

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – The Guild Hall  
Derry Londonderry**

August 11, 2023

## Image of the day

### The Guildhall, Derry-Londonderry

**A confirmed opener for European Heritage Open Days (EHOD) 2023.**

The historic Guildhall is one of Derry's most recognisable landmarks and has been at the heart of city life since 1890. Fashioned in neo-gothic style it is one of the most striking buildings in the northwest.

Shipquay Place, Londonderry BT48 6DQ

Saturday 9 & Sunday 10 September – 10:00, 12.00, 14.00  
16:00

Guided tours are available, booking essential.

Digital Brochure: <https://bit.ly/4794JX3>

EHOD Web App: <https://bit.ly/EHOD2023>

Discover N.I: <https://bit.ly/3DGW28Q>

## People and places

### Church Army Evangelist commissioned

**Congratulations to Steve Grasham from Geashill who was commissioned as a Church Army Evangelist on Tuesday 18th July, in Sheffield Cathedral.**





*Mothers Union members from Derry and Raphoe met in the garden of the See House this week to remember the anniversary of their founder Mary Sumner*

Steve Grasham is the full-time Youth Ministry Development Officer for the South of Ireland, and lives in Geashill. He is also married to Rev Fran Grasham, Priest-in-charge of Geashill.

In his Youth Ministry role Steve advocates for, resources and empowers evangelism, and has been pivotal in introducing Faith Empowered in the Church of Ireland. Steve continues to pioneer alternative local worship and community work in his local context, and has been heavily involved in supporting the arrival of many Ukrainian refugees in his local area.





*Mothers Union members from Derry and Raphoe met in the garden of the See House this week to remember the anniversary of their founder Mary Sumner*

In the service on Tuesday 18th July, Steve was admitted to the Office of Evangelist by the Rt Revd Tim Thornton, Assistant Bishop of Salisbury, under the authority and behalf of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, and also commissioned as a Church Army Evangelist.

Following 4 years of training, through the Church of England Common Awards scheme validated by Durham University, Church Army evangelists are Admitted and Commissioned under the authority of the Archbishop of Canterbury. They are lay officers of the wider Church and their office is





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recognised across the provinces of the Anglican Communion.

The Ven Peter Rouch, Church Army's Chief Executive Officer said, "I feel enormously proud that we're Admitting and Commissioning Steve and marking his calling and vocation as an evangelist.

"I look forward to seeing how God will use his ministry to take forward Church Army's vision of seeing lives and communities empowered and transformed by the love of God in word and action."

Church Army was founded in 1882 by Wilson Carlile, a London curate with a passion to share the Good News of Jesus with people who'd never dream of stepping foot in a

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church. Carlile trained ordinary people to share the Gospel, most especially amongst those on the margins of society. The work of Church Army today builds on Carlile's vision, work that has brought hope to millions.

Church Army Evangelists fulfil a variety of roles in the church: they are evangelists first and foremost, but they may also be chaplains, pioneers, ordained priests, youth workers, community workers, church planters, pastoral workers and trainers.

Photos of Commissioning 2023 and article on Steve at [<https://churcharmy.org/admitting-commissioning-caevangelists23/>]

For more on Church Army, visit [churcharmy.org](https://churcharmy.org).

## **Final curtain falls after a successful Spark Ballymena 2023**

**Spark Ballymena 2023 was an amazing success; the perfect way to end the outreach after 16 wonderful years of reaching out to so many over those years in the Ballymena area and neighbouring villages.**

Around 60 volunteers participated in this year's numerous projects in Ballymena Town Centre and Broughshane, Doury Road and Dunclug, with the aim of being Jesus' hands and feet and showing His love to people there.



Many homes were blessed by having their gardens tidied; dozens of people also took the opportunity to receive prayer for issues that were important to them.

Dozens of primary school aged children had fun hearing more about Jesus while having fun at Kids' Clubs in all three areas. Visitors to the Harmony Hub at Broadway also found a listening ear as well as free tea and coffee. Staff in various shops were also blessed with chocolate truffles specially prepared by the Spark team themselves.

Another highlight was a Football Camp which was run at First Ballymena Presbyterian Church in partnership with Coaching4Christ; more than 30 primary school-aged youngsters came along each day.





The final day saw members of the Spark team visit residents at Prospect Nursing Home to sing and spend time with them.

Every member of Spark was blessed by the worship team who led worship at High Kirk Church each morning. Speakers, Zach, Lisa and Chris also delivered inspiring messages on Encounters with God.

As always, Sparkers are keen to say thank-you to everyone who has helped them this year; that includes the Churches in which they were fed and based in during the week.

Courtesy of Joe Boyd and The Church Page





## **Ecumenical open-air service in St. Molua's Magheracloone**

**Every year in August there is an Ecumenical open-air service in St. Molua's church yard Magheracloone, Monaghan. This years' service will be held Sunday 13th August 3pm. All are welcome.**

An excerpt from a booklet regarding the church yard written by a past rector of St. Molua's Revd John L. Sutcliffe reads., 'For centuries this was burial ground for all the parish.

'This situation did not change with the reformation. Roman Catholics were buried alongside members of the Church of Ireland, symbolising the fact that whilst we may have divisions on earth, we are not divided in death.'

"Given our emphasis on togetherness we are delighted that Monsignor Shane Mc Caughey will be able to join us for the service".



*Canon Eric McGirr and his wife Sheila were warmly welcomed back to Lisbellaw last Sunday morning. Canon McGirr spoke about how rapidly the church is growing in Asia, Africa and South America. He emphasised the importance of Bible Reading, Teaching and Prayer.*

**The introduction to the open-air service to be held in St. Molua's church yard 13th August 3pm.**

'We meet this day to remember the life and faith of St Molua, all laid to rest in this place and all who have gone before us in faith. We give thanks for all the heroes of the faith, all who have passed on the love, hope and truth of the Gospel throughout the generations. We remember in our



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own hearts those who passed the faith on to us. We seek to renew our trust and confidence in Christ, and to pray that together we may be one in him, through whom we offer our praises to the Father.’

Revd Ian Cruickshank writes, “Over the years there has been a devoted number of people who attend the service where not only can we offer our thanks and respect to those family and friends no longer with us, but we have the opportunity, to extend our friendship with those who continue to journey with us on our earthly pilgrimage. Please stay with us for some refreshments after the service”.

Photographs and comment by the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage of Ireland at -  
[<https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/41403301/saint-moluas-church-camaghy-monaghan>]

## In the media

**Kate Hoey: Jim Allister is one of the most principled, cleverest politicians but I've no desire to join TUV or any other unionist party**

News Letter excerpt - Former Labour MP Kate Hoey has said she is proud to work with anyone in Northern Ireland who wants to protect the Union, but has ruled out going into local politics, writes Graeme Cousins.

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Baroness Hoey, who was born in Mallusk and later became MP for Vauxhall in London, has spoken alongside TUV leader Jim Allister at anti-protocol rallies throughout Northern Ireland.

Asked on BBC News NI's Red Lines podcast by Mark Carruthers if she'd ever consider joining Mr Allister's party or any unionist party in Northern Ireland she said: "I'm now living in Northern Ireland, I enjoy being able to go back to London and see people and get involved in the House of Lords but I have no desire to be a member of the Assembly.

"I'm very proud to work with anyone in Northern Ireland who wants to protect the Union, fight for our identity as part of the United Kingdom because economically and socially and all sorts of ways we are so much better off."

She continued: "I actually think Jim Allister is one of the most principled, cleverest politicians in Northern Ireland and thought so when he was in European Parliament as well, but I have differences with Jim on lots of social issues.

"I have differences with even the DUP on certain things and I certainly have differences with [UUP leader] Doug Beattie on a lot of things."

She commented: "What I've always campaigned for – and am still campaigning for – is for the Labour Party to allow proper membership in Northern Ireland".





## **Vast PSNI data breach even worse than first feared, as officers and staff reconsider their security**

Belfast Telegraph - It was immediately obvious the PSNI data leak was gargantuan, but it is becoming clear that it is even worse than it first seemed, writes Sam McBride. Further examination of the 345,000 data cells in the PSNI spreadsheet reveals it to be far worse than police initially claimed. One serving officer said: "There are names on that list of people which we as police officers would not be trusted to be told".

## **UK election push to leave European Convention on Human Rights**

The Daily Telegraph - Says Rishi Sunak will face calls from a third of his cabinet to put leaving the European



**Girl of eight dies and second child injured after crash in town**  
SEE PAGE 12



**Protocol blamed for possible loss of 500 NI haulage jobs**  
SEE PAGE 8

## Top officer: Data breach has damaged trust with MI5

### Identities of dozens who work with security services were revealed

By Mark Rainey  
@News\_Letter

The PSNI will have to rebuild trust with MI5 after the major data breach on Tuesday identified 40 police officers working with the Intelligence Service, a top officer has conceded. ACC Chris Todd apologised following the security blunder that led to highly sensitive details on 10,000 officers and staff appearing online for up to three hours. The spreadsheet containing the confidential material was inadvertently released along with the PSNI's formal response to a routine freedom of information request. Police Federation chairman Liam Kelly said the "monumental breach" had left officers "shocked, dismayed and basically angry," while Chief Con-

stable Simon Byrne (pictured) has cut short a family holiday to attend an emergency meeting of the Policing Board in Belfast today. Asked specifically about the reaction of MI5 to the names of the 40 PSNI officers being placed in the public domain, ACC Todd said the incident will have damaged some "strong partnerships" the PSNI has with a number of organisations and agencies. "We hope that we will maintain that but undoubtedly some trust and confidence will be eroded through events such as this. It is unacceptable, it's regrettable, and something that we need to make sure doesn't happen again," he told the BBC's Nolan Show. PSNI officers continue to live and work under threat from terrorists,



with the current assessed level of threat at severe, meaning an attack is highly likely. One serving PSNI officer who spoke to the News Letter said they "feel sick with worry," and that the security breach "is causing serious distress among colleagues". They said: "If these details fall into the wrong hands - and I'm sure those people who want to target police will find a way to get hold of them - it doesn't bear thinking about." It also emerged yesterday that the PSNI is investigating a second data breach that occurred on July 6 when a PSNI laptop, radio and spreadsheet with the names of 200 officers were stolen from a private car. See pages 4 and 5



Leo Varadkar with her personalised Linfield jersey at Windsor Park

## Leo's a true Blue!

Taoiseach Leo Varadkar became an honorary Bluesman yesterday during a visit to Windsor Park. The Irish premier was presented with a personalised Linfield shirt - and he declared himself impressed with the club's cross-community academy efforts. He said: "Really good to see that they're training young players

from all parts of Northern Ireland and indeed some from Drogheda and from the Republic of Ireland as well, so very positive to see that happening here." Earlier he had met the five main local party political leaders and said a plan B was needed if Stormont is not restored in the autumn. See page 6



### WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO TOMORROW?

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Convention on Human Rights at the heart of the Conservative election campaign if the courts block migrant deportation flights to Rwanda. The Supreme Court is due to decide on the policy soon. Flights have been sus

pending since June last year when a judge at the European Court of Human Rights - which rules on the Convention - issued an injunction halting the deportations.

Rishi Sunak will face calls from up to a third of his Cabinet to put leaving the European Convention on Human Rights



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(ECHR) at the heart of the Tory election campaign if migrant deportation flights to Rwanda are blocked by the courts.

At least eight Cabinet ministers, along with other senior Tories, are prepared to back the move if ECHR membership prevents Britain from protecting its borders against illegal migration, The Daily Telegraph has been told.

It comes ahead of a Supreme Court decision over whether the Rwanda policy is legal. The Court of Appeal had ruled that the flights should be blocked because of the risk that asylum seekers' human rights would be breached if they were deported to Rwanda.

Deportation flights to Rwanda have been suspended since June, when a single judge from the European Court of Human Rights issued an 11th-hour injunction halting the first removal of asylum seekers to the central African country.

Mr Sunak has resisted calls to leave the ECHR. The Government's Illegal Migration Act gives ministers powers to ignore future ECHR injunctions, known as rule 39 orders.

The Daily Express carries the same story, quoting the immigration minister, Robert Jenrick, who said he would do whatever was necessary to end the small boats crisis.

Inside, it admits leaving the Convention would be a huge step.

The Sun says, in an editorial, that ministers are right to consider the move.

## **Brazil's Amazon Summit has closed with a roadmap to protect tropical rainforests but without concrete commitments to end deforestation**

Irish Examiner - Leaders and ministers from eight Amazon nations signed a declaration in Belem, Brazil, that laid out plans to drive economic development in their countries while preventing the Amazon's ongoing demise "from reaching a point of no return".

Several environmental groups described the declaration as a compilation of good intentions with little in the way of measurable goals and timeframes. However, it was lauded by others, and the Amazon's umbrella organisation of indigenous groups celebrated the inclusion of two of its main demands.

[https://www.irishexaminer.com/world/arid-41201920.html?utm\\_](https://www.irishexaminer.com/world/arid-41201920.html?utm_)

## **Sammy Wilson: Business organisations should stop being so cowardly about the Windsor Framework and complain about it**

News Letter excerpt - The announcement by a major haulage company that it intends to abandon Northern Ireland because of the difficulties caused by the devastating and damaging deals with the European Union should ring alarm bells throughout businesses and the public, Sammy Wilson writes.

These agreements have been negotiated by successive spineless and supine prime ministers.



Morgan McLernon are a part of a major United Kingdom haulage consortium. If they are overwhelmed by the restrictions of the Windsor Framework and the decisions by retailers to look for supplies in the Irish Republic instead of Great Britain then how can we expect smaller companies to overcome the massive bureaucracy and economic redistribution which result from the Windsor Framework.

What is surprising is the silence of business organisations in Northern Ireland which despite the implications for their members have meekly accepted the assurances given by the prime minister, Rishi Sunak, and the secretary of state, Chris Heaton-Harris, without questioning the contradictions between the EU and the UK versions of the Windsor Framework.

All the signs are there. Difficulties in getting information about arrangements from government departments, the



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government rushing through regulations without proper scrutiny and decisions by major retailers to seek supplies for NI stores from EU countries instead of GB.

The silence of business organisations is bad enough what is even worse is the collusion of political parties in NI who seem to put their loyalty to the EU and reluctance to criticise the EU's abuse of NI before the interests of their voters.

Let there be no doubt about it we will all suffer after October 1 as a result of the actions of Theresa May, Boris Johnson and Rishi Sunak, all whom let the EU trample over them and split up the UK.

Consumers will pay higher prices because of higher transport and bureaucracy costs in bringing goods into NI. Retailers buying their supplies from the Republic of Ireland (RoI) will have to charge more. The evidence is there. Why do consumers in the RoI flock to Newry, Strabane and Londonderry to do their shopping? It is because goods brought into NI stores from GB are cheaper and different quality from those produced in their own country yet that is where we will be getting more of our supplies from in future thanks to the Windsor Framework.

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

### **The Esker Festival Orchestra**

The countdown is on! Don't miss Mahler's Symphony No. 2, featuring a 90 piece orchestra, the 100 person Esker

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**Gustav Mahler - *Symphony No. 2 'Resurrection'***

Peter Joyce - Conductor

Featuring the newly formed Esker Festival Choir

Vocal soloists - Kathleen Nic Dhiarmada and Madeline Judge

## 10th Anniversary Celebration

### Galway Cathedral

Saturday, August 19th 2023, 8pm

Presented in association with  
Galway Cathedral Recital Series

### St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin

Sunday, August 20th 2023, 8pm

Tickets €20/€12

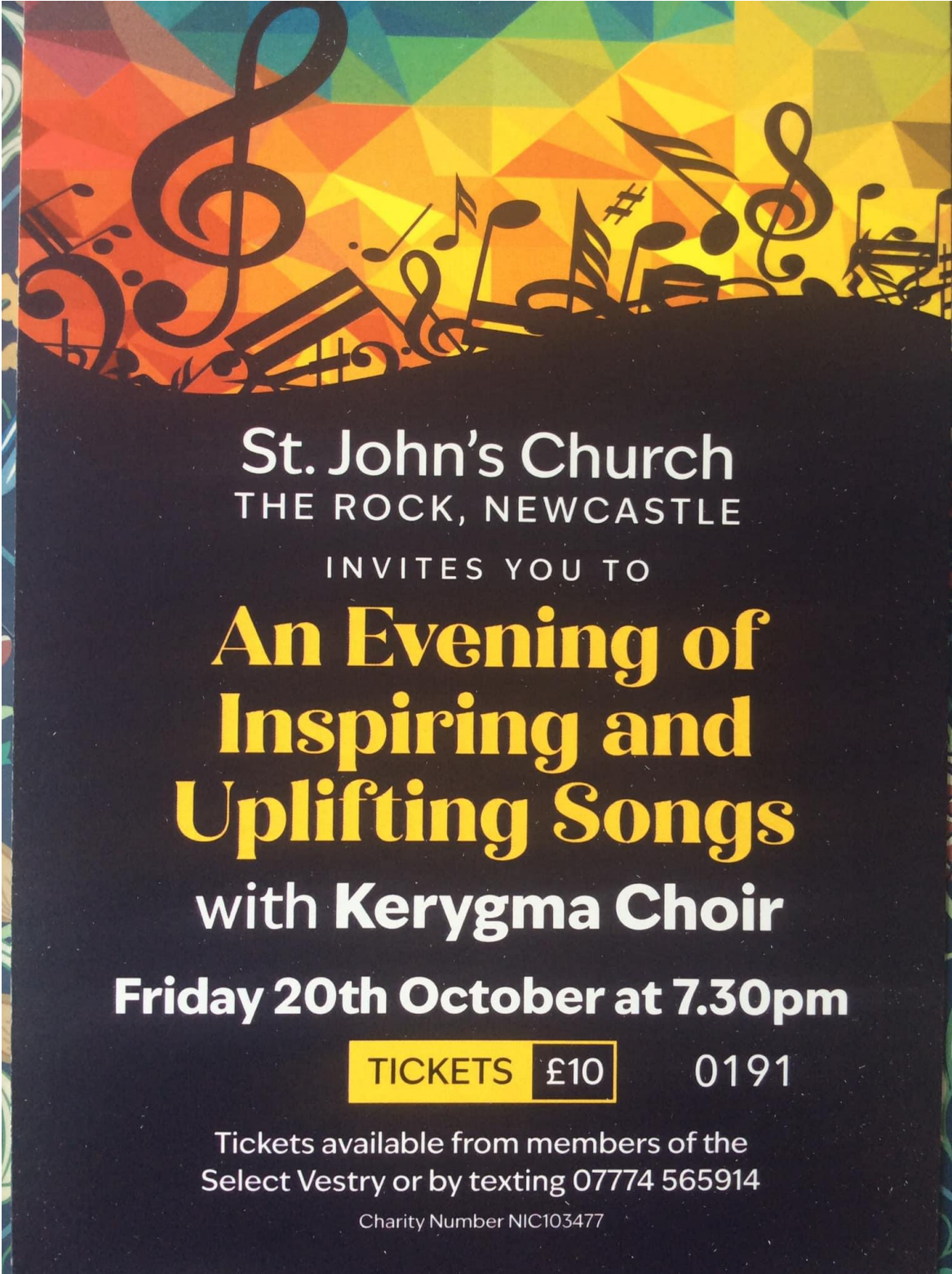
Available on the door or at  
[www.eskerfestivalorchestra.com](http://www.eskerfestivalorchestra.com)



Festival Choir and soloists from the Irish National Opera Studio, Madeline Judge & Kathleen Nic Dhiarmada  
Tickets: €20/€12. Available at <https://bit.ly/44xRPzU>

The Esker Festival Orchestra is a new ensemble of talented young Irish musicians about to embark on their careers.

EFO 2023 August 14th - 20th.



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## Church News Ireland

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