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Image of the day - Chapel of RN College Greenwich

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People and places



St John's Lurgan host a community Christingle

The folks at St John's Lurgan gathered in others from the community on Sunday afternoon and 130 people enjoyed some delicious crepes, hot drinks, and amazing singing by Carrick Primary School and Dickson Primary School choirs.

Using the Christingle orange everyone was also reminded that at Christmas we get to celebrate our presents, we get to celebrate Christmas trees, but we also get to celebrate the best present – Jesus the light of the world!

'Carols by Car-Light' in Enniscorthy

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'Carols by Car-Light' , a drive-in carol service, will once again take place in the Enniscorthy Mart on the old Dublin road on Sunday 19th December at 6.00pm. Leaders of the different Christian denominations in Enniscorthy shall join the Reverend Nicola Halford in leading this carol service. The drive-in Carol service is a response to Covid-19 guidelines regarding no congregational singing in church and gathering in large crowds. During the 'Carol's by Car-Light' service, everyone stays within the warmth and safety of their own car and can sing as loud as they wish with their windows up. The service will be broadcast through everyone's car radio and service sheets are provided with the words of the hymns printed on it. We shall be holding a gate collection in aid of Enniscorthy St. Vincent de Paul and Wexford Hospice Homecare on the night. Last year approximately €3600 was raised for these charities.

Healing Service at Belfast Cathedral

The Service of Healing on Friday next, 1.00pm, 10th December will be led by Revd Canon Nigel Baylor, Rector of Jordanstown Parish and a Board member of Church's Ministry of Healing.

It will be held in the hall of St Anne's Cathedral (for the convenience of cleansing). So, enter by the car park on the Talbot St side.

Full anti-Covid measures will be observed.

Come for yourself, for someone who is in difficulty, or simply come for worship and thanksgiving if you are in town. We also want to reach out to people who work in the area.

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Fun on the Advent Panto Trail in Ballymena

The faces said it all! The children – and adults – who came along to St Patrick's, Ballymena, for the first Connor Christmas Panto Trail on Saturday afternoon had an awesome time!

The colourful seasonal event was put together by Connor Children's Council and Church Army with the help of Play it By Ear drama company, and the trail in Ballymena was the first of a series of six being rolled out across the diocese this month.

The creative talents of Victoria Jackson, Diocesan Children's Ministry Development Officer, and Church Army Evangelist Karen Webb, brought the story of the first Christmas to life, with really engaging dramas from Chris and Ross from Play it By Ear.

The Christmas Panto Trail began with a performance of the Nativity Story from Play it By Ear, and in true panto fashion, featured a panto dame and young Buttons, along with a host of other panto and nativity characters.

The children, parents and grandparents, in small groups in accordance with Covid-19 guidelines, followed the performance through different stations in the church hall, before sitting down for arts, crafts and refreshments (including hot chocolate!)

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All set for panto action. From left: Ross Jonas from Play it By Ear; Karen Webb, Connect Base; Victoria Jackson, Connor Children's Development Officer; and Chris Neilands, Play it By Ear.

Families then enjoyed a Christingle Service, led by puppets, and had the opportunity to make their own Christingle to take home.

Victoria extended a big thank you to the volunteers at Ballymena Parish for their help in making the Nativity Panto Trail possible and to all of the families who came along and joined in the fun!

She added: "A special thank you to Alan and Lucy for their hard work in the run up to the day and in helping us to set

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up. It was a great afternoon all around and a brilliant way to kick off the festive season, remembering the reason that we celebrate Christmas!

“We can’t wait for the rest of the events, there are still places available for those who would like to attend, book in by contacting your local parish!”

The event is free, and has proved very popular to date. Families are required to book in for a specific performance slot, with performances running every 30 minutes. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, spaces are limited, so if you would like to book in for an event please contact the host church to check availability.

The remaining Advent Panto Trails will take place as follows:

St Patrick’s, Whitehead – Saturday December 11, 2-4pm

Drumaul Parish Church, Randalstown – Sunday December 12, 10:30am-12:30pm

All Saints’, Antrim – Sunday December 12, 2-4pm

Derryvolgie Parish – Friday December 17, 6:30-8:30pm

Lisburn Cathedral – Saturday December 18, 11am-2pm

Funeral of 97 year old ‘bell-ringer extraordinaire’ takes place in Dublin

Cyril Galbraith began bell-ringing in 1939 at St Mary’s Cathedral, Limerick, Patsy McGarry writes in the Irish Times

The funeral of Ireland’s oldest bell-ringer Cyril Galbraith (97) on Monday was told that he was “always amused at the fact

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that he was retired longer than he had worked and that he would break the company financially with his monthly pension, which he received for over 40 years”.

Mr Galbraith died in St Vincent’s Hospital, Dublin, last Wednesday and had been ringing church bells since he was 15, latterly at Taney Church of Ireland parish in Dublin’s Dundrum.

After almost 30 years ringing the bells at St Mary’s Cathedral (from 1939) in his native Limerick, his job with pharmaceutical company Wellcome saw him transferred to Dublin in 1968. He continued bell-ringing at St Patrick’s Cathedral before taking up the role at Taney as stairs to its bell tower were less demanding.

While “involved in many sports throughout his life,” bell ringing “or campanology as the knowledgeable people know it, was a big part of Dad’s life culminating in an article and photograph on the front page of The Irish Times celebrating 80 years of him bell-ringing,” recalled said his son Robert at the funeral service in Taney.

“They held a civic reception with the Lord Mayor in the Mansion House followed up a short time later with an invitation to afternoon tea with President Michael D Higgins in Aras an Uachtaráin, and I assure you it was a very memorable day,” he said.

“Dad was proud of his involvement with the procurement and installation of the peal of bells for this church which were first rang to celebrate the millennium. He was also the

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President and Trustee of the Irish Association of Change Ringers for many years.”

In 2017, to celebrate Christmas Day, “we videoed Dad at the age of 93 change ringing as part of an 8-person team and we were amazed at his ability to complete with ease what is a very difficult process. He was pleased to see this art form being carried down through the family by my brother David,” he said.

Another son, Peter, thanked their father’s carers and staff at St Vincent’s. “Up until early this year Dad was living independently at home and living life to the full,” he said. He “went into St Vincent’s four weeks ago. Last Wednesday Dad woke up at 7am, talked to his doctor and nurse, took his medication at 7.40 and then peacefully fell back to sleep,” he said.

The funeral was conducted by rector of Taney Rev Nigel Pierpoint with the sermon delivered by Archbishop of Dublin Michael Jackson, who described Mr Galbraith as a “bell-ringer extraordinaire.” He recalled visiting him at the bell tower in Taney where “he was so very much at home. It was his mansion.”

Chief mourners were Mr Galbraith’s children David, Robert, Eric, Peter, Heather and Barbara. His wife Ann Patricia predeceased him.

Cremation took place afterwards at Mount Jerome.
Courtesy The Irish Times 06/12/2021

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**Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts,
and books**

Radio Ulster Broadcast with Bishop McClay and Kerygma Choir

The Radio Ulster Morning Service this Sunday 12 December, the Third Sunday in Advent will be led by the Rt Revd David McClay, Bishop of Down and Dromore, with the Kerygma Choir, directed by Lorna Palmer.

The theme is, 'The Light shines in the Darkness bringing Hope for the World'.

Songs -

Immanuel; Silent is the night/Still, still; O holy night; Mary, did you know?; The Holy City; Days of Elijah; A Christmas Blessing

Accompanying Instrumentalists -

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Vivienne Carson – Keyboard; Hayley Howe – Violin; Grace Sommerville – Flute; Paul Gardiner – Bass; Richard Stott – Percussion

Tune in at 10.15 am on 92 – 95 FM and 1341 medium wave.

A Day in Templebreedy Group of Parishes

“People and Places” is back this week with a video from Templebreedy Group of Parishes. The Rev. Isobel Jackson shows us around Holy Trinity Church and the famine graveyard in Crosshaven. You can watch...

churchofirelandcork.com/2021/12/06/a-d...

Praxis - Advent Perspectives on HOPE

New Advent video series out now! Hear from 5 people looking through the eyes of characters in the Christmas story. Second up is Lucy sharing about Joseph!

Eyes Watch here: <http://ow.ly/u4me50H3ZJ7>

Virtual Royal Navy Carol Service: How to watch

For the second year running, everyone can enjoy a virtual Admiralty Carol Service on BFBS and Forces channels.

The virtual Admiralty Carol Service is for all those within the Royal Navy community who can't be there in person at the traditional annual service in St Martin-in-the Fields, in London.

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Last year, the annual service did not take place due to the COVID pandemic.

The virtual service was enjoyed worldwide last year when filmed and broadcast by BFBS and Forces News.

Once again, we have joined forces with Royal Navy and Royal Marines crews, cadets and veterans from around the globe to create this traditional festive treat.

The carols and music were recorded at the Royal Hospital School in Holbrook, with the Chapel Choir of RHS and the Brass Quintet from the Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines Collingwood, led by Band Corporal Neil Dudley.

Addresses and readings from the newly appointed First Sea Lord and Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Sir Ben Key and the Venerable Andrew Hillier QHC – Chaplain of the Fleet and Archdeacon for the Royal Navy – also form part of the service.

Members of serving Royal Navy personnel have also delivered the readings for the service from St. Ann's Church at HMNB Portsmouth.

Keep an eye out here and on our social media channels for more fun tasters of the service, featuring crews and cadets joining in with the carols. When and where to watch and listen to the full service (all UKT):

Forces TV and BFBS Extra (overseas) on 12 December at 1700hrs and 24 December at 1730hrs

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Forces News YouTube and Forces News Facebook,
12 and 24 December

BFBS Radio 2 on 24 December at 1630hrs

[[] <https://www.forces.net/admiraltyservice2021>]

News Reports



Pope Francis: ‘I accepted the resignation of the archbishop of Paris not on the altar of truth but on the altar of hypocrisy

On the flight back from Athens to Rome, Pope Francis surprised journalists by stating that he had accepted the resignation of the archbishop of Paris, Michel Aupetit, “not

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on the altar of truth but on the altar of hypocrisy.” He accepted the resignation (submitted on Nov. 26) during the visit to Cyprus.

The pope’s answer was given in response to one of several questions from five journalists on the 90-minute flight. Francis also revealed the possibility that he could meet Patriarch Kirill of Moscow for a second time and said plans for this will be discussed next week.

Pope Francis revealed for the first time that the archbishop had given “small caresses and massages” to his secretary, which “was a sin” but “not the gravest of sins.” He said, however, that the “gossip of many people” who did not know the facts, had taken away the archbishop’s “good name” and thus his ability to govern the Archdiocese of Paris.

Francis compared the early Christian church—“a normal church”—which was able to accept Peter who committed the gravest of sins in denying Christ, with the church of today that “pretends” to consider its bishop “a saint,” when in fact he is a sinner “like you and me.”

Courtesy America Magazine 06/01/2021

Archbishop of York backs plan for 2000 new church groups in poorest areas

The Archbishop of York has expressed his support for an aspiration to ensure that at least 2000 of the 10,000 new worshipping communities proposed in the next decade are

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established in income-deprived communities, Madeleine Davies writes in The Church Times.

Speaking at this year's Estates Evangelism Task Group conference, held at Swanwick, Archbishop Cottrell pledged to be "a strong voice to make sure that the funding that is available goes to support the poorest communities", observing that the Church's commitment to becoming more diverse in the next decade "must also be about the left-behind, white, working-class communities". He remarked, too, that "we're only just beginning to really address the race issues in the Church."

He told the gathering: "I note one of your aspirations is to ensure that at least 2000 of the proposed 10,000 new congregations are located in income deprived communities, and I want to say I whole heartedly support that." He noted that: "We particularly need to plant new churches on estates, because we know that, in terms of the ratio of clergy and resources to people, the poorer communities are the least well served."

There was also a need to raise up "indigenous ministry" on estates, the Archbishop said, given that "the best people to minister on estates are people from estates."

Archbishop Cottrell referred to decisions taken by the Prime Minister in recent weeks concerning the North. And he acknowledged that within the C of E, often: "We forget the poor." The Bishop of Burnley, the Rt Revd Philip North, voiced his concern that, when it came to the Church's Vision and Strategy, "the poor are a bit buried away. . . My

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Larne Concert Choir

present

A Carol Concert

In St.Cedma's Parish Church

Tuesday 14th December at 7.30pm.

Retiring collection in aid of British Heart Foundation.
Covid Restrictions will be observed.



experience is that when things are buried away they get forgotten.”

The Estates Evangelism Task Group is a legacy of the Archbishops' Evangelism Task Group, established in 2013 (News, 29 November 2013). Its aim is to see established “a loving, worshipping, serving Christian community on every significant social housing estate in England” (News, 1 March 2019).

Asked to speak on the Vision and Strategy for the next decade, a programme that he has led, the Archbishop began with stories about his time as a parish priest serving estates in south-east London and Chichester. He recalled starting a Sunday evening benediction in one church and noticing that children from the estate were drawn to it: “Something stopped them, something held them. They caught a whiff of the fragrance of the gospel in this weird and wonderful worship that was coming from somewhere else but, I think, smelled like home.”

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He spoke of another young man who had joined a pilgrimage from Chichester to Canterbury for the physical challenge. Somewhere between the start and finish points, he had “stopped taking the piss out of the Church and the gospel and worship, and his heart started burning within him.” He was now serving as a priest in the diocese of Chichester.

But the Archbishop also remembered a mission in Middlesbrough where, during a karaoke night at the local pub, a man had asked him: “Why do you sing songs that nobody knows?”

“I found myself kind of making almost a public apology to the people of that estate who had been disenfranchised by their own church, that somehow our church culture had got so removed from their lives that there was no longer any connection,” the Archbishop recalled. “Perhaps there never was any connection — let’s not be too hard on ourselves. But there wasn’t a connection. It was just a foreign language to these people. And all I could say was: ‘I’m really sorry.’”

The answer was not to “change the words”, he emphasised. “If you are going to grow into the life of discipleship and come to know Jesus Christ as Lord, there are certain words you are going to have to encounter and learn, like ‘Christ’, or ‘salvation’, or ‘forgiveness’, or ‘sin’. You can’t get round that. . .

“But I do think we maybe need to learn some new tunes. We do need to find ways of interpreting and translating the unchanging message of God’s love for us in Jesus Christ

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into the cultures that we serve . . . We need to be open to the refining fire of the questions these cultures and contexts pose.”

Moving to talk about Vision and Strategy, he described how its focus on being “Christ-centred” had been shaped by the Covid-19 pandemic, “a great long season of being refined and stripped back. . .

“All the familiarities of church life have been taken away — even for the people of God, holy communion itself,” he said. “It was a very long eucharistic fast for the people of God.

“And in the long Covid of isolation and lockdowns, I think that what God has done in us is draw us closer to Jesus, recognising that, even though all the comfortable familiarity of worship and fellowship of sacrament . . . have been taken away, Christ is still absolutely fully present with us and for us.”

He acknowledged some current concerns. The Save the Parish movement (News, 4 August) was “really important” and “deeply heartfelt”, he said. “But there is a real danger in which it somehow sets up this false opposition between what we are trying to do — to actually plant new churches — and what parishes do. It’s all part of the same mixed ecology eco-system of a healthy Church.”

Parish ministry was in need of revitalisation, he said. “We know that in many, many places, parish ministry is really, really struggling; and partly it’s struggling because it has lacked vision and energy to adapt itself. . . In my

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observation of pretty much everything in the world, things survive because they learn how to adapt. . .

“I do want to see us experimenting much more, which means taking risks, which means there will be many failures, trying to find are there new and different ways of serving our communities.”

When it came to planting churches on estates, this didn't mean “building great big buildings, putting a vicar in, and then hoping people will come to church. . . Even if we had the money, I don't think we would be doing that. We are going to try new things.”

Asked about making vocations more accessible to people from estates, he noted that “a lot of it is happening under the radar”. In some dioceses, people were being ordained without having gone through the Bishops Advisory Panel process (News, 25 June). “It just didn't feel that that was the appropriate way forward for those people and I think we need to do more of that.”

Courtesy the Church Times 30/11/2021

Pro LGBT Vicar appointed to lead Holy Trinity Brompton

Holy Trinity Brompton (known as HTB), the largest church in the Church of England, is to have a new Vicar lead its 4,000-strong congregation.

The former curate who pioneered its first ‘plant’ outside of London — the Revd Canon Archie Coates, 51, currently

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Vicar of St Peter's Brighton, has been chosen as HTB's Vicar Designate. It is expected that Canon Coates will become Vicar in September 2022, taking over from the Revd Nicky Gumbel, 66, who has announced his intention to resign his post from July 2022. Mr Gumbel has been Vicar of HTB since 2005 and has overseen considerable growth in that time. His books, which include *Why Jesus?* and *Questions of Life*, have been international best-sellers.

In 2016, while at St. Peter's in Brighton, the Revd Canon Archie Coates lent his support to the UK's largest gay pride parade, saying many in his congregation would take part.

Posted on the Gafcon supportive Anglican Mainstream web site

Poem for today

An Old Man's Winter Night by Robert Frost

All out of doors looked darkly in at him
Through the thin frost, almost in separate stars,
That gathers on the pane in empty rooms.
What kept his eyes from giving back the gaze
Was the lamp tilted near them in his hand.
What kept him from remembering what it was
That brought him to that creaking room was age.
He stood with barrels round him -- at a loss.
And having scared the cellar under him
In clomping there, he scared it once again
In clomping off; -- and scared the outer night,

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Which has its sounds, familiar, like the roar
Of trees and crack of branches, common things,
But nothing so like beating on a box.
A light he was to no one but himself
Where now he sat, concerned with he knew what,
A quiet light, and then not even that.
He consigned to the moon, such as she was,
So late-arising, to the broken moon
As better than the sun in any case
For such a charge, his snow upon the roof,
His icicles along the wall to keep;
And slept. The log that shifted with a jolt
Once in the stove, disturbed him and he shifted,
And eased his heavy breathing, but still slept.
One aged man -- one man -- can't keep a house,
A farm, a countryside, or if he can,
It's thus he does it of a winter night.

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