

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Lincoln Cathedral

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Image of the day

Lincoln Cathedral

Inspiring people in different ways

<https://lincolncathedral.com/>

People and places



Singalongs are back in Portrush Methodist

Singalongs are back in Portrush Methodist Church each Sunday evening at 8pm.

Last Sunday evening they were joined by their own Causeway Circuit Choir.

On the following Sundays they will be joined by the following guests:

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July	23	Emma Thompson
	30	Joe Sweeney
August	6	Chris and Hannah Agnew
	13	David Loughridge and Heather
	20	Ballinamallard Silvertones
	27	North West Choir

They would love to see you at one of the future dates!



Granny Denise led our service

On Sunday Inishmacsaint Parish Church welcomed Seth William Acheson into the Church family.

Seth is a son of Robert and Sarah and younger brother to Maisie, Louie and Arthur.

“It was lovely to welcome all his family for the service of Holy Baptism. The occasion was made even more special as Seth's Granny Denise led our service”....

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... Seth's Granny Denise led our service



Join Christian Aid's Prophetic Activist Scheme

Are you: 18-30 years old? Passionate about climate justice? Interested in gaining volunteering skills for your CV? Join the Prophetic Activist Scheme!

For more info visit <http://caid.org.uk/propheticactivist>

2024

**PRE-BUDGET
SUBMISSION**

**BREAKING
THE CYCLE**

**PROPOSALS TO END
POVERTY IN IRELAND**



svp.ie/pbs2024

Breaking the cycle urges SVP

Between 2021 and 2022, the number of children growing up in consistent poverty increased by over 27,000 – Government act decisively for children in this Budget to prevent a lifetime trapped in poverty.

A strong social protection net must go hand in hand with investment in quality public services.

We must use revenue available to build a country that lifts people out of poverty and supports the well-being of everyone

<http://svp.ie/pbs2024>

Changing the Story Conferences

Guest Speakers

**Bekah Legg,
CEO of RESTORED**

**Revd Dr Helen Paynter,
theologian and author**

Equipping the Church to Take Action and End Domestic Abuse

**15th Sept 2023, Seagoe Parish
Centre, Portadown, BT63 5HS**

**16th Sept, Kiltarnan Parish
Centre, Dublin, D18ET99**

muchangingthestory@gmail.com

Tickets via EVENTBRITE

[Click for N.I. tickets](#)

[Click for R.O.I. tickets](#)

Love is patient.
Love is kind.
It does not envy
or boast.
It is not proud,
rude, or self-seeking,
It is not



Changing the story – Equipping the church to take action and end domestic abuse

Mothers' Union is hosting two conferences in September 2023 aimed at equipping the Church to take action to end domestic abuse.

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The one day conferences mark the launch of the Gender Justice programme, Equipping the Church To Take Action and End Domestic Abuse, and the formation of survivors' Changing The Story Groups.

The conferences take place on:

Friday September 15 in Seagoe Parish Centre, Portadown, BT63 5HS

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/changing-the-story-conference-tickets-632693281637>

Saturday September 16 in Kiltarnan Parish Centre, Dublin, D18 ET99

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/changing-the-story-conference-dublin-tickets-637371995797> More next page...



This weeks Sunday Times Magazine had a great article on Elizabeth Bingham's new book 'Kneelers: The Unsung Folk Art of England & Wales'. It shows how kneelers can be a celebration of ordinary Anglican piety, combining Scripture scenes, liturgy, natural world, and communal life.

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All are warmly invited to attend one of these conferences.

Changing the Story is being facilitated by Mothers' Union and hosted in collaboration with Restored, Tearfund Ireland, Bishops' Appeal, MindMatters, Kintsugi Hope, Priorities Fund, Safeguarding Church of Ireland and the Church's Ministry for Healing.

The conferences are dedicated to equipping the church and communities through encouraging awareness, developing confidence, nurturing the healing and wellbeing of survivors and much more besides.

The Changing the Story conferences bring together agencies working positively in Ireland to tackle domestic abuse and the guest keynote speakers both have great expertise in this area – Bekah Legg, CEO, Restored and the Revd Dr Helen Paynter, theologian and author.

You can register for a Changing The Story event at the links above and be a part of the empowering conversations that will be taking place.

Tickets available on Eventbrite at a cost of £15/€18 each.

About the speakers:

Bekah Legg is the CEO of Restored, a Christian charity with a mission to speak up about violence against women and girls, equip the Church to stand against domestic abuse and support survivors. It hosts an online community for Christian women who have been subjected to domestic abuse.

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A survivor herself, Bekah is committed to helping other men and women find freedom and live life to the full.

Bekah lectures on a biblical understanding of domestic abuse and gender-based violence and has spoken at the UN on the important role the Church can and does play in ending VAWG.

The Revd Dr Helen Paynter is a Baptist minister and Old Testament specialist. She works as Tutor in Biblical Studies at the Bristol Baptist College and is the founding director of the Centre for the Study of Bible and Violence (csbvbristol.org.uk). The CSBV produces resources in the areas of the interpretation of biblical violence and where the Bible is used to cause harm.

Helen is the author of a number of books, including *The Bible Doesn't Tell Me So: Why you don't have to submit to domestic abuse and coercive control*.



This weeks Sunday Times Magazine had a great article on Elizabeth Bingham's new book 'Kneelers: The Unsung Folk Art of England & Wales'. It shows how kneelers can be a celebration of ordinary Anglican piety, combining Scripture scenes, liturgy, natural world, and communal life.

20% of all Northern Ireland relationships are mixed marriages - NIMMA

20% of all relationships are now Protestant and Catholic - a positive influence for shared future says Northern Ireland Mixed Marriage Association (NIMMA), Philip Bradfield writes in the Belfast Newsletter

Some 20% all relationships in Northern Ireland are now mixed, and while the challenges such couples face are much the same as they were 50 years ago, their growth provides a positive influence for a shared future, it is claimed.

Paul McLaughlin, Development Officer for the Belfast-based Northern Ireland Mixed Marriage Association (NIMMA), was speaking as the charity looks forward to celebrating its 50th anniversary in seven months.

The genesis of the organisation began in the early 1970s when several dozen young people from Belfast in mixed relationships met at Corrymeela as a self help group. “Before the troubles took hold one in ten marriages in Northern Ireland were mixed,” Paul told the News Letter.

It is always difficult to give precise figures on the issue as the census does not gather specific information on the topic.

However he says mixed marriages took a definite dip during the worst days of the Troubles. There was less mixed

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socialising and mixed couples were even targeted with violence.

“More recently, a survey by Queen’s University School of Education about six years ago found that one in five relationships in Northern Ireland are now mixed”.

NIMMA has also noticed a steadily rising level of traffic to their website, with people perusing detailed advice on mixed relationships.

“There are now more mixed relationships than there ever were,” Paul said.

Anecdotally, it appears the incidence of mixed marriages is much more common east of the Bann.

He suggests this could be because young people in rural areas west of the Bann tend to socialise much more in their own communities.

But in bigger towns and cities, the emerging peace after the Troubles has seen much more mixed socialising and relationships.

“This may well be reflected in the growing numbers of people who are voting in a more middle of the road way,” he adds.

If a young couple from the Falls and Shankill decide to get married, they naturally look for a mixed housing area to move to, he says.

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For mixed couples from Belfast, popular areas include Glengormley, Carryduff and North Down. Such couples often prefer their children to attend integrated schools. The Catholic church policy of requiring children from mixed marriages to be brought up Catholic was thankfully removed in the 1980s, he says.

A common trend now is to have some children baptised as Catholic and some Protestant, with the whole family attending both churches. Other mixed families only attend churches for major occasions.

NIMMA has long lobbied for more mixed social housing and more integrated education for their members.

However the biggest objection to mixed marriage from relatives remains unchanged over 50 years.

It is usually expressed as, “You know I love you and I don’t want you to get hurt....”.

“It is a fear of the unknown and a fear that they won’t be happy. However all such objections are usually resolved when your first child is born.

“If a couple in a mixed marriage learn to live together and see each other’s point of view, that same influence spreads out within their wider family. So that must be having a positive impact on our wider society. Twenty per cent of all relationships or marriages is very substantial influence for a shared future.”

Presbyterian Church's 'United Appeal' balances the books

When the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland met in Belfast last month, it did a number of things, Billy Kennedy writes in the Belfast Newsletter.

On the opening day, it elected Dr Sam Mawhinney as its new moderator for the forthcoming year, the first in nearly 25 years to come from a congregation in the Irish Republic.

The assembly also discussed and debated various pressing social, moral, political and public issues of the day. From the controversial to the far-reaching, the mundane, but necessary, it discussed reports from the church's various councils and commissions, which carry out the work of the church, that included matters financial centred around the United Appeal for Missions.

This year, the church agreed to ask its congregations to contribute £3.4million to the 2024 United Appeal, which will support projects, programmes and staff at home and overseas. The church's United Appeal committee, with responsibility for assessing council budgets, recommends to the general assembly the grants to be allocated to each of the church councils and the appeal to congregations required to meet what has been agreed.

Martin Hampton, an elder in Strand Presbyterian church in East Belfast, and appeal convenor, said the United Appeal for Missions is at the very heart of Irish Presbyterianism and

every aspect of the church's mission and ministry depends upon it.

“There is a kind of catch phrase that goes with the Appeal – it is ‘Presbyterians doing together what none of us can do on our own’ and it is true, as it hits the nail on the head. It supports mission and ministry at home and around the world helping congregations and individuals to build God’s Kingdom through youth and children’s ministry, social action and the training of leaders, for example,” Mr Hampton added.

“Each year, the church steps out in faith as it agrees grants and sets the level of the United Appeal. As we do so, we continue to trust in the Lord and thank Him for being such an incomparably kind and generous God,” .

Explaining how the United Appeal is calculated, Mr Hampton said a congregation’s contribution is based on how many contributing families a congregation has and its ‘assessable income’. This income includes weekly freewill offerings, income for the stipend, Sunday and other collections for general use.

“Each congregation is given a ‘target of honour’ to meet during the course of the year in terms of its contribution to the United Appeal. This is calculated on 50 per cent of the number of contributing families and 50 per cent on assessable Income.”

Last month, the General Assembly heard that the 2022 Appeal to congregations had raised £3,225,400, which was

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98.8 per cent of the target set, which was the second year of a reduced target set due to the covid pandemic.

While the 2023 United Appeal is in ‘mid flow’, the report to the General Assembly that, of 527 congregations listed for contributions: 221 (41.93 per cent) had exceed their target of honour 168 (31.87 per cent) had met it exactly, 111 (21.06 per cent) had contributed to but not met target, while 27 congregations (5.12 per cent) had not yet contributed.

News reports

Children must learn about racial justice, says C of E

The Church of England has defended teaching controversial race theory, saying children should not wait until 18 to learn about “racial justice”.

Teaching guidance issued by one diocese, which includes lessons on the “white supremacy pyramid”, has been described as “explicitly politically partisan” by the campaign group Don’t Divide Us.

Teachers at Church of England schools in Suffolk have been told to instruct children that they benefit from white privilege and the “systemic oppression of people of colour through racist policies and practices”.

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In a blog post on the Church's website on Sunday, Rev Canon Nigel Genders, its chief education officer, said that teaching racial justice in schools "has never been more important".

He said: "In Church of England schools we are committed to addressing the issue. Not by building up some people at the expense of others or by suggesting children are personally responsible for past injustices; rather we must face our past and by doing so build a more just society for all.

"This includes learning about the enduring impact of slavery and the reality of institutional and systemic racism."

He added: "The wider Church's work on racial justice is not an attempt to reflect demographic trends in society, to be politically correct, or to engage in a culture war but rather is fundamental to what we believe as Christians."

Teaching guidance issued by the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich states that pupils should learn about the "white supremacy pyramid" to show "how bias, stereotypes and prejudice can lead to racist words and actions, leading to physical harm and death".

The diocese's teaching guidance has emerged as part of a report published earlier this month by the campaign group Don't Divide Us on how critical race theory is being taught in schools.

Dr Alka Sehgal-Cuthbert, author of the report, told BBC Radio 4's Sunday programme the advice for teachers on the Church of England diocesan board of education website

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was “the most explicitly politically partisan guidance that we’ve come across”.

She added: “There are images of upraised fists, there’s directions to amplify black voices in the classroom, which frankly I think is really unthinking, because that could be really patronising.

“I would really hate to think people listen to me because of my skin colour, rather than the efforts and the work that I put into my work and profession.”

In the media



Consultation needed in college negotiations

Irish Catholic - Negotiations between Mary Immaculate College (MIC) and University of Limerick (UL) are “about us, but without us” MIC staff have warned, as they urge senior management to consult with them on linkage talks.

<https://irishcatholic.com/mary-immaculat>



Reburial ceremony held as 400-year-old human skulls returned to Irish island

Irish News - A reburial ceremony has been held on an Irish island as 13 human skulls that were stolen by academics more than 100 years ago were returned.

The skulls, thought to be around 400 years old, were taken from a monastery on the island of Inishbofin off Ireland's west coast by two Trinity University-affiliated academics in 1890.

After sketching the skulls in the nook of St Colman's monastery, considered sacred by the islanders, Alfred C Haddon and Andrew F Dixon took the skulls in the middle of the night. More at -

https://www.irishnews.com/news/republicofirelandnews/2023/07/16/news/reburial_ceremony_held_as_400-year-old_human_skulls_returned_to_irish_island-3441630/?param=ds441rif44T

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

PARISH NEWS- HAPPENING THIS WEEK NUAcht AN PHARÓISTE

Services / Seirbhísí

Mid-Week Service

19th of July at 10:30; followed by
Chatty Crafters

Events / Imeachtaí

Eastern Pennsylvania

Choral Society concert- Free
Monday, 17th of July 8:00 pm

Bill Whelan- World Premiere
Concert (Arts Festival)

Wednesday, 19th of July 6:00pm

Pittsburgh Youth Philharmonic
Orchestra- Free

Wednesday, 19th of July 9:00pm

Resurgam Concert (Arts Festival),
Friday, 21st of July 8:00pm



SAINT
NICHOLAS'
Collegiate Church
GALWAY A.D. 1194

700
YEARS 2020

St Nicholas' Galway - Arts Festival

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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