

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – the Roman Catholic Chapel of Christ the King, Sandhurst

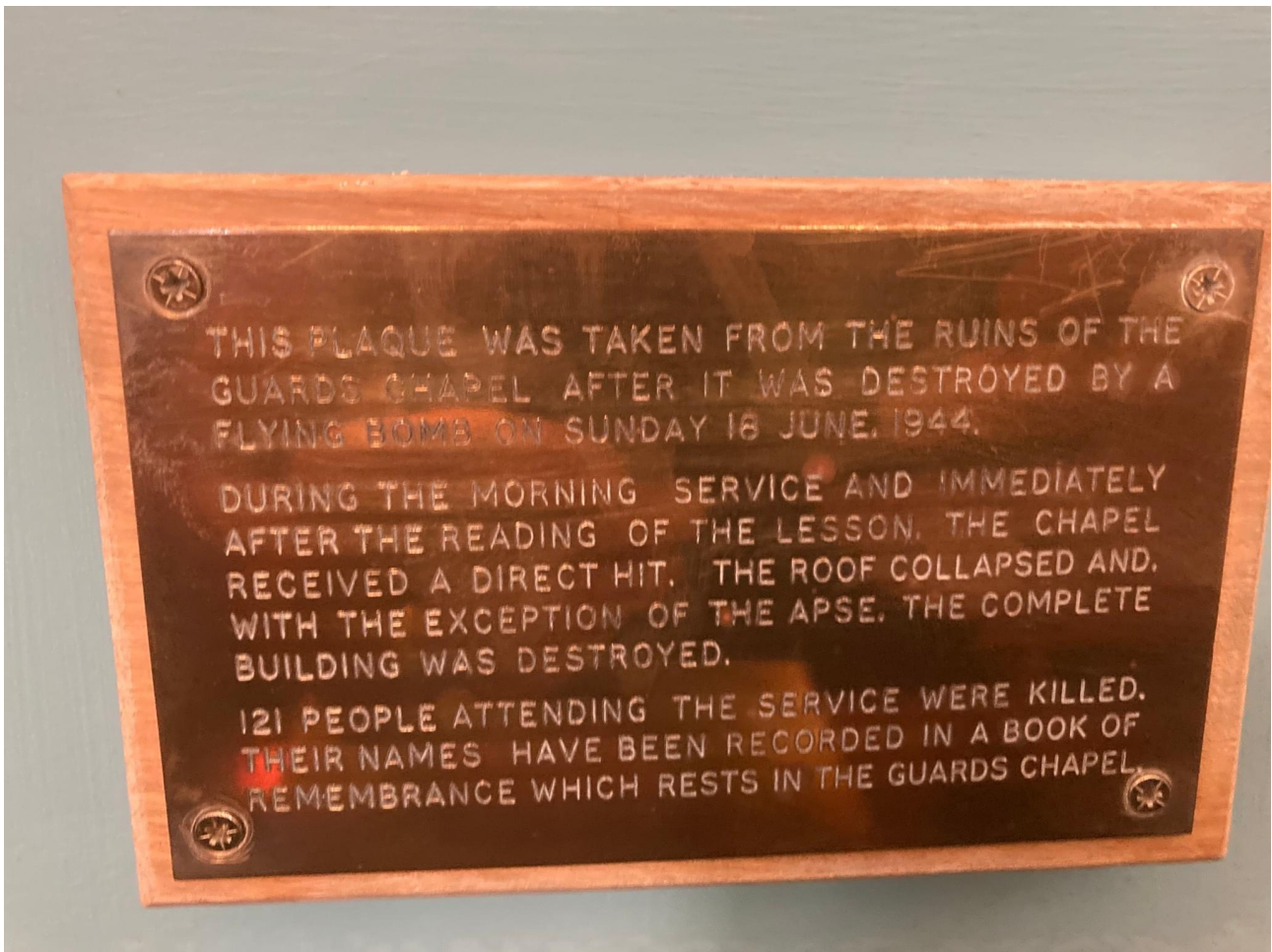


Image of the day

The Roman Catholic Chapel of Christ the King, Sandhurst

In the Roman Catholic Chapel of Christ The King at Sandhurst, are two small stone plaques set into the walls. The Irish (photo right) and Welsh Guards plaques were originally in the Guards Chapel at Wellington Barracks, London.



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On Sunday June 18th 1944, during the morning service, the Guards Chapel was hit by a V1 Flying bomb and almost completely destroyed. 121 people were killed and another 141 injured. The plaques bear damage from the attack.

People and places

Annual Inter-Church Service on White Island

The annual Inter-Church Service on White Island (part of the Lady of the Lake Festival) will be held on Sunday 10th July. The boat will leave Castle Archdale pier at 6.00pm

The singing will be led by members of the Community Choir and the prayers will be by members of the Catholic, Methodist, Presbyterian and Church of Ireland Churches.

The organisers invite - “Do come along and join in as we sail out across the Lough to this ancient and sacred place, enjoying the beautiful scenery all around us.”

Ballybay Bighearts raise €12,000 for Christian Aid Ireland to help the world's poorest

The Presbyterian community of Ballybay raised almost €12,000 for international aid agency Christian Aid Ireland with their recent coffee morning and sale.

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Some of the organisers of the Ballybay coffee morning and sale. with Christian Aid Ireland Chief Executive Rosamond Bennett.

Their fundraising efforts over more than half a century has made them one of the charity's most generous congregations on the island of Ireland.

The event, which was held in Second Ballybay Presbyterian Church Hall on 14 May, 2022 was the collective effort of four Presbyterian churches, locally, to support the charity's Christian Aid Week appeal which this year focuses on Zimbabwe.

There, in the drought-affected east of the country where drought has brought crop failure and hunger, the agency has enabled almost 30,000 people to earn a living despite declining rainfall, including by helping female farmers make the switch to growing drought-resistant plants such as hibiscus which can be sold to make herbal tea.

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The tea served at the Ballybay fundraiser was of the 'normal' variety and there were home-made sweet treats on offer for the more than 150 people who attended. There were also cakes and jam to take home for later, as well as stalls selling plants and second-hand books. The proceeds of the coffee morning and sale were boosted by a number of large donations made by – and elicited by – members of the congregation.

It was a welcome return for the event which has been held every May for more than half a century, interrupted only by the Covid pandemic. But even during the two lockdown

Bangor Abbey Car Boot Sale is Back!!



**Every Saturday in July & August
8am-1pm**

Cars £5 Vans £10

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years, the fundraising continued as one local woman – Nan Bradford from Rockcorry – completed solo sponsored walks which brought in more than €7,000 to support relief efforts, with a handful of large donations pushing the total even higher.

Nan, who works at a local mushroom farm, enjoyed her lockdown walking but was pleased to swap her hiking boots for her baking bowl this year – just one of around 20 home bakers whose efforts helped to draw in the crowds. She added: “I was delighted to see the coffee morning and sale return after Covid. It’s become a fixture in the town’s calendar and is supported by the whole community. I think it’s important to raise money for Christian Aid because of all the good it does. We’re very lucky in this country. We’re really blessed.”

The Presbyterian churches behind the event are 1st and 2nd Ballybay, Rockcorry and Drumkeen which have a combined membership of around 160 families. The fundraiser was organised by a team of people drawn from the four churches.

New minister at Donard Methodist Church

On Sunday past 3rd July 2022, Donard Methodist Church welcomed its new stationed minister, Rev. Dr Richard Wright and his wife Jackie; Rev Tom Clarke joined Richard in leading the service and presided over Holy Communion.



Afterwards the congregation enjoyed a social period with coffee and cakes which completed a memorable morning, a further stage in the development of Donard Methodist Church.

Donard Methodist Church was formed in 2020 by amalgamation of three former Methodist

Societies - Dundrum, Newcastle and Downpatrick - and is part of the Lagan Valley & South Down Circuit created in 2021.

Called to Greystone Presbyterian Church, Antrim

Ballymena native, Chris Wilson, has accepted a call to the pulpit of Greystone Road Presbyterian Church in Antrim.

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38-year-old Chris has been married to Caroline for nearly 11 years and the couple share their busy home with three energetic boys, Josh (9) and Caleb, (8) and Teddy, who is just three years old.

A former Ballymena Academy pupil, Chris grew up in a Christian home where his family were members of First Ballymena Presbyterian Church.

He remembered: “I always had a good understanding of faith and what it mean to be a Believer. However, in 1996 at an event in 1st Ballymena I felt the calling of God to commit my life to Him alone and seek to follow Him with my whole heart. My faith went from being a shared faith with my family to be an owned faith and a personal relationship with the Lord.”

After studying Modern History at University, Chris worked in management in Tesco and Subway and then was in Youth in Community Work in Larne, Carnlough and Ballymena before becoming a Youth Ministry Co-ordinator for Whiteabbey Presbyterian Church so he had a range of experiences but have always been involved in working with people.

Having now completed his assistantship in First Portglenone Presbyterian, Chris, Caroline and the family are now looking forward to entering their first ‘charge’:

He said, “My prayer is the God would move powerfully by His Spirit as we immerse ourselves in His Word and seek Him in prayer; as we worship Him throughout our lives. My desire is that Christ would be displayed in our lives as we seek to know Him more, follow Him, love Him and make

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Him known. And sincerely hope that the greater Antrim area would be blessed as Gospel people grow in grace and share that grace in the various ways that God would guide us.”

Talking about his interests outside Church, Chris added: “ With a small family most of my ‘spare’ time is spent with them as we go on road trips and do fun things together. I do enjoy a variety of sports and I like to take in good movies when I can. A good cup of coffee and a proper chat with friends is always time well spent.”

Welcome for Apostolic Visitor for Ukrainian Greek- Catholics

Archbishop
Dermot
Farrell
welcomes

Bishop Kenneth Nowakowski of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of the Holy Family of London, who has been appointed by Pope Francis as Apostolic Visitor for the



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Ukrainian Greek-Catholic faithful in the Republic of Ireland and in Northern Ireland.

“In these difficult times for the people of Ukraine we assure Bishop Kenneth of our prayers for his ministry and welcome his people,” said Archbishop Dermot.

Royal Ringing out of Drumbo bells

If you around Ballylesson church this Thursday and Saturday and love hearing the bells, you are in for a treat.

The Society of Royal Cumberland Youths are coming to ring on Thursday 10am-1pm and also on Saturday 10am-1pm.

This Society is slightly older than the church.

"It is claimed that a prominent London ringing Society, known as the London Scholars, rang the bells at Shoreditch church as William Augustus, Duke of Cumberland and second son of George II, passed by on his return from the Battle of Culloden in April 1746. Victory was hailed everywhere and it became popular to adopt the name 'Cumberland' at every opportunity and thus the London Scholars changed their name."

Whether or not the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths (The word 'Royal' was added in the 1870s) descends from the London Scholars, there is no doubt about the foundation of the Society in its present form, which, according to the original Name Book, now housed in the Guildhall Library, was on 6 September 1747."



Derry diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes





World news

Archbishop of Canterbury appoints Revd Ijeoma Ajibade as next Chief of Staff

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Ijeoma is a Church of England priest working in the Diocese of London and the Diocese of Southwark. For the last six years she has been Regional Director, Europe, at the Mission to Seafarers. Ijeoma will start as Chief of Staff at Lambeth Palace in November.

Since her ordination in 2010, Ijeoma has combined ordained ministry with secular work, and she has worked in various roles in the UK public sector. She began her career in local government, working in a number of different areas including audit and special investigations, housing advice and homelessness, and welfare benefit administration. Ijeoma also spent twelve years working for the London Assembly on Assembly Scrutiny and working for two previous Mayors of London (Ken Livingstone and Boris Johnson) on economics and business policy.



The Revd Ijeoma Ajibade

Ijeoma has also spent many years as a community activist working on human rights, and HIV awareness and prevention. She has served on the boards of a number of organisations including NAZ Project London, the Marylebone Project, African Health Policy Network, the Kaleidoscope Trust, the Bisi Alimi Foundation and the Merchant Navy Welfare Board.

In her spare time Ijeoma enjoys music, theatre, reading, swimming and experimenting with cooking and baking. To the delight of her friends, she keeps a regular blog of both her successful and unsuccessful cooking exploits.

The Revd Ijeoma Ajibade said: “I am deeply honoured and very excited about supporting Archbishop Justin’s ministry

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and working together with others from the Lambeth Palace community. We face complex and difficult challenges in our world today and the Church has a prophetic responsibility to empower, comfort and encourage people. I hope and pray that I will be able to wisely assist Archbishop Justin as he leads in these complex times. I have really enjoyed working at the Mission to Seafarers and I am leaving there with a deeper thirst to see justice and human flourishing in our world today. Supporting Archbishop Justin will provide new opportunities for me to work towards this.”

Archbishop Justin Welby said: “I am delighted that Ijeoma will be joining the senior team at Lambeth Palace. To this vital role she brings remarkable experience and skills from her ordained ministry, charity and local government work, and community activism. In our complex and troubled world,



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I know we will benefit greatly from Ijeoma's international perspective, honed while serving with Mission to Seafarers as well as with numerous charities. What connects all these strands for Ijeoma is a deep and abiding love of Jesus Christ – and a passion for the common good based on justice, dignity and human flourishing. I look forward to working with her enormously and I will pray for her in the months ahead as she prepares to join the Lambeth Palace community.”

‘Faith and Fracture’ - Glass Sculpture focussed on ‘Beauty of Every Human’ on display in York Minster

A large-scale art installation inspired by the Church of England’s “Living in Love and Faith” project will be on display at York Minster this summer.

Suspended four metres above the transept and made of two and a half thousand pieces of glass, ‘Faith and Fracture’ will be seen by the public from mid-July to mid- September.

The art work was commissioned by the bishops of the Church of England as part of the “Living in Love and Faith” project which saw an 18-month long discussion held across the Church on the subject of human identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage.

Stephen Cottrell, the Archbishop of York, said: “Being human is about being creative and being connected. As the Church of England grapples with its own differences, this



luminous sculpture reminds us of the uniqueness and beauty of every human being.

“Each and every human being is loved by God and called to love one another in the pattern of Jesus Christ.”

Visitors will also be able to access an audio recording which includes comments from people who took part in the Living and Love and Faith project. Designed by Alice Walker and David Ferrier, with an accompanying soundscape composed by Matt Eaton, the artists hope people will reflect on what faith might have to say in a world of conflict and fracture.

Alice Walker said: “The inspiration for this sculpture began with a piece of sea glass – a unique piece of colourful glass shaped and smoothed by sea and sand.

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“Fragile yet luminous, glass can be found in a vibrant array of colours – a way of representing the rich diversity of people who have taken part in the ‘Living in Love and Faith’ project.”

‘Faith and Fracture’ will be on display at York Minster from 10 July until 16 September. Entry is included with a standard admission ticket. Entry to the Minster is free for York residents with valid proof of address.

Poem for today

Waking Early Sunday Morning by Robert Lowell

O to break loose, like the chinook
salmon jumping and falling back,
nosing up to the impossible
stone and bone-crushing waterfall –
raw-jawed, weak-fleshed there, stopped by ten
steps of the roaring ladder, and then
to clear the top on the last try,
alive enough to spawn and die.
Stop, back off. The salmon breaks
water, and now my body wakes
to feel the unpolluted joy
and criminal leisure of a boy –
no rainbow smashing a dry fly
in the white run is free as I,
here squatting like a dragon on
time's hoard before the day's begun!

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Fierce, fireless mind, running downhill.
Look up and see the harbour fill:
business as usual in eclipse
goes down to the sea in ships –
wake of refuse, dacron rope,
bound for Bermuda or Good Hope,
all bright before the morning watch
the wine-dark hulls of yawl and ketch.

I watch a glass of water wet
with a fine fuzz of icy sweat,
silvery colours touched with sky,
serene in their neutrality –
yet if I shift, or change my mood,
I see some object made of wood,
background behind it of brown grain,
to darken it, but not to stain.

O that the spirit could remain
tinged but untarnished by its strain!
Better dressed and stacking birch,
or lost with the Faithful at Church –
anywhere, but somewhere else!
And now the new electric bells,
clearly chiming, "Faith of our fathers,"
and now the congregation gathers.

O Bible chopped and crucified
in hymns we hear but do not read,
none of the milder subtleties
of grace or art will sweeten these
stiff quatrains shovelled out four-square –
they sing of peace, and preach despair;

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yet they gave darkness some control,
and left a loophole for the soul.

When will we see Him face to face?
Each day, He shines through darker glass.
In this small town where everything
is known, I see His vanishing
emblems, His white spire and flag-
pole sticking out above the fog,
like old white china doorknobs, sad,
slight, useless things to calm the mad.

Hammering military splendour,
top-heavy Goliath in full armour –
little redemption in the mass
liquidations of their brass,
elephant and phalanx moving
with the times and still improving,
when that kingdom hit the crash:
a million foreskins stacked like trash ...

Sing softer! But what if a new
diminuendo brings no true
tenderness, only restlessness,
excess, the hunger for success,
sanity or self-deception
fixed and kicked by reckless caution,
while we listen to the bells –
anywhere, but somewhere else!

O to break loose. All life's grandeur
is something with a girl in summer ...
elated as the President

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girdled by his establishment
this Sunday morning, free to chaff
his own thoughts with his bear-cuffed staff,
swimming nude, unbuttoned, sick
of his ghost-written rhetoric!

No weekends for the gods now. Wars
flicker, earth licks its open sores,
fresh breakage, fresh promotions, chance
assassinations, no advance.
Only man thinning out his kind
sounds through the Sabbath noon, the blind
swipe of the pruner and his knife
busy about the tree of life ...

Pity the planet, all joy gone
from this sweet volcanic cone;
peace to our children when they fall
in small war on the heels of small
war – until the end of time
to police the earth, a ghost
orbiting forever lost
in our monotonous sublime.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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