



Image of the day - St Colman's, Dunmurry

Reports

New Narnia adventure in area loved by CS Lewis



CS Lewis Square Belfast - This beautiful public space has seven bronze sculptures of the characters from The Chronicles of Narnia, so you can walk among Aslan, Mr Tumnus, The Beavers, The White Witch and more.

Children are being given the opportunity to step out of CS Lewis' wardrobe into the land of Narnia in his beloved Co Down.

A new Narnia-themed tourist attraction has been developed, with its own magic door, and is now open in Kilbroney Park in Rostrevor.

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Young people are transported into the “enchanted land” of Narnia, guided by characters from Belfast-born Lewis' famous books.

The trail has been developed by Mourne Heritage Trust and Newry, Mourne and Down Council, with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, and aims to build on the success of a CS Lewis trail at the park.

Camilla Fitzpatrick of the Mourne Heritage Trust said: “We are delighted to announce these experience dates at a time when parents are trying to entertain children. It's a different and fun way to spend an hour-and-a-half.”

The trust says pre-booking is essential, with numbers limited in line with Covid guidance.

The east Belfast-born writer's Chronicles have sold more than 100 million copies worldwide. His success has continued long after his death in 1963 with film adaptations of the books.

And while there is a dedicated Lewis trail — taking in Dundela villas, Strandtown and the family home at Glenmachan in the east of the city — Rostrevor has been actively working in the past few years to exploit the interest in Aslan and Narnia, and its links to the area.

The author is said to have based Narnia on his childhood memories of the Mourne Mountains and boyhood holidays to Rostrevor.

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He is reported to have written a letter to his brother saying: “That part of Rostrevor which overlooks Carlingford Lough is my idea of Narnia.”

New pilgrim routes launched in one of Britain's busiest holiday destinations

Pilgrimage routes linking historic churches and ancient holy sites in one of the country's most popular tourist destinations have been launched as part of a Church of England-funded project.

Devon Pilgrim offers people the chance to “take a journey of the heart” on routes which include Dartmoor and the ancient seat of the bishops of Exeter at Crediton.

Each pilgrimage is divided into sections which start and end at a church, so they can be walked in one go over several days or in shorter segments.

The churches all have a ‘pilgrim corner’ with prayers and meditations for people to engage with and a pilgrim stamp for walkers to mark their progress in specially designed Pilgrim Passports.

The Bishop of Exeter, Robert Atwell, said “We associate pilgrimage with the medieval world but in our generation, we have rediscovered its grace.

“People of all backgrounds are walking the ancient paths and, in so doing, entering upon a journey of the heart.



“Many of them are discovering that God walks with them in their life.”

Devon Pilgrim is part of Growing the Rural Church, a Diocese of Exeter project to help rural churches to be sustainable for the future and to engage with their local communities creatively.

It is supported by a £1m Church of England Strategic Development Fund grant.

Sarah Cracknell, Growing the Rural Church Project Manager, said “Pilgrimage is having a resurgence, whether it is the Celtic idea of the inner journey or the medieval tradition of travelling to a specific place to seek help or ask for direction.”



- **SPUC ready to take last minute legal action to block imposition of abortion on Northern Ireland**

NI First Minister says he will block attempts to widen abortion services

Both Lives Matter campaigners outside Stormont against the relaxation of abortion laws in Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland's First Minister has said he is looking into his political and legal options to stop the expansion of abortion services being imposed on the province by Westminster.

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According to the Press Association, Paul Givan has sought legal advice on how he can "resist" powers handed to Brandon Lewis, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, that allow him to direct NI ministers on the implementation of a "fully-funded abortion service".

Givan said he had spoken to Lewis to tell him "he shouldn't do this" and "that it was wrong for him to do it".

"I was disappointed whenever he proceeded in issuing that direction," said Givan.

"We are taking legal advice now as to the implications of that legal action that he has taken and what our options legally are to resist that.

"It certainly is my intention to resist what the Secretary of State has done by way of a direction but I need to look at all of my options, both politically and legally, whenever it comes to this particular issue."

Abortion laws were relaxed by Westminster in 2019 while Stormont was suspended.

In comments to BBC Northern Ireland, Givan said he was prepared to run the risk of being taken to court for blocking directions from Westminster.

NI Health Minister Robin Swann has promised not to act unilaterally in the implementation of the changed regulations after a threat of legal action by the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC).

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The pro-life group has called Westminster's actions "a devolution power grab".

SPUC is challenging the legality of the powers given to Lewis in a case set to be heard in October.

"If the London Government is able to impose an agenda which will condemn to death an untold number of unborn babies it will also fatally undermine the devolution settlement by stripping locally elected Ministers of power and denying the people an account

People and places

Kildare women's water-carrying challenge raises funds for charity and awareness of climate change

A water-carrying challenge by four Kildare women has raised more than €1,200 for overseas aid agency Christian Aid and highlighted the impact of climate change on some of the world's poorest people.

Elizabeth Waldron, Florence Bass, Liz Butler and Dee Huddleston undertook the challenge to carry buckets of water around the three churches in the parish of Celbridge, Straffan and Newcastle-Lyons to which they belong. The women completed 25 laps of each church, 75 in total, to reflect the 75th anniversary of Christian Aid.



Their walk was inspired by Rose Jonathan (68), a widowed grandmother from the Kitui region of eastern Kenya where severe drought and a changing climate mean that she must spend up to seven hours a day walking to fetch water for her family and livestock. Rose has been the sole carer for her six grandchildren since her husband died and her daughters moved to the city for work.

In the rural areas of many African countries, it falls to women and girls to collect water for their families and farm animals, and in drought-affected regions this can involve long and often dangerous journeys on foot. In Kenya,
churchnewsireland@gmail.org

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Christian Aid is responding to the crisis by funding the building of earth dams (low-tech community ponds) which capture and store water when the rains do come.

Mrs Huddleston, a member of Straffan Church of Ireland, is the Church and Community Officer for Christian Aid Ireland. She joined the charity's staff in 2019 after many years as a volunteer.

She said: "It's hard to imagine the worry Rose must feel, seeing her crops fail and her water supply run low. All over the world there are women like Rose who are struggling with poverty and climate change. Our walk was for them."

If you would like to support the Kildare women's walk, you can donate online at

[<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/dee-huddleston-walkforwater75>]<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/dee-huddleston-walkforwater75>

Cork Pride Service of Remembrance in St Anne's Church, Shandon

As part of the Cork Pride Festival 2021 a service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving was held in St Anne's, Shandon on Thursday 29th July.

This annual service is a space within pride week to stop, remember, and give thanks for those who have journeyed with the LGBTQ+ Community both in Cork and further afield over the years.

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Stephen Spillane, who also read the prayers at the service, said “Love was a central theme of the service and this was shown both with readings, from the First Letter of St John read by John Buttimer (Cork Pride), and the words from the Rev. Paul Robinson during the service. A candle was also lit by John Sheridan during the service to remember all those who have gone before us.”



New rector for Newcastle

The Revd Myrtle Morrison has been appointed Incumbent of the Parish of Newcastle in Dromore Diocese.

Myrtle is currently Priest in Charge of St Saviour's, Craigavon where she has served since December 2000, initially as Evangelist in Charge. Myrtle joined Church Army in the mid-eighties and was ordained in the Church of Ireland in 2017.

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Assistant Director of Music at Belfast Cathedral appointed to Ely



**Jack Wilson,
Assistant
Director of
Music at Belfast Cathedral, is to leave St Anne's in
September having been appointed to the team of
organists in Ely Cathedral.**

Jack, who is 23, began his musical career as a chorister in St Columb's Cathedral in Londonderry where he studied organ with Ian Mills and Derek Collins. He read music at Queen's University Belfast and was organ scholar at Belfast Cathedral. After undertaking a Master of Music degree in Choral Conducting at Cambridge University, he was appointed Assistant Director of Music at Belfast Cathedral.

Jack said: "I am absolutely delighted to be joining the team of three organists at Ely Cathedral and to have the opportunity of taking part in the daily music making in a Cathedral whose musical tradition extends for over a thousand years.

"I am most grateful to David Stevens and Matthew Owens at Belfast Cathedral for all their careful tuition and for their

support and guidance. This will be invaluable in facing the challenges involved in playing organ solos and accompanying the well-known Ely Girls' Choir."

Jack added: "It was thrilling to play the Ely Cathedral organ at the auditions for the post and to have the chance of playing it regularly at choral services, concerts and recitals. It was built by Harrisons in 1908, just a year after our organ in Belfast Cathedral."

Besides organ playing and deputising for the Director of the Girls' Choir, Jack will be teaching music in the King's School Ely which is one of England's major public schools.

Before leaving for Ely in September, Jack will be playing at the Choral Eucharist and Choral Evensong each Sunday in St Anne's. With the Cathedral's Director of Music, Matthew Owens, he is also making a video for school children explaining aspects of pipe organs including some of their internal workings.

Mothers' Union Mary Sumner month

Mary Sumner founded Mothers' Union 145 years ago.

She began a movement which has grown over the years to now be 4 million strong, present in 84 countries.

August 2021 marks 100 years since her death. Throughout the month of August, members from around the world will be sharing their thoughts on how her life inspires them today.

<https://youtu.be/OMRu6gQf22w>

Books, Broadcasts, Resources and Webinars

Holy God make The lion sleeps tonight

They haven't even started singing yet and it is already awesome. Boys' Choir "Dagilélis - Boys' Choir "Dagilélis - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HOIzRdDo_3I Visit: <https://dagilelis.lt/>

Holiday Reading

As the weekend supplements have already begun to advise us, it is, at least for some, the holiday season and so we should be organizing our holiday reading. For many, of course, this will be no more than a quick trawl through the fiction best sellers list but for those for whom summer represents an opportunity to catch up on serious reading, there are some attractive alternatives with a Church of Ireland dimension, the Church of Ireland correspondent to the Irish Times writes.

Perspectives on Prayer and Spirituality, published by Wipf & Stock in the USA, has been edited by two members of staff of the Church of Ireland Theological Institute – the Director, the Revd Dr Maurice Elliott, and Lecturer in Missiology, the Revd Dr Patrick McGlinchey. As well as contributions by both editors, there are chapters by other CITI staff members, Dr Bridget Nichols and the Revd Dr William Olhausen, and from others who have, in recent years, been associated with the Institute – Bishop Ken

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Good, Canon Christina Baxter and Adrian Chatfield. Recent students, all now in the ordained ministry, also make contributions – Rob Clements, Suzanne Cousins, Rebecca Guildea and Ian Mills.

Also from CITI comes the twelfth volume in the **Braemor Studies series** which showcases the best dissertation by a final year student. The latest in the series is St Patrick's Pilgrimage. Journey to Place, Journey to God by the Revd Karen Salmon, who is now a curate in Willowfield parish in Belfast, which has been published by Church of Ireland Publishing. It, and the earlier volumes, are available from the Church of Ireland's on-line store at www.ireland.anglican.org/store

A former Principal of the Church of Ireland Theological College, the predecessor of CITI, **Canon John Bartlett**, has recently completed a project to render the Gospel readings for the major feasts and each Sunday of the Christian year in rhyming iambic verse, illustrated with his own line drawings. The Gospels in Iambic Verse (Revised Common Lectionary Year C) has been preceded by volumes for years A and B and an introductory volume, Meet the Apostles. An Introduction in Iambic Verse to the Apostles of the New Testament. All four are available from the on-line store.

Canon Bartlett is a long-time member of the editorial committee of the **Church of Ireland journal, Search**. The summer issue, edited by Canon Ginnie Kennerley, is largely devoted to the proceedings of the international colloquium hosted virtually by Search last April which addressed the topic 'Who is My Neighbour? Serving a Wounded World in Interreligious Solidarity'. The journal carries the

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contributions of the major speakers – Dr Peniel J.R. Rajkumar from the World Council of Churches. Professor David Ford, sometime Regius Professor of Theology in Cambridge, and Brother Jean–Marie from the Taizé Community – and the responses to their papers. Copies may be obtained from the Honorary Treasurer, Michael Denton, at subscriptions@searchjournal.ireland.anglican.org

For those whose maybe contemplating a day out, **Bishops & Buildings. A Pictorial Celebration of Armagh's Architecture** is an excellent introduction not only to the city's fine buildings but also to the rich heritage of its museums, libraries and archives. The book is available from the Armagh Robinson Library at [admin@armaghrobinsonlibrary.co.uk]

Most, if not all, of these books are available from the **RCB Library** which although still closed to readers, because of Covid restrictions, is operating a click and collect service for borrowers – see [www.library.ireland.anglican.org]
Courtesy The Irish Times, 31.07.2021

Poem for today

"Quarantine"

By Eavan Boland (1944 - 2020)

In the worst hour of the worst season
of the worst year of a whole people
a man set out from the workhouse with his wife.
He was walking — they were both walking — north.

She was sick with famine fever and could not keep up.
He lifted her and put her on his back.
He walked like that west and west and north.
Until at nightfall under freezing stars they arrived.

In the morning they were both found dead.
Of cold. Of hunger. Of the toxins of a whole history.
But her feet were held against his breastbone.
The last heat of his flesh was his last gift to her.

Let no love poem ever come to this threshold.
There is no place here for the inexact
praise of the easy graces and sensuality of the body.
There is only time for this merciless inventory:

Their death together in the winter of 1847.
Also what they suffered. How they lived.
And what there is between a man and woman.
And in which darkness it can best be proved.

Pointers for prayer

Intercessions for week following Ninth Sunday after Trinity – 1st August 2021

Holy God Make us receptive and open as we lay our intercessions before you. May we accept Your kingdom like children taking bread from the hands of their father or mother.

(Short Silence)

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

We thank You that our clergy are working faithfully to lead your church here in....., and that you work through them. May they always be aware of the blessings you bestow on them; strengthen and uphold them when they grow weary in their ministries. Constantly remind us all that You who began all good work in us will ultimately perfect it through your son Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Creator God we pray for your whole creation; for our brothers and sisters throughout the world and for their lives to be respected and revered regardless of creed or colour, gender or sexuality, wealth or status and for a responsible sharing of precious resources and the conservation of our fragile and beautiful world. We pray for our Queen Elizabeth and Government of the United Kingdom, for the King and Government of Spain and all world leaders and the responsibilities that they have in bringing these things about.

(Short Silence)

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Father God, we raise before you those in our community trying to grow or produce our food under difficult circumstances as the Pandemic here in the Costa Blanca continues. We also pray for folk who are struggling to cope with the situation, especially the frail and elderly and any others at risk.

(Short Silence)

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Loving God bring healing to all who are wounded, make whole those who are broken, and shed light wherever there is darkness. Hear now those we name before you who have asked for or are in need of healing prayer.....

(Short Silence)

(add names of those requesting prayer)

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Merciful God we thank you for those who have travelled before us on the way of the cross and are now at peace in your eternal presence. Help us to live always mindful of your promise to us that the road of faith will lead into your heavenly kingdom.

(Short Silence)

(add names of the recently departed or on Anniversary)

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Faithful God, Fill our hunger with the food that lasts, the bread of God which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.

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



Speaking to the Soul

Dear friends, you always followed my instructions when I was with you. And now that I am away, it is even more important. Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.

Philippians 2:12-13 NLT

If you have given your life to Christ, confessed your sins and received his forgiveness then you have the gift of salvation. This is the amazing Good News that Paul was so desperate to share. But he was equally concerned that his readers should understand that they now had work to do. The situation is much the same as in marriage. Having a wedding and receiving the gift of marriage is just the start of the journey. You now have work to do. Lots of it!

Advertising always reveals a great deal about a society. These days we often hear products being promoted because they will offer us a quick and effortless route to making life easier, smoother, happier and more fulfilled. It's very tempting to speak of the Christian life in the same way. But it would be a lie. I have not the slightest doubt that living for Christ is the most wonderful and fulfilling life that exists here on earth. But nowhere does Paul ever suggest that following Christ requires no effort, pain or hard work.

I fully recognise that hard work doesn't sound very attractive, but we should never fear it. Jesus once invited his followers to take on his yoke, explaining "my yoke is easy and my burden is light". You don't see many yokes these days so I had better explain. A yoke is simply a wooden beam normally used between a pair of oxen or other animals to enable them to pull together on a load when working in pairs. Jesus doesn't deny that his followers will have burdens to bear, but he makes the incredible promise that as they take his yoke they "will find rest" for their souls. (Matthew 11.28) I know exactly what Jesus means. Over the years I have seen many people working incredibly hard for God in this country and around the world and it has been beautiful to see their peace and contentment because they have done their work yoked to Jesus.

QUESTION

What is the hard work that God is calling you to do?

PRAYER

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Thank you, Lord Jesus, that as we accept your yoke we find perfect rest. Amen

