

Church News Ireland



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News -

103rd Girls Brigade support for Larne RNLI
The Causeway Challenge 2025
A Time of Homelessness focus at 4 Corners
Eco Congregation Corncrake LIFE project
A night of country gospel music in Lifford
Seeking teams for the NI Futsal Cup
King and Queen to make first official visit to the Vatican

Clergy and ministry -

Institution of Revd Henry Blair
Rector's new role as Lecturer in Theology
Former President of St Malachy's College in Belfast

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books -

C of I Children and Family Ministry
Charles Wood Girls' Choir Recruitment Drive
February is National Heart Month
Biblical Worship for Today's Church - A Catalyst Evening Course

Perspective -

The prime minister who rehearsed for death

Speaking to the soul -

Short reading and a prayer daily on this site



Image of the day

St Anne's on Kew Green, Richmond on Thames

**St Anne's Church is
on Kew Green,
Richmond on
Thames, London.
The door was open
and so our friendly
photographer went
in and, lo and
behold, someone**





was playing the organ.

It's a beautiful Grade II listed church founded by Queen Anne in 1714. It has many interesting memorials and features including a Royal Gallery and beautiful stained glass windows. The vicar is Rev Canon Dr Giles Fraser, the well known broadcaster and writer.

And here is the website:

<https://saintanne-kew.org.uk/>

Photos by David Giles who then went for an excellent lunch at the Coach & Horses, across Kew Road.

News

103rd Girls Brigade support for Larne RNLI

**Michael
Kane, the
Larne
RNLI**



water safety officer gave a talk to the 103rd Girls Brigade. Following the talk the group kindly gave a donation of £50.

The volunteer crew and fundraisers from Larne RNLI would like to pass on their thanks to The 103rd Girls Brigade for their generous donation.

Every donation helps the RNLI work towards its goal of saving everyone. The kit, equipment, training and even the lifeboats themselves are only available thanks to support from people like this.



The Causeway Challenge 2025

Join the Methodist Church's East Belfast Mission for an unforgettable adventure.

Walk along the stunning Causeway Coast Way, take in globally famous landmarks like the Giant's Causeway, and help the East Belfast Mission raise funds for its Hosford project.

Hosford Homelessness Services has over 25 years of experience providing services to people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Our aim is to create a society where everyone has a place to call home. Our mission is to

February 10, 2025

provide accommodation and support to enable people to break out of homelessness, maintain independence, and realise their potential.

Choose to walk 30 or 15 miles- every step makes a difference. Sign up today and be part of something great!

For more information email: klaudia.wall@ebm.org.uk

15 MILE OPTION:

Starting Point: Portstewart

Ending Point: The Giant's Causeway

Distance: Approximately 15 miles

30 MILE OPTION:

Starting Point: Portstewart

Ending Point: Ballycastle

Distance: Full Causeway Coast Way (30 miles)

Saturday, 17 May 2025, 06:00

117 Strand Rd, Portstewart, BT55 7PG

A Time of Homelessness focus at 4 Corners

There was an amazing night at St. Comgall's on Divis Street, Belfast, for Home In A Time Of Homelessness.

We were joined by Siobhán Garrigan, Loyola Professor of Theology at Trinity College Dublin, as she looked at theological perspectives on homelessness and also took some questions from the audience.

February 10, 2025


Asking people to imagine home as ‘participating instead of possessing’, in every sphere of life, Siobhán encouraged us to engage with a theology of home capable of preventing homelessness and not merely ministering to people experiencing it.

We also had some incredible music by Caroline Orr, Norman McKinley and Peter Greer who kept us entertained and inspired with some amazing tunes.

Eco Congregation Corncrake LIFE project

Eco Congregation Corncrake LIFE is a project working with farmers and landowners to improve habitat for corncrakes in the Special Protection Area network and surrounding farmland.

They have devised bespoke survey questionnaires for farmers/ land managers, community representatives, and professionals. The respective questionnaires are open to



Mid & East Antrim
A land shaped by Sea & Stone

“What revolting people?” Ulster Scots and the American Revolution.

Thursday 13 February at 7pm

Andrew Jackson Cottage & US Rangers Museum

Shapedbyseaandstone.com/whatson

Mid & East Antrim Borough Council

February 10, 2025

anyone with an interest in the Corncrake LIFE project, or with wider experience of conservation and / or environment / ecology. It will take around 10 minutes to complete a questionnaire, which can be accessed here \>\>
<https://eu.surveymonkey.com/r/CG6W2N6>.

All responses are confidential and anonymous, and they will be used to assess impacts to date and point to areas of future development.

**CLONLEIGH CHURCH OF IRELAND
FUNDRAISING CONCERT
LIFFORD OLD COURTHOUSE
1ST MARCH 8PM TICKETS €15**

**WILLIAM
SAYERS**

**LESLIE
MATTHEWS**

074 9141733
WWW.LIFFORDOLDCOURTHOUSE.COM

THE MOOD SWINGS

February 10, 2025

Corncrake LIFE is a project working with farmers and landowners to improve habitat for corncrakes in the Special Protection Area network and surrounding farmland. They have devised bespoke survey questionnaires for farmers/land managers, community representatives, and professionals.

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A night of country gospel music in Lifford

The annual fundraising event in aid of the restoration of Clonleigh Church of Ireland - St. Lugadius will be held on Saturday 1st March.

Enjoy a night of country gospel music with Leslie Matthews, The Mood Swings & William Sayers . All proceeds will go to the restoration fund.

Tickets are on sale now at

<https://liffordoldcourthouse.com/whats-on/>

You can also book over the phone on 074 9141733 or at reception Mon-Fri.

Seeking teams for the NI Futsal Cup

The Northern Ireland Futsal Federation (NIFF) is seeking adult male clubs to participate in the NI Futsal Cup this February.

This is an opportunity for clubs to take their first steps in participating in Futsal and potentially join the NIFF Championship Division next season.

Those interested should contact nifutsalfederation@hotmail.com for more details.

To check more about futsal in Northern Ireland visit :

<https://www.nifutsalfederation.com>

The future is Futsal and we want you to part of it.

King and Queen to make first official visit to the Vatican

King Charles III and Queen Camilla will make their first official visit to the Vatican in April.

According to a statement from Buckingham Palace, “The King and Queen will undertake State Visits to the Holy See and the Republic of Italy in early April 2025.”

As part of their official state visit, Charles and Camilla will join Pope Francis “in celebrating the 2025 Jubilee Year,” the statement said, noting that the two will have engagements in

February 10, 2025

Rome and Ravenna as part of their trip, “celebrating the strong bilateral relationship between Italy and the United Kingdom.”

Though he has visited the Vatican in the past as Prince of Wales, this will be the first official visit to the Vatican of Charles as king.

Charles was crowned in May 2023, following his mother’s death after a 70-year reign.

The coronation ceremony was hailed as a major step forward in terms of Catholic-Anglican relations for the British monarchy, as it marked the first time in 400 years a Catholic bishop



Coffee Morning
FUNDRAISER
Sat 15th Feb 10.00am till noon
St Finians Parish Church, Cregagh Park,



Fundraising morning
to help assist with costs to allow
Elijah to travel to Canada
after being selected to play in
Sedmha Minor hockey tournament
for team Ireland u13

We'd love to see you!

participated in a coronation.

The ceremony was also noted for its interreligious novelty and forward-looking openness. Religious leaders from various communities including Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, and Sikh traditions were also in attendance.

The presence of other Christian leaders and leaders of other faith communities was broadly hailed as part of the king's commitment to maintaining the role of religion in British society, the composition of which has changed drastically since his mother took the throne in the 1950s.

Seventy years ago, more than 80 per cent of England was Christian. In the intervening decades, the religious landscape of the country has changed significantly.

According to Fortune Magazine, fewer than half the people in England

are Christian, with the latest census figures saying 37 per cent state they have no religion, while 6.5 per cent declare



February 10, 2025

themselves Muslim, and 1.7 per cent Hindu.

London is where this change is felt most acutely, with more than a quarter of citizens adhering to a non-Christian faith.

Clergy and ministry

Institution of Revd Henry Blair

The Revd Henry Blair will be instituted as Incumbent of the Lecale Area Mission Partnership (LAMP) at 7.30pm on Wednesday 26 February 2025 in Down Parish Church, Downpatrick.

The preacher will be the Revd Richard Moy, Vicar of Christ Church W4 and National Director of SOMA UK.

Refreshments will be served after the service in Down Parish Hall.

You are warmly invited to attend.

Clergy and readers please robe in Pepper Johns Community Centre on Church Avenue. Please RSVP by text or email to Rev Adrian Dorrian: 07789289724, revadriandorrian@icloud.com.

Rector's new role as Lecturer in 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.
Longger report tomorrow.

Former President of St Malachy's College in Belfast

Tributes have been paid to Co Down priest and former president of St Malachy's College in Belfast, Canon Noel Conway, following his death this week.

The former parish priest of Strangford and Kilclief passed away "peacefully" in Nazareth Care Village in south Belfast on Tuesday.

Canon Conway was ordained as a priest in 1957 and spent the majority of his priestly career teaching at St Malachy's College in Belfast.

In 1983 he succeeded Bishop Patrick Walsh as president of the north Belfast grammar school.

He served as president until 1994 and then after recuperation from illness was, in 1995, appointed parish priest of Strangford in Co Down.

One of his most significant achievements was to preserve the college's O'Laverty collections of historical papers and

books that today forms an important resource for the wider history of Belfast.

Principal Paul McBride said that the school was “very saddened” by the news of his passing.

“Canon Conway had many years of distinguished service in the college, firstly as a teacher and then as president,” he said.

“His work here not only built on our great traditions and values but secured a firm foundation for our success since his retirement.

“When living in Co Down, he continued to take a deep interest in college life, occasionally visiting us for public and celebratory events. May he rest in peace.”

St Brigid’s Primary School in Downpatrick, where Canon Conway later served as chaplaincy and member of the Board of Governors, also paid tribute to the late priest, describing “the gift of kindness and wisdom” that he brought to the school.

Social media tributes described him as a “true gentlemen and neighbour” and a “highly respected” priest who worked “tirelessly for his parishioners”.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

C of I Children and Family Ministry

“We're bouncing into Spring this weekend with our latest Newsletter, with ideas for Valentines Day, Lent and Easter - view it as an online magazine by clicking here”:

<https://bit.ly/CFMSpring25> or you can download the PDF here: <https://cfm.ireland.anglican.org/spring-2025-newsletter/>

Charles Wood Girls' Choir Recruitment Drive

The Charles Wood Festival & Summer School is holding Open Auditions for the 2025 Charles Wood Girls' Choir, inviting girls aged 12-18 who have a passion for singing and choral music.

This is also fantastic opportunity to meet the Musical Director, Christopher Gray, and learn more about the Charles Wood Festival.

Open Rehearsals

- Monday 17th February | 6:00–7:00 pm | St. George's Church, Belfast
- Tuesday 18th February | 6:00–7:30 pm | Christ Church, Dublin

We are also visiting schools across Northern Ireland, but unfortunately, we can't be everywhere. If you'd like us to visit your school next year, please get in touch.

February 10, 2025

If you can't attend the auditions or we're not visiting your school, you can still apply online at www.charleswoodsummerschool.org.

Participants in the Girls' Choir will take part in an exciting week-long residential course between Saturday 9th to Friday 15th August, receiving high-level training in singing and choral music under the direction of Christopher Gray (Organist & Director of Music at St. John's College, Cambridge). The course fee is £350, which includes all meals and accommodation at the Royal School Armagh.

Audition Information

No preparation is necessary, though you are encouraged to bring a short piece to sing if possible. All are welcome to attend, and if you have any questions, please email us at charleswoodfestival@gmail.com.

We look forward to hearing you sing! 🎵

Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council Arts
Council of Northern Ireland Ulster Carpets

February is National Heart Month

...and #TeamNICHS are going on tour! ❤️

We'll be visiting local shopping centres to spread the love, offer free health checks & spread vital awareness about the work that we do.

Come on down!

February 10, 2025

❤️ Get a FREE blood pressure and Atrial Fibrillation check from our Health Promotion team

❤️ Don't miss the chance to take part in our fabulous Heart2Heart prize draw

❤️ Capture some love-ly Insta moment memories with our fun heart themed props

❤️ Find out more about our Red Dress Fun Run, and pick up your free event pack if you've signed up!

Locations & Times



The Junction Retail and Leisure Park - Fri 7 Feb, 11 am-4 pm*



Lesley Bloomfield -Wed 12 Feb, 11 am-4 pm*



Forestside - Fri 14 Feb, 11 am-5 pm*

*Health checks from 11am-2pm only

Thank you to Balloo Hire Centre for supporting the Heart Tour!

Biblical Worship for Today's Church - A Catalyst Evening Course

Date: Feb 18 - Mar 18, 2025

Time: 7:30 pm - 9:15 pm

Venue: Online

Taught By: Dr Jonny Mullan

February 10, 2025

For more information, course structure and to apply for a Catalyst Course:
<https://www.bst.ac.uk/catalyst>

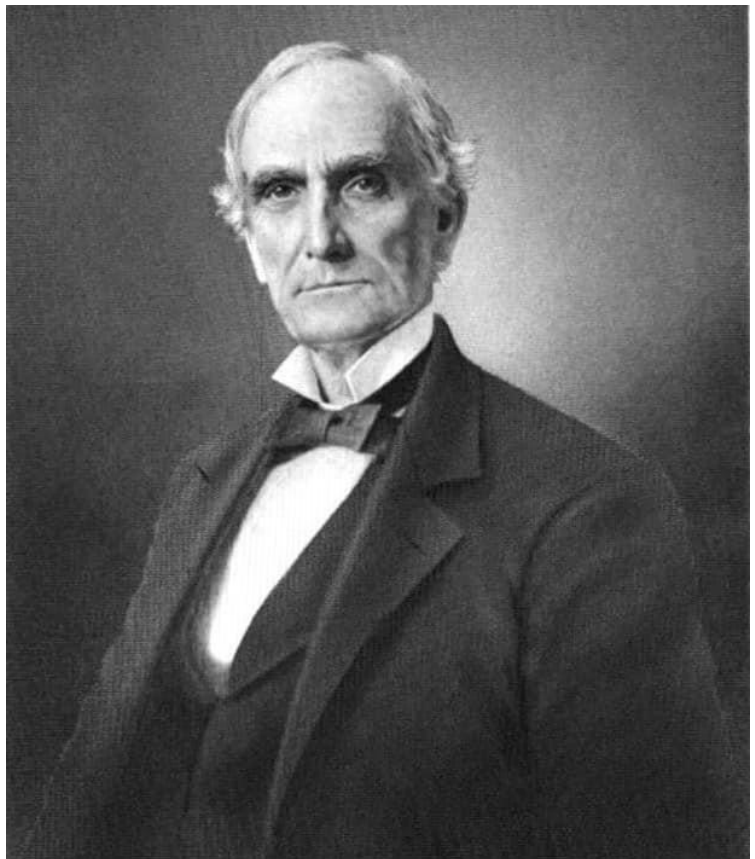
Get In Touch:
Email Us: catalyst@bst.ac.uk
More Info: <https://www.bst.ac.uk>
Tel: +44 (0) 28 9030 1551

Perspective

The prime minister who rehearsed for death

In my bathroom hangs a photograph of William Gladstone in 1898, dead on a bier in his library at home in Hawarden, lying in his Oxford doctoral gown on a white pall of Armenian

manufacture, his hands joined cleverly to disguise the finger lost in a shooting accident in 1842, when he was 32, Christopher Howse writes in the Daily Telegraph



Gladstone reading the Lesson in the church at Hawarden

Death and Gladstone go together like love and marriage. Only sin had a stronger effect on his mind. As with most things Gladstonian, ironies break in, as when he, a rich beneficiary of West Indies slave plantations, visited William Wilberforce on his deathbed; the anti-slavery campaigner kindly asked after his Evangelical mother. But some of his encounters with death are painful for the reader. His daughter Jessy died in 1850 aged four. Looking back on her life, Gladstone noted that she was a loving child who would “kiss again and again the wretched stump” of his finger.

This detail comes in Michael Wheeler’s new *William Ewart Gladstone: The Heart and Soul of a Statesman*, an enjoyable and acute examination of the Victorian politician’s spiritual life. The author knows what he is talking about and chooses accurate facts from original sources judiciously to tell the story in under 200 pages.

He does not duck the ambiguities of Gladstone’s work encountering prostitutes and helping many to settle more happily. He sketches the sexual tensions of Gladstone’s friendship with Laura Thistlethwaite, a former courtesan or kept woman. Gladstone’s disregard for judgment (even perhaps by his wife) was shown by his having a ring from her inscribed “LT to WEG”, and wearing it for the rest of his life.

I still find Gladstone more fascinating than Disraeli despite the air of pitch pine and harmoniums that his prose can exude. He did take Christian belief seriously. Before a railway journey in 1845, even though “the risk of travelling be now only infinitesimal”, he wrote to Henry Edward

Manning, Jessy's godfather, asking whether she should be baptised first. Manning replied by return of post: "Yes."

It was with a feeling of betrayal (of God more than him) that in the sad year of 1850 he saw Manning and his other spiritual adviser James Hope turn from the Church of England to the Catholic Church (the Church of Rome), following John Henry Newman's path of 1845. At Oxford, Gladstone had heard one Sunday morning a preacher at St Ebbe's of such a low tendency as to become later a member of the Plymouth Brethren and in the afternoon Newman at the University Church.

Newman had also been an Evangelical in his youth, but it is surprising to learn that Gladstone was also like him beguiled as a boy by the Arabian Nights. Like Newman, Gladstone latched on to The Analogy of Religion of 1736 by Bishop Butler (Gladstone's other three "doctors" being Aristotle, Augustine and Dante, though he later argued for a sort of divine revelation to Homer). He never got over the "catastrophe" of Newman's apostasy, as he saw it, in the Oxford Movement that "threw all the brightest and noblest of the University as wrecks upon every shore". His resistance to Rome was such that he went through his sister Helen's books after her death for evidence (by how much each seemed to be used) that she had not persevered in her conversion to Catholicism.

Still, in his final illness, when cancer of the face made his nights an agony, he could be heard at Hawarden declaiming lines from Newman's poem "Praise to the Holiest in the height".

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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

Church News Ireland

www.churchnewsireland.org

Link in Monday through Saturday from
early morning

Please recommend to your friends