

Church News Ireland



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Image of the day

Haulbowline Lighthouse by Gaz Drone

Up close and personal with Haulbowline Lighthouse that is located just off Cranfield bay in Carlingford Lough.

Haulbowline Lighthouse is a striking and historic landmark located at the entrance to Carlingford Lough, in County Down, Northern Ireland.

Here's a glimpse of what makes it special:

* **Elegant Design:** It's renowned for its graceful, tapering stone tower, standing tall at 34 meters (112 feet). This elegant structure is a testament to the engineering skills of its designer, George Halpin, who completed it in 1824.

* **Dramatic Location:** Built on a wave-washed rock that's only visible at low tide, Haulbowline Lighthouse braves the elements and the fast currents of the lough. This challenging location adds to its allure and makes it a truly remarkable feat of engineering.

* **Historical Significance:** The lighthouse replaced the inadequate Cranfield Point Lighthouse, which struggled to guide vessels safely through the treacherous rocks and shifting sands of the lough entrance. Haulbowline has faithfully served as a vital navigational aid for almost two centuries, ensuring safe passage for countless ships.

* A Beacon of Light: Its powerful beam, originally a fixed white light and now automated, has guided mariners for generations, warning them of the dangers and welcoming them to the sheltered waters of Carlingford Lough.

Today, Haulbowline Lighthouse remains an active aid to navigation and a captivating sight for those visiting the area. Whether you admire it from afar or take a boat trip to get a closer look, this iconic structure is sure to leave a lasting impression.

News

Anniversary of The Ulster Memorial Tower

**Yesterday in 1921
the Ulster
Memorial Tower,
Thiepval, France
was dedicated and
opened by Field
Marshal Sir Henry
Hughes Wilson,
1st Baronet, GCB
DSO.**



The Tower stands as a lasting legacy and a reminder of the sacrifices of all the sons of Ulster who fought and died in the

A LANDMARK OF ULSTER HEROISM: THE MEMORIAL TOWER AT THIÉPVAL.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY LESTER, PARIS.



A REPLICA OF THE FAMOUS "HILLEN'S TOWER" OVERLOOKING BELFAST LOUGH DESCRIBED BY TENNYSON; THE ULSTER MEMORIAL TOWER AT THIÉPVAL.



THE UNION JACK TO FLY IN FRANCE: THE DUCHESS OF ABERCORN UNROLLING THE FLAG ON TOP OF THE THIÉPVAL MEMORIAL TOWER.



ULSTER'S MOST FAMOUS SOLDIER: FIELD-MARSHAL SIR HENRY WILSON OPENING THE TOWER IN PLACE OF LORD CARSON.

First World War and is Northern Ireland's National War Memorial.

“This Tower is Dedicated to the Glory of God in Grateful Memory of the Officers , Non Commissioned Officers and men of the 36th(Ulster) Division and the Sons of Ulster in others Forces who laid down their lives in the Great War, and of all their Comrades in Arms who by Divine Grace were spared to testify to their glorious Deeds”



UNVEILED BY GENERAL WEYGAND: THE MARBLE TABLET, WITH THE KING'S TRIBUTE TO ULSTERMEN, IN THE CHAPEL WITHIN THE TOWER (70 FT. HIGH).

REPRESENTING HIS CHIEF, MARSHAL FOCH: GENERAL WEYGAND TALKING TO LADY LONDONDERRY AT THE OPENING CEREMONY.

The heroism of Ulster troops in the war is commemorated by the most imposing single monument yet erected on the Western Front, the white memorial tower (70 ft. high) at Thiépyal, opened on November 19 (in the absence of Lord Carson, through illness), by Field-Marshal Sir Henry Wilson, Chief of the Imperial General Staff and Colonel of the Royal Ulster Rifles. In the inner sanctuary, General Weygand, who represented Marshal Foch, unveiled the marble tablet bearing the King's tribute to Ulstermen. After the unveiling, a dedicatory service

was conducted outside by the Most Rev. Dr. d'Arcy, Primate of All Ireland and the Rev. Dr. Lowe, Moderator of the Presbyterian General Assembly. As the dedication service concluded, the Duchess of Abercorn hoisted the Union Jack and the French Tricolour on top of the tower. The Prefect of the Seine announced that the surrounding ground would be left forever intact as it was when fighting ceased. The memorial is a replica of Helen's Tower, built on the hills of Co. Down by the first Lord Dufferin in memory of his mother, as recorded by Tennyson.

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The Tower is modelled on one in the Clandeboye estate near Bangor, Co. Down, where many of those who fought in the war received their initial training.



Royal visit to The Right Stuff project

The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh were in Staffordshire on Monday, where they met volunteers, coaches and boxers at The Right Stuff project.

Founded in 2009, the project aims to tackle youth crime and anti-social behaviour by engaging young people with competitive sport.

At Rising Brook Community Church, Their Royal Highnesses heard more about the resources which the church is providing for the local community.

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The Duke and Duchess helped prepare food for distribution at the church's food bank and met local people who use the centre's services. These include a baby and toddler group, craft classes and youth activities.

'Brick Appeal' launched for new Canice Centre at Eglinton



St. Canice's Parish Church has launched a 'Buy a Brick Appeal' to help it raise the £200,000 needed to fully open its new parish centre in Eglinton.

Construction work is well under way on the new Canice Centre. The building will replace the original hall badly damaged in the August 2017 flood which caused widespread damage to hundreds of homes and scores of businesses in the Northwest.



The local Rector, Rev Canon Paul Hoey, joined Richard Gamble, a director of the building contractors, J. A. Gamble and Co., for a site visit recently, to see how the construction work was progressing (see photographs below). By the time it's completed, the new centre will contain more than 27,000 building blocks "above ground", with a further 5,000 underground.

The Parish is working with the architects and construction firm to ensure that the new building will be attractive and fully accessible. It will have a large hall, a minor hall, a kitchen and a separate youth wing. As well as being used for church activities, the new building will be available for social and educational events, support groups and drop-in sessions. Canon Hoey says it will complement existing community facilities in the village, without in any way seeking to compete with them.

The Parish has announced a number of ways in which parishioners and members of the wider community can



contribute to the 'Buy a Brick Appeal'. You can donate by text (text CENTRE followed by your donation amount to 70085). You can donate up to £20 as many times as you wish. You can also make a direct payment to the building fund account: Danske Bank, Altnagelvin Branch (Sort Code 95-03-83, Account Number 93985482, Name: St Canice's,

Christmas
with
RUTH JENNINGS
& Friends

FRIDAY 13th DEC 2024
7.30 PM
in the Church Halls at
Newtownbreda Presbyterian Church

Proceeds in aid of women's work at home and abroad

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Eglinton). Please include the reference 'CENTRE', followed by your name.

If anyone wishes to discuss other ways of supporting the appeal, please call Canon Hoey on 07712 873322.

Canon Hoey says, "Whether or not you are able to support this appeal, we look forward to welcoming you to the new Canice Centre in the future."

Show solidarity with Christians who are persecuted and discriminated against because of their faith, Archbishop Martin

Archbishop Martin: Pope Francis speaks movingly of an 'ecumenism of blood' uniting all Christians in suffering and shared witness

Ahead of 'Red Wednesday', on 20 November, Primate of All-Ireland Archbishop Eamon Martin urged parishioners to show solidarity with Christians who are persecuted and discriminated against because of their faith.

The Primate's call comes as cathedrals, churches and monuments across Ireland are illuminated in red on Wednesday to mark a special 'Week of Witness' (November 17-24) for those suffering persecution throughout the Church. Red is the traditional colour of martyrdom. The event is organised by the papal charity Aid to the Church in Need, and will include red illumination of the Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh, as well as the basilica at the

International Eucharistic and Marian Shrine in Knock, Co Mayo.

Archbishop Martin said, “Aid to the Church in Need’s ‘Week of Witness’ and ‘Red Wednesday’ are an invitation to Christians across the island of Ireland to stand in solidarity with, and bear witness to, the heroic example of our persecuted brothers and sisters in faith across the world. Pope Francis recently reminded us that one in seven Christians around the world face persecution for their faith in Jesus Christ. It is staggering that some 360 million people do not have the freedom to express their faith, a freedom that we take for granted here.

“Lighting our cathedrals and churches in red on #RedWednesday, and people wearing an item of red clothing, will help shine a light on the reality of Christian persecution across the world, and to highlight the injustices perpetrated against other minority and faith groups. The persecution of Christians, which is often not given the due prominence it deserves in commentary or in discussions around human rights and freedoms, cuts across all denominations and divisions within Christianity. In fact, Pope Francis has spoken movingly about an ‘ecumenism of blood’ uniting all Christians together in suffering and shared witness.

“I thank God for the freedom of worship and religion that we enjoy on this island, a freedom that we did not always enjoy and which is denied so many people in our world today. I recognise that to be like Christ in an increasingly secularised world means being different, counter-cultural,

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and not easily swayed by the prevailing attitudes and opinions around us.

Archbishop Martin concluded, “Thanks to the hard work of Aid to the Church in Need, Ireland, many parishioners across our island are expressing concrete solidarity with those who are suffering. As the Week of Witness and #RedWednesday approaches, I invite you to pray for the gift of courage, the grace of witness and loyalty to Christ for Christians all over the world and especially for those who continue to be challenged, attacked, displaced or even murdered for what they believe in,” he said.



The monument - Photo courtesy The Irish News

St Patrick statue at Saul lit up in red for The Persecuted - Down News

The world's tallest statue of St Patrick has been illuminated in red to highlight the plight of persecuted religious minorities.

The monument at Saul, County Down, Ireland, where St Patrick began his mission in Ireland in 432AD, was lit with the blessing of the Bishop of Down and Connor Alan McGuckian SJ, whose diocese manages the national shrine in Ireland.

This is the first time the imposing monument on Slieve Patrick, which rises from the top of the small mountain to a height of 47 feet has been lit red for the 'Week of Witness' organised by the Catholic Charity, Aid to a Church in Need.

Aid to the Church in Need International (ACN) facilitates the illumination of churches, cathedrals and landmarks around the world, including the Colosseum in Rome to mark Red Wednesday on November 20.

The charity, (ACN International) – which was founded in the aftermath of the devastation of World War II – now supports some 6,000 communities in almost 140 countries reaching some of the most marginalised and vulnerable people in the world.

Bishop McGuckian visited the monument on Slieve Patrick in his red robes, the traditional colour of martyrdom, to inaugurate the lighting of the monument which was

constructed in the 1930s to mark the 1500th anniversary of St Patrick's arrival in 432 to begin his mission.

Slieve Patrick is the highest point at Saul, close to where the patron saint of Ireland established his first church almost 1,600 years ago.

Speaking shortly after at the vigil mass at St Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, just below the monument, Bishop McGuckian told parishioners: "We lit up Patrick's statue tonight and it will remain lit up for the week in solidarity with the Christians persecuted to this day.

"Some people think there could be 250 Christians suffering violence even unto death every single day. There are 50 countries in the world where Christians are regularly persecuted and dying often.

"So this week you will look up at the mountain and you will see it at night all in red. Remember to pray for our brothers and sisters all over the world who at this very moment, this very day, are being persecuted for boasting that 'Jesus Christ is Lord'," he said.

The bishop said the word martyr means 'witness' and encouraged all Christians to witness to the truth.

"There is a great tradition of Christians saying 'Jesus Christ is Lord' and meaning it very, very seriously," said the bishop, "Because Jesus is their life and they know it is so important."

“Please God none of us will have to die for this but it would be wonderful if we were able to live for it. Because if our faith is worth dying for it is all the more worth living for,” Dr McGuckian said.

He said Christians lost their lives for proclaiming ‘Jesus is Lord’ from the beginning of the Church.

“Men, women and children in their droves died because they would not stop saying ‘Jesus Christ is Lord’ and that is part of our story. The important thing is that not just that we resist but that this boast of ours ‘Jesus Christ is Lord’ touches our hearts because we know we have a God who is close to us and who loves us,” he said.

He added: “As you know, in this place that we live, it was around here that this boast was first heard in Ireland. It was here that Patrick said ‘Jesus Christ is Lord’ and he invited our ancestors and now us to share in the mission and the boast.”

The Bishop spoke of Fr Ragheed Ganni, who served in Down and Connor, and was killed in 2007 after Mass, along with others, when he returned to his native Iraq and insisted on celebrating the Eucharist.

He recalled a priest from Nigeria, working in the Diocese of Raphoe in Co. Donegal, who regularly received reports of priests and catechists and other Christians being killed back home.

He also referred to images of 21 Coptic Christians, construction workers, who were kidnapped and killed in

Libya by Isis in 2015 because they would not deny that 'Jesus is Lord'. "They boasted Jesus Christ is Lord and they died."

Michael Kelly, Director of Public Affairs for Aid to the Church in Need, Ireland, said St Patrick's monument was ideal to illuminate as the famous saint was himself persecuted during his mission, while some of his converts were martyred.

"In the 21st Century, you might be forgiven for assuming that religious tolerance and freedom are universally recognised and respected.

"However, Christians across the globe continue to face varying degrees of persecution, discrimination, and hostility. While the nature and intensity of this mistreatment differs from region to region, the phenomenon remains disturbingly widespread, affecting millions of believers in both overt and subtle ways."

Cathedral Calls

Love in the air at St Canice's Cathedral and Round Tower

Niraj and Alessa got engaged at the top of the round tower!

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They are originally from India and Portugal and met at Trinity. Niraj is now working at Glanbia.

“It was lovely to meet them afterwards where they picked up a keepsake of the special day from our gift shop”. Visit Kilkenny.ie Ireland's Ancient East.



Clergy and ministry

Fr. Des Campion

Mark Mellett writes - I am deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Fr. Des Campion, a true servant of compassion and dedication.

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For over three decades, Fr. Des faithfully ministered as Naval Service Chaplain, offering unwavering support to the Naval Service, Air Corps, Department of Defence, their families, and anyone in need of guidance or solace. His service extended far beyond home shores—he accompanied missions at sea and abroad, always bringing a guiding light and a steady hand to those around him.

Fr. Des was more than a chaplain; he was a source of strength, a voice of wisdom, and a comforting presence for serving personnel, retirees, and civilians alike. His legacy is one of kindness, faith, and selfless devotion.

Chomhbhrón ó chroí ar bhás ár gcara dílis. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis. Fair winds and following seas, Fr. Des. You were truly a saint among us.

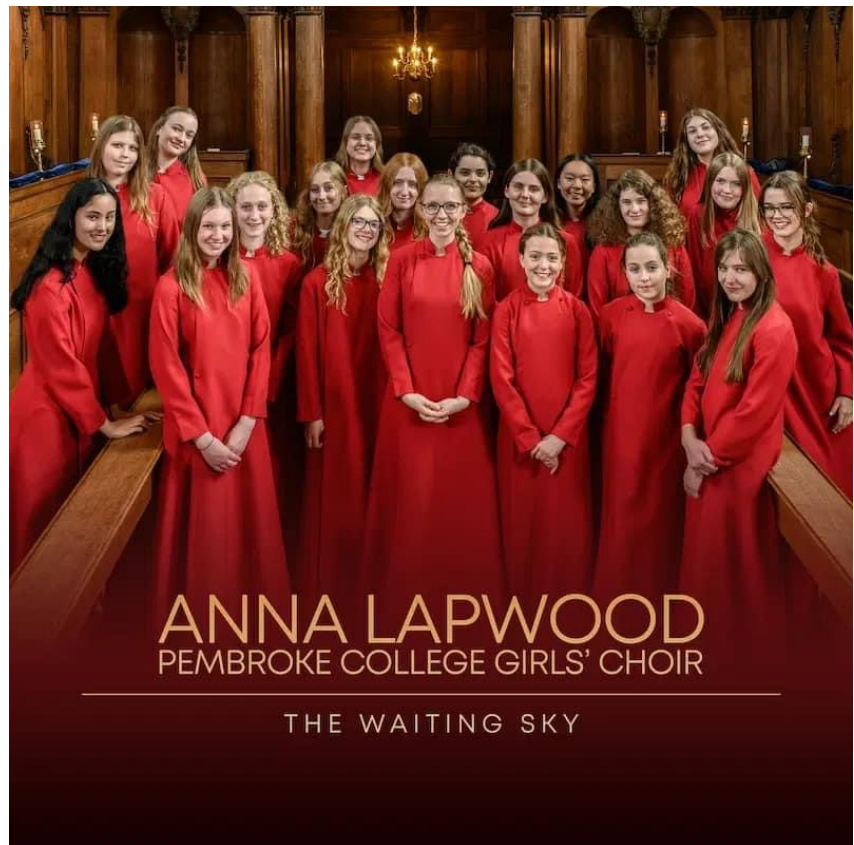
Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



**John Rutter
producer
for Anna
Lapwood
and
Pembroke
College
Girls' Choir**

November 20, 2024

“It was an unexpected pleasure to be invited earlier this year by my young colleague Anna Lapwood to serve as recording producer for her new album with the excellent Pembroke College Girls' Choir. It's full of good things!” JR



You can listen to the full EP, The Waiting Sky, on your chosen streaming service here:

<https://annalapwood.lnk.to/TheWaitingSky>



Hugh Warwick

BBC Radio Ulster Sunday morning service from Castlecaulfield

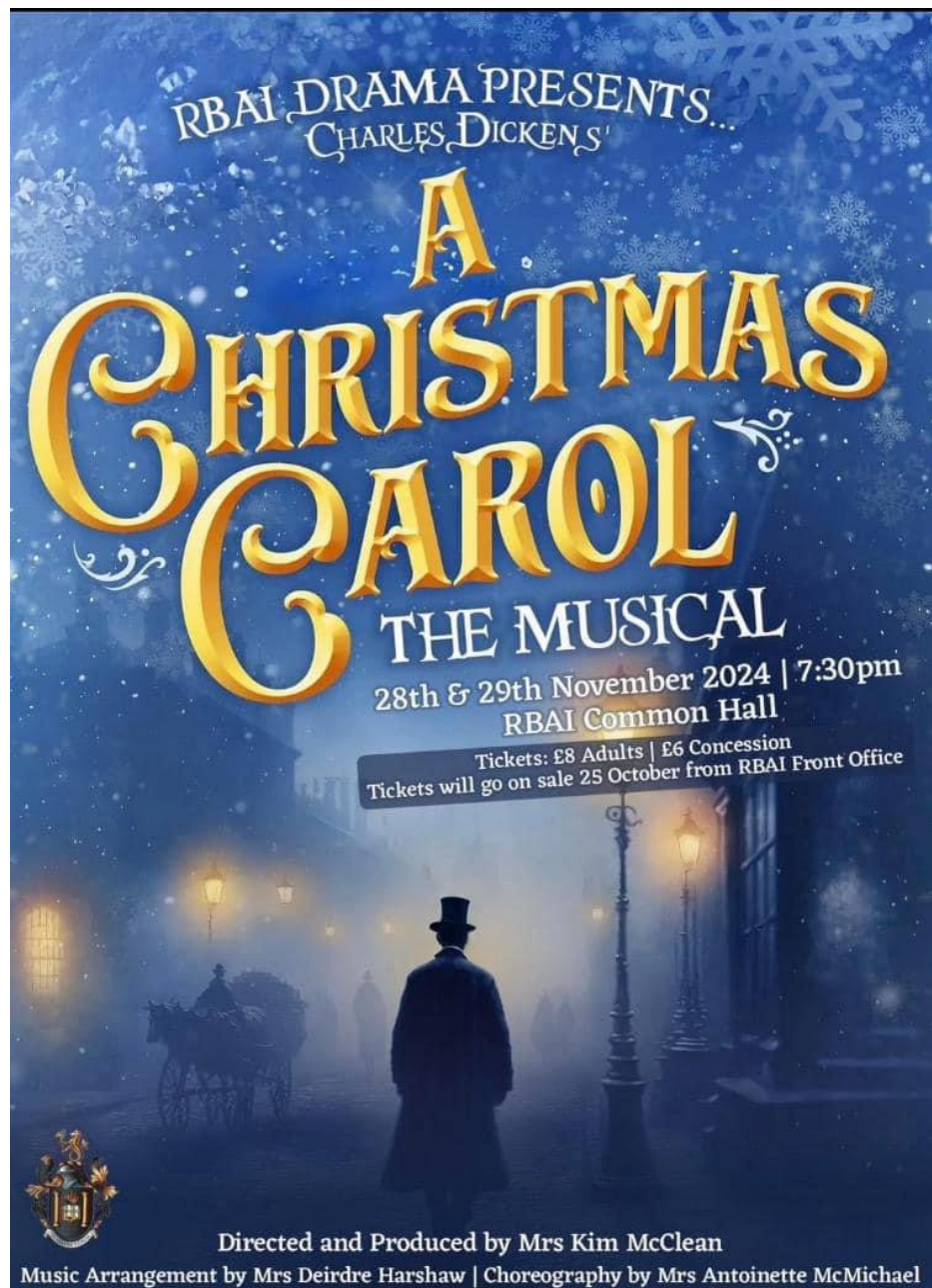
This Sunday's morning service (24th November) on BBC Radio Ulster and Radio Foyle will come from St Michael's Church, Castlecaulfield, County Tyrone, in the Diocese of Armagh. The service will be led by the Ven Dr Peter Thompson, Archdeacon of Armagh and Rector of Castlecaulfield and Donaghmore. The programme will be broadcast just after the 10 o'clock news and will be available

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for listening
back
afterwards on
the BBC
website.

A Christmas Carol - the musical

**RBAI Drama
(In
collaboration
with VCB)
presents
Charles
Dickens' 'A
Christmas
Carol - the
musical'**



Thursday 28th November & Friday 29th November, RBAI
Common Hall

7pm-7.30pm: The Dickensian Experience. Step into our
lower foyer in the Common Hall and be greeted by
traditional carollers and mini London market stalls. 7.30pm:
Show begins

Stalls will include:

- RBAI Christmas postcards £2

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- RBAI Christmas gift wrapping stickers £2 for 4 stickers
- Traditional Victorian sweets £2 per bag (from Taylor's Ice cream & Confectionery)
- "A Christmas Carol" souvenir programmes £3
- Victorian photo station £1

Just like the traditional London market scene we will be operating cash-only sales; please bring change if possible.

Please join us for hot mince pies, tea and coffee during the interval at 8.20pm in the Dining Hall. Refreshments are included in the price of your ticket.

Tickets are on sale from the the RBAI front office. Adult £8, Concession £6

We look forward to seeing you there, Mrs McClean & Mrs Harshaw

Church Times online Advent Retreat

Through Darkness to Light: Advent Journeys. Saturday 30 November, 10am-1pm

Join this online Advent retreat for a morning of worship and reflection. Watch live from 10am or set your own time for retreat and watch the recording later. Speakers include Paula Gooder, Ally Barrett, Mark Oakley, Richard Carter, Rachel Mann & Andrew Rudd.

Mark Oakley is the Dean of Southwark. He is a Visiting Lecturer in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies, Kings College London; Visiting Scholar at Sarum College, an Ambassador for StopHate UK, Patron of Tell

MAMA (supporting those affected by anti-Muslim hate crime) and a Trustee of the Civil Liberties Trust. His books include *By Way of the Heart: the Seasons of Faith*, *My Sour Sweet Days* and *The Splash of Words* which won the Michael Ramsey Prize.

Rachel Mann is a priest, award-winning poet and writer. She has written 15 books, including an Advent book based on Jane Austen's novels, *A Truth Universally Acknowledged*. Her latest book, *Do Not Be Afraid* is the Archbishop of York's Advent book for 2024. She is Archdeacon of Salford and Bolton in Manchester Diocese and a Visiting Fellow in the Manchester Writing School. She contributes to *Thought For the Day* on Radio 4 and *Pause For Thought* on Radio 2.

Paula Gooder is one of the UK's most popular speakers and writers on the Bible and is passionate about making biblical scholarship accessible to a wide audience. She is Chancellor of St Paul's Cathedral and runs its extensive programme of educational events. Her many books include a series on the seasons of the Christian year, *Journey to the Manger*, *Journey to the Empty Tomb*, and *The Parables* in the *Biblical Explorations* series. Blending her critical skills with her love of storytelling, Paula has imaginatively recreated the lives of biblical women in *Phoebe*, *Lydia*, *Women of Holy Week* and the forthcoming *Women of the Nativity*.

Ally Barrett is renowned for her creative approaches to preaching and liturgy through reflective practice, multisensory learning and improvisation. With a background in music and the arts, she is a keen painter and singer, and an award-winning hymn-writer. Ally has served

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as a parish priest in the UK and as a children's minister in the US, and was tutor and Director of Pastoral Studies at Westcott House before taking up her present role of Chaplain of St Catherine's College, Cambridge. She is the author of *Preaching with All Ages*.

Richard Carter is a priest at St Martin-in-the-Fields in London's Trafalgar Square and leader of its Nazareth Community. He is the author of the bestselling *The City is My Monastery* and *In Search of the Lost*, a moving first-hand account of loss and grief after the violent deaths of seven members of a religious order in the Solomon Islands.

Andrew Rudd is a poet and teacher. He is the author of *The Quiet Path: contemplative practices for daily life* (Canterbury, 2024). He leads retreats and offers spiritual direction. Andrew was poet in residence at Manchester Cathedral from 2017-2022 and is a Reader in the Church of England.

Tickets are £20, or £10 for Church Times subscribers. If you are in a group of 10 or more, please purchase a group ticket.

[<https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/through-darkness-to-light-advent-journeys>]

In the media

Politicians must not rush into a decision on assisted dying

Daily Telegraph - Questions continue to mount over Labour MP Kim Leadbeater's Private Members' Bill, which if passed would see the introduction of assisted dying in Britain.

A new report from the think tank Policy Exchange highlights that experience overseas should give us pause for thought before rushing ahead. As the report sets out, events in Canada provide “a revealing and ongoing illustration of the slippery slope” inherent in such proposals, and the tendency for the scope of the legislation to expand with time and interpretation.

As former chief coroner of England and Wales Thomas Teague KC wrote in endorsement, many of the promised safeguards amount to “nothing more than arbitrary restrictions” which would be subject to a “logically inexorable” erosion over time. Baroness Grey-Thompson, meanwhile, notes that the proposed legislation would “fundamentally alter the political and societal landscape for disabled people”.

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/opinion/2024/11/17/mps-should-tread-carefully-on-assisted-dying-kim-leadbeater/>

Archbishop of York should resign over safeguarding concerns

Daily Telegraph - The Archbishop of York should resign over his failure to act over safeguarding concerns in the Church, a second abuse inquiry leader has said.

The Most Rev Stephen Cottrell faces mounting pressure to quit as abuse survivors and safeguarding advocates within the Church of England question his commitment to improving its handling of abuse allegations.

Calls for him to resign have grown since the Archbishop of Canterbury stepped down last week over his failure to report concerns about the prolific serial abuser John Smyth to the police.

The Most Rev Justin Welby's second-in-command is now facing calls to go over accusations he "frustrated" an abuse review and neglected 11 serious safeguarding cases where accused clergy might still pose a risk.

Steve Reeves, a consultant hired by the Anglican Church to lead its Independent Safeguarding Board (ISB) review of abuse handling, has urged Archbishop Cottrell to resign.

Mr Reeves told The Telegraph that the Archbishop of York is unfit for such high office, claiming there is "no evidence" he has prioritised victims of Church abuse.

He said: "If your assumption is that people in positions of authority and leadership should place children and vulnerable people at the forefront of their decision-making, I can see no evidence that he does that and therefore I don't think he should be in a leadership position."

His appeal echoes former ISB member Dame Jasvinder Sanghera's comments made on Sunday, who claimed the archbishop had "ignored" victims and was "complicit" in their harm.

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<http://digitaleditions.telegraph.co.uk/data/1888/reader/reader.html?social#!preferred/0/package/1888/pub/1888/page/44/article/NaN>

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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

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