

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Methodist mission restores and recycles

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Methodist mission restores and recycles

Restore and Recycle are social enterprise projects of East Belfast Mission that support its vital work in the community.

Restore is a chain of charity shops in Belfast, Antrim, Larne and Newtownards, which specialise in the sale of good quality furniture and bicycles, as well as clothes, books and bric-a-brac. These items are donated by the public, collected from local council recycling centres





and saved from landfill.

Recycle, a project based at its warehouse, repairs and refurbishes bicycles. These are then sold in the chain of Restore charity shops or donated through their services to those in our community who are in need of a bicycle - giving them a vital gift of transport and freedom.

Find your nearest store here - <https://ebm.org.uk/shop-at-restore/>

News

Rosemary is sew supportive of Christian Aid

Rosemary Maxwell, is Christian Aid's representative at St Philip and St James, Holywood Parish Church, Down diocese, and she put her sewing skills to good use by making aprons and tooth fairy pillows to raise funds for Christian Aid Week.



Tooth fairy pillows, for those not in the know, contain a little pocket into which young children place their tooth, and then in the morning, they find a coin in there instead.

Here, Rosemary models one of her aprons and holds one of the pillows. 🙌

Besides her sewing, Rosemary also organised a fabulous desserts fundraiser at her church when more than 60 parishioners enjoyed a slice of their favourite confection and a coffee in exchange for a donation to support our work. 😊

Please join with Christian Aid in thanking this ‘material girl’ for everything she does to bring justice to the poor.



Seventeen complete Lay Funeral Ministry training

Seventeen men and women representing some of the Down & Connor parishes in the County Down area completed the Lay Funeral Ministry training programme.

They will be commissioned by Bishop Alan McGuckian SJ later in the month.

The training was facilitated by Mr Paddy Shannon, Fr Paul Byrne, Mr Patsy Curry and Mrs Anne McDermott.

The Diocese commented - We thank all the candidates for their “Yes”, for stepping forward in service of their parish.

Please keep these men and women in your prayers as they begin their new ministry as Lay Funeral Ministers.



Presbyterian chaplain's end of year message

**Nigel Craig,
Presbyterian
Chaplain at
Queens,
Stranmillis and
Union colleges**



at Derryvolgie Hall - "It's the end of another year at Derryvolgie Hall! "What an amazing group of students we have had this year - it's been great getting to know you all!"

June 5, 2024

“We pray that this year has been as much a blessing to you as it has been to us!”

Warm welcome for Derry Curate Assistant

**The Reverend
Melanie
Sloan's
service of
ordination as
Curate
Assistant of
All Saints'
Parish,**

**Clooney will be held Sunday 23rd June 7pm in All
Saints' Clooney Church.**



The service will be conducted by the Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Rt Rev Andrew Forster.

An invitation is open to everyone to attend this special service.

Canon David, the Select Vestry and the congregation of All Saints' look forward to warmly welcoming Rev Melanie, her partner Mark and children Josh and Finn to the parish family.

High church girl from Carrickfergus

Emily from Holy Trinity Parish, Woodburn, came 5th in Ireland last week in the Junior Girls high jump!

Not only did she equal her personal best of 1m 55 but she also equaled the jump of the silver medalist! In fact the girls that came 2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th all finished on 1m 55, so places were awarded on the number of jumps taken. On another day the placings may have been different! What an amazing result for Emily and also for Carrickfergus Grammar School.

Cathedral Calls

Primate's call for positive leadership in society

Archbishop McDowell commends positive leadership in society as Belfast Cathedral celebrates 120 years

From the sermon by the Archbishop of Armagh at Sunday's celebration of the 120th anniversary of Belfast Cathedral-

"Sometimes the Church is accused of being too comfortable and self satisfied. Of not being prophetic enough. When people say that they usually mean that they want the Church to agree with them preferably in a very loud voice".

**St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral,
Armagh**



**The Dean and Chapter invite you to attend
A SERVICE COMMEMORATING
THE 80th ANNIVERSARY OF
D-DAY**

**Thursday 6th June
at 8.00 p.m.**

*Followed by the International Tribute and the lighting of a
Beacon in the Cathedral grounds at 9.15 p.m.*



Cork and Tennessee Choral Evensong

The combined choirs of St Finbarres Cathedral, Cork and the Choir of Sewanee: The University Of The South, Tennessee presented Choral Evensong on The Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Photo courtesy eoin_artfotoglobal

Bishop's Vicar of Saint Canice's Cathedral

At a Choral Eucharist in Saint Canice's Cathedral on Sunday 2nd June the Reverend Willaim Burke was licensed as curate assistant in Kilkenny Parish and as Bishop's Vicar of the cathedral.



Welcoming William, his wife Mara and their children Abigail and Isabella, the bishop spoke of the journey that had brought Billy to this place and of the huge gifts as a liturgist and pastor that Billy brings to ministry. The Bishop said that the large turn out of Readers and Clergy was a warm and fitting welcome to William from the Diocese.

The Readings were read by William's wife and sister and Canon Victor Fitzpatrick, a long time friend of William's read the Gospel. The Venerable Alec Purser preached, noting the contribution William and his family have made to Church life in Stradbally.

The service was followed by refreshments. William was welcomed by the Dean, The Very Rev'd Stephen Farrell and



Mara and their girls were welcomed to the parish and to life in the cathedral close by the Dean's wife, Laura. The Dean spoke of his joy at the arrival of his new colleague and his eager anticipation of their shared ministry in the years to come.

The Rev'd William Burke was ordained in 2004 in the Roman Catholic Church. Following a period of training in accordance with the Protocols introduced by the House of Bishops, he has returned to ministry in the Church of Ireland.

William will serve as curate assistant in Kilkenny Parish.

By longstanding tradition the curate in St Canice's Cathedral is styled the Bishop's Vicar.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Know someone to do something - BB NI Podcast

Andy Hickford has a wealth of ministry experience in youth ministry and Bible teaching that has inspired generations of young people and youth workers. In this episode Andy shares some of his story, gives some great advice and explains why we need to focus on being called to someone and not something.

We are delighted that Andy is also the guest speaker at ABIDE, our leaders' event on 2nd September.

You can catch the podcast here:

Spotify - <https://lnkd.in/eDMWJwDE...>

Apple - <https://lnkd.in/ehCMqpst>

With a new series dropping in September. why not subscribe and make sure you don't miss an episode?

Barry Rose - Archive of recorded Church Music

Recorded Church Music's 90th birthday tribute to the legendary Barry Rose is now on-line. Many happy returns!

<https://www.recordedchurchmusic.org/rose>

Lunchtime Recitals

*Exquisite musical experience
in the heart of Dublin*



ST ANN'S CHURCH DAWSON STREET

**JUNE
2024**

Thursday 6th

@13:20

Yue Tang & Fergal

Caulfield

-Cello & Piano

Thursday 13th

@13:20

Duo Anima with

Conor Shiel

-Piano, Viola

& Clarinet

Sunday 16th

@12:45

Miriam Roycroft

& Lance Coburn

-Cello & Piano

Thursday 27th

@13:20

Triona Marshall

-Harp

Tickets 10 euros

<http://www.stannsrecitals.com/>





Connecting Harps: Belfast and Beyond

Join the opening concert of the Harps Alive | An Chruit Bheo | Harps Leevin festival.

Exploring our deep-rooted harp connections with Scotland, this concert will showcase emerging young harper @eadaoinofficial , as well as our ancient, shared harp repertoire performed by acclaimed harpers @grainnehambly and William Jackson. Finally, @catriona.mckay.harp , a

June 5, 2024

‘fearless explorer of the Scottish harp’ will present a dynamic, fresh take on the harp, pushing the boundaries of tradition and melding with the vibrant sounds of Scottish fiddle maestro @stoutfiddle ! Not to be missed!

St George’s Church

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/connecting-harps-belfast-and-beyond-tickets-910392748217?aff=oddttdtcreator>

St John’s Newtownbreda Eco theme service

“Thanks to Matt Williams from Jubilee Farm and his wife Mercedes for taking part in our Creation Care Service on Sunday.



“Matt spoke of the theme "Cultivating Home: A Christ Centred Approach to Creation Care".

“We are also grateful to Eco-Congregation Ireland for lending us the Eco Candle for use in the service.”

You can catch up on the service here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zF_c0ElxLoE

Methodist Church Annual Conference online

The 2024 Conference live stream will begin on Wednesday evening June 5 from 7:10pm for the Installation of Mrs Elaine M Barnett as Lay Leader and the Rev Dr John D Alderdice as President.

The only place to watch all the sessions LIVE is on the MCI YouTube channel.

Wednesday 5th - Saturday 8th June 2024.

→ Subscribe now: bit.ly/MCI-YT

→ More details on Conference at: bit.ly/mciconf24

In the media

News Letter - Preparations under way for Irish Presbyterian 'parliament' on June 20

With the formal dissolution of the Parliament of the United Kingdom having taken place on Thursday, to make way for next month's general election, later this month will see a coming together of Irish Presbyterians when their 'parliament', the General Assembly of

Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI), gathers in Belfast on June 20, Billy Kennedy writes.

For three days, ministers and elders from the 500-plus Presbyterian congregations, along with other church members from across Ireland will debate and make decisions that affect church life, wrapped up in numerous reports and 80 or more resolutions on religious, social, education and denominational matters.

In a significant change to this year's General Assembly, it will not open on the evening prior to business commencing as it has done in previous years. The outgoing Moderator the Rev Dr Sam Mawhinney will open proceedings on Thursday morning and conduct a service of worship.

In another significant change, Dr Mawhinney will continue to chair the Assembly until Friday afternoon, when business will be paused for the election and installation of his successor. Rev Richard Murray of Drumreagh Church, Ballymoney will become the 179th person to hold the office since the denomination was established in 1840.

This special service of worship will be attended by Assembly members, invited civic guests, including His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Belfast, and members of the public. Like most of its proceedings, it can also be watched via the Assembly's livestream.

For the clerk of the General Assembly, Rev Trevor Gribben, this year will be his 10th Assembly in the role. "People may not think it, but I actually look forward to the Assembly. It's

an important part of my job, and an important few days for the church.

“Primarily, it’s a time of worship, Bible study, prayer and waiting on the Lord. A time of coming together, when our ministers and elders from congregations as far apart as Aghada in Co Cork and Ballycastle on the north coast, meet to debate the various reports and make decisions.” he said.

Some of the reports coming before this year’s General Assembly concern areas of church life that have been part of PCI’s consultation process involving the church’s 19 regional presbyteries. “One of the most important pieces of consultative work has continued its process and concerns on what we call ‘reconfiguration of ministry’. Together, we have looked at the key principles and practicalities that will underpin a radical reconfiguration of mission and ministry across the island and will discuss the next stage of the process.”

Mr Gribben added: “While some may call amending and republishing PCI’s governing constitution as ‘mundane’, it is actually important. Known as ‘The Code’, this process has involved much work in seeking to make it more user friendly, its language more accessible and generally easier to follow. Last republished in 1980, it has been subject to a lot of work in recent years and has been a considerable exercise in consultation.”

Rev Gribben also said that other matters affecting the life and ministry of the church will come before the Assembly. It is also a time when the church gives collective voice to the

concerns of people within and outside of PCI around some of the pressing issues that society is facing.

“One of these issues is assisted suicide and euthanasia. While we presented our concerns in December to the Dublin parliament on assisted dying, there have been moves since then to legislate for it in Scotland, the Isle of Man and Jersey. Resolutions will be debated on what seems to be a concerted, ongoing assault on the innate dignity and value of human life in these islands,” he said.

While some things will change, like the opening of the General Assembly and installation of the new moderator, other traditional elements of the General Assembly will remain: with the Thursday evening celebration and the communion service. Mr Gribben said he was looking forward to hearing John Risbridger, from Evangelical Alliance Council, speak at the evening celebration, on the theme ‘Crossing Boundaries with Christ and for Christ’.

“Having opened in worship, it is entirely fitting that on Saturday afternoon we will close in worship, with our communion service.” Mr Gribben added. “As we seek to proclaim the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ to people of all backgrounds, and take decisions as a church family, I would encourage all entitled to attend our Assembly to come and take part.”

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
