

Church News Ireland

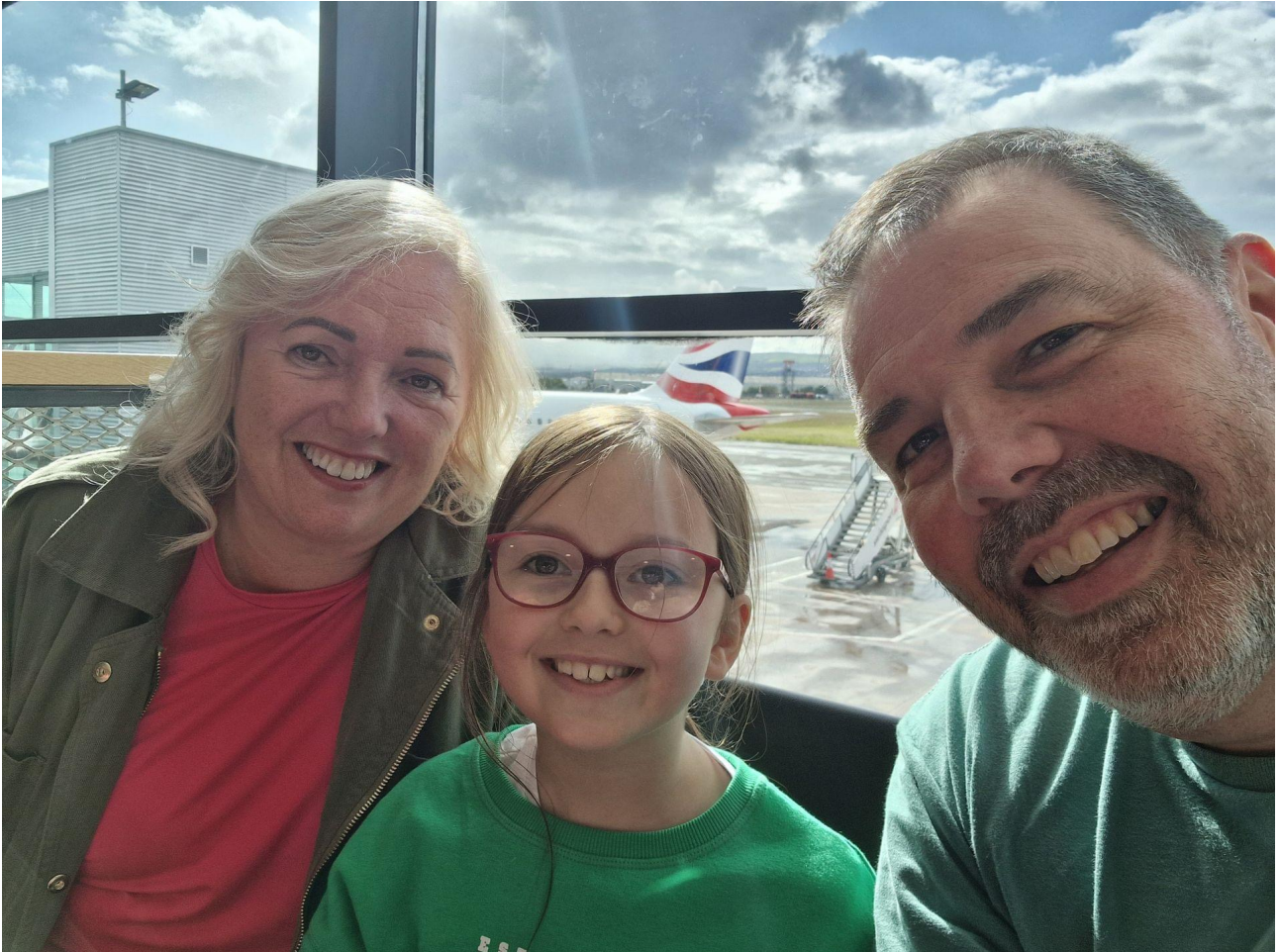


Image of the day – Methodist President's visit to missions

Image of the day

Methodist President's visit to missions

This week the MCI President Rev David Turtle, his wife Pamela and their youngest daughter Ellie, began their journey to visit and share with the Methodist Church of Southern Africa.

Over the next two weeks, they will be visiting churches in both Namibia and South Africa, as well as meeting three of MCI's World Development & Relief partners in South Africa.

In Namibia it is planned that there will be opportunities to visit Methodist projects in Osire Refugee Camp and to learn and share with church leaders and congregations in various contexts in the northern regions of the country.

In South Africa, visits are planned to three of MCI's World Development & Relief partners: Open Schools Worldwide, Phakamisa and the Church Land Programme. David will also visit other initiatives of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa, principally in the Natal region.

David, Pamela & Ellie will be joined by Rev Dr Andrew Ashdown, Partnership Coordinator for Africa (Global Relationships team, Methodist Church in Britain).

David, Pamela and Ellie would value prayer for:
- Safe travel, good health, and energy for significant journeys by air and road

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- Good opportunities to engage with and learn from the Church in Namibia and South Africa particularly in terms of their models of discipleship
- That the visit would bring encouragement to congregations and leaders in both countries

→ Find out more about their world church visit here:
<https://buff.ly/3JHo47y>

People and places



Aghalee Parish War Memorial organ restored



The congregation came together in Aghalee Parish Church on Sunday to mark the restoration of their parish organ.

It was originally installed in 1922 and was dedicated to the memory of the men of the parish who gave their lives in the Great War.

A day of music showcased a number of organists. It was lovely to hear the instrument sounding its best.

Rector appointed Deputy Lieutenant of Belfast

Dame Fionnuala Jay-O'Boyle DBE, His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the County Borough of Belfast has been pleased to appoint:-

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The Rev Canon Kevin Graham, Belfast
To be a Deputy Lieutenant of the County Borough.

Canon Graham is rector of St Bartholomew's Parish,
Stranmillis, Belfast

Methodist ministry student's church placement in Poland

Jennifer Gault, an MCI ministry Formation Student, has recently returned from her placement with the United Methodist Church Poland.

Jennifer recalls - "So another 'first' for me: Preaching in a field (how very John Wesley!).

"I was preaching to a Polish congregation with a translator. I am not sure which of us were more nervous but we did it! Anna Szczepańczyk you were wonderful!

"Afterwards, we enjoyed a church picnic and BBQ! What an amazing experience and so much fellowship and friendship shared. One I will not forget. I left feeling very blessed."

Annual parish fun day at Aghanloo rectory

The parishioners in the Aghanloo, Balteagh, Carrick and Tamlaghtard Group know how to enjoy themselves, so their annual parish fun day - at the rectory, 115 Drumsurn Road,

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Limavady, this coming Saturday afternoon - will be well worth checking out.

The Lord Lieutenant and Deputy Lord Lieutenant for County Londonderry will be among the throng gathered in the rectory grounds. Local Highland dancers and Castledawson's Queen Elizabeth II Pipe Band will lend the occasion an Ulster-Scots vibe, while the Swingtime Starlets and the Wartime Living Memory Association will add a WW2 theme.

Kenny Archer will be performing live and no fun day would be complete without star of stage, screen and pulpit, Rev Canon David McBeth.

There'll be cakes, competitions, bouncy castles. The fun is scheduled to begin at 2 o'clock.



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Trinity College Melbourne choir links with St Canice's, Kilkenny

On Tuesday
Evensong in St
Canice's Cathedral
Kilkenny was sung
by the Choir of
Trinity College,
Melbourne.

G W Torrance was
the first head of Trinity College and Alasdair Stretch, the

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direct descendant of Trinity's first student Jack Stretch was able to visit Torrance's grave.

Our own Peter Campbell presented a copy of his history of Trinity to the library at St Canice that Torrance was in charge of, and the choir sang an anthem that he wrote.

*1923 Choral Event
Reimagined on July
22nd, 2023*
St Brigid's Cathedral, Kildare Town
Ticket's on Eventbrite

300 VOICES *Your VOICE MATTERS*

*Rehearsal will be directed by
Thomas Charles Marshall,
Director of Music
St Brigid's Cathedral*

**HAM
FORMATION
&
REHEARSALS**

**LUNCH
&
SOCIAL TIME**

**4PM
SERVICE OF
CHORAL
EVENSONG**

DECADE OF CENTENARIES Kildare County Council MEATH & KILDARE DIOCESE

Recreate a 300 strong choir for Choral Evensong in Saint Brigid's Kildare

A very special event will take place in Saint Brigid's Cathedral, Kildare Town, Ireland on July 22nd. Do you

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22 JULY 2023
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&
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LUNCH
&
SOCIAL TIME**
**4PM
SERVICE OF
CHORAL
EVENSONG**

**300
VOICES** *Your
VOICE
MATTERS*

*In union with the spirit of
"The Decade of Centenaries"
held during the past number of
years, we would like to mark this
occasion with a another similar
Choral Union.*

*Service of Choral Evensong will be
held in Saint Brigid's Cathedral at
4pm followed by an evening tea.*

DECADE OF CENTENARIES | Kildare County Council | MEATH & KILDARE PROCESSES

sing in a choir? Maybe you aren't in a choir but would like to try it out for the day? Well here is a really lovely opportunity!

In 1923, a Choral Evensong with a 300 strong choir took place, and to mark the centenary of that special event, we are hosting a choral experience day that will see as many of you as wish to be with us coming along to rehearse in great company under the leadership of Musical Director, Charles Marshall.

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Booking now on Eventbrite <https://shorturl.at/svA34>

A retiring collection will be held at the end of service with proceeds going towards the support of musical tuition for an organ scholar through the Cathedral.

For further information, please email stbrigids cathedralcommunity@gmail.com



Due notice - A Christmas date with The Sperrin Choir

The Sperrin Choir present 'The Promise: A Celebration of Christ's Birth' by Michael Card.

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This much-loved song cycle has been arranged for mixed choir by conductor Sam Cuddy, and audiences have always been touched by the beauty of the melodic writing and the simplicity of the lyrics. The cycle ends with the well-known 'Immanuel'. This has been specially arranged for solo voice, children's choir, and Sperrin Choir. The choir will also perform a variety of more familiar Christmas songs sure to get everyone in the festive mood. The Sperrin Choir will be joined by Sperrin Kidz and Sperrin Youth Choir for the performance on Friday 15 December.

Thu 14 & Fri 15 Dec | 8pm | £12
Tickets >>> www.burnavon.com/whats-on

News reports

C of I appreciation of Northern Ireland schools

The Church of Ireland's Board of Education for Northern Ireland has written to all controlled schools at the end of term, to encourage and thank them for their steadfast work in difficult circumstances.

The letter welcomes the publication of a new report from Queen's University Belfast, Ulster University, Stranmillis University College, and Newcastle University – 'The consequences of the cuts to education for children and young people in Northern Ireland'. The report highlights how budget cuts will increase poverty, widen existing educational attainment gaps, deepen the mental health

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crisis, and exacerbate existing pressures facing the special educational needs system.

“Despite these enormous financial pressures,” the Board notes, “schools continue to provide a safe, welcoming, learning environment for children and young people and all school staff should be commended for this.”

Archbishop John McDowell, who chairs the Board, writes: “At this time the pride which we take in the resilience and achievements of all in our schools, has to be balanced with our deep concern for the future of education in Northern Ireland. The Consequences of Cuts report sheds light on just how vulnerable every aspect of schooling has become, and we trust will focus the minds of all who have responsibility for the allocation of resources to schools.”

A similar message of thanks has been shared with principals and boards of management primary schools under Church of Ireland patronage, from our Board of Education for the Republic of Ireland.

The full letter to controlled schools is below:

Dear Principal and Chair of Board of Governors,

As Principals, teachers and all school staff begin a well-earned rest,

the Church of Ireland Board of Education NI would wish to encourage and thank them for their steadfast work in such difficult circumstances.

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The Board welcomes the publication of the report on ‘The Consequences of the Cuts to Education for Children and Young People in Northern Ireland’. This report highlights just how challenging the current financial situation is for schools in light of the recent budget cuts.

Despite these enormous financial pressures, schools continue to provide a safe, welcoming, learning environment for children and young people and all school staff should be commended for this.

Archbishop John McDowell, Chair of the Board, stated, “At this time the pride which we take in the resilience and achievements of all in our schools, has to be balanced with our deep concern for the future of education in Northern Ireland. The Consequences of Cuts report sheds light on just how vulnerable every aspect of schooling has become, and we trust will focus the minds of all who have responsibility for the allocation of resources to schools.”

Professor Noel Purdy, co–author of the report, Director of the Centre for Research in Educational Underachievement at Stranmillis University College, and member of the Board added, “Our report confirms that this long list of cuts will increase poverty, widen existing educational attainment gaps, deepen the mental health crisis and exacerbate existing pressures facing the special educational needs system in Northern Ireland. Our report includes 11 recommendations which focus on reversing these cuts and giving all of our children a ‘fair start’ in life.”

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The Board is active in encouraging more Church of Ireland parishes to increase their support for local schools through any appropriate means. The Board wishes you well for the summer and the autumn term to follow.

In the media

Help us tell BBC Northern Ireland to 'Be A Better Neighbour'

It's no exaggeration to say that some local news titles may be forced to close if the BBC's plans are not stopped, Belfast Live writes...

At Belfast Live, we believe firmly in the importance of trusted local journalism to communities across Northern Ireland.

We invest in trained journalists who seek to challenge authority and hold power to account on your behalf, bringing you the news that matters when, where and how you want it.

It's no secret that the business model for local journalism is facing some challenges, but we remain fully committed to finding a truly sustainable future for our sector.

And we'll get there. We just need a bit of space and time to do it.

Two years ago, the BBC published highly controversial plans to transform its local journalism services across the UK.



A huge public outcry continues to surround the 'Across the UK' plans to inflict swingeing cuts on the corporation's hugely popular local radio services with much-loved presenters.

BBC Radio Foyle's flagship two-hour breakfast news show was axed and replaced with a half-hour programme, while its lunchtime news programme was scrapped completely.

Protests were held, including more than 200 BBC Northern Ireland journalists walking out in a 24-hour strike.

The cutbacks will see some money diverted into the BBC's digital services, ramping up its provision of local news online.

Why does this matter?

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It's no exaggeration to say that some local news titles may be forced to close if the 'Across the UK' plans are not stopped, leading to the BBC becoming the lone voice in some local communities.

A voice, by the way, that doesn't have the same freedom to campaign on your behalf like we do, because of impartiality requirements.

For anyone who believes in freedom of speech, as we do, that's a pretty terrifying thought.

The problem lies with the BBC's enormous and unique power - granted to the corporation by the licence fee - and the impact of this upon other news providers.

The licence fee enables the BBC to do things the commercial sector can't, such as running websites with no advertising or paywalls on them.

We are always up for fair competition. Fair competition drives innovation and quality in many different sectors.

But, because of the enormous power of the licence fee, the BBC's 'Across the UK' plans are the exact opposite of fair competition.

Under the plans, online readers – and the commensurate advertising revenues which we use to pay our local journalists – will be sucked away from our websites to the BBC's.

That pressure on our resources, at a time when we are grappling with a host of other challenges, could cause some local titles to call it a day.

That would be a disaster for the communities affected.

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So, far from boosting local journalism, we believe the BBC's 'Across the UK' plans will in fact irrevocably damage local news.

What's more, there is no need for the BBC to do this – the commercial local news sector already serves communities across the entire length and breadth of the UK.

Enshrined in a Royal Charter, guardrails which are supposed to prevent the BBC misusing its power in this way have completely failed.

So, we need your help to tackle this problem.

By contacting your MP and asking them to write to government about this issue you can make a real difference.

Your MP can express concern about the impact of the BBC's 'Across the UK' plans and ask government what steps it is going to take to get the BBC to change course.

The local news sector believes in and values the contribution the BBC makes to our vibrant news ecosystem.

But there is a real risk that the 'Across the UK' plans could wreak untold damage on our vibrant local journalism sector.

We cannot allow that to happen.

With your help we can get the BBC to be a better neighbour to local commercial titles, ensuring a vibrant and diverse local news sector for many years to come.

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Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Duke of Edinburgh Gold Residential Experience



Anyone needing a Duke of Edinburgh Gold Residential Experience? Check this out...

An exciting opportunity to complete your Gold Award Residential at Hillsborough Castle and Gardens from 2nd – 6th August 2023 during their annual Honey Fair.

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Please note that this opportunity is for Award participants who are 18 years of age and older.

The Residential is a unique opportunity to take part in an events management based Residential at Northern Ireland's only Royal Residence. This Residential will be run and managed by the Historic Royal Palaces team at Hillsborough Castle.

The 5 day experience includes on site accommodation, breakfast, and a range of activities supporting the annual Honey Fair (assisting with directing visitors, carparking, craft, assisting the gardening team, etc, all in the impressive grounds of Hillsborough Castle).

The Residential will cost £250 (inclusive of VAT) and includes your accommodation, breakfast, and all activities. You will be responsible for your lunch and evening meals, but the accommodation includes a kitchen you will have access to.

Applications must be submitted via the Microsoft Form by no later than Friday 14th July at 12noon and we will let you know by Tuesday 18th July if your application has been successful. This is a unique and exciting opportunity and we expect places to fill quickly. Therefore we will close the application process as soon as the spaces are filled. There are only a very small number of spaces available.

To apply please complete the form linked in the comments below.

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If you require any further information please contact James at nireland@DofE.org.

PEACEPLUS funding calls are now open

The SEUPB has announced that there are a number of #PEACEPLUS Programme (2021-2027) calls open for applications.

A full list of calls is available on their website, click the link below for more information.

[\[https://www.seupb.eu/current-programmes/peaceplus/themes-and-investment-areas/theme-1/11-co-designed-local-community\]](https://www.seupb.eu/current-programmes/peaceplus/themes-and-investment-areas/theme-1/11-co-designed-local-community)

Celebrate Summer of Hope 2023

Resource for organising a Coffee morning or tea party from an organisation which knows...the Mothers' Union

Are you holding a bake sale, coffee morning or tea party to raise money for our Summer of Hope campaign?

“We have lots of resources to help you promote your event”.
Go to: <https://www.mothersunion.org/soh2023>

Join together this summer to turn hope into action and transform lives.

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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
