

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – Saul Church**

# Image of the day

## Saul Church

**Saul Church is a significant historical and religious site located in Downpatrick, Northern Ireland. It's believed to be the site of St. Patrick's first church in Ireland, making it a place of immense historical and spiritual importance.**



### A Brief History

**Foundation:** Tradition holds that St. Patrick landed in Ireland near Saul in 432 AD and established his first church there.

July 31 2024

**Early Church:** The original church was a simple wooden structure, replaced several times over the centuries.

**Augustinian Priory:** In the 12th century, Saul became an Augustinian Priory, though it was later plundered.

**Modern Church:** The current church building was constructed in 1933 to commemorate the 1500th anniversary of St. Patrick's arrival.



**Historical Importance:** As the site of St. Patrick's first church, Saul holds a special place in Irish history and Christianity.

**Architectural Interest:** The church's design reflects early Christian architecture, making it a fascinating study for historians and architecture enthusiasts.

**Peaceful Atmosphere:** Visitors often describe the site as peaceful and spiritually uplifting.

July 31 2024

**Nearby Attractions:** The area around Saul offers additional points of interest, including Slieve Patrick with its statue of St. Patrick. — in Saul, Down, United Kingdom.

With thankful acknowledgment to Gaz Drone's photography.

## News



## Ringling in the new rector and husband Sam

**A Quarter Peal was rung in St Donard's on Sunday, 28 July afternoon to welcome Jan, Sam and Family to the Parish.**

July 31 2024

Now for the technical bit for fellow bell ringers -  
1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1 Alex Nelson, 2 Andrew White, 3 Denise McLean, 4 Simon Walker, 5 Roberts Foulis (C), 6 Colin Jeffery.

Rung to welcome the Revd Jan Stevenson as Incumbent of St Donard's Parish Church (Instituted Thursday 27th June 2024) and husband Sam as the Diocesan Evangelist and family.



## Bell ringers are like buses

Yes verily... and along came another busload of ringers from St Patrick's Church, Ballymena.



And after their performance there were telephone calls to the rectory from people in the town saying how much they had enjoyed hearing the bells.

One of the Ballymena Hon Society of Bellringers commented - Lovely to listen to all 12 bells going today. Rang two Quarters, and it was very warm work indeed.

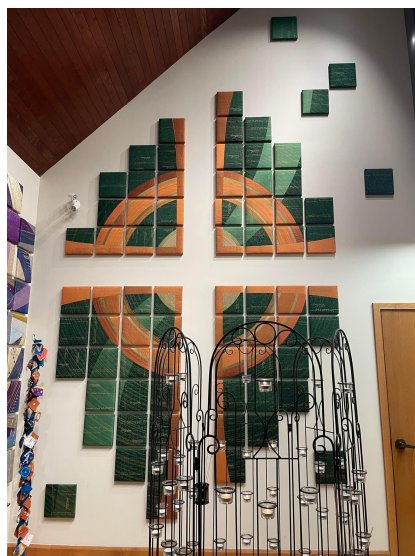
## **John Wesley's visit to Comber recalled**

**The memory of Comber's old Methodist Church Building in Bridge Street still lies fondly, and at times sadly, in the hearts of many.**

John Wesley the founder of Methodism visited Comber way back in the mid 1750's to preach and promote his new



vision. However, Comber's 'Mission Chapel' was not built and opened for worship until 1820. The last minister before the church building's demolition was Rev. Heather Robb, and with some surprise and incredulity the town witnessed the loss in 1995. Comber's Methodist congregation thankfully still meet in the modern Church Halls at the rear of the site to this day. The old church has gone but the old memories live on... Photo taken 8th May 1994.





## **Methody's winning Irish Test cricketer**

**Congratulations to Belfast Methodist College Alumnus Matthew Humphrey, for his outstanding achievement for playing in the Ireland Men vs Zimbabwe test match at Stormont, Belfast.**

In was an intense battle but Ireland emerged triumphant, winning the match by 4 wickets. Well Done!

## **The wee tin church in danger**

**Known locally as “the wee tin church”, St Matthias first opened in 1892 for the local British military garrison and originally the Church of Ireland.**

Its corrugated iron construction makes it extremely rare and it is one of only eight surviving churches of this type in





Ireland. They were manufactured by Harland & Wolff and most were exported.

St Matthias is located on the Glen Road in west Belfast and was reconsecrated as a Roman Catholic church in 1970 due to changing demographics.

The wee tin church is now unused and will soon fall down if it's not pulled down first - a sad sight indeed.



## NSW to HTP for baptism

Holy Trinity Portrush posted - "We were delighted to baptise into God's family Archie Mason yesterday (Sunday), who had travelled from New South Wales with his family for the celebration."

In the photo he is with his Dad Jack, Mum Sarah, big brothers Rory & Oliver and godmothers Hannah and Corinne"...and the Rector, Canon Peter McDowell.

## Cathedral Calls



 **The Mothers' Union**  
**Monthly All-Ireland Service**

**Thursday 1st August . 11.15am**  
**Down Cathedral**  
*All Welcome*  
*Light refreshments will follow*

### **Down Cathedral venue for Mothers' Union's monthly All-Ireland Service**

Down Cathedral will be the venue for the Mothers' Union's monthly All-Ireland Service on Thursday 1st August. This

July 31 2024

service, which used to take place each month in Dublin, has since the start of 2024 moved from Diocese to Diocese. This will be the first time Down Cathedral has hosted the service.

The Vicar of LAMP (of which Down Cathedral is part), the Revd Adrian Dorrian, will preside at the short service at Holy Communion. He has extended an invitation to all those who may wish to attend and is keen to emphasise that one does not have to be a member of the Mothers' Union to come along.



# THE SIEGE STORY

*a promenade performance*

Hear the story of The Siege through powerful monologues, with the historic St. Columb's Cathedral as the backdrop.

**Saturday 3rd August & Monday 5th - Friday 9th August**  
St. Columb's Cathedral | 12.00pm, 2.00pm & 4.00pm



PHOTOGRAPHS BY FJ GARRETT

July 31 2024

Mr Dorrian remarks: 'We are so pleased that the Cathedral will host this All-Ireland Mothers' Union Service for their first visit to the Diocese. Although we are hoping to welcome members of Mothers' Unions in the Diocese, this service is open to all – men and women and MU members and non-members alike. We are delighted that the Diocesan Mothers' Union Chaplain, the Revd Duncan Pollock, will be taking part.'

The Mothers' Union Monthly All-Ireland Service will take place in Down Cathedral on Thursday 1st August at 11.15am.

This is later than the usual time for midweek Communion in the Cathedral.

## **Charles Wood Festival Gala Concert in Armagh cathedral**

**Join the Charles Wood Festival on Friday, 16th August, at St. Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral, Armagh, for a glorious evening of music.**

Enjoy performances by The Charles Wood Singers and Charles Wood Girls' Choir, Ellen Pearson (Senior Winner of the 2024 Charles Wood Song Competition), and the 2024 Winner of the Northern Ireland International Organ Competition.

The Gala Concert featuring David Hill, Philip Scriven, Ian Keatley, Luke Bond, and Ruth McGinley, has always been a

CHARLES WOOD FESTIVAL & SUMMER SCHOOL  
11 - 18 AUGUST 2024  
IN PERSON | ON RADIO | ONLINE

# CHARLES WOOD FESTIVAL GALA CONCERT

Friday 16th August  
St Patrick's Church of Ireland  
Cathedral  
Armagh  
8.00pm  
£15; Under-16: £5



**CHARLES WOOD**  
FESTIVAL & SUMMER SCHOOL

Musicians associated with the Festival come together for a glorious evening of music including Stanford's *Three Latin Motets*, Caroline Shaw's *And the Swallow* and the winning work from the 2024 Charles Wood Composers' Competition will be performed

## Featuring:

**The Charles Wood Singers;**  
*David Hill (conductor); Philip Scriven (organ);*  
**The Charles Wood Girls' Choir;**  
*Ian Keatley (conductor); Luke Bond (organ);*  
**Ellen Pearson** (soprano)  
2024 Charles Wood Song Competition  
Senior Winner with **Ruth McGinley** (piano);  
2024 Senior Winner of the Northern Ireland  
International Organ Competition

For full details and to book tickets, please visit:  
[www.charleswoodsummerschool.org/events](http://www.charleswoodsummerschool.org/events)

PRINCIPAL FUNDER



Armagh City  
Banbridge  
& Craigavon  
Borough Council

FIND US ON



Registered Charity Number: NIC102656

Festival Favourite and promises once more to be an evening to remember.

July 31 2024

Starting at 8pm, we'll also hear the winning work from the 2024 Charles Wood Composers' Competition.

Book your tickets now online:

[www.charleswoodsummerschool.org/events](http://www.charleswoodsummerschool.org/events)



## Clergy and ministry



Herbert and Paula O'Driscoll in 2022, on the establishment of the O'Driscoll Forum | Vancouver School of Theology

### **Thomas Herbert O'Driscoll (1928-2024)**

**The Rev. Canon Dr. Thomas Herbert O'Driscoll, a son of Cork, Ireland, and revered preacher and composer who served most of his years in North America, died July 25 at 95.**

O'Driscoll was a master of narrative preaching, or panoramic preaching, which seeks to relate the gospel to contemporary cultural challenges. In 1997 he wrote *The Word Today: Reflections on the Readings of the Revised*



Common Lectionary (Anglican Book Centre), which covered the RCL's three years of readings.

O'Driscoll, born in 1928, was a graduate of Trinity College in Dublin, and ordained in 1953. He moved to Canada in 1954, after struggling with how to immigrate but also preserve his relationship with Joan Paula Lucy.

“I was torn between wanting to go to Canada and not wanting to leave Paula,” he wrote in *I Will Arise and Go Now: Reflections on the Meaning of Places & People* (Morehouse, 2021). The couple agreed that they would become engaged, then he would move to Canada and return the next summer for their wedding. They married in 1955.

He was curate of Christ Church Cathedral in Ottawa, Ontario, for three years before serving as a chaplain in the Royal Canadian Navy (1957-60). He then served as rector in two Ottawa parishes before moving to Vancouver. He served as dean and rector of Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver (1968-82), before becoming canon and warden at Washington National Cathedral and the College of Preachers. He returned to being a rector at Christ Church, Calgary, Alberta (1983-93) and was a visiting scholar at St. George's College, Jerusalem in 1993.

He composed more than 40 hymns, which are gathered in the book *Praise, My Soul* (Selah, 2005). “Herbert O'Driscoll brings to his hymnwriting many of the qualities that have enhanced his well-deserved reputations as a preacher and as an author,” wrote his fellow composer, Carl Daw Jr. “Here

July 31 2024

are the same attention to pivotal detail, the same gift for storytelling, the same ability to challenge and convince.”

The Vancouver School of Theology established “O’Driscoll Forum: A Celebration of Preaching, Teaching and Liturgical Arts” in 2022.

O’Driscoll is survived by his wife, three daughters, a son, four granddaughters, four grandsons, and a great-grandson.

By Douglas LeBlanc in The Living Church, July. 29, 2024

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

### **Christ Church's Celebration Concerts continue in Derry**

Christ Church's Celebration Concerts continue with the 40-strong Grampian Concert Orchestra of Aberdeen on Saturday 3rd August at 7.30pm, performing works by Grieg, Beethoven, Faure, Kalinnikov, Tricket and Morricone. This is part of their Music for Summer tour taking in Carrickfergus and Letterkenny, as well as Christ Church. As always, Christ Church promotions are free to attend, although you're invited to make a donation to support the programme during the evening.

July 31 2024

The First Wednesday Lunchtime Recital on Wednesday 7th August features Monica McGuigan . She will be the first folk musician and guitarist to play one of the First Wednesday recitals at Christ Church and may well be known to you as a local performer in many of Derry's Churches, clubs and pubs. Again, free entry with donations invited.

## Poem for today



### **Messing About in a Boat**

**By Albert Gazeley**

The wisest comment that was ever made  
Was not made by a man – but Rat !  
Deep in thought and contemplation  
As there on a river bank with Mole he sat

July 31 2024

To live on the river is just 'ultra glorious'  
It's the one thing that will get my vote -  
'There is nothing half so much worth doing  
As messing around in a boat'

Although Mole didn't realize it instinctively  
The significance of what was said  
But he saw no point to argue and agreed  
And gratuitously nodded his head

And that is where their friendship started  
Just conversing and lolling in Rat's blue boat  
Yes a sunny day on the river is blissful  
And unquestionably gets my vote

Gliding gently down the river  
With a picnic basket at your feet  
The river is so - enjoyably silent  
That you can hear the stuff you eat

Yes munching sandwiches with your buddy  
Extolling each other as you go along  
It's a rapturous euphorically intoxicating sensation  
Its enough to make a Mole break into song

Yes 'just messing about on the river'  
Rat's words are indelible in my mind  
And in these days of motorways and airports  
There is surly no better way to unwind.

## Speaking to the soul

July 31 2024

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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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)

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