

# Church News Ireland

---



**Image of the day – Mothers Union hearts  
for Cork hospital**

## Image of the day



### Mothers Union hearts for Cork hospital

**Mothers Union Cork was invited to Cork University Hospital for a staff wellbeing event which happened several times on the day.**

Facilitated by the staff wellbeing officer, two of the hospital chaplains and other staff members, each person was given a red heart.

These hearts are the work of many members and friends over the past few months.

To all who made them, you have contributed to a ceremony to honour the hands and hearts of staff at Cork's largest hospital. Thank you.

## People and places



### Presbyterian Church Mission in Ireland evening at Muckamore

**Each March, Mission in Ireland evenings are held in various Presbyteries to highlight the mission of our church across the island and share encouraging examples of God's work.**

Jonathan Porter and Louise Davidson will be the speakers at Muckamore Presbyterian Church on Sunday, 17 March 2024 @ 7pm.

The Council for Mission in Ireland supports Presbyteries in running these evenings, through the identification of speakers, some media resources and an over-arching theme. We are delighted that 10 of these services or events will be held in March 2024, with a range of speakers.

This year's theme is 'Weak Made Strong,' drawing on the Apostle Paul's words to in 2 Corinthians 12 about God's

January 22, 2024

power being made perfect in weakness. These evenings aim to emphasise that even though we may feel weak as individuals or no longer assume a position of strength as the church, weakness is no barrier for gospel growth.

It is hoped many people will engage with these events as each seek to play their part in God's mission across Ireland today.

## **The Word works in Ballybeen**

**Most of us don't consider ourselves to be evangelists and Richard Borgonon would say the same. He has however, discovered the power of sharing God's word with individuals and letting the Word and the Holy Spirit do the work.**

Richard was able to stay on after the Down & Dromore Clergy and Leaders Conference and help more folk discover how to explore with others what the Bible says about Jesus.

Sixty people came along to St Mary's Ballybeen on Friday evening

19 January for an informal session looking at how to use The Word One to One. This is a bite-sized resource on John's Gospel which Richard co-authored and which is used in 90 countries around the world.

As well as exploring The Word One to One, Richard explained why sharing the Bible with an individual is such a



powerful way to witness to Jesus and why it is so helpful for non-Christians.

He had many encouraging anecdotes of God at work in people from all walks of life and gave us confidence that anyone can share the Bible in this way.

All the resources you need can be found online FOR FREE at - [theword121.com](http://theword121.com)

## **Meet Valerie Methodist Church Local Preacher**

**In the third of our Local Preacher Series, meet Valerie Waugh a very recently fully accredited Local Preacher and a member of Shankill Methodist.**

Valerie tells us about her ‘calling’ experience, the training and how it feels now she is fully accredited as a Local Preacher.

January 22, 2024

“When I first started the preaching course although I knew God had called me to this work, I had doubts and fears and even struggled with the fact that, I as a woman was preaching. This was alien to what I had been taught throughout my early years in a different denomination.



God has shown me that it is He that has called me to do His work and it does not matter what others think. It is God who I trust and obey.

I have experienced God’s power, His provision, His presence, and His peace during this course.

During my time in training, I was encouraged by a lot of my friends, supported by my church and the tutors on the course were of great benefit to me.

It was hard work, but the benefits have out- weighed that by far. I praise God, he brought me through my training, and I look forward to what He has in store for me as a local preacher within the Methodist Church in Ireland.”

January 22, 2024

To read Valerie's story in full, or to catch up on the first two parts of this Local Preacher Series, follow this link <https://irishmethodist.org/ministries-news>

For more information on the Local Preacher application process and training, follow this link <https://irishmethodist.org/ministries-local-preachers>

## **Joy at Kildare Place School as new extension opened**

**The community of Kildare Place School celebrated a significant milestone in their school's history last Friday morning (January 19).**

A new extension to the 202 pupil school was officially opened by Frances Fitzgerald MEP and Archbishop Michael Jackson.

Among the other special guests were a selection of local public representatives, representatives of the architects and building contractors, members of the board of management, parents and most importantly the school children who provided excellent singing to mark the occasion.

Gathering in the refurbished school hall, principal Ian Packham welcomed everyone to the celebration of the achievement following 10 years of work. He said he was very proud of the extension and the school, its staff and pupils.



Frances Fitzgerald MEP, Archbishop Michael Jackson and principal Ian Packham (centre) cut the ribbon on the new extension at Kildare Place School.

The extension comprises two resource rooms to facilitate the support and learning of the pupils as well as a new office for the principal and reception.

Previously the school had no extra spaces, he explained. This meant that resource teaching had to take place in a cloakroom.

Mr Packham thanked the Department of Education for their contribution to the extension and commended the parents who fundraised extensively to ensure that the school could reach its goal. He also paid tribute to the board of management, the Archbishop and all involved in the build as



January 22, 2024

well as the staff of the school for their patience while the work was going on.



Frances Fitzgerald MEP addresses the KPS school community.

Frances Fitzgerald noted that the most important thing in any school was the atmosphere, which she said was wonderful in KPS. She attributed this to the principal and staff. She observed the flags on the stage and said these showed the extra things that the school was involved in. They signalled the school's values as an inclusive and kind place where people were cared about. She thanked the teachers and principal for their contribution. "Happy teachers make a happy school and the pupils are most important. Thank you too to the parents who support the

January 22, 2024

children and the board of management who have a lot of work to do,” she said.

Chairperson of the board of management, the Revd Rob Jones detailed the history of the school which dates back to 1811. The school had always been a place of great history and was set up to promote education across the denominations. “This school has always pushed the bar – growing and developing. This next iteration of the School is following in the footsteps of those who have gone before,” he commented before praising Mr Packham for his commitment.



The poster features a central circular image of a man speaking at a podium. The background is a light grey trapezoid with a dark red bottom section. Text is arranged in a clear, hierarchical layout.

**Healing Service**  
**7.30PM THURSDAY 25TH JANUARY**

**David “Packie” Hamilton**

**ST. PATRICK’S CHURCH OF IRELAND  
220 NEWTOWNARDS ROAD  
BALLYMACARRETT  
BELFAST BT4 1GZ**

*Today is the Day of your Miracle*  
**Prayer Ministry & Anointing with Oil**

January 22, 2024

The final word went to Archbishop Michael Jackson who said that there was a great sense of community in KPS. He added that everyone associated with the school was committed to it and paid tribute to all who had contributed time and energy as well as money to the fundraising efforts. He congratulated everyone on their achievement in bringing the extension to fruition and told the children “your lives will be changed positively because this project happened” and offered God’s blessing on all who used the extension.

The children in KPS were in great voice for the opening of their extension.

## **Causeway Coast and Glens Council to host virtual exhibition marking Holocaust Day 2024**

**Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council’s Good Relations Team is inviting people to attend a virtual exhibition to mark Holocaust Memorial Day this year.**

Holocaust Memorial Day takes place on January 27th each year, coinciding with the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp.

It is a time to remember the millions of people murdered during the Holocaust, under Nazi persecution and in the genocides which followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

**The online exhibition will feature** – among other materials – a booklet entitled ‘Canada’, which was penned by Mayor

January 22, 2024

of Causeway Coast and Glens, Councillor Steven Callaghan following a visit to Auchswitz-Birkenau. The piece tells the moving story of a young Jewish boy who lived during the Holocaust.

Find out more here: [Kanada: a play on words – NI Archive](#)

The exhibition also features a “Timeline of Nazi Germany”, which provides a year-by-year account of how freedoms were gradually restricted and removed from the Jewish people from 1933 onwards, long before the start of the Second World War. Another resource outlines genocides that have taken place in other countries throughout the 20th century and in the early years of this century.

Other materials include “Faces of the Holocaust” and “Personal Possessions of the Holocaust”, which feature poems and reflections by participants following their visit to Auchswitz-Birkenau.

**The theme for this year is Fragility of Freedom, inspired by the writings of Anne Frank.**

Freedom means different things to different people. What is clear is that in every genocide that has taken place, those who are targeted for persecution have first had their freedom restricted and removed, before many of them are murdered. This is often a subtle, slow process.

Genocide never just happens. There is always a set of circumstances which occur, or which are created, to build the climate in which genocide can take place and in which perpetrator regimes can remove the freedoms of those they



Archbishop John McDowell visited the Jewish community in Belfast recently and recorded a message for Holocaust Memorial Day.

are targeting. Often, they also restrict the freedoms of others around them, to prevent people from challenging the regime.

Despite this, in every genocide there are those who risk their own freedom to help others, to preserve others' freedom or to stand up to the regime. This is the theme of the recent "One Life" film, which tells the story of Sir Nicholas Winton and the 669 children that he rescued in the months leading up to World War II.

January 22, 2024

Mayor of Causeway Coast and Glens, Councillor Steven Callaghan said: “This year’s theme, The Fragility of Freedom should cause us to reflect on the fact that not everyone has the freedom that we enjoy and often take for granted. Freedom is fragile and is open to abuse.

“When we come across examples of people’s rights being restricted, we can speak up. And when we see or hear of whole groups being referred to in negative terms, we can remember that every individual should be accorded basic human rights and dignity.

“I would encourage everyone to go online and visit the virtual exhibition – it is a sobering reminder of where the mistreatment of whole groups of people can ultimately take us.”

Joy Wisener, Good Relations Officer, added: “Council is also taking part in the Light The Darkness campaign, which will see Council’s headquarters lit up in purple to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day. Individuals can also take part in this by lighting a candle in their own home on 27th January, taking a photo of it, and sharing it on social media to demonstrate their support of this act of remembrance.”

Further information about Holocaust Memorial Day Trust can be found at [www.hmd.org.uk](http://www.hmd.org.uk)

# Church News Ireland

# Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

## Lent Book by Archbishop of York

### **P is for Pilgrim**

### **The Christian Faith: A Journey from A to Z**

As you explore Christianity, whatever your age, you will soon encounter some challenging words: Trinity, Sacrament, Reconciliation, Sin. Sometimes it might feel easier to avoid these difficult words... Sometimes it just feels embarrassing to ask... everyone at church seems to know – or, at least, act as though they know. [But] it is simply not possible to be a Christian without understanding sin and forgiveness, without knowing what a sacrament is, or without accepting Jesus as the Christ... This book is here to help... a simple book about complex things... accessible, comprehensive and friendly.

### **Archbishop Stephen**

‘P is for Pilgrim belongs in every Christian home,’ writes Archbishop Stephen. ‘It aims to be a resource for Christians of all ages, providing an introduction to the basic words, ideas and concepts that you will encounter as you journey in faith and become part of the church... a set of reference points for anyone who wants to understand the Christian faith. If you’re searching for meaning in life and want to know more about the Christian faith, this book is for you.’

January 22, 2024

In this handsome hardback book – beautifully illustrated throughout with original lino print illustrations by Jack Seymour – Archbishop Stephen explores and explains nearly 80 key Christian terms, ideas, concepts, people, events and occasions concisely and clearly. It will be a valuable resource for adults and older children alike, both those wanting to understand more about the Christian faith as well as those who are already Christians. It would also make an ideal Baptism, Holy Communion or Confirmation gift.

The book will be available to buy from Church House Bookshop or other retailers.

### **About the author and illustrator:**

The author of many books for children and adults, Stephen Cottrell is the Archbishop of York, one of the most senior posts in the Church of England. His life's work as a priest as well as a bishop has been to tell the story of the Christian faith in ways that are simple, compelling and lovely. This little book is just one more way of explaining and telling that story. When he isn't 'bishopsing', Stephen loves to walk, cook, eat and write. He also makes lino prints – although he says they are not nearly as good as Jack's – and one even managed to sneak its way into this book! Stephen is married to Rebecca, who is a potter. They have three sons, two grandchildren and one dog, Molly.

Jack Seymour is an English teacher, graphic designer and illustrator. He has worked with various organisations - including the British and Irish Lions, Land Rover, Google, Ordnance Survey and The Stewards' Trust - as well as



January 22, 2024

illustrating books and book covers. He works in lino, etching, monoprint, pen & ink and watercolour.

@ @ @

## **A New vision of Republicanism - Methodist Churches host online seminar**

Belfast South and Dun Laoghaire Methodist Churches welcome all to participate in their online series, Ireland beyond 2024.

Declan Kearney will address A new vision of Republicanism On Wednesday, 24 January 2024 @ 7:30pm by Zoom

For any inquiry including login, please contact:  
[thinkingaloudseminar@icloud.com](mailto:thinkingaloudseminar@icloud.com)

This series sponsored by Belfast South and Dun Laoghaire continues through March 2024:

28 February 2024 Panel of Younger Presenters - to be finalized

20 March 2024 Professor Mary Murphy The Future of Northern Ireland - in the background of upcoming UK, Irish and European Elections

Both events above will be at 7:30pm, on Zoom

Agape Lecture - Sponsored by Belfast South  
17 April 2024

January 22, 2024

## Rev. Steve Stockman & Fr. Martin Magill - Vocational Friendship in a Divided Society

This event will be in person at Belfast South @ 7:30pm and will be available on YouTube

Dr. Johnston McMaster will moderate the events

The public, church members and non-church members alike are welcome for these evening of discussion and thoughtfulness in the wider social, ethical and spiritual world we all inhabit

## **Invite to Women's Empowerment Event at Magherafelt**

“Join us for our upcoming Women's Empowerment Event at the Terrace Hotel, Magherafelt, taking place on Tuesday 30th January from 10.00am to 1.00pm. We invite you to register promptly by sending an email to [pcsp@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:pcsp@midulstercouncil.org) “

This event will revolve around the crucial theme of empowering women to provide support to those who may be victims of violence. The program features three concise and informative presentations from PSNI, Women's Aid and mindfulness by Carol Doey, complemented by a diverse array of information stands catering to various aspects of women's lives, including health and wellbeing, crime prevention, libraries, and more. Upon your arrival, you will be treated to light refreshments, setting the tone for a day of enlightenment and engagement.

Don't miss this opportunity to participate in a meaningful discussion and networking. Join us in creating a positive impact in our community.

## Perspective

### Ecumenism and cricket - Houston McKelvey

**A best-seller in the USA was a book “All I needed to know I learned in kindergarten”. It basically said when you went out hold hands and look out for each other. If I were to write something similar it would have to be “Most of what I needed to know I learned in an Ulster linen mill village”.**

Muckamore on the banks of the Sixmile River nurtured the first third of my life. Like many other linen mill villages cricket, pigeon racing, church and school featured.

I was born in the middle of the Second World War. There were six births that year. All were wee lads and five of us lived in a row of houses about twenty yards from the river. I can easily reel off our birthday dates.

I was number four in the year and number five was John McCormack whose contribution to cricket I was more than delighted to see was recognised recently by the northern cricket union. This year also happens to be the 150th anniversary of Muckamore Cricket Club. John, like his late

January 22, 2024

father Paddy, are rightly held in the highest regard by the club and community.

Their family shaped my life and ministry. They then were the only Catholic family in the village. As a youngster I was frequently in their home. I liked the print of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on their wall.

The first Catholic cleric I knew was their parish priest, a great community man, Father Vincent Davey. I first met him when on a visit he joined in a game of marbles John and I were playing.

John's mother Mrs McCormick - you didn't use first names of married ladies in those times - cycled most days the two plus miles to her church in Antrim. I see her still defying gravity with the style of bicycle. Most days she would have messages to do for her neighbours. Like pharmacy prescriptions or electricity accounts to pay. She exemplified my C of I catechism's duality of Duty towards God and Duty towards Neighbour. Each Sunday night I would see Paddy and his best friend Bobby, a Presbyterian who lived in Antrim. They visited each other on alternate Sundays and then left each other home part of the way.

I was preparing for ordination when the Vatican decree on ecumenism started to affect formal relations. I didn't need to go to seminary or lectures for that. It was part of my life in an Ulster mill village. That village and the McCormick family came readily to mind on the day my wife and I were received by the Polish Pope John Paul.

January 22, 2024

We were in Rome as guests of the international Christians and Jews body. The delegates were invited to visit the Vatican and later were ushered on to this platform in St Mark's Square which was packed with pilgrims from all over the globe. The Pope came and shook hands with all our delegates and my mind was at home thinking of my McCormick neighbours from Muckamore without whom I would not have been standing there. And I dropped the ball. I didn't make a plea to the Pope that Muckamore could win the senior cup, just one more time!

News Letter 20 January 2024

## 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](mailto:houstonmckelvey@mac.com)

---