

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – St Patrick's Belfast and  
Sir John Lavery**

## Image of the day



## St Patrick's Belfast and Sir John Lavery

**St Patrick's Church is on Donegall Street, Belfast and is rightly associated with the celebrated Belfast born painter Sir John Lavery.**

He attended the Haldane Academy in Glasgow and the Académie Julian in Paris. He is best known for his portraits of political figures such as Winston Churchill, Arthur Griffith and Edward Carson and also for his landscapes and seascapes.

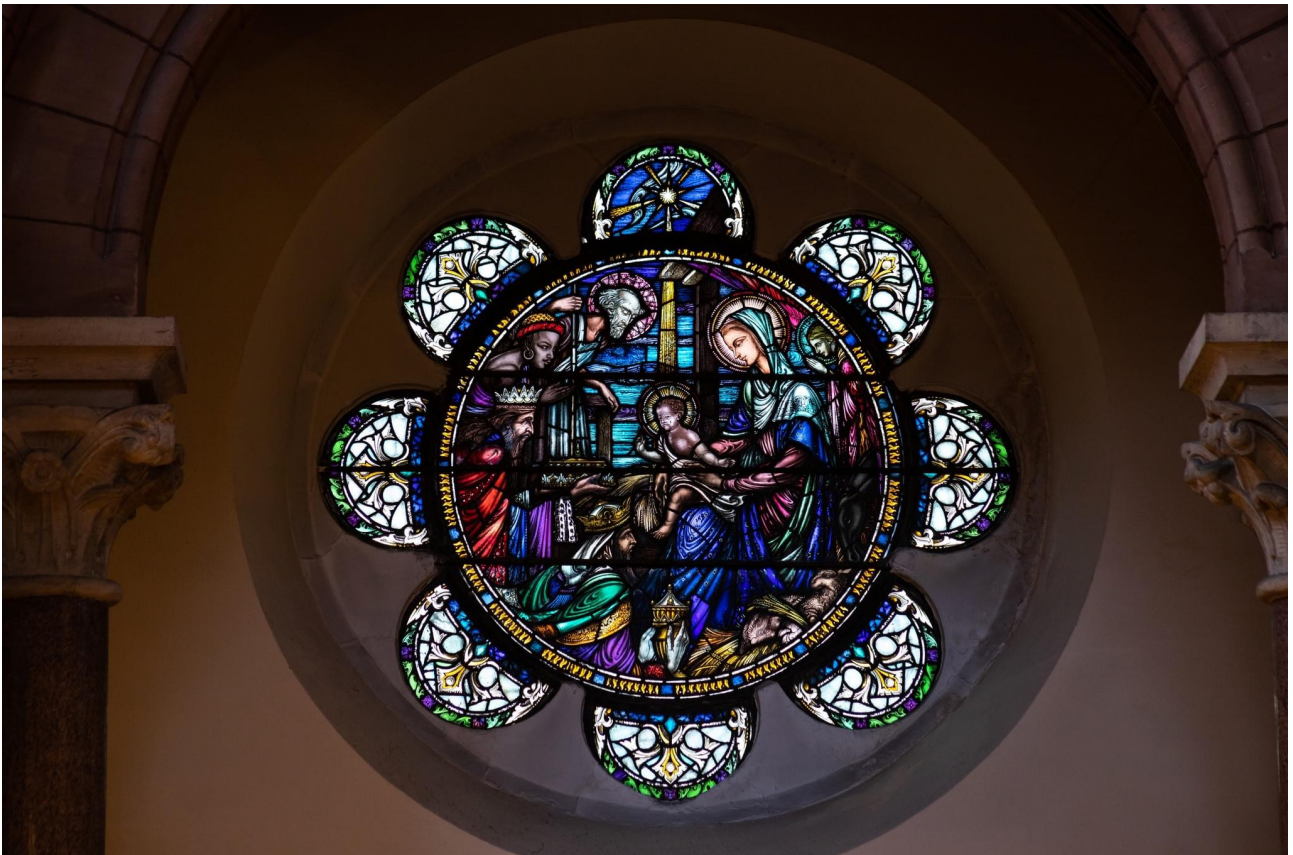
Appointed an official war artist in World War I, he was however prevented from travelling to the Western Front due to ill health.



He and his second wife Hazel became popular figures in London society, and they were influential in encouraging their neighbour Sir Winston Churchill to pick up a paintbrush and start painting.

Sir John was baptised in St Patrick's Church, Donegall Street, Belfast to which he returned in 1919 to present a triptych painting (photo above) called 'The Madonna of the Lakes'. The models for the triptych were the three most important women in his life: his daughter, Eileen, his step-daughter Alice and of course his muse for many of his paintings his wife Hazel.

You can view this stunning painting in St Patrick's Church.



On 10 January 1941 the celebrated Belfast born painter Sir John Lavery died.

Every church has a story to tell.

Acknowledgments to the National Churches Trust NI and Laura McIlveen Photography

## People and places

### Limavady Boys' Brigade 50th Anniversary Praise Service

**On Sunday evening in 2nd Limavady Presbyterian Church, Irish Green Street there was a Praise Service held to mark the 50th Anniversary of the 2nd Limavady Boys' Brigade Company.**

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Founded in 1974 by the Rev. T.V. Mawhinney MBE the Company has held 'Sure & Steadfast' through the years.

Guest Preacher was the Rev Dr Trevor McCormick of 1st Kilrea Boys' Brigade.



L-R Mervyn Quigg MBE, current Captain, Trevor Scott, John Mairs, Bill Ely, all past Captains and the Rev Geoffrey Jones, current Minister at 2nd Limavady & Myroe Presbyterian Churches.

Current and past Captains of 2nd Limavady Boys' Brigade gather to cut their Anniversary Cake to celebrate their 50th year.



2nd Limavady Boys' Brigade with Officers and guests prior to their 50th Anniversary Praise Service.

Middle Front Row L-R Rev Dr Trevor McCormick, Capt Mervyn Quigg MBE with Rev Geoffrey Jones, Minister  
Thanks to Nigel McFarland photos

## Children's Ministry in Portglenone Parish

**"PG Kidz" (Portglenone Sunday School) is back on the go from this Sunday, held in the Upper Room of the Portglenone Parish Centre, meeting from 10am to 10.50am.**

The Parish info continues, "If you are interested and have children in your family of primary school age, or you have



## PG Kidz on third Sunday of each month

10am to 10.50am in Upper Room

Portglenone Parish Centre

- 😊 Sundays 21 Jan / 18 Feb / 17 Mar 😊 -



## PG Kidz - Portglenone Parish children's ministry

## **Leader of Religious Sisters of Charity speaks out to RTÉ**

**The leader of the Religious Sisters of Charity in Ireland has spoken publicly for the first time about the row over the order's involvement in the National Maternity Hospital in Dublin, The Tablet reports.**

In a new documentary aired this week by the Irish state broadcaster RTÉ, Sr Patricia Lenihan said that contrary to popular belief, the order had no role in conversations about any imposition of a Catholic ethos on the proposed new hospital.

The national maternity hospital is being moved from its city centre location and the new facility will be co-located on land owned by St Vincent's Hospital in Dublin, which was founded by the Religious Sisters of Charity.

Asked whether there was ever a question of a Catholic ethos being imposed on the new maternity hospital, Sr Lenihan said, "We were never, ever involved in any of those conversations, ever."

The sisters offered the site for the building of the new national maternity hospital in the grounds of St Vincent's, but in the heat of the national debate about the repeal of the Eighth Amendment to legalise abortion, the offer drew public anger and suspicion. More at - [\[https://www.thetablet.co.uk/news/18174/leader-of-religious-sisters-of-charity-speaks-out-to-rt-\]](https://www.thetablet.co.uk/news/18174/leader-of-religious-sisters-of-charity-speaks-out-to-rt-)





## **New Minister At Ballynure Presbyterian Church – Rev Matthew Kelso**

**A new chapter has begun in the life of Ballynure Presbyterian Church outside Ballyclare, as Rev Matthew Kelso was ordained and installed as minister on Friday 12 January 2024.**

Matthew grew up in Ballymena, moving to Templepatrick in 2015 when he married Laura. He has previously been a youth and family worker at Ballykeel Presbyterian in Ballymena, worked in the private and charity sector, and most recently, following study at Union Theological College, has been the assistant minister at Sloan Street Presbyterian in Lisburn.

Everyone at Ballynure is excited to see Matthew begin his ministry to God's people there. A spokesperson said

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“As a congregation we look forward to Matthew sharing his love of Jesus both with us and the wider community. We hope and pray that he, Laura and their young family will love living in and being part of Ballynure Village, as we do. It’s been said he always missed Slemish. Perhaps one day, with a trampoline firmly secured at the manse, he might just see it... if he jumps high enough!”

## **Dublin’s University Church celebrating a century of weddings with photo display**

### **St Stephen’s Green church inviting couples who got married there to special mass next month**

A Dublin church is celebrating the couples who got married there in the past 100 years with a unique photo collection and a special mass to honour “their commitment to love”. The Newman University Church on St Stephen’s Green is inviting everyone who got married there to come to a celebratory mass on February 11.

Katherine Dunn, Director of IT and Communications at the church, said it’s “really important to celebrate the sacrament they chose together”.

“It’s so impressive to commit your love to someone else. Every week, someone comes in to say they got married here, or their parents or grandparents got married here.

“Some come back to relive the day, they get to tell their kids all the details. They’d talk about the style, what it was like to get married then, the stories are very sweet.”

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Each year, the church hosts “at least 50 weddings, sometimes it’s two or three a weekend”, and they are excited to bring back some of those couples on Valentine’s weekend. Irish Independent - See photos and more at

[<https://www.independent.ie/regionals/dublin/dublin-news/dublins-university-church-celebrating-a-century-of-weddings-with-photo-display/a2040676088.html>]

## In the media

### Cathedrals ‘for the rich’ as one in four charges entry -Daily Telegraph

**Members of clergy fear rising fees will create perception worship is only for those who can afford it**

ONE in four cathedrals now charges for entry, prompting fears that access appears to be increasingly restricted to the rich.

Some cathedrals run by the Church of England charge close to £30 to enter. Canterbury increased its entry fee by £1.50 to £17 last year, while Westminster Abbey increased charges by almost 50 per cent in the space of four years to £29.

It comes amid efforts to entice younger generations through church and cathedral doors. Norwich Cathedral was accused of “treating God like a tourist attraction” after it

installed a 55ft, £2-a-ride helter-skelter in its nave in 2019. The same year, Rochester Cathedral opened a crazy golf course. Cathedral visitors have skated in the aisles at Gloucester and gazed at an installation of the moon in Liverpool Anglican Cathedral.

Other cathedrals that charge entry include St Paul's, which has a £20.50 fee, Oxford's Christ Church, which costs £20, and York Minster which charges £18.

Fees have risen as the Church of England faces unprecedented pressures. Analysis by The Daily Telegraph found Church of England parishes are closing at a record rate. Almost 300 have disappeared in the past five years, the fastest rate since records began in 1960.

Churches are also trying to tackle declining congregation numbers, leaving many clergy afraid to speak out for fear of losing their jobs.

The Association of English Cathedrals insists cathedrals are still free for those attending services or for private prayer. Those that do charge also offer nearby residents entry free of charge.

'How is it that cathedrals can stay afloat and be a place of prayer and a focal point for the community?'

Members of the clergy said the trend created the perception that worship is only for those who can afford it. Speaking on condition of anonymity, a member of General Synod, the Church of England's legislative body, said: "The difficulty is, how is it that cathedrals can stay afloat and be a place of

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prayer and a focal point for the community? I don't think they have the right balance.

“It's just too expensive. People should be able to go in and pray in the cathedral of their community or city without needing to pay. It suggests that cathedrals are only for the rich.”

In contrast, Rev Robert Thompson, vicar of St Mary and St James West Hampstead and a member of General Synod, said: “Putting myself in the shoes of a cathedral dean, how do you maintain the fabric of enormous buildings, which are also sites of wonderful national heritage, and yet government funding for them and parish churches is minimal. It's different on the continent where the state maintains the buildings.”



TO MARK CHRISTIAN UNITY WEEK 2024  
**BELMONT CHURCHES TOGETHER**  
INVITE YOU TO

**A MUSICAL CELEBRATION  
OF CHRISTIAN UNITY**

**FRIDAY 19 JANUARY 2024**  
**@ 7PM**  
**ST MOLUA'S**  
PARISH OF STORMONT

Everyone welcome!

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The Church of England said “there is no central policy” on charging and fees are determined by individual chapters.

Sarah King, of the Association of English Cathedrals, said: “Only nine out of the 42 Church of England cathedrals charge for entry. Those that do so, give free access to those attending services and for private prayer and some give free entry on Sundays and at other times.”

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

### Winter Madness Dublin

**Dublin & Glendalough Youth Council presents Winter Madness in Holy Trinity Church Rathmines, on Saturday February 24 at 7.30pm.**

This worship evening is for youth and young adults, and they are joined by the Summer Madness team who have organised the worship band (led by Oliver Rea). The speaker for the evening will be Lawrence Bellew.

This is a chance to join with other groups around Dublin, Wicklow and beyond, and there’s no strings attached – it’s free.

Please spread the word – DGYC were blown away by last year’s event and it was such a blessing to everyone who was there.



If you've any questions, contact Emma Fawcett, Dublin and Glendalough Youth Ministry Development Officer.

Winter Madness

When: 24th February 2024

Where: Holy Trinity, Rathmines

January 19, 2024

Time: 7:30–9pm

Age: Secondary school and students (youth and young adults) NB. under 18's should come with an adult (group/guardian)



# THE CLARE CHORAIE

IN CONCERT WITH

## Third Carrickfergus Band



ADMISSION AT DOOR  
- minimum recommended donation of £10 - Donations can also be made by QR code Third Carrickfergus Band



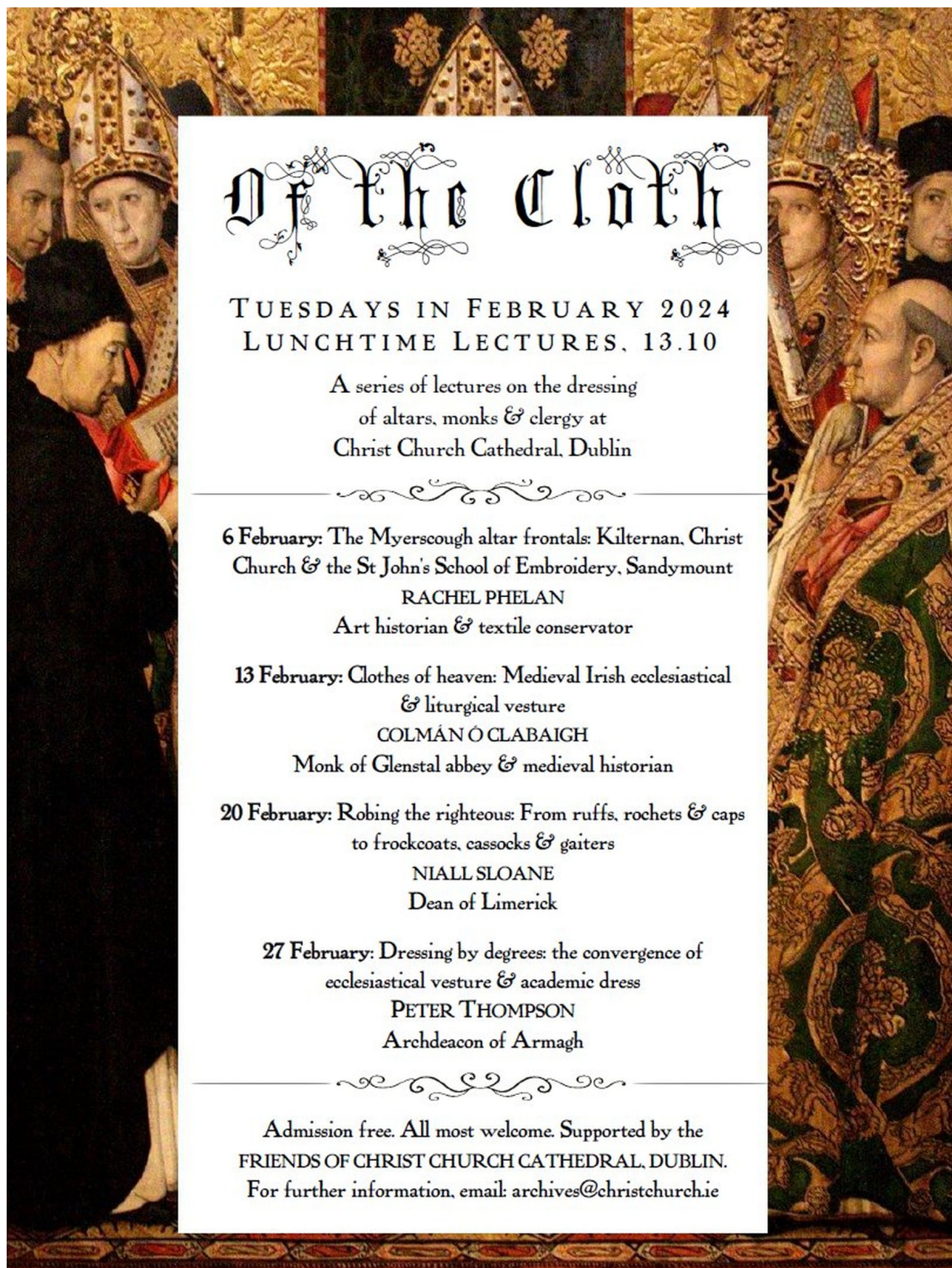
SCAN THE QR CODE WITH YOUR PHONE TO DONATE DIRECTLY TO THIRD CARRICKFERGUS BAND

Date | Time | Venue  
**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 7.30<sup>pm</sup>**  
**North Street Presbyterian Church Hall, Carrickfergus**

FREE LIGHT REFRESHMENTS

**CONDUCTOR:** Sheelagh Greer      **BAND CONDUCTOR:** Brian Connolly  
**ACCOMPANIST:** Mark McGrath      **COMPERE:** Alan Beattie





**Of the Cloth**

TUESDAYS IN FEBRUARY 2024  
LUNCHTIME LECTURES, 13.10

A series of lectures on the dressing  
of altars, monks & clergy at  
Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin

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**6 February:** The Myerscough altar frontals: Kiltarnan, Christ  
Church & the St John's School of Embroidery, Sandymount  
RACHEL PHELAN  
Art historian & textile conservator

**13 February:** Clothes of heaven: Medieval Irish ecclesiastical  
& liturgical vesture  
COLMÁN Ó CLABAIGH  
Monk of Glenstal abbey & medieval historian

**20 February:** Robing the righteous: From ruffs, rochets & caps  
to frockcoats, cassocks & gaiters  
NIALL SLOANE  
Dean of Limerick

**27 February:** Dressing by degrees: the convergence of  
ecclesiastical vesture & academic dress  
PETER THOMPSON  
Archdeacon of Armagh

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Admission free. All most welcome. Supported by the  
FRIENDS OF CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, DUBLIN.  
For further information, email: [archives@christchurch.ie](mailto:archives@christchurch.ie)

**Free lunchtime lectures at Christ Church  
Cathedral Dublin...**

January 19, 2024

A series of free lunchtime lectures will be held at Christ Church Cathedral Dublin this February 2024 on Tuesdays at 1.10pm. Entitled 'Of the Cloth', the series will examine all manner of ecclesiastical fabrics, from the dressing of altars to the robing of monks and clergy.

All are very welcome to attend. Please feel free to share. More information on website here:

<https://dublin.anglican.org/news/2024/01/17/of-the-cloth-february-lectures>



“The unity of the Church” wrote William Temple, “is a perpetual fact; our task is to not to create it but exhibit it.”

# Heritage

## Centenary of Assembly College commemorated (1954)

**The celebration of the centenary of the Presbyterian College, Belfast, during this month in 1954, was marked by a large attendance at a reception at the college, when the degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred upon six members of the Presbyterian ministry, Darryl Armitage writes in the News Letter**

The attendance included the Most Reverend Dr Gregg, Primate of All-Ireland, representing the Church of Ireland, and the Reverend R M L Waugh, President of the Methodist Church in Ireland.

Among others who attended the ceremony were: The Reverend Principal E S Duncan, DD, of St Mary's College, St Andrew's; Emeritus Principal, the Very Reverend Dr Hugh Watt (New College, Edinburgh); the Reverend Professor G D Henderson (Master of Christ's College, Aberdeen), and the Reverend Stewart Mechie (Lecturer in Ecclesiastical History at University College), Glasgow.

The Moderator of the General Assembly, the Right Reverend Principal J E Davey, who presided, said that in their 100 years' history they had had two exiles - "when the buildings were occupied by Parliament and, later, when the headquarters of the Royal Ulster Constabulary were set up there after the bombing".

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He continued: “The two lettings, however, were of financial benefit to us, enabling the trustees to carry out schemes of re-constructlon and redecoration.

“At one time, we had more than 100 students, who went to the colonies and to other churches, and the men who worked in England, in particular, have made a good name for themselves. We are looking forward with hope to our second 100 years.”

Dr Gregg said that the college was a reminder that the Presbyterian Church had always stood for a learned clergy, “and as long as there is a learned clergy there was no reason to fear for the existence of their religion”.

The recipients of Doctor in Divinity degrees, who were introduced by the Reverend Professor H A Irvine, MA, BD, were: The Reverend Herbert V Clements, BA, BD, of Ballysillan; the Reverend David Dowling, MA, senior minister, 2nd Saintfield; the Reverend William McAdam, MA, 1st Newry; the Reverend M Majury, BA, BD, 1st Antrim; the Reverend William N Maxwell, MA, senior minister of Woodvale Park, Belfast, and the Reverend William P Young, BA, senior minister of Clones and Ballyhobridge, Co Monaghan.

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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)

