

Church News Ireland



**Image of the day – An invite to
Christmas with Bethlehem**

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An invite to Christmas with Bethlehem

The 16th annual Service of Christmas Lessons and Carols simulcast live between the Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral in the United States and the Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem, Palestine, will take place on Saturday, Dec. 17th at 10 am EST and 5 pm Bethlehem time. Hear familiar carols and readings in Arabic and English, and a word of hope preached this year by the Most Rev. Hosam Naoum, Archbishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem.

See links in +Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books on pages 19 and 20.

News reports

C of I Pioneer Ministry to be launched in February

The Revd Rob Jones, who will lead the national Pioneer Ministry team, introduced its plans in the following article for the December/January edition of the Church of Ireland Gazette. The team will also include Archdeacon Barry Forde and Ingrid Brennan.



The Revd Rob Jones

A new initiative of the Church of Ireland to reach those with little or no connection to the good news of Jesus Christ is to be launched in February. The Archbishops of Armagh and Dublin will formally launch and commission the Pioneer Ministry Team in St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, on 5th February 2023. The preacher will be the Archbishop of Wales, the Most Revd Andrew John.

What is the vision of Pioneer Ministry?

Pioneer Ministries will emerge from within and serve alongside parishes and dioceses that seek to introduce new and additional ways of doing church.

How has Pioneer Ministry arrived here?

Pioneer Ministry has been discussed and reported at the Church of Ireland General Synod since 2012, with a Pioneer Ministry Working Group being established in 2013. Since then the Working Group and its sub-committees have identified a wide range of diocesan pioneering initiatives, set up an 'Inter-Diocesan Learning Experience' engaging with teams from across nine dioceses, and created a collaborative group of Diocesan Pioneer Advocates.

What is happening now with Pioneer Ministry?

The House of Bishops, General Synod, and Representative Body have agreed to build and capitalise on the fruit of the above programs by formalising and resourcing Pioneer Ministry. The hope and heart will be to encourage, support and release a new movement that has the capacity to reach new people in new places in new ways.

These are the five desired outcomes for Pioneer Ministry:

1. Set up a Pioneer Ministry Council and Pioneer Leadership Team

A 'Pioneer Ministry Council' will be established as a body of General Synod to uphold and to advocate for the vision of Pioneer Ministry and to oversee the delivery of its objectives and values. A 'Pioneer Ministry Leadership Team' will be the primary driver for all work and activity to deliver the vision, objectives and values of Pioneer Ministry across the Church of Ireland.

2. Establish Pioneer Ministry Hubs

Pioneer Ministry Hubs will be key focal points, fully embedded within each diocese to support its life and mission. Hubs will deliver training and resourcing for parish and diocesan volunteers, support pioneer initiatives and grow learning communities. They will support and be supported by the Pioneer Leadership Team and will network and collaborate with pioneer ministry across the whole church.

3. Identify, train , deploy and support pioneer ministers

A large focus over the next fifteen months will be the formation of a recognised and contextualised training course for funded pioneers delivered through CITI and our main training partner, Church Army. These Pioneers will emerge from within dioceses, be approved by the Bishop, and will be deployed into a pioneer ministry, –

4. Set up new pioneer communities and churches

The creation of new pioneer learning communities in each diocese will encourage and equip leaders within their pioneering contexts, and will work alongside them to explore

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and establish new ministries and new Christian communities within those contexts for the 21st century.

5. Recognition and resourcing

To embed pioneer ministry within the culture and structures of the Church of Ireland at every level – Parish, Diocese, General Synod and RCB. Pioneer Ministry will work with diocesan bishops and within diocesan structures, to ensure that pioneer ministry is recognised and integrated within the mission of each diocese.

The Pioneer Ministry website is www.pioneerministry.org and will be updated as the launch approaches.

Black Santa Appeal 2022 open for online donations

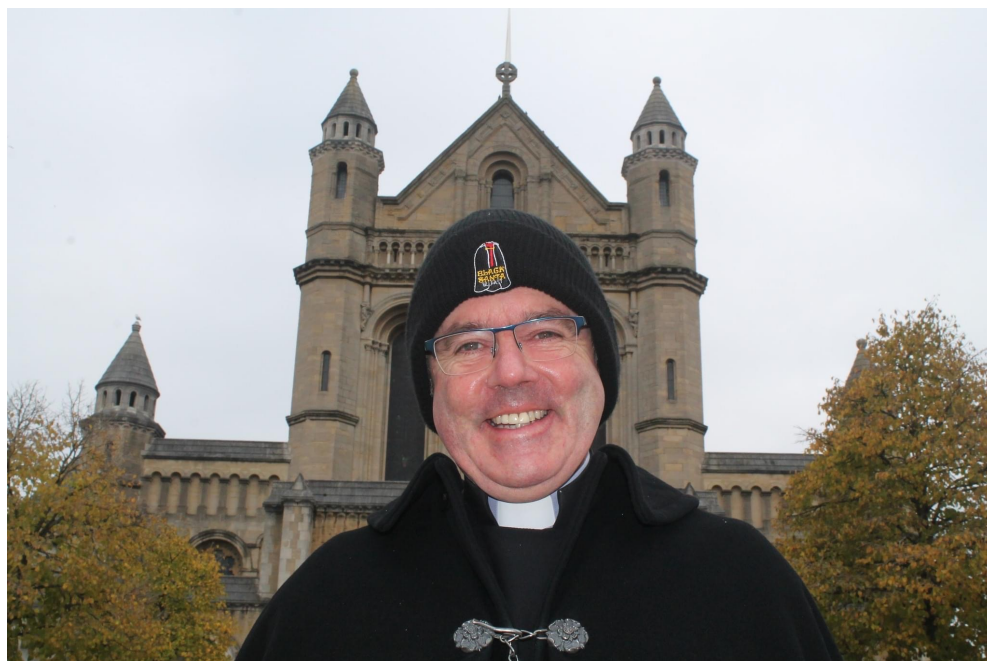
A dedicated Black Santa website is now open for online donations to the 46th annual Christmas Sit-out which will run from December 19-24 on the steps of St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast.

This year, Dean Stephen Forde is focusing on supporting registered charities supporting the most disadvantaged families and individuals in the community, and charities working directly with refugee communities settling in Northern Ireland.

In order to increase the impact of the appeal's support for local charities, grants will be awarded to those registered

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charities whose annual income was £150,000 or less in 2021.



Dean Forde talks about the appeal in a video

shared on the Cathedral Facebook page.

[<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=439814898165093>]

You can make a donation at www.belfastblacksanta.org.

During Lent this year, a special Black Santa Sit-out raised more than £56,000 in aid of the humanitarian crisis caused by the war in Ukraine, and this was channelled to those who needed it through Habitat for Humanity and Christian Aid.

Christian Aid spotlight on Malawi this Christmas

This year's Christmas Appeal from Christian Aid shines a spotlight on Malawi. December falls during one of the toughest times of the year – the country's 'hunger season' – which is getting worse due to the climate crisis.

Extreme weather means that the old year's meagre harvest runs out several weeks before the new harvest is ready. Hotter temperatures and drought, as well as destructive downpours and floods are playing havoc with the growing seasons, causing poor crop yields and food shortages.

Sadly, many families in Malawi will struggle even to put their staple food of maize porridge on the table this Christmas, however, mother –of–five Fyness Tembo (pictured above) is able to weather the storm, thanks to a Christian Aid project

Until recently, Fyness (50) would struggle to find enough food for herself and her family and there have been times when she was so desperate that she had to beg for food. But Christian Aid's local partner provided Fyness with seeds, tools and training and today she is growing soya, groundnuts, maize and beans – enough to eat and surplus to sell for a cash income.

Fyness also received fruit tree saplings and soon she will have her own fruit. She said: "Together there are seven fruit trees. I know in the future I will have fruits. My children and I will no longer struggle to look for wild fruits in the forest. We will get them at home."

In rural Malawi, it falls to women and girls to collect firewood for cooking and heating water. Fyness used to walk for 6 kms to collect firewood which lasted for only two days before she needed to make the trip again. Christian Aid's partner has provided Fyness with a stove which consumes only a quarter of the firewood of an open fire, cutting her workload and reducing the number of trees that need to be felled. Fyness and the others in her community are now



making and selling cook stoves to generate additional income. The new cook stoves are giving hours of time back to mums for better tasks than finding firewood.

In the past, her children’s school attendance was erratic because there was no money for uniforms or school fees. Fyness told us: “Most of the time they skipped school or started school late. I had no idea where I could find the money to help them.” Since receiving help from Christian Aid’s local partner, Fyness’ children are in school and receiving an education.

Although climate change has exacerbated hunger and hardship, Fyness is able to weather life’s storms, thanks in part to the village savings and loan scheme set up by our local partner. Fyness saves some of the money she makes by selling her farm produce and cook stoves, and uses her income to repay small, low–interest loans. She says: “With the money I saved in the village bank, I have been able to start buying iron sheets to put a new roof on my house and I have sent my children to school.”

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This Christmas, Fyness is grateful that she has enough nutritious food to feed her family, a fuel-efficient stove to ease the task of collecting firewood, and soon she will have the security of a new roof on her home. Most of all, she is happy that her children are in school, and receiving the education they deserve. This transformation has been made possible because of the love which Christian Aid supporters and sponsoring churches show for their global neighbours.

If you wish to make a donation, please visit the Christian Aid Ireland website [HERE](#).

[<https://www.christianaid.ie/appeals/seasonal-appeals/christmas-appeal>]

New appointments at C of I National Cathedral

Three installations of Canons to the Chapter of the National Cathedral and Collegiate Church of Saint Patrick, Dublin, will be held in three separate services over the next two months.

The Reverend John Godfrey, Rector of Aughrim and Creagh (Ballinasloe) in Clonfert Diocese, was elected at the Synod of Tuam, Limerick & Killaloe to the Prebendal Stall of Kilmactalway in Saint Patrick's Cathedral, replacing Canon Jennifer McWhirter, who, having resigned that Prebend due to the appointment of her husband, the Venerable Stephen McWhirter, as Rector of Rossorry in the Diocese of Clogher, was subsequently elected by the Chapter to the Prebendal Stall of Taney.



Canon Godfrey will be installed on Sunday 4 December, and Canon McWhirter on Sunday 15 January 2023. Canon McWhirter has recently been appointed Rector of Cleenish and Mullaghduin in the Diocese of Clogher, but will continue to serve as a Chapter

Canon in Saint Patrick's.

Meanwhile, the Venerable Craig McCauley, Rector of the Virginia Group of Parishes, in Kilmore Diocese, since 2004, who recently resigned the Prebendal Stall of Mulhuddart on his appointment as Rector of Naas, Diocese of Kildare, was subsequently elected as Prebendary of Tipperkevin, in succession to Canon Ian Gallagher, Rector of Stillorgan and Blackrock, who resigned at the end of September. Canon

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McCauley hopes to be installed to his new Prebendal Stall on Sunday 22 January 2023.

The Dean of Saint Patrick's, Dr William Morton, congratulated all three Canons on their respective appointments, and wished them well in their new parishes. He welcomed Canon John Godfrey to the Chapter of Saint Patrick's.

Ashton School Hall of Fame Award for Bishop of Cork

Yesterday the Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, the Right Rev. Dr Paul Colton is to be presented with the Hall of Fame Award by his former secondary school, Ashton School in Cork.

The Ashton School Hall of Fame Award is awarded to past pupils of the School in recognition of outstanding achievement. Each year the Board of Management invites nominations for the award from members of the school community. Where the Board judges the achievement of one or more nominees to be outstanding, the Board makes the award.

The Ashton School Hall of Fame Award was awarded for the first time in November 2010 to five past pupils who had played Hockey for Ireland and represented their country more than 100 times (Dave Hobbs, Mark Black, Jason Black, Karl Burns and John Jermyn). On that first occasion it was awarded in the area of Sport. Over the last number of years it has been awarded for outstanding achievement in



the areas of plasma physics (Brian Appelbe), maths/physics (Hugh McNamara), orthopaedic surgery (Ruth Delaney), stem cell research (Stephen Sullivan), corporate finance (Mark Hutchinson), film-making (Peter Foott), artistic performance (Camille O'Sullivan), humanitarian aid work (Mary Elmes) and percussion music (Alex Petcu).

Bishop Paul received the award for several achievements in various areas, mentioned by those in the school community who proposed him including:

many academic achievements and outstanding example as a scholar
work in the Church of Ireland Ministry

service to Ashton School as Chairperson of the Board during which he secured the patronage of the school for the future

service to the Diocese as Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross since 1999

care and support for people of Cork and service to the community

his community involvement with particular mention of COVID and Ukrainian crisis

and other awards he has received

Glendalough clergy meet for annual gathering

Clergy from the Diocese of Glendalough gathered in Laragh today for their annual Glendalough Clergy Day. The morning started with a Service of Holy Communion in the beautiful St John's Church celebrated by Archbishop Michael Jackson.

During the service, at which the organ was played by the Revd Sean Hanily, the Archbishop welcomed the Revd Conor O'Reilly to Glendalough. He will be instituted Rector of the Athy Union of Parishes next Friday, December 9. He also congratulated the Revd Edwin Aiken, Dean's Vicar of Christ Church Cathedral, on his recent ordination.

In a short sermon based on the readings [Isaiah 26: 1–6 Psalm 118: 18–27a Matthew 7: 21, 24–27] the Archbishop said Isaiah and the Psalm gave a picture of there being a movement of people rather than a series of disconnected individuals. Nobody would be left behind by the movement



Members of the clergy of the Diocese of Glendalough in St John's Church, Laragh.

and there was a combination of corporate responsibility and care and individual contribution, he said.

He noted that there was also a claim of a visible and public space for religious expression. This, he said, was important in responding to God's continuing and unending presence throughout the times of Covid. He said that those in ministry had a responsibility to lead God's people to the horns of the altar once again. He acknowledged the tiring nature of Covid times but said that Advent gave the opportunity to move into the new year spiritually and keep a look out for the insights, pictures, colours and visions of the prophets and take them as energy into life.

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After the service clergy repaired to the nearby Wicklow Heather restaurant where they spent the morning discussing issues of interest and concern to the diocese.

Wellbeing Wednesday Free Breakfasts for students

When:

Wednesday 30 November, from 8:30am - 10:00am

Wednesday 7 December, from 8:30am - 10:00am

Wednesday 14 December, from 8:30am - 10:00am.

Where:

Coleraine Campus: Students' Union

Derry-Londonderry Campus: Rock Road Social, in the kitchenette space

Belfast Campus: UUSU Bar, Block BC Ground Floor.

Students at Jordanstown Sports Village can also collect a free breakfast pack from the Sports Centre reception.

Students are invited to come along to avail of a free continental style breakfast and hear about support services and programmes offered by the University to help them.

Such as

- money advice and budgeting tips
- support fund information
- wellbeing support
- information about part-time jobs

Free **WELLBEING WEDNESDAY**
BREAKFAST

£FREE

BELFAST
UUSU Bar, CQ Social, Block BC
Ground Floor

COLERAINE
Students' Union

MAGEE
Rock Road Social, in the
kitchenette space

JORDANSTOWN
Collect a free breakfast pack from
the Sports Centre

30TH NOVEMBER
7TH DECEMBER
14TH DECEMBER

8:30AM - 10AM



To avail of the Wellbeing Wednesday Free Breakfasts, our students should simply show a valid Ulster University Student ID card.

Please note breakfasts are limited and will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

A Student USAVER hot breakfast (for only £2) is also available from 9:00am - 10:00am, daily, from Wednesday 30 November, at Flow and Co- Coleraine campus, Rock Road

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Social - Derry-Londonderry campus, and The Junction - Belfast campus.

Master of Music – Belfast Cathedral

Belfast Cathedral seeks to appoint as part time MASTER of MUSIC a highly qualified, skilled, and enthusiastic Choir Director, Organist and Music Department Lead to develop the music of Belfast Cathedral following recent restructuring.



The Master of Music will be responsible for recruiting, and training a SATB Choir to sing at two choral services each Sunday, at principal festivals, and for other significant services held at Belfast Cathedral.

Additionally the Master of Music will be responsible for:

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Recruiting and training a Children's Choir of boys and girls as Cathedral Choristers

Management of the cathedral music department, and department staff.

This two year fixed term post is 18.75 hours per week with an annual salary of £21,800.

For full details and application visit www.belfastcathedral.org/news or contact the General Manager (trevor@belfastcathedral.org). Closing date for applications is Friday 6th January, 2023. Belfast Cathedral is an Equal Opportunities Employer

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



Christmas Lessons and Carols live from Bethlehem and Philadelphia

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Anchor your hearts in the joy of the season by joining the 16th annual Christmas Lessons and Carols concert live from the Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem, Palestine, and the Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral in the U.S.

A one-of-a-kind tradition in the Anglican Communion, this service is filled with beautiful carols and readings in both Arabic and English — with prayerful responses in real time and a word of hope — from the Most Rev. Hosam Naoum, Archbishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. It begins at 10 a.m. EST and 5 p.m. in Bethlehem.

Visit bethlehemsimulcast.org to learn how you can join in person or watch online.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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