

Church News Ireland



**Image of the day – 100 year old Spitfire pilot
still on mission**

Image of the day



100 year old Spitfire pilot still on mission

Introducing Jack Hemmings - Britain's oldest Spitfire pilot!

Jack flew a Spitfire from London Biggin Hill this week, making him the oldest pilot to fly Britain's favourite WWII aircraft. Jack said the 20-minute flight was "absolutely delightful" but "very bumpy."



At the good ole' age of 102, Jack took control and flew "faster than I used to fly in my air force days," enjoying three victory rolls. The Spitfire flight challenge was to raise awareness and funds for Mission Aviation Fellowship, the charity he co-founded almost 80 years ago. This is such a huge and memorable achievement for Jack. .



News

Fisherwick Presbyterian Church's partnership with Sestina Music

Sestina Music is thrilled with its partnership with Fisherwick Presbyterian Church, solidifying

the ensemble as a resident group at this historic venue. This collaboration marks a significant moment for Sestina Music, aligning with Fisherwick Presbyterian Church's bicentennial celebrations.

Positioned as a resident ensemble, Sestina Music is set to present outstanding early music concerts, captivating audiences in Fisherwick Presbyterian Church and across Belfast throughout the year. This collaboration underscores Sestina Music's dedication to artistic excellence and its commitment to enhancing the cultural and musical landscape of Belfast.

Mark Chambers, the Musical Director of Sestina Music, shared his enthusiasm, saying, 'Teaming up with Fisherwick



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Presbyterian Church, especially during its 200th year, is a great honour. This partnership reflects our joint commitment to nurturing artistic diversity and cultivating a vibrant cultural hub.'

This collaboration is made possible through the generosity and foresight of Fisherwick Presbyterian Church, with heartfelt thanks to David McCalmont for providing Sestina Music with this exceptional opportunity.

To stay updated on upcoming concerts and events, music enthusiasts are encouraged to join Sestina Music's mailing list at www.sestinamusic.com.

Mothers' Union Broughshane collect 68 pairs of pyjamas Women's Aid refuge

Members from St Patrick's Broughshane MU visited the Women's Aid refuge in Ballymena to hand over 68 pairs of pyjamas collected as part of our Bronze award in the RISE UP challenge.



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As part of the Mothers' Union RISE UP against domestic abuse challenge we collected 68 pairs of pyjamas for the Women's Aid refuge in Ballymena

Honours for Clogher Diocese parishioners

Two people from Clogher Diocese were honoured in the New Year Honours List. Joy Coalter, a Diocesan Reader from Brookeborough and a member of Colebrooke Parish, has received the BEM in the New Year Honours List while Norman Coalter, an Enniskillen businessman and member of Enniskillen Parish at St. Macartin's Cathedral, is the new High Sheriff for Fermanagh.

Joy Coalter, a member of St. Ronan's Church, Colebrooke in the Aghalurcher Group of Parishes, retired in 2022 as Cleaner and Caretaker at Brookeborough Primary School



after 35 years of service.

Joy said her immediate reaction when she received an official letter informing her she had been nominated for a BEM was, “I thought it was a scam as I’m always so wary of scams.”

Joy was part of the life of the primary school for decades, supporting the teaching staff at key times of the year and encouraging the pupils. She said she would have dressed up in fancy dress outfits during charity events or helped to raise money for charity. She also acted as a keyholder and in earlier years of her service, helped out as a classroom assistant.

She worked with three school principals during her career and was proud to see her four children attend the school.

As a parishioner of Colebrooke Parish, Joy was firstly a Parish Reader before becoming a Diocesan Reader and has taken services across the diocese as well as in her own parish. She also represents the parish on the Diocesan Synod and in earlier years was a GFS leader. She is also a member of the Mothers’ Union.

Norman Coalter runs the Horseshow and Saddlers Bar in Enniskillen.

The appointment of High Sheriff is mostly an honorary title but his role would be to greet any members of the Royal Family or Head of State visiting the county or to receive a High Court Judge for a Crown Court sitting as well as other duties such as attending functions by invitation.



He said his mission during his year in office is to encourage more people to visit Fermanagh and to market the tourism product available.

“We have a beautiful county and if there are any instrumental things at all coming, I will be saying, come to Fermanagh,” he said. He is a member of Fermanagh Lakeland Tourism Association.

His appointment has been a popular one, as it has been warmly welcomed at Enniskillen Cathedral and further afield as he has received many cards and letters from well-wishers. Norman’s business is well known throughout the county and beyond, providing funeral teas for many churches as well as catering for weddings and other events.

Historic meeting of Africa's Anglican women bishops held in Kenya



The first ever meeting of Africa's six female Anglican bishops was held in Kenya last month.

The gathering took place from 8 to 14 January at St Julian's Retreat Centre, Limuru, Kenya, under the theme "African Anglican Women Bishops embarking on a journey of faith: defying conventions and leading with Grace."

Bishops Filomena Tete Estevão (Diocese of Bom Pasteur, Angola), Dr Emily Onyango (Diocese of Bondo, Kenya), Elizabeth Awut (Diocese of Rumbek, South Sudan), Dr Vincentia Kgabe (Diocese of Lesotho, Southern Africa, Rose

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Okeno (Diocese of Butere, Kenya) and Dalcy Badeli Dlamini (Diocese of Eswatini, Southern Africa) issued a communique in which they reflected on five key principles:

Re-defining the Church;
Moral and Ethical Leadership;
the Triple threat of Gender-Based Violence,
teenage pregnancies and
HIV/AIDS.

They stated, “For far too long, the voice of the Church has been silent on gender inequalities that have been worsened by endemic cases of gender-based violence (GBV), teenage pregnancies and HIV/AIDS. We note that the affected are our congregants who could be described as perpetrators and survivors of the aforementioned triple threats and demand of us to intervene.” They also reflected on Women Leadership Empowerment and Climate Justice.

They were guided by a Bible verse from Proverbs 27:17 “As Iron sharpens iron so one person sharpens another.”

In their communique they stated, “We humbly adopt the inspiring message of Archbishop Dr Jackson Ole Sapit to us: Women of faith shall continually be instruments of hope, transforming the world and offering thoughtful and practical leadership in various issues that affect society; Women of faith are placed at the core of progressive communities and their voices add valuable contributions to build a stronger Church; The church must remain vocal in highlighting the reforming and transforming power women hold as agents of change”.

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Bishop Tom Deenihan pays tribute to the late John Bruton RIP



Episcopal Ordination of Canon Tom Deenihan as the new Bishop of Meath at Cathedral of Christ the King, Mullingar, diocese of Meath. Picture shows the new Bishop of Meath, as he meets former Taoiseach John and Finola Bruton after the Ordination . Pic John Mc Elroy

I was very sorry to hear of the death of John Bruton this morning. I offer my sincere sympathy and prayers to his wife Finola, son Matthew, daughters Juliana, Emily and Mary-Elizabeth, his brother Richard and to his sister Mary.

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John will be remembered as a man of principle and virtue, which was evident in his successful tenure in public life and as Taoiseach from 1994 to 1997. He was also a man of faith who recognised the notions of service and the common good in his career as well as the importance of faith and parish. John was a valued and active member of the Dunboyne parish community.

He was also a person of integrity and stature and the people of Meath have always been proud of John's leadership as both Taoiseach, and as European Ambassador to the United States, roles that he served with distinction.

John Bruton's legacy to our society is that of a committed Christian, a patriot, a selfless public servant who innately understood that sacrifice was a perquisite to the common good.

On this sad day for John's family, I pray for the happy repose of his soul, mindful of the blessing from the ritual:
Blessed are those who have died in the Lord;
Let them rest from their labours,
For their good deeds go with them.

He will be remembered warmly.
Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dilís.

Outgoing Irish News Editor speaker at Imagine Festival of Ideas and Politics

Noel Doran will reflect on 25 years as editor of The Irish News at Belfast festival event



Noel Doran will talk with journalist Amanda Ferguson at the Imagine Festival of Ideas and Politics ahead of his departure from the Irish News

The outgoing editor of The Irish News will reflect on his career in journalism at an event in Belfast aimed at exploring political and societal issues.

Noel Doran, the longest serving editor of a daily newspaper in Ireland and the UK, will stand down from his role in April.

Joining journalist Amanda Ferguson at the Imagine Festival of Ideas and Politics ahead of his departure, Mr Doran will look back on the past 25 years he has spent as editor.

The free event at the Crescent Arts Centre next month is part of the annual festival that includes discussions on the

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“big issues of our times including new ideas on politics, culture and activism”.

While Mr Doran will leave his role as editor in April, he will continue to play a consultancy role with the paper.

Chris Sherrard, former Reach Ireland editor-in-chief, has been appointed as Mr Doran’s successor.

Mr Doran began his career with the Antrim Guardian in 1978, before moving to the Ballymena Observer and later joining the Belfast Telegraph.

Working in Derry and Belfast, he also served as the paper’s local government correspondent, before a period as duty news editor with Downtown Radio/Cool FM.

Mr Doran joined the Irish News as deputy editor in 1993, becoming editor in 1999.

During his distinguished tenure, The Irish News has amassed a raft of UK and regional awards in recognition of its consistent top-level content.

In 2020 he was voted by readers of the Hold The Front Page website as the best UK regional editor of the 21st century.

He has been credited with winning a wider cross-community readership for the paper.

According to the Audit Bureau of Circulations, The Irish News is now the UK’s biggest selling regional daily.

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He will join Ms Ferguson, a freelance journalist who has worked as a Northern Ireland editor and Ireland stringer for a wide range of clients, including Reuters news agency and the Washington Post, on March 22. Tickets for the event, which takes place from 12.30-2pm, are available from imaginebelfast.com/event/noel-doran-in-conversation-with-amanda-ferguson



Funding the Heritage of Treasured Places of Worship

**Do you look after or work with places of worship?
Thinking about a project to repair and preserve the
heritage of a place of worship?**

Join the National Churches Trust on February 22 at Seamus Heaney HomePlace to see what support is available from the National Lottery Heritage Fund Northern Ireland and through the Treasure Ireland project from National Churches Trust. You'll also have the opportunity to hear from church project volunteers who received support and delivered successful projects.

Book your place at <https://forms.office.com/e/ewCxe0bDE5>

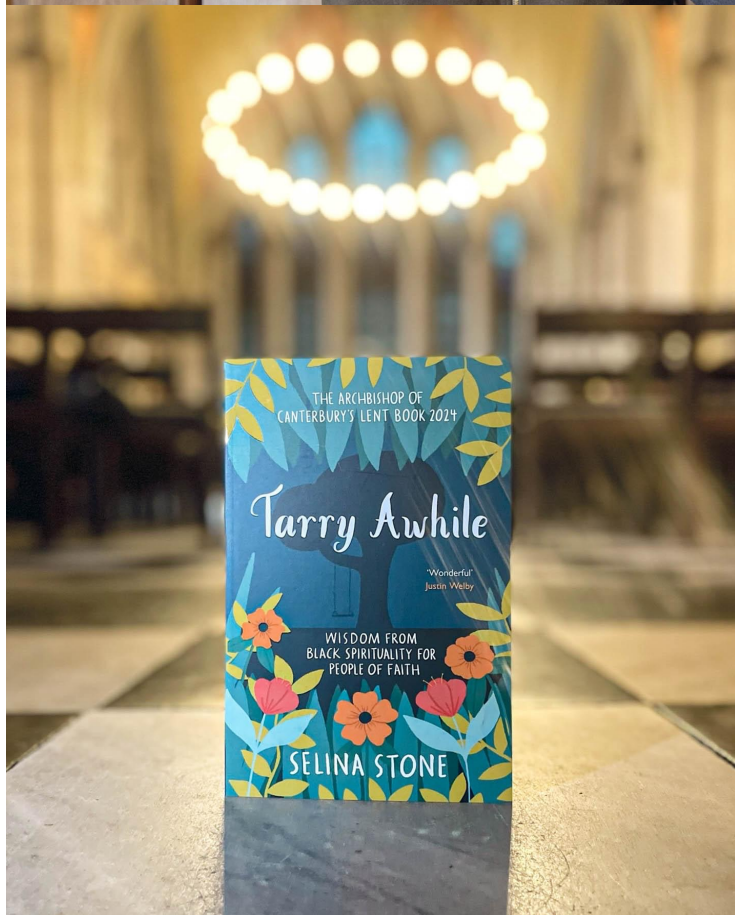
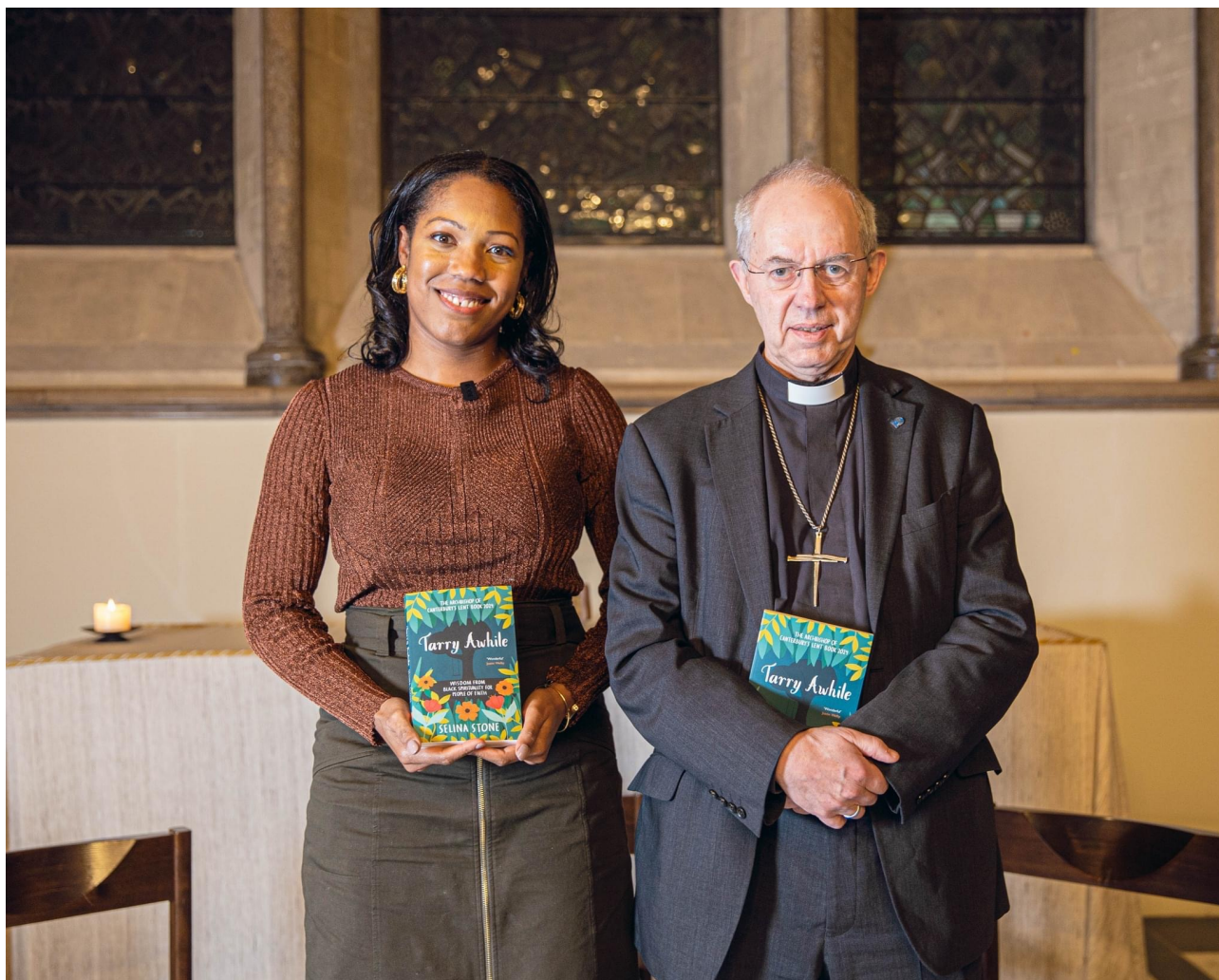
This is your chance to ask both funders about support available for treasured places of worship.

[The National Lottery Heritage Fund](#)

Thanks to National Lottery players, since 1995 the National Lottery Heritage Fund has invested more than £1 billion in places of worship heritage across the UK. The funding has helped to conserve and restore buildings so that they can be enjoyed by the wider community. With this support, thousands of people of all faiths have brought the heritage of their place of worship to life.

[The Treasure Ireland project from the National Churches Trust](#)

The Treasure Ireland project is an initiative between the National Churches Trust, The National Lottery Heritage Fund, the Pilgrim Trust and Department for Communities' Historic Environment Division. Set up in 2020 it offers specialist support to churches in Northern Ireland. To date thirty-seven churches have received a Treasure Ireland award.



Archbishop of Canterbury's book for Lent

Archbishop Welby has commended his Lent Book for 2024. It is "Tarry Awhile", written by Selina Stone.

The Archbishop said, "It takes a wonderful look at waiting in the presence of God,

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drawing on the spiritual experiences of the black community.

“The theme of this Lent across The Church of England is ‘Watch And Pray’. Let us be challenged to seek God in the familiar and the unfamiliar.”

Here you can find all the Lent resources available for you and your church: www.cofe.io/WatchAndPray



CONCERT DATES FEBRUARY

FRIDAY, FEB 2 BANGOR BALLYCROCHAN PRES 19:00	SATURDAY, FEB 3 ARDS MOVILLA PRES 18:30	SUNDAY, FEB 4 BELFAST THE HUB 19:00		
WEDNESDAY, FEB 7 MARKETHILL MULLABRACK AND KILKLUNEY TIME: TBC	FRIDAY, FEB 9 NEWRY DOWNSHIRE ROAD PRES 19:00	SATURDAY, FEB 10 RICHHILL RICHHILL PRES 19:00		
SUNDAY, FEB 11 BANBRIDGE BANNSIDE PRES 18:30	TUESDAY, FEB 13 LISBURN LISBURN CONGREGATIONAL 19:00	FRIDAY, FEB 16 NEWTOWNABBEY BALLYCRAIGY CONGRATIONAL 19:00	SATURDAY, FEB 17 MOY MOY PRES 19:00	SUNDAY, FEB 18 BANGOR HAMILTON ROAD BAPTIST 18:00
TUESDAY, FEB 20 BELFAST GROSVENOR GRAMMAR 19:00	THURSDAY, FEB 22 BELFAST BELFAST HIGH SCHOL 19:00	SATURDAY, FEB 24 BELFAST NEWTOWNBREDA BAPTIST 19:00	SUNDAY, FEB 25 LARNE FIRST LARNE PRES 19:00	TUESDAY, FEB 27 BELFAST HUNTER HOUSE COLLEGE 19:00



Archbishop of Canterbury shelters as Russians bombard Kyiv in early-morning attack

“It is heartbreaking to hear of the loss of life in Kyiv this morning in this appalling attack by Russia. I am praying for all those affected and their families”, Archbishop Welby said on Wednesday afternoon.

“We were safe and well in a very secure shelter but it is a stark reminder of the dangers people here are facing every day, even when it doesn’t hit the headlines.

“A reminder again that, with all the crises in the world, we must not and will not forget Ukraine.

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“It is now almost two full years since that dreadful day of the full-scale Russian invasion — an act of great evil — and we know that the need for support is going to be very long term”.

Bishop Andrew Forster on the story that shaped him

The 4 Corners Festival says that Bishop Andrew Forster is one of the key public figures for Saturday’s event “The Stories That Shape Us”

Andrew has been Church of Ireland Bishop of Derry and Raphoe since 2019, and is the current President of the Irish Council of Churches.

He studied at Queens University, Belfast and started his ministry in the city as a curate at Willowfield Parish, before becoming Church of Ireland Chaplain at Queens, until 2002, when he headed “out west”: first to Sligo, then to Dungannon, before becoming Bishop.

He is married to Heather and has three children, Hannah, Patrick & Megan.

Get your tickets to hear from Bishop Forster and some other figures in person >> <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/4cornersfestival2/1084981/r/social>

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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