nurses, doctors and members of the NHS who so faithfully and lovingly attended to the ill and dying. We thank you for all who were involved in the production of vaccines and for those who worked tirelessly to keep us safe during the pandemic.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Gracious Lord as we remember before you all those including members from our Diocesan family who have died, surround us and all who mourn with your loving compassion.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

During this very difficult time we have come to appreciate the joys of family life and friends and to have had our eyes opened once more to the beauty surrounding us.

Prepare us in the days ahead to listen to you and not to be overtaken again by the ways of the world.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

“May we always seek your loving insight, when decisions lie before us;
May prayer be ever our compass to direct us along the right path.”

PRAYER:

Lord God like the disciples we ask, teach us to pray.

Teach us the secret of prayer,
when to speak and when to keep silent,
when to accept and when to go on seeking,
when to persevere and when to let go,

teach us how to pray.

Teach us the power of prayer
it’s ability to challenge,
to encourage, to transform all life,

teach us how to pray.

Teach us the joy of prayer,
to express our worship,
discover your will, and hear your voice.

In the name of Christ Amen.

HYMN: 418 Here, O my Lord, I see thee face to face;

Reading for Maundy Thursday: Mark ch14 v 12-26

Almighty God,
at the Last Supper your Son Jesus Christ
washed the disciples' feet and commanded them
to love one another.
Give us humility and obedience to be servants of others
as he was the servant of all;
who gave up his life and died for us,
yet is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit
one God, now and forever. Amen.

HYMN 247: When I survey the wondrous cross

Our Mothers' Union Family:

Almighty God we thank you for our membership of Mothers' Union, for relationships with other members, and for the friendships we have built together. We pray for David our Bishop, Gerald our Chaplain and all clergy, bless and strengthen them in your service.

Lord we pray for the Mothers' Union worldwide, for June our All Ireland President and for Roberta our Diocesan President. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon them, guide, equip and protect them as they lead us forward in your Name.

As part of a worldwide family we pray for our Link Diocese of Tomasina in Madagascar: Mukono in Uganda; Ikwerre and Ife East in Nigeria;

Down and Dromore in All Ireland and Delhi in India.

Strengthen us, Father grant us a firm faith, that we may know the presence of Jesus our wonderful Counsellor and true friend, all glory and honour to his name! **Amen.**

The Mothers' Union Prayer

Loving Lord,

We thank you for your love so freely given to us all

We pray for families around the world.

Bless the work of the Mothers' Union as we seek

to share your love through the encouragement,
strengthening and support of marriage and family life.

Empowered by your spirit, may we be united in prayer and worship,
and in love and service reach out as your hands across the world.

In Jesus' name, Amen

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." **Romans ch 15 v 13**

The Diocesan Chaplain writes:

—oOo—

“The Lord delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.”

(Psalm 147:11)

Ladies, faithful members of Mothers’ Union, it is once again time to circulate the Mothers’ Union Prayer Leaflet and as your chaplain I have been asked to write a short reflection.

This time last year we were just starting to see the effects of the Coronavirus. There was ‘Lockdown’, churches closed for corporate worship and an increase in admissions to hospitals. With the latter in mind I must say the members of our Health Service have done an admirable job and deserve our heartfelt thanks.

However one year on I am sure none of us thought that we would still be in a similar position. We have witnessed so many changes, the loss of so many loved ones; things that we thought we would never witness. I have said that our thanks must go to the members of the medical profession but also to the scientists who have successfully formulated a vaccine that many of us have now received. With this there is now ***‘light at the end of the tunnel.’***

The verse from Psalm 147 that I have quoted above is one of hope. This psalm itself celebrates the amazing providence of God in his care for us after a long night of despair. The greatest symbol of God’s faithfulness has come in Jesus Christ. Through the gospel he is tenderly calling us each by name. We are the gathered people of God from the ends of the earth.

Verse 11 above speaks of those who *‘fear him (God).’* What does it mean? Are we to be afraid of God? No, never. God has created us in his own image. He loves us and continually provides for us and protects us. He offers us salvation, a promise of a wonderful future. So why the word ‘fear’? What does it mean? The *‘fear of the Lord’* means to *‘trust and obey’* him. Our churches may be closed but they are still there, still carrying on God’s work but in a very different world. Doing things in a very different way.

In finishing let me turn to another verse of scripture from John 1:5 – *“The light shines in the darkness ...”* That light is Christ. He is with us every day. He will never leave us. He will bring us through these times, so *‘trust and obey’*.

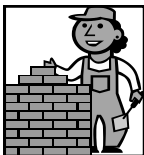
May God continue to bless you all and keep you safe.

Gerald

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Services for April

Friday 2nd

Good Friday	7.00am	A Service of Readings and Meditations
	8.00pm	A Service of Reflection

Sunday 4th

Easter Day	8.30am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Cathedral Praise with Holy Communion
	11.30am	Holy Communion

Sunday 11th

2nd Sunday of Easter	8.30am	Holy Communion
	9.45am	Cathedral Praise
	11.45am	Morning Prayer

Sunday 18th

3rd Sunday of Easter	8.30am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Cathedral Praise
	11.30am	Morning Prayer

Sunday 25th

4th Sunday of Easter	8.30am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Cathedral Praise
	11.30am	Morning Prayer

Return to Church Services in the Church Building

We welcome the announcement of the NI Executive on 16th March opening the door once more for us to worship in our church building. Services will resume on Good Friday with services of Holy Communion on Easter Sunday. One thing which is crucial for us to understand as we return to church is that it is an extremely safe environment. The following are some of the protocols which will be in place for your safety and mine:

- Hand sanitising on entry and exit;
- Wearing of face coverings throughout (exemptions apply);
- No congregational singing for the time being;
- Stewarded entry and exit to preserve the need for distancing;
- Socially distanced seating for everyone;
- Individual glasses and bread for communion.

I trust that these measures will build a good deal of confidence in all of us as we return once more to worshipping in the building, something which many of us have missed so, so much.

PARISH REGISTER

CHRISTIAN BURIAL

21st March David Robert James Neill, Park Hill, Dromore

*"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord. They are blessed indeed,
Says the Spirit, for they rest from their labours."*

Church Collections: February

GENERAL FUND	2020/21	2019/20
February	7,759.00	7,162.20
Total to date	£81,153.70	£83,253.89

DEVELOPMENT FUND		
Month 11 February	576.00	890.10
Total to date	£8,377.85	£9,320.00

April	4th	11th	18th	25th
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Attention all Magazine Distributors

Firstly, I would like to thank each and every one of you for all that you do each month in collecting and distributing magazines to those on your distribution list. It genuinely never ceases to amaze me how quickly the magazines are collected each month and I trust that they are delivered just as quickly! The magazine is a key means of maintaining contact with many people in our Parish, both those who are regular attenders and those who are more occasional. So thank you for the part you play as a distributor in helping us all to feel a deeper sense of connection with one another and more informed as to what is happening within the Parish and beyond.

And secondly, I would like to let you know that our magazine will continue to be a key part of how we communicate with our parishioners. It is heartening that we as a church

are in a position to make a major investment in new ways of communicating through the upgrade of our Audio/Visual system. But it is also really important for us to continue to prioritise what is for many of our more senior members, a key means of communicating.

The next edition of our magazine will be ready for collection and distribution on **Friday 30th April** with items for inclusion to be with Jill in the office by **Friday 23rd at 1pm**. Items can be sent to Jill by emailing - dromorecathedral@outlook.com

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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 2020-2021

Churchwardens: Rebekah Davidson (Rector's) Ashley Silcock (People's)

Glebewardens: Ian Purdy (Rector's) Bill Forsythe (People's)

Vestry Members: Andrew Carson, Paul Cochrane, Andrew Cuthbert, Ian Doig, Jonny Jackson, Scott Mackey, Nan McMurray (Honorary Treasurer), Samuel Newell, Jane Russell, Joanne Silcock, Leanne Teggart (Honorary Secretary)

Honorary Secretary: Mrs Leanne Teggart, 8 Maypole Park, Dromore. Co Down BT25 1SH
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As we are now hopefully starting to see a little light at the end of the tunnel with our vaccination programme, we remain hopeful that our group JOY will be able to meet up again in the near future. Last year we had such a short time to meet before having to stay home and what a year it has been. We think especially of our friends who will not be returning to JOY with the loss of Margaret Gillian and Agnes Thompson. It was indeed Agnes who approached us about restarting a Seniors group and was delighted with the response on it starting. Also Pat Cherry who has now moved away from Dromore. We hope Pat is well settled in her new home. All ladies will be missed by their Dromore Cathedral family.

In the meantime we wish everyone a Happy Easter and please contact us if we can be of any help. We include a few past photos from our meetings also our Afternoon Tea.

Jane & Beverley



A year on from we last met together at MATCH. A little reminder of past nights of fun, friendship and fellowship. Looking forward to coming together again and our first night back, which I would say will be full of chat, craic and plenty of food! Hopefully won't be long. We have a MATCH facebook page and welcome all ladies to like and share to welcome new ladies. **Jane Russell**



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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Cathedral Life