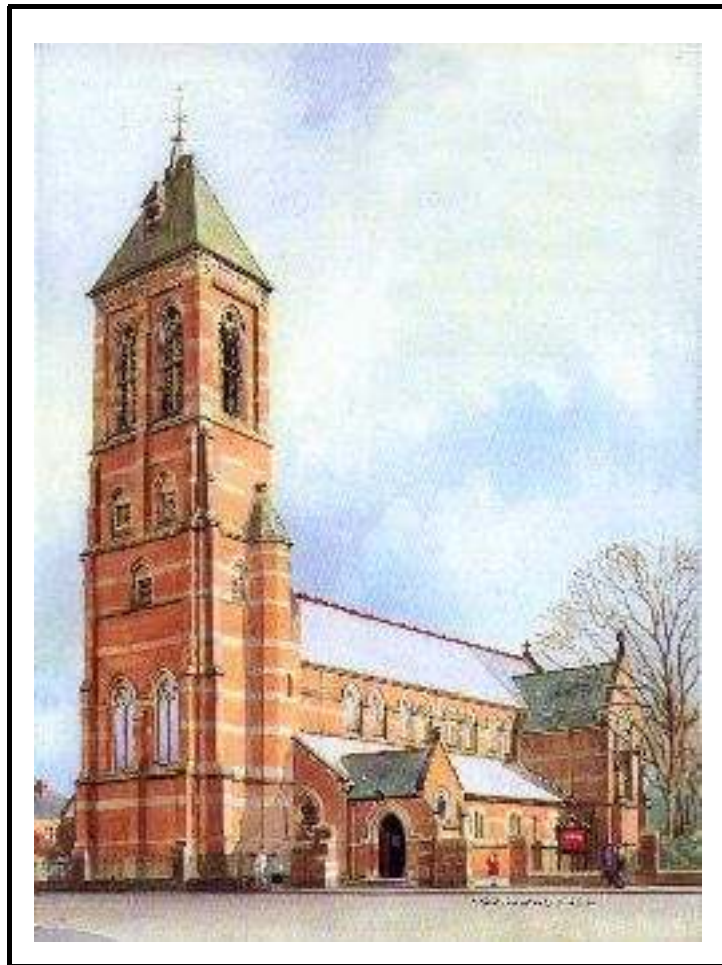


SAINT MARK'S CHURCH
Parish of Dundela, Belfast
Diocese of Down and Dromore
Church of Ireland



CHURCH SERVICES IN ST MARK'S

SUNDAYS

8.30am Holy Communion (every Sunday)
10.30am Family Service (1st Sunday)
Parish Communion (3rd Sunday)
Morning Prayer (2nd & 4th Sundays)
Holy Communion (5th Sunday)
6.30pm Holy Communion & Ministry of Healing (1st Sunday)
Evensong (2nd Sunday)
Evensong (3rd Sunday)
Sung Compline (4th Sunday)
Choral Eucharist (5th Sunday)
Praise Service (as announced)

WEEKDAYS

8.30am Morning Prayer (Mon-Fri)
5.30pm Evening Prayer (Mon-Fri)
11.00am Holy Communion (Wednesday)
7.30pm Healer Prayer Service (Wednesday)

BY ARRANGEMENT WITH THE CLERGY

Holy Baptism ☐ Holy Matrimony ☐
Visitation of the Sick at Home/in Hospital ☐
Communion for the sick ☐ Spiritual Direction ☐
Christian Burial

RECTOR: Revd John McDowell, St Mark's Rectory,
4 Sydenham Avenue BT4 2DR T: 028 9065 9047

Church website: dundela.down.anglican.org

Parish Office: Heyn Hall, 2 Sydenham Avenue, Belfast, BT4 2DR
T: 028 9065 4090 ☐ E: office.dundela@down.anglican.org
(Office Hours: Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 1.00pm)

- 1 The church is dedicated to **Saint Mark**, the writer of the Gospel. As a young man, he may have been a follower of Jesus (*see Mark ch. 14 v 51*) and he later travelled with Saint Paul and Saint Barnabas on their missionary journeys to spread the good news of Jesus Christ (*as recorded in Acts of the Apostles*).

Traditionally, he was a companion in Rome of Saint Peter, whose memories of Jesus Mark may have included in his Gospel. It is said that he became the first bishop of Alexandria and that he died there. It is claimed also that his body was brought to Venice and that he is buried in the great church of San Marco. His symbol, and the symbol of Venice, is a winged lion and St Mark's church, Dundela, is proud to call itself "The Lion on the Hill".

- 2 Standing on the Hollywood Road, on Bunker Hill, **the church** is a landmark in the city. The tower, 180 feet high, can be seen from many places all over Belfast and, notably, from ships sailing up the Lough.

In 1862 a number of people met to worship in a coach house on Park Avenue and a year later a building was erected at Gelston's Corner to serve as a school during the week and as a church on Sundays. (The building is now a supermarket.) The Revd Thomas Hamilton was appointed in 1874 as curate-in-charge and by 1878 a fine new church had been built, surrounded by fields and woodland. A year later he was instituted as Rector of the new parish of St Mark's, Dundela. Ten local gentlemen were appointed as trustees, led by Sir William Ewart, of Glenmachan House, a wealthy linen merchant. To design their church they chose an Englishman, William Butterfield, an architect of high reputation and strong Christian principles. He designed many churches throughout the British Empire, ranging from All Saints', Margaret Street – off Oxford Street in London – his masterpiece, to other places in England, India, South Africa, and as far away as Melbourne Cathedral in Australia. He was a prominent member of the Tractarian Movement and can be described as a High Churchman.

The nave, aisles and the tower were built by McLoughlin and Harvey of Belfast and were completed in 1878 at a cost of between £10,000 and £11,000, almost a third of which sum was subscribed by Sir William Ewart himself. After he died, his son and his family as a memorial paid the cost of building on the chancel and the transepts at the east end and a year later the church was completed according to William Butterfield's original design.

- 3 If you wish to walk about in the church, begin your journey at the west end in **the Baptistry**. Here stands the large stone font, where children start their Christian life, being signed with the Cross. The architect has placed black arrows in the floor to lead you from Holy Baptism in a movement along the nave, a pilgrimage towards the most important place in the church, the Altar, where Christians receive the bread and wine of Holy Communion. The tiles in the floor change from simple red and black squares and, as you climb the wide steps, develop into colourful, decorative patterns. On your right is the lectern, from where the word of God is read, on your left the pulpit, from where the word of God is preached. Walk into the chancel between the choir stalls, where singers lead the people in psalms and hymns of praise, and on the left you see the Compton organ, the principal instrument of church

music. If you have keen eyesight, you may see angels high above, carved in the roof timbers.

Stand and look at the three large letters IHS above the altar in the sanctuary. They are an ancient symbol of the presence of Jesus, the first three letters of his name in the Greek language which he spoke, JES(US).

You may also see on the cloth that covers the altar table the symbols α and ω . They are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, reminding us that God is the first and last, that is, Almighty.

Behind the altar stands the silver cross, presented by Kelso Ewart, reminding us of the crucifixion of Christ. The banner of the Mothers' Union is laid up in the corner with the portrait of Mary and her child, Jesus. On the wall to the right is a tablet recording the life of Sir William Ewart; on the left a tablet in memory of Isabella, Lady Ewart. Look up at the **large east window**, dedicated in her memory. The window has a feminine theme. Below the figures of Christ as priest and King, you see a predella (a picture) of Jesus speaking with the Samaritan woman at the well and in the side lights are the sisters, Martha and Mary, the friends of Jesus.

The great west window, by contrast, is a memorial to the men of the parish who were killed in the Great War 1914-1918 and contains figures of the warriors of Israel – Joshua, Gideon, David and Judas Maccabaeus – and of the warriors for Christ - Saints Columba, Patrick, George and David. Thus the window carries a martial, masculine theme. Poppies draw your attention to two brass tablets below the window, which record the names of the men in the parish who died in the two World Wars.

- 4 **The side chapel** is used for services “where two or three are gathered together”. The silver cross was dedicated in memory of “Tommy” Thompson. The window is dedicated in memory of Sir William Quartus Ewart, the son of Sir William. Below are three memorial tablets to members of the Ewart family. There are two tablets in memory of faithful parishioners, Harold Coates and Toby Hurst. A tablet beside the steps is in memory of Helen Patterson, wife of a close friend and neighbour of the Lewis family.

Along the south aisle are four **memorial windows**: to the Revd Thomas Hamilton (erected 1906); to Major R. Lloyd Thompson, killed in action in 1917 (1919); to Albert and Flora Lewis (1932); and to Miss Catherine Mackay Henderson, of Norwood Towers (1921). There are no stained glass windows on the north side, because it was pointed out, belatedly, that Butterfield had wanted clear windows, not coloured glass.

- 5 The church building is not “owned” by the Church of Ireland, but is vested in a group of trustees. In the first fifty years or so, the business and finances of **the parish** were managed by a small group of well-to-do men; some, such as F.L. Heyn, had been among the founders in 1878. Since 1928, by contrast, the duties connected with the direction of church affairs, those of trustees, wardens, members of the Select Vestry, have been carried out by many different individuals, both men and women, in the congregation. This change is illustrated by the fact that St Mark's is no longer surrounded by fields, but by suburban houses.

The back page of the parish magazine, THE LION, and the DVD “Our Parish”, filmed in 2005 (available from the Parish Office) will give a fair idea of the activity of the parishioners on Sundays and weekdays.

6 **The C.S. Lewis Connection**

- His grandfather Revd Thomas Hamilton was the first rector of St. Mark’s
- His parents were married in the church
- C.S. Lewis was baptised by his grandfather in St Mark’s on 29th January 1899
- He spent his formative years in the Parish, before leaving for boarding school in England
- His family presented the Parish with communion silver in 1908 – The Lewis Silver
- C.S. Lewis and his brother Warren presented the Parish with a memorial window in memory of their parents in 1933
- The church has a memorial window to his grandfather Revd Thomas Hamilton
- His family presented the Parish with the church lectern – The eagle is the symbol of St John the Gospel writer, and represents the Word of God being carried on eagle’s wings across the world

Consult the leaflet “C.S. Lewis in St Mark’s Dundela” for further information. More details of the history of the parish can be read in “The Lion on the Hill” by Professor J.C. Beckett and Anthony M. Wilson