

# Church News Ireland

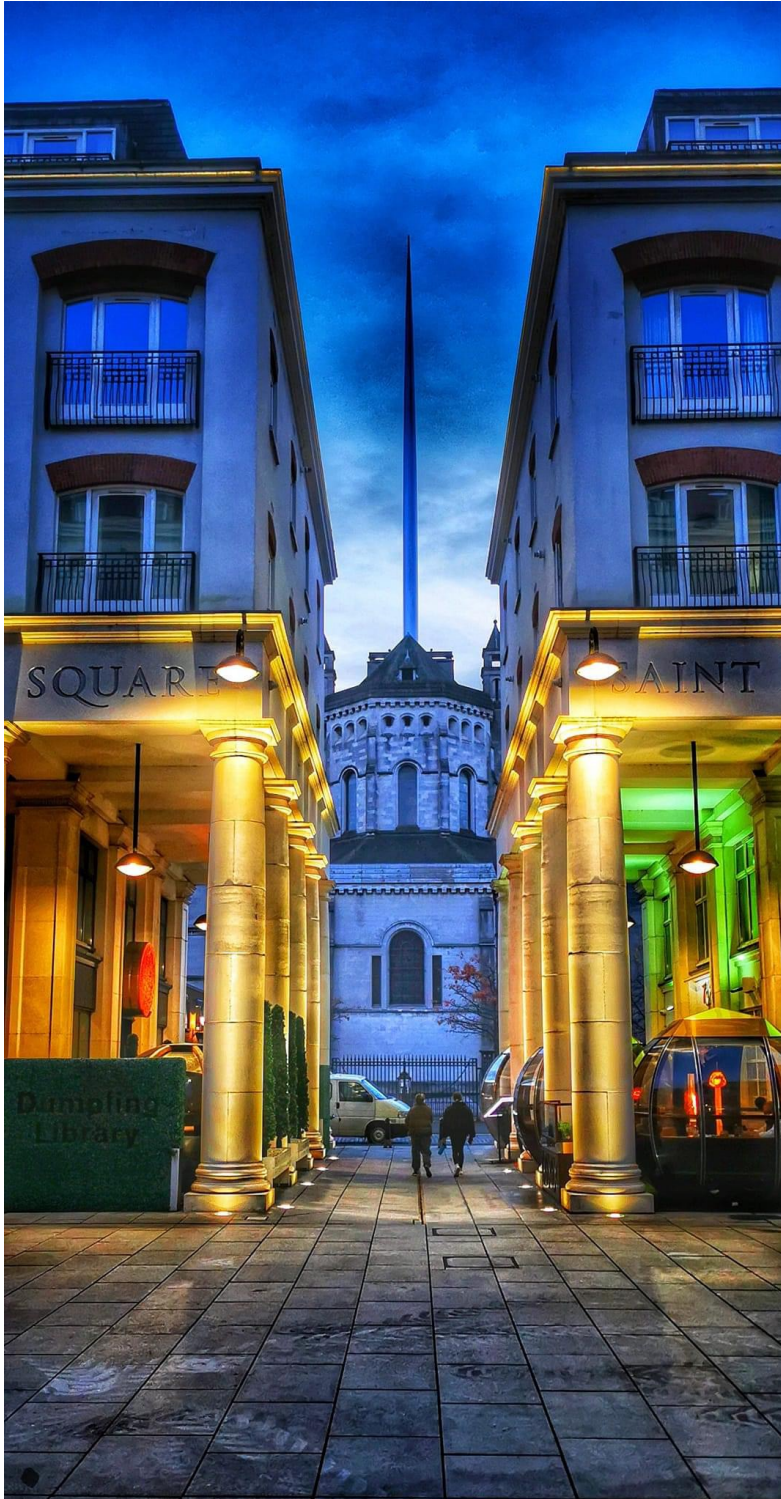
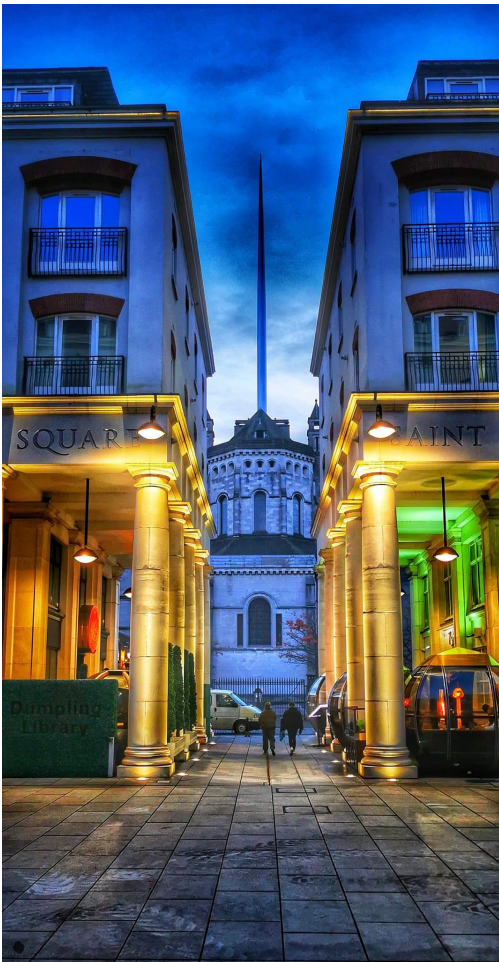


Image of the day

Advent  
beckons  
In  
Belfast



## Image of the day

### Advent beckons in Belfast

Belfast Cathedral viewed looking eastwards from St Anne's Square. This year's Advent Carol Service at Belfast Cathedral is at 8.00pm on Sunday Evening 3rd December, 2023. This year's theme is "E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come". Experience an atmospheric Candle-Lit Procession from Darkness to Light, with Hymns, Carols and Readings to mark the start of the Season of Advent. Featuring the Cathedral Choir.

## People and places

### Throwback Thursday - Thankful Thursday

**Last month, over 70 ministers, elders, and other church leaders from across PCI joined the Council for Congregational Life and Witness for 'Discipleshaping Church Today.'**

At this daytime event, held in Assembly Buildings, keynote speaker Andrew Fellows took time to help those present reflect on what it looks like to develop the kind of church life





that effectively equips members to follow Jesus with courage, commitment, and conviction in today's increasingly secular world.

Both provocative and practical, Andrew challenged us to fix our eyes on Jesus and live with radical Christ-like distinctiveness – something that requires both reformation by the church and revival by the Holy Spirit.

Alongside Andrew's excellent teaching, those attending 'Discipleshaping Church Today' had plenty of opportunities to use their voices in one of three discussion forums exploring how we might shape forms of Bible engagement, our corporate worship services, and church community to help members faithfully follow Jesus in our present age.



And, they were able to share their thoughts by highlighting their encouragements and challenges when it comes to making and shaping disciples in this cultural moment. You can see some of their feedback included in the photos. Perhaps what you see resonates with you in your congregation.



A recording of Andrew Fellows' addresses from Discipleshaping Church Today will be available in 2024. In the meantime, you can consider buying a copy of his book,



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‘Smuggling Jesus Back into the Church: How the church became worldly and what to do about it’.

## 2024 Calendar marking St.Ninian’s Convoy 200th year



St.Ninian’s 2024 Calendar is now on sale €10.00, to mark a very special milestone celebrating St.Ninian’s 200th year. Contact 0863268065 or any vestry

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member. Calendars will also be on sale at the parish's Friday Sale.



## From Garda to Ministry

**Rev Mike Buchanan, currently serving in Navan with Canon John Clarke, talks about his faith journey as well as his call to ordained ministry after a very varied career as a Garda officer.**

Mike, recently ordained to serve as a deacon in the Navan Union of Parishes, chats about how a sense of community service runs through his ministry and draws on his 31-year career in policing with An Garda Síochána at home and the UN's peace-keepers in Cyprus.

Link to You Tube at -

[\[https://meathandkildare.org/news/from-garda-to-ministry/?\]](https://meathandkildare.org/news/from-garda-to-ministry/?)





**ST MOLUA'S**  
PARISH OF STORMONT

When Advent and Christmas hurts,  
you are not alone...  
we welcome you to come, join us in fellowship.

We would like to invite you to

# A SERVICE OF REMEMBERING AND HOPE FOR ADVENT

giving thanks for those we have loved

at St Molua's Church, Stormont on

## SUNDAY 3rd DECEMBER

### @ 6.30pm

This is a special worship service remembering those loved ones who have passed away, while seeking hope for all of us during the Christmas season.

In this special 'Service of Remembrance and Hope' the names of those who have died and you wish to remember are read out and an opportunity is given to light a candle and say a prayer in their memory.

If you would like a loved one's name to be read during the service then please ensure that you record their name/s on the sheet available in church, or email [stormont@down.anglican.com](mailto:stormont@down.anglican.com) before Thursday 30th November.

We very much hope that this service will be beneficial to you and your family, and look forward to seeing you on the 3rd December.





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## Moderator begins 15 day visit to Kenya

**Having landed in Nairobi last night, the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, Right Reverend Dr Sam Mawhinney, starts a 15-day visit to Kenya this morning (18 November) – a**

**visit that will bring back memories for the former doctor.**

Each year Moderators undertake an overseas visit. Their primary purpose is to continue to build relationships, and strengthen ties with global partner churches, in this case one of PCI's longest established partners – the Presbyterian Church of East Africa (PCEA) - and to encourage and

support PCI's Global Mission Workers. In Kenya, PCI has five, all of whom work with PCEA.

Accompanied by his wife Karen, speaking ahead of the visit, Dr Mawhinney said that they were very much looking forward to getting back to the country that they know well, and meeting up with the Global Mission Workers. "Kenya is an amazing and beautiful country with much to offer, a place where the people have a great attitude to life and are positive about their faith.

"For a year in the early 1990s I worked as a doctor in PCEA's Kikuyu Hospital just to the west of the capital, Nairobi. I covered paediatrics, did ward rounds, night cover and minor surgeries. I also worked in maternity where I was taught to do emergency C-Sections and ended up bringing 34 babies into the world. It was the year before I began training for the ministry, and was an amazing experience. I am sure much has changed since then, and while I have very fond memories of that time, I won't be delivering any babies! I am, however, looking forward to returning to the hospital, praying with staff and meeting the CEO and Chief Medical Officer," he said.

Kenya is a predominantly Christian country of over 50 million people, and at present, the Presbyterian Church of East Africa has over 1,000 congregations in 310 parishes across 45 presbyteries, with a small number of congregations in both Uganda and Tanzania. Each of PCI's Global Mission Workers are engaged in various projects connected with PCEA in different parts of the country.



During his visit, Dr Mawhinney will meet the General Secretary and senior officials of the Presbyterian Church of East Africa when he pays a courtesy call on the denomination's headquarters in the capital. He will also lead staff worship that morning. On both Sundays the Moderator will preach in two of PCEA's congregations. In Zimmerman Church, in the north of Nairobi, he will preach twice, the second time with a translation in Kikuyu. Then, on the second Sunday, he will preach at the morning service in Tuum, amongst the Samburu community, in the north of the country.

“In sharing God's word with our brothers and sisters in Christ, I want to show how, as followers of Jesus, we can be confident in Christ, holding on to His words in the scriptures and building our lives and communities that will thrive in the reality of the present world. That we can have confidence in Christ and His promises, is the message I brought to our General Assembly in June, and is my theme for the year, which I have taken to our own congregations across Ireland. PCEA is very much a growing church, and I look forward to listening and learning from them as well,” Dr Mawhinney said.

PCI's first missionary in Kenya served as a chaplain at Thika High School in the 1960s. Today the Church has five Global Mission Workers partnering with PCEA. When Dr and Mrs Mawhinney arrive, they will spend time with Naomi Leremore, her husband Thomas, and children, in Nairobi. Naomi is serving with PCEA's Theological Education by Extension, which has just celebrated its 40th anniversary. Writing theological and educational distance-learning



materials, Naomi has worked for the department for 10 years.

Having taken their leave of the Leremore's, PCI's Stephen and Angelina Cowan will take them north. While the Moderator has known Stephen since his university days, the Cowans have been serving together in northern Kenya, working with the Samburu and Turkana people, through Church-based community development and outreach programmes since 1989. This includes introducing the Bible and Jesus in a relational way.

Travelling around 240 miles to Tuum, they will break their journey in Rumuruti, and make a courtesy visit to the headquarters of the local presbytery that the Cowans are based in. They will spend the next four days meeting those involved in various aspects of the Samburu Awareness and Action Programme that Stephen and Angelina run.



For the final part of his overseas visit, the Moderator and his wife will take an African Inland Mission internal flight south to the Keekorok Airstrip in the Masai Mara, to the south west of Nairobi, where Global Mission Workers Gary and Mary Reid will welcome them. The Reids first went to Kenya in the year 2000 and have been working in the Olkinyiei area since 2005. They are currently working with PCEA in church planting, outreach and literature distribution, among the Maasai people in their spiritual heartland.

“I know that the Moderator and Karen have been looking forward to spending time with our Global Mission Workers in different parts of the country for a long while, as well as bringing the greetings of our Church to the Presbyterian Church of East Africa,” said Rev Uel Marris, Secretary to PCI’s Council for Global Mission, which organised the visit, and was himself a Global Mission Worker with PCEA from 1989-1998.

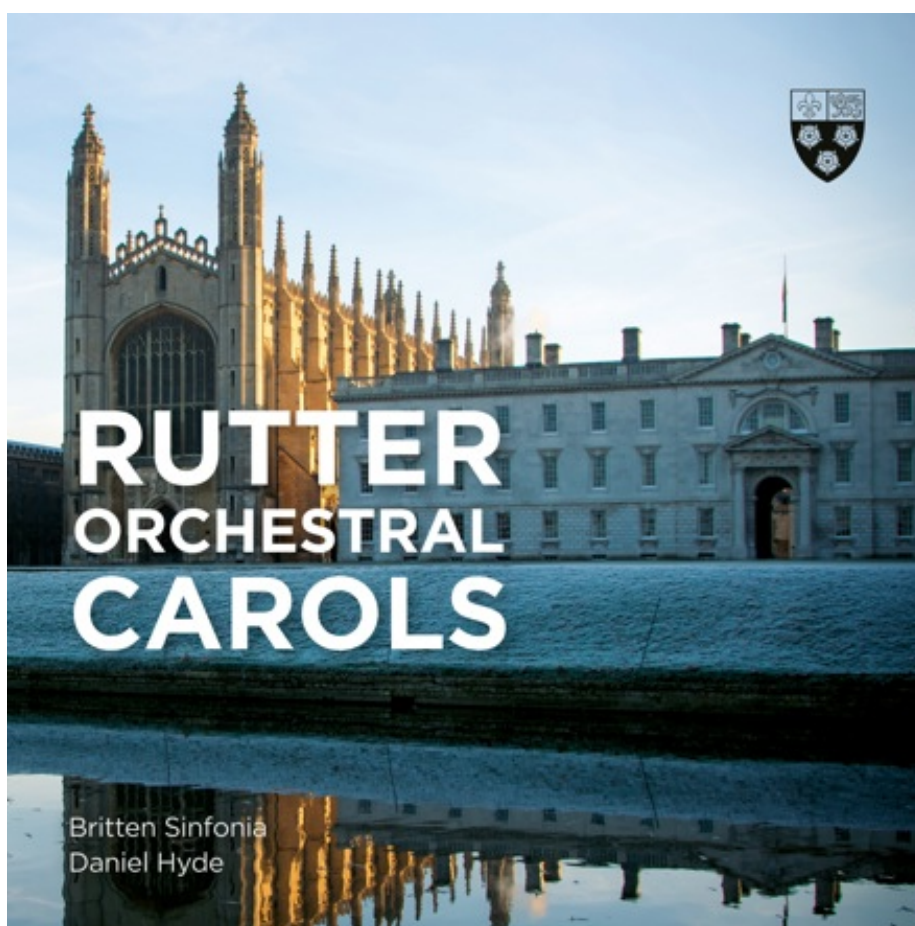
“Opportunities to strengthen and support our longstanding partnerships on visits like this, are really important, as is the valuable time that is spent with our Global Mission Workers, seeing their work first-hand. They are also a pastoral visits, and this particular one is an opportunity to spend time with them, especially in the aftermath of the Covid pandemic,” Mr Marris said.

Before he left, Dr Mawhinney concluded by saying that having worked in Kenya for a short while as a doctor, he returned the following year leading a PCI youth team to support the Cowans and Uel Marris. “While Karen and I know and love Kenya, having returned again in 2008, this

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will be a very different kind of visit. Continuing to build relationships with the Presbyterian Church of East Africa, while coming alongside our Global Mission Workers, will be important. It will also be a special time to see how God is building His Church globally, especially as PCEA has doubled in size over the last three decades. It will also be a time to listen and learn,” he said.

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



### Rutter Orchestral Carols

The forthcoming release from the Choir of King's College, Cambridge! Conducted by Daniel Hyde, the choir brings to



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life a selection of arrangements and original works for choir and orchestra by John Rutter, alongside Britten Sinfonia.

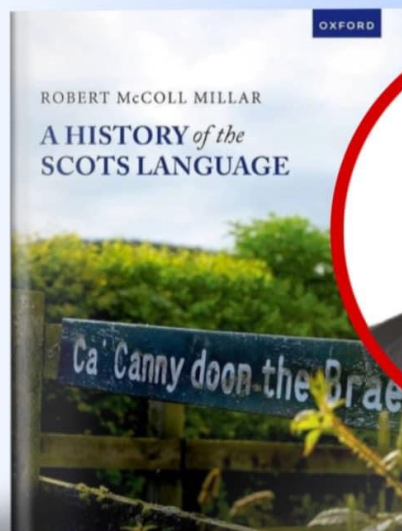
Hear the latest single here:

<https://lnk.to/RutterOrchestralCarols>.



# UNITY IN DIVERSITY

**THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF THE SCOTS LANGUAGE**



**Friday 24th November, 2.30PM**  
**Discover Ulster-Scots Centre, Belfast**

## The Past, Present and Future of the Scots Language

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Ulster-Scots Community Network has announced that it is hosting a talk by Professor Robert McColl Millar on The Past, Present and Future of the Scots Language during Ulster-Scots Leid Week.

Robert McColl Millar is Professor in Linguistics and Scottish Language at Aberdeen University, and has recently published his new book “A History of the Scots Language”. This talk will be about the Scots language and its place both in Scotland and in Ulster.

The talk is on Friday 24th November at 2.30PM, at the Discover Ulster-Scots Centre in Belfast. This is a free event, and light refreshments will be provided.

## **Songs Of Praise Young Chorister of the Year**

For the next three weeks on Songs Of Praise we'll be celebrating young voices as Aled Jones hosts the BBC Young Chorister of the Year. This Sunday it's the turn of the Juniors. Watch their joyful semi-final on Sunday 19th Nov 2023 at 1.15pm on BBC One and afterwards here BBC iPlayer <https://bbc.in/3sDRuxW>

# **Church News Ireland**



## Perspective

### The Christian writings of C S Lewis made sense to Anne Hegerty

**Anne Hegerty, star of quiz shows The Chase and Beat The Chaser, is famous for her knowledge and intelligence.**

Yet when this very clever woman looked into the evidence for the Christian faith, she admitted: “I couldn’t come up with any arguments against it.”



Speaking to the Salvation Army’s War Cry magazine, she recalled: “I became a Christian because, in my teens, I read a lot of the Christian writings of C S Lewis, a professor and

children's author, and thought: 'This all makes sense to me.'”

It's maybe not surprising that her route to faith in Jesus was through logical arguments. Anne has been open about the problems of living with Asperger's syndrome, one of which is having difficulty relating to emotions. She thinks this played a part: “My faith is intellectual rather than emotional, and that's because I'm not a terribly emotional person...

“For me, the most important bit about Christianity is when Jesus says: ‘I am the way, the truth and the life.’ I keep focusing on the word ‘truth’. Some people believe things because they find them comforting, but... I have to know that this stuff about Jesus actually happened. And I do believe it happened – because you couldn't make it up. It seems so plausible to me.”

When Anne meets people who don't believe, all the arguments do is strengthen her faith, because “I know that I can defend it... in my mind, Jesus is the incarnate God - God in a human body – that's central and essential to me.”

## Poem for today

### At Day-Close in November

by Thomas Hardy

The ten hours' light is abating,  
And a late bird wings across,  
Where the pines, like waltzers waiting,



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Give their black heads a toss.

Beech leaves, that yellow the noon-time,  
Float past like specks in the eye;  
I set every tree in my June time,  
And now they obscure the sky.

And the children who ramble through here  
Conceive that there never has been  
A time when no tall trees grew here,  
That none will in time be seen.

## 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)

