

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Cork cathedral choir camp

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Cork cathedral choir camp

Cork Cathedral Choristers learn Handel's 'Messiah' at Adventure Centre.

Thirty choristers and six supervisors departed by coach early on Sunday morning, 21st August, bound for Killary Adventure Centre in Connemara.

It was the first residential trip away since the pandemic, and for a few of the younger ones it was their first time away from home.

Whilst kayaking, gorge walking, archery and climbing ropes were at the front of the choristers' minds, Director of Music Peter Stobart had other plans too. He writes:

“Back in early 2020 we were planning a Christmas performance of Handel's Messiah. For us to tackle such a large work I always knew that we would have to dedicate some extra rehearsal time on top of our regular commitments. Of course the 2020 performance was cancelled and so we are now working towards performances in December this year.

“The trip combined the activities with some intensive rehearsing, and the centre were able to accommodate that for us.”



Rehearsing in the geodesic dome

The centre was very well equipped and the rehearsals took place in a large geodesic dome in the grounds. The shape of the dome gave the sound some peculiar acoustic properties but it was an ideal space in which to rehearse.

The staff of the centre were delighted to hear the Hallelujah Chorus coming from within. After three nights and almost four days of activities and rehearsals, the choristers

emerged exhausted, challenged and rewarded. The act of singing together is a unifying experience, and to combine this with sleeping and eating together brings another dimension to it.



The choir of St Fin Barre's Cathedral will perform Handel's Messiah with orchestra on Friday 9th and Saturday 10th December at 7pm. Tickets can be purchased from the Cathedral Shop in September.

People and places

Eco–Congregation highlights church projects

Eco–Congregation Ireland's Summer 2022 newsletter is now available, highlighting examples of environmental

projects undertaken by churches across the island of Ireland.

This includes a report from the Carrigaline union of parishes in the Diocese of Cork on replacing the Oasis flower arranging product with eco-friendly alternatives such as Bio-foam, and a clean-up in Galway parish's churchyard.

Conference in Belfast to mark 500 years of Martin Luther's Bible

One of the world's greatest publishing sensations will be the focus of an international conference in Belfast next month at Presbyterian Church's Union theological college, Billy Kennedy writes in the News Letter.

Church academics at the college, with eminent Biblical experts from the UK and Europe, will examine the legacy of Protestant reformer Martin Luther, particularly his translation of the New Testament, which has its 500th anniversary next month.

The conference – titled 'Martin Luther: Bible Translator, Illustrator and Publisher' – is a two-day event on September 12-13, giving modern insight into Luther's 'September Testament'; its context, influence and enduring impact since 1522.

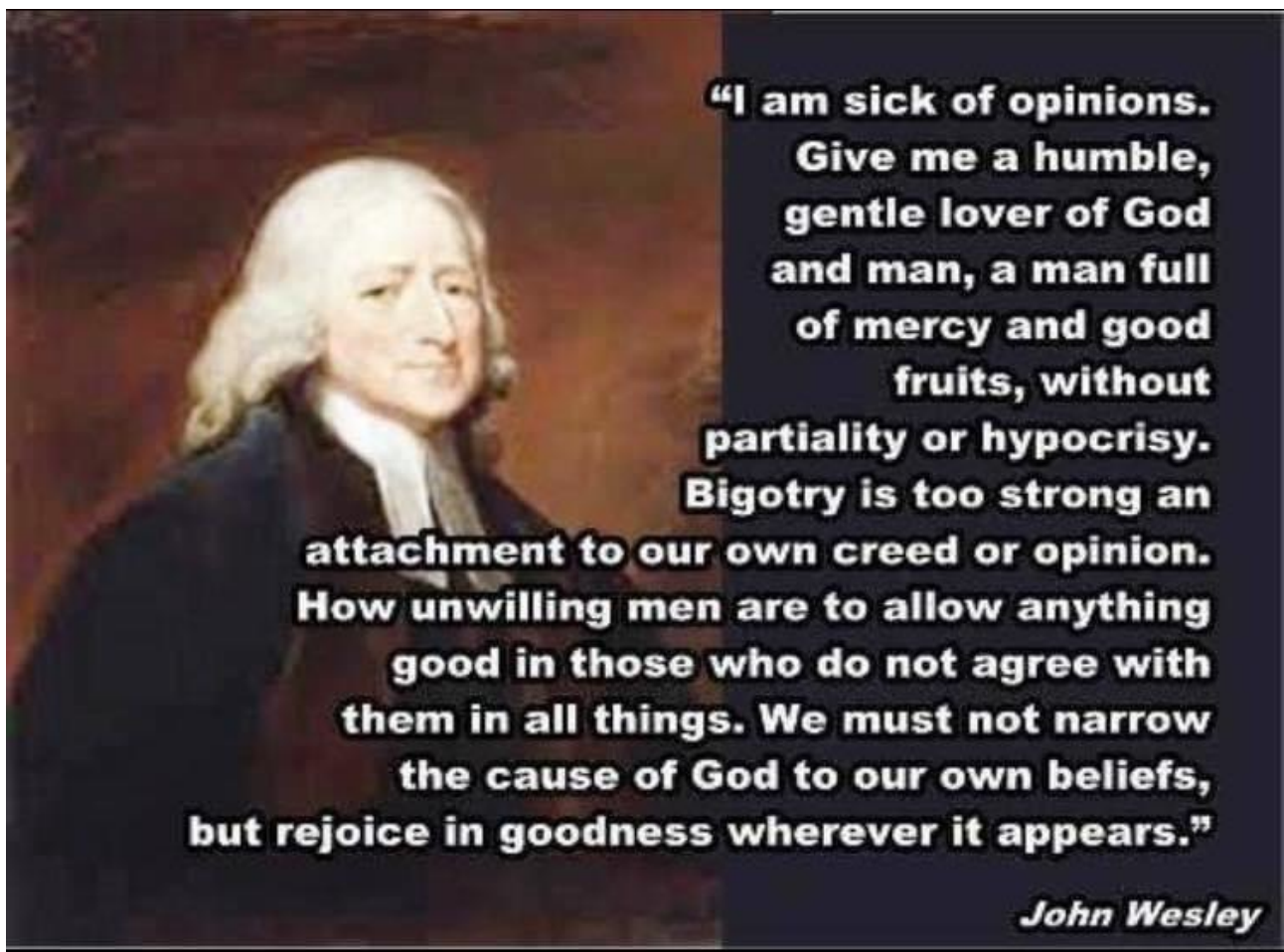
Martin Luther was originally a German Roman Catholic priest who advanced as a church theologian, author, and hymn writer.

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A former Augustinian friar, he is best known as the seminal figure in the 16th century Protestant Reformation. Luther's Protestant reforms were advanced through the 16th century by French theologian John Calvin and in Scotland by Presbyterian cleric John Knox.

Explaining the significance of the publication, Union College principal Rev Prof Gordon Campbell says: "500 years on, it may seem difficult for us to comprehend the impact of the 'September Testament'.

"But if you take something like the arrival of the world-wide web in the mid-1990s and the subsequent revolutionary impact that it had, and continues to have on society and everyday life today, you begin to get the picture.





This week's photo for Speaking to the Soul which is daily on CNI. The old Methodist hall on the banks of the river Maine in Cullybackey. Photo courtesy Stuart Grant.

“Martin Luther’s ‘September Testament’ in German was such a pivotal moment for Reformation, European history, and Bible translation that we believe merits exploring and celebrating.

“In each conference session our contributors will open up some of its many impacts through time, bringing a collective assessment of the relevance and importance of Luther’s Bible publishing project that offers something for academics and the general public.

TO MARK THE U.N.
International
Day of Peace
WED 21 SEPTEMBER 2022



‘FAITHS TOGETHER FOR THE COMMON GOOD’

A morning to reflect – in the company of others –
on how we, as people of faith, can work together
to make this place the best place it can be –
for everyone!

174TRUST
BUILDING PEACE
PROMOTING RECONCILIATION



Duncairn Arts Centre
Wednesday 21 Sept
9am - 1pm



Representing the Boys' Brigade NI at the DofE Northern Ireland Regional Conference left to right: David Johnston (1st Ballygrainey), David Penney (NIHQ), Wendy Campbell (NIHQ) and Robert Whan (1st Spa).

“At the time the ‘September Testament’ appeared, only some scholars, monks and nobles had access to a Bible, usually in Latin. Relatively few people could read.

“Crucial for Luther was not only the accuracy of his German translation, but how it sounded, especially when read aloud in the new Reformed churches.

“Luther wanted the words of Jesus, evangelists, and apostles to be heard at the pace and rhythm of everyday

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speech on the streets, so that it would appeal to listeners' ears, lodge in their memory and warm their heart for Christ.

“Placing scripture in the hands of ordinary people and making it more inclusive of German dialects generally meant that for the first time ordinary folk could read for themselves, or hear life-changing verses in their own heart language, such as John 3:16, which says: ‘For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life’.”

The Bible Society in Northern Ireland, Biblica and Wycliffe Bible Translators are partnering with Union College at the conference.

Vacancy

Thomas Street Methodist Church is seeking to appoint a full-time Youth and Children's Worker.

The role will include building on existing church and community work with young people and also developing new and innovative ways to reach young people with the Gospel.

For a full job description and application form visit <https://irishmethodist.org/vacancies>

Closing date - 12noon, Thursday 22nd September
Hours & Salary - Full Time / £22,607 - £23,738

Contact person - darrin.thompson@irishmethodist.org
hr@irishmethodist.org

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Christian heritage

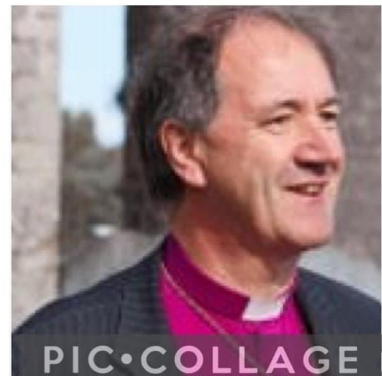


Jeremy Taylor's spirituality at Ballinderry Middle Church

A beautiful, historic church, built at the direction of Jeremy Taylor in 1664-68, exemplifying a quiet, modest spirituality.

The Middle Church will be open to visitors on Saturday 10th September from 10am until 4pm.

A group of enthusiastic volunteers will be available to show you around, or you can explore at your leisure.



St Michael's Church, Killorglin 25th Anniversary

St Michael's Church, Killorglin will celebrate its 25th Anniversary on Sunday, 18th September, 2022 at 3pm.

Bishop Michael Burrows will lead the celebration & all are welcome to join in. Light refreshments will be served afterwards. Mid Kerry Church of Ireland - Kilcolman Union of Parishes

World News

Church of Scotland songwriter is a winner in worldwide competition

A young Scottish songwriter's work is to be given an international platform after she was named one of the winners of a competition from the World Council of Churches (WCC).

Lynsey Martin Kimmitt's song "Peace Be With You" will be featured at the 11th WCC Assembly in Karlsruhe, Germany, which begins on Wednesday, August 31. The song will be published in the main worship book for the assembly, which will bring together over 4000 participants from across the globe.

Lynsey Martin Kimmitt's song will be featured at the World Council of Churches Assembly in Germany next week.

Although Lynsey will be unable to attend in person because of work commitments, she has also put together a video for assembly participants.

Lynsey lives with her husband Andrew in Speyside where she is a member of Aberlour Parish Church.

Originally from Dundee, Lynsey plays piano, organ and bassoon and at one point considered studying music, before opting to study law.

Now a local authority solicitor, in her spare time she is a member of Aberlour Church's music team and plays with other groups in the area.

A bigger challenge

She entered the WCC Worship Songwriting Competition for 18 to 35-year-old songwriters after a friend shared a social media post.

"I had been writing some of my own words for songs and hadn't pushed myself to write tunes as regularly," Lynsey revealed.

"Writing music to go with the words has always been a bigger challenge for me and this competition gave me a good nudge to do that. It turns out I really enjoyed it. I kept it simple and I am looking forward to writing more and developing those skills."

The WCC 11th Assembly's theme, "Christ's love moves the world to reconciliation and unity", also resonated with Lynsey.

Encouragement for reflection

Thanks to funding from the Church of Scotland's Faithshare programme, Lynsey was able to represent the Kirk at an ecumenical conference in Taiwan which brought together Christians from around the world.

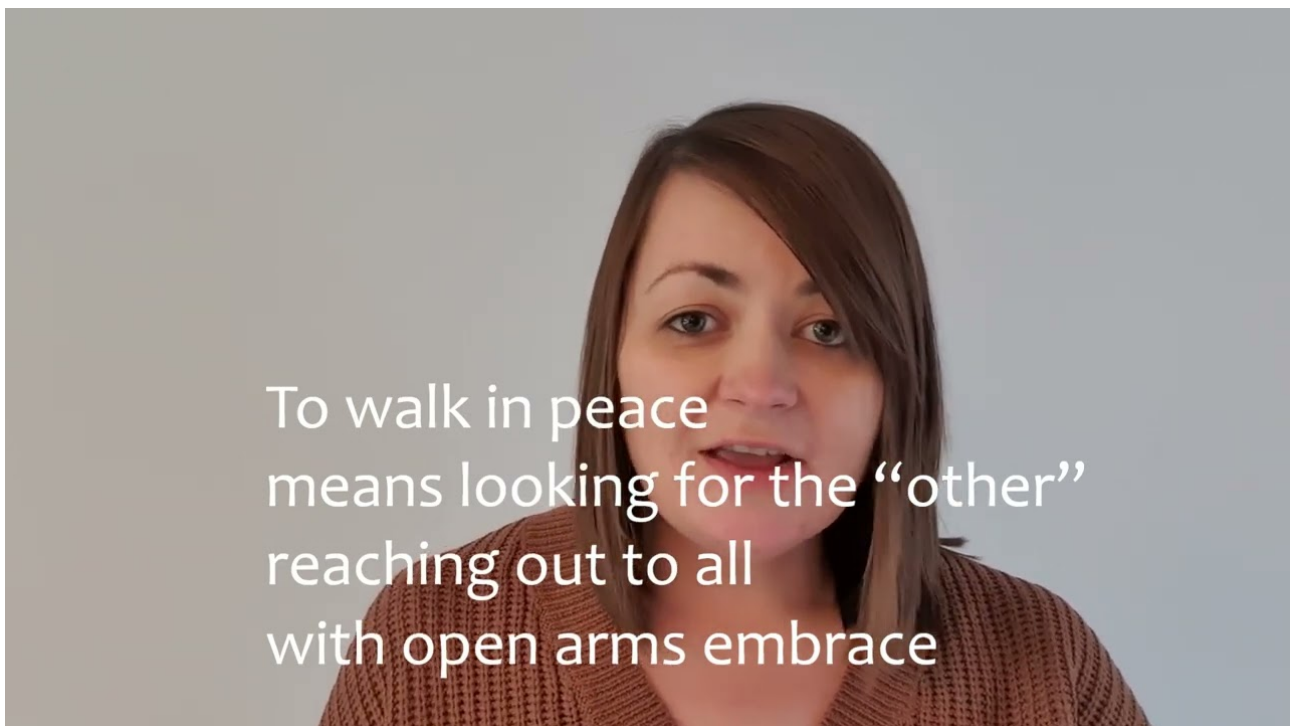
She said: "I witnessed a little of what it is like to live in the constant shadow of potential conflict, and how the knowledge that there are people who stand with you, praying for you can be so unifying, comforting, and powerful."

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"I think the stories we hear of Jesus make it clear that true peace, true reconciliation, true unity are gifts from God through Christ. I think we're all called to bring and share this peace in some way or another and we'll all find our own ways of doing that and I hope the song offers space for people to reflect on the theme.

"I also wanted the song to reflect on what peace means and to make an active commitment to God's peace. I hope it might also encourage people to reflect on peace in their own lives and context."

Lynsey's video for "Peace Be With You" can be seen at



[\[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=df8Ur3XfNBg&t=2s\]](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=df8Ur3XfNBg&t=2s)

CNI

In the media

Priest leading plans for community 'climate action park' in Co Galway

A priest is leading plans for a community 'climate action park' on church land in Aughrim, Co Galway, Sinéad Brennan reports for RTE

Reverend John Godfrey is the rector of the Aughrim and Creagh Parish Union and he hopes the park will engage the local community with the issues of climate change and biodiversity loss.

"We were inspired back in 2019 by the Fridays For Future movement to do something urgent as a church community in response to the twin challenges of climate change and the biodiversity crisis.

"We asked ourselves if we could use church land in a creative way to sequester carbon, to support biodiversity and more importantly to engage the local community to help us make a difference."

The park will sit on a four-acre site of land beside the rectory, which used to be used for grazing livestock.

"We will plant it with trees and hedgerows and wildflowers. We'll create paths for people to access it and incorporate signage to help people interpret it to inspire them to make changes in their own lifestyle and the place where they live, to make a difference," he explained.

"The climate action park has a range of ecologies within the site that make it so interesting. The richest area is a marshy wetland area that supports the widest variety of biodiversity. The area also includes a meadow, agricultural grassland, wooded copses, and a river ecosystem that runs through the site and provides a corridor for birds, insects and aquatic species to travel from here to neighbouring ecosystems."

The project is a collaboration between the Reverend "and neighbouring churches of different traditions, with local people and with young people" and he hopes it will also become a symbol of unity.

The climate action park was given planning permission earlier this year, but they are awaiting archaeological sign-off before they can lay down the pathways and move forward with their large-scale tree planting efforts.

The Reverend has already been sharing the space with the community, however, "to keep the plans of the park alive", and he said it became a really important place for people to "come and connect with nature" during the various lockdowns.

"One of the things that gives life to a church is to have purpose, to have a mission. When we realised the park was our mission, it gave enormous energy to everything we do in the parish," he said.

"One of the privileges of parish ministry is you work with people of every age and stage and people are at different stages of understanding the climate and biodiversity crises.

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The climate action park gives us a focus on those issues and it is a symbol that they're real and they matter."

"The whole faith story is realising that the world is far from how it should be, but that each individual action matters. Every single positive thing we do has benefits we cannot yet imagine, we just have to start and then follow on from each positive step we take," he added.

Courtesy RTE On Climate

Poem for today

The Road Not Taken by Robert Frost

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!

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Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

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
