

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – Buckets of praise for Kingspan**

November 24, 2023

## Image of the day



## Buckets of praise for Kingspan

Christian Aid Ireland says - “We have buckets of praise for the wonderful supporters who carried out a collection for us ahead of last Friday night's rugby match at the Kingspan stadium in south Belfast.

“And we’re grateful to all the rugby fans arriving at the match who donated almost £600 to help us ‘tackle’ poverty in some of the world’s poorest countries.

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“If you'd like to 'try' your hand at fundraising, we'll be back at Ravenhill on Saturday 2 December from 4.15 until 5.15. Just drop Kaye an email on [ksteele@christian-aid.org](mailto:ksteele@christian-aid.org) to let her know you'll be coming along”.

## People and places

### Methodist World Development online Gifts for Life shop now open

**Gifts start from just £10/€12 and include goats for women in Nepal, educational resources for children in Zambia, seeds and watering can for farmers in Ghana and so much more!**

Every Gift for Life has the potential to bring hope and transformation to some of the world's poorest communities.

Shop now and make this Christmas extra special!  
<https://irishmethodist.org/world-development-shop>

### Celebrating lay ministry in Cork

**Nearly 350 people gathered in Saint Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork on Sunday 19th November at the invitation of the Bishop, the Right Reverend Dr Paul Colton, to celebrate lay ministry in the Diocese.**

“While we celebrate, affirm, equip and value lay ministry every day in the Diocese”, said Bishop Colton, “It is good, from time to time, to come together for a special celebration



**A CELEBRATION OF  
LAY MINISTRY  
IN  
CORK, CLOYNE AND ROSS**



**ST FIN BARRE'S CATHEDRAL, CORK  
19TH NOVEMBER 2023  
7 P.M.**

LICENSING OF TWO NEW READERS  
COMMISSIONING OF FIVE NEW LAY LOCAL MINISTERS  
GIVING THANKS FOR 20 YEARS OF CDYC  
CDYC will lead us in prayers for peace in the world  
COMMISSIONING OF OUR NEW DIOCESAN SECRETARY  
and saying thanks and farewell to our former Diocesan Secretary

such as this. The last time we had this particular event was ten years ago in 2013”.

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People from all areas of Diocesan life attended the service: clergy, lay readers, lay local ministers, members of school and charity boards, teachers, students, church wardens, choirs, select vestries, youth groups, volunteers, office staff, and many more.

At the service, the Bishop also commissioned five new Lay Local Ministers, the newly elected Cork Diocesan Youth Council, a new Diocesan Secretary and licenced two new Diocesan Lay Readers.

## Postcards from the Moderator



**The Moderator Dr Sam Mawhinney and his wife Karen are on a 15-day overseas visit to Kenya, a trip that will**



**no doubt bring back memories for the former doctor who worked in PCEA's Kikuyu hospital.**

Each year, Moderators undertake an overseas visit. The 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.

**Here are two blogs the Moderator has written during his trip:**

**[A slice of life - lost luggage](https://bit.ly/3SPSJF4)**

**<https://bit.ly/3SPSJF4>**

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## **Slow down and turn down the volume**

<http://bit.ly/3RaPtCW>

## **New role in Salisbury diocese for Belfast minister**

**The Rev'd Gerry Lynch will be inducted and licensed as the new Team Rector of the Wellsprings Benefice by the Bishop of Ramsbury on Tuesday 30 January 2024 at 7 pm in St Mary's, Potterne, SN10 5NF.**

“There is no hard requirement for those attending to book, but it would help us enormously to organise catering and parking if attendees could RSVP to [sheilagover@hotmail.com](mailto:sheilagover@hotmail.com)—we hope that as many people as possible will come along to welcome Gerry into his new role”.

## **Change and redevelopment in Protestant secondary schools**

**A recent seminar, co–hosted by the Church of Ireland Centre at DCU and the Educational Studies Association of Ireland (ESAI), helped to tell part of the story of the establishment and evolution of Protestant comprehensives and encourage more interest in this area of school life in today’s Ireland.**

Speaking at the event at Dublin City University’s Purcell House on Friday, 27th October, Dr Ken Fennelly, who



serves as Secretary to the General Synod’s Board of Education, shared a story of three parts from his own PhD research into the history of Protestant boarding schools:

1. Before – how education policy developed in the 1950s;
2. During – closures, amalgamations, mergers and moves in the 1960s;
3. After – the emergence of new and enlarged schools.

Irish post–primary education in the first full decade after the Second World War was characterised by a classical curriculum, limited second level attendance and transfer into third–level education, a division between technical and academic schools, fee–charging, and poorly maintained buildings.

Some indicators of change were already apparent by 1955 with endowments dwindling or being impacted by inflation, limited school sizes with denominational boundaries limiting the ability to grow the income from fees, and reduced grants from the State.

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The employment of non-Protestant teachers became a necessity due to demographic change and, by 1960, State grants for meeting building costs were only available to schools with more than 150 students.



# Community Carol Service

**Thursday  
7th December 2023  
from 7pm**

**St. Macartan's Cathedral,  
Clogher**

Festive refreshments served  
from 6.30pm – 7pm

Local Choirs and Musicians taking part.

The town's Christmas Lights will  
be switched on during the service.

Augher & Clogher  
Cancer Focus Group.

Donations in support of



**Cancer  
Focus**  
NORTHERN IRELAND



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All of this was increasingly discussed in the pages of the Church of Ireland Gazette and at General Synod, which established an Advisory Committee on Second Level Education in 1962. This comprised key figures in industry, business, economics and the Church – and Methodist, Presbyterian and Quaker counterparts – and the status of its members played a major role in persuading schools to change. They also had access to research into Irish education undertaken by the OECD, and education and economic development become linked in the minds of the Church of Ireland's leadership.

Change was also happening elsewhere in the Church with the number of its primary schools decreasing from 500 in early 1960s to 200 in the early 1980s, with amalgamations being highly dependent on school transport services. The Administration report brought to General Synod in 1967 arose from much debate about the Church's structures and resourcing.

The Advisory Committee's report in 1965 – “a red line year for change” – affirmed what schools had achieved with inadequate funding and facilities but stated that “unless radical steps are taken immediately, the present schools will not be able to provide our children with an education equal to that available to the rest of the nation, or up to European standards.”

The appointment of Dr Kenneth Milne as the first full-time Secretary of the Board of Education, in February 1963, led to the Church having a major resource in the negotiations on school mergers and amalgamations and also the deal to deliver a block grant for Protestant secondary students.

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Even before regional meetings in 1965 and 1966 to consider change, several schools were exploring and acting on the possibility of merging and rebuilding.

With a scattered population, boarding was considered essential not just for continuing to provide education with a Church of Ireland (or other Protestant) ethos but also for the minority community's social cohesion. It was agreed that grant aid could be used to subsidise boarding fees but the cost of providing boarding accommodation was regarded by the Department of Education as a private concern; some schools borrowed significantly to provide boarding facilities.



# Advent Talks 2023

Saint Mary's, Haymarket, Carlow R93 YW77

FREE Admission

This series will be introduced by **Bishop Adrian Wilkinson**, Bishop of Cashel Ferns and Ossery at our 30th November event.



**Thursday 30th November, 7.30pm - Fr. Peter McVerry**

Founder of the McVerry Trust, Advocate of the Homeless, Justice and Peace Campaigner



**Thursday 7th December, 7.30pm - Leona O'Callaghan**

An acute abuse survivor, who has used her trauma and pain to support and assist others. She is the founder of the Haven Hub Support Network. She offers hope, light in time of great calamity and trauma.



**Thursday 14th December, 7.30pm - Concert with Carlow Community Choir and their Director, Mary Amond O' Brien**

This event promotes the well-being benefits of group singing and is sponsored by the Church of Ireland Mind Matters Initiative/Campaign.



**Sunday 17th December, 7.30pm Bernard Lynch, international LGBTQ+ advocate and campaigner**

Bernard offers incredible insight into incarnation and the meaning of God's Love within our midst



For further information Phone(086) 4113989

Email: [paulfitz1000@hotmail.com](mailto:paulfitz1000@hotmail.com)



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“When the Protestant Block Grant was negotiated,” Dr Fennelly remarked, “it kind of put the wind in the sails of the comprehensive schools because the secondary schools could come together and amalgamate, and they had a funding structure in place.”

The overall number of Protestant second level schools decreased from 46 in 1960 to 25 by 1980 although two would open subsequently – East Glendalough in 1983 and Temple Carrig, in Greystones, in 2012.



## **Bishop Anthony Farquhar’s ecumenical work remembered in Rome**

**The Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity has learned with sadness of the death on 18 November 2023 of Bishop Anthony (Tony) Farquhar.**

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Aged 83, he served as Auxiliary Bishop of Down and Connor, Ireland's second-largest diocese, from 1983 until his retirement in 2015.

Bishop Farquhar served as Chairman of the Commission on Ecumenism of the Irish Episcopal Conference for many years. Bishop Farquhar served as Catholic Co-Chair of the third phase of the International Theological Dialogue between the Catholic Church and the World Communion of Reformed Churches (1998-2005).

He was one of the bishops who took part in the meeting in Mississauga, Canada in May 2000 which led to the establishment of the International Anglican-Roman Catholic Commission for Unity and Mission (IARCCUM). His energy for harmony and deeper friendship between members of different Christian traditions during the violence of the 'Troubles' in Northern Ireland was greatly esteemed throughout the country.

## News reports

### **New Wine leaders pay tribute to late founder**

**Moving tributes have been paid to New Wine founder Bishop David Pytches, who passed away on Tuesday night surrounded by his family.**

He died "after a sustained period of illness", New Wine said in a statement.



Pytches started New Wine with his wife Mary in 1989 and it grew to become a hugely influential charismatic evangelical movement.

Commenting on his passing, current New Wine National Leader, Rich Johnson, said, "We are so thankful to David and his wife Mary for starting New Wine in 1989 as they sought to help churches experience renewal in the power of the Spirit and for all that has happened over the years as a result."

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Former New Wine leaders, John and Anne Coles, paid a joint tribute to Pytches remembering him for his love for Jesus and the Bible, and for his "commitment to personal holiness, his persistence in prayer, his personal prophecies, and his willingness to give away everything with which God blessed him".

"He humbly, lovingly, and courageously pioneered aspects of church life and mission in the power of the Spirit which not only changed his own church and parish, but also became models for hundreds of church leaders and churches around the world," they said.

Vineyard Global Leaders, John and Eleanor Mumford, who were close friends with Pytches, said they were "saddened" by news of his passing.

"For many Christians across this land, and for many far further afield across the world, he was a true Hero of the Faith," they wrote.

"Whether it was as the Anglican bishop of Chile, Bolivia and Peru, or the legendary vicar of St Andrews, Chorleywood he was the bravest of the brave and a true radical as he followed Jesus across land and sea!"

They added, "How many of us within the Vineyard and far beyond, have reason to rejoice over David's life and his friendship, and to thank God for the influence he has had on our own."

## Archbishop Welby Prays for ‘Hope and Life’ from COP28

**In addressing one of his favoured themes, climate change, the Archbishop of Canterbury has invoked the name of Noah, who faced a cataclysmic flood thousands of years ago but found hope and God’s renewed blessings after the flood subsided, Douglas LeBlanc writes in The Living Church**

“Ahead of the Lambeth Conference, we planted olive trees in the garden at Lambeth Palace — one representing every country of the Communion,” Archbishop Welby said in a video message he recorded for COP28. “When I look at them, I remember the story of Noah’s Ark. After the flood, the dove brings the olive branch, which signals new hope and new life. I pray this meeting may be one which brings that hope and life to a fragile and fearful world.”

The 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference is scheduled for November 30 to December 12 in the United Arab Emirates. The conference first met in Berlin in 1995.

Through most of his brief address, Welby explains how the Church of England — alongside other Christians and people of other faiths — tries to lower its carbon footprint.

“Churches and Christians around the world are doing what they can to tackle the crisis. In the Church of England, we have pledged to be a net-zero, carbon-neutral church by 2030. Our investors have decided to exclude fossil fuel companies from our portfolio because they are not acting

fast enough to transition in line with the Paris agreement, despite our repeated attempts at engagement.

“There is much more to be done, domestically and internationally. From commitment to phasing out fossil fuels and developing technology that can deliver clean energy, to delivering on the \$100 billion climate finance promised, and agreeing on a Loss and Damage Fund.”

As Visual Capitalist has reported, citing the Global Carbon Atlas, China accounted for 30.9 percent of carbon emissions in 2021. The United States accounted for 13.5 percent. Another 175 nations, grouped as “Rest of World,” accounted for 21.7 percent. The United Kingdom produces 0.9 percent.

Global Carbon Atlas lists the top 10 sources of fossil fuel emissions as China, the United States, India, the Russian Federation, Japan, Iran, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, and Indonesia.

## In the media

### **NI folk don't need to be told what 'collective punishment' means - Belfast Telegraph**

**Innocent Protestants and Catholics were subjected to it for decades, writes John Lavery**

By now, you're probably sick and tired of the phrase “30th anniversary”. In the context of Northern Ireland's troubled history there have, admittedly, been quite a few of those.

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They include the Shankill and Greysteel massacres and, lest we forget, other victims of a blood-drenched period in late 1993 whose individual deaths don't merit 'atrocious' status but are deserving of our thoughts nonetheless.

In a 24-day section of that horrendous red October, 27 innocent people were murdered.

### **The tsunami of slaughter began on the 6th with the UDA/UFF shooting of Jason McFarlane (20) in a Belfast bar.**

He wasn't a 'regular', but had just got engaged and wanted to celebrate.

Mr McFarlane died in the Royal Victoria Hospital — where he worked as a caterer — three hours after the attack.

The UFF later said they'd planned to kill a lot more people that night (in response to the SDLP's John Hume engaging in peace talks with Sinn Fein's Gerry Adams) but their murder squad's shotgun jammed.

Jason was buried in the suit he'd just bought for his forthcoming wedding; the conflict's bloodiest month for 17 years had begun in earnest.

Yes, you may well have reached saturation level with these anniversaries, but how do you think the 'ordinary people' felt when living through that time?

The surviving victims of the Troubles, who are still coping with physical disablement and PTSD today, don't deserve their suffering to be forgotten.

Back then, however, many people had become anesthetised to evil acts that didn't directly affect them.

I look back now at the barbarity with considerably more revulsion than my inured mind managed at the time.

Greysteel, on the 30th day of that atrocious October was, nevertheless, a watershed of sorts — it would be early December before the next randomly selected civilian casualty was buried.

In fact, over 71% of the 1993 Troubles victims had no connection with security forces or paramilitaries; the highest-ever annual percentage of innocent casualties in NI's history.

This was “collective responsibility”, decades before the appalling death toll in the Middle East brought the phrase back into everyday language.

Our own indiscriminate killers described their actions, euphemistically, as “defending their communities” — a noble cause exemplified by the bombing of shoppers in a fish shop or spraying a packed pub with hot, lethal lead.

I suspect the relatives of three-year-old Johnathan Ball (IRA Warrington Bomb, March 20) and seven-year-old Michelle Baird (IRA Shankill Bomb, October 23) — the youngest victims from that pivotal Troubles year — are finding the daily footage from the Middle East conflict almost unbearable.

{Euphemisms also abound there; e.g, I heard a newsreader describe the blanket bombing of Gazan civilians as “fierce fighting”. Mmm... new-born babies versus US-built F-16s; my money's on the warplanes in that “fierce fight”. End the mass murder for good — not just for a few days — release all innocent hostages/internees, hold your noses and get those thick, partisan fingers out of your communal ears.}

I reached for the word 'pivotal' earlier because Northern Ireland's 1993 death toll was, thank God, unmatched in subsequent years.

Meanwhile, a memorable “wise the bap” moment from November 18, 1993 has, remarkably, never been included in any “30-year anniversary” canon.

It came the day after the notorious NI v Republic 'hate fest' at Windsor Park, and brought good people onto the streets to send a simple message to the terrorists: “enough is enough”.

In the biggest 'joint action' of the Troubles era, hundreds of thousands voted with their feet.

Factories, offices and shops emptied, with staff joining tens of thousands at rallies in central Belfast and elsewhere.

At lunchtime, 30,000 — including yours truly — stood in silence at Donegall Square to remember the victims, recent and otherwise, of these despicable, relentless murder campaigns.

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Earlier that day, 340,000 schoolchildren took part in two-minute silences in assembly halls.

In his city centre address, Terry Carlin (of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions) said, without any hint of irony or sarcasm: “I never imagined I'd see such a crowd at a peace rally in Belfast...”

Indeed: make a call for a nakedly-sectarian gathering back then and there'd be no bother attracting a five-figure turnout. But 'peace'? Pah.

The final Troubles victim of 1993, incidentally, was also the last soldier to be killed in the 'Bandit Country' village of Crossmaglen, south Armagh.

Grenadier Guardsman Daniel Blinco (22) had been on foot patrol prior to being fatally wounded by an IRA sniper.

The immediate aftermath of the Derbyshire native's assassination was witnessed by a local schoolboy called Kenny Donaldson (13), who grew up to become one of Northern Ireland's leading victims campaigners.

Kenny was on air earlier this week, talking about the Darkley Massacre (November 20, 1983), when the INLA/Catholic Reaction Force mercilessly gunned down worshippers singing hymns in the tiny Armagh hamlet's Mountain Lodge Pentecostal Church.

In Northern Ireland, you're never far away from the next grief-laden anniversary.

But these are necessary reminders, not only of how far we've come but what we can never, ever go back to.

## Poem for today

### The Autumn

by Elizabeth Barrett Browning

Go, sit upon the lofty hill,  
And turn your eyes around,  
Where waving woods and waters wild  
Do hymn an autumn sound.  
The summer sun is faint on them --  
The summer flowers depart --  
Sit still as all transform'd to stone,  
Except your musing heart.

How there you sat in summer-time,  
May yet be in your mind;  
And how you heard the green woods sing  
Beneath the freshening wind.  
Though the same wind now blows around,  
You would its blast recall;  
For every breath that stirs the trees,  
Doth cause a leaf to fall.

Oh! like that wind, is all the mirth  
That flesh and dust impart:  
We cannot bear its visitings,  
When change is on the heart.  
Gay words and jests may make us smile,

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When Sorrow is asleep;  
But other things must make us smile,  
When Sorrow bids us weep!

The dearest hands that clasp our hands,  
Their presence may be o'er;  
The dearest voice that meets our ear,  
That tone may come no more!  
Youth fades; and then, the joys of youth,  
Which once refresh'd our mind,  
Shall come as, on those sighing woods,  
The chilling autumn wind.

Hear not the wind view not the woods;  
Look out o'er vale and hill  
In spring, the sky encircled them  
The sky is round them still.  
Come autumn's scathe come winter's cold --  
Come change and human fate!  
Whatever prospect Heaven doth bound,  
Can ne'er be desolate.

## 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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