

Church News Ireland



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February 26, 2025

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Image of the day

Queen's Hubsters in conference

The current chaplain of The Hub at QUB, Rev Danielle McCullagh, met with four former Hub chaplains at the First Things conference - Bishop Andrew Forster, Rev Dr. Paddy McGlinchy, Bishop Harold Miller & Archdeacon Barry Forde.

The ministry of the first of the chaplains pictured, Bishop Harold, spans all the way back to 1984.

News

Paul's legacy at Castlerock

Have you see the new defibrillator installed outside St Paul's Church? It is situated to the left of the entrance and is connected to the national network.



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It has been funded by Paul's Legacy, a local charity set up in memory of Nurse Practitioner Paul Murray



Lutheran worship in Midleton

About three times a year, a small group gathers in St. John the Baptist Church of Ireland, Midleton, to celebrate a service in Lutheran tradition.

Daniela O'Hara, member of the Lutheran Church and parishioner at Christ Church, Rushbrooke, writes about the small community who meets in Midleton:

In Germany about 23% of the population identify as Protestant, and most of the small congregation gathering for the services at St John the Baptist, Midleton are either from Germany or of German descent.

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The last service was led in German by Pastor Florian von Issendorff. Most of the time, he and his wife Anja, also a Pastor, work in St. Finian's Church in Dublin, home to the only Lutheran Church in Ireland. But they regularly travel around Ireland, holding German services in Belfast, Limerick, Wexford, Kerry and Cork.

Pastor von Issendorff's last visit to Midleton was on 22nd December 2024, the Fourth Sunday of Advent. That time, the congregation totalled eleven people, ranging in age from 4 months old to 88 years, and greatly enjoyed singing familiar German Christmas carols. The next service Continued Page 6 below.

Counterpoint Coleraine support for Women's Aid

Last evening we were happy to present a cheque for £1000 to Women's Aid NI. "Thanks to everyone who supports our concerts, allowing us to donate to such deserving causes through our music."



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Pastor von Issendorff's last visit to Midleton was on 22nd December 2024, the Fourth Sunday of Advent. That time, the congregation totalled eleven people, ranging in age from 4 months old to 88 years, and greatly enjoyed singing familiar German Christmas carols. The next service in Midleton is likely to be sometime around Easter, and new people from any denomination are always welcome. Services are usually followed by tea, coffee and homemade cakes – and a chance to socialise.

We want to extend a special thanks to the Very Reverend Dean Susan Green for allowing the group the use of St. John the Baptist Church in Midleton.

Young British Christians increasingly antisemitic, says study

A new survey has revealed that young British Christians are more likely to hold anti-Jewish views than older generations.

The study, funded by a coalition of antisemitism watchdogs, looked at Christians' perception of Jewish people and Israel, in light of the current Middle East conflict.

“Young Brits are significantly more likely to hold very negative opinions of Jews and Israel, than older British Christians,” said researcher Dr Motti Inbari, a professor of Jewish studies at the University of North Carolina, and co-author of the national study, ‘A Survey of British Christian Attitudes Towards the Israel-Palestine Conflict.’

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Only half of young Christian respondents said they believed Jesus to be Jewish – with the rest either unsure, or of the belief that he was non-Jewish.

Across all ages, a third said they felt Jewish people speak “too much” about the Holocaust.

Dr Inbari told Premier that one reason behind the trend is a disapproval of the state of Israel’s actions in Gaza: “The image of Jews tends to be mixed with the image of the of the conflict.”

Overall, Brits showed an even split in their views on the Gaza conflict, with 23.6% supporting Israel and 22.5% saying they back Palestine. Most - 37.3% - were neutral, and 16.6 percent ‘didn’t know’.

“There’s this thing which we call the ‘Judeo-Christian civilisation’,” Dr Inbari said: “We are hoping that Christians will understand the context of Christianity.

“If you understand the roots of Christianity, maybe you will develop a better views of Jews eventually.”

Dr Inbari highlighted that churches could be a good place to have open discussions about inbuilt prejudice. “Let’s first have a conversation,” he told Premier: “because most people say that they never hear their pastor talking about [antisemitism], or seldom hear other members of the church talking about [prejudice]. So let's start having a conversation, because typically it's not part of the conversation at all.”

New Wine issued warning over promoting new 'gifted' leaders

New Wine should “exercise discernment in promoting new leaders even where those leaders are obviously gifted in certain areas”, an independent review of its connections to Mike Pilavachi has concluded.

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We'd love to hear from you!
If you'd like to receive our newsletter,
or would like to tell us of your
eco endeavours, let us know at
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Becoming an Eco-aware Church
An Introduction for Faith Communities

'The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world and all who live in it'
Psalm 24 v 1

Supporting local churches to care for God's earth

eco congregation Ireland

ECI - Eco Church Ireland - has produced a publicity flyer to share with all who are interested in learning more about ECI and wish to begin or progress their eco journey. You can download the flyer here. Please share this resource with interested contacts.

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Survivor (News, 27 September 2024), it repeats the warning that “people were often willing to overlook issues with Mr Pilavachi and his ministry because it appeared to be fruitful.”

The review, also carried out by Fiona Scolding KC, was commissioned by the trustees of New Wine last February (News, 28 February 2024). It considers the extent to which New Wine knew of the allegations against Mr Pilavachi and whether the conduct specified in those allegations was “condoned or exacerbated by deficiencies in the governance, policies, practices, arrangements and oversight at New Wine”.

The Church of England’s National Safeguarding Team concluded in 2023 that Mr Pilavachi, the founder of Soul Survivor, had demonstrated “coercive and controlling behaviour” that led to inappropriate relationships, the physical wrestling of youths, and the massaging of young male interns.

Besides the exercise of discernment, the review makes three recommendations: the vetting of speakers; a system for reporting, recording, and monitoring low-level concerns; and a more robust and easily accessible complaints policy.

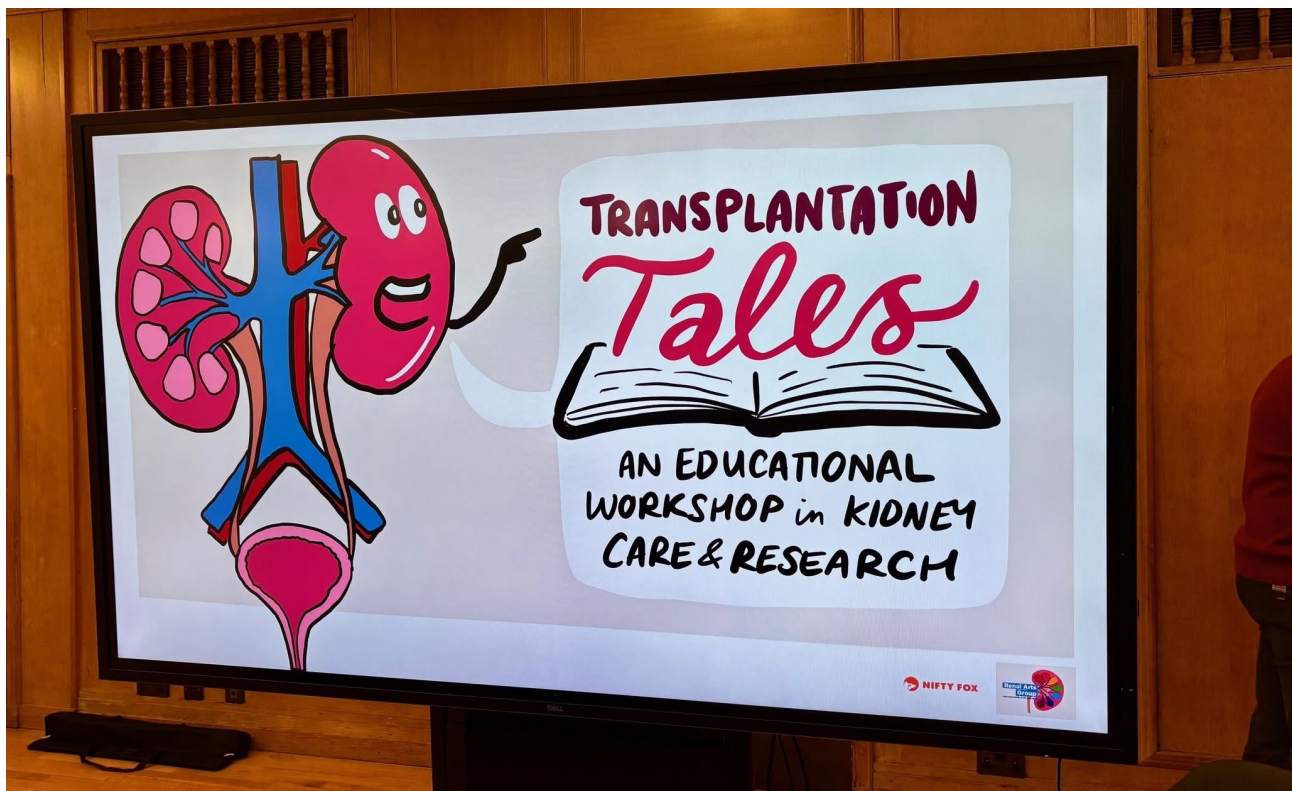
In an interview with Premier Christianity magazine, the Bishop of Lancaster, Dr Jill Duff, who chairs New Wine, said that the recommendations were “exactly the sort of things we need to put in place . . . If we are in a posture where we easily hear feedback, rather than being defensive towards it, that’s a way of us growing — and a way of darkness coming to light.”

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She said that she was “really sad” that Mr Pilavachi had not issued an apology.

Education

MCB Biology students learn about Kidney Transplant Services



A group of A level Biology students from MCB took part in an event at Queen’s University Belfast where they learnt about Kidney Transplant Services in Northern Ireland.

One group consisting of Katherine Bradley, Anna-Rose Kelly, Lara Mockford and Anna Wilson were placed in the

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top three teams by designing a picture storyboard to inform younger transplant patients.

Crosshaven youngsters fund raise for Christian Aid's Sierra Leone partner

Raising funds for people living in poverty is a piece of cake for the children of Crosshaven, County Cork.

The youngsters of Templebreedy National School held a bake sale last Wednesday, raising €620 to support our work in one West African country.

Last autumn, Rt Rev Dr Paul Colton, Church of Ireland Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, launched a diocesan appeal for Sierra Leone and already almost €10,000 has



been raised, thanks to donations and church collections in the 22 parishes of the diocese.

The money will support the work of Christian Aid's local partner, the Sierra Leone Council of Churches, which is helping families rebuild their lives and find new sources of income after being displaced from their farmland following the arrival of a huge palm oil plantation.

The children of Templebreedy heard from Carrigaline clergyman, Rev Tony Murphy who is leading the fundraising effort within the diocese. Rev Tony has strong links to Sierra Leone because he lived there for many years. Last year, he went on a self-funded trip to Sierra Leone to visit the projects the appeal will support.

Please join us in thanking the children, their parents and their teacher Ms Jennings for their interest in our work in Sierra Leone and for their hard work to raise funds to support it.

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Templebreedy Group of Parishes - Church of Ireland in Cork, Cloyne and Ross



Queen's University Officers' Training Corps visit Somme Museum

This week Queen's University Officers' Training Corps, Somme Company, visited the Somme Museum 233 Bangor Road, Newtownards, where they went on a guided tour of the 'trench experience' with Austin. [https://
sommeassociation.com/visit/somme-museum](https://sommeassociation.com/visit/somme-museum)

Cathedral Calls

Hereford Cathedral School opens international school Rwanda

Hereford Cathedral School is to open an international school in Rwanda for children aged five to 18 and living in or around Kigali. It will, the school says, “reflect the historic institution’s values, ethos and opportunities as well as aligning itself with Rwandan culture and tradition”.

The sixth oldest school in the UK, Hereford Cathedral School is the first independent school to set up an establishment in Rwanda, although not the first in Africa: Charterhouse opened a school in Lagos last September, and last month Rugby School announced a new campus there. Hereford already provides a range of educational services to schools in Jiangsu Province, in China.

Hereford International School, Kigali, is to be located in a luxury housing development. It is being built in partnership with the Savannah Creek Development Company, builders of the city’s Kigali Heights business and retail development.

In Monday’s press release, the headmaster of Hereford Cathedral School, Dr Michael Gray, said: “Embarking on this groundbreaking project is a tremendously exciting milestone for the school. It enables us to expand our mission and to make our sector-leading education available to more and more young people.

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“Rwanda is one of the world’s fastest growing economies. It has been on a transformative journey over the past 30 years, with education as a key part of its ongoing development. Through my personal and professional experiences in the country, which I have been visiting so frequently for well over a decade, I have developed an appreciation and affection for its home-grown solutions, warm-hearted people and pro-business approach.

“In collaboration with our esteemed partners, who share our ethos, values and commitment to delivering outstanding education, we look forward to bringing our ambitious and innovative educational approach to Rwanda and strengthening our global presence, which will be pivotal in helping us to realise our strategic aspirations.”

The school is expected to open in two years and run an internationally recognised curriculum

Sung Eucharist from Canterbury Cathedral

Sung Eucharist - Saints and Martyrs of Our Own Time -
Sunday 23 February 2025

[https://www.youtube.com/live/oH7llpW95VI?
si=2FlnZA9KO4hBRvyV](https://www.youtube.com/live/oH7llpW95VI?si=2FlnZA9KO4hBRvyV)

York Minster's famous "Five Sisters" window

It contains the largest expanse of 13th century grisaille glass in the world. It was built c.1250–1260 and is located in the north wall of the north transept.

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Clergy and ministry

95 years' service as Connor Diocesan Readers



Bishop George Davison with Diocesan Readers Mr Jack Hassard, left, and Mr Neill Wilson.

Congratulations to Mr Jack Hassard and Mr Neill Wilson who have between them given around 95 years' service as Diocesan Readers.

The Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev George Davison, was at Lambeg Church on Sunday evening February 16, to celebrate and give thanks for their wonderful ministries.

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Neill was commissioned as a Diocesan Reader by Bishop Arthur Butler in Dunmurry Parish on February 25 1975, and Jack was commissioned by the same Bishop in Ballynure Parish on November 18 1980.

Both Neill and Jack spoke of their experiences and the privilege it was to be involved in the lives of so many people in so many churches over the years. Bishop George outlined the importance of Readers in the diocese and the work they do in serving in the Church of Ireland.

Retirement of Archdeacon Leslie Stevenson



Bishop Pat Storey of Meath & Kildare comments “I have found Leslie to be a wonderful colleague and partner in ministry.

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“He has been a true companion to me as we have served together in this dioceses, and he has stepped in to act as Commissary many times when I have been away, or on sick leave.” She continued, “I want to wish Leslie and Ruth well in their retirement. We shall deeply miss them, and I know that Portarlington and Monasterevin will very much miss him too.”

Pathways to the Future Leadership training

Last Saturday parishioners gathered from the Belfast 20 Family of Parishes to participate in the first of a series of Parish Pastoral Council formation training sessions as part of the Pathways to the Future Leadership training which is currently being rolled out across Down and Connor diocese.

Thanks to Jim Deeds for facilitating the training supported by Jackie Kerr from the Pathways to The Future Team and Fr Gabriel Lyon’s Parish Priest of St Teresa’s parish for providing the venue. Final thanks are to all those who attended for their engagement, enthusiasm and commitment. We look forward to seeing you again for the next part of our training.

Resources

Methodist series of short videos on God's transforming work

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Caron and Ann speak of their work at Ashmore House, part of the Northwest Methodist Mission.

They share of their own journeys of overcoming addiction and surviving domestic abuse, highlighting the importance of support systems and how faith has become significant to both of them.

Watch this story in full as part of this series of short videos that share inspiring stories of lives changed by God's transforming work, both within Ireland and beyond.

→ bit.ly/mci_stories

Celebrate World Book Day with Libraries NI

Calling Primary School teachers and parents who home school in Northern Ireland -

Sign up for a FREE exclusive online pre-recorded session featuring award-winning author and illustrator Paddy Donnelly.

Paddy will read his World Book Day selection, Fox & Son Tailers, and guide a fun draw-a-long session!

Thursday 6 March. 10:30am – 11:30am
Online via Zoom. Suitable for primary 2, 3 and 4

Don't miss this exciting opportunity—register now!

<https://tinyurl.com/fblni-WBD-PaddyDonnelly>

Global made local video

In a new video as part of the Inspiring Angles series, Rev James Boyd, rector of St Columba's Derryvolgie, and Marcos, an intern from Chile who is volunteering in the community through a partnership with SAMS talk about the Global made local programme, which aims to reach out and make connections with the people from around the world that have come to live and work in our communities.

Made possible through a partnership with SAMS, and with the assistance of funding provided by the Church of Ireland Priorities Fund and the Board of Education, Rev Boyd discusses the value of forging cross-cultural connections and his hopes for the project to expand over the coming years.

<https://www.churchofireland.org/news/12720/global-made-local>

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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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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www.churchnewsireland.org

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

Please recommend to your friends
