

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Sixmile River

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Sixmile River

The Sixmile river rises in the hills west of Larne and flows westwards through Ballyclare, Templepatrick, Dunadry, Muckamore and Antrim where it flows into Lough Neagh. The river was the power behind the growth of the linen industry in its valley. As technology developed to harness water-power the mills could grow larger and were sited farther down stream. The industrial archaeology of the river still evidences small canals customarily called races, and weirs or 'by washes'. Yarn processing, bleaching, dyeing, weaving, flax dams and scutch mills featured. After WW2 linen was overcome with synthetic fibres and lower labour costs despite linen workers never being paid high wages. But the river still flows on and eels, salmon and trout still entice anglers.

People and places

Belfast's EastSide Choir is recruiting for male voices

EastSide Choir would love to hear from male voices who would like to join their community choir.

EastSide Choir is for all experiences and walks of life - there are no auditions and you don't need to read music. All you need is a willingness to learn, a sense of humour and an interest in lots of different tunes.



**EastSide
Choir is
recruiting for
male voices!**

email
katy@eastsidepartnership.com
for more info

Rehearsals are on Tuesday evenings from 7pm - 9pm.
For more information or to be invited to the first rehearsal in
February email katy@eastsidepartnership.com

Coming events

Friday 28th January, Stepping Forward: Stepping Up
Webinar - Stepping Forward: Stepping Up is a Presbyterian
Church Congregational Life, programme for four events

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equipping those who have been thrust into the leadership limelight with the tools they need to lead well in this and every season of church life. 10.00 am. Copy and paste - <https://www.presbyterianireland.org/Events.aspx>

Sunday 29th January. Diocesan Big Sing in St. Maeldoid's

Church, Castleblayney at 7pm. A warm invitation is extended to all parishioners and the wider community across the diocese of Clogher and beyond!

Saturday 4th February. Sharing Faith – growing with confidence

Presbyterian Church four session event. Online and in person.

<https://www.presbyterianireland.org/Events.aspx>



Sunday 5th February. Launch of Church of Ireland Pioneer Ministry Initiative

The Archbishops of Armagh and Dublin will formally launch and commission the Pioneer Ministry initiative and team in St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin at 15:15 on the 5th February

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2023. Sermon by the Archbishop of Wales, the Most Reverend Andy John. For contact information see - <https://www.pioneerministry.org>

St Columb's School of Music presents The Swingles on a Tour of Ireland

ST. COLUMB'S
SCHOOL OF MUSIC

PRESENTS

THE SWINGLES

THURSDAY 2ND MARCH
ST. COLUMB'S HALL
DERRY
7.30PM

SATURDAY 4TH MARCH
ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL
DUBLIN
8.00PM

PRICES FROM £5 PRICES FROM £10

PURCHASE TICKETS AT: WWW.STCOLUMBSSCHOOLOFMUSIC.COM

".. never less than dazzling" - Washington Post
"superhero singing" - The Guardian

The Swingles will perform two concerts for the School of Music and are one of the world's most admired and loved vocal groups. With a natural flair as entertainers, their stylish, classy shows take them to venues and festival stages across the world.

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Concert Dates:

Thursday 2nd March: St Columb's Hall, Derry/Londonderry - 7.30pm

Saturday 4th March: Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin - 8pm

You can purchase tickets, for either concert, from our website:

www.stcolumbsschoolofmusic.com

News reports

Clonard Monastery support for Baby Basics greatly appreciated

Clonard Monastery nominated Baby Basics Belfast for its Crib Appeal for Christmas 2022, and this week presented a cheque for £4,000 to Karen Webb, Church Army Evangelist in Connor's North Belfast Centre of Mission.

Expressing her thanks to Clonard Monastery, Karen said: "Baby Basics Belfast provides much needed support to families in crisis on both sides of our divided community and is based in our Centre of Mission, St Columba's Church, Ballygomartin Road.

"The referrals all come through a variety of support agencies including midwives, health visitors and social workers."



Karen Webb, Church Army Evangelist in Connect Base, Connor Diocese's North Belfast Centre of Mission, receives a cheque for £4,000 from Father Peter Burns, rector, and Father Ciaron O'Callaghan of Clonard Monastery.

Inter-church walk in Derry's Waterside marks Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Around 80 people took part in an evening walk by worshippers from three of the Waterside churches to mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

The ecumenical event began in All Saints, Clooney, where participants were welcomed by the Rev Andrea Cotter. Rev



Cotter told those present that the theme for this year's week was 'Be-Longing: praying for unity amidst injustice'. Globally, the week was focusing on the injustice of racism, but here the service was being adapted to also take account of issues such as racism and sectarianism.

The congregation sang a number of hymns at All Saints before making their way the very short distance to Clooney Methodist Church, virtually next door.

There was laughter when the youngest member of the congregation rushed to the front of the church to join his father - the minister, Rev Peter Morris! Rev Morris performed a minor miracle of sorts by continuing to lead worship - which included hymns and prayers - while keeping a gentle, restraining hand on his son. The youngster discovered that thumping his father's microphone could make a funny noise in the church's sound system - much to



the congregation's amusement and his father's embarrassment.



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There was less drama during the third and final part of the joint service, which took place in St Columb's Church. The 80 participants walked up Chapel Road to the church.

Worship there was led by the Parish Priest, Fr Michael Canny, who invited those in church to challenge racism and sectarianism.

Afterwards, the dozens of walkers enjoyed refreshments together in the parish hall beside St Columb's Church.

Methodist President attends Holocaust Memorial Week Act of Remembrance

Having attended the Holocaust Memorial Week act of remembrance at Belfast City Hall, the President of the Methodist Church in Ireland, the Revd. David Nixon said:

"It was an honour and a privilege to join in today's act of remembrance, keeping in our thoughts and continued prayers the memory of all those many millions put to death under the Nazi regime as well as those who survived with the memory of the horrors they witnessed and the losses they bore intact.

"It is such a commonplace and clichéd thing to say that it is important to continue to remember the atrocities of the past so that they cannot recur in the future, but the truth of that statement remains as strong as ever.

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"It behoves people of faith to continue to trust that God will put an end to suffering and let his road to peace be discovered in the minds of those best placed to bring that peace into being on earth. But whether your faith is strong or non-existent, there is much we can do as people to encourage one another on a path of acceptance, tolerance and peaceful dialogue so that the hatred, bitterness, fear, cynical manipulation and wilful unwillingness to understand that brought about the Holocaust can one day truly be consigned to history.

"May the past liberate, not shackle us, and may our mindfulness of its lessons guide us towards peace and progress."

Comprehensive agenda at C of I Standing Committee

The Standing Committee of the General Synod met in an online format on Tuesday, 24th January 2023.

Ken Gibson opened the meeting with a reading from Matthew 28.16–20 and in prayer, looking ahead to the new and innovative work of Pioneer Ministry in line with Great Commission and the service for its national launch in St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, on Sunday, 5th February 2023.

The Archbishop of Armagh welcomed Archdeacon Andrew Orr (Cork, Cloyne and Ross) and Archdeacon Patrick Bamber (Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh) on their election to the Standing Committee.

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The Standing Committee received a presentation on the potential use of electronic voting for elections to Standing Committee by General Synod members from each diocese, from Canon Malcolm Kingston and Mr Jonathan Hull, Communications Officer for the Diocese of Armagh. Members indicated that they were content, in principle, to proceed with this method of voting for future elections.

The Standing Committee approved the terms of reference for the Pioneer Ministry Governing Council, and the terms of reference document for the Select Committee to review clergy tenure; the establishment of the Select Committee will be proposed by a resolution at General Synod 2023.

Members were informed that a resolution for a revision of the current bills procedure would be brought to General Synod 2023, with a series of online meetings for members of General Synod to be held in advance to inform them about the proposals.

On the recommendation of the Central Communications Board, the Standing Committee approved a grant of €4,500 to support the publication of the SEARCH journal for 2023–2024.

The following appointments were made:

Ms Hilda Connolly, Mr Alan Williamson, and Dean Stephen Farrell as representatives of the Standing Committee on the Pioneer Ministry Governing Council;

Bishop Michael Burrows, Canon Helene Steed, the Revd Dr Bob Cotter, and Mr Roy Totten as representatives of the

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Standing Committee on the reference group on the interchangeability of ministry with the Moravian Church;

the Revd David White as the Church of Ireland representative to attend the next yearly meeting of the Religious Society of Friends in April 2023; and

Mrs Hilary McClay as a trustee on the Board of Christian Aid, succeeding Ms Rita Day.

In accordance with the Standing Committee's strategy for rotating invitations to appoint delegates to attend General Synod, the Honorary Secretaries were request to issue invitations to attend the General Synod in 2023: to the Presbyterian Church, the Methodist Church, and the Roman Catholic Church, each to appoint two representatives; and to the Irish Council of Churches, the Moravian Church, the Church of England, the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland, the Lutheran Church, and the Antiochian Orthodox Church, each to appoint one representative.

In the media

Pope Francis decries German Synodal Way as 'neither helpful nor serious'

In an interview published Wednesday, Pope Francis decried the German Synodal Way as elitist, unhelpful, and running the risk of bringing ideological harm to Church processes, AC Wimmer writes for CNA

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“The German experience does not help,” the pontiff told Associated Press when asked about the controversial process, explaining that dialogue should involve “all the people of God.”

The 86-year-old pontiff contrasted the German event, which is not a synod, with the universal Church’s recently extended Synod on Synodality.

Francis said on Tuesday that the global synod’s aim was to “help this more elitist (German) path so that it does not end badly in some way, but so is also integrated into the Church.”

While Pope Francis did not delve into details of the demands made in Germany, he plainly described the Synodal Way as perilous.

“Here the danger is that something very, very ideological trickles in. When ideology gets involved in church processes, the Holy Spirit goes home, because ideology overcomes the Holy Spirit,” he said in the wide-ranging interview that also included remarks about the Church’s stance on homosexuality, the loss of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI — and his health.

Since its launch by Cardinal Reinhard Marx in 2019, the German Synodal Way has courted controversy.

Participants have voted in favor of draft documents calling for the priestly ordination of women, same-sex blessings, and changes to Church teaching on homosexual acts, prompting accusations of heresy and fears of schism.

Concerns have been publicly raised by Church leaders from Poland, the Nordic countries, and around the world.

Fears of a “dirty schism” from Germany have increased over the past few months, as organizers of the Synodal Way in November refused a moratorium on the process suggested by the Vatican.

In his interview published Wednesday, Pope Francis insisted: “Always try to unite.”

Just two days earlier, on Monday, the latest Vatican intervention against the Synodal Way revealed that even participants in the process are anything but united: Five German bishops, it was reported, had asked Rome to clarify concerns over a synodal council.

Participants of the German Synodal Way in September 2022 voted to create such a controlling body that would permanently oversee the Church in Germany.

The Vatican stated in a letter published Jan. 23 that the Germans are not authorized to install a permanent synodal council to oversee the Church in Germany. The missive was formally approved by Pope Francis.

Despite all these interventions, the Synodal Way — “Synodaler Weg” in German, sometimes translated as the Synodal Path — is currently still expected to continue as planned by its organizers. The next (and so far final) synodal assembly is scheduled to take place in Frankfurt in March.

Courtesy of CNA Newsroom, Jan 25, 2023

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Winter edition of Down & Dromore Church Planting News

The Winter 2023 edition of Down & Dromore Church Planting News focuses on how church plants are seeking to achieve two of the aims of Bishop David McClay's 10-year vision – to be places of spiritual growth and communities which raise up new leaders.

There are reports from Killicomaine, Dundrum, The Gathering and Tullycarnet, plus an update on the Killough Outreach to Kids and Youth now being led by Billy Fyffe.

This issue also contains details of the Joy of Generosity Matched Funding that's in place for 2023. A Northern Ireland Christian Charitable Trust has generously offered to add a 50% match to all new income we receive this year from individuals or groups who partner with us financially in our church planting work.

Link for download at -

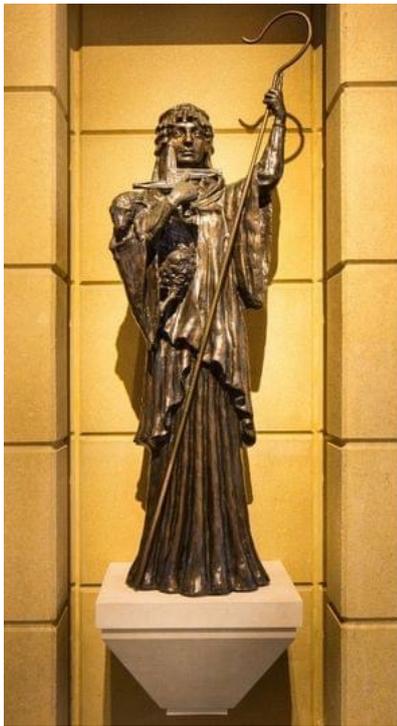
<https://www.downanddromore.org/news/2023/01/winter-edition-of-church-planting-news>



St Brigid's Cross workshop in St Canice's

Come and learn the art of weaving and how to make your own St Brigid's Cross and the history behind it.

Drop in anytime from 12noon - 4pm, schools, groups and individuals all welcome.
No booking necessary!



St Brigid's Day Lecture

Wednesday 1st February at 7.30pm
St Bride's Parish Centre

Guest Speaker: Michael Kelly
(Editor of The Irish Catholic)



Editor Michael Kelly will be speaking in Belfast next week about the challenges facing the Church in Ireland.

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**The talk is on Wednesday February 1 on the subject:
"When the Son of Man comes will he find faith on
Earth?" The Future of Irish Catholicism. All welcome.**

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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