

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – the Rugby Pastor

Image of the day

The Rugby Pastor

The Rugby Pastor - When they tell you that the next song we're singing is an actions song...

People and places



Glengormley and Mallusk confirmation

Seven wonderful members of the St Brigid's church family in Glengormley and Mallusk were confirmed by Bishop George Davidson of Connoir .

October 17, 2023

“Love seeing people of all ages engaging with Jesus and growing in their faith and the amazing life he gives us”.

Smiles and sunshine at Shillelagh



Smiles in the sunshine after the confirmation service in Shillelagh Church on Sunday last with Bishop Adrian

Rathfriland Boys' & Girls' Brigade 30th Anniversary

This year marks the 30th Anniversary of the formation of First Rathfriland Presbyterian Church's Boys' & Girls' Brigade Companies back in 1993.

October 17, 2023



The Companies Annual Enrollment Service, on Sunday afternoon was led and conducted by Rev. Rodney Moody.

“We are blessed to have so many young people involved in our Girls' Brigade and Boys' Brigade Companies.

“Many thanks to all the parents who faithfully bring their children and young people each week! “

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Pastoral assistants commissioned



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On Sunday afternoon, Dennis, one of the parish volunteers, and Catherine, the parish pastoral assistant, at St John's Parish, Falls Road, Belfast, were among those commissioned as lay funeral ministers for the Diocese of Down and Connor.

Lay led Funeral ministry is an initiative of the Pathways to the Future program in their Diocese. "Congratulations to all those commissioned and praying God's blessing on each one taking up this ministry".

Live broadcasters of St Ann's



The choir of St Ann's, Dawson Street, Dublin after last Sunday morning's live broadcast on RTE.

Organist, Charlie Marshall, and rector, Canon Paul Arbuthnot.



Carrickfergus support for local food bank

Rector en route

A prayer for the people of the Holy Land

God of compassion and justice,

We cry out to you for all who suffer
in the Holy Land today.

For your precious children, Israelis
and Palestinians,
Traumatised and in fear for their lives;
Lord, have mercy.

For the families of the bereaved,
For those who have seen images they
will never forget,
For those anxiously waiting for news,
despairing with each passing day;
Lord, have mercy.

THE ARCHBISHOP
OF CANTERBURY

Events

OCTOBER 19

THEOLOGY IN ACTION

Clogher Diocesan Board of Social Theology in Action in partnership with CARE are hosting a number of talks on 19 October 2023 in the Cathedral Hall, Enniskillen. The topics that will be covered are the Cost of Living Crisis; helping families who are struggling at 11.30am; Abortion and Northern Ireland; the story so far at 3pm and Gambling; tackling Northern Ireland's gambling addiction at 7.30pm.

OCTOBER 20

MIND MATTERS

C of I Conference, Dublin. The guest speakers include the Archbishop of Canterbury, and Barbara Brennan . Fully booked

OCTOBER 21

BOOK LAUNCH

“THE JEWEL IN THE CROWN” Boy Church, Parish Hall at 1030 am

OCTOBER 22

CHORAL EVENSONG VISITING CHOIR St Columb's Derry

October 17, 2023

Choir of St Polycarp, Finaghy

190th ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

St Luke's Parish Church, Mullaghglass 0700 pm

DEDICATION OF GIFTS

Service of Dedication of Gifts donated to Crossduff Parish Church at 3.30pm. The service will be led by Revd Lorraine Capper (Rural Dean) and the dedication will be carried out by Rt Revd Dr Ian Ellis, Bishop of Clogher who will also be the preacher. Everybody most welcome and refreshments will be provided after the service in the Old Stables.

OCTOBER 24

THE PRIMACY OF PEACE

Conference. Market Place Theatre, Armagh. Booking essential. See -

[<http://armagh.anglican.org/WhatsOn/ArmaghPeaceOct23.html>]

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING DOWN & DROMORE

Online Child Safeguarding Training For volunteers and staff in Down and Dromore. As well as for new volunteers and staff this will be essential for those that need training refreshed (this is recommended every 3 years).

A separate link to the Zoom meeting will be emailed to you the day before the training. Reserve a spot at -

[<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/child-safeguarding-training-online-tickets-726709576907?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>]

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OCTOBER 27

DEDICATION AFTER TOWER CLOCK AND CHURCH REPAIRS

Service of Thanksgiving and Dedication at 7.30pm in St. Dymphna's Church, Ballinode, Parish of Tydavnet, Diocese of Clogher, following the restoration of the tower clock and church repairs. Preacher: Right Revd Dr. Ian Ellis, Bishop of Clogher. You are warmly invited to attend.

VARIETY CONCERT

Parish Variety Concert hosted by Lisnaskea Parish Church featuring "The Silvertones" in The Archdale Centre.

OCTOBER 28

BIG BREAKFAST Christ Church, Strabane is feeling hungry.

It's that time of year again!

Saturday 28th October 2023

8am - 12 noon you are welcome to come along bring your friends and neighbours, for the best feed in town.

COFFEE MORNING & CHRISTMAS CRAFTS

Inver & Mount Charles in Salthill Gardens 1030 am - 0200 pm

NOVEMBER 3

CELEBRATION OF HYMNS

Celebration of Hymns organised by Lisbellaw Parish Church in the Killyhevlin Hotel, Enniskillen at 7.30pm with Lynda Lindsay and special guests; Living Praise, James Strange & Higher Praise Band, Revd William Jeffrey and William Kerr Memorial Pipe Band.

NOVEMBER 4

Dublin Welsh Male Voice Choir Concert



Venue: St Peter's Church of Ireland
1 Coote Street, Portlaoise R32 A7PK

Date: Saturday, November 4th 2023
Time: 7:30 pm

NOVEMBER 5

CHORAL EUCHARIST AND EVENSONG VISITING
CHOIR St Columb's Derry
Choir of Agherton Parish, Portstewart

STANFORD'S REQUIEM - Belfast Philharmonic Choir

Belfast Philharmonic Choir are gearing up for the opening concert of the 2023-24 season. A rare performance of Stanford's Requiem, and perhaps an NI premiere!



NORTHERN
IRELAND
OPERA



ULSTER
ORCHESTRA
Let's Play



Belfast
Philharmonic
Choir

The Phil will be joined by the Ulster Orchestra and guest soloists supported by Northern Ireland Opera

Tickets: <https://www.ulsterhall.co.uk/what-s-on/belfast-philharmonic-society/>

NOVEMBER 10

WOMENS NIGHT OF WORSHIP Church of the Good Shepherd in Sion Mills

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Rev Danielle McCullagh, the Chaplain at The Hub, Belfast (the Church of Ireland / Methodist Chaplaincy at Queen's University and Stranmillis College) will be the guest speaker at a 'Women's Night of Worship' in the Church of the Good Shepherd in Sion Mills on Friday 10th November at half past seven.

A poster for 'Kildress Poppy Fest' with a pink and white floral background. The title 'Kildress Poppy Fest' is written in a large, cursive font at the top. Below it, the text describes the event as a 'SPECTACULAR DISPLAY OF HANDCRAFTED POPPIES & FLORAL TRIBUTES FEATURING A BEAUTIFUL CASCADE OF GRATITUDE AND DISPLAYS OF WARTIME MEMORABILIA'. The dates and times are listed in a table format: Friday 10 (2-7 PM), Saturday 11 (10 AM-7 PM), and Sunday 12 (2-6 PM). The event is on November 2023. It includes a closing service on Sunday at 7 PM at Kildress Parish Church, 6 Wellbrook Road, Cookstown BT80 9RY. Refreshments and soup lunches are available on Saturday. Beautiful crafts for sale are offered on Friday and Saturday. A performance by the Tamblight O'Crilly Community Choir and Kildress Choir is scheduled during the closing service. Contact information for Gail (078 8054 6735) and Jennifer (079 1735 6953) is provided for more info, group bookings, and catering. A note states that all monies raised will go towards the Kildress Church Restoration Project and The Earl Haig Fund. The charity registration number NI: 104361 is listed on the left side of the poster.

Kildress Poppy Fest

A SPECTACULAR DISPLAY OF HANDCRAFTED POPPIES & FLORAL TRIBUTES FEATURING A BEAUTIFUL CASCADE OF GRATITUDE AND DISPLAYS OF WARTIME MEMORABILIA

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
10	11	12
2-7 PM	10AM-7PM	2-6 PM

NOVEMBER 2023

Closing Service: Sunday at 7pm

Kildress Parish Church
6 Wellbrook Road Cookstown BT80 9RY

Refreshments available throughout & Soup lunches on Saturday

Beautiful crafts for sale on Friday & Saturday

Tamblight O'Crilly Community Choir & Kildress Choir performance during closing service

For more info: Gail @ 078 8054 6735
Group bookings & catering: Jennifer @ 079 1735 6953

All monies raised will go towards
Kildress Church Restoration Project
&
The Earl Haig Fund

Charity reg NI: 104361

NOVEMBER 12 REMEMBRANCE DAY

EVENSONG VISITING CHOIR St Columb's Derry

Cantemus

Church News Ireland

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Autumn Issue of Search

The autumn issue of the Church of Ireland journal, Search, has been distributed to subscribers.

Pioneer Ministry, as introduced and discussed in this year's General Synod, has been a major talking point for the Church of Ireland this year. Granted that, for the Church's very survival, there is a need to reach out to those whose spiritual needs have not been met by any church worship they have encountered, or who have never experienced the love of God in Christ, is there a need for a whole new structure to achieve that? Perhaps, given that clergy tend to be increasingly overworked and stressed out, that is exactly what is needed: a new deal to attract those unresponsive to traditional styles of ministry. Yet "doing a new thing" can happen within the old structures too, given imagination, determination and courage, as articles by Rob Clements and Abigail Sines in this issue show. As Rob Jones' introductory article indicates, Pioneer Ministry here is a work in progress. Search plans to share further stories of pioneering as the ministry develops over the months and years to come.

A category of young people in need of special attention in the Church's ministry today is that of "young carers" – young

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people constrained to prioritise care for members of their own family above their studies or their employment. Dr Allison Campbell of Ulster

University explores their needs, with theological commentary by her husband, Revd Dr Andrew Campbell, to promote further thinking.

The issue concludes with an 'In Retrospect' by former Archbishop Richard Clarke on Dean John Paterson, who retired from Christ Church cathedral, Dublin, some twenty years ago, and a Liturgica from the USA, contemplating the need for inclusivity.

Search is edited by Canon Ginnie Kennerley who has been joined as Associate Editor by Dr Bridget Nichols, Lecturer in Anglicanism & Liturgy at CITI, as associate editor. Those wishing to subscribe or order a single copy should contact the Treasurer, Michael Denton, at subscriptions@searchjournal.ireland.anglican.org

Perspective

Most Israelis and Palestinians want nothing to do with violence - Richard Sewell

We must look at the world with compassion, or risk making enemies of people who need not be enemies, Richard Sewell, Dean of St George's College, Jerusalem, writes

It has been an unbelievable week in Jerusalem. We are desperate here, throughout the country. My emotions are absolutely raw after all this.

If someone asks me a kind question, I crumble because I'm living with this terrible, terrible sense of what might happen. I'm not so much worried about myself, but I feel the pain of all the people of this land. People often ask me where I find hope in this situation. It's a really difficult but important question.

For Christians, hope is not just an idea, and it's certainly not a sense of optimism – that things can only get better – because we've learned, actually, things can get a lot worse.

It is a conviction in the very nature of God and it is rooted in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who defeated evil on the cross.

Our Christian faith tells us that when we look at a situation of conflict like this, we cannot make simple and superficial judgments, categorising people as 'goodies' and 'baddies'. It's not that straightforward, as much as some people may like it to be.

Of course some people have done wicked, despicable things and that has to be acknowledged and contended with. But the vast majority of people here in Israel and Palestine don't want that, they don't believe in that way.

They just want to live their lives, to be allowed to educate their children and make a living.

‘Christians have to engage with this. We can’t sit back and pray that it will all turn out well’

People who think Hamas is a wicked and evil terror organisation align it with all Palestinians – certainly all Gazans – and that is part of the problem. It’s the problem of generalising and missing the particularities, the details. As Christians we have to look at the world with compassion, including the people who are different to ourselves, whom we don’t understand, otherwise we make enemies of people who need not be enemies.

I am appalled by Saturday’s terrorist attack and I am heartbroken for Gazans and for what they are fearing, because they know all hell is about to be visited upon them.

On Saturday, when our Ahli Arab Anglican Hospital in Gaza City was hit by an Israeli missile, four members of staff were injured and the building was severely damaged. The hospital is in the evacuation zone and all hospitals in Gaza have been told they have to evacuate but they can’t go. They have patients who cannot be moved.

Although the Israelis have cut off water and electricity, our hospital has water from underground cisterns and it electricity from its own generator but we don’t know how long that will last. I hope their fuel will last this out, but who knows what will happen when the tanks start rolling in. They are enveloped in darkness, praying and hoping someone will bring light.

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It must be terrifying, as it is for the hostages being held in Gaza. There are times when despair sets in and you think well, we're probably going to die.

In this desperate situation you have to cling on. As Christians and people of faith – and this will be true of Muslims and Jews as well – you think, “I may die but I have an eternal future in the loving arms of God”. People in Gaza will be clinging on to hope and perhaps committing themselves into God's care. It's what people of faith do.

Like the people we saw suffering the terror attack – Jewish people lying face down, saying their prayers – that is what you must fall back on. That is my hope, that this life is not everything, not the only reality.

The reality of this place is that for 15 years, Gazans have been living in an open prison. People object to that description but it is the reality.

They are not free to leave. Some 20,000 can go to work and others can visit, but most cannot. They cannot get out for cancer treatment or to visit dying relatives, all of that.

Gaza, for me, has been an incubator for hate and violence and, finally, it has exploded. I do not justify that but it has not come out of nowhere. If you do not look at the history then it's just superficial nonsense.

Most of my staff are Palestinians who live in the West Bank. They have been locked in it and cannot get out. The checkpoints are closed to Palestinians with Palestinian identity.

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We, as Christians, must engage with this. We can't sit back and pray and have nice thoughts and it will all just turn out well.

We have to be peacemakers and when it has ended we have to build bridges. That is the hardest thing.

The Very Rev Canon Richard Sewell is Dean of St George's College, Jerusalem and Honorary Canon, Southwark Cathedral

Poem for today

I stood upon the hills, when heaven's wide arch

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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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
