

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Scouts explore Scots-Irish

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Scouts explore Scots-Irish



There was a launch of a resource for Scout Groups in partnership with the Ulster-Scots Agency at Crawfordsburn Scout Centre on Friday evening.

This resource provides lots of programme ideas for all sections from Squirrels through to Explorers, such as how to make your own potato bread and soda bread, learning some wee words, researching Ulster-Scots pioneers and lots more. It will enable our young people to investigate, research and take part in many Ulster-Scots traditions, while

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at the same time having fun and gaining badges that will work towards the Scouting Top Awards.

People and places

Church welcome awaits at National Ploughing Championships this week

The National Ploughing Championships takes place this year from Tuesday, September 19th to Thursday, September 21st at Ratheniska, Co. Laois. As has become customary the “Church of Ireland” will have its stand at the show again this year.

Archdeacon Mark Hayden writes - The location has been changed from last year as the noise of bands was not conducive to a restful atmosphere and the NPA were very helpful in relocating us. We can be found at Block 2 Row 25 Stand 383. I am very grateful to the organising committee who have been working away quietly in the background to make the stand as successful as other years.

The theme for the 3 days this year is HOPE-Helping-how we as a Christian community help those among us and around us; Our story we are and what we believe; Parishes-our parochial groups and unions and where to find us; Environment a rural community we care deeply for the land we farm and live on and examples of how we put our green charter into action.



Recalling last year's stand

The usual service of providing tea and coffee and a welcome rest will be on offer and please do come and give us an hour of your time to help when you are visiting the event as the more help we have the more help we can give. There will also be face painting. A treasure hunt for our school students and a place for quiet prayer. The Prayer Tree will also be in the stand and the prayers will be remembered as we will close each day with a short prayer service. Clergy will be at the stand each day and are available to talk to should you wish to. Our Bishop will also be attending on the first day of the 3-day event as episcopal duties preclude him from being there for the 3 days. Our DCO Shane will be attending the 3 day event to capture all the fun if you are there please get in for a picture .

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If you would like to volunteer to help run the stand on one or all of the days please contact me at gorey@ferns.anglican.org It takes a lot of work to set up and run the stand and we rely on the kindness of people to make it happen. I look forward to seeing you at the event.

Conversations on Life, Faith and Hope continue at Crossgar

The popular series of conversations on Life, Faith and Hope continues this September with Rev Bill Shaw from 174 Trust, Belfast.

The Passionist Community at Tobar Mhuire, Crossgar writes - A warm welcome is extended to people from across our community to a series of conversations with people who have played a central role in the life of our community. This is an opportunity to explore their experience of life, faith and where they find sources of hope in their lives.



Wednesday 20th September – Rev Dr Bill Shaw OBE (CEO 174 Trust, Belfast)

- Grew up in Belfast through worst excesses of ‘the Troubles’.
- After 10 years in construction business studied theology at Queens University Belfast and entered Presbyterian ministry where, among other posts and after ordination, served in a church on

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the Shankill Road.

- Bill is committed to 'Building Peace and Promoting Reconciliation' (he is both passionate about peace and realistic about reconciliation) through a number of projects, encourage dialogue and celebrate cultural diversity within the North Belfast community.

Begins at 7pm

This evening is open to all. Please come and join in the conversation. Voluntary Donation.

[\[secretary@tobarmhuirecrossgar.com\]](mailto:secretary@tobarmhuirecrossgar.com)

[\[https://www.tobarmhuire.com/\]](https://www.tobarmhuire.com/)

Methodist Women's outstanding day

An outstanding day.....excellent Bible teaching from Rev Maureen, a great visit from Rev David Turtle, our MCI President, learning new praise songs with Roberta and Heidi, a fantastic time baking with Ingrid.....the traybakes were just mouthwatering!

Thank you Ingrid for your time and talents..... Great fun and games with Maeve and Heidi.....

AND even time spent watching Rugby - even though there was a slight problem with the reception on tv.....who is that standing in front and spoiling our view? A busy but very interesting , informative and productive day . To God be the Glory



Young organist's award

Gavin Laurence, a member of St Sinian's Church in Tyrrellspass, has been awarded a place on The Christ Church Cathedral Organ Outreach Programme. A limited number of places are

awarded each year to aspiring organists. Gavin aged 15 worships regularly in St Sinian's Church in Tyrrellspass and is a past pupil of All Saints School in Mullingar. He comes from a family with a deep love of music, his grandfather David was organist in St Sinian's for many years and his aunt Sandra is currently organist in St Sinian's. He also regularly plays the organ in St Sinian's. Congratulations Gavin.

Burt Presbyterian church's 350th anniversary service

Last weekend, First Bangor Presbyterian church celebrated its 400th anniversary, and last Friday night Burt church, a short distance from Londonderry city, held a 350th anniversary service with Presbyterian Rev Dr Sam Mawhinney a special guest, Billy Kennedy writes in the News Letter.

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Located off the busy N13 highway, main Londonderry/ Letterkenny road in the townland of Carrownamaddy, Burt church was founded in 1673, when the Rev William Hampton, from Scotland, was ordained as the first minister.



Featuring musicians from Ashfield Boys' High School, Campbell College, Strathearn School and supported by the Campbell College Pipe Band

**The Band of
HM Royal Marines**
Joint Schools' Concert

FREE ENTRY with a retiring collection to HMS Caroline Preservation Trust

Friday, 22 September 2023 * 7:00 p.m.

Tickets via Eventbrite - please contact 028 9065 4090 or stmarksdundelamusic@gmail.com to obtain the booking code

To mark the rich heritage of our links to the Royal Navy and the shipping industry across East Belfast, St Mark's Parish Church, Dundela, welcomes The Band of HM Royal Marines Joint Schools Concert on Friday 22 September at 7.00 pm.

Tickets can be booked via Eventbrite using a code. Please contact the parish office on 028 9065 4090 or email stmarksdundelamusic@gmail.com to obtain the code.

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Hampton was the first of 20 ministers to serve the surrounding local community down the years, and, by coincidence, Burt's current minister is also a Scot: Glaswegian the Rev Craig Wilson.

Mr Wilson was installed as minister of Burt and Inch Presbyterian churches last year, while continuing to serve the congregations of St Johnston and Ballylennon as minister, for the past 15 years.



St Philip and St James
Holywood Parish Church

ORION DUO

**Tuesday 10th October 2023
at 7.30pm**

**A selection of popular classics
with Chris Blake (piano)
and Ruth Bebb (violin and viola)**

**Admission £10.00
including a glass of wine at the interval**

**Tickets available from
Holywood Parish Office
or Parish Website at QR link below
www.hollywoodparishchurch.co.uk**

Holywood Parish Church
71 Church Road, Holywood, BT18 9BX
www.orionduo.co.uk

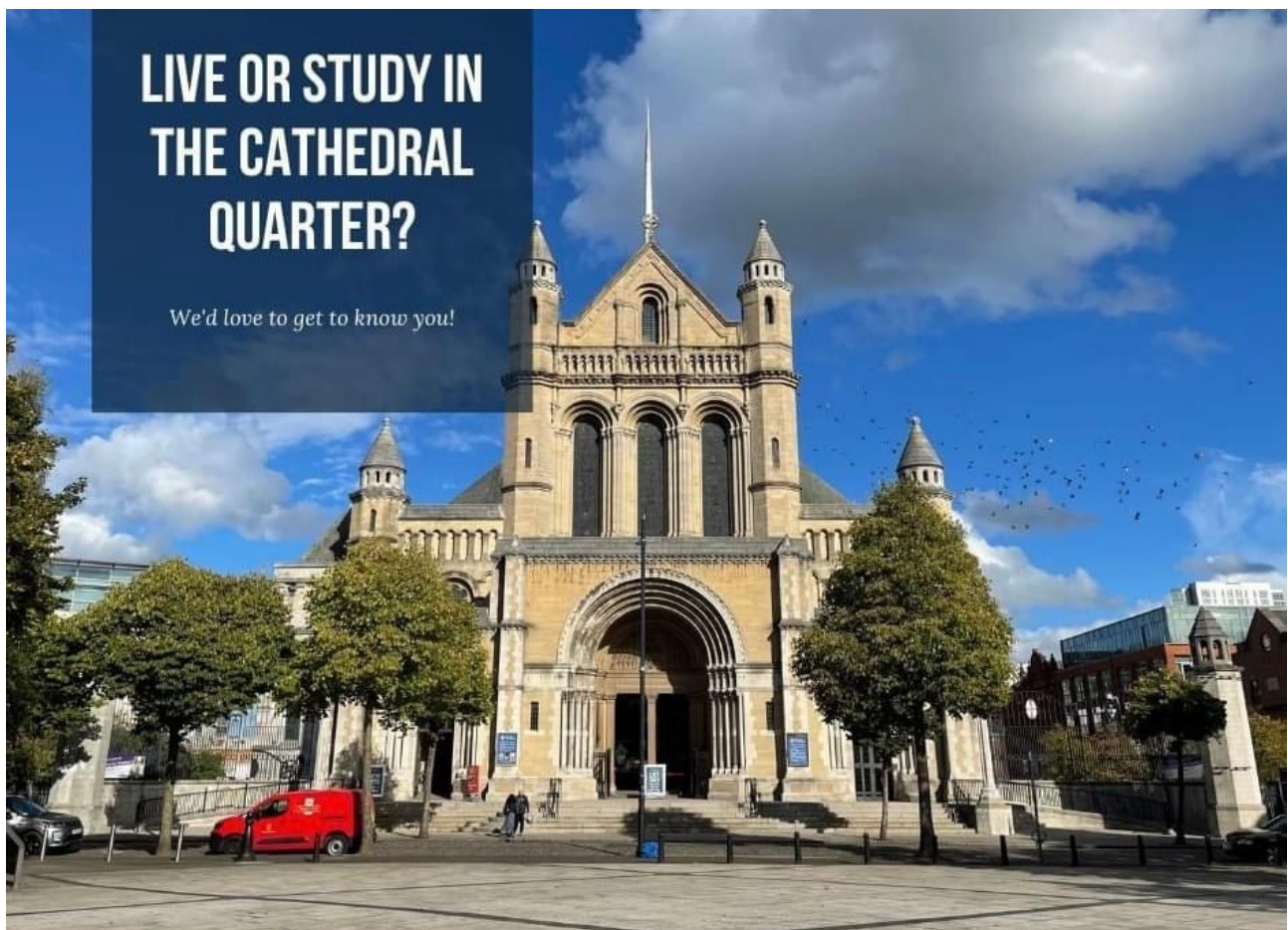


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“As a relative newcomer to Burt congregation, I was unaware of the long and distinguished history of this old church, and the fact that in the early days a service could last up to three hours. There were no pews then and you had to stand unless you brought your own chair. Thankfully, not anymore,” said Mr Wilson.

He added: “We are a small congregation overlooking Inch Island and siting beneath Greenan mountain and its hill fort built around a thousand years before our church.

"The location is both historic and beautiful, as is the witness the congregation has borne to Christ over the past three and a half centuries.”



[Invitational outreach from UU Chaplaincy](#)

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During Burt's long history, two of the congregation's former ministers led the Irish Presbyterian church as moderator: Rev William Clerk, minister from 1876-1879 and moderator in 1889, and the Rev Dr William Boyd, who ministered in Burt from 1932-1939 and was moderator in 1967.

In 1700, the son of Burt's first minister, the Rev John Hampton, was one of four Donegal clerics who founded the first Presbyterian presbytery at Philadelphia in America.

They were led by the Rev Francis Makemie, from Ramelton, Donegal, who emigrated in 1683 and is recognised as the founding father of today's American mainstream denomination - Presbyterian USA.

Makemie and his ministerial colleagues were members of the Laggan presbytery in Donegal before they moved to America.

Speaking after last night's service in Burt, moderator Dr Mawhinney, a Dublin church cleric, said: "Anniversaries are important and it is fitting that we celebrate and give thanks to God for Burt's 350 years of Christian witness in this northerly part of the island.

"There are 30 Presbyterian congregations in Co Donegal, and, remarkably, 10 of them, including Burt, can trace their roots back to the 17th century, when Scottish settlers brought their Reformed Protestant witness to Ireland.

"It was a privilege to be part of the celebrations in Burt."

Tuam Diocesan Council marks end of term



Pictured:- Back row left to right - Bishop Burrows, the Ven John Godfrey, Rev Alistair Doyle, Dr Eamon Smith, Rev Caroline Morrow, Mrs Ann Walton, Mr Charles Shaw, Mr Norman Reid, Mr Matthew Masterson, Mr Bill Fennell, Prof Paul Johnston, Mr Charles Shaw, Mrs Heather Pope. Front Row left to right - Rev Carole Reynolds, Ms Beverley Stafford, Mrs Olive Maher, Mrs Marian Edwards, Mr Trevor Ardill, Rev Canon Andrea Wills, Rev Karen Duignan, Rev Andy Pierce, Dr Catherine Emerson.

The Tuam (formerly TKA) Diocesan Council gathered at the McWilliam Park Hotel, Claremorris on 12th September, 2023 for the last meeting of this triennium.

The Bishop, the Rt Revd Michael Burrows expressed his and the former Bishop, the Rt Revd Patrick Rooke's

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appreciation for the work of the Council over the last three years.

The next Diocesan Council will be elected at the Joint Diocesan Synods for Tuam and Limerick & Killaloe Dioceses on 14th October, 2023 at Hotel Woodstock, Ennis.

Not pictured, but equally appreciated - Rev Suzanne Cousins, Mr David Higgins, Mrs Jackie Higgins, Ms Isobel Marinot-Wood, Mr Chris Mitchell, Rev Clive Moore, Mrs Ann



bcgc
An evening with the
**belfast community
gospel choir**

Saturday 4th November 2023
Ardhowen Theatre
ENNISKILLEN
7.30pm
Hosted by Enniskillen Methodist Church
Tickets available from Box Office 028 6632 5440
& Online

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Nethaway, Rev Maebh O'Herlihy, the Very Rev Lynda Peilow, Mr John Shannon, Mr Arthur Sweeney. Photo courtesy of Stephen Fletcher, DCO

News reports

Welby's alphabet

Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and Cleo Watson, the Whips author and former No 10 adviser, were among the 100 or so guests who attended the glitzy launch of Theresa May's book *The Abuse of Power* on Wednesday past.

May confided that she had not got past the end of chapter two of Watson's racy bonkbuster, which is now being turned into a film. Watson is also working on a sequel to *Whips* about a general election.

Welby, above, meanwhile, told me how members of his family are named after the alphabet.

He is – of course – “ABC” (Archbishop of Canterbury); Bramble, the family pet spaniel, is known as “ABCD” (Archbishop of Canterbury's Dog).

And one of his daughters is “ABCDE” – (Archbishop of Canterbury's Daughter Ellie). Sadly, the Welby family does not yet extend to an “F”.

Peterborough in the Daily Telegraph.

Heritage



Bishop's tribute to Ulster Division September 1916

It is with great delight, writes the Bishop of Down (Right Rev Dr D'Arcy) that I note that our gallant Ulster Division has now the high honour of winning three VC's, the most coveted distinction in the British Army.

Those who know tell me that almost every man in the Division is worthy of a VC, so splendid has been the courage exhibited by the officers and men.

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Will you let me give a special tribute of admiration to the heroic exploits of Private. R Quigg of Carnkirk near Bushmills, in saving so many lives, and exerting himself so nobly to find Sir Harry Macnaghten ?

As a former rector of Billy, the parish of which Private Quigg V.C. is a native, it gives me the greatest pleasure to join in the chorus of appreciation which his actions have so justly evoked. - *Ballymena Weekly Telegraph* - 16th September 1916.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II unveiled a statue commemorating Sergeant Robert Quigg V.C., in Bushmills, on 28 June 2016. Private Robert Quigg, 12th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, was awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions on 1 July 1916, the opening day of the Battle of the Somme.



Perspective



Tribute paid to Lord Carswell at Memorial Service by Archbishop McDowell

The Church of Ireland Archbishop of Armagh, the Most Revd John McDowell, preached a homily in tribute to the Rt Hon the Lord Carswell of Killeen, at a memorial service held in St Mark's, Dundela, East Belfast, on Friday, 15th September. Lord Carswell, who was formerly Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland, died on 4th May this year.

Archbishop McDowell's remarks from the service are below:

As you might expect, Bob Carswell was not a soul-baring sort of person. Although I never found him "buttoned up" (in

fact quite the opposite when it came to offering words of encouragement) he had what might be called a judicious self-containment when it came to the things of the spirit. But if he did not bare his soul, he certainly demonstrated his commitment to God and His Church by the work which he did for it. As has been amply demonstrated in the testimony of Bob's family, love grows chiefly by its deeds and not by its words, and in his deeds Bob exerted himself also in the service of the Church.

He acted as Chancellor in the Diocese of Down and Dromore and in the Diocese of Armagh when my colleague Lord Eames was respectively Bishop, then Primate. Bob also acted as the Primate's Assessor at the General Synod on a number of occasions, offering advice on procedural matters. A Diocesan Chancellor is strictly speaking the Bishop's adviser on the workings of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland, and I have no doubt that he carried out his duties in that respect with his usual diligence, accuracy and cheerfulness.

However, there are times when bishopping can be a lonely calling, especially when technical constitutional matters require decisions which may have considerable personal consequences. So to have had someone like Bob Carswell with his wide knowledge of human affairs, but also his insight into the human heart, to turn to for confidential advice would have been, literally, a Godsend. It is hardly surprising that the memory of him will bring to mind for so many of us "... whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable...'

I have often thought that judges lead a paradoxical life. Long periods of being silent when they are listening to evidence and to the arguments advanced by Counsel. Followed then by a prodigious river of words as he or she writes a judgement, only too well aware that each word will be mercilessly scrutinised. Yet, blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy.

Silence and words, and the lives of ordinary people, make up their daily toil and perhaps there was no one better equipped than Bob Carswell to live out that vocation. His education in Classics gave him not only a feel for the precision, form and flow of the written word, but who could have read the Orestia of Aeschylus about the murder of Agamemnon and not been moved to sympathy and understanding of the tragedy of the human condition and of our frailties.

Bob's knowledge of Greek could also be a little disconcerting. I once had a mercifully brief conversation with him about the participle used in the great "I am" (ego heimi) passages in John's Gospel, which he felt would have been better translated as the much more emphatic "I myself am..."

Yet he was no pedant. He had a deep feeling for the steady cadences of Cranmer's Prayer Book with their simple, memorable words. He cared greatly about their meaning too, and was not far from being outraged when, in the Prayer of the Church Militant in the Communion Service, the Prayer Book revisers replaced the Tudor word "indifferent" with the word "impartial". He felt that the modern word was unable to carry the variety of connotation and nuance which

the older word had achieved. He cared about the words of the liturgy because, imperfect as they are, words are the ultimate conveyors of truth.

Bob was a listener, and as I've said to some of the family, my keenest memory of him is sitting up here in choir stalls when we used the old monastic Office of Compline; his head leaning slightly to one side, listening, and looking for all the world like a benign eagle. I remember having a discussion with him after one of those services and him telling me that he loved Compline. Of all the Offices in the Western Catholic Tradition, it is the one that was changed least at the time of the sixteenth century reformation. Perhaps above all else it is a service of comfort and reassurance before sleep, but it is also a service which appreciates the dangers and difficulties and messiness of life.

Its opening words are stern enough: "Brethren, be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary, the Devil, roameth about seeking whom he may devour; whom resist, steadfast in the faith".

But its characteristic spirit is one of calm reassurance and quiet faith: "We will lay us down and take our rest; for it is thou Lord only that maketh us dwell in safety". How soothing it must have been to think on those eternal words words during the dark days of the 1970s and 80s.

Perhaps judges above all people are exposed more than most to the unpleasant underbelly of life in all its forms – personal, institutional, corporate – and it would be a temptation in such circumstances to lose a sense of balance

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and perspective. I am pretty sure that Bob's deeply embedded faith, was a major factor in preventing that from happening.

We are made for greatness and often, as we achieve it. Great art, great empires, great intellects, great industries, great faith, great commitment, great love. Yet the little cloud no bigger than a man's hand gathers on the horizon, and we halt in our stride, and the greatness of mankind seems clearer in the greatness of our misery than in the magnificence of our achievements. The high seems low, and our brief candle is out; and what is man that he is to be accounted of?

What has been said and sung and prayed in this service is that the life of Robert Douglas Carswell, hidden with Christ in God, is to be accounted of because it is the ultimate reality.

From the Office of Compline:

Preserve us, O Lord while waking, and guard us while sleeping, that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace.

And so, Romaine, Catherine, Patricia and all the family... after all the words, truly, truly his soul is at rest in silence and in peace.

Courtesy The Law Society Northern Ireland

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
