

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Spring at Magdalen College

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Spring at Magdalen College

Magdalen College Chapel is among the most active in Oxford University, with about fourteen services a week during Full Term. All are most welcome to attend Chapel services: members of any religion or of none, members of Magdalen or of the public, regardless of official College opening hours.

“While the Chapel is here first and foremost to offer a place of worship for our students, fellows and staff, in reality our congregation extends far beyond these limits and includes many other people, some from other Oxford colleges, some from the local community, some from further afield. It can feel rather like going to services in a cathedral, but the atmosphere is more domestic and intimate.

“The College Choir enriches our worship every day of the week in Full Term (except Mondays) at 6.00pm, and every Sunday morning in Term at 11.00am. On Saturdays, the men of the Choir are joined by female undergraduates from a number of Oxford colleges to form the Consort of Voices. Other services in Chapel are said – without the Choir – and these, like the choral services, are Anglican, bearing the imprint, as is the tradition at Magdalen, of the Oxford Movement or Catholic Revival of the nineteenth century”.

[<https://www.magd.ox.ac.uk/chapel-and-choir/>]

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People and places



Galway's flower arrangers

St Nicholas Collegiate Church, Galway, on social media - 'We have many dedicated volunteers who keep our building looking beautiful. Thank you to Gráinne and Olive who keep our flower arrangements looking lovely'.

Visiting mission links in South America

Mission Director of SAMS Ireland, Stephen McElhinney is currently en route to South America, for a 2 week trip.

He will visit Peru, Bolivia and Chile. Please pray for him and those he will visit during this time.

Vivaldi and Pergolesi in Holywood Parish

News of a very special concert on Saturday 1st April at 7.30pm, presented by Holywood Sinfonietta and the Parish Choir.

Vivaldi's Four Seasons (soloist Tamas Kocsis), and Pergolesi's Magnificat. Tickets are available from the Parish office 028 9042 3622

European Methodist Council seeks Support Officer

The European Methodist Council is seeking to appoint a Support Officer (part-time).



“We are looking for someone to support the Council, the Executive and the Co-Chairs of the EMC to strengthen the identity, communication and presence of European Methodism”.

Location: Home-based. Closing Date: 6th March. For further information and to apply online visit: <http://bit.ly/3RJWtFt>

Come and Sing Messiah in Belfast

“Join us on Saturday 15 April as we bring our Come and Sing Messiah Tour to Central Church, May Street, Belfast”.

“Choir of the Earth is a vibrant online choir with Members all around the world. We formed during the pandemic in March 2020 with the aim of uniting people through a love of singing and great choral works, and this is still our aim today.



“That’s why we have decided to take our choir room on the road, with a ‘come and sing’ tour of choruses from George Frideric Handel’s Messiah!

“In 2022/23 our tour will initially call at ten cities across the UK and Ireland and we would love absolutely everybody to join us, whether or not you have ever sung with us, or even sung in a choir! When you sign up, you will receive all the resources you need to learn and practise your part, note-by-note.

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“On the day of the event our marvellous Musical Director Ben England BEM will lead everyone in workshops to rehearse a selection of choruses, with his characteristic charm, fun and inspirational musical direction. Then he will conduct us in an unforgettable early evening concert performance, which (capacity permitting) will be open to your friends and family to attend.

“Come and join us for a day of marvellous music and fabulous fun!”

Read more and book at:

<https://choiroftheearth.com/messiah-tour>

There will also be a similar day at St Ann's, Dublin, on Thursday April 23





County Sligo Great War Memorial Garden

The official unveiling of the County Sligo Great War Memorial Garden will take place on Friday 28 April 2023 at 12 noon at Cleveragh Recreational Park, Cleveragh, Sligo



News reports

Attempted murder of police officer “callous and evil” - Bishop and Moderator

The Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Right Reverend Andrew Forster and The Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, Right Reverend Dr John Kirkpatrick, have condemned the attempted murder of a police officer in Omagh, on Wednesday evening, as “callous and evil”.

The off-duty officer was shot a number of times at a sports complex on the Killyclogher Road and was taken from there to Altnagelvin Hospital in Londonderry for treatment for his injuries.

Bishop Forster said, “The attempted murder of a PSNI officer in Omagh, on Wednesday evening, was a crime against God and a crime against man.

“The attack was callous and evil and will be condemned by all right-thinking people. There is no justification for this kind of violence in our society. The fact that this happened in close proximity to children highlights the wickedness and recklessness of the perpetrators.

“I offer my prayers for the injured officer and his family, and pledge my support to his colleagues in the PSNI. I appeal to

anyone with any knowledge about this crime to give the information to the police.”

The Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, Right Reverend Dr John Kirkpatrick, as described the attempt on his life as an ‘outrage’ and an ‘awful and appalling act’.

Dr Kirkpatrick said, “It is difficult to find the words to describe the sense of anger and outrage felt by so many at this awful and appalling act. Serving the community by day then serving the community off duty coaching young people, we lift Detective Chief Inspector Caldwell up in prayer, praying also for his family, his colleagues and the children who witnessed this horror. We owe a great debt to those who serve in the Police Service to keep us, and our way of life, safe. May he, his family and colleagues know the love, strength and comfort of the Lord Jesus Christ at this time and how what the PSNI does day in and day out is much valued.”

In the media

Kate Forbes SNP: Row over would-be Scottish first minister's comments on gay marriage raises important questions about public life, says former moderator

Philip Bradfield writes in the News Letter

A former Presbyterian Moderator says the openness of would-be Scottish First Minister Kate Forbes about her Christian beliefs - and the subsequent controversy around them - raises important questions about public life.

Scottish Finance Secretary Ms Forbes had been seen as the frontrunner to replace Nicola Sturgeon as Scotland's First Minister, but her campaign has been engulfed in controversy after she volunteered her views on sexual ethics.

A member of the socially conservative Free Church of Scotland, she told Channel 4 she would have voted against same-sex marriage had she been an MSP at the time but added, "I will not row back on rights that already exist in Scotland".

Speaking of having children outside of marriage, she told Sky News: "For me, it would be wrong according to my faith, but for you I have no idea what your faith is. So, in a free society you can do what you want."

A range of senior SNP members publicly withdrew their support for her in the wake of her comments.

But former Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, Rev Norman Hamilton, highlighted the reaction of UK Equalities Minister Kemi Badenoch to the situation. Ms Badenoch said: "I actually admire her for not being dishonest. It's very easy for her to tell lies, just so that she could win that election. And she's not doing that."

The cleric added: “To be praised for not being dishonest is an important comment on the scale of dishonesty in political circles and in wider society.”

He noted that one of the seven Nolan Principles for public life in the UK is honesty.

He said there was a danger that too many politicians have “no coherent worldview” and operate on a very pragmatic ethical basis during political careers.

However the danger of this, he said, was that there are “no agreed values”, which can make for “chaotic” government. And he noted that politicians who had followed their conscience in the face of strong opposition in history had been a force for good, such as David Trimble and the Good Friday Agreement and William Wilberforce and the abolition of the slave trade.

He concluded: “If you don’t bring your own personal values to politics, whose do you bring? And why are they more important than your own”.

However Scotland’s Deputy First Minister John Swinney said he “profoundly” disagrees with her, despite being “a man of deep Christian faith”.

“I think it has been unhelpful that the debate has been focused on the question of faith, because in my view it has got nothing to do with faith,” he said. “The Church of Scotland undertakes same-sex marriage, and I warmly congratulate and compliment the Church of Scotland on getting carefully to that position over some years.”

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Scottish Health Secretary Humza Yousaf, who is also a contender, said he does not use his Muslim faith to legislate. “I couldn’t come on the programme in all sincerity and tell you I am able to change what Islam says about gay marriage or gay sex,” he told Times Radio.

“But the question is do people use the basis of their faith when legislating? I haven’t done so, I wouldn’t do so because I don’t believe that is the job of legislators and policy makers”. The News Letter February 23, 2023

SAINT EUGENE'S CATHEDRAL
150TH CELEBRATIONS
PRESENT

*Songs of Ireland
Afternoon Tea*

*with
Anne Marie Hickey
& friends*

SATURDAY - 18 MARCH - 1.00PM
CATHEDRAL HALL
TICKET ONLY EVENT - £20 - AVAILABLE IN PARISH OFFICE

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

ROOTED conference



ROOTED

Saturday 1st April 10am–4pm
St Stephen's Church
Millfield, Belfast BT1 1JS

Book now at:
<https://roc.uk.com/event/rooted-roc-northern-ireland-conference/>
(Or see link in bio)

Early bird price: £20
(booking closes 17th February)

ROC
NORTHERN
IRELAND

On Saturday 1st of April ROCNI will host a conference called 'ROOTED'

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This is an opportunity for churches and faith-based organisations to gather and explore what it means to be rooted in our faith and in our communities.

To book your place use this link

<https://roc.uk.com/event/rooted-roc-northern-ireland-conference/>

Among the organisations associated with ROCNI are - Irish Methodist Youth & Children's Department , The Methodist Church in Ireland, Church of Ireland , Church of Ireland Diocese of Connor, Presbyterian Church in Ireland, Diocese of Down & Dromore, NICVA Faith in Community

Hymns We Love - New publication and outreach course aimed at older generation

In June this year, The Good Book Company will publish Hymns We Love, a new outreach course written with the older generation in mind. Parishes who order course materials before 30 April will receive a 50% discount.

The course uses some of our most well-loved hymns to explore the Christian faith in a gentle but faithful way and is flexible enough to be used by groups of any size or one to one in someone's home.

Each of the 8 sessions features a professionally shot video and includes a rendition of the hymn around which are woven interviews, a short talk and a prayer. The course comes with a comprehensive leaders' guide.

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Find out more about the course at this link:

[\[https://www.thegoodbook.co.uk/series/hymns-we-love/\]](https://www.thegoodbook.co.uk/series/hymns-we-love/).

Special offer

Hymns We Love launches in June 2023, but the publisher is offering a 50% discount to Church of Ireland churches who order course materials before 30 April 2023. This reduces Leader's Kits to £12.50 and participants' handbooks to £2 each. To place an order email robin.fairbairn@thegoodbook.co.uk or order directly at www.thegoodbook.co.uk/hwl, using the code HWL50 at the checkout to receive discount.

You can also contact Robin on 07841469165.



God at work in Children and Young People with Laurence & Millie Bellew

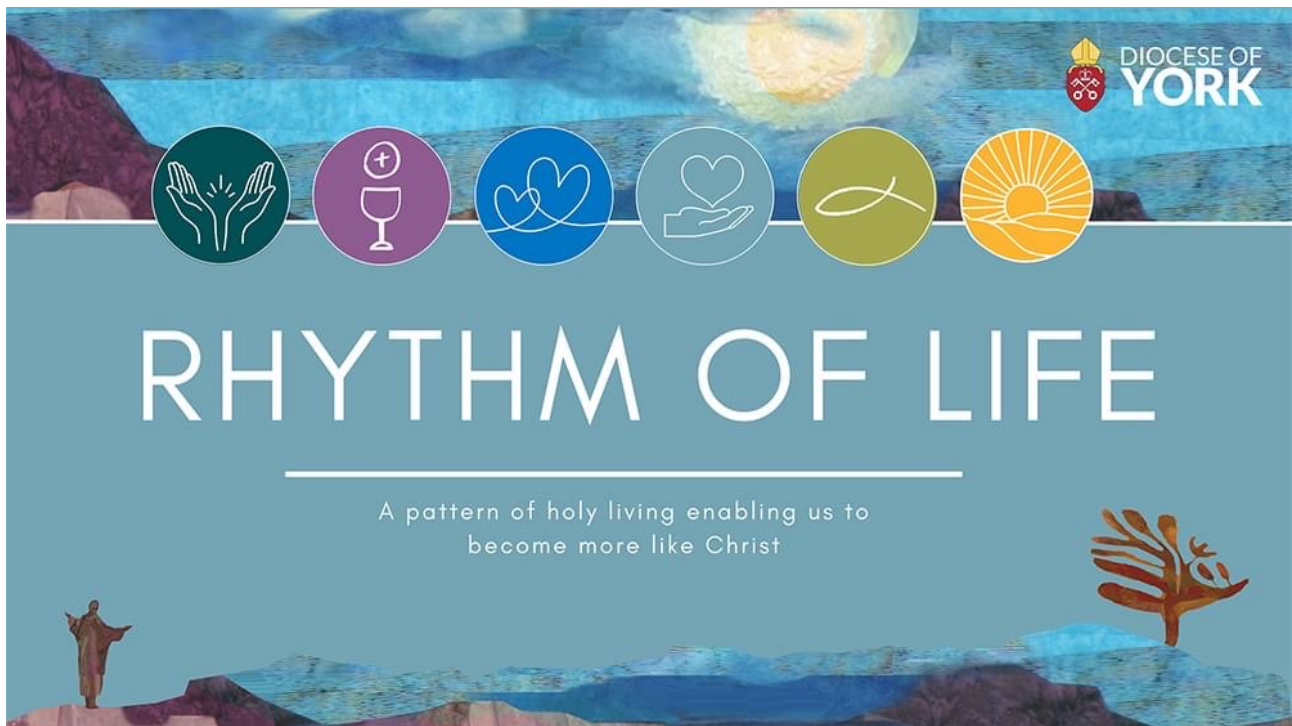
The first film in the Down and Dromore series on Transformations for Lent 2023 features Laurence & Millie Bellew. Laurence Bellew grew up in foster care and now he

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and his wife Millie are foster carers. They also open up their Newry home for youth church.

Link at -

<https://www.downanddromore.org/news/2023/02/god-at-work-in-children-and-young-people-with-laurence-and-millie-bellew>



Rhythm of Life - a framework or pattern of holy living

The Diocese of York has launched resources to invite people to develop a Rhythm of Life - a framework or pattern of holy living which helps us to become more like Christ. Exploring themes of prayer, worship, love, generosity, witness & rest. Firstly, prayer.

For written and video resources visit:

<http://ow.ly/SgL650MUxqG>

Reminder - The Marriage Course, starting online from 20th April 2023

The Marriage Course sponsored by the C of I Marriage Council is a series of seven online sessions, designed to help couples invest in their relationship and build a strong marriage.

Nicky and Sila Lee, authors of The Marriage Book, developed The Marriage Course for couples looking for practical support to strengthen their relationship. The course is designed to help couples build strong foundations, learn to communicate more effectively and resolve differences well.

The course will run each Thursday evening online from the comfort of your own home - there's no counselling, no airing of dirty linen in public, no group discussions, and to top it all it's absolutely free.

Reserve your place at
<https://themarriagecourse.eventbrite.co.uk>

Poem for today

Woods in Winter
by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

When winter winds are piercing chill,
And through the hawthorn blows the gale,

With solemn feet I tread the hill,
That overbrows the lonely vale.

O'er the bare upland, and away
Through the long reach of desert woods,
The embracing sunbeams chastely play,
And gladden these deep solitudes.

Where, twisted round the barren oak,
The summer vine in beauty clung,
And summer winds the stillness broke,
The crystal icicle is hung.

Where, from their frozen urns, mute springs
Pour out the river's gradual tide,
Shrilly the skater's iron rings,
And voices fill the woodland side.

Alas! how changed from the fair scene,
When birds sang out their mellow lay,
And winds were soft, and woods were green,
And the song ceased not with the day!

But still wild music is abroad,
Pale, desert woods! within your crowd;
And gathering winds, in hoarse accord,
Amid the vocal reeds pipe loud.

Chill airs and wintry winds! my ear
Has grown familiar with your song;
I hear it in the opening year,
I listen, and it cheers me long.

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
