



Image of the day - The font St Paul's Cathedral

People and places

Charles Wood Summer School and Festival go hybrid

The Charles Wood Festival and Summer School is back with a unique mix of live and digital events in Armagh's sacred spaces from Sunday 22nd to Sunday 29th August. The week will be packed with top-quality music, worship and performance.

The opening days of the Festival can be enjoyed via digital platforms, from song recitals to workshops and special features. Contributors include Patron John Rutter, vocal impresario Paul Farrington, and top Northern Irish performers Ruth McGinley and Carolyn Dobbin.

On Wednesday 25th the doors will open once again to live audiences with a Bach at Twilight organ recital in St. Malachy's Church. Matthew Owens, from Belfast Cathedral, will be at the console. Stars of the future appear in the Lunchtime Concert in the First Presbyterian Church on Saturday 28th – including violinist Julie Piggott, winner of the Northern Ireland Young Musician of the Year 2021. That same evening St. Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral will host a large-scale programme entitled 'Sing Unto the Lord', sure to uplift, comfort and inspire.

Across this busy backdrop, the Charles Wood Singers will be broadcasting Choral Evensong for BBC Radio 3, performing Sung Mass in St. Patrick's Roman Catholic

August 10, 2021

Charles Wood
FESTIVAL & SUMMER SCHOOL

A HYBRID FESTIVAL

ACROSS ARMAGH AND BEYOND

Where Digital Meets Live
22-29 AUGUST 2021
Patron: John Rutter CBE Artistic Director: David Hill MBE

Indoor and outdoor performances, workshops, services and broadcasts,
including BBC Radio 3 Choral Evensong.

3

Admission to live events by ticket only. Digital events on our YouTube Channel.
Full details and bookings at www.charleswoodsummerschool.org

Armagh City
Banbridge
& Craigavon
Borough Council

FIND US ON   


LOTTERY FUNDED

Cathedral,
and making
their first–
ever
professional
album.

If you'd be
more
comfortable
with an
outdoor
event, the
Festival will
be
presenting a
free Musical
Trail on the
Mall on
Thursday
26th . It's a
chance to
enjoy the
Charles
Wood

Singers in one of the city's prime locations, with costume,
speech and music.

Also, being marked is the 250th anniversary of Armagh's
Robinson Library with an illustrated lecture on Charles
Wood by Dr David O'Shea and leading Irish soprano Aisling
Kenny.

August 10, 2021

With a mix of indoor, outdoor, in-person or digital, there's something for everyone this August.

Organ recitals in Cork and Dublin

St Fin Barre's cathedral, Cork, is hosting a series of lunchtime organ recitals each Friday in August at 1.10pm.

This is the third year in which the cathedral has run such a series, and the second year in which it will be held under the strict health guidelines which churches are following. The capacity is limited to 50 people, seating is by social distancing, and masks are required. The first recital was given last Friday by Andrew Johnstone, Assistant Director of Music at St Bartholomew's church, Dublin, and next Friday Professor Gerard Gillen, Titular Organist Emeritus at St Mary's Pro-Cathedral, Dublin, will play music by Louis Vierne, Naji Hakim's Mariales and the Flor Peeters Toccata, Fugue and Hymn on 'Ave maris stella'. David Adams, one of Ireland's leading organ tutors and Professor at the Royal Irish Academy of Music, will give the third recital on 20 August and Robbie Carroll, Assistant Director of Music at St Fin Barre's, will conclude the series on 27 August.

In St Patrick's cathedral, Dublin, recitals are continuing every Friday at 5.00 p.m. until the end of August. The cathedral organists, David Leigh and Stuart Nicholson, will be giving an organ recital online on the Willis organ. Further details at -

www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/live_at_five.



**cappella
caeciliana**

St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh
Join us in person or at armaghparish.net

Sunday 15th August



5.30pm
Sung Mass for the
Feast of the Assumption
Celebrant - Archbishop Eamon Martin

6.30pm to 7pm
Choral concert *free admission*

Capella Caeciliana in Armagh

Capella Caeciliana end their 25th anniversary season with a concert of stunning choral music at 6.30pm on Sunday 15 August at St Patrick's Catholic Cathedral, Armagh

Yesterday's tweet of the day

Catherine Cleghorn - Today we announced that I will be priest in charge of the wonderful parish of St Martin's in Ashton on Mersey in @ChesterDiocese.

I also climbed up too far in the vestry to find a baptism candle and got stuck on top of the safe in full robes.
@churchofengland life is never dull!

Changed times, thank heaven

In 1931, Cardinal Joseph MacRory, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of all Ireland -

not only declared that the Protestant Church of Ireland was not the rightful representative of the early Irish church but was not even a part of the Church of Christ.

- Irish News, December 18, 1931

Reports

Renfrewshire church awarded prestigious silver environmental award

A church in Renfrewshire has gained a prestigious environmental award which recognises efforts towards caring for creation.

Oakshaw Trinity Church in Paisley recently reached the silver level of the Eco-Congregation Scotland scheme after meeting green targets set by the organisation.

The award comes around three years after the church, which is made up of a building shared ecumenically by the Church of Scotland and the United Reformed Church, joined the Eco-Congregation network.

Fiona Catterson, who is a member of the Eco-Committee at the church, said: "We are so excited and pleased to receive

August 10, 2021



The church was praised by Eco-Congregation Scotland for submitting "a strong application" for their silver award.

the silver award as it shows that we at Oakshaw Trinity are moving along the right pathway. The award is also helping steer our next step. We found the Eco-Congregation Scotland materials great to use and used the Environmental Audit as our starting point.

"When we actually looked at this and spoke to all the church groups who use our facilities we realised that we were already doing more than we first had thought so decided to concentrate our efforts on going for the silver award rather than bronze.

"Obviously, Covid changed how and what we have been doing over the last 16 months but it has also given us time to reflect."

August 10, 2021

Churches wishing to gain a silver award must meet a standard made up of 11 criteria, that cover everything from including care for creation in worship to looking at ways to make their building more environmentally friendly and considering the biodiversity of their area.

Eco-Congregation Scotland is a movement of Scottish church congregations, of all de-nominations and none, committed to addressing environmental issues through their life and mission.



August 10, 2021

A spokesperson for Eco-Congregation Scotland said: "The silver award which Oakshaw Trinity Church has achieved recognises that a congregation has met or exceeded Eco-Congregation's silver award standards in spiritual living, practical living and global living, while also addressing some more general aspects or environmental care.

"The assessors noted that the team at Oakshaw Trinity church had presented a strong application for their silver award.

"They were impressed by the way in which the team arranged their meetings to ensure that the Kirk Session is kept fully appraised of their work.

"The assessors also commended the discussion about environmental matters within the congregation."

A quarter of pregnancies in England and Wales ended in abortion in 2019

New figures released by the Office for National Statistics has revealed a quarter of pregnancies in England and Wales resulted in abortion in 2019.

More than 200,000 pregnancies out of 821,809 recorded by residents of England and Wales in 2019 were aborted.

The ONS said: "The percentage of conceptions leading to a legal abortion among all women in England and Wales increased from 24 per cent in 2018 to 25.2 per cent in 2019,

August 10, 2021

the second year in a row this has increased for all age groups”.

Although the annual report on pregnancies recorded in 2020 has not been published yet, the abortion figure is expected to exceed that of 2019.

Pro-life campaigners argue that the rise is due to the temporary measures introduced by governments during national lockdowns, such as DIY home abortions.

In May, more than 600 medical professionals signed an open letter to governments in the four UK nations requesting 'at home' abortion schemes be revoked with immediate effect.

The letter followed public consultations by the government on whether to make the policy permanent and highlighted the risks it poses for women's health.

Although annual statistics on conceptions among residents in England and Wales are not yet available for 2020, the increased number of abortions recorded that year suggests that the percentage of pregnancies ending in abortion will likely exceed the 2019 figure.

Spokesperson for Right To Life UK, Catherine Robinson said: “It is a tragedy that over a quarter of all pregnancies in England and Wales ended due to abortion in 2019”.

“Every one of these abortions represents a failure of our society to protect the lives of babies in the womb and a

August 10, 2021

failure to offer full support to women with unplanned pregnancies”.

“This significant rise in abortions in 2020 will likely mean that this statistic will be even higher for 2020. This is especially worrying given that the introduction of the home abortion scheme has put so many women at risk of complications, and has facilitated a number of illegal abortions past the legal term limit for ‘at home’ abortions. We are therefore calling on the UK and Welsh Governments to end these ‘DIY’ home abortion schemes immediately”.

Prayers lift up peaceful elections in Zambia

During National Ecumenical Prayers for Peaceful Elections in Zambia, held on 1 August, religious and civic leaders gathered in-person and online to pray for peaceful elections in the nation, which has been coping with a rise in violence during the lead-up to 12 August voting.

The theme for the service, held at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Lusaka, was 'Blessed are the peacemakers.' The event was organized by the Coalition for Peaceful Elections in Zambia and the Christian Churches Monitoring Group.

The same day as the prayer service, Zambia deployed the military to curb the violence.

Religious leaders and organizations from across the world, including the Vatican and the United Nations, shared

August 10, 2021

messages of solidarity and good will.

Rev Dr Benjamin Simon, World Council of Churches (WCC) programme executive for church relations, delivered a pre-recorded video message on behalf of the WCC.



"Peace is more than just the absence of war and violence," said Simon. "So being a true peacemaker is certainly not an easy task."

The path to peace is often difficult and painful, Simon continued. "On behalf of the World Council of Churches, I do wish you all a blessed and peaceful election period," he said. "May the Holy Spirit guide you and lead you to become peacemakers in your country and in this world."

Poem for today

The Harbour by Eavan Boland

This harbour was made by art and force.
And called Kingstown and afterwards Dun Laoghaire.
And holds the sea behind its barrier
less than five miles from my house.

Lord be with us say the makers of a nation.
Lord look down say the builders of a harbour.
They came and cut a shape out of ocean

August 10, 2021

and left stone to close around their labour.

Officers and their wives promenaded
on this spot once and saw with their own eyes
the opulent horizon and obedient skies
which nine tenths of the law provided.

And frigates with thirty-six guns, cruising
the outer edges of influence, could idle
and enter here and catch the tide of
empire and arrogance and the Irish Sea rising

and rising through a century of storms
and cormorants and moonlight the whole length of this
coast,
while an ocean forgot an empire and the armed
ships under it changed: to slime weed and cold salt and
rust.

City of shadows and of the gradual
capitulations to the last invader
this is the final one: signed in water
and witnessed in granite and ugly bronze and gun-metal.

And by me. I am your citizen: composed of
your fictions, your compromise, I am
a part of your story and its outcome.
And ready to record its contradictions.



Pointers for prayer

Intercessions for following Tenth Sunday after Trinity Year B– 8th August 2021

Everlasting God Help us to understand the way that you would like things to be done and to be ready to follow your ways until we too can enter the wide open doors of heaven.

Almighty God you want us hold the needs of our sisters and brothers in Christ as dear to us as ourselves. Help us to love our neighbours as ourselves as we offer our thanks and our intercessions on behalf of the church here in the Costa Blanca and throughout the world.

(Short Silence)

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Creator God, you call us all to love and serve you with body, mind, and spirit. Help us to demonstrate our love for your creation and the world in the way that we live. Open the hearts of those with power both elected and non-elected and give them compassion in all that they do for the good of the people that they lead.

(Short Silence)

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

August 10, 2021

Creator God we pray for all those here in the Costa Blanca on holiday this Summer despite the ongoing restrictions imposed because of the Pandemic. Thank you for the refreshment which holiday brings to their lives, for the freedom from routine and for the new experiences and opportunities they have as they explore our countryside and relax in our resorts. Thank you for the gift of your wonderful creation and help us to be good steward especially in our leisure time and also to continue to take all the necessary precautions for the safety of ourselves and others.

(Short Silence)

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Loving God friend of those in need, your Son Jesus has healed so many in body, mind and spirit. We hold before you those still burdened, those seeking healing, those in need within the church and the world.

(Short Silence)

(add names of those requesting prayer)

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Merciful God we pray for all who grieve for loved ones who have died. Be with them in their sorrow, lead them with your love to accept their loss and to go on with their lives. We raise before you those who have died recently and those whose anniversary falls at this time

(Short Silence)

(add names of the recently departed or on Anniversary list)

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

God of power, hear our prayers, and through the ministry of your Son free us from the grip of the world and all that is evil. Lead us as we go forward into another week strengthened and upheld by your love, the knowledge of the Gospel and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Merciful Father: accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen

Intercessions for Eleventh Sunday after Trinity Year B – 15th August 2021

Everlasting God as we approach your throne in the House of Wisdom in humility and simplicity we ask that you will hear our prayers of thanksgiving and intercession.

Almighty God we pray for our churches in The Costa Blanca and ask that our church here in..... be given a clear vision of what is needed to be both focused and relevant in all that is good and serves your purpose of spreading the Good News to both residents and visitors.

(Short Silence)

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Creator God we thank you for the beauty of the created world; for its wonderful variety and the bounty that it brings



forth. Help us all to be good stewards showing love and friendship to all peoples and the enjoying the warmth and light they bring to our lives. Be close to all who govern ensuring the decisions that they make, day by day, are made for the benefit all of the people entrusted to them in their leadership.

(Short Silence)

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Father God we pray for our own communities and all of our neighbours. We thank you also for our families and friends, raising before you those we know with particular needs. May your peace and love surround them bringing with it comfort and strength.

(Short Silence)

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

August 10, 2021

Gracious God we thank you for those we know who are on the road to recovery and for the miracle of healing. We pray for all who minister to the sick and infirm, both at home and in hospital care centres. We name before you now, those we know who are ill or in need of our prayers asking that through these requests they may all experience the light of the Gospel and a real sense of your healing presence.

(Short Silence)

(add names of those requesting prayer)

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Merciful God we pray for those whose lives have been shattered by the death of someone close and dear to them. We pray for members of our natural and church families who have died and whose anniversary we remember now.

(Short Silence)

(add names of the recently departed or on Anniversary list)

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Faithful God receive our intercessions and thanksgiving on behalf of the church and the world. Hear our prayers and reward our stewardship of this earth with the riches of heaven.

Merciful Father: accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen

Speaking to the Soul

Whatever happens, my dear brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord. I never get tired of telling you these things, and I do it to safeguard your faith. Watch out for those dogs, those people who do evil, those mutilators who say you must be circumcised to be saved.

Philippians 3:1-2 NLT

There is something incredibly impressive about people who are joyful when everything is going wrong. Paul's list of problems was a long one. He had the indignity and discomfort of being in prison not knowing whether he would ever be let out. Many of his fellow workers had let him down and he was continually up against fierce opposition. The sharpness of the conflict is very clear in these words as he describes his opponents as dogs. Their insistence that male converts to Christianity should be circumcised was, for Paul, a denial of the message that he was proclaiming. He was convinced that salvation was by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and that circumcision was definitely not the way.

Paul's joyfulness is so irrepressible that he is keen to encourage everyone else to be joyful as well! In the next chapter he commands, "Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice!" (Philippians 4.4) Paul clearly wasn't saying that everything is always going to go well. Indeed, Jesus frequently pointed out how tough it would be for those who decided to follow him. But, through it all, it is miraculously possible to be joyful, because the joy comes from our relationship with the Lord and not from

August 10, 2021

circumstances which, if they were the focus, would often and rightly make us downright miserable. Joy is one of the fruits of the Spirit which develops in us as we get closer to God and, in common with all the other fruits, it grows in us gradually and unselfconsciously as we allow Jesus to be the Lord of our lives.

QUESTION

What would it look like if you were always joyful?

PRAYER

Loving God, thank you for the gift of joy which you put in the hearts of everyone who loves you. Amen

