

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – medical help for earthquake area**

## Image of the day



## RAF Medical help for earthquake area

**On Friday afternoon a C-130 Hercules and three aeromedical teams from the RAF's Tactical Medical Wing departed from RAF Brize Norton to assist critically ill and injured patients in Turkiye.**

The aircraft and medical teams will be capable of caring for the highest dependency patients.

The field hospital includes an emergency department & 24/7 operating theatre to provide emergency treatment to the critically injured.



## People and places



### **Saint Patrick's Bellingers mark centenary of founding member**

The Dean and the Cathedral's Bellingers welcomed members of the family of Richard Cherry to the belfry on Friday, as they rang to mark the centenary of his death on 10th February 1923.

Richard Cherry was one of the founding members – and first President – of the Saint Patrick's Cathedral Society of



Change Ringers in 1895 and also of the Irish Association of Change Ringers in 1898.

Some family members took the opportunity to ring one of the bells that Richard donated in 1909.

## **St Valentine's Day theme for Limerick lunchtime concert**

Tomorrow, Tuesday, a new series of lunchtime concerts begins in St Mary's cathedral, Limerick, at 1.15pm. The opening recital will be given by Catherine Redding (soprano) and Yonit Kosovske (piano) and will have a St Valentine's Day theme.



## **Institution of rector in Clogher**

On Thursday evening at 7.30pm, the Bishop of Clogher, Dr Ian Ellis, will institute Canon Jennifer McWhirter as Rector of Cleenish & Mullaghduin parishes in Cleenish parish church, Bellanaleck, Co. Fermanagh.

## **Positive mental health events in Dublin & Glendalough**

A series of events to encourage and support positive mental health will take place in the Dioceses of Dublin & Glendalough this spring. Organised by the Revd Garth Bunting, Rural Dean of St Mary, and Canon Lesley Robinson, Rural Dean of Fingal, the events are part of the Church of Ireland's MindMatters project.

Free talks, entitled 'What is Mental Ill-Health? Signs, symptoms and what to do about them', will take place in each Rural Deanery.

Walks of Wellbeing – gentle guided walks with a focus on friendship and mindfulness – will take place in three different locations in April and May. On Sunday 2 April, the Revd David White will lead a walk in St Anne's Park in Raheny (meet at the Red Stables) from 3pm to 5pm. On Sunday 7 May, the Revd Ruth Noble will lead a walk in the Phoenix Park (meet at the Papal Cross) from 3pm to 5pm. On Saturday 27 May, the Revd Brian O'Reilly will lead a walk in Glendalough (meet at St John's Church, Laragh) from 11am

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to 4pm. Walkers in Glendalough are asked to bring water and a packed lunch.

For more information on any of these events contact 086–0386415 or 087–9091561.



*Seagoe Bell © National Museum of Ireland*

**Early Irish Christian Hand Bells:  
making, using, keeping**

A talk by Cormac Bourke

Former curator at the Ulster Museum

**Tuesday 14 February 2023**

**Start Time: 7.30pm**

**Venue: Seagoe Parish Centre, Portadown**



CRAIGAVON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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## Belfast Cathedral set to welcome one of world's leading military bands

One of the world's leading military ensembles is set for a concert in St Anne's Cathedral next month.

The Band of His Majesty's Royal Marines Scotland will play the historical Belfast location on Wednesday, March 15 at 7.30pm and their appearance is highly anticipated.



# RUN FOR ROOFS

**Belfast City Marathon  
30th April 2023**

**Sign up today and run to  
raise funds for Habitat!**

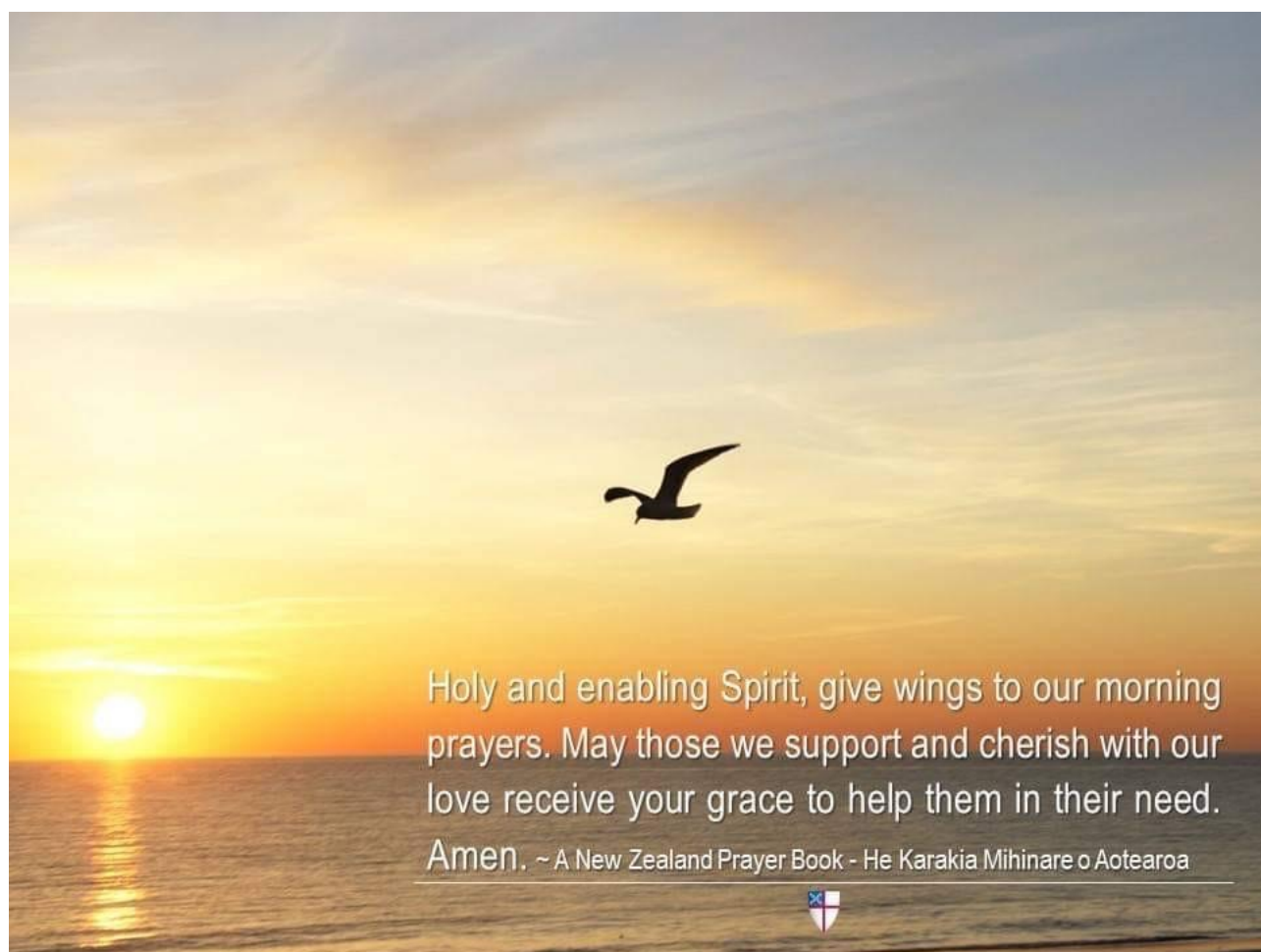


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The band, and their world-renowned corps of drums, perform throughout the United Kingdom and abroad in support of the Naval Service, entertaining audiences with their famous versatility.

The concert will highlight that diversity by including symphonic wind band music, ceilidh band, bagpipes and solo performances.

Their musicians undergo rigorous musical training at the Royal Marines School of Music (RMSoM) in Portsmouth and their signature precision marching has seen them perform at prestigious venues and events across the UK and around the world – from the Royal Albert Hall and Horse Guards Parade in London, to the military tattoo in Basel, Switzerland, and other engagements across the globe.





The Band of Royal Marines Scotland is one of the five bands that make up the musical wing of the Royal Navy. The Scotland band, to this day remains the only one of the five RM Bands stationed north of Portsmouth. The master musicians of RM Band Scotland are highly skilled in at least two instruments – and often many more. Together, these versatile and talented musicians undertake a wide variety of ceremonial commitments across Scotland and the North of England.

Just some of the band's recent engagements include the launch of the new Daring-class destroyers and the commissioning of the submarine HMS Astute. In December, HMS Albion set sail from Italy after a five day visit during which the Band of His Majesty's Royal Marines Scotland performed at iconic sites across Rome, including the Colosseum, the Spanish Steps, and the Pincio Terrace.

As with all Royal Marines Bands, the men and women of the Royal Marine Band Scotland also perform a vital secondary role supporting the fleet during active operations, with a number of personnel having seen service in Afghanistan and Iraq.

When called on, instruments are set aside to provide military support on operations – as part of a medical team on board a casualty receiving ship, or supporting 3 Commando Brigade Royal Marines, their military role is just as vital as the musical one. What they do isn't just for King and country. It's for the effectiveness of the Royal Marines in the field, for the morale of the troops, the entertainment of the

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public – and the development of some of the country’s finest young musicians.

## **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**

### **Archbishop of Canterbury visits Ashanti King and bestows Cross of Saint Augustine award**

**The Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby visited the King of the Ashanti Kingdom (the Asantehene) in Ghana today and thanked him for his “consistent support for the Anglican Church and the nation of Ghana.” The Archbishop presented the Asantehene with a Lambeth**

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## **Award: The Cross of Saint Augustine, in recognition of his service to the Anglican Communion.**

Archbishop Justin and Mrs Caroline Welby travelled to Kumasi for an audience with His Royal Majesty Otumfuo Osei Tutu II at Manhyia Palace, the Asantehene's official residence, on the eve of the 18th plenary session of the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC-18), which started in Accra yesterday.



The Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby presents the Ashanti King (Asantehene), His Royal Majesty Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, with the Cross of Saint Augustine in recognition of his service to the Anglican Communion



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Archbishop Justin was joined by the Primate of West Africa, Archbishop Cyril Kobina Ben-Smith, the Bishop of Kumasi, Oscar Christian Amoah, as well as Archbishops and Bishops from across the Anglican Church of the Province of West Africa.

After a traditional ceremony of orations and songs, the Archbishop and the King exchanged greetings and spoke of their mutual respect and affection.

Presenting the Cross of Saint Augustine award, Archbishop Justin said His Royal Majesty has “generously provided guidance and support to the Church, which have had a tremendous impact on its growth and development”. He also praised the King’s contribution in areas including sustainable development, education and healthcare.

The King and Archbishop later held a private meeting during which the Archbishop prayed for the King and gave him a special blessing. They were joined by the King's wife, Lady Julia, and Mrs Welby.

In his greeting, the Archbishop praised the Ashanti King and his predecessors for having “preserved the honour and dignity of your throne and of your line through many years, during the British colonial period and afterwards.

He added: “We always remember as Christians, that the greatest model of service was the God who washed his disciples’ feet, the crucified God. That is how to lead, to save and to serve. I know of your own faith and I thank Your Royal Majesty for the example you have given.”

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The King thanked the Archbishop for the award – saying he accepted it “on behalf of my people” – and for his ongoing prayers. The Archbishop and the King later planted a tree in the grounds of the Palace.

Archbishop Justin welcomed His Royal Majesty to Lambeth Palace in August 2014. He also visited the King at Manhyia Palace in October that year.

On arriving in Kumasi this morning, the Archbishop went to St Cyprian’s Anglican Cathedral. The Archbishop gave an address and blessed the Anglican faithful gathered, which included many students from local schools as well as Mothers’ Union members.

In his address the Archbishop encouraged the young people to trust in Jesus Christ who is always faithful.

“The world is uncertain,” he said. “There are wars and famines. There is poverty. There is richness. There is success. There are places of peace. We cannot control those.

“But if we say to Jesus Christ, ‘My life is in your hands, and I will always follow you’, and if we listen to what He says to us, he will say: ‘I love you, I died for you, I saved you and I will always be with you.’”

Archbishop Justin, Archbishop Cyril and Bishop Oscar planted a tree in the grounds of the Cathedral to commemorate Archbishop Justin’s visit to Kumasi

The Archbishop is in Ghana for the ACC-18, which began in Accra yesterday. Some 110 delegates representing 39 of

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the Anglican Communion's 42 member churches, or provinces, are gathering in Accra for the meeting. The last Anglican Consultative Council meeting (ACC-17) took place in Hong Kong in 2019.

## In the media

### Presbyterian minister claims office of eldership 'is not for women'

**A Presbyterian minister in Co Antrim has told his congregation that the office of eldership is not for women.**

Rev Noel Mulholland has been giving sermons to members of Cuningham Memorial Presbyterian Church in Cullybackey before they select up to six new leaders, Brett Campbell reports in the Belfast Telegraph.

However, it has been claimed the clergyman's teachings have caused real concern among eligible voters who are scared of being "ostracised" if they choose the wrong gender.

"According to the Bible, the office of the eldership is for men," he said in a recent service.

"This is a point at which myself and many of my colleagues within our denomination graciously part company with the code of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI)."



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One churchgoer told the Belfast Telegraph a recent sermon-series on the topic has put some people in “a wholly unacceptable situation” which could see them silenced.

“Some members are appalled at the attitude of their minister but feel unable to articulate their feelings beyond their immediate family circle for fear of being ostracised,” they said.

“Normally this is a fairly mundane and non-contentious business, but it is the attitude of the minister that has led to great disquiet among a significant cohort of the congregation.

“Namely that the congregation's voting members are expected not to include the names of any women members on their voting forms and he has been forceful in his preaching over recent weeks on the matter.”

Rev Mulholland told the Belfast Telegraph it is an internal church matter and that he did not want to comment further.

He was less subdued behind the pulpit last month when he told worshippers “many existing ministers” believe the general assembly did not act biblically when it changed the rules 50 years ago.

In the sermon posted online he said the “supreme standard since the church's formation in the 17th century” has always been the word of God.

“But sadly, to appease the prevailing feminist movement of the day the church took an erroneous decision in the 70s to

turn away from the traditional teaching of the Bible on this issue,” Rev Mulholland added.

He assured the women in the pews that they still have a cherished role within the congregation while making it clear that won't involve teaching roles while men are present, as women must not exercise authority over men.

“Surely that disqualifies them from role of the eldership — the eldership, according to the Bible, is a role exclusively reserved for men only,” the preacher said.

It comes after the newly chosen moderator of the Presbyterian Church revealed he is not in favour of women being ordained.

Rev Sam Mawhinney insisted he respects the church view and acknowledges people disagree with him.

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

The source who spoke to this newspaper accused the minister of “trying to delegitimise” the church's position with an “appalling diatribe of rubbish”.

In a statement on the overall gender issue this week, general assembly clerk Rev Trevor Gribben insisted the “clear, longstanding and settled position” of the church is that it ordains men and women on an equal basis.

However, he said on this particular issue the church permits those who genuinely and sincerely differ to hold a different personal view.

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“Nonetheless the church's position is clear,” he added.

Courtesy Belfast Telegraph 11/02/2013

## Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



### Children's Ministry resources

It's that time. The Spring Newsletter is here in time for your week ahead.

Packed with ideas and new resources for Valentines Day, St Patrick's Day, Lent, Easter and Mother's Day, so much to look at.

Click here to view online: <https://bit.ly/3DUj5xu>  
or download it as a pdf document here: <http://bit.ly/3HOqkYJ>



# KNIGHTS

## In the Cathedral Workshop



**Discover the Cathedral Knights**

**Complete the Knight's Challenge**

**Make a Knight's Shield**

**Cost: €8 per child, suitable for 5-10 years,**  
**Date: Friday 17th February**  
**Duration: 1 hour      Time: 10.30am -11.30am**

## Knights in the Cathedral

Are you looking for something for the kids to do this Mid-Term? There are two amazing workshops for you to choose from or even do both :

The first is the popular Knight in the Cathedral. Discover what life was like as a knight. Complete the chivalry challenge to uncover the knight within and receive a chivalry certificate. Learn all about the knights connected to St

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Canice's Cathedral, their armour, weapons, and coat of arms. Try on a knight's helmet, gauntlet and shoes. Make your own knight's shield with a personal coat of arms and a mask based on a knights

Friday 17th February at 10.30am, tickets on Eventbrite  
<https://bit.ly/3l7ue0g>

## Saint Patrick's Festival

Armagh City is at the heart of celebrating the life of Saint Patrick! Enjoy comedy, music, workshops, lectures, films, fun day and more during the festival.

Full programme available at: [visitarmagh.com/stpatrick](http://visitarmagh.com/stpatrick)

## Perspective

### No, the doctrine of marriage is not fixed - Miranda Threlfall Holmes

**As a historian, I want to challenge this idea that we have heard repeatedly expressed, that the church has always had one fixed doctrine of marriage.**

Our debates today are part of a very long and ongoing tradition of debate about our relationship to sex, sexuality, and different patterns of relationship and family.

In the scriptures, we see three, not two, gender identities: male, female and eunuch. And there is much debate about how that last category might map onto the categories that we speak of today.

In the early church, marriage did not mean sex per se, but the socio-economic status of being a householder. Slaves could not get married. And there were serious debates about whether Christians should marry at all, since it involved participating in civil society.

For most of Christian history, we had no marriage service. For elite families, marriage was primarily concerned with property, inheritance and alliances. In the medieval period the church began a programme of reform, which involved greatly annoying the aristocracy all over Europe by insisting on the radical notion that the couple at the heart of these alliances should both give their consent – hence the ‘I will’ and ‘I do’ vows in the marriage liturgy that developed. ‘Man’ and ‘woman’ was often a misnomer. Child marriages were common at this elite level, as political alliances were cemented. And at the popular level, practices such as betrothal, handfasting and ‘bundling’ were commonplace, all socially sanctioned and sometimes liturgical ceremonies which celebrated the commencement of pre-marital sexual intimacy, rarely condemned by the church.

In the nineteenth century there were protracted legal debates about whether women counted legally as ‘persons’. Until the Married Women’s Property Act, married women could not legally own property in their own right. (My own mother in law tells me indignantly that as a married woman



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in the 1970s she couldn't buy a sofa on hire purchase without her husband's signature).

Theologians and church dignitaries frequently weighed in on all sides of these debates. Legally, the view that we are all 'people' won the day – and the 1938 report of the first Doctrine Commission in the Church of England spoke of marriage as being between 'two Christian persons'.

So as a historian – no, the church has not taught consistently for 2000 years that all sex outside of marriage is a sin, and has not had one unified doctrine of marriage for all that time.

One of our pastoral principles is to pay attention to power. So let us be honest that for most of our history, discussions about marriage have not been about sex per se, but about power.

Jesus himself said that whilst we start from the Scriptures, 'the Holy Spirit will lead us into all truth'. So we shouldn't be surprised or afraid to see doctrine develop and change as we learn more about the world and one another. It took the church 300 years to develop the doctrine of the Trinity, so let's not be dismayed that as we are learning more now about sex and sexuality, we are having this debate.

Speech given at C of E General Synod on Thursday 9 Feb 2023

[mirandathrelfallholmes.blogspot.com/](https://mirandathrelfallholmes.blogspot.com/)

# Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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## Church News Ireland

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