

Church News Ireland



AMAZING GRACE WALK

Slave Trader turned Abolitionist
Back in England, Newton became captain of a slave ship, blinded by his culture to accept slavery as normal. After six years, he left the sea to work as a tide surveyor. He finally became a clergyman in 1764, later rejecting slavery as "unhappy, disgraceful, unlawful and wrong".

Mentor to Wilberforce
Becoming a staunch abolitionist, Newton mentored William Wilberforce, who battled for 20 years against the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. "It will always be a subject of humiliating reflection to me, that I was, once, an active instrument, in a business at which my heart now shudders."

Campaigner
Newton's booklet "Thoughts upon the African Slave Trade" (1788) advanced the abolitionist cause. When Wilberforce considered retiring from politics in 1796, Newton wrote urging him to stand strong "...though you have not, yet, succeeded in your endeavours to abolish the slave trade..."

Slave Trade Abolished
With Newton's support, Wilberforce fought on. Eventually the first legislation against the Slave Trade was passed in 1807. Newton died that same year. With his memory fading, he declared, "I remember two things: I am a great sinner and Christ is a great Saviour."

MAP KEY

- A Welcome
- B The Storm
- C Salvation!
- D The Hymn
- E Slave Trade
- F Timeline
- G Safe Haven

ENDORSED BY

www.johnnewton.org www.amazinggraceexperience.com www.amazinggrace.ie

Image of the day – MU Amazing Grace trail

Image of the day



Mothers Union members on Amazing Grace trail

For Mary Sumner Day, the MU theme of ‘Transformation Now’ led members in Derry & Raphoe to the ‘Amazing Grace’ Trail along the Swilly at Bunrana.

John Newton, by his own admission, was a wretch, a rogue and a scoundrel! In March 1748, his slave trading ship experienced an horrific storm and took shelter in Lough Swilly. Newton stepped onto the shore at Bunrana a transformed man.

August 15 2024

From this time on he came to realise that God's grace could save even a 'wretch' like him! By 1764, Newton had become a clergyman and used his hymns to illustrate his sermons over the next 40 years.

'Amazing Grace' was written to illustrate his New Year's Day sermon in 1773. The words of the hymn refer to his dramatic rescue from death and his conversion – 'the hour I first believed'.

In Christ Church Hall, Buncrana, the afternoon began with refreshments and a short service focusing on the amazing grace of God

Those present, then had the choice to remain in the Hall where prayer stations focused on the transformative work of Mothers Union, or to walk the 'Amazing Grace' Trail, pausing for prayer and reflection along the shore of Lough Swilly. On completion members had a choice of spending time in Swan Park or continuing to amble along the stunning coastline.

Thanks were expressed to Diane White, Faith & Policy Coordinator, who coordinated the event, to Andrew for his musical and IT skills, and to Rosemary, Ronnie and Lorraine who warmly welcomed members with hospitality and kindness to Christ Church, Buncrana.

God's grace is amazing, it is freely given and often described as 'God's love in action'.

.

News



Holiday Bible Club in Seapatrick

On the day the leaders said - Today was the start of Holiday Bible Club at Holy Trinity! What fun

we had! We had a great group of kids and our wonderful



crew of volunteers made the day amazing! Can't wait for tomorrow

At the close of Holiday Bible Club in Seapatricks the leaders said - What a joy it was to think about the Love of Jesus and the sacrifice that He made for each one of us. A huge thank you to all that came and to our wonderful volunteers.

Finishing touches being made to Kildare's newest church after €2.6m project

Finishing touches are being made to Maynooth Community Church as part of a project worth €2.6m, Kildare Now reports.

August 15 2024

Events have already been held in the facility in Carton and an official opening is planned in coming weeks.

Maynooth Community Church on behalf of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland was granted planning permission for the building in 2020.

The property has a floor area of 2,065 m² on a site spanning 1.43 hectares.

The Church will accommodate a number of church / community uses.

An access road, footpaths and a new site entrance were included in the plans.

The architects are the award-winning Knox & Markwell Architects based in Co Down who have completed a number of church projects.

Kildare Co Council had sought and received new information on the proposals on a number of occasions since the original application was lodged in May 2019.

Reshaping the C of I in Greater Shankill and Ballysillan

Councillor Brian Kingston said, “A useful meeting this morning for Councillor Ian McLaughlin, Naomi Thompson and myself with the Archdeacon of Belfast, Rev Barry Forde and Rev Tracey McRoberts MBE, Dean of Mid-Belfast,



Councillor Brian Kingston, the Archdeacon of Belfast, Rev Barry Forde and Rev Tracey McRoberts MBE, Dean of Mid-Belfast, and Councillor Ian McLaughlin

regarding the future shape of Church of Ireland provision within the Greater Shankill and Ballysillan area.

Currently all 9 church premises are in use for some activities, as they work towards a future model based on the 3 churches of St Michael's, St Matthew's and Holy Trinity, through an ongoing process of transition.

Final services of Sunday Worship in St Andrews, Glencairn

The final services of Sunday Worship in St Andrews will take place over the next 2 weeks:

Sunday 18th August - Methodist Service

Sunday 25th August - Rev Adrian

A service of thanksgiving for the work and witness of St Andrew's will be held on Thursday 19th September at 7.00pm.

Everyone will be made very welcome at all these services.

Scottish Episcopal priest is in training to run across Iceland

The Rev. Diana Hall, rector of St. Anne's Scottish Episcopal and Methodist Church in Dunbar, has been training for more than seven months for the Great Norse Run — a 10-day, coast-to-coast run across Iceland.

The 209-mile run will include crossing half a dozen rivers, four days of seeing nothing but volcanic sand, wild camping at night, and passing only a handful of places of civilisation en route. Hall's 20-week training plan of running,

weightlifting, stretching and mobility – and how to rest – has



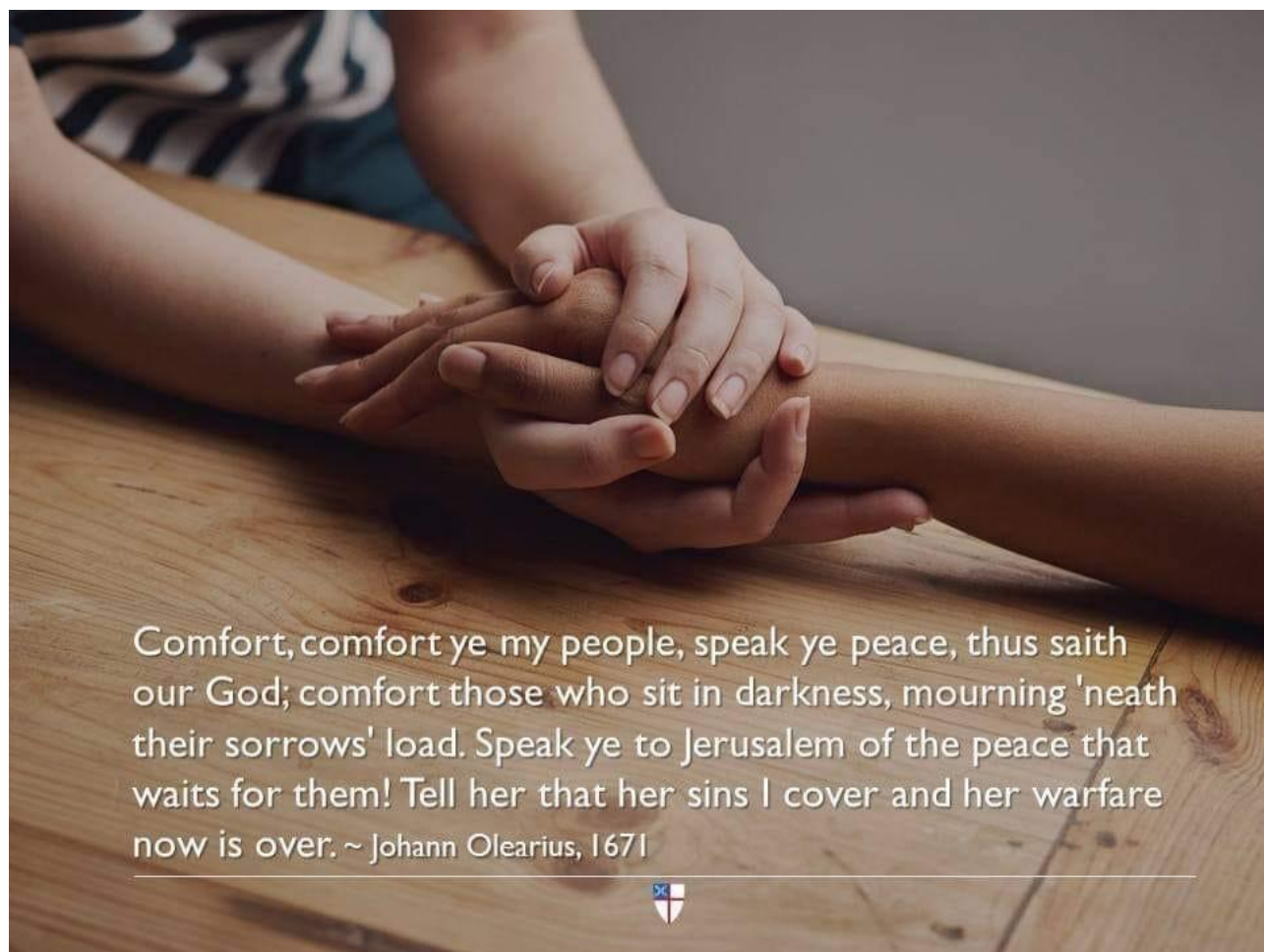
put her on track for this incredible challenge, with almost 600 miles clocked in training so far, including a DIY full marathon in July. She also is raising money for Rock2Recovery, a charitable organization working with military and emergency personnel who have had damaging experiences of stress.

Read the entire article here.

[\(https://www.scotland.anglican.org/the-priest-who-is-going-to-run-right-across-iceland/\)](https://www.scotland.anglican.org/the-priest-who-is-going-to-run-right-across-iceland/)

WCC Commission releases call for action on youth's mental health

A working group of the World Council of Churches' Commission of the Churches on Health and Healing has released a message, "A call for cross-generational



action on the Mental Health of Youth.”

The WCC observed Aug. 12 as an Ecumenical International Youth Day with the theme “Journey of Justice, Peace and Unity: A Call to End Violence.” An online event highlighting the experiences and resilience of young people and children living amidst conflict emphasized the urgent need for peace and support.

“The issues regarding mental health in youth are expressed in various forms of behavior such as panic attacks, addictions, eating disorders, disruption to education and learning, and the lack of coping skills,” the message said.

The message also notes the impact of technology.

“Technology helps maintain connections, communication,

August 15 2024

and relationships, and helps find support networks that may not exist locally.” Yet technology can increase social isolation.

Read the entire article here.

<https://www.oikoumene.org/news/wcc-commission-release-a-message-for-a-call-for-cross-generational-action-on-the-mental-health-of-youth>

Cathedral Calls



DFA visits Festival of Cloaks in Derry Cathedral

Representatives of Department of Foreign Affairs Dublin, on a visit to the Cathedral. DFA very kindly provided funding towards the Festival of Cloaks



No funds for Christchurch Cathedral from New Zealand government

The Diocese of Christchurch received news on Aug. 9 that the country's coalition government has chosen not to fund the roughly \$36 million U.S. restoration shortfall for the city's historic cathedral. (The cathedral was badly damaged by an earthquake in 2011).

August 15 2024

The chair of Christ Church Cathedral Reinstatement Limited, Mark Stewart, said the decision from the government to not provide further funding towards the reinstatement of Christ Church Cathedral is both sad and disappointing.



The government's decision comes on the heels of the Christchurch Diocesan Synod's approval for a reconfigured restoration plan, which focused the project down from a larger collection of buildings to first restore the historic stone cathedral building.

Read the entire article here.

https://anglicantaonga.org.nz/news/tikanga_pakeha/chchcath_moth

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



Annual Elizabeth Bowen Commemoration in St Colman's Church, Farahy

The Annual Elizabeth Bowen Commemoration will take place on Sunday, 8th September, in St Colman's Church Farahy at 3.30pm.

The service will be Choral Evensong, sung by the Clerks Choral, accompanied at the harmonium by Dr Ian Sexton. The service will be taken by the Rev'd R.B. MacCarthy, former Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin. The speaker will be the Rt Rev'd Kenneth Kearon, former Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe.



Vote for Eco Congregation

The Benefact Trust are running an award scheme, supporting groups working in the area of climate and the environment.

Could we ask you to take a moment to nominate Eco Congregation Ireland? This will enable ECI to extend and grow its work with churches across the island of Ireland.

Simply click on this link

<https://tinyurl.com/4mrszwy8>

and you will find the short form has already been partially filled in.

All you need to do is add your name and a few details.

The closing date is Friday 16th August. Thank you!

Kildare Choral and Organ Festival celebrates Brigid 1500

The 2024 Kildare Choral and Organ Festival, which takes place in St Brigid's Cathedral from August 14 to 28, will mark the 1500th anniversary of the death of St Brigid with a range of performances from acclaimed women musicians in Ireland.

The annual Festival, will this year explore the theme, 'Women in music honouring Brigid 1500'.

It began on Wednesday August 14, 7.30pm, with an organ recital from Dr Carole O'Connor, organist and choir director of the Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Whitefriar Street, Dublin.

The second night of the Festival, Friday August 23, 7.30pm, will feature a choral performance from the celebrated Irish female vocal ensemble, Dulciana.

Since its very inception, part of Dulciana's mission has been the promotion of music by female composers, both those neglected by history, and those currently making history.

They are particularly firm supporters of contemporary female Irish composers.

August 15 2024

The closing night of the Festival, Wednesday August 28, 7.30pm will feature Tatiana Konina on organ and Aoise O'Dwyer on viola.

Tatiana is the Director of Music and Organist of Christ Church, Bray and Aoise is a violist, music educator and orchestral musician from Tullamore, Co. Offaly.

Commenting on the Festival, the Dean of St Brigid's Cathedral, Kildare, Very Rev Isobel Jackson said,

“Last year's Festival marked the 800th anniversary of the construction of St Brigid's Cathedral, so this year we wanted to celebrate the founder of our ancient hilltop site, St Brigid herself

“She is strongly associated with the arts, so it is wonderful to think that 1500 years after her death, glorious sacred music continues to reverberate on the site she founded”.

Tickets are €15 per concert or €40 for the whole festival. They can be purchased online on Eventbrite or at the door on the night of the concerts.
Report courtesy Kildarenow

Church News Ireland

Perspective

It is troubling that a Labour prime minister is making the republican demand for Casement stadium a priority, Kate Hoey writes in The Times -

In a month in which the chancellor stated that the UK's financial situation was so dire that infrastructure schemes across the country were being axed, the prime minister was reported as having told Uefa that he was keen to have the west Belfast GAA stadium Casement Park rebuilt in time to host matches at Euro 2028.

This comes a few days after another report that the prime minister's chief of staff, Sue Gray, had taken a special interest in what is essentially a republican demand for some £300 million to be pumped into a privately owned sportsground that will host no football games after the Euros.

It is ten months since the announcement that Euro 28 would be hosted jointly by the football associations of the UK and Ireland, and that Casement Park in Northern Ireland would host five matches.

In 2011, football, rugby and the GAA were all allocated a sum of money to upgrade their stadiums, Windsor Park, Ravenhill and Casement respectively. Football was awarded

£29 million for the refurbishment of the national stadium at Windsor Park.

Northern Ireland, like the rest of the UK, faces a crisis in public services. Health, education, social care and policing are all under huge budgetary pressure.

So most people find it perplexing and concerning that the self-confessed priority of the new Labour government should be spending hundreds of millions on Casement — not to the original specification and standard agreed as part of a balanced package but a much enhanced stadium with all the extra requirements from Uefa.

About 8,000 seats are to be included in the stadium build, only to be ripped out once the Euros end.

The IFA (the governing body for Northern Ireland football) primarily in the shape of their chief executive entered into the agreement to host 2028 with little support from fans of the national team.

The costs were said to be around £110 million but now with no contractor in place, estimates are £300 million-plus. This excludes policing costs which will amount to a minimum of £17 million, as reported to the Policing Board this week.

All big sporting events that the UK hosts are aimed at leaving a legacy for the sport. That is what all sports ministers fight hard to achieve. Yet there will be no legacy for Northern Ireland football at any level as Casement Park after the Euros will still be owned by the GAA, bringing in

substantial profits from hosting concerts as well as all-Ireland fixtures.

No wonder that many football people in Northern Ireland believe that the Euros is only a flag of convenience for the GAA, who see it as an opportunity to get Casement Park built at its hugely inflated cost with a small contribution from them despite being the richest sporting body in Ireland.

Sadly, we can't ignore the politically divisive nature of both this particular project and the GAA itself, which continues to name grounds and trophies after former IRA terrorists.

Casement Park is where two young British soldiers were stripped almost naked, thrown over the steep wall with their beaten bodies crashing on to the ground below.

They were then taken away and shot dead by the IRA — that act on its own will make it very uncomfortable for the most ardent supporters of football to attend at that venue.

It is astonishing that Sir Keir Starmer, who knows Northern Ireland well, having worked as a consultant to its police service, has joined a campaign led by many who have never ever been to a Northern Ireland international and have no interest in the game.

Not only is it financially irresponsible but amounts to clearly prioritising the political demands of one section of the community.

The unfairness of millions extra going to the GAA will not just be perceived as being unfair, it will sour relations with

August 15 2024

the many loyal Northern Ireland citizens who genuinely wished Labour well.

Baroness Hoey is a former Labour MP and UK sports minister , who js now an independent peer. This article was written for The Times, and first published there

In the media

Chairman of H&W and two directors call it quits

There is further upheaval at Harland & Wolff after the chairman and two other non-executive directors resigned with “immediate effect”.

Malcolm Groat, plus Sir Jonathon Band and Katya Zotova, have all quit the board.

On Monday it emerged the company had suspended work on its 2023 accounts.

A group of Harland & Wolff shareholders have said they fear the business is being lined up for a “pre-pack” administration, meaning the company would enter administration and its trading assets would immediately be sold to a pre-determined buyer.

The shipbuilder appointed two new board members, including Russell Downs as interim executive chairman, this week. Belfast Telegraph

Keys to success: New Translink competition tunes up to find talented pianists

It's not every day that you see a concert piano at a Northern Ireland train or bus station.

August 15 2024

But as part of a region-wide search, Translink is on the lookout for a star pianist to perform at a special show this autumn.

Belfast Grand Central Station took delivery of the majestic instrument today as Translink invites amateur pianists of all levels and ages to participate in its Grand Pianist competition.

Heats will take place across Northern Ireland as part of a roadshow, with the concert piano travelling to five rail and bus stations this month and next ahead of the grand final at the new station in Belfast.

The Grand Pianist roadshow will call at Lanyon Place, Belfast; Newry Bus Station; North-West Transport Hub, Derry/Londonderry; Bangor Train Station and Coleraine Train Station, where people are being encouraged to play on the concert piano and register for the regional heats. Translink Group chief executive Chris Conway said the competition's principal aim was to connect people through music. Belfast Telegraph

Around 80 IPAs moved into former hotel in Co Tipperary

The Department of Integration has confirmed approximately 80 people seeking international protection have been moved into Dundrum House in Co Tipperary. RTE

[https://www.rte.ie/news/munster/2024/0813/1464800-
dundrum-house/](https://www.rte.ie/news/munster/2024/0813/1464800-dundrum-house/)

Over 120,000 expected to attend 149th Dublin Horse Show

August 15 2024

More than 120,000 people are expected to attend the 149th Dublin Horse Show in the RDS over the next five days. RTE

<https://www.rte.ie/news/regional/2024/0814/1464885-dublin-horse-show/>

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

Church News Ireland

www.churchnewsireland.org

Posted early Monday to Saturday
Please share

