



**THE TWENTIETH ANNUAL
'RUC GC DAY' SERVICE
AND TO MARK
THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE FORMATION OF
THE ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY**

**A Service of Thanksgiving
in
The Cathedral Church of St Anne, Belfast.**

**Conducted by
The Very Reverend Stephen Forde BSc, Dip Theol,
Dean of Belfast.
Sunday 29th May 2022, 3.30pm.**







CLARENCE HOUSE

As Patron of the Royal Ulster Constabulary George Cross Foundation, I am so very pleased to be able to send my warmest wishes as you mark the Centenary of Policing in Northern Ireland.

From its foundation in 1922, the R.U.C. was tasked with delivering policing through some of the most challenging times of our shared history, working diligently to protect people and communities. This tradition of service is continued today by the Police Service of Northern Ireland.

In this Centenary year, it is deeply appropriate that we mark together the sacrifices, honour the acts of courage and heroism and pay tribute to the achievements of all those who served in the R.U.C. We remember particularly the widows and families and those who supported the serving personnel with such fortitude and devotion.

During my recent visit to Belfast, I had the particular pleasure of meeting some of the R.U.C.G.C. family and hearing their personal experiences. It was a meeting that has left an indelible impression on me and, while I cannot be in Belfast today, please know that you are all very much in my thoughts as you commemorate this Centenary of Policing in Northern Ireland.

The Award of the George Cross to the Royal Ulster Constabulary



Citation:

"For the past 30 years, the Royal Ulster Constabulary has been the bulwark against, and the main target of, a sustained and brutal terrorism campaign. The Force has suffered heavily in protecting both sides of the community from danger - 302 officers have been killed in the line of duty and thousands more have been injured, many seriously. Many officers have been ostracised by their own community and others have been forced to leave their homes in the face of threats to them and their families.

As Northern Ireland reaches a turning point in its political development this award is made to recognise the collective courage and dedication to duty of all of those who have served in the Royal Ulster Constabulary and who have accepted the danger and stress this has brought to them and their families".

Buckingham Palace, 23rd November 1999

Order of Service

Please stand to receive Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of the County Borough of Belfast, and to sing **THE NATIONAL ANTHEM:**

**God save our gracious Queen,
Long live our noble Queen:
God save the Queen:
Send her victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us:
God save the Queen.**

Music: arranged by Gordon Jacobs CBE (1895-1984)

Please remain standing to sing **HYMN 288**, during which the Standard of the Royal Ulster Constabulary George Cross Foundation will be carried and placed at the Quire steps:



**Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won;
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay:**

***Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.***

**Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let the Church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting:**

**No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of Life;
life is nought without thee: aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above:**

Words: Edmond Budry (1854-1932) tr. R.B. Hoyle (1875-1939)

Tune NEH 120: MACCABEUS G.F. Handel (1685-1759) adpt. From a chorus in Judas Maccabeus (1746)

*Please be seated for the welcome by the Dean and the Bidding Prayer, concluding with **THE LORD'S PRAYER**, said by all:*

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

*Please stand for the **OPENING RESPONSES**:*

Priest: O Lord, open thou our lips.

Choir: And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

Priest: O God, make speed to save us.

Choir: O Lord, make haste to help us.

*Priest: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost.*

Choir: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Priest: Praise ye the Lord.

Choir: The Lord's name be praised.

Setting: Humphrey Clucas (b. 1941)

Please sit while the choir sings **PSALM 150:**

O praise God in his holiness:

praise him in the firmament of his power.

Praise him in his noble acts:

praise him according to his excellent greatness.

Praise him in the sound of the trumpet:

praise him upon the lute and harp.

Praise him in the cymbals and dances:

praise him upon the strings and pipe.

Praise him upon the well-tuned cymbals:

praise him upon the loud cymbals.

Let every thing that hath breath:

praise the Lord.

Please stand for the **GLORIA:**

Glory be to the Father:

and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:

world without end. Amen.

Chant: Sir Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

Please sit for the **FIRST LESSON:** Isaiah 41:8-13 *Mr Frederick Hall OBE, QGM.
Former Trustee, Royal Ulster Constabulary GC Foundation*

But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen,

the offspring of Abraham, my friend;

you whom I took from the ends of the earth,

and called from its farthest corners,

saying to you, 'You are my servant,

I have chosen you and not cast you off';

do not fear, for I am with you,

do not be afraid, for I am your God;

I will strengthen you, I will help you,

I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

Yes, all who are incensed against you

shall be ashamed and disgraced;

those who strive against you shall be as nothing and shall perish.

You shall seek those who contend with you,
but you shall not find them;
those who war against you shall be as nothing at all.
For I, the Lord your God, hold your right hand;
it is I who say to you, 'Do not fear, I will help you.'

*Please remain seated as the choir sings the **MAGNIFICAT**:*

My soul doth magnify the Lord:
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded:
the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold, from henceforth:
all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me:
and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him:
throughout all generations.
He hath shewed strength with his arm:
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat:
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things:
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel:
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

*Please stand for the **GLORIA**:*

Glory be to the Father:
and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

Setting: Evening Service in D, Sir George Dyson KCVO (1883-1964)

*Please sit for the **SECOND LESSON**: St. Matthew 5:1-12 Mrs Cathleen Carlisle MBE. Former Trustee, Royal Ulster Constabulary GC Foundation.*

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.

Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

‘Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

‘Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

‘Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

‘Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

‘Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.’

Please remain seated as the choir sings the **NUNC DIMITTIS:**

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace:
according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen:
thy salvation.

Which thou hast prepared:
before the face of all people.

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles:
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Please stand for the **GLORIA:**

Glory be to the Father:
and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

Setting: Evening Service in D, Sir George Dyson KCV0 (1883-1964)

Please remain standing and face east to recite the **APOSTLES’ CREED:**

I believe in God **the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;**

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Please sit for singing by **The Police Male Voice Choir**

Walking With God George Rawson and W.H. Pontius

Gwahoddiad Words: L Hartsough, Music: John Tudor Davies

Musical Director: Mr Mark McGrath

Accompanist: Mr Daniel Clements



ACT OF REMEMBRANCE



Please stand as Mrs Thelma Corkey BEM lights the Memorial Candle to acknowledge the sacrifices and commemorate the service of all who served in the Royal Ulster Constabulary GC.

Professor Stephen White OBE, Chairman of the Royal Ulster Constabulary GC Foundation, introduces a minute of silent reflection.

Silence

The Dean concludes the silence with a Prayer of Commemoration:

Almighty and eternal God, from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted, either by death or life: hear our prayers and thanksgivings for all whom we remember this day; fulfil in them the purpose of your love; and bring us all, with them, to your eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pipers and Cornet: - Evening Hymn and Sunset

*Please sit as the choir sings the **ANTHEM**:*

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and first earth had passed away, and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband; and I heard a great voice out of heaven, saying: 'Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them and they shall be his people; and God himself shall be with them and be their God; and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes, and there shall be no more death neither sorrow nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain, for the former things are passed away.'

Words: Revelation 21:1-4

Music: Edgar Bainton (1880-1956)

A PRAYER FOR THE ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY GC, *deriving from the RUC GC Crest read by Mr Michael Davidson, Trustee, Royal Ulster Constabulary GC Foundation.*

O Holy Trinity, as symbolized by the humble **shamrock**, we give thanks for the love of the Father, the sacrifice of the Son and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. As Christ Jesus has shown us that the reward of love may be a cross, so we praise you O God for your faithfulness through times of prosperity and of adversity.

Like a **harp** that sounds forth in glorious tunefulness, so we give honour and thanks to those in the policing family who served gallantly and sacrificed dutifully for the harmony of our communities. Steadfast to their legacy and mindful of continuing needs, may our eyes shine with the light of hope as we embrace the future.

Lord, grant us the perseverance to faithfully finish the race, that we may receive the **crown** of righteousness to which we have been called heavenward. Equip us with the spirit of peace, an abundance of your grace, and the wisdom and strength to meet the challenges that may lie before us.

All this we ask in the precious name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. **Amen.**

Please kneel or sit for **THE PRAYERS**, which are led by the representatives of the Churches:

For the Queen and all in authority, by the Reverend Dr Sahr Yambasu President of the Methodist Church in Ireland:

Almighty God, the foundation of all goodness, we humbly beseech thee to behold thy servant, Queen Elizabeth in this her jubilee year.

Endue her with the Holy Spirit, enrich her with thy heavenly grace, prosper her with all happiness; and bring her to thine everlasting kingdom. Direct and protect all those who serve in the Police Service of Northern Ireland and all Her Majesty's Forces, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For all who suffer, by the Right Reverend Monsignor Christopher O'Byrne, PE, AP, representing the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Armagh:

We commend to thy merciful care, O God, those who have been injured and those who sorrow as the result of conflict, both in Northern Ireland and abroad. We remember, especially, all those within the family of the Royal Ulster Constabulary George Cross, among whom are many who have suffered pain and loss. Grant healing to them and to the families of those police officers killed and injured in recent times, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For Northern Ireland, by the Right Reverend Dr David Bruce, B.SSc, BD, DD, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland:

God, our heavenly Father, we pray for this Province, its politicians and its people, inspire them with the vision and will, to seek reconciliation and justice, that we may find stability in government and in peace. Grant that as the Holy Spirit overcame barriers between Jew and Gentile, creating one new humanity in Christ, so by the same Spirit, the people of Northern Ireland may find in Christ the Spirit of peace and goodwill, to give them the courage and the freedom to reach out and to care for one another in his name. **Amen.**

For Peace, by the Right Reverend Andrew Forster, BA (Hons), President of the Irish Council of Churches:

Most holy God and Father, hear our prayers for all who strive for peace and all who fight for justice. Remembering the pain of our own Troubles at home, we pray especially for the people of Ukraine and other places of war in our world today. We pray for those who seek to bring aid and relief. Help us, who remember well the cost of conflict, to work for a better tomorrow; and, as we commend to you lives lost in terror and conflict, bring us all, in the end, to the peace of your presence; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Please sit for singing by **The PSNI Ladies Choir***

Hallelujah Words and Music by Leonard Cohen, Arranged by Roger Emerson

Chariot's Comin' Traditional Spiritual, Adapted and Arranged by Don Besig and Nancy Price

Musical Directors /Accompanists

Mr Donald Blair BEM, Mr Trevor Gillian

*Please remain seated for the **SERMON** by The Most Revd. John McDowell BA (Hons), B.Th., Dip.B.S., Archbishop of Armagh*

*Please stand to sing **HYMN 81***:*



Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
Sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided,
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

Lord, for our land, in this our generation,
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care;
for young and old, for this and every nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

Lord, for our world, when we disown and doubt him,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain;
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him,
Lord of the world, we pray that **Christ** may reign.

Lord, for ourselves; in living power remake us,
self on the cross and **Christ** upon the throne;
past put behind us, for the future take us,
Lord of our lives, to live for **Christ** alone.

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926)

Tune ICH 81(1): LORD OF THE YEARS Michael Baughen (b. 1930) arr. David Iliff (b. 1939)

Please sit as the Dean leads the **CLOSING PRAYERS**

Father of all, we pray for those whom we love, but see no longer.
Grant them your peace; let light perpetual shine upon them; and in your
loving wisdom and almighty power work in them the good purpose of
your perfect will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Bring us, Lord our God, at our last awakening, into the house and gate of heaven, to enter into that gate, and dwell in that house, where there shall be no darkness nor dazzling but one equal light, no noise nor silence, but one equal music; no fears nor hopes, but one equal possession; no ends nor beginnings, but one equal eternity; in the habitation of your glory and dominion, world without end. **Amen.**

Please stand

The Archbishop of Armagh pronounces **THE BLESSING**

God grant to the living grace, to the departed rest, to the Church, the Queen, the Commonwealth and all people, peace and concord; and to us and all his servants, life everlasting; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Please remain standing to sing **HYMN 103**, *during which the Standard will be processed to the west end:*



**○ Christ the same, through all our story's pages,
our loves and hopes, our failures and our fears;
eternal Lord, the King of all the ages,
unchanging still, amid the passing years—**
**○ living Word, the source of all creation,
who spread the skies, and set the stars ablaze,**
**○ Christ the same, who wrought our whole salvation,
we bring our thanks to you for all our yesterdays.**

○ Christ the same, the friend of sinners sharing
our inmost thoughts, the secrets none can hide,
still as of old upon your body bearing
the marks of love, in triumph glorified—
○ Son of Man, who stooped for us from heaven,
○ Prince of life, in all your saving power,
○ Christ the same, to whom our hearts are given,
we bring our thanks to you for this the present hour.

○ Christ the same, secure within whose keeping
our lives and loves, our days and years remain,
our work and rest, our waking and our sleeping,
our calm and storm, our pleasure and our pain—
○ Lord of love, for all our joys and sorrows,
for all our hopes, when earth shall fade and flee,
○ Christ the same, beyond our brief tomorrows,
we bring our thanks to you for all that is to be.

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926)

Tune NEH 258: LONDONDERRY AIR Irish traditional melody from Limavady, Co. Londonderry

Organ Postlude: The Young May Moon, official March of the Royal
Ulster Constabulary GC

The Retiring Collection is in aid of the RUC GC-PSNI Benevolent Fund

*You are warmly invited to remain for refreshments,
which will be served in the Nave.
Stewards will direct you.*

Belfast Cathedral Choir was conducted by the Director of Music, Matthew
Owens MA (Oxon), MusM, FRCO, PPRNCM, HonFGCM, FRSA

The organ was played by the Associate Organist, Tristan Russcher BA Hons (Oxon), FRC

HISTORY OF THE ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY GC

The Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) was established on 1 June 1922, after the partition of Ireland. The nucleus of the Force was former members of the Royal Irish Constabulary that had been disbanded at partition.

Due to political agitation and violence the RUC had a dual security and civil policing role. It was therefore armed. As a result of civil disturbances in 1968/1969, the Force was overstretched and the Army was called in to assist.

The Hunt Report in 1970 made changes to policing in Northern Ireland; including new controls and rank structures, transfer of security to the Army and creation of the RUC Reserve. During the 1970s and 1980s the Force increased in size from 3,000 to 11,691 officers.

In the mid-1970s, the responsibility for security moved back to the Police, with Army support. The RUC also developed specialist units to deal with serious crime, public disorder, terrorism and community relations.

314 members of the RUC were killed in terrorist attacks (302 of them during the period 1969-1998, representing 9% of total deaths due to 'The Troubles' in Northern Ireland). 21 former members of the RUC were also murdered by terrorists. Over 10,000 officers were injured, some 300 being severely disabled. In 1985 the RUC was recognised as the most dangerous police force in the world in which to serve. Deaths and injuries led to unique Force welfare support systems. Additionally, 7 members of the RUC died as a result of German air raids on Belfast during World War II.

RUC officers received 370 individual Gallantry Awards. 712 members received Sovereign's Awards for Distinguished Service. 1,183 families were forced to move house under threat.

In 1999 the RUC was awarded the George Cross in recognition of the collective and sustained bravery of the Force, including its families. It then became the Royal Ulster Constabulary George Cross.

The 'Patten Report' of 1999 recommended major changes to policing in Northern Ireland, including a change of title, incorporating the Royal Ulster Constabulary GC to the 'Police Service of Northern Ireland'. This change took place on 4 November 2001.

**Individual Awards for Gallantry to
Members of the Royal Ulster Constabulary George Cross
1922-2001**

Empire Gallantry Medal - subsequently exchanged for George Cross	1
George Medal	16
Member of the Order of the British Empire (M.B.E.) for Gallantry	1
British Empire Medal for Gallantry	41
Bar to British Empire Medal for Gallantry	1
Queen's Gallantry Medal	129
Bar to Queen's Gallantry Medal	5
King's Police Medal for Gallantry	3
King's Police and Fire Service Medal for Gallantry	4
Queen's Police Medal for Gallantry (Posthumous)	5
Queen's/King's Commendation for Brave Conduct	164

**Individual Awards for Distinguished Service to
Members of the Royal Ulster Constabulary George Cross
1922 - 2001**

Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire (GBE)	1
Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire (KBE)	1
Knight Bachelor (Kt)	9
Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE)	10
Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE)	66
Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE)	234
British Empire Medal (BEM)	201

Member of the Victorian Order (MVO) King's Police Medal (KPM)	3
King's Police and Fire Service Medal (KPFSM)	23
Queen's Police Medal (QPM)	139

Royal Ulster Constabulary GC Foundation

The Royal Ulster Constabulary GC Foundation was established under Section 70 of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000 for the purpose of '*marking the sacrifices and honouring the achievements of the Royal Ulster Constabulary*'. The Foundation is highly privileged to have as its Patron, His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales.

One of its key functions is the maintenance and management of the 'RUC GC Memorial Garden' at Police Headquarters, Knock Road, Belfast, which can be visited any day by arrangement. Others include the provision of a Bursary Scheme which supports the professional development of Police Officers and joint initiatives with the Stakeholder groups. It also plans an 'RUC GC Day' Service, in a different part of the Province, on the first Sunday of June each year as an act of thanksgiving, and also as support for the RUC GPSNI Benevolent Fund.

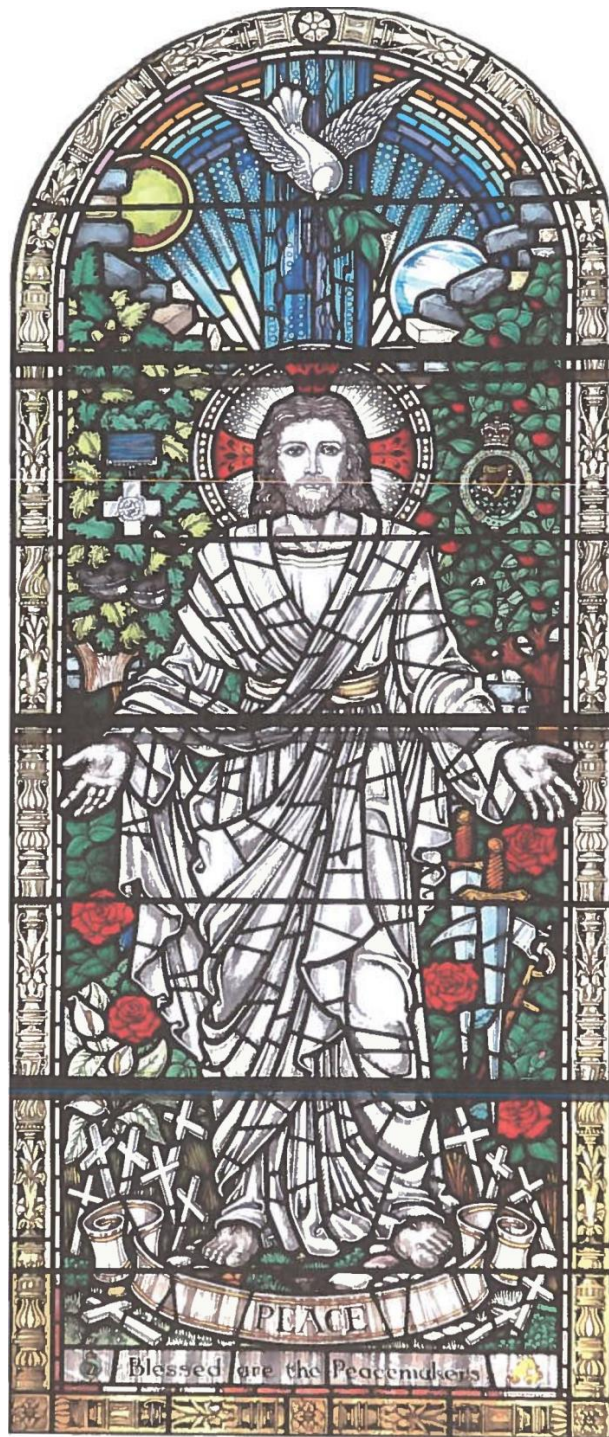
(The Foundation also engages in various other activities in pursuance of its overall purpose, please view website.)

The Foundation can be contacted as follows:

Telephone: 028 9070 0116
E-mail: rucgcfoundation@nics.gov.uk Website:
www.rucgcfoundation.org

Acknowledgements

The Chairman and Trustees of the Royal Ulster Constabulary GC Foundation would like to express our sincere appreciation to all those taking part in the Service. A special word of gratitude to the Dean for arranging the Order of Service and to the Chapter of the Cathedral for making the building available. Finally, our thanks to you the congregation for attending in such encouraging numbers.



*Royal Ulster Constabulary GC Memorial Window in Belfast Cathedral
(Dedicated 12th October 2008)*