

Cathedral Life



The Cathedral Church of Christ the Redeemer, Dromore

FEBRUARY 2024

The Journey....

**THE CATHEDRAL
CHURCH OF CHRIST
THE REDEEMER,
DROMORE**



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Rector:

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

Curate Assistant:

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

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**

Dear friends.

"Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil." Matthew 4: 1

I wonder what the most difficult journey is which you have had to make?

It may have been a physical journey which filled you with anxiety or fear.

It may have been an emotional journey through an illness or the loss of a loved one.

Or it may have been a spiritual journey as you wrestled with faith in the middle of one of life's storms.

Journeys are very much part of each and every one of our lives, whether we recognise that or not. And each and every journey has a beginning, a middle and an end.

At the beginning of Jesus' journey into the wilderness, he was prepared through the presence of the Holy Spirit. As the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness, it is reasonable for us to assume that he remained with him throughout that wilderness journey, and indeed beyond. Those of us who have received Jesus and embrace him as our Saviour and our Lord can count on the presence of the same Holy Spirit. What comfort that brings to know that no matter how dark the journey before us might seem that the light of God's Spirit goes before us to lighten our darkness.

Secondly, in the middle of the journey we can often experience trials and times of challenge which might cause us to consider giving up. Jesus knows what those times of trial and temptation are like as he experienced them in a very real way as satan himself tempted him when he was at his most vulnerable.

Forty days of fasting brought Jesus to a point where the bible says he was hungry; it was then that Jesus was tempted. Isn't it always the way that when we too are at our most vulnerable that satan will endeavour to trip us up and draw us away from the path which God has laid before us? Trials and challenges are part of life for all of us and followers of Jesus are no exception to the rule. We can expect that trials, temptations and challenges will meet us along the road before us. It is through perseverance and persistence in those challenging times that our faith is refined and grows stronger. Paul, in his letter to the church in Rome, wrote the following: *"we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope."* Romans 5: 3-4.

And finally, the end of the journey. For Jesus, the end of the journey in the wilderness was just the beginning of another journey which would see him reach the place of the cross. In a sense the journey in the wilderness was preparation for Jesus, preparation for the most important journey of his earthly ministry. As he resisted temptation in the power of God's Holy Spirit, satan departed from him and so his onward journey began.

The same can be very true for each one of us. Having received God's Holy Spirit, we can resist temptation, remain steadfast in our faith and grow in godliness

During this season of Lent, *"all Christians might take to heart the call to repentance and the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel, and so grow in faith and devotion to our Lord. I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Lord to observe a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance;; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy word."* BCP p338.

Lent begins with a service of contemplation and reflection in the Cathedral on Wednesday 14th February at 7.30pm, with services at the same time each Wednesday evening until Holy Week. Each evening from Wednesday 21st February onwards, each midweek service will be followed by a meeting in the Rectory at 8.15pm where those who gather will study a course entitled *"The Unanswered Prayer Course."* Each study will include watching a clip from a DVD, discussion and prayer. This will offer each of us a fantastic opportunity to go a little deeper with God and one another during this most holy of seasons. Everyone is most welcome to attend.

Your friend in Christ **Geoff**

Revision of General Vestry List

Each Parish in the Church of Ireland is required to maintain a Register of Vestry Members. Inclusion on this register entitles you to stand for election to serve on the Select Vestry and to exercise your right to vote at our Annual General Vestry meeting. A review of this register must take place in February of each year, with this year's review meeting is taking place at 7.30pm on Monday 19th February 2024, in the Clayton Memorial Hall.

If your name does not already appear on the register and you would like to have it added, you would need to contact the Church Office on 028 9269 3968 or dromorecathedral@outlook.com and request a form of declaration which needs to be completed and returned to the Church Office or the Rectory before the review meeting takes place. Those who wish to have their name added to the register have to be 18 years old or above and have supported the Church financially in a recordable manner in the year previous to the review meeting. Recordable financial support is by means of FWO envelopes, Standing Orders, online Bank Transfer or a one off donation where the donation is done in such a manner that a receipt could be provided. Loose offerings on the collection plate do not qualify as recordable giving as there is no way of determining the identity of the giver.

The register must be open for one calendar month prior to the review meeting taking place so will be open and available for inspection in the Church Office from Friday 19th January.

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Jar of Grace

One of the things we are encouraging our Church family to engage in during the season of Lent this year is prayer and giving through the Jar of Grace.

What is the Jar of Grace?

It is simply a glass jar which you place on your meal table throughout the season of Lent. You could get a jar yourself by simply using an empty jam jar and placing a sticky label on it with the words “Jar of Grace” written on it. Or, if you are out for a walk in the town on your daily form of exercise, you could call into the Church Office where a supply will be available in the foyer for collection.

How does it work?

It is very simple. At each meal time throughout Lent, we are asking every person at every meal time to take a moment to place a coin/coins in the jar and offer a prayer of thanksgiving for the food and for the projects we will be supporting through your giving. The prayer can be spoken or silent; all of our prayers are acceptable in God’s sight through Jesus. On Easter Sunday we would encourage everyone to bring their Jars of Grace to Church and we will receive them and ask God’s blessing on them.

This year, the proceeds of the Jar of Grace will be supporting the ongoing work of the Diocese of Maridi as they continue to support young boys and girls through the brick project. The brick project ensures that orphans are educated, fed and have somewhere to sleep as they in turn make bricks to enable their country to be re-built following decades of bloody conflict and war.

Praise, Prayer & Testimony

Our next Praise, Prayer & Testimony service will be at 6pm on Sunday 4th February 2024. Carolyn Jackson will be sharing something of her story of faith and how God has been at work in her life.

Carolyn is married to Jonny and they have 3 children. Carolyn is part of the Prayer Ministry Team and has a passion for helping followers of Jesus to grow in their faith, something which is evidenced through her involvement in co-leading courses like the Prayer Course in the Cathedral.

The Unanswered Prayer Course

Why not consider taking up something this Lent, as well as giving something up? Perhaps you've wondered why our prayers sometimes don't appear to be answered. If that is the case, then maybe this course is the thing you've been looking for.

This is an opportunity for the church family to consider some of the most painful and challenging questions which we all may find ourselves asking at some stage in our lives.

Meetings will begin on Wednesday 21st February and continue each subsequent Wednesday evening for 5 sessions in total examining different aspects of unanswered prayer. Each evening will begin at around 8.15pm in the Rectory, immediately after the midweek Lenten service, and will last around 60-75 minutes. As has been our practice, no one will be asked to read, pray or even speak and everyone is really welcome to attend.

The following is something of a summary of what we will be examining each week, with each session consisting of an introduction, video presentation and discussion....

1 God on mute: Engaging the silence *(21st February)*

Kicking off the course with an honest look at the big questions we all ask when confronted with suffering.

2 Maundy Thursday: How? *(28th February)*

In this session we address questions of the heart: seeking to find purpose in pain and strategies for dealing with disappointment.

3 Good Friday: Why? *(6th March)*

Why aren't my prayers working? In this session we wrestle with some of the most difficult intellectual questions: why does an all-loving, all-knowing, all-powerful God allow suffering?

4 Holy Saturday: Where? *(13th March)*

Where is God when heaven is silent? This session explores the questions we ask when we find ourselves trapped between the pain of Good Friday and the miracles of Easter Sunday.

5 Easter Sunday: When? *(20th March)*

When will my prayers be answered? Celebrating the hope we have in the resurrection of Jesus and anticipating the day when all of our prayers will find their answer in His return.

Mothers' Union

Our next meeting is on 28th February 2024 at 8.15pm in the Clayton Hall. Our speaker is Colin Tinsley from Hope for Youth Ministries. We will collect our Overseas money at this meeting. Look forward to seeing you all and we would welcome anyone from the Church family to join us.

JOY

Join with us on Thursday 8th February at 2pm, when we will have our Curate, Revd Trevor McKeown with us. Trevor will be speaking about his collection of 'old coins.' We finish the afternoon, as always, with a good cuppa and maybe a wee bun! Try to come along to support our speaker and bring a friend.

MATCH

Our speaker on Wed 21st February will be Jillian McMinn who will demonstrate her crafts whilst talking about her faith journey. Looking forward to seeing you all.

Wedding Dress Festival

Thank you to the ladies who attended our planning meeting and also to those who have submitted Wedding Day photos to make a Church Family Memory Board. It would be good if we could have some more photos.

If you would like to include your photo, please leave photo with Jill in the Church Office or email to Jrussell20@btinternet.com. as soon as possible.

Jane

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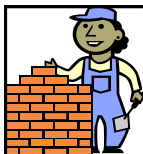
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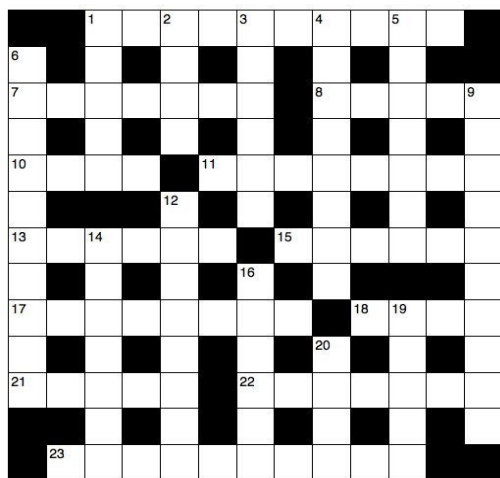
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Across

- 1** Success or wealth (Deuteronomy 28:11) (10)
- 7** Forbidden fruit for Nazirites (Numbers 6:3) (7)
- 8** Concede (Job 27:5) (5)
- 10** Look at (Psalm 48:13) (4)
- 11** Much in evidence after weddings (8)
- 13** Condense (Job 36:27) (6)
- 15** Breakwater (6)
- 17** Give a tan (anag.) (8)
- 18** More usually now called Pentecost, — Sunday (4)
- 21** After living for 365 years, it was said of him that 'he walked with God' (Genesis 5:23–24) (5)
- 22** Trampled (Judges 9:27) (7)
- 23** For example, Miriam, Deborah (Exodus 15:20; Judges 4:4) (10)

Down

- 1** Arrogance (Proverbs 8:13) (5)
- 2** Roman poet from first century BC (4)
- 3** So rapt (anag.) (6)
- 4** Declare again (2 Corinthians 2:8) (8)
- 5** Paul's 'fellow worker', to whom he sent two epistles (Romans 16:21) (7)
- 6** God's foreseeing care and protection (Job 10:12) (10)
- 9** Traditional form of Roman Catholic Mass (10)
- 12** 'The Lord... has given the — of Israel to David and his descendants for ever' (2 Chronicles 13:5) (8)
- 14** 'My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my —' (Luke 1:46–47) (7)
- 16** The central element in Nebuchadnezzar's dream, identified and interpreted by Daniel (Daniel 2:31) (6)
- 19** 'On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of — will not overcome it' (Matthew 16:18) (5)
- 20** City where Paul was under house arrest for two years (Acts 28:16) (4)

A LOOK AT LIFE WITH THE RECYCLED TEENAGER - Perseverance

I've found it quite interesting lately to observe what passes for achievement these days. It seems to me that gongs, medals and honours are awarded for such a variety of reasons. Being in goal, running a school and singing quite well, are just three I will mention. It is of course the season for singling out individuals for recognition but call me cynical, I'm a little dubious about the standards people have to live up to in order to receive an award and it seems to me that OBEs, MBEs, BEMs and best this or that are thrown about like confetti. (It will be obvious to the reader that I have no chance of getting nominated).

However, jealousy aside, a fair amount of these plaudits are achieved by standing on other peoples' shoulders or as part of a team. I can understand if someone has single-handedly shed blood, sweat and tears to achieve something that has benefitted those who perhaps don't have a voice but how often is this the case? All I know is, that ordinary people exert huge amounts of perseverance daily and that never giving up is required to achieve even simple goals in life. Let's face it, few of us are ever going to get that big prize!

Paul speaks of perseverance in the New Testament. "...run with perseverance the race marked out for us..." We are encouraged to 'not grow weary and lose heart' (Hebrews 12:1-3). Of course this race is the greatest one of all. In 2 Timothy 4, Paul still has his eyes on the prize, as he looks back on his life of faith. "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." His reward and ours too is, "...the crown of righteousness, which the Lord will award to me on that day..." I hope to keep going.

Oh, by the way, congratulations to all those actors, entertainers, sports-stars and upstanding pillars of our community. I trust you are all worthy of your honours.



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Services for February

Sunday 4th

The Second Sunday before Lent	8.30am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Cathedral Praise & Holy Baptism
	11.30am	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	Praise, Prayer & Testimony

Sunday 11th

The Sunday before Lent	8.30am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Cathedral Praise
	11.30am	Morning Prayer
	6.00pm	Evening Epilogue <i>with</i> Holy Communion

Wednesday 14th

Ash Wednesday	7.30pm	Ash Wednesday Service
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Sunday 18th

The First Sunday in Lent	8.30am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Cathedral Praise <i>with</i> Holy Communion
	11.30am	Service of the Word
	6.00pm	Evening Epilogue Service

Wednesday 21st

7.30pm	Midweek Lenten Service
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Sunday 25th

The Second Sunday in Lent	8.30am	Holy Communion
	10.45am	Combined Service
	6.00pm	Evening Epilogue Service

Wednesday 28th

7.30pm	Midweek Lenten Service
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Lenten Services for 2024

Each Wednesday evening throughout Lent, commencing on Ash Wednesday 14th of February, we will gather at 7.30pm in the Cathedral for a time of worship, reflection and prayer. Services will last for around 30 minutes and will provide a great opportunity for us to ground our own personal journey through the wilderness of Lent in a corporate act of fellowship and worship.

Leprosy Mission - Thanks

Sincere thanks to Tommy Wilson for his co-ordination of the annual collection and to all who contributed to the fantastic amount of **£800** raised. This work can be supported using Boxes available in the Tower Porch. Please speak to Tommy.

PARISH REGISTER

Service of Thanksgiving

10th December Bonnie Wren McNeill, Strawhill Manor, Donaghcloney
14th January Clara Victoria Shanks, Ballyknock Road, Tandragee

*“By your prayers and example, by your teaching and love,
will you encourage this child in the life and faith of the Christian Community.”*

Christian Cremation

17th January Keith Lynch M.B.E., Wallace Court, Dromore

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

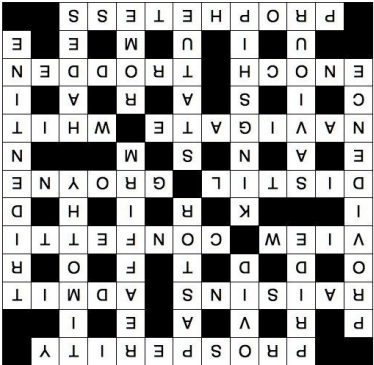
Church Collections: November and December

GENERAL FUND	2023/24	2022/23
November	8,025.92	8,984.70
December	9,506.00	7,853.45
Total to date	£77,353.62	£77,233.15
DEVELOPMENT FUND		
November	688.00	741.00
December	867.70	804.00
Total to date	£8,259.90	£7,811.75

Attention all Magazine Distributors

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

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FEBRUARY DATES

Thursday 1st	2.00	Monthly Service	Mountvale Nursing Home
Friday 2nd	11.00	Monthly Service	The Beeches
Monday 5th	7.30	Evening Prayer Meeting	Clayton Hall
Tuesday 6th	10.30	Craft Class (each Tuesday)	Clayton Hall
Thursday 8th	2.00	JOY	Cathedral Hall
Tuesday 13th	7.30	It's a Rubbish Campaign	Clayton Hall
Wednesday 14th	8.15	Parish Bible Class	Clayton Hall
Monday 19th	7.30	General Vestry Register Review and Select Vestry Meeting	Clayton Hall
Wednesday 21st	8.15	Unanswered Prayer Course	The Rectory
Wednesday 21st	8.15	History Reading Group	Clayton Hall
Wednesday 21st	8.15	MATCH	Cathedral Hall
Wednesday 28th	8.15	Unanswered Prayer Course	The Rectory
Wednesday 28th	8.15	Mothers' Union Overseas Night	Clayton Hall

Smile Line...

A young couple invited some people to dinner. At the table, the mother turned to their six-year-old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?"

"I don't know what to say," the girl replied.

"Just say what you hear Mummy say," the father answered.

The daughter bowed her head and said, "O Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

February	4th	11th	18th	25th
Flower Rota Mrs Sara McCorkell 028 9269 3760	Mr & Mrs C Patterson	Mrs Sally Weir	Mrs Sue Pegrum	Mrs Maxine Curran

February	Refreshments Rota
4th	W Tate & C Mayne
11th	S Shepherd & D Martin
18th	E Magowan & R Wilson
25th	M Brown & K Buchanan



The Cathedral Church of Christ the Redeemer, Dromore

Contact details for Staff and Office Bearers



Rector:	Very Revd Geoff Wilson, 28 Church Street, Dromore BT25 1AA email: revgeoffwilson@gmail.com	028 9269 2275
Curate:	Revd Trevor McKeown 39 Cedar Park, Bleary BT63 5LL e-mail: curate@dromorecathedral.co.uk	028 3832 1217
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Organist:	Dr Matthew Milford email: mattplayskeysni@gmail.com	0775 645 5949
Praise Group:	Karen Bowden e-mail: karenbowden@me.com	0780 094 1256
Sexton:	Jim McComb	028 9269 3968
Children's & Youth Worker:	Christine Shanks e-mail: dromore.youth.children@gmail.com	028 9269 3968

Parish	Very Revd Geoff Wilson 028 9269 2275
Panel:	Robert Beggs 0777 1607914 : Sue Pegrum 028 9269 3280

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

Select Vestry 2023-2024

Churchwardens:	Nicholas Davies (Rector's)	Scott Mackey (People's)
Glebewardens:	Ian Purdy (Rector's)	Bill Forsythe (People's)

Vestry Members: Andrew Carson, Paul Cochrane (Honorary Treasurer),
Andrew Cuthbert, Rebekah Davidson (Honorary Secretary),
Nan McMurray, Samuel Newell, Andrew McNeill, Hilary Purdy,
Jane Russell, Ashley Silcock, Joanne Silcock, Leanne Teggart

Honorary Secretary: Mrs Rebekah Davidson, 30 Church Street, Dromore, Co Down BT25 1AA
email: rebekah.down@gmail.com TN 028 9269 3838

Honorary Treasurer: Mr Paul Cochrane, 38 Backnamullagh Road, Dromore, Co Down BT25 1QT
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At Church on the morning of 17th December, Jane presented a cheque for £3,000 to the Cathedral for Church Funds, on behalf of the Russell Family. The money is made up from 50% of the proceeds from the first 500 copies of the 'Russell up a Recipe' book.

Dromore Cathedral History Reading Group

The History Reading Group are next scheduled to meet on -

Wednesday 21st February 2024 at 8.15pm - Venue - The Clayton Memorial Hall.

The book that the group are reading in advance of this meeting is

The Gunpowder Plot - Terror and Faith in 1605 by Antonia Fraser

The author dramatically recreates the conditions and motivations that surrounded the fateful night of 5 November 1605. Characters and events are brought to life and are interwoven with the intrigues of religion and politics which provided the backdrop to the Gunpowder Plot. Almost everyone will have heard of **Guido "Guy" Fawkes**, but what do you really know about him and his role in the Gunpowder Plot? There will be no better opportunity to find out more! Everyone is most warmly invited to join with the group at the February meeting and to enjoy a blend of fellowship and lively discussion.



The Cathedral Choir pictured after leading the service of Nine Lessons and Carols by Candlelight on Sunday 17th December.



Very sincere congratulations to Tyler Maine who recently won the Irish Nationals in Waterford with some style. Tyler won both the semi-final and final in under 30 seconds!

When it comes to Karate, Tyler is undoubtedly the Karate Kid! Well done Tyler!



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.