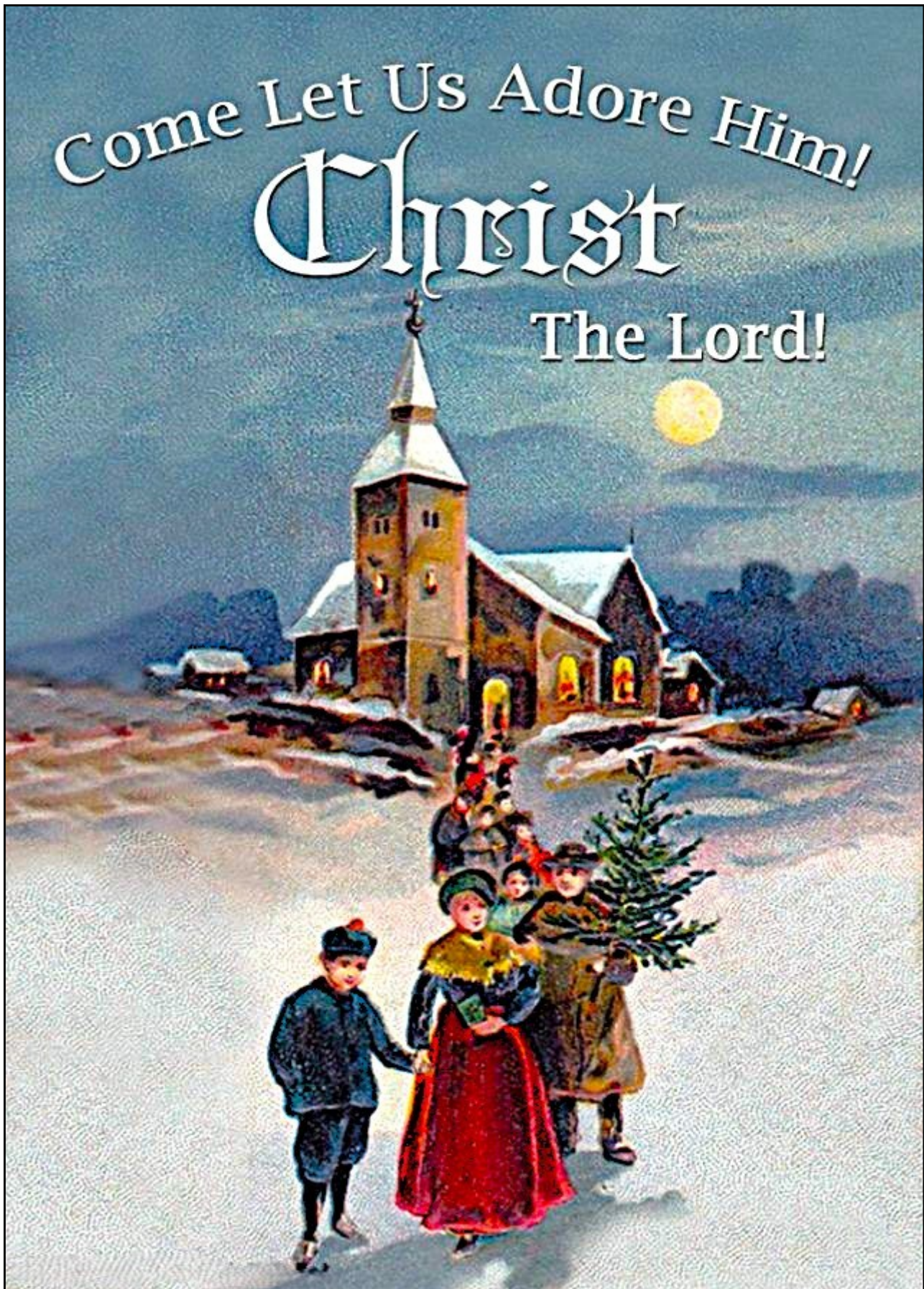


ST. AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH



DECEMBER 2025 / JANUARY 2026

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**The King's Award  
for Voluntary Service**

*The MBE for volunteer groups*



**Derry & Raphoe Diocese**



**Luminare Concerts**

The Rector writes .....

November was a busy but most enjoyable month with the various **Remembrance Services, Walk in the Light** and the general sense of anticipation as preparations started for **Advent, Christmas and the New Year**.

For me, **Advent** is one of those 'stand out' days in the church calendar and it is definitely amongst my favourite days in the life of the church. A new liturgical year. **The Advent Collect**. The beginning of a busy but very enjoyable period comprising home communions and children's nativities. We now have a certain familiarity about how this season looks for us. **Antiphons, Readings and Hymns** for **Advent Sunday, Holy Communion** on the Second Sunday of Advent, **Nativity** on the third Sunday, **Carols** on the fourth Sunday and **Communions on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day**.

These important services are interspersed with the **Christmas LEAH lunch, Tuesday Communions, Church Café, our Christmas Concert Specials** from our partner **Music Capital** and, of course, welcoming the wider community into our halls following the **Emergency Services Carol Service** which is on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December**. This year the four churches will be attending the **St. Columb's Cathedral Carol Service** on 21st December.



Although frantically busy and following a similar pattern as every other year, the focus however must remain on making time and space in order to actually receive the Christ child afresh at this most holy time of year. So, despite the frenzy, please find time to worship and reflect on what this season is all about.

As you all know, we have been benefitting from the ministry of **Mark Roxborough** over the past weeks. We have all enjoyed getting to know Mark and his family, and he goes from us to the next phase of his ministerial formation with our very best prayerful good wishes. We are looking forward to hearing about Mark's progress as he obeys the calling God has put on his life.

### **HIGHLIGHTS FOR YOUR DIARY .....**

<b>30<sup>th</sup> November at 11am</b>	<b>Antiphons, Readings and Advent Hymns</b>
<b>7<sup>th</sup> December at 11am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
<b>8<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm</b>	<b>Emergency Services Carol Service</b> <b>(St. Columb's Cathedral) followed by refreshments</b> <b>in St. Augustine's Church Hall)</b>
<b>21<sup>st</sup> December at 11am</b>	<b>Carols &amp; Lessons</b>
<b>21st December at 7.30pm</b>	<b>St. Columb's Cathedral Carol Service</b>
<b>24<sup>th</sup> December at 11.30pm</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
<b>25<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
<b>6<sup>th</sup> January at 11.30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion and LEAH Lunch on the Feast of</b> <b>The Epiphany</b>

Looking ahead into January, we are anticipating joining with our brothers and sisters for our customary prayer walk (weather permitting) for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Details will follow.... and don't let the weather deter you from attending – we always have a wet weather contingency plan! Another source of refreshment right at the beginning of January is the **Young People's Convention (YPC)** at **Lisneal College on 2nd, 3rd and 4th January at 8pm**

As I write, I have the diary open in front of me and note some highs and lows associated with these months. Firstly, I am reminded that we have a few anniversaries of loved ones in these months, and I do know that loss always seems more poignant at this particular time of year. Please be assured of our continued prayers at this time.

The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. (John 1 verse 9)

On a happier note, there are quite a lot of birthdays amongst our congregation in the months of December and January, so if you're in that category over the next two months, then Happy Birthday from your church family!

With every blessing for this very sacred and special time of year, and good wishes for prosperity in 2026.

Rev'd Nigel, Alison, Megan & Matthew

### REMEMBRANCE

Remembrance Sunday was a very dignified and important day in the life of St. Augustine's Church. We were pleased to welcome **Deputy Lieutenant Susan Spence BEM** and, as a representative of the King, she laid the first wreath. Miss Spence was ably supported by **George Patterson** who also laid a wreath in church.

In addition a word of thanks to **Jim Ross** who laid the wreath at the Holy Communion Service which fell on **Remembrance Day, Tuesday 11th November**.

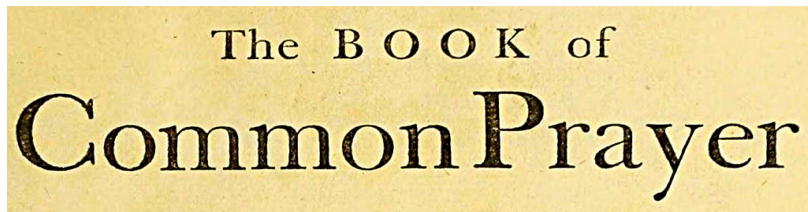
A special word of thanks to **Brenda McPherson** for tastefully decorating the church for the occasion.



*"They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old,  
Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn,  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,  
We shall remember them"*

## THE COLLECTS OF THE SEASON, from the 'Old' Prayer Book

Some collects have been revised or moved to different times of the year. But in the 1549 BCP, Thomas Cranmer was very deliberate in his placement of the collects and the reformed theology which underpinned his understanding of them. Below is an interesting article based on the original designation of the collects. It is very likely you will find them familiar. Many find a beauty and a spirituality in the collects, and I commend them to your use over the next four weeks.



### The Advent Collect (This one has remained!)

*Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

Written by Thomas Cranmer for the 1549 Book of Common Prayer, this collect embodies the double focus of [Advent](#), on preparing for both the first and the second comings of Christ. The first coming was the conception and birth of the Messiah, in which God's "Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility." Equally important, the collect also references the second coming of Christ on "the last day, when he shall come again."

The keynote of the whole prayer is its request for "grace." This is the essential means by which we may "cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armour of light" (Cranmer takes this phrase from ([Romans 13:12](#))). In other words, the collect assumes the fundamental sinfulness of man, by which it is not possible for us to turn to God on our own power. Of ourselves, we live in darkness. But by the grace of God, even "in the time of this mortal life," we may humbly receive the humble Christ, whereby we finally "rise to the life immortal."

This prayer was so much loved that the [1662 edition of the Book of Common Prayer](#) appointed it to be read every day during the season of Advent – a practice which continues to this day.

**The Second Sunday in Advent (This collect is now set for the Fifth Sunday before Advent. There is still provision for its use on the second Sunday in Advent if desired)**

*Blessed Lord, who caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and the comfort of your holy Word we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen*

In this collect, Cranmer reflects the reformation emphasis on the importance of Scripture. Just as Cranmer included his “*Fruitful exhortation to the reading of holy Scripture*” as the first in his Book of Homilies, so he appointed this collect to appear in the first season of the church year. The 1979 Book Of Common Prayer made the unfortunate decision to move it to the later in the church year. Happily, the **2019 Book of Common Prayer** restored it to its original position.

Note also that Cranmer mentions here not only the scriptures in general but rather emphasizes “*all Holy Scriptures.*” One of Cranmer’s criticisms of the medieval Church was its failure to read the whole corpus of Scripture. To remedy this, Cranmer created a **daily lectionary** for use at **Morning Prayer** and **Evening Prayer**, by which one could read nearly the whole Bible in a year. Cranmer’s BCP was the original Bible-in-a-year reading plan!

**The Third Sunday in Advent (This collect remains but the words are slightly amended in places)**

*O Lord Jesus Christ, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Grant that the minister and stewards of your mysteries may likewise make ready your way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world, we may be found a people acceptable in your sight; for with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

This collect was written for the 1662 Book of Common Prayer, probably by **John Cosin**. It reflects the Advent theme of preparation for Christ, with reference to the prophets and especially John the Baptist, who “preach repentance and prepare the way.” This theme is then applied to our own lives as we pray to Christ that ministers today “may likewise make ready your way.” In other words, we prepare for Christ’s second coming in the same way that the people of God prepared for his first: by repentance.

The collect includes an elegant description of the purpose of gospel ministry: “turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just.” Of course, a minister does not have power in himself to move the hearts of sinful men, but the Holy Spirit accompanies the proclamation of the gospel to convict the sinner and turn him to God. The 1979 Book of Common Prayer revised this collect. It removed this beautiful phrase (in fact the word “disobedient” never appears in the 1979 Book of Common Prayer!).

**The Fourth Sunday of Advent (A version of this collect is now set for use on the Sunday before Advent (Collect 1) and there are certain features of it in the post communion collect of the same day).**

*Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among use; and as we are sorely hindered by our sins from running the race that is set before us, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour glory, now and for ever. Amen.*

In the medieval liturgy at Salisbury, four collects on the Sundays before Christmas began with the Latin word ***excita***, translated either as “raise up” or “stir up.” Cranmer adapted one for the fourth Sunday of Advent, the final Sunday before Christmas. It is fitting that, on this Sunday, we recognise two truths. We acknowledge both the depth of our depravity (“we are sorely hindered by our sins”) and the depth of God’s love (“your bountiful grace and mercy”).

Cranmer’s version included a specific reference to the atonement of Christ at the end of the collect. It says, “Through the satisfaction of thy Son our Lord.” The phrase was dropped without explanation in the 1928 Book of Common Prayer, but perhaps it would be timely to reinstate it.

## **WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY**

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in 2026 will be observed from **January 18 to January 25**, with the theme "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling" (Ephesians 4:4). Over the last few years, we have joined with other Christian denominations for an event which is usually held on the Monday evening. Once the final plans and arrangements are in place, we will let you know via the weekly announcements.

The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. (John 1 verse 9)

## WALK IN THE LIGHT 2025

Thank you to everyone who supported the Walk in the Light Service in November. It was a great evening of being together, and I believe it was important to establish a Christian presence in the city centre after Hallowe'en. There was great fellowship amongst all who attended, and we particularly enjoyed the slight variation to the route this year. A huge thank you to our neighbours in Long Tower for the tea and refreshments afterwards.



(Photograph by Christopher Sherrard)

The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. (John 1 verse 9)

## DECEMBER 2025

Date	Bible Reading	Title
1 <sup>st</sup> December	Habakkuk 1 : 1 – 11	How long , O Lord ?
2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Habakkuk 1 : 12 – 2 : 1	Watching and waiting
3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Habakkuk 2 : 2 – 20	Oceans of glory
4 <sup>th</sup> December	Habakkuk 3 : 1 – 19	Rejoicing in calamity
5 <sup>th</sup> December	Obadiah 1 – 14	Righting an ancient wrong
6 <sup>th</sup> December	Obadiah 15 – 21	The day of the Lord
7 <sup>th</sup> December	Psalms 67	International praise
8 <sup>th</sup> December	Isaiah 52 : 1 -12	What beautiful feet !
9 <sup>th</sup> December	Isaiah 52 : 13 – 53 : 12	The servant who is king
10 <sup>th</sup> December	Isaiah 54 : 1 – 17	Everyone needs compassion
11 <sup>th</sup> December	Isaiah 55 : 1 – 13	Good news for losers
12 <sup>th</sup> December	Isaiah 56 : 1 -8	For all nations
13 <sup>th</sup> December	Isaiah 59 : 1 – 4, 9 -21	Justice for all
14 <sup>th</sup> December	Psalms 68	God the Cloud Rider
15 <sup>th</sup> December	Isaiah 60 : 1 -14	Happily ever after
16 <sup>th</sup> December	Isaiah 61 : 1 – 11	Grieving in glory land
17 <sup>th</sup> December	Isaiah 63 : 1 – 14	Who is this ?
18 <sup>th</sup> December	Isaiah 64 : 1 – 12	Rend the heavens
19 <sup>th</sup> December	Isaiah 65 : 1 – 7, 17 – 25	A whole new world
20 <sup>th</sup> December	Isaiah 66 : 1 – 16	God sees a broken heart
21 <sup>st</sup> December	Psalms 69	I am in trouble
22 <sup>nd</sup> December	Matthew 1 : 1 – 17	Who are you ?
23 <sup>rd</sup> December	Matthew 1 : 18 – 25	Kindness – human and divine
24 <sup>th</sup> December	Matthew 2 : 1 – 12	Stars and dreams
25 <sup>th</sup> December	Matthew 2 : 13 – 23	Earth is a dangerous place !
26 <sup>th</sup> December	Matthew 3 : 1 – 12	John the midwife !
27 <sup>th</sup> December	Matthew 3 : 13 -17	Receiving God's affirmation
28 <sup>th</sup> December	Isaiah 40 : 1 -5	Comfort and more comfort !
29 <sup>th</sup> December	Matthew 4 : 1 -11	Using or abusing scripture
30 <sup>th</sup> December	Matthew 4 : 12 – 17	At home on earth
31 <sup>st</sup> December	Matthew 4 : 18 – 25	Sudden call – rapid response

## JANUARY 2026

Date	Bible reading	Title
1 <sup>st</sup> January	Genesis 37 : 1 – 11	Unhappy families
2 <sup>nd</sup> January	Genesis 37 : 12 – 24	Baked brother
3 <sup>rd</sup> January	Genesis 37 : 25 – 36	Three torn robes
4 <sup>th</sup> January	Psalms 70	Hurry to help me !
5 <sup>th</sup> January	Genesis 39	Joseph was not alone
6 <sup>th</sup> January	Genesis 40	In God's perfect timing
7 <sup>th</sup> January	Genesis 41 : 1 - 16	It takes guts to say that
8 <sup>th</sup> January	Genesis 41 : 17 – 32	Forecast for your farmers
9 <sup>th</sup> January	Genesis 41 : 33 -43	A flair for economic planning
10 <sup>th</sup> January	Genesis 41 : 44 – 57	Remembering God
11 <sup>th</sup> January	Psalms 71	When my strength is gone
12 <sup>th</sup> January	Matthew 5 : 1 – 12	Surprised by joy
13 <sup>th</sup> January	Matthew 5 : 13 – 16	Let your light shine
14 <sup>th</sup> January	Matthew 5 : 17 -26	A new way .....
15 <sup>th</sup> January	Matthew 5 : 27 – 37	But I tell you .....
16 <sup>th</sup> January	Matthew 5 : 38 -48	Be perfect !
17 <sup>th</sup> January	Matthew 6 : 1 -4	Don't show off!
18 <sup>th</sup> January	Psalms 72	Kingdom living
19 <sup>th</sup> January	Matthew 6 : 5 – 15	Your kingdom come
20 <sup>th</sup> January	Matthew 6 : 16 – 24	Treasures in heaven
21 <sup>st</sup> January	Matthew 6 : 25 – 34	Do not worry
22 <sup>nd</sup> January	Matthew 7 : 1 – 12	Kingdom living
23 <sup>rd</sup> January	Matthew 7 : 13 – 23	A road less travelled
24 <sup>th</sup> January	Matthew 7 : 24 -29	Be wise !
25 <sup>th</sup> January	Psalms 73	Only you
26 <sup>th</sup> January	Jeremiah 1	On purpose for a purpose
27 <sup>th</sup> January	Jeremiah 2 : 1 – 22	Twisted worship
28 <sup>th</sup> January	Jeremiah 3 : 6 – 4 : 4	U – turn allowed
29 <sup>th</sup> January	Jeremiah 4 : 19 – 31	Know God or no God
30 <sup>th</sup> January	Jeremiah 5 : 1 – 13	Cheap grace
31 <sup>st</sup> January	Jeremiah 5 : 14 – 31	Powerful for the powerless

## CHURCH EVENTS - DECEMBER 2025

<b>Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	<b>11:00am</b>	<b>The First Sunday of Advent</b> Readings, Hymns and Meditations for Advent Kidz Klub & STAY
	<b>7.30pm</b>	St. Columb's Cathedral – Advent Procession <i>'From Darkness to Light.'</i>
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> Dec	6:30pm	Zoom Prayer Meeting (last one for 2025)
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	11.30am	Holy Communion 1 (in Church) & Christmas LEAH Lunch. Please make sure we know if you are attending.
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec		Diocesan Council
	7.30pm	Choir Rehearsal (Canon Howe Room)
<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>11am</b>	<b>The Second Sunday of Advent</b> Holy Communion 2 Kidz Klub & STAY
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> Dec	7.30pm	(No Prayer Meeting) St. Columb's Cathedral – Community Emergency Services Carol Service. All welcome.
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Holy Communion 1 (Canon Howe Room)
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Choir Rehearsal (last one for 2025)
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>11am</b>	<b>The Third Sunday of Advent</b> Nativity – Family Service with Kidz Klub and STAY
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Holy Communion 1 (Canon Howe Room) Last one for 2025
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 19 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Charles Dickens – A Christmas Carol Tickets, £10 + b/f from Eventbrite or pay at the door (subject to availability)

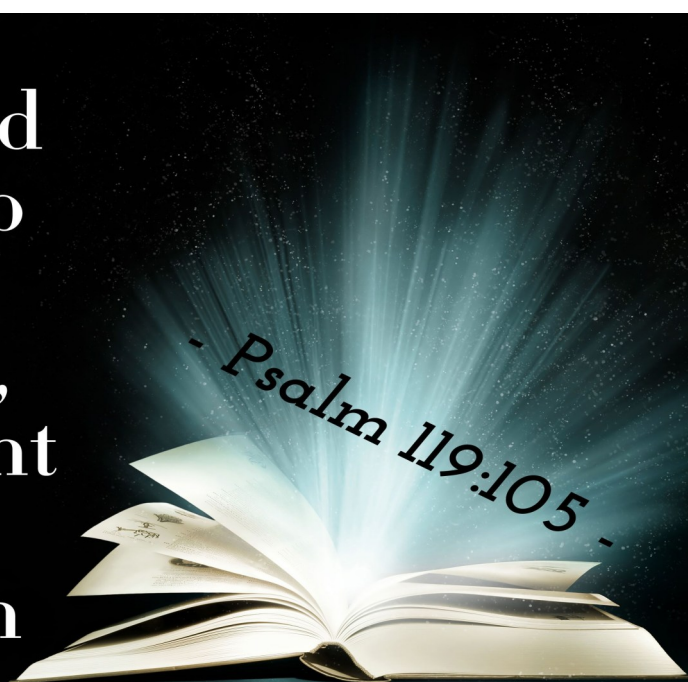
## CHURCH EVENTS - DECEMBER / JANUARY 2026

<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> Dec</b>	<b>11.00am</b> <b>7.30pm</b>	<b>The Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> Lessons & Carols for Christmas <b>St. Columb's Cathedral Carol Service</b>
<b>Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>11.30pm</b>	<b>Christmas Eve – The first Communion of Christmas</b>
<b>Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Christmas Day - Holy Communion</b>
<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>The First Sunday of Christmas</b> Morning Prayer
<b><u>2026</u></b>		
<b>Fri 2<sup>nd</sup> – Sun 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>8pm</b>	YPC (Young People's Convention) Lisneal College. All welcome.
<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>The Second Sunday of Christmas</b> Morning Prayer
<b>Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	<b>11.30am</b>	<b>The Epiphany</b> Holy Communion 1 (Church) & LEAH Lunch
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>The First Sunday After the Epiphany / The Baptism of our Lord</b> Holy Communion Kidz Klub & STAY Reopen
<b>Monday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	Zoom Prayer Meeting
<b>Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	Holy Communion 1 (Canon Howe Room)
<b>Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7.30pm</b>	Choir – Coffee Evening (in aid of Hospice)
<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>11am</b>	<b>The Second Sunday After the Epiphany</b> Morning Prayer Kidz Klub & STAY
<b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	Zoom Prayer Meeting
<b>Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	Holy Communion 1 (Canon Howe Room)
<b>Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>7.30pm</b>	Choir Rehearsal

## CHURCH EVENTS - JANUARY 2026

<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>11am</b>	<b>The Third Sunday After the Epiphany</b> Morning Prayer Kidz Klub & STAY
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> Jan	6.30pm	6.30pm – Zoom Prayer Meeting This may coincide with Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Event.
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> Jan	10.30am	Holy Communion 1 (Canon Howe Room)
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> Jan	7.30pm	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday 31 <sup>st</sup> Jan		Church Café
<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February</b>	<b>11am</b>	<b>The Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany</b> <b>St. Brigid's Day</b> <b>The Presentation of Christ in the Temple</b> Holy Communion Kidz Klub & STAY

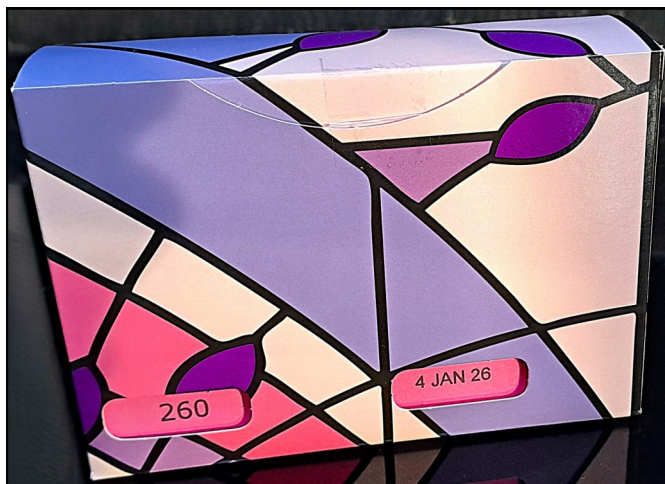
Thy word  
is a lamp  
unto  
my feet,  
and a light  
unto  
my path



## **CHURCH FINANCES**

Can I please remind you to have your 2025 weekly Free Will Offering envelopes in by **Sunday 28th December** as this is the date we close off our contributions for 2025. Envelopes received after this date will have to be entered for 2026.

Your envelopes for 2026 will be distributed along with this magazine.



Wishing you all a very joyous Christmas and a happy and healthy 2026.

**Drew White (Treasurer)**

## **SEXTON'S COTTAGE**

Recently we awarded the tender for the renovation of the Sexton's Cottage. Over the coming weeks and months there should be plenty of activity around the Palace Street cottage. With a nine month build period and some careful planning to dovetail with the existing improvement schemes in the area, we are hoping not to add to the traffic chaos too much!

This remains a very ambitious and hugely time-consuming project, and so I thank the project team members from our church and our various consultants for all their support.

## **SAFEGUARDING**

The Safeguarding Panel continues to meet regularly. Remember if there are any safeguarding concerns, they should be shared with Mrs Irene White, Mr Marshall Kilgore or the Rector. There is a comprehensive suite of Safeguarding and Health & Safety Policies which are available in hard copy, upon request.

## LEAH LUNCHES



The last LEAH of 2025 will take place on **Tuesday 2nd December** starting with service of **Holy Communion in the Church at 11.30am** followed by lunch in the Canon Howe room. As usual please let us know if you plan to attend - it really helps with the catering. Looking forward to 2026, January's lunch will be held on **Tuesday 6th - Feast of the Epiphany** at the usual times. The LEAH Team would like to thank you all for your support during 2025 and we trust that you will have a Happy Peaceful Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

## CHURCH CAFE

As the last Saturday in December is on the 27th we won't be having a Church Cafe. The January Cafe will be held as usual on **Saturday 31st from 10.00am**. We hope to see you then for the usual array of savouries, scones and sweet stuff!!



## CATERING

Apart from our Leah Lunch and Church Cafe last month we were asked to provide catering for SEFF (South East Fermanagh Foundation) for 100 people after their service of remembrance for Kurt Konig held in the St. Columb's Cathedral. While it was at an awkward time the event went well - especially for his wife and children. Our next event will be on **8th December** when we will once again provide supper after the annual **Emergency Services Carol Service in St. Columb's Cathedral**. It's something that we have been doing for many years now and is always much appreciated.

## LUMINARE PRESENTS

December is going to be an extremely busy month for St. Augustine's Church as we will have **three months of concerts in three weeks!**—but at least we will have a bit of a break in the New Year as there are no concerts in January—at the moment that is!!!

December 5th - **Amy Speace** at 7.30pm

December 12th - **The Boondocks** at 7.30pm

December 13th - **The Henry Girls** Christmas Shows

- **Family Matinee Show** at 2pm

- **Winter Evening Concert** at 8pm

December 17th, 18th & 19th— **Blue Eagle Productions** presents '**A Christmas Carol**' at 7.30pm. (see page 30 for details on how to book)



# **LORD BADEN-POWELL GIVES ADDRESS AT. AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH**

**22nd AUGUST 1915**

## **St. Augustine's Church, Londonderry.**

22ND AUGUST, 1915.

### **Order of Service.**

#### **HYMN.**

**O**NWARD, Christian soldiers,  
Marching as to war,  
Looking unto Jesus,  
Who is gone before.  
Christ, the Royal Master,  
Leads against the foe,  
Forward into battle,  
See, His banners go.  
Onward, Christian soldiers,  
Marching as to war,  
Looking unto Jesus,  
Who is gone before.  
Like a mighty army  
Moves the Church of God;  
Brothers, we are treading  
Where the saints have trod;

We are not divided,  
All one body we,  
One in hope and doctrine,  
One in charity.  
Onward, &c.

Onward, then, ye people,  
Join our happy throng,  
Blend with ours your voices,  
In the triumph-song;  
Glory, laud, and honour,  
Unto Christ the King,  
This through countless ages  
Men and angels sing,  
Onward, &c. Amen.

**LESSON—Eph. vi. 10—18.**

#### **SCOUT LAWS.**

#### **PRAYER.**

#### **HYMN.**

**O**FT in danger, oft in woe.  
Onward, Christians, onward go:  
Fight the fight, maintain the strife,  
Strengthened with the Bread of Life.  
Onward, Christians, onward go,  
Join the war, and face the foe:  
Will ye flee in danger's hour?  
Know ye not your Captain's power?  
Let your drooping hearts be glad;  
March in heavenly armour clad:

Fight, nor think the battle long,  
Victory soon shall tune your song.

Let not sorrow dim your eye,  
Soon shall every tear be dry;  
Let not fears your course impede,  
Great your strength, if great your need.

Onward, then, to battle move,  
More than conquerors ye shall prove:  
Though opposed by many a foe,  
Christian soldiers, onward go! Amen.

#### **ADDRESS BY**

**Lieut.-General Sir Robert Baden-Powell, K.C.B., K.C.V.O.**

(Chief Scout).

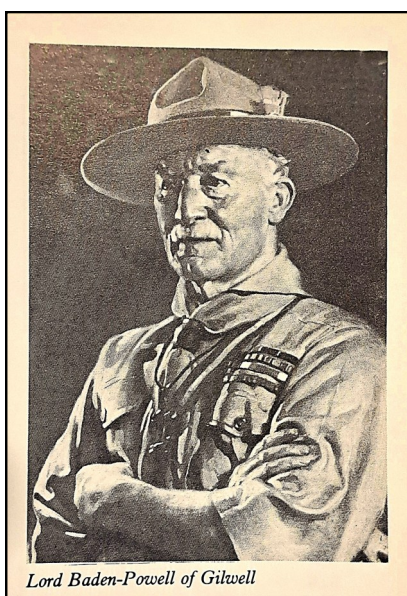
#### **BENEDICTION.**

#### **NATIONAL ANTHEM.**

## 1st LONDONDERRY (ST. AUGUSTINE'S) SCOUT TROOP



In 1957 a young Bobby Miller (pictured above) went over to Gilwell Park, near London, to spend the week-end with about 1,000 other Scouts from all over the British Isles. He was there to receive the **Queen's Scout Badge** from the **Chief Scout, Lord Rowallen**. Well done Bobby !



(Lord Baden-Powell)



(This photograph was taken by Tommy McCarter  
one of our own parishioners)

## SALT / CULMORE HUB

Can I just say a huge thank you to all of the SALT ladies for all of their support for our church coffee morning. We had a wonderful team who worked so well together both SALT ladies and others who came to help. We had so much baking done from our own SALT group, ladies of the church and from **Peter Atkinson** and **Richard McClean**. We are truly blessed to have such talent within our own congregation. Any visitors who attended were so complementary about all of the organisation and quality of the baking. The winner of the chocolate wreath was **Mr J. Malcolm from Magheramason** and the total raised was **£918.00**.

At our meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> November **Cynthia Willis** demonstrated how to make a Ferrero Rocher Christmas table decoration. The next meeting of the SALT group will be on the **10<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm** when **Margaret Neely** will help us to make some Christmas crafts. Everyone is welcome to join us!





We have had a good introduction to our neighbours in the **Culmore Hub**. The next visit is on the **3rd December to St. Anne's Cathedral Belfast** and then to the **Christmas markets at the City Hall in Belfast**. This trip will leave at 9.30 am with a cost of £10 to cover the cost of transport. May I wish everyone a peaceful Christmas blessing and a Happy New Year.

(Deirdre)

## KIDZ KLUB FUNDRAISING AT THE COFFEE MORNING



(Anne, Pat, Esther and Heather from the Salvation Army with the Pudsey Cake)



(Majella receiving the Kidz Klub hamper from Muriel)

Pat guessed correctly the weight of the Pudsey bear cake, which was 5lbs.5ozs. and Majella won the hamper. Thanks so much to Peter Atkinson who baked the cake for Kidz Klub to raffle. We made an amazing £127 and are so grateful to everyone who gave us donations and came to the coffee morning.

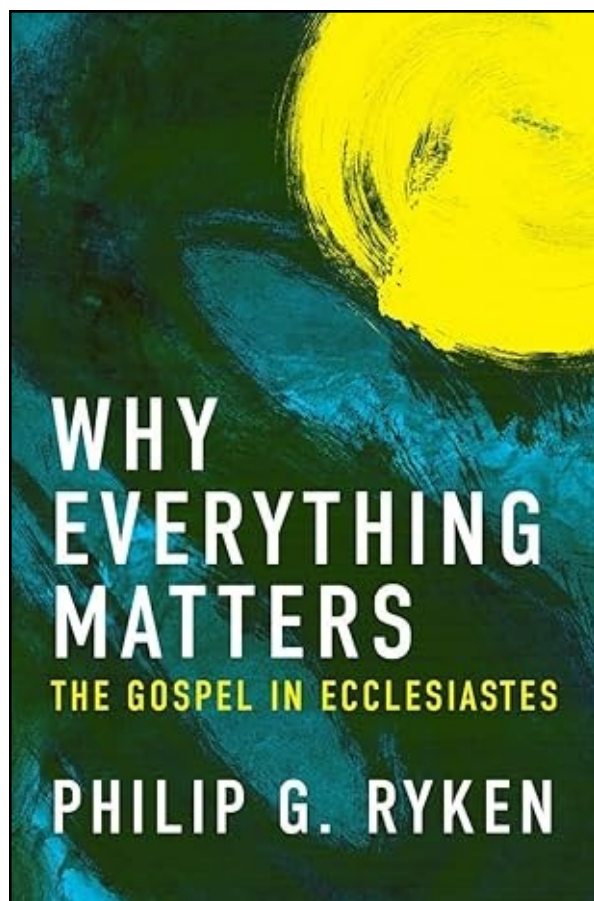
(Catherine)

## BOOK RECOMMENDATION

The book of Ecclesiastes is for people who have their doubts about God, but can't stop thinking about him. The author of Ecclesiastes had his doubts, too, and these have enabled him to speak to sceptics as well as believers down through the centuries. Ecclesiastes is a book rich in literary artistry and multi-layered depths of spiritual meaning.

Philip G. Ryken explores this wonderful Old Testament book, and reminds us again of the need to trust God with the questions, even when we do not have all the answers.

This book was recommended by Mark Roxborough in last months magazine.



## HERITAGE LECTURES

On **Thursday 22nd January** Hazel Philson will give a talk on **‘The Martyr of Malaga’**. The heritage lectures have been well supported over the last few months so it would be great to see you there. There will be a cup of tea/ coffee and light refreshments before the talk begins. (Doors open at 7pm.)

The Rector and congregation of St. Augustine's Church  
cordially invite you to the launch of our

## Autumn/Spring Heritage Lectures

‘at the wee church on the walls’

**Thursday 22nd January 2026 at 7.30pm**



Come and hear about The Martyr of Malaga -  
The tragic tale of Robert Boyd  
**Speaker: Hazel Philson**  
Light refreshments will be served




## IN MEMORIAMs

**In memory of John Strickland, a precious brother and uncle**

£100.00 from Barbara & Arthur Mitchell

**In memory of John Strickland**

£20.00 from Ann & Victor Heatley

**In memory of my husband Ivan Bell**

£200.00 from Julia Bell

**In loving memory of Ivan Bell (1st Anniversary)**

£40.00 from Margaret & Lorna McCarter

**In loving memory of Dickie Montgomery (1st Anniversary)**

£40.00 from Margaret & Lorna McCarter

**In loving memory of Albert Austin (2nd Anniversary)**

£40.00 from Margaret & Lorna McCarter

**In loving memory of Elizabeth Whiteside (1st Anniversary)**

£40.00 from Margaret & Lorna McCarter

**In loving memory of Davida Cairns (4th Anniversary)**

£40.00 from Margaret & Lorna McCarter

**In memory of Frank at Christmas**

£200.00 from Adrienne Simpkin

**In memory of our daughter Stacey**

£50.00 from Cynthia & Norman Willis

**In memory of our loved ones**

£50.00 from Harry & Tillie Walker

## IN MEMORIAMs

### **In memory of my parents Alex & Kathleen Robinson**

£100.00 from Sheira Peacocke

### **To the Glory of God and in loving memory of my dear wife Molly who died on 2nd December 2020**

£100.00 from Bobby Miller

### **In memory of our parents John & Tillie Neely**

£100.00 from Alan Neely & Valerie Ming

### **In memory of our parents Edie & Sammy Young and brother Ken**

£100.00 from Maureen Neely, Carol O’Nions & Derek Young

## DONATIONS

### **For Church Funds**

£1000.00 from Anonymous

£1000.00 from Anonymous

£1000.00 from Anonymous

£20.00 from Irish Dancing Committee Meeting (Derry/ Donegal Branch)

£50.00 from Ian & Julie Hetherington - On the occasion of their wedding

£85.00—Tuesday evening concert from anon. (22/07/25)

### **For Building Fund**

£10.00 from Anonymous

£10.00 from Anonymous

£5.00 from Anonymous

£5.00 from Anonymous

## DONATIONS

### City of Londonderry Grand Orange Lodge

£140.00 for Failure of Gunpowder Plot Service

### For Baptism of Amber & Rebecca Cunningham

£100.00 from Kristal & Paddy Cunningham

## FLOWER LIST

7th December - The Heatley Family

14th December - Julia Bell

21st December - Christmas

28th December - Wilma Burnside

4th January - Elizabeth Montgomery

11th January - Peter Atkinson

18th January - Adrienne Simpkin

25th January - Vacant



If you would like to contribute flowers to the above vacancy for 25th January please contact Elizabeth Montgomery on (02871)301432.

The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. (John 1 verse 9)

## REVEREND CANON CECIL HEATLEY 'S VISIT TO ST. AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH

SUNDAY 14th SEPTEMBER 2025



*We were very pleased to have the Reverend Canon Cecil Heatley join us for worship some months ago. For those of you who may not have been in church that morning or missed it on-line here is a short extract taken from his address.*

"I am very grateful for this opportunity because it was here that my story began. My father made it easy for me to believe in God as a loving Father. Then there was the Sunday School with Miss McGuinness and Mrs Locherie. We never missed a Sunday even on holiday as there was a prize at the end! The songs we sang still echo in my head, 'Jesus loves me this I know', 'Joy, Joy, Joy'. The cubs and scouts with Danny Thompson, Roy Thompson and Ernie McCarter, Then John Millar's Bible Class. It is a great tribute to Canon McKegney that so many of us went on to full time ministry - Cecil McSparron, John McKegney, George Fleming and Mavis Gibbons.

My faith was increased and enlarged at Queen's University. While there my friend Jimmy Trail announced that he felt called to ordination and then added 'You ought to be doing this instead of me.' It had never occurred to me. I didn't think I was clever enough, but I tested this in the traditional way and ended up training at Ridley Hall Cambridge before being ordained to serve in the Parish of St. Patrick in Belfast. It shows how important it is to encourage people whose potential we see. In 1969 I began a ministry in London serving in 3 parishes, the last one being a diverse Parish in Peckham.

After retirement as well as services in the residential community where we live I helped out at a nearby church and continue to take services once a month. When it was time to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of my ordination I wondered "How can I celebrate my achievements while ignoring my sins and mistakes". I came to see that what I could do was celebrate the grace of God which had enabled me, 'Just an ordinary bloke' to embody the love of God to so many people, many of them much better Christians than I was.

***For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not your own doing ; it is the gift of God." (Ephesians 2.8)***

The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. (John 1 verse 9)

## 'A CHRISTMAS CAROL' COMES TO ST. AUGUSTINE'S

The classic story, 'A Christmas Carol' is brought vividly to life in this one-man performance of the Dickens' tale. St. Augustine's Church, dating back to Dickensian times, provides the perfect, intimate setting to get one and all in the festive mood. A magical experience, not to be missed!



The event takes place over 3 nights commencing on **Wednesday 17th, Thursday 18th and Friday 19th December at 7:30pm**, doors open from 7pm.

Tickets can be purchased **EVENTBRITE @ £10 + booking fee or £10 on the door** (subject to availability).

# *Bring your little one to church.*



Even if you spend more time  
rocking them than listening...  
Even if you step out more times  
than you planned...

Even if your worship looks like calming a baby  
instead of lifting your hands.

It still counts.  
God sees your effort.  
He sees your heart.

He sees the way you're choosing  
to plant seeds in your child's spirit  
long before they bloom.



*lettersofannawin*

# **Altnagelvin Hospital Choir Carol Services 2025**

**First Derry Presbyterian  
Church, Magazine St,  
Derry/Londonderry  
2nd Dec 2025 at 7.30pm**

**St Mary's Church ,  
Ardmore  
9th Dec 2025 at 7.30pm**

**All patients, staff, relatives and members  
of the community are very welcome**

**Voluntary donation in aid of Motor Neurone  
Disease Association, Northern Ireland  
Registered Charity No. 294354**

# The Joint Emergency Services



St John  
Ambulance



British  
RedCross

## Northwest Community Carol Service

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2025  
7.30pm

**St Columb's Cathedral**

Derry~Londonderry

Offering will be in aid of  
Order of St John (St John Ambulance & St John Eye Hospital Group)

Cash or Alternative Card Facility Available

*In the wonderful surroundings of our*

**Christmas Festival**

**2025**

**24th November ~ 20th December**

VISITING CHOIRS • SOLOISTS • MUSICAL ENSEMBLES • VICTORIAN VILLAGE WITH TRAIN STATION • RETRO CHRISTMAS SITTING ROOM  
CHRISTMAS TREES • QUILTS • WREATHS • TREE SKIRTS • TABLE CENTRES • GINGERBREAD HOUSES • STOCKINGS • STAINED GLASS • COFFEE DOCK SATURDAYS

**CATHEDRAL**  
QUARTER INITIATIVE

ALSO INCORPORATING...  
**THE CATHEDRAL QUARTER INITIATIVE  
CHRISTMAS MARKET 27<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER - 5<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER**

# Christmas

WITH U3A FOYLE CHOIR  
&  
BRITANNIA CONCERT  
BAND

*10<sup>th</sup> December 2025*

7.30PM

CHRIST CHURCH

Admission Free with voluntary contributions  
welcome!

Special Guests: Ben McGonigle & Ríonach Wright



MD Jim Goodman BEM  
MD Stewart Smith  
MC David Keown



# ST COLUMB'S CATHEDRAL CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL 2025

24<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER – 20<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

**Scan QR Code to access booking  
for our Christmas Movies**







A very Merry Christmas  
and  
Happy New Year  
to  
Rev Nigel, Alison,  
Matthew & Megan  
and  
to all our parishioners!

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