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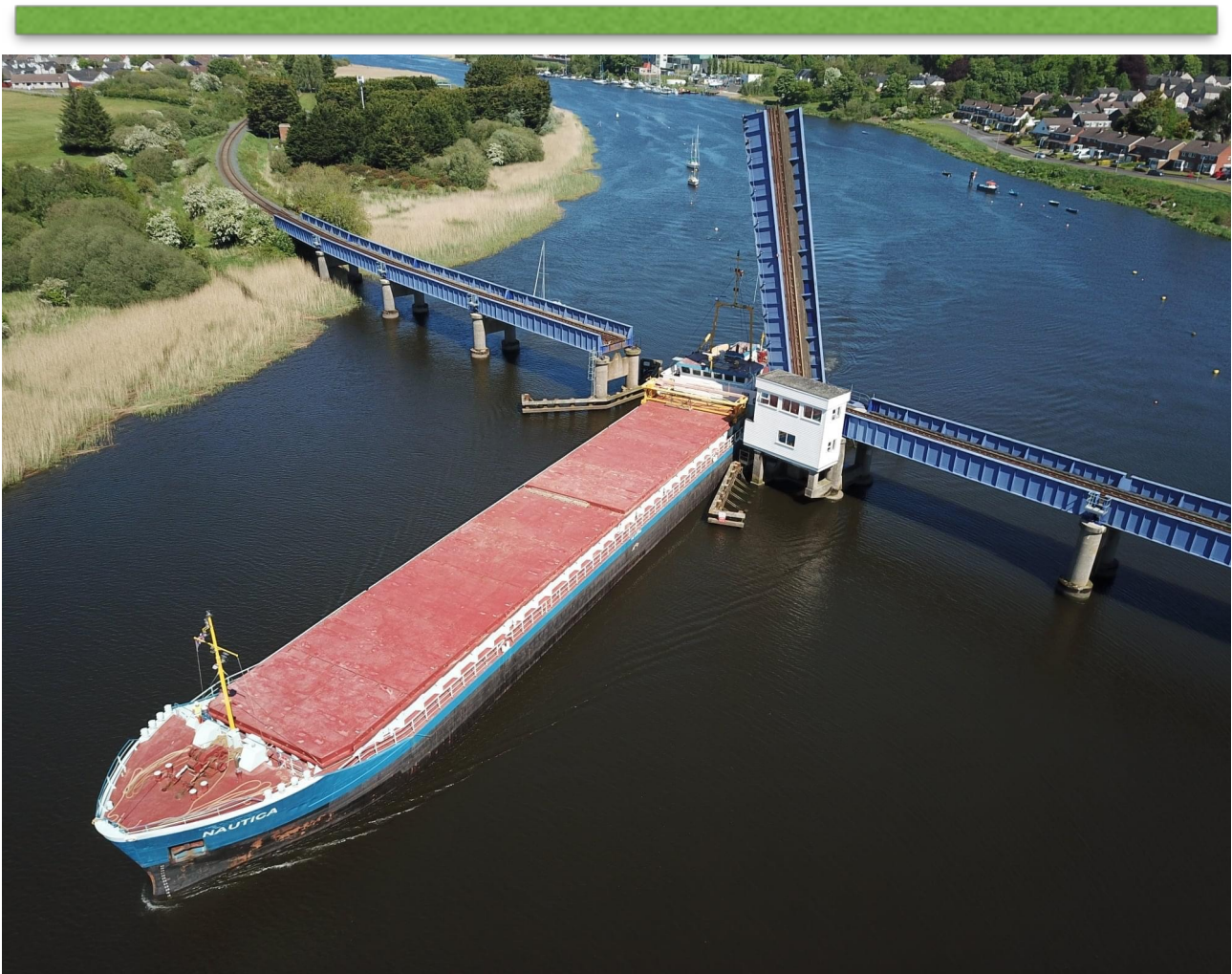


Image of the day - Nerves, Coleraine

News Reports

Glasgow Cathedral holds ecumenical COP26 service

A special COP26 service featuring Christian churches and organisations from around the world was held at Glasgow Cathedral yesterday afternoon, Sunday 7 November.

The service which was organised by Glasgow Churches Together, was attended by guests from countries including Australia, Fiji, and Zimbabwe in a show of ecumenical solidarity for global climate justice.

Many of those taking part were from nations which are already bearing the brunt of climate change.

Piper Willie Park opened the service by leading a procession into the 12th century building, and later members of the clergy walked to the tomb of St Mungo, the patron saint of Glasgow, who was buried on the site in the 7th century.

Church leaders from Scotland were asked to invite young climate activists as guests.

Representatives from the Young Christian Climate Network (YCCN), a group who have completed a 1,200 mile relay to Glasgow were also be in the congregation.



Rev Dr Martin Johnstone, who is the COP26 Ambassador for Glasgow Churches Together, said: "It has been inspiring over the last week to meet and learn from passionate young people committed to climate justice, and to spend time listening to the wisdom of people from some of the nations most impacted by climate change.

"It was wonderful to have many of them at Sunday's service."

The sermon was delivered by Rev Dr Susan Henry-Crowe, General Secretary of the General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church, who chose Psalm 23 - The Lord's My Shepherd - as her text.

As part of her reflection Dr Henry-Crowe drew on three art installations which are on display in the Cathedral: 'Returning and Into your Arms' by James Pfaff; 'I will sit with you and I will learn to listen' by Gardner and Gardner; and 'A Lament in Black Paint' by I.D Campbell.

Dr Henry-Crowe said: "Our stories of faith acknowledge the stories of God's goodness in creating our world.

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"We know the stories of how it began and how exquisite it was.

"And we have a special responsibility to listen to those living closest to the earth and seas, indigenous communities – animals birds, fish.

"Do not pollute the waters.

"Return the habitation of your communities to clean and healthy spaces."

Additional contributions came from Bishop Bill Nolan from the Catholic Church in Scotland, and Most Rev Mark Strange, Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church.

Lord Wallace, the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, gave a Bible reading.

Other faith leaders contributing to the service represented the All Africa Conference of Churches, the Pacific Conference of Churches, the Anglican Communion, the Catholic Church, the Orthodox Church, the World Communion of Reformed Churches, the World Council of Churches, Eco-Congregation Scotland and the Scottish Church Leaders' Forum.

Rev Mark Johnstone, who is the minister of Glasgow Cathedral, said: "Over the last week, we have welcomed the world to Glasgow.

"On Sunday, it was wonderful to welcome people from many nations to Glasgow Cathedral, a place where people from all

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over the world have gathered for centuries to meet and to worship."

The is available on the Glasgow Cathedral website

Belfast Christian Aid activists take little boats to Glasgow Cathedral

Dr Jeni McAughey was among tens of thousands who filled the streets of Glasgow on Saturday (November 6), demanding that political leaders tackle the planetary emergency and its impacts on the world's most vulnerable people.

Jeni was part of a five-strong delegation of Christian Aid activists who travelled from Belfast to Glasgow by coach and ferry, leaving Friday and returning two days later.

Included with their luggage were thousands of origami paper boats which joined a 'flotilla' of thousands of 'little boats' being displayed in a Glasgow cathedral to coincide with the crucial summit. Over recent weeks, Christian Aid supporters have been folding pieces of paper into the shape of a boat, inside which they wrote their hopes and prayers for the effort to avert runaway climate change.

Among the boatmakers was Colin Fisher, who works in IT for the health service and is the charity's representative at Carrickfergus Methodist Church.

He said: "I have been fundraising for Christian Aid in Carrickfergus for more than 20 years. When I started, I was



part of the Make Poverty History campaign. Unless world leaders take decisive action in Glasgow, far from making poverty history, climate change will make poverty permanent.”

The paper boats, the charity explained, symbolise that we aren't in the same boat when it comes to dealing with the impact of climate change. Richer, polluting countries are well-placed to cope with its effects while people in developing countries, where emissions are low, are already experiencing intense heatwaves, prolonged drought, dangerous cyclones, calamitous flooding and devastating locust swarm, according to Christian Aid.

Jeni, who is a member of St Patrick's Church of Ireland parish in Whitehead, has been an environmental activist for many years. She is a member of the Third Order, Society of

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We're in the same storm but not in the same boat - the symbolism of these paper boats. Boats made in NI have been added to this beautiful installation in a Glasgow cathedral by 5 Christian Aid Irl activists who travelled to COP26 to demanding justice for developing countries.

St Francis, an Anglican lay order committed to living simply and caring for creation. She is also a board member of Jubilee Farm near Larne - Northern Ireland's first community farm which aspires to producing food in harmony with nature.

Rosamond Bennett, Christian Aid Ireland chief executive, thanked Jeni for taking the time to travel to Glasgow to show her support for people in developing countries.

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Bishop Mike Royal to lead Churches Together in England

Bishop Mike Royal has been appointed as the next General Secretary of Churches Together in England (CTE).

CTE is a national ecumenical body that has the aim of fostering unity between churches from different traditions.



Royal is co-chief executive of the Cinammon Network, a charity helping churches across Britain and Ireland with community engagement and social action projects.

He has until now represented the Apostolic Pastoral Congress in CTE's Racial Justice Working Group.

Commenting on his appointment as General Secretary, he said: "I am both honoured and humbled to accept the role of General Secretary of Churches Together in England, as the church journeys together to fulfil the mandate of Jesus 'that they all may be one, as we are one' (John 17.22).

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People and places

Cool Cork confirmation



It was a windy day on Saturday outside St. Fin Barre's Cathedral following the Confirmation of young people from the Cathedral, from Cobh & Glanmire Union of Parishes and from Abbeystrewry & Skibbereen Union of Parishes

Fundraising secures live streaming for Donegal church

Kilmacrennan parishioners are enjoying a birdseye view over services online thanks to a new camera system.

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A permanent camera has been installed at St. Columba's, providing a much wider view of the church and altar for online Mass-goers.

The upgrade was made possible thanks to the donations of parishioners.

Almost €10,000 was raised in an online fundraiser launched by the parish in September.

The fund has enabled a live-stream to be broadcast from the church 24/7 on www.churchservices.tv/kilmacrenan

The new system has been warmly welcomed, with some parishioners commenting that this the first time that they have seen the full view of the chapel.

The update has been praised as a credit to Parish Priest Fr Paddy Dunne, Fr Willie Strain, and people of Kilmacrennan, and a 'fantastic asset to the parish'.

St Laurence Commemoration at Christ Church

Next Thursday, at 6pm, in Christ Church cathedral, there will be a service of Festal Evensong in honour of Dublin's patron saint, St Laurence O'Toole. Long associated with Christ Church through the presence in the Chapel of St Laud of the reliquary of the heart of the saint, public interest in him was stimulated by the theft of the heart in 2012 and its subsequent recovery in 2018. A new exhibition area in the north transept is now the venue for the display of the heart. A chapel in the south transept is dedicated to St Laurence and he is commemorated in a stained glass window in the baptistry.

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Laurence O'Toole, Abbot of Glendalough, became Archbishop of Dublin in 1162 and was archbishop until his death at the Augustinian monastery in Eu in Normandy in 1180. He is credited with introducing the Augustinians to Christ Church which had previously been a Benedictine foundation. He was buried at Eu but tradition has it that his heart was brought back to Dublin. Some years ago the Friends of Christ Church visited Eu and presented a Dublin flag to hang over his grave. He was canonized by Pope Honorius III in 1225.

Intriguing way to help keep Lismore roof on

With restoration funds in short supply, a local community group led by Julia Keane has been working on an intriguing way to help to keep the roof on St Carthage's cathedral, Lismore, Co Waterford, a site which has been a place of learning and worship since 635AD.

The idea is simple – anyone can buy one of the 900 or so postcard sized artworks donated to the project, but you don't know who the artist is until after you've bought it. At €50 a card you could be buying a masterpiece. As a bonus, every €50 spent will be matched by the Tomar Trust up to the sum of €30,000. The sale is online at [www.versoart.ie] with viewing now available online and at the Lismore Castle Arts Gallery.

The cathedral has an exceptional artistic heritage of its own. Remarkable stained glass by pre-Raphaelite Edward

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Burne–Jones greets visitors at the West end. Important 10th–13th century stone carvings in the building include a recently restored stone figure, known locally as ‘the oldest cleric in Lismore’.

Dean of Ossory appointed

The Rev'd Stephen Farrell, Rector of Zion, Dublin has been appointed Dean of Ossory and Rector of the Kilkenny Union of Parishes. He and his family will be welcomed to Kilkenny in the New Year.



New national chaplain for Royal British Legion

The National President has been leading the search for a new National Chaplain for the Royal British Legion; with the support and good advice from a wide range of people, including a former

National Chaplain, a number of members of the clergy and liaising with the Royal Household. With the approval of the Board of Trustees, the Venerable Martyn Gough has recently been offered and accepted this important volunteer role.

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Martyn joined the Royal Navy in 1998 and most recently served as Chaplain to the Fleet. His personal experience of having served and of working with serving personnel and their families, his broad cross faith work and good understanding of and strong commitment to the work of the Legion will be hugely helpful. The Legion are keen to develop the role of the National Chaplain to bring together the many chaplains who support its work in many branches and counties.

+ Rev. Kevin Dalton

The death has occurred of the Reverend Kevin Dalton formerly of Monkstown, Dublin. The family announcement stated that The Rev. Kev as he was known died “peacefully, with his loving family by his side, in the wonderful care of the staff at The Fern Dean Nursing Home. Beloved husband of Jennifer, adored father of Tara and Sally-Ann, much loved grandfather of Daniel, Ella-Rose and Lily, brother of Mary, father-in-law to Des and Luke, brother-in-law of Barbara, Liz and Ralph. He will be sadly missed by his family and friends.” The Funeral Service took place on Saturday, 6th November, in Monkstown Parish Church followed by a private family burial at St. Brigid’s Church, Stillorgan.

NI clerics’ 60th birthday fundraiser raises over nine times target

Two Belfast clerics who set out to raise £1,000 for charity on their 60th birthdays have ended up with over nine times that amount.

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Father Martin Magill and Rev Steve Stockman had asked their parishioners for contributions for Belfast-based charity Embrace in lieu of gifts.

They would've been happy to reach a four-figure sum but ultimately got a lot closer to five, with £9,050 donated in total.

Scott Boldt, chairperson of Embrace NI, said he couldn't thank the altruistic duo enough for their endeavours.

"We've been overwhelmed by the generosity of people in Northern Ireland," he told the Belfast Telegraph.

"The fact that Martin and Steve were thinking of other people — refugees and those seeking asylum — on their birthdays shows the depth of their thoughtfulness.

"We're pleased that they chose Embrace as their charity and we can't thank them enough."

Embrace NI is an interdenominational Christian group which helps asylum seekers, refugees and migrant workers.

The decision to support the organisation was a timely gesture in the wake of the humanitarian catastrophe that is still unfolding in Afghanistan following the withdrawal of British and American troops.

Fr Magill, who became one of Northern Ireland's best-known priests in April 2019 after his emotional address to local politicians at the funeral of murdered journalist Lyra McKee, said it felt good to "do something worthwhile".

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“For me, it was always about giving something back to society and helping those who need it most,” he told this newspaper.

“We aimed to raise £1,000 but the plight of asylum seekers and refugees and others really caught the imagination and we were touched by the generosity that local communities displayed towards the cause.”

So what’s the parish priest of St John’s Church on the Falls Road going to do to mark his 65th birthday?

“I was leaning more towards my 70th before I set another challenge,” he replied.

The fundraiser officially ran from September 13 until October 10 — marking Fr Martin and Rev Steve’s big days respectively — but the clerics revealed that “money was still coming in well after the closing date”.

Armagh church seeks council blessing to extend graveyard

Mullavilly Parish Church - which dates back to the mid-18th Century - is seeking approval for 100 additional burial plots

A rural County Armagh church is hoping to win ABC Council’s blessing for plans to extend its cemetery.

Mullavilly Parish Church wants to ensure provision of an additional 100 burial plots.

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The Church of Ireland congregation worships at an historic building on the Mullavilly Road, between Portadown and Tandragee, and serves the villages of Laurelvale and Mullavilly.

The existing graveyard is located next to the church building – which dates back to the mid-18th Century – but the Select Vestry is conscious of the need to plan for the future.

For that reason, it has submitted formal proposals to Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council for consideration.

The extension, if approved, would be located on an area described currently as “vacant maintained grassland around the parish centre”.

The new plots would be laid out in rows of 20, if council agrees to the proposals.

An environmental and hydrogeological study has been conducted on the site and the findings presented to council along with the application.

It reveals: “It is proposed there will be an annual burial rate of up to 10-20 per year as the demand for new plots is low, as it is tradition to use family plots within the existing cemetery.

“In addition, the proposed extension is located immediately adjacent to the existing cemetery which has been in use for over 100 years.”

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The study also finds no reason why the application should not be allowed to proceed.

After investigations and in-depth analysis of the site, the consultants who compiled the report conclude it would “pose a low risk to underlying groundwater and adjacent surface waters”.

They also judge the “superficial soils beneath the site” to be “suitable for use as a burial ground”.

The application – due to be publicly advertised next week – and the report findings will now be considered by planners before a recommendation goes to council’s planning committee which, as always, will have the final say.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts and books

New CD - "A Belfast Christmas"

"A Belfast Christmas" is the brand new CD recorded in Belfast Cathedral by Matthew Owens and the Belfast Cathedral Choir. The CD features a number of newly commissioned pieces in addition to many well loved Christmas favourites. The CD has been extremely well received in the music press.

This "must have" addition to anyone's collection of Christmas music can be purchased from the Belfast Cathedral Shop, at the cathedral's Welcome Desk and

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located at the entrance to the cathedral. Current opening hours are 11am-3pm, Wednesdays to Saturday.

Many of the pieces featured on the CD will be sung by the Cathedral Choir in the choir's concerts and carol services for Christmas 2021.

A further CD "Christmas Bells" featuring a wide range of organ solos performed by Matthew Owens on the magnificent Belfast Cathedral organ is also available for purchase from the Cathedral Shop.

Irish church could learn tolerance on homosexuality

Lord John Alderdice - who resigned from the Presbyterian Church over its controversial stance on same sex relationships - has launched a book which he hopes could help the denomination take "a new approach to theology and faith", Philip Bradfield writes in the News Letter.

In June 2018 the ex-Assembly speaker resigned as an elder in the Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI) after it controversially voted to exclude people in same-sex relationships from membership.

Now a Research Fellow at Oxford University, he is launching a previously unpublished work by famed Irish Presbyterian scholar James Ernest Davey, who had a six-year Fellowship at Cambridge and was awarded four honorary doctorates in theology.

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However Davey was also tried on charges of heresy by the Presbyterian Church in 1927 for his liberal views. His unpublished book, 'Religious Experience: its nature, validity, forms and problems' contains his final considered reflections.

Both Davey and Alderdice were Ballymena men - and both were sons of Presbyterian ministers.

Launching the book, Lord Alderdice believes it provides "the basis for a new approach to theology and faith".

He added: "From my reading of Davey, he believed that while people often imagine that doctrinal beliefs, forms of worship and structures of religious authority are permanent, the lesson of history is that they are ever-changing.

"The consistent, primary, and common matter is the transcendental experience of God."

Davey was acquitted of heresy by a large majority in 1927 and became Moderator and Principal of the Presbyterian Assembly's College. "But would he be acquitted in the PCI of today? I don't know. Possibly not."

Asked if he intended the book to provide a more liberal doctrines on same sex relationships, he said it was not possible to be certain what Davey's views on this were.

"But from an understanding of his attitude to other issues, I doubt that he would have sympathized with the current approach of the PCI. I would certainly hope that the publication of this book would help remind Presbyterians,

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and others, that the current public approach of PCI diverges from its much broader and more tolerant historic approach and that it is not necessary to adopt the current approach in order to be a Presbyterian, much less a Christian.”

The book was launched on 5 November at First Belfast Presbyterian Church, Rosemary Street, with a conversation between William Crawley and Lord Alderdice. It is also available on Amazon.

Presbyterian Church Digital Dispatches

Volker Glissmann provides an update from Malawi and gives thanks to all those who continue to support the United Appeal.

For more video updates visit:

<https://www.presbyterianireland.org/digitaldispatches>

Poem for today

A Soldier's Grave by Francis Ledwidge

Then in the lull of midnight, gentle arms
Lifted him slowly down the slopes of death
Lest he should hear again the mad alarms
Of battle, dying moans, and painful breath.

And where the earth was soft for flowers we made
A grave for him that he might better rest.
So, Spring shall come and leave it sweet arrayed,

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And there the lark shall turn her dewy nest

Lance Corporal Francis Ledwidge, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. Killed in action on the 31st July 1917.

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