

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Belfast Maritime Festival 2023

Image of the day

Free entry to Belfast Maritime Festival 2023

Belfast's Titanic Quarter will come alive on Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th September with an array of free entertainment for all the family.

As well as welcoming a flotilla of vessels and ships to Queen's Quay and Abercorn Basin, other highlights include:

Science Street - curated by the NI Science Festival, there's a host of fun interactive activities, demonstrations & live shows for curious minds of all ages.

Food - the Belfast Bazaar will feature a host of stalls from local producers and makers, including some wonderful local crafters.

Music - celebrating Belfast's UNESCO City of Music status, local talent will be entertaining crowds on the Maritime Mile.

<https://bit.ly/BelfastMaritimeFestival>

People and places

Richill Parish Cyclethon for church tower and Newry hospice

A few brave parishioners of a Church of Ireland congregation in Richill kept the wheels turning on two bikes for 12 hours straight this past weekend in aid of their church's tower repair appeal and the Southern Area Hospice.

St Matthew's Parish Church held the 'Cyclethon' between the hours of 8am and 8pm on Saturday past (August 19) to raise money to be split between the two causes.

People were encouraged to come along and support the cyclists, or even have a go on a bike themselves!

There was also catering available throughout the day, with the opportunity for a burger and a cup of tea.

Mary Caldwell, a member of the church, said: "We wanted to raise funds for the Hospice to show that the staff are valued and appreciated."

Speaking on the tower repair appeal, she said that the church tower, which houses the village clock, needs to be restored.

"There's two floors in the tower, one has been repaired but we need funding to repair the other.



St Matthew's Church, Richhill

“It’s an important cause for the village and very important to give to the Hospice,” she added.

St Matthew’s Parish Church has for many years been significant in the life and character of Richhill, having been consecrated in 1837 to be the new parish church for the area. The building itself was repurposed, having formerly been a market house for the village which was built in 1752.

The Rector of St Matthew’s Church, Rev. Gary McMurray commented: “We discovered that the two landings on the inside of the tower needed a bit of work done to them. The first phase of the work has been completed, we did that in July, and the second phase will hopefully happen in October.

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“It’s really just to make sure that the tower, which has stood for 110 years, continues to stand securely.”

He added: “We had also put out an appeal to parishioners as well to make donations towards the work and they have been very generous.

“Saturday will be an opportunity when people are passing by. There’ll be buckets, there’ll be a BBQ, there’ll be refreshments and you can make donations. Everything on the day will be split 50-50 between church funds and the Hospice.”

Courtesy of report by Scott Mann in Armagh I

Dunfanaghy Presbyterian Church hosts summer barbecue

It was celebration time for Dunfanaghy Presbyterian Church last Saturday when a summer barbecue was held in a marquee tent in the grounds of the church manse.

The special occasion was organised by the Kirk Session to recognise the contribution of three key individuals to the life and work of the congregation.

The Rev Jim Lamont, senior minister of Dunfanaghy and Carrigart congregations, was presented with a framed photograph of Muckish to mark the 50th anniversary of his ordination as a Presbyterian minister.



Ethel Montgomery and the Rev Jim Lamont with their gifts

Ethel Montgomery received a Tiffany style table lamp and a bouquet of flowers in recognition of her “dedicated work and faithful witness” over a period of 45 years in her roles as congregational treasurer, Clerk of Session and church organist.

Jack Neilly, a student Presbyterian minister from Co Down who served as summer assistant over a 10-week period, was given a cheque as a gesture of thanks from the congregation for his leadership, encouragement and pastoral care.

Mr Lamont and Mr Neilly both received additional gifts from the local clergy, presented by Canon David Skuce from Holy Trinity Church of Ireland on behalf of himself, Fr Martin Doohan PP from Holy Cross and Fr John Joe Duffy from Creeslough.

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Around 50 people from Dunfanaghy and Carrigart attended the function at which a delicious barbecue with all the trimmings was provided by members of Dunfanaghy congregation. Music was provided by Mike Armstrong on his saxophone.

Marina Sterritt, Dunfanaghy congregational secretary, acted as MC and paid tribute to all three recipients and said they had made valued contributions in their own various ways to the congregation.

Courtesy of Donegal News.

Discover Lisburn's forgotten history

Discover the often forgotten history of Lisburn on one of the new walking tours of the city

Stephen McCracken, whose Great Uncle was a minister at First Lisburn Presbyterian Church, has started walking tours of Lisburn, offering an insight into the history of the area that many may never have known.

“One of my direct Great Uncles was the first Minister of 1st Lisburn Presbyterian Church the Rev Alexander McCracken,” explained Stephen, who has been delivering Battle of Antrim and Pre-Christian tours of Antrim for the past seven years.

"He left quite a legacy of Ulster-Scots, which leads up to his great grandnephew John McCracken who owned a mill in Lisburn and who was a member of Lisburn Masonic Lodge.

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John was the brother of Mary Ann and Henry Joy McCracken who both took a leading role in the 1798 rebellion.

"Also within the membership of the Lisburn Lodge was George Tandy the bother of James Napper Tandy, William McCabe the brother of the Belfast abolitionist, Henry Monro and many other prominent United Irishmen.

"On the tour we go into detail about the French link to Lisburn really starting through the Huguenot Church and its very successful school and with the Teeling family, indeed a Lisburn man Bartholow Teeling was the Aid-de-Camp to General Humbert who invaded Ireland this month in 1798, 225 years ago."

BIBLE WEEK 2023

29 AUGUST - 1 SEPTEMBER
WILLOWFIELD CHURCH
BELFAST AT 7.45PM



TUESDAY 29 AUGUST
A change of address
(Colossians 1: 1-2)

WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST
Conversion to a cause
(Colossians 1: 3-14)

THURSDAY 31 AUGUST
Conversion to Christ
(Colossians 1: 15-23)

FRIDAY 1 SEPTEMBER
Conversion to a community
(Colossians 1: 24-29)

with **GREG DOWNES**

Greg Downes is the Director of Kingfisher Ministries and the Theologian and Missioner of St Mary's, Cogges near Oxford.

He is a priest, evangelist and practical theologian and a gifted communicator. Greg was until recently Dean of the Wesley Centre at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford University.





How the rector enjoys some Sunday afternoon TV! Rev Johnny McLoughlin, Aghavea Parish

Stephen continued: "This tour is really a re-discovery of the City of Lisburn's links to its "radical" mixed past which has been lost or much forgotten due to the past 20th century troubles.

"This walking tour is jammed pack full of information and I have partnered up with a local historian Arron McIntyre to help deliver this one and we will be looking at the exploration of many more.

" I have published a number of history books on the Presbyterian Church and the United Irishmen.

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"Booking can be found via Eventbrite or you can take the risk of just turning up, however we are limited numbers wise due to the number of ear pieces we have.

"We hope will add another heritage option for both locals and tourists."

You can find out more about the tours and book a place online at

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/united-irishmen-walking-tour-of-lisburn-city-centre-tickets-688872104007?aff=oddtcreator>

Courtesy of Julie-Ann Spence in Northern Ireland World

Being Churches together in 21st Century Ireland

“Join us on Thursday, 7 September as we consider how, together as Churches, we are to effectively and authentically engage with one another and in the public square” - Irish Council of Churches

The event celebrates 100 years of the Irish Council of Churches and 50 years since the Ballymascanlon Talks which led to the formation of the Irish Inter-Church Meeting.

'Called to be One', an updated history of ICC and IICM written by Rev Dr Ian Ellis will be launched on the day

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Three speakers will examine how churches can bear witness to our vision of hope for society in Ireland today:
Witnessing for a reason: Connecting Christian values and public concerns (Prof Philip McDonagh)

Witnessing together: How churches build connection and work together effectively (Dr Nicola Brady)

Witnessing in diversity: Churches working for an Ireland of belonging (Rev Dr Livingstone Thompson)

Followed by workshop sessions exploring how churches can work effectively on different issues affecting society today such as sectarianism, economic inequality, ethnic and gender discrimination and the climate crisis.

Friends and Relatives Of Thompson House Hospital

Charity Quiz Night and Raffle

To raise funds for specialised therapy room and Patients Mural Art works for the Courtyard Garden

Dunmurry Golf Club

Thursday 28th September 2023

7pm for 7:30pm start

Cost £10 per person (includes raffle tickets) payable on the night

To book a seat please phone, text or email

Carol on 028 92665646 or carol.hamill@setrust.hscni.net

A wheelchair lift is available to access the first floor

Light snacks and drinks will be available from the Club.

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Being Churches together in 21st Century Ireland

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/being-churches-together-in-21st-century-ireland-tickets-653866501307?utm>

News reports

C of E funding of £9.4 million for additional curate posts

The Church of England has announced funding of £9.4 million for additional curate posts.

It will mean almost 70 extra stipendiary curacy positions for deacons who are ordained this year.

Rev Helen Fraser who is Head of Vocations and Deputy Director of the Ministry Development Team for the Church of England has been speaking to Premier about what it will mean for churches and parishes:

“The funding is to directly support that stage of training after the point of ordination, before somebody then goes on to be either an assistant minister or to be the leader of a church themselves as an incumbent.

“We’ve actually been running this scheme a few years. As the Church of England we had a real sense that God was calling more and more people to serve in this way. So it was set up in 2019 and used first in 2020. We know that dioceses really want all these curates in their churches, but a sudden step up in funding would be quite a significant task, so the Church and the Archbishops' Council knew that

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to make that work we needed to offer some support, so that's what's been happening.

"I think it's helped confidence. People who sense God is calling them have really important questions such as: 'Will I be useful?' and, 'Will I be able to engage in ministry and feed my family?'

"These are really important questions and hopefully, this scheme gives confidence to those people. It also gives confidence to the church that actually, ministry is growing, that we really need and appreciate those ministers and that God is calling excellent people to serve in the church."

Healing Service

7.30pm Thursday 31st August

St. Patrick's Church of Ireland

220 Newtownards Road

Ballymacarrett

Belfast



**WITH SPECIAL
GUEST SPEAKER**

Anne Donaldson

"Created to Soar Ministries"

Prayer Ministry and Anointing with Oil

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Rev LJ Tiffney is one of 14 deacons ordained this summer at Blackburn Cathedral. She has begun work as a curate at St Thomas's Church, a parish in Blackpool.

Rev Tiffney trained at Emmanuel Theological College having completed the Ministry Experience Scheme – a year long placement for young adults aged between 18 and 30 years - at Freedom Church in Mereside, Blackpool.

She said: "I am thrilled to be at St Thomas's - I feel that God is calling me to be here and I see God at work through the stories of the people who live in the parish."

The grant, approved by the Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board (SMMIB), will support 68.5 additional stipendiary curacy posts for deacons ordained this year.

The funds have been made from the Diocesan Investment Programme to ensure that there is no shortfall in the number of available stipendiary curacy posts.

A further £8.4 million of funding has been approved by the Board for additional curacies in 2024.

Russian Orthodox priests face persecution from state and church for supporting peace in Ukraine

Associated Press - A small number of Russian Orthodox priests are publicly opposing their leader's support for Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and they're suffering the consequences.

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Last September, when President Vladimir Putin ordered a partial mobilization of reservists, Moscow Patriarch Kirill required his clergymen to pray for victory. Standing in front of the altar and dozens of his parishioners in one of

The poster features a dark green background with a silhouette of a marching band and soldiers. A large, faint watermark of a coin is visible in the lower-left quadrant. The text is white and centered, providing details about the event.

VETERANS PARADE AND BEATING RETREAT

featuring the Band of the Royal Irish Regiment

Friday 25 August, 7.15pm
Conway Square, Newtownards

A spectacular evening of music and veterans parading, featuring the Band of the Royal Irish Regiment. This event will honour men and women from Ards and North Down who have served their country at home and abroad.

For further information visit www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk
f ArdsandNorthDownBoroughCouncil





Moscow's churches, Koval decided to put the peace above the patriarch's orders.

https://apnews.com/article/russia-orthodox-church-defrocked-priests-ukraine-war-21660b57105a95a04e6321fb8baffa9e?taid=64d73a38401afd00010016ed&utm_r

In the media

Analysis: How green is the Green Lane for goods under the Windsor Framework?

News Letter - There are situations in which it could fade or become blotchy

David Phinnemore and Lisa Claire Whitten examine the framework's green lane for certain GB-NI goods:

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<https://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/opinion/analysis-how-green-is-the-green-lane-for-goods-under-the-windsor-framework-there-are-situations-in-which-it-could-fade-or-become-blotchy-4252043>

RTÉ pay report puts focus on Deloitte's role in Tubridy affair

Irish Times - Grant Thornton report sets out misleading figures broadcaster published in 2021 were different from correct numbers recorded on payroll system

RTÉ auditor Deloitte has been drawn into [the controversy](#) over [Ryan Tubridy's](#) pay after accountants Grant Thornton examined the firm's role in the affair.

The RTÉ board is discussing a new Grant Thornton report which investigates how the national broadcaster



underdeclared Mr Tubridy's pay by €120,000 between 2017 and 2019.

The report is understood to set out that the misleading figures RTÉ published in 2021 were different from the correct figures recorded on RTÉ's payroll systems.

<https://www.irishtimes.com/media/2023/08/15/rte-pay-report-puts-focus-on-deloitte-role-in-tubridy-affair/>

60% in NI lack faith in PSNI Chief Constable after data breach, LucidTalk poll reveals

Belfast Telegraph - LucidTalk poll also finds just 36% overall have confidence in the force

Six in 10 people in Northern Ireland don't have confidence in PSNI Chief Constable Simon Byrne, according to a new poll, Suzanne Breen writes

It also reveals that only a quarter of nationalists have faith in the PSNI, with twice as many having little or no faith in the force.

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The findings pile even more pressure on Mr Byrne, who is insisting he won't resign in the wake of the unprecedented data breach which saw the details of police officers and staff published online.

LucidTalk's poll for the Belfast Telegraph shows a startling lack of faith in the Chief Constable across the political divide.

Just 1% of people here say they have total confidence in him, with another 15% saying they are mostly confident in him.

However, 60% say they have little or no faith in Mr Byrne.

<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/politics/60-in-ni-lack-faith-in-psni-chief-constable-after-data-breach-lucidtalk-poll-reveals/a909117842.html>

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

Film of C.S. Lewis

If you love the writings of C.S. Lewis, you will enjoy watching this film about his early years! Go to <https://cslewismovie.com/> to find where you can watch it today!





Season of Creation children's resource

Don't miss this wonderful Sunday School resource for you to use during Season of Creation, do not forget to use these hashtags when sharing photos [#SeasonOfCreation](#) [#SOC23](#)

Find it on this link <https://acen.anglicancommunion.org/media/503332/A>

Belfast Phoenix Choir

**DROP IN REHEARSALS
TUESDAYS @7.30PM
DUBLIN ROAD, BELFAST**



Belfast Phoenix Choir is seeking new members when practice resumes on September 19th in Belfast City Centre - all voices welcome! If you would like to find out more about the choir then you can view our FAQ page here - <https://belfastphoenixchoir.com/frequently-asked-questions/>

CMSI's ignite conference

Tanya and Beryl dropped into the office to book for CMSI's ignite conference 22-23 September... to book your place pop in, give the office a ring or visit

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<https://www.cmsireland.org/ignite>

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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

