

ST AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH



OCTOBER 2026

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From The Dean

As we come to the beginning of another autumn, there is much for which we can give thanks and much to look forward to in the life of our parish grouping.

The conclusion of the **tourist season** provides a particular opportunity to express our sincere thanks to all those who have given so generously of their time and energy throughout the summer months. The welcome that visitors receive in our churches does not happen by accident. It is made possible by the many volunteers who open our doors, welcome visitors, provide information, keep our churches clean and cared for, assist with music and worship, and undertake the many tasks that often go unnoticed. We are deeply grateful to everyone who has played their part. Your generosity and commitment are a very important part of our witness and ministry, and through you many people from near and far have encountered something of the faith, history and hospitality of this city.

We also have reason to offer our congratulations to the **Venerable Robert Boyd** on his **appointment as the Archdeacon of Derry**. It was a particular pleasure to welcome Archdeacon Robert to our parish grouping as the guest preacher on the last Sunday in September. We are delighted that he has been called to this new ministry and assure him of our prayers and good wishes as he begins his work as Archdeacon. We look forward to working with him and to the contribution that he will make to the wider life of the Diocese.

October is always a month filled with thanksgiving and celebration. **Our Harvest Thanksgiving services** remind us not only of the beauty and abundance of creation but also of our responsibility to care for God's world and to share its resources generously with others. At a time when so much of our attention can be drawn towards what we lack, harvest gives us an opportunity to pause and recognise the many blessings we have actually received.

The first Sunday of October will see our **Festival Choral Eucharist in St Columb's Cathedral**. During the service we will have the privilege of dedicating the newly refurbished frontal for the Communion Table. **Here in St Augustine's, harvest thanksgiving will be celebrated through readings, meditations and hymnody for the season.** As usual, both churches will be decorated and gifts will be received with decorating happening on Saturday 3rd from 9am.

We are very much looking forward to the **City of Derry Choir Festival at the end of the month**. Music has always held an important place in the worship and witness of our churches, and it is a pleasure to welcome visiting choirs to the city. On **Sunday 25th October**, visiting choirs will take part in the services in both churches, adding their voices to our worship and helping us to celebrate the rich

choral tradition which is such an important part of our Christian heritage. We hope that many members of our congregations will take the opportunity to come along and support the festival.

As October draws to a close, our thoughts will turn towards two particularly important events on **Sunday 1st November. In St Columb's Cathedral there will be a special Choral Evensong marking the 500th anniversary year of the Tyndale Bible.** William Tyndale's work in translating the Scriptures into English had an enormous influence on the English-speaking Church, and this anniversary gives us an opportunity to reflect with gratitude on the gift of Scripture and on the importance of being able to hear and read God's Word in a language we can understand – 'read, mark and inwardly digest' as our collect would state. We look forward to welcoming the Venerable David Huss, Archdeacon of Raphoe, as our preacher.

The same evening will also see 'Walk in the Light', an inner-city Christian walk which will stop at a number of our churches. Taking place in the aftermath of Hallowe'en, the walk seeks to re-establish a visible Christian presence in the heart of our city and to remind us that the light of Christ continues to shine in every generation. It is an opportunity for Christians from across the city to come together in prayer, fellowship and witness, and I hope that many from our own parish grouping will be able to take part.

There is therefore much to anticipate in the weeks ahead. Alongside our regular pattern of worship and fellowship, these occasions remind us that the Church is not simply a community which looks back with gratitude, but one which looks forward with hope. Whether through the welcome we offer to visitors, the beauty of our music, the celebration of harvest, the dedication of a treasured piece of our church furnishings, or our witness on the streets of the city, we are called to share the light and love of Christ with those around us. May God bless our parish grouping throughout this autumn, and may we continue to give thanks for all that has been, while trusting God for all that lies ahead.

The Very Reverend Nigel Cairns

Dean of Derry

Rector of Templemore and St Augustine's



The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed. (Proverbs 11:25)

God Views His Blessings as a Ray (Greg Laurie)

(The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.” Proverbs 11:25)

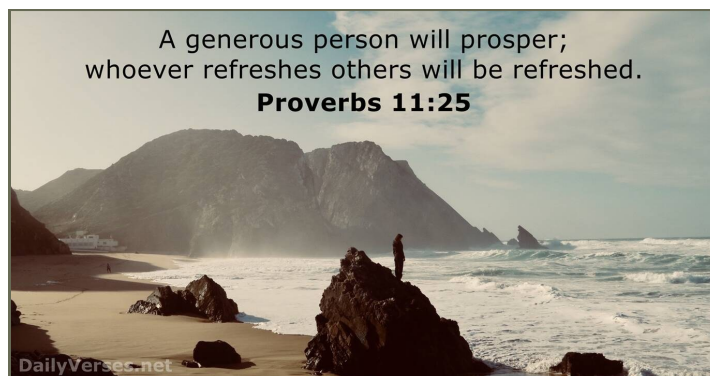
There is a story of an infamous pirate named Juan Carlos was rumoured to have buried an enormous treasure in a location only he knew. One day a man approached Juan Carlos in Mexico, pushed him to the ground, and said, “Tell me where all your money is buried, or I will kill you right here on the spot!”

Juan Carlos didn’t speak a word of English and needed an interpreter, so he saw a boy nearby and called him over. The boy relayed the man’s message to Juan Carlos and, fearing for his life, Juan Carlos said to the boy, “Tell this man I don’t want to die. Tell him the money is located thirty paces north of the city water tower, under a large rock.”

The boy turned to the man and replied, “Juan Carlos says he is an honourable man and that he will never tell you where the money is. Juan Carlos says kill him now.”

There are some people who, once they see an opportunity to claim something for themselves, will do so without a second thought about the consequences. For them, joy and satisfaction come from possessing. In geometric terms, they see God’s blessings as a line segment with fixed ends. The blessings begin at Point A, with God, and end at Point B, with them.

God, on the other hand, views His blessings as a ray. They begin at Point A, with Him, but then continue indefinitely, through Point B and beyond. The apostle Paul explained it this way: “And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.”



This perspective aligns with the words of Jesus in Luke 6:38: “Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full - pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back”. This isn’t a formula for getting rich; it’s a picture of the overflowing generosity God cultivates in His people.

The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed. (Proverbs 11:25)

The amazing truth at the heart of these passages is that God blesses us so that we can bless others. Ultimate joy, satisfaction, and fulfilment come not from possessing or hoarding God's blessings but from passing them on to others.

One of the best-known hymns ever written begins with the line, "Praise God from whom all blessings flow." *Flow* is the key. His blessings flow to us and then through us to others. God wants us to be part of how He blesses others. When we think only in terms of benefit for ourselves, we block the flow. We become obstacles to the ways He might bless others. The way for God's people to truly prosper is to be generous. Refreshing others with what God has given us is one of our highest callings.

Reflection question: How can I get better at blessing others?

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REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY (8th NOVEMBER)

There are various challenges as we prepare for this year's Remembrance Service. Rather than combine services, we've come up with a new plan for St Augustine's which will continue to respectfully remember the fallen who were associated with our church.



At 9.30am, there will be a short service of remembrance in the church with hymns, readings, prayers and the laying of wreathes. We are very pleased that the Britannia Concert Band will lead the hymns and music in the church.

It is hoped that the congregation would then have a quick cup of tea together before joining the main act of remembrance at the war memorial should they so wish. We are really looking forward to welcoming the band which has a longstanding association with St Augustine's and its families.

BIBLE STUDY

A huge thank you to Bob and Deirdre Amor who have been faithfully leading us through the book of James. There are two more weeks left in this block. It has been a great pleasure learning more about God's word and enjoying the fellowship with some of our neighbouring churches. **In October, the Bible Sessions will be on the 4th and 11th.**

PRAYER MEETING

These meetings continue each **Monday evening at 6.30pm** on zoom. If you would like to receive an invitation, please give your name to either Noel Glen or to the Dean.

WALK IN THE LIGHT

The Walk in the Light procession will take place on **1st November**. It begins at 5.45pm at St Columba's Long Tower, and the route is –

- ♦ Long Tower
- ♦ First Derry
- ♦ St Columb's Cathedral
- ♦ Salvation Army (where there will be light refreshments served)

CITY OF LONDONDERRY GRAND ORANGE LODGE

The 'wee church' will once again host the annual service marking the Failure of the Gunpowder Plot. It will take place on **Sunday 1st November 2026 at 4pm** and the Rev'd Sean McClafferty will lead and preach at the service. If possible, the choir are requested to attend in order to lead the singing.

SAFEGUARDING

The Safeguarding Panel continues to meet regularly and our policies and procedures are compliant with the Safeguarding Trust of the Church of Ireland. Remember if there are any safeguarding concerns, they should be shared with –

For St Augustine's - Mrs D Amor, Mrs Irene White, Mr Marshall Kilgore, The Dean

For St Columb's – Mrs Elizabeth Fielding, Mr Malcolm Hewitt, The Dean

Additionally, there is a comprehensive suite of Safeguarding and Health & Safety Policies which is available in hard copy, upon request.

CHURCH EVENTS

Sunday 4th Oct	10.20am	The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity Holy Communion 2, Kidzklub, STAY
Mon 5 th Oct	6.30pm	Prayer Meeting (Zoom) The Institution of the Venerable Robert Boyd as Archdeacon of Derry, St Columb's Cathedral 7.30pm
Tues 6 th Oct	10.30am	Holy Communion 1
Wed 7 th Oct	7.30pm	Choir
Sat 10 th Sept	9am	Decorating for Harvest
Sunday 11th Oct	10.20am	The Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity Harvest Thanksgiving
Mon 12 th Oct	6.30pm	Prayer Meeting (on Zoom)
Tues 13 th Oct	11.30am	Holy Communion 1 (Church) Harvest LEAH Lunch (give names to Ivan)
	7.30pm	Templemore Mother's Union Bring and Buy Sale
Fri 16 th / Sat 17 th		Luminare Presents Sean Keane
Sunday 18th Oct 	10.20am	The Twentieth Sunday after Trinity (St Luke's Day) Morning Prayer with the Sacrament of Infant Baptism, Kidzklub, STAY
Mon 19 th Oct	6.30pm	Prayer Meeting
Tues 20 th Oct	10.30am	Holy Communion 1 (Canon Howe Room)
Wed 21 st Oct	7.30pm	Choir
Sat 24 th Oct		Church Café
Sunday 25th Oct	10.20am	The Fifth Sunday before Advent Morning Prayer
Mon 26 th	6.30pm	Prayer Meeting
Tues 27 th	10,30am	Holy Communion 1 (Canon Howe Room)

BIBLE READINGS

DATE	READING	TITLE
1 st October	Matthew 18: 21 – 35	A question and a story
2 nd October	Matthew 19 : 1 – 15	Provision for hard hearts
3 rd October	Matthew 19 : 16 -30	Reverse order
4 th October	Psalms 106	God's loving faithfulness
5 th October	2 Kings 22 : 1 – 20	By the Book
6 th October	2 Kings 23 : 1 – 18	Heart and soul
7 th October	2 Kings 23 : 19 – 30	 and all his strength
8 th October	2 Kings 24 : 8 – 20a	Running on empty
9 th October	2 Kings 24 : 20b – 25 :21	A decade of misery
10 th October	2 Kings 25 : 22 – 30	The failed experiment
11 th October	Psalms 107	His love endures for ever
12 th October	Matthew 20 : 1 – 16	Scandalous generosity
13 th October	Matthew 20 : 17 -28	"What is it you want ?"
14 th October	Matthew 20 : 29 – 34	Open our eyes , Lord
15 th October	Matthew 21 : 1 – 11	"Who is this ?"
16 th October	Matthew 21 : 12 -17	Passion unfolding
17 th October	Matthew 21 : 18 – 27	Figs and fruit
18 th October	Psalms 108	Confident of God's promised
19 th October	Matthew 21 : 28 – 32	On second thoughts
20 th October	Matthew 21 : 33 – 46	The rejected stone
21 st October	Matthew 22 : 1 – 14	Choosing a wedding outfit
22 nd October	Matthew 22 : 15 -22	Whose image do you bear?
23 rd October	Matthew 22 : 23 – 33	Ridiculous questions
24 th October	Matthew 22 : 34 – 46	More questions!
25 th October	Psalms 109	A person of prayer
26 th October	Jeremiah 31 : 1 – 22	The fruits of repentance
27 th October	Jeremiah 31 : 27 – 40	If winter comes
28 th October	Jeremiah 33 : 1 – 26	Vision
29 th October	Jeremiah 36 : 1 – 32	"You can't say that"
30 th October	Jeremiah 38 : 1 – 28	Missing in action
31 st October	Jeremiah 39 : 1 – 18	The upside

INFORMATION AND EVENTS ACROSS THE PARISH GROUPING

Friday 2nd Cathedral Open for harvest donations

Saturday 3rd Derry and Raphoe Youth (DRY) BIG Restart, Oakfire
(Ask Noel Glen or Irene Hewitt for details)

Sunday 4th Choral Festival Eucharist (Cathedral)
Soup lunch (Chapter House) – give names to Muriel
7.30pm – Bible Study (St Augustine's Hall)

Mondays 6.30pm – Prayer Meeting (Zoom)

Monday 5th 7.30pm – St Columb's Cathedral
The Institution of Archdeacon Robert Boyd

Tuesday 6th 7.30pm – St Columb's Select Vestry, Diocesan Centre

Thursday 8th 7.30pm - 60th Anniversary Service in St Peter's

Saturday 10th St Augustine's Open for harvest donations (9am)

Saturday 10th 7.30pm – The Wonderful Westend (Cathedral)
- tickets available on Eventbrite

Sunday 11th Meditations, Readings and Hymns for Harvest - St Augustine's
Family Service with Holy Baptism in the Cathedral
7.30pm – Bible Study (last one in this block)

INFORMATION AND EVENTS ACROSS THE PARISH GROUPING

Monday 12th 10am – Communion service for Diocesan Clergy (Cathedral)

Tuesday 13th 11.30am - LEAH Harvest Thanksgiving followed by lunch
(give names to Ivan)

7.30pm – Mothers Union Bring and Buy Sale for Mothers
Union Worldwide

Fri & Sat 16th & 17th St Augustine's – Luminare Presents Sean Keane
(Tickets from Music Capital)

Sunday 18th The Sacrament of Infant Baptism – St Augustine's

Tuesday 20th 7.30pm – Men's Society - Diocesan Centre
Guest Speaker is Prof Aaron Peace DL

Wednesday 21st Diocesan Synod

Saturday 24th 12.30pm - Community Choir Concert (Choir Festival) St Augustine's
Fever Up Concerts – St Columb's Cathedral

Saturday 24th Church Café

Sunday 25th Visiting Choirs in both churches

Sunday 1st Nov 2pm – William Jack (Cellist) concert – St Augustine's

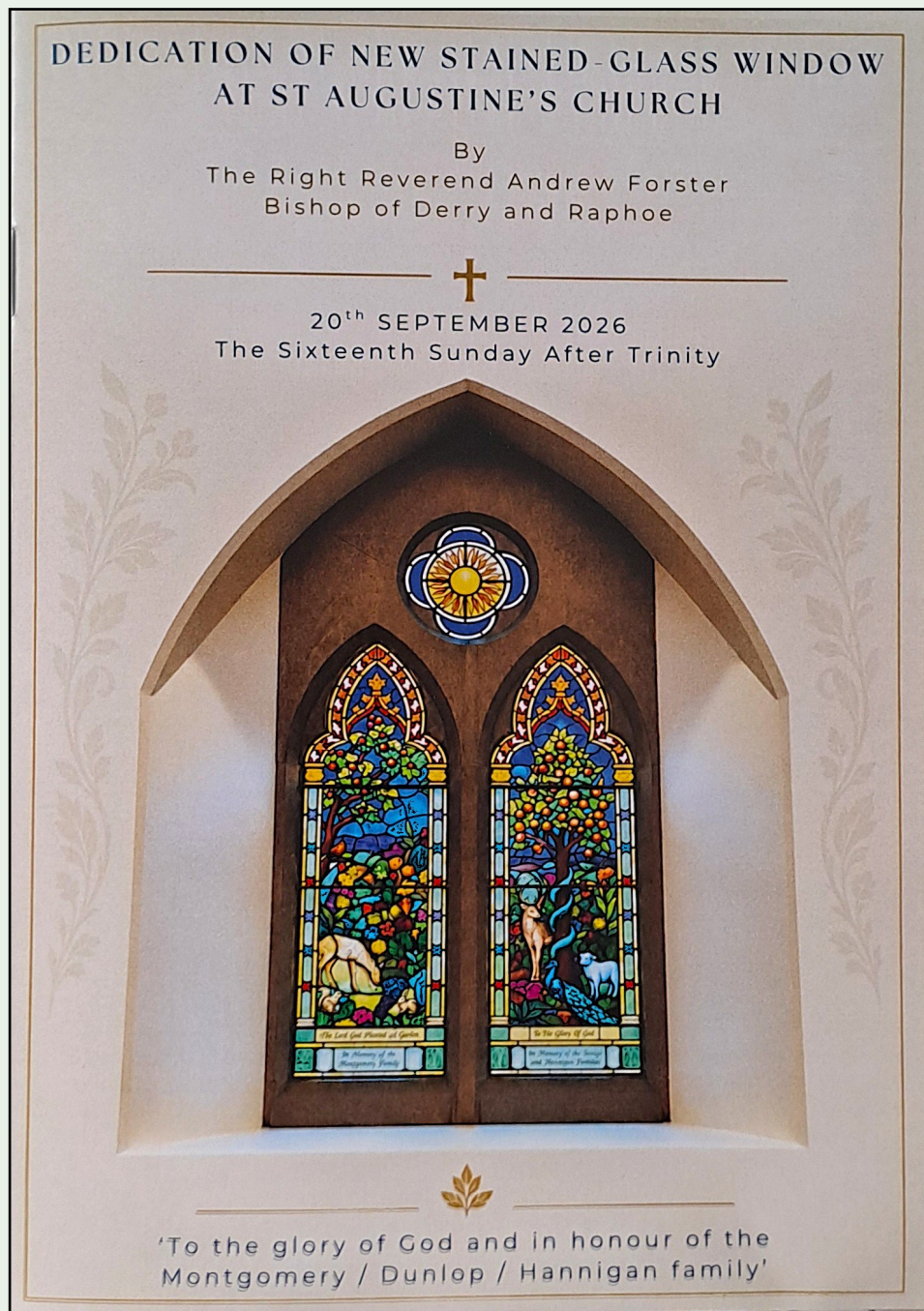
4pm – Tyndale 500 Service – Cathedral

4pm – City of Londonderry Grand Orange Lodge Service (SA)

5.45pm – Walk in the Light, beginning at Long Tower

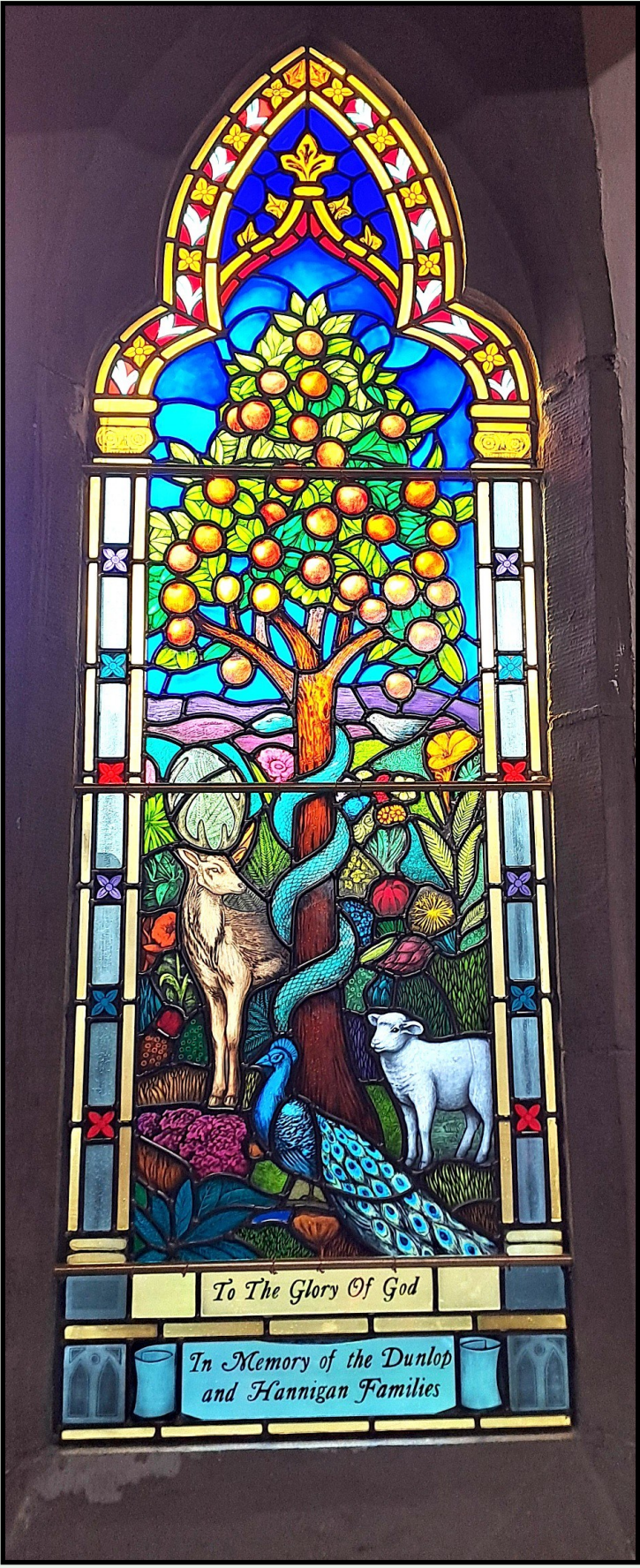
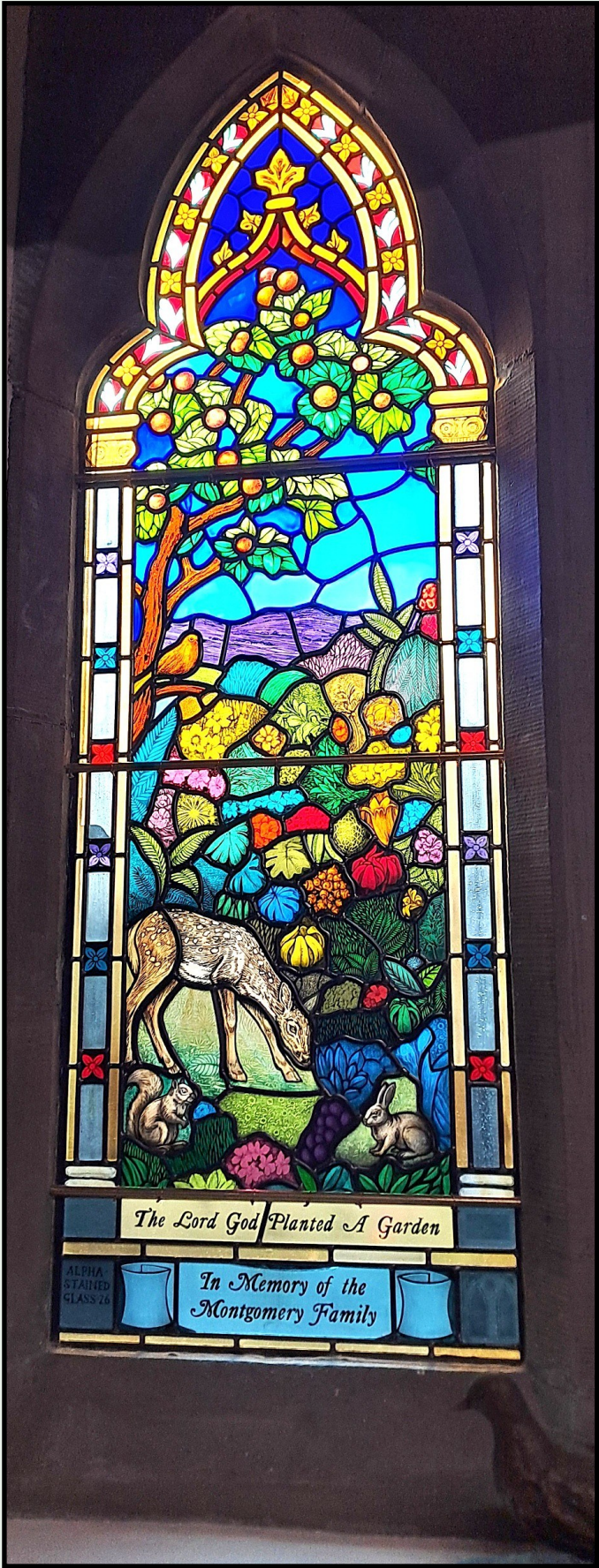
DEDICATION OF NEW STAIN-GLASSED WINDOW

What a wonderful occasion we had on Sunday 20th September as Bishop Andrew dedicated the beautiful new stained-glass window to the Glory of God and in honour of the Montgomery, Dunlop and Hannigan families.



The window is a stunning addition to the stained glass within our church, and all thanks must go to Elizabeth Montgomery and Kathleen Dunlop for commissioning the window and for providing the refreshments after the service. Elizabeth and Kathleen would like to thank everyone who came to the service for their support. They were glad to be able to share this truly memorable day with so many of their friends and family. A special word of thanks also to **Alpha Glass** who created the artwork for the window. It will certainly be a talking point for all who will come through the doors of the 'wee church'.







IN MEMORIAMs

In Loving Memory of Tommy McCarter

£25.00 from Maureen & Alan Neely

In Loving Memory of Kathleen Rosborough

£25.00 from Maureen & Alan Neely

In Loving Memory of Gordon Heatley

£100.00 from Rev'd Cecil & Mrs Janet Heatley

In Loving Memory of Jennifer Rankin

£100.00 from John Rankin

Loving Memories of Mum Aileen & Dad Frederick and my loving sister Claire

£50.00 from Yvonne & Peter Barber (son-in-law to Aileen & Frederick and brother-in-law to Claire)

DONATIONS

£200.00 from Norman Miller - for LEAH project

£20.00 from Irish Dancing Committee - for room rental

£20.00 from anonymous - for Building Fund

FLOWER ROTA

4th The Carland Family

11th Harvest

18th Robert Lynch

25th Sheira Peacocke

(Please contact Elizabeth Montgomery on (02871) 301432 if you would like to be included in the flower rota)

SALT

I would like to thank all the ladies of our SALT group for their support and encouragement. Our next meeting is on **7th October at 2 pm** when we will start looking at putting our poppies on a wire for display for Remembrance Sunday. There will be other dates in October which we will organise together both for the coffee morning and our poppy display.

COFFEE MORNING

One of our pieces of news this month is that our Coffee Morning will be taking place on **Saturday 7th November from 10.30 am to 12.30 am**. Entry of £5 will include coffee/tea, scones and tray bakes. I would be grateful if you would share this with your family and friends. We would also be very grateful for any donations of cakes or tray bakes for or cake stall. These donations can be brought to the hall on **Friday 6th November between 3pm and 4 pm or first thing on Saturday 7th November**. Thank you.

WELL DONE RUNNERS!



Congratulations to Erin and Paul Rochester for running the half marathon in aid of autism NI. Jim Ross was at the finishing line to congratulate them both.

LEAH LUNCH

This month's LEAH will take place on **Tuesday 13th** with Harvest Communion at 11.30am in the church followed by lunch in the Canon Howe room. As usual, please let us know if you plan to attend. LEAH has played an important part of fellowship in church life and we're now in our 18th year! Please do try to come along and continue to support this worthwhile project. Just let Sheira know or, alternatively, call / **text Ivan on 07980667613**. We look forward to welcoming you.

CHURCH CAFÉ ***** CHANGE OF DATE *****

The last Saturday in October is the day of the main Halloween celebrations in the city. As the town will no doubt be gridlocked and parking will be an absolute nightmare we have brought cafe forward to the previous **Saturday (24th)**. We'll be 'up and at it' from 10.00am for all the usual home baked goodies, scones, soup and savoury sourdough toasties. So if you're out and about and fancy a cuppa and something good to eat, pop up and see us! You'll be sorry if you don't!!

LUMINARE PRESENTS

We welcome Sean Keane to SA for two concerts in October. **Friday 16th at 7.30pm** (Sold Out) and a special matinee show at **2pm on Saturday 17th**. He comes from a musical family (Dolores Keane is his sister) and together with Frances Black, Sharon Shannon and others he was a founding member of the acclaimed band Arcady. His songs encompass a mix of traditional Irish folk music, pop, blues and country.



Upcoming shows -

Friday 13th November - Martyn Joseph

Friday 11th/ Saturday 12th December - The return of Mary Coughlan

Friday 18th December - The Henry Girls Christmas Show

WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD



What a great few months we had this year welcoming visitors from all corners of the world to our wee church. Did you know that **15,376 travellers visited us from 41 countries**, travelling from such diverse places as China and Vietnam, Singapore and Switzerland, Slovakia and Sweden, India and Iran, Malaysia and Mexico, Brazil, Belize and Belgium, Puerto Rico and Portugal and Turkey and Russia to name just a few.

One thing is certain - our tourist volunteers sent them homeward with great memories of a sacred and serene spot steeped in history. Most important of all, a place where they received the very warmest of welcomes from a most dedicated group of people who put themselves forward, year on year, to showcase 'the jewel in the crown' of the tourist offering in our city.

Unsurprisingly, visitors generously donated the marvellous sum of £5,426.04 to St Augustine's in appreciation of the welcome received.

All the visitors expressed astonishment at the beauty of the church and church grounds, helped in no small measure by the hard work of the gardening team, aka Ida, Alwyn, Anne and George whose commitment and hard work in the church garden always bear fruit just as the tourist season gains momentum.

Maureen and I thank you all for continuing to support this aspect of church life and particular thanks must be paid to Peter Atkinson who so willingly took up the reins when Maureen and I ran into difficulties. We thank you all from the bottom of our hearts and hope to see you all again next year, our 30th year of service.

(Hazel, Maureen and Peter)

Creation

Genesis 1-2





7 Days of Creation



Find the key words in the word search.

P	B	N	S	S	K	Y	L	A	N	D	F
L	O	X	U	A	N	I	M	A	L	S	S
A	S	J	N	Y	L	I	G	H	T	R	S
N	E	L	Q	M	A	R	E	S	T	Z	T
T	A	M	O	O	N	X	I	R	X	A	A
S	E	L	K	B	N	J	F	M	C	H	R
F	V	C	R	E	A	T	I	O	N	B	S
D	A	R	K	N	E	S	S	G	A	T	X



Creation



Light



Darkness



Sky



Land



Sea



Plants



Sun



Moon



Stars



Animals



Rest

WEEKLY ZOOM

PRAYER MEETING

Join us every Monday night at 6:30pm
as we pray for our church, the community,
our families and any other prayer requests.
It's a great time to draw near to God.

Just let the Rector know and he will arrange
to send you the link via email or if you would
like prayer for yourself or a friend these
requests can be included in our session.



Question: For whom are you going to pray for healing today?

Prayer: Thank you Lord that your desire is for everyone to be whole in body, mind and spirit. Help me to both receive and share Your healing touch today. Amen

**THE VERY REVEREND NIGEL CAIRNS
DEAN OF DERRY
RECTOR OF TEMPLEMORE AND ST AUGUSTINE'S**

email : weechurch@btinternet.com
dean_derry@stcolumbs.net

RECTOR'S CHURCH WARDEN

Mrs. Maureen Neely

PEOPLE'S CHURCH WARDEN

Mrs. Sheira Peacocke

PARISH READERS

Mrs. Deirdre Amor MBE , Mrs. Alison Cairns
Mrs. Maureen Neely, Ms. Sandra McConnell
Ms. Megan Cairns, Mr. Drew White
Mr. Robert Lynch, Mr. Alan Neely

CHURCH FINANCES

Hon. Treasurer - Mr. Drew White
Hon. Secretary/ Donations Secretary - Mrs. Deirdre Amor MBE

Church Organist

Miss Lauren Duncan

Safeguarding Trust Panel

Mrs. Deirdre Amor MBE, Mr. Marshall Kilgore MBE,
Mrs. Irene White, Dean Cairns

Parish Nurse

Mrs. Alison Cairns

Magazine Editor

Mr. Alan Neely



Harvest JOY!

CELEBRATE THE SEASON
WITH JOYFUL TOGETHER &
MEMBERS OF CARLISLE
ROAD METHODIST CHURCH

4 OCTOBER | 3 PM

Carlisle Road Methodist Church

All are welcome for an afternoon
of music & seasonal readings
with a blend of traditional and
contemporary songs

Tea & Coffee to Follow