



This weekend's Musical Open Garden in Shroove, Co Donegal is in aid of Greencastle's Church Heating Fund. See News Briefs

Irish Protestant Folk Memory Project

The Irish Protestant Folk Memory Project sets out to document the different ways in which Protestants have historically engaged with and contributed to Irish public life, in the social, cultural and economic spheres, with a view to

adding significantly to our understanding of the depth and breadth of Irish folklore.

While Irish Protestants are well represented among Ireland's earlier folklore collectors (not least of whom was Douglas Hyde, inaugural president of the Folklore of Ireland Society in 1926), Irish Protestant cultural history is not as well represented in the archives of the National Folklore Collection as that of the Catholic community. To help address this deficiency, the National Folklore Collection is appealing to Irish people to respond as best they can to a questionnaire they've set up, which seeks to document a number of aspects of Irish Protestant folk memory.

Persons who agree to participate will be provided with a questionnaire, information about the project, and details of how to take part. Questionnaires can be submitted by post or electronically. Respondents are also invited to have their reminiscences recorded at a later date by staff of the National Folklore Collection.

Participants are assured that their responses can be anonymised should they request so, or public access to it restricted for an agreed period of time. In cases where respondents do not request

anonymity but material is noted as being sensitive in nature, we will also take steps to prevent public access to it.

For further information, and to access the questionnaire, please click on the following link: <http://www.ucd.ie/irishfolklore/en/folklore-event-image-thumbnail,124613,en.html>

Disappointment following cancellation of this year's Sliabh Bán pilgrimage

Strokestown community in Co Roscommon have expressed disappointment following the cancellation of this year's annual Sliabh Bán pilgrimage due to ongoing construction work on a wind farm in the locality.

Up to 100 people normally take part in the walk to the Marian Cross on the mountain to mark Feast of the Assumption of Mary on 15 August every year.

However, the event was cancelled this year because 20 wind turbines are currently being

built on the peak, with some already partly in place.

Coillte, the developers, said that with health and safety being paramount, it wasn't safe for the walk to go through the site at present.

It said that it made contact with the organisers to try to devise an alternative date when the walk could be made.

However, speaking to local Shannonside FM, Anthony Gibbons, one of the pilgrimage's organisers, claimed it was only at the last minute that Coillte told them it couldn't go ahead.

He said, "We were contacted by Coillte to say we cannot do the walk because there is construction work going on the mountain with turbines. There is a crane up there which is directing the turbines at the first quarry and that turbine is directly on the pilgrims' path. We are very disappointed that the walk cannot go-ahead and it cannot happen now until construction work is completed at that turbine at least."

The pilgrimage follows the route across Sliabh Bán taken by monks who lived in Cloontuskert

Abbey, which was founded by St Brendan and his brother St Faithleach in 520 AD.

Football insight at Methodist ordination service

The preacher at this year's ordination service in St Mark's church, Portadown, was the then British Methodist President, the Rev Steve Wild. He preached a very enthusiastic, engaging and evangelistic sermon, peppered with personal stories, one which is given here:

Mr Wild concluded with a story about meeting a crowd of Birmingham City football supporters on a train. They were travelling to a game with Derby City and came into the same carriage as Mr Wild, but didn't initially sit with him. Then one man espied him and shouted out, 'Here lads, we have a vicar. He'll be our good luck charm.' Mr Wild tried to explain that Christianity was not about good luck charms but about God's love. He had quite a hard time getting a word in edgeways, but eventually he asked them if they would pose for a 'selfie' with his mobile phone. They agreed, but one man said, when he saw the

photograph, 'That's not fair. There's only half of my face on that photo. Can I have one on my own?' Mr Wild agreed and then much to his surprise the man gave him a hug and then all the others hugged him. Mr Wild knew that one of the men had lost his mother the previous year and offered him one of his wooden crosses, but the man said that although he appreciated Mr Wild's offer he couldn't in integrity take it.

Shortly after that, all the supporters got off but stayed outside at the window waving Mr Wild off as he continued his journey. Mr Wild reflected on what all this had meant and came to the conclusion that no matter what – love is victorious. However, he said he was rather confounded the next day when he opened his newspaper and found Birmingham City had won 3-0!

Moderator visits Go For It projects

The Moderator of the General Assembly of the church of Scotland, Right Rev Dr Russell Barr this week visited three vitally important projects,

supported by grants from the Church of Scotland's Go For It fund.

He heard first-hand about the amazing work undertaken to help some of the most vulnerable people in society.

Dr Barr spent time speaking with hard working staff and volunteers at Start-Up Stirling – Caring Beyond Crisis – a city-based organisation which supports vulnerable people and nearby Allan Park South Church, which runs an imaginative children's club called Bairns Rock.

He also visited The Gate project in Alloa – a charity based in a former church which helps vulnerable and lonely people who have been homeless and living in food poverty.

US preacher to visit Ulster prison

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland has ministered to prisoners and staff in a number of locations and facilities across Ireland for many years. It currently has both full and part-time chaplains serving in Magilligan, Maghaberry, the Woodlands Juvenile Justice Centre in Bangor, and Hydebank Wood. Presbyterian ministers also visit in prisons in the Irish Republic.

The prison's co-ordinating chaplain, Presbyterian minister Rev. Rodney Cameron said that on Mr. Buchan's last visit to Ireland in June 2014, he had preached in Magilligan Prison and wanted to hold a similar event on his next visit, which is part of a wider tour of the UK and Ireland.

“Outside of conducting regular Sunday services and other specific tasks, as chaplains we minister to prisoners and their needs, while hard work, it is a privilege to promote a faith that is integral to life. As we seek to minister and do good for those under our care, we bring a message of hope to those who often don't have much of that, the hope that we ourselves have found in Jesus,” Rev. Rodney Cameron said.

“In organising next week's event, where the Christian faith can be discussed and everyone is welcome, all the chaplains across the denominations within Maghaberry have been involved. We have extended a warm and gentle invitation to the prisoners and so far upwards of 100 prisoners have applied to attend,” he continued.

At the meeting, a choir of prisoners who have been practising weekly since the start of the year will take part in the meeting.

“I am very grateful to my fellow chaplains, in particular my colleague Rev. Graham Stockdale, Presbyterian chaplain to Hydebank Wood in Belfast, who also works in Maghaberry. They have helped and promoted the event, along with the volunteers who have coached the choir. The results have been remarkable, not just in their singing, but in their outlook towards the future, and also their past,” Rev. Cameron said.

As a follow up to Tuesday’s event it is hoped that a number of Alpha courses, small groups designed to discover more about Christianity and a personal faith in Jesus, will take place in the autumn

World Humanitarian Day praise for front line relief workers in Sudan

On World Humanitarian Day, Friday August 19, Christian Aid is paying tribute to aid workers who face significant dangers and difficulties as they provide relief to people caught up in crisis zones.

An annual initiative of the United Nations, [World Humanitarian Day](#) aims to recognise

the women and men risking their lives on a daily basis to deliver aid during conflict, emergencies and disasters.

Christian Aid has taken this opportunity to highlight the challenges facing its staff and partners in [South Sudan](#), home to one of the world's biggest humanitarian responses. The charity is also calling for 25% of global aid funds to go directly to local organisations, who are often on the front line of relief efforts.

Humanitarian personnel in South Sudan operate amid a backdrop of protracted conflict, chronic poverty, economic crisis, severe food shortages and weakened infrastructure. At least 57 aid workers have been killed there since the conflict began in December 2013. Many more have faced harassment, with South Sudanese nationals most at risk of being targeted.

In June 2016, a staff member from one of Christian Aid's local partner organisations was shot and killed when civilians were attacked in the town of Wau. In July, South Sudanese women and expatriate aid workers were

violently assaulted in the capital, Juba, it [emerged this week](#).

Rosie Crowther, Christian Aid's emergency programme officer for South Sudan, said: "The humanitarian situation in South Sudan has deteriorated rapidly in recent months. As the scale of need continue to escalate, so do the challenges facing humanitarian workers – both South Sudanese nationals and those from overseas.

"Over the years, our local partners have responded courageously, working in remote, hard-to-reach areas, and staying with communities even when other agencies have pulled out due to security issues. In some situations our partners have even moved with displaced local populations, so that they can continue to provide assistance.

"The cost of this work is incredibly high: aid workers have been harassed and attacked in South Sudan. Tragically, one of our partner organisations recently lost a staff member, who was killed in the town of Wau. During last month's clashes, some of our partners had their compounds looted and facilities

destroyed, while some of our staff and partners were forced to abandon their homes amid the fighting – many sought refuge in church compounds.”

Ms Crowther continued: “Despite the adverse conditions, our staff and partners remain committed to supporting those caught up in conflict and disaster: our local partners are often among the first to respond and the last to leave in times of emergency. The same is true in many other countries. On World Humanitarian Day, we pay tribute to the individuals who put their lives on the line, week in, week out, to help those struggling to survive.”

Some 6.1 million people in South Sudan urgently need humanitarian aid: 2.4 million citizens have fled their homes amid ongoing fighting, tens of thousands have died and numerous human rights atrocities have been committed against civilians. Up to [5.3 million people](#) are at risk of severe food shortages. Christian Aid works through local partners to support some of the most at-risk populations.

The vital role played by local and national groups in South Sudan's humanitarian response was recently highlighted in the [Missed Out](#) report, published earlier this year by Christian Aid, Tearfund, Oxfam, and by CAFOD and Trocaire in partnership.

Under the banner of 'One Humanity', World Humanitarian Day 2016 will see the UN and its partners demanding greater global action for the 130 million people affected by conflict and disaster worldwide, and who depend on humanitarian assistance for their survival.

Christian Aid is running an appeal for South Sudan. To find out more, visit CA's [website](#).

Cathedral and choral

+++ Women in the Church of Ireland and their involvement in the Easter Rising - As part of Heritage Week (20-28 August) the Church of Ireland will be hosting a wide range of events including historical talks, tours and exhibitions. On Monday, 22nd August, St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, will host a talk on women in the Church of Ireland and their involvement in the Easter Rising

of 1916. It will focus on three women in particular: Dr Kathleen Lynn, member of the Irish Citizen Army and Chief Medical Officer during the 1916 rising, Dr Isabella Webb who ran an emergency hospital at the War Supply Depot, and Dr Dorothy Stopford Price, whose diary from 1916 provides fascinating insight into the Easter Rising as seen by the British Administration in Ireland. The event is free and no booking is required. The talk starts at 7.30pm and will end approximately at 8:30pm. For further information, email St Patrick's Cathedral: education@stpatrickscathedral.ie

+++ Enough is enough, says St Anne's vicar as he demands urgent help for Belfast

homeless - The 112-year-old place of worship in Donegall Street - a must-see venue for visitors and tourists - is regularly used as a place of shelter, and city fathers are worried that the sight of people bedding down in the porch of the west doors is sending out a negative image.

However, Rev Mark Niblock told the Belfast Telegraph that despite cathedral staff's concerns over hygiene and aggression issues, removing rough sleepers from the premises would do little to ease the problem.

A recent survey revealed that the number of people using Belfast centre doorways for overnight shelter had passed 40. Over the past year, five died on the city's streets.

"You hear stories about people sleeping rough, but it brings it home when it is literally on your doorstep," said Rev Niblock, who was appointed Dean's Vicar of St Anne's in May.

"We used to have barriers up at the cathedral to prevent rough sleepers from coming in, but now we feel that we provide some sort of a shelter for them, and we didn't want to be pushing them on from us. That doesn't solve the problem.

"They're going to have to sleep somewhere. But fundamentally there's something wrong in society when this is happening." More at -

http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/enough-is-enough-says-st-annes-vicar-as-he-demands-urgent-help-for-homeless-34975031.html?utm_source=ipad_share&utm_medium=ipad_app&utm_campaign=clickbacks

News briefs

+++ Musical Open Garden in Donegal -

Preparations are being finalised for this weekend's Musical Open Garden in Shroove, Co Donegal, in aid of Greencastle's Church Heating Fund. Margot Caldwell will host the event again this year in her stunning garden, Foxrock. Foxrock Garden – which overlooks White Bay beach and looks across Lough Foyle to Benevenagh – has taken almost 40 years to develop. It is among the 24 gardens featured on the Donegal Garden Trail. It has been developed on three levels and extends over three-quarters of an acre.

The Northern Lights Choir and guests will entertain and encourage all-comers at Saturday's event, and there will be cream teas, as well as plant and craft stalls. Among those expected to attend is the former Rector of Moville, Donagh, Culdaff and Cloncha, Rev Terence Kerr, who moved to Maghera earlier this year. You can check Foxrock Garden out at www.donegalgardentrail.com (no. 17)

+++ Heritage Week at St Doulagh's, Balgriffin

- Parishioners at St Doulagh's, Balgriffin, are preparing to look back at the past 1,600 years of history around their ancient yet vibrant church

this Heritage Week. They invite visitors to explore the amazing church, hear the stories, and feel the timeless sense of peace and spiritual calmness within.

During Heritage Week the church will be open for extra visiting with tours and stories. On Saturday August 20 the church will open from 12.00 to 6.00 pm for guided tours, stories and special talks. On Sunday August 21 it will be open from 2.00 pm until 6.00 pm for guided tours and stories. On Wednesday August 24 the church will open from 12.00 noon until 6.00 pm for guided tours and stories. It will reopen for tours at 7.00 pm and from 8.00 pm until 9.00 pm there will be a talk entitled 'Fingal An Odd Sort of Country' by Christine Baker. This will be followed by a question and answer session. The church will be open for guided tours and stories on Saturday August 27 from 12.00 noon until 6.00 pm and on Sunday August 28 from 2.00 pm until 6.00 pm.

Admission to all events is free, however donations towards St Doulagh's Restoration Fund Appeal will be welcome. The appeal aims to raise €300,000 for the restoration and preservation of the area's shared heritage for generations to come.

+++ Institution at Lambeg parish - The Institution of the Rev Eddie Coulter as Incumbent of the Parish of Lambeg will take place on Thursday October 13 at 8pm. Eddie is currently Superintendent of Irish Church Missions and senior pastor of Immanuel Church in Dublin. A native of Lisburn, he was ordained in Connor Diocese in 1987. He served his first curacy in Ballymena (1987-90) and a second curacy in Knockbreda, Diocese of Down and Dromore (1990-92). In 1992 Eddie returned to Connor Diocese as rector of Upper Falls, Belfast, and in 1997 moved to Milltown Parish in Armagh Diocese. He remained rector there until 2003 when he moved to Dublin.

+++ New rural dean for Mid-Belfast - The Rev Rachel Creighton, rector of Holy Trinity & St Silas with Immanuel, Ardoyne, has been appointed Rural Dean of Mid Belfast. A native of Fermanagh, Rachel was ordained a deacon in 1994, and was curate in St Stephen and Hyson Green Parish, Nottingham and later curate at All Saints, Radford, also Nottingham, before becoming Priest-in Charge of Broxtowe, a large council estate. In July 2002 she went to Bedford Prison as chaplain, moving to HMP Wellingborough two years later. Rachel has been

rector of Holy Trinity & St Silas with Immanuel,
Ardoyne, since March 2009.

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

Asian Express

A profile of Rogers Govender, Dean of Manchester, the country's first BME Dean, reflecting on ten years in the post. South African born, Dean Rogers says, "Manchester is a very diverse city but within that diversity there is still a fair amount of work to be done," he said. At times, we must learn to rise above our race, culture and religion and recognise our common humanity. We need to celebrate that."

<https://www.asianexpress.co.uk/2016/08/the-only-way-forward-is-together/>

Children and Young People Now

Profiles the newly appointed National Youth Evangelism officer, Jimmy Dale, who takes on the role in October. He will hold the national remit to develop and pilot ways of getting young people already with the church to "reach their peers with the gospel". Speaking of his appointment, Dale said, "It's brilliant to see young people as they evangelise to their friends and support them in that, and helping churches reach young people with the good news of Jesus.

<http://www.cypnow.co.uk/cyp/news/1158632/church-of-england-to-launch-youth-evangelism-push>

BBC/Mail/ITV

Reports of the funeral of Claire Hart and her daughter Charlotte who were murdered outside a leisure centre in Spalding, Lincolnshire last month, by Mrs Hart's estranged husband, Mark. The *Mail* quotes the Revd Rosamund Seal, vicar of All Saints church.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-lincolnshire-37093182>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3742959/All-weep-Hundreds-turn-mourn-mother-daughter-shot-dead-father-sports-centre-car-park.html>

<http://www.itv.com/news/calendar/2016-08-16/spalding-shooting-victims-family-we-love-you-mum-we-love-you-charlotte/>

ITV

Video report that the vicar of a South Devon church that opened its doors to remember a teenager who died after taking a psycho-active drug, says young people need to be more aware of the dangers. Nathan Wood is believed to have drowned in the River Dart 11 days ago, after leaving a group of friends. St John's church in Bridgetown, Totnes held a memorial afternoon to celebrate his life. The vicar the Revd Julian Ould says it's important youngsters have guidance.

<http://www.itv.com/news/westcountry/2016-08-16/memorial-afternoon-held-for-river-death-teenager/>

Guard

Reports that a reredos hidden behind panelling in All Saints church, Windsor discovered by chance is thought to be the work of Thomas Hardy. The author of *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* and *Far from the Madding Crowd* trained as an architect and worked as a draughtsman in the

1860s, working on designs for a number of churches. All Saints is now seeking to raise £9,000 to restore the altarpiece.

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2016/aug/16/thomas-hardy-altarpiece-discovered-in-windsor-church>

BBC

Reports that a stained glass window taken from a Tudor church was "stolen to order". A panel with the image of the prophet Ezekial was removed from the 16th Century chapel in the Leicestershire village of Withcote. It is attributed to Galeon Hone, glazier to King Henry VIII, and was likely commissioned in the 1530s when the chapel was built. The Churches Conservation Trust said it was a theft of public art. Peter Aiers, regional director of the trust is quoted.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leicestershire-37090370>

Blogs

Church of England Communications

Perseverance, character and hope:

<http://cofecomms.tumblr.com/post/149024871257/perseverance-character-and-hope>

Sometimes it's not until you really need to use something that you realise you no longer have it:

<http://cofecomms.tumblr.com/post/149023915397/sometimes-its-not-until-you-really-need-to-use>

Quodcumque: Holiness and management

<https://educationpriest.wordpress.com/2016/08/16/holiness-and-management/>

The Busy Priest: Mission or managerialism?

<https://thebusypriest.wordpress.com/2016/08/15/mission-or-managerialism/>

Huffingtonpost: Life with a feeding tube is not 'worse than death'

http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/carrie-beckwithfellows/feeding-tube-artificial-nutrition_b_11493350.html

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