

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – St Patrick's, Coleraine**

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**Speaking to the soul -**

Short reading and a prayer daily on this site



## Image of the day



### St Patrick's, Coleraine

A historic photograph taken just before the final bells were hung at Coleraine Parish Church.

## News

### Thanksgiving for 10 Years of Street Pastors Coleraine

**Coleraine town hall was full Street Pastors (past and present), families and friends.**

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Hazelbank Presbyterian Church praise group were outstanding. There were wonderful stories shared by the town's Street Pastors. Thanks to Rev Andrew Brown Terrace Row Presbyterian Church who explained so beautifully the parable of The Good Samaritan.



Thank God for ten wonderful Years of service being on the streets to Listen, care and help.



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## Methodist Centenary Church Dublin Endeavour Award for long term vision

**Methodist Centenary Church in Dublin 6 received their ECI Endeavour Award at their Season of Creation Service in a building site.**

The worship area was cordoned off at the church, but in the surrounding rooms and spaces, they have scaffolding, builders' materials and warnings not to enter. It is all for a good environmental purpose, to provide insulation, double-glazed windows and waterproofing for leaking flat roofs! Read more about this here <https://tinyurl.com/2s43vs73>.



## Main roof beam installed in new Carrick Church Hall





**Carrick Parish Church's new church hall is taking shape as the main roof beam was installed this afternoon.**

Carrick is one of the four churches which make up Aghanloo, Balteagh, Carrick & Tamlaghtard Parish, looked after by the Rev Rhys Jones.

The new Carrick Church Hall getting it's main roof beam installed

## **21 years a Governor of Midleton College**

**On Friday evening, the Governors of Midleton College hosted a dinner to mark the retirement as a Governor and Director of Daphne Spillane.**





Daphne, a past-pupil of the school, has served enthusiastically and tirelessly as a Governor since 2003, 21 years.



## Derry churches walk for hope and peace

Dozens of





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**members of the four main Christian churches in Londonderry city centre took part in a 'lighted walk for hope and peace' in the city's commercial heart on Friday evening.**



The Rector of St Augustine's, Rev Nigel Cairns, described the event as a Christian coda to the city's internationally



renowned Halloween festival.

Four churches took part in the initiative: Carlisle Road Methodist (where Rev Peter Morris led worship), First Derry Presbyterian (Rev Colin Jones), St Augustine's Church of





Ireland (Rev Nigel Cairns) and St Columba's Roman Catholic Church (Fr Stephen Ward). Each church hosted a short service which included scripture readings, hymns and a reflection.



Between the services, the worshippers made their way together through the city centre's streets onto the



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next venue. The procession was led by representatives of the churches bearing lanterns, and part of the route took them along a section of the iconic City Walls.

The Bishop of Derry, Dr Donal McKeown, and the Dean of Derry, Very Rev Raymond Stewart, attended all acts of worship.

This evening's event ended with supper in Long Tower School. The walk was part of Derry City and Strabane District Council's Heritage Venues project and was supported by the Heritage Fund.

## **Killinchy Parish Church wins major church tourism award**

**Killinchy Parish Church has won a major award at The National Churches Awards.**

The rural County Down church won the Church Tourism award at a prestigious ceremony held on Tuesday October 22, in the ancient Chapter House of Lincoln Cathedral.

The awards were co-presented by the new Dean of Lincoln, Very Revd Dr Simon Jones, and Canon Ann Easter, former Chaplain to Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Around 200 churches were nominated this year from across the UK, from which a judging panel selected the 55 finalists and 15 winners across five categories, with several awards reserved for churches in the four home nations.

The Church Tourism award looks at 





Pictured above: Canon Ann Easter, Revd Dr Stanley Gamble, Mrs Helen Carinduff, Mrs Irene McIlveen, Mrs Clare Wilson, Very Revd Dr Simon Jones. Photo credit: Push Creativity & National Churches Trust

how churches, chapels and meeting houses provide a wonderful welcome to visitors and share their building with others.

In giving the award to Killinchy Parish Church at the ceremony, Canon Ann Easter told the audience: “The church dates from the Celtic period, with the first written record dated 1306. They love sharing over 1500 years of stories!

The judges loved the tourism outreach and that they see themselves as part of the wider tourism ecosystem. They are open every day, have a 360-degree tour and have doubled their visitor numbers. The judges feel they have come a long way in a short space of time. They liked that they want to learn more and are looking forward to seeing what’s next.”

Speaking at the ceremony, Rev Dr Stanley Gamble of Killinchy Parish Church said: “We are absolutely thrilled and delighted to receive this award. It is an affirmation of all that we have achieved in building the Livingston Centre at Killinchy Parish Church. We are grateful to the National Church Trust for their support and encouragement. This means so much to our church and local community. Hopefully it will encourage other churches to do likewise.”

Also honoured in Northern Ireland were Church of the Immaculate Conception, Strabane who picked up the Church Conservations Award and Belfast Redeemer Central secured the Community Volunteer Award.

There were six further finalists from Northern Ireland including St Mark's Dundela which was also nominated in the Church Tourism section.

Nina McNeary, Support Officer in Northern Ireland for the National Churches Trust, said: "Without the commitment of dedicated volunteers, our church heritage would not be maintained, shared, or accessible. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to each and every entrant for their unwavering dedication and love in helping maintain our church heritage.”

Back in August churches were invited to nominate their buildings for achievements in conservation, tourism and volunteer work. Nominations were welcomed from churches, chapels and meeting houses across the UK, which are currently open for worship, with all denominations invited to take part. Two new award categories were introduced this



year: the Lifetime Achievement Award and the Lord Cormack Award for Public Service.

Host Very Revd Dr Simon Jones added: “There’s something about these buildings that makes me want to go inside and explore what’s going on – whether it’s a community café, an art exhibition, pilgrim spaces for reflection, growing veg in the churchyard or something to engage children. Churches seem to offer it all (although I might be biased!).”

During the ceremony, the people who care for the winning churches came forward to pick up their awards, representing buildings of all sizes and ages, with locations that included rural villages, national parks, towns and cities. Winning churches took home a range of rewards and mementoes including prize money of £500, £750 and £10,000 (for the Friends award), a display plaque and, for group winners, the award itself, hand-crafted by Craig Mace, one of the cathedral architects, in Lincoln Red stone.

## **King honoured with birthday lullaby from the Military Wives Choirs**

**The Military Wives Choirs have released a moving new song to mark the King's forthcoming 76th birthday.**

Charles has been honoured with a lullaby called November Sunday, which re-imagines the “chilly, foggy London night” he was born at Buckingham Palace in 1948, and the hope and joy of a recovering post-war Britain.

It also pays tribute to his late mother, Queen Elizabeth II, who was a “military wife”, and served in the Armed Forces.

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The King has faced a challenging year early in his reign after both he and daughter-in-law the Princess of Wales were diagnosed with cancer.

Caroline Paxton, chair of trustees at the Military Wives Choirs, said: “November Sunday is our own heartfelt gift to His Majesty and was inspired by our deep appreciation and admiration for his service to this nation.



“We hope that he will enjoy listening to the song just as much as we will enjoy performing it.”

Ms Paxton said the chart-topping Military Wives Choirs wanted their first recording since 2020 to celebrate the Armed Forces' bond with the royal family.

“The song, with words and music by John McLaren, is set at the moment of the future king's birth, echoing the joy the news brought to a country still recovering from war,” she added.



# Cathedral Calls

## Songs of Praise Service at St Fachtna's Cathedral, Rosscarbery



**On Sunday 27th October, a Songs of Praise service was held in the Cathedral Church of St Fachtna in Rosscarbery.**

The Dean of Ross, the Very Rev'd Cliff Jeffers had invited Peter Stobart to choose the hymns and to speak about them. Peter is the Director of Music at St Fin Barre's Cathedral in Cork and he drew on his past experiences and varying musical interests in his talk.

His first choices discussed early hymns as ways of singing psalms, west gallery choirs and the Wesley family. He then moved onto the composers Herbert Howells and Hubert Parry, and finally the process of selecting hymns and appropriate tunes. The service ended with 'Abide with me', noting that, if evening services disappear completely, then so will the opportunities to sing many of the great evening hymns.

Reflecting on the recent Songs of Praise service, Dean Cliff Jeffers said, "It was wonderful to have Peter Stobart with us last Sunday evening, bringing his musical skills and perspective to our monthly Songs of Praise Service. Over twenty people from seven different parishes enjoyed hearing how our hymn singing tradition has evolved during the centuries from before the reformation up to more recent times".

## The Lincoln Imp

**According to legend, the Lincoln Imp was a creature sent by the devil to cause chaos in the cathedral.**

The imp and his companion arrived at the cathedral, intent on creating havoc. It's said they broke furniture, tripped up the clergy, and caused mayhem throughout the cathedral.

According to local legend, an angel turned the imp to stone for causing havoc in the cathedral. The stone figure of the Lincoln Imp remains frozen in place, high up in the Angel Choir.



Over the centuries, the imp has become a symbol of the struggle between good and evil, a reminder of the cathedral's spiritual power.

## Clergy and ministry

### Presiding Bishop begins his ministry

**The 28th Presiding Bishop and Primate of The Episcopal Church began his ministry on Saturday - November 1st - Feast of All Saints.**

Bishop Sean Rowe, 49, has served the past 17 years as bishop of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania and the past five years as bishop provisional of the Diocese of Western New York, and he has emphasized since his election as presiding bishop that he wants to shift the church's focus and resources to the diocesan and congregational level.





## Commissioning of Pioneer Ministers in Newry

**On Tuesday 12 November Bishop David McClay of Down an Dromore will commission four new Pioneer Ministers at a special service to be held in Windsor Hill Primary School, Newry, at 7.30pm.**



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Tim Burns who leads the Suitcase Project, Natalie Trainor, the pioneer evangelist at Newry Centre of Mission, and Nevin and Lorraine Anderson, recently appointed jointly as pioneers to lead a new church outreach and church plant in Warrenpoint, will all be commissioned together.

They are part of the first group of pioneer leaders in the Church of Ireland who have been selected with others from other dioceses to be trained as part of the Church of Ireland's Pioneer initiative.

Revd Rob Jones, the National Director of Pioneer Ministry, will also join be present.

All are welcome to attend.

Venue - Windsor Hill Primary School, 1 Church Avenue, Newry, BT34 1DY



## Recalling exceptional service

**Vivienne Scott worked in the Mariners' Mission in York Street, Belfast which was part of the parish of Belfast Cathedral.**

She was much-beloved and respected by the parishioners and clergy. The photograph here was

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posted on a social history Face Book site recently.

She raised thousands of pounds for charity by collecting paper, rags and anything that would make money. She died on Christmas morning 1996 at the age of ninety-three.

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

### Registration is now open for Bibles for Babies

**Have you or someone you know had a little one in 2024?**

Maybe you are still expecting their arrival before the end of the year? Bible Society NI is thrilled to gift a FREE Toddler Bible to every baby born in Northern Ireland this year. 📖

Our Bibles for Babies project is designed to help parents and carers share God's love and the stories of the Bible with their children from a very young age.

Register today to receive your free Toddler Bible on their 1st birthday: <https://bit.ly/Bibles-for-Babies>

### Bridging the Gap of 'Ecological Debt' online discussion





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