

Church News Ireland



**Image of the day – Sion Mills remembers
Brigadier Ricardo**

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Sion Mills remembers Brigadier Ricardo

At the Church Of The Good Shepherd last Sunday there was a service of remembrance of of First World War Brigadier and philanthropist Ambrose Ricardo who is buried in the Tomb in front of the Church. See pages 7 - 13 below

People and places

Young adults views sought on faith and life across Ireland

What do young adults (aged 18-40) across Ireland think about faith and life?

Why have some young adults left the church? Why are others passionate about their faith? What is most important to this generation?

These are important questions, and there is a lot of talk about what young adults think. Praxis wants to hear directly from you!

PRAXIS



In the second section of the survey Tearfund Ireland asks for your views on Climate Change as part of a international survey of young adults - these are tick box questions.

Most questions are simple tick boxes with some opportunities for you to share your opinions in comment boxes. It is estimated the survey should take no more than 15 to 20 minutes of your time.

Head to <https://hubs.la/Q01VDgfV0> to take part

Templepatrick Team have arrived in Entebbe

Six days ago they set off in the morning on their bus to Dublin and are now working on their CMSI linked programme.

Prior to leaving they took part in an act of commissioning. One of the team commented, "Last night we also had our Commissioning Service, we were so encouraged by everyone who came and had a great evening of reflection, prayer and praise. We got to hear about some other summer mission team activities happening closer to home

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and Bishop Ivan gave a talk about Love, the band were pretty awesome too.

“In the final training session we covered some final details, a bit of what our schedule will look like, heard Lynn share from her time in Kenya recently and we were blessed to have Bishop Ivan all the way from Uganda to speak to us and answer some queries we had.”



Contribute a recipe to Derryvolgie parish publication

Would you like to help create 'Recipes from Derryvolgie' ?

It could be something for breakfast, a main meal or light lunch, “we will even accept a wee tray bake or desert. The book will be ready in time to purchase as a Christmas gift for family and friends. More details will follow but in the mean time get your thinking cap on, ask family members what their favourite dish is and send them through to us.” Contact - [_info@derryvolgie.com](mailto:info@derryvolgie.com)



Welcome for Bishop's curate for Killeshandra

This Sunday, 16th July, Revd. Sam Peilow will be welcomed as the new Curate to the Bishop in the Killeshandra group of Parishes.

Revd. Sam has recently completed Church of England ordination training at Oak Hill College, and was ordained deacon in London Diocese earlier this month.

Revd. Sam grew up in Derry, attending his local Church of Ireland parish. He began to grasp the gospel clearly during his teens, through the diocesan youth ministry in Derry and

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Raphoe (alongside Scripture Union, Crosslinks camps, and countless other influences!).

After a number of years working in the software industry, Sam began a two-year ministry internship in a city-centre church in Dublin, where he met his wife, Georgina.

Georgina, originally from Donegal, has taught English as a second language in both Dublin and London, although these days she's a full-time Mum to Zoë, with another baby on the way later in the summer.

Sam and family are looking forward to moving to Killeshandra, getting to know the town and the community, and to serving the church and sharing the good news of Jesus.

Sion Mills remembers Brigadier Ambrose Ricardo

At the Church Of The Good Shepherd last Sunday there was a service of remembrance of of First World War Brigadier Ambrose Ricardo who is buried in the Tomb in front of the Church.

The ceremony which was attended by all denominations, including Fr Thomas Canning from St Theresa's in the village. Many historians also attended.

Rt Rev Andrew Forster, Bishop of Derry and Raphoe was present. Bishop Forster had supported a request to Mayor Graham Warke for recognition of Rev Jonathan McFarland and Fr Thomas Canning at Council "for their fantastic cross

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community work in the village”. Each received a beautiful glass plaque for their work.

A military commander who led workers from a village mill to war before going on to later co-found the Derry Feis will be honoured this week.

Ambrose Ricardo served in the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers and saw action in India and South Africa during the Boer War.

During the Home Rule crisis of 1912 to 1914 he helped to train and arm a UVF unit in Co Tyrone to fight against it.



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After marrying into the famous Herdman family of Sion Mills, who owned the village mill, he was given the task of raising and training a battalion of soldiers for the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers.

He led 130 men from the mill into battle, and commanded them until after the Battle of the Somme in 1916.

A great philanthropist, he later went on to co-found the annual Derry Feis and was instrumental in the building of the Church of the Good Shepherd in Sion Mills.

His extraordinary life was celebrated in August 2019 with the



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unveiling of a blue plaque, organised by the Ulster History Circle.

The plaque was unveiled by Celia Ferguson, his great-niece.

She said: "The more I have got to know of Ambrose, the more of a hero he has become for me. To be asked to unveil the plaque is an honour.

"He led a quite remarkable life and it is fitting that it is being recognised."

Chris Spurr, chairman of the Ulster History Circle, said: "Ambrose Ricardo devoted his time in Sion Mills unselfishly to the public good.

"Already distinguished as a soldier, his philanthropic works in the village have provided a lasting legacy."

Born on November 21, 1866, at Gatcombe Park, Gloucestershire, now the home of Princess Anne, Ambrose St Quintin Ricardo was educated at Cambridge University.

He entered the Army in 1888 and saw action on the north-west frontier in India and in the Boer War. Whilst serving with the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers in Burma in 1893, he married Elizabeth Alice (Ella) Herdman, the second daughter of Sir Emerson Tennent Herdman of Sion House, Sion Mills.

The couple returned to Tyrone in 1903, and Ambrose became a director of Herdman's Ltd, taking responsibility for

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looking after the Mill personnel, the village and the community.

He resigned from the regiment, and during the ensuing years before the Great War Ambrose Ricardo organised various activities locally and throughout the north-west of Ireland.

Further afield he was a co-founder of the annual Derry Feis, the second in Ireland after the Dublin Feis, which the Herdman family have been organising ever since. He built the 'the Brae' in 1904 to live in with Ella - they had no children.



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He was largely responsible for the building of the Church of the Good Shepherd, consecrated in 1909.

In the late summer of 1914, following the outbreak of the First World War, he raised two companies of men, constituting the nucleus of the 9th Battalion of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers.

His leadership earned him the rank of Brigadier General and he was awarded the CBE in 1919.

Returning to civilian life, and after seeing so many of his comrades fall in the war, he turned his organising ability into countless activities, notably the church, the welfare of ex-servicemen and women, and the Boy Scout Movement.

He became Scout Commissioner for Ireland, and was a friend of founder Lord Robert Baden-Powell.

He continued his work as an active director of Herdman's mill until July 9, 1923, when tragedy struck.

On a hot summer's day, while out walking his dog Corporal, he drowned after going to inspect the level of the water at the village reservoir, which he himself had instigated.

His faithful dog was standing beside the reservoir when the search party arrived. Ambrose Ricardo's sarcophagus stands in front of the Church of the Good Shepherd on the Melmount Road in Sion Mills.

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Until the Derry Feis ended in 1998, the Ambrose Ricardo Memorial Medallion for Song and Chorus and the Ambrose Ricardo Memorial Shield were presented every year.

News reports

Chair of CofE's National Safeguarding Panel quits amid row

The acting Chair of the Church of England's National Safeguarding Panel has announced she is stepping down from all of her safeguarding responsibilities within the Church.

Meg Munn's departure follows a row over how safeguarding is being handled in the Church of England and the controversial decision of the Archbishops' Council to disband the Independent Safeguarding Board (ISB), of which she was also acting Chair.

In a statement on her decision to quit, seen by the Church Times, she made scathing comments about the Church of England leadership, accusing the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, of "undermining" her work and describing the Archbishops' Council as "slow to learn".

She also called the ISB "a huge waste of money".

Responding to Munn's resignation, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York said in a joint statement: "We want to thank Meg for her work as Chair of the National

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Safeguarding Panel and interim Chair of the Independent Safeguarding Board – roles to which she brought huge expertise, rigour and dedication.

"We are of course saddened that she has chosen to stand down, but we understand and respect her decision.

"The remit of the interim Chair of the ISB and the other members was always to develop proposals to appoint a permanent independent Chair and additional board members. That work was always intended to move forward at pace towards the independent scrutiny that the Church urgently needs.



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"This has been a very difficult period for all concerned and we regret recent events. We remain committed to moving swiftly towards a new safeguarding scrutiny body that is fully independent of the Church."

A spokesperson for the Church of England said: "We want to thank Meg Munn for the professional scrutiny she has brought to the Church's safeguarding work over the past five years both as independent chair of the National Safeguarding Panel (NSP) and her more recent work on wider independent scrutiny.

"Her contribution has been invaluable, and she has worked professionally at all times. We are very sorry that she has decided to leave her work with the Church but understand and absolutely respect her decision.

"We are aware there are lessons to be learnt as we move forward to the next steps in independent scrutiny and are sorry about events in the past few weeks that led her to feel unsupported. We wish Meg well and will build on the excellent work she has established through the NSP."

The Archbishops' Council said last month that it would be terminating the contracts of Munn and the two other members of the ISB. Munn was to stay on for the short term "to provide business continuity" until new arrangements were made.

The two sacked members of the ISB, Jasvinder Sanghera and Steve Reeves, were both critical of the Church of England leadership when they made surprise addresses to its General Synod over the weekend.

Mr Reeves said that when the Archbishops' Council talked of independence, they did not mean it in the way that "you and I and the average person in the street means independence".

"They mean semi-detached, not independent," he said.

Ms Sanghera said: "I now think that we were too independent. We did our job too well and when I'm being told, and Steve is being told, that we are too survivor-led and too survivor-focussed, I feel the Church has a problem."

On Monday, safeguarding campaigner Gavin Drake announced he was resigning as a member of Synod because it was not worth wasting his time "if Synod members cannot get their voice heard on safeguarding".

Explaining his decision, he accused the Archbishops' Council and the Synod's Business Committee of "manipulating the agenda and standing orders" to block debate on his motion calling for an independent inquiry into safeguarding in the Church of England.

"It is clear that independent oversight and scrutiny scares the powers that be – despite their words that they welcome it. The Archbishops' Council think that they can just power on and do the next safeguarding thing, whatever that 'thing' is," he said.

He continued, "If the General Synod of the Church of England is unable to hold the Archbishops' Council and its National Safeguarding Team to account, if we are unable to

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bring about proper change, if we are going to be blocked from hearing from who we want to hear from, and stopped from debating what we want to debate, then what is it for?

"As I said, I joined the Synod to make the Church of England of safer place. I have failed, because the central machinery of the Church of England will use all its power to block the Synod from doing what it exists to do.

"I will not waste any more of my time in it. I was here to make a difference. If I can't make a difference, there is no point me being here."

Church of England to trial free weddings

In a rare burst of unity, General Synod passed a motion to set up a 'free weddings' trial.

Currently, couples coming to a church to get married are expected to pay £480 for the service. The cost is the same whether you marry in a cathedral or a tiny chapel - and the money is shared between the church and the diocese.

On behalf of Blackburn Diocese, the Rev Tom Woolford, persuaded 237 members of General Synod to vote in favour of a regional and time limited trial setting the statutory fee at nil or at a minimal amount in order to demonstrate the Church's commitment to marriage and pastoral care. Only 40 people voted against.

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To the amusement of those gathered, Rev Woolford appealed to the different tribes assembled: "Catholics please vote for this motion on sacramental grounds, as it is odious, simony even to charge for a sacrament, a gift of God and a means of his grace an icon of the relationship between Christ and his bride the church.

"Evangelicals, please vote for this motion on evangelistic grounds as more weddings will mean more and deeper contact with the unbelievers and not-so-sures in your parishes.

"Liberals, please vote for the motion on social justice grounds – the fee structure is like a poll tax, inexpensive for the rich but prohibitive for the poor.

"Save the Parish, please vote for this motion on parochial grounds – let's start rebuilding and strengthening the generational links between parishioners, their priests, and the church buildings by getting more of the key life events back where they belong in the heart of our worshipping communities."

He was less sure if he could persuade the bishops to vote for the motion – but Bishop Philip North came to the rescue. "Our money must be our servant, not our master," he said and called on the Synod to have the "Gospel courage to offer as a free gift just as Jesus offered his life as free gift because I profoundly believe that God will honour that courage."

Afterwards, Rev Woolford said, "It was a real privilege - and great fun - to present the motion on behalf of the diocese.

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Together we came up with a winnable amended motion, and though it's only the first step to abolishing the fee altogether everywhere across the church, it's a really positive result. The Church of England really believes in marriage as a good gift of God for our flourishing - let's get on with giving it!"

In the media

US High School Chamber Choir reports on its Irish tour

Under the leadership of high school choir director, Mr. Jacob Moore, 24 members of the Hudson High School Chamber Choir toured Ireland from June 16-25. Hudson graduate James Wilson (2019) accompanied the choir on piano, the Akron Beacon Journal reports.

Performances were promoted at Kylemore Abbey in Connemara, St. Mary's Church of Ireland in Killarney, St. Multose Church in Kinsale, and the grand St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin. As well as performing in several concerts, the choir members also had many impromptu performances while visiting different locations around the country, including Blarney Castle, Muckross Abbey, and Taylor's Three Rock.

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Hudson High School Chamber Choir at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin, Ireland

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The group, which also included parent chaperones and Hudson City School staff members, enjoyed plenty of sightseeing and photo opportunities between performances.

When asked what he'll remember most about this experience, Jacob Moore responded, "Ever since my arrival at HHS in 2015 I had been looking forward to traveling internationally with the HHS Chamber Choir, but little did I



Hudson High School Chamber Choir in the mountains near Dingle, Ireland

know just how rewarding this experience would be. To be able to tour Ireland for 10 days, see all of the sights, and perform in such world renowned venues like St. Patrick's are things that I won't soon forget! However, my absolute favorite part of the trip was to see the camaraderie that continued to grow amongst the students. They were making lifelong memories while performing with one another and this was a clear indication of the bond that is shared between musicians of all ages. To witness the students' love and admiration for singing and for one another is what I will take away most from this trip. I cannot wait to continue to offer these types of opportunities to future choir students at Hudson High School!"

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The Chamber Choir would also like to thank members of the Hudson community for their support and words of encouragement while they were abroad. All are invited to the Hudson High School Choir Concert on Tuesday, October 17th at 7 p.m. in the high school auditorium.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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