

Church News Ireland

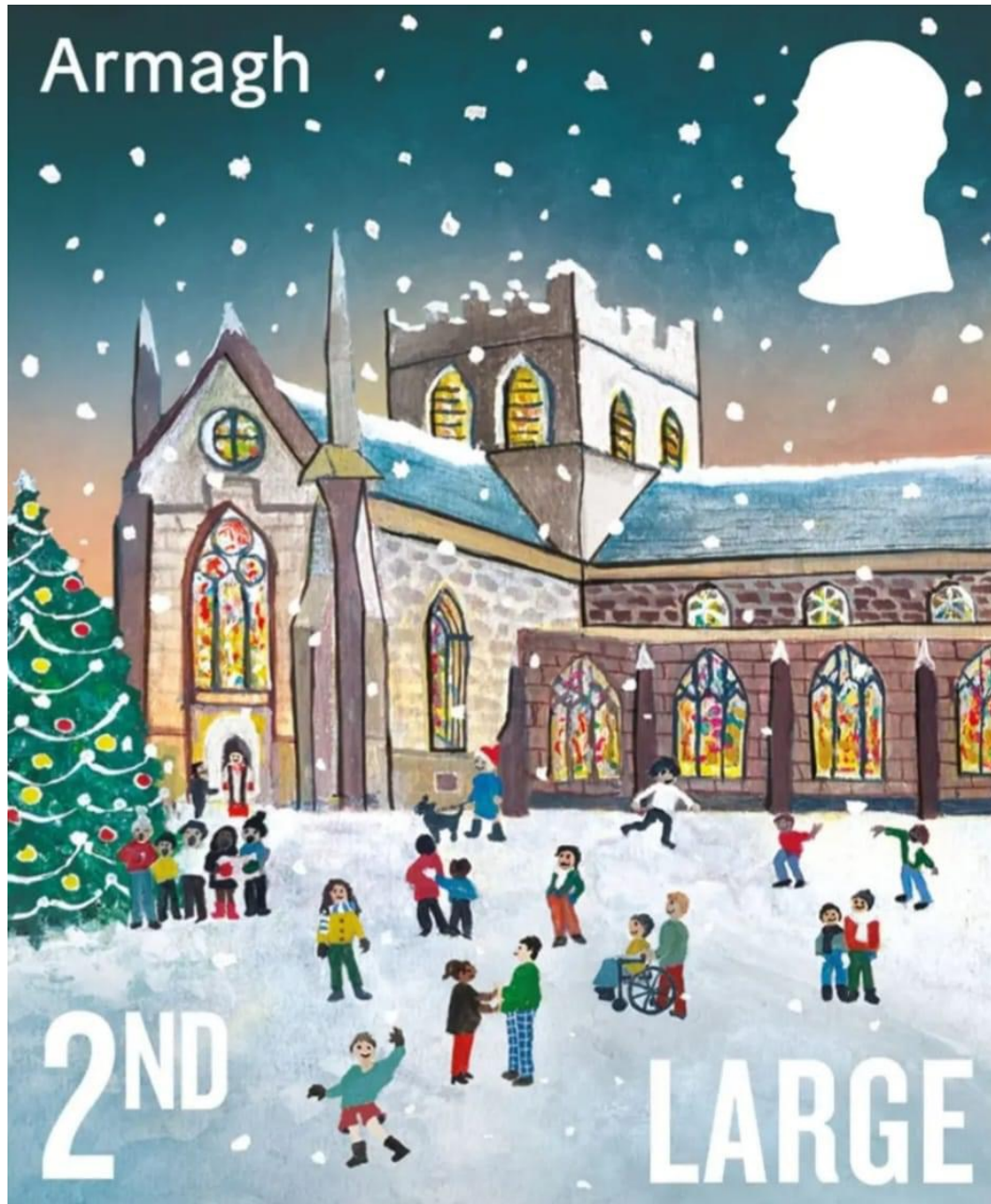


Image of the day – Stamped for Christmas

November 6, 2024

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President of Methodist Church In Ireland visits The Ulster
Another masterpiece in Comber
Visit of Chief Executive of Mothers Union

Cathedral Calls -

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Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books -
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BBC newsroom 'out of control', says former director of
television in anti-Semitism report

Speaking to the soul -

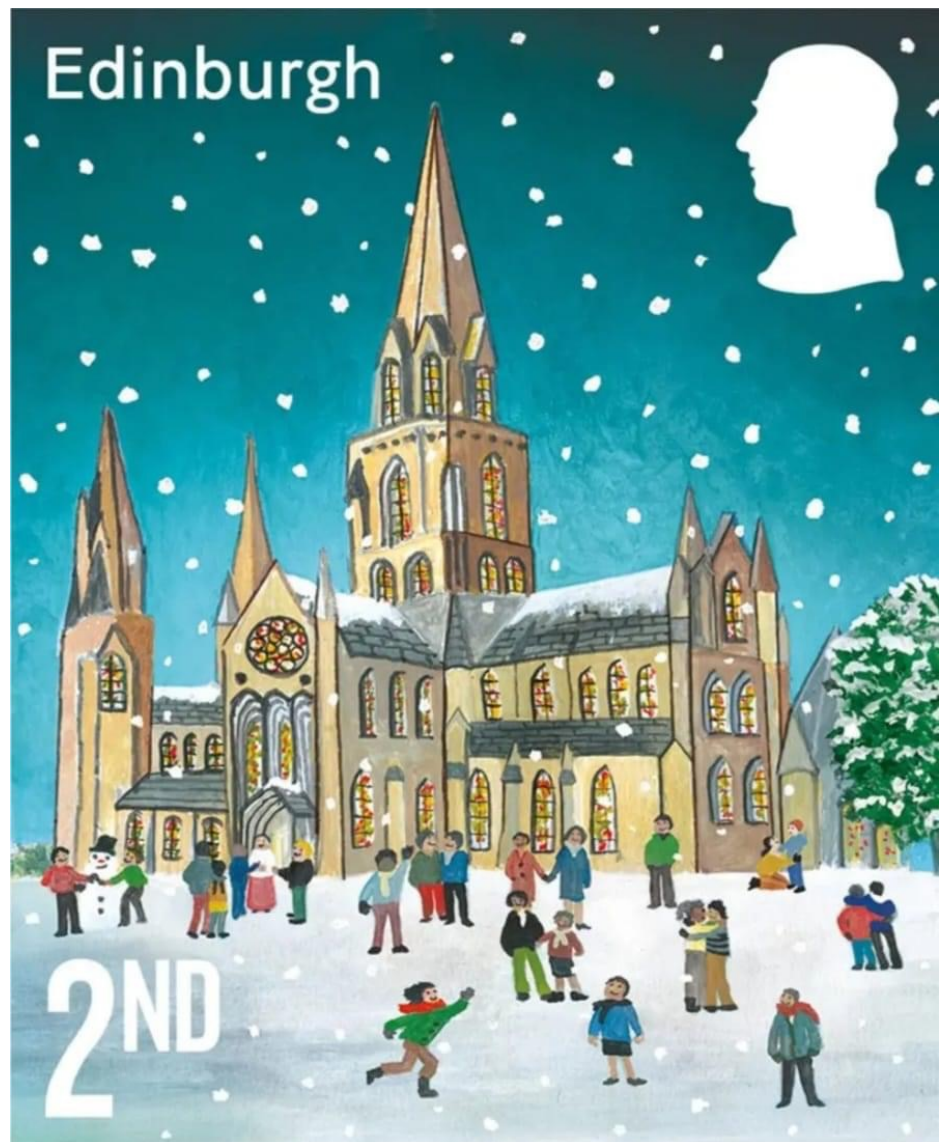
Short reading and a prayer daily on this site

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Image of the day

Sharing
stories of
five
cathedrals
through
the post

We share the good news that St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh, will become more familiar to many people sending and receiving mail this Christmas, we celebrate the stories of all five cathedrals which are being featured in this unique way.



St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh (Church of Ireland)

The Church of Ireland Cathedral of St Patrick in Armagh stands on the hill from which the city derives its name: Ard Macha, or the Height of Macha. Patrick, originally from western Britain, came to Armagh in the 5th century and was said to have established here the Great Stone Church, which he ordained should have pre-eminence over all the

churches of Ireland. To this day, Armagh remains the ecclesiastical capital of Ireland.

The building has been destroyed and rebuilt on at least 17 occasions, with the construction of the current cathedral beginning in the 13th century. St Patrick's boasts fine stained glass and monuments and is known for its choral music tradition, going back over a thousand years.

There are two cathedrals in Armagh dedicated to St Patrick. The Church of Ireland one can be recognised by its low, square tower, while the Roman Catholic one has twin spires. They sit on opposite hills, but a Cathedrals' Partnership links the two congregations and aims to make the two iconic buildings symbols of mutual understanding, reconciliation and hope. At Christmas, the message proclaimed from Armagh is the same as that of the angels over Bethlehem: "Peace on earth, goodwill to all people."

St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Edinburgh
Liverpool Cathedral
St Deiniol's Cathedral, Bangor
Westminster Cathedral

The stamps, and a range of collectible products, are available to pre-order at www.royalmail.com/christmas2024 and by telephone on 03457 641 641. A Presentation Pack including all five stamps is priced at £10.35.

News

President of Methodist Church In Ireland visits The Ulster

South Eastern Trust Chaplaincy team welcomes Methodist Church in Ireland President to Ulster Hospital

The Chaplaincy Team in the South Eastern Trust was delighted to welcome the President of the Methodist Church in Ireland, Rev Dr John Alderdice, to the Ulster Hospital.

During his visit, Dr Alderdice had the opportunity to tour the hospital's Acute Services Block and Inpatient Ward Block, including the new Sanctuary, which is due to open shortly.

Dr Alderdice met with Jeff Thompson, Assistant Director of Patient Experience and Tony O'Hara, Senior Manager, Patient Experience, along with members of the Trust's 20-strong Chaplaincy Team.

This diverse team includes Methodist, Maternity, and Catholic Chaplains, all led by Lead Chaplain, Rev Don Gamble. The Chaplaincy Team plays a vital role in supporting patients, their families, and staff across the South Eastern Trust.

Dr Alderdice expressed his admiration for the collaborative efforts of the staff, emphasising how they prioritise patient-centred care.

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Another masterpiece in Comber

Mary Tompsett has created another masterpiece in Comber N. Ireland 'Lest we forget' 'At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them'

He said: "It has been great to meet the Chaplains and staff and hear of the work that they are all doing to care for patients. It is heartening to see how the South Eastern Trust keeps holistic care at the heart of everything they do."





Members of Connor Mothers' Union with Bev Julien (right) the Chief Executive of the Mothers' Union from Mary Sumner House at a recent meeting in Dublin

This visit also allowed Dr Alderdice to witness first-hand the crucial role that the Ulster Hospital plays in delivering essential healthcare services to the community.

He was particularly pleased to learn about the training programs for Chaplains through the Internationally Accredited Clinical Pastoral Education Centre

South Eastern Trust Lead Chaplain, Rev Don Gamble said: "We were honoured to welcome Dr Alderdice to the Ulster Hospital and to provide him with the opportunity to see the work of Chaplaincy and Patient Experience in the hospital.



Bev Julien (left) the Chief Executive of the Mothers' Union from Mary Sumner House with June Butler, All-Ireland President of the Mothers' Union.

Dr Alderdice thanked the Chaplains and staff for the work they do in the hospital.”

Dr Alderdice was installed as President of the Methodist Church in Ireland at the Conference in June 2024 and will complete his term at the Conference in 2025.

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A graduate of Queen's University and Sheffield University, he received his PhD from Dublin City University.

He has held various significant roles, including Chaplain to Queen's University and Stranmillis University College, Director of Ministry at the Methodist Theological College, and Superintendent of a large Circuit in South Belfast.

Reflecting on his previous experiences, Dr Alderdice fondly recalled visiting parishioners in the Ulster Hospital during his tenure as Circuit Minister at Richhill and Movilla Abbey in Newtownards.

He was very impressed with the many new and modern facilities which have opened since his last visit.

Cathedral Calls

Bishop David installed at Cathedral of The Isles

The Cathedral of The Isles welcomed the new Bishop of Argyll and The Isles as he was installed into his Cathedral on The Isle of Cumbrae.

The Right Reverend David Railton was previously consecrated in St John's Cathedral, Oban during which he was installed into his cathedra there. This second installation took place in the other Cathedral within the combined diocese on Saturday 26 October.

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Bishop David said: “Despite the cancellation of a retreat on Iona due to the weather conditions, the weather cleared enough to allow for me to travel to Millport, Cumbrae for the annual meeting of the Friends Of The Cathedral Of The Isles. It was a joy to meet the Friends in my new role, and I was privileged to be welcomed as Bishop, and installed as Provost of the Cathedral by the Dean during choral evensong.”

The service was Sung Evensong, using responses by Smith and canticles by Dyson in F, and was led by the Rev Canon Alec Boyd with the Cathedral Choir and included the anthem “Beati quorum via” by Stanford. The Very Rev Margi Campbell, Dean of the Diocese, presided at the installation and Bishop David preached the sermon.

You can read more here.

‘Remembrance’ concert - Ulster Consort commemorate Faure in Armagh C of I Cathedral

Northern Ireland’s ‘newest professional music ensemble’ will be gracing St Patrick’s Cathedral C of I, Armagh with a magical vocal performance as part of a special programme for ‘Remembrance’.

As part of a “60 minutes @ 6” series, Belfast’s Ulster Consort’s outstanding vocal ensemble will allow those attending to experience an incredible 60 minute performance with the evening free to enjoy afterwards on Saturday, November 9.



Regimental Remembrance service in Belfast Cathedral on Sunday.

As part of a “60 minutes @ 6” series, Belfast’s Ulster Consort’s outstanding vocal ensemble will allow those attending to experience an incredible 60 minute performance with the evening free to enjoy afterwards on Saturday, November 9.

Having made its debut with a critically acclaimed rendition of Handel’s Messiah in 2019, the Ulster Consort’s energies are focused on concert performances of the finest works of the Renaissance, Baroque, and Classical periods – working with period instruments and in an historically informed manner – through to the glorious smaller-scaled works of the Romantic era and the 20th century.

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The concert theme of 'Remembrance' connects three core days of remembrance including the 100-year anniversary of the death of foremost French composer, Gabriel Faure; All Soul's Day (November 2) and Remembrance Sunday (November 10).

Founder and Music Director of Ulster Consort, Matthew Owens said: "It just seems an appropriate time to do this kind of programme. We did one last year that focused on another French composer Maurice Duruflé and it went down really well.

"We are very excited to be performing in Armagh for the first time. We are keen to get to lots of different places and Armagh was high on the list.

"And actually we would like to sing in both cathedrals. I am very fond of them both.

"St Patrick's Church of Ireland seemed appropriate partly because one of our singers Adam Reaney was a bass there."

The concert in Armagh is one of several concerts throughout Northern Ireland and contains some of Faure's best-known works, including the Requiem.

'Truly amazing' Ulster Consort commemorate Faure in Armagh COI Cathedral 'Remembrance' concert

Northern Ireland's 'newest professional music ensemble' will be gracing St Patrick's Cathedral COI, Armagh with a

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Added Matthew: “Both of the Requiems by these two composers are two of the most popular and well loved of all classical settings.

“The Faure is very, very beautiful music and quite a lot of people will know it having sung it. It’s quite a popular work to do in choral societies and choirs.”

The event has received valued sponsorship from Dentistry @ Markethill who will also be in attendance on the evening.

Practice Principal and Owner, Dr Paul Reaney said of Ulster Consort: “They are truly amazing, and their talent is of the highest standard anywhere.

“We are keen to provide a well-attended and warm welcome to Armagh.”

The event is due to commence at 6pm on Saturday, November 9, with the performance drawing to a close at 7pm.

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General admission tickets are priced at £15 and can be purchased via Eventbrite -

[\[https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/remembrance-armagh-tickets-777798304667?aff=oddtcreator\]](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/remembrance-armagh-tickets-777798304667?aff=oddtcreator)

or at the door on the evening. Children under the age of 18 attend free.

Clergy and ministry

Derry nun Sister Clare Crockett to be declared 'Servant of God'



**Aged just 33,
Sister Clare
died on April 16**

**2016, when an earthquake struck the home and school
of Servant Sisters of the Mother in Playa Prieta,
Ecuador**

The late Derry nun Sister Clare Crockett is to be given the title of "Servant of God". It is a title afforded to a person whose life and works are being investigated as a candidate for sainthood by the Catholic Church and is the first step in the process.

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Sister Clare's Order, Home of the Mother, informed St Columba's Church, Long Tower of the news.

Sharing the news on social media on Saturday, the Long Tower post read: "We have amazing news to share!

"Our dear Sister Clare Crockett is to be declared 'Servant of God' as her Cause for Beatification will be officially opened at a Ceremony in Alcalá de Henares Cathedral, Madrid, Spain on Sunday 12th January at 5.30pm."

Commissioning of Pioneer Ministers in Newry

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

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

‘Sitting in Bunbeg church, I thought it’d be lovely to be here on Christmas morning’

The parishes of Carrickfin, Bunbeg and Dungloe have welcomed a new face at their Sunday service as Reverend Arthur Burns has been appointed as the new rector, Rebecca Crockett writes in the Donegal News.

Ordained in 2012 by Bishop Ken Good, the Church of Ireland reverend most recently served in Glendermott Church in Derry.

Joined by his wife Norma, a lay reader in the church, Rev Burns told the Donegal News that it was a recent visit to one of the parishes which sparked the appointment.

He said: “I first took services in the three parishes at the end of April. The following Sunday, my wife was taking the service as a diocesan reader. Sitting in Bunbeg church and looking towards the communion table, I thought ‘it’d be lovely to be here on Christmas morning.’ So that was the start of it.”

Rev Burns will now oversee the Churches at Carrickfin St Andrew, Templecrone St Crone and Gweedore St Patrick.

Leading his first official service as rector back on October 13, Rev Burns said he’s been filled with excitement ever since; “After my first Sunday there in charge, I just couldn’t wait for the next Sunday to arrive.”

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You could say that the reverend has had an unorthodox journey to the pulpit.

After leaving school he worked as a sewing machine engineer until joining the Royal Air Force in 1971 at age 20.

Five years later he returned home and later became a psychiatric nurse: “I have a life experience, maybe that some people wouldn’t have. Being a psychiatric nurse, you come across everything, so you have to be able to deal sometimes with a lot of different things.

“However, from 1989, I felt God speaking to me.”

Despite having such rich life experience Rev Burns said on his new appointment that it was the first time he’d visited West Donegal: “Up until Easter, I’d never been down in West Donegal, down in the Gaeltacht area.

“But it is absolutely beautiful. To be honest with you, if we had the weather in Spain, you would never leave!

“I’m really excited about being there, they’re lovely people, and it’s a lovely place to be. Even the other weekend with Storm Ashly, it was still lovely to be there.”

The reverend is taking over from Dean Liz Fitzgerald, who became the first female dean in the Diocese of Derry and Raphoe in 2023.

When asked whether he was nervous at all about taking on the new area, Rev Burns shared: “When I felt called to go there, I prayed continuously about it and I asked for God’s

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guidance. As I've said to people down there, I'm happy to move because I know that he is behind it."

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Tractor The Future

Get ready for a wild and wacky ride through time with Tractor the Future, an uproarious new online comedy series blending Ulster-Scots folklore with an anarchic sense of humour.

Funded by Northern Ireland Screen's Ulster-Scots Broadcast Fund and produced by Triplevision

Productions, the series stars beloved Ulster-Scots social media influencers Donkey 262 and his Da, Big Jimmy, as they take audiences on a time-travelling journey aboard their iconic wee Massey Ferguson Tractor.

In Tractor the Future, Donkey and Big Jimmy are transported to the past, exploring some of Northern Ireland's most cherished myths, legends, and folklore.





From the chilling tale of The Ballygally Ghost to the iconic Aul Lammas Fair, the mystical Spae-Wives, and even the curious Portmuck Mermaid, each episode promises a fresh and funny look at history through the eyes of our dynamic farming duo.

This light-hearted pastiche of Back to the Future spins Ulster-Scots history in a brand-new format, combining slapstick comedy, witty banter, and tongue-in-cheek storytelling. But be warned: with Donkey and Big Jimmy at the wheel, this journey isn't for the faint-hearted! Their no-holds-barred antics will re-imagine what we thought we knew about Ulster-Scots folklore.

With episodes focusing on fascinating topics like Superstitions, Stumpie's Brae, and Bonamargy Friary,



Tractor the Future is a madcap tour of Northern Ireland’s cultural treasures - served with a hefty dose of humour.

“Tractor the Future is a brilliant blend of history and comedy, delivered by two of our most entertaining Ulster-Scots personalities. We wanted to take our heritage and make it fun and accessible, and we think audiences will love the laugh-out-loud approach Donkey and Big Jimmy bring to these legendary tales.” says producer Eamonn Devlin.

“That’s pure class, Hi.” says Donkey.

Series Launch: Coming soon to

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?
list=PLwUMMik6cqLIqBuAgo85as2YoAGQiHXNE](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLwUMMik6cqLIqBuAgo85as2YoAGQiHXNE)

In the media

BBC newsroom ‘out of control’, says former director of television in anti-Semitism report

The BBC newsroom is “out of control”, its former director of television has said, as the corporation faces fresh accusations of bias over its reporting of the Middle East conflict. Gordon Rayner, Associate Editor, writes in the Daily Telegraph

Danny Cohen said the BBC’s reporting had anti-Israeli overtones which were contributing to many Jewish people feeling unsafe in the UK.

In a report into the broadcaster’s recent coverage of the conflict, Mr Cohen points out that an Iranian propagandist was given airtime despite the corporation upholding complaints about a previous appearance he made.

Mohammed Marandi, who has served in the Iranian Revolutionary Guard, has appeared on the BBC twice since the broadcaster admitted a “lapse in editorial standards” over another interview with him in which he accused Israel of genocide. The BBC also devoted 40 minutes to a speech by Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, and gave a platform to a woman who has repeatedly glorified the murder of Jewish people on social media.

Mr Cohen said the BBC had done little to address criticism of its reporting.

“The scale and consistency of the issues suggests that the BBC newsroom is out of control,” he said. “It is very hard to otherwise understand why the corporation continues to make so many errors. The BBC should understand that the bias in their reporting is contributing to an atmosphere in this country in which many Jewish people feel unsafe.”

At the end of September, Mr Cohen produced a report on the BBC’s coverage of the conflict that was endorsed by the Board of Deputies of British Jews, the Jewish Leadership Council and the Community Security Trust. Now Mr Cohen has written an update, in which he says the BBC has continued to portray Israel as the aggressor, to parrot Hamas lines about casualty figures and to give airtime to guests with anti-Semitic views.

Mr Cohen said: “It is hard to believe this would be happening if the interviewee had made racist remarks about any other minority community within the UK. The only explanation can be a lack of management grip or a willingness by BBC journalists to give platforms to anti-Semites.”

The BBC said Mr Marandi was “someone with an insight into the thinking of the Iranian leadership. The programme described him accurately and used a short clip of him to give listeners an understanding of the view from Iran”. On the speech by the Ayatollah, the BBC has said it was “important and editorially relevant” to hear from key players,

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but Mr Cohen said it was difficult to imagine the BBC giving 40 minutes of airtime to a speech by Vladimir Putin to give context to the war in Ukraine. Published 03/11/2024

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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