

Church News Ireland



**Image of the day - 4Corners
In Conversation About Home**

February 3, 2025

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Short reading and a prayer daily on this site

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Image of the day



4 Corners Festival event - In conversation about home

Introducing In Conversation About Home with Anthony Toner and Andrea Montgomery at Fitzroy Presbyterian Church on Friday 7 February

The annual In Conversation event sees Steve Stockman talking to Anthony Toner and Andrea Montgomery.



Anthony is known for his songs about his own childhood home, growing up on Coleraine's Harpur's Hill Estate and an entire album about East Belfast.

Born in Delhi but Canadian and now making a home in East Belfast, Andrea will have plenty to say about home.

There will be plenty of music and art to enjoy. Join us on Friday 7 February from 7:30pm.

Get your tickets and find out more 🙌

<https://www.4cornersfestival.com/festival-events/in-conversation-about-home-with-anthony-toner-and-andrea-montgomery/>

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New Bishop elected by Diocese of Glasgow & Galloway

The Diocese of Glasgow & Galloway has chosen a new Bishop. The Rev Canon Dr Nicholas John Bundock was elected this month as the new Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway.

Nick becomes Bishop-elect, following the retirement of the Rt Rev Kevin Pearson who served the Diocese as Bishop for five years.

His consecration will take place on Saturday 3 May, at St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral in Glasgow.

The Bishop-elect accepted the post following a vote of the Electoral Synod which took place at Holy Trinity & St Barnabas, Paisley, where he received over half of the votes in each house, with clergy and lay representatives from congregations across the Diocese voting.

Nick is currently the Team Rector of St James and Emmanuel, Didsbury, in the Diocese of Manchester in the Church of England. During his time there, he has developed and led an inclusive ministry known as 'Church for Everyone,' which has been transformative in creating vibrant, welcoming, and growing communities for people of all backgrounds, including those who have often felt excluded from traditional church settings.

He studied Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the University of Sheffield and the University of North Texas,

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before training for ordination at the University of Cambridge and Ridley Hall Theological College. He was ordained deacon in 2002 and priest in 2003, serving his curacy at St Saviour's, High Green in the Diocese of Sheffield. In 2005, he became Team Vicar, then in 2010, Team Rector at St James and Emmanuel, Didsbury, in the Diocese of Manchester. In 2024, he was made an Honorary Canon of Manchester Cathedral.

Education



TCD Entrance Exhibition Awards

Adam James Neill (pictured), a student at Friends School Lisburn, has been awarded a prestigious Entrance Exhibition Awards for the 2024/5 academic year from Trinity College Dublin.

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Luke Gjergji Nase from Wallace High School also received an award. The awards go to students accepted into the first year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme who achieved the highest points among Trinity entrants from their secondary school - Ulster Star newspaper



Cambridge success

Congratulations to Emily Warnock and Megan Flood, from BRA who were delighted to receive offers from

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University of Cambridge last week for admission in September 2025.

Emily will read Law at Clare College and Megan will read History with German.

The pupils were successful in receiving offers from Cambridge following a rigorous application process including interviews before Christmas. They were ably supported in their applications by Dr Bell and Mr Tenner.

Heritage Skills Apprenticeships now open for application

Successful apprentices will join the Historic Environment Division's Conservation Works Team, working alongside master craftsmen to be trained as either blacksmiths, stonemasons, or conservation joiners.

These apprentices will be expected to contribute towards the preservation of our State Care sites as well as work towards a Level 3 in heritage skills within 3 years.

To find out more information and apply today, visit:

<https://irecruit-ext.hrconnect.nigov.net/>

All queries can be directed to HRConnect by:

Email: recruitment@hrconnect.nigov.net

Telephone: 0800 1 300 330

Applications close 14th February.

Cathedral Calls

Plague of Angels questioned in York

The Guardian reports on problems surrounding a rock concert scheduled to take place in York Minster in April.

It's just the latest attempt by churches to open up to more people, but parishioners have complained after discovering that two members of the band, Plague of Angels, used to belong to Cradle of Filth, a metal group whose merchandise included a lewd t-shirt featuring a nun. One churchgoer said the concert was an insult. A cathedral spokesman said the event, intended to showcase the Minster's refurbished organ, would "align with its values". The band's guitarist apologised and confirmed that the two members deeply regret their involvement in Cradle of Filth.

Clergy and ministry

Down & Dromore visit the Diocese of Santiago

On Wednesday 8 January 2025 Bishop David McClay of Down & Dromore and Revd Mark Lennox left for their link Diocese of Santiago in Chile.

The timing of the trip coincided with the consecration of the new Bishop of Santiago and the installation of the next Primate for the Anglican Church in Chile.



Pictured above with Bishop David and Revd Mark: Bishop Juan Esteban and Archbishop Tito (now retired).

Mark is the Santiago Partnership Link Coordinator and reports on the visit below:

After a long journey to Santiago, our first engagement was a Friday morning meeting with Revd Juan Esteban Saravia (Bishop-elect), Archbishop Tito (the outgoing Primate), and Revd Max Imiliano Diaz who visited Down and Dromore last year. The fellowship was warm and the conversations regarding the potential shared ministry opportunities between the two dioceses were productive.

On Saturday the Diocese of Santiago hosted a lunch in La Trinidad Church for all the international guests who had gathered for the consecration and installation. Bishop David and I joined representatives from Australia, USA, Uganda, England, Peru, Bolivia and Argentina.

That evening Bishop David preached at a church plant in Santiago's city centre. Iglesia Santiago Apóstol (Church of St James the Apostle) was originally planted in a movie

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theatre, but for logistical reasons has recently moved to an old Church building in that same area. The pastor of the church is Archdeacon Cristóbal Cerón.

Historic day

Sunday brought a very significant and historic day for the Diocese of Santiago and for the Anglican Church in Chile. It was a privilege for Bishop David to join with the other



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**If Bishop Mariann Budde's words have sparked
your curiosity about the love, justice, and
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we invite you to join us on our journey.**

www.diocesemo.org

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bishops in the laying on of hands at the consecration of Revd Juan Esteban Saravia as a Bishop in the Church.

Immediately following the installation of Bishop Juan Esteban as the Diocesan Bishop of Santiago, The Most Revd Enrique Lago was installed as the 2nd Archbishop of Chile. He is the son-in-law of Bishop Colin Bazley.

During the service there was a real sense of celebration and giving thanks to God as to how the Church in Chile has grown over the past number of years. As the occasion also marked the formal retirement of Archbishop Tito Zavala, there was a very visible passing on of the baton from one generation to the next.

At the reception after the service both Bishop David and I brought greetings from the Diocese of Down and Dromore and from SAMS Ireland.

At La Trinidad Church on Sunday evening Bishop Alf Cooper invited Bishop David to speak to the congregation about the link between the two dioceses. Bishop Alf asked me to speak about ministry in the Church of Ireland and share the greatest need in Ireland at present. The service concluded with a very powerful time of prayer ministry.

Visits

Revd Max Imiliano Diaz is on the Ministry team of La Providencia Church in the heart of the city, and we visited it the next day. This is a growing church with two very distinct congregations (one English and one Spanish) and a variety of ministries on offer. In the afternoon we spent some time

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with two of the other international guests whose church also works alongside one of the congregations in Santiago.

On Tuesday we visited SEP (the Theological Seminary) and spent some time chatting with one of the current students. Following this we visited Iglesia de la Resurrecion (Church



A Celebration of Ireland's patron saint with members of the New Irish Choir and Orchestra

NEW IRISH ARTS

Patrick

Friday 14th March, 8pm
St John's Ballyclare

Tickets: £20, available online via the QR code below or by contacting the church office at 02893 354814.



 THE UNITED PARISH
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newirisharts.com

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of the Resurrection) which will celebrate its 50th anniversary next year. This church is in one of the more deprived areas of Santiago. Here there was a wonderful time of sharing, teaching and prayer ministry with the Pastor.

We visited the Diocesan Office on Wednesday and spent some time with Archdeacon Cristóbal Cerón. This gave us the opportunity to discuss the logistics around the link between the two dioceses and chat through the possibilities of partnering with each other.

Thank you for your prayers as we visited Chile and please continue to pray for the flourishing of this precious link with the Diocese of Santiago.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

The Girl from Montego Bay

The autobiography of Britain's first black woman bishop by Rose Hudson-Wilkin

This book is an enjoyable account of Bishop Rose Hudson-Wilkin's ministry, from Jamaica to Dover. In between, we accompany her to London to train for the Church Army, to Jamaica again, to the Midlands for ordination, to Hackney for parish ministry, to the House of Commons to be Chaplain, and finally to Canterbury to be Bishop of Dover.

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It is an exhilarating journey. A poster that she has long embraced says “Do not go where the path leads. Go where there is no path and leave a trail.” That’s just what she’s done.

Three themes stand out. First is the author’s love of Jamaica, with its warmth and vibrancy, as well as many important figures from her disrupted early life. Her older sister Shirley and her surrogate parents gave her the stability she needed as she developed the resilience and determination that would serve her well in later life.

The second theme is the discrimination that, as a black woman priest, Hudson-Wilkin has experienced in both overt and covert forms (on her appointment to a curacy at St Matthew’s, Wolverhampton, the PCC resigned en bloc). The stories of prejudice are tragic to read, but Rose was capable of bold rejoinders when necessary and kept going regardless, giving as good as she got. Her beloved husband, Ken, gets much credit for his constant support.

The third theme is surprise. Hudson-Wilkin is aware of her gifts, but is often taken by surprise when different opportunities come her way, such as to be the first ever woman Chaplain to the Speaker of the House of Commons, or to go to dinner and stay overnight in Windsor Castle. She led the prayers at the Sussexes’ wedding and played a significant part in the Coronation. As well as royalty, the cast list in Hudson-Wilkin’s life is impressive, including Desmond Tutu, Barack Obama, and — best of all — Lionel Richie. At the back of it all is the question: “How did this happen to a girl from Montego Bay?”

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A longer autobiography could have given more details about what ministry actually looked like in, for example, 16 years of deep ministry in Hackney. The interesting ministry that we read most about is with Members and employees in the Houses of Parliament. Again, we catch glimpses, but get no details of fascinating speaking engagements.

SPCK £19.99 (978-0-281-08960-4)

Church Times Bookshop £15.99

[<https://chbookshop.hymnsam.co.uk/books/9780281089604/girl-from-montego-bay?vc=CT731>]

Resources exhibition for local churches across Northern Ireland

For the Clergy, Leaders, Committee Personnel and Lay Members of local churches across Northern Ireland, this event will take place on Thursday 18 September, 2025 at the Stormont Hotel, Belfast.

The organisers say - “Discover resources, encouragement and support for your latest projects - plus a range of supplies for the various ongoing needs of your Church.

“On the day of the event, we will create a one-stop shop for visitors by bringing together an array of products, services, information, ideas and advice for churches - with a view to encouraging how Church life is organised internally and projected into the local community”.

This event is sponsored by Rea Sound, Northern Ireland’s premier supplier of audio, lighting and visual equipment to

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churches. At the event, they will be offering advice and solutions to all your audio-visual needs.

They confirmed the participation of a number of other local businesses:

Galgorm Group: Suppliers of Catering, Hygiene and Healthcare products.

AJ Gallagher: Insurance Services

McCready Architects: Architectural Designer

Edwards Solicitors: Legal Services

MKB Medical Services: Suppliers of Defibrillators and First Aid Training.

They are expecting 25+ exhibitors in total.

There will be representation in the following areas:

Audio-visual + Lighting

Catering equipment and supplies

Legal services

Church Furnishings

Interior and Exterior Signage

Photography / Videography services

Graphic Design

Printing / FWO Envelope production

Architectural advice / services

Fire Safety

First Aid Training and Supplies

Heating / Energy Advice

Interior Design

Insurance

IT / Phone services

M+E services

Outdoor Landscaping

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Security services
Carpentry / Bespoke woodwork
Art: Glass, Ceramics etc

You may follow on Facebook for updates at
www.facebook.com/churchresources2025 for updates.

Admission Tickets are now available FREE OF CHARGE
and you may request as many as you require. Simply, click
the 'GET TICKETS' or 'RESERVE A SPOT'
Stormont Hotel Belfast. 587 Upper Newtownards Road
Belfast BT4 3LP



Family Fund

Helping disabled children

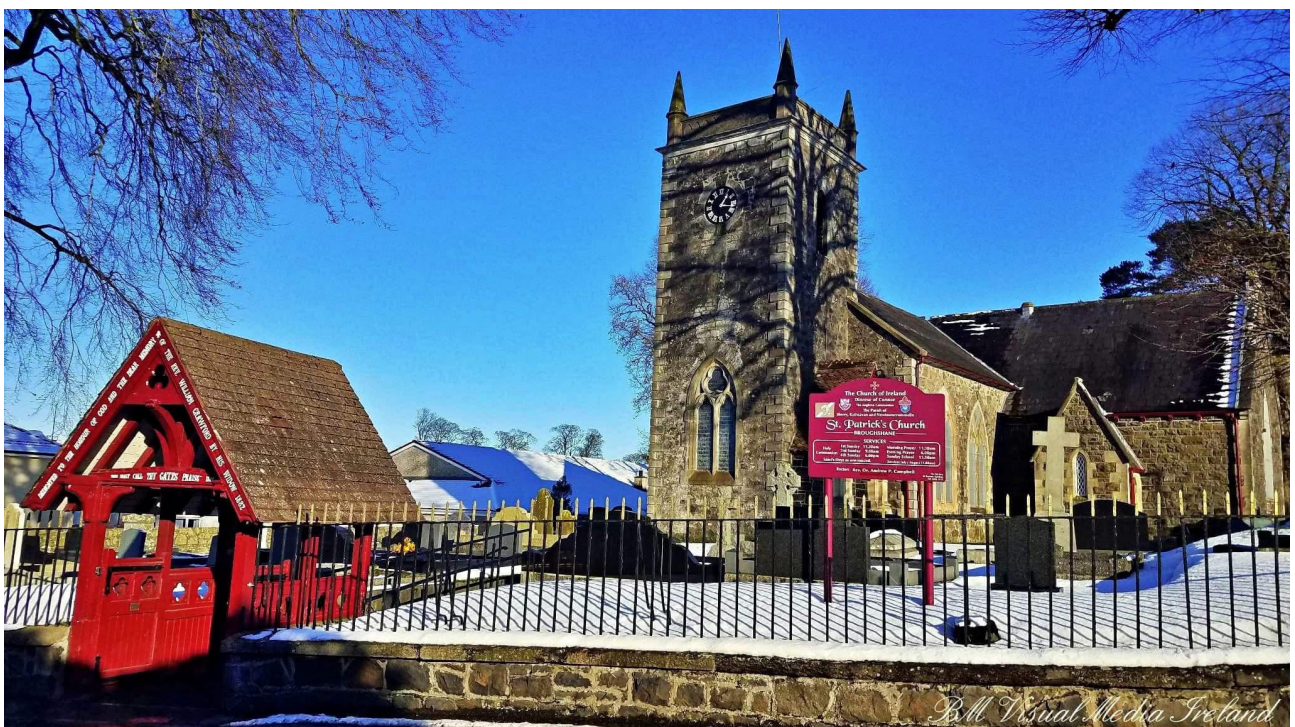
Family Fund NI grants

Family Fund NI are currently offering grants for parents or carers who are raising a disabled or ill child.

The fund offers lots of support for a wide variety of items from clothes, digital devices, days out, driving lessons and more.

i You can apply for the grant if:

- ✓** You're the main carer for a disabled or seriously ill child, aged 17 or younger
- ✓** You have lived in the UK for the past six months the child you're applying for is not in the care of the local authority or in foster care
- ✓** You are living on a low income or receiving benefits



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✔ Your child needs high levels of support in at least three areas of our eligibility criteria

More info on how to apply and what support is available can be found via the link below ↓

<https://www.familyfund.org.uk/apply-now-in-northern-ireland/>

Perspective

Choosing Canterbury

The next Archbishop of Canterbury - how he will be chosen

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, resigned over an abuse cover-up scandal, marking an unprecedented moment for the Church of England.

He becomes the first leader of the church, as well as the wider Anglican Communion of 85 million Christians worldwide, to be forced out in this manner, religious experts say.

The 68-year-old had been in the role since 2013, and would have been expected to retire around age 70.

HOW IS THE LIST OF CANDIDATES WHITTLED DOWN?

A period of consultation on the needs of the Church of England, as well as the Anglican Communion, will be

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followed by an appointment of a Crown Nominations Committee.

The committee will consist of 17 voting members, including the archbishop of York who is the second-most-senior bishop in the institution, another bishop elected by the House of Bishops, and representatives from the Anglican Communion, the Diocese of Canterbury, and the church's governing body - the General Synod.

It will be chaired by an Anglican, ideally in public life, chosen by Prime Minister Keir Starmer.

Assembling the committee could take a couple of months, David Thompson, emeritus professor of modern church history at the University of Cambridge, told Reuters, adding that the whole process could take up to six months.

WHAT DOES THE COMMITTEE DO?

The committee will make a recommendation to Starmer. If the prime minister accepts it, he will put the name forward to King Charles, who is the supreme governor of the Church of England.

WHO ARE POSSIBLE SUCCESSORS?

Three bishops have been tipped to succeed Welby as the 106th archbishop of Canterbury: Martyn Snow, the bishop of Leicester, Graham Usher, the bishop of Norwich, and Guli Francis-Dehqani, the bishop of Chelmsford.

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Snow abstained in a church assembly vote on blessing for gay couples, while Usher is in favour of gay rights and has pushed for higher taxes on fossil-fuel companies.

Francis-Dehqani, who was ordained in 2017, just three years after the first woman bishop was appointed, was born in Iran and has spoken about how her brother was murdered in the aftermath of the Iranian Revolution.

She would be the first woman to become archbishop if selected.

Francis-Dehqani and Usher were among 44 bishops who signed a letter last year expressing regret that the authorisation of standalone services to bless same-sex couples had been delayed.

WHAT AWAITS THEM?

The new archbishop will likely face the same persistent divisions on same-sex relationships that Welby tried to balance during his 11-year tenure.

It has been a matter of contention not just in the wider Anglican Communion, which includes African churches where homosexuality is taboo, but also within the Church of England.

"The principal problem for the archbishop of Canterbury ... is that he combines the role of the primate of all England, with being the head of the Anglican Communion," Thompson said. "This is effectively a relic of empire, because that was the context in which the Anglican Communion developed.

"It increasingly in the late 20th century and the early 21st century has revealed a conflict of role which hasn't been satisfactorily resolved during Archbishop Welby's tenure."

In his resignation, Welby said his decision made it "clear how seriously the Church of England understands the need for change."

"For nearly twelve years I have struggled to introduce improvements," he wrote. "It is for others to judge what has been done."

In the media

Historic items from NI diocese auctioned to pay for liabilities of paedophile priest

MORE THAN 1,000 ITEMS WORTH OVER £1M ARE UP FOR SALE AT THE AUCTION

Proceeds from a Catholic Church auction in Northern Ireland which lists items such as a 20th century electric shock machine, Oriental opium pipe and gold sovereign coins will go towards paying liabilities relating to a paedophile priest, Liam Tunney writes in the Belfast Telegraph

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The combined lots are estimated to be worth more than £1m and are from the Bishop of the Diocese of Dromore's house in Newry.

Along with approximately 27 acres of associated land, the Armagh Road property is currently on the market, with the sale previously linked to raising money to meet “safeguarding responsibilities” around the victims of predator cleric Malachy Finegan.

Finegan is alleged to have sexually abused children in the diocese over a period spanning four decades prior to his death in 2002.

Finegan was accused of a long campaign of child sexual abuse, but was never prosecuted or questioned by police about claims made against him.

Among the 1,132 items listed for auction is an electric shock machine dating back to the early 20th century, which is expected to fetch between €60-€120 (£50-£100).

Several gold sovereigns, each expected to attract bids of up to €500 (£418), have also been listed.

The auction is being managed by Victor Mee Auctions in Co Cavan.

A 19th century percussion pistol with brass mounts and lanyard ring expected to fetch between €180-€280 (£150-£234) is also featured, along with six rifles, including an 1864 Lee Enfield.

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A rare William IV Italian marble console table with an estimated price of between €4,000 and €8,000 (£3,343-£6,686) is also listed along with tables, couches, lamps, Persian rugs, garden furniture, mirrors, kitchenware, paintings and a number of ecclesiastical items dating back to the 1800s.

A 1920s marble altar is also up for sale.

The sheer number of items and the significant estimates means the auction has the potential to raise more than £1m in total.

The catalogue highlights a “remarkable collection of liturgical pieces, with standout items such as an set of early 20th century Stations of the Cross” and a “decanter presented to Pope Pius IX on his sacerdotal jubilee, bearing an extraordinary provenance from the town Velletri, Italy”.

“Of particular interest are a pair of Scagliola marble columns, showcasing an intricate Italian technique popular in the 17th and 18th centuries,” the auctioneers state.

“Garden enthusiasts will be drawn to the collection of 19th-century pieces, including a rare limestone sundial and a series of stone troughs that tell a story of rural life and craftsmanship.”

Viewing is planned for three days from February 8, with a two day auction the following Wednesday and Thursday. The church confirmed the auction plans were part of the money-raising process to pay for the abuse liabilities.

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“The Diocese of Dromore announced its intentions to sell assets in a pastoral letter issued November 25, 2023 in order to meet its existing and ongoing safeguarding responsibilities,” said a spokesperson.

“Reference is made in the letter to lands at Armagh Road, Newry, including the existing Bishop's House.

“Current plans for the auction of items from the Bishop's House is part of that process.”

The lands on sale at the bishop's house are close to St Colman's College, where Finegan is alleged to have carried out much of the abuse.

Finegan taught at the school from 1967 and was appointed principal in 1976.

He stepped down in 1987.

Former bishop John McAreavey, who took over the role in 1999, stepped down in 2018 after it was revealed he celebrated mass with Finegan as late as 2000 and had officiated at his funeral in 2002.

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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**Link in Monday through Saturday from
early morning**

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