



Image of the day - St Patrick's Church, Coleraine

People and places



New Irish Youth Choir and Covid-19 - Request for Prayer

Jonathan Rea - Creative Director and Sir Nigel Hamilton - Chair of the Board of Directors write -

“Following last week's New Irish Youth Choir Day Camps we are sad to report that we have become aware of a number of positive cases of Covid-19 both in the young people in the choir and members of our team.

“We have been liaising with the Public Health Agency this week, and we have been assured that we adhered carefully

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to the published guidance and had a robust risk assessment in place.

“At present it seems that those involved are suffering only mild symptoms. One of those affected is our Creative Director, Jonathan Rea.

“We would ask you to pray that all will make a swift and smooth recovery, and that there will be no further spread”.

Open call for applications for PhD studentships in Irish studies

The Institute of Irish Studies (IIS) at the University of Liverpool is inviting applications for three PhD studentships in the areas of Literature, History and Politics.

They are open to candidates based in Britain and Ireland looking to start their studies in 2021.

Dr Niall Carson, IIS' Departmental Lead for Post Graduate Studies, said: “We at the IIS are delighted to be able to offer these awards and we hope to be able to foster the next generation of researchers at a time when humanities subjects are facing new challenges.”

He added: “With the increasing difficulty of obtaining funding through traditional routes it is important to support alternatives where possible and we aim to encourage talented scholars from across Britain and Ireland to apply.”



Each studentship is funded by the Blair Chair in Irish Studies at a rate of £15,000 p.a. for three years for each successful applicant.

This encompasses home tuition fees (£4,500), a £10,000 Award; and a £500 research budget.

The awards are offered in conjunction with, and will be co-supervised by, staff at the Departments of English, History, and Politics, and are available on any topic, however applications from four main research areas are encouraged:

“Proposals are welcome on any aspect of Irish Studies that align with the research specialisms of the Institute of Irish Studies,” the IIS confirms.

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“Applicants are advised to submit their proposals on any topic within the areas aligned to staff research,” they add.

Dr Carson said: “The IIS has diverse research strengths and with our colleagues in the other Departments across the Faculty we expect that these awards will showcase some of the best research that the University of Liverpool can support.”

The deadline for applications is September 30, 2021.

The PhD studentships are an open call and students with existing projects or those interested can contact Dr Niall Carson directly at:
niall.carson@liverpool.ac.uk

For more information, including how to apply click here.
<https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/histories-languages-and-cultures/funding/postgraduate-research/>

Irish Presbyterian witness in China

Rev Dr Frederick W S O’Neill born in Belfast 1870 went to RBAI and Queen’s College then to the Royal University of Ireland for a degree in Mental and Moral Science, subsequently studying theology.

He did missionary work in Manchuria for 48 years seeing the period of the Boxer Rebellion and arrival of communism. His 16 month old son Dermot died during his missionary work.

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An expert on Chinese religions, master of many languages, released from a Japanese internment camp in 1945. Moderator of the Presbyterian General Assembly 1935. He died in 1952.

Clerical appointment



The Revd Lucy Burden has been appointed Bishop's Curate for Mount Merrion Parish in Down Diocese.

Lucy is currently Curate Assistant in St Mark's, Portadown but is no stranger to Mount Merrion having served there in her deacon intern year following ordination in 2016.

The service of introduction will take place at a date to be announced.



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Vacancy – Director of Music – St Bartholomew’s Church, Dublin

Saint Bartholomew’s Church (Ballsbridge, Dublin 4) has a long tradition of music performed to an extremely high standard -

“Our choirs have released commercial–quality recordings, toured both nationally and internationally, and appeared on national television. We have also published a CD of organ music, and have built up a substantial following on YouTube”.

The Select Vestry now seeks to appoint a Director of Music (€22,500 per annum) who will work with our assistant organist and vocal coach to develop and maintain our boys’ choir, girls’ choir, and chamber choir.

For further details and an application pack, please contact Ms Megan MacCausland by telephone (01–6688522), by email (admin@stbartholomews.ie) or by post at the above address.

Applications must be received by September 13th.
Interviews will commence in the week of September 27th.

Saint Bartholomew’s Church, Clyde Road, Ballsbridge,
Dublin 4.

Tel: 01–6688522 Website: www.stbartholomews.ie

Reports



‘I knew he would have been proud of me’ – how clergy are honouring the Windrush Generation

Clergy are honouring their heritage and celebrating Black history by wearing a special vestment designed by a renowned artist.

The “cope” – or processional robe – was designed by Terry Duffy and features a photo montage illustrating aspects of black British history since the arrival of the MV Empire Windrush on 22 June 1948.

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It includes the original 'British citizen' passport issued to Alford Gardner, a passenger on the ship, and an image of Sam King, another of the ship's passengers, who later became the first black Mayor of Southwark.

The image of the Jamaican-born Bishop of Dover, Rose Hudson-Wilkin, is also included.

The photo montage recalls the murder of Stephen Lawrence and alludes to racial discrimination faced by migrants in Britain including the sign 'No Irish, No blacks, No dogs' a notice displayed in the windows of some rooms for rent.

The cope was commissioned by the Church of England's National Committee for Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns in 2018 to commemorate the Windrush 70th anniversary.

It has since been available on request to churches and clergy across the country. It was, last year, worn by Fr Andrew Moughtin-Mumby for the "National Service" for Windrush Sunday.

Now, the Revd Shavaun Shodeinde, who was made a priest in 2021, wore the cope at the first Mass she presided over at St Mary Magdalene, Wandsworth Common.

"My late Grandfather, who was part of the Windrush generation, came from the West Indies to England," she said.

"He fostered Christian faith in me and enabled me to witness, through our heritage and ancestry, an example of what it means to be Christ-like.



“I felt it was important for me at my first Mass to represent my journey of coming to faith as I walked towards the fullness of sacramental life, as a priest.”

She said: “Wearing the cope brought me close to honouring my Grandfather - all those memories - I knew he would have been proud of me.”

The “deeply emotional” experience prompted questions from the congregation including about the design.

Revd Shavaun Shodeinde said: “Even though it has personal significance, I am very aware of how important it is in terms of the role it can have in ensuring discussions on racism in the Church continues.”

Adding. “I want to make to make it clear that I would love to see it being worn by other UKME clergy.”

Huw Edwards calls for action to safeguard UK's church organs

Huw Edwards has called for action to safeguard the UK's church and chapel organs.

Writing in the National Churches Trust's 2020- 2021 Annual Review, published on Saturday, 31 July 2021, broadcaster and journalist Huw Edwards, Vice-President of the Trust, said: "The installation of high-quality organs in villages, towns and cities throughout Britain is truly one of Britain's cultural glories. For some years, this rich heritage has been casually thrown away as places of worship close and the contents are stripped for cash. That process has now gathered momentum as the rate of closure of chapels and churches has soared."

"This is a vitally important part of our cultural story. These church and chapel organs are a direct link with previous generations - our ancestors - whose cultural values and priorities are reflected in the buildings they funded."

"A strategy - probably on a devolved basis given the cultural responsibilities - would at least safeguard the organs in a state of decay right now, making some of them available for future generations to enjoy. A pipe dream? Maybe. But the time to act is now, before we lose so much more."

2020 - The National Churches Trust - Year in Review



in 2020 the Trust, which is the UK charity supporting church buildings, awarded 259 grants to churches and chapels throughout the UK totalling £1,718,419, a 28% increase in funding since 2019. 40% of the value of grants in 2020 supported places of worship located within the most deprived areas of the UK. 26 churches were removed from Historic England's 'Heritage at Risk' Register with the help of the Trust's grants.

2020 saw the publication of the Trust's 'The House of Good' report which for the first time quantified the economic and social value of all church buildings to the UK. Not just the bricks and mortar but the welfare and wellbeing they create in our communities.

The ground-breaking report shows that the total economic and social value that church buildings generate in the UK is at least £12.4 billion per year. This averages around

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£300,000 per church. That is roughly equal to the total NHS spending on mental health in England in 2018.

At a time when funding for repairing and maintaining church buildings is in short supply, 'The House of Good' report shows that £10 invested in church buildings creates a social return of at least £37.40.

Luke March, Chairman of the National Churches Trust, said: "In 2020, churches were closed for long periods of time and unable to raise income from their many activities, including normal collections and the hiring out of buildings. To help support them we provided £1.7 million of grants for urgent repairs, essential maintenance and the installation of community facilities." That was an increase of 28% over the previous year and was achieved in part thanks to our new partnership with the Wolfson Foundation."

"Our work keeps churches in good repair so that the magnificent ecclesiastical heritage we see from Cornwall to Northumberland can be safe for future generations. We also want to make sure that church buildings can continue to be 'Houses of Good' and we continue to provide funding to install loos and kitchens so that places of worship can better respond to social need."

"Looking to the future there is much to be done and the challenges are ever increasing. Climate change for example is seriously affecting churches by bringing more rain and stronger winds. "

"Inspired by our vision that church buildings across the UK are well maintained, open to everyone, sustainable and

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valued we will continue to make a difference to the many millions of people who care for and use churches every year."

Link to the National Churches Trust's 2021 Annual Review -
See:

www.nationalchurchestrust.org/review21

Meet in church not takeaways, clergy appeals to save parishes

Christian congregations should meet in churches not in takeaways, according to Church of England leaders who are campaigning to save traditional parish worship.

Save the Parish, a campaign launched by Father Marcus Walker, is aiming to defend the centuries-old system and fight church closures.

It is calling on clergy and lay members to stand for election to the General Synod, the legislative body of the Church of England, to promote its cause.

Father Walker, the rector of St Bartholomew the Great in London, said it was the "last chance to save the system that has defined Christianity for 1,000 years".

'There has been the tendency to view the parish like some embarrassing knick-knack from a great-aunt'

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“In the last 10 to 15 years, particularly under [the Archbishop of Canterbury] Justin Welby, there has been heavy skew away from traditional parishes with a relationship to a church building and local community, to a style of church set up in a cinema or barn or converted Chinese takeaway.”

Pointing to the closure of 60 parish churches in Essex, he added that: “Parishes are being denuded the resources they need to survive, and the harsh reality of that is closures and redundancies.”

Currently the Church of England has adopted a “mixed ecology” approach which encourages “fresh expressions” of worship to try and draw in new followers and slow dwindling church attendances.

It says this is necessary because “we will probably need a greater and more diverse expression of church life”.

Writing in *The Spectator*, Mr Walker said: “This is your church. This is not the Archbishop of Canterbury’s, nor the House of Bishops’, nor the clergy’s, not even the General Synod’s.

“It belongs, in a broad sense, to the people of England ... and very specifically to the laity of the Church of England. You have a say.”

The Rev Dr Alison Milbank, the canon theologian at Southwell Minster, told the campaign: “The C of E has totally capitulated to market values and managerialism ... There has been a tendency to view the parish like some inherited

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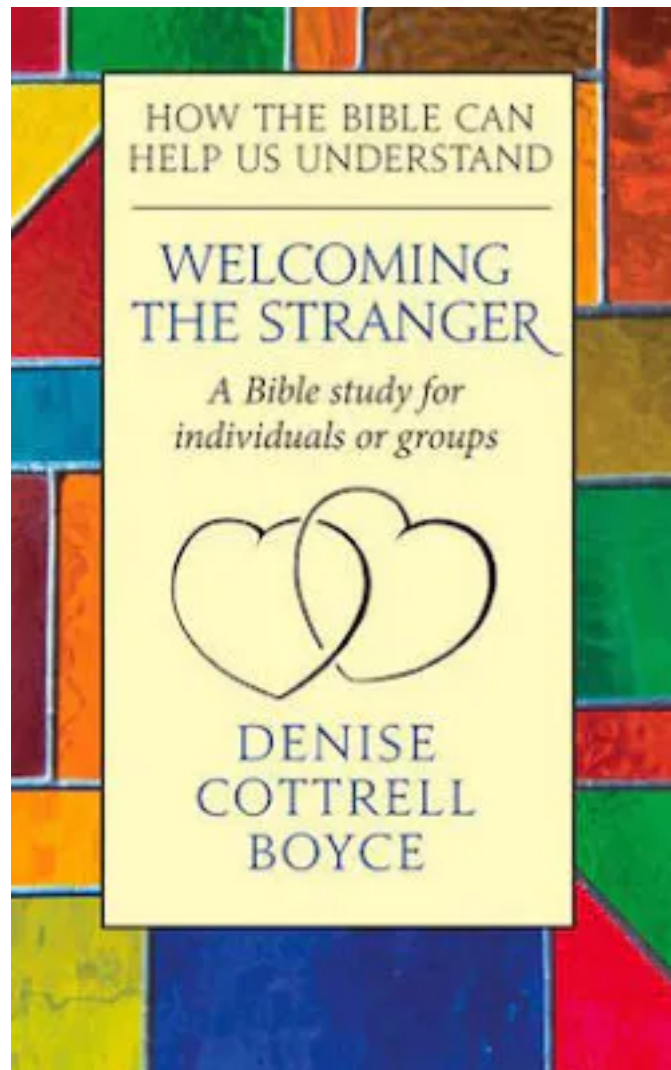
embarrassing knick-knack from a great-aunt that you wish was in the attic.”

Books, Broadcasts, Resources and Webinars

Book: Welcoming the Stranger

Welcoming the Stranger by Denise Cottrell-Boyce is published by Darton, Longman and Todd.

Welcoming the Stranger explores how the Bible can help us better to understand our increasingly multi-cultural world and society, especially in light of those people fleeing war, poverty and oppression. What does the Bible have to say about xenophobia? How can we contribute to the rebuilding of a world of peace in our lives and local communities today?



We are living through a period of extraordinary mass migration, with many displaced by war and destitution. In response to the rapidly increasing numbers of asylum-

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seekers coming to our shores, the government has placed significant numbers of them in the poor depopulated towns and cities of post-industrial Britain.

Welcoming the Stranger takes the Bible as a pathway through the moral and emotional issues thrown up by this new normal, exploring the desperation that drives people from all that is beloved and familiar. But it also addresses the fear of those whose streets, schools and shops have suddenly been populated by people who speak, dress, eat and worship in unfamiliar ways.

For all of us, the walls and ceilings of our emotional safe-houses are familiarity and predictability. For migrants and their host communities these cannot be relinquished without pain. In the face of this pain - and the division it can cause - some of us seek to champion one side or the other.

In this bible study, Cottrell-Boyce seeks to show that there is a more embracing approach. We can look at familiar passages with a new eye, seeing the stories of great biblical heroes from a variety of perspectives. We can examine both our emotional as well as our moral responses to the Sermon on the Mount. We are invited to ask who would be the reviled Samaritan in our own personal telling of Jesus' great parable. Welcoming the Stranger invites us to understand all the players in this global drama.

Denise Cottrell-Boyce was born in Birmingham. She studied theology at Keble College Oxford and she has been a catechist for 30 years. Since 2008 she has been a volunteer with MRANG - a charity for pre-and post-natal asylum-seekers, supporting and accompanying women through a

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variety of practical and emotional situations. She co-created The Nativity, a BBC Radio 4 Christmas play involving school children from Northern Ireland and starring Liam Neeson. Her Christmas 2020 script, Lockdown Nativity, was performed by large numbers of schools around the world as a fundraiser for Mary's Meals. Welcoming the Stranger is her first book.

Welcoming the Stranger is part of the series, How the Bible can Help us Understand.

'The Bible,' says Pope Francis, 'is not a collection of books for the benefit of a privileged few. It belongs to those called to hear its message and to recognise themselves in its words.' The new How the Bible Can Help Us Understand series, inspired by the Revised New Jerusalem Bible (published July 2019), is designed to help us explore these words together, today.

Each book in the series asks what the Bible has to say about an important aspect of our lives, and can be read either privately or as part of a small study group. The authors offer thoughts and questions for reflection, prayers, and suggestions for considering a topic more deeply.

The other books in the series are:

Approaching the End of Life by Virginia Moffatt (£7.99, 27th February 2020)

Forgiveness by Frank Cottrell-Boyce (£7.99, 27th February 2020)

Illness, Disability and Caring by Bernadette Meaden (£7.99, 27th August 2020)

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For more information see:

www.dartonlongmantodd.co.uk/titles/2272-9780232534238-welcoming-the-stranger

Poem for today

Requiem for Croppies by Seamus Heaney

The pockets of our greatcoats full of barley...
No kitchens on the run, no striking camp...
We moved quick and sudden in our own country.
The priest lay behind ditches with the tramp.
A people hardly marching... on the hike...
We found new tactics happening each day:
We'd cut through reins and rider with the pike
And stampede cattle into infantry,
Then retreat through hedges where cavalry must be thrown.
Until... on Vinegar Hill... the final conclave.
Terraced thousands died, shaking scythes at cannon.
The hillside blushed, soaked in our broken wave.
They buried us without shroud or coffin
And in August... the barley grew up out of our grave.

Pointers for prayer

Intercessions 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.

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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

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)

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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,
churchnewsireland@gmail.org



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

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

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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

But you know how Timothy has proved himself. Like a son with his father, he has served with me in preaching the Good News. I hope to send him to you just as soon as I find out what is going to happen to me here.

Philippians 2:22-23 NLT

Timothy was clearly very important to Paul. Born in Lystra in Galatia (now part of Turkey) he had a Jewish mother and a Greek father. Paul met him on his second missionary journey and he was a regular companion from then onwards. The letter to the Philippians was one of six letters

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in which Timothy was named as the co-author with Paul, and the apostle also wrote two deeply personal and moving letters specifically to Timothy who he refers to as his dear son. Here in Philippians, Paul says that he has no one else like him. Everyone else looked after their own interests, but not Timothy, who could be relied upon as a man of faith and someone who genuinely cared.

As Paul languished in prison it must have been wonderful for him to know that he had Timothy's continual support. Paul's future was entirely unclear and his many references to death suggest that he wasn't at all certain that he would get out alive. Paul had to rely on those who could continue his missionary work and in Timothy he had someone who had proved himself, and who could be relied upon to take the work forward.

Our lives are very different from Paul's, but we also need those on whom we can completely rely. Thank God for the blessing of good friends who share our convictions and our burdens, and who are willing to walk with us whatever happens. There is a wonderful verse in Proverbs that says that "a real friend sticks closer than a brother." (Proverbs 18.24) What a gift!

QUESTION

Who are you able to rely upon and how do you look after your relationship with them?

PRAYER

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Lord God, thank you for the gift of friends. Help me never to take them for granted but always to be loyal in my love and support for them. Amen

