

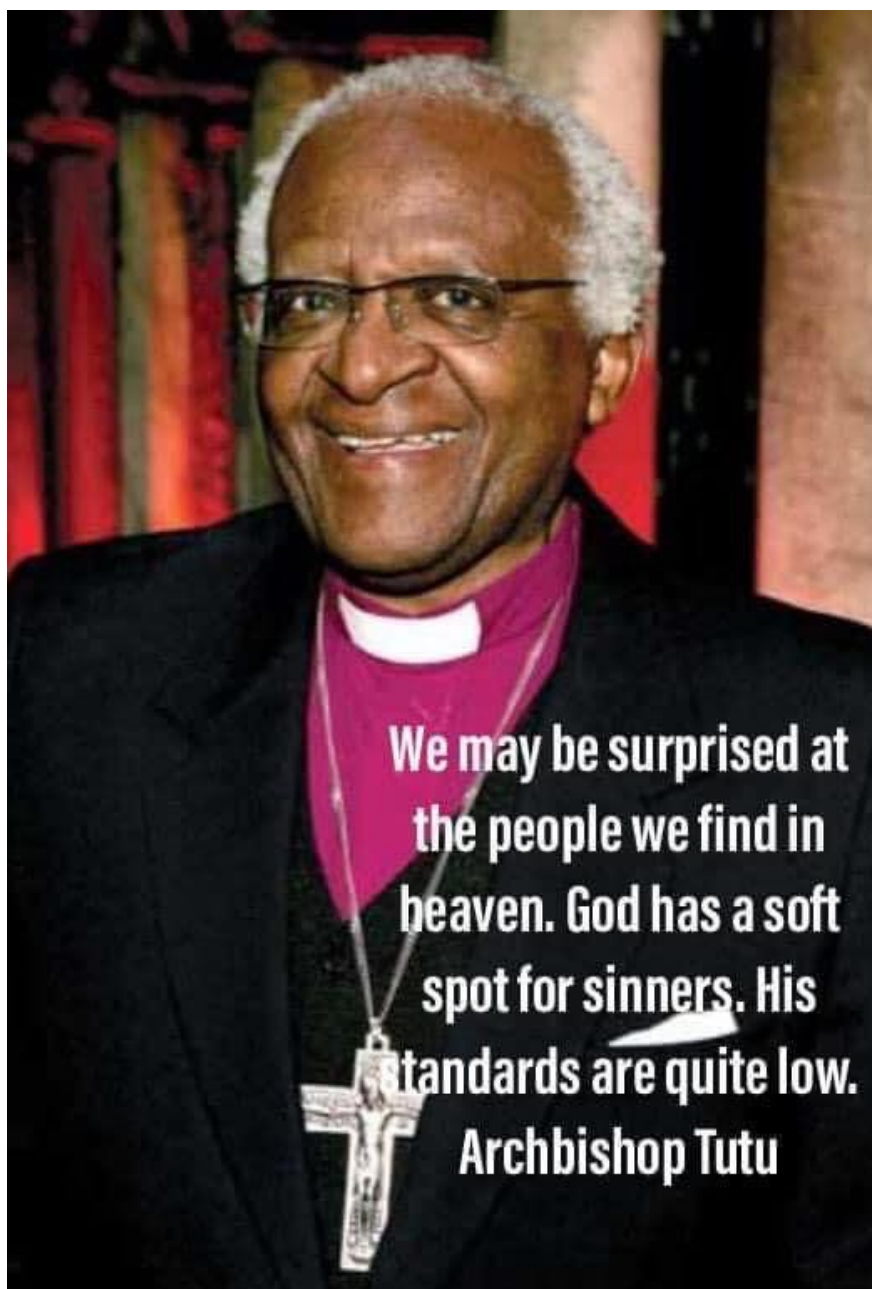


**Image of the day -
New choristers of King's College**

Reports

Archbishop Desmond Tutu turns 90; birthday celebrated at South African cathedral

Archbishop Desmond Tutu celebrated his 90th birthday on Oct. 7 with about 150 family members and guests at a special event held at St. George's Cathedral in Cape Town, South Africa.



Tutu served as archbishop of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa during the struggle against apartheid in South Africa, and he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984 for his role in the movement that later forced an end to the white supremacist system.

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Tutu, who retired in 1996, attended the birthday celebration this week seated in a wheelchair with his wife, Leah, by his side, according to the Church Times.

Archbishop of Cape Town Thabo Makgoba opened the service by singing “Happy Birthday,” and the sermon was delivered by the Rev. Allan Boesak, former president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches. “You have seen it all. But you have always given us hope,” Boesak said. “You have always spoken to our hearts. And you are still speaking to us today through your life.”

New Church of Ireland Observer at Irish Methodist Faith and Order Committee

Revd Dr Stanley Gamble has begun his tenure as Church of Ireland Observer on the Faith and Order Committee of the Methodist Church in Ireland.

He succeeds Revd Canon Dr Ian Ellis, who recently retired from full time stipendiary ministry.

As part of the covenant relationship between the Church of Ireland and the Methodist Church in Ireland, observers are appointed onto respective committees to increase mutual understanding and respect in the area of doctrine and theological issues.

The Faith and Order Committee is appointed by the Methodist Conference. On behalf of the Conference, it helps to ensure that what the Methodist Church in Ireland says and does is true to its self-understanding, mission and



Revd Gamble (pictured far right) is rector of Killinchy, Kilmood and Tullynakill in the Diocese of Down.

purpose. The Committee normally meets twice a year – in the autumn and early spring. It seeks to encourage a deepening of theological understanding, engagement with the Methodist tradition, and shared critical reflection in order to help discern Methodist perspectives and responses in all aspects of the Church’s life.

Dr Gamble’s academic interest is in Anglican–Methodist relations. His PhD thesis was on “The Wesleyan Quadrilateral in Irish Ecumenism: an examination of theological method in Irish Anglican and Methodist conversations since 1965.”

President of the Methodist Church in Ireland, Dr Sahr Yambasu, welcomed Dr Gamble to the committee and hoped he would enjoy the challenge of grappling with theological issues of importance to both churches. He also put on record his sincere thanks to Dr Ellis for his service to Faith and Order in previous years.

Autumn issue of Search

The autumn issue of the Church of Ireland journal, Search, edited by Canon Ginnie Kennerley, will reach contributors shortly.

The conflicting socio–political perceptions that are part of this island’s make–up have been emphasised in this major centenary year to the extent that we cannot even agree on how to name it as the controversy around the Armagh service (‘marking the partition of Ireland and the formation of Northern Ireland’) emphasises while given the debacle caused by Brexit and the protocol, socio–political discord lies very close to the surface.

The major articles in this issue reflect increased concerns in this area as we face into the next hundred years beginning with thoughts from Corrymeela, that beacon of reconciliation and hope founded in 1965. Its current leader, Alex Wimberly, shares his thoughts about the way forward. A more formal community dedicated to peace–building, the Irish School of Ecumenics, celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. Former ISE director and current TCD Professor of Ecumenics, Linda Hogan, outlines the impressive international and local track record of the School since its foundation.

Looking at the Decade of Centenaries as a whole, historian and former TD, Dr Martin Mansergh, leads readers through the full complement of events, starting with the 3rd Home Rule Bill of 1912 and looking forward to the foundation of

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the state next year. The aim of our memorialising? ‘To broaden sympathies without having to abandon loyalties ... ensuring, as far as possible, that commemoration does not re-ignite old tensions’.

The most challenging article of this issue focuses on the struggle to achieve education for Irish children that is communally inclusive, conditioning them to welcome diversity of background in their peers. Despite strong demand from parents north and south over the past 50 years, our achievement in this area remains pitiable, with less than 7% of schoolchildren on the island attending such schools. The leaders of the movement north and south, Roisin Marshall, CEO of the Council for Integrated Education, Northern Ireland, and Emer Nowlan, CEO of Educate Together, set out the history, the principles and the challenges, in pursuit of a harmonious future.

Finally, in response to recent anxiety in the Church of England about a decline of the parish system in favour of church plants, Canon Paul Hoey, Parish Development Advisor for the Diocese of Derry, outlines church-planting practice in the province of Armagh, while Peter Pavlovic of Conference of European Churches considers the mindset of European Union bureaucracy as the Conference on the Future of Europe meets. The issue concludes with Liturgica piece on renewing baptismal vows by Dr Bridget Nichols, Lecturer in Anglicanism & Liturgy in the Church of Ireland Theological Institute.

Those who wish to subscribe to Search or order single copies should contact the Hon. Treasurer, Michael Denton, at

churchnewsireland@gmail.org

[subscriptions@searchjournal.ireland.anglican.org]

Courtesy the C of I Correspondent, The Irish Times

News briefs

Parishioners of Whitechurch bid fond farewell to long serving Rector

Parishioners in Whitechurch Parish in Dublin marked the end of an era last Sunday October 10, as they said farewell to their Rector of almost half a century. Canon Horace McKinley officially retired at the end of September but he and his wife Pam returned on Sunday to receive special presentations from parishioners.

Horace has served 51 years in ordained ministry. He has served the people of Whitechurch as their Rector for 45 years. On behalf of the parish, he and Pam were presented with a beautiful framed picture of the church and a book containing some of the highlights of Horace's time as Rector among other gifts.

Select Vestry member, Gerry Pullman, said that the parish had been blessed for almost half a century with their Rector. He outlined the gifts Horace had brought to the parish including the resurrection of the parish school, the conversion of the old schools into a parish centre and helping to build bridges. His ministry extended far beyond the parish boundaries, he said, pointing to the links with Rwanda and Romania. His contribution spread beyond the



Canon Horace and Pam McKinley with Ruth Hughes and Gerry Pullman and the framed photograph of Whitechurch church which was presented to Horace to mark his retirement.

parish and indeed beyond the Church of Ireland. As Canon John McCullagh, who took Sunday's service noted, Horace was deeply involved in the diocese and the wider church in many areas including education and in welcoming new Irish people as well as his ministry in St Patrick's Cathedral.

Speaking at the end of the service, Horace thanked everyone for the support they had given throughout his ministry. He said he had had a great team around him in the parish and urged them to keep going.

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“Ordained ministry is both a joy and a privilege,” he told the congregation. “It is one of the few jobs left where you can get into any home and you are welcomed. It was a privilege to rejoice with those who rejoiced and to weep with those who wept.”

He said that shortly after he was ordained he realised that his pitch was as a parochial pastor and that is where he focused his energy. “I never really wanted to do anything else,” he commented.

He also urged members of the parish to create an environment for their children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews in which the call of the vocation could take root. Fresh vocations to the ordained life were a key need for churches, he stated.

“No one has the right to be ordained. The call always comes from God. Ordained vocations can only come from your sons and daughters, nephews and nieces or grandchildren. They can only come from the ranks of the laity. I appeal to parish parents to be people who cultivate God fearing Gospel values with your children and create the environment for the vocation call to take root amid the cacophony of market voices competing for attention,” he said.

New home for Sligo Community Church

On Sunday the 3rd October, a Service of Blessing was held for ReCentre Community Church at their new home on Mail Coach Road in Sligo. ReCentre Community Church is a partnership between Church Army and the Diocese of

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Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh and aims to be a community that points people to Jesus, the one who can give us life to the full.

ReCenter Community Church has been meeting in some form or another, either in person or online for the past two and a

half years. For the last month and a half they have been in and out of their new premises on Mail Coach Road, working hard at cleaning it out and painting it up ready for its new role in the community. In the 17th and 18th century news was brought into Sligo along the Mail Coach Road. It is a wonderfully appropriate location for a community of people who aim to use their words and actions to share the message of Jesus. A message for all the moments of life – the good as well as the bad.





At the service, Bishop Ferran Glenfield preached from Hebrews Chapter one. He said the ReCentre Community Church was something new, something fresh and something necessary.

Alan Williamson CA, who leads ReCentre community church says that the next while will be spent listening to God and listening to the community to discern what God's plans are for the church. He is grateful for God's timing and his provision of people and place.

We pray that God will richly bless all those involved in ReCentre Community Church as they endeavour to be a community with Christ at it's centre.

FIRST HOLYWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

invites applications for the post of

Coordinator of Children's and Youth Ministry

to coordinate the strategic development
of the children's and youth ministry of the congregation.

We are seeking an experienced individual who has a clear understanding of and commitment to the effective outreach to and discipleship of children and young people. They also require an ability to establish and maintain good relationships with children, young people, parents and leaders.

This post will provide strategic development and oversight of children's ministry and give support and coordination to a growing youth ministry.

Hours of work: 37.5 per week (permanent)

Salary: PCI recommended salary scale Band B (£23,772 - £27,899 per annum) point dependent on qualifications and experience, with annual review

Information pack, job description and application form are available from:

Church Office,
1st Holywood Presbyterian Church,
7 Bangor Road,
Holywood,
Co. Down,
BT18 0NU

Tel: 028 9042 5035

Email : office@firsthollywood.co.uk

Closing date for applications: 1pm on Monday 8 November 2021

Seasonally-themed programmes at St Patrick's Cathedral

First, on 29 October, Joseph O'Connor, Darryl Jones, Jason McElligott and more read from *Melmoth the Wanderer*, one of the scariest Irish novels ever published.

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Then, on 30 October After Dark returns with suitably chilling music including Saint-Saens "Danse Macabre," Gounod's "Funeral March of a Marionette," and John Williams' "Hedwig's Theme."

Learn about both events and book online at
[] <https://www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/events/>

Books, Broadcasts, Resources and Webinars

Creative Centenaries - partition 100 years on

Creative Centenaries has announced the second in a series of events exploring the impact of partition 100 years on.

Join Dr Ryan Mallon, Prof. Crawford Gribben, Dr Gladys Ganiel and Dr Andrew Holmes as they explore how several different facets of Christianity have evolved in Ireland in the last century.

More information and Sign Up -
<https://bit.ly/2YrpyOk>

Creative Centenaries is a co-operation between -
Nerve Centre | Special EU Programmes Body - SEUPB |
National Lottery Heritage Fund Northern Ireland | Queen's
University Belfast | History at Queen's University Belfast
(QUB)



Choral Evensong today from King's

On BBC Radio 3 today is Choral Evensong from King's, recorded earlier this year. Music includes Byrd's Second Service and 'See, see the word is incarnate' by Orlando Gibbons. Tune in at 4pm BST (11am ET) on radio or on BBC Sounds: <https://bbc.in/3Dyj6o1>

New resource from CPAS to help lead churches in evangelism

CPAS has produced a new, downloadable resource to help PCCs (or equivalent bodies) explore the ministry of evangelism. PCC Tonight: Leading Your Churches in Evangelism has been written by CPAS Leadership Principal, James Lawrence, to enable PCCs to explore their role in leading churches and congregations in evangelism.

With six sessions (each 35 minutes long) that can be used as part of a PCC meeting, this resource focuses on how to develop evangelism as part of normal church life:

1. Is it really necessary: why think about evangelism?
2. Stereotypes and stumbling blocks: what is evangelism?
3. Surely that's the minister's job: who needs to be involved?
4. How to order and mobilise a community around evangelism: shaping.
5. How to order and mobilise a community around evangelism: focusing.
6. How to order and mobilise a community around evangelism: enabling.

Content creator James Lawrence says, 'Initiatives like Thy Kingdom Come have really helped us focus on sharing the life-transforming love of Jesus. Building on such initiatives, we want to help PCCs think how they can enable evangelism to be a normal part of the ongoing life of a church, rather than an add-on extra. The good news is that there are some simple things a PCC can do to help with this, and this resource not only looks at why a church might struggle with evangelism, but also offers some practical ideas on how to shape the life of a church around showing and sharing the faith.'

'This will be tremendously useful for encouraging PCCs to make sure that evangelism is an integral part of their thinking and vision, and to help them take action.' Sarah Pix, Team Rector.

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‘It is an excellent resource which will help churches in all contexts become both enthused and equipped to tell others the good news of Jesus.’ William Warren, Vicar.

PCC Tonight: Leading Your Churches in Evangelism can be purchased for £4.50 from

[www.cpas.org.uk/pcc-evangelism.]

Whilst CPAS offers a range of other resources and events for PCCs, this can be used as a standalone resource.

CPAS (www.cpas.org.uk) is an Anglican evangelical mission agency working with churches, mainly in the UK and the Republic of Ireland. It enables churches to help every person hear and discover the good news of Jesus Christ.



Ecumenism in Cobh and Glanmire video

This week’s video in the “People and Places” series is about Cobh and Glanmire Union of Parishes and its Rector, the

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Rev. Paul Arbuthnot, who talks about ecumenical relationships in his parish amongst other things.

Watch the video here -

[[] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z5gVU1OASUo>]

Perspective

Post covid challenges by Peter Lynas of Evangelical Alliance

Peter posted this series of tweets in the past week.

Based on conversations with lots of leaders in different contexts and some informal polls, here is what I am hearing and seeing in terms of church re-gathering (in no particular order)

Volunteers - less people are volunteering to do less things. There is a healthy reset in this but also a challenge in providing ministries. Tough but necessary choices are being made as to what to run.

Hybrid/online - some have stopped to encourage in person, some see hybrid as crucial and a few think online church is the future (though many more don't). It's resource intense and many leaders are reviewing it.

Finances - a mixed bag here. Many are doing OK and some have grown. Some are just feeling it now as people are only now making decisions about church and giving. But generally the feedback is good.

Frequency - people are returning but showing up less frequently. Before a congregation of 150 meant 100ish on a given Sunday, now its maybe 75. 10% have left, 10% have moved church, 10% aren't back yet and the rest show up less often.

Discipleship - previous shortcomings have been exposed. Lots of talk of spiritual formation, family discipleship/worship, and inter-generational challenges. We need to learn from other contexts who build resilience not based on meeting weekly.

Community/pastoring - those who made the phone calls, dropped round printed sermons and generally showed up in the pandemic are doing OK. Those known for pastoring are attracting new people, especially with the rising mental health challenge.

Evangelism - this has been tough as people have retreated into smaller circles/bubbles seeing less people. But the pandemic forced many to reassess and ask big questions and online has worked for some and some of those are showing up at church in person.

Fracturing - there's a small but consistent challenge around masks, vaccines and conspiracy theories. These can be quite destructive with long term members leaving over such issues.

Youth/Kids/Young families - lots of youth leaders were furloughed, youth work struggled more than most, family patterns/habits seem to have changed most. There are huge challenges and opportunities here.

Grief - there is still a lot of grief to be processed. Some churches have conducted community services for those who have died and created a space for mourning which has been well received.

Deconstruction - People are reflecting differently on life and faith. Some of this is a healthy reset looking at why church and why gather, some is less so as the support structures and community aren't there in the same way leading from doubt to disengagement.

Unity - there is a heart and passion for unity. Few want to go it alone and most are looking for new ways to partner. Leaders are tired and unsure what is ahead, but they want to work together and support each other and believe that God is doing a new thing.

Would love to know what you are hearing and seeing. We will be gathering more stats and stories to share, but what are you seeing and hearing from God?

Poem for today

To Autumn by John Keats

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eaves run;
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells

With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,
And still more, later flowers for the bees,
Until they think warm days will never cease,
For summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy cells.

Who hath not seen thee oft amid thy store?
Sometimes whoever seeks abroad may find
Thee sitting careless on a granary floor,
Thy hair soft-lifted by the winnowing wind;
Or on a half-reap'd furrow sound asleep,
Drows'd with the fume of poppies, while thy hook
Spares the next swath and all its twined flowers:
And sometimes like a gleaner thou dost keep
Steady thy laden head across a brook;
Or by a cyder-press, with patient look,
Thou watchest the last oozy hours by hours.

Where are the songs of spring? Ay, Where are they?
Think not of them, thou hast thy music too,—
While barred clouds bloom the soft-dying day,
And touch the stubble-plains with rosy hue;
Then in a wailful choir the small gnats mourn
Among the river shallows, borne aloft
Or sinking as the light wind lives or dies;
And full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly bourn;
Hedge-cricket sing; and now with treble soft
The red-breast whistles from a garden-croft;
And gathering swallows twitter in the skies.

Speaking to the Soul

Bible verse, thought for the day and prayers - on site daily

