

Church News Ireland



Image of the day - Armagh Presbyterian Heritage

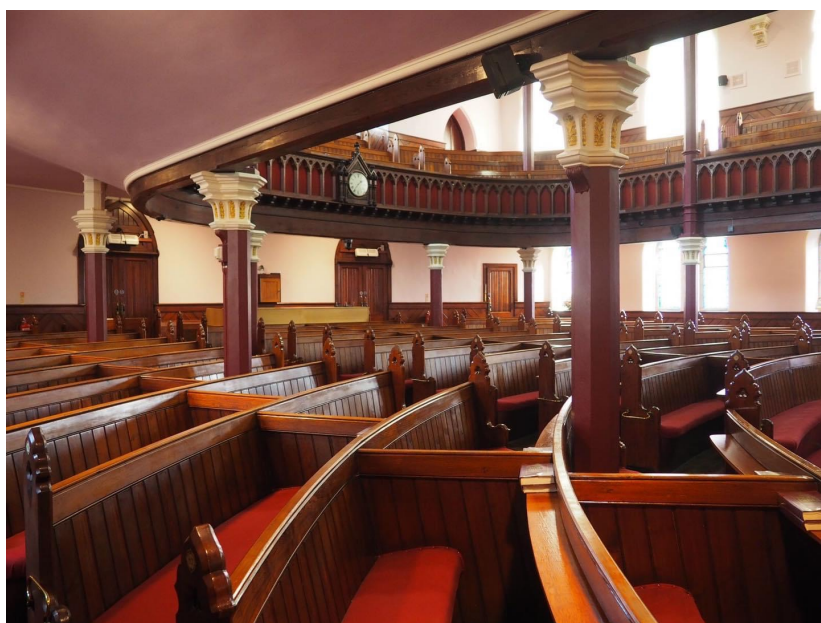


Image of the day

Armagh Presbyterian Heritage

First Presbyterian Church, Armagh,

will continue to be open for viewing, prayer and quiet reflection over the next two weeks.

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The opening times will be different this weekend to correspond with European Heritage Open Days. "If you're free, we would be delighted to welcome you":

Thursday 5th - Saturday 7th, 11am - 3pm

Thursday 12th - Friday 13th, 11am - 3pm

Saturday 14th, 10.30am - 4.30pm

Sunday 15th, 1.30pm – 4.30pm"

News



Christ Church Strabane's fund-raising biker is off

Philip took to the road the other day and on that first day travelled approx 180 miles towards John o'Groats.

He'll join up with others at the starting point and they'll make the journey together

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to Lands End. Keep an eye out for further updates from the parish about their intrepid traveller.

Ross Union continues their journey

The second day of the parish trip to Dublin.

“We stayed overnight in the Church of Ireland Theological Institute (CITI) and it was great to have our own resident guide, Michael Kenning, who is a student intern in Ross Union.

“After breakfast we had a short service of Morning Prayer in the





chapel. We then traveled south to the Arboretum in Leighlanbridge before arriving in Lismore for a tour of St. Carthage's Cathedral with Dean Paul Draper.

“Thank you to Kelly Bermingham from St. Patrick's Cathedral for the transport and looking after us so well for the last few days”.

Dublin University Mission link with Chotanagpur renewed

Archbishop Michael Jackson visited Ranchi in Jharkhand Province in Northern India with the Dublin University Mission to Chotanagpur (DUMCN) in August.



He travelled overnight on Sunday August 18 to Ranchi, having celebrated Holy Communion in Christ Church Cathedral in the morning. He arrived late in the evening of Monday 19 and was joined during the week by The Reverend Steven Brunn, Secretary to Dublin University Mission to Chotanagpur.



You can read the Archbishop's diary of his visit and view his photographs on the diocesan website here: <https://dublin.anglican.org/news/2024/09/04/rekindling-connections-in-the-church>



Anglican Secretary-General with Church in Wales Governing Body

Over the next two days, Bishop Anthony Poggo, The Secretary-General will spend time with The Church in Wales to attend the church's Governing Body Meetings.

Bishop Anthony shared a sermon at the Celebration of the Holy Eucharist in the University Chapel of Saint David. He was greeted by The Most Revd Andrew John, Archbishop of Wales.

Speaking on the book of 1 Corinthians 3: 1-9, themes in Bishop Anthony's sermon included the importance of



leadership,
spiritual
growth,
celebrating
diversity and
building
bridges that
nurture the
unity of
God's
church.

C of I stand prepared for National Ploughing Championships

The National Ploughing Championships are happening on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, September 17-19th.



Cashel, Ferns and Ossory diocese is running the Church of Ireland stand there “as it is on our Diocesan ‘patch’ again this year. Block No: 2 Row No: 11 Stand No: 168”

The diocesan organisers comment - Many people probably don't realise how much planning and work goes into organising the stand but here's an insight. Online meetings have been going on since May, chaired by Archdeacon Mark Hayden, and everything is now in place – marquee organised, water, electricity and insurance and health and safety requirements complied with etc. We will have a theme for each of the three days this time too - youth, mission and ministry, and ecology.

The theme for each day will be announced shortly and these themes will involve having representatives from all the



relevant Diocesan organisations on hand on the relevant day and having all the literature and 'freebies' necessary there to make a visit to our Stand enjoyable and informative. A week prior to the 17th a team of helpers led by Eric Driver from Tullow parish will transport all the interior structures (saved from 2023) to the marquee already erected for us on the field. Assembly will then take place (an internal wall) and touch-up painting will be done where required. Tables and chairs will be arranged on one side. Exterior signs will also



be erected to let people know who we are and that they are welcome.

The Sunday before the event will involve another visit, including Diocesan staff this time, getting the tea area organised, setting up a screen, the prayer trees and displaying all literature and giveaways like armbands and pencils and also organising the children's art area. The quiet space with its comfortable sofa (an oasis of calm so popular last time) will be there again along with the prayer trees and

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of course, tea, coffee and biscuit refreshment – always important on long Ploughing days.

There will be clergy there each day to meet and greet and answer any questions that visitors have too, so all told it will be a great showcase for our diocese and for the Church of Ireland our Diocesan Communications Officer Mr Shane Reynolds will be attending the three-day event to get all the coverage for our social media platforms so if you happen to call into the stand make sure to get in some pictures. Many helpers are needed each day to help with the teas and the meeting and greeting of those visiting the tent so putting your name on the roster for a two-hour stint on any of the three days would be very, very much appreciated.

Please email Archdeacon Mark Hayden at haydemark@gmail.com or Archdeacon Alec Purser at alecpurser@gmail.com or janetpfinlay@gmail.com or Liz at the Diocesan Office know at palacecoachhouse@gmail.com They hope that their email inboxes will runneth over! Archdeacon Alec Purser, in whose parish the Ploughing takes place says: “It is a wonderful opportunity for us as a Church to offer our hospitality and conversation and to reach out to all who will gather over the three days. To make this happen, we are asking people to help on any of the three days. Many thanks to all those who helped out last year. Your efforts were very much appreciated, and it was a great success.

If you will be attending and could spare an hour or two helping to make teas or coffees, making people welcome or handing out some information, please let us know. Fall back

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Contact via Shane Reynolds, Diocesan Communications Officer - cfodco2023@gmail.com Tel - 083 327 4122

Clergy and ministry

New rector of Knocknamuckley



The Revd Ian McGrath was instituted as the new rector of Knocknamuckley by the Bishop of Down and Dromore. Bishop McClay instituted Ian at a service in St Matthias on the evening of 4 September.

The Vicar of Ballywalter, Revd Sue Bell, gave the address. Before either Sue or Ian were ordained, they both



worshipped in St Thomas, Lancaster, where Sue was a parishioner and Ian was the Youth Pastor. Neither could have foreseen that their paths would one day cross in a church in County Armagh.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Good Relations Week 2024

You are invited to ‘Breaking down barriers, building commUNITY’, a conversation with local faith leaders, as part of Good Relations Week 2024.

Breaking down barriers, building **commUNITY**



**Revd
Anna Williams
Host**

**Register here:
bit.ly/buildingcommunity2024**

The host for the event will be Anna Williams, who currently serves as Curate in Seapatrick Parish, Banbridge.

Anna studied at Trinity College, Dublin before completing a Masters in Global Ethics at Birmingham and subsequently trained for ordination. Anna's passion for Habitat's mission is borne out of her deep understanding of its faith in action impact. Following a Global Village experience as part of a team from Hillsborough Parish when she was 16, Anna has led a number of 'Building on Faith' Habitat teams and helps to promote its mission at events including New Horizon, Summer Madness & Queens Christian Union mission night.

DATE: Wednesday 18th September

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TIME: 7.30pm – 9pm, refreshments from 7pm

VENUE: South Kirk Presbyterian Church, 34 Shaftesbury Square, Belfast, BT2 7DB

Learn more about the event and register here:

<https://bit.ly/buildingcommunity2024>

Mission Matters podcast series focus on Argentina

In the second episode of the C of I Council for Mission's Mission Matters podcast series, the Revd Stephen McElhinney is in conversation with the Revd Daniel Lescano, Vicar-General of the Diocese of Northern Argentina in the Anglican Church of South America.

Stephen and Daniel discuss various facets of their work and the Argentinian context. The diocese includes 187 Chaco churches in a vast geographic area amidst the economic pressures from high inflation and widespread poverty.

The Anglican Church has an extensive presence in indigenous communities where geographical barriers and cultural differences pose significant challenges. Daniel emphasises the importance of leadership training and community empowerment, including theological education and agricultural programmes, and expresses gratitude for support from the South American Mission Society (SAMS) and partnering churches.



Daniel pictured with some of the students on their way back to their different villages. Villages are spread out over vast distances with access being very difficult, particularly if it has been raining.

Stephen Fletcher, Diocesan Communications Officer for Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe is producer and planner for the podcasts in the series. At -

<https://www.ireland.anglican.org/news/12522/mission-matters-podcast-series-continues>

In the media

Community's message of hope after devastating church blaze

Hundreds of people from across the Greenisland community turned out last night to hear Rev Isobel

Hawthorne-Steele deliver a message of hope just four days after a devastating arson attack on the Church of the Holy Name, Mark Bain reports in the Belfast Telegraph.

A special service was held in neighbouring Greenisland Baptist Church, where the clergywoman admitted there will still be plenty of sadness to come over the next few years, with many events unable to take place at the place of worship which has been a part of the community for 70 years.

“We've all shed tears. I'm sure there will be many more,” she said.

“Heartbreaking as it is, we have to remember that God will not be separated from us.

“There was a little girl, I shall mention her name, Ellen, and in the midst of all the fire engines and police cars flying about she went away and came back with a tub of Angel Delight.

“On the top of it was written 'Rev Isy I know you're sad. I hope this makes you better'.

“That was just amazing.

“The support has been amazing from everybody. This church has an emotional tie to everything and everyone in this community. That will never change. It's sad that over the next few years there are going to be marriages,



A team at Greenisland Parish which cleared out the parish food shop after the recent fire.

baptisms, and sadly funerals that we can't have in our beautiful church.

“I just want to say a big thank you to everybody who has been so generous. All their kindness is going to be much needed and very much appreciated.

“I have lived here since I was seven. I am so privileged to be the leader of a wonderful church, and a church is much more than a building. It's the people. And there will be a revival.”

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Recalling the night of the fire she added: “I was in my pyjamas. My husband Sam said 'the church is on fire, there's a bin fire, you'd better get up'.

“I told him to calm down, it was only a bin. But driving Station Road I saw the flames, That's when it really hit me.

“Like most people, it takes time to get over a shock like that. It was five o'clock and I was able to go down and at that stage the hall has completely burnt to the ground.

“The Chief Fire Officer kindly said he would take me into the church. When I saw the state of it, and I was in there again today, you can imagine the devastation.”

She said she had been particularly thankful for the support from the young people in the congregation, with around 40 of them arriving at her home on Tuesday night to join in prayer.

Last night's service took place in the nearby Baptist church, with the burnt out Anglican church building visible through the window.

Pastor Michael Wylie said Rev Hawthorne-Steele had told him it was to be an uplifting evening.

“She said she didn't want this to be a funeral,” he said.

“There is an incredibly unity amongst us all. Rev Isy and the congregation will have all our support in the days and months ahead.”

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Alliance MLA Stewart Dickson was among those turning out to support the church.

“What we have seen is a massive show of support for the congregation and it's no more than you would expect from this community,” he said.

“All the churches and their communities have come together. That's the one silver lining that's come from this. We are all together.

“It's a very sad occasion, but it's also one filled with hope.

“Isy has been involved in community work, working with young people in this community, and remains keen to reach out to those who have been responsible for this, despite her sadness and distress.

“What we so know is that this community is together and this church will rebuild.”

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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www.churchnewsireland.org

Posted early Monday to Saturday

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