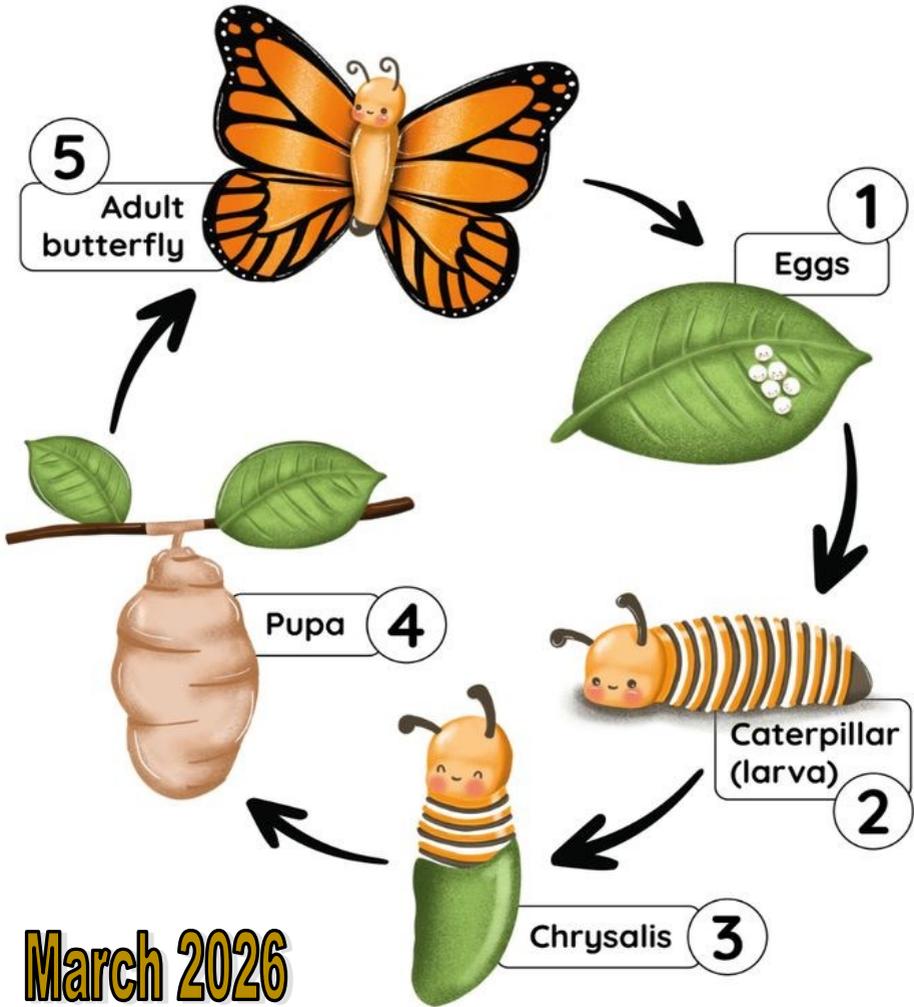




Butterfly Life Cycle



March 2026

**THE CATHEDRAL
CHURCH OF CHRIST
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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**

***Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and
today and forever. Hebrews 13: 8***

I don't know about you, but I'm not that keen on change. What's more, I've met very few people who are keen on it, even though some people think that they are impervious to it.

Change, whether we like it or not, is an inevitable consequence of every day life. If we were to analyze some of the change which we experience I think it would surprise us just how much is actually welcomed in the long run, in spite of our initial objections and the early discomfort. Take for example those of us who live in houses with no central heating. The weeks of disruption when the house is upside down and there is dust everywhere are soon forgotten when we're able to sit in our homes and enjoy the effects of the new heating system on those cold winter nights. Ask yourself this question; how many of us would want to go back to crowding around an open fire as our only source of heat with ice on the inside of the window panes? Of course the younger members of our church family will not be able to relate to this reality for many of the older members of our congregation. Perhaps younger members could relate to the initial inconvenience of online banking with the loss of High Street Banking and the fact that when we adjust to this change, the benefits

far outweigh the costs. I'm now able to pay in cheques to my bank account from the comfort of my own home, how amazing is that! But can I assure you, with the advent of this change, I was far from happy; now, I wouldn't be without my mobile banking.

Change is often necessary for something of beauty to come into life. Imagine if a butterfly stayed as an egg, or a larva, the world would be devoid of its incredible beauty. In order for the butterfly to become a reality it has to pass through each painful stage of change.

Change is something which is happening in our Parish at the moment with the announcement of my retirement at the end of July, with my last Sunday being 28th June 2026. This announcement has come about following conversations with our Bishop over the past year or so. Nothing has happened other than I feel that it is time for me, and time for the Parish, for a change.

Some of the comments from folks on Sunday past have been interesting. Sincere thanks to those who have expressed gratitude and thanks for my ministry. And sincere good wishes are extended by me to those of you who have said very honestly, "What will we do?" The Parish is on the cusp of substantial change with a vacancy pending at the end of July. My intention is to ensure that the next number of months are used to put in place people and procedures which will enable the Parish to navigate this time of change with the minimum of disruption for everyone. Everyone will need to work together with a greater sense of focus and purpose, embracing this time of change as something which is inevitable and trusting that at the end of the vacancy the change will have birthed something of real beauty; a greater sense of being united in Christ.

Beyond the vacancy there will be more change with the appointment of a new Rector to lead the Parish in this next season. The first few months are challenging for everyone as the congregation get to know their new Rector and they in turn get to know their new parishioners. In the midst of all this change be assured of one thing, that Jesus will be with you all each step of the way. That will never change and nor will He; He is the same yesterday and today and forever. Whatever lies ahead, pray that beauty will emerge, and hopefully experience more of the lovely presence of Jesus with you all on this journey of change.

Geoff

St. Patrick's Day Celebrations

We warmly invite you to join us for the diocesan St Patrick's Day Celebrations in Down Cathedral and Saul on Tuesday 17th March. The day has a decidedly Celtic flavour and a great atmosphere.

The theme for 2026 is ***Courage in the Line of Fire*** and we are delighted to have **Finnish MP Mrs Päivi Räsänen** as our preacher at the Festival Service in Down Cathedral and the **Mr Ian Bingham, Director of CARE NI** as the preacher at Saul.

Päivi Räsänen is an eight-term member of the Finnish Parliament, and the former chairperson of the Christian Democrats and minister of the Interior. She is a medical doctor and has also published several books, where she reflects deeply on major questions of life and society, such as values, ethics, and faith. Mrs Räsänen is a determined and courageous leader who stands by Christian values and freedom of speech, even when they provoke intense debate.

PROGRAMME

Our varied programme begins early, but you can join us later at the 11.45am Festival Service followed by a complimentary 'Picnic in the Pews'. It's a wonderful way to celebrate our Patron Saint with friends and visitors of all denominations from Ireland and abroad.

- 9.15am: Holy Communion at Saul
- 10.15am: Prayer Pilgrimage from Saul to Downpatrick
- 11.45am: Festival Service in Down Cathedral followed by the 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 10.40 am.

We look forward to seeing you!

Easter General Vestry Meeting

The Annual Easter General Vestry meeting will be held on Thursday 16th 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 2025 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.

Finally, as this is what is termed a triennial year, Parochial Nominators and persons to serve on Diocesan Synod will be nominated to serve for a 3 year period. Nominators are the Parish representatives at a board of nomination in the event of a vacancy arising in the Parish. The nominators will be active early in their term of office due to the forthcoming vacancy at the beginning of August. When considering who to appoint as a nominator, consideration should be given to the following:

Are they a committed follower of Jesus with a deep personal faith?

Are they a person of prayer and reflection?

Are they discreet and confidential, capable of handling sensitive information regarding potential candidates?

Are they team players who will be able to collaborate with other Nominators, Diocesan Nominators and the Bishop?

Do they possess the necessary wisdom and discernment to enable them to assess a candidate's suitability?

Are they someone who understands the needs of the Parish and carries a real heart to see the Parish grow in mission and ministry?

These headings are only intended to assist voting members in their thinking. Please do pray for all those involved in this process of electing Nominators.

A Word of Thanks

At the end of December I stepped down from my paid position as Worship Leader after a total of 11 years. Coming to the Cathedral in May 2010, I didn't know anything about the Cathedral at all, and yet I felt very much the Lord calling me to come, I did not reckon on how much I would come to love not just the Church family, but also the community in Dromore, and so after having lived for 30 years in Lisburn we moved house in 2014 to be a part of the community here.

It has been my joy and my privilege to share in the worship life of the Cathedral and to work with the greatest team of singers and musicians over the years, and I want to say a huge thank you to you all from the bottom of my heart for the generous gift given to me last month to mark my stepping down, it means a lot to me. Karen

Praise, Prayer & Testimony

Our next PPT will be on Sunday 8th March at 6pm in the Cathedral Hall. Cheryl Eagleson from Dromore Elim will be speaking on her work with the Stauros Foundation and how she became involved with it. The Stauros Foundation is based in Crumlin and ministers to those with alcohol and drug addictions. Cheryl is the wife of Pastor Paul Eagleson and has a powerful testimony as to how the Lord has been at work in her life.

Mothers' Union Meeting

Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday 1st April 2026, instead of 25th March.** This is to enable us to join with the Church family at the Holy Week service, followed with supper and a chat. I look forward to seeing you there. Anne

World Day of Prayer

The World Day of Prayer this year has been prepared by a group of Christian women from Nigeria.

Please join us in the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church on Friday 6th March at 7pm, when we will hear



their stories and pray they will encourage and inspire women throughout the world to unit as one people in both prayer and action.

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DC Spring Social

Following the success of our first Social last September, another fun evening has been requested. This will take place on Friday 6th March at 7.30pm in the Cathedral Hall, with entertainment by Embrace Socials. The evening is for all the family. Tickets priced at £10 Adults, £5 Children with a discount rate for larger families. Lights refreshments will be available. The tickets are available from the Cathedral Office, Vestry members or by contacting Jane on 0771 5707 160.

Car Wash

Our next Car Wash will be one Saturday 7th March 9.30 - 11.15am. Large Cars/Jeeps £10, Small Cars £7. Join us in the Cathedral Hall for a complimentary mug of tea or coffee while you wait. Please note: Car Wash for April shall be on **Saturday 11th April** following Easter.

Daffodil Afternoon Tea

Join with us on Saturday 18th April for our fundraising Daffodil Afternoon Tea. Anyone who has been at any of our Christmas Afternoon Teas know the food is plentiful. Special thanks to SOMA Singers who will be our musical entertainment. Tickets are £10 and are available from the Cathedral Office or by contacting Jane on 0771 5707 160. We have also been offered a homemade Easter Cake to guess the weight off, so bring a few coins with you if you wish.

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A LOOK AT LIFE WITH THE RECYCLED TEENAGER- Wedding Prep

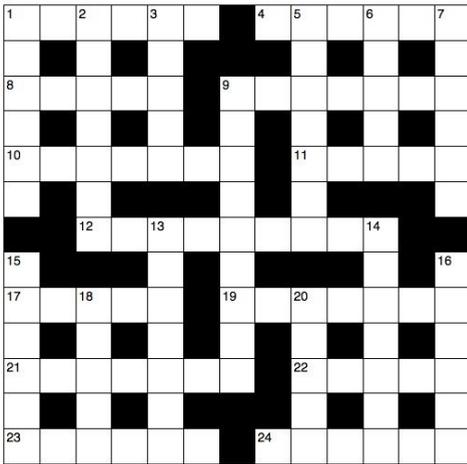
Recently I was privileged to be included in an expedition to search for and find that illusive of all species: the mother-of-the-bride outfit. You may have thought that it would've been the bridal gown that would have caused the most stress to find. Not so - it was taken captive months ago.

One of my nieces is getting married this year and while this event is not a new one in our family it is the first in this particular household. How did I get roped into this? You may well ask. Apparently, the nieces' other sister thought it would be a nice thing to ask me along (she was too busy). Fair enough, as a mother of only boys I will never have to endure, sorry, have the pleasure of such a quest but I was wondering if my presence was more for my refereeing skills than those for picking frocks. Nevertheless, I was hailed, 'the fashion police' and that is how a few weeks ago I found myself on the road to Ballybofey to track down 'The Outfit'.

I was quite surprised how much I enjoyed myself. I was under no pressure at all and it was quite relaxing sitting in the bridal department looking after everyone's bags and coats (a bit like men have to do on occasion). Whilst the bride and the bride's mother were in the changing room I took the opportunity to watch the interactions of others on a similar quest around me. The transforming power of the right outfit was truly miraculous and when the perfect gown was selected the palpable relief and then joy to all concerned was tangible. What surprised me most was the skill of the assistants. Never would I have guessed the tact and training these supposedly mere mortals had in advising, guiding and blending dresses, hats, shoes and bags into a look that was to be the talking point of the big day- after the bride of course!

Much effort and expense goes into preparing for a wedding and understandably so, as it is one of the most important occasions in life, culturally and for many spiritually. We remember our Lord performed his first miracle at a wedding and the Church is charged with preparing ourselves as a bride for Christ's return.

Far be it for me to blow my own trumpet but it was the dress I picked that proved to be the winner. The bride liked it; the MOTB liked it and most importantly the assistant approved and that was that. However, if asked, none of the above will ever give me, 'the fashion police' the credit.



Across

- 1 Arouse (Song of Songs 2:7) (6)
- 4 Extinguish (Isaiah 1:31) (6)
- 8 ““They — — ,” you will say, “but I’m not hurt!”” (Proverbs 23:35) (3,2)
- 9 Unhappiness (Nehemiah 2:2) (7)
- 10 Jewish (7)
- 11 Dirge (anag.) (5)
- 12 ‘A truthful witness gives honest — , but a false witness tells lies’ (Proverbs 12:17) (9)
- 17 Paul quoted from the second one in his address in the synagogue at Pisidian Antioch (Acts 13:33) (5)
- 19 ‘Do not use your freedom to — the sinful nature’ (Galatians 5:13) (7)
- 21 ‘As you can see, he has done nothing to — death’ (Luke 23:15) (7)
- 22 Name applied by Isaiah to Jerusalem (Isaiah 29:1) (5)

- 23 ‘All the people — — one man, saying, “None of us will go home”’ (Judges 20:8) (4,2)
- 24 Lazarus, who was carried by angels to Abraham’s side when he died, was one (Luke 16:20) (6)

Down

- 1 Appalled (Job 26:11) (6)
- 2 ‘In an — to escape from the ship, the sailors let the lifeboat down into the sea’ (Acts 27:30) (7)
- 3 Expel (Acts 18:16) (5)
- 5 ‘But I have a baptism to — , and how distressed I am until it is completed!’ (Luke 12:50) (7)
- 6 ‘Of the increase of his government and peace there will be — — ’ (Isaiah 9:7) (2,3)
- 7 Hurry (Psalm 119:60) (6)
- 9 ‘For I desire mercy, not — , and acknowledgement of God rather than burnt offerings’ (Hosea 6:6) (9)
- 13 One of its towns was Sychar, where Jesus met a woman at Jacob’s well (John 4:5) (7)
- 14 Shouting (Acts 7:57) (7)
- 15 Arachnid (Isaiah 59:5) (6)
- 16 One of Paul’s first converts in Philippi was Lydia, a — in purple cloth (Acts 16:14) (6)
- 18 Donkeys (5)
- 20 Raked (anag.) (5)

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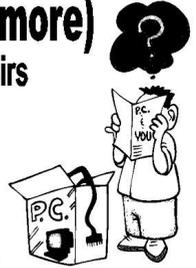
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Thank you for your understanding

Thank you to everyone who has been so supportive of our services in the Cathedral Hall during this time when we have had to vacate the Cathedral due to the essential work of rewiring. It is anticipated that our return to the Cathedral will be delayed due to unforeseen plastering which needs to be attended to, precise details are not available at this time, but will be reported as soon as possible.

Services for March

Sunday 1st

The Second Sunday in Lent 10.45am United Service

Wednesday 4th

7.30pm Midweek Lenten Service

Friday 6th

7.00pm World Day of Prayer

Sunday 8th

The Third Sunday in Lent 10.45am United Service
6.00pm Praise, Prayer & Testimony

Wednesday 11th

7.30pm Midweek Lenten Service

Sunday 15th

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Mothering Sunday

10.45am United Service

Wednesday 18th

7.30pm Midweek Lenten Service

Sunday 22nd

The Fifth Sunday in Lent 10.45am United Service

Wednesday 25th

7.30pm Midweek Lenten Service

Sunday 29th

The Sixth Sunday in Lent

Palm Sunday

10.45am United Service

Monday 30th

8.00pm Holy Week Service

Tuesday 31st

8.00pm Holy Week Service

Wednesday 1st April

8.00pm Holy Week Service

Maundy Thursday 2nd

6.30pm Agape Meal in Cathedral Hall

Good Friday 3rd

7.00am A Service of Readings and Meditation

8.00pm A Service of Reflection

Sunday 5th

The First Sunday of Easter

Easter Day

10.45am Celebrate Easter with Holy Communion

PARISH REGISTER

CHRISTIAN BURIAL

4th February David Rodney Thompson, Grove Road, Dromore
 14th February Edward Henry (Eddie) Moore, Bracken Ridge, Dromore

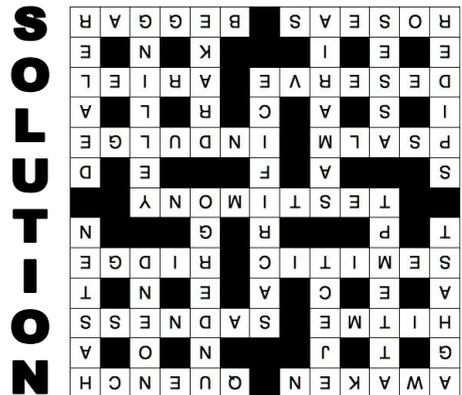
“Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord. They are blessed indeed, says the Spirit, for they rest from their labours.”

Church Collections: January

GENERAL FUND	2025/26	2024/25
January	7,458.00	8,181.00
Total to date	£86,054.36	£88,250.30
DEVELOPMENT FUND		
January	772.50	612.00
Total to date	£9,188.50	£7,633.05

Attention all Magazine Distributors

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

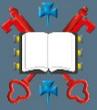


MARCH DATES

Sunday 1st	4.00	Confirmation Preparation	Clayton Hall
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
Friday 6th	7.00	World Day of Prayer	Non-Subscribing Church
Friday 6th	7.30	Spring Social	Cathedral Hall
Saturday 7th	9.30	Car Wash	Cathedral Hall
Sunday 8th	4.00	Confirmation Preparation	Clayton Hall
Tuesday 10th	7.30	Contemplative Prayer	Clayton Hall
Sunday 15th	4.00	Confirmation Preparation	Clayton Hall
Thursday 19th	12.00	'The Table' Community Lunch	Cathedral Hall
Friday 20th	11.00	Monthly Service	The Beeches
Sunday 22nd	4.00	Confirmation Preparation	Clayton Hall
Tuesday 24th	7.30	Contemplative Prayer	Clayton Hall
Friday 27th	7.30	Girls' Brigade Display	Cathedral Hall
Sunday 29th	4.00	Confirmation Preparation	Clayton Hall

March Flower Rota	1st	8th	15th	22nd	29th
Mrs Sara McCorkell 9269 3760	Mrs Jane Russell	Mrs Mabel Hobson	Vacant	Mrs Beverley McClean	Mrs Edna Jeffryes

March	Refreshments Rota
1st	S Shepherd & D Martin
8th	E Magowan & R Wilson
15th	S & J Noble
22nd	Gamble Family
29th	D Farrell & H Forsythe



Rector:	Very Revd Geoff Wilson, 28 Church Street, Dromore BT25 1AA email: revgeoffwilson@gmail.com Mobile: 07808 844637	028 9269 2275
Lay Pastoral Assistant:	Carolyn Jackson	07791 935801
Office:	Jill Wylie, Cathedral Office, 30 Church St, Dromore BT25 1AA e-mail: jill@dromorecathedral.co.uk or dromorecathedral@outlook.com	028 9269 3968
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 e-mail: dromore.youth.children@gmail.com	028 9269 3968
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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Soma Singers

Soma was formed by Karen Bowden in 2018 as a fun group for people who enjoy singing but can't necessarily read music. It's a non auditioned community choir, having members from our Church family but which also embraces the wider community. We sing a mixture of sacred and contemporary songs and have a great sense of fun and camaraderie. Our numbers have now grown to 45 members who meet on Thursday nights at 8.15pm in the Clayton Hall to rehearse.

In 2024 we held our first Concert, (which was postponed due to Covid) with the wonderful Northern Ireland Concert Band and have performed for local Churches and Care facilities. In December we hosted a joint Concert with Hinch Harmony Choir from Ballynahinch in support of Evora Hospice and raised a total of £1,952.30. We are grateful to Dromore Central Primary School for the use of their hall for the event.

Pictured - L-R Kirsty Orr MD Hinch Harmony, Emma Hughes Evora and Karen Bowden MD Soma singers.





Pancakes for South Sudan

Very sincere thanks to everyone who contributed to the Pancakes for South Sudan on Sunday 22nd February in raising the fantastic amount of £529.00.

Every single penny this will be used to create vegetable gardens at schools in South Sudan which will ensure that every child attending school receives a meal that day. Through this initiative it only takes £2.50 to feed a child for a whole year, so very little can make a huge difference. Thank you also to our brilliant young people who, supported by their leaders, prepared all of the beautiful food on the morning.



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