

# Church News Ireland



**Image of the day - Greenisland gets stuck in and grubby**

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## Image of the day

# Greenisland gets stuck in and grubby

“Another sad but necessary job (why does it seem like I keep saying that?!) nearly done.



“All the spoiled stock from Greenisland Parish Shop, logged, listed, bagged up and ready for the bin lorry. Massive thanks to the huge amount of helpers who came down over the last two days, ready to get grubby and get stuck”.



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## News

### All Ireland Mothers Union President elected

**All Ireland Mothers' Union have announced the election of Mrs Kay Clarke (from the Diocese of Derry and Raphoe) as Provincial President.**



Mrs Clarke will succeed the current President, Mrs June Butler, in January 2025. She is the wife of the Rev Canon Robert Clarke, Rector of the Parishes of Edenderry and Clanabogan. They have two married daughters and two grandsons.

Mrs Clarke recently retired from teaching IT. She has been very involved in Mothers' Union for over 35 years and is currently the All Ireland Faith and Policy Unit Coordinator. In this capacity, she was instrumental in introducing 'Thy Kingdom Come' to Mothers' Union members throughout Ireland earlier this year.

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Mrs Clarke is also a member of the Church of Ireland Marriage Council and is part of the diocesan Safeguarding team. She has been a great advocate in raising awareness of domestic abuse through the '16 Days' and 'Rise-Up' campaigns.

Speaking of her appointment, Mrs Clarke said that she was honoured and humbled to be elected to the post of Provincial President. She acknowledged the work and commitment of the whole All Ireland Trustee Board and said that she looked forward to working with this team, serving Mothers' Union members and communities at home and worldwide. While exploring new approaches, she plans to remain true to Mothers' Union's strong legacy of Christian care for families and to upholding everything in prayer.

## **Antrim Grammar School pupil in Military Musical Spectacular**

One of Antrim GS current pupils, Deborah Bell, took part in a Military Musical Spectacular this summer.

This was organised by the charity of the Household Division of the Army. The warm up event was provided by the





National Band of the Army Cadet Force (ACF). Cadet Sergeant Bell was selected as one of the members of the National Band of the ACF. She was the only person from Northern Ireland to take part.

Deborah joined the local Army Cadet band in September 2021 – the Band, Drums & Pipes of the 1st (Northern Ireland) Battalion ACF. This band is based in Antrim and can be found on Facebook.

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The Army Cadet National Band performed on each of the 3 evenings of the event from 16th to 18th July. It took place on Horse Guards Parade in the centre of London. Each night the band paraded to Horse Guards from Wellington Barracks and spent around half an hour playing to the crowd arriving for the Musical Spectacular put on by the bands of the Household Division. The National Band was in full ceremonial uniform and Deborah was in the uniform of the Irish Guards.

After the event Deborah said 'Playing in the Army Cadet Force National Band was an amazing experience. I enjoyed playing alongside cadets from across the UK and making many friends and great memories along the way'.



## All Nations Ministry have a break at Castlerock



## New Chief Scout

Dwayne Fields

### UK's new Chief Scout

**Dwayne Fields, adventurer and TV presenter, is the UK's new Chief Scout. Photo page above**

Dwayne's been appointed to lead the Scouts' half a million young people and adult volunteers for his values, commitment to help young people, and outstanding leadership qualities. During his time as Chief Scout, Dwayne

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aims to inspire even more young people and adult volunteers to join from all backgrounds. Read more at <https://www.scouts.org.uk/news/2024/september/dwayne-fields-becomes-new-uk-chief-scout/>

## Cathedral Calls



## Derry Girls are back

**St Columb's Music in Derry - We were excited to welcome back our Girl Choristers to rehearsal today after a long summer break!**





The Choristers were in fine voice, and as you can see, fine form too!

## **Monty approves – Wells Cathedral gets funding boost**

**Vicars' Close smallest resident, Monty the kitten has given the funding news a paws up!**

Wells Cathedral has announced it has received a £4.4m funding boost from The National Lottery Heritage Fund towards its campaign to save Vicars' Close, an extraordinary series of 30 medieval houses and buildings that is world-renowned for being the most complete and continuously occupied medieval street in Europe.

The project will cost a total of £7m and includes critical conservation works and a new visitor experience which will open up four of the unique buildings to the public for the very first time.

With the NHLF grant and £1m already raised in donations, Wells cathedral needs to raise £1.6m to complete this transformational project.

## Clergy and ministry



## A very special guest at Mass in Ballymoney

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## **There was a very special guest at Mass in Ballymoney on Wednesday.**

“Our oldest parishioner, Stacia O’Loan, was celebrating her one hundredth birthday! Having received greetings from the King and the President she came out to Mass with her family. Many happy returns and may God bless her!”

## **Insight on ministry from Bishop Burrows**

### **Bishop Burrows' September Letter to the Diocese of TLK in the latest edition of Newslink Magazine**

My letter last issue was something of a chronicle of coming events, and there were a few blanks I need to fill in at this stage.

### **Introduction of priest in charge of Clonfert Union**

First of all, a reminder of the introduction of the Reverend John McGinty as priest in charge of Clonfert Union in Clonfert Cathedral at 1930 on Thursday September 5. We hope we can welcome John from across the Atlantic and into our midst with a happy ‘last rose of summer ‘ sort of occasion, when amid the glories of historic Clonfert the wonderful doorway of its cathedral in the light of a balmy evening can be a real symbol of embrace and inclusiveness in ministry Shannon – side.

### **Vacancy in Rathkeale / Kilnaughtin Group making many demands**

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The vacancy in Rathkeale / Kilnaughtin Group has been long, making many demands on the generosity and kindness of the parishioners of all four churches there. As we strive to raise up the right person for longer – term ministry in that place , we have been blessed by a number of people who have been willing to undertake effective interim ministries for specific periods and come and reside in Askeaton Rectory. To their number this autumn we add Mr George McNeill, who along with his wife Christine will be joining us from the diocese of Connor probably until next spring. Mr McNeill is an experienced diocesan Reader, as well as an educator of rich international experience, and as a Reader in various contexts at home and abroad he has also been used to carrying out a good deal of pastoral work. So for the coming months he will be designated ‘Reader in Charge ‘ of the Group of parishes , and back up in matters sacramental will be continue to be provided largely thanks to the kindness of the Revds Joe Hardy and Bob Hanna. We also hope that Mr McNeill will be actively involved in the very special ministry which the churches in Rathkeale exercise ecumenically amongst the Traveller Community.

### **Priest in charge of Kilcolman Union in Ardfert**

A date for diaries. The Revd Mark Blakely has been appointed priest in charge of Kilcolman Union in Ardfert, and he will be introduced liturgically in Killorglin on the evening of Friday November 29. Mr Blakely is returning to the Church of Ireland of which he is a son with much joy and enthusiasm .. at present he is a Vicar in the diocese of Rochester in England. Many parishioners have had a chance to meet him during his recent visits to Kerry, not least as he has contemplated life in the fine Rectory at Milltown, the splendid refurbishment of which is nearing

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completion. As in Rathkeale, so also we are grateful to wonderful lay people who have planned and sustained parish life with much zeal during another long vacancy.

## **Curate assistant in the Limerick City parishes leaves**

But as always we gain and we lose. In mid September after three years as curate assistant in the Limerick City parishes the Revd Leonard Madden leaves us for the incumbency of Bray, Co Wicklow. Dr Madden will be long remembered here for his infectious happiness in his task, his careful preaching which always plumbed great depths, and his scholarly approach to all matters not least the heritage of our city churches. We wish him well .. and also his wife Dr Catherine Smith who very much in her own right and also via her work with the Church's Ministry of Healing has made valuable contributions to the counsels of the diocese.

## **Internship in Killaloe**

Last month I mentioned by name our various current ordinands. One of them, Siobhán Wheeler , will shortly, as part of her final year of fulltime training for ordination, be embarking upon an internship in Killaloe. This ministry will be combined with the dissertation- writing that is part of her course at this stage. Interns are immersed, in a manner akin to those preparing for work in certain other caring professions, in the varied practical realities of parochial life ... and given an opportunity to observe and to reflect. For a number of years in recent times interns were ordained as deacons, and then normally ordained priests a year later when they proceeded to their curacies. This policy has now for various reasons been changed , and Siobhán will undertake her internship as a 'lay ' person , but that should

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not one whit diminish the seriousness or the substance of what she is undertaking.

The Bishop's letter is also on the link below:-

<https://tlk.ie/sept-letter/>

## Heritage

### **Belfast's Historic Sinclair Seamen's Church saved after receiving grant-aid for repair work**

**The future of an historic Presbyterian church in Belfast docks has been secured after it received substantial funding for much-needed preservation work.**

Sinclair Seamen's has seen its parishioner numbers grow in recent years with the rejuvenation of Sailortown but it's also become a must-see on the tourist trail with its unique maritime theme.

Located in Corporation Square, its features and fittings – all sea-faring related – make it one of a kind.

Its once dwindling congregation has witnessed a revival with new housing and an influx of students to the area.

And now thanks to grant-aid from the National Churches Trust – making urgent repairs to its crumbling stonework, the future of Sinclair Seamen's has been secured.

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The building is open to the public for a look around its unique interior every Wednesday and for worship on Sundays. (Courtesy UTV and ITVX).

## European Heritage Open days



**St Catherine's Parish Church, Killead**, is among a number of churches in Connor Diocese which will be taking part in European Heritage Open Days on September 14 and 15. Find out more about this annual event and which churches are opening their doors at <https://rb.gy/bmylfc>

### St Marks Dundela

We'll be opening our doors in celebration of European Heritage Days 2024, Northern Ireland's annual celebration of local architecture, history and culture! See dates and

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times below. There'll also be musical performances on both afternoons.

## Saturday 14th September

Open from 10am-4pm

Guided tours at 11am and 2.30pm

## Sunday 15th September

Open from 3pm-6.30pm (followed by Compline)

Guided tours at 3.30pm and 5.30pm

## Comber Historical Society

Dr Rebecca Watterson's  
Dirt, Disease & Death  
Tour for EHOD 2024  
has now sold out!

We look forward to seeing those who have tickets on Saturday 14th where they will learn all about Comber's medical history!

However, if you missed out never fret because **Comber Non-Subscribing Church is open too for EHOD** (Saturday 10-5) and will be hosting a talk at

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## European Heritage Open Day Comber Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church



**Illustrated Talk**  
**Saturday 14th September 2024**  
**2.30 p.m. in Church Hall**

### **'William James Pirrie of Comber?'**

On 17th April 1879 the marriage of Margaret Montgomery Carlisle place in the Royal Academical Institution Belfast (where the bride's father was a teacher) to William James Pirrie, of *Comber, County Down*.

The connection of Viscount Pirrie with the town is not well known and all but overlooked by biographers. In this illustrated Talk Sandra Gilpin will explore Pirrie's roots, his connection with Comber and the possibility that his funeral in 1924 could have taken place in the adjoining graveyard; where in 1895 his Mother had been laid to rest.

Sandra Gilpin

**Church building open to visitors 10.00  
a.m. – 5.00 p.m.**



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2:30pm by Sandra Gilpin entitled 'William James Pirrie of Comber?' Within, Sandra will explore Lord Pirrie's often overlooked connection to Comber!

EHOD 2024 For more details visit:

<https://bit.ly/BrochureEHOD>

For a full list of events, check out our Webapp:

<https://bit.ly/EHOD2024>

## In the media

### C of I minister warned he faces jail over fraud - Belfast Telegraph

**A former Church of Ireland minister convicted of defrauding both his church and a parishioner has been warned he may be jailed next week.**

Adrian Robert McLaughlin was found guilty of two counts of fraud by abuse of position, Ashleigh McDonald writes.

A jury previously convicted the 50-year-old of defrauding £10,000 from St Colman's Parish Church in Dunmurry on a date between October 15 and November 30, 2016.

Despite his denials, the father of two was found guilty that without the authority from the treasurer or Church Vestry, he wrote a cheque from St Colman's bank account which he made payable to himself.

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The now ex-minister, from Church Avenue in Dunmurry, was also convicted of receiving a cheque for £1,000 from a parishioner who donated it to the church but which McLaughlin made payable to himself.

The jury heard this offence was committed between September 24 and October 31, 2016 and the parishioner was a 'grieving widow'.

Despite the jury's guilty verdicts, McLaughlin continues to deny the two offences.

He was back in court on Friday for final submissions which were made to Judge Patrick Lynch KC, who was sitting at Belfast Crown Court.

Crown prosecutor Joseph Murphy told the judge that McLaughlin has provided "inaccurate" information to a probation officer who prepared a pre-sentence report.

These "inaccuracies", Mr Murphy said, included how much McLaughlin said he was paid as a minister from 2019 to 2024.

Mr Murphy also said that McLaughlin made an allegation against "another person" to both probation and the PSNI over the summer regarding "a non-contact offence."

The prosecutor told Judge Lynch: "One might perceive the timings of those complaints being entered by the defendant to try and engender the sympathy of the court ahead of the sentencing exercise."

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Defence barrister Richard McConkey then addressed the judge and spoke of the "significant" impact a prison sentence would have on McLaughlin's two teenage children, who his client has sole custody of.

Saying McLaughlin was a man of previous good character who, prior to the trial, had no criminal record, Mr McConkey



Divine  
Healing  
Ministries

**Healing service to be held at  
Drumalis Retreat & Conference Centre  
Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> Sept 2024  
Commencing at 3.00 pm**

God loves and cares for each one of us. If you need prayer or want to pray for others then please come along.



**Rhonda Humphrey will be giving a talk titled:**

**"Trusting God"**

**Text: Isaiah 55:8-9**

**What can you receive prayer for?**

Any concerns you may have for yourself or anyone else you know. This includes loneliness, past hurts, anxiety, stress, recovery from sickness, physical healing, broken relationships, your relationship with God, temptation or guidance over a decision. You can receive prayer for any need in your life.

(Drumalis Retreat and Conference centre - Located at 47 Glenarm Rd, Larne BT40 1DT)

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pointed out his client has been assessed by Probation as "posing a low likelihood of re-offending."

Mr McConkey also spoke of the "inordinate delay" in this case and urged Judge Lynch to "invoke the principle of mercy" when it came to passing sentence.

After listening to submissions from both the Crown and defence, Judge Lynch said he would sentence McLaughlin on September 10.

Before releasing him from the dock, Judge Lynch told the former minister he should make "appropriate plans" for a prison sentence as it was a "live possibility."

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**Posted early Monday to Saturday**

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