

# Church News Ireland

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April 5, 2025

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April 5, 2025

## Image of the day

### Belfast High School's Abaana Uganda Project

**Sixth Form pupils Lila, Abbie and Oliver visited Larne FC this week to collect a donation of several footballs to take to Uganda.**

Also pictured are Leroy Millar and Matty Lusty. "Thank you to Larne FC and to everyone who has donated and helped us in any way in our preparations for our trip to Uganda. With less than a week to go, excitement is mounting. Stay up to date with our adventures both on Facebook and Instagram."

## News

### Newcastle Cathedral cancels visit by the Archbishop of York

**Most Rev Stephen Cottrell had been scheduled to speak there on 18th September as part of his Lord's Prayer Tour visiting cathedrals, churches and schools across the north of England.**

But following criticism of the way he has handled historic disclosures of abuse, the Cathedral's Dean and Chapter voted unanimously to cancel his visit.

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In a statement to Premier News, Very Rev Lee Batson said: "As Dean of Newcastle, I am deeply proud of the Cathedral's ongoing ministry to those who have suffered abuse in their lives. It was this that informed the unanimous decision made solely by the Dean and Chapter to inform the Archbishop that we will not be hosting him as part of his Lord's Prayer tour. This decision was made independently by the Cathedral's governing body and applies specifically to this event. The well-being of survivors remains our highest priority, and Newcastle Cathedral will always strive to put them first."

The Bishop of Newcastle has been an outspoken critic of Archbishop Stephen since the Makin review into the Church of England's handling of abuse by the late Christian barrister John Smyth.

Earlier this year, Rt Rev Dr Helen-Ann Hartley called for Archbishop Cottrell to resign saying she believes he is the "wrong person" to be leading the church in the wake of ongoing safeguarding scandals.

The archbishop is in temporary charge until a successor to Justin Welby is appointed in the Autumn. Bishop Justin resigned in November after fallout from the Makin review.

The cancellation means that Archbishop Stephen will now visit eleven, rather than twelve cathedrals across the North of England this year. The tour is part of his vision for his 'Faith in the North' project and will see him speaking and sharing the importance and relevance of the Lord's Prayer, encouraging people to pray and live by this as part of their missionary discipleship

## Myanmar Emergency response update

### From The Most Revd Stephen Than Myint, Archbishop of Myanmar via USPG

Myanmar has recently experienced a devastating earth - quake, resulting in significant loss of life and widespread destruction. In response to this tragic event, the Church of the Province of Myanmar (CPM) is making an official and urgent appeal for your support.

The crisis has led to a severe shortage of rescue workers, essential supplies, medical personnel, and healthcare professionals.

Among the affected regions, two dioceses of the Church of the Province of Myanmar – the Diocese of Mandalay and the Diocese of Taungoo – have suffered extensive damage. According to current reports, approximately 36 Anglican church buildings, including one cathedral, along with eight church halls, have been destroyed.

Since 29 March, the Disaster Management Committee of CPM, in coordination with diocesan bishops and local disaster management teams, have been actively engaged in relief efforts.

Please continue to pray for the emergency response in Myanmar.

If you would like to support our rapid response please donate here:

<https://uspg.org.uk/rapid-response/>



## **C of I Bishops' Appeal supports Christian Aid's response to South East Asia earthquake**

**Following the devastating earthquake last Friday (28th March) in South East Asia in which over two thousand lives have been lost, the Bishops' Appeal Advisory Committee is sending emergency assistance of €10,000 (currently equivalent to £8,400) to Christian Aid's appeal for Myanmar.**

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Parishes and individuals are encouraged to donate directly to Christian Aid to ensure that what we can give reaches those affected as swiftly as possible.

Bishop Ferran Glenfield, who chairs Bishops' Appeal, remarks: "Myanmar is one of the most closed countries in the world, and generally doesn't welcome international aid, but the monstrous earthquake has presented an opportunity for organisations such as Christian Aid to offer help to those whose lives have been devastated. Bishops' Appeal always works with trusted partners on the ground and Christian Aid is one of those partners."

### **Examples of aid are shared below to show how donations can make a direct difference:**

£10 / €12 could help fund access to safe drinking water.

£20 / €24 could support a family to eat for a week by offering a food parcel of essentials such as oil and rice.

£20 / €24 could buy hygiene supplies for a family of five for two weeks.

£50 / €61 could buy a food parcel for a family of five.

£140 / €170 could provide blankets, mattresses and alternative sources of heating material for a family of five.

£200 / €240 could fund an emergency shelter for a family who've been made homeless.

£1,000 / €1,200 could fund emergency shelters for five families who've been made homeless.

£5,000 / €6,000 could buy food parcels for 100 families, meeting their urgent nutritional needs.

£10,000 / €12,000 could provide vital cash assistance so that 70 families can access shelter, food and safe drinking water.

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Donations can be made directly through the Christian Aid Ireland website at this link:

<https://www.christianaid.ie/appeals/emergencies/myanmar-earthquake-appeal>



## **Methodist Church in Ireland supporting Christian Aid Ireland's humanitarian response**

**Through World Development & Relief, The Methodist Church in Ireland is supporting Christian Aid Ireland's humanitarian response to the 7.7 magnitude earthquake that struck Myanmar on Friday 28 March.**

Over 1,700 people have died, with many more injured. Thousands of people have been left without food, water or shelter.



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WDR has already sent emergency funds of £5,000/€5,980.

There are a number of ways to donate:

- Online: <https://checkout.justgiving.com/jmbs7h3ecf>
- Donate through your local Methodist church
- Make a bank transfer (Reference: Myanmar)
- Send a cheque to the WDR office (Reference: Myanmar)

For information on where to send cheques, and bank details please visit our website:

<https://irishmethodist.org/world-development>

**Julie Mehigan, Christian Aid’s Head of Asia, Middle East and Europe**, adds: “Even before this heartbreaking earthquake, we know conflict and displacement has left countless people in real need. Every prayer and every gift will bring hope to people hit by disaster.”

**Christian Aid has shared the following prayer for Myanmar, to encourage intercession:**

God, our strength and our refuge,  
We pray to you for the people of Myanmar.  
We hold in mind those who are injured or have been bereaved.  
We ask your protection for everyone awaiting rescue.  
May those who have lost homes and belongings be comforted.  
May emergency workers and medical staff be safe as they pour their energy into saving the lives of others.

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May the international community respond quickly to support those affected.

God, our strength and our refuge,  
Be with our global neighbours today.  
Amen.



**METROPOLITAN  
POLICE**

**POLICE APPEAL FOR VICTIM-SURVIVORS**

# **ZHENHAO ZOU**



Zhenhao Zou has been convicted after raping a number of women within the UK and China.

We believe there are victim-survivors who have not yet been identified and are appealing for them to come forward.

If you or someone you know has been impacted, please contact officers via email: [\*\*survivors@met.police.uk\*\*](mailto:survivors@met.police.uk)

## **Did you meet him? Did you visit his flat?**

**Metropolitan Police Service have issued another public appeal to encourage potential victims of serial rapist Zhenhao Zou to come forward.**

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He studied at Queen's University between 2017 & 2019. Did you meet him? Did you visit his flat? Do you feel something may have happened that you didn't consent to? Do not suffer in silence if you have been victimised by this man. Report today:  
<https://orlo.uk/yrYY3>

## **National Bishops' Meeting of the Anglican Church of Australia**

**The Secretary General of the Anglican Communion, Bishop Anthony Poggo, yesterday visited the National Bishops' Meeting of the Anglican Church of Australia in Busselton. Bishop Anthony addressed those gathered to share some of the key initiatives, events and challenges that will affect the Anglican Communion in the near future and give an account of his recent visit to the Oceania region.**

Bishop Anthony said, "I am pleased today to reunite with the bishops I've met on my recent trip to Australia and also to meet members of the Anglican Communion from other regions of the nation at the National Bishops' Meeting. It is a joy to be a part of this event, which I'm sure will be inspiring and uplifting for all in attendance."

This year, the bishops were gifted hats which had the number of their consecration on, serving as a reminder of the works and efforts of the bishops who came before them as well as a recognition of their own individual responsibility to God's call through the church.

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The Anglican Archbishop of Perth

#anglicanchurchofaustralia

\\#BishopsMeetingAustralia #Anglicans #BishopsofAustralia

## Education



## Methody's first ever German House Spelling Bee

**Methody's first ever German House Spelling Bee took place on Thursday 27th March.**

Ten 1st Form pupils rose to the challenge of listening to 10 words being sounded out using the German alphabet, writing them down and translating them... some with a greater degree of success than others!

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Congratulations to Oskar Braband and Sienna Hill who, tied on full marks, were tested with Eichhörnchen in the tie break.

**Less than one month left to submit your entry for the Mary Elmes Prize**

**Don't miss your chance to be part of this prestigious award. The winners will have the incredible opportunity to participate in Holocaust Memorial Day, a significant event attended by the President and other international dignitaries.**

Here is some inspiration from last years winners!

Submit your entry by 25 April: <https://ow.ly/j2LB50VgkMh>

**Dunclug College Food Prep takeover at Glenarm Castle**








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# Our Year 11 Food Preparation students had an unforgettable day at Glenarm Castle, thanks to the Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Hospitality Takeover Da





Pupils gained a real insight into the hospitality industry while enjoying a range of exciting activities, including:

-  Driving mini Land Rovers
-  Exploring the stunning Glenarm gardens
-  Taking part in a treasure hunt
-  Touring the castle with George the butler
-  Finishing the day with delicious pizza and ice cream!

A huge thank you to everyone involved for making this such a valuable and enjoyable experience.

## **Parenting style affected by emotional neglect as children**

**Parents who experience emotional neglect as children are more likely to have a hostile and controlling**

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## parenting style according to a new study by QUB - School of Psychology.

Researchers asked both teenagers and their parents about the parenting style in their household, and found that the parents' own adverse childhood experiences have an impact on their relationships with their children.

“It is vitally important that parents and teenagers understand the style of parenting within their own households, and that they agree on what this is. This allows both the parent and the teenager to work together and can lead to a more harmonious relationship.” (Dr Kostas Papageorgiou)

Find out more [👉 ow.ly/aetM50VtgJZ](https://ow.ly/aetM50VtgJZ)

## Cathedral Calls

### First Peregrine Egg of 2025 laid at Salisbury Cathedral





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**The first peregrine egg of 2025 has been laid at Salisbury Cathedral. The egg was laid at around 10.25am on Sunday 16 March.**

Peregrine season began early this year when the cameras launched in February, one month earlier than last year to catch the beginnings of 'courting' behaviour from the peregrines.

Eggs have also been laid at Norwich and Worcester.

You can watch all the cathedral peregrine webcams here (<https://www.englishcathedrals.co.uk/latest-news/updated-cathedral-peregrine-webcams/>)

## **The Ebor Singers on Good Friday BBC Radio 4**

**The Ebor Singers - It was an honour spending a morning recording in the beautiful chapel at Bishopthorpe Palace, recording with BBC Radio 4.**

Listen in at 9.45am on Good Friday (18th April) where we are joined by Archbishop of York, then again on Thursday 29th May to mark Ascension Day, and finally Monday 16th June to celebrate Trinity Sunday.

A lovely morning with lovely people - with thanks to Bishopthorpe Palace for having us!

[www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m002b00h](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m002b00h)

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## Clergy and ministry

### Annual Courtesy Call from the Lord Mayor of Cork

**The Annual Courtesy visit to Bishop Paul and Mrs Susan Colton took place on Wednesday, 2nd April 2025**

The Lord Mayor of Cork, Councillor Dan Boyle, accompanied by Brian Geaney, Assistant Chief Executive of Cork City Council, made the annual courtesy call to the Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, the Right Reverend

[https://churchofirelandcork.com/2025/04/03/annual-courtesy-call-from-the-lord-mayor-of-cork-to-bishop-paul-and-mrs-susan-colton-2/?utm\\_source=dlvr.it&utm\\_medium=facebook](https://churchofirelandcork.com/2025/04/03/annual-courtesy-call-from-the-lord-mayor-of-cork-to-bishop-paul-and-mrs-susan-colton-2/?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=facebook)

### Transforming Theology Globally USPG

**This week, USPG hosted a dinner bringing together theologians and clergy focusing on Transforming Theology Globally**

We heard from guest speakers, The Revd Dr Ishaya Anthony, inaugural Commonwealth Theologian in Residence, Westminster Abbey, and Dr Cathy Ross, Pioneer Mission Leadership Training Leader, Church Mission Society and trustee of St Augustine's Foundation.

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Our Global Theologian and head of Global Mission Team, Revd Canon Dr Peniel Rajkumar, shared about our newly launched network FeAST (Fellowship of Anglican Scholars of Theology) of which Revd Dr Ishaya is a participant.

We were so grateful to our guest speakers who led us in reflection and discussion. This dinner conversation is part of USPG's growing mission to strengthen theological education globally by cultivating and nurturing spaces for encounter and exchange of scholars and scholarship.

## Prayers for Anglican Church of Canada

**The journey toward electing the next Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada is underway.**

This week, the House of Bishops gathers at Mount Carmel in Niagara Falls for a time of prayer, reflection, and discernment. As part of this gathering, they will prayerfully



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nominate three to five bishops to be presented on the ballot at General Synod. Acting Primate Archbishop Anne Germond invites the whole church to pray that the Spirit may guide the bishops in wisdom and grace.

<https://gs2025.anglican.ca/articles/call-to-prayer-for-primatial-nominations-process/>

## Events

### **Free recital by former NIIOC winner and Director of Music at Glasgow Cathedral**

**We are delighted to present this free recital, given by the super-talented Andrew Forbes - former Northern Ireland International Organ Competition winner and Director of Music at Glasgow Cathedral.**

His programme will include the World Premiere of a new work by Roxanna Panufnik - the Agnus Dei of her Cum Jubilo Organ Mass, commissioned by NIIOC with generous support from the Arts Council of Northern Ireland's National Lottery fund - as well as organ favourites and arrangements by Debussy, Dubois, James Horner and The Beatles!

Do join us for a magical hour of music, played on the Lewis Organ of First Church, Rosemary Street Belfast. Friday 2 May, 7.30pm.

**The Northern Ireland International Organ Competition** was established in 2011 to provide talented young organists, aged 21 and under, with major recital engagements,

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financial support and recording opportunities. It is now recognised as the world's leading international competition for young organists and is officially partnered with the St. Albans International Organ Festival.



Since NIIOC began recital venues have included St. Thomas Fifth Avenue New York, Westminster Abbey, Southwark Cathedral, Christ Church Cathedral Dublin, St. Columb's Cathedral Londonderry, Trinity College Cambridge, Canongate Kirk Edinburgh, St. Peter Mancroft Norwich, St. Peter's Cathedral Belfast, Worcester Cathedral and St. Michael's Cornhill London.

International jurors have included Thierry Mechler (France), Kimberly Marshall (USA), Mattias Wager (Sweden), Frédéric

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Blanc (France), Erwan le Prado (France) and Martin Jean (USA).

See also - <https://www.niic.com/>

## Cathedral Youth Club Charity Concert

St. Mary's College Orchestra  
Anne-Marie Hickey  
Roisin Rice  
Choristers of St. Columb's Cathedral

Cathedral youth club ST. MARY'S COLLEGE

**COMMUNITY CONCERT**

THURSDAY 10TH APRIL  
7.00PM Christ Church, Derry Free Admission

**Don't forget about their Charity Concert next Thursday, 10th April, at 7pm in Christ Church, Infirmary Road, Londonderry.**

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To celebrate 50 years of the Cathedral Youth Club, Saint Mary's College School Orchestra and Saint Columb's Cathedral Choristers are joining forces to provide an evening of musical entertainment. These young musicians will be joined by the very talented Anne Marie Hickey and Roisin Rice!

All are welcome and admission is free!

## In the media

### **Sister Valerie's in tune with stories of band life - News Letter**

**Church Army evangelist Valerie Thom is a tireless champion of the marching bands community in Northern Ireland and the driving force behind a series of booklets that recount the personal insights of members.**

With a fifth volume of the "Marching On" booklets now in preparation, Sister Thom says: "There are plenty more stories to be told of band members' experiences. Every person's story deserves to be heard."

The booklets are produced under the auspices of the Zacchaeus Outreach Project, with the Royal Black Institution funding the cost of printing.

A committed Christian, Sister Thom believes that faith and marching bands can walk hand in hand.

“Many people involved in bands are Christians, in the true meaning of the word,” she says.

“Contrary to opinion, a lot of tunes bands play on parades are hymns, and hymns can be sung to what would be considered loyalist tunes; for example, ‘What a Friend We Have in Jesus’ can be sung to the tune of ‘The Sash’.

“Many members are members of the loyal orders, and faith plays a large part in both those groups.”

Sister Thom’s café bus is a joint venture between the Church Army and the Church of Ireland Diocese of Armagh, attending parades to which it has been invited and reaching out with a Christian message “and a listening ear” to those in the bands fraternity.

She says: “When I’m on the bus, we are visited and supported by born-again Christians who are members of the marching band community.

“I think bands are still being judged, not by what they are, but by what the Press perceives them to be.”

Marching bands “have always been part” of Sister Thom’s life, with “my earliest memory of playing bands with my brother and sisters”.

At the age of 13 she joined the Star of Tyrone Accordion Band, learning to play the button-keyed accordion, and attending parades all over the country.



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She says: “I think people are drawn to membership in bands for many reasons – for many, it is that the band membership has been part of their family for many generations; also, for the friendship and fellowship it offers, to learn a musical instrument, and to enjoy performing.”

Sister Thom believes band membership provides “discipline, freedom from technology, friendship, meeting new people, and having fun”.

“I believe that, for many, wearing a band uniform gives them pride, a sense of belonging, and an identity with their culture.”

She describes the band fraternity as “a very caring community, full of great musicians, teachers, and carers for the younger members of their bands”.

She adds: “One person told me, if it hadn't been for the bandmaster in his band at the time, he wouldn't have been there that day.

“He said the bandmaster had helped him through one of the most difficult periods of his life.”

Sister Thom says: “Over the last 12 years of running the Zacchaeus Outreach Project, I have personally experienced the love and care from members of the marching band community.

“One example is that I was preparing to speak at a meeting about my work, and a band was also playing at that event.

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“I got a call from the conductor of the band asking me what my favourite hymn was, and they said they didn't play it. But at the meeting, this lady and her two sons stood up and played my favourite hymn.

“They had learnt it in two days, just for me. I was moved to tears.”

Sister Thom believes the Marching On booklets “are an important way of acknowledging what people do for the marching band community and how that community is part of a Protestant culture”.

She adds: “I think the best way to explain is to tell a story: Pride of the Birches were in Canada for the 12th of July celebrations in 2024 – their big drummer Jack Coffey had written his story in the last book.

“He just told me last week that, while on parade in Toronto, a man walked up to him and said, ‘Are you the person who wrote their story in that book’.

“People must value them to send them to someone in Canada, and also, we are now on our fourth reprint, thanks to the help of the Royal Black Institution.”

Courtesy - Royal Black Institution Chapter Chat in Belfast Newsletter 31/03/2025

## 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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early morning**

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