

## Saint Columba

c. 521-597



Born in Ireland in about the year 521, Columba was trained as a monk by St Finnian and then himself founded several monasteries, including probably that of Kells, before leaving Ireland to settle on Iona, off the coast of Scotland. He was accompanied by twelve companions and the number grew as the monastic life became more established and well-known.

Columba seems to have been an austere and sometimes harsh man who reputedly mellowed with age. He was concerned with building up both the monastery and its life and of enabling them to be instruments of mission in a heathen land. He converted kings and built churches; Iona became a starting point for the expansion of Christianity throughout Scotland. In the last four years of his life, as his health failed, he spent the time transcribing books of the gospels for them to be taken out and used. He died on this day in the year 597.

*Iona Abbey with St Martin's Cross*



## St Cross Newsletter

June 2026

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*The Vicar writes.....*

*Dear Friends*

The month of June is going to be an extremely busy time in our Church, leading into July and the Open Gardens Event. In the latter part of June there will be Mike's ordination as a priest at St Georges, Altrincham, followed by his first celebration of the Eucharist on June 24<sup>th</sup> here.

Before then on June 14<sup>th</sup> our morning services will feature stewardship as the theme, and as parishioners, all of us will have the opportunity to review our giving to the Church. Those on the electoral roll should have received a letter of explanation by then of why this is necessary, and this follows on from the discussion at the Annual Meeting about our financial position.

Whether as parishioners, volunteers in whatever capacity, or licensed ministers, a measure of sacrifice or commitment is involved in time, talents or finance. Mike's ordination is a visible sign of the commitment freely given to serve Christ in the Church when one accepts God's call to serve in a formal ministerial capacity. The road to ordination is a long journey, starting with prayerful discernment and discussion years before the significant moment arrives: a journey which continues beyond in learning and spiritual growth.

That journey of deepening faith and discipleship applies to all of us, even as we get older, and is not just about ordained and lay ministers leading the Church. This month we will also remember Evadne Beardsmore and Margaret Andrew who recently departed from us. Evadne, who lived to the tremendous age of almost 102, remained committed to worshipping with us until very recently. Margaret, who was taken quite suddenly from us, was an integral part of our worshipping community supporting the work of the Church in various ways. I thank God for both of them and we pray for their families at this difficult time for them.

Yours, in Christ *Paul*



*Evadne at a cream tea in 2018*



*Margaret, pictured in the centre, prior to the Lent Coffee morning in 2023*

## Calendar for June

### **Mondays**

**2-4pm Monday Together in the Parish Room**

### **Thursdays**

**2.30pm Prayer Group in the Parish Room**

### **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June**

**7.30pm Lectio Divina (on Teams)**

### **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June**

**7.30pm Archdeacon's Visitation Service at St Cross**

### **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June**

**4pm Revd Mike's Priesting at St George's, Altrincham**

### **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June**

**7pm Revd Mike presides for the first time at the Eucharist. *Deanery Choir to join us.***

### **Occasional Offices in May**

#### **Wedding**

**May 25 Bill Henry Penna Waters and Sarah Jane Nicholas**

#### **Baptism**

**May 24 Luella Rae Soakell**

*To access the Audio Online Services from St Cross*  
<http://www.stcrossknutsford.org.uk/media/>