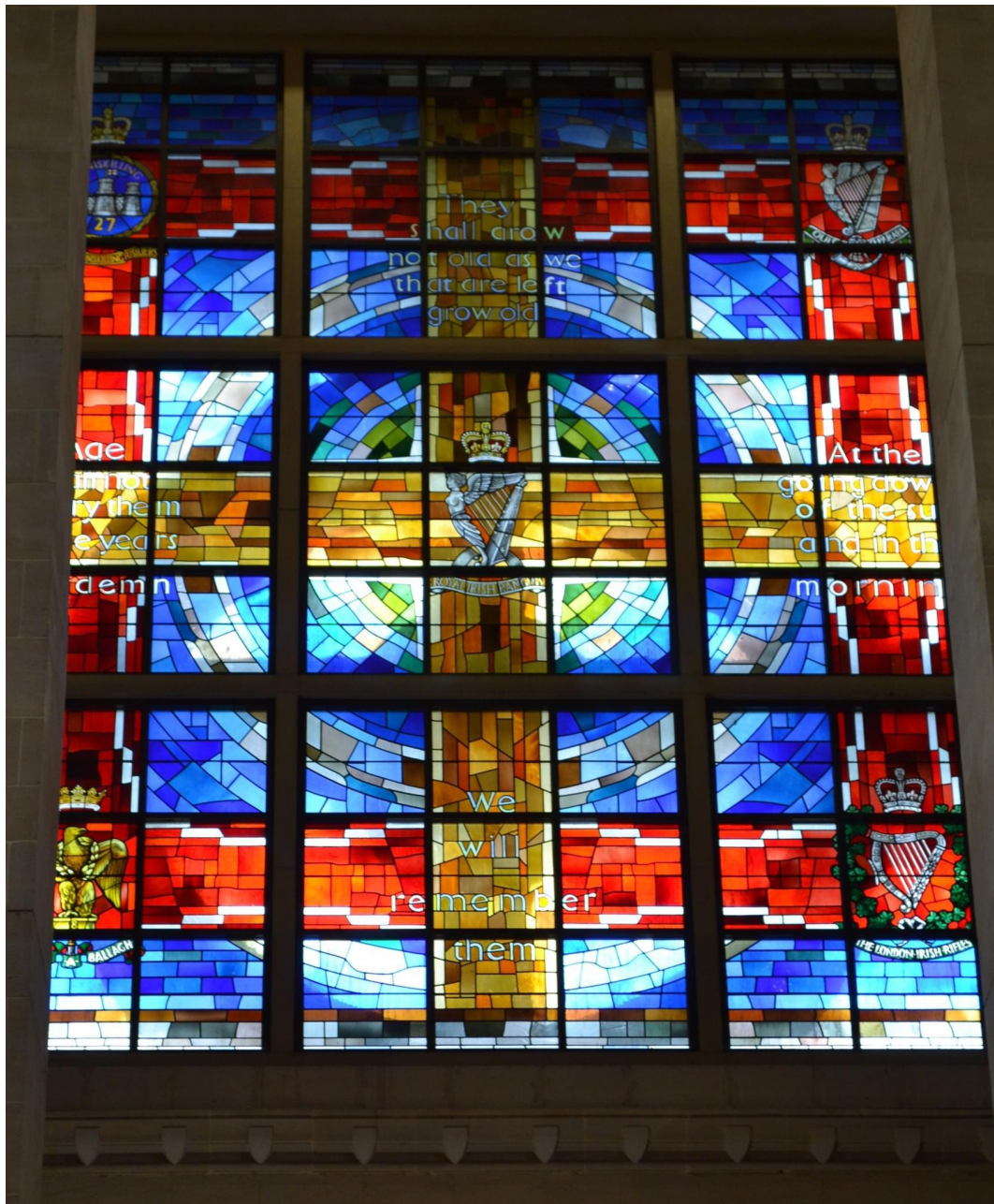


# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – Royal Irish Remembrance**

November 10, 2023

## Image of the day



## Royal Irish Remembrance

The West window of the Chapel of the Royal Irish Regiment and its antecedents is a permanent reminder of



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remembrance in Belfast Cathedral where the Regiment, its Association, and friends attended their annual Service of Remembrance on Sunday afternoon.



Senator G Craughwell who attended the service said, “It is so important to maintain links with Irish regiments as so many still go there to serve. Its a great honour always to be asked to lay a wreath on behalf of the Connaught Rangers. I greatly appreciate the welcome of Major General Colin Weir, CB, DSO, MBE”



Professor Martin Bradley CBE DL represented HM Lord Lieutenant at The Royal Irish Regiment Service of Remembrance in Belfast Cathedral on Sunday past.

## People and places

### Ven Jim Cheshire is installed as Archdeacon in Down Cathedral

**The Very Revd Henry Hull, Dean of Down, led the service, which included Holy Communion, and installed the new archdeacon as family, friends and colleagues looked on.**

Jim and Diane's children, Ethan and Eva, each gave a reading and Revd Noel Gordon, the curate in St Mary's Ballybeen, led the intercessions.





## The Dean installs the Archdeacon

Jude Frame, Rebecca Adair and Eva led worship along with cathedral organist Michael McCracken.

Jim's invited preacher was the Rt Revd Ken Clarke who took the first chapter of John's Gospel as his text. Bishop Ken focused on the familiar words in verse 6, "There was a man sent from God whose name was John," – words that refer to John the Baptist, but equally to Jim Cheshire!

"God's most frequent way of working is through ordinary men and women, a John, a Jim, a Mary a Margaret," he said. "Mistakenly, many think that there is a spiritual elite who are called but ALL Christians are called to point people to Christ. We are called to be signposts!"



## The Archdeacon, his wife and family

“Christ is the Way and Archdeacon Jim is a great example of being a signpost pointing people to Jesus. His heart’s desire, just like John the Baptist, is to decrease and ensure that the whole focus is on Christ.

“Jim is one of the humblest Christians I know and brings humility integrity and consistency to his ministry as Archdeacon of Down. What a blessing he is and will be!”

Bishop Ken continued: “John was ‘sent from God!’ He wasn’t self-appointed or self-centred. Jesus Christ was the foundation and focus of his life...and Archdeacon Jim is the same. All who know Jim and his wife Diane see in their lives something of the Jesus they love and serve. Jim will help





the Bishop in encouraging every local parish to be a community of love, a gathering of authentic disciples of Jesus, a family where everyone is special, a fellowship of sinners growing in grace.“

## The role

Jim was appointed on 1 October 2023 and is released from parish ministry for two days each week in order to carry out diocesan work. As well as taking on the administrative and pastoral tasks that come with the role of archdeacon, Bishop David has charged Jim with enabling evangelism so that it becomes embedded in our parochial and diocesan life. He said: “Jim is a man who puts evangelism at the heart of

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everything and we as a diocese must keep evangelism and reaching people at the top of our agenda.”

## The Ven Jim Cheshire

Jim is originally from the United States and experienced God’s call on his life for ministry as a teen growing up in Florida. Following his undergraduate studies at the University of Florida, Jim gained his Master of Divinity degree from Gordon–Conwell Theological Seminary, Massachusetts.

In 1999 Jim married Diane, who is from Coleraine, and moved to Northern Ireland. Since then, he has ministered pastorally in a variety of denominational contexts, first in Bangor and then East Belfast before being called to serve as Leader of Discipleship for Holywood Parish in





2009.

It was while he was in Hollywood that, to his surprise, he found his heart ‘strangely warmed’ and opened to a future in the Church of Ireland in a way he had not expected but could not avoid.

Following his ordination in 2014, Jim served his curacy in Bangor Parish before being instituted as the Rector of Ballybeen in 2018.

During the course of his ministry, he has served as an OLM Tutor, on Diocesan Council, as a member of General Synod, and on Standing Committee.

## **Three Northern Ireland churches were among the winners at the ‘BAFTAs for churches’**

**The National Church Awards – the ‘BAFTAs for churches’ – revealed 17 UK churches as winners in a prestigious ceremony held on Monday evening at Mercers’ Hall, London.**

The awards were co-presented by comedian and actor Hugh Dennis and Canon Ann Easter, former Chaplain to Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, with Guest of Honour His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO, Vice Patron of the National Churches Trust.

**Three Northern Ireland churches were among the winners:**



- [St Mary, Altinure, Park, County Derry: Nayler Awards for Excellence in Church Maintenance.](#)

Judges were particularly impressed by a volunteer's comment in their application: "Through connecting with other volunteers looking after the church, I have developed lifelong friendships. I know my actions will have a positive effect on others and this provides me with a sense of accomplishment." St Mary's Altinure was built in 1871. The maintenance checklist was produced by the Maintenance Manager in conjunction with others. Major renovation work is due to be carried out, but the team are already working on a comprehensive plan for when the work is completed. The judges thought that the ethos and community involvement shines through.



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- [Christ Church, Derry/ Londonderry for Church and Community Volunteer Awards in partnership with the Marsh Charitable Trust.](#)

Judges were impressed at volunteers using what they have to develop ecumenical partnerships, commenting “It’s proving very powerful.” Christ Church and its neighbours are bringing people together in a celebration of culture, heritage and hope for the future.” Christ Church has a small, aging congregation of some 80 people, about half of whom are regular volunteers. They have developed friendships, knowledge of the burdens and joys others carry and realised the sheer surprise of the goodness of people in all sorts of circumstances.

- [Church of the Immaculate Conception, Strabane, County Tyrone for Church Tourism: Open for Visitors Awards](#)

From the church’s submission to the awards: “Our church is at the heart of the community. Being open and creating that sense of community makes Strabane a better place to work and live and visit.” The church is open every day. Anyone can come in and sit and enjoy peace and tranquillity. In the last year there were an incredible 118,560 visitors. There are fabulous museum interpretation panels and leaflets, souvenir brochures, and guided tours. Judges loved that the church has engaged well with the local tourism board and community. A comment from the judges’ panel: “To do all they have done, and to mentor other churches, is wonderful.”

[Also honoured in Northern Ireland were four further finalists:](#)

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**CHRISTIAN AID IRELAND AGM - CAI reports on a “Wonderfully informative and inspiring talk at our AGM at Orangefield Church on the ‘Cost of Giving Crisis’ and why your donations make such a difference to the lives of so many around the world.**

“Many thanks to our three speakers - Hannah Rich, Senior Researcher at Theos Think Tank, Rev James Barnett, Principal of Belfast Bible College, as well as Christian Aid Ireland’s Chief Executive, Rosamond Bennett. Here they are flanked by our Chair Rev Liz Hughes and our Church and Community Manager Dave Thomas”.



## Four further finalists

- County Antrim, Belfast, Sinclair Seamen's Presbyterian Church, Church Tourism
- County Down, Killinchy, Killinchy Presbyterian Church, Church Maintenance
- County Down, Waringstown, Holy Trinity Church, Church Maintenance
- County Tyrone, Termonamongan, St Bestius, Church Volunteer

Nina McNeary, Northern Ireland Support Officer for the National Churches Trust, said:

“I was thrilled to see seven churches from Northern Ireland among the finalists in these awards, and my heartfelt congratulations to all the wonderful finalists.

“The three winners included St Mary’s, Altinure for the Naylor Maintenance Award, Christ Church, Derry/Londonderry, for the Volunteer Award and Church of the Immaculate Conception in Strabane, who took home a Tourism award.

“Through our project Treasure Ireland I have visited many wonderful churches in Northern Ireland that care deeply about the heritage of their church. We invite you to celebrate with all the finalists and take part in Visit Your Finalist Day - Sat 18 November.”

## In the media

### **Church leaders warn Stormont impasse hitting public services - Belfast Telegraph**

**Church leaders have told the five main parties in Northern Ireland that Stormont's return is urgently needed as public services approach breaking point, Suzanne Green writes.**

The leaders of the Catholic, Presbyterian, Church of Ireland and Methodist churches met the parties last week to discuss the ongoing political stalemate.

In a joint statement, they said the return of fully functioning institutions was desperately needed and called on the UK Government to ensure adequate resources for Northern Ireland “while taking all steps possible to meet the outstanding concerns of all political parties so that each will feel able to return”.

The statement was issued by Catholic primate Archbishop Eamon Martin, Church of Ireland Archbishop of Armagh John McDowell, Presbyterian Moderator Dr Sam Mawhinney, Methodist President Rev David Turtle and Irish Council of Churches President Rev Andrew Foster.

The senior clerics said they had held separate meetings with Sinn Fein, DUP, Alliance, UUP, and SDLP leaders last Friday.



In a joint statement, they said: “As part of civil society we felt that it was important for us to reach out to each of Northern Ireland's main political parties, just as we did in September 2018, under similar circumstances.

“We very much welcomed the opportunity to engage and listen across our separate meetings, which were positive and constructive.

“We highlighted the feedback coming to us from communities across Northern Ireland regarding the seriousness of the current situation — indicating the real and sustained financial hardship being experienced by many people, combined with the reality that many of the normal services society depends upon were close to breaking point.

“We indicated to the party leaders that this was leading to a rising sense of despair, and even hopelessness, throughout the community, linked to a growing anger at the current poor state of governance.”

The church leaders said they told the parties that while the restoration of devolution “wouldn't be a panacea for all problems”, it would be an important first step.

If properly resourced by London, it “would make a real and meaningful difference to the everyday lives of people”.

The senior clerics told the party leaders that while everyone was living with challenges “both of Brexit and of post-Brexit arrangements”, a new Executive would be “ideally placed to



capitalise on the new opportunities opening up for Northern Ireland in the medium and long term”.

The church leaders noted that Northern Ireland was “underfunded by the UK Government” and there must be a “move to a more equitable needs-based funding model”. Meanwhile, the Secretary of State has again stressed that talks between Downing Street and the DUP to restore Stormont are ongoing.

# THE PRIORY SINGERS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

FRIDAY 1ST DECEMBER 2023  
HOLYWOOD PARISH CHURCH  
7.30PM



Chris Heaton-Harris said he cannot guarantee when the Assembly may return but recent speculation the negotiations have concluded is “completely not correct”.

Tanaiste Micheal Martin said last weekend that he believed the negotiations between London and the DUP had “more or less come to a conclusion”.

Speaking to media during a visit to Newry yesterday, Mr Heaton-Harris said: “Talks are ongoing. Progress is being made and I'd like to think we can get somewhere.”



# Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



## Advent Fuel and Prayer Journal for young people

The Church of Ireland Youth Department has relaunched its FUEL resource ahead of Advent, to encourage young people to get to know more about God as they read his words in the Bible. FUEL leads each young person through 25 days of readings, running up to Christmas, with space to answer questions and to respond creatively. The readings cover four themes:

He is coming – the Old Testament’s prophecies about Jesus

He is here – the story of his birth (in the Gospels)

He will give – the gift of our salvation (in the New Testament’s letters)

He will return – the hope for his second coming

Fuel is also accompanied by a prayer journal for creatively listening and responding to what God is saying, with room to think and write about what makes a prayer a prayer, why we pray, prayer requests, what helps us pray and what stops us from praying, and answers to prayer.

The prayer journals are linked with the Day of Prayer for Young People and Youth Ministry, which is held on the Sunday before Advent each year – this year on Sunday, 26th November.

National Youth Officer Simon Henry says: “These resources are timely to help and encourage young people to focus on developing their own personal walk with God and learn more about Jesus in a season when we can get distracted by so much else.”

If you’d like to get copies for your church, please contact your Diocesan Youth Officer or Youth Council representative or email [barbara@ciyd.org](mailto:barbara@ciyd.org)

## Poem for today



### *In Flanders Fields*

*In Flanders fields, the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe;  
To you from failing hand we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We should not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.*

*~ John McRae ~*



## Speaking to the soul

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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