

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Puffin watching at Rathlin

Image of the day



Puffin watching at Rathlin

The Rathlin West Light Seabird Centre is now open for the season

Operated by RSPB Northern Ireland, this educational experience which is based at the West Lighthouse offers visitors the opportunity to learn more about Rathlin Island's incredible biodiversity and the seabirds that inhabit the island.

Along with spotting razorbills, guillemots, fulmars and kittiwakes during your visit (to name a few), you'll also get the chance to see the cutest inhabitants during spring and summer; the resident puffins!

April 28, 2023



Learn more ahead of your next visit to Rathlin Island 📍
<https://bit.ly/3N2RkYW>

Rathlin Island, County Antrim, BT54 6SB

People and places

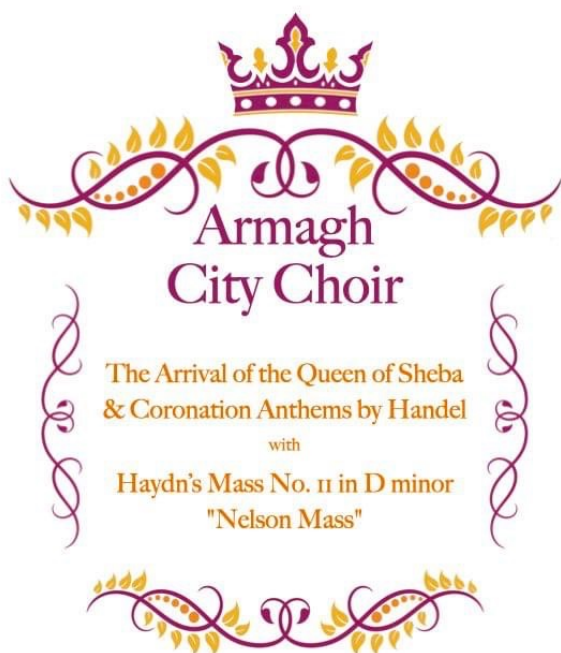
Headspace Project' launches

'The 'Headspace Project' has been launched in Holy Trinity, Ballylesson.

Dr Ryan David Hawk, who is the Community, Youth, and Families Pastor with Holy Trinity Ballylesson explains:

"With the wonderful support from Mind Matters COI and the Benefact Trust, we are engaging in a creative initiative for mental health awareness in our community through a series of art creation nights.

"Some of the key hopes of this project are to reduce the stigma associated with mental health conversations, to continue to promote connection and community, and to consider mental health and our faith.



Saturday 13th May at 7:30pm

St Patrick's Church of Ireland
Cathedral, Armagh

Conductor - Michael Harris

Orchestra - Leader Philip Walton

Soloists - Rebekah Coffey (Soprano), Sinéad O'Kelly (Alto),
Ross Scanlon (Tenor) & Ben McAteer (Bass)

Tickets £20 available from
choir members or at the door



With the kind support of Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council
Charity no. 104844



April 28, 2023

“There are two community art nights, and two Youth Club art nights, with a service dedicated to the conversation on 21 May with a chance to see the created works in the Halls after the service.

“We’d love to have you come create with us. See the Pdf for more info at -

[\[https://www.downanddromore.org/news/2023/04/headspace-project-launches-tonight\]](https://www.downanddromore.org/news/2023/04/headspace-project-launches-tonight)

or get in touch by email or direct message:
ryan.ballylesson@gmail.com.”

MindMatters Col: Mental Health and Suicide Seminar in Cork, Cloyne and Ross

Last Saturday, 22nd April 2023, the second seminar of the Diocesan MindMatters programme was held at the Rochestown Park Hotel. Professor Ella Arensman and Dr Eve Griffinn from the National Suicide Research Foundation spoke on the subject of mental health and suicide.

Professor Arensman highlighted significant trends and the importance of dealing with the causes of suicide. Dr Griffin spoke on the experience of people whose family members, friends and colleagues who had taken their life and the different support opportunities that are available.



The Rev. Terry Mitchell, Dr Eve Griffin, Professor Ella Arensman, and the Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, Dr Paul Colton.

The Rev. Terry Mitchell, Diocesan Further Education Officer commented: I would like to thank all those who were able to attend as well as Professor Arensman and Dr Griffin for an informative and stimulating seminar that raised a lot of important questions around the subject and was helpful in looking at different ways we can respond to those impacted by suicide.

Mental Health online resource for Derry and Raphoe

The Bishop of Derry and Raphoe has commended a new online resource which will help clergy to ‘signpost’

parishioners experiencing mental health needs to groups and organisations which can help them get treatment and support.

MENTAL HEALTH CONFERENCE



- Reducing Stigma
- Promoting Connections
- Clergy Training and Support
- Mental Health and Faith

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE...

MindMatters COI (Church of Ireland) Conference
on Friday, 20th October 2023 in the Radisson Blu
Royal Hotel, Golden Lane, Dublin 8.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
*Most Rev Justin Welby,
Archbishop of Canterbury*

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

Matins
9.00am St Patrick's Cathedral Dublin

Conference
10.00am Registration at Radisson Blu
Hotel, Golden Lane, Dublin
10.30am Commencement of Proceedings
4.00pm Conference Closes

Choral Evensong
5.30pm St Patrick's Cathedral Dublin

The conference is free to attend but booking is essential.
To secure your place, please go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mindmatters-coi-conference-tickets-600321837777>
email mhp@rcbdub.org or leave a message at: 0035314125660

mindmatters.ireland.anglican.org



BENEFACT
TRUST



April 28, 2023

The Mental Health Handbook has been compiled by Rev Claire Henderson, who has only recently finished training as a mental health coach. It includes an extensive list of organisations in both dioceses – and in both jurisdictions – which provide help in addressing issues such as addiction, self-harm and suicidal thoughts, and in tackling problems such as depression, anxiety, loneliness and loss. The handbook also includes ‘wellness tips’ which offer advice on each of the problems featured.

Rev Henderson says the handbook was produced in response to a need identified by clergy. “Lots of clergy have been asking for it, so it’s very much needed,” she says. “I

The poster features a background image of the twin spires of Saint Peter's Cathedral in Belfast. At the top center is the coat of arms of the Diocese of Down and Connor, which depicts a white unicorn standing on a blue shield, flanked by two crossed golden keys, with a golden cross above. Below the coat of arms, the text "Jim Fitzpatrick Memorial" is written in a dark blue serif font. The main title "ORGAN RECITAL" is in a large, bold, dark blue serif font. Below it, "SAINT PETER'S CATHEDRAL BELFAST" is written in a smaller, dark blue serif font. The date "SUNDAY 7 MAY 2023" is in a bold, dark blue sans-serif font, followed by the time "3:00PM" in a smaller, dark blue sans-serif font. The organists are listed as "Organists: Aaron Voderholzer (Germany) Ivan-Bogdan Reincke (Hungary)" in a bold, dark blue sans-serif font. At the bottom, "ADMISSION FREE" is written in a small, dark blue sans-serif font.

Jim Fitzpatrick Memorial

ORGAN RECITAL

SAINT PETER'S CATHEDRAL BELFAST

SUNDAY 7 MAY 2023

3:00PM

Organists:

Aaron Voderholzer (Germany)
Ivan-Bogdan Reincke (Hungary)

ADMISSION FREE

started working on it last summer. It's a resource for clergy to enable them to help their parishioners with their mental health. If somebody says they've got a problem with addiction, or they're depressed, or maybe they're struggling because they can't afford to put food on the table, there are all those resources in the book that clergy can point them to. 'My parish is in Derry. Let's look down that list and see what support is available for them here.'"

The handbook has one chapter which deals specifically with young people's mental health. "We're seeing such high rates of suicide among young people, nowadays, and I think it's important for young people to be supported with their mental health and for adults to know that there is tailored support out there for young people – that it's not all adult-based.

"There's so much pressure on young people since Covid. Young people's lives were curtailed for about two years, so they missed that social interaction, they have more anxiety with going to school, going out, the pressure to do well.

"People are scared to have conversations about mental health and don't know how to approach it in a way that allows the young person to open up. I did a session in Glendermott recently where we had a really interesting discussion about how kids were bottling things up and adults didn't even know how to start the conversation. I was able to make suggestions about how to do that – it mightn't even be a conversation, it could be a text message, a voice note – anything that opens conversations about mental health is beneficial."

Rev Henderson says she is alarmed at the lengthening waiting lists for accessing support, something she herself experienced after being referred for therapy. She shared her personal perspective over five weeks of workshops in the Glendermott parish, where people “could see the vulnerability of the trainer but at the same time that created a sense of openness and opened up conversations”.

Claire managed to secure funding under the Church of Ireland’s Mind Matters mental health initiative for two projects in her own parish, Derg and Termonamongan, but would like to see something being done at a Diocesan level. “I think there should be somebody assigned to mental health and to promoting how to manage mental health, how to

Healing Service



11am Thursday 27th April

Shankill Methodist Church
267 Shankill Road
[Off Berlin Street]
Belfast

Br David Jardine



Prayer Ministry and Anointing with Oil

support people with their mental health – even going out and running courses. From a parish level, we're noticing an awful lot of hurting, broken people but there's only so much that you can do at parish level, whereas, if you're 'hitting' something at diocesan level you're 'hitting' it harder."

Bishop Andrew Forster has thanked Claire for compiling such an extensive resource "on her own initiative". In a foreword to the handbook, he encouraged clergy to use it to find help for their parishioners and even for themselves. "The pandemic has brought to our attention the strain that can so easily affect everyone's mental health. We now realise that caring for our own mental wellbeing is every bit as important as caring for our physical wellbeing."

The Bishop wrote that we were blessed in the north-west to have so many organisations there to help us in life's more difficult days. "It is my prayer that all of us would know God's help found through His spirit and through the goodness of His people."

Spring funding boost for Bright Parish Church

Bright Parish Church, which is part of the Lecale Area Mission Partnership (LAMP), is to share in a £351,500 urgent funding pay-out from the National Churches Trust.

A £15,000 National Churches Trust Grant will help to pay for urgent repairs to the roof, leadwork, and rainwater goods. It



will also facilitate the repointing in tower and floor in vestry, ensuring the church building can thrive today and tomorrow.

Bright Parish Church is a simple hall church on a much older, elevated site on the Lecale peninsula, with panoramic views across the Irish sea, the Mountains of Mourne, and the Lecale coastline. Antiquarian records suggest that the site has direct links to St. Patrick, with whom the Lecale area is intimately connected, being the birthplace of Christianity in Ireland.

The current church is notably unaltered. It retains its liturgical layout, built in a simple classical revival style. Despite some renewal, the interior retains elements such as the original floor, pews, openings and sanctuary, and has considerable authenticity.


Its simplicity reflects the fact that this is a small rural church, with longstanding links to the farming and seafaring communities which surround it.

Vicar of LAMP, the Very Revd Henry Hull said:

“We are exceptionally grateful for the support of National Churches Trust in supporting us with our restoration project. We are excited at the prospect of being able to realise our ambition of bringing the Church into line with modern expectations, and look forward to the range of outreach,

Whitefriar Street Church

ANNUAL ORGAN RECITAL SERIES 2023



Sundays in May at 7.00 p.m.

May being the Month of Our Lady,
each recital will include works in
honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Sunday at 7.00 7th May	Peter McBride, of St Joseph's, Terenure Works by Bach, Reger, Jongen, Peeters, and Schmidt
Sunday at 7.00 14th May	David Leigh, of St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin Works by Bach, Jongen, Alain, Weitz, and Harvey
Sunday at 7.00 21st May	Gerard Gillen, Titular Organist Emeritus, St Mary's Pro-Cathedral Works by Cornet, Muffat, Bach, Peeters, Pärt, and Hakim
Sunday at 7.00 28th May	Aleksandr Nisse, of St Mary's Pro-Cathedral, Dublin Works by Franck, Saint-Saens, Florentz and Improvisations

Entrance Free - Retiring Collection
Busses for Aungier Street: 9, 14, 15, 122, 16, 65b, 68
LUAS: St Stephen's Green

engagement, community development and heritage preservation opportunities that will accompany this capital project over the years to come.”

Help for churches

Twenty–six churches across the UK will stay open and in good repair thanks to £351,500 of funding awarded by the National Churches Trust in this latest round of grants.

In 2022, the National Churches Trust made over 200 grants to churches throughout the United Kingdom, with funding totalling more than £1.6m.

News reports

Pope Francis clears way for women and lay Catholics to vote in upcoming bishops' meeting

In a series of changes to the upcoming Synod of Bishops on Synodality announced Wednesday, Pope Francis cleared the way for lay women and men to participate as voting members.

Five men and five women from religious orders will also be added to the assembly and will be given the power to vote on resolutions.

The new voting members will replace auditors, or nonvoting participants, of the synod, the Vatican announced. "Instead, an additional 70 non-bishop members have been added

who represent various groupings of the faithful of the People of God (priests, consecrated women, deacons, lay faithful) and who come from the local churches," the Vatican said.

Francis will choose the 70 from a list of 140 people to be selected by the continental synodal meetings currently taking place around the world.

The Vatican requested that of the 140 candidates, "50% of them be women and that the presence of young people also be emphasized."

Beyond gender and age, the Vatican set out standards for the candidates, saying, "In selecting them, account is taken not only of their general culture and prudence, but also of their knowledge, both theoretical and practical, as well as their participation in various capacities in the synod process. As members, they have the right to vote," the Vatican said.

The synod is already expected to break ground when it comes to giving women concrete roles: In 2021, Francis appointed Nathalie Becquart, a French nun, as one of two undersecretaries of the General Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops, making her the first woman in the history of the church with the right to vote with the bishops at a synod.

The Synod on Synodality, with the theme "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission," was motivated by Francis' wish to include the voices of lay Catholics. It began nearly two years ago with an invitation to Catholic parishes and dioceses to hold listening sessions where congregations, it was hoped, would voice their

concerns and visions for the future of the church, in person and online.

Summaries of these listening sessions were forwarded to Rome, and since February of this year, theologians, bishops and other church officials have been meeting in seven "continental assemblies" (excluding Antarctica but with one representing the Middle East) to discuss the issues raised during those conversations.

The listening sessions showed that Catholics nearly universally are concerned with the ordination of women, the need to adapt church doctrine on sexuality and the fight against clergy sex abuse.

In October 2023, the bishops of the church are invited meet at the Vatican in Rome to discuss these issues and pass resolutions based on the findings of the continental assemblies. A second session will be held a year later.

After Wednesday's announcement, Cardinal Mario Grech, secretary general of the General Secretariat for the Synod, and Cardinal Jean Claude Hollerich of Luxembourg, relator general of the synod, met with journalists at the Vatican press office.

The cardinals presented the inclusion of nonbishops in the synod as significant but played down notions that the new members represented a break with tradition. The addition of lay men and women as voting members is "not a revolution, but rather an important change," Grech said.

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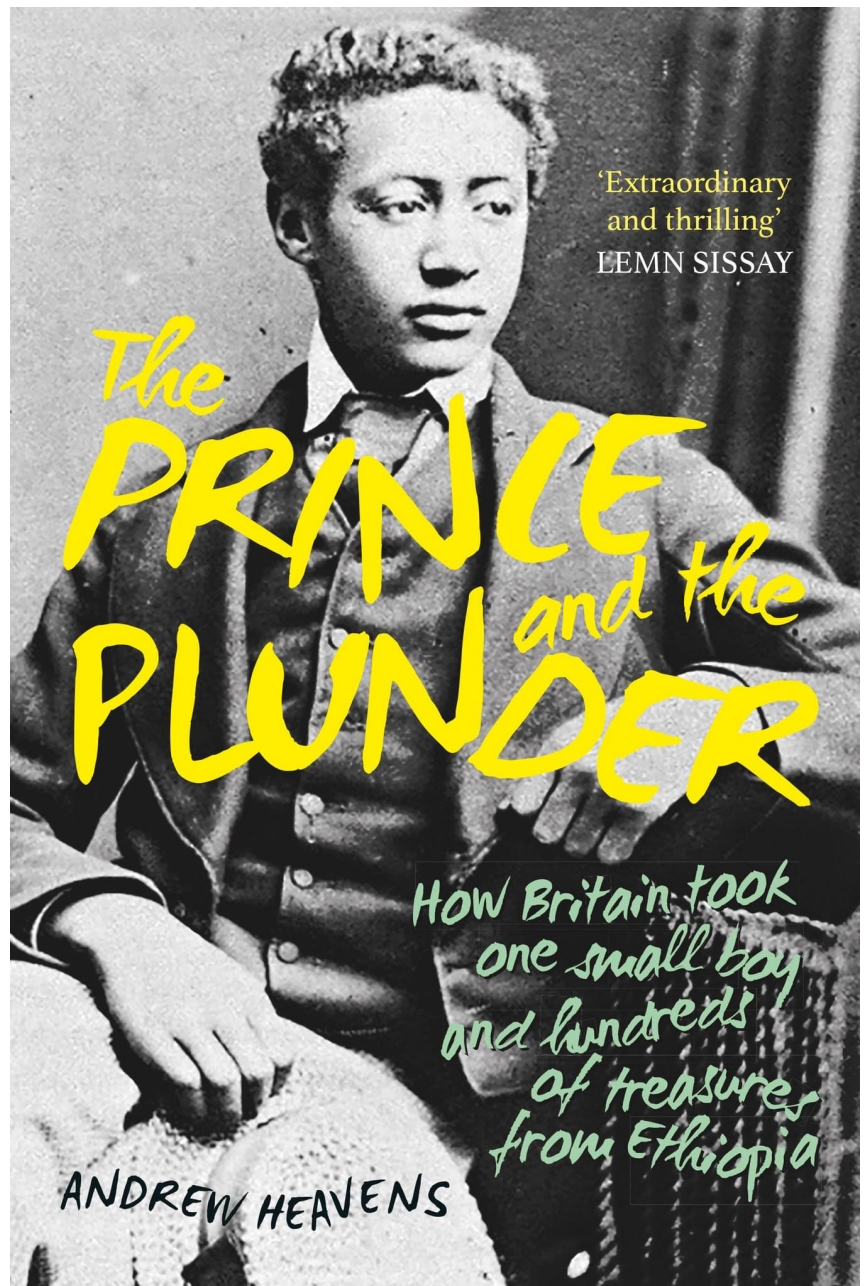
The "space in the tent has expanded," Grech told journalists, recalling the title of the synod's working document: "Enlarge the space of your tent."

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

The Prince and the Plunder - sacred artefact of Ethiopian Orthodox Church returned from an Edinburgh Scottish Episcopal church

The story of how a sacred artefact of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church was found in the cupboard of a Scottish Episcopal church in Edinburgh, and then

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returned to Ethiopia, was recalled recently by author Andrew Heavens and Rev Canon John McLuckie, the priest who made the discovery 20 years ago.

Mr Heavens, a former employee of the Scottish Episcopal Church's General Synod Office, was back in Edinburgh for the launch of his book "The Prince and the Plunder", written following the remarkable series of events that took place in the early 2000s.

In conversation at St John's Episcopal Church in Princes Street, Edinburgh, Mr Heavens and Fr McLuckie recalled the discovery of a Tabot, an immensely holy and sacred artefact of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, in a cupboard at St John's. The book illustrates the process of returning the Tabot, which was taken from Magdala, Abyssinia in 1868 by the British Army.

Following a confirmatory visit from the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, preparations for the handover ceremony began. Mr Heavens, who was involved in the organisation and publicity for the event, recalls that the Tabot was handed over at a ceremony at St John's attended by Ethiopian Orthodox priests, members of Orthodox congregations across Britain, a delegation of Rastafarians from the Ethiopian World Federation and diplomats.

He describes the occasion as "a six-hour cross-cultural service at St John's – part party, part Eucharist - that kicked off at 6 a.m. and stretched on through the morning. The world's media looked on from an upper gallery as the chants of the ancient Ethiopian liturgy merged with the hymns of the Anglican tradition and incense filled the air."



Leaders of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tawehedo Church visit Edinburgh

When the Tabot returned to Ethiopia, tens of thousands of people came out on to the streets to welcome it home.

After supporting the communications for the repatriation, Mr Heavens made the choice to leave Scotland and journey to Ethiopia to delve deeper into the tale of the Tabot and its journey to Edinburgh. This decision led to the writing of *The Prince and the Plunder*, a book that tracks the soldiers that fought at the Battle of Magdala, the stolen treasures, and the six-year-old prince, son of Ethiopia's King of Kings Tewodros II, who was transported to Britain after the conflict at Maqdala which led to the plunder of the Tabot, amongst many other sacred and civic treasures.



“The tragic story of the young Prince Alamayu, and of the battle in Ethiopia in 1868 that led to his being taken to the UK, is a story that everyone in these islands should know and Andrew Heavens tells it in a compelling and compassionate way,” says Fr McLuckie.

Author Andrew Heavens

“Every Ethiopian already knows of this story and of the many national treasures that also made their way to the UK in the aftermath of Lord Napier’s campaign. This is also a story of friendship between the Scottish Episcopal Church and the Ethiopian Orthodox Tawehedo Church as a result of this simple act of restitution.”

Mr Heavens’ book is available for purchase here: <https://www.thehistorypress.co.uk/publication/the-prince-and-the-plunder/9780750997362/>

The Scotsman newspaper featured the event and the background to the book here: <https://www.scotsman.com/arts-and-culture/books/how-my-hunt-for-african-plunder-began-in-waverley-station-andrew-heavens-4093416>

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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