

# Church News Ireland



**Image of the day – Topping up Ballyholme**



June 17, 2024

## Image of the day

### Topping up Ballyholme

Check out the amazing  
postbox topper made  
by the ladies from  
Making Mornings at  
Ballyholme  
Presbyterian Church.







## Red Assembly at St Malachy's College

**Belfast - St Malachy's College Year 8 students had a "Red Assembly" last week as Cliftonville FC visited the College with the Irish Cup as part of medal presentations to the Year 8 soccer team.**

Past pupils Paddy Burns and Brian Campbell represented the club. Paddy was here from 2012-2019 and was Head Boy in his final year. He told the assembled audience how he loved playing for the school team and that he was lucky to be part of a very strong squad which won 5 Belfast Cup medals and 2 NI Cup medals in his seven years here. Brian

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attended the College from 1997-2004 and was appointed Deputy Head Boy in his final year. He spoke to the students about his responsibilities as kitman for the Reds.

Both presented medals to the soccer squad who narrowly lost 2-1 in the final of the Northern Ireland Secondary Schools' Cup to St Columb's College, Derry in April 2024. Each Year 8 class managed to get a photo with the boys and the cup. Both lads also visited a few classes and met some members of staff to reminisce about their school years. A big thanks to Paddy and Brian for being so generous with their time in coming into the College.

## Ron's model railway brings in support for Christian Aid

**Join Christian Aid in thanking this 'model citizen' who has raised funds for CAI's work by organising one of Ireland's biggest and longest-running model railway shows.**

Ron Crangle, Chair of First Bangor Model Railway Club, was one of the organisers of the event held at City Church





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Bangor on 24-25 May when hundreds of visitors came to view more than 60 exhibits.

Christian Aid is grateful to Ron for choo-choo-choosing to donate a share of the proceeds to their charity.

Ron, a retired property maintenance manager at North Down Borough Council, is a member of City Church Bangor (formerly known as First Bangor Presbyterian Church) and a supporter of Christian Aid's work.

In 2016, Ron and his identical twin brother Robert were awarded the BEM for their many years of service to the Boys' Brigade (BB) at their church.

Besides their long-term commitment to the BB, the brothers also share a love of model railways and both men helped to organise the fundraising event.

## **Presbyterian congregation's English Project**

**Paul Luton comments, "One of the joys of being the minister at Newtownbreda is that I get to witness the amazing work that goes on at our English Project on a Tuesday evening and a Wednesday morning..."**

"We have a dedicated group of volunteers from across the community (led by the wonderful Janet Robinson) who come to help with our English classes, homework clubs and to share in food and games with our refugee families.





“This Tuesday we wrapped up for the summer with a celebratory BBQ (though one or two still had some homework to do...). But we are looking forward to highlighting this important ministry at our Sanctuary Sunday service on 23rd June, with guest preacher... Emma Lutton!

## Union Theological College graduation

**Ulster-Scots Agency's Chief Executive Ian Crozier was a guest at the graduation ceremony for Union Theological College, Belfast, which took place at Fitzroy Presbyterian Church.**

The ceremony included the conferral of an honorary doctorate on **Rev Richard Murray**, then Moderator



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Designate of the  
Presbyterian  
Church in  
Ireland.

“The Agency  
extends its  
congratulations  
to Rev Dr  
Murray and all  
those who  
graduated and  
looks forward to  
continuing to  
build our valued  
relationship with  
Union”.

Many of the  
degrees  
conferred were  
awarded by the  
Presbyterian  
Theological  
Faculty, Ireland,  
which was  
granted a Royal  
Charter by  
Queen Victoria,  
later renewed by  
Queen Elizabeth  
II.





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## Methodist conference Bible teaching and President Designate



**"If we have the anointing of God, and we have the calling of God – we will not lack the resources of God. We will not. We need to stop being fearful of that.**

“If we have the anointing of God; then we have to trust He will provide for that. God has never failed His church and He won't start now.”

“We have been so blessed at Conference by Bible teaching from the **Rev Danielle McCullagh**”.

Introducing the President Designate of the Methodist Church in Ireland for 2025-26, the **Rev Alan Wardlow**.







## Guatemala reflections by Archbishop of Canterbury

**Archbishop Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury, recently spent three impactful days in Guatemala, discussing climate change and its effects on vulnerable communities.**

He led prayer services, visited indigenous communities, and offered support to migrants at 'Casa del Migrante.'

“I sat at the feet of a man who had walked for four months with his family from Venezuela,” said Archbishop Justin. “His young children were holding my hand. My heart was cracking with the grief of a world where this is necessary.

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But he was in the care of Casa Del Migrante, he was surrounded by love. May God give fruit to this love.”

Archbishop Justin also travelled to the town of Antigua, where he was given a tour of the ruins of the Cathedral and learned about its restoration. He worshipped with the Anglican community of St Alban and learned about the mission and outreach work the community does in the local area.

Full press release: <https://bit.ly/3VtqZH8>

## Cathedral Calls

### Pakistan diocese embraces St Patrick

**The Bishop of  
Multan, the Rt  
Revd Leo Paul,  
and his wife  
Honey, are**

**visiting Down and Dromore all the way from Pakistan,  
almost a year after these dioceses formally established  
a partnership link.**



Last weekend they took in the history of Down Cathedral and Saul Church with Revd Adrian Dorrian, Billy Fyffe and the team as well as visiting Newcastle. Then they were hosted



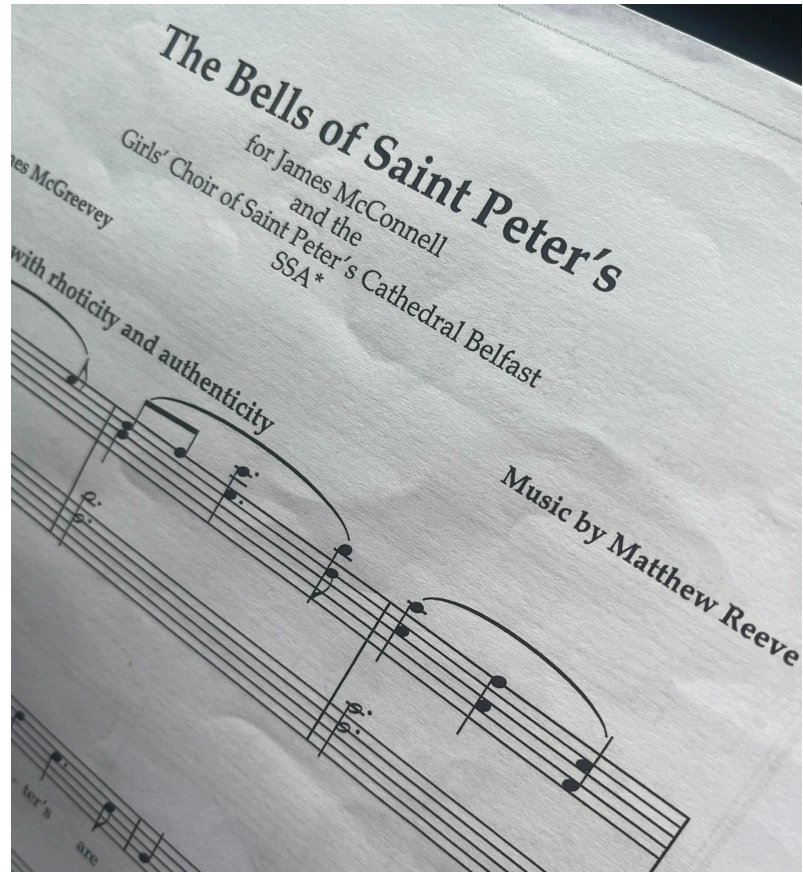
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by Revd Eben Grobbelaar at St John the Evangelist,  
Killyleagh Parish Church.

## The Bells of St Peter's

**There is excitement for the girls' choir's debut at this week's concert.**

They will perform a special piece written by Matthew Reeve, based on "The Bells of Saint Peter's," a poem by former priest of the Parish, Fr James McGreevey.



The poem was written to commemorate the cathedral's twin spires which were completed in 1885.

Please support and celebrate their hard work and dedication.

# Church News Ireland

[www.churchnewsireland.org](http://www.churchnewsireland.org)

## Clergy

### Dromore rector

**The Revd Ian McGrath has been appointed as Incumbent of the Parish of Knocknamuckley in the Diocese of Dromore.**



Ian is currently Curate Assistant in the parishes of St James' Shireshead and St John's Ellel, in the Diocese of Blackburn. A date for the service of institution will be announced in due course.

### New canons in Dromore Cathedral

**New canons were installed in Dromore Cathedral on 6 June – Revd Canon Myrtle Morrison, rector of St John's Newcastle, and Revd Canon Scott McDonald, rector of St Patrick's and St. Mary's, Newry.**

Family friends and supporters came from the two parishes as well as Downpatrick, the Shankill area of Belfast, and Cork.





Dean Geoff Wilson installed the canons, presenting them with their scarves and leading them to their cathedral stalls. Scott becomes Prebendary of Dromara and Myrtle becomes Treasurer.

Archdeacon Mark Harvey preached from 2 Timothy 2:1–15, which depicts the Christ follower as a soldier, an athlete and a farmer. In this passage the Christian life is one characterised by death to self and endurance.

Mark noted that Myrtle and Scott are both commissioned Church Army evangelists whose ministries had followed not dissimilar paths. Both worked in the Shankill Road area (St Matthews and Glencairn), both have ministered in housing estates (Craigavon and Glencairn) and both are now in the Newry and Mourne area.

He continued: “Similar in other, more significant ways – both Myrtle and Scott have been prepared to follow God’s call to the hard places, and to the unglamorous places, sometimes at personal and family cost. They have shown faithfulness in those places.

“Our reading from Timothy chapter 2 speaks into this kind of faithfulness in ministry, which applies to some of us here tonight, but it also calls all of us to faithfulness in discipleship.”

In concluding his address Archdeacon Mark said: “This evening we thank God for the faithfulness, the hard work and the fruitfulness that we see in Myrtle and Scott, in their lives and in their ministries, and we rejoice that this is being recognised by the wider church.”

## **+Revd Michael Houston**

**The Reverend Michael Houston died on Tuesday 11 June at the Ulster Hospital, Dundonald.**

Michael was ordained to the auxiliary/non–stipendiary ministry and served in Bangor Abbey and Donaghadee, before becoming part–time priest–in–charge of the Parish of Ballyphilip and Ardquin in Portaferry.

He spent three years as chaplain to a congregation in Cyprus before retiring to South Down, where he served in the Lecale Group and subsequently LAMP, looking after Ballyculter and Kilclief churches.



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The Revd Adrian Dorrian, Vicar of LAMP, said, “Michael was a consummate priest who always brought dignity to the services of worship he conducted. He had a real gift for encouraging and equipping others.

Even after stepping back from day-to-day ministry he continued to lead our Evergreens Group in LAMP. He and his wife June made a real difference in the lives of many of its members. We extend June and the wider family circle our deepest sympathy and the assurance of our love and prayers.”

The Funeral Service took place in Christchurch Ballyculter on Saturday past, 15 June.

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

### General Election 2024 – resources for Christians, churches and communities

**The General Election in the United Kingdom will be on Thursday 4 July. How can you prepare to cast your vote?**

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) host the Churches Election Website which is a central hub for information and resources. There, you will find guides and issue briefings from many of CTE’s Member Churches and Charities and Networks in Association. Through the news

section you can keep up to date with how the churches are responding to the election.

## **Hustings**

Many local Churches Together groups may be hosting a hustings event for their constituency. The Joint Public Issues Team (from the Methodist, Baptist and United Reformed churches) has written an invaluable, detailed hustings guide. If you are holding or plan to hold hustings please also register them on the CTBI site.

## **Using your vote**

The deadline to register to vote in the General Election is 18 June. Find out how to register.

At this election, as well as being registered, you will need to show photo ID at the polling station before you vote. Find out what this means for you.

Churches Together in England is a Voter Registration Champion. CTE Principal Officer for Pentecostal, Charismatic and Multi-cultural Relations, Min Shermara Fletcher-Hoyte said: “As well as having a spiritual duty to the communities they serve, churches also have a civic duty and one of the ways they can fulfil this is by encouraging participation in democratic election processes. From this year, voter ID registration is a key requirement for participation and we do not want this to be an obstacle or a tool of ostracism.”



[<https://cte.org.uk/general-election-2024/>](<https://cte.org.uk/general-election-2024/>)

## **Sing for Life Choir annual Summer Concert at Fisherwick**

**Developed by Cancer Focus Northern Ireland, the Sing for Life Choir was established for anyone affected by cancer.**

Based in Belfast, the choir service provides members with the opportunity to meet others living with, or affected by, cancer. Coming together in a supportive and friendly environment, members learn new skills in choral singing while having fun along the way.

Tomorrow evening Tuesday 18 June. Including guest performance by soloist, Sophie French.

Ticket details at <https://cancerfocusni.org/event/summer-concert-24/>

## **Book - The Everyday God**

**Author : Jonathan Arnold. £9.99. From BRF**

### **Compelling stories of loving our neighbour today**

‘The everyday God is a God who is for everyone...who appears in everyday events and ordinary people. He calls us to move out of our comfort zones and into his liminal space on the margins of our society, to see the face of Christ in a stranger...’

Jonathan Arnold, a seasoned community engagement expert, delves deep into the heart of the biblical mandate to love one's neighbour.

Through a tapestry of real-life stories, he unveils the power of practical faith, illustrating how it can ignite transformation among the homeless, refugees, the poor and vulnerable, imprisoned and marginalised, as well as those living with dementia, disability and disease. In these pages, you'll witness how acts of social and environmental justice, intertwined with mercy, have the potential to reshape lives,



*St. Brendan's*  
**SUMMER FÊTE**

*Sat. 22nd. June 1 - 4pm*

**FUN DAY**  
SPORTS & GAMES  
BOOKS & BARGAINS  
NOVELTY CHALLENGES  
**PET DOG SHOW**  
**PONY RIDES**  
BBQ & TEAS  
CAKES / PLANTS  
RAFFLES

**BIRR RUGBY CLUB**

ADM: FREE (CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY ADULT)

 [FACEBOOK.COM/BIRRGROUPOFPARISHES](https://www.facebook.com/birrgroupofparishes)



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offering a vivid portrait of the profound impact of embracing the everyday God. As he reflects upon Jesus's teaching in Matthew 25:34–40, Arnold challenges us to discover God's presence in the most unexpected places and join in with where he is acting, whether inside or outside our churches.

The Revd Dr Jonathan Arnold is Executive Director of the Social Justice Network in the Diocese of Canterbury, a charity that helps people at times of crisis, including migration, debt, hunger, homelessness, modern slavery and



The South Ulster Sinfonia presents

# A 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION CONCERT

A fantastic night of live classical music in Armagh.  
Our programme includes the famous Concerto for Two Violins by J.S. Bach, Schubert's delightful 3rd Symphony, and the first performance of 'An Irish Suite' by Roger Jarvis (arr. Philip Walton).

Conductor: Philip Walton  
Leader: Fionnuala Toman  
Soloists: Philip Walton & Brigid Walton

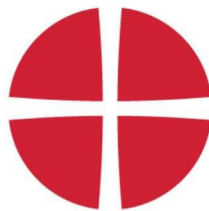
**Saturday, 29th June at 7:30pm, Armagh  
St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral**

**General admission £15  
Concession/Student £10  
Children (14 & under) £5**

Tickets available at [SouthUlsterSinfonia.eventbrite.co.uk](https://SouthUlsterSinfonia.eventbrite.co.uk)

exploitation, the rehabilitation of ex-offenders and rural justice. He is an Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Kent, an Associate of Sidney De Hahn Centre for Arts and Health, Christ Church Canterbury University. Jonathan was formerly Dean of Divinity and Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford, where he was tutor in ecclesiastical history and chair of examiners for the theology faculty. Other books include *Music and Faith: Conversations in a Post-Secular Age* (2019); *Sacred Music in Secular Society* (2014); *The Great Humanists* (2011) and *Dean John Colet of St. Paul's* (2007).

[\[brfnews@brf.org.uk\]](mailto:brfnews@brf.org.uk)(mailto:brfnews@brf.org.uk)



**Doagh Methodist Church**  
**Celebrating 180 years of worship**

Sat 22 June 5:00pm	Church Family BBQ
Sun 23 June 11:30am	StoryTellers
Sat 24 Aug 2:00pm	Community Fun Day
Sat 8 Sept 7:00pm	Evening with George Jones
Sat 21 Sept 7:00pm	Harvest around the World
Sun 22 Sept 11.30am	Harvest Celebration
Sat 19 Oct TBC	Anniversary Dinner

***Psalm 100:5***

***For the Lord is good; his mercy  
is everlasting; and his truth  
endureth to all generations.***



# 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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