

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Craigyhill Scots

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Craigyhill Scots Harvest concert

All Saint's Craigyhill, Larne had a brilliant Harvest concert last Saturday night

It was a sell out, with full house, standing room only.

The performing artists all raised the roof in their own way: the girls from Kathryn Stewart School of Highland Dance, Larne; accordionist Morris Crum and his amazing son Scott on the guitar; and the fantastic Glenlough Community Choir



under the able and enthusiastic leadership of Musical Director Anne McCambridge, accompanied by Mary Spence on the keyboards.

By coincidence it was held on the first anniversary of the Introduction of The Rev'd Arlene Moore as Priest-in-Charge of Il Saints, Craighill & St Patrick's Cairncastle.

Church must change, Pope Francis

Pope Francis in a new interview published by a media outlet in his native Argentina said the Church must change “in favour of the dignity of the people.” But he also stressed that change must take place “without recanting the essence of the Church.”

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People and places

York meets Cork about a world without maps



The clergy of Cork, Cloyne and Ross together with their Bishop, the Right Rev. Dr Paul Colton, and the Archbishop of York, the Most Rev. Stephen Cottrell

Last week the Archbishop of York, the Most Rev. Stephen Cottrell visited Cork, to speak at the Cork, Cloyne and Ross Clergy Away Days at the Celtic Ross Hotel in Rosscarbery.

Every year, the Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, the Right Rev. Dr Paul Colton invites all the clergy of the Diocese to



spend time together to reflect on ministry and to engage with a guest speaker.

Archbishop Cottrell's talks throughout the two-day event centred around the theme of 'How to lead in a world without maps: four images that may help.'

Before heading to West Cork on Wednesday, Archbishop Cottrell visited St Anne's Church, Shandon and climbed up the tower, one of Cork's most significant and well known landmarks, to ring the famous Shandon Bells. He opted to play the tune of 'Somewhere over the Rainbow' on the bells.

On Friday, before returning to the UK, the Archbishop attended a lunch for lay ministers in the Diocese, which was hosted by the Bishop and Mrs Susan Colton at their home.



Archbishop Cottrell visited St Anne's Church, Shandon and climbed up the tower, one of Cork's most significant and well known landmarks, to ring the famous Shandon Bells.

Children from two schools involved in the Diocesan Church Music Scheme -

Saint Luke's National School,
Mahony's Avenue,
and St Michael's National School, Blackrock
under the direction of Peter Stobart -

came in especially to sing for the Archbishop before he spoke to the group of lay ministers that had gathered at the cathedral.



Afterwards, Archbishop Cottrell, Bishop Colton, and Dean Dunne lit candles at the newly commissioned Holy Icon of Saint Fin Barre.





Celebrating a decade of church planting in Down & Dromore

On 17 October 2023 Down & Dromore diocese celebrated a decade of church planting with a special anniversary event and the release of a new film telling our church planting story.

“The evening was an opportunity to give thanks for all that God has done, to become more informed and to meet and hear from our courageous pioneer leaders”.

Refreshments were served and Bishops David and Harold cut the anniversary cake!

The churches planted are -



- Braniel Community Church; Moneyreagh Community Church; Glen Community Church; Killicomaine Community Church; St Donard's Community Church Dundrum; West Winds Community Church; Tullycarnet Church; Killough Youth & Children; Ards Connect; The Gathering. Pioneer Ministry - Church of Ireland





The Rev Canon Amanda Adams



The Rev Canon Tracey McRoberts MBE

Canons appointed

The Bishop of Connor has appointed new Canons to Lisburn and Belfast Cathedrals.

The Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev George Davison, has announced the appointments following the retirements of Canon George Graham and Canon David Humphries.

Dean Stephen Forde of St Anne's said "We offer Rev Tracey McRoberts warmest congratulations on her appointment by the Bishop of Connor as a Canon of St Anne's Cathedral Belfast.

Tracey is no stranger to St Anne's. She is in fact the cathedral's Rural Dean, with responsibility for the Mid-Belfast Rural Deanery.

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Dean Forde continued “I am delighted that our Bishop has nominated Tracey to this position. With her commitment to cross community ministry, and her work as a faithful pastor and visionary leader in the Mid and Upper Shankill areas, Tracey will bring her wide experience to enhance the Chapter of the Cathedral.

“I also look forward to her infectious laughter lightening cold December afternoons in Donegall Street, as she joins the team of Dean’s helpers for the annual Black Santa Sitout, which this year will run from Thursday 14th December to Sunday afternoon 24th.”

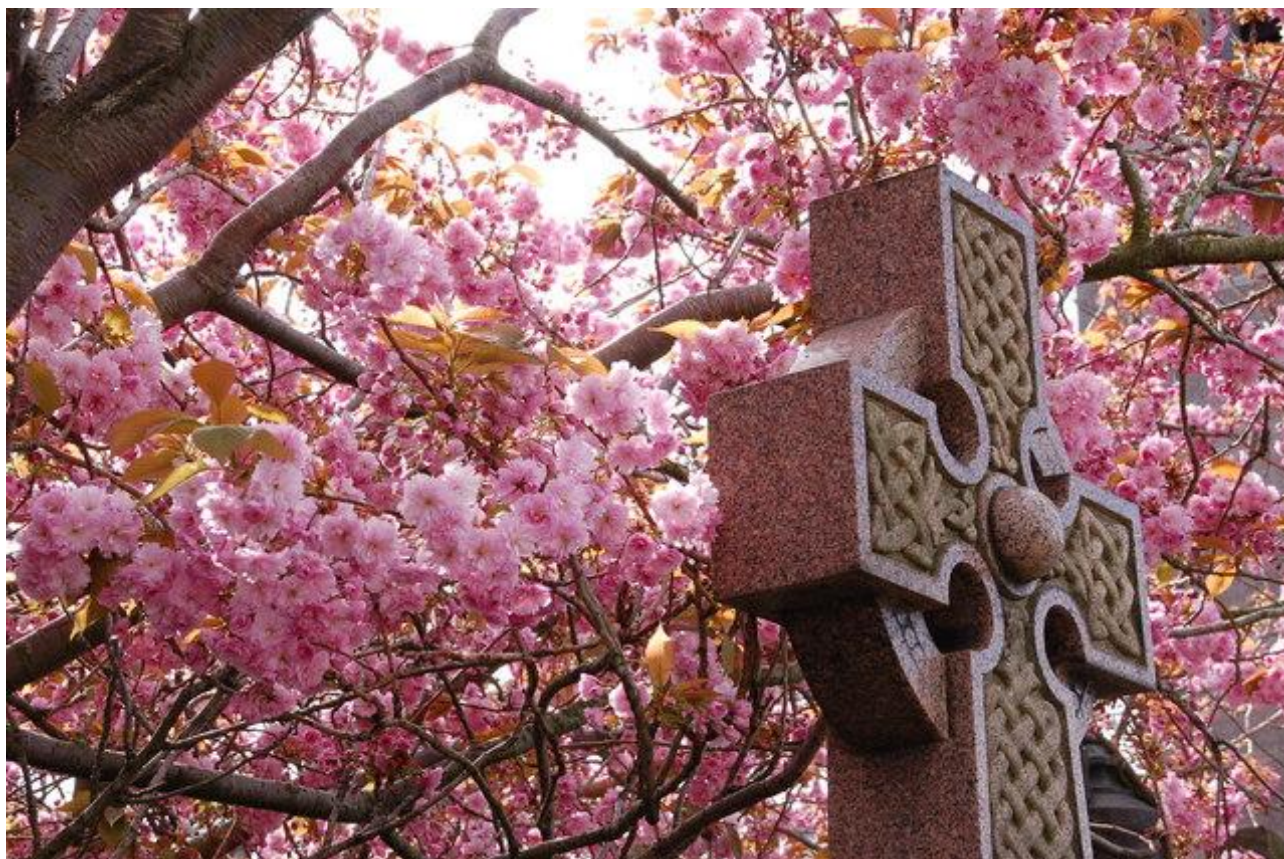
'Buy a Brick' campaign gets work started in Carrickfergus church

St Nicholas' Church restoration work begins thanks to success of 'Buy a Brick' campaign in Carrickfergus

Restoration work at a centuries-old church in Carrickfergus has commenced following a superb response to a fundraising campaign.

Parishioners responded generously, raising almost £14,300 to date through the Be In'spire'd fundraising events.

Their efforts have meant that priority restoration work, including pointing and stone repairs to the church tower and baptistry, was able to commence this month.



It is anticipated that this phase of works to the Market Place church, which is over 800 years old, will be completed in December.

The Rector, Chris St. John thanked everyone in the community, “especially our parishioners who found it in their hearts to contribute so generously”. He added: “The timeliness of the response is very much appreciated and has enabled us to commence the works on site as scheduled.”

Meanwhile, further donations towards the building fund are being welcomed during the ‘Knitted Journey Through the Bible’ exhibition at the church.

Featuring 28 knitted Bible stories, it will run on Thursday, November 9 from 6-8pm; Friday, November 10 from

Exhibition of 28 knitted Bible stories

10am-8pm; Saturday, November 11 from 10am-8pm, and Sunday, November 12 from 1pm-6:30pm.

Afternoon tea will be available on the Friday and Saturday at a cost of £8 per person. Booking is required; contact office@saintnicholas.org.uk or telephone 028 9336 0061. Tea and coffee will also be available each day.

All exhibits have been designed and knitted by Mrs Jean Stewart, assisted by the St Nicholas' craft group.

St Nicholas' Church with its iconic spire is one of the most prominent landmarks in the Carrickfergus area.

Built around 1180, the church is full of intriguing features both old and new, and offers guided tours for those who are interested in learning more about its rich history.

It is a key part of the town's heritage, and has been the venue for a large number of community events over the years.

They range from the civic carol service at Christmas to hosting a commemoration event in memory of Her Majesty the Queen in September 2022. Courtesy Northern Ireland World

See also - <https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/church/carrickfergus-st-nicholas>



Dundela Youth Fellowship sponsored walk for school lunches in Kenya

It's always uplifting to celebrate good news. The final total for sponsorship money raised from the St Mark's Youth Fellowship sponsored walk is...drum roll please ...£673!

They walked 8.5 miles from Seapark in Holywood to Pickie Park in Bangor back in September on a day with weather not to dissimilar to recent days.

“Thank you to all the family and friends who so kindly sponsored the YF. Our own parishioners were especially

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generous and we appreciate their support of our young people”.

The money raised is to help provide school lunches through our CMS Ireland partners at the Tujisaidie school in Kenya.

Good news story from The Hub Belfast

‘The first guy who walked by just as we were setting up give £20 to the Foodbank. There are so many generous people on our streets.’

The Hub team were on the street to 4.00 pm
Donations may be given on Sunday from 10am-1pm...
...And you can knock the red door of House 22 to drop any items of food or toiletries in...

The final day to collect is Sunday 28th October at the Hub’s Harvest invite service to which everyone is welcome. The Hub is the shared Methodist and C of I chaplaincy at Queen’s University. It is in Elmwood Avenue, Belfast

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News reports

Pope calls for October 27 day of prayer after Gaza hospital bombing

Amid international tensions surrounding the war in Gaza following the deadly bombing of a hospital, Pope Francis has called for another day of prayer and fasting for peace, saying war “cancels the future” and breeds hatred and revenge.

Speaking to faithful attending his Oct. 18 General Audience, Francis said to the sound of applause that he was thinking of Palestine and Israel.

“The victims are growing, and the situation in Gaza is desperate. Please, let everything possible be done to avoid a humanitarian catastrophe,” he said, noting that various wars are raging throughout the world and appealing to both sides to “Cast weapons aside, listen to the voice of the poor, the people, children.”

“Brothers and sisters, war does not resolve any problem. It only sows death and destruction. It increases hatred, multiplies revenge. War cancels the future, it cancels the future,” he said, and urged believers “to take only one part in this conflict, that of peace. Not of words, but prayer and total dedication.”

To this end, he announced Oct. 27 as a day of prayer and fasting for peace, and invited believers of various Christian confessions and those belonging to other religious traditions

to join, as well as all those “who carry in their heart the cause of peace in the world.”

He announced that on the evening of Oct. 27, at 6:00 p.m. in St. Peter’s Basilica, an hour of prayer would be held “in the spirit of penance” to implore God for “peace in our days, peace in this world,” Francis said, asking churches everywhere to participate by organizing similar initiatives.

Gaza has been at the heart of a war between Israel and Palestinian terrorist group Hamas following an unexpected and deadly surprise by Hamas militants Oct. 7 that left some 1,200 Israelis dead, including children.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu immediately declared war and has since launched an air and ground offensive, calling on northern Gaza to be evacuated as fighting escalates and concerns rise over the safety of civilians.

On Tuesday, Oct. 17, a massive blast shook Gaza City’s Ahli Hospital, which had been packed with wounded and other civilians seeking shelter and which sits outside of northern Gaza’s evacuation zone, killing at least 500 people, according to the Hamas-run Health Ministry.

Hamas blamed an Israeli strike for the blast, while Israel’s military said a rocket misfired by other Palestinian militants was to blame.

The strike sparked international outcry as videos and images circulated showing fire engulf the building as bodies, many of them young children, were strewn across hospital

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grounds, with blankets, school backpacks, and other personal belongings scattered in the grass around the facility.

Tuesday's carnage happened as concerns rapidly rise of a humanitarian disaster in Gaza, with many struggling to find bread and water as the United States and other countries attempt to convince Israel to allow the delivery of much-needed supplies to Gaza's civilian population.

Courtesy of Crux and the Catholic Herald.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Titanic play to be hosted in Glenraig and The Gathering

The Searchlight Theatre Company is bringing a Titanic drama to two churches in November.

Titanic: The Last Hero and the Last Coward will be staged in Holy Trinity Glenraig on 7 November and The Gathering (St Martin's Church) on 8 November. Tickets are £10 each and available via Eventbrite.

The play

John Harper and Joseph Ismay. Passengers on the Titanic. A church minister and an executive of the White Star Line. One a hero, one a coward. Both have a story to tell.

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That ill-fated crossing generated many tales of heroism and in amongst them, one or two more questionable endeavours. First-class and third-class passengers seldom came eye to eye, but as the ship slowly sunk and the panic for a lifeboat space began, these two men were cast together in a devastating drama.

“A heartfelt and moving tribute to the heroism of the common man, and that the heart of even the richest men can be opened and brought into the light.”

★★★★ – British Theatre Guide

“I can hardly pay the author a higher compliment. My penultimate show at Fringe 2023 was an unexpected gem.”

★★★★ – Plays International

Big Sing for Peata – Choral Opportunity for Girls

Christ Church Cathedral is offering an unparalleled opportunity to girls aged 10–16 to take part in the annual celebration of beloved charity Peata Pet Therapy.

You will form the celebration choir for the carol service enjoyed by people and animals alike.

Over the course of four weeks, you will take part in intensive rehearsals lead by experienced vocal professionals, learn valuable transferrable skills, and make new friends.

Rehearsals will take place on Mondays and Wednesdays, 5–6 pm at Christ Church Cathedral, starting on Monday November 13, culminating with a carol service at 1:15pm on Tuesday December 12.

Spaces on this project are limited and highly sought-after, so informal auditions will take place in the week beginning November 6. To register your interest and receive a time-slot, please complete this Google form. No preparation is necessary for the audition.

Participants in the Big Sing for Peata will be prioritised in consideration for permanent membership of the Cathedral Choir. Any queries can be sent to Tom Little, the Director of Music, at tom.little@christchurch.ie

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

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