

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – Singing on the steps**

September 26, 2024

## Image of the day

First Presbyterian Church,  
Armagh

# Singing on the Steps

with  
*Tassagh Silver Band*

Sunday  
29th September  
3.30 pm

*Let everything that has breath praise the Lord* Psalm 150 v6

[www.firstarmagh.co.uk](http://www.firstarmagh.co.uk) // [info@firstarmagh.co.uk](mailto:info@firstarmagh.co.uk)  
Charity Number: NIC104984

## Singing on the steps

**First Presbyterian Church, Armagh invite you to come and sing on their steps this Sunday at 3.30 pm. And just flick on to the beautiful sight which awaits you from those very steps.**



**The view from the steps at First Presbyterian Church in Armagh across the historical Mall.**

## **News**

### **Sheep's Head Hike as popular as ever in its 16th year**

**Now in its 16th year, it is the biggest hiking event on one of Ireland's best-loved walking routes and it is completed in support of Christian Aid.**

Participants gathered on September 7 at 1030 am at Sheep's Head Way, Kilcrohrane, Cork.



The Sheep's Head Way is one of the most remote parts of Ireland, well-known for its laid-back way of life, friendly people and breathtaking scenery.

The Sheep's Head Hike has raised tens of thousands of pounds for Christian Aid's work to continue in communities throughout the world that are living in poverty. As Andrew Coleman, Event organiser said, "It's down to the support of



local people that the Sheep's Head Hike has reached its sixteenth anniversary.”

## **Irish Archbishop says Church renewal impossible until abuse crisis addressed**

**Until the abuse crisis is fully addressed, there will not be “authentic, enduring renewal and reform” in the Church, according to Archbishop Dermot Farrell, the Primate of Ireland.**

Speaking at St Mary’s Pro-Cathedral in Dublin on Saturday, the archbishop spoke of a “culture of denial” with respect to sexual abuse.

“It is vital that we come to recognise the dynamics of denial, and address them. Not just the call of the Gospel, but basic human justice, demands that we not dismiss the witness of those who suffered abuse, but recognise their continuing hurt and suffering, and begin to come to terms with the fact that this darkness has roots deep within ourselves,” Archbishop Farrell said.

Earlier this month, the Report of the Scoping Inquiry into Historical Sexual Abuse in Day and Boarding Schools Run by Religious Orders, found there were 2395 allegations of sexual abuse in respect of 308 schools in Ireland recorded by the religious orders that ran those schools.

The allegations were made against 884 alleged abusers, around half of whom have died.

September 26, 2024

Most of the abuse cases occurred between the early 1960s and the early 1990s, with the highest number of reports happening in the early to mid-1970s.

“Listening to the stark and distressing testimony of this, and other reports over the last 20 years, is as painful and

difficult, as the content of those reports is outrageous and scandalous,” Archbishop Farrell said.

“While some are filled with anger, others close their ears, or dismiss it, or explain it away, or blame the extensive coverage on hostility towards the Church, there is a thread of denial and disengagement in many of these responses.”

Archbishop Farrell then referenced the call for synodality in the Church by Pope Francis, and how the pontiff asked dioceses across the world to examine how we follow Christ together.



The archbishop said in their response to Francis's request, the Catholics in Ireland named the toll of physical, sexual and emotional abuse, along with its concealment as the most urgent issue to be addressed.

“The ordinary faithful of our land named it for what it is: An open wound,” he said.

“Until we truly own what has happened, the necessary change of heart will remain on the surface – and a superficial ‘change of heart,’ is no change of heart.”

## **Church in Wales invests £10m to boost attendance**

**The Church in Wales is investing nearly £10m in four major projects to promote growth in church attendance across the country.**

Projects in north east Wales, Swansea and Monmouthshire will be given multi-million-pound grants to develop new initiatives, centres and church communities.

The grants are being made from the Church Growth Fund, in which the Church is investing £100m to support projects in a once-in-a generation opportunity to resource confident and consistent evangelism throughout Wales.

One of the four new projects is for six new ‘Mission Hub Churches’ in the diocese of St Asaph, which has already successfully established four such Hub projects since 2021. Each Hub is designed to be a centre of excellence for

running and growing a church, with people encouraged to come into their church for a range of worship and other activities.

Just over £1m will also be invested in the region to create a team of Pioneer Missioners in rural areas, to support mission in church congregations as well as in schools and pubs, and through social and rural events.

The Bishop of St Asaph, Rt Rev Gregory Cameron said: “I’m excited to see the Church in Wales backing the good work we’re doing in Saint Asaph to renew and develop our Church life. Churches can be a centre of faith, hope and love in all our communities, and these initiatives underline and cement our commitment to serve the people of north east and mid Wales effectively.”

As well as a £2.8million investment in St Mary’s Church Swansea to enable it to become a Minster church, funding of more than £1million is being given to the Diocese of Monmouth to help grow new worshipping communities by building stronger relationships with schools.

The five-year project focuses on relationship-building with primary and secondary school-age pupils, their parents, teachers and the wider school family in a manner which goes beyond school assemblies.

The Archbishop of Wales, Most Rev Andrew John, said: “The Church Growth Fund represents a transformative step forward in our mission to reach communities across Wales with the love and hope of the Gospel. This significant investment will enable churches to grow, innovate and



September 26, 2024

become vibrant centres of faith. I am excited to witness the gospel in action and the positive impact we will make in our communities because of our significant investment in evangelism.”



## In a world of conflict, we need to imagine peace - Archbishop of Canterbury

The Community of Sant'Egidio has prayed and worked for peace around the world for over 56 years. It was an honour to join them at their International Meeting for Peace in Paris, where people of many faiths and none, came together to imagine the peace our world urgently needs.

The list of countries at war internally and with others is long. Even less visible is our collective war on the climate. It is undeclared, but active -in every sense, a hot war that breeds other wars.

What does peace look like? For Christians, peace is modelled in the person of Jesus. When we look to Christ, he teaches us how to engage with one another and with the planet – with love and reconciliation, striving towards mutual understanding and repair; and turning away from violence and destruction.

A posture of reconciliation opens up channels to tell the truth and sow justice. But the foundation of it all is prayer – for in prayer we commit ourselves to partnership with God. There we find hope; there we see change; there we are drawn together. May God direct and inspire us.

## Cathedral Calls

### Lincoln copes

**At his recent installation as Dean of Lincoln Simon Jones wore his Chapter Cope.**

These stunning hand-sewn copes are created by the Cathedral's highly skilled volunteer needlework guild.



A couple of weeks ago Simon was given the honour of adding a few of the final details to his cope.

## Gen Z and the City

**St Paul's Cathedral and the educational charity Cumberland Lodge are launching a new partnership, which will examine the values driving young people (18 to 25 years old) and their work practices, to further understand how this impacts on the corporate, social and creative sectors of the City of London.**

Economic challenges, questions of intergenerational (in)justice, technological innovation, shifting social boundaries, and existential threats such as climate change are generating an atmosphere of uncertainty, impacting on young people's expectations of their futures. While expressing personal and social values that enable them to navigate the 21st century, this is impacting on the workplace, and workplace practices, including in the financial services sector.

The partnership will bring together both the connections St Paul's has with the City, and Cumberland Lodge's expertise in facilitating conversations that explore social conflict and ethical challenges. It will examine in depth how values are shifting between generations, and how this affects behaviours, attitudes, recruitment, and retention in the workplace.

To launch the project, St Paul's will be hosting a panel discussion featuring findings from initial research with

September 26, 2024

speakers from the corporate sector, reflecting on intergenerational difference and how these might be managed.

The project aims to develop a programme of intergenerational conversations held at Cumberland Lodge, bringing together young people and employers, and focusing on learning across generational boundaries. Recommendations and learning tools will be developed to support companies and institutions in managing generational diversity in their workplaces.

Printed copies of the report will be distributed at the launch. The formal proceedings will be followed by refreshments to enable discussion to continue between attendees.

In partnership with Cumberland Lodge. At St Paul's Cathedral Tuesday 8th October, 6.30-8pm

## Clergy and ministry

### Pioneer Ministry - Tim Burns

**I applied for Pioneer Ministry to share stories, challenges and encouragements with people doing similar work. To gain new insights and learning, to be encouraged to grow in my faith and reliance on God and to build supportive and prayerful relationships as we encourage each other in our ministries.**



# MEET THE PIONEERS

TIM  
BURNS



**Parish:**

The Suitcase Project

**Diocese:**

Down & Dromore

I am excited about meeting other pioneers on the course, beginning the learning journey and seeing how this course will practically influence the ministry I am involved in and how it will encourage my own faith.

To sign up to our mailing list and stay up to date with Pioneer Ministry, click here: <http://eepurl.com/iob42s>

## **Archdeacon with church-growth remit to be Bishop of Southampton**

**The next Suffragan Bishop of Southampton, in Winchester diocese, is to be the Ven. Rhiannon King, currently the Archdeacon of Ipswich, in St Edmundsbury & Ipswich diocese.**

She succeeds the Rt Revd Debbie Sellin, who has been translated to Peterborough. The Rt Revd Geoff Annas has been Acting Bishop of Southampton since last November.

Archdeacon King trained for the ministry at Ridley Hall, Cambridge, and was ordained priest in 2001. She served her title in the Huntingdon Team Ministry, in Ely diocese, and was subsequently the Rector of Fulbourn and the Wilbrahams in the same diocese. She moved to Birmingham diocese in 2010, where she was Transforming Church Co-ordinator until 2014, and then Director of Mission until 2019, when she took up her present appointment. She is also director of the six-year church-growth initiative Inspiring Ipswich, a trustee of the project Leading your Church into Growth, and leader of the project Reaching the Nones.

Archdeacon King said on Friday that she was “delighted and humbled to respond to this call to be the next Bishop of Southampton”.

She continued: “Over the years, I have especially loved working with local parish churches, helping them to grow generally, and, in particular, to ‘grow younger’ as they reach

September 26, 2024

out to their communities. I also enjoy helping individuals and churches to start new worshipping communities of all shapes and sizes, and in the last decade have grown a special passion for estates, inner-urban ministry, and work with asylum-seekers and refugees.”

The Bishop of Winchester, the Rt Revd Philip Mounstephen, said that Archdeacon King “brings an abundance of helpful experience in parish ministry and in diocesan leadership, not least in a highly successful programme for the revitalisation of the church in Ipswich. More than that, however, she brings with her a self-evident passion for people, for God’s Church and its mission — and for our God himself.”

Archdeacon King is married to Philip, a physicist and photographer. She will be consecrated on 18 October.

## **Sr Joanne Fahey CP**

**Sr Joanne had been visiting the Drumalis Retreat Centre, Larne, as a member of the Central Leadership Team of the Cross and Passion Sisters.**



“Joanne died suddenly on the morning of Monday 23rd September, surrounded in loving embrace by the sisters of

September 26, 2024

the Cross and Passion and by members of our team here at the retreat centre.

“A faithful follower of Venerable Elizabeth Prout CP, Joanne lived out in her life the message of great love as shown in the passion of Jesus Christ.

“The love and prayers of everyone at Drumalis Retreat is with the family and friends of Joanne, and the wider circle of the Sisters of the Cross and Passion at this difficult time”.

"The passion of Jesus is a work of infinite love." St Paul of the Cross. May she rest in peace.

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

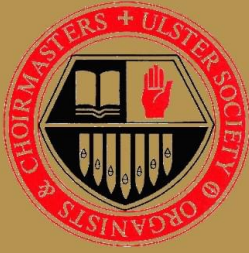
### Invite to hear one of Britain's outstanding concert organists and teachers

**The Ulster Society of Organists and Choirmasters will be visiting St Philip and St James' Church on Saturday 12th October.**

They will be joined by well known organist Margaret Phillips who will give a recital at 5.00pm which is open to all - and it's free!! You are very welcome to come along.

Here is some information about the performer:





# The Ulster Society of Organists and Choirmasters

An Organ Recital  
by acclaimed  
international organist

## Margaret Phillips



### Saturday 12th October 2024

### 5.00pm-6.00pm



St Philip and St James' Church  
Holywood (BT18 9BX)

One of Britain's outstanding concert organists and teachers, Margaret Phillips studied with Ralph Downes and Marie-Claire Alain. After her London début, she soon gained an international reputation as a soloist, playing at concert halls and cathedrals throughout Europe and in the U.S.A., Canada, Australia and Mexico. Performance highlights in recent years include celebrity recitals at York Minster, Westminster Abbey and St Paul's Cathedral, and, in 2015, two marathon series, each of 18 concerts, of the complete works of Bach. In June 2016 she played an evening recital

September 26, 2024

at the Royal Festival Hall which was broadcast by BBC Radio 3.

She is much in demand as teacher and masterclass tutor as well as recitalist, and from 1996–2021 she was Professor of Organ at the Royal College of Music in London. In 2022 she was awarded the Medal of the Royal College of Organists, the highest honour given by the College.

Her numerous CDs, which include the complete organ works of Bach, Mendelssohn, Saint-Saëns and Stanley, have been highly praised. In 1994, Margaret Phillips and her husband founded the English Organ School and Museum in former chapel premises in Milborne Port, Somerset, where there is a small collection of organs by English organ builders from the eighteenth century to the present day.

## **Hope Explored and Christianity Explored training**

**The Diocese of Down and Dromore are inviting attendees for a day of training to learn more about two exciting resources: Hope Explored and Christianity Explored.**

The training will be especially helpful to clergy, church staff, youth leaders and small group leaders.

### **The Resources**

September 26, 2024

Christianity Explored is a tried and tested resource that has been used by church leaders over the years to help introduce people to the message of God's grace in Jesus and to give Christians a clearer understanding of their faith. It unpacks the life of Jesus in Mark's Gospel, running over 7 sessions with an optional day away.

Hope Explored is a new resource. As with Christianity Explored it uses a mixture of video content, and discussion to explain the Christian message. Using Luke's Gospel, it explores the need we all have as human beings for hope, peace and purpose. This course runs over just 3 sessions, which makes it an ideal place to begin with people who do not regularly attend church. It works well as a follow-up to Christmas or Easter guest services.

Jubi da Silva, the International Training Director of Christianity Explored Ministries will be training us. This is a great opportunity to join with others from across the diocese to learn how to use these resources effectively in church services, fellowship groups, youth groups, or as part of an outreach initiative. Copies of the materials will be available to buy on the day.

The training begins at lunchtime on Wednesday 2 October 2024

12.30pm- 4.00pm Hope Explored training (starting with a light lunch

6.45pm - 9.30pm Christianity Explored training

Venue: St Donard's Parish Centre, 2-10 Bloomfield Road, Belfast, BT5 5LT

Parking is available.

<https://www.downanddromore.org/news/2024/09/hope-explored-and-christianity-explored-training>

## In the media

### **Turning childhood sounds into music at Ulster Orchestra's new home - BBC News NI**

**Townsend Street in Belfast was once a bustling part of the city that has changed over the years, especially after the building of the Westlink, Ashleigh Swan writes.**

The Ulster Orchestra is now trying to breathe life back into the street which joins the predominantly Catholic lower Falls and largely Protestant lower Shankill.

The orchestra has recently moved into the newly renovated Townsend Presbyterian Church which closed in 2022, following 200 years of continuous service.

They have been working with a group of women from the area to turn the sounds of their childhood into music.

Over the past few months, the orchestra, along with the Townsend Street Enterprise Park and Zeppo Arts, have worked to compose music which portrays the past, present and future of the street.

September 26, 2024

The process included consultation workshops with members of the public to understand their memories and also find out about their hopes for the future of the area.

@ @

### **'Your dinner is ready'**

Ella, Catherine and Georgina from the Young@Heart group took part in a consultation at St Stephen's Church in Millfield in May.

The three women are all in their 80s and grew up around Townsend Street.

During the consultation, they were asked about their memories of growing up in the area.

Pictures were brought in to help visualise thoughts - tea and biscuits were also there to help with stamina.

The women were asked by facilitator Emily Dedakis about sounds or music which stuck out in their heads.

Catherine responded straight away: "You used to hear shouts for the children to come in for their dinner, 'Hannah your supper is ready'."

Ella, Catherine and Georgina with their back to the camera, looking at a black computer with a screen showing an old picture. A variety of biscuits are to the far left of the picture.

Laughing away, Ella added: "We used to sing that song, the Queen of the May, do you remember?"

The three women then gave a rendition of the song.

Asked about the experience of sharing memories, Georgina said it was fun to reminisce.

“It’s amazing isn’t it, where we lived, how we lived, it’s just amazing,” Ella added.

All of the memories collected by Emily were then organised and sent to the composer, Una Monaghan.

@ @ @

## **Composing the Piece**

In the last few years, Una said she had been writing for smaller ensembles and wanted to do something that combined brass and woodwind instruments.

“I guess the only challenge is to think about how I would include the people from communities when I’m writing for an orchestra,” said Una.

The first step was to read through all of the folders, transcribed conversations and look at pictures of the area.

Una said something that particularly stood out to her was the busyness of the area.

“I wanted to convey that sense of pulse or an aliveness within the music. And then there was also a sense of loss in some ways.”

Black fence in front of a sign that says Townsend Street Presbyterian. The sign is attached to the church in the background.

## **The next step was to write.**

Una said the most time consuming part of writing a piece is actually at the end.

“The piece seems finished, but you’re trying to prepare it in a way that will be easiest for the orchestra.”\*

Rehearsals for Una’s piece took place at the end of August at the church on Townsend Street.

Patrick McCarthy, the artistic director and deputy of the Ulster Orchestra, was at one of the rehearsals.

He said the relocation of the orchestra to the street was positive and unique.

“It feels like we are part of the regeneration of this area, which will hopefully see Townsend Street and the lower falls and the lower Shankill road not seen as some kind of other,” he said.

“We want to bring it back into people’s consciousness.”

The pieces of music will be/were performed by the orchestras at an event celebrating the street on Saturday, external. BBC News NI 20/09/1024

## **Speaking to the soul**

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

September 26, 2024

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# 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](mailto:houstonmckelvey@mac.com)

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