

CC Cathedral Life



The Cathedral Church of Christ the Redeemer, Dromore

'Love came down at Christmas'



DECEMBER 2023 & JANUARY 2024

**THE CATHEDRAL
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THE REDEEMER,
DROMORE**



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Rector:

**The Very Revd Geoff Wilson, B.Th
Dean of Dromore**

Curate Assistant:

**The Revd Trevor McKeown, B.A.
(Hons)**

Pastoral Duty

**In the event of pastoral need
or emergencies, please
contact the Rector on 028
9269 2275 or, if unavailable,
the Curate on 028 3832 1217**

*For God so loved the world, that he sent his one
and only Son....John 3: 16*

“What does love look like?” a little girl once asked her mother. The mother was very wise and said, “Go and ask your father.” The father was confused by the question until the little girl asked if love looked like an adult or a parent. At this point the father was even more confused as he said there was no difference. The little girl explained that there was a huge difference between the love shown by an adult and that shown by a parent, as adults just love you when you are good.

I hope this is a helpful illustration of the perfect love that came down that first Christmas. Not the love of an adult, but the unconditional love of our Father in heaven. The path before Jesus was not an easy one as he entered Bethlehem, a place of bloodshed then and indeed now. And his love led him to a place at the end of his earthly ministry where there was more blood shed, this time it was his blood and it was for the whole of humanity. No matter how difficult the path was before him, he navigated it through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, always bringing love in his words and with his actions to those who would receive it.

One of our parishioners painted the image on the front cover of this magazine following a message I preached quite recently. The thought behind it was to illustrate that as followers of Jesus, we are often called to traverse a difficult path, but always bearing love. Who might the Lord be asking you to bring love to this Christmas? A friend, a family member, a neighbour or perhaps even a stranger? Whoever it might be, bear love.

A very peaceful Christmas to you all. **Geoff**

Ready, Steady, Cook!

Ready, Steady, Cook was a firm BBC favourite for many years. The whole concept of the program was for 2 celebrities to prepare a meal with ingredients provided by a member of the public. There was a time limit for preparing the dish and questions were posed of the celebrity chefs throughout the process.

The Cathedral is hosting it's own version of this family favourite on Saturday 27th January 2024 at 7.30pm in the Cathedral Hall. The victims, sorry contestants, will be none other than Geoff and Naomi in the green team and Bishop David and Mrs Hilary McClay in the red team.

Our MC on the night will be John Wilkinson, who will no doubt keep the craic going with his usual wit and humour. Tickets are priced at £10 with concessions for children and all proceeds will go to Cathedral funds.

It's a Rubbish Campaign

Our world has an urgent rubbish problem. 2 billion people – one in four of us – have no safe way to dispose of rubbish, meaning many are forced to live and work among piles of waste. This is making people sick, releasing toxic fumes, flooding communities and causing up to a million deaths each year. That's one person dying every 30 seconds. The rapid growth of single-use plastics has made this crisis worse. It's fuelling our throwaway culture, threatening people's health and making the climate emergency worse. It's a rubbish campaign is a resource produced by Tearfund to help us all consider the scale of the problem and resolve to do something about it. The course runs over 3 sessions, and will meet in the Clayton Memorial Hall on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm as follows....

Tuesday 16th January

Theology of consumerism: how do we serve God, and not mammon?

Tuesday 30th January

Impact of plastic pollution on people living in poverty

Tuesday 13th February

Living simply together.

Each session will last no longer than 90 minutes and everyone is most welcome, indeed we encourage church members to bring friends and neighbours from the wider community as we seek to do our bit to address this huge issue together.

Annual Sit Out

Our annual sit out to support the work of Southern Area Hospice Services is going to take place between 7am and 7pm on Friday 8th December. Collections will take place at the following locations, with the kind permission of the owners:

Outside Taste Cafe, Market Square;

SuperValu Supermarket, Banbridge Road;

The work of the Southern Area Hospice has been severely affected by the pandemic, so it has never been more important for us to step up and support their crucial work.

If you would like to volunteer one hour of your time in support of this cause, then please do contact Jill in the Church Office on 9269 3968.

Carol Singing

We will meet once again for door to door Carol singing on Wednesday 20th December at 6.45pm at the Rectory. Carol singing is for the whole Church family to be part of as we seek to bless those parts of our family which may not be able to gather for acts of public worship.

If you know of anyone who may benefit from our Carol singers calling, please let Jill know in the Church Office. We will return to the Rectory for seasonal refreshments at around 8.30pm.

Community Carol Service

We are delighted to be able to hold our annual Community Carol Service once more. The service will take place on Sunday 10th December at 6pm with children from St Colman's, DCPS and The High School singing as one choir, as well as several pieces from SOMA. Someone from the Southern Area Hospice will be sharing with us regarding the work and ministry of the Hospice and the offering on the evening will go towards supporting their work.

Bishops' Appeal Envelope

This is an opportunity for parishioners to assist the needy in the world by supporting the Church of Ireland's own Relief and Development Fund.

Funds raised are used to promote the education and relief of people in need. Funds are also available for emergencies when they occur, so that immediate relief can be sent.

Cheque payable to -

Dromore Cathedral.

Please return your envelopes by the end of December.

Parish Bible Class Carols

Come along and enjoy an evening of some favourite Christmas carols and hear how they came to be written.

Light seasonal refreshments will be served on Wednesday 13th December at 7.30pm in the Clayton Hall.

Leprosy Mission Boxes

Please return Leprosy Mission boxes to Tommy Wilson or leave in the Church Office as soon as possible. Cheque payable to Dromore Cathedral.

If you would like a Leprosy Mission Box, please get in touch with Tommy.

CMSI Boxes

The total of the CMSI Boxes for 2022/2023 amounted to **£1,061.08** Thank you to all who contributed.

We thank Mrs Helen Forsythe for her management of this aspect of mission support.

The work of CMSI can be supported by requesting a box from Helen or contacting the Cathedral Office.

Mothers' Union

In the past, Mothers' Union members have been very generous in their support of Women's Aid and if you would like to help again this year, we will be gifting them with money. This will be converted by the Down and Dromore Diocese to gift vouchers so that the Women's Aid Centres in Newry and Bangor can purchase food and clothes that are needed. If you leave your donation into Jill at the Church Office or to a member of the committee, we will make sure that it is sent in time for Christmas.

Our fees for 2024 will be £28. We will collect them at our January meeting. This money is used by Mothers' Union to help with all the ongoing projects and ministry in our Diocese together with work Overseas. Information on some of the activities was included in the Autumn addition of the Mothers' Union Newsletter.

I will take this opportunity to wish all our members and their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Anne Cochrane

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Save The Date

As we start to plan our Wedding Dress Festival, again, (thank you for your understanding) our dates are 10th - 12th May 2024 with an opening service on Thursday 9th May at 7.30pm.

A planning meeting will take place on Tuesday 16th January at 7.30pm in the Rectory. We welcome back those who had previously indicated their help and would encourage others who would like to find out more information to come along. In the meantime, could we ask if anyone has any battery operated church candles or lanterns to keep them handy, especially if they are usually packed away with Christmas decorations! I thank those ladies who have already offered to display their dresses. The number of dresses we can display will be determined by the number of mannequins we can borrow, so please do not be offended if all of the offers cannot be displayed. We hope to have a number of dresses from each decade dating back to the 1940s.

To start early preparations, could I ask if you would like to add your wedding day photo of the Bride and Groom for a Church family wedding day display board. could you please scan photo and email to Jrussell20@btinternet.com or by leaving your photo into the Church Office by Friday 19th January. This will then be scanned, reprinted and original returned to you. Please state date of wedding. Many thanks for your support on what will be a wonderful weekend in our Cathedral.

Jane Russell





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A LOOK AT LIFE WITH THE RECYCLED TEENAGER - Home Alone

Now, the title does not refer to the very famous Christmas movie (although we are in the season for multiple reruns of old favourites) but rather a relationship status.

As someone who has enjoyed both domestic bliss and periods of singlehood, I feel I have something to say about life in or out of a relationship. There are pros and cons!

I remember my first real taste of being home alone when my youngest son went off to university.

I had been prepared for empty-nest syndrome. What would I do without the precious boy? Sooner than might have been expected, I settled down into my favourite chair, a bowl of my favourite snacks at the ready and my remote control firmly in my grip. I ate what and when I wanted and generally enjoyed the new experience of having complete and total run of my own house.

On the other hand, I am a nurturer and not having anyone to cook and care for became dull. Yes, loneliness set in. There's the other side of the coin when we find ourselves alone. However, it doesn't have to be that way. It is not inevitable that people who are single, are people who are lonely. It took a bit of effort but I found that once I embraced the changes in my circumstances and was grateful for the blessings I already had, that was when I could see purpose and fulfilment in the life I was living.

I'm not suggesting you get rid of your better half but I am saying it is okay to be on your own. For those of us who find, for whatever reason, we are at home alone this Christmas, can I encourage you to give yourself a present you really want and worship the Christ who came to give you life and life to the full.

Have a joyous and hope-filled one!



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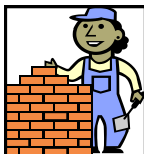
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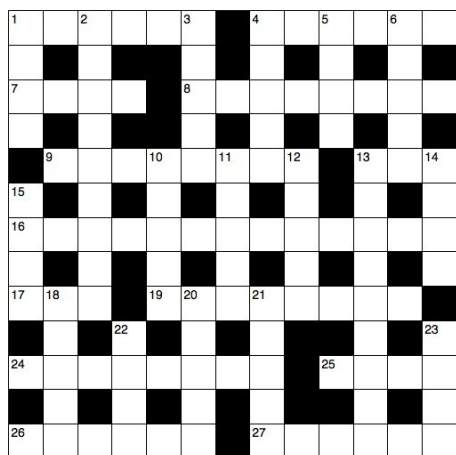
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26 Elgar's best-known 'Variations' (6)

27 Soak (Isaiah 16:9) (6)

Down

1 Money owing (Deuteronomy 15:3) (4)

2 Conciliatory (Titus 3:2) (9)

3 'Do this, whenever you — it, in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:25) (5)

4 A group assisting in the governance of the Roman Catholic Church (5)

5 One of the gifts Joseph's brothers took with them on their second journey to Egypt (Genesis 43:11) (4)

6 'Reach out your hand and — — into my side. Stop doubting and believe' (John 20:27) (3,2)

10 Be outstandingly good (2 Corinthians 8:7) (5)

11 'What — — that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?' (Psalm 8:4) (2,3)

12 Horse's feet (Judges 5:22) (5)

13 Notice (Deuteronomy 17:4) (9)

14 Comes between 2 Chronicles and Nehemiah (4)

15 One of Israel's northern towns conquered by Ben-Hadad (1 Kings 15:20) (4)

18 Narnia's Lion (5)

20 One of the two rivers in which Naaman would have preferred to wash (2 Kings 5:12) (5)

21 Avarice—one of the evils that come from inside people (Mark 7:22) (5)

22 Knight Grand Cross of St Michael and St George (1,1,1,1)

23 Jacob's first wife (Genesis 29:23) (4)

Across

1 Rely (Psalm 62:7) (6)

4 'He stretches out the heavens like a — , and spreads them out like a tent to live in' (Isaiah 40:22) (6)

7 What the dove carried the olive leaf in, when it returned to Noah's ark (Genesis 8:11) (4)

8 Annoy (1 Samuel 1:6) (8)

9 Judah's last king, who ended his days as a blind prisoner in Babylon (Jeremiah 52:11) (8)

13 'They all — and were satisfied' (Luke 9:17) (3)

16 Eliphaz the Temanite was one; so was Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite (Job 2:11; 16:2) (4,9)

17 National Association of Evangelicals (of the USA) (1,1,1)

19 Popular song for New Year's Eve, Auld — — (4,4)

24 Able dock (anag.) (8)

25 The number of stones David chose for his confrontation with Goliath (1 Samuel 17:40) (4)

2023 December	Flower Rota Mrs Caroline Wallace 028 9269 3506	2024 January	Flower Rota Mrs June Reain 028 9753 2303
3rd	Mrs Barbara McKeown	7th	Mrs Kathy Chambers
10th	Miss Marjorie Gamble	14th	Mrs Margaret McAlister
17th	Mrs Caroline Wallace	21st	Mr & Mrs Roland Wallace
24th	Vacant	28th	Mr Howard King
31st	Mrs Sara McCorkell		

2023 December	Refreshments Rota	2024 January	Refreshments Rota
3rd	E Magowan & R Wilson	7th	N Wilson & L Teggart
10th	S Shepherd & D Martin	14th	D Farrell & H Forsythe
17th	No Refreshments	21st	Stuart & Julianne Noble
24th	M Brown & K Buchanan	28th	Kathy Chambers
31st	L Cargo & S Curran		

Dromore Cathedral History Reading Group

The History Reading Group are next scheduled to meet on -

Wednesday 20th December 2023 at 7.30 pm. Venue The Clayton Memorial Hall.

The book that the History Reading Group are reading in advance of this meeting is - **The Templars - The Rise and Fall of God's Holy Warriors by Dan Jones.**

The book is readily available from both high street and on line retail outlets in paperback format and at reasonable cost.

The Knights Templar were the wealthiest and most powerful of the military orders that flourished during the crusading era. Dan Jones tells the story of their establishment in Jerusalem in 1119, their rise as a warrior elite and their role in global politics and finance. The history of the Knights Templar is charted until their dissolution on Friday 13th October 1307. The Knights Templar continue to influence modern culture with examples being the movie Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade, the book and movie The Da Vinci Code and the date of their dissolution influencing modern day superstitions about "Friday 13th"

Everyone is most welcome to join with the History Reading Group at this meeting and to share in a rich combination of fellowship, lively discussion and Christmas treats.

Services for December/January

Sunday 3rd December 2023

1st Sunday of Advent	8.30am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Cathedral Praise
	11.30am	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	Evening Epilogue with HC

Sunday 10th

2nd Sunday of Advent	8.30am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Cathedral Praise
	11.30am	Morning Prayer
	6.00pm	Community Carol Service

Sunday 17th

3rd Sunday of Advent	8.30am	Holy Communion
	10.45am	Nativity Service
	6.00pm	Carols by Candlelight

Sunday 24th

4th Sunday of Advent	8.30am	Holy Communion
Christmas Eve	10.00am	Cathedral Praise
	11.30am	Morning Prayer
	11.00pm	1st Communion of Christmas

Monday 25th

Christmas Day	10.45am	Family Christmas Celebration
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Sunday 31st

First Sunday of Christmas	8.30am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Cathedral Praise
	11.30am	Service of the Word
	11.15pm	Watchnight Service

Sunday 7th January 2024

2nd Sunday of Christmas	8.30am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Cathedral Praise
	11.30am	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	Evening Epilogue with HC

Sunday 14th

1st Sunday after the Epiphany	8.30am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Cathedral Praise
	11.30am	Morning Prayer
	6.00pm	Praise, Prayer & Testimony

Sunday 21st

2nd Sunday after the Epiphany	8.30am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Cathedral Praise <i>with</i> HC
	11.30am	Service of the Word
	6.00pm	Evening Epilogue Service

Sunday 28th

3rd Sunday after the Epiphany	8.30am	Holy Communion
	10.45am	Combined Service
	6.00pm	Evening Epilogue Service

PARISH REGISTER

Christian Burial

31st October Louie Watson, Rosemount Care Home, Portadown

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

Church Collections: October

GENERAL FUND	2023/24	2022/23
October	9,735.80	9,946.00
Total to date	£59,821.70	£60,395.00
DEVELOPMENT FUND		
October	1,138.00	1,045.00
Total to date	£6,704.20	£6,266.75

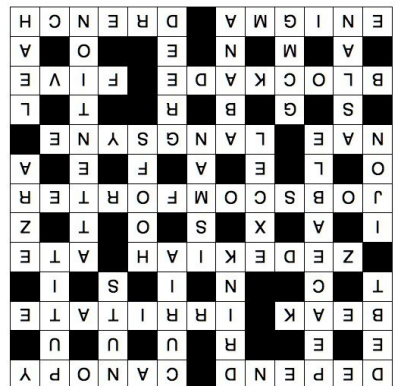
Nativity Service

We are looking forward to our Nativity Service on Sunday 17th December. This will be a combined service at 10.45am. Please come along to encourage our children and invite family and friends to join with us as we celebrate together.

Attention all Magazine Distributors

The February edition of our magazine will be ready for collection and distribution on **Friday 26th January** with items for inclusion to be with Jill in the office by **Friday 19th January at 1pm**. Items can be sent to Jill by emailing - dromorecathedral@outlook.com

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DECEMBER AND JANUARY DATES

December 2023

Thursday 30th	2.00	Monthly Service	Mountvale Nursing Home
Friday 1st	11.00	Monthly Service	The Beeches
Saturday 2nd	2.30	Seniors Afternoon Tea	Cathedral Hall
Sunday 3rd	1.00	Advent Lunch	Cathedral Hall
Monday 4th	7.30	Parish Prayer Meeting	Clayton Hall
Tuesday 5th	10.30	Craft Class (each Tuesday)	Clayton Hall
Tuesday 5th	7.30	Prayer Course	Clayton Hall
Wednesday 6th	10.00	Prayer Course	Clayton Hall
Wednesday 6th	7.30	Men United	Clayton Hall
Friday 8th	7am - 7pm	Annual Sit Out	Taste Café/SuperValu
Friday 8th	6.30	Kingdom Kids Christmas Party	Cathedral Hall
Wednesday 13th	7.30	Parish Bible Class	Clayton Hall
Monday 18th	7.30	Select Vestry Meeting	Clayton Hall
Wednesday 20th	6.45	Carol Singing	The Rectory
Wednesday 20th	7.30	History Reading Group	Clayton Hall
Saturday 27th	7.30	Ready, Steady, Cook	Cathedral Hall

January 2024

Thursday 4th	2.00	Monthly Service	Mountvale Nursing Home
Friday 5th	11.00	Monthly Service	The Beeches
Tuesday 9th	10.30	Craft Class (each Tuesday)	Clayton Hall
Tuesday 9th	7.30	Prayer Course	Clayton Hall
Wednesday 10th	10.00	Prayer Course	Clayton Hall
Wednesday 10th	7.30	Parish Bible Class	Clayton Hall
Thursday 11th	2.00	JOY	Cathedral Hall
Monday 15th	7.30	Select Vestry Meeting	Clayton Hall
Tuesday 16th	7.30	It's a Rubbish Campaign	Clayton Hall
Tuesday 16th	7.30	Wedding Dress Planning Meeting	The Rectory
Wednesday 17th	8.00	MATCH	Cathedral Hall
Tuesday 23rd	7.30	Prayer Course	Clayton Hall
Wednesday 24th	10.00	Prayer Course	Clayton Hall
Wednesday 24th	7.30	Mothers' Union Meeting	Clayton Hall
Tuesday 30th	7.30	It's a Rubbish Campaign	Clayton Hall



The Cathedral Church of Christ the Redeemer, Dromore Contact details for Staff and Office Bearers



Rector:	Very Revd Geoff Wilson, 28 Church Street, Dromore BT25 1AA email: revgeoffwilson@gmail.com	028 9269 2275
Curate:	Revd Trevor McKeown 39 Cedar Park, Blearly BT63 5LL e-mail: curate@dromorecathedral.co.uk	028 3832 1217
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:	Dr Matthew Milford Ph.D email: mattplayskeysni@gmail.com	0775 645 5949
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	Very Revd Geoff Wilson 028 9269 2275	
Panel:	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 2023-2024

Churchwardens:	Nicholas Davies (Rector's)	Scott Mackey (People's)
Glebewardens:	Ian Purdy (Rector's)	Bill Forsythe (People's)
Vestry Members:	Andrew Carson, Paul Cochrane (Honorary Treasurer), Andrew Cuthbert, Rebekah Davidson (Honorary Secretary), Nan McMurray, Samuel Newell, Andrew McNeill, Hilary Purdy, Jane Russell, Ashley Silcock, Joanne Silcock, Leanne Teggart	

Honorary Secretary: Mrs Rebekah Davidson, 30 Church Street, Dromore, Co Down BT25 1AA
email: rebekah.down@gmail.com TN 028 9269 3838

Honorary Treasurer: Mr Paul Cochrane, 38 Backnamullagh Road, Dromore, Co Down BT25 1QT
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MATCH

As our December MATCH date falls just a few days before Christmas Day this year, it was decided not to meet in December. Therefore, our next MATCH evening will be on Wednesday 17th January 2024 at 8pm in the Cathedral Hall. Guest speaker will be Alderman Margaret Tinsley, Lord Mayor of Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon. Having met Margaret personally she is such a lovely lady with a passion for helping others. Looking forward to hearing her. Come along and bring a friend.

Wishing everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year, making lots of precious memories with family and friends.

JOY

Our Seniors Afternoon Tea will be held on Saturday 2nd December at 2.30pm in the Cathedral Hall. A lovely way to start Christmas. This will be instead of our usual monthly Thursday afternoon.

Joining with us on January 11th will be local lady, Mrs Patricia Hamilton from the Patricia Hamilton School of Music & Performing Arts. Patricia has an amazing story to tell and will also provide some music for us to enjoy. Wishing everyone at JOY a restful Christmas with family and friends and a Happy New Year. **Jane & Beverley**

Men United

The next meeting of Men United will be on Wednesday 6th December at 7.30pm and the speaker will be Andrew McNeill. Andrew and his wife Chelsey recently became parents for the first time with the birth of their little girl Bonnie. Andrew is a nurse, currently working in Lagan Valley Hospital and he will be speaking on his Christian faith and how it finds expression as a husband, father and nurse. All men are most welcome to attend as this group seeks to unite men from all ages and backgrounds from both the church and indeed the wider community.

New Pew Cushions

I'm sure by now you have noticed that we are replacing the seat cushions in the Cathedral, something which we hope to complete by Christmas, or very early in the New Year at the absolute latest. This is a major financial commitment for the Select Vestry to undertake with cushions costing £90 per seat. If you would be interested in contributing to their replacement, then you can place your gift in a plain envelope with your name and FWO number on the outside of the envelope and marked "Seat Coverings". Gifts can be placed on the offering plate or left with Jill in the Church Office.



Our photo shows the Russell family at the recent launch of **“Russell up a recipe”** at the Archbishop’s Palace, Armagh. **“Russell up a recipe”** is in memory of Paul Russell, someone who most certainly enjoyed his grub! It is packed with delicious recipes and would make an excellent stocking filler for someone you love this Christmas at the bargain price of £12. Half the proceeds from the sale of the first 500 books are going to Cathedral funds. Copies are available from Paul’s mum, Jane.

Death of Archdeacon Billy Neill

It is with a genuine sadness that we share news of the passing of a much-loved former Rector of Dromore Cathedral, the Ven Billy Neill. Billy was appointed as Rector of the Cathedral in 1983 and Archdeacon 2 years later, roles which he held until such times as his retirement from full-time ministry in 1997. Throughout his ministry in the Cathedral, Billy was very much loved by everyone and was renowned for his compassion, kind heart and faithful pastoral ministry. Please do hold his dear wife Anne in your prayers in the coming months.

Praise, Prayer and Testimony

Our next meeting of Praise, Prayer & Testimony will be at 6pm on Sunday 14th January when Peter Branker will be speaking on faith and how it has not only helped him face challenges in life, but also find expression in acts of service.



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.