

# Church News Ireland

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## Image of the day – New Mothers’ Union All Ireland Chaplain commissioned

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### New Mothers' Union All Ireland Chaplain commissioned

**On Sunday the Venerable Dr. Stephen McBride was commissioned as All Ireland Chaplain to the Mothers' Union by the Archbishop of Armagh, Most Rev John McDowell.**

Several Trustees and Officers were also commissioned during Choral Evensong in St Patrick's Cathedral Armagh (see photo page 1).

Those commissioned -

The Venerable Dr Stephen McBride as All Ireland Chaplain.  
Vice Presidents: Sophia Dillon, Hazel Speares and Moira Thom.



*Parishioners from Antrim with their rector and former curate-assistant at Armagh*



*June Butler, All Ireland MU President*



*The Bishop of Clogher accompanied his Diocesan President*



*Archdeacon McBride, his wife, parents and Archbishop McDowell*

Unit Co-ordinator: Kay Clarke.

Social Policy Contacts: Lesley Bayley & Cathy Doig.

Indoor Members' Contact: Irene Boyd.

Young Members' Reps: Liz Greer & Wendy Halligan.

PROs: Ann Anderson and Revd Canon Jennifer McWhirter

## People and places

### Dean of Clogher celebrates 25 years of Ordained Ministry

**The Very Reverend Kenneth Hall, Dean of Clogher, grew up in the parish of Termonmaguirke (Carrickmore), Co. Tyrone.**

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*The Dean , the  
Very Rev  
Kenneth Hall  
with  
Churchwardens  
Vanessa Elliott  
and Arnold  
Graham.*

He was  
educated at  
Royal School  
Dungannon and  
prior to his  
ordination  
followed a  
successful  
career in the

business and financial sector.

He returned to study in 1995, was ordained for the Church of Ireland in 1998 and then completed an M.Phil. with University of Dublin (Trinity College) in Reconciliation Studies. The culmination of his training for the church came with his ordination on June 11th 1998, St Barnabas Day. St Barnabas was an encourager and, on ordination, the Dean adopted the Saint's approach to his ministry. His first appointment as a minister was as Curate of Derryloran Parish (Cookstown) and then for one year as Curate of Drumglass Parish (Dungannon).

His first post of rector was the parishes of Brackaville, Donaghendry & Ballyclog (Coalisland & Stewartstown) in



*Dean Hall with the Vestry and parish leaders who made a presentation to him marking the occasion*

the Diocese of Armagh. He was a founder member of both Cookstown & District Clergy Forum and Dungannon & District Clergy Forum (both ecumenical community groups) and continues to be very actively involved in reconciliation work at local level and on a wider basis represents the Church of Ireland on general committees.

In 2010 he was Instituted as Rector of Enniskillen and Installed as Dean of Clogher.

Since coming to Enniskillen Dean Hall has immersed himself fully in parish and community development. St Macartin's is both a parish church and a diocesan cathedral and the dean has striven hard to develop both aspects of this role. He is a strong believer in inclusion and

endeavours to bring those families on the fringes of the Christian church into the fold. He encourages commitment and this extends to the organisation of the Select Vestry where he introduced a practice of appointing new churchwardens each year rather than in alternate years.

This means that an increased number of parishioners are involved in the management of church affairs. He also believes in the importance of music in church worship and has put a substantial effort into developing the choir.

Dean Hall was an elected member of the Fermanagh Protestant Board of Education and a member of the Board of Governors of Portora Royal School and of the Board of Governors of Enniskillen Royal Grammar School. He was the Chaplain of Portora Royal School from 2010 until its merger with the Collegiate.

Dean Hall is currently Chaplain at the South West Acute Hospital and served in that role in the Erne Hospital previously. He is an elected member of the Diocesan Council (Clerical Honorary Secretary), Glebe's Committee, Finance Committee and serves as Diocesan Nominator and a Representative on the Electoral College.

He travelled with a group from the Church of Ireland to the Church of Kenya in December 2011 to Kajiado Diocese bringing food supplies which were required following the severe drought earlier that year. In October 2014, Dean Hall travelled to visit the Anglican Church in Hong Kong and preached in St John's Cathedral where he delivered a lecture on community relations with reference to the 'Crossing of the Street' by Her Majesty the Queen. Dean

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Hall devotes an exceptional amount of time to building community life and works very closely with Monsignor Peter O'Reilly on all community matters.

## Fond farewell from Causeway Methodist



**Members of Portstewart Methodist Church after their final service with Rev. Lee Glenny, said an emotional goodbye to him and his wife Mave Glenny as they retire**



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**from actively working on the Causeway Methodist Church circuit.**

The sentiment expressed - “Thank you to both of you for everything you have done over the years and enjoy a very well earned rest.”

A video of Rev. Lee Glenny’s farewell Morning Worship at Portstewart Methodist Church on Sunday 11th June 2023 is now available by clicking the link below.

<https://youtu.be/2llwwt4d0R8>



## **GFS Baltinglass marks 50th anniversary**

**GFS- the Girls' Friendly Society branch in Baltinglass marked its 50th anniversary with a commemorative service.**

The event was attended by current GFS members and past leaders who served over the past 50 years. After the service, everyone was invited to enjoy refreshments.



During the event, presentations were made to three founding leaders in attendance, Mrs. Mary Jackson, Mrs. Vera Finlay, and Mrs. Olive Manley, to recognize their dedication to the organization.

A presentation was also made to Mrs Marian Smyth, Diocesan President who was also in attendance. “We appreciate the service

and dedication of all leaders, past and present throughout the Diocese”.

## News reports

### **Transferor Representatives’ Council criticises Human Rights Commission’s RSE report as a a paper–based exercise**

**The Transferor Representatives’ Council (TRC), which represents the Church of Ireland, Presbyterian Church and Methodist Church in education issues in Northern**

**Ireland, has criticised the Commission for ‘a paper-based exercise’ that doesn’t reflect the day-to-day reality of how RSE is taught in many of Northern Ireland’s schools.**

Responding to the launch of a report by the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission (NIHRC) on a case for reform of Relationship and Sexuality Education in Schools (RSE) yesterday (12 June), Dr Andrew Brown, Chair of the Transferor Representatives’ Council, said, “TRC will take time to consider the report from the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission and its recommendations. However, a few issues immediately stand out for comment.

“That the NIHRC was able to access RSE policies from over 120 post-primary schools across Northern Ireland is in stark contrast to claims within the 2018 CEDAW Report, which formed the basis for the Commission’s investigation, that RSE is ‘underdeveloped or non-existent’,” he said.

“It is very disappointing that during the course of their 16 month-long investigation the NIHRC did not speak to teachers, students, governors, or parents, or find time to observe the teaching of RSE in the classroom. The recommendations put forward in the report are based on a paper exercise and not at all reflective of the day-to-day reality in many of our schools, or of the professional competence and capabilities of our teachers.”

Dr Brown continued, “It is also highly concerning that the NIHRC is advocating that RSE can be delivered in the classroom in a way which is value-neutral and outside the parameters of school ethos. High-quality RSE within our

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schools is much more than just information based on legal, biological or medical facts. It involves consideration of behaviours, values and attitudes that bring meaning and purpose to our understanding of healthy and flourishing relationships.

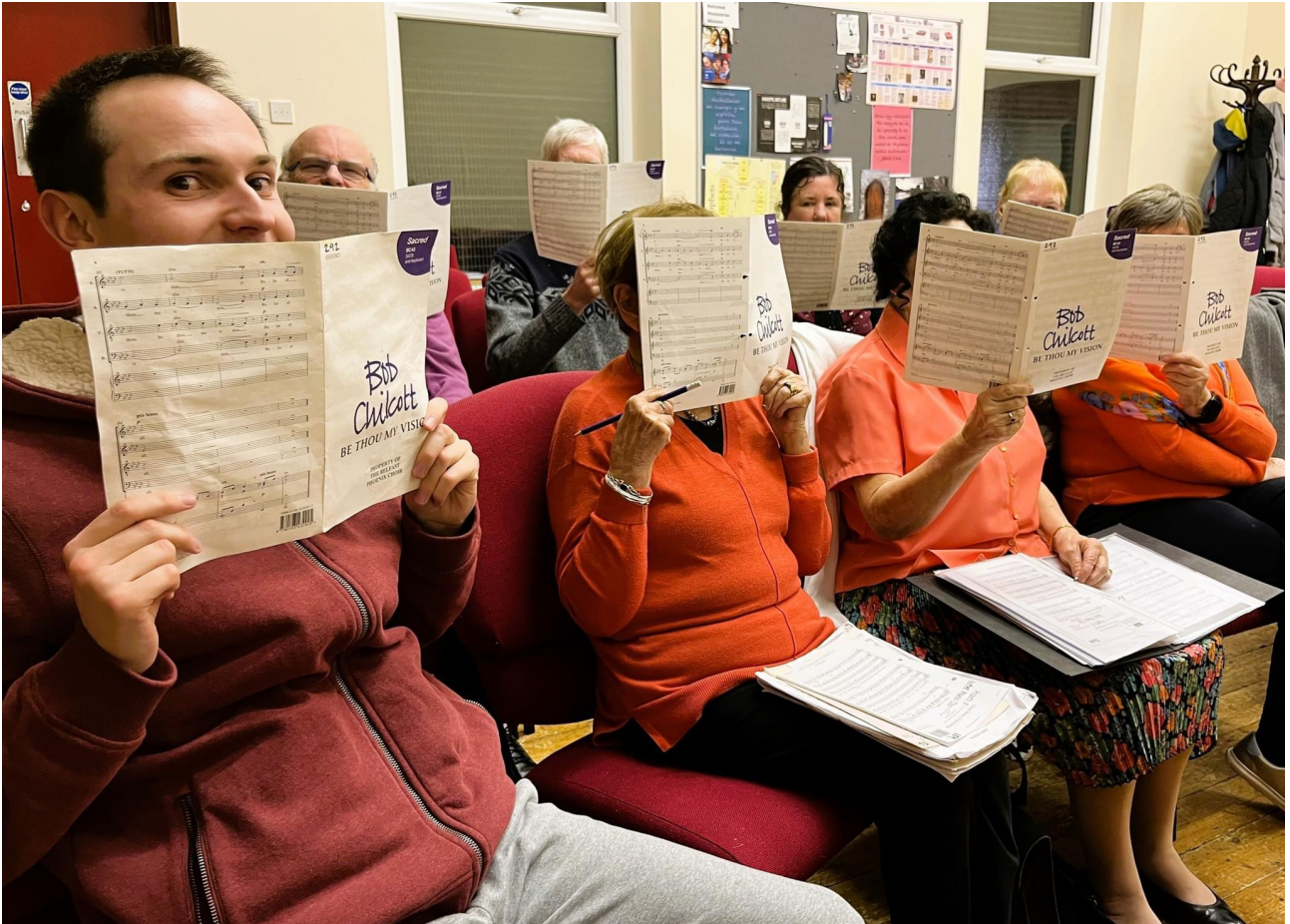
“As an organisation committed to our schools, their governors, teachers, and pupils, TRC also remains committed to supporting the delivery of excellent RSE within our schools, which respects the needs of young people, and provides them with the opportunity to explore their own personal morals, values and beliefs.”



**Archbishop Welby as part of his mission weekend with Salisbury Diocese visited the Army Chaplaincy Centre, Training Wing and Welfare Centre, where he spent time with trainees, military and civilian staff.**

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# Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



## Make a date with Belfast Phoenix Choir

“Our diary is open for the next year and the slots are filling up. If you are interested in engaging the choir for your even then you can message us through our facebook page or email [thebelfastphoenixchoir@gmail.com](mailto:thebelfastphoenixchoir@gmail.com) to find out more.”

## Summer Issue of Search

The summer issue of the Church of Ireland journal, Search, edited by Canon Ginnie Kennerley, will appear shortly. This

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issue carries the contributions to the Search–TCD Colloquium which was held in the TCD School of Religion in April.

Returning to an in–person Colloquium after the zooming of the pandemic years, it seemed appropriate to look to the future by inviting speakers in the earlier stages of their career to look specifically at the depressing outlook for the future of our planet, and beyond. Hence the title ‘A New Look at the End Times’ and a line–up of participants who, if not under 35 as originally hoped, were at least all under 45.

‘End Times’ implies biblical apocalyptic, so to set the scene Dr Julie McKinley of the National Bible Society of Ireland,

## Going Deeper

*With guest Matthew Rudolph:  
Teaching & Ministry on Healing and Reconciliation*



**10am - 4pm Saturday 17th June**

**at St John Church of Ireland  
10 Fort Rd, Helen's Bay  
BT19 1LA**



**Matthew is a Jewish believer in Jesus.  
He is Leader of Gateways Beyond International, a  
family of messianic missional communities.  
Matthew has been inspired by early Irish  
Christianity & is passionate about seeing God's glory  
being revealed in Israel, Ireland and the nations.**

***Bring packed lunch - tea/coffee provided  
To register interest:***

**email: [office@divinehealingministries.org](mailto:office@divinehealingministries.org)**

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whose Trinity College PhD was in this area, was invited to set the biblical writings in context. After the discussion that ensued, TCD doctoral student Paudie Holly reflected on the eschatological thinking of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin SJ, which continues to inspire hope, even though, as the next speaker the Revd Mark Gallagher pointed out, it is based on outdated scientific theory. After further discussion and a lunch break, the plan had been to have DCU chaplain Eric Hughes and Dr Allison Campbell of Ulster University speak on young people's issues in this area; but as Eric had to drop out, Allison was joined by her husband, the Revd Andrew Campbell, Rector of Skerry in the Diocese of Connor, to address the subject. Their enlarged presentation will be published in a future issue of Search, while Eric's intended paper is printed here.

Given the importance of pastoral ministry to those distressed by the threats of climate change, broadening war in Europe, and unmanageable migration, two parish clergymen, the Revd Chris MacBruithin, Rector of Castlerock in the Diocese of Derry, and the Revd Sean Hanily, Rector of Rathmichael in the Diocese of Dublin, were then invited to share their experience of parish ministry, offering hope in the face of fear or despair. After the ensuing discussion, our final panel session was led by three senior academics, theologians Prof Maureen Junker-Kenny and Prof Cathriona Russell of the TCD School of Religion, and bioethics specialist the Revd Dr Keith Suckling, formerly of Edinburgh and Nottingham universities.

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C of I Notes, Irish Times





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**Soloists: Jan Faulkner, Michael Russ & Catherine Holland**

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Tickets at

[SinfoniaSummerConcert.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sinfonia-summer-concert-2023-tickets-71234567890)

**General admission £10**

**Concession £6**

DAY	TIME	St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral Armagh
JUN, 24	7.30PM	

## Dublin HandelFest returns

Dublin HandelFest returns to the heart of Dublin City this July, with three days of events in the historic location of Dublin Castle.

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Join them from July 14-16 for performances by Peter Whelan and the Irish Baroque Orchestra, Claire Duff, Malcolm Proud, the IBO Apprentices and Pablo FitzGerald. Intrepid explorers can follow in Handel's footsteps on a walking tour, and children have the opportunity to find out what happens when you cross a giraffe with a guitar.

Find out more and book for all events today:

<https://www.dublinhandelfest.com>

## Poem for today

### **The Wild Swans at Coole by William Butler Yeats**

The trees are in their autumn beauty,  
The woodland paths are dry,  
Under the October twilight the water  
Mirrors a still sky;  
Upon the brimming water among the stones  
Are nine-and-fifty swans.

The nineteenth autumn has come upon me  
Since I first made my count;  
I saw, before I had well finished,  
All suddenly mount  
And scatter wheeling in great broken rings  
Upon their clamorous wings.

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I have looked upon those brilliant creatures,  
And now my heart is sore.  
All's changed since I, hearing at twilight,  
The first time on this shore,  
The bell-beat of their wings above my head,  
Trode with a lighter tread.

Unwearied still, lover by lover,  
They paddle in the cold  
Companionable streams or climb the air;  
Their hearts have not grown old;  
Passion or conquest, wander where they will,  
Attend upon them still.

But now they drift on the still water,  
Mysterious, beautiful;  
Among what rushes will they build,  
By what lake's edge or pool  
Delight men's eyes when I awake some day  
To find they have flown away?

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## 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](mailto:houstonmckelvey@mac.com)

