

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Cathedral Treasures winners

Image of the day

Cathedral Treasures winners

The Discover Cathedrals organisation started out with 50 Cathedral treasures. This original list was reduced to ten by votes, and then to three. The winner of the Cathedral Treasures competition is The Leaves of Southwell - today's cover photograph for CNI.

A total of 4,477 people took the time to vote for their favourite treasure from the top ten finalists in our campaign that showcased 50 remarkable treasures and glories cared for and preserved by cathedrals in England and the Church in Wales taken from the latest publication Deans' Choice: Cathedral Treasures of England and Wales by Janet Gough, OBE, author, lecturer and advisor on historic churches and cathedrals.

The top three were:

1st, The Leaves of Southwell

2nd, The Nave Ceiling at Peterborough Cathedral

3rd, Derby Cathedral's Bakewell Screen.

The Dean of Southwell, the Very Revd Nicola Sullivan said:

“Southwell is bursting with pride to hear that the exquisite ‘Leaves’ have won amidst the fierce competition from all of England and Wales beautiful cathedral treasures. These extraordinary carvings have given glory to God’s beautiful



in second place is: The nave ceiling at Peterborough Cathedral

and abundant creation for over seven centuries and still thrill us today. Thank you to everyone who supported us.”

Janet Gough, whose latest volume inspired the campaign said, “The 1290s Leaves of Southwell are a brilliant first choice in the Cathedral Treasures competition – where leaves, animals and human heads are deeply and exuberantly carved on the capitals and elsewhere in the chapter house at Southwell Minster.

“It has been wonderful to see so many people engage with and get passionate about our Cathedral Treasures.

“As Simon Heffer noted in the Daily Telegraph on New Year’s Eve, cathedrals aren’t just buildings they are treasure houses and should not be overlooked as museums.’



In third place is: remarkable decor from the thirteenth century, the Nave Ceiling at Peterborough Cathedral.

“Deans’ Choice: Cathedral Treasures of England and Wales” tells the story of the treasures from 44 Church of England cathedrals and six cathedrals from the Church in Wales, each one chosen by the Dean or senior clergy of the cathedral featured.

You can buy a copy for just £14.95 here

[\[https://www.cpo.org.uk/cathedral-treasures-of-england-and-wales.html\]](https://www.cpo.org.uk/cathedral-treasures-of-england-and-wales.html)

This beautifully illustrated new volume tells the stories behind 50 artefacts from the cathedrals of England and Wales. It features manuscripts such as the Magna Carta, shrines, sculptures and stained-glass windows.

People and places



Annual Pope John Paul II Award Ceremony for Derry diocese

The 16th Annual Pope John Paul II Award Ceremony for the Diocese of Derry was held in Saint Eugene's Cathedral, Derry on Monday the 6th February.

The guest speaker, Melany Francisco-Lawless alongside Bishop Donal McKeown, patron of the award, presented the Award to 328 young people from all over the diocese of Derry and beyond. This year 3 people received the Papal Cross Award. These young people came from 21 second I



level schools across the Diocese. They represented 44 parishes within the diocese and 13 parishes outside of the Diocese.

The guest speaker at the ceremony was Melany Francisco-Lawless from Youth Ministry Trust in the Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle. Melany was incredibly inspiring giving her own testimony and speaking of her call to work in youth ministry that stemmed from her being present at World Youth Day in Rome in the year 2000. Melany encouraged the young people of Derry to continue their work and to see God's grace, through the good news of the Gospel.

The Pope John Paul II Award continues to be the largest youth movement in the church in Ireland. For more information on the Award in the Diocese of Derry contact

Februar y 11, 2023

Lizzie Rea on lizzie.rea@derrydiocese.org or phone the Diocesan Catechetical Centre on +44 28 71264087.



St Canice's Nature Trail

A fun nature trail where kids discover St Canice's amazing animal friend's and the nature surrounding St Canice' Cathedral

This tour includes:

- Learn about St Canice and his animal companions.
- Explore the Saint's nature trail in the Cathedral grounds. (Weather Permitting)
- Investigate the Anatomy of the saints animal friends.
- Make a fun sun-catcher based on the saint's animal friends.

**ST.CANICE'S
CATHEDRAL**
— AND ROUND TOWER —

Bookings through Eventbrite

Cost: €8 per Child

Suitable for 5-10 years

Date:

Thursday 16th Febrary

Tours last 1 hour

Time: 10.30–11.30

Canterbury Cathedral - Exciting opportunities for early career musicians

Deadline for applications to Canterbury Cathedral for Organ Scholarship and Choral Scholarships for alto, tenor and bass singers is Mon 27th Feb.

The positions come with a competitive salary, free accommodation, free organ or singing tuition, and professional mentorship.

<http://ow.ly/P06L50MO4Rp>



News reports



Immediate response to Turkey and Syria from Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal

The Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal for World Aid and Development has launched a call for donations to help the people of Turkey and Syria following the earthquake on Monday (February 6) which has resulted in over 21,000 deaths.

Bishops' Appeal has immediately released €10,000 from its reserves to Christian Aid for its work in the area, and is encouraging parishes to contribute to this appeal in support

of Christian Aid over the coming Sundays. All details about how to give are provided below.

In a joint endorsement of the appeal, Archbishop John McDowell and Archbishop Michael Jackson said: “The disastrous earthquake which has so suddenly overtaken and overwhelmed the people and resources of Turkey, and stretched beyond breaking point the already ravaged infrastructure of Syria, requires a swift response from aid agencies in the Western world. The Bishops’ Appeal of the Church of Ireland is to be commended for releasing €10,000 from its reserves immediately to be channelled through Christian Aid, a trusted partner, to the areas affected.

“Of course, much more is needed and we would encourage parishes to make a special appeal sometime over the next few weeks to supplement this initial contribution by Bishops’ Appeal. Equally we would encourage prayer that the God of all comfort would be very near to all who are suffering through injury, bereavement and anxiety, and for all relief workers.”

Christian Aid has a track record of working with local partners in north–west Syria since 2012. The agency and its partners are already providing winter kits to people seeking shelter in the region, where over four million people are in need of aid due to the civil war. They will scale this work up to meet the immediate humanitarian needs of those affected by the earthquake.

The main needs according to its partner field teams are:

Winter kits including blankets, mattresses, food parcels and heating material – partners had already procured 40,000 of these kits prior to the earthquake and have started distributing these immediately within collective shelters;

Preparing shelters to help people find some protection from the weather; and

Working with other local organisations to remove debris and continue rescue efforts.

It is also expected that donations will be used to provide basic food, water and sanitation, shelter and healthcare, education and mental health support, particularly for children and young people.

Dean Niall Sloane, speaking on behalf of the Bishops' Appeal Advisory Committee, added: "For over five decades, the Bishops' Appeal has responded to crisis across the globe. This week we are quickly becoming aware of the extent of the tragic events in Turkey and Syria. All funds collected will be distributed to our dedicated mission partners who are actively working in the affected areas. We would also encourage parishes to pray for all those affected by these events and for all aid workers who are engaged in the relief operation."

How can we help?

Donations can be made, in euro or in sterling, in the following ways: An online donation at www.bishopsappeal.ireland.anglican.org/give

A direct lodgement into the Bishops' Appeal bank account (details of which are provided on the Bishops' Appeal website at the link provided above);

Sending a cheque, payable to Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal, to: Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal, Church of Ireland House, Church Avenue, Rathmines, Dublin 6, D06 CF67;

Making a donation through a Church of Ireland parish or diocesan office.

Taxpayers can give more help by gift aiding donations (if resident in the UK) or tax relief on donations (in the Republic of Ireland). The appropriate forms and further details about how to give are also available at www.bishopsappeal.ireland.anglican.org/give

Presbyterians asked to respond to earthquake tragedy

Following this week's earthquake that devastated towns and villages in southern Turkey and north west Syria, the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI), Right Reverend Dr John Kirkpatrick, has written to congregations across Ireland asking them 'to pray earnestly for all those in the region experiencing such unimaginable suffering', and for members to consider donating to the relief effort, 'no matter how small your gift.'



The Church has also sent a donation to its partner church the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon for the practical support for its congregations in the region as an expression of PCI's solidarity.

The earthquake, which happened in the early hours of Monday morning, has so far claimed the lives of more than 20,000 men, women and children, with many more injured, and tens of thousands of homes destroyed. Writing to ministers while on his Presbytery Tour of Dublin and Munster Dr Kirkpatrick said, "I am keenly aware that many people in our own country are struggling with the increase in cost of living, yet in the face of this unfolding disaster in Turkey and Syria, I would warmly commend this need to you, no matter how small your gift, it is really appreciated..."

“At this time, we also seek to stand in prayerful solidarity with PCI’s partner church in the region, the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon, who have a small number of congregations in the affected region. As an expression of our solidarity we are immediately sending a donation for the practical support of these congregations,” Dr Kirkpatrick said.

The Moderator said that direct support could be given through the Disaster Emergency Committee Appeal (www.dec.org.uk) in support of leading aid charities working in Turkey and Syria, or through Christian Aid Ireland (www.christianaid.ie) or Tearfund (www.tearfund.org) PCI’s relief and development partners, who are focused primarily on the relief effort through organisations on the ground in north west Syria.

Dr Kirkpatrick also encouraged members across PCI’s 500-plus congregations “to pray earnestly for all those in the region experiencing such unimaginable suffering...”

Congregations were asked to pray that:

- Supplies would reach those in greatest need despite the severe winter and disrupted communications
- First responders, health workers and all those tackling this emergency would know courage and resilience
- For the grieving to experience God’s comfort and the injured and traumatised to know healing and
- For the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon as it supports its congregations in north west Syria.

The Moderator concluded his letter, “My deepest appreciation in anticipation of all your support as together we in PCI play our part in saving lives and restoring hope to the many affected in Turkey and Syria.”

Pope Francis’ World Day of the Sick message inspired by the Good Samaritan - Bishop Michael Router

Bishop Michael Router, chairperson of the Council for Healthcare of the Bishops’ Conference, has welcomed Pope Francis message for the 2023 World Day of the Sick which takes place this Saturday, 11 February, on the the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. This year’s theme is ‘Take care of him: compassion is a synodal exercise of healing’. and is inspired by the parable of the good Samaritan in the Gospel of Luke.

Bishop Router said, “As a Church we are journeying along a synodal path together and the experience of vulnerability and illness helps us to accompany each other, as Pope Francis says, in ‘closeness, compassion, and tenderness.’ Such care for those who are weak and sick is a “synodal exercise of healing”. For some, illness can bring an experience of isolation and abandonment, which the Pope calls inhumane.”

“Referring to the parable of the Good Samaritan, Pope Francis makes the point that the man who was beaten by the robbers was abandoned when he needed help. Many are, unfortunately, abandoned and left without care and

assistance in today's world and there are frequent assaults on human life and dignity caused by injustice and violence. While respectable members of society pass by the injured man on the road in Jesus' parable, a despised foreigner is moved by compassion to respond and treat him like a brother.

“Pope Francis draws attention to the modern day ‘pervasive culture of efficiency’ which leaves no room for frailty and seeks to marginalise the vulnerable. The Church must stand against such a culture which allows such practices as euthanasia and assisted suicide to be presented as acceptable in a civilised society. The mission of the Church is manifested in acts of care and through such outreach she becomes a true ‘field hospital’ where no one is forgotten or disposable.

Bishop Router continued, “The Pope also draws our attention to the pressing need for ‘strategies and resources in order to guarantee each person’s fundamental right to basic and decent healthcare.’ The Covid-19 pandemic has exposed ‘the structural limits of existing public welfare systems.’ It seems that the prioritising of economic success over universal care and compassion is leaving more and more people on the margins – among them the homeless, the refugee, the poor, the patient on the hospital trolley, the drug addict”

“As he brings his message to a close, Pope Francis reiterates the point that the sick are at the centre of the Christian community and that the “Church advances together with them as a sign of a humanity in which everyone is precious and no one should be discarded or left

behind”. The Holy Father concludes by entrusting all the sick, their families and carers, healthcare workers and scientific researchers, to the care and intercession of Mary, ‘Health of the Sick,’” Bishop Router concluded.

In the media

Former female Presbyterian minister expresses disappointment at anti-female ordination stance of incoming moderator

A former female minister within the Presbyterian Church has expressed her disappointment at comments made by incoming moderator Rev Dr Sam Mawhinney that he is not in favour of the ordination of women.

Rev Dr Liz Hughes, who retired from the Presbyterian Church after almost four decades, told Good Morning Ulster: “[He] is a lovely guy and I think it’s great as a church that represents both north and south of the border that we’ve a minister who is based in Dublin becoming our next moderator.

“I even voted for him myself, but I was so disappointed when I heard what he had to say about disagreeing with women being ordained.

“I immediately thought of any young woman who might have felt that God is calling her into ministry and how utterly

discouraged and confused she would be after listening to what the Moderator-Designate has said.”

Also on Good Morning Ulster was Rev Ben Preston from Craigyhill Presbyterian Church in Larne, who said: “I, like many, hold that there’s clear teaching on who should hold that specific role of ruling and teaching authority in the church, but I see all kinds of ministry work that men and women are both involved with, but we hold this position peacefully within PCI, the church does ordain women.”

He added: “What we’re given is a freedom of conscience to exercise and be excused from the ceremony of actually ordaining women.”

Their comments came after an interview given by the Moderator-Designate Dr Mawhinney, who had been Assembly Buildings in Belfast on Wednesday for a photocall after being voted into the position on Tuesday.

Interview opportunities were strictly limited though Dr Mawhinney spoke to BBC NI, who asked for his views on the ordination of women.

He said: “My own personal position is that I am not in favour of the ordination of women and that’s a position that I hold, but I respect the Presbyterian Church’s view and that there are people who disagree with me on that.

“I don’t want to make it a primary issue, but it is something that I hold.”

Rev Trevor Gribben, clerk of the General Assembly and general secretary of PCI, said: “The clear, longstanding and

settled position of our General Assembly is that the Presbyterian Church in Ireland ordains men and women on an equal basis.

“This means that in a local congregation both men and women can be, and often are, elected to the position of elder. Likewise, at denominational level, both men and women can apply to be students for the ministry, trained in our college and become eligible to be ordained as full ministers of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

“While this is the clear policy of our denomination, on this particular issue the church permits those who genuinely and sincerely differ from its position to hold a different personal view. Nonetheless the church’s position is clear.”

During the BBC NI interview Dr Mawhinney said that he wanted to bring an “all-Ireland perspective” to his role but wouldn’t be drawn into the politics of a united Ireland. He said that his allegiance was to the Kingdom of Christ adding: “I’m not afraid of that [united Ireland] debate. I just think we need to be more open about it.”

Perspective

Living in Love and Faith - the Archbishop of York

From Archbishop Stephen Cottrell to the clergy and people of the Diocese of York

So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. Galatians 3:26-27 (NIV)

I have been present over the last few days as the Living in Love and Faith debate has been taking place at General Synod at Church House in London. The debate concluded earlier today with Synod voting to welcome proposals which would enable same-sex couples to come to church after a civil marriage or civil partnership to give thanks, dedicate their relationship to God and receive God's blessing. In addition, Synod members also voted to lament and repent of the failure of the Church to welcome LGBTQI+ people and for the harm that LGBTQI+ people have experienced – and continue to experience – in churches.

I realise that some in the diocese will welcome this decision by Synod, while others will feel that it does not go far enough. Others will feel that it goes too far. I write to you briefly now, to offer clarity on what has taken place and reassurance where there may be anxiety.

There are three things that I would like to clarify:

First, there is no change to the doctrine of holy matrimony. The draft Prayers of Love and Faith which were circulated to Synod members have not changed what the Church believes about holy matrimony as set out in Canon Law. This was emphasised by the acceptance of an amendment from a member of the General Synod.

Second, the Church will be able to offer the opportunity for couples who have entered into same-sex civil partnerships

and civil marriages to have that relationship acknowledged and celebrated, and to receive a blessing within a Service of the Word or Holy Communion.

Third, clergy will be free to choose whether or not they opt to use the forthcoming Prayers of Love and Faith.

Furthermore, I am determined that in the Diocese of York no one will ever be disadvantaged by the decisions they make whether to use or not use these prayers. On this you have my assurance, though I realise there is work to be done to provide a framework within which we can minister together with our conscientiously held disagreements. We need to work closely with the whole Church of England on this.

By Synod voting in favour of this motion, work will now continue on refining the draft Prayers of Love and Faith, and pastoral guidance will be produced which will replace Issues in Human Sexuality. There is a strong commitment to working collaboratively on this, ensuring that all voices are represented and heard in both the Prayers and the pastoral guidance. Until the Prayers have been reviewed, commended and issued by the House of Bishops, which won't be until the pastoral guidance has been issued, they are not yet available for use.

To those who welcome this development, can I remind you that you are not yet at liberty to use these prayers.

To those who are troubled by this development, can I ask for your patience and forbearance as the work is done to ensure that freedom of conscience is properly respected.

Some people have said that the Church of England may split because of this. I pray and give myself to something

much harder and much more beautiful: we learn to live with profound difference, respecting the conscientiously held but incompatible views we hold, ensuring that everyone has a place, and showing the world the more excellent way of love.

Please pray for me and be assured of my prayers for you.

+Stephen Ebor

The full motion, as amended, put to Synod was:

That this Synod, recognising the commitment to learning and deep listening to God and to each other of the Living in Love and Faith process, and desiring with God's help to journey together while acknowledging the different deeply held convictions within the Church:

- (a) lament and repent of the failure of the Church to be welcoming to LGBTQI+ people and the harm that LGBTQI+ people have experienced and continue to experience in the life of the Church;
- (b) recommit to our shared witness to God's love for and acceptance of every person by continuing to embed the Pastoral Principles in our life together locally and nationally;
- (c) commend the continued learning together enabled by the Living in Love and Faith process and resources in relation to identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage;
- (d) welcome the decision of the House of Bishops to replace Issues in Human Sexuality with new pastoral guidance;

(e) welcome the response from the College of Bishops and look forward to the House of Bishops further refining, commending and issuing the Prayers of Love and Faith described in GS 2289 and its Annexes;

(f) invite the House of Bishops to monitor the Church's use of and response to the Prayers of Love and Faith, once they have been commended and published, and to report back to Synod in five years' time;

(g) endorse the decision of the College and House of Bishops not to propose any change to the doctrine of marriage, and their intention that the final version of the Prayers of Love and Faith should not be contrary to or indicative of a departure from the doctrine of the Church of England.'

Votes were recorded as follows:

Bishops 36 for, 4 against, 2 abstained

Clergy 111 for, 85 against, 3 abstained

Laity 103 for, 92 against, 5 abstained

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
