

Church News Ireland



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Short reading and a prayer daily on this site

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Image of the day



Join K9 Search and Rescue team

K9 Search and Rescue will soon be holding a series of information events for anyone interested in joining their team to come along to.

“You can meet the team, ask any questions you may have, and find out a little more about what we do, to see if it’s for you!”

Please see locations and times below;

Thursday 13th February 7-9pm

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Holy Trinity Ballylesson Church of Ireland church hall
Ballylesson Road
Belfast
BT8 8JT
Northern Ireland

Thursday 20th February 7-9pm
The Men's Shed Rostrevor
16 The Square
Rostrevor
Newry
BT34 3AZ



Thursday 27th
February 7-9pm
Elim Church Cafe
Bangor
13 Balloo Crescent
Bangor
BT19 7WP

Sunday 9th March
1-4pm
Crawfordsburn
Country Park -
Upper Car Park
32 Bridge Road
South
Helen's Bay
Bangor
BT19 1JT

After you have

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attended one of the above events and think it's for you, please email nik9sar@gmail.com for an application form. Title your email "recruitment 2025".

If successful at the application stage, you will be invited to a selection day. This will be on Saturday 29th March in the North Down area. Unfortunately, if you are unable to make one of the information events or the selection day, we will be unable to process your application. We look forward to meeting you all!

News



Last chance to have your say on Belfast Stories



The £100M Belfast Stories project is set to transform the iconic former Bank of Ireland building into a public space, visitor attraction, and creative hub—but they needs YOUR input!

- Public consultation closes February 23rd!
- Aiming to attract 700,000+ visitors & support 1,200 jobs
- Concept designs by world-renowned architects Snøhetta & TODD Architects

Don't miss this chance to shape Belfast's future!

Have your say: <https://ow.ly/KBY550UWCH2>



Finaghy Methodist Church Hymns of Praise excels

“We had a great night last Thursday - Hymns of Praise with 1st Old Boys band.

“Our thanks to band leader Jonathon Corry and our own Louise Bell for organising it all. Approximately £1,400 was raised for the Band and Finaghy Cancer Group”

Six decades of success at Legacurry Table Tennis Club

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Marking
six
decades
of success
at
Legacurry
Table
Tennis
Club in Co
Down are,
from left,
Tom
Wilson,
Pamela
McGrath, Dorothy Cathcart and long time leader Joe
Crawford.



Invictus Games romance

**Army veteran
James Cairns,
injured in
Afghanistan, took
a moment from
competition to
propose to his
girlfriend, Hannah
after his
wheelchair
basketball game.
She said yes!
#InvictusGames**



C of E General Synod : Fifth of Synod vote to block speech by Archbishop

Caretaker leader survives proxy vote of no confidence amid allegations of ‘poor judgment’ and bullying

The Archbishop of York is facing a major rebellion from Church leaders amid calls for his resignation over allegations of bullying and “poor judgment”.

Stephen Cottrell admits he has made mistakes

A fifth of General Synod members voted to block the Most Rev Stephen Cottrell from delivering his opening speech at Mondays Synod gathering in London. In a provocative move, a lay Synod member proposed skipping the Archbishop’s presidential address, which has traditionally opened the Church’s main legislative assembly.

Sam Margrave argued that the Church could not “continue as if nothing is wrong” and should not give a platform to an Archbishop facing “credible allegations of bullying, poor judgment, and safeguarding failures”, including accusations from a serving bishop.

The Bishop of Newcastle, the Rt Rev Helen-Ann Hartley has been the only bishop to publicly call for his resignation, telling BBC Radio Four’s Today programme that he is “the wrong person” to be leading the Church.

Explaining his motion, Mr Margrave asked: “Do we continue as if nothing is wrong, when many across parishes and communities, and even here, believe that this office should be vacant, and our national leadership is causing harm by refusing to step aside?”

The lay member said that some Synod members had planned “protests”, others “walking out”, but added: “We are here to act and not remain silent, that’s why I’m moving this.” Although the motion fell short of the required three-quarters majority, 73 members voted in favour of it, with 239 against and 43 abstentions. Having survived what amounted to a proxy vote of no confidence in his interim leadership, the Archbishop said in his address that he did not want to pretend “that we are not in difficult and challenging times”.

The caretaker-leader of the Anglican Church assumed most of the Archbishop of Canterbury’s responsibilities after the Rt Rev Justin Welby resigned over his failure to report serial abuser John Smyth to the police.

But the interim leader has come under pressure for his own safeguarding record in recent months.

He has been accused of not acting quickly enough in his previous role as Bishop of Chelmsford over David Tudor, a child abuser, who was allowed to remain in post as a priest despite having been barred from being alone with children by the Church and having paid compensation to a sexual abuse victim.

The Archbishop learnt of “longstanding safeguarding concerns” about Tudor in 2010, but said he had no power to

remove him. He has also “categorically rejected” claims he bullied committee members to secure Dr John Perumbalath’s appointment as Bishop of Liverpool in 2022.

Dr Perumbalath resigned last month following media reports of sexual assault and harassment allegations, which he denies.

Addressing the Synod, the Archbishop of York said: “I know that trust has been broken and confidence damaged. And I am more sorry about this than I can say. I know mistakes have been made and I know that I have made mistakes.”

He said he was “determined” to do what he can to work with others “to lead the change we all know we need”. He admitted the Church had “failed greatly” on safeguarding and that he had “long believed that greater independence is the missing piece in the safeguarding jigsaw”.

Yesterday the Synod debated and voted on a new safeguarding model for the Church.

Education

Foyle College Dublin history trip

Recently Foyle Historians set off from school bright and early for a jam-packed day of visits and tours of sites in Dublin.



Pupils visited The National Museum of Ireland, Arbour Hill cemetery, Kilmainham Gaol and Dublin Castle.

They also enjoyed a walking tour around key areas of Dublin relating to their history course.

Everyone appreciated a good

[Church News Ireland](#)





night's sleep, ahead of more of the same next day!

Translink Apprenticeship event

Join Translink for an exciting opportunity to discover the unique 2025 Apprenticeship opportunities available.

Secure your place now via <http://spkl.io/6003fYHMH>

Location: Belfast Grand Central Station

Wrightbus Apprenticeship Open Night

**Open to anyone interested in finding out more about the apprenticeship opportunities available at Wrightbus
Wednesday 12th February | 6pm-7.30pm**

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Take a tour of the factory, meet the team and speak to our managers and hr team. Slots available 6pm-6.45pm | 6.45pm-7.30pm
Everyone is welcome to come along

Register online: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1232727403849?aff=oddttdtcreator>

Email pd@wrightbus.com for more information

Cathedral Calls



Canon Suzanne Harris and Canon Paul Arbuthnot pictured either side of Dean Dermot Dunne with Canon Prof Anne Lodge, Priest Scholar, and Dean's Vicar the Revd Lindsay Llwellyn-MacDuff.

Canons installed to Chapter of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin

Two new Canons were installed to the Chapter of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, at Choral Evensong on Sunday February 9.

Canon Suzanne Harris and Canon Paul Arbuthnot were installed by Dean Dermot Dunne during the service which was sung by the Cathedral Choir.

The Revd Suzanne Harris is Rector of Castlemacadam, Ballinatone and Aughrim while Canon Paul Arbuthnot is Dean of Residence of Trinity College Dublin. They were appointed by Archbishop Michael Jackson in succession to Canon Roley Heaney and Canon Arthur Barrett.

Hailing from Dublin, Canon Harris has been Rector of Castlemacadam, Ballinatone and Aughrim since June 2022 having been Priest in Charge in the parish for the previous year. Prior to entering parish ministry was Chaplain to Newpark Comprehensive School in Blackrock from 1992 until 2022. Following her ordination to the priesthood in 2010, she served in non-stipendiary ministry in Booterstown and Mount Merrion.

Originally from Carrickfergus, Co Antrim, Canon Arbuthnot was ordained to the priesthood in 2011. He served his curacy in St Paul's, Glenageary. He subsequently became Precentor of St Albans Cathedral in Hertfordshire and Sacrist of Westminster Abbey. On his return to the Church of Ireland in 2018 he became Rector of Cobh and Glanmire

Union of Parishes and was elected a Chapter Canon at St Patrick's Cathedral in 2021. He then served as Vicar of the Parish of St Ann with St Stephen and St Mark. He has been Dean of Residence of TCD since January 2025.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

The Priests Special

Last chance to hear the special edition of BBC Radio Ulster Classical Connections featuring the whole of The Priests' "Time to Say Goodbye" concert.

John Toal introduces a special edition of Classical Connections celebrating The Priests as they retire from public performance. The programme will include their final concert, specially recorded at the Ulster Hall in Belfast and an extended interview with the trio, covering their highlights, memories and hopes for the future.

C of I Children's and Family Ministry Newsletter

CFM says they are 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:

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



<https://www.facebook.com/239169528439033/posts/662576252765023>

Worried about your child online?

You're Not Alone—here are the Tools to Help!

From screen time to social media and everything in between, the digital world is full of opportunities—but it also comes with challenges. As parents, it's natural to feel concerned about your child's online safety and well-being.

That's why we've created the Online Safety Toolkit! 🛠️✨

Our #HeartMonth Tour is coming to you!



**FRI
7
FEB****The Junction, Antrim**
11am-4pm
Health Checks 11am - 2pm

**WED
12
FEB****Bloomfield Shopping Centre, Bangor**
11am-4pm
Health Checks 11am - 2pm

**FRI
14
FEB****Forestside, Belfast**
11am-5pm
Health Checks 11am - 2pm

**Get a FREE
Blood Pressure
& Atrial Fibrillation
Check**

Supported by



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Our toolkit is packed with practical advice, insights, and resources to help you:

- ✓ Empower your child to thrive safely online.
 - ✓ Navigate the potential harms of social media, including its impact on mental health.
 - ✓ Foster healthy digital habits and real-world connections.
- Access the Online Safety Toolkit today and take the first step toward a safer, happier digital experience for your family.

<https://www.parentkind.org.uk/online-safety-toolkit>

Edgehill House seeks cleaner

The Methodist Church in Ireland is recruiting for a new cleaner to join our Team at our Headquarters at Edgehill House, Belfast, BT9 5BY.

9 hours per week.

→ For full job description and to apply now visit:

irishmethodist.org/vacancies

Heritage

Thomas Mellon

Thomas Mellon, the Ulster-Scot from Omagh who would go on to found Mellon Bank, one of the largest investment firms in the world, was born in 1813.



Mellon was born on a farm at Camp Hill Cottage, Lower Castletown, parish of Omagh, County Tyrone, Ireland. The original family house now forms the centrepiece of the Ulster American Folk Park Museum.

His family had come into Ireland from Scotland and Holland around the middle of the seventeenth century. In 1816, his grandfather,

Archibald Mellon,

emigrated to the United States; Andrew and his family followed two years later.

Thomas Mellon began a career in law after graduating and became very successful, using his income to buy much real estate in downtown Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

In late 1869, he decided to retire from the bench, and rather than return to the legal profession, "concluded to open a banking house." On January 2, 1870, he opened the T. Mellon & Sons' Bank with his sons Andrew W. and Richard B.

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Mellon died on his 95th birthday, February 3, 1908, at his home in East Liberty. He was survived by his wife, who lived for about a year after his death, and three children. Thomas Mellon and his wife Sarah are buried in Pittsburgh's Allegheny Cemetery.

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

