

CC Cathedral Life



The Cathedral Church of Christ the Redeemer, Dromore



April 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**

*They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive.
Luke 24: 23*

As I'm writing these notes it is literally snowing outside! How do you get your head around this weather in March?

But in the midst of the miserable weather I saw something which really blessed my heart yesterday. I was attending an Inter Church gathering at 1st Dromore, Presbyterian Church and was struck by the display of daffodils on the bank between the car park and the church. A splash of colour in the midst of a dark, dismal day. But it wasn't just the colour that caught my eye, it was the message declaring to those with eyes to see, "*Jesus lives*".

On that first Easter morning it was most certainly dark when the women went laden with spices to anoint the body of their friend Jesus. The weather may not have been dismal, but their outlook most certainly would have been. Their dear friend had been taken from them, tried for crimes he did not commit, convicted and sentenced to death, all in the space of a few short hours. Try to imagine the range of emotions those women must have felt. Anger, loss, disappointment, fear and much, much more. So, early on that first morning of the week, they went to do all that they could do by anointing the body of the crucified Jesus. Silence prevailed, save for ponderings as to how they would roll the stone away from the door of the tomb, or who would roll it away for them. Imagine their surprise when they arrived at the tomb only to discover that the stone had already been rolled away and that

2 men in clothes that gleamed like lightning asked them why they were looking for the living among the dead. What an unusual thing to say to someone visiting the grave of a loved one. But then this was not like any other grave. This grave was empty not because Jesus' body had been removed. It was empty because the grave could not contain Him, He was risen from the dead, He was alive. That discovery that Jesus lives was one of radical transformation for those women and indeed for everyone who has made that discovery ever since. When the women *came back from the tomb and told all of these things to the Eleven and to all the others they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense.* Peter got up and ran to the tomb and discovered for himself that it is true, He has risen from the grave, He is alive.

I wonder where you sit with all of this at this Easter time? Are you like Peter, who doubted at first but discovered the glorious truth for himself? Are you like the others who didn't rush to the tomb, remaining in doubt, at least until you encountered the risen Jesus for yourself at a later time? Are you still in doubt, even as a churchgoer, but hoping to discover the truth and transformation for yourself which you see in those around you? Have you given up on church convincing yourself that it is all a load of nonsense?

It doesn't really matter to me which of the above best describes where you are in your journey of faith this Easter. What really matters to me is that you do something about it. Whether you are close to the Lord or only use His name in vain, you are very welcome to come along to Christianity Explored after Easter. You'll find more details about what, where and when it is on page 8 of this magazine. Each evening will begin with refreshments to make it easier for folks to arrive that little bit later without feeling that they are late. Each session will take a part of Mark's gospel and explain something quite profound about this person Jesus, the most famous person to have ever walked on this earth. Each session will involve us reading and studying the bible together, a practice which we hope will continue beyond the end of the course. Each session will involve watching a video presentation and group discussion around tables with no more than 5 or 6 people. I would encourage those of us who are followers of Jesus, who have discovered that He lives, to see this course as an opportunity to tell others, just like the women in Luke's account, so that they might make that discovery for themselves. Start thinking about who you might invite. Start praying about how you might ask them. Start believing that they might actually warm to your invitation and come along with you for the first evening. The cross cost Jesus everything. It costs you and I nothing to invite someone we love and care for in the hope that they might also believe that Jesus lives.

Have a very happy Easter

Geoff

Care Group

Over the past couple of months, we have been investing in and developing what we are calling a “Care Group”. The Care Group isn’t a new idea, but is a development of an existing group of visitors within the parish family as well as a development of what it is that they do. So the Care Group consists of around 8 folks who visit seniors or housebound members by consent as well as providing support and encouragement through initiatives like The Table. Care Group members have received some training and will all undergo a basic Access NI check (not required for the nature of the ministry, but considered to be good practice). A visit from a Care Group member does not mean that visits will not take place from Carolyn or Geoff, these visits should be seen as an additional layer of support. At our service on Sunday 31st May at 10.45am we will formally recognize this group and commission them for this work.

Revision of Church Services

With a forthcoming vacancy at the end of June, I felt that this was the time to review our service pattern. My motivation for this was to make services in the Cathedral more sustainable during the period of vacancy but also more attractive to a potential incumbent. Prior to the rewiring of the Cathedral the service pattern was 8.30am, 10.00am, 11.30am and 6.00pm each Sunday. From the time we return to worshipping in the Cathedral, the following will be the pattern of worship:

8.30am on the first Sunday of the month

10.00am & 11.30am on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month

10.45am on the 2nd, 4th & 5th Sunday of the month (Holy Communion on 2nd)

6.00pm on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month (Praise, Prayer & Testimony on 1st, Evening Epilogue on the 3rd)

All of the above has been agreed with our Bishop and I trust will make the service pattern not only more sustainable but attractive.

Rewiring of Cathedral

Work on the rewiring of the Cathedral is progressing slowly with an expected return to worship in the Cathedral anticipated in early June. The cost of the scheduled works is considerable at around £240,000. However, the Select Vestry are happy to report that these costs are already covered through existing reserves, grants secured, ongoing giving and one off gifts. In addition to this, we are confident that we would have 3 months operating costs in reserve, approximately £60,000.

Having said this, it is expected that there may well be additional unexpected costs which we are not able to report on in any detail at this time.

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.

Agape Meal - Maundy Thursday

On Thursday 2nd April 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.

Car Wash

Our next car wash will be held on Saturday 11th April 9.30 - 11.15am at the Cathedral Hall. Small cars £7, Large cars £10. Complimentary refreshments in 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.

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Daffodil Afternoon Tea

Our fundraising Daffodil Afternoon Tea is to be held on Saturday 18th April at 2pm in the Cathedral Hall. This will include a cream tea with entertainment by SOMA singers. Tickets, priced at £10, are available from Jill in Cathedral Office or any Vestry member. There will also be the chance to Guess the Weight of a homemade Easter Cake. Over the past 9 years the Church family have organised 10 Christmas Afternoon Teas including one at our Vision Weekend. They are always a



great afternoon. Unfortunately the man in the big red suit will not be joining us this time.

Join with us and bring your friends. To help with catering, we would ask that final numbers attending purchase tickets by Sunday 12th April.

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A LOOK AT LIFE WITH THE RECYCLED TEENAGER - Rain!

This is shaping up to be a very busy week. Firstly Mother's Day, then St. Patrick's Day, then Mother's Birthday and as I write I am anticipating the arrival of my Australian friends (yes I do have friends, two of them in fact).

This wonderful married couple make a pilgrimage to their respective homelands, South Africa and Ireland, roughly every two years. They love challenging themselves, so having completed 2 laps of Australia over the last few years, they are now heading to Spain at the beginning of April to complete The Camino. They would put the contestants of Race Across The World to shame!

Anyway, I digress as I'm supposed to be conversing about rain. Well there is a link. You know when visitors from warmer climes come here the first thing they do is joke about the rain? This time it is no joke! We've all nearly been washed away. Many people were seriously eying up the timber in B&Q and consulting Genesis on the dimensions of Noah's Ark. The rain this winter was wild! I ended up like many others with a leak in my roof and many a farmer's land was ruined beyond use, not to mention house floods and pot holes (don't mention the pot holes).

While praying for the roof I was reminded that the Bible teaches us that, "...he sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous". Same with the sun. (Matthew 5v45). In this same passage, God wants us to love our enemies, do good to those who persecute us and aspire to see others as Jesus sees them. It is said that water always finds it's own level but maybe that recent season of rain can be a leveller for us too.

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Dromore Cathedral History Reading Group

The History Reading Group will hold their next meeting -

Venue - The Clayton Memorial Hall. Date and Time - Wednesday 15th April 2026 at 7.30pm.

In picking a book to read in advance of the forthcoming meeting the group were confronted by the ultimate hard act to follow.

The book which was previously read -

Team of Rivals - The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln by Doris Kearns Goodwin - was, by general consensus, the best book that the group had ever read. A 750 pages long page turner! With the arrival of spring and summer soon to be appearing on the horizon, minds may well turn to potential books to read while relaxing in the back garden or while on holiday.

This one would be worthy of serious consideration. In brief summary - a very impressive book about the life and the political career of a very impressive man.

The book which the group are currently reading and which has the unenviable task of carrying forward the standards set by its predecessor is -

The Ottomans - Khans, Caesars and Caliphs by Marc David Baer.

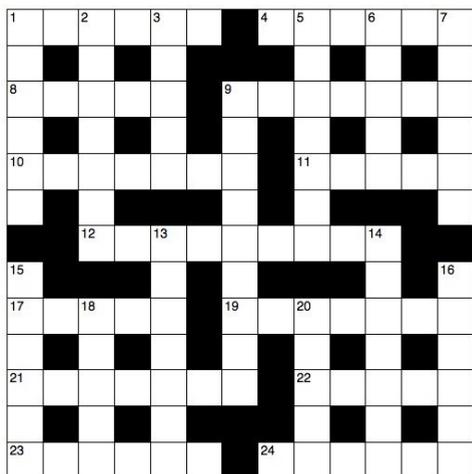
Everyone is most welcome to join with the group in reading this book and to come along to the April meeting to share in some fellowship, mixed in with a generous dollop of lively discussion, and a chance to learn a little about the Ottoman Empire.

What is Christianity?

The message at the heart of Christianity is pretty simple. It's all about one life, the life of Jesus, and it can be summed up in the answers to three questions:

- Who is Jesus?
- Why did he come?
- What does it mean to follow him?

Christianity Explored is a 7 session course which helps us to explore the answers to these questions in an informal setting. The course will run each Sunday evening from 6.45pm to 8.30pm in the Cathedral Hall, beginning with refreshments each evening. No one will be asked to read, speak or pray aloud; but everyone will be encouraged to "dive into their Bible" as we study the gospel of Mark in search of answers to the above questions. The course is absolutely free and we are encouraging folks to not only come along themselves but to use this as a great opportunity to bring along a friend or neighbour as together we deepen in our walk with the Lord. The course commences on Sunday 19th April and concludes on Sunday 31st May. Sign up sheets available in the foyer.



- with the Lord' (Exodus 34:29) (7)
21 Roonwit, C.S. Lewis's half-man, half-horse (7)
22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)
23 'The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the — apostles' (Acts 1:26) (6)
24 'I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came to visit me' (Matthew 25:36) (6)

Across

- 1** Relating to the whole universe (6)
4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6)
8 'Unless I see the nail marks — — hands, I will not believe it' (John 20:25) (2,3)
9 He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah's message (Jeremiah 36:25) (7)
10 Baptist minister and controversial founder of America's Moral Majority, Jerry — (7)
11 'Look, here is — . Why shouldn't I be baptised?' (Acts 8:36) (5)
12 Repossessed (Genesis 14:16) (9)
17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome (Acts 27:3-4) (5)
19 'Moses was not aware that his face was — because he had spoken

Down

- 1** Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6)
2 Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7)
3 Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5)
5 For example, the Crusades (4,3)
6 11 Across is certainly this (5)
7 He reps (anag.) (6)
9 Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9)
13 Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all her treasury (Acts 8:27) (7)
14 They must be 'worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine' (1 Timothy 3:8) (7)
15 The human mind or soul (6)
16 'O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war increase; their bread is — ' (Graham Kendrick) (6)
18 'We played the flute for you, and you did not — ' (Matthew 11:17) (5)
20 Bared (anag.) (5)

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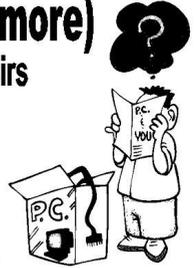
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Services for April

Sunday 29th March

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

Sunday 12th

The Second Sunday of Easter

10.45am United Service

Sunday 19th

The Third Sunday of Easter

10.45am United Service

Sunday 26th

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

10.45am United Service

Garden Opening in aid of SHELTERBOX

Sunday 17th May 2026 — 2-6pm at Clanmurry

John & Sara McCorkell welcome you to their garden in conjunction with the Lagan Valley Rotary Club.

The Rhododendrons and Azaleas should be at their best, but the main thing is to discover **SHELTERBOX!**

If you don't know what that is, this is your opportunity!

SAVE THE DATE and come along on Sunday afternoon, 17th May.

Clanmurry, 16 Lower Quilly Road, Dromore BT25 1NL.

Free will donations for ShelterBox.



Church Collections: February

GENERAL FUND	2025/26	2024/25
February	7,747.10	8,554.00
Total to date	£93,801.46	£96,804.30
DEVELOPMENT FUND		
February	630.50	809.00
Total to date	£9,819.00	£8,442.05

Smile line... Some hymns for people over 50 -

Give Me the Old Timers' Religion
 Precious Lord, Take My Hand, And Help Me Up
 Just a Slower Walk with Thee
 Go Tell It on the Mountain, But Speak Up
 Nobody Knows the Trouble I Have Seeing
 Guide Me O Thou Great Lord God, I've Forgotten Where I've Parked The Car
 Count Your Many Birthdays, Count Them One By One
 Blessed Insurance
 It Is Well With My Soul, But My Knees Hurt

Attention all Magazine Distributors

The May edition of our magazine will be ready for collection and distribution on **Friday 1st May** with items for inclusion to be with Jill in the office by **Friday 24th April at 1pm**. Items can be sent to Jill by emailing - dromorecathedral@outlook.com

SOLUTION

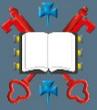


APRIL DATES

Wednesday 1st	8.00	Mothers' Union Meeting	Holy Week Service
Thursday 2nd	2.00	Monthly Service	Mountvale Nursing Home
Monday 6th	7.30	Parish Prayer Meeting	Clayton Hall
Tuesday 7th	10.30	Craft Class (each Tuesday)	Clayton Hall
Wednesday 8th	7.00	Pickleball (most Wednesdays)	Cathedral Hall
Saturday 11th	9.30	Car Wash	Cathedral Hall
Sunday 12th	4.00	Confirmation Preparation	Clayton Hall
Tuesday 14th	7.30	Contemplative Prayer	Clayton Hall
Wednesday 15th	7.30	History Reading Group	Clayton Hall
Thursday 16th	12.00	'The Table' Community Lunch	Cathedral Hall
Thursday 16th	8.00	Easter General Vestry Meeting	Cathedral Hall
Friday 17th	11.00	Monthly Service	The Beeches
Saturday 18th	2.00	Daffodil Afternoon Tea	Cathedral Hall
Sunday 19th	4.00	Confirmation Preparation	Clayton Hall
Sunday 19th	6.45	Christianity Explored	Cathedral Hall
Sunday 26th	4.00	Confirmation Preparation	Clayton Hall
Sunday 26th	6.45	Christianity Explored	Cathedral Hall
Tuesday 28th	7.30	Contemplative Prayer	Clayton Hall

April Flower Rota	5th	12th	19th	26th
Mrs Julie McMurray 9269 3727	Easter Vestry Flowers	In Memory of Mr & Mrs Dick	In Memory of Miss Marjorie Gamble	Mrs Eileen Magowan

April	Refreshments Rota
5th	No Refreshments
12th	N Wilson & L Teggart
19th	S & J Noble
26th	K Chambers & L J Maze



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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The Table is a rich blessing to attendees

“The Table” got off to a brilliant start in March as 37 folks from the church and wider community gathered for a bowl of soup and some fellowship around the table. Jesus used the table in people’s homes to minister to their deepest needs and that is our prayer for our “Table” ministry. Thank you to our wonderful team of volunteers and to everyone who came along—it wouldn’t have been the same without you. Our next meeting of The Table will be on Thursday 16th April from 12.30 - 2pm.



Coffee Morning in support of incredible Search and Rescue Volunteers

Dromore demonstrated what a caring community it is on Saturday 28th February as literally hundreds of folks attended a coffee morning in the Cathedral Hall. The idea behind the coffee morning was to recognise the efforts of the different volunteer groups involved in the search for Artie Boal. Our photos show not only a packed hall, but an incredible group of volunteers who served on the day, along with some elected representatives who supported the coffee morning. Sincere thanks are due to Gavin Beck for coordinating the efforts of the team on the day and for his vision to bless the Search and Rescue groups in this way. An absolutely astounding amount in excess of £4,250 was raised for their work.



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