

# Church News Ireland



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## Image of the day



## Nomadic Watches at Inst

*Year 12 Business Studies students interview Peter McAuley (RBAI 2001-08) from Nomadic Watches.*

**Year 12 Business Studies students are currently undertaking their controlled assessment research and their case study is about a business involved in manufacturing and distribution.**

As part of their primary research into types of production, changing trends in production, the importance of quality and cash flow, former pupil Peter McAuley from Nomadic





Watches kindly agreed to come in and be interviewed by the boys. During the course of the interview he told them all about getting his business established and how he plans to grow the business including the opening of an outlet in Dubai next week!

Peter also gave an insight into the importance of quality and what that means for the brand image and reputation of a business. We finished with a lengthy discussion about cash flow and the importance of an accurate cash flow forecast.

We would like to thank Peter for giving up his time to come into school and to provide such valuable information for the pupils for their assessment. We

think Peter has now got a few potential future customers!

## News

### Special Lenten diocesan prayer initiative in Derry and Raphoe

**Bishop Andrew Forster has invited parishioners in the 119 churches to join him online for a special diocesan prayer initiative, this Lent, featuring six filmed services of prayer and reflection on themes drawn from the diocese's recent 'Building Hope, Charting the Future' booklet.**

The films will be recorded at a variety of locations in the Diocese and one will be made available each Sunday afternoon during Lent on the diocesan Facebook page.

A prayer resource published last autumn was distributed free to parishioners and included prayers for parishes, the diocese and the wider Church; prayers for people struggling with life; prayers to build up faith, and to build vision and hope; and prayers for mission and pioneering.

“As Lent draws closer,” Bishop Andrew says, “and as we prepare for our Easter celebrations, I’m conscious that it’s a worrying time locally, and an uncertain time globally. Our prayer booklet reflects the issues and realities that many people are grappling with, at present, such as the cost-of-living crisis, health problems, loneliness, anxiety and addiction.



“There are prayers, too, for political leaders, for the renewal of the Church, for the building up of faith, for clergy, for vocations and for the missionary Church. I’ll be touching on all these in the new films. We’ll also be praying for ‘vision and purpose’ as the important work of our diocesan review continues, and as we seek to chart our own future under God’s guidance.

“I hope people will join me each Sunday during Lent when I’ll be praying with with them and for them, and sharing a short reflection that I hope will offer some comfort and encouragement as we look forward to Easter and beyond. Four years ago, when Covid arrived, we in the churches were forced into online worship. This Lent, we’ll be doing it not out of necessity but by choice.



“Clearly, this is an anxious time for many people but we look to God with confidence into the future, knowing that He is always faithful and His love is the same, ‘yesterday, today and forever’. Prayer’s one of the greatest gifts that God has given us, so let’s use that gift as we seek to build hope and chart the future of our parishes and diocese.”

The new videos will be made available on Facebook at 4.00pm each Sunday in Lent, with the first scheduled for Sunday 9th March.

## Church of England General Synod

### Alcohol-free wine hard to swallow for C of E

**C of E Synod rules it will not consecrate substitutes as it also refuses use of gluten-free bread at sacred ritual**

Non-alcoholic wine and gluten-free bread should not be used as substitutes during Holy Communion, the governing body of the Church of England has ruled.

Church guidance makes clear that bread must be made from wheat flour and wine must be the fermented juice of the grape in order to be consecrated as part of the service.

In papers released ahead of the Church’s General Synod, which opened yesterday, the barrier for those who are unable to consume wheat flour or alcohol was described as an “injustice”.

Holy Communion is one of the central sacraments of the Christian faith, with the bread and wine symbolising the body and blood of Christ.

Bread alternatives made from rice or potato flour are not allowed to be substitutes, although wheat flour can be processed to remove substantial amounts of gluten and alcohol can be removed after the fermentation process, but a residue will always remain.

The Church's governing body came under fire from Canon Alice Kemp, a Synod member, who asked: "Can consideration be given to enable the legal use of gluten-free and alcohol-free elements at the eucharist to remove the injustice of this exclusion?"

'Priests may be prohibited from receiving both elements if they are unable to consume gluten and alcohol'

"Both priests and congregants who are unable to consume gluten and/or alcohol are forced to receive in one kind only or may be prohibited from receiving both elements if they are unable to consume both gluten and alcohol."

However, the Rt Rev Michael Ipgrave, the Bishop of Lichfield and chairman of the Church's Liturgical Commission, said such a move would have to overturn two settled positions in the Church of England.

"First, that bread made with wheat and the fermented juice of the grape are the elements to be consecrated in holy communion; and second, that receiving holy communion in one kind in a case of necessity is not an 'exclusion' but full



participation in the sacrament, as often practised in the communion of the sick, or with children,” Bishop Ipgrave said.

‘Believers who cannot physically receive the sacrament are partakers by faith of the body and blood of Christ’

“Indeed, even believers who cannot physically receive the sacrament are to be assured that they are partakers by faith of the body and blood of Christ, and of the benefits he conveys to us by them,” he added.

The legal advisory also underlines that people who have coeliac disease or alcoholism are still obliged to follow the ruling, although they are able to only consume one of the items to suit their health needs.

At least one in 100 people in the UK has coeliac disease, according to NHS figures, and there are an estimated 608,416 adults with alcohol dependence in England in 2019 to 2020.

## **Archbishop of York chairing C of E Synod**

**The meeting of the General Synod is the first since the Rt Rev Justin Welby resigned as the Archbishop of Canterbury in November, in what has been described as a time of “unprecedented crisis” over abuse failings.**

The Most Rev Stephen Cottrell, the Archbishop of York, who is standing-in for Archbishop Welby, delivered an opening

address to the meeting in London. He has faced his own calls to quit over safeguarding failures.

The General Synod entered five days of debate and various votes as the Church's handling of abuse cases is scrutinised again.

Amid rumours of a no-confidence motion in Archbishop Cottrell, some members of the Synod have said it is not appropriate for him to give the opening address. In response, the Archbishop pledged to offer "reflections on how we can be a church which is more transparent and accountable".

After Archbishop Welby stepped down questions were raised as to whether Archbishop Cottrell was the right person to steer the church through the crisis after reports he twice reappointed a priest involved in a sexual abuse scandal.

## **Church abuse could still be happening, Bishop admits**

**The Bishop of London has said she "cannot guarantee" that abuse is not taking place in the Church of England**

The Rt Rev Dame Sarah Mullally has admitted that sexual abuse may still be happening despite efforts to improve safeguarding.

The Bishop suggested that better "HR structures" could help to prevent any future incidents.

She said that the Church should be more like the NHS, where she worked as a nurse before being ordained, in terms of having clear accountability to superiors.

Speaking to Sky News, she called on the Church to bring in reforms to stamp out any abuse when clergy meet at the General Synod this week.

**‘We need to take action... It is horrific the abuse that some people have had to endure within the Church’**

She said: “We need to take action to ensure that it doesn’t happen again. It is horrific the abuse that some people have had to endure within the Church and the way in which the Church has not responded correctly to it.” In November, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Rt Rev Justin Welby, resigned after a report found that he should have done more to stamp out the activities of paedophile John Smyth, who abused boys at Christian holiday camps.

The Bishop of Liverpool, John Perumbalath, stepped down after facing accusations of sexual harassment and assault. A YouGov poll suggested that half of Britons hold a negative view of the Church, and the Very Rev Stephen Cottrell, the Archbishop of York, has said that the public are “disgusted” by the institution.

Dame Sarah has said that in response to the abuse scandal, the General Synod, which will meet at Church House in Westminster, will be discussing reform, and “Structures of Church safeguarding independence” will be the foremost on the agenda.



Also, in response to the collapse of public approval, the Church has invited the public to have their say on who will become the next Archbishop of Canterbury.

The Bishop of London has ruled herself out of the running, telling Sky News she will not be chosen for the role.

## Education

### Earn as you learn with an Apprenticeship at CAFRE

**Discover your potential. Study part-time for a qualification in Agriculture, Equine, Food, Floristry or Horticulture.**

Apply now for September 2025!

Visit [www.cafre.ac.uk](http://www.cafre.ac.uk) for course information.

### Talking music with composer for Hope Street and Holby City

**The sixth form music students were delighted to welcome Anthony Eve, a composer and producer from Belfast, to school last Friday.**

Anthony composed the music scores for the BBC series Hope Street and Holby City and in 2022 he penned the

music to the OSCAR, BAFTA and IFTA winning film An Irish Goodbye.

Anthony talked about his career in the world of music, film and TV and offered the boys some useful composition tips and hints.

## Clergy and ministry

### Rector's new role as Lecturer in Systematic Theology

**The Rector of Castlerock and Dunboe, Rev Chris MacBruithin, will be leaving the parishes in late summer to take up a new role as Lecturer in Systematic Theology at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute (CITI) in Dublin. The news was shared with parishioners at yesterday's services in both churches.**

Rev MacBruithin, who's been the incumbent in the north coast group of parishes since 2019, described it as a "bittersweet" moment, but said the family would be leaving one beautiful part of the island for another. The institute's located in the leafy Dublin 14 district where Chris spent three years studying in preparation for his ordination. He graduated in 2016 with a Master's in Theology with Distinction.

The move south will be something of a wrench for the MacBruithin family. Chris's wife, Sarah, says it'll be sad to leave a parish where they have so many friends. And while



the couple's young son will be disappointed not to finish Hezlett Primary School, Chris says Noah is excited at the prospect of living closer to the Aviva Stadium.

“The plan is to move sometime in August,” the Rector said. “As a family, we feel really sad to be leaving Castlerock because, even though we know it is God’s calling, we really love this place and its people. We’d absolutely no idea that this was coming. There certainly was no desire or intention to leave the parish.”

Chris said learning that he had been appointed to the lecturer’s position at CITI came as something of a shock. “When I saw the advert, I said to Sarah, ‘It’s a pity that didn’t come up in a few years’ time because I would apply,’ and I wasn’t going to apply originally, because I thought it was too



soon. And then I did [apply](#), thinking this kind of thing doesn't come up very often. I thought, well if people in theological circles see that I'm interested in it, maybe some other time in the future they'll recognise the name. I was shocked and surprised to be offered the position. I feel really privileged."

The lectureship at CITI will take Chris into a new area of ministry in which he has long been interested. "I have always felt a calling to theological education. I'm from a teaching background. I've always felt comfortable in the classroom. I've always loved teaching – not just telling people information that they need to memorise but helping people to learn and develop, and seeing them come on. So, I had a feeling I might end up doing something like this down the line, I just didn't think it would come any time as soon as this."

Chris's new job description will include responsibility for training aspiring OLM ministers. "It's really exciting because it's an exciting time in the life of the Church of Ireland. There's a lot of change afoot, new things like pioneer ministry and ordained local ministry, so ministry looks different and the challenges are different – the relationship between church and wider culture – it's all very different, with more patterns of ministry.

"I think that we need more good theology because it's not a matter just of lifting the prayer book and conducting the service, there'll be lots of contexts where it takes a bit more innovation or creativity and so ministers [will](#) need to know what they're doing. I think we need good theology to resource all the good things that are happening in the wider

church. And I think it's exciting because, in that light, theology's not just ideas in books, it has to be connected with real life. We need to be able to talk coherently and engage with the questions people are asking. Our theology has to be more flexible and more creative, it's not just memorising facts, it's being able to innovate and be creative in a way that's faithful to the unchanging truth of God."

While news of the CITI appointment came suddenly and unexpectedly, it won't interfere with Chris's participation in March's parish mission trip to east Africa, which has long been in the planning. "I'm still going to Rwanda next month," he says. "We go out for two weeks and it'll be a bit of a dry run because I'll be lecturing in theology at the East African Christian College [in Kabuga](#), I'll be teaching theology to ordinands, so it'll be good practice for starting in August or September."

The Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Rt Rev Andrew Forster, has congratulated Rev MacBruithin on his appointment, even though it comes as sad news for the Castlerock Group and for the diocese. "I congratulate Chris on his appointment to this new role at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute. I am delighted that the institute is getting someone with such theological wisdom and pastoral experience. He will, I'm certain, prove a great blessing to CITI in the critical work of preparing ordinands for ministry in a changing and challenging world.

"I'm sure that Chris's parishioners will be sad to lose him and certainly we, as a diocese, will be sorry to see him go. Our loss will be a considerable gain for God's church on this island, though, and I take consolation from that. I pray that

Chris, Sarah and Noah will settle quickly in their new surroundings, and that Chris's ministry at CITI will prove personally fulfilling and fruitful for our church."

## **Preacher carried 45lb wooden cross for 38,102 miles in 324 states**

**Arthur Blessitt, who has died aged 84, was an American preacher.**

Between 1969 and 2008, wandered round every country in the world carrying a 45lb wooden cross; he covered 38,102 miles, claimed to have traversed 324 "countries, island groups and territories" and made it into the Guinness Book of World Records for the World's Longest Walk.

In 1969 Blessitt was a pastor running His Place, a free coffee house on Sunset Strip in Hollywood. As part of his mission he preached in night clubs and strip joints, and he ran a Jesus tent at rock festivals, serving free food and helping people who had overdosed. Then, one night in September he heard the voice of Jesus telling him to take the 12ft cross which hung on the wall of his coffee house and carry it across America.

He set off on Christmas Day bound for Washington, attaching a wheel to the end of the cross on the way to make the journey less arduous. In late 1971 he started his journey around the rest of the world, beginning in England and picking his itinerary by praying over maps and asking God what his route should be.



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# Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



## Documentary about King Charles environmental charity work

**King Charles is set to feature in a documentary about his environmental charity work, with the programme based on his 2010 book, 'Harmony: A New Way of Looking At Our World'.**

Get all the details about the programme here:

<https://buff.ly/4jHb0PS>

## **NetWorks25 Project. new opportunity: the border region**

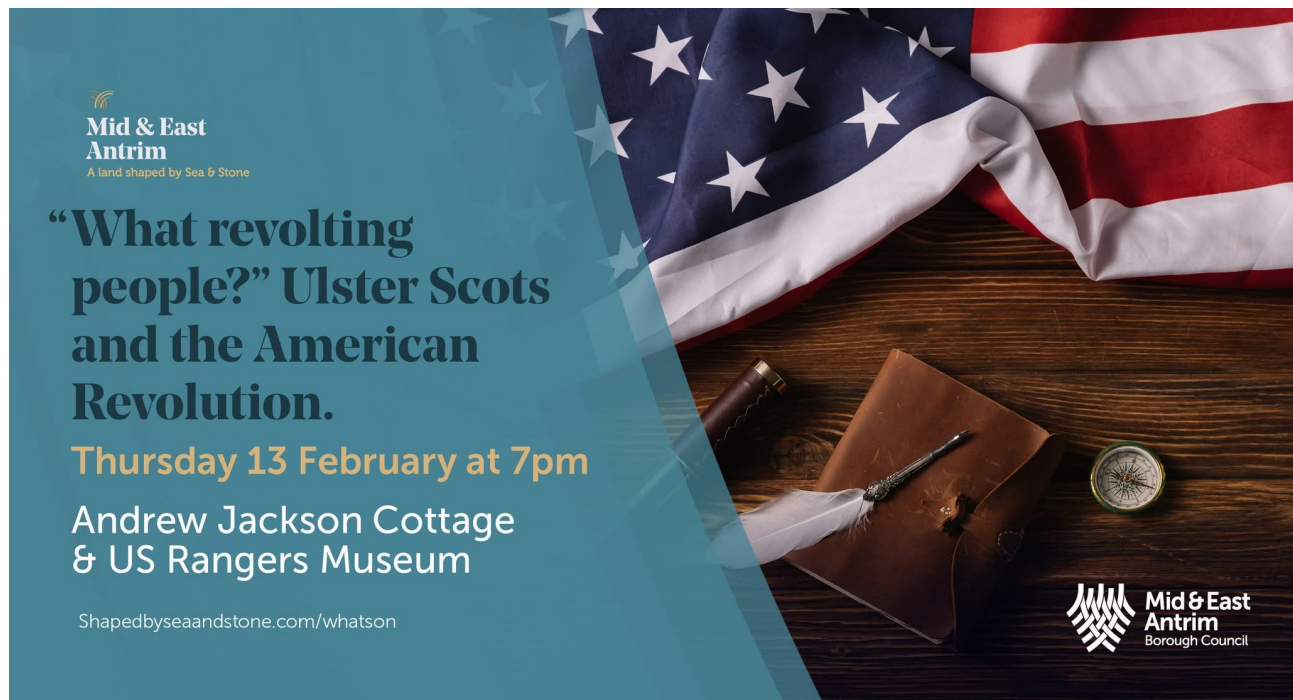
**Community Finance Ireland, in association with NICVA, want to hear from voluntary and community groups from the border region interested in an exciting new opportunity: The NetWorks25 Project.**

If your organisation would benefit from a 12-month business mentorship support programme, funded by the International Fund for Ireland, where you will:

- Meet with like-minded organisations from different backgrounds experiencing the same barriers you are.
- Learn how to implement key business learnings across a wide range of areas such as financial planning and management, strategic business planning, marketing and communications, digital transformation and technology, governance and compliance and product and service development.
- Learn how to access different funding streams for your organisation.
- Get the opportunity to explore new business ideas to create new sources of income generation, leading to more effective and more sustainable business practices.

Then, we want to hear from you. For more information on the project and to apply, visit our website for more details: <https://communityfinanceireland.com/community-finance-ireland-seeking-participants-for-the-networks25-programme/>

# "What revolting people?" Ulster Scots and the American Revolution



**Join Dr. David Hume at Andrew Jackson Cottage for the fourth part of our historical talks programme.**

The Ulster Scots are often portrayed as having been at the forefront of the Revolution.

How accurate is this?

Dr. David Hume examines the story of the Revolution and the stories of some of those Ulsterfolk involved on both sides of the argument.

Andrew Jackson Cottage & US Rangers Museum  
13 February 2025

 7pm – 9pm

February 11, 2025

Booking via Eventbrite is essential as places are limited:  
[https://orlo.uk/UlsterScots\\\_YvjHf](https://orlo.uk/UlsterScots\_YvjHf)

For further information please contact:  
Carrickfergus Castle Visitor Information Centre  
T: 028 9335 8262 or E: [visitorinfo@midandeantrim.gov.uk](mailto:visitorinfo@midandeantrim.gov.uk)

## **St Ann's, Dublin recital**

**On February 13th, Thursday, at 1:20 pm, the distinct pleasure of hearing the South Korean pianist, Hyewon Chang, perform Mozart, Schubert, and Schumann.**

Her musical journey has seen her grace stages of international renown, including the Weill Concert Hall at Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, Hochschule für Musik und Theater in Munich, and the historic birthplace of Franz Joseph Haydn in Rohrau, Austria. Additionally, her performances have resonated through Rolston Hall at the Banff Centre and across numerous venues in America, captivating audiences with her profound musicality and technical prowess. You can find more details at <https://www.stannsrecitals.com/events/hyewon-chang-piano>

## **Using AI in tourism and hospitality sector**

**This Go Succeed NI workshop is aimed at business owners in the tourism and hospitality sector.**

It will demonstrate the advantages and opportunities provided by AI for developing content and boosting your marketing. It will also highlight shortcomings and areas



where you need to be wary. It will give you ideas and help with content development which are timesaving and appealing.

This workshop will last one hour, with a further 15 minutes for Q&A.

<https://www.glistrr.com/events/e/how-can-you-use-ai-to-help-market-your-tourism-and-hospitality-business-3587-53>

## Heritage

### Sir Hans Sloane

**Sir Hans Sloane, the famous Ulster-Scot naturalist, physician and collector who introduced milk chocolate to England, passed away on 11 January 1753.**

Sloane was born as the seventh son of Alexander Sloane, of Scottish ancestry, in Killyleagh, County Down. His mother, Sarah Hicks, came to Ulster as a companion of the wife of James Hamilton, the Earl of Clanbrassil, who lived in Killyleagh Castle and whose father, also James Hamilton, was an agent for the future King James in Ireland and an orchestrator of the settlements that immediately preceded the Ulster Plantation.

The lives of the Sloanes and Hamiltons were intertwined. Hans' father died when he was 6 years old, and his education afterwards was encouraged and sponsored by the Hamilton family. When his mother remarried and left

Killyleagh, Hans stayed, living with the Hamiltons and receiving his tuition there. His brother, William, married Jane Hamilton of Killyleagh, sibling to the Earl of Clanbrassil.

Sloane moved to London to study medicine at the age of 19, before moving to France to achieve a Doctorate in Physic at the University of Orange in 1683. He returned to London and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, becoming lifelong friends with its President Samuel Pepys.

He travelled to the West Indies in 1687, where he encountered people in Jamaica drinking a beverage made from cocoa beans. He found this to be too distasteful, and later would mix cocoa beans, sugar and milk together to create milk chocolate. His recipe was later sold to the Cadbury brothers.

Sloane, upon returning to London, set up his own medical practice which was to become a great success. He was the physician to three successive sovereigns: Queen Anne, George I and George II. He became the first medical practitioner to receive a hereditary title, being appointed Baronet in 1719. He was also simultaneously President of the Royal Society and President of the Royal College of Physicians, the only person to ever achieve such a feat.

Over his lifetime, Sloane collected over 100,000 notable objects, including books, drawings, plant specimens, coins, and much else. Many notable people travelled from far and wide to view this collection, including figures such as Benjamin Franklin and Voltaire.

Towards the end of his life, he viewed that this collection should be sold to the nation rather than split up and sold to individual collectors. An Act of Parliament allowed the government to buy this collection, and it would go on to form the foundations of the British Museum, the British Library, and the National History Museum.

The statue of Hans Sloane, pictured, can be found in Hans Sloane Square in his hometown of Killyleagh. Another version of the statue can be found in London, just off the renowned Sloane Square area, which is likewise named after him.

## 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)

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# Church News Ireland

[www.churchnewsireland.org](http://www.churchnewsireland.org)

**Link in Monday through Saturday from  
early morning**

**Please recommend to your friends**