

# Church News Ireland

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Image of the day – Methodist Public witness

## Image of the day

### Public witness

The Methodist Church's Council on Social Responsibility was represented at the recent Dublin March of Solidarity.



The Council stated “A really good afternoon as we participated in the March of Solidarity in Dublin.

“As Methodists we will not tolerate racism and social inequity in our land.

“Well done to all who took time to come out today, especially all the way from Kerry! Very worthwhile”.

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## People and places



The Archbishop of Canterbury with the Church of Ireland representatives at ACC-18 in Ghana

### **300 churches sing An Irish Blessing as Anglican worldwide council is invited to meet in Ireland in 2026**

**At the end of a greeting from Church of Ireland Primate, Archbishop John McDowell, to ACC-18 Anglican Consultative Council delegates in Accra, inviting them to assemble for ACC-19 in Ireland in 2026, this Irish Blessing was played and prayed.**



The Irish Blessing - from over 300 churches from our island sing a blessing over Ireland and beyond was recorded in 2020 and since it was premiered on Pentecost Sunday has had 40K likes, and been viewed over 2 million times on U-Tube.

he organisers of The Irish Blessing (Beannacht uile-Éireann) said it “is a project inspired by the many international recordings of "The Blessing” (by Cody Carnes, Kari Jobe and Elevation Worship) which have been made during this time of pandemic.

“We wanted to honour that inspiration, whilst at the same time, honouring the unique history and culture of our island. So we chose a song that would resonate across the island, with every denomination and cultural grouping, one that

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could be used as a platform to sing a Blessing over our land, all our key-workers and those they are caring for.

“Be Thou My Vision” is just such a hymn written over 1000 years ago. It reminds us of the One to whom we should look in this time of pandemic, whose presence is our light, the source of our wisdom, in whom we find our treasure and where we find victory.

“Individuals from 300 Christian churches and organisations located in every county on the island submitted self-recordings of vocals and instruments which have been compiled by our creative team to produce this music video - we hope you receive a blessing as you watch it.”

[<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TascsWZPj8U>]

## **Solidarity pilgrimage to the Holy Land**

**Pilgrims on The Irish Catholic’s Christian solidarity pilgrimage to the Holy Land gathered early in Dublin Airport before taking to the air.**

Men and women from across the island of Ireland are undertaking the spiritual journey through Christ’s home on earth.

Bishop of Derry Donal McKeown is the spiritual director of the pilgrimage, which is being led by editor of The Irish Catholic Michael Kelly and his colleagues Chai Brady and Brandon Scott.

# St John's Malone, Belfast

*Sunday 26th March, 6.30pm*

# Crucifixion

*A meditation on the sacred passion of the Holy Redeemer;  
an oratorio by Sir John Stainer.*

**Sung by the Osborne Singers**

**Soloists Michael Brown and Charlie Hughes**

**Directed by Richard Campbell**

**Organist Stephen Hamill**



## **Flourish Initiative underway in Armagh**

**At Armagh's Diocesan Synod in October 2022 the Archbishop of Armagh launched a diocesan wide programme called the "Flourish Initiative."**

This exciting new venture facilitated by Rev David McComb (Lisnadill and Kildarton) and Mr. David Brown, the Diocesan Youth and Children's Development Officer, seeks to inspire and support parishes to play an active part in the restoration of God's creation. The "Flourish" model, inspired by "The Lighten our Darkness" project in Mullingar, operates through a diocesan working group which promotes Christian action and practical support for local activities, an inter-generational ground force team in every parish that designs and takes action in their own setting, and external partners guiding and supporting participants. From allotments and tree planting to community gardens and better waste management systems, this initiative is set to encourage and equip congregations to tackle climate justice on the ground.

Following the launch of the Flourish initiative, 9 parishes from across Armagh diocese volunteered to act as "pilot" parishes and as spring 2023 emerges, plans, projects and ground force teams are now well underway. Critically, these pilot parishes for the project make up the Flourish working group and have become a very proactive and supportive ministry across the diocese.

Commenting on developments, Rev McComb noted, "We are required as Christians to play our part in caring for the planet. We are stewards which means we don't just



maintain the soil but we should also seek to improve it. This allows us the chance to participate in God's work of restoration. For the church, issues around the environment and creation care provide rich opportunities to connect with our young people and adults of all ages. Many are interested in and knowledgeable about global ecology in a different way from previous generations".

For more information on the Flourish Initiative, please do not hesitate to contact David Brown via email at [doycarmagh@gmail.com](mailto:doycarmagh@gmail.com)

The Diocese of Armagh is particularly grateful to the Representative Church Body for seed funding underpinning the Flourish initiative, pilot year 2022 to 2023.

With the Flourish theme in mind we are also delighted to be able to bring to your attention two excellent youth and children's resources addressing how the Church can better respond to the climate crisis.



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1. From the Church of Ireland Youth Department - an excellent "Climate Justice Toolkit" packed with ideas, activities and Biblical teaching. Here's the link:

[http://armagh.anglican.org/ministry/YouthMinistry/Climate%20Toolkit%20FINAL%202022-2%20\(2\).pdf](http://armagh.anglican.org/ministry/YouthMinistry/Climate%20Toolkit%20FINAL%202022-2%20(2).pdf)

2. From CMSI - a superb Sunday School resource offering (during Lent) climate based resources and teaching for children. Here's the CMSI link:

<https://www.cmsireland.org/childrens-resource>



## **New chaplain at The Hub, Queen's University Belfast**

**The Rev Danielle McCullagh at the Service of Introduction with the Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev George Davison, left, and the Rev Philip Agnew, North Eastern District Superintendent, Methodist Church.**



A Service of Introduction and Licensing of the Rev Danielle McCullagh as Chaplain at The Hub, Belfast, took place on Wednesday February 15.

In her new role as Chaplain and Dean of Residences in the Church of Ireland / Methodist Chaplaincy at Queen's University and Stranmillis College, Danielle will serve in covenant alongside the Ulster University Chaplain, who is currently appointed by the Methodist Church. She will lead the staff team the Hub, including centre management, café and ancillary staff, and serve as Dean of Residents in the Student Centre, which during term time is home to some 50 residential students and ministry interns.

She will also serve as Chaplain to the Church of the Resurrection within The Hub.



## Call out for former St Matthew's Belfast Rainbows, Brownies, and Guides

Calling all previous members of 41st Belfast Rainbows, Brownies, and Guides. On 26th Feb there is a special Thinking Day Service at St Matthew's to celebrate 100 years of the 41st unit. We'd love any previous members to come along and join us. 10.30am Tea and lots of photos and reminiscing! 11.30am Thinking Day Service.



**Mothers' UNION**  
Christian care for families  
Diocese of Derry & Raphoe



## 'Transformation Now'

*We look forward  
to welcoming you to....*

*'A Spring Morning with  
Bishop Pat Storey'*

**On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

**10.30am - 1.30pm**

**Clooney Methodist Centre,**  
36 Clooney Terrace, Derry/Londonderry BT47 6AR  
Cost £12/€14

To book:

email [elsiestewart07@gmail.com](mailto:elsiestewart07@gmail.com) before Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February  
**ALL ARE WELCOME - Come, bring a friend!**



Waterside Theatre // Sat 1st April 2023  
7pm (Doors 6:30) // Tickets £10

# Louise Campbell

## 'Stumble' EP Launch

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW**

with Guest Artists:  
Cello Fella // Stephanie Hall // Philip Steele //  
Rev David McBeth // Wired Worship

## News reports

### **Palestinian Archbishop elected unopposed as Vice Chair of Anglican Consultative Council**

**The Anglican Episcopal Archbishop in Jerusalem, the Most Revd Hosam Naoum, will become the Vice Chair of the Anglican Consultative Council after being elected unopposed during the 18th plenary session of the Council (ACC-18), meeting in Accra, Ghana.**

The Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) is one of four “Instruments of Communion” or “Instruments of Unity” of the global Anglican Communion of 42 independent-yet-interdependent national, and regional Churches.

As Vice Chair of the Anglican Consultative Council, Archbishop Hosam will also serve as Vice-Chair the Standing Committee of the Anglican Communion. This comprises the Archbishop of Canterbury, as president, five primates elected to represent the regions of the Anglican Communion, a Chair, and Vice Chair, and seven members elected by members of the Council.

Elections for six other members of the Standing Committee will take place this afternoon. The election had been planned for five members of the Standing Committee, but Archbishop Hosam’s election as Vice Chair creates an additional vacancy amongst the ordinary members.



Archbishop Hosam is the Anglican Bishop of Jerusalem, a diocese which covers five countries or territories: Israel, Palestine, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. It is part of the Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East. Later this year, Archbishop Hosam will become Primate of the Province when the Bishop of Cyprus and the Gulf, Archbishop Michael Lewis, steps down. He is also Secretary of the Patriarchs and Heads of the Churches in Jerusalem, the leading ecumenical group of senior Christian leaders in the Holy Land.

Archbishop Hosam is well known throughout the Anglican Communion. Prior to becoming Archbishop in Jerusalem he served as Dean of Saint George's Anglican Cathedral in the city and welcomed pilgrims from all over the world to the land of Jesus' birth. There were loud cheers and sustained applause at the plenary meeting when the returning officer,

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Mr Darren Oliver, made the announcement at 11.00 am GMT this morning (Friday)

“I am absolutely delighted that I have the confidence of the ACC to be the Vice Chair,” Archbishop Hosam said. “This is a humbling, of course, opportunity as well as a great privilege to be able to serve and continue serving on the Standing Committee but in a different capacity. I will do all that I can as a person, as a bishop and as a member to foster unity within the Anglican Communion.”

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, commented: “Archbishop Hosam has been a friend for many years since he was Dean of Jerusalem. His deep spirituality, his calmness, and his love for the Church around the world makes him eminently suitable for this position. We are very blessed in the ACC that many who could have stood for this position would have received an equally warm welcome.” He will succeed Canon Maggie Swinson as Vice Chair. She was elected earlier unopposed as Chair of the ACC.

## In the media

### **To preserve peace in Northern Ireland, the Protocol must be replaced - Iain Duncan Smith**

### **The survival of the Good Friday Agreement is what is at stake in the EU talks**

It seems like a lifetime ago when as an officer in the Scots Guards I served in Londonderry in 1976/77, in the Bogside

as part of Operation Banner. I remember only too well the hatred and killing and how daunting it was to police the huge angry crowds on the first anniversary of Bloody Sunday to fall on a Sunday. That Christmas, whilst on patrol I could see, emblazoned across huge posters, the statement, “Seven years is too long.” I wondered at the length of the troubles that Christmas, but little did I think that the anger and the killing would go on for 20 more years, until ended by the 1998 Belfast or Good Friday Agreement (GFA).

The GFA was a difficult pill to swallow, particularly when those who had maimed and killed so many were let out of prison and continue to cause grief. The body of my friend Captain Robert Nairac, a brave man taken by the IRA, has never been discovered and his parents went to their graves not knowing.

It was devastating too for Norman Tebbit, my constituency predecessor, to have to watch as the man who bombed the Grand Hotel in Brighton, leaving his wonderful wife Margaret paralysed and in a wheelchair for the rest of her life, walked free.

### **The EU says it wants the GFA to succeed, yet it utterly fails to understand it hastens its demise**

Many similar nightmares echo around our lives, for there was hardly any part of these islands that wasn't affected by terrorist devastation and death. In Northern Ireland the sacrifices made to get this through were enormous, yet peace was the vital prize.



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Given so much sacrifice, I cannot understand why we would risk its demise now.

Reports suggest that our negotiators may have reached some sort of complicated arrangement based on red and green customs lanes with paperwork and checks on goods. However, European law and single-market regulations would still apply to a sovereign part of the United Kingdom and govern the way Northern Ireland trades with Great Britain.

This suggested outcome illustrates how important it is when entering negotiations to know what the objective is. And here is the problem, for the issue at stake is not purely about complicated customs arrangements, or a technical tweak to the practicalities, for they are but the symptom of a greater failure. What is at stake is the continuing operation of the GFA, and indeed therefore peace itself in Northern Ireland.

### **The refusal of the EU to discuss changing the Protocol is in contravention of its own agreement**

So long as EU law and regulations apply to Northern Ireland, leaving the province outside the UK's own single market and the remit of exclusively UK law, the DUP cannot go back into the Assembly. If they don't re-enter, then the GFA is to all intents and purposes dead. Sadly, this in turn plays into the hands of extreme elements. This cannot be allowed to happen.

I have lost count of how often the EU says it wants the GFA to succeed yet in demanding at the same time that there

can be no change to the Northern Ireland Protocol, it utterly fail to understand it hastens its demise. We were told at the time of the Brexit negotiations by the EU itself that no permanent agreement could be reached under Article 50.

Thus, the Protocol was always a transitional agreement. Its own Article 1 states: “This Protocol is without prejudice to the provisions of the 1998 Agreement.”

This means that the GFA takes precedence. If the GFA isn't working as a result of the provisions of the Protocol, then the Protocol must be changed. Which is why Article 13.8 was put in. It allows for the Protocol to be changed in whole or in part.

The Government's own explanatory note at the time of the Protocol Bill said that the Government's first priority was to safeguard the GFA.

Our negotiators are constantly being bamboozled by the EU's negotiators into playing by its rules. We should instead point out the EU's refusal to discuss changing the Protocol is in contravention of its own agreement.

After all, no less a person as David Trimble, architect of the GFA along with John Hume, understood that at the heart of this issue lies a simple constitutional point that should govern our negotiations – that people in Northern Ireland cannot be forced to live under laws that separate them from the rest of the UK and over which they have no say. Or as the residents of Boston put it in 1773, “No taxation without representation.”

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Other arrangements, such as mutual enforcement, exist to safeguard the EU and UK single markets. If the Good Friday Agreement is to be saved – and saved it must be – the EU needs to face up to the failure of the Protocol. If it is not replaced, continuing peace in Northern Ireland is under threat.

Iain Duncan Smith MP was leader of the Conservative Party from 2001 to 2003, and served as Secretary of State for Work and Pensions from 2010 to 2016

Courtesy The Sunday Telegraph 19/02/2023

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

### **The Church's Ministry of Healing - Lenten series**

Our 2023 Lenten series and it's IN PERSON and IN NATURE.

The Church's Ministry of Healing says it is so excited to collaborate with the National Bible Society of Ireland and together, Lydia, our Ministry Leader and Julie, NBSI's Development Officer will bring you through a gentle and nurturing 4 week course of biblical reflection and nature connection.

Interested? Check out Eventbrite for more details:



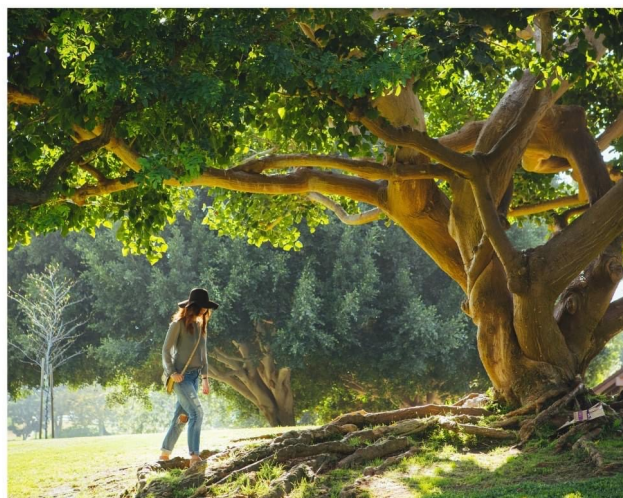
## Under the Tree:

A Nature Connection & Bible Study Course in the heart of Rathmines

Spring 2023

To find out more and to book your place contact  
[Lydia@ministryofhealing.ie](mailto:Lydia@ministryofhealing.ie)

Church's  
Ministry  
of Healing  
Ireland



<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/under-the-tree-a-nature-focused-lent-course-tickets-542878182257>

Limited spaces available.

## Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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## 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](mailto:houstonmckelvey@mac.com)

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