

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – St Columba & St Canice**

June 12, 2023

## Image of the day

### St Columba & St Canice

Schools met at St Canice's Cathedral on St Columba's Day.

## People and places



## Methodist Conference concludes with ordinations

**The annual Methodist Conference concluded on Saturday night with a Service of Ordination of five ordinands. The Ordinands are Susan Gallagher, Tanita Lee, Leah McKibben, Peter Morris and Philip Patterson.**

June 12, 2023



Rev Leah McKibben and Rev Peter Morris (above) are ministering in the North West district. Rev Susan Gallagher, is the Methodist Minister in Kilkenny and Carlow and next Sunday she will preach at the 11.30am service in Saint Canice's Cathedral.

Saturday afternoon also included a Service of Remembrance for ministers who have died, a Service of Commissioning for Pioneer Mission Leaders and further discussion and prayer for the Connexion.

Two important appointments were announced. The President Designate of the Methodist Church in Ireland for 2024-25, is the Rev Dr John Alderdice, and the Lay Leader Designate for 2024-26, is Elaine Barnett.

June 12, 2023

## The President Designate of the Methodist Church in Ireland and the Lay Leader Designate for 2024-26



## Malahide Flower Festival a huge success

The Flower Festival organised by the Church of Ireland United Parishes of Malahide, Portmarnock & St. Doulagh's was a huge success this past weekend.

Church News Ireland



Page 4





“We have been so busy and there are many tired, but very happy, people tonight. Thank you to all who visited Malahide today and especially to the parishioners of St James Church Moy, my first parish, for making the

trip”said the Rector, Revd. Canon David Gillespie. The festival finished on Sunday with Evensong sung by the choir of Christ Church Cathedral Dublin. It was a packed church!

## **Lambeg scout leader honoured**

**Ian Stewart was presented with the Silver Wolf by the NI Chief Commissioner at Ardnally Scout Centre.**



“It was a privilege to be at the ceremony with the other award recipients from NI”, Ian (right) commented.

1st Lambeg Scout group meets at Harmony Hill Presbyterian.

[[https://www.facebook.com/1stLambegScouts/?locale=en\\_GB](https://www.facebook.com/1stLambegScouts/?locale=en_GB)]

**Lunchtime Concert**

**Free!**

**CONCORDIA CHAMBER CHOIR**  
WEDNESDAY 28 JUNE AT 1PM

SUPPORTING THE WORK OF **FRIENDS ACROSS BORDERS**

*Friends Across Borders seeks to reach out to asylum seekers and refugees who are living close to Fisherwick. They meet on Monday mornings during term time to teach English and offer practical support and help where needed.*

There will be an opportunity to contribute to this work at the end of the concert should you wish to do so.

**FISHERWICK**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Fisherwick Presbyterian Church, 2 Chlorine Gardens, Belfast, BT9 5DJ • [fisherwick.org](http://fisherwick.org)



## 167 years Membership of Mothers' Union

**Some Mothers' Union members from Holy Trinity Branch, Dromore, enjoying the Bishop's Tea Party at Donacavey Parish Hall.**

From left: Alison Jackson, MU Member, Florence Jackson (55 years membership), Frances Smyth (61 years membership) and Peggy Mills (51 years membership)

# Church News Ireland



June 12, 2023

## News reports

### Archbishops welcome Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Friendly Churches initiative



**The Archbishops of Canterbury and York met last week with Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people advocating for a new initiative aimed at reaching out to people within these communities.**

The Gypsy, Roma Traveller (GRT) Friendly Churches will encourage and signpost churches to do more to welcome people into worshipping communities.

The Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby spent time with GRT communities in Poole as part of his mission visit to the

June 12, 2023

Diocese of Salisbury. The Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, walked with the Bishop of Carlisle James Newcome to the Appleby Horse Fair, the biggest annual gathering of Travellers in the country.

Archbishop Justin said: "I'm deeply grateful to be spending time with the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community in Poole later today, and acknowledge the pain and rejection felt by the GRT communities both now and in the past. We can and must do so much more to welcome, support, include and advocate for them. The Gospel of Jesus Christ and the mission of the church is about reconciliation, and it is my hope that the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Friendly Churches initiative will enable a bridge between settled people and Travellers and be part of this reconciliation process. I am fully supportive of this initiative. Every country has distinct cultures amongst Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities. The common feature that I have seen across Europe and most recently in Romania is the suffering and marginalisation they have had to endure."

Archbishop Stephen said: "I was delighted to be at Appleby Horse Fair today and to support the launch of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Friendly Churches. I have seen and heard of the prejudice and racism the GRT communities face in their daily lives. As a church we need to do more to stop this. And making a positive step to actively welcome them into our worshipping communities will help to bring about change."

The GRT Friendly Churches initiative is a result of the work of different churches led by Gypsies, Roma, Travellers and non-Travellers who have been reaching out to GRT communities. Churches can befriend and work alongside

June 12, 2023

Gypsies and Travellers, which could include offering to pray with a family, offering water to people who are camping on the roadside, signposting people to services they need, or accompanying people to an appointment or engaging in more complex advocacy.



Ivy Manning, a Romany Gypsy said: “I'm delighted to be part of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Friendly Churches, it's something that gives hope to my people. For too long we've felt scapegoated by wider society. Today marks a positive beginning of something new.”

There is a vibrant Christian faith amongst these communities, but Roma, Gypsy and Traveller people encounter extreme prejudice. Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Friendly Churches seeks to reach out and break down centuries of marginalisation and fully welcome all into the full life of the church.

The Church of England has acknowledged it has often failed in supporting GRT communities. In the second biannual report of the Archbishops' Commission for Racial Justice, the Commission noted that since a resolution was passed at General Synod in 2019, condemning discrimination against GRT people, at least 12 chaplains have been appointed to Church of England dioceses whose work includes pastoral, advocacy and educational activity.

The Right Honourable Lord Paul Boateng, Chair of the Archbishops Commission for Racial Justice, said: "The GRT community continues to experience virulent and pervasive racism and suffers real disadvantage in so many ways, not least in education and in a lack of respect for their culture and way of life. This initiative of the Church of England is a welcome response to that and hopefully will inspire further action to address the historic and current wrongs inflicted upon this hard-pressed community."

## **CofE promises improvements to abuse support scheme after criticism**

**The Church of England has said that changes are being made to improve a financial support scheme for clergy abuse survivors following heavy criticism.**

A review by the Independent Safeguarding Board said that survivors using the Church of England's Interim Support Scheme (ISS) were at risk of "repeated re-traumatisation".

June 12, 2023

The review highlighted the experience of one man named only as 'Mr X' who was left feeling suicidal after accessing the scheme.

The ISB said that the Church needed to take a "trauma-informed approach" and act with "urgency" in his case.

In a statement, the ISB said that the Church of England had failed to implement recommendation 7 within the expected timescale.

The recommendation addressed Mr X's situation specifically and asked that the Church of England's National Safeguarding Team (NST) convene a meeting within four weeks of the review, dated March 2023, to address his support needs.

"This action is now significantly overdue," the ISB said.

The statement continued, "The Church of England's approach to implementing this recommendation needs to be consistent with the urgency of the case and the need for a trauma-informed approach.

"The ISB is aware of ongoing communication between the Church of England and Mr X/his advocate, and we will continue to monitor progress and seek a satisfactory outcome."

Responding to the criticism, the Church of England's Director of Safeguarding, Alexander Kubeyinje, said that work had already started on some of the recommendations prior to the review's publication.

June 12, 2023

He said that the ISS had been kept "under constant review with a view to improving the service that we provide".

"There are already plans to increase staffing, in order to shorten waiting times, improve accessibility and stream line the process of applying," he said.

"On recommendation 7, we have been making every effort to set up a case management group meeting.

"I have been working with colleagues across the Church, including ongoing communication with Mr X and his advocate, to try to resolve this and will continue with these efforts."



**The Church of Scotland and the Catholic Church have issued an urgent call to the Scottish Government for Fair Pay in Social Care. Faith Leaders across Scotland- including ministers/worship leaders- are now invited to sign the declaration.**

June 12, 2023

**Webinars,  
music,  
resources,  
broadcasts,  
and books**



## **Haydn's Trumpet Concerto in St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh**

If you are free on Saturday June 24th, Jan Faulkner (Wallace School, Lisburn) will be performing Movement no.1 from Haydn's Trumpet Concerto in Eb. This work was composed to show off the 'new fangled' valved trumpet and is a highly demanding, virtuosic work. The concert takes place at 7:30 pm in St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh (CofI) and tickets can be purchased from [sinfoniasummerconcert.eventbrite.com](https://sinfoniasummerconcert.eventbrite.com)

## **Westminster Abbey free online Koinonia Lectures**

The Koinonia lectures, co-organised by Westminster Abbey, the Diocese of London, and St Paul's Cathedral, offer an opportunity to engage with the latest research from a wide range of theological and ecclesiological thinkers.

The programme draws on distinguished speakers from international and ecumenical contexts and explores a diverse range of topics.

“We're delighted to be welcoming Dr Willie Jennings, Professor @YaleDivSchool, to give our next free online Koinonia Lecture.

“He'll be discussing 'The Revolutionary Children of God: Cultivating a Faith that Creates Communion' at 1pm BST on Thurs 15 June

[<https://www.westminster-abbey.org/events/koinonia-lectures>]

## **"It's the kids taking us to Bubble Church!"**

Ascension Church, Balham have seen huge growth in their 30 minute 'Bubble Church' service, specifically aimed at children and families.

Interested in running Bubble Church at your church? Find out more at

<http://cofe.io/RunBubbleChurch>.





## **Belfast Pops Orchestra at Willowfield Church**

The Belfast Pops Orchestra will be bringing a summer's evening of great music to Willowfield Church, Woodstock Rd Belfast on Saturday June 17th at 7.30pm. You can expect a programme packed with music from Wagner, Dvorak, Walton, John Williams and much more...passion, a splash of pageantry, some cinema and show tunes to get your pulses

June 12, 2023

racing and not just one but two choirs a great programme of music and song for all music lovers. Tickets available at the door. Special guests: The choir of Ballinderry Primary



# University of Glasgow Chapel Choir

A concert of choral and organ music  
including works from Scotland.

Directed by Dr Katy Lavinia Cooper,  
and accompanied on the organ by Dr Kevin Bowyer,  
Jonathan Smith and Jeremy Wan.

**Friday 23rd June, 7.30pm**  
**St Columbs Cathedral, Derry/Londonderry**



June 12, 2023

School and Ballyholme Primary School Senior Choir. Hey, why not follow us on Twitter too! @BelfastPops :)  
Adults £10 Children £5 Under-4s free.

## **June Presbyterian Herald is now available**

Kevin Hargaden interviews the Moderator-Designate Dr Sam Mawhinney from Adelaide Road Presbyterian Church in Dublin

Tullamore Church wins Place of Sanctuary award - Rev William Hayes tells us more

The Pain of Infertility - a couple share their story with Deborah Sloan who also interviews Rev Alistair Bates on his research into involuntary childlessness within PCI

Available via your congregational agent or online via PDF or Issuu:

[www.presbyterianireland.org/herald](http://www.presbyterianireland.org/herald)

## **Poem for today**

### **To a Skylark**

**by William Wordsworth**

Ethereal minstrel! pilgrim of the sky!  
Dost thou despise the earth where cares abound?  
Or, while the wings aspire, are heart and eye  
Both with thy nest upon the dewy ground?  
Thy nest which thou canst drop into at will,

June 12, 2023

Those quivering wings composed, that music still!

Leave to the nightingale her shady wood;  
A privacy of glorious light is thine;  
Whence thou dost pour upon the world a flood  
Of harmony, with instinct more divine;  
Type of the wise who soar, but never roam;  
True to the kindred points of Heaven and Home.

## Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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# Church News Ireland

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