



IF YOU FAIL TO PREPARE, PREPARE TO FAIL



March 2025

THE CATHEDRAL
CHURCH OF CHRIST
THE REDEEMER,
DROMORE



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Rector:

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

Curate:

The Rev Geoff Hamilton

Pastoral Duty

In the event of pastoral need or emergencies, please contact the Rector on 028 9269 2275 or, if unavailable, the Curate on 07480 237724

“Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness where for forty days he was tempted by the devil.” Matthew 4: 1-2a

It is believed that Benjamin Franklin, one of the great founding fathers of the United States of America, said that “Failing to prepare was preparing to fail.”

There is a lot of conventional wisdom in those words when you consider the importance of preparing yourself for an examination, or indeed your car for an MOT. Failing to prepare either yourself or your car adequately will undoubtedly lead to failure!

Lent is a season which is all about preparation. Jesus, following his baptism in the river Jordan, embarked on a season of preparation in the wilderness before commencing his earthly ministry. That preparation consisted of self-denial, examination and reflection:

Self-denial in the form of physical fasting from food;

Examination in that the devil tempted Jesus at his lowest ebb;

Reflection in the sense that each temptation caused Jesus to reflect on God’s word and respond to each lie from the devil with truth.

3 times Jesus was tempted by the devil and 3 times he responded from a place of total reliance on the Holy Spirit with truth.

This time of testing ultimately prepared Jesus for the difficult road which lay ahead of him, a road which ended at Calvary.

As followers of Jesus, we all embark on our own journeys with the encouragement that Jesus has walked this path before us and indeed he walks this path with us

through the presence of his Holy Spirit. But how can you and I use this season of Lent more fruitfully to prepare ourselves for the journey which lies before us?

Well I would like to suggest 3 ways in which we can better equip ourselves for the journey ahead:

1. Prayer & Fasting

Prayer is the slender tendon which moves the muscle of omnipotence someone once said. Fasting whilst praying further sharpens our focus on the Lord's presence in seeking His will. Your fasting doesn't need to be for extended periods to be effective and should always be in consultation with medical advice. Perhaps you could fast for 1 day a week during Lent or even deny yourself one meal a day each week as you approach the Lord in prayer. For those who are engaging with the Parish prayer for our "next steps", perhaps this period of fasting could be tied in with our corporate prayer on Tuesday evening at 7.30pm in the Rectory? Perhaps you could use the prayer points on page 8 of our magazine and pray for the work of Tearfund or on page 15 and pray for the work of Fields of Life through the Thrive programme. Perhaps you could come along to the Parish monthly prayer meeting on the first Monday evening of each month at 7.30pm in the Clayton Hall? There are lots of ways in which we can prepare ourselves more fully through prayer.

2. Giving up and giving something

Lent is often seen as a season for giving something up. This isn't a bad thing to do, as long as we don't lose sight of what we are doing and why we are doing it. Why not give up something like sweet stuff, or coffee or chocolate or crisps? Whatever it is we give up, try and estimate how much money we have saved in giving up and then give that money to support the work of Fields of Life through the Thrive programme? There will be an opportunity for us as church family to make our offering on Sunday 30th March when we have a pancake party in the Cathedral Hall at 11am. Folks leaving the 10am service can be part of this, as can those gathering for the service at 11.30am.

3. Reflection on God's Word

During Lent, and beyond, we are encouraging folks to read one chapter each week of the brilliant book entitled "The God Story". Over the course of 12 weeks we will see how God's story is told from Genesis right through to Revelation and how that story can become part of our story. Each Sunday morning we will focus on the chapter which we have just read the preceding week.

These are just some ways in which we can prepare for the journey ahead. Please do consider taking up at least one of the above as we resume this journey once more on Ash Wednesday, 5th March. **Geoff**

St Patrick's Day Celebrations 2025

Our annual St Patrick's Day celebrations gather visitors of all denominations from Ireland and abroad. The theme for 2025 is *Godly Leadership* and you are warmly invited to join Bishop David for worship and a complimentary 'Picnic in the Pews' on Monday 17th March.

We look forward to welcoming **His Honour David Turner KC** as our preacher at the Festival Service in Down Cathedral and the **Revd Canon Maurice Elliott** as the preacher at Saul.

The calling, training, and releasing of new leaders is a vital strand in Bishop David's vision for the diocese and both our speakers are leaders of note.

Originally from Derry/Londonderry, David Turner is a recently retired Circuit Judge who sat in Essex and London. An Anglican all his adult life, David is, among other things, Chancellor of the Diocese of Chester, Deputy President of the Clergy Discipline Commission and a Reader and regular preacher at All Souls' Church, Langham Place.

Maurice Elliott is Director of the Church of Ireland Theological Institute, prior to which he spent fifteen years in parochial ministry including as Rector of Shankill Parish Lurgan. In terms of training and ministerial formation, his passion is for mission and church growth, leadership and team ministry, biblical preaching, and personal spiritual development.

PROGRAMME

- 9.15am: Holy Communion at Saul
- 10.15am: Prayer Pilgrimage from Saul to Downpatrick
- 11.45am: Festival Service in Down Cathedral
Wreath laying ceremony at St Patrick's Grave
- 1.00pm: Complimentary 'Picnic in the Pews'

Transport to Saul

Please park along the Mall leading to the Cathedral in Downpatrick and board one of the private buses.

Buses to the Communion Service depart between 8.15 and 8.45am. The last bus for the 35-minute Pilgrimage leaves at 9.45am. The last bus from Saul to the Cathedral leaves at 10.40am.

We look forward to seeing you!

Easter General Vestry Meeting

The Annual Easter General Vestry meeting will be held on Thursday 1st May 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 2024 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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Be Transformed - Tearfund Theme 2025

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." Romans 12:2 ESV

Earlier in February I had the opportunity to join in with over 300 supporters of Tearfund for a Prayer Breakfast over Zoom. During that time we were able to pray for the work of Tearfund, heard from 2 of their staff working on the ground and Pete Greig spoke on the above Bible verse.

Pete spoke about how we are all conformed to this world one way or another, but that ultimately we as followers of Jesus need to transform the world we live in.

This verse (above) speaks about the renewal of our minds, about how we need to do what is good, acceptable and perfect in God's eyes.

How can we transform the world for our brothers and sisters who are suffering the most because of our choices? Can we transform the world for our children, their children and for generations to come that they will grow up in a world that they don't have to worry about the climate crisis? That global warming will be a part of history? Could habits and shopping choices be changed to buying more sustainable/natural options?

During lent, could you take a prayer point each day to pray for the work of Tearfund? Here are prayer points:

Prayer points for us all

- Thank God for His mercy and grace, asking Him to help us live as living sacrifices.
- Ask for wisdom to recognise and resist worldly patterns in our lives.
- Invite the Holy Spirit to transform our minds and align our thoughts with God's truth, knowing that outward transformation must begin with inward transformation.
- Ask that our transformed lives will demonstrate God's love to others in practical ways.

Prayer points for Tearfund's Global Impact and Work

- For true peace to come and last in conflicts zones.
- For Tearfund's vision to work with 250,000 churches to equip people to lift themselves out of poverty and fulfil their God given potential.
- For the provision of resources to see more churches transformed - with alignment of hearts and minds in the global church.

Donna Mackey

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JOY

Join with us on Thursday 6th March (please note change of week for this month) at 2pm when we will be joined by Mike and Christine Stenning who will speak to us about their time in Peru. This was previously booked for January but we had to cancel because of weather conditions.

Smile Line...

I'm giving up eating chocolate for a month. Oh, wait, sorry, bad punctuation. I meant, I'm giving up. Eating chocolate for a month.

Women's World Day of Prayer

This year the World Day of Prayer has been prepared by Christian women in the Cook Islands.

Please do join us in the Cathedral as we celebrate their lives and the chosen theme: **"I Made you Wonderful"**.

This is not just an opportunity to join in praise with those of the Cook Islands but also with those from other denominations in our town. Please plan to attend on Friday 7th March at 7.30pm, you will be most welcome. Refreshments will be available in the Cathedral following the service.

Mothers' Union

Our meeting this month is on the 26th March at 7.30pm. Our Speaker is Matthew Craig and he will speak to us about Physio/Health/Exercise.

Something I'm sure we will all have an interest in coming into the Spring.

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A LOOK AT LIFE WITH THE RECYCLED TEENAGER- Compassion

Am I the only one who suffers from compassion fatigue? I'm not sure I should be sharing this as we are taught from a very young age that it is good to care about others, especially if they are less fortunate than ourselves. Basic Christianity 101, right?

For context, let me paint a scenario for you of what life was like 100 years ago. By the end of January 1925, Benito Mussolini has decided he'll be dictator of Italy, Trotsky and Stalin are battling it out for power in The Soviet Union and Adolf Hitler sets up a wee political party in Munich. Also there have been various sporting achievements, advances in technology and film releases. Not much has changed really on the face of it. The main change is in how we know about what is happening in the world.

One hundred years ago they read about the news in a daily newspaper, listened to a daily radio news programme and the only audio/visual representation was a weekly newsreel, shown before everyone settled down to enjoy Ben-Hur, in the pictures. Fast forward a hundred years, we can see the plight of our planet 24 hrs a day, up close, in person, in HD. Of course there are benefits to this as well as drawbacks (remember AI is coming). We have information as well as misinformation at our fingertips. We can see truth and fake news side by side. Will it ever end? What on earth are we to do? What would we pray for first?

I think this is my issue but it is actually God's. My instinct is to turn away and say, 'What can I do?' I only need to pray one prayer at a time. When I see pain and suffering in our world, He has seen it first and has the answer. I am not required to understand His ways but to demonstrate that I have His heart of compassion.

On a practical note, when I see something distressing on the news, I ask God what I should pray for and wait for His leading. We are not without hope. More

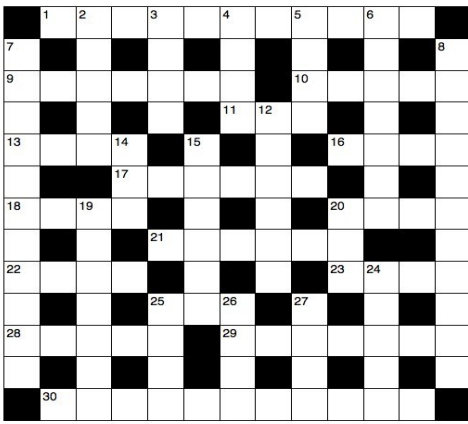
Praise, Prayer & Testimony

PPT remains a really effective and engaging way of helping us to go a little deeper with the Lord as we hear how He has been at work in the lives of ordinary folks in our church and wider community.

PPT is usually on the first Sunday evening of the month and consists of contemporary worship with testimony lasting around 20-30 minutes. The next speakers at PPT are as follows....

Sunday 9th March—Rev Karen Salmon (Rector of Magherally & Annaclone—former missionary in Ethiopia with Crosslinks)

Sunday 6th April—Samuel Adams (Revival Movement Association—Kinallen)



Across

- 1** These letters come between Romans and Galatians (11)
9 'You will not — me to the grave' (Psalm 16:10) (7)
10 King of Moab to whom the Israelites were subject for 18 years (Judges 3:14) (5)
11 Town possessing mineral spring (3)
13 Mede (anag.) (4)
16 High-fidelity (abbrev.) (4)
17 He succeeded his father Rehoboam as king of Judah (1 Kings 14:31) (6)
18 A son of Simeon (Genesis 46:10) (4)
20 Controversial religious book of the 1970s, The — of God Incarnate (4)
21 'He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you — — and hear' (Acts 2:33) (3,3)
22 'You — me together in my mother's womb' (Psalm 139:13) (4)
23 Edit (anag.) (4)
25 'Who has believed our message and to whom has the — of the Lord been revealed?' (Isaiah 53:1) (3)
28 Abraham's brother (Genesis 22:23) (5)

29 'When Mordecai learned of — that had been — , he tore his clothes' (Esther 4:1) (3,4)

30 Sympathetic (Proverbs 11:16) (4-7)

Down

- 2** 'That was why his parents said, "He is — —; ask him"' (John 9:23) (2,3)
3 Integrated Services Digital Network (1,1,1,1) 4
4 'Saul has slain his thousands, and David his — of thousands' (1 Samuel 18:7) (4)
5 Concept (John 8:14) (4)
6 'Do we, then, — the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law' (Romans 3:31) (7)
7 Industrious (2 Timothy 2:6) (11)
8 'I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be — in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you (Ephesians 1:18) (11)
12 'Out of the same mouth come — and cursing' (James 3:10) (6)
14 This was how many of the Jewish leaders described Jesus (John 10:20) (3)
15 Vitality (Job 20:11) (6)
19 He urged David to kill Saul at Hakilah (1 Samuel 26:8) (7)
20 'So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul — with the church and taught great numbers of people' (Acts 11:26) (3)
24 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord — — ' (Deuteronomy 6:4) (2,3)
25 Parched (Matthew 12:43) (4)
26 'In the image of God he created him; — and female he created them' (Genesis 1:27) (4)
27 Disparagement (Psalm 15:3) (4)

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Services for March

Sunday 2nd

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

Wednesday 5th

Ash Wednesday	7.30pm	Ash Wednesday Service
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Friday 7th

	7.30pm	Women's World Day of Prayer
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Sunday 9th

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

Wednesday 12th

	7.30pm	Midweek Lenten Service
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Sunday 16th

The Second 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 19th

	7.30pm	Midweek Lenten Service
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Sunday 23rd

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

Wednesday 26th

	7.30pm	Midweek Lenten Service
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Sunday 30th

The Fourth Sunday in Lent Mothering Sunday	8.30am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Cathedral Praise
	11.30am	Service of the Word
	6.00pm	Evening Epilogue Service

Lenten Services for 2025

Each Wednesday evening throughout Lent, commencing on Ash Wednesday 5th of March, 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.

Church Collections: January

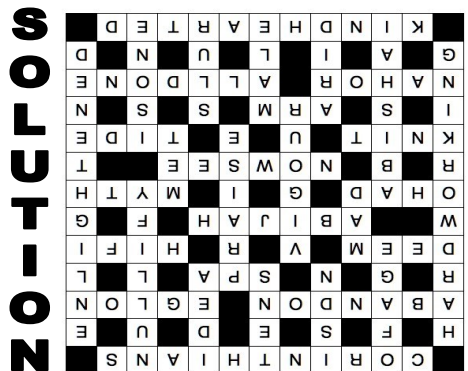
GENERAL FUND	2024/25	2023/24
January	8,181.00	8,183.00
Total to date	£88,250.30	£85,536.62
DEVELOPMENT FUND		
January	612.00	685.00
Total to date	£7,633.05	£8,944.90

March	Refreshments Rota
2nd	Dorothy Farrell & Helen Forsythe
9th	Naomi Wilson & Leanne Teggart
16th	Martin Mayne & Claudia Mayne
23rd	Stuart & Julianne Noble
30th	Eileen Magowan & Rosemary Wilson

March Flower Rota	2nd	9th	16th	23rd	30th
Mrs Sara McCorkell 9269 3760	Mrs Jane Russell	Mrs Mabel Hobson	Mrs Edna Jeffryes	Mrs Beverley McClearn	Vacant

Attention all Magazine Distributors

The April edition of our magazine will be ready for collection and distribution on **Friday 28th March** with items for inclusion to be with Jill in the office by **Friday 21st March at 1pm**. Items can be sent to Jill by emailing - dromorecathedral@outlook.com



MARCH DATES

Monday 3rd	7.30	Parish Prayer Meeting	Clayton Hall
Tuesday 4th	10.30	Craft Class (each Tuesday)	Clayton Hall
Tuesday 4th	7.30	Parish Prayer for Vision	Rectory
Thursday 6th	2.00	JOY	Cathedral Hall
Thursday 6th	2.00	Monthly Service	Mountvale Nursing Home
Friday 7th	7.30	Women's World Day of Prayer	Cathedral
Tuesday 11th	7.30	Parish Prayer for Vision	Rectory
Wednesday 12th	7.30	Parish Bible Class	Clayton Hall
Monday 17th		St Patrick's Day Celebrations	Downpatrick
Tuesday 18th	7.30	Parish Prayer for Vision	Rectory
Wednesday 19th	7.30	History Reading Group	Clayton Hall
Tuesday 25th	7.30	Parish Prayer for Vision	Rectory
Wednesday 26th	7.30	Mothers' Union Meeting	Clayton Hall

Announcements and Social Media

Social media is a great way to keep people informed about what's happening in the parish. The plan is to have a whole month's posts prepared and scheduled at the end of the preceding month. Normally there is something to post every day, or at least most days, which highlight the busy nature of life in our parish.

When it comes to the announcements which are played on screen before Sunday services, generally the same plan applies (sometimes with a few exceptions such as date changes for events or additional notices). The PowerPoints are usually prepared at the end of the preceding month for the entire month that follows.

If you have any items you would like to be included on our Facebook, Instagram and X(Twitter) pages, or on the announcements in Church, please send them through before the final Friday of the month.

You can email them to Jill in the office on dromorecathedral@outlook.com and she can forward them to me or send them directly to av@dromorecathedral.co.uk

Thank you,

Scott Mackey



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 email: revgeoffwilson@gmail.com Mobile: 07808 844637
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- Office:** Jill Wylie, Cathedral Office, 30 Church St, Dromore BT25 1AA 028 9269 3968
 e-mail: jill@dromorecathedral.co.uk or dromorecathedral@outlook.com
- 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 028 9269 3968
 e-mail: dromore.youth.children@gmail.com
- Parish Panel:** Very Revd Geoff Wilson 028 9269 2275
 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 2024-2025

- Churchwardens:** Alan Turkington (Rector's) Andrew McNeill (People's)
- Glebewardens:** Ian Purdy (Rector's) Bill Forsythe (People's)
- Vestry Members:** Andrew Carson, Rebekah Davidson (Honorary Secretary),
 Ian Doig, George Gracey, Scott Mackey, Jim McComb,
 Nan McMurray (Honorary Treasurer), Samuel Newell, Hilary Purdy,
 Ashley 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:** Miss Nan McMurray 10 Pines Grove, Lurgan, Craigavon BT66 7PE
 email: nanmcmurray@btinternet.com TN 028 3832 7856

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LENT CAMPAIGN 2025

Bishops' Appeal and the Church of Ireland Youth Department (CIYD) have teamed up to encourage all Church of Ireland youth groups, youth clubs and schools to take part in *Pancakes and Prayer*, a special initiative for Lent 2025.

The focus will be on several schools in South Sudan within the Dioceses of Ibba and Maridi, all of which are part of the Fields of Life Thrive Programme which helps every child to say: "I am educated, I am fed, I am safe and I am loved."

Pray

We are asking young people and leaders throughout the Church of Ireland to pray throughout Lent for the students, teachers, and the wider communities of schools in South Sudan who are part of the Fields of Life Thrive programme.

Fundraise

We're also encouraging each group to run a special fundraising initiative at some point during this period – it could be a pancake party on or around Shrove Tuesday (4 March), or treats after church on Mothering Sunday (30 March), or simply to provide an opportunity for the young people to make a donation each time the group meets, in lieu of money they would normally spend on drinks or snacks.

Funds raised during Lent will go towards running school gardens, growing food to feed children during the school day. Training in growing and protecting crops, equipment and seedlings are all part of what will be provided through the generosity of young people within the Church of Ireland.

Many of us choose to give up something for Lent – be it sweets, fizzy drinks or crisps and snacks. The money we save, donated through Bishops' Appeal to the schools in South Sudan, will enable children in South Sudan to be fed day after day, week after week and month after month. Long after Lent ends the legacy will live on through the impact of our prayers and through our giving.

It costs a little over £8,000 per year (€10,000) to set up and maintain a school garden in a group of schools, feeding up to 3,500 children for a year at a cost of less than €3 per child or £2.50. **That's not per child per day, but per year!**

This is a project where a small amount of money can make a big difference – and where our prayers for safety, welfare and the protection and presence of our loving God can and will transform lives.

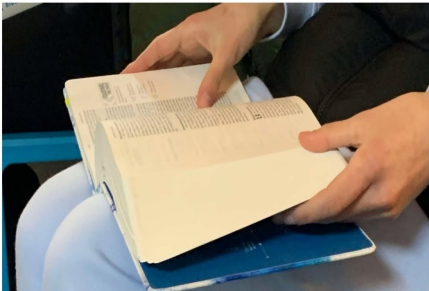
Boost

Boost is our new Sunday morning Youth Ministry. We started on Sunday 2nd February with 16 young people gathered in The Base (Youth For Christ Centre). The vision behind Boost is to provide a space for our young people to go on a journey together exploring God's word and equipping them on how to live out the lives that God has called them to! Each young person was gifted with a new Bible to commence their journey and as leaders we have been greatly encouraged to hear of our young people reading their new bibles at home. Please pray for our young people and this new ministry. Boost meets on the 1st and 2nd Sunday of the month. On the 3rd and 4th Sunday we meet at 7-9pm in The Base for Connect and Pulse. For more information contact Christine: dromore.youth.children@gmail.com



First Steps

We have continued to see great growth within our new Parent and Toddler ministry! Not just in numbers attending but also in the new friendships forming! It has been a joy getting to know parents, grandparents and childminders within our community and an even greater joy to see two new families come along to the Cathedral Sunday Services. First Steps has proved to be a busy but encouraging morning. We had over fifty children attend last week! Due to the large numbers, we would like to ask for more help particularly in the kitchen. If you feel this is something you could volunteer in, please speak to myself or Geoff. Thank you! **Christine**



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