

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Hospitality for Columban Way pilgrims

September 23, 2024

Image of the day



Hospitality for Columban Way pilgrims

Killinchy and Kilmood parish welcomed a group of Columban Way Pilgrims to the Livingston Centre at Killinchy Parish Church in County Down.



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The Pilgrims were walking the Columban Way from Carlow to Bangor. Having walked over 300 miles, they were on the final leg of their journey from Killyleagh to Comber.

They stopped with the parish folk and enjoyed a bowl of homemade soup and some sandwiches and traybakes. The next day, they completed the pilgrimage by walking from Comber to Bangor. Parishioners were encouraged to give them a friendly beep of their horn if they saw them.

STEWARDING FOR GROWTH

BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE
FINANCIAL FUTURE IN
THE LOCAL CHURCH.

INCLUDING HOW TO:

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- unleash the potential of gifts in wills

WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER
T3 CONFERENCE CENTRE
9.30AM – 1PM



To Register Visit
caid.ie/events/church-conference

News

Two Boy Choristers wonderful promotion of Cathedral Choir on BBC Radio Foyle

St. Columb's Cathedral Choir said they were proud of their two Boy Choristers,



Ben and David, who were featured on Mark Patterson's BBC Radio Foyle show last week

Their beautiful singing was

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a wonderful promotion of the St. Columb's Cathedral Choir and our exciting "Be a Chorister" weekend, which started that evening with the choir's Culture Night concert.

Cookstown Methodist Church Flower Festival for Cancer Fund for Children

“Thank you to everyone who came along to the Flower Festival in June and supported the



'Creative fidelity for our Common Home'

St Brigid's Parish invites you to join us, to celebrate the Season of Creation, at our inaugural annual talk on the theme of faith and environment - exploring together how faith can impel us to act for the good of our planet and it's peoples.

Guest Speaker: Dr Allen Sleith

Minister of Hillsborough Presbyterian Church; Presbyterian Representative on Eco-Congregation Ireland.

Date: Friday 4th October
Venue: St Brigid's Parish Centre
Time: 7.30 pm



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ladies and their amazing creations celebrating The Wonder of God's Creation.

“We were delighted to be able to present Beth from Cancer Fund for Children with this cheque as a result of the generosity and support shown”.

St Andrews Glencairn celebrate its New Beginning

“It was a Great night at our Celebration service. Lovely to welcome everyone and renew old friendships. May God continue to lead and guide us into our New Beginning”.





Pictured is Patsy Fahy (second right), Westport Country Markets, presenting a set of the bird and bat boxes to Rev. Suzanne Cousins, Holy Trinity Church, and Fr, John Kenny, Adm., St. Mary's Church, with Mary Manning, Kathleen Murphy and Brid Mc Auley, representing the Westport Eco Congregation, at the Country Markets in the James Street car park, Westport. Photo: Frank Dolan

Bird and bat boxes to encourage biodiversity at Mayo church grounds

Practical action is being taken to care for God's world at churches in Mayo, the Connaught Telegraph reports.

Westport Eco Congregation has supported Aughavale Parishes - Holy Trinity Church, Westport, Christ Church, Castlebar, Turlough Parish and St. Thomas Dugort in Achill - in their efforts to encourage biodiversity on church grounds.

Eco Congregation Ireland (ECI) launched a small grant scheme to assist parishes to improve biodiversity and

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energy in parishes. Westport was successful in receiving a small grant which enabled them to purchase bird and bat boxes.

The boxes were crafted by Patsy Fahy, a member of Westport Country Markets.

Andrew Orr, chair of ECI said: “We are delighted to receive generous sponsorship from RPD and Logos Publications, and we are looking forward to helping congregations north and south to put the care of God’s world into practical action.”

Tom Clements, CEO of RPD Ltd. and Logos Publications, said: “We are very grateful for the support we have received



**Calling all boys
aged 8-11!**

**Come and
join the
NYCNI
Boys' Choir
2025!**

AUDITION DAY

**SATURDAY 5TH OCTOBER
11.15AM-3.15PM**

**MALONE PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH HALLS,
BELFAST, BT9 6GT**

For an audition email admin@nycni.org

 **National
Youth Choir
Northern
Ireland**

PRINCIPAL FUNDER
 **arts
council
of Northern Ireland**

from Irish churches over the last 50 years and we are delighted to be able to give something back by helping support the mission of Eco-Congregation Ireland.”

Half of US pastors plan to vote Trump, poll finds

According to a new survey, 50 per cent of US Protestant pastors have said they plan to vote for former president Donald Trump in the 2024 presidential election.

The Lifeway Research study also found that almost a quarter (23 per cent) declined to disclose their voting preferences – significantly higher than in previous elections, where just 4 per cent refused in 2020 and 3 per cent in 2016.

The poll, conducted between 8th August and 3rd September 2024, also showed that just under a quarter (24 per cent) of pastors plan to support Vice President Kamala Harris in her bid for the presidency, while no third-party candidate received more than 1 per cent backing.

Scott McConnell, executive director of Lifeway Research highlighted a trend of increasing hesitation among pastors to reveal their political leanings.

He suggested this shift could reflect the growing “sensitivity” and “divisiveness” of political discussions within church communities.

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Cathedral Calls



Choir of Westminster Abbey looking for next Organ Scholar

“We're looking for our next Organ Scholar to start in January 2025.

Apply by 12 noon on Monday 30th September”.

More details here: <https://www.westminster-abbey.org/about-the-abbey/jobs-volunteering/employment-opportunities/>

ORLA FALLON

Friday
04 October 2024

**St. Canice's
Cathedral,
Kilkenny**

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS
IN CAELO CHAMBER CHOIR

KINDLY SUPPORTED BY PEMBROKE HOTEL, KILKENNY

Orla Fallon and In Caelo Chamber Choir at St Canice's Cathedral

St Canice's Cathedral are delighted to host Orla Fallon, singer and harpist, original member of Celtic Women, on the 4th of October for a night to remember.

In Caelo Chamber Choir are special guests on the night.

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For more details and to book your ticket, visit the website here: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/windgapgaa/1345474>

New Canons at Armagh

The Archbishop of Armagh, the Most Reverend John McDowell, has announced the appointment of the Reverend Andrew Totten OBE as Prebendary of Loughgall and the Reverend Gary McMurray as Prebendary of Ballymore in the Chapter of the Cathedral Church of Saint Patrick, Armagh.

Additionally, the Archbishop has appointed **Mr Geoffrey Perrin as a Lay Canon of Armagh**. Mr Perrin succeeds to the stall formerly occupied by the late Canon C. Garrett Walker. Armagh Cathedral has six Lay Canons – the first were appointed in 1997 and Mr Perrin will be the thirteenth to take up office.

Welcoming the appointment of the new Canons, the Dean of Armagh, the Very Reverend Shane Forster, said, “I know that both Andrew and Gary will bring their wide-ranging experience in army chaplaincy and parochial life, respectively, to their new roles within the life of the Cathedral in Armagh. I very much look forward to their involvement in the Chapter. Geoffrey Perrin served the Representative Church Body with distinction over many years, and I am delighted that he is being honoured by the Archbishop for his work. All three new Canons are assured of a warm welcome on the Hill of Armagh.”

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In response to the announcement, the Reverend Andrew Totten said, "It is lovely to be appointed as a Canon of St Patrick's, Armagh, with its historic Chapel of the Royal Irish Fusiliers and its enduring links to the Royal Irish Regiment. I look forward to fostering that connection with the military community as well as supporting the wider life and ministry of the Cathedral."

The Reverend Gary McMurray said, "I am honoured to have been appointed to the Chapter of St Patrick's Cathedral by Archbishop John. I look forward to sharing in the work of the gospel through the witness of the Cathedral to the city, county, and diocese of Armagh and beyond."

During Choral Evensong on Sunday 20th October 2024 at 3.15 p.m., the new Canons will be installed by the Dean into their respective Prebendal Stalls in the Cathedral and the Reverend Canon Bill Adair, formerly the Canon Treasurer, will be installed into the Dignity of Chancellor and the Reverend Canon David Hilliard, formerly Prebendary of Tynan, will be installed into the Dignity of Canon Treasurer. New Lay Canon, Mr Geoffrey Perrin, will be installed at a later date.

The Reverend Andrew Totten was an Army chaplain for 27 years and now serves as the Honorary Chaplain to the Royal Irish Regiment. Appointed MBE and then OBE, he was an Honorary Chaplain to Queen Elizabeth II. He is an Honorary Fellow of Durham University.

The Reverend Gary McMurray, who is married to Lynsey, grew up in the Parish of Dromore Cathedral. Following his studies at Queen's University Belfast, he worked with a

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victims' support group before training for the ordained ministry in Dublin. Ordained in 2008, he served as curate-assistant in the Parish of St Elizabeth, Dundonald (Down & Dromore), then was appointed Rector of Aghavea (Clogher) in 2011. He moved to Armagh Diocese in 2017, upon his appointment as Rector of Richhill. He currently serves as the Diocesan Warden of Readers and is a member of Standing Committee.

Clergy and ministry



From Stormont to Belvoir

The Revd Emma Rutherford was instituted as rector of Belvoir Parish on the outskirts of Belfast last Wednesday evening by the Bishop of Down & Dromore, Rt Rev David McClay.

The rector had navigated part of the circumference of the city leaving her former parish church of St Molua's, Stormont where she and her family received presentations and prayerful good wishes for their future ministry.

The Revd Karen Salmon, Revd Karen Salmon, Bishop's Curate of Magherally and Annaclone and a colleague and friend of many years, gave the address. Belvoir Parish Church Magherally & Annaclone Church, Banbridge. Belvoir Parish Church has a particular impact on a more modern aspect of the city's landscape. It is situated in a large, formerly Housing Trust estate but adjacent to one of the busiest dual carriageways around the city. Its events heralded on its noticeboard communicate.

A founder member of the parish informed CNI that Emma is their 6th incumbent, following in the esteemed footsteps of James Moore, Bryan Mayne, Desmond Hanna, Tom Keightley and Adrian McCartney.

Our correspondent continued, "I would also like to acknowledge the faithful group of people who selflessly kept the show on the road during the vacancy, both laity & clergy. Thank-you!"

CNI had the good fortune to see a very early photo of the Church and Hall, and one of the clergy procession at the Consecration. Included were: James Moore (later Bishop of Connor), Leslie Walker, George Quin (later bishop of Down & Dromore), Bishop Moore father of James, and the then Bishop of Down & Dromore Frederick Julian Mitchell.

In the background is the temporary hall, in which our correspondent was confirmed by Bishop Frederick in April 1963.

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Mystery surrounds the copper sculpture that stood above the door. It went 'missing' after a bomb exploded at the state forensic laboratories on the other side of the dual carriageway. And without a word about the manner of its resurrection, it reappeared on the Antiques Road Show... The photographs were taken by Harry Long who after a sterling career in policing served as an NSM in Belvoir.



Emma is married to Graham, with whom she recently celebrated 30 years of marriage, and they have one adult son, William. She said: As a family, we feel incredibly blessed to have been appointed to Belvoir Parish and look forward with excitement to this next stage of our journey.” Emma shares more of her journey below

My background is in textiles, home furnishings and interior design, however about 20 years ago I felt God was calling

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me to other forms of ministry outside my local church. As a result, I spent four years employed as the family and children's worker in Knocknagoney Parish. This was the beginning of a journey, as I started to perceive a very definite call towards ordained ministry. I'm so grateful to those who played an instrumental part of my call to ordination and I began training in Dublin in 2009.



I was ordained Deacon in Down & Dromore in 2011, serving my deacon intern year in St Jude's Ballynafeigh, and I was ordained Priest in Connor in 2012. In 2013 I started serving as Diocesan Curate with special responsibility for Glencairn Parish in North Belfast, with the addition of the responsibility of Whiterock Parish a year later. In 2017 I answered the call to Stormont Parish and have absolutely loved what has been a very blessed time with the people there.

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I hadn't been looking for a new position, but God starting speaking to me in so many ways about Belvoir Parish. A series of conversations led me to pray and seek guidance over this, and it became more and more apparent as time went on that I should put my name forward for consideration. Praying and fully trusting in God no matter the outcome, I entered the process, and was appointed.

Now, seven years to the day of my institution to St Molua's, I have been instituted as the rector of Belvoir Parish.

I'm doing what I do today simply because I met with Jesus and I love him and want to serve him. My prayer would be that others come to know him and experience the life in all its fullness that he offers. I pray that I will always give my best to God and never lose sight of the awesome privilege a life in ministry is.

We are eager to join with our new church family as we live out our faith - loving God and loving others, as we share the love of Jesus in the local community and beyond, being guided by his Holy Spirit. We eagerly await what God has in store and would very much appreciate your prayers.

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

**Archbishop of York's
2024 Advent Book**

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Saturday was the publication day for the Archbishop of York's 2024 Advent Book, 'Do Not Be Afraid' which has been written by Archdeacon Rachel Mann.

Covering the four weeks from the first Sunday in Advent to Christmas Day, the book contains meditations, prayers and



questions for reflection, that can be used by individuals and groups.

Speaking of the book, Archbishop Stephen Cottrell said,

"In this luminous and insightful book, Rachel Mann taps

into... ancient wisdom and recasts it for our present impatient age, obsessed as it is with the instant gratification offered by social media, as well as our seeming addiction to speed of action and thought. She reminds us that, in a world where many use their financial and social capital to avoid – as much as possible! – the boredoms and frustrations generated by waiting, there is glory to be found in waiting for the Lord and seeking hope in the good news of Jesus Christ.

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"I pray that Do Not Be Afraid helps you not only to discover the gracious presence of Jesus in your call to watch and wait for him, but also prepares you to greet him once again with joy on Christmas Day."

Do Not Be Afraid is published by SPCK Publishing and available directly from the publisher and other retailers.



Starting Strong

This is an evening for parents, children's ministry leaders and church leaders to come together and think about the part that each play in supporting parents and discipling children to encourage their faith to thrive.

To book, click on the link:

<https://www.presbyterianireland.org/Events/Starting-Strong.aspx>

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Auditions for National Youth Boys' Choir Northern Ireland

Alison McNeill, Director/Conductor of NYCNI's Boys Choir will conduct voice checks for NYCNI Boys' Choir members and auditions for NEW NYCNI Boys' Choir 2025 members on Saturday, 5th October in Belfast.

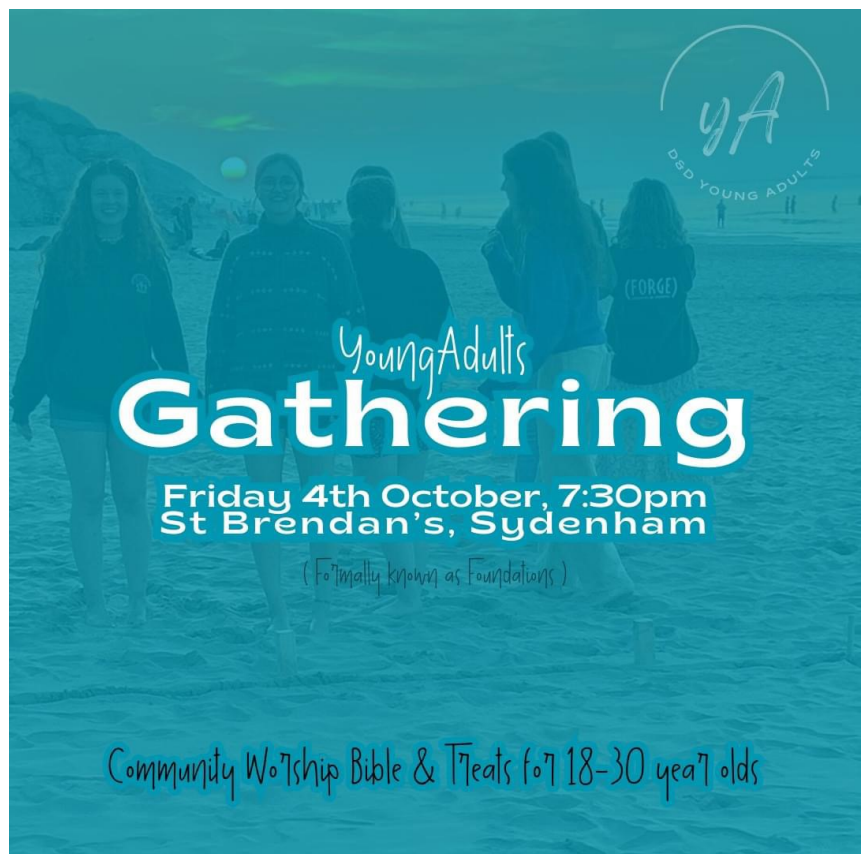
All boys between 8 -11 who love to sing and would enjoy joining this amazing choir are very welcome to avail of a short audition with Alison. No music preparation required, just book your slot ahead of the date.

Email Phil on admin@nycni.org to reserve your time. See also notice on page 8 above.

New “Young Adults Gathering” in Down and Dromore

“We're thrilled to be building on our first Young Adults Retreat with Young Adults Gathering

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It is a coming together of 18-30 year-olds from across Down and Dromore for real friendship, honest worship, Biblical teaching and yummy treats.

“Join our first Gathering in St Brendan’s, Sydenham, on Friday 4 October at 7.30pm. Stu Armstrong (St Saviour’s Craigavon, Summer Madness) will be speaking on CBA – Compelling Biblical Authenticity @ddyagathering St Brendan’s Church of Ireland St Saviour's Craigavon”

Heritage

Remembered in Drumbo Presbyterian Church and QUB

Campbell McNeill McCormack was a doctor, the son of a Presbyterian minister, who died in service as a medical officer in WW1. Yesterday was his anniversary. He served as a Major in the Royal Army Medical Corps.

He was awarded the Military Cross and 2 Bars and was Mentioned in Despatches MiD. Died 22/09/1918. Age 27. Educated initially at the Carr and Ballymacbrennan National Schools, he won a scholarship to Lisburn Intermediate School, subsequently Wallace High School, where he won exhibitions in the junior, middle and senior schools, and then an entrance scholarship of £30 to QUB to study medicine. After graduating MB in June 1914 and, having been in the OTC at Queens, (where he was the best shot in his Company and won four bronze medals for training), he joined the Reserve of Officers (RAMC) going to Aldershot at

the end of June for preliminary training. On completion of this he expected to be able to return home to Drumbo for a short holiday but the outbreak of war intervened. Posted to Dublin for a short time, he subsequently embarked for France on the night of 07/08/1914 with the medical contingent of the Aldershot Division.

Heavily involved in the retreat from Mons, he “came to prominence for good work bravely performed at ... Hill 60.” Writing home afterwards, he commented that it was, “a miracle more of them did not get knocked out”. He was also mentioned in dispatches, “for gallant and distinguished conduct in the field” in Sir John French’s last dispatch. He was promoted to Captain from 01/04/1915 (London Gazette of 23/07/1915).

He was awarded the MC in September 1916. The citation published in the London Gazette read, “For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during operations. He directed the stretcher-bearers under heavy shellfire with the greatest coolness and courage. He succeeded in entering a village which had been heavily shelled, and, with another captain, a sergeant and four men, collected the wounded into a dug-out and succeeded in getting them back later. He has frequently shown great courage.”

He was married to Ella Todd Warnock of Fernleigh, Endsleigh Drive, Belfast, in Drumbo Presbyterian Church on 12/09/1917. She was the only daughter of the late Rev. James Warnock, formerly minister of Drumbo and of Kroonstad, South Africa where he had gone for the sake of his health. One of the ministers officiating was the Rev. Joseph Corder who may have been the father of James Corder, who was KIA in April 1918. The best man was

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Hugh McCormack the bridegroom's brother who was later to have Campbell's death commemorated on his own headstone. The officers and men of 15 Field Ambulance gave them a silver salver.

Slightly wounded in late August/early September 1918, he was KIA in France on the 22/09/1918 two days after coming out of hospital and just over a year after his marriage. He was 27 years old and was serving in the 5th.(5) Field Ambulance RAMC.

Born 05/05/1891, he was the son of William McCormack, a farmer and Mrs. McCormack of Hillhall House, Lisburn, Co. Down, his death is also commemorated on his brother's (H.H. McCormack's) headstone in Drumbo Presbyterian church graveyard. He died on the 12/08/1980.

Writing to his parents shortly after his death, Major F.R. Thornton (RAMC) wrote, "I think by this time you will have received news of Major McCormack's death yesterday morning. A shell hit the shelter in which he and Colonel Bradley were sleeping and both were killed at once. He was buried yesterday afternoon in the cemetery close by in the presence of all the men of his ambulance who could be spared, and detachments from the other ambulances of the division. The General commanding the Division and many other officers were present. At the special request of the men his body was carried to the grave by the N.C.O.'s of the unit. It is difficult for me to express to you the deep sympathy that I feel, as I realise what a terrible loss it must be to you all. We all feel it most deeply, as he was beloved by officers and men. Of his unselfishness and courage it is needless to speak, for the men would follow him anywhere,

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or do anything which he asked them to do. I wonder if you have any small photographs of him, I should, myself, so much like one and the other officers are asking for it; in addition if you could let us have a few, I know how deeply some of our N.C.O.'s and men of his section would appreciate them. With my very deepest condolence".
Barastre Communal Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France

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

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