

Church News Ireland



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November 15, 2024

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Newgrange by Gaz Drone

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Image of the day

Newgrange by Gaz Drone

Newgrange is a prehistoric monument in County Meath, Ireland, built around 3200 BC during the Neolithic period, making it older than Stonehenge and the Egyptian pyramids.

It is a large circular mound, about 85 meters in diameter and 13 meters high, with an inner stone passageway and chambers.

Here are some key features of Newgrange:

+Passage Tomb: It's a type of megalithic tomb consisting of a narrow passage leading to a chamber where human remains were found.

+Megalithic Art: Many of the large stones are decorated with intricate carvings, known as megalithic art. These designs include spirals, zigzags, and other geometric patterns.

+Kerbstones: The mound is ringed by a circle of large kerbstones, some of which are also decorated with megalithic art.

+Winter Solstice Alignment: The passage and chamber are aligned with the rising sun on the winter solstice. On mornings around this date, a beam of sunlight enters the passage and illuminates the chamber.

+World Heritage Site: Newgrange is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, recognized for its outstanding universal value. Newgrange is a remarkable feat of engineering and a testament to the ingenuity and skill of its Neolithic builders. It continues to fascinate and intrigue visitors today, offering a glimpse into the beliefs and practices of prehistoric people.

News

Mums and Tots morning at Garvaghy and Dromara

Everyone is welcome to join in the morning for Mums and Tots.

There will be tea and coffee for the adults and plenty of toys and crafts activities for tots, mums and nannies.
Bible story//Rhymes//Food.

Limavady High School raises £60,000 for Air Ambulance NI

Limavady High School surpassed its Fundraising Goal with £60,000 for Air Ambulance NI.

It was indeed A Year of Community Spirit and Dedication!

Accidental deaths soar in NI as charity seeks action

Accidental deaths soar in NI as charity seeks action on 'public health scandal'

Northern Ireland has recorded its biggest increase in the number of accidental deaths, which have soared by over 50% over the past decade, according to a new report.

The 56% surge marks the second highest rise among UK regions, with the rate of road deaths here more than a third (34%) higher than the UK as a whole.

New data published by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) shows the rate of accidental deaths per 100,000 people now stands at 36, with 688 fatalities recorded in 2022.

The rate of non-transport-related fatal accidents in NI is 13% higher than in the UK as a whole.

Falls are the largest cause of accidental deaths here and account for 37% of them.

The rate of transport-related deaths here is 34% higher than the UK's overall rate.

Pedestrians here are 142% more likely to be killed on the roads than anywhere else in the UK.

However, when compared to just England, the rate of accidental pedestrian deaths in NI is even higher — 175% more.

The rate of accidental deaths of car occupants is 88% higher in NI than in the UK as a whole, with cyclists facing a similar risk (83% higher), while motorcyclists here are 20% more likely to be killed. RoSPA, which has launched its 'Safer Lives, Stronger Nation' campaign, has called on the UK Government to implement a National Accident Prevention Strategy to save lives, boost the economy and free up capacity in the NHS.



The King's Award for Voluntary Service

The MBE for volunteer groups



King's Awards for Voluntary Service recognises two parishes in Londonderry

“Incredible news” as St Augustine’s, the Cathedral Youth Club and Ulster Project Derry/Londonderry receive King’s Awards for Voluntary Service.

Two parishes in Londonderry have been recognised in this year’s King’s Awards for Voluntary Service, which celebrate the “outstanding work” of volunteer groups – “unsung heroes” – throughout the UK. They’re among 22 groups in Northern Ireland named in this year’s list, which also includes Ulster Project Derry/Londonderry.

Created in 2002 to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II’s Golden Jubilee and previously known as The Queen’s Award for



Voluntary Service (QAVS), the Award has been shining a light on the fantastic work of voluntary groups from all across the UK. His Majesty The King pledged to continue the Award to ensure that volunteers from across the UK were recognised for the services they provided within their communities. Equivalent to an MBE, KAVS is the highest Award given to local voluntary groups in the UK, and they are awarded for life.

St. Augustine's Church Volunteering Group was recognised for "overcoming isolation and extending welcome through inclusion and events at a polarised interface". **The Rector of St Augustine's, Rev Nigel Cairns (Photo above)**, has it as "incredible news" and recognition of many years of volunteering. He praised all those who had contributed to the outreach of 'the Wee Church on the Walls' down through the years.

“A huge ‘thank you’ and well done to all who volunteer at St. Augustine’s,” Rev Cairns said. “A huge retrospective ‘thank you’ to the memory of those who have gone before us and who were instrumental in their vision, outreach and community engagement, and upon whose work we have built.

“If you help at the wee church to welcome tourists, help with catering events for the community, serve LEAH lunches, move furniture, organise arts events, oversee concerts, provide talks, keep the grounds looking beautiful, provide flowers, provide a welcome, make a ‘cross in your pocket’ for the many visitors, or pray for the dozens of prayer requests received through the church café and tourist ministry – or any other voluntary role which engaged and encouraged the wider community over the years – then you’re part of this award. Congratulations one and all.” The Cathedral Youth Club, in Londonderry’s Fountain Estate, has been recognised for “providing resources and support for youth and elderly, facilitating community learning and promoting good health”. The youth club, which has an ‘open door’ policy, serves as a community hub for people of all ages, including young people, babies, toddlers, young mothers and senior citizens.

The club, which is managed by **Jeanette Warke M.B.E.**, **(Photo next page)** is open every day from 9am to 9pm, and provides programmes and activities such as a homework support club, after school activities, arts and crafts sessions, history classes and yoga sessions. It also runs a diner, where people gather daily to enjoy fellowship.



Among the other organisations recognised this year is the Ulster Project which, for almost 50 years, has been working with Christian teenagers in Northern Ireland and the United States, to educate them and develop them as leaders to effect change in their communities. Its citation says its KAVS is for "promoting peace by instilling shared values of mutual respect and understanding in young people".

Misean Cara - 20 years of aid through mission agencies

The Church of Ireland's Council for Mission has congratulated Misean Cara, the membership organisation of 77 Irish missionary organisations, on its twentieth anniversary.

The Council acknowledged the united commitment of Misesan Cara members to eradicate poverty, help communities overcome crisis, and promote the dignity and well-being of people living in poverty and on society's margins around the world. Its work is one of the latest chapters in the story of centuries of humanitarian commitment from Ireland's missionaries.

Misesan Cara is primarily funded by Irish Aid and has 77 member organisations, including CMS Ireland, which work in over 50 countries. CMS Ireland's Mission Director, Jenny Smyth, was nominated by Archbishop John McDowell to take part in a visit to Kenya in August and September as part of the celebrations. She was joined by the Revd Uel Marrs, from the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, and the Catholic Bishop of Waterford and Lismore, the Most Revd Alphonsus Cullinan, all accompanied by Misesan Cara's Chief Executive, John Moffett, and Communications Officer Clare Matthias.

The purpose of the visit was to raise awareness of Misesan Cara and the range of international development projects supported through its member organisations.

Jenny remarks: "I was deeply impressed by the lifelong committed service of the Irish missionaries and local personnel who live and work within the communities we visited. Ranging from very remote rural areas to the deep poverty of urban informal dwellings, the quality of community work being carried out was striking. Each place we visited felt like an oasis of hope where help could be sought, a place where lives and communities were being

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transformed through mutual understanding and careful working together.

“I am indebted to Misesan Cara for the opportunity to visit the inspiring projects they support, and for CMS Ireland’s membership which gives access to specialist advice and accompaniment as we work with our global church partners towards the Sustainable Development Goals.”

2024 Irish Inter–Church Meeting calls for churches to recommit to reconciliation in Ireland today



The co–Chairs of the Irish Inter–Church Meeting, Bishop Sarah Groves and Bishop Brendan Leahy, with IICM keynote speaker Prof Dr Martin Leiner, Jena University Centre for Reconciliation Studies

The Irish Inter–Church Meeting (IICM) held its 34th plenary gathering on November 12–13, 2024, at the Dromantine Conference Centre in Newry, uniting Christian leaders from across 16 of Ireland’s church traditions.

The theme, ‘Finding the Face of God in One Another’, focused on the various ways society in Ireland is fracturing today, with discussions centered on responding to the human dignity in every person.

Reflecting on a range of contemporary challenges, including the legacy of the conflict in Northern Ireland, racism and ethnic discrimination, and concerns over economic inequality and cultural polarisation, the IICM sought to examine the church’s role in promoting healing and reconciliation in an evolving Ireland. The gathering recognised the need to encourage churches’ engagement in reconciliation and called on church communities to address these issues with renewed commitment.

Co–Chair Bishop Brendan Leahy opened the event, noting that in order for churches to be able to contribute to reconciliation in society, they also need to attend to their own wounds.

Keynote speaker Professor Dr. Martin Leiner, founder of Jena University’s Centre of Reconciliation Studies, gave a theological exploration on the foundations of reconciliation, while facilitator Carole Kane guided participants in creative expressions of unity through worship and the arts. Further sessions included ‘Peaced Together’, an example of a practical project of reconciliation in local communities.

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Additionally, a panel discussion with emerging theologians and practitioners, including Rev. Philip McKinley, Dr. Kevin Hargaden, and Dr. Suzanne Mulligan, provided fresh perspectives on current societal dynamics in need of reconciliation.

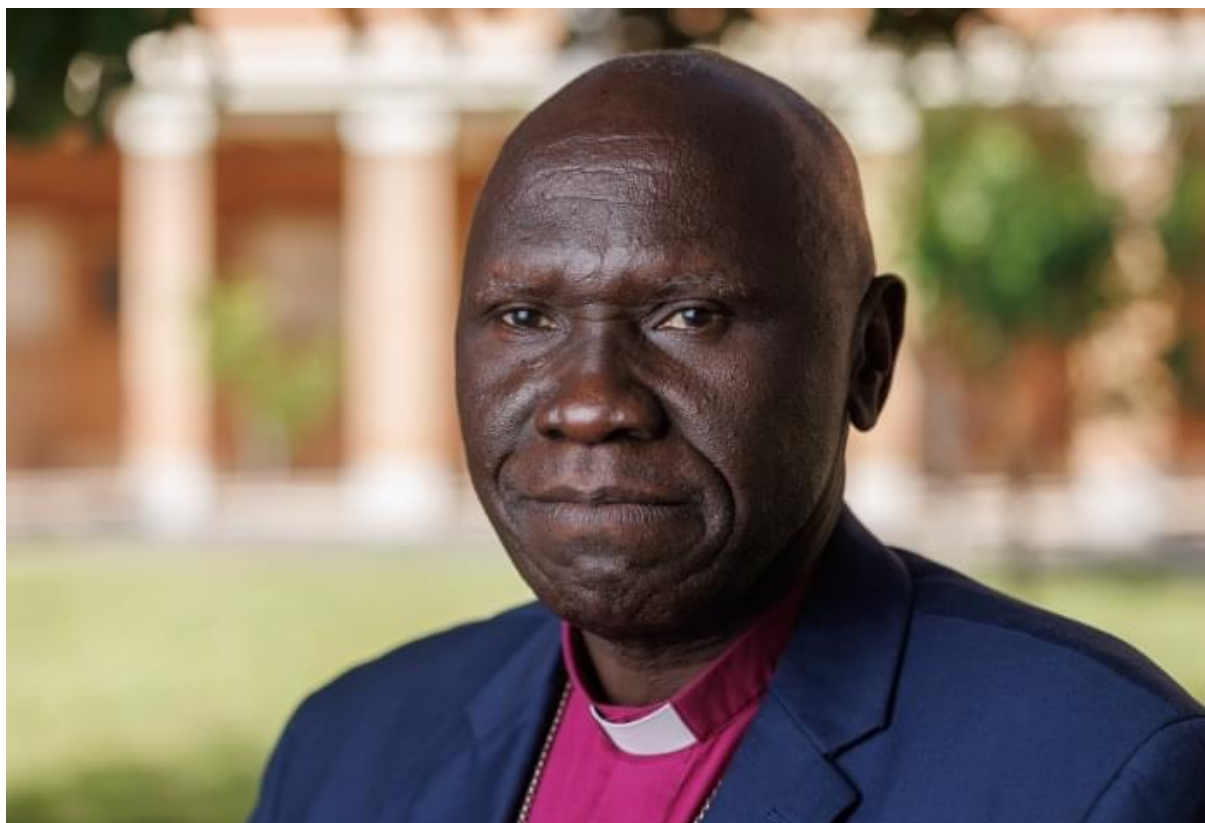
The meeting concluded with an ecumenical discernment session, guided by Julieann Moran, utilizing “Conversations in the Spirit,” a methodology developed for the Catholic Church’s synodal process. IICM co-chair Bishop Sarah Groves provided closing remarks, affirming the churches’ commitment to addressing societal divisions and fostering unity in 21st-century Ireland.

Anglican Communion Secretary General on resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury

The Right Revd Anthony Poggo, The Secretary General of the Anglican Communion has shared a statement following the resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The statement reads:

"I am deeply saddened at the horrific pain and trauma experienced by survivors of John Smyth’s abuse. The Makin Review is an important learning lessons review. It underlines how every church must have robust safeguarding processes in place to protect people, prevent abuse and respond effectively.



"I understand and support the Archbishop of Canterbury's courageous decision to announce his resignation, as he seeks to carry both personal and institutional responsibility. However, I also want to reflect on the important contribution the Archbishop of Canterbury has made in championing the work of safeguarding during his ministry in the Anglican Communion. Working with Anglican sisters and brothers around the world, he has been very supportive of the work of the Anglican Communion Safe Church Commission. He also prioritised Safe Church as one of the major themes at the Lambeth Conference.

"In the days and weeks ahead, let us continue to pray for our Communion, and re-commit ourselves to the ongoing responsibility of safeguarding in all churches and communities around the globe."

Read the statement on ACNS here: <https://bit.ly/4fp4kDp>

Cathedral Calls

Service of Lament and Prayer at Winchester Cathedral

Winchester Cathedral responding to Makin Review of John Smyth case.

The Bishop of Winchester writing to his diocese says “ You will be aware that on Thursday last week the Makin Review into the Church’s handling of the John Smyth case was published, culminating in the news of Archbishop Justin’s resignation. It is a matter of deep regret and sorrow that John Smyth was able to have any association with our diocese while perpetrating such abhorrent abuse.

“On Sunday evening at 5.30 pm, there will be a service of Lament and Prayer in the Lady Chapel at Winchester Cathedral, during which prayers will be said in lament for the failings of the Church to properly safeguard the vulnerable. Bishop Philip and Dean Catherine will be leading the service, to which everyone is most welcome.

“As part of our commitment to learning the lessons of the Review, we will be taking time come before God in penitence and faith.

“With my love and prayers, in Christ, +Philip, Bishop of Winchester

Bradford Cathedral first impressions

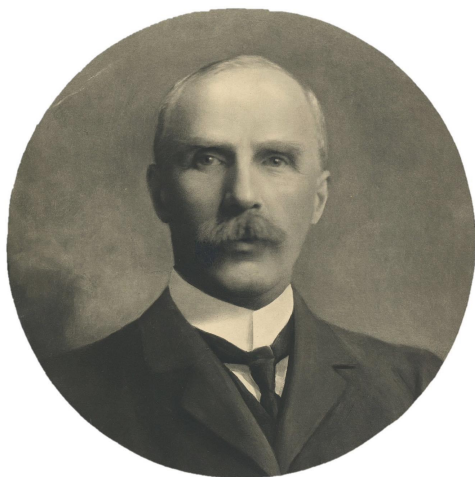
Visited Bradford Cathedral, Yorkshire, for the first time last week.

An observer writes - I was very surprised to see not only the proliferation of window designs by **William Morris** and his artists, but also the very strong focus on women - Bradford has a historic tradition of strong women.

The large West Window, designed and installed by Heaton Butler in 1868, is a testament to this as it is made up of women of the Old and New Testament.

What is unusual about this stunning design is the combination of red and purple as the main colours of the women's robes. But also how the women aren't pictured in their own panels looking out at us, as is the normal, but are engaged in conversation and discussion across the panels, with Jesus too, on the right.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



Founder of The Boys' Brigade - virtual museum

The Founder of The Boys' Brigade, Sir William Alexander Smith, was born on the 27th October 1854, 170 years ago.



Find more about him on their virtual museum
<https://www.thebbmuseum.org/the-boys-brigade/bb-lives/w-a-smith/>

The Seige Museum

“It was great to see so many families taking the time to visit us whilst in the City for the Halloween festivities...

“We are open as normal each day from 10am to 4pm. £5 entry. Kids under 12 free.

“Thanks to the University of Ulster study abroad programme for including us in their itinerary also.

In the media

Thirty clergy at risk from abuse scandal - Daily Telegraph

Damning report names dozens of figures said to have known of allegations against John Smyth. Janet Eastham writes.

Thirty members of the Church of England clergy face being sacked over their failure to stop the most prolific child abuser in the institution's history.

The Church's National Safeguarding Team is examining the actions of at least 30 officials named in a damning report as having prior knowledge of allegations against John Smyth.

Following the Archbishop of Canterbury's resignation over his failure to prevent the "prolific, brutal, and horrific" abuse, Smyth's victims called for two bishops and an associate minister to follow suit. The Telegraph can reveal that dozens of Church leaders, including several bishops, could now be removed for their role in the Church's handling of allegations, after an internal review by a barrister.

Despite knowledge of Smyth's abuse at the highest levels of the Church, Hampshire Police only opened an investigation in 2017 after it was the subject of a Channel 4 news report.

Smyth died a year later aged 77 while still under investigation.

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The review by former social services director Keith Makin, published last week, found that Smyth's abuse was covered up by "powerful evangelical clergy".

It names at least 30 individuals who are believed to still hold posts or influential roles within the Church, such as giving sermons. The safeguarding team is now assessing whether their actions justify termination of their jobs.

The Telegraph can disclose that, over the summer, the Church's safeguarding team commissioned an independent barrister to draft a document to help them work out if the failings of those named in the Makin review are serious enough to warrant removal from office, or other disciplinary measures, including having their licenses to perform their duties revoked.

The KC's document will provide a framework for deciding whether the conduct of clergy named in the report meet the criteria for action under the Clergy Discipline Measure, a legal framework used by the Church to address misconduct.

It is understood that one of the individuals on the list, Rev Canon Andrew Cornes, is a central member of the Crown Nominations Committee, the secretive body responsible for appointing the next Archbishop of Canterbury.

Despite being informed of Smyth's abuse by a victim in 1982, according to the review, he remains in the running to help select the Archbishop's successor.

A virtual meeting was held yesterday morning for a group of Smyth's victims by Alexander Kubeyinje, the Church's

director of safeguarding, and Joanne Grenfell, the lead safeguarding bishop.

Victims were informed that the safeguarding team was working through a list of names identified in Makin's report in line with the KC's document.

The list is understood to extend to at least 30 Anglican clergy members.

The Telegraph understands this approach has drawn criticism from some victims. The report reveals the Church conducted a "mapping exercise" in 2017 to identify who knew about Smyth's abuse—meaning it has had these names for seven years, and raising questions about why this has taken so long.

In September 1982, one of Smyth's victims confided in Canon Cornes. It was the first time the victim had spoken to anyone about the abuse.

According to the Makin review, Canon Cornes said he "was unsurprised that John Smyth had homosexual tendencies". It said: "There is no evidence to suggest that Andrew Cornes took action to respond to this, he suggests that he thought the matter was being dealt with."

Victims have called for the resignations of Rev Stephen Conway, the Bishop of Lincoln; Rev Dr Jo Bailey Wells, the Bishop of Episcopal Ministry at the Anglican Communion Office in London; and the Rev Sue Colman, associate minister at St Leonard's church, Oakley. All three were

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identified in the Makin review as having prior knowledge of allegations about Smyth.

Both bishops have said they regret not taking further action. Rev Colman has been approached for comment.

Grief is so personal and affects so many – it should be understood in the workplace - The Journal

Paula O'Reilly of the Irish Hospice Foundation says grief is complex and as a society, it's important we learn to understand it.

Those of us who have experienced grief caused by a bereavement will know only too well that it's not transient like a falling leaf, but can be as lingering and resonant as a hauntingly beautiful song.

Every year 35,000 people die in Ireland, and for every person who dies 10 people are bereaved. You may have heard about the five stages of grief, but the reality is that every person's grief journey is unique. Grief isn't linear, there is no clear map and no easy way to navigate the experience.

Grief is a life experience that is as inevitable as death. Almost all of us will lose someone close to us at some point in our lives, and everyone will experience the resulting grief differently.

<https://www.thejournal.ie/readme/grief-counselling-6540238-Nov2024/>

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Irish Bishop issues urgent appeal to COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan - ICN

[<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/51058>]

Assisted dying: Presbyterian Church says no safeguards will be enough to protect the vulnerable

News Letter - The Presbyterian Church in Ireland has said that politicians are unable to “ensure the safety of the most vulnerable” when it comes to assisted dying.

<https://app.newsletter.co.uk/story/assisted-dying-presbyterian-church-says-no-safeguards-will-be-enough-to-protect-the-vulnerable/content.html>

Timothy West – obituary

Daily Telegraph - Veteran stage actor who was married for more than 60 years to Prunella Scales

[<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/obituaries/2024/11/13/timothy-west-prunella-scales-churchill-shakespeare-canals/>]

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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