

# Church News Ireland

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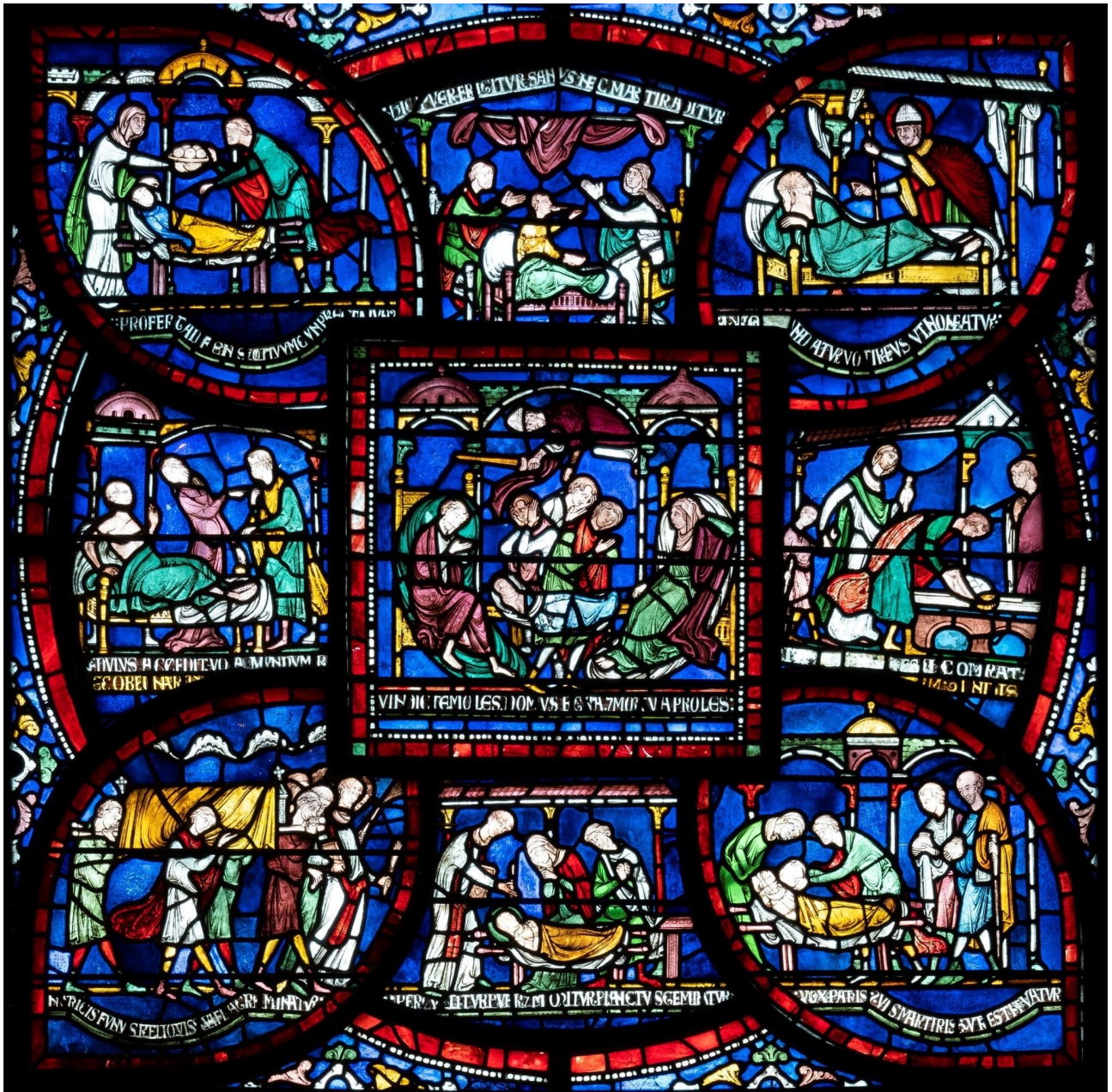


**Image of the day – Canterbury Cathedral**

June 8, 2023

# Image of the day

## Canterbury Cathedral



The mother church of the Anglican Communion. The window photographed above is. On the theme of the Miracles of Jesus.

# People and places



## Hub Chaplaincy reaches Kampala safely

The team from the Hub Chaplaincy at Queen's University,  
[Church News Ireland](#)



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Belfast, has arrived in Africa safely with all 30 of their bags of clothing, donations, necessities, and aid! They were warmly welcomed and greeted with a wonderful African dance from the women of Waaksia. God is good! “Thank you for your prayers and your giving!” Waakisa Ministries Trust NI Abaana



## **Prayer request for Mothers’ Union Literacy Project in Gitega Diocese**

Please pray for Madame Bénigne Kimararungu as she leads the Mothers’ Union in Gitega Diocese. Ask the Lord to bless the hundreds of rural women learning to read, write and gain business skills through the MU Literacy Project. Pray for the diocesan trainers and facilitators.

Gitega Diocese, east of Burundi’s capital, Bujumbura, was created in 1985. CMSI’s relationship with the diocese goes

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back many years – a partnership was formalised in 2003. The diocese is led by Bishop Aimé Joseph Kimararungu, who succeeded Gitega's first bishop, Rt Rev John Nduwayo, in 2018.

As is true across the whole of Burundi, Gitega Diocese faces many of the challenges that are familiar in a post-conflict context – reconciliation, education and leadership. Consequently, these have been the priority areas for CMSI's partnership with Gitega Diocese – and with Matana Diocese – in recent years.

[<https://www.cmsireland.org/gitega-diocese>]

## Armagh and Dromore pilgrimage to Knock Shrine



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## Archbishop Eamon Martin with children from Armagh and Dromore

Archbishop Eamon Martin led “a wonderful pilgrimage to Knock Shrine with the all Ireland Rosary Rally. Beautiful weather; Packed basilica; an atmosphere of prayer and praise; care for the sick; closer to Jesus through Mary.”

## Dunmurry Minister to be remembered with memorial garden

**The First Presbyterian (Non-Subscribing) Church, Dunmurry will be dedicating a Memorial Garden in memory of their much-loved former minister the Very Rev William McMillan, MBE, MA on Saturday, June 10 at 2.30pm.**

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The 'Rev Mac' was minister or minister emeritus of Dunmurry for fifty years from 1970 until his death in 2020.

The Very Rev William McMillan, who died aged 88, exercised an influential and inspiring ministry for over 60 years. Ordained to the charges of Newry and Warrenpoint churches in 1959 he served those two congregations for eleven years before moving to Dunmurry in 1970, in succession to his father in law, the Rev John McCleery, where he served up to his retirement in 2016, continuing as minister emeritus until his death on January 19, 2020.

Widely and affectionately known as Mac or Rev Mac he was born in Dromore, County Down, on December 10, 1931. He

St. Columba's  
**CHURCH FETE**

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KIDS & OAP,  
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**TOUR  
OF  
ST. COLUMBA'S  
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3 PM**

**ST.  
GEORGE'S  
BRASS  
BAND**

**PONY  
RIDES**

**RAFFLE**

Saturday 10th June 2023  
From 2:00 pm  
The Rectory Garden  
Church Road Swords  
K67 V9PO

in aid of Parish funds

# COMMUNITY SINGING



## AT THE 30TH CHARLES WOOD FESTIVAL

### A FESTIVAL OF CHOIRS: SING HALLELUJAH!

Five local choirs perform, culminating in a massed performance of Handel's famous Hallelujah Chorus

£10

**St Mark's Parish Church, Armagh**  
Monday 21st August, 7.30pm

### COME AND SING WITH JOHN RUTTER

Star composer and Festival Patron, John Rutter, leads singers of all ages and abilities in a selection of popular choral classics, including some gems of his own. Don't miss the composer's only appearance in Northern Ireland this year!

£15

**First Presbyterian Church, Armagh**  
Wednesday 23rd August, 8pm

FIND US ON



Registered Charity Number: NIC102656

For full details and to book tickets, please visit:  
[www.charleswoodsummerschool.org/events](http://www.charleswoodsummerschool.org/events)



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grew up as a member of the Dromore congregation, active in the life of the church. After school he became a journalist working for the Dromore Leader before experiencing a call to the ministry and being selected to train for the ministry by his presbytery.

A highly respected preacher and historian he was well-known all around the world because of his work with flowers and in the horticultural world generally.

At one point he was world champion floral arranger and raised over £1 million for charity through his exhibitions and floral demonstrations. Partly as a result of this he was awarded the MBE in 1999.

He had a hosta named after him and was an honorary member of flower and garden clubs around the world.

Active in trying to heal divisions throughout the Troubles he was awarded the Albert Schweitzer Award for religious freedom by the International Association for Religious Freedom in 1978.

Report courtesy Julie-Ann Spence, Northern Ireland World

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## News reports

### Deep concern at announcement on Relationships and Sexuality Education

**The Transferor Representatives' Council, which represents the Church of Ireland, Presbyterian Church and Methodist Church in education issues in Northern Ireland, has expressed deep concern at Secretary of State's announcement on Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) and highlighted several flaws in a process of making policy for local schools from Westminster.**

Dr Andrew Brown, Chair of the Transferor Representatives' Council, said: "Laws and policies for Northern Ireland should be made in Northern Ireland by ministers who have been locally elected by its citizens – an electorate which includes parents, teachers, carers and guardians. The announcement's timing, right in the middle of the exam season for schools and before the summer holiday, is questionable and greatly reduces the time available for any meaningful consultation with teachers and boards of governors.

"The value judgments made in the 2018 CEDAW Report that RSE is 'underdeveloped or non-existent' were unfair and unfounded, and run against the evidence reported by the Education and Training Inspectorate. All schools are required to develop their own RSE policy, based on the ethos of the school, with each policy subject to consultation with parents and pupils.

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“We are supportive of high-quality RSE at age-appropriate levels in line with the Department of Education’s current guidance and would welcome an updated curriculum, to cover issues such as consent and attitudes to women. We remain supportive of this approach which respects the needs of our young people and the communities in which we live.”

The Transferor Representatives’ Council (TRC) oversees the appointment of over 1,500 governors to controlled schools; these transferor governors are nominated by representatives of the Church of Ireland, Presbyterian and Methodist Churches, and noted by the Education Authority.

## **Bishop Donal McKeown of Derry concerned that schools could be "criminalised"**

**BBC NI reports that a Catholic bishop has criticised a plan for school lessons on abortion access, saying pupils could search Google for the information instead.**

It is to become compulsory for all Northern Ireland post-primary schools to teach about access to abortion and the prevention of early pregnancy.

Bishop of Derry Donal McKeown said he was concerned that schools not offering the lessons could be "criminalised".

He said: "Schools want to offer pupils education, not just information.

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"If anyone wants to find out about abortion you get something called Google and you type in abortion," he said.

Northern Ireland Secretary Chris Heaton-Harris ordered the change to rules on relationships and sex education for schools on Tuesday, saying he had a legal duty to do so.

He enforced the move in Parliament, based on recommendations made in a United Nations report.

The Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, or the CEDAW Report, said sex education in Northern Ireland should be compulsory and comprehensive.

Until now individual schools in Northern Ireland have decided how to teach sex education.

### **'Don't need to impose duty on schools'**

Bishop McKeown said there was a need for schools to help young people develop "lifelong skills for healthy relationships".

But he added: "I am really concerned this seems to be a decision by the secretary of state that will impose a particular way of approaching the issue on all schools.

"[That will] perhaps end up having schools penalised and criminalised for not obeying the legislation.

## In the media

### 'Promotion' of abortion in NI schools blasted as 'scandalous' - Susanne Breen in Belfast Telegraph

#### **TUV and DUP hit out after Secretary of State introduces legislation in line with rest of UK.**

The DUP has accused the Secretary of State of “driving a coach and horses” through the devolution settlement in Northern Ireland by introducing legislation to “promote” abortion in local schools.

TUV leader Jim Allister blasted the move as “scandalous” and called on parents to withdraw their children from relationship and sexuality education (RSE) lessons. However, charity NSPCC NI welcomed that young people here would now have “consistent access to similar information as their counterparts in the rest of the UK”. The Government has introduced legislation to ensure that school pupils in Northern Ireland receive age-appropriate information about access to contraception and abortion services.

Chris Heaton-Harris said he was updating the requirements for RSE in the curriculum. The regulations will make “age-appropriate, comprehensive and scientifically accurate education on sexual and reproductive health and rights, covering prevention of early pregnancy and access to abortion” a compulsory component of the curriculum for students.

They will place a duty on the Department of Education to issue guidance on the content and delivery of the education to be provided by next year.

The department will also outline regulations about the circumstances in which — at the request of a parent — a pupil may be excused from receiving that education, or specified elements of it.

DUP MP Carla Lockhart claimed Mr Heaton-Harris was “deeply hostile to opinions that are odds with his own, regardless of the legitimacy and widespread support for such opinions”.

She said: “In Northern Ireland there remains a majority opinion against abortion, yet the Secretary of State now wants to promote abortion to children and young people based on his interpretation of 'scientifically accurate' education.

“He needs to respect the devolution settlement, instead of driving a coach and horses through it.”

The TUV said it was “scandalous” the NIO was “prepared to under-fund education but impose left wing ideology when it comes to RSE”.

Mr Allister said: “The decision of the NIO to impose the teaching of access to abortion here regardless of the ethos of schools, speaks volumes about their priorities.

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“At the very time when the NIO has introduced a mean budget which has put pressure on schools across the province, they find time to meddle in such matters.”

Sinn Féin MLA Nicola Brogan said the school curriculum must be relevant to young people's needs. “This means modernising education to include RSE where young people should have access to age-appropriate, science-based education on sexual and reproductive health and rights.”

Alliance MLA Connie Egan said: “It is especially welcome given the recent education and training inspectorate report, which showed almost half of schools in Northern Ireland teach little or nothing about sexual consent, LGBTQ+ issues, sexual orientation or gender identity.”

SDLP MLA Cara Hunter said: “I hope to see fit for purpose relationship and sex education being rolled out at all schools in the North.”

Positive Life chief executive Jacquie Richardson said: “While we recognise this is a good decision by the Secretary of State, it shouldn't have taken a nudge by the UN to for him to do so.

“From the outset, regulations should have already been updated by a locally elected minister.

“The devil will be in the detail of this decision.

“The guidance published by the department must include facts-based teaching on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections.”

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Presbyterian moderator Dr John Kirkpatrick said: “It is deeply regrettable that the legislation laid today is almost impossible to amend or change in Parliament, and that neither the Secretary of State, nor his officials, found time to consult or engage in a meaningful way with any of the key stakeholders within education.

“He is seeking to impose a particular world-view on the education of children in Northern Ireland.”

The Transferor Representatives' Council, which represents the Church of Ireland, Presbyterian Church and Methodist Church in education issues here, expressed deep concern at Secretary of State's announcement.

Its chair Dr Andrew Brown said: “Laws and policies for Northern Ireland should be made in Northern Ireland by ministers who have been locally elected by its citizens — an electorate which includes parents, teachers, carers and guardians.”

Belfast Telegraph, June 7, 2023

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

### **Archbishop Welby interviews**

“I thought it would be nice if I came and shared my confusion with you!” John Cleese at Lambeth





Archbishop Welby said - It was great to welcome comedy writer and actor John Cleese to Lambeth Palace for the first of my Archbishop Interviews - listen again on BBC Sounds: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m001mm25>

## **Methodist Conference on YouTube 8th - 10th June**

Watch LIVE from tonight (Thursday) on YouTube for the installation of Rev David Turtle as President.

- View the programme here: [bit.ly/mciconf23](https://bit.ly/mciconf23)
- Subscribe on YouTube here: [bit.ly/MCI-YT](https://bit.ly/MCI-YT)

## **Looking for songs for summer children's ministry?**

Check out these two clips produced for the Living Stones online resource released by PCI last year featuring the praise group of Glengormley Presbyterian Church -

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'God is for me'

<https://vimeo.com/825824834>

'Never be shaken'

<https://vimeo.com/825825679>

For the recently launched PCI Digital Worship Hub, a resource for those who plan and conduct worship, visit: [www.presbyterianireland.org/worshiphub](http://www.presbyterianireland.org/worshiphub)



## **Pipeworks Festival 2023 - Matthew Owens at St Michael's Church Dun Laoghaire**

St Michael's Church, Dun Laoghaire - Sunday, 25 June 2023, 8.00pm

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The final event of this year's festival once again brings us to St Michael's Church, Dun Laoghaire, and our long standing partnership with their venerable recital series. This year we are delighted to welcome Belfast-based organist Matthew Owens, a renowned recitalist and choral director, to give the Irish Premiere of Howard Skempton's Preludes and Fugues, one of the most significant contributions to the organ repertoire in recent years.

TICKETS: €15/10

[<https://journalofmusic.com/listing/01-06-23/pipeworks-festival-2023-matthew-owens-st-michael-s-church-dun-laoghaire-0>]

## Poem for today

### High Flight by John Gillespie Magee

Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of earth,  
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;  
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth  
Of sun-split clouds, --and done a hundred things  
You have not dreamed of --Wheeled and soared and swung  
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there  
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung  
My eager craft through footless halls of air...  
Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue  
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace

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Where never lark or even eagle flew --  
And, while with silent lifting mind I've trod  
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,  
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.

## Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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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)