

# Church News Ireland



**Image of the day – Bangor's Big Boats**

February 8, 2025

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## Image of the day



## Bangor's Big Boats

**BangorByTheSea visited Pickie Fun Park to enjoy the incredible spectacle laid on by the Seahorse Model Boat Club...and they were absolutely blown away!**

The detail and accuracy of the models were mind-blowing, with everything from miniature ferries, harbours, cranes, and all types of seagoing craft brought to life on the water. It was



a fantastic display of skill, dedication, and pure passion for model boating.

Affiliated with the Model Power Boat Association (MPBA), the Seahorse Model Boat Club has been bringing together enthusiasts from all over Northern Ireland for nearly a decade, though its roots go all the way back to the 1950s.

With 31 members of all ages and abilities, they regularly meet at Pickie to sail an amazing variety of remote-controlled vessels.

If you missed this event, don't worry, keep an eye out for more from this talented club! And if you're into model boats, why not get involved? Thank you to BangorByTheSea for the photographs.

# News



## Paralympic Games experiences shared

**Connect Chloe and Judith Mc Combe from Claudy came to Kilcronahan Parish and shared their experiences of the Paralympic Games.**

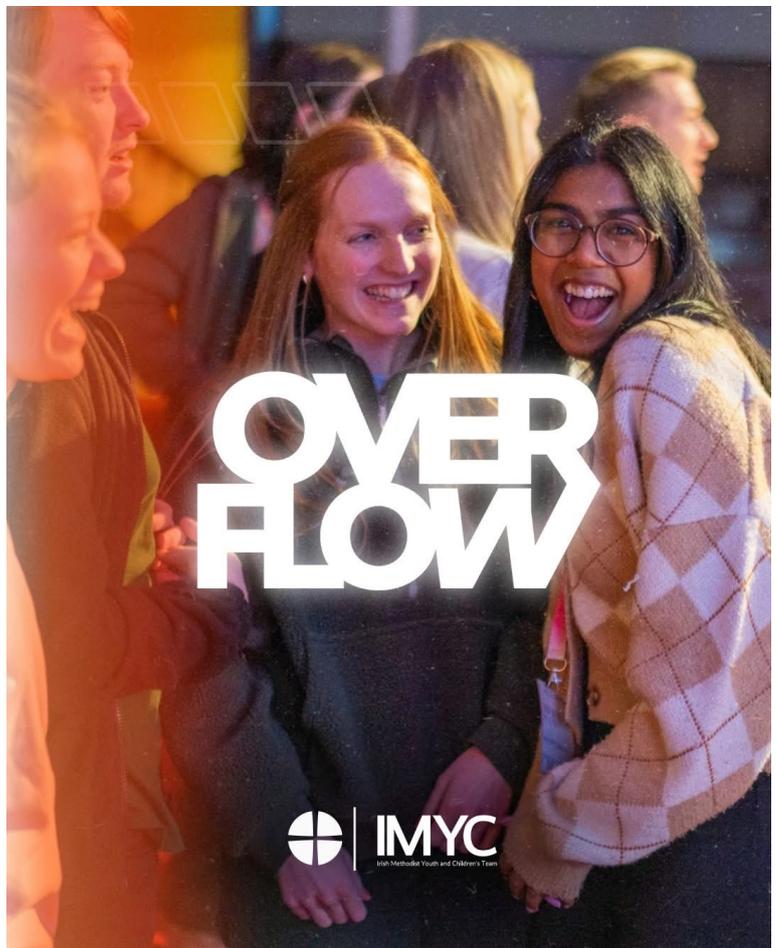
As both are visually impaired they compete in the PTVI class. They have travelled all over the world and showed us the medals they have won.



The meeting was supported by PHA, managed through CWSAN's Winter Wellbeing programme'

## **OVERFLOW** is this weekend

**The Methodist Church requests that you join them as they pray for their young leaders travelling to Portadown -**



“that this weekend would be one of deep encounters with God and that they would be filled with a greater passion to love and serve Him. May they grow in wisdom, confidence, and faith as they step into leadership in their own contexts”.

## Larne Family History Society



### Rev William Martin's 5 ships for Carolina 1772 by Dr David Hume

Thursday 20 February 2025 at 7:15pm  
in Larne Library  
36 Pound Street, Larne

Free for Members  
Visitors welcome for a small donation

[www.nifhs.org/branches/larne/](http://www.nifhs.org/branches/larne/)  
Larne Family History Society

## Rev William Martin and his five ships for Carolina

The next meeting of Larne Family History Society, is on Thursday 20th February 2025 starting at 7:15pm, in Larne Library.

Dr David Hume will be telling about Rev

William Martin's 5 ships for Carolina in 1772. Everyone is welcome, non members with a small donation.

## **Methodist President congratulates new PCI Moderator**

**The Rev Dr John Alderdice, President of the Methodist Church in Ireland on hearing the designation of the 2025-26 Presbyterian Moderator has said:**

“I am delighted to hear of Rev Trevor Gribben’s election as Moderator Designate of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland for 2025-26. It has been a privilege to share with Trevor this year through the Church Leaders group in his capacity as Clerk of the General Assembly. Trevor will be in our prayers as he prepares for his year in office.”

Known as the Moderator-Designate, he will be formally elected and installed as Moderator by the General Assembly, when it meets in Belfast this June. The Tandragee-born 63-year-old is the 13th minister to hold the office of Clerk of the General Assembly since the establishment of the Church in 1840, and will be the 7th Clerk to serve as the Church in its highest office.

## **Christian Aid Ireland remembers Turkey and Syria two years on**

**58,000 lives lost. Millions more rebuilding since the devastating earthquakes in Turkey and Syria in February 2023**

Together with our partners, we've worked tirelessly to implement earthquake response projects in Northwest Syria



### *Back in Bangor...*

and southern Turkey. Our efforts have focused on emergency and humanitarian responses on short term and supporting the early recovery, localisation and community resilience for the affected people.

These efforts include cash assistance for vulnerable groups, rehabilitation of roads and schools, economic empowerment and protection for women, legal aid, child protection and education, small business and livelihood grants, survivors and community led responses initiatives, collective projects to ensure safeguarding, disaster preparedness and promote local leadership.

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We remain committed to supporting the recovery and rebuilding of these communities, ensuring they are better equipped for the future .

## **Silent church bells are not marrying type**

**Couples are being “put off” from marrying at a church where bells can no longer be rung because of health and safety concerns, a vicar has said.**

The bells at St Wendreda’s Church in March, Cambridgeshire, have been silent since January 2023 when damage to its 140ft (43m) tall spire was discovered.

The Reverend Ruth Clay said she became aware of the problem when a piece of damaged metal, thought to be a bolt, fell to the floor.

Specialists found that metal tie bars in the spire were corroded and recommended that the bells not be rung until the tower could be repaired, the 60-year-old said.

But Ms Clay, who is trying to raise £250,000 for the repairs, said the continued silence of the bells had caused bookings for the building to plummet.

She told BBC News: “It’s really sad when I have to tell a couple that we can’t ring the bells, and perhaps, they might think that they should go somewhere else.”

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The bells had been a feature of the church for centuries. Residents were used to waking up to them and hearing them during celebrations, Ms Clay said.

“Couples want all the bells and whistles when they are arranging their big day,” she added.

Ms Clay, who became vicar in 2022, said: “When we investigated, it was discovered that the bells were no longer safe so we had to stop ringing them. We couldn’t risk further metalwork falling until it was mended.”

The church has put in bids for various funds, including the National Lottery Heritage Fund, but has so far only managed to raise £46,000 from donations.

The vicar warned last September that unless the money could be raised the church would be placed on an at-risk register. Courtesy of Jonathan Freeland in the Daily Telegraph

## **Trump to tackle 'anti-Christian bias' with new White House task force**

**U.S. President Donald Trump has said he will create a new White House faith office aimed at eradicating what he called "anti-Christian bias" within the federal government.**

“You never heard about that one before, but it’s about time,” Trump told attendees of the National Prayer Breakfast,

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vowing to sign an executive order making Attorney General Pam Bondi head of the task force.

Trump did not give any examples of anti-Christian bias in the US, and experts say the actions could pose constitutional questions about the separation of church and state.

Trump added that he would create a new commission on religious liberty.

"If we don't have religious liberty, then we don't have a free country," he said.

"Religion is a very good thing. We have to have religion. It suffered greatly over the last few years, but it's coming back. It's coming back strong."

Referencing an assassination attempt on his life in July, the president said: "None of us knows exactly when our time on earth will be over. You never know. A truth I confronted a few short months ago when there was an incident that was not fun. It was not a good thing. But God was watching me.

He continued: "I really believe you can't be happy without religion, without that belief.

"So, let's begin religion back, let's bring God back into our lives."

He joked that his son's faith had also grown since the assassination attempt. "My sons are really good shooters, Don and Eric. They said the chance of missing from that

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range with that gun - Don equated it to a one foot put. That's pretty bad. Two feet I can see missing but one foot you can't miss," he joked. "He gained some religion. He went up 25 per cent. If you know him, that's a lot."

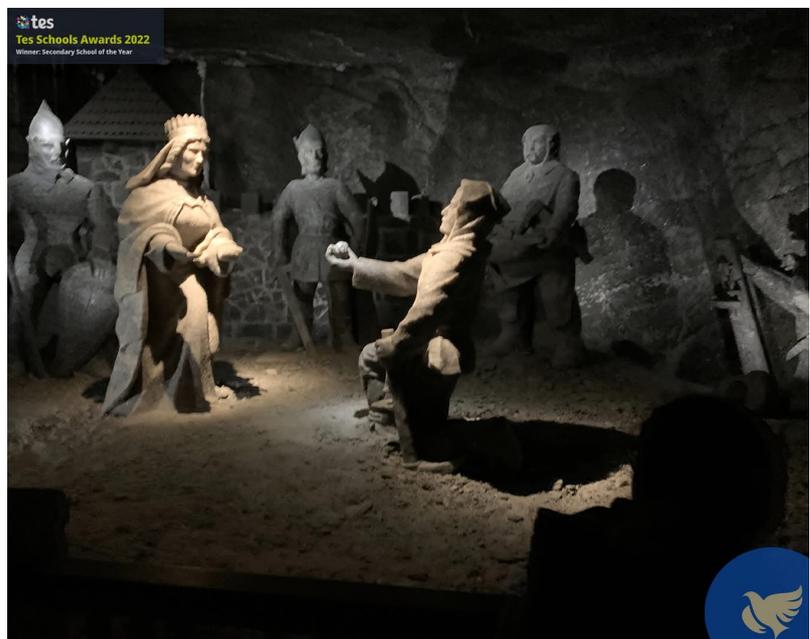
Attending the prayer breakfast were families of Israeli hostages. The president said that those still in captivity were in his thoughts, and that he would see every hostage returned.

It comes as an anonymous member of Trump's team expressed shock at his plans for the US to take over the Gaza strip. The source told the New York Times he had not heard of the plans until Tuesday, when Trump announced them.

## Education

### Hazelwood Integrated College visit to Krakow

During a visit to The Galicia Jewish Museum, students had the once in a lifetime opportunity to listen to the story of Holocaust survivor Anna Janowska Ciońćka who lost her father and 3 of her grandparents, among others, during the





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period of genocide in Poland.

In the afternoon pupils toured the UNESCO world heritage site the Wieliczka Salt Mine-an amazing spectacle.

## **Aware NI Poems aware competition**

### **Aware NI is now open for submissions on children's Mental Health Week 2025**

Each school can email up to two poems to [poems@aware-ni.org](mailto:poems@aware-ni.org)

Get submitting for your chance to win our incredible prizes...

Submissions open until the end of February. More information found on

[www.aware-ni.org/express-yourself](http://www.aware-ni.org/express-yourself)



## **BRA visit Advanced Manufacturing Training Centre of Excellence, AMTCE, in Dundalk**

**The Technology  
Department of Belfast  
Royal Academy visited  
the Advanced  
Manufacturing Training**



**Centre of Excellence, AMTCE, in Dundalk, with twenty Form 4 pupils who have been part of the Advanced Manufacturing Pathways Programme for Schools.**

They saw examples of world-class advanced and sustainable manufacturing and training facilities. They experienced virtual welding, robot and cobot manufacturing processes, cyber security, smart factory simulations, and even a robotic dog! #BRAtotechnology #BRAtech

## **NI Science Festival**

**QUB posts - Our experts at QUB have been shaping a better world for the last 180 years.**

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Once again, we're joining with NI Science Festival to open our doors as our researchers take you behind the scenes to tell you more.

Learn how we find treatments to fight disease, explore what lurks beneath our waters or embark on an interstellar adventure.

Check out all the events you won't want to miss at this year's festival [→ ow.ly/IOsE50UKglw](https://ow.ly/IOsE50UKglw)



Visit the NI Science Festival website [→ nisciencefestival.com](https://nisciencefestival.com)  
What will you discover?

## Clergy and ministry

### Diocesan President for Mothers' Union Cashel, Ferns & Ossory

Linda Ward is the new Diocesan President.

Linda said, "It is a great honour and privilege for me to accept the role of Mothers' Union Diocesan President for this diocese. We in Cashel, Ferns & Ossory MU are blessed to have so many talented and gifted members. I look forward to working with them as a team as we endeavour to nurture members and branches in the years ahead. Looking forward to meeting you as we encourage others to Join us and Join in, which is our theme for 2025 - 2027."

## **Incredible social care workers who make a difference every day**

**Social care workers are the unsung heroes who provide vital support to individuals, families, and communities, helping them live as independently as possible.**

These compassionate, skilled professionals deliver both practical help and emotional support, making a real difference in people's lives.

Did you know our registered social care workforce is the largest within the Health and Social Care sector? ✨

Over 40,000 social care workers are making a difference in people's lives across Northern Ireland. We are sharing their stories and shining a light on the men and women who dedicate themselves to social care. They believe in better. They believe in making a difference.

Our series of short films and photographs tell the stories of social care workers, recognising their valuable contribution,

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highlighting the enabling affect it can have for communities, and the diversity and flexibility of roles and career choices across the various sectors and care settings.

Read more inspiring stories of the incredible social care workers who make a difference every day >>

<https://bit.ly/3PIWeKF>

## Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

### Parentkind webinar on fostering positive online habits

**The digital world can be a challenging space for primary-aged children. In honour of World Mental Health Day and Anti-Bullying Week, this webinar focuses on fostering positive online habits and reducing digital vulnerabilities.**

Learn how a behavioural approach to online safety can empower children with the skills to navigate the online playground confidently. Gain practical advice and guidance tailored to nurturing healthy digital habits at home, supporting children across the primary school age range.

Equip your family with tools to build digital resilience and promote well-being in an ever-connected world.

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Book here: <https://www.parentkind.org.uk/your-pta-expert/parent-webinars#heading465737>

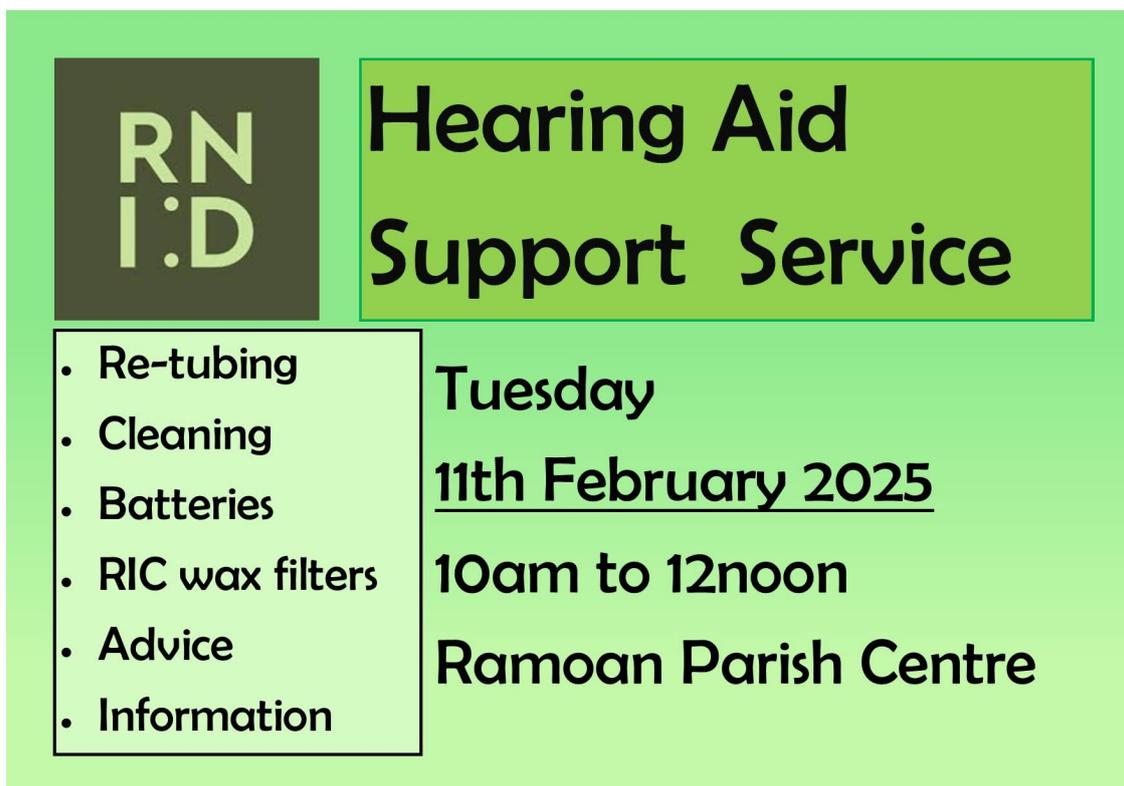
[<https://www.parentkind.org.uk/your-pta-expert/parent-webinars>]

## St Patrick's Concert with the Band of The Royal Irish Regiment

**The Army Cadet Charitable Trust UK, Northern Ireland Branch, presents a St Patrick's Concert With the Band of The Royal Irish Regiment, and featuring the Band of 1st (NI) Battalion Army Cadet Force.**

Fri 14 Mar 2025 | 19:45. Tickets from just £7.75 - book yours now! <https://theatreatthemill.com/book/?show=112001>

*Proceeds to the Army Cadet Charitable Trust UK, Northern Ireland Branch*



**RN I:D**

### Hearing Aid Support Service

- Re-tubing
- Cleaning
- Batteries
- RIC wax filters
- Advice
- Information

**Tuesday**  
**11th February 2025**  
**10am to 12noon**  
**Ramoan Parish Centre**

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# 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**