

Church News Ireland



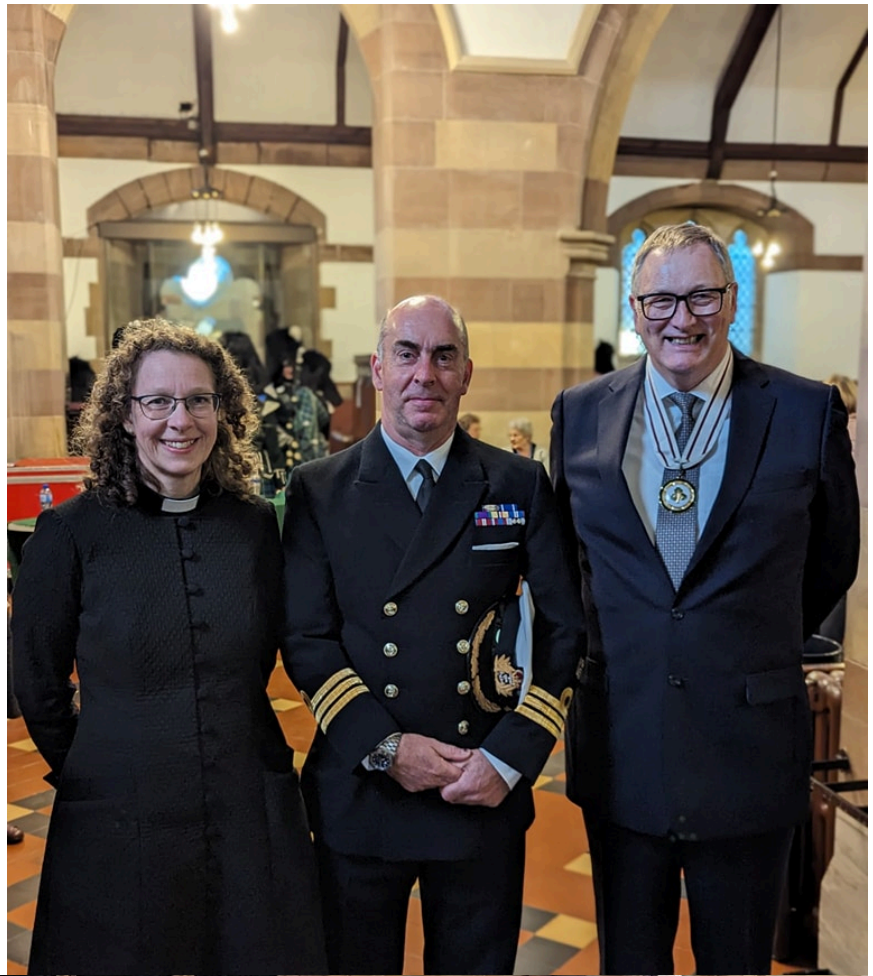
Image of the day – Marines and music at St Mark's

September 28, 2023

Image of the day

Marines and music at St Mark's

This week invited guests, parents of pupils and the general public had the pleasure of hearing HM Royal





Marine Band of Scotland alongside pupils from Strathearn School and Campbell College Pipes & Drums. What a fabulous night of music at St Mark's, Dundela.

People and places

Kilkeel's Harvest of the Sea celebration

Christ Church Kilkeel left the building and went to the Fish Market for a hugely successful Harvest of the Sea celebration on Sunday afternoon 24 September.

Almost 190 people turned out to celebrate and pray for the fishing industry that is vital to the local economy and to our



food supply. The congregation included many international seamen who work on the trawlers, and everyone enjoyed true Kilkeel hospitality afterwards with free fish and chips



donated by
The
Kilmorey
Arms and
desserts
supplied by
the parish.



The
service
included
worship,

bible reading and prayers while Greg Downes (above left
with Rector, right) shared a Gospel message peppered with
seafaring illustrations.

"Don't pray for a sea with no storms, rather, make sure that
Jesus is in the boat."



Methodist President's support for Army Chaplains

On Tuesday last week the President of the Methodist Church (second right) preached at the annual Hibernia service and lunch at Thiepval Barracks, Lisburn, joining with Army Chaplains currently serving and retired.

“We thank God for the ministry of those called alongside, to care for the army’s people”, he said.

Pictured are some of the ministers from the Methodist Churches in Britain and Ireland who attended the service on Tuesday.

Dunmurry Harvest local foodbanks donations

Dunmurry NS Presbyterian church annual Harvest Thanksgiving Service will take place on Sunday 8th October.

“We will also be collecting non perishable food items this year to support our local foodbanks.

“All donations are gratefully received during services on 1st and 8th October.

“All fresh produce used to decorate the church will also be donated. Thank you in advance.”

CMSI Ignite conference in Dromantine Missions Centre

Bishop Jered Kalimba from Rwanda, presented a powerful message on the need for forgiveness in the family, in a war ravaged nation and in the congregation. Amongst those present was Betty King from St Donard's. "Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God".

Armagh's new choristers

Four new choristers were admitted and installed in the Cathedral Choir this week. Prayerful best wishes were



extended to the new new choristers and the hope that they have many happy years singing in the Cathedral.

Former Dublin church set to be converted into international food hall

St. Andrew's Church in Dublin has been leased by the Martin Barry Group, which aims to convert it to a Manifesto Market by 2025.

The Martin Barry Group has taken a lease at St. Andrew's Church on Dublin's Suffolk Street.



Lisburn Cathedral's 'Cameo' centurions

Special birthdays celebrated at Lisburn Cathedral's 'Cameo' group

Three ladies from Cameo, Lisburn Cathedral's Senior Citizens' group, celebrated special birthdays earlier in the summer. Jacqueline Houston was 99, Ivy Bell was 102 and Molly Williamson was 100!

Hundreds of pupils at Donegal Schools' Service

The Diocese of Derry and Raphoe was well represented at the 2023 Donegal Schools' Service in Ramelton Presbyterian Church on Tuesday.



Hundreds of pupils from 29 schools throughout Donegal made their way to the church which has established itself as the home of the annual service.

Clergy from a number of Raphoe parishes were in attendance, along with Des West from the Raphoe Diocesan Board of Education, and the Diocesan Children's and Youth Ministry Officers, Kirsty McCartney and Claire Hinchliffe.

The theme for this year's service was 'Connection' and clergy from the different Protestant denominations in the county were welcomed by the Minister of Ramelton and Kilmacrennan, Rev Richard Tregaskis.

There was loud and energetic hymn-singing throughout the service. The address was delivered in three parts by the



Rev John Montgomery from Donegal Methodist Church and the Moderator of the Derry and Donegal Presbytery, Rev Gordy McCracken. With readings from Luke's Gospel telling

Free event // No booking required

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

a look at church history



Dr Cynthia Bennett Brown

*Lecturer in Systematic and Historical Theology
at Belfast Bible College*

8 pm // Wed 8th Nov 2023

Hillhall Presbyterian Church

Find out more at www.equaltolead.com

EQUAL
to lead

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the Parable of the Lost Son, they talked to their young congregation about the importance of 'connection' with God, reminding them that even when they became 'disconnected', God was happy to see them 'reconnect' with Him.

Bishop Andrew made the Call to Worship at the outset of the service and later led the congregation in reciting the Lord's Prayer.

There was significant involvement by the young people, with representatives of each of the schools reading prayers during the service.

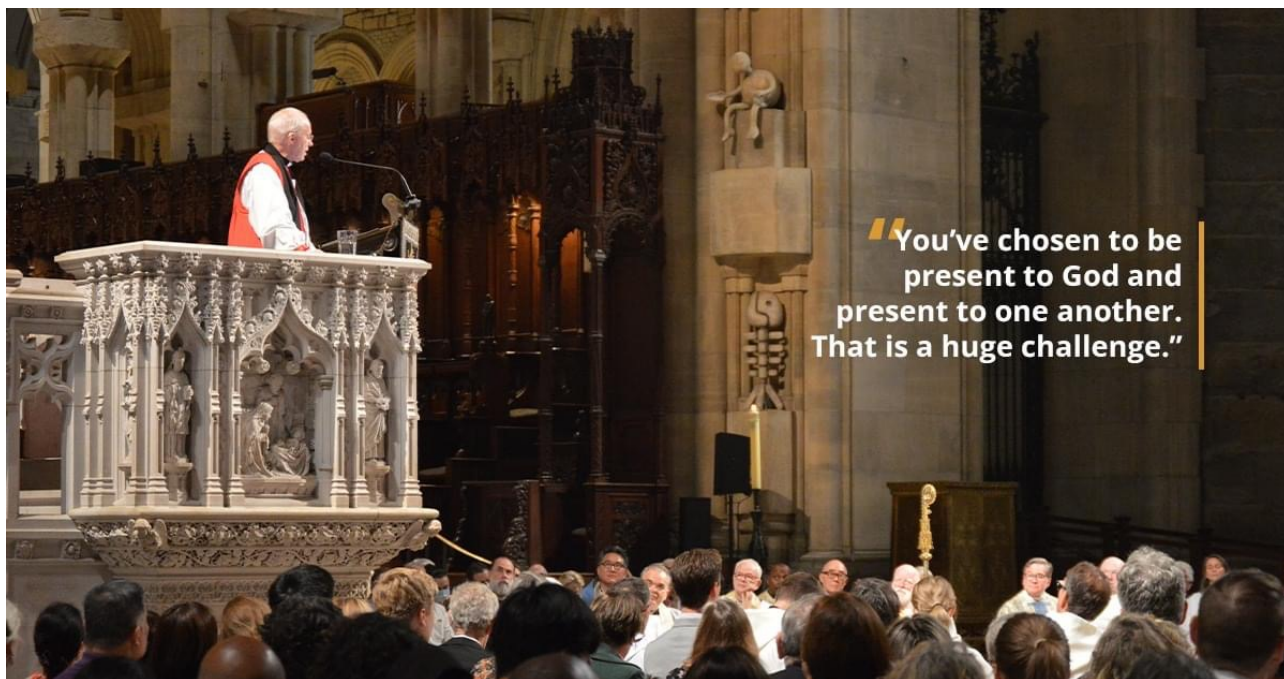
As usual, as the children filed out of the church at the end of the service, the took with them 'goody bags' for each of their schools.

News reports

New community in New York Cathedral commended by Archbishop of Canterbury

Archbishop Welby comments, "A new community has been formed at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, called the Community of the Crossing. In my sermon I talked about religious life..."

"You've chosen to live in community together. You've chosen to be present to God and present to one another. That is a huge challenge."



“You’ve chosen to be present to God and present to one another. That is a huge challenge.”

The Community will reflect that which the Archbishop established some years ago.

Read the Archbishop’s full sermon here:

<https://bit.ly/3PTqaVv>

Irish Church Leaders in Rome for ‘GFA 25’ seminar

With the Good Friday/Belfast Agreement having turned 25 in April of this year, the Church Leaders Group (Ireland) - the leaders of the Church of Ireland, the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches in Ireland, the Roman Catholic Church, and Irish Council of Churches - are in Rome today (28 September).

They will take part in a special seminar to mark the Agreement’s 25th anniversary, where they will share their personal reflections on this milestone anniversary.

Organised jointly by the British and Irish ambassadors to the Holy See, the UK and Ireland's official representatives to the Vatican City State, the Church Leaders have been invited to take part following a similar event that the embassies hosted at the time of the 20th anniversary in 2018. The seminar, which takes place in the Pontifical Irish College, will also explore the role that churches and faith-based leaders play in peace-making and reconciliation more broadly.

The two-day visit begins this morning with a joint church service that will be led by the five Church Leaders, and will take place at the Chiesa Evangelica Valdese, the Waldensian Evangelical Church in Rome's Piazza Cavour. Based on resources that the Church Leaders developed for congregations and parishes as they reflected on the 25th anniversary of the Agreement in April, the service will be attended by those taking part in the seminar, the two ambassadors and members of the wider diplomatic corps, along with the wider Christian community in the city.

Speaking from Rome in a joint statement, the Church Leaders said, "We would like to thank the British and Irish ambassadors to the Holy See for their kind invitation for us to take part in this important event. It is a welcome opportunity to spend time, not only reflecting on where we have come from over the past 25 years, but also looking to the future, highlighting our common allegiance to Jesus as Lord, and the responsibility of all Christians to work for peace, wherever they may be. We are thankful for all who worked to ensure that the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement could come into place. We are mindful too of all who suffered, and continue to suffer, as a result of needless violence over the decades.

“As individual Christians, and as leaders in our respective Christian traditions, we are committed to working towards a vision of an island of restored relationships, where all can flourish and fully participate in our common life. This is our shared commitment to reconciliation and peacebuilding on the island of Ireland. While we continue to recognise the obvious challenges that there are, we want to acknowledge once more that the important and vital work of peace is still an unfinished work, a work that we are all committed to actively pursuing for the common good, for all the people of Ireland, north and south.”

The Church Leaders continued, “We welcome the opportunity this special seminar affords us to share our collective thoughts and personal reflections at such an influential gathering, as it comes at a time when we have great concern for the state of our fragile peace. As we remark in the foreword to this morning’s Order of Service, ‘We must remember that the signing of the Agreement was not the end of the journey to peace in Northern Ireland. It simply marked the first faltering steps down a very long road to a new, brighter, and shared future...shaped by tolerance and respect for our differences, and a recognition of the need for greater understanding and reconciliation’.

“The Agreement’s principles were based on ‘partnership, equality and mutual respect’ and developing relationships North/South, East/West and within Northern Ireland itself. As we also state in the foreword ‘...reflect[ing] on how far we have travelled, we must fully appreciate the sacrifices that were made as we capture a vision for what lies ahead. In the journey from Good Friday to Easter, from death to new

life, as people of faith we believe that love is stronger than hate and that the light of hope shines brightly in the darkness...”

The Church Leaders concluded by saying, “We are thankful to God, that the Agreement that was negotiated a quarter of a century ago, while not perfect, transformed the conflict in Northern Ireland, resulting in countless lives being saved. It is our prayer that today’s seminar, and our participation along with others, will contribute to a wider understanding of where we have come from and the hope that we have for the future, when communities agree to come together. Once again we thank the British and Irish ambassadors for affording us this opportunity.”

Speaking at today’s seminar will be Rt Rev Andrew Forster, President of the Irish Council of Churches, Most Rev Eamon Martin Roman, Catholic Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of all Ireland, Most Rev John McDowell, Church of Ireland Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of all Ireland, Rt Rev Dr Sam Mawhinney, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and Rev David Turtle, President of the Methodist Church in Ireland. Also in attendance are the Co-Secretaries of the Church Leaders’ Group (Ireland) Rev Trevor Gribben, Clerk of the General Assembly and General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and Rev Dr Heather Morris, General Secretary of the Methodist Church in Ireland.

Before returning tomorrow, Friday, the Church Leaders will have a number of additional meetings with Christian organisations and lunch with the British and Irish Ambassadors to the Holy See.

In the media

Braverman wrong to say immigration a threat to the West, says Bishop of Leicester

The Home Secretary, Suella Braverman, has been criticised by the Bishop of Leicester, the Rt Revd Martyn Snow, and leaders of Christian refugee charities for describing "uncontrolled and illegal migration" as an "existential challenge for the political and cultural institutions of the West. Home Secretary Suella Braverman has warned that British culture will disappear without migration controls.

Mixed reception for new documentation on Church and state relationship in education

Church of England education officials have welcomed the Government's new Model Articles of Association, which sit alongside an updated national Memorandum of Understanding, as a recognition of the historic relationship between Church and State in education.

Multi-million-pound settlement in Canadian church abuse case

A settlement worth millions of pounds in the case of one of Canada's most prolific sexual abusers has been agreed with the Anglican Church of Canada and Scouts Canada.

Lockdown harm to children was preventable, Government told

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A group of leading charities and experts are to issue a damning report to the Government that states that the harm caused to children by lockdown was preventable. The report, entitled *What About The Children?*, states that harm could have been avoided if ministers had considered children's rights when making decisions on how to limit the spread of the virus.

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

**It's not 'just'
a parent
& toddler
group**



“This amazing booklet is out and about! It took almost 2 years to produce and involved several organisations including our 1277 community”, Jo Daniels writes.

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Here is the link to the website for free downloads of the booklet and individual pages in poster form (hopefully there will be a summary poster soon)

<https://notjustaparentandtoddler.group/>

“If you’d like a hard copy, please send your address to me and I will post one out to you”. jo@danielsden.org.uk

There will be an online launch event in November and a launch in Parliament on October 30th

Tickets for Ireland in Christmas Praise available

Available from www.waterfront.co.uk

Ecumenical Alpha Course October

Want to know more about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit and the Church? Why not sign up to an ecumenical Alpha Course, hosted by Fisherwick Presbyterian, St Bartholomew's Church of Ireland and St Brigid's Catholic Church.

Go to bit.ly/belfastalpha to register.

Dead-Yet-Speaking Theologians Society

If you’d like to be part of a reading group exploring Christian classic texts from the Patristic, Medieval, and Reformational eras, why not come along to the Dead-Yet-Speaking Theologians Society? This academic year (2023/24) we plan to read together the following works:

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Patristic: Gregory of Nazianzus, *On God and Christ, The Five Theological Orations and Two Letters to Cledonius* (St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, New York, 2002).

Medieval: Aelred of Rievaulx, *Spiritual Friendship* (Liturgical Press, Minnesota, 2010).

Reformation: Robert Bruce, ed. T.F. Torrance, *The Mystery of the Lord's Supper* (Christian Focus, Ross-shire, 2005)

This group is open to undergraduates, post-graduates, and staff. We will meet once a fortnight on WEDNESDAY usually at 1pm. Our first meeting will take place in the Chaplain's Bungalow at Derryvolgie Hall (49a Derryvolgie Avenue) on Wednesday 4 October at 3.30pm.

You can purchase the books online, or you can order copies from me (three texts: students, £20; staff, £35).

If you're interested, please message or email me:

ncraig@presbyterianireland.org

Nigel Craig

Presbyterian Chaplain at QUB, SUC and UTC

Developing reflective practice in the faith sector

Need some headspace to think more about the work you do and how you do it?

Sign up for this practical and encouraging session next Monday...

[Developing reflective practice in the faith sector: I NICVA]
(<https://www.nicva.org/event/developing-reflective-practice-in-the-faith-sector>)

Clergy/Pastoral Resilience Retreat at Corrymeela

2–3 November 2023 £125 Shared £150 Single

This retreat is dedicated to fostering resilience and wellbeing specifically for members of the clergy. This overnight retreat will offer a pause for respite, restoration, and refreshment before the busy Advent season begins. In this retreat, we will build a community of support with one another and explore resources for wellbeing and resilience specific to faith leaders so that they can feel empowered, sustained, and revitalized in their ministries.

Led by Rev. Kiran Young Wimberly. To learn more or to book your spot, contact welcome@corrymeela.org

Bishop Alan McGuckian's hopes for the Synod on Synodality

"To express the truth in new and powerful ways" - Bishop Alan McGuckian shares his hopes for the Synod on Synodality that he will attend in Rome this October. WATCH full interview - youtu.be/EoR9dWLFct8

Christian Endeavour Break invite

Rosemary McDaniel (General Secretary) writes - We are planning an Autumn Break in Lodge Hotel, Coleraine, from Sun 12th – Tues 14th Nov 2023.

The plan is to arrive on Sunday afternoon. Our evening meal will be served at 6.00pm, so give yourself time to book

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in before that. After our meal we will have an informal time of praise together.

Cost is £165 per person sharing. This includes B&B Sunday and Monday nights with an evening meal on both Sunday and Monday. Check out on Tuesday morning, giving ample time to explore the town of Coleraine before heading home.

A single room is £230 in total. We have the use of a conference room for our meetings.

This break is aimed at adults of any age who would love a short time near the beautiful North Coast.

To book, phone Lodge Hotel on 028 7034 4848. Please quote Christian Endeavour Break when booking as they have reserved rooms for us.

Please contact Rosemary Mc Daniels or private message this page if you are attending.

We look forward to a good time of fellowship together.
Rosemary McDaniel (General Secretary)

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
