

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – A crooked spire

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Image of the day

A crooked spire

Most have heard “there was a crooked man who walked a crooked mile...”. but a parish with a crooked spire?

The Crooked Spire in Chesterfield, Derbyshire was built in the mid-1300s during the time of the Black Death. The spire leans more than nine feet from centre. Photo by Paul Briggs

News



Lisburn parish's Artic links

The Rev Jared and Rev Rebecca Osborn and their children from the Holy Comforter Church, Rankin Inlet in the Diocese

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of the Arctic, visited St Paul's Parish, Lisburn. The Rev Jared assisted at Sunday morning Holy Communion. The link is with the Rector, Rt Rev Darren McCartney, a former Bishop to the Arctic.

A porcelain Paul

After the Service on Sunday morning in an almost full Church of St John the Evangelist, Courtmacsherry, Violet Kingston presented Bishop Paul Colton with this adorable porcelain figure handcrafted and handpainted locally by Abbey Crafts (Gillian



Nunan and Philippe Orsatti). Bishop Paul commented - "I love it. Thank you. The newspaper being read has a personalised headline to mark the occasion and a painting of the church on the back cover. Very lovely and very thoughtful".



Day at the palace for Christian Aid and RNLI activist

Many of you may know Dee Huddleston, CAI's Church and Community Officer. Maybe she's been to

speak at your church or community group about the work of Christian Aid.

Dee is from Straffan in County Kildare and based at CAI's Dublin office. But Christian Aid isn't the only life-saving organisation this mum-of-three is passionate about.

Dee is also a volunteer fundraiser for the RNLI (Royal National Lifeboats Institution) which saves lives at sea. To mark the 200th anniversary of the RNLI, a garden party was

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held at Buckingham Palace and Dee was among 2,500 volunteer crew members and fundraisers invited to attend. HRH Princess Anne and her husband Sir Timothy Laurence greeted guests and chatted to them.

Dee told us about her special day: “It was very exciting and I enjoyed the opportunity to dress up. I even had to borrow a hat from a friend! The weather was glorious and we were able to stroll around the gardens. It was an honour to have my own volunteering celebrated but I would also like to thank all those who volunteer their time week in, week out for Christian Aid Ireland. Your hard work is bringing hope to people living in poverty and crisis.”

Changes within the Church Lad's Brigade

Robin Mack has been appointed Battalion Commander for the 1st & 3rd Battalion.

Lynn Adams has been appointed Regimental Correspondent.

Methodist Conference GB: New President elected

The Conference elected and inducted its new President, the Revd Helen Cameron, currently the Moderator of the Free Churches Group and President of Churches Together in England.

She has worked extensively with survivors of sexual abuse, and co-wrote the study guide Reflect and Respond with members of the Methodist Survivors Advisory Group.

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Carolyn Godfrey, district safeguarding officer for the Darlington and Newcastle Districts, and a local preacher, was inducted as the Vice-President. She has a background in pastoral care and child protection within the education system.



Hold your horses say the nuns of New Ross

The Carmelite Sisters New Ross, a congregation of cloistered nuns, are using social media to share their lives inside the convent walls with the world.

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They post biblical and spiritual sayings on Facebook accompanied by pictures of the sisters doing daily activities around the convent's property. Photos: Sr Gwen Collins.

See also -

<https://www.irishcatholic.com/hold-your-horses-for-the-net-nuns/>

Canadian archdiocese to pay £60m to sex abuse victims

The Catholic Church is set to allocate 104 million Canadian dollars (£60m) to compensate hundreds of sexual abuse victims in eastern Canada.

Following a 2020 legal finding, the Archdiocese of St. John was implicated in one of Canada's most egregious child sex abuse scandals at the now-closed Mount Cashel Orphanage in Newfoundland and Labrador province.

The court identified that the abuse, initiated by priests and church officials, began in 1940 and persisted for decades.

This settlement will benefit a total of 292 victims with individual compensation amounts ranging from 55,000 (£31m) to 850,000 Canadian dollars (£486,285) according to the Inquirer.

Ernst & Young has been designated to act as a neutral intermediary in determining the specific compensation each victim will receive.

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Geoff Budden, representing the abuse survivors, shared with AFP that the settlement amount was consistent with "similar compensation from other courts". He further reflected on the public's unawareness of the abuse's extent and pervasiveness.

Despite the Archdiocese of St. John declaring bankruptcy in 2021, it succeeded in raising 40 million Canadian dollars (£22.8m) through property sales. Budden expressed optimism regarding the victims' full compensation receipt to the outlet, noting that "There are still assets that need to be processed, including insurance products."



Anglican Alliance response to Hurricane Beryl

The Anglican Alliance, through its Caribbean Facilitator Clifton Nedd, is on the ground responding to the devastation caused by Hurricane Beryl.



Bishop McGuckian of Down and Connor celebrated Mass with the community in Glenariffe; he's pictured here with Fr Davy Whyte PP

Clifton is in touch with colleagues across the region to monitor the hurricane. This includes Anglican Alliance Caribbean Forum members in affected dioceses and Resilience Course graduates.

Clifton reports, "The cyclone passed directly over Carriacou Island with damages also in northern Grenada and in St Vincent and the Grenadines." Union Island was also devastated.

Beryl then moved towards Jamaica. Prof. Elizabeth Thomas-Hope, chair of the diocesan environmental committee in Jamaica reported, "St Elizabeth is flat. Most agricultural produce comes from here. Food security is

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definitely going to be significantly impacted for the entirety of the country in the coming months."

Please join us in praying for the communities impacted by Hurricane Beryl and those still in its path, as the Anglican Alliance, in collaboration with the Church in the West Indies, works to support the affected regions.

Cathedral Calls

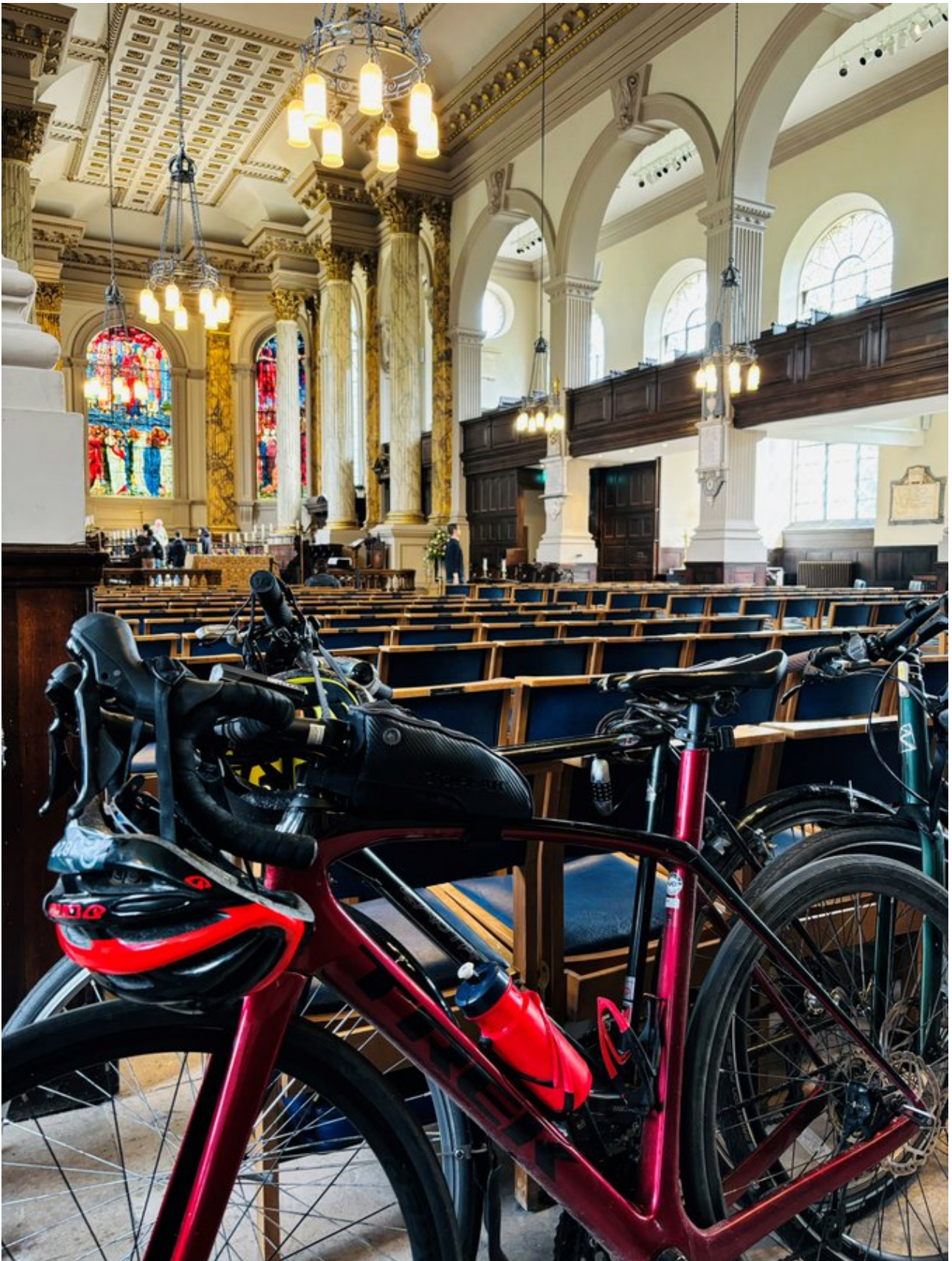


Birmingham blesses bikes

Birmingham Cathedral's first bike blessing service was well received on Saturday, "as we prayed for the safety of cyclists on our roads, and for guidance in promoting

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sustainable travel across the diocese. Thanks to those who joined us with their bicycles! We hope to make this an annual service”.



Clergy



Irish Dominicans ordained

Three new priests of Jesus Christ

Fathers Benedict McGlinchey OP, Chris Gault OP, and Błażej Białek OP were ordained in St Saviour's Church, Dublin, by Archbishop Augustine di Noia OP.

Congratulations and blessings to Queen's graduate, Fr Chris Gault. Photos: Killian Hogan.



Archbishop Welby's son ordained

“A joy to participate on Sunday in the ordination of my son Peter to the priesthood. After the service, I received a blessing from the new priest. I feel such excitement for what's to come for you, Pete. May God go before you, guide you, and

bless you as you follow this call”.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

PCI's Present initiative

Launched at the General Assembly in June 2024, the Present initiative will roll out over three successive church years, inviting and encouraging congregations and their members to make themselves fully present to God who is ever present to us.

**Saint George's Singers
&
Motettenchor, Stuttgart
Present...**

Misatango

Misa a Buenos Aires

Martin Palmeri

and choral works by Durufle, Kodaly, Poulenc,
Mendelssohn, Rameau and Rheinberger

with

Saint George's String Quintet
Mezzo Soprano Sheelagh Greer
Bandoneon Agustina Taborda
Conductors Mark McGrath & Ella Rosenberg

**Saint George's Church, Belfast
Friday 23rd August at 7.45pm**

TICKETS £20 available from choir
members and at the door or online via
www.saintgeorgessingers.co.uk



Find out more including access to videos that can be shown
in your congregation here:

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

Mary's Meals UK

Mary's Meals UK powerful new documentary, Zero Hunger, is coming to a screen near you.

Focusing on the escalating hunger crisis in Ethiopia, the film features Mary's Meals Founder Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow in conversation with Bob Geldof and explores the question 'can there be a solution to world hunger?'

Register your interest for our screening in Northern Ireland and we'll get back in touch with you to let you know the details: <https://bit.ly/ZeroHungerScreenings>

In the media

Belfast Telegraph - My uncle... accidental IRA getaway driver, publican who didn't serve beer, and priest

Fr Seamus Rice led an extraordinary life until he died suddenly at 87, writes Jessica Rice

The idea the priesthood can't be interesting or colourful has always confused me, possibly because the only cleric I

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really knew — my paternal grandfather's brother Seamus Rice — lived quite a life.

He was an accidental IRA getaway driver and Northern Ireland's only alcohol-free publican, so it's hard to say he led a boring existence.

Fr Seamus was ordained in 1961, the same year my grandparents married, and while they went on to have 14 children, he ministered in Nottingham and many places across Ireland.

He became parish priest of Coalisland in 1994, and made headlines three years later when he was driving past the local RUC station while it came under grenade attack.

The SAS was staking out the area and opened fire on the two men involved.

Hearing the explosion, my uncle slowed down, and one of the now wounded attackers, Paul Campbell, jumped into the back of his Toyota and told him to keep driving.

Fr Rice always told this story very matter of factly: “I just drove until he told me to stop.”

Retelling it now as an adult, I can't imagine how nerve-racking that car journey would have been for him.

Campbell fled over the border and was arrested by gardai in a Co Louth hospital, where he had given a false name.

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He was convicted of his involvement in the attack in 2020 thanks to DNA left in the back seat of my uncle's car.

Aside from having an unlikely role in the history of the Troubles, he also spent a lot of time encouraging people to turn away from booze.

In 1980 he opened The Pub With No Beer in Armagh city — and it did exactly what it said on the tin.

Despite many believing it was not a viable business strategy, the bar stayed open until the early 2000s.

Through his work in The Pub With No Beer, Fr Rice helped countless alcoholics, and even in death continued to try to spread his message of pioneerism.

In planning for his funeral, he requested the mourners take a vow of abstinence.

Knowing my family, I doubt many of those vows will be kept for long — but we all had a good laugh at his final attempt to turn us away from the drink.

The Requiem Mass was celebrated by Monsignor Colum Curry, a friend of Fr Rice.

He remarked on his passing, saying: “We never know when we are going to have our last days: the last time we wake up, the last time we bless ourselves, and the last time we speak to our loved ones.”

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Fr Rice had retired in 2012, returning to his home parish of Ballymacnab.

On June 21 he woke up, made a cup of tea, and died at the kitchen table. He was 87.

It was a good way to go. He enjoyed a long and fulfilled life — and one that definitely wasn't boring.

Courtesy the Belfast Telegraph 03/07/2024

Daily Telegraph - Welby says wife felt pressured into aborting disabled child

Archbishop of Canterbury says hospital staff expected termination after disability test came back positive, Cameron Henderson reports.

THE Archbishop of Canterbury has revealed that years ago his wife felt pressured into having an abortion by hospital staff who feared their child would have a disability. The Most Rev Justin Welby's daughter, Ellie, 32, has dyspraxia, a condition causing difficulty in coordination and movement.

Speaking to the General Synod in York, the Archbishop said when his wife, Caroline, was pregnant, it was “expected” that she would ask for a termination if a disability test she was offered came back positive. He said that staff brought up the cost of raising a child with a disability when advising him and his wife on their decision.

The Archbishop said: “Before [Ellie] was born, during the pregnancy, there was some concern and a test was offered, but it was made very, very clear to my wife that if the test was taken and proved positive, it would be expected that we ask for a termination.

“It was not a neutral process, because they said it’s expensive.”

The Archbishop’s comments came during a motion on disabled children put forward by the Ven Pete Spiers, an archdeacon from Liverpool, challenging the assumption that bringing a disabled child into the world is a tragedy.

Archdeacon Spiers urged healthcare providers to improve support for parents of disabled children and called on the Government to ensure they are provided with unbiased information about their unborn child’s condition.

He said his daughter is “precious because she’s wonderful, she’s kind, she is someone who gets cross and gets happy and gets sad. She’s not that severely disabled”.

“She’s been chucked off a bus, or tried to be on one occasion, by a ticket inspector who didn’t believe that her disability card was genuine.”

He said his family once discussed: “What would happen if she was healed, what would it look like? And one of the other children said: ‘She wouldn’t be Ellie.’ I hope that this motion passes, not just because of Ellie, but because of our belief in human dignity.”

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The motion, which passed by 312 votes to none, included emotional testimonies from other speakers who either lived with a disability or who cared for people with a disability.

The Archbishop has previously said he does not pray for his daughter in relation to her disability because it is part of her.

Under the current law, abortions are permitted up to 24 weeks in most circumstances. However, if there's a "substantial risk" of a child being "seriously handicapped", then an abortion can take place up to birth.

The Church has long campaigned against abortions on the grounds of disability, describing the law as "discriminatory" during a 2013 parliamentary debate.. Courtesy The Daily Telegraph 08/07/2024

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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