

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – Carryduff church impresses**

## Image of the day



## Carryduff church impresses

**‘Many people drive past this building in Carryduff daily. When you get inside that you can truly appreciate why the building is listed for its special interest’, said a spokesperson for group of experts on church architecture**

This week HED joined representatives from across religious denominations, Ulster Architectural Heritage, The Royal Society of Ulster Architects and IHBC with the National



Churches Trust in the fabulous St Ignatius' Church of Ireland as part of the Treasure Ireland Steering Group.

In 1954 a dual-purpose hall with spire was erected to designs by Dennis O'D Hanna. In September 1964 the foundation stone was laid for a new church to the designs of Donald A Shanks. Donald Shanks was a Belfast Education Board Architect from 1954 to 1960, when he went into private practice with Edwin Leighton.

The firm was joined by Jim Kennedy in 1964 and Joe Fitzgerald in 1965 and produced several bold educational buildings such as Victoria College and Portadown New Technical College. The firm was also responsible for Dungannon District Council Offices. (Modern Ulster Architecture).

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The beautiful stained glass windows were designed by Frank Foster and manufactured by Messrs J McManus Ltd, Belfast. The church bell is around 280 years old and originally hung, as part of a peal of bells, in the tower of Faughart church, County Louth. The bell was preserved after the destruction of Faughart church and lay in the Rectory of St Nicholas' church in Dundalk for many years before being brought by car to Carryduff by a parishioner. (Parish History).

A truly remarkable building!

## People and places

### **Cork Diocesan Youth Council celebrated 20 years**

**Many young people from Cork, Cloyne and Ross were in the congregation at St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork on Sunday last, 19th November, along with elected members of the Cork Diocesan Youth Council, past and present, to celebrate 20 years of the current body CDYC: Cork Diocesan Youth Council.**

'Of course, youth work hasn't only been going on for twenty years in the Diocese' Bishop Colton emphasised in his introduction. 'Youth work has been happening for centuries, but today we are giving thanks for the present initiative which started 20 years ago.' The Bishop commissioned the newly elected Cork Diocesan Youth Council and gave



The Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross and the Dean of Cork with members of CDYC and young people who attended the 20th Anniversary Service.

special mention to Mrs Judy Peters and Mr Peter Coughlan who have been involved since the start 20 years ago.

The chairperson of CDYC, Mrs Judy Peters read the first lesson. The Cork Diocesan Youth Officer, Hilda Connolly, read the intercessions. The entire group of young people led the congregation in prayers for the peace of the world.

Earlier in the day, the Bishop, had treated the entire group of young people to an outing to the bowling alleys at Airtastic, Little Island.

Hilda Connolly said:

“The whole group of 33 young people and leaders really enjoyed the bowling alleys. They also attempted some Crazy Golf and were fed and watered before making their way to St. Fin Barres’s Cathedral to join in on the Lay Ministry Service and to celebrate 20yrs of the Cork Diocesan Youth Council. Thank you to Bishop Colton for making the day happen, the young people really enjoyed it and were delighted to be part of the service”.

The Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross and the Dean of Cork with members of CDYC and young people who attended the 20th Anniversary Service.

## **Major prize for Methodist minister’s scholarship**

**Rev Leah McKibben (Omagh and Fintona circuit) has received the ‘John Hull Dissertation Prize’ for 2023 from Queen’s Foundation, Birmingham.**

Leah has been awarded for her masters dissertation entitled, ‘A historical-critical exploration of a Wesleyan model of ministry and an evaluation of how that is reflected in the Methodist Church in Ireland today’.

Leah has shared her experience below:

“I was delighted when I recently gained my Masters qualification in Theology, Ministry and Mission through The Queen’s Foundation Birmingham, affiliated with Durham University.



## **Dunmurry Presbyterian Church Girls' Brigade ready for their enrolment service**

“It had been three years of hard work, attending online classes and taking trips to Birmingham for intensive study weeks. But the modules that were studied were interesting, and covered a wide variety of subjects, providing a good foundation of learning that could be used in my ministry.

“The last year of studies allowed me to carry out research on a topic chosen by myself, compiling my findings in my Masters dissertation. It was very unexpected to receive a letter this month to inform me that The Queen’s Foundation has awarded me the ‘John Hull Dissertation Prize’ for 2023, which is given in recognition of an outstanding achievement in a Master of Arts dissertation. It was encouraging to



**The Bishop of Connor, Rt Reverend George Davidson with group from Larne and Cairncastle parishes who were confirmed on Sunday past.**

receive this, marking the time and effort that I had given to this research, and highlighting the useful contribution that this research could make to the current practice of ordained ministry in the Methodist Church.

“My research was an historical exploration of a Wesleyan model of ministry, evaluating how that is reflected within the Methodist Church in Ireland today. It was an interesting study to undertake, allowing me to become more familiar with how John Wesley practiced his ministry, and asking if his use of time, and his balance of social and personal holiness provides a good model to be followed today. I learnt much, and was challenged to think about my own The





**Bishop of Connor with clergy from Larne and Cairncastle following last Sunday's Service of Confirmation.**

Service. ministry and how I saw ministry modelled today. After months of work, I concluded that Wesley helps ministers consider what their motivation to ministry is, shows them a balance of time spent on works of piety and works of mercy, and challenges them to ha

ve a transparent ministry that models a life of discipleship for those in their local societies.

“Concentrating on this one topic for the year, while interesting, wasn't always easy. I relied very heavily on my dissertation supervisors, Rev Dr Janet Unsworth and Rev Dr Catrin Harland-Davies, to teach, encourage and guide me in the dissertation process. With their help along the way I was



able to complete my research and submit my dissertation. It is now a delight to have received recognition for my [June Butler](#), the All-Ireland President of the Mothers Union was Present supporting Bishop Michael Burrows in his

[peregrination](#) of his diocese. A Mothers Union development programme overseas is being supported

completed work, and I would like to express my thanks to my supervisors for their help, and to The Queen's Foundation Dissertation Panel for awarding me with this prize".

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**John Martin Hull** (1935 - 2015) was Emeritus Professor of Religious Education at the University of Birmingham. He was the author of a number of books and many articles in the fields of religious education, practical theology and disability.

## Congratulations to D of E Award Achievers



**In November in Northern Ireland there were:**

212 Bronze Award completions

152 Silver Award completions

18 Gold Award completions

## News reports

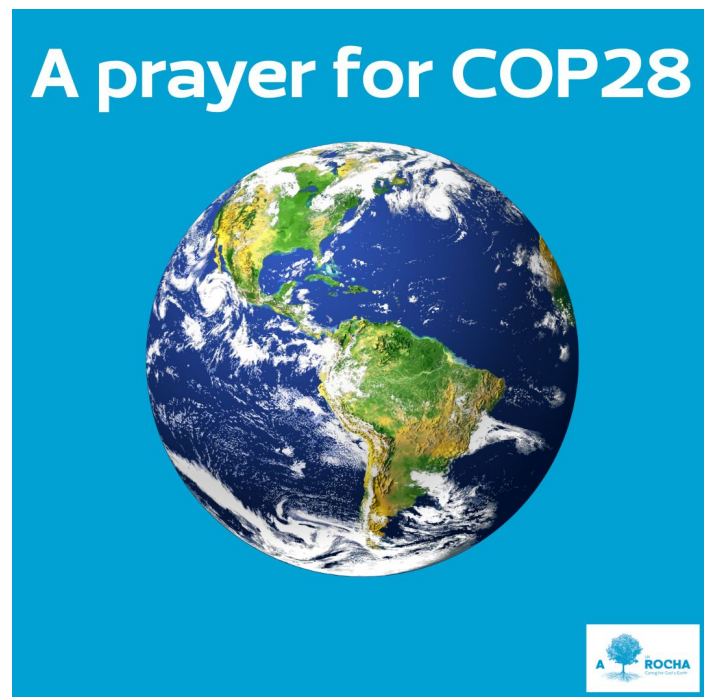
## Opening Ceremony of the World Climate Action Summit

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The King joins world leaders at the Opening Ceremony of the World Climate Action Summit for [#COP28](#)  
..there will be a Faith Pavilion inside... a platform for religious figures to speak and try to influence the negotiations. 140 different faith-based organisations have



partnered with the pavilion, and could (in theory) be sending up to 10 delegates each to the conference.'



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## **COP28: A Rocha UK's guide and resources for the Global Climate Summit**

<https://arocha.org.uk/cop28-a-rocha-uks-guide-and-resources-for-the-global-climate-summit/>

### **COP28 Prayers for Unity, Action and Hope**

Prayers for COP28, 30 Nov - 12 Dec 2023 led by members of BUEN, BMS World Mission and JPIT

Pray with us in the run up to COP28 on 30 Nov? Use this video reflection from the Baptist Union Environment

Network: <https://brnw.ch/21wEOYn>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QISwNb-KDaU>

## **Live broadcast disrupted by Christian climate protesters at Chichester Cathedral**

**A dozen Christian climate protesters interrupted an Evensong service at Chichester Cathedral on Wednesday, which was being broadcast live on BBC Radio 3.**

The protesters, who are mostly members of Christian Climate Action, stood up in the service, holding signs reading 'Chichester Diocese funds climate chaos'. The group sang a plainsong penitential chant. A statement was then read out and the group prayed.

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The group said the stunt was their response to the Chichester Diocesan Synod recently voting to keep investing in fossil fuels.

Mary Smail, a member of the group who gave the statement said: “Eleven days ago, the Chichester Diocesan Synod



voted to retain the Diocese's investments in fossil fuels, despite the Church of England National Investment Bodies having decided to divest - because ‘engagement has failed’. It is astonishing that Chichester has chosen this path, described by the UN Secretary General as ‘a highway to climate hell’. We protest at this wanton irresponsibility and call upon the Diocese to reverse its decision.”

In June, the Church Commissioners for England, which handles the Church of England’s £10.3bn endowment fund, decided to divest from oil and gas companies.

According to Christian Climate Action, most Church of England dioceses either do not have investments in fossil fuels or have voted to divest. However, the Southwell and Nottingham, Chichester and Peterborough dioceses still do.

Rev Hilary Bond, one of those who interrupted the service, said: "As Christians we follow a God who is all about justice, especially for the poor. Many of the poorer parts of the world are already enduring great suffering because of the effects of climate change, brought about by the continued use of fossil fuels by the richer parts of the world. In continuing to invest in fossil fuels, the Diocese of Chichester are ignoring the cry of the poor when they could so easily invest more ethically and be part of bringing climate justice to the whole of God's world. "

A spokesperson for the Diocese of Chichester told Premier Christian News in a statement:

"We share the concern of the protestors. The recent Diocesan Synod reaffirmed that care for God's creation is foundational to the Christian gospel and central to the church's mission.

"Synod also engaged with the many complexities this contentious issue raises, which are often overlooked. We recognised that it is possible for people to hold different views on the best way to achieve the shared goal of freedom from fossil fuels.

"We remain committed to working towards a future which does not depend on fossil fuels. We acknowledge that achieving freedom from fossil fuels depends on the urgent

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need to develop alternative energy supplies and reduce the demand for energy.

"The Synod also debated the central role that large energy companies have to play in developing alternative energy supplies. We agreed by a significant majority to continue to invest in Shell and BP only while those companies have a clear strategy aligned with the Paris Agreement goal.

"In a separate motion, Synod endorsed a Diocesan Net Zero Carbon Action Plan as a positive direction of travel."

## In the media

### **Fitting farewell for head as Lumen Christi tops best schools league table - Belfast Telegraph**

**The Sunday Times has named Londonderry's Lumen Christi College the leading secondary school in Northern Ireland, Mark Bain writes**

The grammar school appears in the paper's Parent Power Guide, and is ranked 17th in the UK in the annual league table of the top-performing schools.

The honour is a fitting farewell for principal Siobhan McCauley, who is leaving her post at the end of the term, with Dr Marie Ferris taking over in January.



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All the schools in the list were ranked according to the first true set of post-pandemic examination results.

The latest guide is the 31st edition and is available online from today and in print this Sunday.

Lumen Christi, a co-educational Catholic grammar school that opened in 1997, rose to the top of the table after placing seventh in the last list, which was topped by St Mary's Magherafelt.

Lumen Christi claimed the honour in the year before.

Lisburn Friends School took second place in the latest list, (21st position overall in the UK), with Our Lady and St Patrick's College Knock in third.

The top 10 was filled out by St Mary's Magherafelt, St Dominic's Grammar and Strathearn School (both in Belfast), Sullivan Upper in Holywood, St Louis' Grammar in Ballymena, Banbridge Academy and the Rainey Endowed in Magherafelt.

Making it into the UK top 100 were Belfast Royal Academy, Aquinas Diocesan Grammar School (also Belfast), Dalriada School in Ballymoney, Ballymena Academy, Omagh Academy, Ballyclare High School, the Royal School Armagh and Wallace High School in Lisburn.

Wilson's School in Wallington, England, was named the best in the UK.

Parent Power Guide editor Helen Davies said she hoped the league table would prove a useful tool for parents.

She added: “The educational landscape continues to be challenging across both the state and independent sectors, and this is the first true assessment of post-pandemic exam results.

“We believe these rankings — and all the additional information on offer in Parent Power — provide parents with a more reliable guide to academic achievement in schools today.

“Being a teenager is hard enough, and the past few years since Covid have made life even harder.

“It is heartening to highlight the achievements of so many students and schools across the UK.”

The Sunday Times guide is published at the start of December every year.

The latest publication was extended to include tips from an expert panel of teachers on keeping children happy and healthy.

There is a parents' survival guide to secondary school politics and the 'tyranny' of pupil WhatsApp groups.

The guide also has details on how one parent tutored his children for the 11-plus for free.

Other features include what has gone wrong with the teaching of English literature — an investigation into why more pupils are choosing to study physics than read Dickens — and why maths has become 'cool'.

For the full Sunday Times Parent Power Guide results, listing more than 1,000 schools across the UK, visit [thetimes.co.uk/schools-league-table](https://www.thetimes.co.uk/schools-league-table)

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

### Advent and Christmas 2023

We're approaching the season of Advent. Resources are available, including the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, and those from a wide range of churches and Christian organisations.

<https://ctbi.org.uk/advent-and-christmas-2023/>

### Centenary Concert in St. Macartin's Cathedral

Tuesday 12th December - Centenary Concert in St. Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen to celebrate the 100th anniversary of St. Anne's Church being designated a Cathedral. The concert will be presented by Mr Glenn Moore, organist and choirmaster, and the cathedral choir.

### Download a new 'Away in a Manger'

Lucy Walker is such a talented composer - beautiful melodies, sensitively harmonised. It's a joy to be releasing her new 'Away in a Manger' today with The Choirs of Pembroke College, Cambridge you can stream and

download here: <https://AnnaLapwood.Ink.to/InTheStillnessAW>

## Perspective

### Christmas in Jerusalem

Reflections for Advent by Richard Sewell

Christmas lights will go up in churches and schools before, or in time for, the start of Advent in the Holy Land. I know the debate about the ‘right time to put up Christmas decorations’ plays out every year and when I lived in England, I was always one of those wanting a later appearance of all the twinkles and sparkles. But things are different in the Holy Land in so many ways.

When I say ‘Holy Land’, I mean Israel and Palestine and by Palestine, I mean the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza. Tragically, with the war between Israel and Hamas raging for the past weeks, everyone knows the Middle East map better.

I moved to East Jerusalem over five years ago and in that time, I have learned very many things. One is how very important the seasons of Advent and Christmas are to Christians in these lands. We account for less than 2% of the population, and the vast majority of us are Palestinians, not Westerners like me.

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This time of year is the time when Christians can become visible amongst either a Jewish or Muslim majority; it's our time to shine, to be noticed and to proclaim that Jesus Christ is a light in the darkness for all the world. It's a chance we cannot miss, so the lights go up early here.

This year the darkness is almost overwhelming because of the appalling suffering caused by the war. People in the UK are also aware of the pervasive evil and violence because it's all over your news too.

Christians in the Holy Land will find it hard to celebrate with any joy at all. But we will put up the Christmas lights and decorations, though they be will be muted. The churches here have already declared that we will forego 'unnecessarily festive activities...and focus more on the spiritual meaning of Christmas'. Christians will do whatever is possible in Gaza, but Christmas won't be cancelled in the rest of these Lands. We need the light of Christ at Christmas, everyone needs it, more than ever.

*The Very Rev'd Canon Richard Sewell is the Dean of St George's College in Jerusalem, the Anglican centre for pilgrimage in the Holy Land.*

# Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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## Church News Ireland

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