

DC Cathedral Life



The Cathedral Church of Christ the Redeemer, Dromore

February 2026



THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST THE REDEEMER, DROMORE



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Rector:
Very Rev Geoff Wilson, B.Th
Dean of Dromore

Pastoral Duty:
**In the event of pastoral need
or emergencies, please
contact the Rector on 9269
2275 or the Cathedral Office
on 9269 3968**

For it is written.....

Before Jesus began his earthly ministry, he spent 40 challenging days and nights in the wilderness. The challenges he faced weren't simply being deprived of food and water. The greater challenge was through the temptations he faced as he was confronted by Satan himself. I'm sure we all recall the temptations; the temptation to feed his physical needs, the temptation to do the spectacular and the temptation to have worldly possessions with all their splendour. In tempting Jesus, Satan even quoted scripture, using every tool available to him in his attempt to trip Jesus up.

It would be easy for us to say that Jesus resisted the temptations of the Satan because Jesus is the Son of God and he relied on his divinity. But I don't believe that is what happened at all. Jesus displayed his humanity in the wilderness as he resisted the tempter and in doing so presents us with a model for how we might resist temptation as it will inevitably come in our lives.

Firstly, Satan tempted Jesus when he was at his lowest ebb, his greatest point of need. He was tired, exhausted and starving. Don't you find that you are more susceptible to temptation when you are tired and hungry. I know for me that when I'm particularly tired I resist having any significant discussions with those who are closest to me until I have rested, otherwise I'm liable to display a measure of irritability. I know when I'm tired I avoid responding to messages on my phone or emails as I'm more likely to say something which I'll regret if I do so. Satan knows what

you're areas of vulnerability are and he will most certainly exploit them to trip you up. Be alert to this and avoid falling into his traps by putting measures in place to ensure that you stay safe. Rest when you are tired. Eat when you are hungry. Have people you trust who can hold you accountable in areas where you are likely to be tripped up. By putting some of these simple measures in place we can avoid so much hurt and pain for ourselves and others.

Secondly, Jesus used the truth of God's word to resist temptation. Each time Jesus was tempted he responded to the lies of the tempter with the truth of God's word by saying, "*It is written....*", each time quoting a passage of scripture. I wonder how well versed you are with the Bible? When was the last time you picked up the Bible and read it for yourself? The more familiar we are with the Bible, the better equipped we are to respond to the challenges of life and indeed others with truth as revealed in and through the Bible.

In an effort to better equip us all in our knowledge of the Bible I present to you the following challenge. Lent begins on Wednesday 18th February with a service in the Clayton Hall at 7.30pm. Why not commit to reading a passage from the Bible, or several passages, each day throughout Lent. Just picking the Bible up and reading from page 1 to the end can be a challenge, one which many set out on with good intentions but can stumble at an early stage. But by using Bible notes each day we are guided through several passages each day from both the Old and New Testament and provided with some devotional thoughts which help us understand what we have read. It only takes about 10-15 minutes each day but the benefits are for all eternity as we grow in our knowledge of and love for God. In preparation for Lent, we have acquired copies of one particular devotional entitled "*Word for Today*". They are completely free and will be available in the foyer in the Cathedral Hall for you to use throughout the 40 days of Lent in the peace of your own home in your own time.

Another challenge I lay before you is to support the Jar of Grace. This is something which we have encouraged during Lent for a number of years now with the idea being to place a glass jar on your meal table and to pause, pray for and give towards a project at each meal time. The project this year is the garden project in South Sudan which encourages children to develop a garden at their school to ensure that every child who attends school receives a meal. This initiative is overseen and supported by Fields of Life, Bishops' Appeal and the Church of Ireland Youth Dept. Jars are brought to church on Easter Sunday.

I trust that if we engage with one or both of these challenges, we will emerge from Lent as followers of Jesus who are taking on more of his likeness.

Every blessing to you all as we journey through Lent together.

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 16th February 2026, 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 16th January until Monday 16th February 2026.

Update on Rewiring and Service of Dedication

Throughout the process of preparing to tender for the work of rewiring the Cathedral, we have been working from estimates provided by Quantity Surveyors engaged by our M & E Consultants. The estimated figure we have been advised of was approximately £195,000 inc of VAT. Now that we have completed the tender process and appointed contractors, we are in a position to report that the actual contract price is in the region of £225,000 inc of VAT and the contractors appointed are a local firm, Adair Electrical. The Select Vestry remain confident that if we stay focused on the task of fundraising, we will achieve this figure and still have sufficient funds in the account to cover 6 months operating costs, something which is strongly advised by the Charity Commission. We remain indebted to those parishioners who have already contributed to the overall costs and would appeal to those who haven’t to do so through the envelope system or by supporting one of our fundraisers. Bishop David will be dedicating the new electrical system at a special service at 7.30pm on Friday 15th May 2026.

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 **£650** raised. This work can be supported using Boxes available in the Tower Porch.

Tommy has been coordinating these collections since 2010 and now feels that it is time to hand over the reins to someone else. Elizabeth McKnight has very kindly agreed to pick up the reins and continue the important work of coordinating these donations.

Very sincere thanks to Tommy for all his service and to Elizabeth for taking on this new role for her.

Pancakes for South Sudan

On Sunday 22nd February 2026 we are encouraging the church family to come to church a little bit earlier that morning and feast on pancakes along with tea/coffee prepared by our young people from BOOST, suitably supervised by their leaders!

The proceeds from this initiative will go a long way to providing food for children attending school in South Sudan through the provision of school gardens which enable children to grow vegetables which will ensure that every child is fed every day they attend school. This initiative supported by Fields of Life, Bishops' Appeal the Church of Ireland Youth Dept. Please do make a special effort to come to church early that morning and support this very worthy initiative.

Mothers' Union Overseas Meeting

Our February meeting will be on Wednesday 25th at 8.15pm in the Clayton Hall, in order to facilitate anyone wishing to attend the Lenten Service in the Cathedral Hall, which starts at 7.30pm. We welcome the Rev Geoff Hamilton (Titch) who will be speaking about the work of SAMS. As this is our Overseas meeting we will collect any Overseas money and would appreciate if it is put into an envelope with your name on it. Anne

Lenten Services for 2026

Each Wednesday evening throughout Lent, commencing on Ash Wednesday 18th February, we will gather at 7.30pm in the Clayton Hall 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.

JOY

JOY has been a rich blessing to many folks over the past 5 years or so. It has been faithfully led by Jane Russell and Beverley McClearn, who have now decided that the time has come to step back as they both focus on other ministries and family life. Sincere thanks to both Jane and Beverley for all that they have given in service through JOY.

Service of Confirmation

To be confirmed means to take ownership of your faith, to claim it as your own and to declare it with your lips and your life. If you were baptized as an infant, confirmation is the time an opportunity for you to make your promise to God that you are going to take responsibility for the vows that your parents and god parents made on your behalf at your baptism.

If you are interested in being confirmed, we invite you to come along to an information event, along with at least one parent, at 4pm on Sunday 1st March in the Clayton Hall.

Confirmation preparation will take place at the same time each Sunday afternoon in the Clayton Hall and should last no longer than 90 minutes. There will be 7 consecutive sessions (with the exception of Easter Sunday, 5th April) in which we will explore who Jesus is, examine why he came to earth and determine what it actually means to be a follower of His.

The actual service of confirmation will take place on Sunday 3rd May at 3pm in the Cathedral.

Confirmation isn't just limited to young people, as adults who have not yet been confirmed can also elect to be confirmed in their faith. If you would like more information about confirmation as an adult, please do contact Geoff as soon as possible and he will talk through with you what is involved by way of preparation for this important step on faith.

Car Wash

Our first car wash of 2026 will be held on Saturday 7th February 9.30-11.15am at the Cathedral Hall. Thank you to everyone who has supported this fundraiser, either by giving up their Saturday morning to wash cars or by bringing your car to be washed. So far over £1,200 has been raised with this single fundraiser which will go towards the rewiring project of the Cathedral.

Spring Social

Back by popular demand! Following a successful evening last September, our Spring Social, by Embrace Socials, will be held in the Cathedral Hall on Fri 6th March at 7.30pm. Tickets are on sale priced at £10, and are available from the Cathedral Office or Vestry members.

Date for your Diary

As mentioned at our Christmas Afternoon Tea, a fundraising Daffodil Afternoon Tea is to be held on Saturday 18th April at 2pm in the Cathedral Hall. Come and bring your friends. More details next month.

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The Table

You are invited to come to 'The Table' for a community lunch every 3rd Thursday of the month in the Cathedral Hall.

The table, amongst other things, is a symbol of family, friendship, community, and God's faithful presence. A place we hope to be known and loved. We see it in the Bible as a place where God dwells with and provides for His people. He sets a table for us and joins us around it.

We want to provide a welcome at The Table for anyone in our community, especially those who are older, retired, or find themselves at home and able to take a midday break in their work routine. Think all generations!

We hope this will encourage each person in a relaxed setting: in friendship in conversations, faith in Jesus, enjoying food around tables.

Some of our cathedral pastoral care group will also be available to come alongside and chat. We are aware that in encouraging all our senior folk to come that transport may be an issue. Please contact the office if you would like to arrange a lift....

Our first Table is planned for Thursday 19th March at 12noon - 1.30pm.

We hope to serve soup and bread along with a cuppa and sweet treat.

Please pass the word, and let us know if you hope to come just to give us an idea of numbers for catering purposes. (There will be a donation box should you want to contribute.)

Also, if you'd like to help the kitchen team, or provide home-made soup/ sweet treats please let us know.

Carolyn Jackson (CJ)

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A LOOK AT LIFE WITH THE RECYCLED TEENAGER - Challenging Times

I don't know about you but the older I get the more things change and the less I understand.

Does that ring a bell with anyone else? I suppose what I mean is that life around me seems so different to life when I was a young adult. It's like all the goal-posts have moved! I'm not sure what to make of it all.

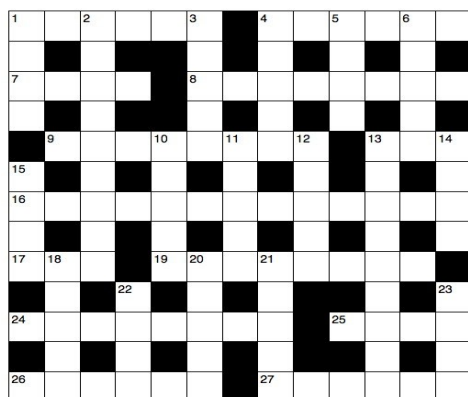
Anyone who remembers growing up during the war and is still alive must be totally bamboozled by the amount of social change that has taken place in the last 80 years. I'm just trying to reconcile the last 40. As a Christian, I find that society's attitudes to the basics of life like birth, marriage and death are no longer to be taken for granted. Our country's laws have changed on the first two and soon we will see assisted dying laws coming into legislation. Change is a fact.

I've not marched since I was 18 years old (in a pipe band) but recently I took an interest in The March For Jesus that was on in Belfast. I was not able to attend due to family commitments but I felt the agenda and tone of this demonstration was one of putting Jesus first and celebrating His love for this imperfect nation.

So what should my response be? Ignore it all? Remonstrate- 'What is this world coming to?' I feel strongly that Jesus would want me to have an opinion on the social and moral issues of today. It is not for me to judge though; 'he who is without sin throw the first stone'. What would Jesus do? I can look to what He did do, in The Gospels. His compassion was for people who were not acceptable to the religious leaders of the day. People who did not appear to be following the rules but who became irrevocably changed by Jesus. He died for us all. No one is beyond his love.

Church Services

The rewiring work has commenced in the Cathedral and will last for 12 weeks during which time there will be one service each Sunday morning at 10.45am in the Cathedral Hall. It is hoped that we will return to worshipping in the Cathedral on Sunday 19th April, if everything goes to plan. Please do continue to pray for this vital work and for protection over the contractors and the Select Vestry as they manage this important work, specifically raising the necessary finances. And please do continue to make attending your place of worship a priority for you and your family.



Across

- 1 'If you love those who love you, what — is that to you?' (Luke 6:32) (6)
- 4 'They threw the ship's — over-board' (Acts 27:19) (6)
- 7 The first murderer (Genesis 4:8) (4)
- 8 He was the head Levite in charge of the singing when the ark of God was brought back to Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 15:22) (8)
- 9 Samson was noted for this (Judges 16:6) (8)
- 13 Solicit money or food from passers by (Acts 3:2) (3)
- 16 What William Booth's Christian Mission became in 1878 (9,4)
- 17 Alliance of Religions and Conservation (1,1,1)
- 19 'I will praise your name for ever and ever. — — I will praise you' (Psalm 145:1-2) (5,3)
- 24 Simon had (anag.) (8)
- 25 Desperate (Deuteronomy 28:48) (4)
- 26 Elisha witnessed the boy he was seeking to resuscitate do this seven times before opening his eyes (2 Kings 4:35) (6)
- 27 The belly and thighs of the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream were made of this (Daniel 2:32) (6)

Down

- 1 'Before the — crows, you will disown me three times' (Matthew 26:75) (4)
- 2 Relating to the books of the Bible between Acts and Revelation (9)
- 3 'They have — the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!' (John 20:2) (5)
- 4 Belief (5)
- 5 'Take the following fine spices: ... 250 shekels of fragrant — ' (Exodus 30:23) (4)
- 6 'Do not — Jerusalem, but wait for the gift' (Acts 1:4) (5)
- 10 A seer (anag.) (5)
- 11 'Even there your hand will — me' (Psalm 139:10) (5)
- 12 The wild variety was part of John the Baptist's diet (Mark 1:6) (5)
- 13 A non-Greek speaker who was looked down on by civilized people (Colossians 3:11) (9)
- 14 Famous 1950s musical whose characters included members of 16 Across, — and Dolls (4)
- 15 The province from which Paul wrote to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 16:19) (4)
- 18 'He was standing in the gateway with a linen cord and a measuring — — his hand' (Ezekiel 40:3) (3,2)
- 20 'Today, if you hear his — , do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion' (Hebrews 3:15) (5)
- 21 The Jericho prostitute who hid two Israelite spies on the roof of her house (Hebrews 11:31) (5)
- 22 'And now these three remain: faith, — and love. But the greatest of these is love' (1 Corinthians 13:13) (4)
- 23 'God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end' (Daniel 5:26) (4)

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Services for February

Sunday 1st

4th Sunday after the Epiphany 10.45am United Service

Sunday 8th

2nd Sunday before Lent 10.45am United Service with Holy Communion
7.00pm Real Change

Sunday 15th

The Sunday before Lent 10.45am United Service
7.00pm Real Change

Wednesday 18th

Ash Wednesday 7.30pm Ash Wednesday Service

Sunday 22nd

The 1st Sunday in Lent 10.45am United Service
7.00pm Real Change

Wednesday 25th

7.30pm Lenten Service

Dromore Cathedral History Reading Group

The History Reading Group will hold their next meeting -

Date & Time - Wednesday 18th February 2026 at 8.15pm

Venue - The Clayton Memorial Hall

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

Team of Rivals - The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln by Doris Kearns Goodwin.

This monumental and brilliant work, which shows how Abraham Lincoln approached government by appointing his fiercest rivals to key cabinet positions, is reported to have provided Barak Obama with a model for his presidency.

Everyone is most welcome to attend this meeting and to discuss this thrilling example of narrative history and inspiring study of the life of Abraham Lincoln.

PARISH REGISTER

CHRISTIAN BURIAL

| | |
|--------------|--|
| 5th January | Charles (Charlie) McCartan, Barban Hill, Dromore |
| 19th January | Margaret (Cynthia) Murray, Hillside, Dromore |
| 31st January | Florence Gribben, formerly Barban 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: November & December

| GENERAL FUND | 2025/26 | 2024/25 |
|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| November | 8,855.96 | 8,667.70 |
| December | 9,304.00 | 10,840.70 |
| Total to date | £78,596.36 | £80,069.30 |
| | | |
| DEVELOPMENT FUND | | |
| November | 803.00 | 627.00 |
| December | 1,020.00 | 648.25 |
| Total to date | £8,416.00 | £7,021.05 |

Attention all Magazine Distributors

The March edition of our magazine will be ready for collection and distribution on **Friday 27th February** with items for inclusion to be with Jill in the office by **Friday 20th February at 1pm**. Items can be sent to Jill by emailing - dromorecathedral@outlook.com

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FEBRUARY DATES

| | | | |
|----------------|-------|---|------------------------|
| Monday 2nd | 7.30 | Parish Prayer Meeting | Clayton Hall |
| Tuesday 3rd | 10.30 | Craft Class (each Tuesday) | Clayton Hall |
| Wednesday 4th | 7.00 | Pickleball (most Wednesdays) | Cathedral Hall |
| Thursday 5th | 2.00 | Monthly Service | Mountvale Nursing Home |
| Saturday 7th | 9.30 | Car Wash | Cathedral Hall |
| Tuesday 10th | 7.30 | Contemplative Prayer | Clayton Hall |
| Wednesday 11th | 7.30 | Parish Bible Class | Clayton Hall |
| Monday 16th | 7.30 | General Vestry Register Review and Select Vestry Meeting | Clayton Hall |
| Wednesday 18th | 7.30 | Ash Wednesday Service | Clayton Hall |
| Wednesday 18th | 8.15 | History Reading Group | Clayton Hall |
| Friday 20th | 11.00 | Monthly Service | The Beeches |
| Tuesday 24th | 8.15 | Contemplative Prayer | Clayton Hall |
| Wednesday 25th | 7.30 | Lenten Service | Clayton Hall |
| Wednesday 25th | 8.15 | Mothers Union Overseas Meeting | Clayton Hall |

| February Flower Rota | 1st | 8th | 15th | 22nd |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Mrs Sara McCorkell 9269 3760 | Mr & Mrs Cedric Patterson | Mrs Sally Weir | Mrs Sue Pegrum | Mrs Maxine Curran |

| February | Refreshments Rota |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 1st | K Chambers & L J Maze |
| 8th | C Mayne & M Mayne |
| 15th | N Wilson & L Teggart |
| 22nd | S Shepherd & D Martin |

Refreshments Rota

If you aren't able to cover a date which you have been allocated, please either swap with someone else or contact the Cathedral Office. Thank you.



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 028 9269 2275
email: revgeoffwilson@gmail.com Mobile: 07808 844637

Lay Pastoral Assistant: Carolyn Jackson 07791 935801

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: Hilary Purdy (commencing 1st January 2026)

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 2025-2026

Churchwardens: Suzanne Watson (Rector's) Brian Hanna (People's)

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

Vestry Members: Edgar Boggs, Andrew Carson, Rebekah Davidson (Honorary Secretary), George Gracey, Nan McMurray (Honorary Treasurer), Andrew McNeill, Robert Poots, Hilary Purdy, Jane Russell, Ashley Silcock, Leanne Teggart, Alan Turkington.

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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The Cathedral Choir at Carols by Candlelight with Rev David McCarthy who was Organist and Choirmaster for the service.



Choir

The Cathedral Choir are intending to have some practices and fellowship between now and Easter. If you would like to come along (dates TBC), please speak to any member or check social media for more information.

Praise Group Leader

Karen Bowden stepped down from her role as Worship Leader at our more informal services at the end of 2025 following around 11 years of faithful service. We marked the occasion at the United Service in the Cathedral Hall on Sunday 25th January 2026 with the presentation of a gift and flowers from parishioners who contributed. Karen has very generously agreed to “help out” until such times as a new Worship Leader has been appointed.

Karen, very sincere thanks to you for all that you given over so many years; you have been such a blessing to so many of our worshipping community.



Annual Sit-Out

A very sincere thank you to everyone who supported our annual efforts in support of the Evora Hospice Services. Our annual sit-out at SuperValu and outside Taste Cafe, together with our Community Carol Service raised a fantastic figure of £2,558.25.

Every single penny will go towards providing support for clients and their families in both the Hospice and in the community, ensuring that whatever remaining time families have with their loved ones is very special. Thank you to everyone who gave so generously in support of our efforts.



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.