

# Church News Ireland



**Image of the day – Moderator visits Fermoy and Cork**

## Image of the day

### Moderator visits Fermoy and Cork

Pictured in Fermoy Presbyterian Church are (left to right) the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, Rt Rev Dr Sam Mawhinney, where he was minister from 1997 to 2008, with his wife Karen and Sharon Montgomery, wife of Dr Mawhinney's successor and the current minister of Fermoy Presbyterian, Rev William Montgomery. Seereport on the visit on page 11. .

## People and places

### Churches Winter Coat Project in Belfast and Larne

**St Paul and St Barnabas Parish in Belfast and St Cedma's in Larne are among a number of churches getting involved in the Winter Coat Project.**

Organised in conjunction with Redeeming Our Communities and other local groups, the project invites people to donate a winter coat to help those who are homeless and in crisis in the city to stay warm.

Supporters can also donate plastic bags, clothes rails or mirrors, or volunteer to sort donations or provide refreshments for other volunteers.

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The poster features a blue quilted jacket icon on the left. The main title 'WINTER COAT PROJECT 2023' is in large blue letters. Below it, the text 'Come along to our Winter Coat Project to get your free Winter Coats, hats, scarves and gloves!' is written in a smaller blue font. The church name 'ST PAUL'S & ST BARNABAS CHURCH' is prominently displayed in large blue letters. The address '210 York Street, Belfast BT15 1JJ' is shown with a red location pin icon. The collection date and time 'Thursday 2nd Nov 2pm-7pm' are listed below, accompanied by a red jacket icon. On the right side, there is a photograph of the church building. At the bottom right, there are logos for 'St. Paul & St. Barnabas' and 'ROC NORTH BELFAST'. The background of the text area is white with light blue snowflake patterns.

**WINTER COAT PROJECT 2023**

Come along to our Winter Coat Project to get your free Winter Coats, hats, scarves and gloves!

**ST PAUL'S & ST BARNABAS CHURCH**

210 York Street,  
Belfast BT15 1JJ

**COLLECT A COAT**  
Thursday 2nd Nov  
2pm-7pm

St. Paul & St. Barnabas

ROC  
NORTH BELFAST

Donated coats and other winter warmers will be available for collection in St Paul and St Barnabas, 210 York Street, Belfast, BT15 1JJ on Thursday November 2 from 2pm-7pm.

St Cedma's, Larne, is also taking part in the Winter Coat Project, and coats will be available for collection on Thursday October 26 in the Church Hall from 10am-2pm.



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## **Muckamore Men's Fellowship visit HMS Caroline**

FORGE, the Men's Fellowship at Muckamore Presbyterian Church had a great day at HMS Caroline in Belfast. It was organised by Albert.





## **Parish Readers commissioned in Carrickfergus**

Six new Parish Readers were commissioned by the Rev Peter Jones, Connor Diocesan Warden of Readers, at a service in St Nicholas' Parish Church, Carrickfergus, on October 22.

They are: Stuart Horner, Dianne Innes, Alison Kane; Raymond Gilbert; Philip O'Neill; and Jean Stewart.

The new Parish Readers were photographed along with Bishop George Davison, the Rev Nathan Ervine, the Rev Chris St John, rector, and his wife Andrea.

# mission PIONEERS



## Presbyterian Church is introducing mission PIONEERS

**Pioneers are those who go first, pave the way and initiate connection with those outside the church to engage them with both the gospel and Christian community.**

PCI, through it's Council for Mission in Ireland, wish to identify and recruit mission PIONEERS who can be involved in this kind of work across Ireland. If you feel called to be involved in church planting, new evangelistic outreach or pioneering mission, then this is something to explore.

All applicants will be assessed n terms of suitability before being assigned a programme of apprenticeship and training, some of which will be alongside ongoing service.

For more info, see -

[www.presbyterianireland.org/missionpioneers](http://www.presbyterianireland.org/missionpioneers)



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## Outstanding concert at St Mark's Dundela



**A wonderful concert was held this week in St Mark's Parish Church, Dundela..**

Elisabeth Brauss, piano, Leonard Elschenbroich, cello and Chaos String Quartet played Mozart , Brahms, Schumann and Franck. Students and staff from John Brown University Belfast campus were present.

The programme was arranged by Belfast International Arts Festival and BBC Radio 3.

## **Palace visits for Connor manager**

**Trevor Douglas, Connor Diocesan Development Manager and General Manager of Belfast Cathedral, was**





**at Buckingham Palace on Thursday October 19 for a reception hosted by the Royal Family.**

The reception was organised to recognise contributors and supporters involved in the State Funeral of the last Queen Elizabeth II and the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla.

Trevor was one of five people invited from Northern Ireland, with guests also representing Belfast City Council, Lisburn and Castlereagh Council, Translink and the PSNI. Officials from the Northern Ireland Office were also in attendance.

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The reception was held in the Private Apartments of Buckingham Palace, and Trevor was introduced to the King and Queen as well as the Princess Royal and Sophie, Duchess of Edinburgh.

Trevor said: “It was very humbling and emotional and thrilling to talk to the Royals. Each took the time to find out who we were, where we had come from and what we had done.

“The King made a point of saying that he had been ‘thrilled’ with the service in St Anne’s Cathedral and that he had enjoyed the service, the welcome he had received in Northern Ireland and the support of the people here.”

This was Trevor’s second visit to Buckingham Palace this year. On May 3, he and his wife Karen were guests at the first Palace Garden Party to take place in the reign of King Charles III.

## **Creating MU Banners and more**

**The Reverend Louise Stewart recently attended North Connor’s Mother Union Festival Service at Ballintoy Parish Church. Four of the parish branch banners were the result of her creative skills.**

The banners were representing Agherton Parish, the Ballycastle Parishes of Ramoan and Culfeightrin, Armoy Parish and the grouped parishes of Ballyrashane & Kildollagh





Rev Louise posted on Facebook, "Some lovely banners I recently created for the North Connor's Mother Union branches. Very detailed work that was a labour of love!"

Her most recent project involved the repair and renewal of altar and communion materials for St Columbus Cathedral, Derry.

## **Moderator steps back down memory lane**

**One of the most important roles that a Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland has, is to encourage the Church and its members, as they preach most Sundays in congregations across the length and breadth of the island – and this past weekend was no different.**





Rev Richie Cronin, minister of Trinity Cork and Aghada Presbyterian Churches with the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, Rt Rev Dr Sam Mawhinney, with Ireland's oldest person, Mrs Kitty Jeffery. Dr Mawhinney paid a visit to the 108 year old at her home after he had preached in Aghada Presbyterian Church. Mrs Jeffery, her late husband, and their family, worshipped in Aghada Presbyterian Church, where one of her sons is an elder.

Along with his wife Karen, Right Reverend, Dr Sam Mawhinney, spent the weekend in County Cork (21/22 October) – home of his very first congregation in Fermoy – and Mrs Kitty Jeffery, Ireland's oldest person.

On Sunday morning Dr Mawhinney preached in Aghada, Ireland's most southerly Presbyterian congregation and

Trinity Presbyterian Church in the heart of Cork city. After both morning services, where he preached on his theme for the year, 'Confident in Christ', he spent time with their minister, Rev Richie Cronin and his family. In the evening he returned to Fermoy for a Harvest Service.

Speaking about his weekend, Dr Mawhinney said, "It was great to be back, especially in Fermoy where Karen and our boys spent ten and a half very happy years. It is always different when you return somewhere you have such close associations with, but it was something that we had been looking forward to since we were asked to go." Dr Mawhinney was called to the linked Home Mission charge as Fermoy and Cahir in September 1997. Fermoy Presbyterian itself was formed 160 years before that in 1837 and the Moderator was the congregation's 10th minister and, the first to be called as a full-time minister since 1960.

"There was a great family atmosphere to Fermoy and it was good to hear of people who had come to faith and had been nurtured and disciplined well under my successor, William Montgomery, and are still going on with the Lord," Dr Mawhinney said.

"It was good to see the work that is being done in Trinity Cork, Aghada and Fermoy, three small, but fruitful congregations. As a Dublin minister now, I had forgotten how far they were from the central headquarters of the Church, at Assembly Buildings in Belfast. Like many ministers, Richie must travel quite a distance between his churches on Sunday's and during the week. It gave me a fresh appreciation for all our ministers who serve the Lord in rural congregations, and I whole heartedly commend their





The Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, Rt Rev Dr Sam Mawhinney, in his former pulpit in Fermoy Presbyterian Church where he preached at the Harvest Service last Sunday. Dr Mawhinney was the minister of Fermoy Presbyterian Church from 1997 to 2008.

dedication and hard work in ministry,” Dr Mawhinney said.

After preaching in Aghada, along with Rev Richie Cronin, and one of the elders, George Jeffery, Dr Mawhinney paid a visit to Mr Jeffery’s mother, Kitty, who will be 109 years old next month. Born in Glenville in north County Cork, three months after the outbreak of the First World War in 1914, her father was the farm manager of Glenville Manor. Originally from a Church of Ireland family, on marrying her husband George in the late 1940s, they worshipped in Aghada Presbyterian where he had attended.

“My mother’s side of the family are all long-lived, with some of her cousins going on into their nineties, so long life definitely comes from that side of the family,” Mr Jeffery explained, one of Kitty’s four children.”

Mr Jeffery continued, “It is incredible to think of the times that she has lived through, as she remembers the Civil War and the Economic War of the 1930s, even the death of Michael Collins when she was very young. Her father died when my mother was 16 and as their home came with my grandfather’s job, the family had to move to Cork. To this day, she is still very emotionally attached to Glenville.”

“She has always had a quiet, but deep faith, and in days gone by she was very active as a member of the Mothers’ Union and the Irish Countrywomen’s Association. She also worked as a secretary for various people. While she sleeps and eats well, this last while as seen her confined to her bed, but she’s in good enough form and had been looking forward to seeing the Moderator. She’s remarkable,” he said.

Talking about his visit, Dr Mawhinney, who is minister of Adelaide Road Presbyterian Church in Dublin, thanked the family for their hospitality. “Karen and I were warmly welcomed, and it was plain to see the family’s love and care for their mother. It is a remarkable thing to have met someone who has lived as long, and has witnessed what we would consider to be ‘history’, especially the times that led up to the founding of the Irish State. I prayed for her and would like to wish her every blessing for her 109th birthday next month,” he said.

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After his visit to Mrs Jeffery, Dr Mawhinney visited Middleton, which had been badly affected by extreme flooding following Storm Babet during the week.

## News reports

### **Gaza: Archbishops of Jerusalem & Canterbury in Emergency Appeal for Diocese of Jerusalem**

The Archbishops of Canterbury and Jerusalem, Hosam Naoum and Justin Welby, have issued a joint emergency appeal for the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. The international appeal calls for prayers and donations not only for the work of the Anglican-run al-Ahli Arab Hospital's vital work in Gaza, but also for the Diocese of Jerusalem's ministries throughout the Holy Land which are also being greatly affected by the Israel-Hamas war.

Responding to the appeal, a spokesperson for the Diocese of Jerusalem said: "Thank you again for all your prayers and support during this time of great calamity! Continue to pray for the peace of Jerusalem, and for security for all who dwell in its lands."

**The text of the Archbishops' joint appeal is reproduced below.**

24 October, 2023

Dear Friends,



Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

### **From Archbishop Hosam Naoum:**

Just over two weeks ago, the world was horrified at the sudden eruption of war in the Holy Land, resulting in hundreds of deaths, injuries, and displacements. Since that time, those numbers have multiplied into the thousands, as open hostilities have drastically escalated. Innocent civilians, especially women and children, have been caught in the deadly crossfire. As you have probably seen, a massive rocket blast exploded in the midst of our own Ahli Hospital in the heart of Gaza City, tragically killing or seriously wounding hundreds of refugees who had gathered there because they had no other place of shelter in which to go.

Although Ahli's buildings were heavily damaged, two nights later our devoted staff partially reopened the hospital. In doing this, they demonstrated the determination we have in the Diocese of Jerusalem to persevere in our Christian mission to serve others as though we were serving Christ himself (Matt 25 :31-46). And this is the case not just for Gaza, but throughout all the Holy Land. Yet in order to accomplish this mission in the midst of a devastating war, we need to draw upon the strength of the larger Body of Christ. For we understand that when one member of the Body suffers, all parts suffer (1 Cor 12:26).

And so, my sisters and brothers in Christ, I appeal to you to first of all to pray for our mission here, as well for the peace



## Archbishops Hosam Naoum and Justin Welby outside Saint George's Cathedral in Jerusalem

of Jerusalem (Psa 122:6). Secondly, advocate with your representatives for a just and lasting peace in the Holy Land, so that all who dwell within these lands can live in security.

Finally, if you are able, support our ministries in Gaza, Palestine & Israel, and throughout the Diocese of Jerusalem by contributing financially through one of our international partners.

Thank you for helping us continue the work of our Lord Jesus Christ in the very lands in which he himself ministered in his earthly life before offering up his life on our behalf and

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then rising again victorious from the grave, overcoming death and giving us hope for a new life. May God bless you.

### **From Archbishop Justin Welby:**

As war devastates the Holy Land, we ask where Christ is to be found amid the cries of His children.

When the lives of the innocent are at risk, we strain our eyes for the light of the One who offers healing, peace, and justice. In Gaza, the Al Ahli hospital, run by the Diocese of Jerusalem, is that light. Despite being hit by rocket fire last week, it is still providing critical care to the injured and anyone in need of medical attention. As health services become even more vital in Gaza, the work of the hospital becomes more difficult for urgent need of medications, equipment and fuel.

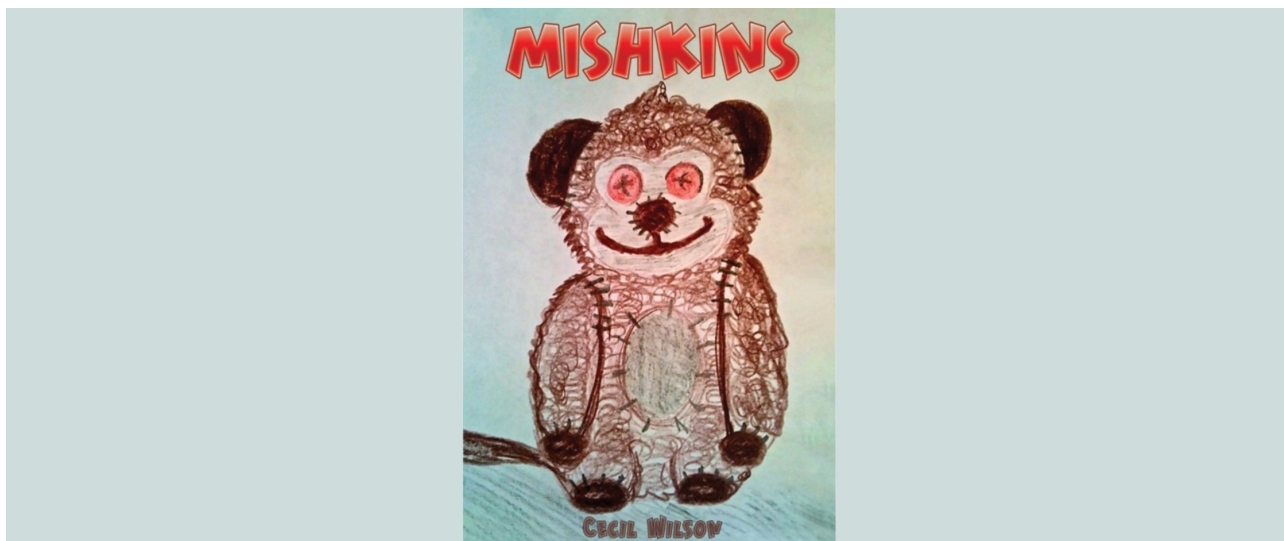
Please, continue to pray for those who mourn, those who are in pain, and those who are in fear, and for those who are caring for the injured and bereaved. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus says that those who have looked after the sick have cared for Christ himself. I urge everyone, if they are able, to support the Al Ahli Hospital's work caring for the wounded body of Jesus Christ and contribute to the Gaza Appeal.

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# Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



## Canon Cecil Wilson leaves a legacy in story

**Mishkins, a story the late Revd Canon Cecil Wilson told to his daughters when they were children, has been released as a book with the proceeds of all sales going to CMSI.**

Cecil, who died in February 2022, served 32 years of his ministry with CMS Ireland, first as Youth Secretary and then as General Secretary. In retirement he was a valued colleague in the Lecale Area Mission Partnership (LAMP) ministry team.

Cecil's wife Barbara said, "Mishkins was created by a man of deep faith who shared it with many people. His dearest



wish would be for that to continue and to be his legacy to us all”

## **The book**

Suitable for children aged 10 and upwards, Mishkins is the story of a very unusual cuddly toy set in 19th century England and Africa, a continent Cecil loved and visited often.

**The Right Reverend Robin Eames**, former Archbishop of Armagh said, “Told with great sensitivity Mishkins is a story which has deep meaning far beyond the adventures of a much–loved cuddly toy. The message of Mishkins reaches across the generations and its truth is timeless. I am confident that the stories and adventures of a cuddly toy in these pages will point the reader to the great truths of belief and faith which make sense of life in a world of confusion and doubt...”

**Jenny Smyth, Director of Mission, CMS Ireland**, commented, “The story of Mishkins is a warm–hearted tale tackling some challenging topics. Set in the 19th century, it

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creatively introduces children to loss, the hard realities of life in poorer regions of the world and the slave trade. It will give rise to many questions but is woven through with faith in a God who loves all that He created and who can be trusted even in very troubled times.” Jenny Smyth, Director of Mission, CMS Ireland.

Mishkins (£9.99) may be purchased from The Book Well

## Heritage

### Dungannon scholar was Second in Command of RN Medical services in World War I

**Surgeon Rear-Admiral David Walker Hewitt. CMG 1918. CB 1919, was born at Neas, Dungannon 08/06/1870. MRCS and FRCS 12/12/1912; MB BCh BAO RUI 1895; BSc 1912. He was a brother of Rev JFW Hewitt, rector of Florence Court, Enniskillen.**

He was educated at the Royal School, Dungannon, at the Galway College of the Royal University of Ireland, at Edinburgh, and at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London. For a short time he acted as a clinical assistant at St Peter's Hospital for Stone in Henrietta Street, Covent Garden.

He entered the Royal Navy as a surgeon in November 1897. Early in his service he showed promise of a distinguished career, being commended in 1904 for his assistance on the subject of the treatment of wounded in



ships during and after action. He contributed an article entitled "Treatment of wounded in naval warfare" to the *British Medical Journal*, 1914.

He was specially promoted to Fleet Surgeon (Surgeon Commander) in 1911 for conspicuous professional merit. Up to 1913 he had served in various ships at home and abroad, but in that year he was appointed as an Assistant to the Medical Director-General, in which post he served for six years, and throughout the war of 1914-18, with marked success. In 1918 he was made CMG in recognition of services rendered during the war.

He was specially selected as senior medical officer for the North Russian Expeditionary Force, in which appointment he was in charge of the medical arrangements for both the Navy and the Army. He was strongly commended for his untiring, farseeing, and excellent arrangements, and was made CB (military) for these valuable services in 1919.

Proceeding to sea once more, he continued to show considerable powers of organization and proved a competent operating surgeon as principal medical officer of the new hospital ship Panama, afterwards renamed Maine.

His service was concluded as Surgeon Rear-Admiral in charge of the RN Hospital at Haslar from 1926 until 1929, when he was placed on the retired list at his own request.

All who served with Surgeon Vice-Admiral D W Hewitt became impressed with his zeal. No appreciation of him, as a doctor and an officer, can be better expressed than in the words of a senior officer at the end of his service: "By his

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solicitude for the patients and the sympathy he shows to relatives and dependents, he has endeared himself to all classes, and I fully believe that Haslar Hospital stands even higher in the general estimation than in the past." He was a loyal friend, ever ready to lend a helping hand to his juniors.

He married Nora Gertrude Pinkey on 11, February 1908. She survived him, with a son and two daughters. He died on 25 October 1940 at Lindhu, Alverstoke, Hants.

He was a brother of Rev JFW Hewitt, rector of Florence Court, Enniskillen, and of Fleet Surgeon AJ Hewitt, RN.

**Acknowledgements** - The Royal College of Surgeons of England, The Times, 15 November 1940, British Medical Journal 1940, Dungannon RS History Department

Extract from Remembrance NI. See - <https://remembrancenl.org/>

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