

Church News Ireland



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Image for today - Call in Cobh News -

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Image of the day

Call in Cobh

Cobh (pronounced "Cove") is a picturesque town on the south coast of Ireland, in County Cork.

It is famous for its rich maritime history, colorful waterfront houses, and as the last port of call for the Titanic before its ill-fated voyage in 1912.

Some key highlights of Cobh include:

Titanic Experience Cobh – A museum dedicated to the stories of passengers who boarded the Titanic from Cobh.

St. Colman's Cathedral – A stunning neo-Gothic cathedral with panoramic views of the harbor.

Cobh Heritage Centre – A museum exploring Ireland's emigration history, including its role in the Titanic and Lusitania stories.

Spike Island – A historic fortress-turned-prison accessible by ferry.

Deck of Cards Houses – A row of colorful houses on a steep hill, perfect for photos.

News

Bishop of London breaks down in tears over 'micro-aggressions'

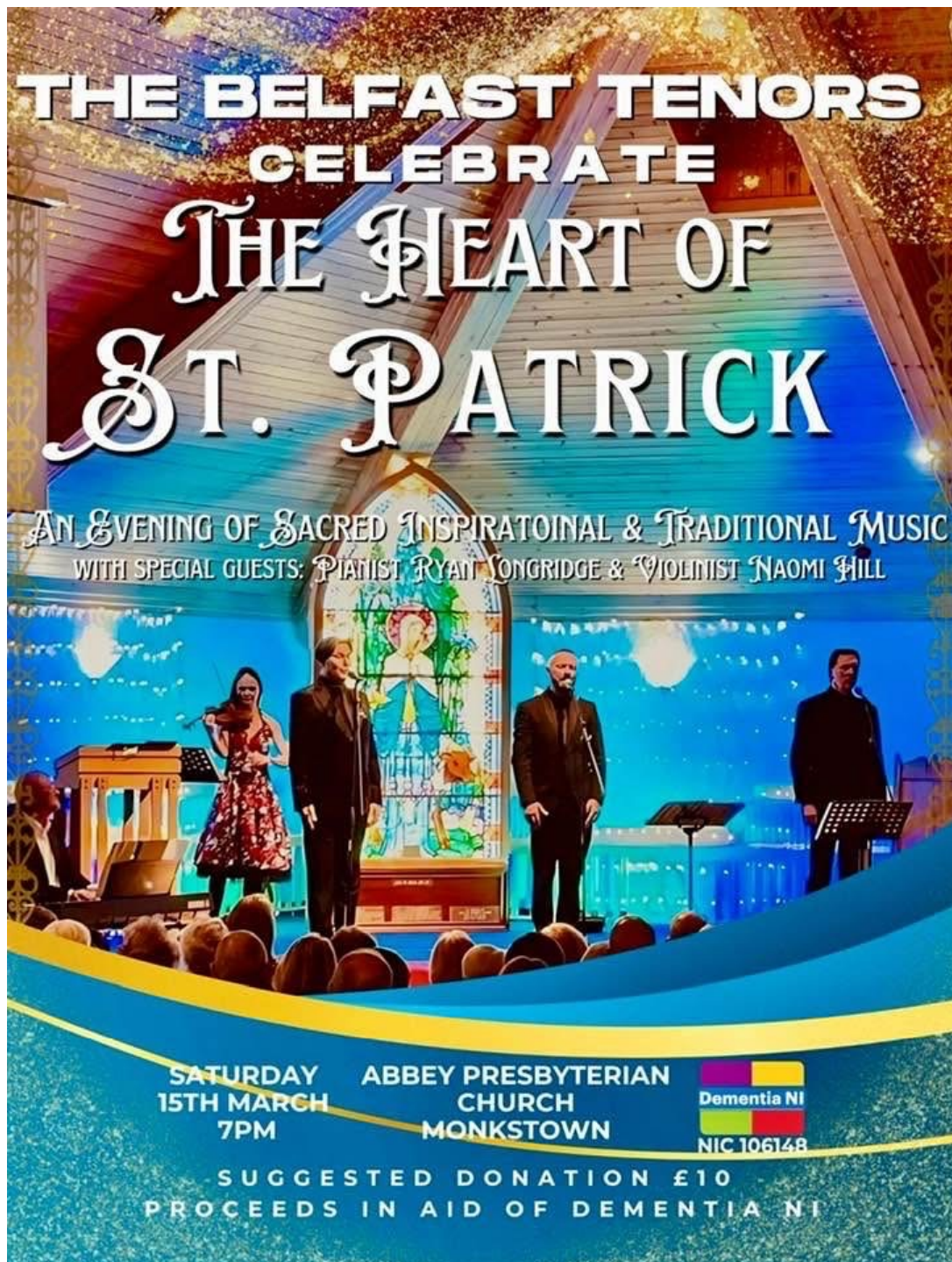
The Bishop of London has broken down in tears at the General Synod after describing the treatment of some women in the Church of England.



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Rt Rev Dame Sarah Mullally was addressing members of the General Synod about the make-up of the Crown Nominations Commission (CNC), the body in charge of appointing the next Archbishop of Canterbury. Calling for more women to be part of the CNC, she said:

“I would love to trust people to do the right thing but the truth is that women continue to be underrepresented...”



“I would love to encourage women, which I do all the time, but there continues to be institutional barriers, we continue to experience micro-aggressions.”

The bishop who had tried to fight back the tears, was then overcome with emotion and turned away from the podium. She was met with applause from Synod members, with some giving her a standing ovation.

The Archbishop of York Most Rev Stephen Cottrell stood to give her a reassuring pat on the shoulder.

The 62 year old, who is the most senior women in the Church of England turned back to the members and gestured to them to sit down saying :

“You're using up my time! And people will say that I have manipulated you, I have not...”

“We have said we want to hear the voices of women.

“I challenge you: don't just say it, don't just wear the blue ribbon, but do something about it.”

Bishop Mullally had earlier described how women were under-represented in many stages of the appointments process for selecting bishops:

“Women's voices continue not to be heard, not just on the CNC but also in other places...”

“I believe that most dioceses have 50 per cent men, 50 per cent women. Why are we not ensuring that our members

from the Vacancy in See (the diocese which has a vacancy for a bishop) in the CNC, are 50 per cent men, 50 per cent women?”

Last month the Chair of Women and the Church (WATCH) Rev Martine Osborne told a news source that the culture in the Church of England sometimes made it difficult for women to make their voices heard. She said they risk being ‘gas-lit’ if they complain.

Pope misses Sunday prayers in hospital but is up and reading the papers, say officials

Pope Francis missed Sunday prayers at the Vatican and will remain in hospital where he is being treated for bronchitis.

Pope Francis is in hospital but thanked worshippers for expressing their concern.

The Pope was admitted to Rome’s Gemelli Hospital on Friday with a respiratory tract infection after suffering from bronchitis for more than a week.

Matteo Bruni, a Vatican spokesman, said he had eaten breakfast and read the newspapers in between treatment and medical tests. The pontiff cancelled his regular Sunday audience, but sent a personal message of peace to pilgrims gathered for prayer in St Peter’s Square.

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“I invite everyone to continue to pray for peace in tormented Ukraine, Palestine, Israel and all the Middle East, Myanmar, Kivu and Sudan,” he said.

“I would have liked to be among you, but as you know, I am here at Gemelli Hospital because I still need some treatment for my bronchitis.”

He thanked the faithful for their messages of concern and affection along with the doctors and nurses caring for him. Massimo Andreoni, the scientific director of the Italian Society of Infectious Diseases, said rest would be crucial for the 88-year-old pontiff’s recovery. “Doctors will have to proceed with great caution because we are talking about the Pope... an elderly patient with comorbidities, said Mr Andreoni.

“Respiratory infections require serious treatments...and a break from public events,” he added.

Official prayer from Pope Francis for the Jubilee year 2025

Father in heaven,
may the faith you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of charity enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within both
humanity and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.
May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.
To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.
Amen.

CAFOD
Catholic Agency for
Overseas Development



Gemelli hospital, which is a short distance from the Vatican, is Rome's largest hospital and has an exclusive suite designed for treating the pontiff. The late John Paul II was often admitted for treatment here during his papacy.

Pope Francis was treated for bronchitis at the hospital in March 2023 and spent nine days there in June that year for surgery to repair an abdominal hernia.

Churches remain united against 'Assisted Dying' bill going through UK Parliament

Christian leaders across the United Kingdom remain resolute in their opposition to the 'Assisted Dying' legislation underway in the Westminster parliament, writes Billy Kennedy in the News Letter

The churches' consistent stance is solid as the legislation was thrown into doubt this week after MPs were told the government now intends to replace the High Court as a final adjudicator in the various cases with a panel of experts who could involve social workers and psychiatrists who would adjudicate in the far-reaching decisions put before them.

The 'Assisted Dying' Bill passed the House of Commons in November on a majority of 55 over a cross-party vote, but now, in the light of proposed changes, a significant number of MPs are having second thoughts on the way forward and could re-assess their position. Northern Ireland MPs strongly opposed the legislation.

Sixteen pages of amendments have now been proposed ahead of a parliamentary committee's scrutiny of the bill concerning terminally ill adults. New proposals include requiring doctors to outline a full spectrum of care options, including palliative care, before assisted dying is discussed. The changes come amid mounting concerns about potential coercion and questions over patients' mental capacity during such critical decisions.

The main churches in Northern Ireland – Church of Ireland, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic and Methodist – are united in opposition and this week Cardinal Vincent Nichols, leader of the Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales, echoed this position.

The Church of Ireland says: "Aside from issues of faith, there is a wealth of evidence which indicates that legislating for assisted death does nothing to improve the situation of vulnerable individuals and is open to over-reliance, misuse, and abuse." The Presbyterian Church in Ireland said

Cookery Demonstration with top Northern Ireland chef

Jenny Bristow


Date – **Thursday 20th March 2025**

Time – **7pm**

Venue – **Canon Kelly Hall, Glendermott Church of Ireland**

Ticket Number All proceeds in aid of Glendermott Parish Church

£15



Tickets available from the Parish office Tuesday & Thursday 10am -2pm.
Tel 02871345076 or Email: glendermott@outlook.com

politicians are unable to “ensure the safety of the most vulnerable” when it comes to assisted dying. “Preservation of life is something society casts off at its peril”.

An amendment to the legislation would require an “expert panel” to approve each assisted death, following the sign-off of two independent doctors, ruling out a direct sign-off by a high court judge in each individual case. The Assisted Dying Bill was put forward by Labour MP Kim Leadbeater, who, some accuse of being a cover for the government in its real intentions for implementation of such life-threatening legislation.

Health Minister Wes Streeting is opposed to assisted dying, and the London Times, in a hard-hitting editorial this week, describing the legislation as a “flawed process”, urged Prime Minister Keir Starmer and MP Leadbeater to immediately “pull the Bill”.

Last month, the committee of MPs scrutinising the bill heard from witnesses who questioned the benefits and practicalities of requiring the approval of judges. Questions were raised about the number of court hours that would be taken up by assisted death applications. Instead, an amendment to the bill will now establish a Voluntary Assisted Dying Commission.

MPs opposed to the bill have a broad range of concerns around its ethics and safeguards, from the possibility of people being coerced into an assisted death to religious objections based on the sanctity of life. Some MPs argue that the bill has not been sufficiently thought through and requires more parliamentary debate.

Conservative MP Danny Kruger said the amendment was “a disgrace”, stating: “Approval by the High Court – the key safeguard used to sell the Assisted Suicide Bill to MPs – has been dropped. Instead we have a panel, not including a judge, of people committed to the process, sitting in private, without hearing arguments from the other side. A disgrace”.

Labour MP Rachel Maskell, who also opposed the Bill, said: “We had lawyers debating the judicial process, doctors highlighting insecure medical procedures, and testimonies revealing how difficult it is to assess mental capacity and detect coercion. We also heard how minoritised and socio-economically deprived communities could be disproportionately affected, increasing healthcare inequality rather than addressing it.”

Ms Maskell is advocating for a comprehensive public consultation, emphasising the need to consider the lived experiences of those facing end-of-life decisions. She argues the bill will “drive people to die” and is campaigning for an improved system of palliative care, medicine, and support “to enable people to live the fullest life they can.”
Report courtesy The News Letter 15/02/2015.

Scottish Episcopal Church awarded £490,000 by Benefact Trust to support Net Zero work

The Scottish Episcopal Church (SEC) is pleased to announce a new strategic partnership with Benefact Trust.

This partnership will deliver a new Net Zero Grant Awards Programme, providing £700,000 in combined funding from Benefact Trust and the provincial Buildings Grants Fund.

Benefact Trust has pledged £490,000, over two years, towards the Awards Programme. This support will be instrumental as part of the SEC's mission to care for God's creation. Through the underlying values of discipleship, justice and hope, the SEC is working towards a sustainable and flourishing church, which will serve the varied communities of Scotland today, and in the future. Partnership with Benefact Trust will help to tackle the challenges of that journey across a wide range of buildings, financial situations and geographical areas.

Paul Williams, SEC Net Zero Delivery Director, said: "We're thrilled to be working in partnership with Benefact Trust on delivering strategic net zero initiatives within the Scottish Episcopal Church. This collaboration will empower congregations to significantly reduce their contribution to climate change through implementation of zero carbon technologies. Together we can provide strategic funding and resources to support leading churches in their journey to net zero, demonstrating how places of worship can continue to serve not only as spiritual havens but also as beacons of environmental stewardship."

Helen Gray, Benefact Trust Director, said: "We're delighted to support the Scottish Episcopal Church through our latest strategic grant. This partnership will enable more churches across Scotland to access expert advice, guidance, and essential funding on their journey to net zero. It will also

create a network of example churches, leading the way and inspiring churches of all denominations to take action. This latest strategic partnership is the next step in Benefact Trust's commitment to addressing climate change."

Education

Dalriada seniors at Goalkeepers Hockey Camp

During the Half Term holidays, Dalriada's two Senior Hockey goalies Molly Brown and

Grace Bloomer attended the MH1 Goalkeepers Hockey Camp in Portadown.



The development programme was founded by Maddie Hinch OBE after she won Olympic Gold with the GB Team in 2016 with the vision to accelerate the development of goalkeeping globally, through platforms that are open to any and all people to find their limitless potential. It was the first time the camp was run in Northern Ireland.

February 18, 2025



Belfast School of Performing Arts London visit 2025

**60 families joined in the experience:
A choice of 9 incredible shows
3 fabulous workshops at the iconic Pineapple Studios**

Time for sightseeing, shopping, and socialising...



February 18, 2025

The younger pupils were so lucky to work with the amazing Sam Lathwood, resident choreographer for Matilda. He was fantastic with them, and they made us so proud by mastering an exciting routine.



Some enjoyed more sightseeing and shopping, while others packed in both a matinee and an evening show. The day's lineup included The Lion King, Matilda, Mamma Mia, Hadestown, and Wicked – what an unforgettable experience.

Stay tuned in the coming days for news about another exciting trip planned for 2026.

Recent UCD Ulysses Medal winner, Dr Síofra O'Leary to be Adjunct Full Professor

Distinguished alumna, former President of the European Court of Human Rights, and recent UCD Ulysses Medal winner, Dr Síofra O'Leary, has joined UCD Sutherland School of Law as an Adjunct Full Professor.

A graduate of University College Dublin, Dr O'Leary served as a judge of the Strasbourg court from 2015 until 2024. In

2022, she became its president, the first woman and Irish person in the court's history to hold this position.

Opportunities

Clanmil looking for cooks

We're looking for cooks to join our housing with care schemes in Magherafelt and Belfast.

As a cook, you will be responsible for the planning, preparation and cooking of meals and the supervision of the kitchen.

In return, we offer a fantastic rewards package from generous annual leave, healthcare, pension contributions and an award-winning work-life balance package which we are happy to tell you about.

Interested? <https://www.clanmil.org.uk/join-the-team>

Youth & Children's Worker in Larne

Larne Methodist Circuit (incorporating Carnlough, Craigyhill, and Larne) are recruiting a Youth & Children's Worker.

Full Time. £26,851. For job description and to apply now, visit:

irishmethodist.org/vacancies

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

Cathedral Calls

Insight from Birr on recent service organized by An Cumann Gaelach at Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin

A couple of Birr people, Ian Coulter and Rita Kelly, recently took part in an Interdenominational Service, in Irish, at Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin reported Offaly Live.

The Service included the famous soprano Celine Byrne singing nine hymns in Irish. The new Lord Mayor of Dublin, Councillor Emma Blain, read the Lesson in Irish.

“It was wonderful to invite Rev'd Canon Ian Coulter as one of the Celebrants of this annual Interdenominational Service in Christ Church Cathedral,” Rita Kelly told the Midland Tribune afterwards. “Canon Ian lives in Kilkenny and is Priest-in-Charge of Templemore, Thurles & Kilfithmone



Pictured with the other participants in Christ Church were Ian Coulter (back, third from left) and Rita Kelly (front, first from left).

Group of Parishes. He is very much a Birr man with many stories and insights. He was delighted to meet other Birr people at the Service, including Mary Boissel/Corcoran. He took Irish in his degree at the University of Ulster and therefore has a lovely fluent command of the language. The other Celebrant was Canon Pádraig Ó Baoill, a Dubliner, belonging to the Roman Catholic Archdiocese and their Coiste Tréadach/Pastoral Committee. Canon Pádraig is a member of Cumann na Sagart / Society of Priests - who speak Irish. The Interdenominational Service is a very special Service, held during Christian Unity Week, within the magnificent surrounds of Christ Church.

Rev'd Canon Helen Oxley preached during the event. Rev Oxley is another clergy person with great Irish. Her Sermon centred on the celebration of 1,700 years of the Nicene

Creed. She outlined a very good background to 325 in Nicea and how the Creed grew out of conflict at that First Council of Nicea - present-day Iznik in Turkey. She spoke about the relevance of the Creed today and of our beliefs in a changing world. Canon Helen lives in Tullow, Co Carlow and she is also Principal of the Primary School in Kiltegen, Co Wicklow. “We were delighted to congratulate her,” said Rita, “as she had just been appointed Canon that very day, to St Canice's Cathedral, Kilkenny.”

Rita, as Development Officer with Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise/Irish Guild of the Church of Ireland, has many different roles. Primarily, she is involved in the promotion of the Irish language for worship throughout the entire country. That means she travels a good deal, as she believes that meeting people, in this case clergywomen and clergymen, face to face, is the most effective way of promoting Irish. The Cumann has a long and illustrious history since its founding in 1914 by Douglas Hyde, Roger Casement and others. “We may thank Douglas Hyde,” Rita pointed out, “for the fact that we all, outside of the Gaeltachtaí, speak Irish because of his courage and vision in being a founder member of Conradh na Gaeilge in 1893.”

Rita travels to Wales on the invitation of the Archbishop Andrew John, to see how the Welsh language is a strong element of the Church in Wales. She has spoken recently to the students at St Padarn's Theological Institute in Cardiff, to outline what she does in Ireland and what the parallels are with Wales and Welsh. She hopes to get to the Isle of Man this year to observe the resurgence of Manx Gaelic and how it is being used in worship there.

In Christ Church Rita issued an invitation to the newly-elected Lord Mayor of Dublin, Councillor Emma Blain, to read in Irish. “Everyone was delighted that she accepted,” commented Rita, “made the time to greet people and she read from Isaiah. Many years ago I was Writer-in-Residence for County Laois, and one of the strong participants then was Arthur Broomfield from Ballyfin, who did his doctorate on Beckett, and is an uncle of Emma Blain, the Lord Mayor.”

As the Former President, Mary McAleese, is a Lay Canon of Christ Church Cathedral and a marvellous Irish speaker, Rita invited her to attend. “It was lovely how she came and sat with the congregation,” recalled Rita. “She stayed for tea and refreshments, which was down in the Crypt. She had stories to tell and talked to everyone for ages. Of course, she remembered her visit to the outstanding Birr Theatre and Arts Centre when she was President.”

Report by Derek Fanning, courtesy of Offaly Live

Jane Austen Statue by Martin Jennings at Winchester Cathedral

Work will begin on the statue of Austen standing by her writing table by Martin Jennings, one of the country’s leading figurative sculptors.

It will be installed outside No 9 in the Inner Close, midway between the cathedral and the house in College Street where she died.

Canon Roland Riem, Vice-Dean of Winchester Cathedral said:

“We would like to thank the many donors who have understood the vision for this memorial to Austen’s literary legacy, and who have contributed so generously.

“We thank those who have offered feedback, and, last by no means least, thank Martin for his perseverance and patience over the eight years since this project’s inception.”

Martin Jennings said, “A sculpture of a great figure can be only one interpretation, but I hope mine will pay full tribute to the essential elements of her moral vision and her greatness as an author.

“I look forward to producing a memorial to Jane Austen which will draw people from far and wide to celebrate her legacy and that of the great city and cathedral in which she rests.” Martin will now get to work on the full-scale clay model at his studio in Stroud.

Events

Belfast Children’s Festival

Fun for everyone young at young at heart!

Don’t miss out the 27th Belfast Children’s Festival, 6-15 March, featuring incredible events and performances from local, national and international artists.

Would you like to try Fencing? 🏊

NI Fencing are holding FREE Come And Try It sessions for 8-12 year olds at Queens PEC on Sunday 30th March.

To find out more

<https://fencelikeanolympian.com/banner-signup/>

Resources

Is your child autistic?

Discover Caudwell Children's Autism Sensory Pack, only £22 with charity funding (worth £107.81)! 🥰

Packed with sensory-friendly toys and resources, specially designed to bring comfort to autistic children, up to 18 years-old, supporting their individual needs!



What's included...



Dark Den Tent



February 18, 2025

- ♥ Bubble Lamp with Fish
- ♥ Shake and Shine Glitter Lamp
- ♥ Tambourine
- ♥ Set of 4 Spikey Rugby Balls
- ♥ Fidget Gel/Glitter Shapes
- ♥ UV Puffer Balls
- ♥ Fidget Pad with Multi-coloured Keys
- ♥ Green Ooze Tube
- ♥ UV Kit (including Mini UV Torch)
- ♥ Ocean Wave



Visit their website to see eligibility criteria and apply today
👉 bit.ly/3AjbD2C

Live-streaming for churches

What is live streaming, why does it matter, and how can you get started with it?

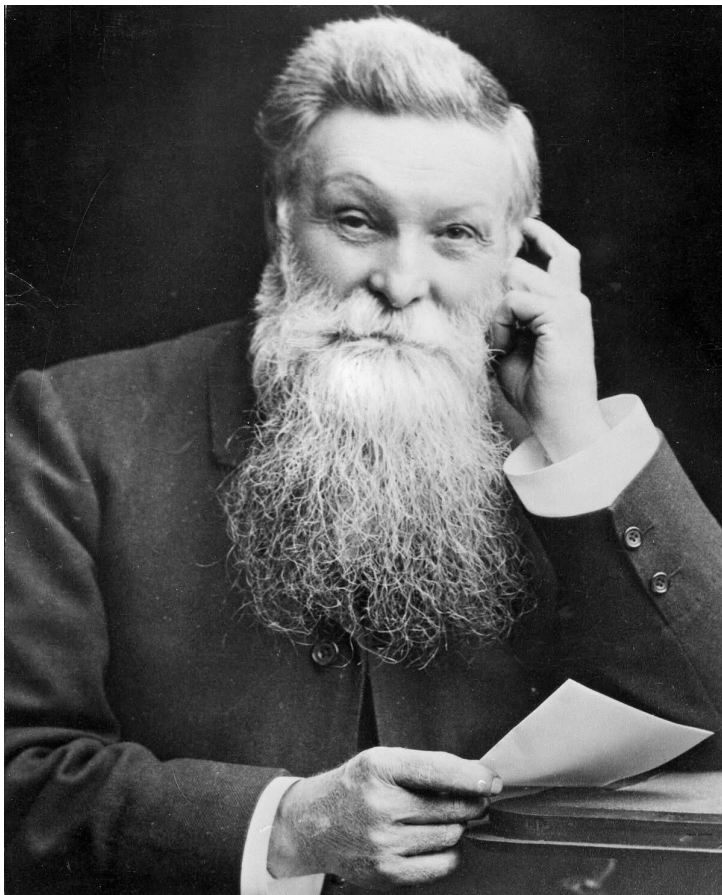
One of the best ongoing resource is the C of Es Digital Labs blog. Find out in Digital Labs blog at -

[\[https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/digital-labs/blogs/livestreaming-2025-and-top-3-beginner-friendly-live-streaming-platforms-churches\]](https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/digital-labs/blogs/livestreaming-2025-and-top-3-beginner-friendly-live-streaming-platforms-churches)

NI Libraries Learn @ Lunch series

If you missed NI Libraries most recent Learn @ Lunch series, you can watch every Photography session with Catriona Corrigan on their YouTube.

Watch now at. <https://tinyurl.com/LNIYTLaL2>



Heritage

John Boyd Dunlop

5 February 1840 saw the birth near Dreghorn of Scottish inventor and veterinary surgeon John Boyd Dunlop, best remembered for inventing the first practical pneumatic tyre.

Dunlop pursued his studies to become a veterinary surgeon at the Dick Vet, University of Edinburgh, before relocating to Downpatrick, Ireland in 1867. In 1871, he married Margaret Stevenson, and together they had a daughter and a son. He founded the Downe Veterinary Clinic in Downpatrick alongside his brother James Dunlop before transitioning to a

practice located at 38–42 May Street, Belfast, where, by the mid-1880s, his practice had become one of the largest in Ireland.

Dunlop was instrumental in developing pneumatic tyres for his son's tricycle, which were soon manufactured commercially in Scotland. A cyclist utilizing his tyres began to dominate races, attracting the attention of Harvey Du Cros. Dunlop subsequently sold his rights to a new venture with Du Cros for a monetary sum and a minor equity stake. Together, they navigated numerous challenges faced by their enterprise, including the loss of patent rights. In 1892, he retired from veterinary practice and shortly thereafter moved to Dublin, where he assisted Harvey Du Cros in successfully revitalizing Booth Bros of Dublin as the Pneumatic Tyre and Booth's Cycle Agency.

The introduction of the pneumatic tyre significantly transformed the bicycle industry, which had experienced substantial growth following the launch of J K Starley's safety bicycle in 1885. Dunlop divested his interests in the tyre and rubber industry in 1895 and did not pursue further involvement in that sector, focusing instead on a local drapery business.

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

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early morning**

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