

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – Cork schools commemorate**

October 10, 2023

# Image of the day



## Cork schools commemorate

As part of the commemorative events for the 1400th anniversary of the death of St Fin Barre, the Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, the Right Rev. Dr Paul Colton prepared a set of presents for each primary school pupil in the diocese.

During special assemblies for the commemoration, the pupils were presented with specially made notebooks





and stickers of St Fin Barre. They also watched a short video message from Bishop Paul in which he told them about the life of St Fin Barre and his importance for the City of Cork and County Cork.

Each school then had their own events to commemorate the death of the saint 1400 years ago. Some went to visit St Fin Barre's Cathedral and others made artwork that is now displayed in their schools.

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## People and places



Clifford Mayes, Belinda Briggs, David Nesbitt, Jill Hines, Janet Unsworth and Kathryn Harte.

### Methodist MEET Germany visit

Last Thursday a group from the Methodist Church in Ireland travelled to Germany, where they will spend time with various churches, learning about their ministry and the challenges they are facing.

The group will visit Methodist Churches in Metzingen, Nuremberg and Chemnitz.

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Please pray that God will use this opportunity to build relationships that will grow the church in both Ireland and Germany.

Find out more about the MEET Germany visit on the World Mission Partnership website: <https://irishmethodist.org/world-mission-news/meet-germany>



## Connor Takes the Castle - again

**Around 120 enthusiastic young people joined in the fun at the annual Connor Takes the Castle youth residential in Castlewellan.**

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They came from 12 parishes across the diocese, with some young people attending from Friday to Sunday, and other groups joining for a full, action-packed day on Saturday.

During the afternoon, it was all about action with a laser tag arena from The Fun House, and volleyball, tug-of-war and lots more energetic games organised by Salf Factory Sports in the wide-open space beside Castlewellan Lake.

The impressive Castlewellan Castle was the venue for the weekend's indoor events, which included games, challenges, and inspirational words from guest speakers Millie and Lawrence Bellew. Lawrence is young people and



**Mothers' Union reminder**  
**October is Domestic Violence Awareness month**

community pastor at Hope Church, Craigavon and Millie is Down and Dromore Diocesan Children's Development Officer.

It was a good effort from Connor Youth Officer Christina Baillie, the Rev Danielle McCullough, Chair of Connor Youth Council, the dedicated leaders from parishes and the young people themselves.

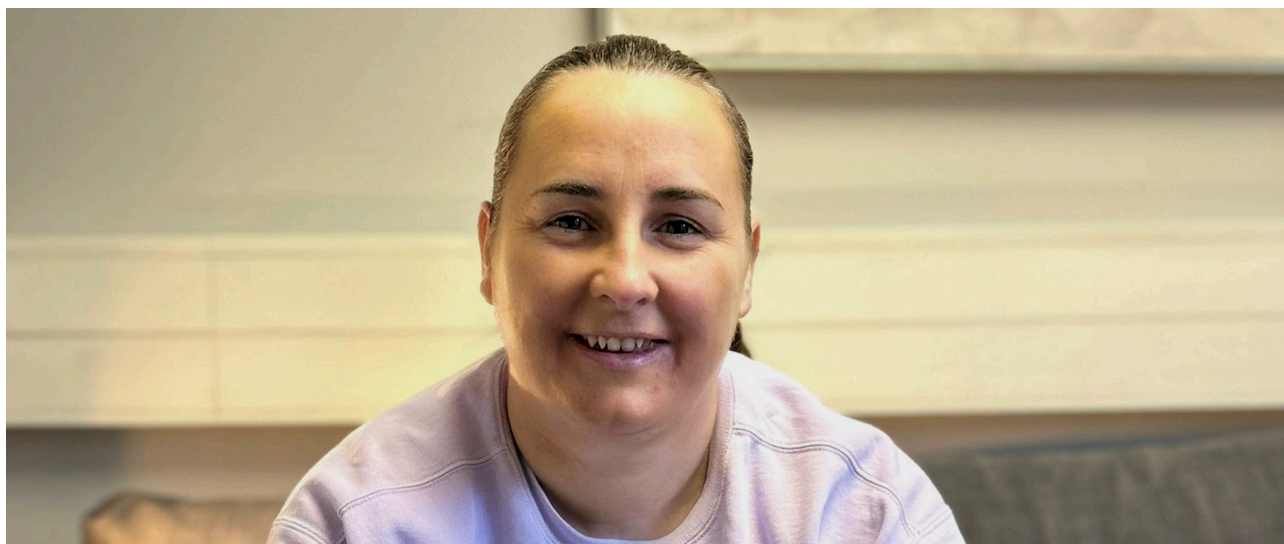
## **Pioneer Evangelist joins Newry Centre of Mission**

**Newry Centre of Mission has appointed Natalie Trainor as their Pioneer Evangelist. The Centre launched in August 2020 and is a partnership between the Diocese of Down and Dromore and Church Army.**

Welcoming Natalie's appointment, Revd Captain Scott McDonald, Lead Evangelist and Rector of the Grouped Parishes of St. Patrick and St. Mary, Newry, said; "I am so pleased and encouraged to welcome Natalie Trainor to Newry as our new Pioneer Evangelist. She clearly has a very real and vibrant faith in Jesus Christ and one which is so evident in the way she lives her life. The calling and gifting of an Evangelist upon Natalie is there for all to see, and we look forward to her arrival early November."

Natalie, who grew up in Donaghadee, currently lives there with her daughter Aimee, and is a member of the church family at Shore Street Presbyterian. She introduces herself below:





## Meet Natalie

“I have worked as a Community Development Worker for the past 14 years within the public sector, responsible for the delivery of targeted Play, Youth and Community provision to members of marginalised communities throughout NI. I also am the project lead for the HEROS International programme which works to bring local marginalised youth from Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, and Scotland together to promote mutual understanding, respect, and co-operation through the sport of Ice-hockey. Prior to this I worked as the Family & Youth Worker at Legacurry Presbyterian Church.

“In 2019, I began to explore what I experienced as a very clear call on my life as an evangelist. This led to me completing the Evangelist Training Course with New Wine Ireland, finishing training in 2022. This course gave me space to test and affirm how I sensed God was leading me and my confidence, compulsion, and desire to follow this leading has grown. I have continued to be involved in evangelism within my local context and believe that God is

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calling me to devote more fully my life to serving him as an evangelist.

“I am excited to step into this with Newry Centre of Mission and have a real, felt sense that this work is mine to do. I am eager to get to know the people of Newry and see lives,

THE DERRY & RAPHOE DIOCESAN MINISTRY OF HEALING  
AND THE CHURCH'S MINISTRY OF HEALING ARE ORGANIZING A

**'BRINGING WHOLENESS IN  
CHRIST THROUGH PRAYER'**

*Training Day*

**Saturday 21st October 2023**  
(9.30am – 4pm)  
@ St. Peter's, Culmore Road, Londonderry

*Purpose:* To encourage and equip participants to pray for physical, emotional, mental and spiritual healing.

The Training Day will include teaching and a workshop approach with opportunities for participants to put their learning into practice.

*Please bring a packed lunch - tea & coffee will be provided.*

To register contact Rev. Carmen Hayes  
Email: carmenmirandahayes@hotmail.com Tel: 07907 579 913



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families and the city transformed by the love of Jesus through evangelism that reflects God’s heart for the lost.” Isaac Hanna, Mission Development Officer for Church Army said; “I am delighted with Natalie’s appointment to Newry Centre of Mission and have great confidence that under God, she will further build on the exceptional ministry that already exists.”



## Preparing for mission in Sudan

Pray for Rev Andrew and Joanne Quill as they visit potential link parishes and prepare for ministry working alongside Bishop Wilson Kamani and the diocesan staff team in Ibba, S. Sudan in 2024. Pray for the Quills during this time of upheaval and preparation.



## **Moderator visits Police Service of Northern Ireland**

**The Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI), Right Reverend Dr Sam Mawhinney, has assured the senior leadership team of the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) of the support and prayers of the denomination, as police officers continue to work to keep the community safe.**

Dr Mawhinney was speaking after he had met the senior officers and staff at the PSNI's headquarters at Brooklyn, in East Belfast, where he was paying a week-long visit to one of the Church's three local presbyteries in the city. PCI's principal public representative also honoured the memory and sacrifice of members of the Royal Ulster Constabulary George Cross and PSNI when he visited the Memorial Gardens.

“While presbytery tours are primarily pastoral visits to encourage local congregations, while seeing how they are bringing the love of Christ to the neighbourhoods they serve, the tours also have strong civic and community elements to them,” Dr Mawhinney explained.

“In coming to PSNI headquarters with my colleagues, we wanted to convey to the senior leadership team the thanks of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and the strong support that there is in our denomination for the difficult work that police officers do. While we recognise the huge pressures



On a visit to PSNI headquarters, as part of the Presbyterian Moderator's tour of PCI's Presbytery of East Belfast, Dr Mawhinney and his colleagues met with the PSNI's senior leadership team. Picture (left to right) are Dr Mawhinney, Rev Dr Colin Burcombe, Assistant Chief Constable (ACC) Melanie Jones, Chief Assistant Chief Officer, Mark McNaughten, ACC Ryan Henderson, ACC Chris Todd, ACC Bobby Singleton, Rev Marty Gray, Rev Stephen Moore, Clerk of the Presbytery of East Belfast, and Chief Operating Officer, Pamela McCreedy.

that the senior team has been under in recent weeks, and the obvious concern around some of the recent challenging issues, we also wanted to encourage them as they themselves serve the community.”

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Dr Mawhinney continued, “There are many police officers who worship in our churches and are a part of the Presbyterian family across Northern Ireland and I hope the senior team were encouraged to know that our people pray regularly for the PSNI, including the senior team. With more changes on the horizon, we pray for wisdom and guidance as the Police Service moves forward.”

During his visit, Dr Mawhinney met Chief Operating Officer, Pamela McCreedy along with Assistant Chief Officer, Mark McNaughten and Assistant Chief Constables Bobby Singleton, Chris Todd, Ryan Henderson and Melanie Jones. He was accompanied by Rev Marty Gray, minister of Knock Presbyterian Church, Rev Dr Colin Burcombe, minister of Mersey Street Presbyterian Church, and Clerk of Presbytery, Rev Stephen Moore, minister of Gillnahirk Presbyterian Church

During their visit to Police Headquarters, the Moderator and his colleagues were shown around the Police Service of Northern Ireland and Royal Ulster Constabulary GC Memorial Gardens, which commemorate the service and sacrifice of both PSNI and RUC police officers.

“The Memorial Gardens are special places and a poignant reminder of those who served the community in very difficult times, thinking more of others than they did of themselves. While each inscription details just one name, behind every one are many who have mourned down the years, and those who continue to feel the loss of a much-loved family member, or friend, as if it were yesterday,” Dr Mawhinney said.



Pictured in the RUC GC Memorial Garden at Police Headquarters in East Belfast, the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, Rt Rev Dr Sam Mawhinney, looks over a memorial that bears the names of two police officers, murdered in the 1970s, who he knew growing up in Ballycastle. It was part of a visit that included a meeting with the PSNI's senior leadership team.

Having found two familiar names in particular, the Moderator continued, "I remember standing on our street in Ballycastle watching the funeral of my good friend's brother, Robert Laverty. I was 10 and he was an 18-year-old a constable in the RUC; it is something that has never left me. In fact, like so many churches, our small Presbyterian church had three plaques in memory of RUC officers murdered by the IRA. I also found my friend John McCambridge, who was also

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killed in the 1970s. He lived in our street and we were in the Boys' Brigade together.

“As we continue to pray for those who mourn such painful loss, we recognise that the threat is still real, as the murders of Constables Stephen Carroll and Ronan Kerr remind us, as does the attempt on the life of Detective Chief Inspector John Caldwell in February of this year. We must continue pray that hearts are turned away from evil and violence, for those who serve to keep us safe, and for lasting peace,” he said.

## **‘The Call is Yours’ – people of Dublin and Glendalough invited to explore Anglicanism**

**The Diocesan Synods of Dublin and Glendalough met on Tuesday last (October 3) in Taney Parish Centre, Dublin.**

The Synod Service of Holy Communion took place in the adjacent parish church during which Archbishop Michael Jackson delivered his Presidential Address. At the beginning of the service Dublin and Glendalough's new Diocesan Secretary, Ian Walshe, was commissioned by the Archbishop.

The Dublin region has the highest population density, according to the Census, but what are the people of Dublin and Glendalough doing about it? This is the question posed





## **The congregation at the Synod Service**

by Archbishop Michael Jackson in his Presidential address to the Dublin and Glendalough Diocesan Synods meeting.

The Archbishop said he was not playing off larger statistics against smaller ones. Rather he was pointing to the urgency of our ecclesiastical and pastoral response as communities of faith to a seemingly unstoppable civic metropolitization of the dioceses which comprise County Dublin, most of County Wicklow and parts of County Kildare and County Carlow.

“This adds fuel and energy to our discipleship and to our witness. This changes the gear of our response to and engagement with the political processes most widely understood. I say this because the character of Anglican witness and discipleship worldwide is contribution to the common good; and we claim to be Anglicans. We need to dig deep within our resources of Scriptural identity, simplicity

of response and urgency of mission. We need to recall what we have done and refocus what we are doing,” he stated.

The Archbishop noted that members of the Church of Ireland account for 2% of the population and have remained static in the context of the overall increase of population nationwide. He suggested that the fact that the figures for Church of Ireland membership have become a “stabilized norm” ought to be a cause of alarm considering the vast amount of resources we can call on for development and engagement every day of the year, not only on Sundays.

“All churches have to make a case for themselves. The Church of Ireland is a local church and a parochial church. Being parochial is something good; it means that we are present in every community and therefore can contribute to every community and learn from it, if we have the humility to do so. We need to build on this and we need to develop this way of being in whatever ways are best suited to the community among whom we live and whom we serve,” the Archbishop contended.

He added that we do this work of God not as “ecclesiastical lone wolves” but as Anglicans, members of a worldwide Communion. However, fragmented and fractured the Communion may now be, it has a coherent system of knowing what it is to be Anglican, he said. “And in this we are genuinely fortunate. This comes about through a simple range of principles, based in theology and open to all, for living our lives for God and for others. The bedrock of our Anglicanism is Scripture, Tradition and Reason as we all know and as explained in Dublin and Glendalough with



## **Ian Walshe is commissioned as Diocesan Secretary**

exemplary clarity since the days of Archbishop Henry McAdoo,” he explained.

While out and about in Dublin and Glendalough, Archbishop Jackson said he regularly meets people who are new to the greater Dublin area and speak of the efforts they go to to find a church where they feel comfortable to worship God and which meets their longing to serve. They are Anglicans but it is not always the local Church of Ireland church that they go to. In a sophisticated urban and suburban setting where inherited parochial boundaries mean less as people are freer to move around, people look at church and diocesan websites to see what parishes have to say for themselves regarding their spiritual focus, purpose and self–

understanding. People were interested but are we in the dioceses ready for this level of interest, he asked.

The Archbishop suggested that this informal interchange spoke of a sense of purpose and intention in the search for discipleship as people new to our inherited sense of being the Church of Ireland here and try to break in and contribute.

“When they come to church, they weigh things up regarding welcome and friendliness before, after and during the services. Many of them are more interested in the content of preaching than we might imagine. Most of them want to become involved, to make their contribution in tangible ways that enhance the local church and community. Many of them feel excluded and alienated. We have work to do. Their hope is that the church will become the place for them where they break into a local community without embarrassment, without a sense of inferiority and in a way that equips them to deal with whatever their week ahead holds for them, week on week. And much of this they do not find easy to articulate and many of them fade away. They may not seem to be: ‘us’, but they are: ‘us’ through a shared Anglican identity or because they want to become Anglican and we are their port of call. This is radically different from an inherited Church of Ireland status to which we have accustomed ourselves over generations,” he stated.

We in Dublin and Glendalough have become familiar with the Five Marks of Mission of the Anglican Communion long before they became popular in the wider Church of Ireland and before the Archbishop of Canterbury took them up

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afresh ahead of the Lambeth Conference 2022, the Archbishop recalled.

This exploration of the understanding of Anglican identity undertaken in Dublin and Glendalough is further enriched and expanded in the 10 Lambeth Calls of 2022. The calls are on: Discipleship, the Environment and Sustainable Development, Anglican Identity, Safe Church, Science and Faith, Human Dignity, Christian Unity, Mission and Evangelism, Interfaith, Reconciliation.

The Lambeth Calls are part three of the Lambeth Conference and offer Anglicans all over the world an opportunity to explore Anglicanism in their own contexts and also in others'. In Dublin and Glendalough we are calling it 'Lambeth4All'.

“This is the spirit in which this phase of The Lambeth Conference is offered to The Anglican Communion and to all who are, and want to be, part of it. And it is the first time that it has happened. It is an opportunity for all. The material is all freely available from The Anglican Communion Office. The areas of interest are as outlined above. This phase is tailor-made for a global and a digital age. The ACO will enable us to share best practice with one another across the world. It will be possible for individuals and parishes to share not only their experiences but also their activities in the spirit of a life lived faithfully and usefully in The Five Marks of Mission. This also provides a fruitful nursery for our own explorations and expressions of Pioneering Church. If you, the people of the diocese, want it to be exciting, it can be. The call is yours. The Anglicanism will continue,

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enriched by your participation and involvement," the Archbishop said.

## Poem for today

### October by Hilaire Belloc

Look, how those steep woods on the mountain's face  
Burn, burn against the sunset; now the cold  
Invades our very noon: the year's grown old,  
Mornings are dark, and evenings come apace.  
The vines below have lost their purple grace,  
And in Forreze the white wrack backward rolled,  
Hangs to the hills tempestuous, fold on fold,  
And moaning gusts make desolate all the place.

Mine host the month, at thy good hostelry,  
Tired limbs I'll stretch and steaming beast I'll tether;  
Pile on great logs with Gascon hand and free,  
And pour the Gascon stuff that laughs at weather;  
Swell your tough lungs, north wind, no whit care we,  
Singing old songs and drinking wine together.

## Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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# Church News Ireland

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