

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Priory broadcast

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Priory broadcast

On Sunday last the BBC Radio Ulster Morning Service was broadcast from the Priory Church in Killadeas which is grouped with St Michael's Trory in Clogher diocese.

The service was led by the Rector, the Reverend Mark Gallagher.



The Parish has been delighted to receive compliments and thanks not only from all six counties but from other places such as Teneriffe.

The service is still available at :

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001rhg1>

There is an excellent array of photos of the service at -
[[https://www.facebook.com/troryandkilladeas/?
locale=en_GB](https://www.facebook.com/troryandkilladeas/?locale=en_GB)]

Church News Ireland

People and places



NI Bible Society at World Assembly in the Netherlands

Bible Society in NI - James and Catherine have been having a wonderful time at the UBS World Assembly in the Netherlands with colleagues from all over the world.

Please pray for the discussions and decisions for the future mission of Bible Societies.

October 18, 2023

Service for Harvest, dedication and confirmation at Finaghy



Pictured with the Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev George Davison, and the rector of Finaghy and Upper Malone, the Rev Louise Stewart following the Confirmation service in St Polycarp's are from left: Ben, Amy, Rosemary, Lynn and Nanci. (Photo: Rev Clifford Skillen)

Sunday October 8 was a special day in St Polycarp's, Finaghy, when five candidates were confirmed by the Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev George Davison, a memorial gift to the church dedicated and Harvest

Thanksgiving celebrated, all within the setting of Choral Eucharist.

This was the first Confirmation in St Polycarp's since 2017 and only the second in the last 10 years.

In his introductory remarks, the Bishop said that such a 'three-in-one' occasion marked 'a significant moment in the life of the congregation,' with Harvest not only being a reminder of thankfulness to God – as exemplified in the parish gift – but also presenting a spiritual dimension with an opportunity for a spiritual stocktake which he applied to both the candidates and the congregation.

Drawing together the two readings – Philippians 3: 4-14 and Matthew 21: 33-44 – the Bishop reminded the candidates that Paul experienced God's love through his encounter with Christ on the road to Damascus, as a result of which the rest of his life was given over to introducing people to the risen Christ.

The candidates, the Bishop said, were now committing themselves to live a Christ-focused life in the power of the Holy Spirit. He hoped that, on their Christian journey and with the support of their parents, godparents and the congregation, they would more and more seek to discover and daily live out what it meant to be a follower of Jesus Christ.

Following the act of Confirmation, the Bishop dedicated a set of handrails in memory of the late Victor and Yvonne Green, founder-members of St Polycarp's, which were gifted by their family. Report by the Rev Clifford Skillen



St Marks Dundela night time harvest homemaking hooley - Great fellowship and creativity and the cake and pie buffet was superb. There were big thanks Hannah and Lynn for organising.

Portstewart parish hosts hub for health and wellbeing

Agherton Parish hosted a very successful health and wellbeing event which gave parishioners and others in the community the opportunity to speak face-to-face with health and wellbeing providers.



Denise Stone offers advice on use of a defibrillator at the Agherton Parish health and wellbeing event.

Thirteen different organisations attended the fair, held in the parish centre to share details of their work and the support they can offer.

The rector, the Rev Malcolm Ferry, said it had been of value to the exhibitors as well as those who attended. “They got so much from it,” he said. “They saw it as a real networking opportunity.”

“We offered space for teas and coffees. Some charities taking part made use of our break-out room, for example, Aware ran 10-15 minute classes speaking about their work.”



Christian Aid Sheeps Head Hike volunteers team - in beautiful Kilcrohane...down to take the photo of the funds-cheque raised on this year hike !

It was a wonderful day to enhance the effort of the wonderful team of volunteers that makes the event such a success each year. Photo by Andrew Coleman

The RNID representative not only spoke about the support offered by the organisation, but also fixed hearing aids for a number of people. Denise Stone, a member of the Agherton Parish Choir, is North West Co-ordinator for Defibrillators, and she ran defibrillator training.

The parish has its own defibrillator. “We have done a couple of big sessions in defibrillator training, but this gave people one-to-one training which gave them more confidence to try,” Malcolm said.

There were lots of opportunities for people to sit down and get one-on-one information. Representatives of the Library

October 18, 2023

Service, for example, were able to help individuals to get the Library Service app on their phones.

There was information on securing the home and representatives later went out to homes of those who needed assistance to install safety chains on doors and grab raises. There was advice for those living alone, for carers, for those who are struggling with bereavement, for people feeling generally overwhelmed.

“A lot of ladies who live alone felt really empowered,” Malcolm said. “For the more active older men, there were talks from Men’s Shed.”

Those attending with younger children were able to leave the kids to have fun with Christina Acheson who opened the parish’s Little Surfers Club specially for the day.

Agherton Parish employs two parish nurses, and this event was nurse-led. “When they are doing their work, the nurses identify people who may be concerned about things like falling, home security, or living alone,” Malcolm said.

“We are constantly signposting people to services, but bringing everybody together in one place they can see more and they can interact directly with the agencies. This was a one-stop-shop for support. Sometimes, when people are trying to access support themselves, they can spend ages on the phone and get nowhere.

“When our nurses carried out a survey, people said they wanted more information and signposting, so we knew this would be popular.”

The parish nurses run health walks once a month. “We are trying to build good health and good practice,” Malcolm said.

While the health fair ran over four hours, Malcolm said it had led to lots of follow-up advice and calls.

“As a parish, we now have a reputation and status within these health and wellbeing organisations. We have no town hall and we are a bit out of services in Portstewart, so I can see the benefit of a quarterly health hub. That would be a long-term goal.

“Already Surestart has begun using our hall. This has all come from building our reputation as being advocates for good health, independence living and professional service.”

News reports

Scots Minister appointed national chaplain of Royal British Legion

The Royal British Legion has appointed a minister to be its national chaplain

Rev Scott Brown CBE said it was a "privilege" to be asked to serve with the UK's largest armed forces charity which helps members of the Royal Navy, British Army, Royal Air Force, veterans and their families.



His first primary responsibility is to lead the religious element of the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall in London next month.

King Charles, Queen Camilla and other members of the Royal family will be in attendance.

Ultimate sacrifice

Mr Brown said: "I am thrilled to be appointed the national chaplain of the Royal British Legion.

"It is a privilege to serve the Church in this new role and to honour those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the service of our nation and to serve our veterans' community through the amazing work of the Legion."

October 18, 2023

Mr Brown will serve in the role for three years.

He is currently the convener of the Church of Scotland Committee on Chaplains to HM Forces and served as a Royal Navy chaplain from 1993-2010 and Chaplain of the Fleet from 2010-15.

Mr Brown served as minister of Buchlyvie and Gartmore Churches in Stirlingshire from 2019 until last month and lives in Port of Menteith near Stirling.

Royal British Legion National President, Vice Admiral Sir Clive Johnstone KBE CB, said: "The Royal British Legion is delighted that Rev Scott Brown has agreed to take up the position.

"With over 20 years experience as a chaplain in the Royal Navy, his appointment will provide the armed forces' community with a welcome boost as we enter the poignant Remembrance period.

"He will play a major role in the Festival of Remembrance on 11 November, when the nation reflects on the sacrifices made by the military and their families, and we look forward to working with him over the three years he'll be in post."

Church News Ireland

Anglican-run al-Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza damaged by Israeli rocket fire as war continues

Damage at al-Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza after it was hit by a missile on Saturday evening

The Diagnostic Cancer Treatment Centre of al-Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza has been hit by an Israeli rocket. Two upper floors of the centre, which houses the ultrasound and mammography wards, were severely damaged.

The strike came as Israeli forces continue their military campaign to eradicate the Hamas terrorist group following the devastating 7 October Hamas attacks in southern Israel.

Israeli authorities say that more than 1,300 people were killed and 3,227 injured in Israel in the 7 October attack by Hamas. Others – this morning (Monday) the Israeli authorities put the number at 199 – were kidnapped in the attack and taken over the border to Gaza.

The Palestinian Ministry of Health say that In the ensuing military response, which has involved heavily aerial bombardment by Israel, some 2,329 people were killed in Gaza; and 9,714 were injured.

The strike on al-Ahli Arab hospital happened at 7.30 pm EEST (4.30 pm GMT) on Saturday 14 October. Four hospital staff were injured in the blast and are receiving treatment for their wounds.



Damage at al-Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza after it was hit by a missile on Saturday evening. Photo Credit: Anglican / Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

“The Diagnostic Centre is the Crown Jewel of Ahli Hospital, providing cancer diagnosis as a prelude to various treatment options both at Ahli and in other facilities”, the Anglican Archbishop of Jerusalem, Archbishop Hosam Naoum said. “Next month, we were due to open a new chemotherapy centre there in partnership with Augusta Victoria Hospital on the Mount of Olives – a principal reason for our visit to the hospital last week.”

He continued: “please continue to pray for the safety of the hospital, its staff, and the patients and refugees who are being housed there.”

October 18, 2023

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Archbishop Justin Welby, has spoken of the “grave danger” facing hospitals in Gaza, and he called for the Israeli evacuation order in place for northern Gaza to be rescinded for hospitals in the region.

“The seriously ill and injured patients at the Anglican-run Ahli Hospital – and other healthcare facilities in northern Gaza – cannot be safely evacuated”, he said. “They are running low on medical supplies. They are facing catastrophe.

“I appeal for the evacuation order on hospitals in northern Gaza to be reversed – and for health facilities, health workers, patients and civilians to be protected.”

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

October 18, 2023

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 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>]

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.

October 18, 2023

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

CHRISTCHURCH CONCERT SERIES LAUNCH

Christ Church Londonderry presents

Malachy Frame - 28th October 19:30

Belfast-born baritone Malachy Frame was Northern Ireland Opera's 'Voice of 2016,' having won the competition at the company's annual Festival of Voice, and is a Rising Star of the Enlightenment with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment for 2023-25.

Recent operatic roles have included Dandini in Rossini's *La Cenerentola*, Figaro and Fiorello in Rossini's *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, Guglielmo in Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, Figaro in Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*, March Hare/White Knight in Todd's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, Slook in Rossini's *La Cambiale di Matrimonio*, Leporello and Masetto in Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, Count Ceprano in Verdi's *Rigoletto*, and Aeneas in Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*.

As a concert soloist, recent performances have included a Wigmore Hall debut singing Bach with the Gabrieli Consort, Purcell's *King Arthur* in the Laeiszhalle in Hamburg, Bach's

October 18, 2023

St John Passion at the Barbican, Britten's War Requiem, Orff's Carmina burana, Bach's Christmas Oratorio, Mass in B minor, Magnificat, and St Matthew Passion, Brahms' Ein Deutsches Requiem, Handel's Messiah, and Alexander's Feast, Vaughan-Williams' Five Mystical Songs, and Walton's Belshazzar's Feast.

Performances over the next few months include several projects with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment as one of their Rising Stars, and a nationwide tour of Schubert's Winterreise with pianist Freddie Brown.

Ben McGonigle (Director of Music):

brmcgonigle@gmail.com

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Online Children's Ministry Workshop

23rd November at 7.30pm.

We will be chatting with Kay Morgan-Gurr about ways in which we can creatively make our church buildings, services and activities places of belonging and spiritual growth for children with additional needs.

Sign up now: <https://bit.ly/3Fm93FH>

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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