

# Church News Ireland

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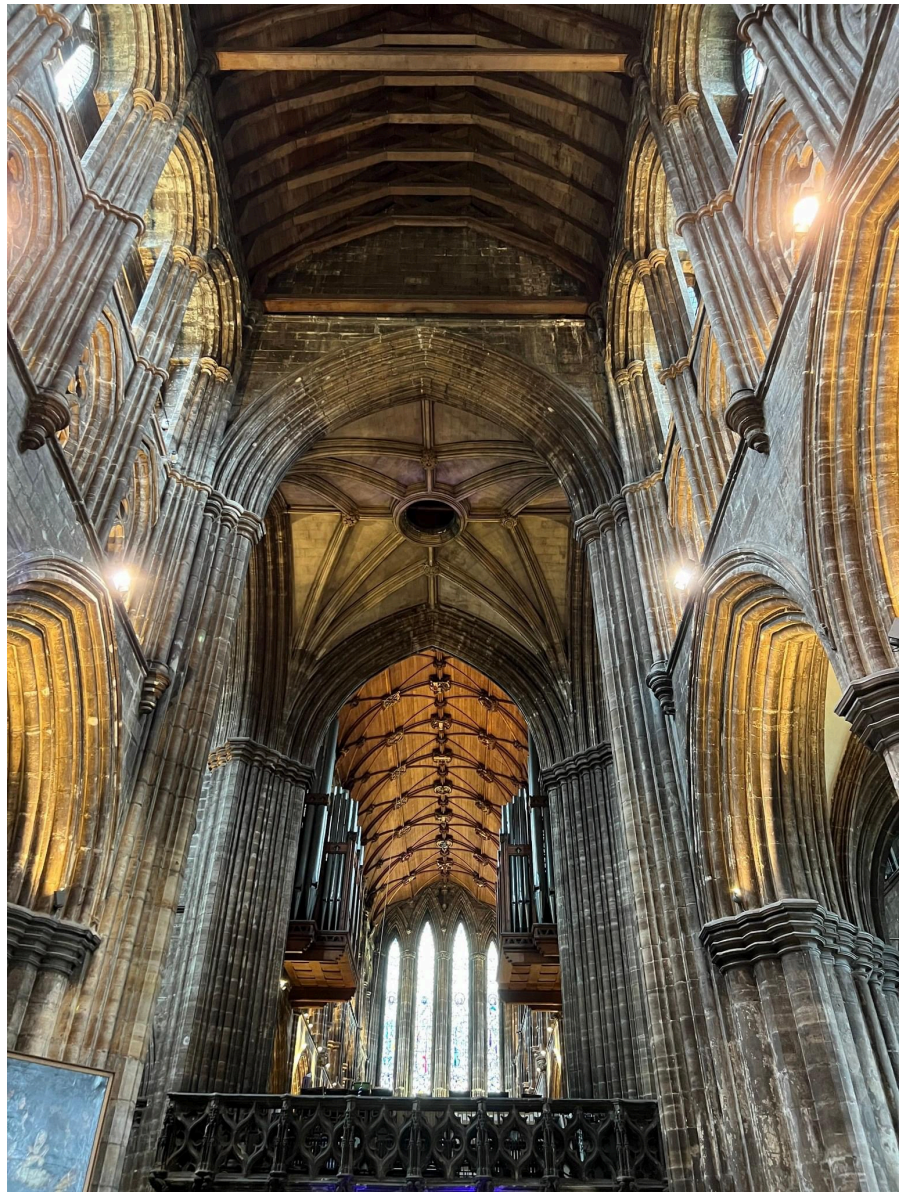


**Image of the day – Newcastle organ**

## Image of the day

### Newcastle organ

**The Cathedral organ accompanies daily choral services and large-scale special services.**



It takes centre stage in the weekly Monday lunchtime Organ Recital Series – one of the country’s few examples of a series that continues throughout the entire year.

A cathedral correspondent writes - Every Monday at 1:05pm, the Cathedral hosts organ recitals that are open to all. No pre-booking is required; simply find a seat in the Nave and enjoy. While attendance is free, we encourage those who attend to consider contributing in-person or online to our retiring collection.



Concerts, theatre performances, artist workshops and special events – all in addition to our regular pattern of worship.

Visit our website to explore Newcastle Cathedral's summer events and special services: [newcastlecathedral.org.uk/whats-on](https://newcastlecathedral.org.uk/whats-on). ✨

July Organ recitals see-  
[<https://newcastlecathedral.org.uk/music/organ-recitals/>]

Newcastle Cathedral,  
St Nicholas Square,  
Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 1PF.

# News



## Christian Aid Ireland group on way to Zimbabwe

On Sunday, Christian Aid staff members Kaye Steele, Dee Huddleston and Lisa Fagan left for Zimbabwe with their Chair Rev Dr Liz Hughes and three supporters - Gillian Porter, Ian Mullen and Roy Kingston.

Please take the opportunity to pray for a safe journey and visit to their partners and projects.



## **Baby Basics Bushmills**

**Joanne sorting just some of the latest donations for Baby Basics.**

“On the day we delivered 5 large bags of clothing, a pram, a bed rail and a cash donation to Portstewart Baby Basics. They were extremely grateful for the continued support from Dunluce Parish”.

## **CMSI making Global Connections**

**Meeting in Oxford, CMSI and MAP members enjoyed a stimulating and challenging day at Global Connections' Passion For Mission conference.**

January 6, 2024

Under the guidance of Professor Michael Stroope they explored how to rethink power and reimagine mission, going beyond the bounds of our western mindsets. A terrific event.



## NI Scouts 2024 Explorer Belt teams set off

January 6, 2024

## **The 2024 Explorer Belt teams have set off on their adventure through Belgium and Luxembourg.**

“This 10-day expedition will challenge and inspire our young people, and we can’t wait to hear all about it when they come home. A huge thank you to Stephen and Callum for their leadership”

## **New Secretary of State for Northern Ireland**

### **Observed on X**

**Hilary Benn** - It is a great honour to be appointed Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. I look forward to working with all the NI parties, to upholding the Belfast Good Friday Agreement and to helping NI realise its full potential as a fantastic place to live, work and invest.

**Archbishop Eamon Martin** - Everyone will be asking you for this and that... My prayer is that you will aim to fulfil the noble vocation of politics - to serve the common good.

## **Clogher parishioner appointed to House of Lords**

**A prominent member of Magheracross Parish Church, Ballinamallard, in Clogher Diocese, Tom Elliott MLA, has been made a life peer in the House of Lords.**



Mr Elliott, from Tullyrain, Ballinamallard, was nominated by the Ulster Unionist Party of which he is a former leader and is a UUP member of the Northern Ireland Assembly representing Fermanagh and South Tyrone.

He was one of 19 new peers announced by the government in the dissolution honours list just before the General Election polls closed on Thursday night.

New life members of the House of Lords are appointed by the King on the advice of the Prime Minister.

Mr Elliott, a farmer and former member of the Ulster Defence Regiment, served as MP for Fermanagh and South



January 6, 2024

Tyrone between 2015-2017 and was previously UUP party leader from 2010-2012.

Mr Elliott said he felt humbled and privileged to be appointed to the House of Lords and says it is recognition to the people of his constituency.

The Rector of Magheracross Parish Church, Revd Lorraine Capper, said she was delighted that Mr. Elliott was rewarded for his dedication and huge commitment to the people of Fermanagh and South Tyrone.

She described him as a humble man with a great willingness to help others.

In addition to being a member of the Northern Ireland Assembly, he is currently the UUP's spokesman for agriculture and the environment and is Chairman of the Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee at Stormont.

In his spare time, Mr. Elliott is Chairman of Ballinamallard Football Club.

## **Archbishops welcome new Prime Minister**

**Archbishop Welby said in a statement on Friday morning: "My warmest congratulations to our new Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer, and my prayers for you and your family as you take on this role of great**

**responsibility for our country. I thank Rishi Sunak and the outgoing Government for their service.**

“I also give thanks today for our democracy, and for the peaceful and orderly transition of power it gives us. I pray for our new Government entering office; for its members to have humility, wisdom, and integrity as they begin their new roles.”

**Archbishop Cottrell** wrote on social media: “Warm congratulations to our new Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer. Offering prayers as you take on this role, and for the well being of the nation you will lead.”

**Cardinal Vincent Nichols** commented “On behalf of the Catholic community of England and Wales, I congratulate Keir Starmer on his victory in yesterday's general election. I assure him of my good wishes as he takes up his new responsibilities in forming and leading a government.”

“The Catholic Church has a long record of partnership with the Government, not least in education where we run over 2000 schools in conjunction with the state. We look forward to this continuing & to working constructively in this & other areas with him, his ministers & officials.

“His previous comments about wanting a government which works with churches and faith communities have been most welcome, and I want him to know that we stand ready to play our part.

January 6, 2024

“I know that the road ahead is, perhaps, not the easiest one but I wish Sir Keir well as he embarks upon it. I will keep him and his family in my prayers”.

## **Church of England York General Synod Presidential address**

**The Archbishop of York, Stephan Cotterill delivered the presidential address to the meeting of the General Synod in York.**

He said, “We are invited to love one another. To find ways forward that honour everyone. Like those who have gone before us we must not look for any reward other than that knowing we have done our best to be faithful.”

Read in full - <https://bit.ly/4cvePDL>

## **Men in churches are under-represented Synod told**

**The Church of England has admitted men are “under-represented” in congregations as attendance at Sunday services remains below pre-pandemic levels.**

In a question submitted to the General Synod, the Church’s legislative body, about what it is doing to encourage evangelism among men, a Church officer said men are under-represented in many parishes.



Revd Will Pearson-Gee of Buckingham Parish Church asked the Synod: “What resources has the Church developed to help people think about and practise evangelism amongst men?”

A representative of the Archbishops' Council responded: "Within the Church of England as we seek to be a church which represents the communities we serve in age and diversity; we recognise that in many churches men are under-represented in the congregation.

"The council encourages dioceses to consider this as they develop their mission plans for future funding."

The spokesman added that the Church and surrounding organisations have developed resources to "help people think about and practice evangelism amongst men". The Church last estimated its male and female membership in 2014, when the ratio of women to men was thought to be about 59:41.

That is despite the gender balance among clergy weighing heavily in favour of men, with 2018 figures showing just 30 per cent of the estimated 20,000 active clergy in the Church of England are female.

The number of male clergy is also in decline. Figures show that while the number of female clergy rose steadily from 5,310 in 2013 to a record high of 5,690 in 2016, the total for men declined by about 860 in this time.

It comes as the Bishop of Oxford accused Christians threatening to breakaway from the Church over an vote on blessings for same-sex couples of "catastrophising" and causing "hurt" to LGBTQ Christians and their families in a letter seen by The Telegraph.

January 6, 2024

Bishops have proposed that gay and lesbian couples could receive blessings from Anglican priests in standalone church services as part of a pilot, before a formal vote is held on whether the change should become permanent.

However, more than 25 church leaders have written to leading bishops warning that such a change could amount to “unlawfulness” and have threatened to create a separate autonomous grouping within the Church. Courtesy Camera Henderson, The Daily Telegraph

## Cathedral Calls

### Evensong Choir at St John's Cathedral, Hongkong

**The Evensong Choir continues to sing through the summer at St John's Cathedral, Hongkong. Do join us if you are visiting or live locally!**

St John's Cathedral is one of the few establishments within the whole of Southeast Asia that offers traditional BCP Choral Evensong services.

Choral Evensong is celebrated on every first and third Sunday of each month at 5.00pm from September to July. This traditional and particularly English style of evening prayer lasts for approximately an hour and contains choral music, hymns, prayers and a sermon.

January 6, 2024

For many years Choral Evensong were graced by voluntary services of many dedicated musicians. Currently the music is led by the auditioned Evensong Choir. The Choir welcomes experienced singers and capable sight-readers, and is actively recruiting tenors and basses. For more information on joining and audition please contact Cathedral's Assistant Director of Music Alan Tsang ([atsang@stjohnscathedral.org.hk](mailto:atsang@stjohnscathedral.org.hk)). [<https://www.stjohnscathedral.org.hk/>]

## Award for St Peter's Schola member



**Congratulations to one of the members of the Schola at St Peter's Cathedral, Belfast, Adam, who was presented with the Honour the Faith Award by the Order of the Knights of St Columbanus Council 36.**

The award recognises Adam's commitment to Catholic values during his seven years at St Joseph's Primary School, and for his contribution to the Cathedral as a member of the boys' Schola Cantorum.

# Clergy



## Canon Jim Carson's 40th Anniversary

Family, staff team, friends and parishioners were present at a recent Sunday's service celebrating Canon Jim Carson's 40th Anniversary of Ordination.



Archdeacon Paul Dundas was the preacher at St Stephens in the three. Church parish.

People from past and present sent videos thanking Canon Carson for his ministry, from as far away as Kajiado Diocese in Kenya!. Cutting the cake are Rev Jim's mum and George Stewart who spoke on behalf of the three congregations present. A buffet lunch finished off a lovely morning celebration.

## Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



### Acclaimed Armagh songwriter's show at John Hewitt Society International Summer School

**Songwriter and composer (and Armagh native), Gareth Williams is set to perform his unique show, 'Songs from the Last Page', this July as part of The John Hewitt Society International Summer School**

January 6, 2024

Each song takes the last lines of a beloved book and transforms these iconic final pages into brand-new 'literary chamber pop' songs. From the melancholy mastermind of Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes to the crescendo of Molly Bloom's soliloquy at the close of Joyce's Ulysses, this collection of songs finds new musical beginnings where these stories end.

With the accompaniment of violin, cello and Gareth himself on piano, this constantly evolving song cycle was a big hit at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2023

Tuesday 23 July 8.30pm £15

✨ Book now at <http://rb.gy/yyiqnz>

## Journeying with Women in the Bible

**Drumalis  
September  
20th-22nd:  
"Wise Women  
and  
Prophetesses:  
Journeying with  
Women in the Bible".**



This weekend will offer a short course for women and men who wish to gain a deeper insight into the stories of female

January 6, 2024

characters from both the Old and New testaments. You will gain fresh insights and perspectives that will provide a richer understanding on why the stories of women in the bible are important for both women and men today. The weekend will be prayerful, dialogical and reflective.

Facilitator: Sr Sheila Curran RSM

Sheila is a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Northern province, Ireland. She is Justice Coordinator for the Conference of Religious of Ireland (CORI) and the Irish Missionary union (IMU).

Sheila's ministry and research has been shaped by her experience of living and working in Peru, particularly her involvement with the Institute Bartolome de las Casa, a non-governmental social justice and human rights organisation founded by the liberation theologian Gustavo Gutiérrez.

More information to follow on Facebook and at [www.drumalis.co.uk](http://www.drumalis.co.uk)

T: (028) 2827 2196 or (028) 2827 6455

(048) 2827 2196 or (048) 2827 6455 (From ROI)

E: [drumalis@btconnect.com](mailto:drumalis@btconnect.com)

## **Methodist Conference Bible Studies**

**At the Irish Methodist Conference 2024 the Bible Studies were led by Rev Danielle McCullough, Chaplain and Dean of Residences in the Church of Ireland/ Methodist Chaplaincy at Queens University and Stranmillis College.**

January 6, 2024

“Danielle shared from Isaiah 61 and brought a significant word for us to hear as the Methodist Church in Ireland”.

Rev McCullough’s talks are on video on the IMC YouTube site at - [bit.ly/4cPweXM](https://bit.ly/4cPweXM)



## Summer Bach concerts by the Ulster Consort

**Saturday July 20th (from 6-7pm) sees the first of two Summer Bach concerts, promoted by the Ulster Consort: 'Baroque Inventions' features J.S. Bach's 15 two-part Inventions and the 15 three-part Sinfonias, played on the harpsichord by Matthew Owens.**

The concert, part of our '60 minutes at Six' series takes place in the Church of the Good Shepherd, Belfast BT7 3GR (Holy Rosary Parish ).

THE ULSTER CONSORT

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# Summer Bach (I)

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## BAROQUE INVENTIONS

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<p><b>J.S. Bach</b> Fifteen two-part Inventions, BWV 772-786</p> <p><b>J.S. Bach</b> Fifteen three-part Sinfonias (Inventions), BWV 787-801</p>	<p>These charming pieces were written by J.S. Bach for his son Wilhelm Friedemann. On the autograph copy, dated 1723, Bach titled the collection: "Forthright instruction, wherewith lovers of the clavier, especially those desirous of learning, are shown in a clear way not only to learn to play two voices clearly, but also after further progress to deal correctly and well with three obligato parts...". The works are, in essence, Bach's teaching manuals which have given pleasure for 300 years, and are still very much in use today.</p>
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**Saturday 20 July**  
**6pm – 7pm**

**MATTHEW OWENS** harpsichord

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**Church of the Good Shepherd,  
Belfast BT7 3GR**

Tickets: £15 (under 18s free) available in advance via [eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk), and on the evening at the door

www.ulsterconsort.com

Tickets are available at the door on the evening or in advance via Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/summer-bach-i-tickets-777668997907>

## Environment

### C of E Environment Bulletin July edition

January 6, 2024

**The July edition of the Environment Bulletin, bringing you the latest news, resources and stories to inspire you to care for God's creation.**

In this month's edition:

Read about the **Archbishop of Canterbury** planting a tree in the Communion Forest in Central America

Find out how you can get involved in this summer's Church of England social media campaign - **Church Door Challenge**

Read about a new multi-million pound **Demonstrator Churches** project which has been launched by the Church of England's Net Zero Programme

Watch a **short video** from St Peter Mancroft in Norwich as they share their net zero journey so far  
And find out about **sustainable floral displays** for your church

Sign up here for environment newsletter

<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change/sign-our-environment-newsletter>

## **Eco Congregation Ireland small grant scheme for churches**

**Eco Congregation Ireland has launched a new small grant scheme for churches and congregations.**

January 6, 2024

Thanks to generous sponsorship from church supplies companies RPD Ltd and Logos Publications, churches across Ireland can apply for a grant to support biodiversity or energy conservation projects. The grants will be between €100/£90 and €500/£450, and the ECI committee will be looking for small scale practical projects which are either already running or will begin before the end of 2024. The church or congregation must have already registered with ECI (a very simple process) and begun their Eco Congregation journey. The closing date for applications is 31st July. The criteria for the grants and an application details may be found at [info@ecocongregationireland.com](mailto:info@ecocongregationireland.com)

## Poem for today

### The Blackbird Of Derrycairn

By Austin Clarke

Stop, stop and listen for the bough top  
Is whistling and the sun is brighter  
Than God's own shadow in the cup now!  
Forget the hour-bell. Mournful matins  
Will sound, Patric, as well at nightfall.

Faintly through mist of broken water  
Fionn heard my melody in Norway.  
He found the forest track, he brought back  
This beak to gild the branch and tell, there,  
Why men must welcome in the daylight.

January 6, 2024

He loved the breeze that warns the black grouse,  
The shouts of gillies in the morning  
When packs are counted and the swans cloud  
Loch Erne, but more than all those voices  
My throat rejoicing from the hawthorn.

In little cells behind a cashel,  
Patric, no handbell gives a glad sound.  
But knowledge is found among the branches.  
Listen! That song that shakes my feathers  
Will thong the leather of your satchels.

## Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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## Church News Ireland

The publication of Church News Ireland is overseen by Very Rev Dr Houston McKelvey OBE, QVRM, TD. He may be contacted at [houstonmckelvey@mac.com](mailto:houstonmckelvey@mac.com)

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January 6, 2024

# Church News Ireland

[www.churchnewsireland.org](http://www.churchnewsireland.org)

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