



Image of the day - Belfast Cathedral
See Forgotten Voices Writing Workshop

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



The poster features a geometric pattern of triangles in shades of blue, grey, and orange. In the top left, there is a logo for Charles Wood Festival & Summer School, which includes a stylized figure holding a cross. The main title 'A HYBRID FESTIVAL' is written in large, bold, white letters on an orange background. Below it, 'ACROSS ARMAGH AND BEYOND' is written in white on a dark blue background. The bottom section of the poster is dark blue and contains the text 'Where Digital Meets Live' in orange, '22-29 AUGUST 2021' in large white letters, and 'Patron: John Rutter CBE Artistic Director: David Hill MBE' in smaller white text. Below this, it lists 'Indoor and outdoor performances, workshops, services and broadcasts, including BBC Radio 3 Choral Evensong.' and a BBC Radio 3 logo. At the bottom, it says 'Admission to live events by ticket only. Digital events on our YouTube Channel. Full details and bookings at www.charleswoodsummerschool.org'. Logos for Armagh City Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council, social media icons for Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube, and the Arts Council of Northern Ireland logo are also present.

**Charles Wood
FESTIVAL & SUMMER SCHOOL**

**A HYBRID
FESTIVAL**

ACROSS ARMAGH AND BEYOND

Where Digital Meets Live
22-29 AUGUST 2021

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Armagh City Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council

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arts council of Northern Ireland

LOTTERY FUNDED

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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 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.

With a mix of indoor, outdoor, in-person or digital, there's something for everyone this August. [Click here to download the 2021 brochure.](#)



Forgotten Voices writing workshop at Belfast Cathedral

**St Anne's
Cathedral Writer in
Residence, Deirdre
Cartmill (Photo
left), will be
running a writing
workshop in the**

**Cathedral's Chapel of Unity on Saturday 25th
September.**

Everyone is welcome. Whether you're a new writer or a seasoned professional, this day of inspiration and practical guidance will rekindle your passion, and fire you up to get writing and keep writing.

The theme for the workshop is 'Forgotten Voices'. We'll start by uncovering your forgotten voice – the voice of the things you're crying out to say, the voice of your forgotten hopes and dreams. Then we'll explore other forgotten voices – voices from your past, the forgotten voices of your loved ones, or voices lost in history.

There will be time set aside within the workshop to explore the Cathedral and be inspired by this beautiful space. Uncover the forgotten voices hidden here, or simply find

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inspiration in its beauty, bustle, history and its atmosphere of peace and reflection. There is also the potential for some of the work produced to be shared on the Cathedral's website and across social media.

This workshop will inspire, no matter what form you're writing in – whether it's poetry, prose or drama.

The cost is £15/£12, you decide what you can afford, there will be free car parking at the Cathedral for attendees. Places are limited to 12 so book early to ensure your place!

Bookings are taken through admin@belfastcathedral.org or by calling the Cathedral on 028 9032 8332. Please visit the Cathedral website for our Covid safety regulations.

Deirdre Cartmill is an award-winning poet, writer and screenwriter. She has published two poetry collections with Lagan Press: *The Return of the Buffalo* and *Midnight Solo*.

She was Monaghan County Libraries Writer in Residence 2020 and has previously been IWC Roaming Writer in Residence, IWC Community Writer in Residence with Womens Aid, and joint Artist in Residence at the Belfast International Arts Festival. She co-commissioned and curated Ireland's first poetry jukebox which is now a permanent installation in Belfast. She is one of the originating artists on the collaborative project *Bridging the Silence* – a poetic audio walk and installation shown on pedestrian bridges which gives a voice to survivors of abuse and political violence.

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Institution in Newtownhamilton

The Institution of the Revd David Moses as Rector of the Grouped Parishes of Keady, Armaghbreague, Derrynoose and Newtownhamilton took place in Newtownhamilton Parish Church on 17th August 2021.



Pictured left to right are: the Rt Revd Ferran Glenfield (Preacher at the Service), Archdeacon Terry Scott, Canon Malcolm Kingston (Rural Dean), Archbishop John McDowell, Wayne Hawthorne (Diocesan Reader), and the Revd David Moses.”

A video of the Institution Service is available at <https://vimeo.com/588641960>



Reports

Archbishop of Canterbury addresses the House of Lords on Afghanistan



Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby. Photo: Lambeth Conference

The Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby addressed the House of Lords on Aug. 18 after Parliament was recalled following the fall of Afghanistan. The full text of his speech follows.

My Lords,

I look forward today especially to hearing noble and gallant Lords, diplomats, and others with local knowledge in

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Afghanistan. We rightly remember the courage, suffering and sacrifice over the last 20 years, and the courage being shown by our ambassador and the service people in Afghanistan at the moment, together with their colleagues and reporters. When we look back, I remember a cathedral, full for the funeral of a soldier: family and many colleagues silent in dignity, some wounded, mourning their loss.

The failure we face today is not military or diplomatic: they did all they could. It is political. Recovery and hope will come to Afghanistan with us supporting commitment to the neediest and most desperate. We have proven capacities in soft as well as hard power.

We owe an absolute, lavishly generous moral covenant to all those who are at risk because they served with us in Afghanistan or took seriously our frequently professed commitment to its future, women and girls included. An Afghan refugee, now a UK citizen said to me this week, “families in such times of trouble belong together”. His words are not politics but humanity. This is about morals not numbers. Will the Government confirm that their policy will reflect moral obligation and not be controlled by numbers?

In Pakistan, a country facing huge pressure including from refugees, we must undertake dialogue and support, learning afresh the religious and cultural literacy which is essential to effective work. We must not put any groups there, or in Afghanistan, into a corner where they may be driven to greater extremes. The aid we offer must support dialogue, inspire hope and prepare reconciliation. And that aid must be genuinely additional, not a transfer from other places of need. Is that going to be the case, I ask the Government?

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We must renew commitment to freedom of religion and belief everywhere, a point not much mentioned so far. That will count in Pakistan and Afghanistan for Christians and religious communities such as Shia, Hindus, Jains, Ahmadis and Sikhs. A WhatsApp, from a Christian in Afghanistan yesterday, asked for support there and in Pakistan. Memorably, it said, "I am willing to die for Jesus, but I do not want to die forgotten".

My Lords, this is a very bad time, especially for so many in Afghanistan, and for those who served there. It is a time for prayerful humility – and for us to display generosity, virtue, and courage. Rebuilding our reputation in such ways will give many others hope as well.

Christian Aid calls on UK government and international community to help people of Afghanistan after Taliban takeover

Despite promises from the Taliban that there will be no revenge killings and that women's rights will be protected, many Afghans are fearful of what life will bring under their new rulers.

Christian Aid is calling on the UK to immediately suspend all deportations of Afghan asylum seekers and refugees from the UK, and to "open safe and legal routes for those fearing persecution".

The aid agency, which already launched a hunger appeal in July due to a famine risk, is also warning of a spiralling humanitarian crisis with over half a million people in

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Afghanistan displaced this year, most of them women and children.

It warns that these numbers are set to increase "rapidly".

In "an indication that programmes with a clear humanitarian focus are allowed to continue", Christian Aid said its partners have so far been able to continue with some food and hygiene kit distributions, and that a UK-funded project in Kunduz led by the Organisation for Coordination and Humanitarian Relief (OCHR) is still operating.

Subrata De, Christian Aid's country manager in Afghanistan, said: "The situation is dire and more support will be required for poor and marginalised communities in the coming days.

"Christian Aid has been working in Afghanistan for 30 years and we will not desert now. We're doing all we can to continue distributions of food and emergency supplies to the most affected communities.

"We hope that humanitarian access will remain, especially access to women and girls in the communities as we are very concerned about their safety.

"As an Indian national, I have been lucky enough to evacuate safely but our staff, their families and the thousands of people we support, are living with uncertainty and insecurity."

Fionna Smyth, head of global advocacy & policy at Christian Aid, said: "We urge the UK Government to take action on four key areas; to work closely with the United Nations and

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wider donor community, to ensure that humanitarian assistance is provided to those most in need in the face of a rapidly worsening humanitarian crisis, to immediately suspend all deportations from the UK of Afghan asylum seekers and refugees and open safe and legal routes for those fearing persecution.

"The UK government should use its influence to encourage and support neighbouring states including with funding to allow refugees to flee without fear of being sent back; and finally, to do everything in its power to protect Afghan women, including human rights defenders, and civil society actors who have been encouraged to take leadership positions and who are now at grave risk.

"The impact of decades of conflict and displacement has recently been compounded by increasing climate shocks, rising food insecurity and COVID-19, which has left almost half of Afghanistan's population in need of emergency humanitarian assistance."

Pope mourns death of French priest

Pope Francis has said he is mourning death of a French priest murdered by an immigrant awaiting trial for an arson attack on Nantes Cathedral.

Fr Olivier Maire, 60, head of the Montfort missionaries at Saint-Laurent-sur-Sevre, was providing shelter to Emmanuel Abayisenga when he was allegedly beaten to death.



The 40-year-old Rwandan Hutu surrendered to police and admitted to the murder and gave officers the key to the room in the abbey where he had left the priest's body, according to reports in the French media.

During his General Audience two days later, the Pope said it was “with great pain” that he learned of Fr Maire’s death, and offered his condolences to all French Catholics as well as members of the priest’s family and order.

“I assure you of my participation (in the mourning) and my spiritual closeness,” the Holy Father said.

French bishops had earlier issued a statement in which they said they spoke of their “immense sadness and horror” at the killing.

“He was a victim of his generosity,” Bishop François Jacolin of Luçon told Vatican News. “We hope that this tragedy might not destroy the ideal of hospitality and sharing.”

Although police have dismissed terrorism as a motivation, the murder has shocked France and has bitterly divided its politicians, with many questioning why Abayisenga was free to reoffend while awaiting trial for the arson attack of July last year.

President Emmanuel Macron responded to criticism by assuring the French public that protecting people of faith was “a priority” for his government.

Abayisenga faced up to 10 years in prison if convicted of committing arson at a Gothic cathedral considered to be a jewel of French architecture. The Cathedral of Ss Peter and Paul was built between 1434 and 1891 and has been designated an historic monument by the government because of its architectural significance.

While employed there, Abayisenga, a Catholic, allegedly lit two fires in the area of a 17th century organ in July 2020, and a third above an electrical panel, destroying the organ along with much of the choir and some stained glass windows. Repairs to the building are expected to take years to complete.

The previous year, his application for asylum failed and he was served with an expulsion order. A condition of his bail ahead of his impending trial, however, was that he must not leave French territory.

He had been remanded in custody until late May when he was released under judicial supervision and confined to the

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abbey, leaving only for treatment at a psychiatric hospital in July.

Books, Broadcasts, Resources and Webinars



Capella Caecilliani in St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh

For those who couldn't join Capella Caecilliani in St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh on Sunday past, here's a recording of the encore from their concert which closed the choir's 25th

Bogoroditsye Dyevo (Ave Maria) by Rachmaninov, closed both the Feast of the Assumption and the choir's 25th anniversary season.

This is a movement from Rachmaninov's musical setting of the Russian Orthodox Church's All-Night Vigil service.

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Premiered in Moscow in 1915, his Vigil is regarded as one of the finest musical compositions ever written for the Orthodox tradition.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6erhypFMDFU&t=5s>

RTE Televised Service from Wicklow Parish

The Revd Jack Kinhead with members of Wicklow Parish Church's worship group will lead a televised service on RTE 1 on Sunday August 22 at 11am. The service will be broadcast from RTE studios.

John Rutter's Choir Guides

John says, "ChoirGuides is my new online choral learning aid. It's a library of short choral pieces, recorded by handpicked voices from my choir, The Cambridge Singers. When you listen to the recording, you can highlight any voice part at will, to assist you in learning it, as you follow the music on screen". JR <https://choirguides.com/>

Ready steady go - New Presbyterian Church blog

Ready steady go ... Resuming more regular patterns of church life

Neil Harrison, PCI's Mission Development Officer, reflects on the anticipated return of more regular patterns of church life as we emerge from a very different summer.

bit.ly/3yZix4Q

European Heritage Open Days 2021 Northern Ireland

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Runs 6-12 September with a host of FREE physical and online events! Download the brochure, book online and get involved in Northern Ireland's annual celebration of local architecture, history and culture

<https://bit.ly/3APSfCq>

Mary Sumner still inspires Caribbean women

Hear how Mary Sumner, founder of the Mothers' Union, inspires ladies in the Caribbean and how one woman in particular embodies the vision of a life spent serving others.

[<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dNt2BmJitaw>]



Poem for today

Irish Poetry by Eavan Boland

For Michael Hartnett

We always knew there was no Orpheus in Ireland.
No music stored at the doors of hell.
No god to make it.
No wild beasts to weep and lie down to it.

But I remember an evening when the sky
was underworld-dark at four,
when ice had seized every part of the city
and we sat talking —
the air making a wreath for our cups of tea.
And you began to speak of our own gods.

Our heartbroken pantheon.
No Attic light for them and no Herodotus.
But thin rain and dogfish and the stopgap
of the sharp cliffs
they spent their winters on.

And the pitch-black Atlantic night.
How the sound
of a bird's wing in a lost language sounded.

You made the noise for me.
Made it again.
Until I could see the flight of it: suddenly

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the silvery lithe rivers of the south-west
lay down in silence
and the savage acres no one could predict
were all at ease, soothed and quiet and
listening to you, as I was. As if to music, as if to peace.

Pointers for prayer

For the week following the 11th Sunday after Trinity.

Creator God,
you call us to love and serve you
with body, mind, and spirit
through loving your creation
and our sisters and brothers.
Open our hearts in compassion
and receive our petitions
on behalf of the needs of the church and the world.
Holy One,
hear our prayers and make us faithful stewards
of the fragile bounty of this earth
so that we may be entrusted with the riches of heaven.
Amen.

We praise your abiding guidance, O God,
for you sent us Jesus, our Teacher and Messiah,
to model for us the way of love for the whole universe.
We offer these prayers of love
on behalf of ourselves and our neighbours,
on behalf of your creation and our fellow creatures.
Loving God,
open our ears to hear your word

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and draw us closer to you,
that the whole world may be one with you
as you are one with us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God of salvation,
who sent your Son to seek out and save what is lost,
hear our prayers
on behalf of those who are lost in our day,
receiving these petitions and thanksgivings
with your unending compassion.
Redeeming Sustainer,
visit your people
and pour out your strength and courage upon us,
that we may hurry to make you welcome
not only in our concern for others,
but by serving them
generously and faithfully in your name. Amen.

Living God,
you are the giver of wisdom and true discernment,
guiding those who seek your ways to choose the good.
Mercifully grant that your people,
feasting on the true bread of heaven,
may have eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty and everlasting God,
you are always more ready to hear than we to pray
and to give more than either we desire, or deserve:
Pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy,
forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid,
and giving us those good things
which we are not worthy to ask



save through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

Speaking to the Soul

And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19 NLT

Generosity is a beautiful thing. I had the blessing of a very generous aunt. She never married and was a devoted follower of Jesus. She was generous with her time especially to neighbours who were in need. Although she held a very senior executive role she was always happy to do the most menial jobs and would think nothing of it. She died whilst taking a neighbour to hospital and that seemed to sum up her life. She was always very generous with her money and was always looking for creative ways of helping people and planted firmly in my teenage mind the blessing of being generous.

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Christians are not automatically generous and the apostle Paul notes that the generosity of the Philippian church stood in marked contrast to many of the others. As he brings this letter to a close he thanks them once again for their gifts and describes them as being “a sweet-smelling sacrifice that is acceptable and pleasing to God”. When we give financial support to one another God notices and is blessed by our action, because in our giving we are reflecting the generosity that God first showed to us.

However generous we might be, our generosity is only ever a pale reflection of the generosity of God. This beautiful letter has described the way in which God has poured out his love to us in the Lord Jesus Christ. And now Paul assures his readers that they can look to the future with confidence knowing that God will continue to supply them with everything that they need. God loves us too much to give us everything we want but we can be sure that, whatever our circumstances or our needs, God will perfectly provide for us.

QUESTION

Who has inspired you by their generosity, and in what ways do you seek to be generous to others?

PRAYER

Thank you, loving God, that you have always been generous to me and always will be. Amen

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