

December 8, 2021

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Image of the day - Upcoming outdoor Advent Sheep Trail at Christ Church Dublin

Overview

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+People and places

Celebrating St Columba's 1,500th

Outdoor Advent Sheep Trail at Christ Church Dublin

Annual Table Quiz for Cork Diocesan Youth

Divine Healing service at Ballymacarrett

Carols around Killinchy's Christmas Tree

Rathfarnham's Jingle Bell Dip

Christmas plea from St. Vincent de Paul in Letterkenny

Curate takes up role at Enniskillen Cathedral

+Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Porvoo Prayer Diary for 2022 now available

Church of Ireland Avenue of Light Drive Through

Meath and Kildare on RTE

+News Reports

St John's Orangefield reopens after refurbishment

C of E Dioceses to receive nearly £5 million to reach more people with the Christian message

+Poem for today

Blow, Blow, Thou Winter Wind by William Shakespeare

People and places



Celebrating St Columba's 1,500th

The Archbishop of Armagh, Most Rev'd John McDowell, was in Raphoe on Tuesday evening, December 7th, to preach at a Service of Choral Evensong in St Eunan's Cathedral which celebrated the 1,500th anniversary of the birth of St Columba.

The Service, which was led by the Rural Dean for Raphoe, Rev Canon David Crooks, featured the Choir of St Columba's Cathedral, Londonderry, accompanied by its Organist, Dr Derek Collins. The Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Rt Rev Andrew Forster, also took part.



In his sermon, Archbishop McDowell said he was delighted to be in the cathedral for the first time. “We have learned, funnily enough in Covid,” he said, “when we weren’t allowed to come into church, we have learned just how important buildings are to us. We were complaining for years about them being a millstone around our necks but they’re very often the places where we first encountered the holiness of God, where we have had significant moments in our lives and in the formation of our faith, and we cherish them: there’s much more to them than simply stone and wood.”

The Archbishop disclosed a “connection” with the patron saint whose birth was being commemorated and with the church in which the service was taking place: Archbishop McDowell was ordained a deacon on St Columba’s Day and was consecrated Bishop on St Eunan’s Day.



The Primate chose “the great Celtic inheritance of our Church” as one of the themes for his sermon. He said the Jesus Christ whom we proclaim and Columba served, was the greatest figure in human history. “It was because Columba and those like him had a faith in that greatness, and had faith in the faithfulness of God, that despite all the mistakes they made – despite the largeness, the grossness, of their sins; his temper; the people who died because of the arrogance that he had – it was because he knew that he owed Jesus Christ a debt he could never repay that he was the great apostle that he was, who spread and helped to spread the gospel on the continent of Europe.

“So, when we think of Columba, let’s not think of him as a quaint figure in a window; he was full of flesh and blood, and it was because of that – God used his weaknesses as much as his strengths, as He does with the best of his saints – we

December 8, 2021

remember him, the great passion of his ministry and the example that he has left to us.”

Among those listening to the sermon in St Eunan’s were two of the four surviving crewmembers of a curragh which was rowed from Derry to Iona in 1963 to mark the 1,400th anniversary of St Columba’s voyage to the island. The pair posed for photos with the Archbishop after the Service.

Outdoor Advent Sheep Trail at Christ Church Dublin

The Advent Sheep Trail will be outdoors again this year and our fun-loving sheep will be on the loose in the cathedral grounds for two days only! Collect a leaflet to follow the trail as you read through the Christmas story and at the end you can leave your own prayer in our outdoor crib display. 20-21 December, 12.30-16.40

Annual Table Quiz for Cork Diocesan Youth

CDYC were able to hold their Annual Table Quiz in the Carraig Centre in Ballincollig back in November. On the night there were two different groups, one with young people from first to third year and the other from fourth to sixth year.

Diocesan Youth Officer Hilda Connolly said:

There was some fierce rivalry between the teams, but all done in great jest. Some of the CDYC leaders were on hand

December 8, 2021

always good to throw a curve ball in there. The Carraig Centre was a great venue. The Rev. Ferris welcomed the group and helped with the more technical aspects too!

It was CDYC's first indoor event since before the Covid-19 pandemic. As it was a table quiz, the teens could sit in small groups and keep within their pods, adhering to current health guidelines.

Divine Healing service at Ballymacarrett

Evangelist Deborah Louise is the speaker tonight, Thursday at St Patrick's C of I church. Deborah is originally from N

Healing Service

Prayer Ministry & Anointing with Oil

7.30pm Thursday 9th December



Speaker: Evangelist Deborah Louise (Christ for All Nations)

St. Patrick's Church of Ireland, Ballymacarrett
220 Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 1GZ

December 8, 2021

Ireland and left her teaching job in London in response to God's call to train as an evangelist with Christ for all Nations, the ministry founded by Reinhard Bonnke. Deborah has seen thousands saved, healed and delivered in West Africa during CfAN crusades.

“In these recent times, the Lord surprised Deborah again by stirring her heart to return to her homeland N. Ireland. The Lord is going to shake Ireland with the power of God, calling and preparing His people. Come and catch the vision and the call of the Lord for such a time as this. The same Lord who is stirring souls in Africa is moving in this land”.

Carols around Killinchy's Christmas Tree

On Monday 13th December 2021 at 7pm at Wilson's Gatelodge, Church Hill Road, Killinchy

“Join us for this community event. Killinchy Silver Band will perform well known festive tunes”.

Followed by the Switching on the Christmas Tree lights by a civic representative at the Community Hall at 7.30pm
Rumour has it that Old St Nick will be there.

In conjunction with Killinchy Parish Union, Killinchy Non subscribing Presbyterian Church, Killinchy Community Association, Killinchy Silver Band

Rathfarnham's Jingle Bell Dip

Join the parishioners of Rathfarnham Parish Church of Ireland for the Jingle Bell Dip on Saturday December 18.

churchnewsireland@gmail.org



MEET US ON SATURDAY DECEMBER 18TH AT 9.45AM
AT KILLINEY BEACH CAR PARK
FOR THE 2ND ANNUAL JINGLE BELL DIP
IN AID OF RATHFARNHAM PARISH
AND  **Peter McVerry Trust**

Jingle Bell Dip

DO YOU LIKE A DIP IN THE SEA?
HOW HARDY DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?
COULD YOU STAY IN LONG ENOUGH
TO SING A CHORUS OF JINGLE BELLS?

Looking for brave and hardy sea swimmers prepared to take the plunge on the **last Saturday before Christmas (18th December)** in aid of Rathfarnham Parish and associated charities. Sponsorship cards and your jingle bell hat will be provided AND we'll be having **hot cider and snacks afterwards!**


Rathfarnham Parish
CHURCH OF IRELAND

We'll be asking you to leap into the sea and get that hat jingling (chattering teeth don't count), making sure that someone films your bravery. When in the water, you have to sing at least one chorus of Jingle Bells! Afterwards, please send the clip to jinglebelldip@gmail.com and standby for the movie!*

Contact jinglebelldip@gmail.com for further details and sponsorship forms.

*If you're not free on Saturday 18th you can still take part. Dip at a time of your choosing and don't forget to send us photographic evidence!

Sponsorship forms and details on how to donate are on the parish website www.rathfarnhamparishcoi.org/



Christmas plea from St. Vincent de Paul in Letterkenny

This year in Letterkenny, St. Vincent de Paul have helped almost 700 families.

Christmas time is particularly busy with many families being forced to prioritise between food, fuel and presents.

Due to Covid restrictions, there were very few Church Gate Collections during 2021 and other fund-raising activities were also curtailed. As a result, St Vincent de Paul are now urgently in need of monies so we can continue to assist families that need our help.

SVP says - We have organised a 'Drive By' fund-raising appeal to be held on Saturday & Sunday, December 11th and 12th between 11.00 am & 4.00 am.

December 8, 2021

Volunteers will be available to accept donations from drivers as they pass the following locations:

- Pinehill Industrial Estate, Mountain Top
- St. Eunan's GAA Club, Ballymacool
- Church of the Irish Martyrs, Gortlee
- Letterkenny I.T. Car Park

We are asking that people donate either cash or vouchers for local businesses (clothes, books, etc. may be delivered to our shops on Main Street and at the Shopping Centre round-about).

All monies collected will be distributed locally and in time for Christmas.

“People in Letterkenny have always been very supportive of the St. Vincent de Paul and we look forward to your continued support in this difficult year for everyone,” said a spokesperson. - Courtesy Donegal Daily

Curate takes up role at Enniskillen Cathedral

The licensing of Revd Chris West, the new Curate Assistant of St. Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen took place in a short service conducted by the Bishop of Clogher, Right Revd Dr. Ian Ellis, assisted by the Registrar, Revd John McClenaghan and Dean Kenneth Hall.

Revd West preached at his first service on Advent Sunday.

December 8, 2021



At the licensing of Revd Chris West were (front from left); Dean Kenneth Hall; Bishop Ian Ellis and Revd Chris West. Back row (from left); Linda Kingston, Churchwarden; Andy McCabe, Verger and Audrey Williamson, Churchwarden.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts and books

Porvoo Prayer Diary for 2022 now available

The Prayer Diary for the Porvoo Communion, which brings together Anglican and Lutheran Churches in Europe, is now available - Link below.

December 8, 2021

The Porvoo Declaration commits the Churches which have signed it 'to share a common life' and 'to pray for and with one another'. An important way of doing this is to pray through the year for the Porvoo Churches and their Dioceses.

The Prayer Diary is a list of Porvoo Communion Dioceses or Churches covering each Sunday of the year, mindful of the many calls upon compilers of intercessions, and the environmental and production costs of printing a more elaborate list.

Those using the calendar are invited to choose one day each week on which they will pray for the Porvoo Churches. It is hoped that individuals and parishes, cathedrals and religious orders will make use of the Calendar in their own cycle of prayer week by week.

In addition to the Churches which have approved the Porvoo Declaration, we continue to pray for Churches with observer status. Observers attend all the meetings held under the Agreement. The calendar may be freely copied or emailed for wider circulation.

[[] <https://www.ireland.anglican.org/news/11094/porvoo-prayer-diary-for-2022>]

Church of Ireland Avenue of Light Drive Through

Lurgan, Virginia, Church of Ireland Avenue of Light 2021 Drive Through

[<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GGIPp\tl2YU>]



Meath and Kildare on RTE

RTE will broadcast a Church of Ireland Service of the Word from members of the dioceses of Meath and Kildare led by the bishop, Most Rev Pat Storey this coming Sunday.

The TV Service will be broadcast on RTE 1 at 11.10am on Sunday 12 December.

News Reports

St John's Orangefield reopens after refurbishment

St John's, Orangefield, has reopened for worship after an extensive refurbishment and upgrade to the facilities. Parishioners had a preview of the work on Saturday 4 December and the first service took place the following day.

The interior of the church, which was built in the mid 1950s, looks stunning after being repainted, re-floored and remodelled at a cost of £550–600,000. Only £120,000 of the total is a loan, the remainder having come in since the project was conceived in 2017.

Work began in late January early February this year and was overseen by the architectural consultant, Brian Jeffers, who is also the church organist.

The rector, Revd Ross Wilson said: “We are delighted to be able to return to worship in our reordered main church building. The refurbishment was quite the team effort – and I’m grateful to everyone who has worked so hard in bringing it about. A special mention to Brian Jeffers who poured many hours of love and skill into this project. And most of all, as a church family, we are grateful to God who has faithfully provided what we needed.”

Highlights include:

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A quiet area at the rear with a Book of Remembrance which also acts as a prayer space.

A refurbished, painted and glazed wooden screen which has been moved forward to create a natural entrance to the worship space, dividing it from a welcome area at the back.

A rarely used rear exit porch has been turned into a toilet area with changing facilities.

Pews replaced by comfortable upholstered chairs and the installation of a new audio–visual system with screens.

The re–ordered chancel which can double as a more intimate worship setting.

The church has been entirely repainted in a colour scheme inspired by the Christ figure depicted in the stained–glass window at the rear of the church.

December 8, 2021

A quinquennial inspection found that the side rooms required urgent attention and so the whole area was gutted and reformatted to include a small extension and a new rear entrance from the car park. Facilities here include a small kitchen, more new toilets, a pastoral room and a multi-purpose space complete with kitchenette. This will facilitate a youth fellowship, crèche on Sunday mornings and vestry meetings. The new entrance (which also has a toilet) means that parents can easily collect their children from activities.

Members of the local community will have a chance to look around on Saturday 11 December and Bishop David will officially commission the church for worship and mission in January 2022.

C of E Dioceses to receive nearly £5 million to reach more people with the Christian message

A community choir, a church in a working men's club and ministry with children and young people are among projects to receive funding as part of a drive by the Church of England to spread the Christian message to younger and more diverse groups.

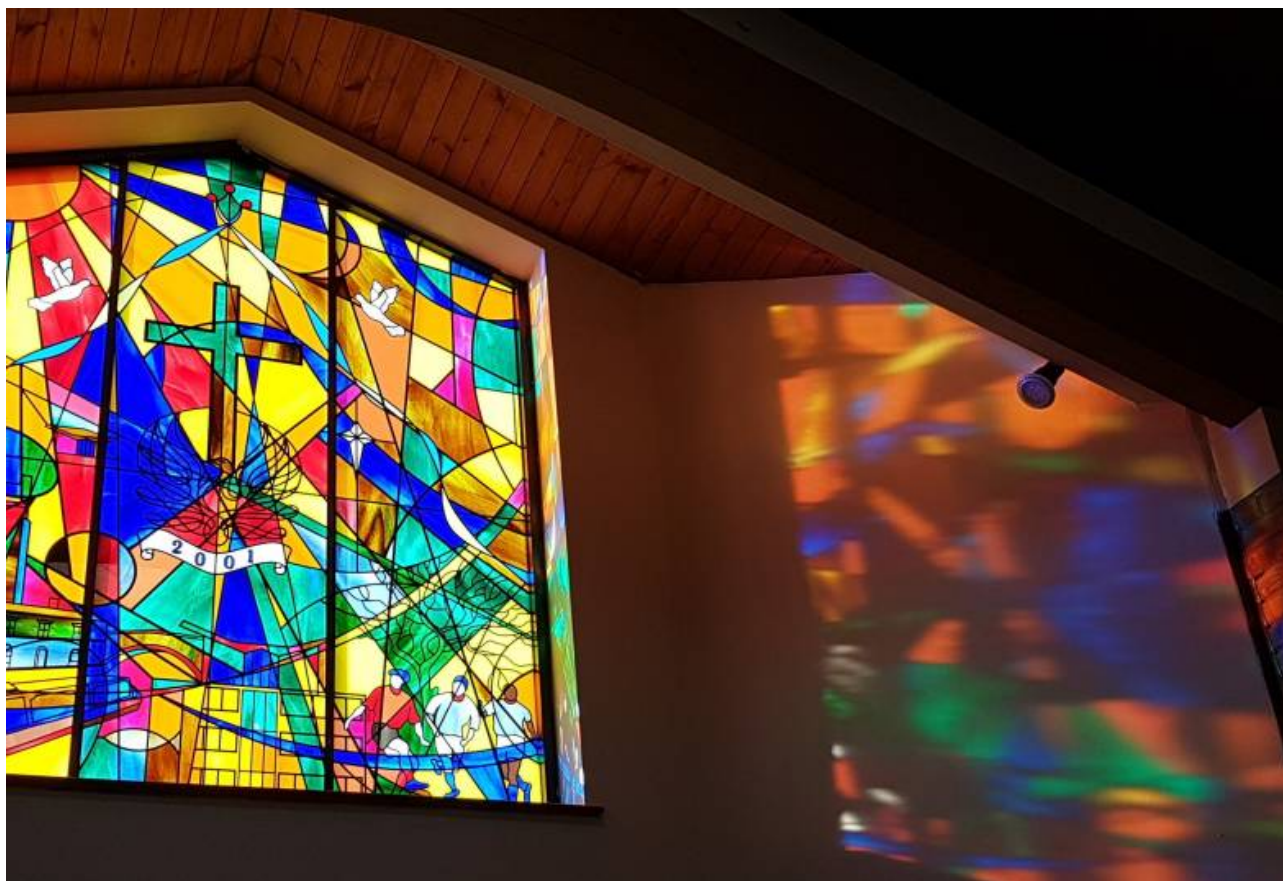
Coventry Diocese is to receive £1.25 million in Strategic Development Funding (SDF) for outreach work in parishes serving estates and suburban areas in the city and the Warwickshire town of Bedworth.



The projects are part of a plan to create 150 new worshipping communities in the diocese by 2030, reaching children and young people, families, elderly people and other groups such as homeless people.

The funding will support activities such as a community choir, holiday and lunch clubs, pastoral support and Christian enquiry courses. In Bedworth, new worshipping communities will meet in venues including a working men's club and a school.

The Bishop of Coventry, Christopher Cocksworth, said: "This is a big moment in the Diocese of Coventry as we venture out on a life-giving work to build up our church communities and reach deeper into some of the most disadvantaged parishes in the diocese."



Separately, a £3.5 million grant has been awarded to Southwell and Nottingham diocese for work to support 40 churches reach children, families and young people over the next five years.

The award, also from the Church of England's Strategic Development Funding, will be used to train and commission leaders and volunteers to build on work already under way to reach children and families with the Christian message.

The grants have been awarded as the Church of England outlines priorities in its Vision and Strategy for the future. This includes a goal of doubling the number of children and young people in churches and attracting more diverse congregations.

December 8, 2021

Bishop of Sherwood, Andrew Emerton, said: “This is a vitally important project for us which aligns well with the national Church of England vision and seeks to transform children and families and youth ministry in churches across Southwell & Nottingham.

“Investment will be focused on 40 churches, but we hope and pray that, empowered by the Spirit, we’ll see development across the diocese as learning and expertise is shared from these centres of strength”

Debbie Clinton, Co-Director for the Church of England’s Vision and Strategy, said: “Becoming a church that is younger and more diverse emerged as a clear priority for the Church of England as part of its Vision and Strategy for the next ten years.

“Coventry and Southwell and Nottingham dioceses have been working in this direction for some time and this investment builds on successful work to reach children, young people and young adults with the good news of the Gospel in those dioceses.”

Poem for today

Blow, Blow, Thou Winter Wind by William Shakespeare

Blow, blow, thou winter wind
Thou art not so unkind
As man's ingratitude;
Thy tooth is not so keen,

December 8, 2021

Because thou art not seen,
Although thy breath be rude.

Heigh-ho! sing, heigh-ho! unto the green holly:
Most freindship if feigning, most loving mere folly:
Then heigh-ho, the holly!
This life is most jolly.

Freeze, freeze thou bitter sky,
That does not bite so nigh
As benefits forgot:
Though thou the waters warp,
Thy sting is not so sharp
As a friend remembered not.
Heigh-ho! sing, heigh-ho! unto the green holly:
Most friendship is feigning, most loving mere folly:
Then heigh-ho, the holly!
This life is most jolly.

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