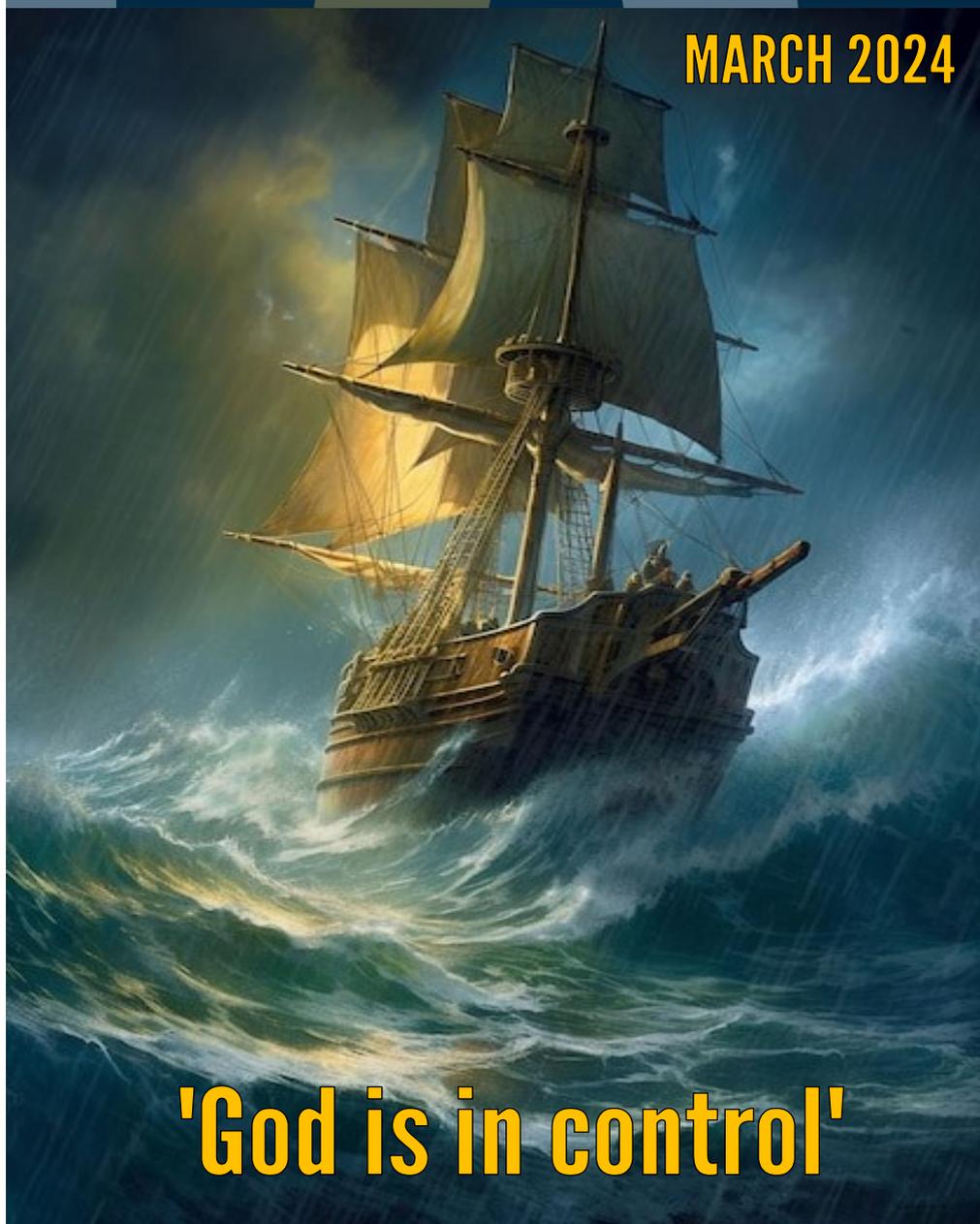


# CC Cathedral Life



The Cathedral Church of Christ the Redeemer, Dromore

**MARCH 2024**



**'God is in control'**

**THE CATHEDRAL  
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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  
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9269 2275 or, if unavailable,  
the Curate on 028 3832 1217**

Dear friends

*.... some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn't find his body. Luke 24: 22-23*

I wonder how you cope with disappointment and the inevitable challenges which life can present from time to time? For some of us it takes a trip to the shops to lift our spirits. But if we are really honest with ourselves, how long does that new item of clothing lift our mood for? My own experience has been that just as quickly as the "fix" lifts our mood, so it passes just as quickly.

For others, it is the hope of a long-awaited holiday which we trust will take our blues away. As I write these notes I could tell you precisely the number of days to our next break in the sun. These breaks mean the world to me as they are the only time when I can truly get away from things. But can I tell you from experience that the holiday feeling passes for me before we even arrive back in Ireland!

Holidays, clothes, exercise and friends, amongst other things, all play their part in helping us deal with disappointment, hurt and pain. But none of these actually "fix" the core root of the problem which is the sense that we have lost control of the circumstances within which we find ourselves.

I want to suggest to you that Cleopas and his companion were overcome and overwhelmed by the sense that their circumstances were spiralling out of control. They were walking away from Jerusalem on their way to Emmaus, a distance of some 7 miles. It was resurrection

day and they had undoubtedly heard the reports from the women who had discovered the empty tomb that very morning. Jesus walked along with them but we are told that they were prevented from recognising him, probably due to the overwhelming sense of loss and grief they were experiencing. In their conversation with the risen Jesus they speak of what has happened and how their hopes have been shattered. These are followers of Jesus who have perhaps given up everything to follow Jesus. These are followers of Jesus who have recalibrated their worldview with Jesus at the centre. These are followers of Jesus who have built their lives upon the foundation that is Jesus himself rather than the things which the world has to offer. With the cruel death of Jesus on the cross, I have no doubt that they felt completely and utterly overwhelmed. I have no doubt that they felt that their world was spiralling out of control. I have no doubt at all that they felt shaken to the very core of their being as everything which they had pinned their lives and hopes on seemed to have been so cruelly stripped away.

As their journey was coming to an apparent end, Jesus acted as if he were going farther but they persuaded him to join them. It was in the breaking of bread with Cleopas and his companion that their world was turned upside down as suddenly they saw things through a kingdom lens.

If we as followers of Jesus remain at the cross, we too are left with the inevitable feeling that things are completely out of control. The journey to the empty tomb is essential for each and every one of us as it helps us to recalibrate our own thinking and understanding of what happened at the cross. Standing at the empty tomb we can now understand that the cross is not about the defeat and death of Jesus, but rather the defeat and death of sin. We can now understand that rather than having lost control of events at, and leading up to, the cross, Jesus was in absolute control of every single aspect of what was unfolding. And the same is true for the challenges and disappointments which we may face in life. We may well feel that things are out of control. But the empty tomb reminds us that God is in complete control of every seemingly impossible situation.

I encourage each one of us to gather for worship at our combined act of worship this coming Easter as we celebrate the truth that He is risen and remind ourselves that He is in control.

Your friend in Christ

**Geoff**

# Light the Beacons: St Patrick's Day Celebrations 2024

'Light the Beacons' is the theme for this year's annual St Patrick's Day festival which will focus on praying for a rekindling of the fire of faith that Patrick lit in Ireland almost 1600 years ago.

The diocesan celebrations will take place on Saturday 16th

March and include special prayer services in parishes on Sunday 17th March.

Our guest preacher at the Festival Service at 11.45am in Down Cathedral is Rt Revd Dr Jill Duff, Bishop of Lancaster.

Bishop David says: "Bishop Jill's scholarly and yet deeply spiritual insights into the lives of the saints including St Patrick (see her book *Lighting the Beacons: Kindling the Flame of Faith in our Hearts*). means she is the ideal person to encourage us to pray as a diocese for rekindling of the fire of faith that Patrick lit in Ireland almost 1600 years ago.

"In 433AD in defiance of the pagan king, Laoise, Patrick lit a Paschal fire to celebrate Easter. It was said that if that Paschal fire was not put out on that day it would never be extinguished. Almost 1600 years later the fire of the gospel has not been put out but needs fanned into flame in Ireland again."

Bishop David will light a symbolic fire at the end of the Festival Service and a representative from each church in the diocese will take a torch and a container of concentrated paraffin oil back to their parish.

On the evening of 17th March, St Patrick's Day, every church large and small, will hold a special service of prayer for revival. With beacons lit, we'll be asking God to light the fire of the gospel in Ireland and in that local church context once again.

## PROGRAMME

**9.15am** Holy Communion at Saul with Canon Bill Press

**10.15am** Prayer Pilgrimage from Saul to Downpatrick

**11.45am** Festival Service in Down Cathedral with Bishop Jill Duff

Wreath laying ceremony at St Patrick's Grave and lighting of symbolic beacon

**1.00pm** Complimentary 'Picnic in the Pews'



# Holy Week Services

Holy Week is a very special season in the Christian year as we endeavour to retrace the footsteps of Jesus towards the cross and all that that journey involved. As a church, we have always sought to do that in as meaningful and inclusive a way as we possibly can, and this year will be no different.

Each weekday evening, there will be a reflective service in the Cathedral at 8pm, with the exception of Thursday evening when the service will be at 8.30pm. We trust that these services will provide us with a safe space to reflect on the journey of Jesus as we engage in a more meaningful way on our own journey with Him.

Additionally, we will be having an Agape meal on the Thursday evening at 6.30pm in the Cathedral Hall, an occasion for the whole family to gather for a family meal and Holy Communion.

And finally, on Good Friday morning there will be one further opportunity to worship during this week of weeks.

At 7am in the morning, we would encourage folks to gather for a service of readings and reflections around the cross. This has proved to be a very popular and poignant service for those who have attended in the past.

Please do make a very special effort to attend some, or indeed all, of these services which we are providing for all ages during this very special week.

## Evening of prayer for Ireland with symbolic lighting of Beacon

Our evening Epilogue service on Sunday 17th March at 6pm will include prayers for an outpouring of God's Holy Spirit and the lighting of a beacon to symbolize the Paschal fire lit by St Patrick in defiance of a pagan king in 433AD. Our land desperately needs a fresh outpouring of God's Holy Spirit, as in the time of Patrick. Please do join us in praying "Come Holy Spirit."

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## **'COME AND SEE'**

An invitation to Dromore Cathedral women of any age or stage to come aside and encounter the living Jesus...

In navigating the ups and downs of our individual life journeys, we may feel that we're doing well if we just hang on and survive! We can become weary, discouraged, lose focus, maybe even feel isolated. We may even think 'There has to be more to life than this?' I've been there! What about you?

With each increasing pressure, the time we spend with God, as well as time for ourselves, much less time with others, is diminished and can become another 'thing to do'. Yet, deep down our hearts long for these times of restoration and refreshment; time to rest, time to be real, time to meet with Jesus...to come and see Him, go deeper, and simply breathe and 'be'. What might it look like to 'Be still and know that I Am God...'? Psalm 46:10

On Saturday 20th April, 9.30am - 2pm we have an opportunity to experience this some more together...so wherever you find yourself on your journey we will be encouraged to enjoy encountering God more deeply in His Word, in silence, reflection, prayer, and enjoy time to connect in our community on this journey we share with Him. We will also enjoy good coffee and fresh scones on arrival, and a homemade soup lunch made for us by our hostess, who is opening the doors of her beautiful home and garden especially for us! (Situated on the outskirts of Waringstown, just off the Dromore-Lurgan Road.)

Will you come and see, set aside some time, rest in tranquil surroundings and take the opportunity to see what the Lord wants to show you and hear His whisper into your heart?

If you're interested to find out more, or to book your place (cost £10 to cover food and gift our hostess) I would love to hear from you. (Text, email, or just corner me!)

Places are limited for our first retreat space but if there's lots of interest we can potentially make other times available too...

Looking forward to journeying on with you,

Carolyn Jackson (facilitator and willing companion)

07791 935801

[cjjackson4610@gmail.com](mailto:cjjackson4610@gmail.com)

## **Praise Team**

We have a very dedicated and able group of willing volunteers currently on our praise team, and we are delighted to have some new members recently too. Currently we have about 11 singers who sing on a rota basis, but more singers are always welcome. It would also be great to have some more musicians to join us, particularly piano, guitar, bass guitar or percussion. If you feel you could offer your help in any of these ways and want to find out more, please speak to Karen or email on [karenbowden@me.com](mailto:karenbowden@me.com)

## **Soma Singers**

Soma began almost five years ago, and was set up as an opportunity for people who enjoyed singing, but couldn't necessarily read music, to get together and have fun and fellowship. Since then, Soma has grown and evolved to become a group for the wider community to be part of, and we have members now from other churches and from no church background at all. It's a wonderful opportunity to reach out to the community around us, build friendships and promote unity.

We sing a range of music, both "sacred" and "contemporary" songs, and learn through listening to prepared tracks (although music is also available for those who want it) Our first concert was in May 2023 when we were joined by the wonderful Northern Ireland Concert Band. The monies raised from the evening came to almost £1,600 in aid of Stepping Stones Lisburn in memory of Paul Russell. Then in September we sang at our mission weekend and in Magherally Parish.

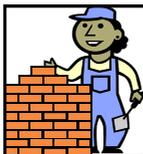
We also provided Christmas music at Barrel and Bean and at our Community Carol Service on December 10th.

We meet on Thursday evenings in the Clayton Hall at 8.15pm and anyone is welcome to come and give it a go - no auditions required. Men are particularly welcome!! For further info speak to Karen Bowden or any member of Soma, or email [soma.singers@icloud.com](mailto:soma.singers@icloud.com)

## **New Pew Cushions**

The renewal of the pew cushions has now been completed, much to the delight and comfort of our worshipping community. This has been a major financial commitment for the Select Vestry to undertake with cushions costing £90 per seat. If you would be interested in contributing to the cost of this project, then you can place your gift in a plain envelope with your name and FWO number on the outside of the envelope and marked "Seat Coverings". Gifts can be placed on the offering plate or left with Jill in the Church Office.

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## Easter General Vestry Meeting

The Annual Easter General Vestry meeting will be held on Thursday 11th April at 8.00pm in the Cathedral Hall. Everyone is warmly and sincerely invited to attend but only those who are registered General Vestry members will be eligible to vote or indeed stand for election to office on the Select Vestry.

The Annual Easter Vestry Meeting includes an address from the Rector focusing on highlights from the past year. In addition, the audited Parish Accounts for the calendar year 2023 will be presented by the Honorary Treasurer for adoption. The Select Vestry have decided once more, in the interests of genuine transparency and to encourage deeper engagement, the audited accounts will be made available upon request to anyone who would like to have a copy in advance of the meeting. These accounts will be clearly marked as having been audited but not adopted and will be available from early April.

The business of the Annual Easter Vestry meeting also includes the appointment of a Rector's Churchwarden and Glebewarden and the election of a People's Churchwarden, Glebewarden and 12 members of the Select Vestry to serve the Church throughout the following year. When considering who to elect to serve in this way, parishioners should do so prayerfully and with due diligence as mission and ministry are enabled through the careful, prayerful allocation of parishioner's finances.

Pastoral care and all things regarding the spiritual development of all ages remains the responsibility of the clergy with the support of the Select Vestry.

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## Mothers' Union

Our March meeting will be on Thursday 21st March at 7.30pm when we will join with the MU groups in our Diocese at the Festival Service in the Cathedral. This is a lovely Service and I encourage all of our members to attend. Our normal meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 27th March. As this will be Holy Week, as we did last year, we will attend the Church Service in the Cathedral that evening.

## RISE UP Campaign

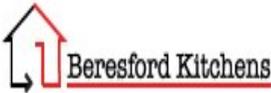
As statistics show that 1 in 3 of us are likely to be subjected to domestic violence, we, as a church, through the MU 'RISE UP' campaign

have committed to Rise Up against domestic abuse in the following ways:

- Put a RISE UP poster in the church and in the main hall. (These will be discretely placed in the toilets)
- Commit to pray for those affected by domestic abuse, including the victims, perpetrators and those who work in the field of domestic abuse.
- Have the local helpline number available: **028 3025 0765 Ext 2**
- The NI Domestic and Sexual Violence Helpline should also be available: **0808 802 1414**

If you know of anyone who may be suffering from Domestic Abuse, please do pass on these contacts and let them know that help is available.

The RISE UP resources reflect a 365 day approach and can be found at: [www.mothersunion.org/riseup](http://www.mothersunion.org/riseup)



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## Services for March

### Sunday 3rd

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

### Wednesday 6th

7.30pm	Midweek Lenten Service
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### Sunday 10th

The Fourth Sunday in Lent	8.30am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Cathedral Praise
	11.30am	Morning Prayer
	6.00pm	Praise, Prayer & Testimony from Maridi

### Wednesday 13th

7.30pm	Midweek Lenten Service
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### Sunday 17th

The Fifth Sunday in Lent <b>St. Patrick's Day</b>	8.30am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Cathedral Praise <i>with</i> Holy Communion
	11.30am	Service of the Word
	6.00pm	Prayer for outpouring of the Holy Spirit

### Wednesday 20th

7.30pm	Midweek Lenten Service
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### Thursday 21st

7.30pm	MU Diocesan Festival Service
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### Sunday 24th

The Sixth Sunday in Lent <b>Palm Sunday</b>	8.30am	Holy Communion
	10.45am	Combined Service
	6.00pm	Evening Epilogue Service

### Monday 25th

8.00pm	Holy Week Service
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### Tuesday 26th

8.00pm	Holy Week Service
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### Wednesday 27th

8.00pm	Holy Week Service
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### Maundy Thursday 28th

6.30pm	Agape Meal in Cathedral Hall
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8.30pm	Holy Communion
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### Good Friday 29th

7.00am	A Service of Readings and Meditation
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8.00pm	A Service of Reflection
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### Sunday 31st

The First Sunday of Easter <b>Easter Day</b>	8.30am	Holy Communion
	10.45am	Celebrate Easter <i>with</i> Holy Communion
	6.00pm	Easter Epilogue Service

## Church Collections: January

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2022/23</b>
January	8,183.00	9,223.00
<b>Total to date</b>	<b>£85,536.62</b>	<b>£86,456.15</b>
<b>DEVELOPMENT FUND</b>		
January	685.00	966.00
<b>Total to date</b>	<b>£8,944.90</b>	<b>£8,777.75</b>

## Easter Choir Practices

The Cathedral Choir is planning to practice for Easter Sunday on Tuesday evenings in March - 5th, 12th and 19th at 7.30pm and 26th at 7.00pm before the Holy Week Service.

It was great to have an enhanced choir for our Christmas Carol Service and we would love to have similar numbers joining us for Easter Sunday. You'd be very welcome to come along and join us on some or all of the practice nights. If anyone would like to know more, please speak to our organist, Matt.

## Agape Meal - Maundy Thursday

On Thursday 28th March we look forward to our Agape meal which will take place at 6.30pm in the Cathedral Hall. The evening is for all ages and will involve a simple meal of soup, bread and cheese, and a service of Holy Communion. The evening is for the whole family, and sign up sheets will be available in the porches to allow us to plan for catering. The Maundy Thursday Communion Service for Holy week will take place in the Cathedral at the later time of 8.30pm.

## Attention all Magazine Distributors

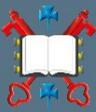
The April edition of our magazine will be ready for collection and distribution on **Thursday 28th March** with items for inclusion to be with Jill in the office by **Friday 22nd March at 1pm**. Items can be sent to Jill by emailing - [dromorecathedral@outlook.com](mailto:dromorecathedral@outlook.com)

## MARCH DATES

Friday 1st	2.00	Monthly Service	The Beeches
Friday 1st	8.00	World Day of Prayer	St. Colmans, Dromore
Monday 4th	7.30	Evening Prayer Meeting	Clayton Hall
Tuesday 5th	10.30	Craft Class (each Tuesday)	Clayton Hall
Tuesday 5th,12,19th	7.30	Easter Choir Practices	Choir Room
Wednesday 6th	8.15	Unanswered Prayer Course	The Rectory
Saturday 9th	10.00	Audio Visual Open Morning	Cathedral
Wednesday 13th	8.15	Parish Bible Class	Clayton Hall
Wednesday 13th	8.15	Unanswered Prayer Course	The Rectory
Wednesday 20th	8.15	MATCH	Cathedral Hall
Wednesday 20th	8.15	Unanswered Prayer Course	The Rectory
Thursday 21st	2.00	JOY	Cathedral Hall
Thursday 21st	7.30	Diocesan Festival Service	Cathedral
Friday 22nd	7.30	Girls' Brigade Display	Cathedral Hall
Tuesday 26th	7.00	Easter Choir Practice	Choir Room
Wednesday 27th	8.00	Mothers' Union Meeting Holy Week	Cathedral
Thursday 28th	9.30	Magazine Distributors	Clayton Hall
Thursday 28th	6.30	Agape Meal	Cathedral Hall

March	3rd	10th	17th	24th	31st
Mrs Julie McMurray 9269 3727	Mrs Jane Russell	Mrs Mabel Hobson	Mrs Edna Jeffryes	Mrs Beverley McClearn	Vestry for Easter Sunday

March	Refreshments Rota
3rd	N Wilson & L Teggart
10th	D Farrell & H Forsythe
17th	M Mayne & C Mayne
24th	S & J Noble
31st	No Refreshments



## The Cathedral Church of Christ the Redeemer, Dromore Contact details for Staff and Office Bearers



<b>Rector:</b>	Very Revd Geoff Wilson, 28 Church Street, Dromore BT25 1AA email: revgeoffwilson@gmail.com	028 9269 2275
<b>Curate:</b>	Revd Trevor McKeown 39 Cedar Park, Bleary BT63 5LL e-mail: curate@dromorecathedral.co.uk	028 3832 1217
<b>Office:</b>	Jill Wylie, Cathedral Office, 30 Church St, Dromore BT25 1AA e-mail: jill@dromorecathedral.co.uk or dromorecathedral@outlook.com	028 9269 3968
<b>Organist:</b>	Dr Matthew Milford email: mattplayskeysni@gmail.com	0775 645 5949
<b>Praise Group:</b>	Karen Bowden e-mail: karenbowden@me.com	0780 094 1256
<b>Sexton:</b>	Jim McComb	028 9269 3968
<b>Children's &amp; Youth Worker:</b>	Christine Shanks e-mail: dromore.youth.children@gmail.com	028 9269 3968
<b>Parish</b>	Very Revd Geoff Wilson 028 9269 2275	
<b>Panel:</b>	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

<b>Churchwardens:</b>	Nicholas Davies (Rector's)	Scott Mackey (People's)
<b>Glebewardens:</b>	Ian Purdy (Rector's)	Bill Forsythe (People's)
<b>Vestry Members:</b>	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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## JOY

Join with us on Thursday 21st March (**please note change of week**) at 2pm in the Cathedral Hall. The guest speaker will be our Rector, Revd Geoff Wilson and we will also have the opportunity (if you wish) to plant some spring bulbs in a window planter. For this month only cost is £5. If you have gardening gloves, old newspaper and a small trowel they would be useful to bring.

## MATCH

Joining the ladies of MATCH on Wednesday 20th March will be our rescheduled speaker Lord Mayor Margaret Tinsley of ABC Council. We plan to start at 8.15pm following the Midweek Lenten service in the Cathedral.

## Wedding Dress Festival

Thank you to everyone who has forwarded wedding photos for our display. Information emails and paper copies have been sent out to everyone who is displaying a dress. I would ask that this form be returned to myself or Jill in the Church Office by Friday 8th March to help with our planning.

Already group bookings are coming in, so if you know of a group planning to attend, please get in touch so that a time slot can be allocated. **Jane Russell**

## Audio Visual Open Morning/Training Session

Since installing our new AV system in 2021 we've been able to enhance the experience of worship in the Cathedral with much clearer visuals, the use of cameras to assist everyone, and enhanced sound for speakers, singers and musicians. The system is one of the best in any church setting - it also enables us to live-stream some key services and to record audio for our CD ministry.

We are planning to offer an open morning/training session for the system on Saturday 9th March from 10am. This session is for anyone who is interested to see what it can do or to learn some basics. It can also be a refresher for existing volunteers. If you, or anyone you know, would be interested in coming along (no obligations to commit to anything), please speak to the Rector, Andrew Cuthbert or Scott Mackey, or just turn up - we'd be delighted to see you!

## Breakfast and Car Wash

Our next fundraiser for Church funds will take place between 9.30am and 12.30pm on Saturday 13th April. Why not get your car washed and have a bite of breakfast at the same time. Cars will cost £5 with vans and SUVs costing £6. All proceeds will be going to Church funds.

## Ready Steady Cook–Saturday 27th January



What a fantastic evening we all had when Ready, Steady, Cook came to the Cathedral Hall. Bishop David and Hilary were great sports and were clear winners on the evening, though the real winners were those who were there to enjoy an evening of laughter and fun.

Sincere thanks to John Wilkinson who compered the evening brilliantly, to Jane and Glenda for organizing the kitchens, tickets and refreshments and to the amazing AV team who ensured that everyone felt very much part of what was happening, no matter where they were sitting in the hall.

Over £800 was raised for parish funds on the evening.



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