

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Cathedral Harvest

Image of the day

Cathedral Harvest

Floral display in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast for the Harvest Festival yesterday

People and places

Refurbished church hall fundraises for Air Ambulance NI

Mrs Jean Bovill, Ballyscullion Parish, hands over a cheque for £2,605 to Breige Mulholland from Air Ambulance NI.

The recently refurbished church hall at Ballyscullion (Grange) Parish Church in Toomebridge was the venue for a fundraising event for Air Ambulance NI on September 13.

The event, which included old time music and storytelling, raised £2,605, with completed Gift Aid forms bringing the total to almost £3,000.



The church hall, which is more than 140-years-old and had previously been used as an Anglican school, was restored by a small band of dedicated volunteers.

The building held fond memories for some of those involved as they had attended concerts, Sunday School events and Christmas celebrations in the hall in years gone by. In some cases, their parents and grandparents had actually attended the school, known locally as the Pound School.

The hall was packed to capacity for the fundraiser on September 13, and the community hymn-singing almost raised the roof!

The organisers have expressed gratitude to the members of the music group and the storytellers who provided their

October 9, 2023

services free of charge and thanked all who donated so generously.

*This prayer is by the prisoners of HMP Low
Newton where the Mothers' Union has a branch:*

Dear God

**We have hope as an anchor for the soul
As we see ourselves through God's eyes.
Lift the darkness, clear our worries.
And guide us to the light.
Amen.**

 **PRISONS WEEK**
A WEEK OF PRAYER

Mothers' UNION 

Mothers' Union prayer support for Prisons Week

Mothers' Union posted - At the beginning of Prisons Week we pray and thank God for the work of our members across the world to bring hope and practical support to prisoners, their families and those who work in the prison system.



Podcast series on 5 marks of mission

'Tell': how does the church grow?

Bishop Jered Kalimba, Shyogwe Diocese, Rwanda, recently had an inspiring conversation with Stephen Fletcher, DCO TLK Diocese.

Stephen has been commissioned by the Col Council for Mission to record a series of podcasts around the 5 marks of mission. What can we learn about church growth from Rwanda?

Keep an eye out for the podcast series.

Joyous Celebrations as St George and St Thomas Church Re-opens for Anglican Worship

On Sunday September 24, St George and St Thomas Church became the first church in a quarter of a century to re-open for public worship in the United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough.

The historic re-opening service was the culmination of a lot of work by parishioners, supported by a number of local organisations.

The renowned church, which is located just off O'Connell Street, at the gateway to Dublin's North East Inner City redevelopment area, was taken into administration by the Dioceses in April 2017 but the parish was later reconstituted and returned to parishioners at a special Easter Vestry in January 2023.

The last church to re-open in Dublin, was St Catherine's Church on Thomas Street, which closed for Anglican worship in 1966 but was re-opened in 1998 by CORE (City Outreach for Renewal and Evangelism). Unlike St Catherine's Church however, St George and St Thomas was never formally closed or deconsecrated.

The Parish of St George and St Thomas has long been recognised as the Church of Ireland's intercultural parish,



Members of the congregation chatting following the service marking the reopening of the Church of St George and St Thomas.

being located in the heart of a very diverse community and possessing a large number of ethnically diverse members in its congregation.

The Parish is also the oldest institution in continuous existence in Dublin's North East Inner City, with foundations dating back to 1758, when the parish of St Mary's was divided to cope with the city's growing population.

Commenting on the re-opening of the church, the People's Churchwarden, Mrs Funmi Akingbade said, "We thank God for the wonderful re-opening of St George and St Thomas. It is only through prayer and the mercy of God that we the parishioners have been able to enjoy this amazing moment. We now continue to seek the grace of God to enable our church to grow and flourish into the future".

October 9, 2023

The Parish Secretary, Mr Okwuchukwu Augustine Ndulue added, “This is a remarkable day, not just in the life of the present parishioners, but for generations to come. I have a feeling that we will always look back at this reopening and be motivated to keep going, and to keep the fire burning”.

The re-opening service of Holy Communion was led by the Rural Dean, Rev Garth Bunting and Diocesan Lay Reader, Mr Paul Lavin. Music was provided by the Discovery Gospel Choir.

St George and St Thomas will meet for worship on the first and third Sunday of every month at 3.00pm.

Report by Okwuchuckwu Augustine Ndulue

Northern Ireland churches are listed for UK awards

Seven churches in Northern Ireland have been submitted to the finals of the United Kingdom's National Church awards.

The awards are organised by the National Churches' Trust with different Christian faith denominations able to nominate their places of worship for consideration on the various aspects of architecture, maintenance, volunteering and tourism.

Claire Walker, chief executive of the National Churches' Trust, explains: “Churches have an amazing story to tell –

from their beautiful buildings to the faithful volunteers who keep them open and serving everyone in need.

“Through our research, we know that churches contribute £55billion towards economic and social good each year and reading through the submissions, it was clear that churches are active across the UK in using their buildings to bring communities together and to help them to thrive.”

Ms Walker adds: “The finalists for the National Church Awards show the innovative ways that churches can use their buildings to the benefit of all. All are shining examples of churches being open and welcoming and making a significant difference in their local communities.”

The Northern Ireland churches nominated are:

- * Sinclair Seamen’s Presbyterian,, Belfast for the tourism award.
- * Christ Church (Church of Ireland), Londonderry for tourism and volunteering awards.
- * Roman Catholic church of the Immaculate Conception, Strabane for tourism award.
- * St Bestius church, Termonamongan, Killeter, Co Tyrone (Church of Ireland) for volunteering award.
- * St Mary’s Roman Catholic, Altinure, Park, Co Londonderry for maintenance award.
- * Killinchy Presbyterian, Co Down for maintenance award.

October 9, 2023

* Holy Trinity (Church of Ireland), Waringstown, Co Down for maintenance award.

Nina McNeary, Northern Ireland support officer for the UK National Churches' Trust, says: "It is great to see so many Northern Ireland churches listed as finalists in the awards. Last year, Northern Ireland won two awards and the overall church of the year award."

The awards' ceremony will be held on Monday November 6 at Mercers' Hall, London with representatives of shortlisted churches invited.

The ceremony will be presented by actor Hugh Dennis and Canon Ann Easter, former chaplain to the late Queen Elizabeth II, with guest of honour, the Duke of Gloucester, vice-patron of the National Churches' Trust.

National Churches' Trust works in partnership with churches across the UK to keep them open and in use. Whether seeking quiet reflection, access to critical community services, a warm welcome, a place to worship, or a space to explore.

The Trust says churches should be loved and supported, and available to all. Working together with Christian churches across all four nations, we help to maintain these wonderful historic buildings and keep them thriving.

Church News Ireland

News reports

Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem's al-Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza launches emergency appeal

The Secretary General of the Anglican Communion, Bishop Anthony Poggo, has responded to the latest outbreak of hostilities around Gaza with the following statement:

"As I watch the latest developments from Israel and Gaza, I weep for the peoples of the region and pray for peace. In particular, I pray for the safety of all civilians – whether residents or tourists and pilgrims – and I pray for a cessation of violence.

"I also pray for the Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem, Archbishop Hosam Naoum, and other Christian leaders, as they continue to serve their people and work for peace and reconciliation.

"I am in touch with Archbishop Hosam and I want to particularly thank him and his staff for the care they are taking to look after members of the International Commission for Anglican–Orthodox Theological Dialogue (ICAOTD), who are currently meeting in Jerusalem."

ICAOTD is the official international ecumenical dialogue between the Anglican Communion and the Orthodox Churches in communion with the Ecumenical Patriarchate.



The co-chairs of the International Commission for Anglican-Orthodox Theological Dialogue (ICAOTD), Metropolitan-Athenagoras of Belgium and Bishop Michael Lewis, with the Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem, Patriarch Theophilos III, and the Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem, Hosam Naoum, pictured last week in Jerusalem ahead of Saturday's outbreak of war.

Emergency appeal for al-Ahli Arab hospital

The Anglican Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem runs the al-Ahli Arab hospital in Gaza. Its director, Suhaila Tarazi, has issued an emergency appeal.

“On 7 October 7 at 6.30 am, the people of Gaza woke up scared, witnessing a horrible situation. They couldn’t figure out what was going on for the first 20 to 30 minutes. Official

channels then confirmed that Palestinian militant groups had fired thousands of rockets towards Israel. Clashes occurred in the border towns. Israel's military has since bombed back some targets in the Gaza Strip, and the Israeli government declared it would respond with a huge retaliation against Gaza and Palestinian fighters.

“The situation is severely critical, and the consequences for people in Gaza are very bad, particularly in the health sector. The Ministry of Health has triggered an emergency situation and asked all health-service providers to increase their emergency response capacity. Life in Gaza is paralysed, with all institutions and private sectors closed, affecting the people's access to basic needs, particularly health.

“Governmental hospitals have prioritised emergency cases, deprioritising elective surgeries and non-emergency health cases. According to the catastrophe that has started to affect the deteriorated healthcare system and people living in Gaza, AAH is committed to continuing to provide 24/7 health services for all people in need of medical care.

“The role of AAH could be highly significant in saving lives during emergencies and in eliminating the gap in the healthcare system.

“AAH management has held an internal emergency meeting to discuss the situation, to agree on an AAH response plan, and to identify the required resources to ensure provision of comprehensive healthcare. The team will schedule its technical staff to ensure that the hospital is accessible 24 hours a day.

October 9, 2023

“In order to ensure that Ahli is able to respond to the increasing need, AAH is in urgent need of medications and other resources for an emergency response. This is an appeal for your generous donations that would greatly support AAH's response, which will positively affect the lives of vulnerable people in Gaza.

“Please pray with us that this wave of violence will be stopped, as there are no winners in wars. All are losers.”

People who wish to respond to the appeal can do so through charities in Australia, Canada, the UK and USA:

Australia: Anglican Board of Mission

Canada: Canadian Companions of the Diocese of Jerusalem

UK: The Jerusalem and Middle East Church Association

USA: The American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

Donations from other countries can be made by bank transfer directly to the Diocese of Jerusalem. Donors should contact [email info@j-diocese.org](mailto:info@j-diocese.org) for details.

Archbishop Hosam Naoum said: “Thank you for your prayers and expressions of support for the safety of our clergy and people in the Diocese of Jerusalem.

October 9, 2023

“Please circulate this appeal as widely as possible, so that our hospital can be in a position to extend emergency medical services to those casualties caught in the crossfire.

“Thank you once again for your prayers and support, especially in this present, very grave situation.”

Church of Scotland calls on members to pray for peace in Israel and Palestine

Rev David Cameron, Convener of the Assembly Trustees of the Church of Scotland, has issued a statement in response to the outbreak of violence in the Holy Land.

Mr Cameron said: "We are horrified by the situation currently occurring in Israel and Gaza, and the wider areas. The sudden attack by Hamas on Israel, 50 years and a day after the Yom Kippur War, came at a time when many Israelis were celebrating the end of the festival of Succot.

"At this time, our prayers are for all of those affected by these horrendous events. They are with the families of those killed, both in Israel and in Gaza. They are with those who have been taken hostage. They are with those dealing with the decisions to be made in the days ahead. With two Mission Partners and 160 locally employed staff, our prayers are also with them and their families, and they are with all whom we know in both Israel and Gaza.

October 9, 2023

"There can be no peace without justice, and we all must do what we can to bring justice to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Gaza.

"The coming days are crucial as decisions are made which can either start the route to peace and justice, or lead to revenge and devastation, and much weeping and mourning. This war feels like a breaking point. There is a context to all the attacks which is important, but there is no justification for them.

"We urge all in our Church to unite in prayer for the people of Israel and Palestine. We condemn the attacks by Hamas, and the ongoing violence and killing. Our Church has long spoken out about the need for justice for all people in that land so that everyone can enjoy a future which is peaceable and just. No-one should live in fear of attack or kidnap; war and violence will only lead to more death and destruction.

"Alongside the voices of our partners in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, and the Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem, and with the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, we agree that a just peace will bring, '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.'

"Let us pray for that peace which will offer new opportunities for justice to prevail so that all the people in the region may live in peace."

[Read more at BBC News](#) -

[Church News Ireland](#)

Page 16

October 9, 2023

At the heart of the trouble is the intractable and unresolved century-long conflict between Arabs and Jews for control of the land between the Mediterranean Sea and the river Jordan. These rapidly-escalating events prove once again that the conflict cannot simply be managed. When it is left to fester, violence and bloodshed are guaranteed.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-67041679>

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has told Israelis they are going into a "long and difficult war".

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-67044182>

In the media

Creelough falls silent to mark year since tragedy

Village remembers 10 victims of service station blast as investigation continues, Grain Niaodha reports.

People in the Donegal village of Creelough came together yesterday to mark a year since 10 people died in an explosion at a service station.

The song Voice Of An Angel was played as the memorial service began just before 3pm.

Several hundred people, including locals caught up in the tragedy, were silent as they gathered at the street leading to

October 9, 2023

the site of the blast. The names of each of the victims was read out and a bell rang 10 times in memory of each of them.

Members of the emergency services who helped in the rescue and recovery effort after the explosion attended the ceremony, including K9 Search and Rescue from Co Down.

Creeslough parish priest Father John Joe Duffy led the anniversary commemoration and prayed for those who died, their families, those who were injured and all who responded to the tragedy.

He said: “The journey of recovery will continue for all of us for a long time to come.

“Unlike most journeys that we set out on life, in this journey of Creeslough we know neither the length nor the duration of the road ahead.

“But we know we will travel it together, each of us together linked together.”

Church of Ireland Bishop of Derry and Raphoe Andrew Forster, who was at the service, said it had been a very difficult and painful year and a year of heartache, but it was also a year in which “we saw the best of people”.

Four men, three women and three young people, ranging in age from five to 59, died in the blast that took place on the afternoon of Friday, October 7, last year.

October 9, 2023

Robert Garwe and his five-year-old daughter Shauna Flanagan-Garwe were killed in the explosion after going to the shop to buy a birthday cake for her mum. Also killed were Catherine O'Donnell and her 13-year-old son James Monaghan, fashion student Jessica Gallagher, Celtic fan Martin McGill, Sydney native James O'Flaherty, shop worker Martina Martin, carpenter Hugh 'Hughie' Kelly and 14-year-old Leona Harper.

A vigil mass took place at 7.30pm at St Michael's Church to remember those who died and those who were injured, and to thank the first responders to the scene.

A year on, no update has been given on what caused the explosion.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

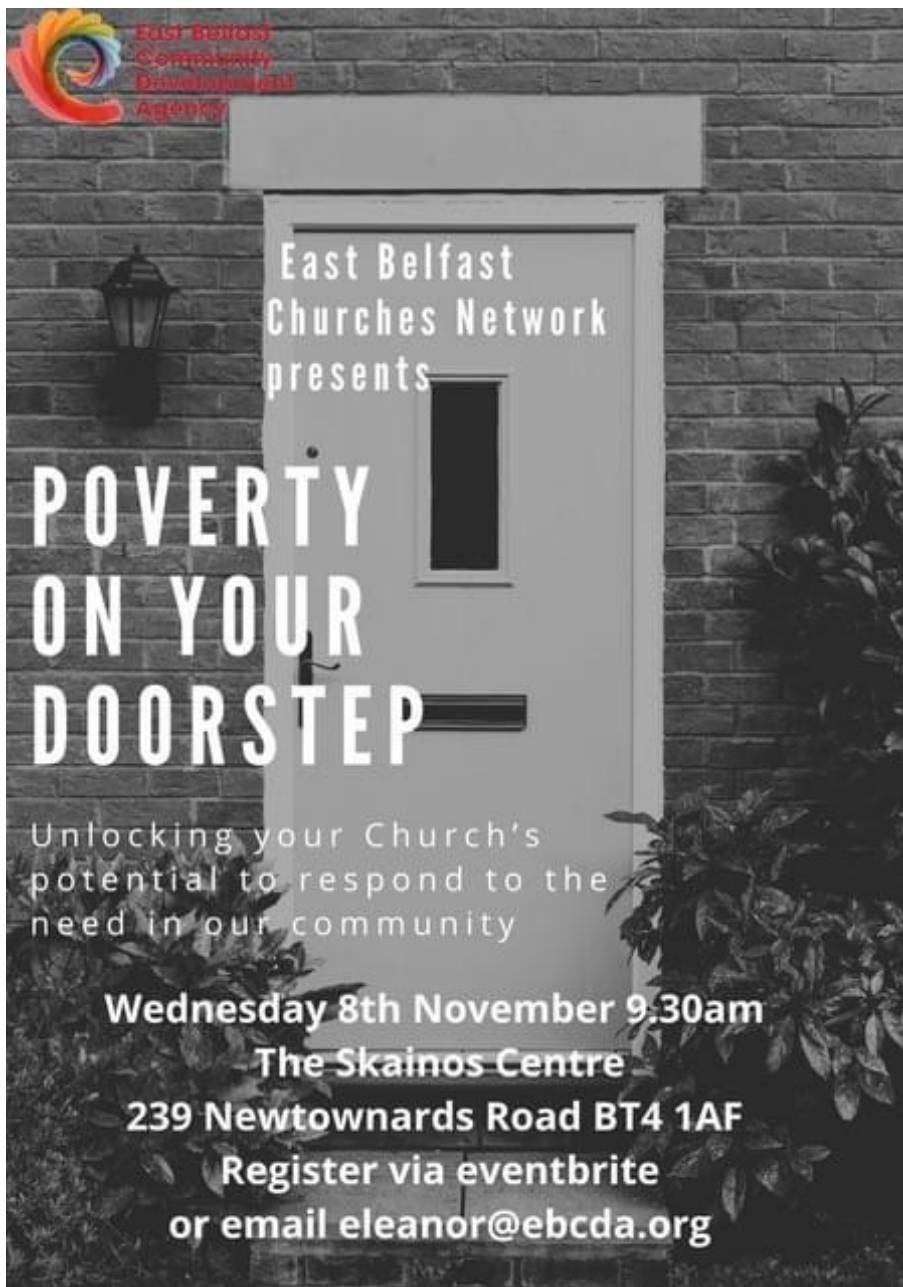
Poverty On Your Door - East Belfast Churches Network

East Belfast Churches Network presents Poverty On Your Door, unlocking your Church's potential to respond to the need in our community.

An event bringing together Churches in East Belfast to discuss poverty.

Speakers include Jonny Currie from The Trussell Trust and Diane Holt from Thrive Ireland who will share the reality of what poverty looks like, a biblical perspective and how the

October 9, 2023



Churches in East Belfast can best respond to the growing need.

This event is aimed at Church leaders, staff and volunteers.

If you would like more information please contact ashleigh@ebcda.org

Please register via the link below or by emailing eleanor@ebcda.org

Poverty On Your Doorstep Tickets, Wed 8 Nov 2023 at 09:30 |

October 9, 2023

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/poverty-on-your-doorstep-tickets-719126896907?aff=oddttdtcreator>

UK Faith Museum opens its doors

Last weekend the Auckland project's Faith Museum opened its doors. People across the UK and the world can now experience how faith has shaped life and communities here over the last 6,000 years. What an extraordinary testament to the spirit of God in the nation.

<https://aucklandproject.org/venues/faith-museum/>

Podcast on The Church's Ministry of Healing: Ireland

Stephen Fletcher talks with Lydia Monds and Catherine Smith about their work with the Church's Ministry of Healing in this fascinating podcast. Cover on page 5 above -

Click the link to listen:-

<https://www.mixcloud.com/TLKCOMMS/catherine-smith-lydia-monds-ministry-of-healing/>

Poem for today

Autumn By Siegfried Sassoon

October's bellowing anger breaks and cleaves



The bronzed battalions of the stricken wood
In whose lament I hear a voice that grieves
For battle's fruitless harvest, and the feud
Of outraged men. Their lives are like the leaves
Scattered in flocks of ruin, tossed and blown
Along the westering furnace flaring red.
O martyred youth and manhood overthrown,
The burden of your wrongs is on my head.

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
