

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Stormont ceiling

Image of the day

Stormont ceiling

The ceiling of the great hallway at Stormont.

People and places

New faces on C of I Organ Scholarship Board



Above L–R: Mrs Beth Aiken, Dr Judith Harper, Canon John Auchmuty, Canon Stephen Fielding, Lady Brenda Sheil, Mr Ian Bell, Mr Gerald Hill

At a recent meeting of the Organ Scholarship Board of Management, the opportunity was taken to thank outgoing office bearers Revd Canon John Auchmuty (St

July 17, 2023

Columba's, Knock), who has served as a member for 14 years and as Chairman for 5 years, and Mr Gerald Hill, who has served for 8 years, one of which was as Honorary Secretary.

The Board also expressed gratitude for the faithful service of Revd Canon David Humphries, who has served the committee in various roles for almost two decades. We also welcomed the election of

New office bearers elected were welcomed. They are Revd Canon Stephen Fielding (Chair, St John's, Malone) and Mrs Beth Aiken (Honorary Secretary, St Mark's, Dundela).

In his concluding remarks as Chairman, Canon Auchmuty said that "it had been a great joy for him to serve as Chair of the Board. It was now a new triennium. Board meetings run smoothly; administrative work is up to date and there are no impending issues." He said that he will continue to support the work of the Board as rector of St. Columba's, where lessons will continue to be provided.

Canon Fielding responded: "I'm very pleased to have the support of the board as chairperson going forward and to assisting in all the valuable work it does both in Connor and Down and Dromore in training up organists in this wonderful scheme. The refreshed and renewed board includes Beth Aiken, Ian Bell and Richard Campbell who bring a wealth of experience and insight. We are very privileged as board members along with their tutors to play a part in the formation of the scholars in a way that respects and reflects the rich heritage of the Anglican tradition of music-making for the liturgy within a Church of Ireland context."

July 17, 2023

The board received reports of auditions and assessments and was delighted to offer invitations to four incoming organ scholars to commence their three–year term of lessons beginning in September 2023.

More information about the Organ Scholarship Scheme will be provided to potential and experienced organists at the annual Awards Service of Choral Evensong at 3.30pm on Sunday, 17 September 2023 at St Columba's, Knock, when the board will thank its benefactor, tutors, assessors and will formally recognise two outgoing scholars of excellence. All are warmly welcome to attend.



Irish Methodists link with Northern Accra

Irish Methodists Judith Weir and Pat Jamison have begun their journey to Ghana.

July 17, 2023

They'll be spending a week in the Northern Accra diocese, meeting with Ghanaian Methodists and looking for ways to develop links between the two Connexions.

“Although some aspects of church life in Ghana are very different to ours, we also have a lot in common. Small groups, youth ministry and women's fellowship are all important parts of Methodism in Ghana, just as they are here in Ireland”.

Pat and Judith will be meeting with people active in each of these areas, and exploring how they could build relationships with Irish Methodists who are involved in similar ministries.

Read more at the World Mission Partnership news page:
<https://buff.ly/46ZP9wS>

Reverend Paul Fitzpatrick begins ministry in Carlow Parishes

The Reverend Paul Fitzpatrick was instituted to Carlow Union by Bishop Adrian Wilkinson.

The Revd Paul Fitzpatrick trained for ministry at St Kieran's College Kilkenny. Since his ordination in 1984, he served in a variety of parochial and chaplaincy contexts in the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin.

Following studies at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute between 2017 and 2018, Paul began ministry within



the Church of Ireland serving as curate of Limerick City Parish between 2018 and 2020.

Paul says ‘It is a great privilege to be appointed the Incumbent of the Carlow Union of Parishes. I do so, having carried always within me, a great pride and appreciation for my town roots, history, education, faith, and Christian heritage. My family and I look forward immensely to returning home and to contributing to the rich and varied life of the Parishes, to learning, and to exploring further – collaboratively – the growth God has in store, as we serve the Lord faithfully together.

He is married to Betty, and they have a daughter Maebh.

July 17, 2023



The involvement of many people in the service of institution was outlined at length in the Parish Facebook site. It is worth a read -

“Thanks to Bishop Adrian and our brilliant assistant priest Rev Ger for managing and facilitating a really lovely service that was very meaningful. Thanks to Sena who played the organ and to the Diocesan office staff who provided the booklets. Thanks to Liz and Jonathan our church wardens for making sure it all ran smoothly and for minding us all.

“Thanks to Seán and Lilly who read so well.

“Thanks to the many many clergy who joined us to welcome Rev Paul to the parish, to the town and to the Diocese. We

July 17, 2023

think around 50 clergy and lay readers (there were so many it was hard to count!) robed and processed from the Town Hall to St Mary's Church. It was quite an occasion to see!

“Thanks to Michael Brennan and Carlow County Council for welcoming all the clergy and lay readers to robe and prepare in the Town Hall. We really appreciate our close connections to the civic community.

“Thanks to An Cathaoirleach Cllr Andrea Dalton and to Administrator of the Cathedral of the Assumption Fr Thomas O’Byrne for speaking at the end of the service, welcoming Rev Paul on behalf of the civic community and the other faith communities in Carlow. Thanks also to Carolyn Good who spoke on behalf of our own congregation welcoming our new Rector.

“

Thanks to the many guests who joined us representing so many aspects of life in Carlow. It was wonderful to see so many people.

New rector of Kinsale

The Reverend Eugene Griffin is to be the new rector of Kinsale Union of Parishes. He is currently incumbent of the Grouped Parishes of Dunboyne with Rathmolyon in the Diocese of Meath.

Prior to ordination, Eugene Griffin worked as an accountant in the Mater University Hospital, Dublin. He was made deacon in 2013 and was ordained to the priesthood in 2014.



He served his first curacy from 2014 until 2018 in the Grouped Parishes of Castleknock and Mulhuddart, with Clonsilla in the Diocese of Dublin. Since 2018 he has been Grouped Parishes of Castleknock and Mulhuddart, with Clonsilla in the Diocese of Dublin. Since 2018 he has been incumbent of the Grouped Parishes of Dunboyne with Rathmolyon. He is also Treasurer's Vicar in the National Cathedral and Collegiate Church of Saint Patrick, Dublin. He serves as a member of the Church of Ireland Safeguarding Board.

Eugene is married to Joanna for nearly 30 years. Joanna currently serves as a parish reader and is studying to become a Diocesan Reader.

Looking forward to this change in ministry and speaking about it, Eugene said:

July 17, 2023

'Here I am Lord, is it I Lord? I have heard you calling in the night' are lines from one of my favourite hymns and they perfectly represent what I am feeling today. Ten years ago, I answered God's call to ordained ministry, and I am answering His call now as Incumbent of the Kinsale Union of Parishes.

For me, faith in God and trusting in His eternal care is at the core of my ministry. Bringing people together, nurturing gifts, engaging with people and building up ecumenical relationships is fundamental to my vision. Ministry has been all encompassing over the last ten years and both Joanna and I have been blessed to work with people of great faith, gifts and generosity.

It is with a mixture of sadness and joy that Joanna and I announce our departure from the Dunboyne and Rathmolyon Group and embark on our new adventure in Cork.

We are both really looking forward to getting to know the people of Kinsale, Ballymartle and Templetrine and the United Dioceses of Cork, Cloyne and Ross in the months and years ahead.

Chaplain for C of I Theological Institute

The Revd David Bowles is to be Chaplain in CITI. David replaces the Revd Dr William Olhausen, who has served as Chaplain in CITI for a number of years, together with the Revd Lesley Robinson.



In addition to offering pastoral support to students and staff, William and Lesley have been regular presiders and preachers in the college chapel. William has participated in the theological reflection programme, and has undertaken some teaching and supervision of dissertations.

CITI is delighted that Lesley will be continuing as one of their chaplains, and David looks forward to working alongside her.

David is originally from Blackrock, Co Dublin. He is currently rector of Whitechurch Parish, Rathfarnham, having taken up his appointment in August 2022. He is married to Michelle and has two children in secondary school. He studied in CITI from 2008 and was ordained deacon in 2012, spending 2 years completing an internship in Taney Parish. During this time David continued to work full-time in finance.

July 17, 2023

David was ordained Priest in 2015, spending four years as Curate–Assistant of Douglas Union of Parishes with Frankfield in the suburbs of Cork City. In 2019 he became Priest–in–Charge of Moviddy Union of Parishes in rural south–west Cork.

During this time, he was Assistant Healthcare Chaplain in Cork University Hospital and also at Bon Secours Hospital in Cork City. He is an accredited Healthcare Chaplain.

Responding to the announcement of his appointment, David writes, ‘I am really looking forward to being part of the Institute community. I believe that it important to provide spiritual support to all students and staff alike. It is a privilege to be asked and I anticipate getting to know all the students over the coming months.

‘I hope that as chaplains we can contribute to the life of CITI in a positive and enriching way’.

Inver Union Mothers' Union banner featured worldwide

"We are a small branch based in South West Donegal in the Derry and Raphoe Diocese" began the communication to Mothers Union worldwide who had asked members to send them photographs of their banners.

Inver did so and has been featured around the world. Phyllis outline the history of the banner -



“In October 1984 a sub committee was set up to look at making a banner for the branch.

“The banner was designed by Rev Jim Hill (former Rector) and made by Mrs McGaffin, Mrs May Ritchie and members.

“It was dedicated by Canon Northridge on Sunday 17th May 1987 in Killaghtee Church.”

News reports

C of E General Synod review

Extraordinary scenes at Synod as Safeguarding Board sacked members are given a hearing

The two sacked members of the Church's now-disbanded Independent Safeguarding Board (ISB) have told the General Synod that they were "silenced" by the Archbishops' Council for being "too independent" — and warned that survivors would pay the price for their dismissal

Archbishops agreed to 'unanimous decision' to disband ISB, spokesman confirms

The Archbishops' Council's decision to disband the Independent Safeguarding Board (ISB) was unanimous, a Church House spokesperson said on Saturday, quashing suggestions that the Archbishops of Canterbury and York had voted against the move

Synod members express frustration at slow progress on blessings for same-sex couple

Tempers were frayed and emotions were in evidence as the General Synod digested an update on the progress towards introducing blessings for same-sex couples. The update clearly underwhelmed and frustrated many Synod members



We tried but we failed - Synod hears how oil companies resisted shareholder pressure

The General Synod's expressions of gratitude for the decision by the National Investment Boards (NIBs) to disinvest in oil and gas companies were mixed on Saturday, with lament at the failure of the Church to effect significant change in the fossil-fuel industry

Debate as siblings not as opponents, Archbishop of York urges synod

The General Synod must find a way to walk together as brothers and sisters not opponents, even when it tackles challenging topics such as safeguarding or sexuality, the Archbishop of York has said

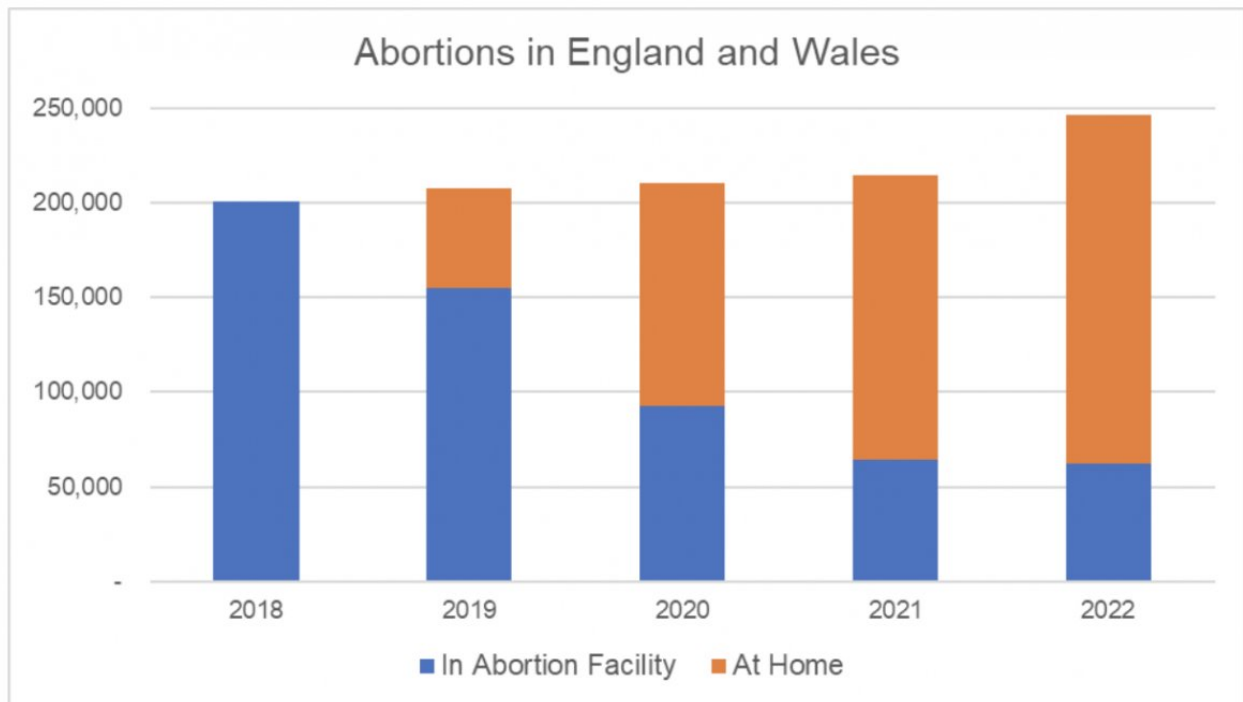


Three in four abortions now performed by women at home using abortion pills

Across England and Wales, three in every four abortions - or 75% - are now performed by women at home using abortion pills.

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) recently reported a 17% increase in the number of abortions: a total of 123,219 in the first six months of 2022, Kevin Duffy reports in *Christian Today*.

The DHSC says that it is currently reviewing its systems for recording and reporting abortion complications, noting that for abortions at home, complications are not likely to be recorded.



Medical abortion (MA) involves taking two different medications. The first is called mifepristone – this blocks progesterone, the hormone needed for the continued development of the embryo – and it also prepares the body for the next medication.

After waiting 24 to 48 hours the second medication, misoprostol, is taken. This causes the softening and opening of the cervix and contractions of the uterus so that the dead embryo and placenta can be expelled through the vagina.

Up until the end of 2018, MA was one of the methods used by providers in abortion facilities. Women were required to attend in-person to take both medications, two days apart. Women attending for the misoprostol would only have been discharged by the providers after a careful clinical assessment to ensure that the abortion was complete.

July 17, 2023

When the medical abortion treatment fails, further medical intervention is required to remove any retained parts of the embryo and/or placenta to control bleeding and to prevent infection.

On 27 December 2018, the DHSC gave approval for women to self-administer the second treatment, misoprostol, at home after having taken the mifepristone at an abortion facility. On 30 March 2020, as an emergency response to Covid-19, the DHSC gave approval for both medications to be self-administered by women at home. This temporary approval was made permanent from 30 August 2022.

In the first six months of 2022, across England and Wales there was a total of 123,219 abortions - 675 every day.

Some 92,159 women self-managed their abortions at home, about 72% taking both medications and 28% self-administering the misoprostol at home after taking the mifepristone at an abortion facility. This means that on average, 505 women were self-managing their abortions at home, every day, seven days a week.

As noted above, this is a 17% increase over the same period in 2021. It is worth noting that both BPAS and MSI Reproductive Choices have stated a continued increasing trend into 2023; MSI-RC reports a 30% year-on-year increase in demand for abortion over the first five months in 2023.

More at -

[\[https://www.christiantoday.com/article/at-home-abortions-are-putting-womens-health-at-risk/140481.htm\]](https://www.christiantoday.com/article/at-home-abortions-are-putting-womens-health-at-risk/140481.htm)



The abuse scandal tearing Christianity apart



In the media

Daily Telegraph

The evangelical world is in uproar after musical superstar Matt Redman claimed he was the 'victim' of preacher Rev Canon Mike Pilavachi. Read the full article here:

July 17, 2023

[\[https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/07/15/soul-survivor-explained-matt-redman-mike-pilavachi/\]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/07/15/soul-survivor-explained-matt-redman-mike-pilavachi/)

<https://telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/07/1>

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Summer Music at Sandford

Summer Music at Sandford continues in Sandford parish church, Ranelagh, on Friday, at 1.10pm, when Richard Shaffrey (tenor) & David O'Shea (piano) will perform selection of folk songs, operatic arias and songs from the shows.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this sit

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