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London Community Gospel Choir In Concert In Lisburn Cathedral

The London Community Gospel Choir will bring its spectacular music to Lisburn Cathedral on Saturday 20 September.

Having previously shared the stage with acts including Kylie Minogue, Madonna, Sting, James Brown, Sir Elton John, George Michael, Sir Paul McCartney, Diana Ross, P Diddy, Mariah Carey, Celine Dion, Westlife, Tina Turner and even Gorillaz... just to name a few, the London Community Gospel Choir is no stranger to a big stage and a big arena.



But this exclusive tour, which takes in just one Northern Ireland venue, will see the choir transform the comparatively small Lisburn Cathedral into a musical spectacular for one night only.

Now in its 30th year, the tour is part of the choir's anniversary celebrations.

The Vicar of Lisburn Cathedral, the Revd Simon Genoe, is excited at the prospect of hosting the choir which has been billed 'the nation's favourite'.

"To be the only venue in Northern Ireland hosting this exciting concert is a tremendous privilege," Simon said. "I have never been fortunate enough to hear the London Community Gospel Choir sing live before, so it really is great

to be part of the team bringing them here.

“Everybody from Lisburn Cathedral is so excited about this event, but I really hope it will appeal to people right across our community and beyond. It’s so exciting for us to open the doors of our incredible building and welcome people in for a spectacular event like this, but I would urge people to book tickets quickly as space is limited!”

Lisburn Cathedral is one of the oldest and most iconic buildings in the city, and has recently undergone extensive renovations both inside and outside, restoring the building as a place of worship for many years to come.

Tickets for the London Community Gospel Choir concert on 20 September are £15 and can be bought either from the cathedral’s office or coffee room or online at www.spiltmilkbookings.com/events. Doors 7.00pm – start 7.45pm.

For further information on Lisburn Cathedral please visit www.lisburncathedral.org and for further information on London Community Gospel Choir’s 30th celebrations please visit www.lcgc.org.uk

Bishop Crean calls for prayers for the O’Driscoll family following tragic death of three sons

Bishop William Crean expresses his deepest sympathy to Thomas and Helen O’Driscoll of Charleville on the tragic deaths of their three sons, Thomas, Patrick, and Jonathan.

Bishop Crean said, “I speak for our faith community, and for all people of good will, when I say how shocked and greatly saddened I was to hear of the tragedy that has befallen the O’Driscoll family. Such loss of human life is extremely difficult to comprehend. I pray that the Lord will strengthen the family during this terrible time. I ask the priests and people of the diocese to pray for Thomas and Helen, for their surviving children, their extended family, and for the community of Charleville.”

Bishop William Crean is Bishop of Cloyne. The parish of Charleville is part of the diocese of Cloyne.

C of I Ordinations

Tomorrow (Sunday) the Bishop of Clogher will ordain Alastair Donaldson as an intern deacon to serve in the parish of Fivemiletown.



Samuel Simpson (dad), Vida Simpson (mum), Revd Catherine Simpson, Sarah Simpson (sister), Bishop Ken Good – Bishop of Derry and Raphoe

Around 400 people gathered in St Columb's Cathedral in Londonderry on Sunday 31 August for the ordination into the priesthood of Catherine Simpson.

Catherine is a 3rd year student with the Theological Institute in Dublin and will spend this year as a deacon intern with Revd Colin Welsh in Castledawson. Alongside completing her studies, Catherine will write a dissertation and assist in all areas of ministry in preparation for her life as a parish priest.

Catherine was joined by her parents Samuel and Vida, sister Sarah, extended family and many friends. There was a strong representation from her home church of Portglenone and St Colmannells, Ahoghill and many well wishers from the diocese of Derry and Raphoe.

The Revd Gary Miller (Portglenone parish), Bishop Pat Storey (Bishop of Meath and Kildare), Mr Samuel Simpson (father) and Mr Alan Williamson (friend) undertook the role of sponsors during the service as they had played a key role in encouraging and supporting Catherine to make this decision.

Revd Colin Welsh (Castledawson), Ven Barry Dodds (retired Archdeacon of Belfast) and Sarah Simpson (sister) read the Bible passages, and the

preacher at the service was Revd Diane Matchett (rector of Castlerock) who challenged those present that the service was a reminder that everyone had a role to play in the body of Christ, not just clergy. Following the installation there were refreshments and speeches of welcome in the St Augustine's parish hall.

Over the last 12 years Catherine has been a teacher in Lisburn, Ballymena and most recently McKinney Primary School in Dundrod where she was vice principle.

History week at Kill o' the Grange Parish

In the parish of Kill o' the Grange, Co. Dublin, which is celebrating its 150th anniversary, a history week will be officially opened by Mrs Justice Catherine McGuinness. From tomorrow (Tuesday) until Friday there will be a photographic exhibition and displays each evening and a talk or walk from Tuesday to Friday – details may be had at www.kotg.ie

Cork chaplain will address International still birth conference

The Revd Daniel Nuzum, Chaplain in Cork City Hospital and a Ph.D. student in UCC, will be presenting some of his research on perinatal bereavement and pregnancy loss at the 20th International Palliative Care Congress in Montreal which begins on Tuesday. Next week he will make presentations from his stillbirth research at the International Stillbirth Alliance Conference in Amsterdam.

Irish classes in C of I Belfast Parish

On Wednesday evening at 6pm in St George's church, Belfast another round of Irish language classes, funded by the Ultach Trust, begins. Aimed at beginners and those with little Irish, the classes are free and participants should simply turn up on the first day. St George's also holds a service in Irish on the first Sunday of the month at 3pm.

Another novel by Rev Paddy Semple

Also on Wednesday evening, at 7.30pm in the Quaker Meeting House, Pakenham Road, Monkstown, Co. Dublin, the Religious Correspondent of *The Irish Times*, Patsy McGarry, will launch two books by the retired Church of Ireland rector the Revd Patrick Semple. *Nature's Playthings* is a novel and

Another Slice? is a collection of short stories. Both books have been published by [Code Green Publishing](#).

Archbishop of Dublin to address European dialogue

On Friday the Archbishop of Dublin will be in Budapest where, as co-chair of the Anglican–Lutheran Society, he will be delivering an address on ‘Divided Communities’.

Sandford lunchtime concert

The final lunchtime recital in Sandford parish church will be given by the Revd Anne–Marie O’Farrell (harp) and Siobhan Kilkelly (organ), and at 7.30pm a ‘Weekend of Music and Celebration’ begins in Monkstown parish church with a piano recital by Finghin Collins. *C of I notes - Irish Times*

Belfast Cathedral Singers set for first rehearsal

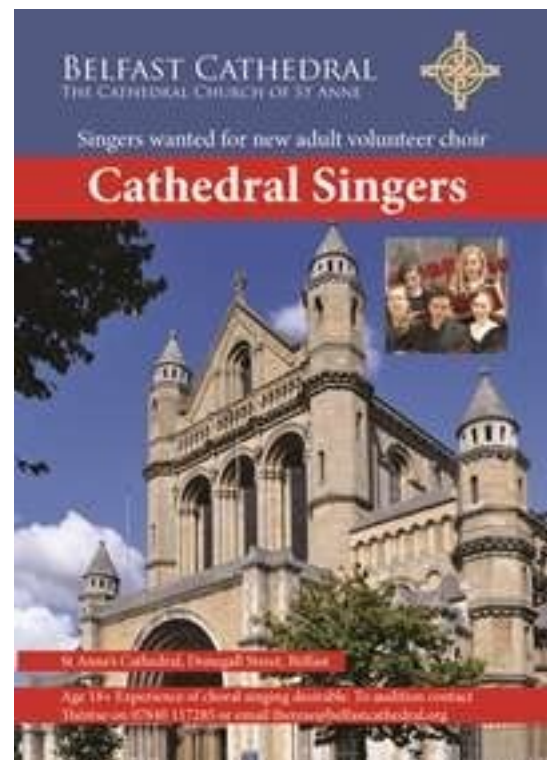
Cathedral Singers, St Anne's new voluntary adult choir, will hold its first rehearsal on Wednesday September 10.

This will be in the Singing Room in the Cathedral Hall, and the rehearsal will run from 7.15-9pm.

Anyone interested in joining this new choir who has not yet been able to attend an audition is welcome to come along to the first rehearsal.

Cathedral Singers will support the existing choirs and will perform at services and concerts both in the cathedral and in other venues.

At present St Anne's has a Girls' Choir, a Junior Girls' Training Choir and an Adult Choir including Lay Clerks and Choral Scholars. The Cathedral is also training a new Boys' Choir.



The choristers with all these choirs, whatever their age, receive a salary as an incentive to ensure they attend rehearsals and services. Singers with the new adult volunteer choir will not be paid.

Thérèse Woodfield, Deputy Master of the Choristers at St Anne's, is training the new choir.

"I hope to have a larger pool of singers so not everyone has to commit to attending every time," said Thérèse. "I need enough members to ensure that I can draw on 12-16 on any occasion."

Rehearsals will be held every Wednesday night. "I want to build a community so people really want to come and sing. Membership will be open to all. St Anne's is the city cathedral and this city choir will be open to everyone, not just singers from a Church of Ireland background," said Thérèse.

"The choir will sing a range of music. For anyone who comes along this will be an opportunity to meet new people, to feel a real sense of community, to sing and socialise in a convivial and relaxed atmosphere and to take part in events and services with a real sense of occasion."

Volunteer choir members must be aged 18 or over. To arrange an audition or for more information, please contact Thérèse by phone on 0784017285 or email therese@belfastcathedral.org.

Christian Aid calls for end to identity-based violence in Iraq and UK

The recent upsurge in violence in Iraq has led to a major new humanitarian crisis with more than 1.45 million people forced to flee their homes since the start of the year, says Christian Aid.

The recent upsurge in violence in Iraq has led to a major new humanitarian crisis with more than 1.45 million people forced to flee their homes since the start of the year, many of them from persecuted religious minorities including Yazidis, Shabak and around 100,000 Christians.

Following the launch of its crisis appeal, the UK-based churches global development agency Christian Aid says its long-standing partners in the region are responding with food, hygiene kits and other humanitarian essentials for the displaced.

Christian Aid Director David Pain said: “We condemn all discrimination or attacks on the basis of identity – both in Iraq and here in our own communities.

“While there have been attacks which have targeted minorities such as Christians and Yazidis in recent weeks, all Iraqis are under threat and people from all communities in Iraq are suffering from the violence.

“All civilians have the right to protection, as set out in international law, including where people are at particular risk for practising their right to political expression and freedom of religion.

“We call for the international community to recognise the need to provide assistance, including emergency relief, to those affected by the crisis; and to support processes that ensure all voices in Iraq are included in decision-making.

“All parties to the conflict have a responsibility to protect civilians and we call for an end to impunity in this crisis.

“Christian Aid partner organisations are providing food baskets containing items such as rice and cooking oil while one partner, REACH, is distributing non-food items, such as hygiene kits, blankets and mattresses to families who have arrived in the northern city of Sulaymaniyah and its surrounding areas.

“They have also been distributing food and bedding to families sheltering in the local Church of the Virgin Mary. Sulaymaniyah has already received approximately 100,000 internally displaced people and there are fears that this number could rise if the advance of Islamic State militants continues.

“Today’s crisis marks a sad chapter in the history of this nation. Christian Aid first started work in Iraq in the early 1990s, initially in response to the impact of the attacks against the Kurdish population in the north and the crisis emerging after the Gulf War.

“Since then we have developed long-standing relationships with partners in the region, regardless of ethnicity or faith, to provide access to basic services such as sanitation, water and health that continue to affect the lives of millions of people across the country.”

Iraq is home to nine per cent of the registered Syrian refugees in the region and this number is projected to rise to 550,000 by the end of the year.

While local communities are doing the best they can to help refugees in settlements, they are seriously overburdened. Many refugees still struggle to meet basic needs and provide for themselves.

Pope hosts global video chat with young people

Pope Francis hosted a video chat with young people around the world yesterday morning.

The Pope answered questions from pupils on five continents via Google Hangouts as he launched Scholas.Social, a global social network for schools. The call lasted almost 20 minutes and was broadcast at the third International Symposium for Education, which was organised by Scholas and held in Vatican City.

Among the questions, a Turkish boy asked the Pope about his hopes for the future.

Francis responded: "I don't have that crystal ball that witches use to foresee the future. But I want to tell you something. Do you know where the future is? It's in your heart, in your mind and in your hands."

The Pope warned youngsters in El Salvador against joining gangs and was invited back to the Holy Land by his Israeli guests.

He also told pupils in Australia that Scholas.Social could help young people share experiences and tackle discrimination.

Laughs were raised at the conference as a South African boy encouraged the Pope to not get nervous before asking how Scholas came about.

Scholas is an education network which uses technology, arts and sport to promote social integration and a culture of encounter. They also fielded the Scholas Occurrentes team that lost 6-3 in the inter-religious Match for Peace in Rome on Monday.

Press review

Tel

Report that the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, is making a surprise move into the gap year market by starting a new monastic community in Lambeth Palace for young people to experience a life of prayer and meditation. It states in a major break with tradition, the Archbishop is inviting 16 young people to move into the 800-year-old palace by Thames, opposite the Houses of Parliament, for a year. They will form a new monastic community, living by the principles of the Rule of St Benedict which prescribes a daily round of prayer and silence as well as work.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11076095/Archbishop-of-Canterbury-offers-monastic-gap-year-at-Lambeth-Palace.html>

Tel

Eric Pickles MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, including responsibility for faith, writes that Britain has a duty to oppose religious and political extremism - be it the English Defence League or the supporters of jihad - in every corner of the land

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11075321/The-fight-against-intolerance-begins-at-home.html>

Times

Report that Shimon Peres, the former Israeli President, visited Pope Francis in the Vatican to propose a "United Nations of Religions" to counter the rise of religious extremism. The Nobel Peace Prize laureate, who joined Palestinian President Abu Mazen and Pope Francis to pray for peace in the Vatican a month before the outbreak of war in Gaza, said the real United Nations was no longer up to the challenge, since it lacked the armies possessed by states and the conviction produced by religion.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/faith/article4197137.ece>

Times

Report that controversial plans to build Britain's biggest Muslim cemetery on greenbelt land have been submitted to a local council, causing a row to break out among residents of a nearby village. Cemetery Development Services, a national company providing burial plots, has applied to Solihull council for permission to build 11,000 Muslim burial spaces in the picturesque settlement of Catherine-de-Barnes. The company says that the cemetery is needed given Solihull's ageing population combined with a growing ethnic minority community.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4197090.ece>

Guard/Mail

Report that the Dalai Lama has again been refused entry to South Africa, where he was scheduled to attend the 14th world summit of Nobel peace laureates, his representative has said. They state other Nobel laureates have warned the Anglican archbishop Desmond Tutu that they will not attend if the Dalai Lama is not permitted into the country, according to the newspaper.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/sep/04/dalai-lama-denied-south-africa-visa-nobel-summit>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/ap/article-2743291/Dalai-Lama-refused-South-Africa-visa.html>

Mail

Report that 32 states that either allow gay marriage or have banned it have asked the U.S. Supreme Court to settle the issue once and for all. 15 states that allow gay marriage, led by Massachusetts, filed a brief asking the justices to take up three cases from Virginia, Utah and Oklahoma and overturn bans. And 17 other states, led by Colorado, that have banned the practice asked the court to hear cases from Utah and Oklahoma to clear up a "morass" of lawsuits, but didn't urge the court to rule one way or another.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/ap/article-2744309/Massachusetts-files-pro-gay-marriage-court-brief.html#ixzz3CPfsbB7w>

Letters

Guard

Various letters responding to Conservative MP, Brooks Newmark's remarks that charities should stick to knitting instead of campaigning. They state the government wants to put in place measures designed to stop charities rocking the boat. But the majority of charities need to lobby and campaign on behalf of those they represent, and would not be doing their job if they didn't.

<http://www.theguardian.com/society/2014/sep/04/charities-knitting-democracy-brooks-newmark>

Blogs

New Statesman: Adam Dinham on 'Why Religious Education is letting our children down'
<https://www.newstatesman.com/lifestyle/2014/09/why-religious-education-letting-our-children-down>

David Keen: Evil in Nigeria
<http://davidkeen.blogspot.co.uk/2014/09/evil-in-nigeria.html>

Elizaphanian: Please sir, can we protect our daughters
<http://elizaphanian.com/?p=5511>

Philips Treehouse: Carry on knitting
<http://philipstreehouse.blogspot.co.uk/2014/09/carry-on-knitting.html>

Bishop of Tonbridge: Commemorating WW1 and Remembering - agent for reconciliation or impetus for further conflict?
<http://www.briancastle.org.uk/content/ww1-reflections-september-2014>