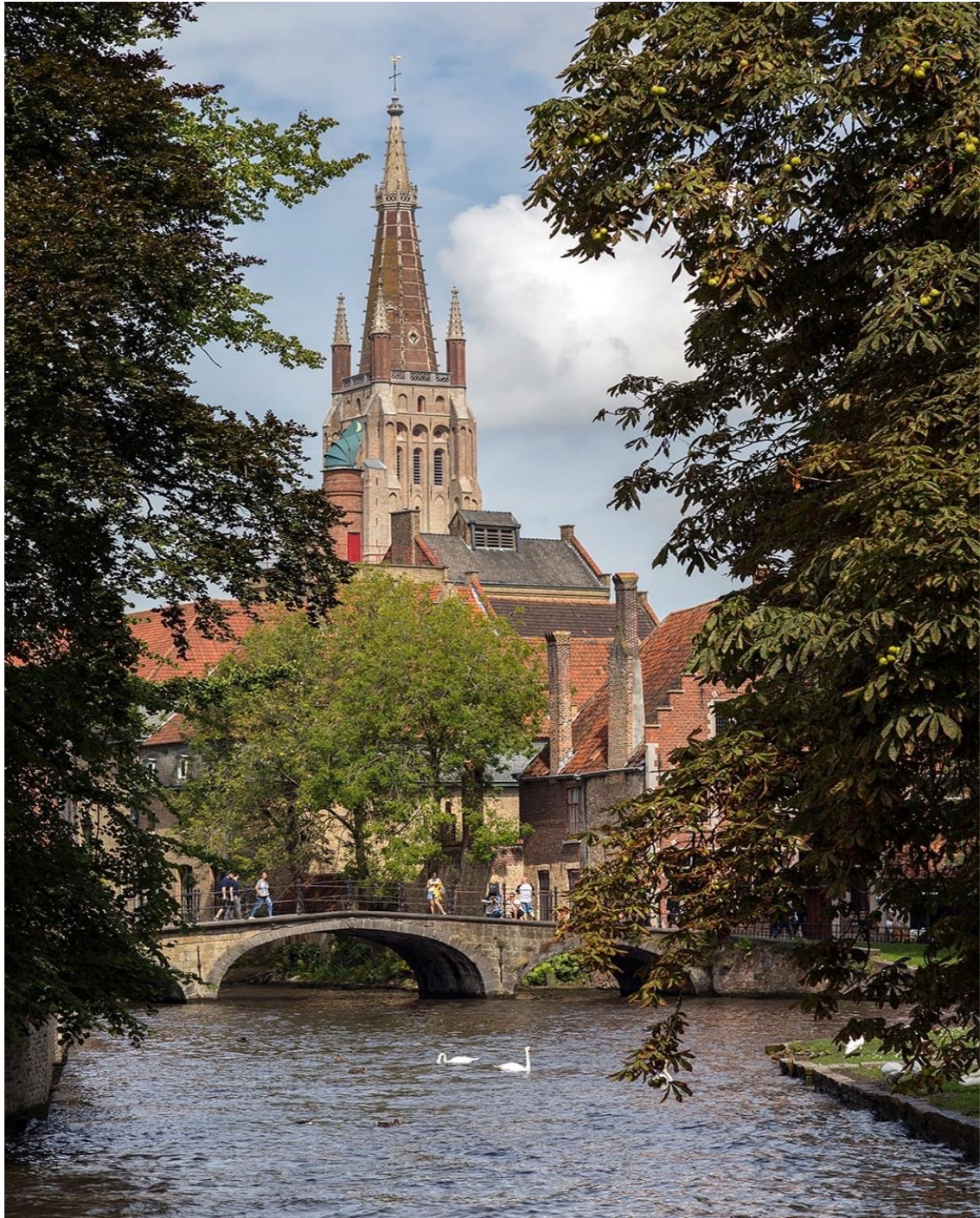


# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – Bruges**

## Image of the day

### Bruges

The Belgian city is a favourite church crawl for CNI. Highly recommended by boat, horse-drawn coach and on foot.

## People and places



## Dambusters Concert in Lincoln Cathedral - 13th May



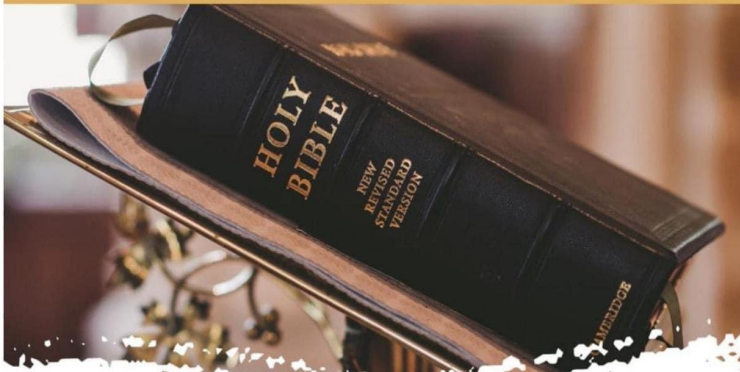
January 20, 2023

Lincoln Cathedral Nave will become the stage for a special concert performed by the band of the Royal Air Force College. This is to mark the 80th anniversary of the 617 'Dambusters' Squadron which Lincolnshire was home to.

Lincoln Cathedral was a land mark for many aircraft on the east coast during WW2. The Royal Air Force has a significant war memorial chapel in the Cathedral

To learn more, visit <https://lincolncathedral.com/forthcoming-events/dambusters-anniversary-concert/>

**NEWTOWNABBEY CHURCHES FELLOWSHIP**  
**BIBLE WEEK 2023**



*YOU ARE INVITED TO*

**HOPE 23**

**LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF PETER**

**SPEAKER: BISHOP KEN CLARKE (FANTA)**

**SUNDAY 22ND JANUARY – THURSDAY 26TH JANUARY 2023**  
**7.30 PM EACH EVENING**

**LOCATION: MOSSLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL,**  
**HAZELBURN ROAD, NEWTOWNABBEY, BT36 5NA**

**WORSHIP GROUP & TESTIMONIES (JOINT NEWTOWNABBEY CHURCHES )**  
**FREE EVENT // EVERYONE WELCOME**



Christ  
Church  
Cathedral  
Dublin

## Organ Open Afternoon

Saturday 25th February

4-6pm

See the Cathedral and Crypt!  
Have a go on the Organ!  
Hear the King of instruments in action!

Suitable for ages 10-18

Some keyboard proficiency encouraged

This event is FREE

To book a place, contact the Organist and Assistant Director of Music:  
[james.short@christchurch.ie](mailto:james.short@christchurch.ie)

## Have a go on the cathedral organ

**Ever wondered what it's like to play 3 keyboards at once? Or to play music with your feet?**

Don't miss out on a chance to see this wonderful instrument up close. Contact [james.short@christchurch.ie](mailto:james.short@christchurch.ie) for more information and to book a space. This event is for ages 10-18 and is free!

## News reports

### Tullamore welcomes ‘sanctuary’ recognition

**Tullamore Presbyterian Church in County Offaly has been recognised as a ‘Church of Sanctuary’ by the independent voluntary organisation Places of Sanctuary Ireland for its ongoing work in welcoming and supporting asylum seekers, refugees and those who have also settled from overseas.**

As part of their mission, the all-Ireland organisation states that it ‘works to build a culture of welcome, hospitality and inclusiveness right across every sphere and sector of society...’ building a network of groups in towns and cities, which includes community groups churches, schools and universities ([ireland.cityofsanctuary.org](http://ireland.cityofsanctuary.org)).

Speaking about the award and the congregation’s ongoing ministry in this area, Rev William Hayes, minister of Tullamore Presbyterian Church said, “As a congregation, we have been honoured to be able to welcome people from many places and backgrounds over the years. It is also an honour to be recognised as a Church of Sanctuary for our work with those seeking safety and protection.”

Mr Hayes continued, “Tullamore, like most Irish county towns is an astonishingly diverse place for its size and rural

context. An example of that local diversity became very apparent back in 2008 when a discussion with some mums and dads at our parent and toddler group revealed that out of the 44 attendees that day, 22 were of different ethnicities and national groups.

“This has meant that in order to simply be a local church working within our parish we had to learn to be a community that reaches out and provides a welcome space for people of many different nationalities and backgrounds. For the first few years of my ministry here, which began in late 2005, and the ministries of my two predecessors, work amongst ethnic minority communities was simply an extension of our more general work in the local community,” Mr Hayes said.

The work took on a more deliberate character from late 2013 when the church was approached by Offaly County Council to be involved in a refugee resettlement programme for Hazara refugees from Afghanistan. The families had come to Ireland having originally fled to Syria. Mr Hayes explained that the church’s role was to provide a meeting place every Thursday afternoon for the families to come together and meet Irish people from their own neighbourhoods.

At the same time ‘a good neighbour’ programme was started, involving people in the local community who could help and support the refugees in the place where they had been settled. “This resulted in a fascinating mix of people from many different parts of the world meeting together in our building on Thursday afternoons. Once the formal phase of the resettlement programme had finished there was a strong desire among the Afghan community and the people



involved to keep the Thursday drop-in going, while expanding it to people of other nationalities. This became, what we rather grandly call, the International Welcome Centre, which has become a place of grace and blessing for people who have made Tullamore their home,” he said.

Along with families from Afghanistan and Syria, people from Russia, China, Iran, Sudan, Brazil, Germany, France, Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, Ukraine, Italy, India and Turkey find a warm welcome at the centre. “Over the years the character of the work has changed with the Welcome Centre evolving with the different waves of migration that has come through Tullamore. We have, for the most part, been blessed with translators or shared and common languages such as Persian, Russian or Spanish. When someone arrives with no common language then we are very thankful to be living in the era when Google Translate exists!

“As a church, work amongst the refugee, asylum seeker and immigrant community has become a much more intentional activity for us, than simply a by-product of reaching out to the general community, as we are called to do as Christians. Many have also become part of our church community too, worshipping on a Sunday, which is wonderful,” Mr Hayes continued.

Presenting the Church of Sanctuary certificate to Tullamore, Andy Pollak said, "As a board member of Places of Sanctuary Ireland, and somebody with a Czech refugee father and an Irish Presbyterian mother, it is a real joy to be able to present Tullamore Presbyterian Church with this certificate and welcome them into the Sanctuary family.



Presenting the Church of Sanctuary certificate of recognition to Tullamore Presbyterian Church in the County Offaly church are (left to right) Paul Granger one of Tullamore's elders, Andy Pollak, Places of Sanctuary board member, Rev William Hayes, minister of Tullamore Presbyterian Church with clerk of session, Eleanor Dwane Smyth and fellow elder Keith Serviss.

"This marks only the beginning of their Sanctuary work. There is a huge need for good-hearted people in this country to reach out a hand of friendship and welcome to the poor, lonely, often frightened people from overseas who have come to Ireland seeking work or sanctuary, not least to prevent the kind of fear-inspired far-right reaction that we have seen in few places in Ireland, Britain and other European countries recently."



Mr Pollak continued, “As Dublin Central Mission, the first Methodist Church of Sanctuary in Ireland said in its pioneering Welcome the Stranger project, ‘We as a church desire to be a place of welcome, love and support to those who have found themselves in our city.’

Thanking him, Mr Hayes concluded by saying, “We welcome this recognition by Places of Sanctuary Ireland, and I am glad to say that we are not alone in the work that we do. While we are the first Presbyterian Church in Ireland to receive this award, there are many congregations in our denomination across Ireland, including PCI’s two International Meeting Points in Belfast, doing similar engaging gospel work in the name of Jesus. I would like to commend my brothers and sisters in Christ across this island, and people of no faith, as together we welcome asylum seekers and refugees to our shores and support them in their time of need.”

## **Los Angeles: Presiding bishop leads King Day ‘Power of Love’ celebration, call for housing justice**

### **Diocese commits 25% of church campuses to affordable housing**

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, along with Bishop John Harvey Taylor and Mayor Karen Bass, issued a rousing call for housing and socioeconomic justice at the Jan. 15 annual King Day celebration in the Diocese of Los Angeles, where

more than 40,000 are homeless and five people die daily on the streets.

Curry delivered a spirited “the power of love urges us on” revival message to hundreds of cheering and applauding ecumenical, church, civic, and community leaders who packed Christ the Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in the city’s historic Leimert Park neighborhood for the annual celebration, [livestreamed here](https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=watch_permalink&v=531885298723010) -

[\[https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=watch\\_permalink&v=531885298723010\]](https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=watch_permalink&v=531885298723010)

“We gather to remember the memory and then live the legacy. We are here not only to commemorate the life and sacrifice of Martin Luther King but to commit ourselves anew to the cause of love and liberty and justice and compassion and humanity and goodness and truth, again,” Curry said amid applause and cheers. “A legacy is not lived by somebody after the person has passed on who gives it. All that is, is a dead end. A legacy must be lived.”

Taylor said the diocese, in embracing truth-telling and its own legacy of racism, is in part focused on housing equity, “which Dr. King was talking about over 60 years ago.”

Turning to Bass, he said: “One doesn’t get a chance to make a campaign promise to the mayor very often, but here goes: We have 128 churches, not just in your magnificent city but all over six counties in Southern and Central California. Homelessness is a regional crisis, and we’re committed to building affordable permanent supportive housing on 25 percent of our church campuses.”

Two such projects currently are under construction; one more will break ground in the summer, Taylor said. “There are 10 more on the drawing board. By your inspiration, and the light of Dr. King’s witness, as we follow the presiding bishop and by the grace of Almighty God, there are 20 more to come in the name of love.”

## **The chain reaction of love**

Curry’s three-day Los Angeles visit included meetings with local clergy, ordaining five new priests, serving as keynote speaker at a dinner in his honor and preaching at the King Day celebration.

His sermon was frequently interrupted by applause, laughter and cheers as he praised the soul-stirring music of The Episcopal Chorale, directed by Chas Cheatham, a canon, and “the moral and spiritual leadership” of Taylor’s commitment to build affordable housing on 25 percent of diocesan church campuses.

“That’s a nice resolution for General Convention; just sayin’,” Curry quipped, amid laughter and cheers. “We pass a lot of resolutions, but this one is tangible. Thank you for that kind of moral and spiritual leadership, in the times in which we live.”

Such leadership is emblematic of the life of King, he added, preaching from St. Paul’s second letter to the Corinthians” (2 Corinthians 5:14). “‘The love of Christ urges us on.’ You can’t just sit in the pew when the love of Christ is urging you on.”



When the power of love rules, the rest is like a chain reaction, he added. Dr. King said it this way: 'We must discover the redemptive power of love. When we discover that, we will make of this old world, a new world. For love is the only way. And, if Paul didn't get it for you, and Dr. King didn't quite get it for you, maybe Jimi Hendrix will. Jimi said it this way: 'When the power of love overcomes the love of power, then the world will know peace.'"

Full report at -

[\[https://www.episcopalnewsservice.org/2023/01/17/los-angeles-presiding-bishop-leads-king-day-power-of-love-celebration-call-for-housing-justice/\]](https://www.episcopalnewsservice.org/2023/01/17/los-angeles-presiding-bishop-leads-king-day-power-of-love-celebration-call-for-housing-justice/)

## In the media

### **Peace Heroines celebrates pioneering women of Northern Ireland**

BBC News - Peace Heroines honours women from right across Northern Ireland's religious and political spectrum, she said. "All these women are from very different ...

[\[https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-64217478\]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-64217478)

### **Wexford altar servers embrace the past by wearing traditional garments for first time in 36 years**

Independent.ie - Readopting the old form of dress was a significant moment for the Parish, said Faith Representative Conor Brennan

[\[https://www.independent.ie/regionals/wexford/news/wexford-altar-servers-embrace-the-past-by-wearing-traditional-garments-for-first-time-in-36-years-42293872.html\]](https://www.independent.ie/regionals/wexford/news/wexford-altar-servers-embrace-the-past-by-wearing-traditional-garments-for-first-time-in-36-years-42293872.html)

# Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

## Walking and talking – Series of events focus on mental health and wellbeing

**A series of events to encourage and support positive mental health will take place in the dioceses 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. The first, on Wednesday February 8 at 8pm, will take place in St John the Baptist Parish Centre, Seafield Road, Clontarf, Dublin 3. The second will be on Friday March 10 at 8pm in Castleknock Parish Centre, Castleknock Road, Dublin 15. The speaker will be Cariosa Walsh, ICP accredited individual and group therapist and the talks are aimed at resourcing those struggling with their own mental health or who are supporting others who are.

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 April 2 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

May 7 the Revd Ruth Noble will lead a walk in the Phoenix Park (meet at the Papal Cross) from 3pm to 5pm. On

# What is Mental Ill-Health?

**Signs, Symptoms & What To Do About Them**



**Two free Talks aimed at resourcing those struggling with their own mental health or supporting others who are.**

**Wednesday 8th February, 8pm:**  
St. John the Baptist Parish Centre, Seafield Road, Clontarf, Dublin 3. D03 VW22

**Friday 10th March, 8pm:**  
Castleknock Parish Centre, Castleknock Road, Dublin 15. D15 DK54

**Speaker: Caríosa Walsh, ICP accredited individual and group therapist.**



**Doras Oscailte**

## Walks of Wellbeing

Gentle, guided walks with a focus on friendship and mindfulness

**Sunday 2nd April**  
St. Anne's Park, Raheny  
(meet at the Red Stables)  
3-5pm  
Led by Rev. David White

**Sunday 7th May**  
Phoenix Park  
(meet at Papal Cross)  
3-5pm  
Led. by Rev. Ruth Noble

**Saturday 27th May**  
Glendalough  
(meet at St. John's Church, Laragh)  
11am-4pm  
Led by Rev. Brian O'Reilly  
(please bring water and a packed lunch)

*More information on any of these events at*  
**086 0386415**  
**087 9091561**



Saturday May 27 the Revd Brian O'Reilly will lead a walk in Glendalough (meet at St John's Church, Laragh) from 11am to 4pm. Walkers in Glendalough are asked to bring water and a packed lunch.

Canon Lesley Robinson has encouraged people to come along and spread the word about the events. "The Mind Matters project is a great opportunity for us in the Church to reach out to those who may be struggling with their mental health, supporting others who are, or just conscious about the need to protect it. I was delighted when the Revd Garth Bunting approached me about organising some joint events in our Rural Deaneries and hope they will be of benefit to many people," she commented.

The Revd Garth Bunting added: "I'm especially looking forward to the walks we have planned. The idea of combining exercise, promoting friendship and taking pauses to reflect and pray, seems to me to be like little pilgrimages or caminos right on our doorstep. And they help promote mental health."

"I have benefitted personally from seeking out help with my mental health. About 15 years ago I went to see my GP about feeling down. I was diagnosed with depression. My GP set me on a journey to improve my mental health and psychotherapy has been at the core of that. Today, I manage my mental wellbeing in a much better way, and know quickly when I need to give it more attention," he added.

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



## PCI Podcast returns

**The first podcast episode of 2023 explores everyday evangelism.**

Many people have a deep relationship with Christ but find themselves tongue tied in talking about their faith with friends, colleagues and neighbours.

January 20, 2023

Philip Houston (Ballykelly Presbyterian), Phyllis Linton (West Church, Ballymena) and Neil Harrison (Congregational Witness Development Officer) and host Rev David Thompson explore the challenges for evangelism today and share some suggestions to grow in confidence in talking about the good news in everyday life.

Listen via link or wherever you get your podcasts from - <https://audioboom.com/posts/8231198-069-sharing-faith-growing-in-confidence>

Sign up to Sharing Faith, Growing in confidence, a four-part programme starting in February.

More details here:

[www.presbyterianireland.org/sharingfaith](http://www.presbyterianireland.org/sharingfaith)

## **The Mothers' Union online shop sale**

New Year Sale is still on! Lots of reduced products available [www.mueshop.org](http://www.mueshop.org)

## **Free E-Book January**

Whether you're just feeling a bit lost or having a full "quarter life crisis", this funny, honest and hopeful book reveals the difference Jesus makes to the challenges of adulthood.

Download until the end of January:

[www.thegoodbook.co.uk/free-ebook](http://www.thegoodbook.co.uk/free-ebook)



## Poem for today

### From Ode to the West Wind by Percy Bysshe Shelley

O wild West Wind, thou breath of Autumn's being,  
Thou, from whose unseen presence the leaves dead  
Are driven, like ghosts from an enchanter fleeing,

Yellow, and black, and pale, and hectic red,  
Pestilence-stricken multitudes: O thou,  
Who chariotest to their dark wintry bed

The winged seeds, where they lie cold and low,  
Each like a corpse within its grave, until  
Thine azure sister of the Spring shall blow

Her clarion o'er the dreaming earth, and fill  
(Driving sweet buds like flocks to feed in air)  
With living hues and odours plain and hill:

Wild Spirit, which art moving everywhere;  
Destroyer and preserver; hear, oh hear!

Thou on whose stream, mid the steep sky's commotion,  
Loose clouds like earth's decaying leaves are shed,  
Shook from the tangled boughs of Heaven and Ocean,

Angels of rain and lightning: there are spread  
On the blue surface of thine aëry surge,  
Like the bright hair uplifted from the head

January 20, 2023

Of some fierce Maenad, even from the dim verge  
Of the horizon to the zenith's height,  
The locks of the approaching storm. Thou dirge

Of the dying year, to which this closing night  
Will be the dome of a vast sepulchre,  
Vaulted with all thy congregated might

Of vapours, from whose solid atmosphere  
Black rain, and fire, and hail will burst: oh hear!

## 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)

