

# Church News Ireland

---



**Image of the day – The Class of 2023 at CIC DCU**

## Image of the day



## The Class of 2023 at CIC DCU

**The Class of 2023 recently graduated from The Church of Ireland Centre at DCU.**

The Reverend Professor Anne Lodge said, “We celebrated the excellence of students in many elements of their studies





including the awarding of Religious Education certificates and prizes. Congratulations to all students and their families on this special day. We wish them every success in their teaching careers.

Professor Lodge continued “It was wonderful to lead the service of thanksgiving and appreciation for the gifts of all our graduands in The Church of Ireland Centre at DCU.

“Congratulations also to parents, family & friends who accompanied them throughout their degree journey”

October 25, 2023

The DCU Church of Ireland Centre is a place of education and for education, a place of diversity and for diversity, a place of community and for community.

The Church of Ireland Centre supports the Irish Protestant community and its network of schools. It provides the B.Ed pathway for those particularly preparing to teach in Protestant primary schools. Click here for information on the Church of Ireland Centre DC004 pathway into and thorough the DCU B.Ed programme.

The Church of Ireland Centre was established following the Incorporation Agreement in 2016. Its functions, structures and staffing were agreed and published in 2014 in "A New Vision of Education for All the Children of Ireland".

[<https://www.dcu.ie/church-of-ireland-centre>]

## People and places

### Church on the Hill confirmation and membership

**Congratulations to Allegra, Eva, Victoria, Colby, Ryan, Finlay, Riley, Russell and Lyndsey who were confirmed and received into membership Irecently.**

A wonderful service of celebration led by Rev Philip Agnew (District Superintendent of North East District) and Bishop David McClay (Bishop of Down and Dromore diocese).



**Fionn's third birthday - Happy Birthday to the official cathedral mascot (self-appointed).**

“We pray they will continue to daily increase in the Holy Spirit more and more. Thanks also to those who provided the delicious desserts afterwards”

## **Knitted journey through the Bible**

**St Nicholas' Church, Carrickfergus invites you to a fun and creative event taking place in from Thursday 9th November through to Sunday 12th November.**

There will be 28 wonderfully knitted Bible stories displayed throughout the Church building and there will be tea, coffee and yummy tray-bakes available too.





**The Diocesan Synod of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory which took place at The Tower Hotel & Leisure Centre Waterford, 18th October, 2023. The diocesan communications officer Shane Reynolds was capturing some of the highlights of Synod throughout the day.**

On Friday 10th and Saturday 11th, afternoon tea will be available in the hall and can be booked through the Church office (£8 per person).

This is a FREE event, however donations are welcomed towards our Be In”spire”d fundraising campaign.

The clergy and parishioners would love to see you there.

## News reports

### Anglican Primates, bishops and synods across the Communion react to the Israel-Hamas war

**Primates and Bishops from across the Anglican Communion have reacted to the Israeli-Hamas war. All are praying for peace and calling for an end to the conflict.**

**The Archbishop of Hong Kong** and Primate of the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui, Archbishop Andrew Chan, sent a letter of condolence to the Archbishop of Jerusalem, Hosam Naoum. In it, he sent greetings and blessings to the brothers and sisters in the Holy Land, praying for peace from the Lord. He also called on the faithful to pray for peace in Israel and Palestine.

**Church of Ireland Archbishops John McDowell of Armagh and Michael Jackson of Dublin** have asked all members of their Church to pray for peace in the Holy Land in a statement which accompanied the release of £8,650 GBP in emergency funds to the Diocese of Jerusalem from the Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal for World Aid and Development. The Archbishops said: "the rapidly escalating and degenerating situation in Israel and Palestine awakens within us our deep compassion for our brothers and sisters of all faiths in the Land of the Holy One. Where lives are lost through military attack and response, humanity in its entirety is diminished. We all grieve."





**The Archbishops of Canterbury and Jerusalem, alongside the Greek Orthodox Patriarch Theophilus III, praying together for the peace in the Holy Land**

**The Revd Chuck Robertson, Canon to the Presiding Bishop for Ministry** Beyond the US-based Episcopal Church, said: “we offer our prayers and support during this time of violence in Israel and Palestine. In Luke 19:41, we are reminded ‘That when Jesus drew near and saw the city, he wept over it.’ Many still weep.



October 25, 2023

“We pray for those who have been killed, injured, are searching for loved ones, and are struggling with grief and fear. The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem has consistently advocated for peace and justice, teaching us all what it means to walk in the way of love, to which Jesus points.

“We are praying for Israelis and Palestinians.

“We give thanks for the dedicated staff at al-Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza, part of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, and for all who are offering medical care in the region. We pray for their strength and safety.

Please join us in praying that there is a de-escalation and that the root causes of violence and oppression may be confronted and challenged so that a new understanding of peace prevails.”

**The synod of the Diocese of Melbourne** met on 15 October, and “lamented the loss of life and widespread injury in Israel, Palestine and Gaza.” It also “condemned the use of violence against civilians.”

The Revd Chris Porter moved a motion which asked synod not to take sides in the conflict but to pray for peace for all involved. The motion also calls “with Palestinian Christians – for a peaceful resolution to the Nakba, the cessation of violence, and instead the pursuit of non-violent options and calls for prayer for peace in our churches this coming Sunday.”

“Nakba” is the Arabic word “catastrophe”, it is used by Palestinians to refer to events surrounding the creation of the State of Israel in 1948.

**The Archbishop of Melbourne**, Philip Freier spoke about his experiences visiting the al-Ahli Arab Christian Hospital in Gaza 15 years ago and of how it has been a significant partner to Anglican Overseas Aid, the relief and development agency of the Church of Australia, since 1988.

In response to the Archbishop of Canterbury’s 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, **Bishop Christopher Chessun of Southwark**, in the Church of England, said: “we pray for all the victims of Hamas terror. As it counters terrorist atrocities it is vital for Israel to investigate the missile attack which hit the Ahli Arab Hospital and to reverse the evacuation order on hospitals in Gaza – innocent suffering needs to be avoided at all cost.”

After meeting in Kimberley, South Africa, this week, the **Suffragan Bishop of Reading in the Church of England’s Diocese of Oxford, Olivia Graham, and Bishop Brian Marajh of Kimberley and Kuruman**, issued a joint statement saying: “as the Dioceses of Kimberley & Kuruman and Oxford meet in shared friendship in Kimberley this week, it has been deeply shocking to hear of the suffering in southern Israel and subsequently in Gaza.

“Words are insufficient to describe the horror perpetrated through acts of terror against civilians. The ensuing trauma and consequences are deeply personal and local, drawing

October 25, 2023

many vulnerable people, Israeli and Palestinian, into the conflict, but are also shared internationally through our common humanity.

“We add our prayers to those of churches and people of goodwill across the world for all who have been affected either directly or indirectly through the terrible violence. Amidst the profound sense of shock and loss our hearts cry out to God for comfort, security and the rebuilding of community.”

**The Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell**, expressed his “grief and concern” in a statement: “We are grieved and deeply concerned at the violence in Israel and Gaza, and we unequivocally condemn the attacks by Hamas. We pray for those who are mourning, those who are injured, and all those fearing for their safety. We pray for restraint on all sides, and renewed efforts towards a just peace for all. The way forward must be for both sides to build confidence in a secure future through which Israel and its people can live in security within its internationally recognised borders, and Palestinians have their own state and live in their lands in security, and with peace and justice.”

## **Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books**

### **“Out of the Ordinary” - Advent and Christmas 2023 resources**





**The Methodist Church in GB have an excellent set of resources for Advent -**

Out of our ordinary acts, in our ordinary lives, the world-transforming, extraordinary love of God can shine through.

It goes without saying that the Advent-Christmas season is a busy one for churches.

October 25, 2023

But it is also a wonderful opportunity to connect with people who don't normally attend church and who might come to a service in this period. These resources are intended to help you engage with the Methodist Church's Advent and Christmas campaign for 2023, Out of the Ordinary, and reach your local community at a key moment in the year.

Building on the success of last year's campaign, we've listened to the feedback we received from those using the resources and are delivering more streamlined content earlier in the year, to make planning easier. Resources are now ready to download and order, to begin receiving via post from 11 September.

## **Campaign**

This campaign for 2023 is Out of the Ordinary. Share how the wonder of God's love is revealed in the ordinary...

a seemingly ordinary birth becomes God's out of the ordinary world-saving event through Jesus.

every day, ordinary acts of kindness can breakthrough to the extraordinary.

We'll be directing people to our campaign website page during Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, where they'll be able to watch our Christmas film, sign up for daily Advent reflections and find their local Methodist Church.

## **Weekly themes**

Biblical passages and themes for each Sunday and the following week

## **Worship Resource planner**

A worship resource planner for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany services

Download the Worship resource planner

Download a Welsh language version of the resource planner

## **Poster**

Display outside your church to advertise your services and events.

Download editable PDF

## **Invitation postcards**

Three individual, scratch-off designs to give away at services and events.

Order for free from Methodist Publishing

Download PDFs: [Version 1](#) | [Version 2](#) | [Version 3](#)

## **Downloadable design assets and social media graphics**

Create your own print and digital designs using individual assets, and download ready-made social media graphics to use across your social channels.

Download the full assets pack

Download ready-made social media graphics

Download Canva templates: [Social media graphic \(4:5\)](#) | [Social media graphics \(square\)](#) | [Banner graphics \(400x150\)](#) | [Banner graphics \(1250x300\)](#)



October 25, 2023

## How to engage with your community this Christmas

A short video offering five top tips for engaging with your community this Christmas.

[<https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/advent-and-christmas-resources/>]

## Heritage

### Loss of first Presbyterian chaplain in WW1

**Yesterday marked the anniversary of the loss of the Reverend Alexander Stuart who was the first Presbyterian Chaplain to die in service in WW1. He was one of five brothers who entered the ministry,**

He was a member of the Army Chaplains Department, attached to the 12th (Service) Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, Died 24/10/1917. Age 24. Alex was the first Presbyterian minister from Ireland to be killed in the war.

A contemporary newspaper report stated - "In the early part of 1916 he was in Egypt doing work amongst the soldiers in connection with the Y.M.C.A., and so deeply interested was he in the welfare of our fighting men that he felt it his duty to volunteer as a regular chaplain, his decision being accepted by his warmly attached congregation. No one expected that a career so promising should be terminated so soon, and from many quarters to-day there will be expressions of

sincerest sympathy not merely with his congregation in Bessbrook, but more particularly with his widowed mother and the other members of the family, in their and bereavement.

“The deceased was a son of Rev. J. C. Stuart. Secession minister, of Clare, near Tandragee, and received his primary education at Taniokly National School, Belfast. He pursued his studies for the ministry during his undergraduate career in Magee College, Derry. He took one session in theology in Assembly's College, Belfast ; one in New College, Edinburgh ; and one in Princeton, America.

“On the completion of his college course he was licensed by the General Assembly on June 3rd, 1912, the Rev. Dr. Montgomery being Moderator for that year. For the next three years he was assistant minister in Agnes Street Church (Belfast), under the Rev. W.J. Baird. In the different congregations in which he laboured he endured himself greatly to the people, all of whom will learn with regret of his lamented early death. On the 21st May, 1913, he was ordained Bessbrook in succession to the Rev. Thos. Cronie.”

He was one of five brothers who entered the ministry, the others being :- The late Rev. R. F. Stuart, pastor of the Secession Presbyterian Church, Stranraer ; Rev. S. F. Stuart, B.A., of Ballyjamesduff, formerly of Aughnacloy ; Rev. T. C. Stuart, of Macosquin, near Coleraine ; and Rev. Henry Cooke, of Donoughmore, near Newry.

Son of Sarah Jane Stuart nee Fleming, and the late Rev. Joseph Crawford Stuart, of 54 Brookvale Avenue, Belfast. (Prev. of Clare, Tandragee). His remains rest at Ruyaulcourt

October 25, 2023

Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. He is named on Bessbrook and District War Memorial and Magee College War Memorial.

## **Armagh Clergy daughter - army nurse and organist**

**On the same day a year later in 1918 Nurse Muriel Edith Elizabeth Ford Tichborne, LRAM, VAD from Tynan, died in Aldershot Military Hospital. Her remains rest in Aldershot Military Cemetery.**

She was twenty-five years old and was the elder daughter of the Rev Ford and Mrs Elizabeth Tichborne.

She had gained the LRAM and sources say there is a stained glass window memorial to her in St Mark's Parish Church, Armagh. One half of the window is of a lady playing the organ, the other side is a nurse/VAD.

Ford Tichborne (1862–1940) was born in County Tyrone in 1862 and educated at TCD. He held the important offices of Chancellor of Armagh Cathedral, Dean of Armagh (1928–1938) and Bishop of Ossory, Ferns and Leighlin (1938–1940). Tichborne died in 1940. There is a memorial to him in the north aisle at St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh.

Extracted from Remembrance NI - a daily post. See - <https://remembranceneni.org/2023/10/24/october-24-motor-sportsman-was-ww1-flyer-roll-of-honour/>



October 25, 2023

## Poem for today

### Baby Eyes by George Bernard Shaw

Large Baby eyes smiling joyfully at me,  
Baby eyes as brown as can be.  
Two deep pools most innocent and bright,  
To me are symbols of sheer delight.  
May I greet you every single day?  
For you are sunshine on my way.  
Other people see you smile so sweet,  
All are happier when you they meet.  
Eyes are the windows to the soul,  
No difficulties for you reaching your goal.  
So sweet baby go on life's way,  
Those Baby eyes have much to say.

## 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](mailto:houstonmckelvey@mac.com)

October 25, 2023