

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Snakes alive Newcastle

August 24, 2024

Image of the day

Snakes alive Newcastle

No report necessary -
The youngsters at St
John's Newcastle had
their hands full giving
thanks for their holiday
club.



News

Wedding day memories at Belfast Castle

Belfast Castle had the privilege of welcoming Alistair and Patricia.

63 years ago, on 15 August 1961 Alistair and Patricia celebrated their very special wedding day at the Castle.

Currently residing in Ballyclare, Alistair was originally from Cavehill and his father was Reverend McKinley of the Glengormley Presbyterian Church.

“It was lovely to meet you both and thank you for sharing your perfect picture with our



August 24, 2024

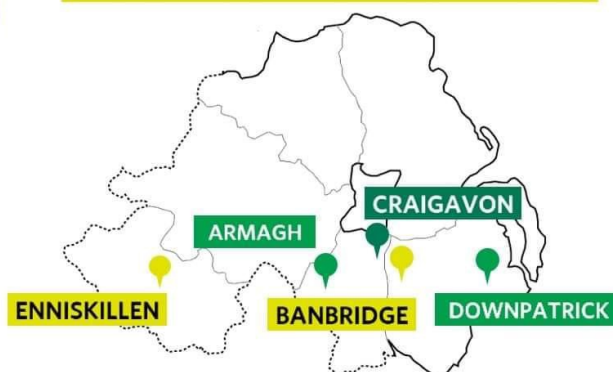
infamous Italian serpentine staircase as a backdrop. Your always welcome to Belfast Castle”.



St John
Ambulance
Northern Ireland



**NOW RECRUITING
YOUTH TEAM VOLUNTEERS**



St John Ambulance (NI) are now recruiting Youth Helpers

St John Ambulance (NI) are now recruiting Youth Helpers (aged over 18) across Southern District.

“We are looking for volunteers who will support our young people to develop both life skills and lifesaving skills – all while having great fun!

“Full training is provided, with additional personal development opportunities also available”.

Youth Team Volunteering opportunities are available in:

 Armagh

August 24, 2024

- 📍 Banbridge
- 📍 Craigavon
- 📍 Downpatrick
- 📍 Enniskillen

Request an application pack today at
<https://bit.ly/sjayouthteam>



We're looking for inspiring volunteers to help young people aged 5-17 develop life saving skills in your local community.

As a Youth Team volunteer, you'll be trained to provide our young people (Badgers aged 5-10 or Cadets aged 10 -17) with both life skills and life saving skills, all while having fun!

You'll have the chance to design your own role. This could involve running fun activities, outdoor events or providing more 'behind-the-scenes' support.

No first aid or youth leadership experience is necessary – we will support you every step of the way!
All we ask is **four hours** a month of your time.

Become a youth leader.

Help save lives.

Be the difference.

**E: youth@sjani.org
sjani.org**



Give Jesus another hearing, says Bishop Stuart Bell

The Down & Dromore Bible Week speaker encourages folk to expect the unexpected as they gather to study Jesus' parables next week.

“I’m going to speak on four different parables of Jesus at the Down and Dromore Bible Week, and taking a considerable risk because many people will say, ‘Ah well, we’ve the parables since Sunday school days and we want something deeper and meatier than that’. I don’t think that Jesus would let us get away with such a comment.

“Jesus’ parables have converted lives, transformed cultures, challenged nations, stimulated hearts and have always been relevant.

“Jesus made up lots of stories out of his own head. They were neither fairy stories nor morality tales but stories with an edge - a spiritual edge, a divine edge. Pablo Picasso said that ‘a good picture has to be bristling with razor blades.’ He could have been describing Jesus’ parable

August 24, 2024

stories. They still cut into the soul, slice away our concealments and address the deepest needs of humanity in every generation.

“How could Jesus have known about the culture wars of the twenty first century, about the mental health needs of our children, about the current epidemic of instability and fear? Was he prescient or simply speaking with the insights of the man from heaven? It’s time to give him another hearing.

“Please join me at 7.45pm each evening in St Saviour’s Dollingstown, beginning on Tuesday 27th August and running through to Friday 30th.”

Bishop Stuart Bell

Stuart has ministered for over fifty years in various parishes in Wales and is currently leading a new congregation called Fellowship 345 in Rhydypennau, Ceredigion.

He was consecrated as a Bishop in the Anglican Convocation in Europe in March 2023.

Stuart is married to Prudence, a trained occupational therapist and magistrate and they have three children and three grandchildren.

He is the author of ‘Recovering His Reputation’ which recounts his 25–year ministry in St Michael’s Aberystwyth.

Stuart enjoys long distance walking, sea fishing and bread making.

Anglican-Methodist International inaugural meeting in London

The Anglican-Methodist International Coordinating Committee (AMICC) has held its inaugural meeting in London.

This significant gathering marks a new chapter in the relationship between the Anglican Communion and the World Methodist Council, as both traditions continue to work towards greater unity and cooperation. The meeting focused on deepening our shared mission and reflecting on our common witness to the Gospel in today's world.

For a detailed account of the discussions and outcomes from this important meeting, we invite you to read the full communiqué.

Read the full communiqué here: <https://bit.ly/4cDQrzc>

Cathedral Calls

Festival of Cloaks only a week left

Just over one week left to go and see the magnificent Festival of Cloaks at St Columb's Cathedral, Londonderry

The special exhibition commemorating the patroness Saint of Ireland, St Brigid of Kildare, is one of the first festivals of its kind to be held in Northern Ireland. Visitors are able to view around 40 ceremonial garments with the four cloaks of



St Brigid as the centrepiece, made by Irish artists Lorna McCormack & Michelle Hickey Legge.

Alongside St Brigid's garmets, a display of cloaks from various civic organisations, churches & industries are on show, as well as creative workshops & musical performances.

The event is open to the public Mon-Sat 10am-4pm until 31st of August



Pup on a Pilgrimage to Canterbury

Canterbury Cathedral said - It was a joy to welcome Joke and her dog Roosje earlier this month, all the way from the Netherlands, at the end of their pilgrimage to the Cathedral.

They both received a blessing at the Cathedral, and before they left they came to say goodbye and snapped a quick pic with Rebecca, Cathedral Visits Supervisor and Constable.

Church News Ireland

August 24, 2024

Clergy and ministry



**Warm
welcome for
new rector of
Helen's Bay**

Revd Peter Hilton has received a warm welcome as the new rector of Helen's Bay.

It is Peter's first incumbency, and he moves to his new parish from the curacy of St Mark's Newtownards. Bishop



David McClay (left) instituted Peter on Wednesday 21 August 2024 and the preacher was Bishop Ken Clarke (right).

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Announcing the full Iona Abbey Programme for 2025

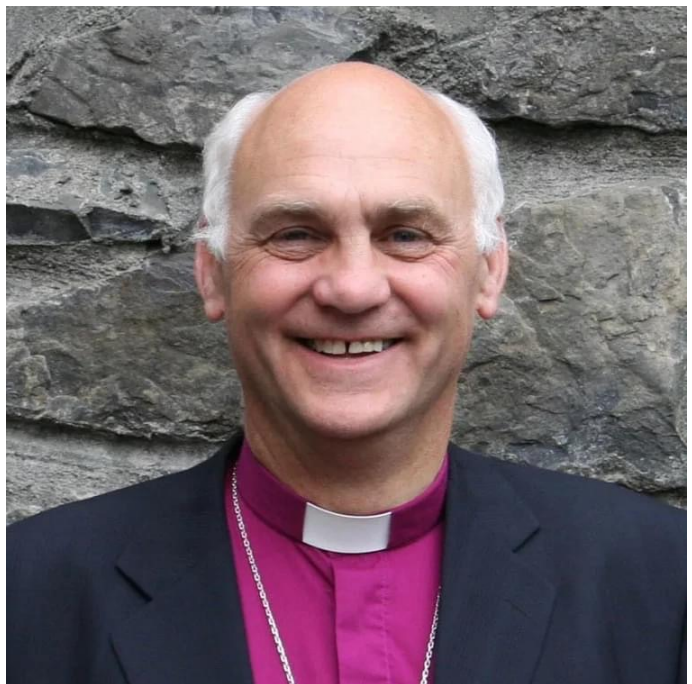
Now with full event information for each week of the 2025 programme. Some weeks are already fully booked and others are filling up fast.

August 24, 2024

And for those of you at Greenbelt Festival this weekend, enjoying the contributions of John Bell, Brian McLaren, Martin Wroe, the Wild Goose Resource Group and Wild Goose Publications writers - then why not book yourself a whole week with them on the beautiful Isle of Iona next year!

Check out the full programme weeks here and book your place: <https://iona.org.uk/visit-and-stay/iona-abbey-centre/2025-programme/>

BBC Radio Ulster Morning Service with Rt Revd Kenneth Clarke

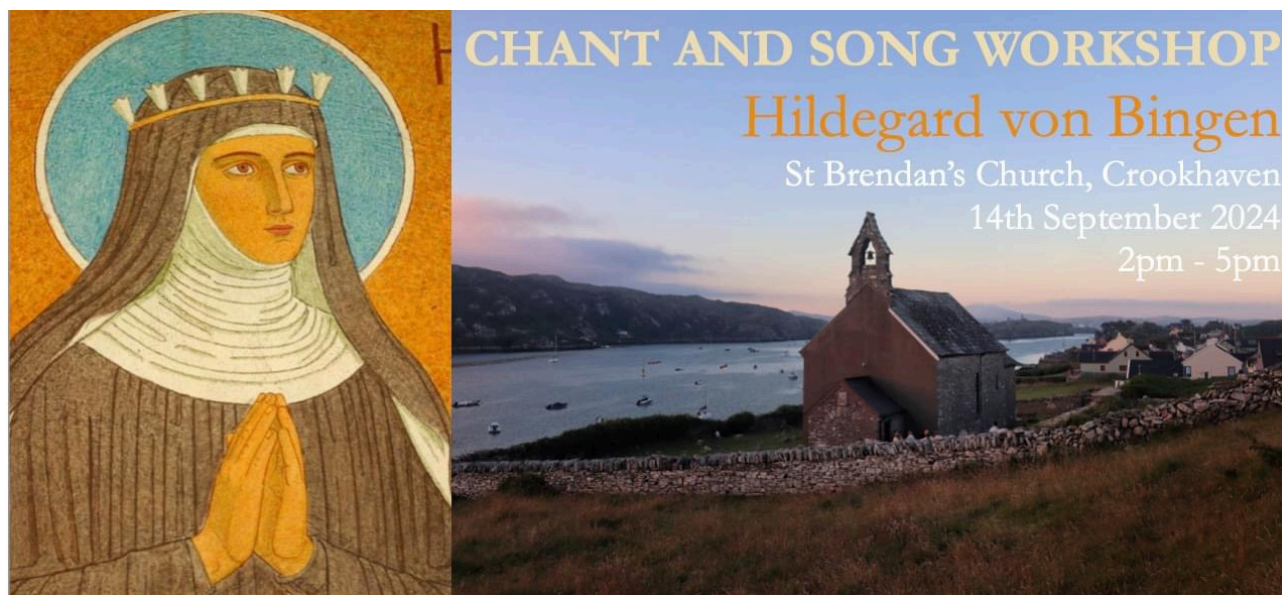


Morning Service on BBC Radio Ulster and BBC Radio Foyle this Sunday morning (25th August) will be led by the Rt Revd Kenneth Clarke, formerly Bishop of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh.

The service begins at 10.03am and can be played back on iPlayer for up to 30 days after broadcast.

Hildegard von Bingen Quiet Day in Kilmoe Union

Kilmoe Union will be holding a Quiet Day on Saturday, 14th September at St Brendan's, Crookhaven from 2pm



to 5pm in which participants will explore the spirituality of Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1176).

Hildegard von Bingen was a visionary, ecologist, cosmologist, preacher, prophet and singer, and one of the first named composers of Western music and plainchant.

The Rev. Terry Mitchel says:

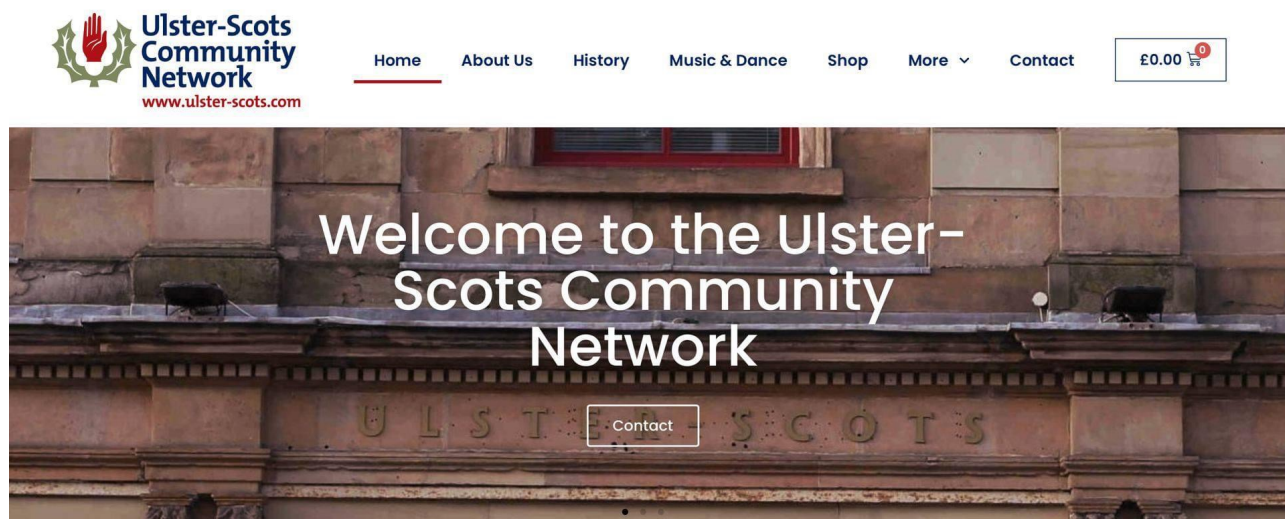
In this afternoon taster workshop, we will explore Hildegard's spirituality through the embodied experience of singing, thereby opening ourselves as channels for the grace that flows through her work. The workshop will include a brief performance by course leader, Eilish Butler. With an MA in chant and song, Eilish has been performing and teaching Hildegard's chant since 2010.

We will focus on learning one short chant for which you will be provided with copies of Hildegard's original neumes as well as 'Gregorian' and modern transcriptions. We will take up a voluntary contribution to cover the costs of the quiet day.

August 24, 2024

Please let the Rev. Terry Mitchell know if you wish to attend via email -(terrym438@gmail.com)

New Ulster-Scots website



About The Ulster-Scots Community Network

The Ulster-Scots Community Network aims to preserve, promote & develop all aspects of Ulster-Scots heritage & culture

As a representative umbrella organisation with over 400 member groups, we are committed to representing the interests of those who engage in a variety of Ulster-Scots activities.

[Read More](#)

This website serves to give an introduction to all things Ulster-Scots.

On it, you can find all of the Ulster-Scots agency's free publications, genealogical help, an exciting new Ulster-Scots web shop, contact details for your local Ulster-Scots representatives and more.

<https://ulster-scots.com>



Christmas Tree Festival in Ballyshannon

Heads up, everyone! The parishioners of Kilbarron in South Donegal extend a warm invitation to everyone to join them at their long-awaited and eagerly-anticipated Christmas Tree Festival, which will take place in St Anne's Parish Church in Ballyshannon early in December.

August 24, 2024

A huge amount of planning has already gone into this festive event which will take place from Thursday 5th to Monday 9th December 2024.

Visitors won't be disappointed. Make a note in your diary!

**BALTEAGH
COOKBOOK
LAUNCH**

YUMMY

**SATURDAY
7th SEPTEMBER
2PM - 5PM**

Drummond Cricket Club
Drumsurn Rd
Limavady

**£10 PER
TICKET**

Includes copy of cookbook,
afternoon tea, demonstrations
and bake off -
Rev Rhys vs Rev Brian

BON APPETIT

In the media

Doug Beattie wanted an attractive and intelligent form of unionism in Northern Ireland - News Letter editorial

The Ulster Unionist Party will soon have had seven leaders in 14 years.

Reg Empey, who stood down in autumn 2010, Tom Elliott, Mike Nesbitt, Robin Swann, Steve Aiken, Doug Beattie – and then whoever will replace Mr Beattie.

He has quit in frustration at the UUP's ruling 14 party officers for thwarting his "positive, optimistic, pro-union vision". Mr Beattie's insistence in the statement that only an "inclusive" party can secure its own future will be music to the ears of nationalists who love to depict nationalism as inclusive and unionism as not.

There is a important debate to be had about whether Mr Beattie is right that liberal unionism is the path forward or whether it will just hasten the 'process' that republicans think politics in Northern Ireland to be. Indeed, the recent relative electoral success of the Ulster Unionist Party and the decline in the Alliance vote in once UUP strongholds of East Antrim, North Down and East Belfast suggests the opposite is true – that a small but noticeable number of Alliance

August 24, 2024

voters are uneasy with its flirtation with ‘New Ireland’ discussions and woke politics.

But that debate is for the coming months. Now is a time to record that Northern Ireland is fortunate that Doug Beattie entered politics, bringing the wisdom of a successful previous military career.

At time’s Mr Beattie’s newness to politics was apparent, but his commitment to an attractive and intelligent form of unionism was clear.

Many unionist voters want unionist unity, and most agree that unionism is not big enough for a three-party split. But a single party would almost certainly see some moderates return to Alliance – something unionism cannot afford.

The Ulster Unionist vote has remained solid, averaging 12% of the overall vote for that aforementioned 14 years period of leadership turmoil. The party faces big challenges, but is far from finished.

News Letter editorial on Tuesday August 20 2024

Poem for today

The Railway Children

by Seamus Heaney

When we climbed the slopes of the cutting
We were eye-level with the white cups
Of the telegraph poles and the sizzling wires.



Like lovely freehand they curved for miles
East and miles west beyond us, sagging
Under their burden of swallows.

We were small and thought we knew nothing
Worth knowing. We thought words travelled the wires
In the shiny pouches of raindrops,

Each one seeded full with the light
Of the sky, the gleam of the lines, and ourselves
So infinitesimally scaled

We could stream through the eye of a needle.

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

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