

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – Ulster RAAF Squadron at Abbey**

## Image of the day

### Ulster RAAF Squadron at Abbey

**Squadron personnel attended Sunday's service of remembrance at Westminster Abbey to mark 84 years since the Battle of Britain.**

Members of the Squadron's Police Flight were on policing duties to ensure guests could attend the service safely, while others undertook duties inside the cathedral.

The anniversary is particularly poignant this year as the Royal Auxiliary Air Force marks its centenary. A quarter of the Squadrons in the Battle of Britain were Auxiliary Air Force Squadrons who accounted for a third of the combat victories. In Belfast Cathedral there is a memorial dedicated to those from 502 Squadron who served during WW2.

502 (Ulster) Squadron reformed at Aldergrove Flying Station in 2013 as part of the RAF Reserves' growth, eighty-eight years after its original formation. It's mission is to provide a range of fully trained personnel to support worldwide commitments.

The Squadron provides opportunities for applicants from many backgrounds – whether direct entrants with no previous military experience, ex-Regular personnel (from any Service), and those with skills directly transferable from civilian life. 502 Squadron RAuxAF recruits throughout Northern Ireland. **See Cathedral Calls on page - Abbey marks 84th anniversary of the Battle of Britain**



# News



## Belfast cleric's chaplaincy for Camino

**Canon John Cunningham, a retired C of I cleric is once again serving as a chaplain to folk attempting to complete the Camino.**

Commenting on last Sunday's service in Santiago he said that there were people from all round the world including two theological students from Ridley Hall Cambridge, a Curate, and a couple from Germany who had walked from Germany to Santiago, Germany to Rome and Germany to Jerusalem



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## Church of Ireland and Mothers' Union stands at National Ploughing Championship



**Bishop Adrian Wilkinson joined team members from Cashel, Ferns and Ossory diocese at the National Ploughing Championship**



Bishop Adrian said -

“Wonderful day here for the National Ploughing Championships.

“Thanks to all those in Cashel, Ferns and Ossory who have volunteered to staff the Church of Ireland and Mothers' Union stands.

“They are beside each other in row 11. Our presence here over the next three days is so important”.





## Hillsborough churches do it for Christian Aid

**Christian Aid has given its congratulations to “our fantastic supporters at Hillsborough Presbyterian Church and Hillsborough Parish Church” in County Down.**

The two churches banded together to put on a soup, bread and cheese lunch which raised £900 for our work.

There were eight varieties of soup on offer as well as a range of breads, cheeses and chutneys, finished off with a cuppa and some tray bakes.

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“We are grateful to Frances Francey, our rep at Hillsborough Presbyterian (front row, 3rd from right) and Maura Pringle, our rep at Hillsborough Parish (front row, 2nd from right).

“Big thanks also go to the soup makers, bakers and helpers, as well as to all those who supported the event with their donations.”

## **Scripture Union NI welcomes new interns in school work**

**“We are thrilled to welcome Rhian, Callum and Ruth onto the SUNI team as they start their internship year working alongside our schools workers in Fermanagh and Fivemiletown, Omagh and Castlederg and Ballymena! “**

Bethany will also be joining the team from Belfast School of Theology for her second year placement in Ards and North Down!

SUNI says - “Please pray for these guys as they complete their induction in the coming weeks and head out into schools”.

## **PCI’s long-awaited special day in Maynooth**

**Saturday marked an historic moment in the life and witness of one of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland’s**





## **(PCI) youngest congregations, Maynooth Community Church (MCC) in County Kildare.**

For the first time in over a century the Moderator officially opened a new congregation's brand-new purpose-built church since the Irish Free State was established. The







Moderator Dr Richard Murray said it had been “a wonderful and encouraging day...[and](#) while I give thanks for our rich Presbyterian heritage on this island, I also give thanks for what God is doing now, and his plans and purposes for the future.”

Over the years, many Presbyterian churches have been renovated, extended, and rebuilt. More recently new church buildings have been built in existing locations in Kilkenny, Drogheda and Mullingar. This is the first time, however, that a brand-new congregation has opened its own purpose-built building in what is now the Republic of Ireland, since Arklow Presbyterian Church in 1915.

MCC began life when a small group of prayerful people, mainly from Lucan Presbyterian Church, started meeting to study the Bible together in September 2002. Five months



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later in February 2003, having grown to around 18 people, the decision was taken to run some monthly services in Maynooth Post Primary School. The first public weekly service as Maynooth Community Church was held on 7 September that year.

Read the news piece in full here: <https://bit.ly/3B3VV9g>

The **Reverend Philip McKinley**, C of I cleric at St Bridget's Cathedral, Kildare, said, "It was a wonderful honour to be



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invited today to the official opening of Maynooth Community Church's extraordinary new building, just off the Dublin Road in Maynooth. It is the first time a new Presbyterian congregation has opened its own purpose-built building since Arklow Presbyterian Church was founded in 1915. My mother's grandfather, Alexander McCulloch was one of the key founders of that church, so it was nice to be able to share a little about him in my speech.”

For more information see RTÉ's report from the opening - <https://www.rte.ie/news/2024/0914/1470085-presbyterian-church-kildare/>

## Cathedral Calls

### Westminster Abbey marks 84th anniversary of the Battle of Britain

**A Service of Thanksgiving and Rededication to mark the 84th anniversary of the Battle of Britain was held at Westminster Abbey on Sunday 15th September 2024. His Majesty The King was represented at the service by the Lord Stirrup KG GCB AFC.**

The Battle of Britain, a 112-day battle for control of Britain's skies between July and October 1940, was the first decisive battle in history fought entirely in the air, and one which proved to be a dramatic turning point in the Second World War.





## About the service

In his Bidding, the Dean of Westminster, the Very Reverend Dr David Hoyle, said: 'We meet in this Abbey church, where our nation so often gathers to remember, to celebrate and to mourn. Here, we give thanks for the dedication and daring of members of the Royal Air Force and allied air forces during the Battle of Britain. Their sure courage halted the advance of a terrible tyranny.'





They held fast in days of greatest danger. For their resilience and their skill we give thanks, for their pain and loss we grieve. Once again, we commit ourselves to the duty of an honest remembrance.'

At the start of the service the Standard of No. 41 Squadron of the RAF was borne through the Abbey church and laid on the High Altar by the Dean.

The Address was given by the Venerable Dr (Air Vice-Marshal) Giles Legood MBE QHC RAF, Chaplain-in-Chief of the Royal Air Force.

Sergeant Angela Luddington RAF read Isaiah 58:6-12, and Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Knighton KCB ADC, Chief of the Air Staff, read 1 Corinthians 12:4-11.





## Act of Remembrance

The service included an Act of Remembrance during which the Battle of Britain Roll of Honour was borne from the Grave of the Unknown Warrior to the Sacrament, escorted by serving descendants of Battle of Britain Airmen, serving Royal Air Force Aircrew from former Battle of Britain Squadrons, and a contingent of Royal Air Force Cadets.

The roll contains the names of 1,497 pilots and aircrew killed or mortally wounded during the Battle, including 449 in Fighter Command, 732 in Bomber Command, 268 in Coastal Command, 14 in other RAF commands and 34 in the Fleet Air Arm. Among them are the names of 47 Canadians, 47 New Zealanders, 35 Poles, 24 Australians, 20 Czechoslovaks, 17 South Africans, 6 Belgians and one





American, as well as those from the United Kingdom and Colonies.

The prayers were led by the Reverend Robert Latham, Minor Canon and Sacrist. Before he pronounced the Blessing, the Dean led an Act of Rededication ‘to building a world where there is justice and peace for all, and where each may live with full human dignity.’

The service was sung by the Choir of Westminster Abbey







conducted by Andrew Nethsingha, Organist and Master of the Choristers. The organ was played by Matthew Jorysz, Sub-Organist. The Central Band of the RAF, conducted by Wing Commander Richard Murray, also played at the service. After the service, a Lancaster bomber took part in a flypast over the Abbey.

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

### Leading for a change - new PCI podcast

The latest episode of the PCI podcast invites you to eavesdrop on a conversation between David Thompson





**and Neil Hudson on the theme of leading change in the church.**

Listen wherever you get your podcasts from / follow PCI podcast link in bio

Neil Hudson is Senior Leader of Salford Elim Church, but is better known to us in PCI for his work on the Imagine Church project for the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity. That is the project that birthed the Frontlines small group material which many congregations have used



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and found helpful, along with two books authored by Neil, Imagine Church and Scattered and Gathered.

David Thompson is Secretary of PCI's Council for Congregational Life and Witness and brings extensive experience and qualifications in consultancy for ministry and mission.

This podcast also highlights the 'Leading for a change' event happening on the morning of Thursday 17/10/2024 from 10.30am to 12.45pm in Assembly Buildings, Belfast. It will pick up and develop this theme, providing the opportunity to explore this territory further with others and be encouraged and envisioned in making space in our church life to adapt and respond to changing challenges and circumstances, new opportunities and options. Further details and booking can be found at [www.presbyterianireland.org/leadingforachange](http://www.presbyterianireland.org/leadingforachange)

## **Online Safety Hub - Keeping young people safe on line**

**The Safeguarding Board Northern Ireland, Department of Health and @ineqgroup have an established online safety hub.**

It is aimed at parents, carers, professionals and young people, and is free to access.

The hub can be found at <https://onlinesafetyhub.safeguardingni.org>

## **Spaces available on Charles Wood Teacher Training Day in Armagh**

**Attention please School Teachers and Choir Directors - There are still spaces available for our Teacher Training Day which returns to Armagh this year on Saturday 5th October at the Synod Hall, St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Cathedral, Armagh.**

Whether you're looking to refine your skills or boost your confidence, this workshop is perfect for you!

Time: 10:30am - 4:30pm

Cost: £30 (Lunch Included)

Under the expert guidance of choral experts Dan Turner and Hannah King, this training will cover essential aspects such as:

- Effective warm-ups for your choir
- Finding and selecting appropriate repertoire
- Focus on Christmas repertoire for school choirs
- Healthy vocal techniques for teachers and young singers
- Building confidence in choral conducting
- Managing choir learning

This is an excellent opportunity to enhance your skills with bespoke sessions tailored for both primary and post-primary educators.

Book your place now:

[www.charleswoodsummerschool.org/trainingday](http://www.charleswoodsummerschool.org/trainingday)



## Heritage

### Music Hall Belfast – Belfast Anacreontic Society

**The Belfast Anacreontic Society, established to promote vocal and instrumental music, was formed in 1814 under Vincenzo Guerini, a violinist and teacher who settled in Belfast in 1806.**

From 1830 until 1840 the Society met in the savings bank, King Street, afterwards moving to Victoria Hall in May Street, where it held its first concert on 26 March 1840. The last concert held there was on 26 March 1863; thereafter, its concerts were held in the Ulster Hall.

In 1859 the hall was the scene of Evangelical Union Prayer Meetings, which developed out of the 1859 Religious Revival. Between 1882 and 1885, the hall was used by the Church of Ireland Young Men's Society and then sold to the Ulster Constitutional Club, which went bankrupt in September 1886.

The building was re-purchased by the Church of Ireland Young Men's Society, to use as a gymnasium and was re-named the Victoria Memorial Hall.

In October 1917, the hall was acquired by an independent evangelical assembly which remained there until it moved to the Crescent Church on Saturday 15 January 1977. This Church had previously belonged to the Crescent

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Presbyterian Congregation, whose last service was held there on 28 December 1975. Courtesy Tom Hartley.

See also -

<https://www.byersmusic.com/ulster-hall-organ-1862-belfast-musical-festival.php>

## Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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## Church News Ireland

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