

Church News Ireland

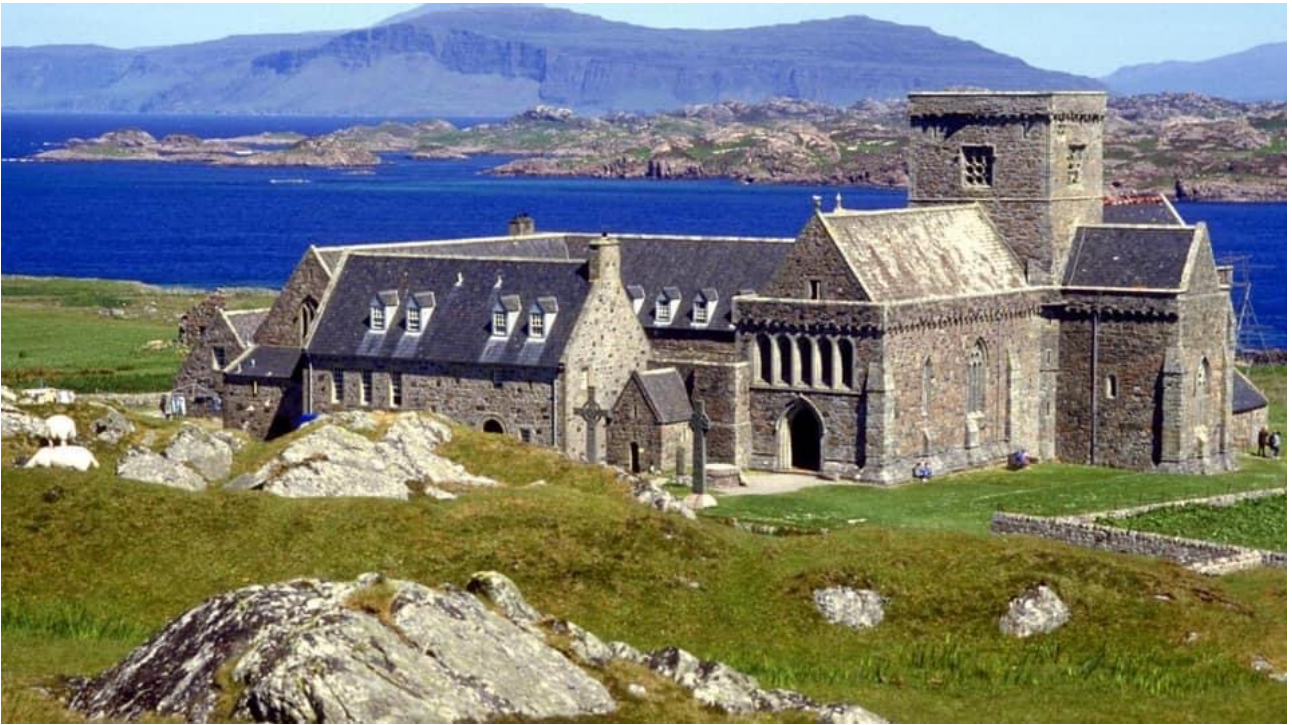


Image of the day – Iona Abbey

July 13, 2022

Image of the day

Iona Abbey



People and places

Mothers' Union firsthand insight on Sri Lanka

Indra Ponniah, the immediate past provincial president of Mothers' Union Sri

Lanka, visited Mary Sumner House this week.

She talked to MU staff about the fond memories of her 25-years long association with Mothers' Union, the current work she's doing and the cost of living crisis that Sri Lanka is currently going through.



While we read about the agony of the Sri Lankan people in the news and pray for their peace and safety, we're still far removed from what is Indra's lived reality. "A loaf of bread now costs between Rs.150-300 (about £1.5-3), people can't buy essential products such as cooking oil, rice or gas because they have run out of stock, and travel has become impossible due to the rising fuel prices", she told us. On her part, she is trying her best to do what she can in partnership with the church to help those she can, "We are now planning to start a community kitchen for people who can't afford to eat. We are also donating a small amount of money every month to girls' homes to contribute towards their education".

The only solution, she feels, is if the current government is replaced by a younger, more aware government that understands the plight of the common people. We recognise and applaud her resilience in these difficult times, and truly pray that her country is able to rise from this crisis soon. See Archbishop of Canterbury's letter on page 13.

Lay leadership in parishes inevitable with decline in clergy numbers - Bishop Leahy

Bishop of Limerick Brendan Leahy has said that rapid changes necessary to deal with the decline in clergy numbers means we must look towards lay leadership in parishes and work closer together in the Church.

Commenting as he published forthcoming clergy appointments, Bishop Leahy said that lay people will be leading a range services going forwards, from prayers at funerals to the parish preparation of children for the sacraments.

Outlining the changes, Bishop Leahy thanked clergy for their co-operation and helpfulness in the process of discerning new appointments. Three priests – Frs. Anthony O’Keefe, Frank Duhig and Ed Irwin – are retiring, while Fr. Séamus Madigan is returning to the Diocese after his years ministering with the chaplaincy services to the Defence Forces where he served in recent years as Head Chaplain.

As a result of the decline in priest numbers, a number of pastoral units will be losing a clergy member, Bishop Leahy said. “It’s not news any longer to say the numbers of clergy in active ministry is declining rapidly. The ageing profile of clergy is also now very evident. It is clear at this stage that we can no longer guarantee the celebration of a Mass in each church in the Diocese each Sunday.

“The rapid changes are calling us to envisage and work towards putting in place new forms of lay leadership in our

July 13, 2022

parish communities. As per our Pastoral Plan that came out of our Limerick 2016 Synod, we have already begun formation programmes to help lay people assume new pastoral roles. We need to build on this. We are hopeful others will step forward to offer their services.

“We will need lay people to lead prayers at funerals, at gravesides, to visit schools on behalf of the parish, to be involved in pastoral councils and baptismal teams, to help with the practical administration of parishes.

“Thankfully, in the Diocese of Limerick there are many fine lay people with competencies and faith commitment and they will contribute much to the future shape of things”.

 **Day of Prayer**
10am - 2pm
Saturday 9th July

St. Patrick's Church of Ireland
Ballymacarrett
220 Newtownards Road
Belfast, BT4 1GZ

Prayer, Worship, Reflections,
Silent waiting in the Presence the Lord
Join us anytime between 10am - 2pm

“If my people, who are called by my name, shall humble themselves, pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will heal their land.” 2 Chronicles 7:14

In his letter to clergy to announce the changes, Bishop Leahy noted that working closely together will be essential as the Church adapts. “We all need to work urgently to prepare for the new arrangements that are needed in the coming years. It is in working together, encouraging each other and facing challenges with peace of soul combined with realism and determination that we move forward,” he added.

Dublin in the Rare Auld Times

A statue of King William III stood outside Trinity College.

It was unveiled in 1701 on the 11th anniversary of the Battle of the Boyne. Trinity students took exception to the statue not facing the College. The statue stood in situ until the late 1920s, when it was removed by Dublin Corporation, after it had been damaged in a bomb attack. It was never replaced and now a statue of Thomas Davis, a Trinity graduate, stands on the spot and his statue faces the College.

Presbyterian Moderator attends commemoration in Dublin

The new Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland travelled to Dublin to take part in a National Day of Commemoration. Having been installed in Belfast last month, it marked the first formal event for the Rt Rev Dr John Kirkpatrick

July 13, 2022

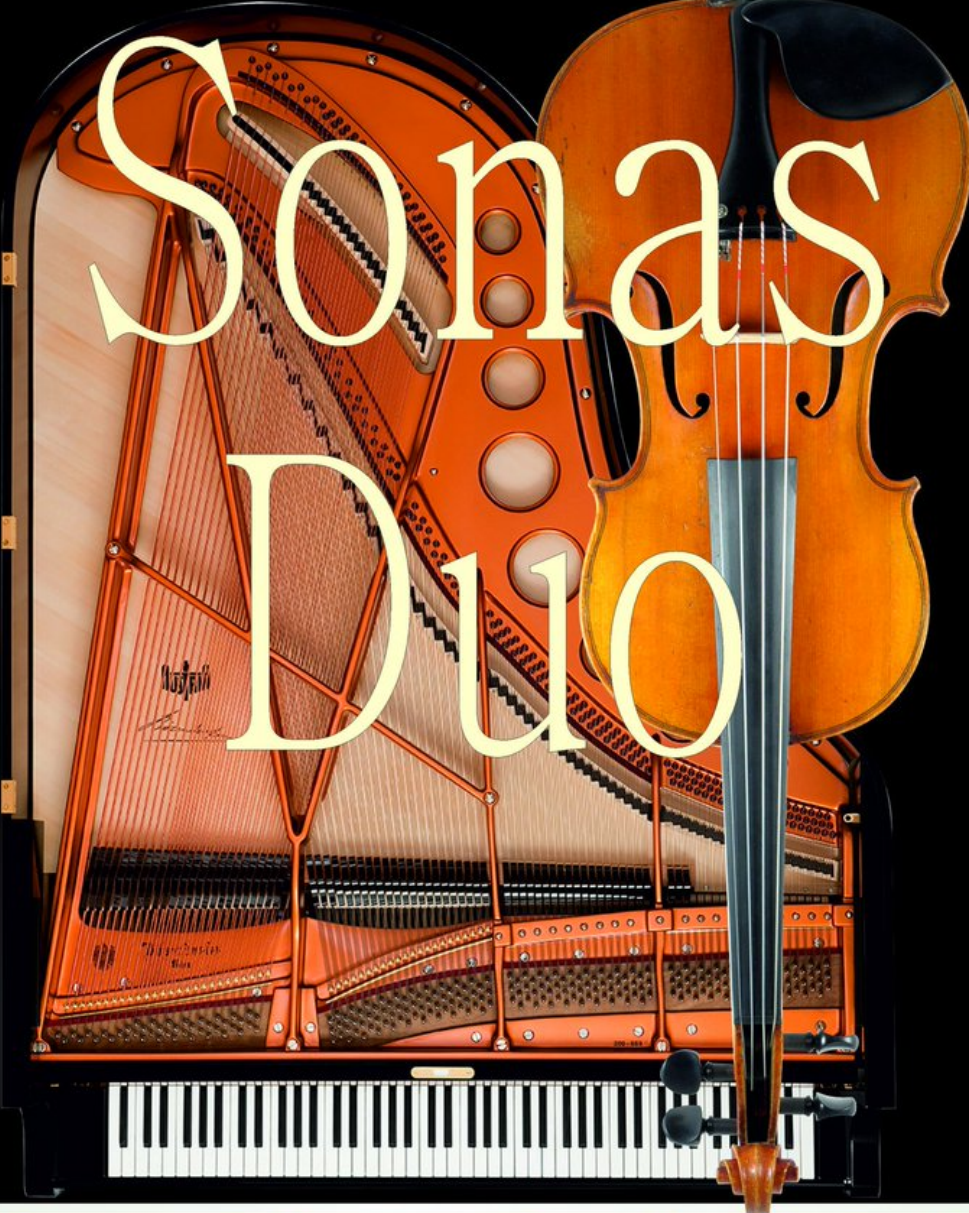
As part of the commemoration in the Republic of Ireland, Dr Kirkpatrick read the closing prayer during the event, which


**ST. NICHOLAS SCHOLA CANTORUM
SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE CONCERTS
COLLEGIATE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS, GALWAY**

**FRANCESCO
DI
NARDI
-
PIANO**

**DAVIDE
FORTI
-
CELLO**

Sonatas Duo



**Collegiate Church of St Nicholas
Saturday, July 16th
at 11.00**

**Coffee and baked goodies served at 11am, followed by a
45 minute recital. Tickets: €10 on the door**

July 13, 2022

remembers the service of those Irish men and women who lost their lives during previous conflicts.

Taking place annually on the nearest Sunday to July 11 — coinciding with the truce to the Irish War of Independence in 1921 — the Limavady-

born

Moderator was joined by Irish President Michael D Higgins and Taoiseach Micheal Martin at the National Museum of Ireland.

President Higgins, who is also the Supreme Commander of the Irish Defence Forces, led the commemoration and laid a wreath which was followed by a minute's silence.

COFFEE MORNING
IN AID OF
AIR AMBULANCE NI

AIR AMBULANCE
NORTHERN IRELAND
CHARITY

SATURDAY 16TH JULY
9AM - 1PM

RAMOAN PARISH
CENTRE
BALLYCASTLE

JOIN US FOR COFFEE AND CAKE ON THE 16TH JULY TO
RAISE FUNDS FOR AIR AMBULANCE NI,
IN MEMORY OF TRACEY AND FRED

Everyone Welcome

July 13, 2022

Representatives of families whose loved ones died in past wars or on UN service as well as descendants of the leaders of the 1916 rebellion were also invited.

The ceremony concluded with a gun salute, the playing of the Last Post and Irish national anthem, and an Air Corps flypast.

Other commemorative events were held in Cork, Galway, Kilkenny, Limerick and Waterford on Sunday morning.

Speaking after the event, Dr Kirkpatrick said: “It has been an honour and a privilege to be able to represent Presbyterians from across Ireland at this important act of remembrance and say the closing prayer during the Christian act of worship.

“At this significant time in the history of the State, as this year marks the centenary of the beginning of the Irish Civil War, we remember those who fought against one another, brother against brother, on this land 100 years ago and those Irishmen and Irishwomen who paid the ultimate price in the Great War and the Second World War.

“We also remember the 87 service personnel who paid the same high price on the many peacekeeping tours that the Irish Defence Forces have conducted and continue to conduct in countries with the United Nations.”

CNI

News reports

Church will not punish clergy for failures to hit net-zero goals

The Church of England's failure to meet its carbon-neutral targets will not result in punishments for clergy, despite a Bishop warning that its reputation is "at risk".

In 2020, General Synod, the Church's legislative body, voted to cut its target for carbon neutrality by 15 years.

The Church's net-zero target was originally 2045, but the vote amended this to a deadline of 2030, under a plan called the Routemap.

In York, at the first in-person meeting of Synod since the pandemic, Rosemary Wilson, a lay member of the Synod from the Diocese of Southwark, described the 2030 net-zero target as "ambitious", and asked in a written question: "If targets aren't met, would there potentially be penalties?"

The Bishop of Norwich, the Rt Rev Graham Usher, who is the Church's environment lead, responded that "there is some reputational risk with the target should it not be met".

However, he added: "There will be no penalties. The Routemap is not legislation; it is a positive plan to help parishes and others work towards Synod's target from February 2020.

July 13, 2022

‘If the Church is to have credibility on this important issue, it also must get its own house in order’

“There is some reputational risk with the target should it not be met. The key is to make significant real reductions in energy use year on year and get our energy from ‘green’ sources, in order both to reduce our climate impact and to reduce the need for offsetting.”

Over the weekend, the Synod endorsed plans to help the Church reach its target by encouraging cathedrals, churches, schools and theological education institutions to make changes to day-to-day activities to cut emissions.

Paediatric First Aid Courses

- Accredited courses
- Experienced Trainer
- Affordable cost



Book now:

☎ 07747 332770

✉ churchesfirstaid@mail.com

@Firstaidforchurches



July 13, 2022

A spokesman for Operation Noah, a Christian charity working with the Church to tackle climate change, said the charity “would encourage the Church of England to go further by factoring into its net zero calculations the land its Church Commissioners own”.

However, they added: “We nevertheless applaud this target and see it as an important step in the right direction. “If the Church is to have credibility on this important issue, it also must get its own house in order, and this net-zero commitment is a recognition of that.”

“If the Church is to have credibility on this important issue, it also must get its own house in order, and this net-zero commitment is a recognition of that.”

must get its own house in order, and this net-zero commitment is a recognition of

Church News Ireland

St Columb's Cathedral
Londonderry

Lunchtime
Organ
Recitals
July 2022
Thursdays 1.10pm - 1.50pm

7th Dr Derek Collins
Organist St Columb's Cathedral

14th Nicky Morton
Assistant Organist St Columb's Cathedral

21st Jack Wilson
Graduate Organ Scholar Ely Cathedral

28th Tristan Russcher
Associate Organist St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast

ADMISSION FREE

Derry City & Strabane District Council
Comhairle Chathair Shire & Chuanair an tSráidh Búin
Derry City & Strabane District Council

July 13, 2022

that.”

“If the Church is to have credibility on this important issue, it also must get its own house in order, and this net-zero commitment is a recognition of that.”

Archbishop of Canterbury’s concern for the Church of Ceylon



THE ARCHBISHOP
OF CANTERBURY

As Metropolitan Archbishop of the Church of Ceylon, I have watched the terrible crisis in Sri Lanka with horror, and heard of the suffering of the people with intense grief. This is a human tragedy on an enormous scale.

As the Bishops and people of the Church of Ceylon, you have worked tirelessly to help those in need, and to speak courageously about the way forward for the country of Sri Lanka. May God bless you for your determination and bravery.

As this crisis worsens, I call on the Anglican Communion to pray fervently for peace and for all the people of Sri Lanka. It is only a few years since the end of a catastrophic civil war; this crisis is a reminder that reconciliation is indispensable for future stability. Reconciliation involves justice in the economy as well as healing of memories. May God bring reconciliation to Sri Lanka, may its churches and all its people be willing to embrace their neighbours, providing for a future of hope and grace.

With assurance of my continuing prayers, and in the peace of Christ,

Archbishop Justin

Archbishop Justin Welby writes - As Metropolitan Archbishop of the Church of Ceylon, I have watched the terrible crisis in Sri Lanka with horror.

I call on the Anglican Communion to pray fervently for peace and for all the people of Sri Lanka.

Christian Aid responds to reports of deaths in South Sudan from starvation

Following the announcement that the World Food Programme has had to stop food distribution in South Sudan, there are now reports that three people in Warrap state have died of starvation.

Jane Backhurst, senior adviser at Christian Aid, said: “Christian Aid believes in life before death, and that every life counts. These lives lost due to starvation, with South Sudan at the tipping point towards widespread death show once again that governments' commitment to preventing death and genuinely honouring life is hollow.

“Eleven years since the creation of South Sudan, its people demonstrate stunning strength and resilience to the deadly trio of continuing conflict, climate induced shocks and the lasting effects of Covid and limited vaccines. Soaring food and fuel prices have now added to this to form a toxic quartet. The economy is in a downward spiral, livelihoods are eroded and lost, farmland destroyed by four years of floods, and food prices have doubled in a few months as the effects of the war in Ukraine are felt.”

She continued: “We saw starvation coming in 2017, but collaboration between governments, UN and charities averted large scale death and disability. Christian Aid has been raising the alarm about escalating hunger in South Sudan since 2020. 82% of the population are struggling to get enough food, 62.7% are in food "crisis", on the verge of famine or facing death. And numbers will increase as precious and dwindling funds have been moved from areas of "crisis" to areas of potential famine, even before the current lean season.

“Aid has dwindled. The UK cut 59% of its aid last year, and only 36% of the UN-led country appeal is funded. This flouts the UK's commitments last autumn to anticipate and respond quickly to early signs. Its announcement of "new support" to the Horn of Africa last week, was largely repackaged funding. Globally, \$21.5 billion dollars is required to support 43 million people on the brink of famine, fighting for their lives, and the G7 could only commit to helping 25% of them this week. For millions this will be too little, too late.

“But the UK Government can decide to reallocate funds from its budget, robustly and transparently consider how to generate additional support in real terms. It could use the proceeds from the sale of Chelsea FC to support these people also suffering from the effects of the Ukraine crisis - to respond as if this is an emergency. This is what being a "global player" is about, and this not only saves the UK money in the medium term, but it also saves every unique and priceless life now being lost.”

July 13, 2022

Vacancy

Faughanvale Presbyterian and Parish Churches Eglinton, Co. Londonderry.

Applications are invited for the position of **Church Outreach and Youth Support Worker**

This is a full-time permanent appointment (37.5 hours per week),

Salary will be in the range of £19,488 to £23,181pa
depending on qualifications and experience

The main functions of the job will be to support existing leaders and organisations; to support and reach out to children and young adults and families within the congregation; and to maintain and develop the outreach of the congregation to young people in the local community.

The person appointed will have an OCN Level 2 or equivalent qualification in youth work or a minimum of 3-years' experience in working with children and young people in a church setting.

For further information, or to request an application pack, please contact

Name: Trevor Evans

Tel: Number: 07718153848

Email: evans341@btinternet.com

**The closing date for the receipt of applications will be
12 noon on Friday, 29 July 2022**

July 13, 2022

Vacancy

Dundrum Methodist Church



JOB DESCRIPTION

Title: Children and Family Worker
Type of Contract: 1 Year contract (10 hours per week)
Responsible to: Dundrum Methodist Church, Dublin
Reporting to: Church approved Line Manager

Note: This post involves regular dealings with young people and other vulnerable groups. Accordingly, the appointee to this post will be subjected to successful Garda clearance and working within the Methodist Church in Ireland's Safeguarding Trust policy.

We believe that family is a crucial aspect of church and community life. We are therefore seeking to employ a passionate and experienced children and family worker.

The successful candidate will develop our growing ministry amongst children (0–12yrs) and initiate new ministry opportunities with families.

We are looking for someone who:

- Is a spiritually mature Christian with a heart to reach children and families for Christ.
- Is a team player with a natural ability to relate to children and families.
- Is creative, enthusiastic, self-motivated and able to organise themselves and others effectively.
- Has experience of working with children and families, preferably in a church context.
- Is happy to work under the ethos of the Methodist Church in Ireland

Responsibilities would include but are not limited to:

- Working with our established children's leaders and groups to help develop a well-rounded children and family ministry within the church.
- Encouraging more family interaction. Developing family events and support.
- Organising special children and family events/services within the church calendar.
- Assisting with bringing groups to Soul Mates and helping with our annual Summer Club.
- Ensuring that all children's activities are operating within the Methodist Church in Ireland's Safeguarding Trust policy.
- Liaising with the Youth Pastor to help transition children from kids to youth ministry.

Find more information please email Stephen.taylor@irishmethodist.org
Applications due in by 25th July 2022.

We're hiring a Children and Family worker. More information available on the following link <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1dZI08huVLQJmZzcKqBvOM3LNNOowvLbq?usp=sharing>

In the media

Childhood intrigue at root of fascination with the Twelfth - Malachi O'Doherty

Sights and sounds of drums and flutes live long in the memory - Malachi O'Doherty writes in the Belfast Telegraph

As a child, I was in awe of the Twelfth. I lived a short distance from the Field. The M1 passes through it now and that traditional route is long abandoned. But in the 1950s and 1960s, I could stand in Finaghy Road North and watch the parade and the bands arrive.

We kids would hear the distant drums and flutes on the breeze. The anticipation of seeing the first banners rise over Finaghy railway bridge was a strange mix of awe and wariness.

We understood the cultural aversion to Orangeism before we could articulate any reason for it.

I suspect people around us worried that the fascination with the spectacle would override the appropriate sectarian response.

It was as if you were seeing hostile forces march into your territory and found them so colourful and rhythmic and magnificent that you forgot to be afraid.

July 13, 2022

The sound would grow louder and the first trickle of men in collarettes came over the brow of the bridge.

A disappointing sight. Then the banners, one by one. As they reached the top of the rise, the wind would catch and level them.

It reminded me of a prayer we said in the Legion of Mary, 'Who is she that cometh forth, as the morning rising, fair as the moon, bright as the sun, terrible as an army set in battle array'.

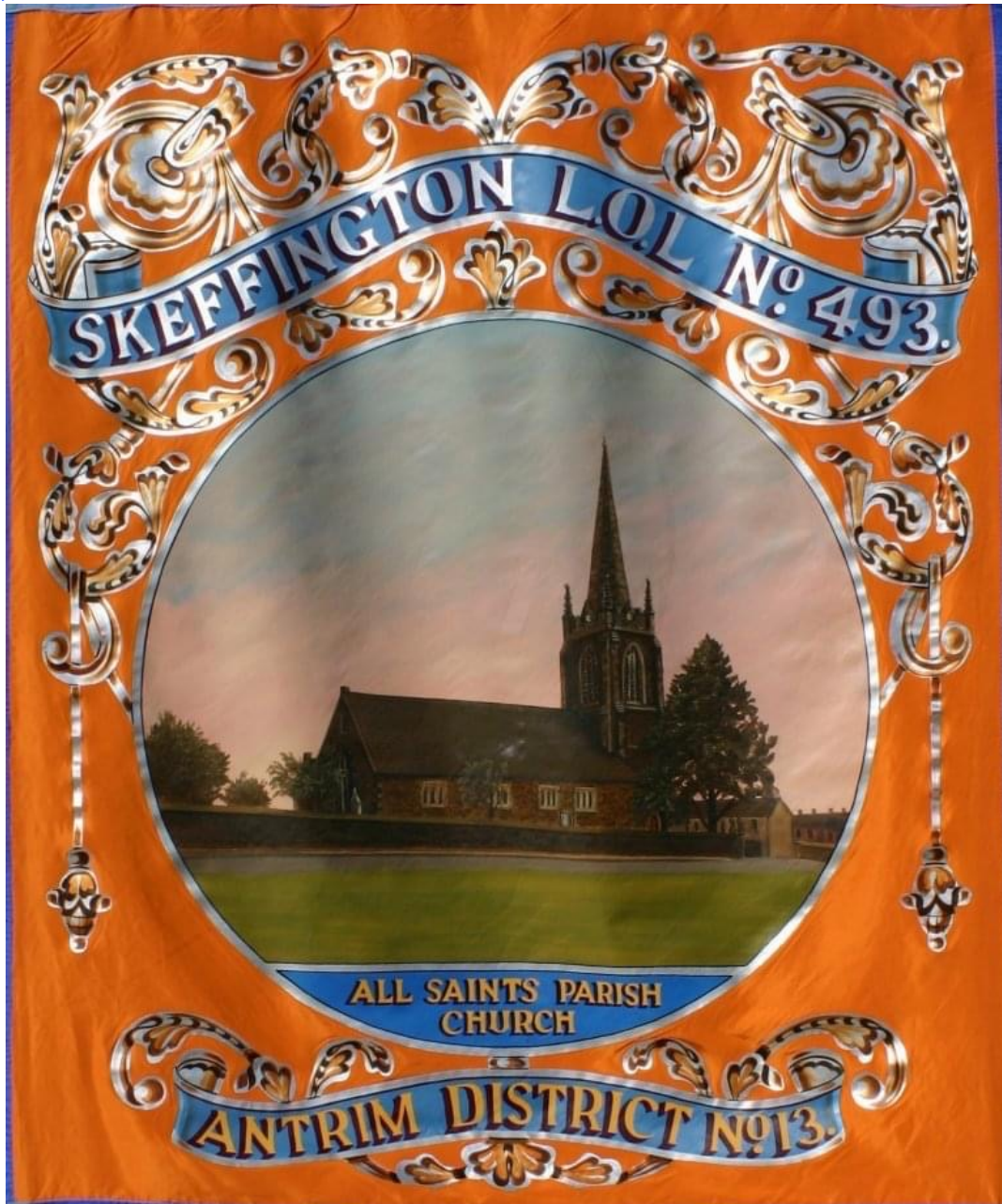
It was a poetic enhancement of blander verses from the Song of Solomon (6:10), 'Who is she who looks forth as the morning, Fair as the moon, Clear as the sun, Awesome as an army with banners?'

It had been a bit presumptuous of the legion to treat that Old Testament poem as homage to Mary of Nazareth, the carpenter's wife, since it was written so long before she was born, but everyone reshapes history to suit themselves.

And since that was written for people who had battlefield clashes in their tradition, they presumably knew that ambiguous mix of fear and wonder for real. I was just a child imagining it.

There was no reason to be afraid.

The Orangemen presented no threat to us, nor we — or our neighbours — to them.



We would go to the opening of the field and read the banners up close.

I wondered, what was a temperance lodge? I'd watch them tramp in, settle themselves on the grass where some would take off their shoes and socks and rub their sore feet.

Was this how wars were fought in the past, between armies of men that were already footsore and weary before the battle began?

July 13, 2022

We backed off from talking to them, wondered if they would see through us to our suspicion and disdain.

Of course they knew that they were in a Catholic area. Somewhere along the Lisburn Road, or when they had turned up into Finaghy, the cheering crowds had thinned out and disappeared.

There would be no warm welcome at their destination. They must have known that.

But they brought opportunity with them. We could gather up some of their discarded lemonade bottles and take them to the shops to get money back on them, 3d on each.

Then the shops began to realise that they were taking back more bottles than they had sold and started refusing them.

When I ran home to tell my mum and dad about the marvels we had witnessed — and to show them how much money we had made — they were not amused.

They told me to put the money away and save it for a day trip to Donegal. And as the day wore on, all that lemonade and whatever else they had been drinking, would need release.

Two young Orangemen called at the door and asked to use the toilet. My mother chased them and spent much of the day on lookout for others coming into our garden and peeing behind the hedge.

July 13, 2022

She had already cut the orange lilies that might have signalled a welcome to them, knowing the codes of sectarian living better than I did.

We had Protestant neighbours in Riverdale then. It wasn't an exclusively Catholic estate. These were mostly police families. A peeler could cycle to work from there then down to the station at Dunmurry that we called 'the barracks'.

A friend of mine showed me his father's pistol and we took it up to a bedroom window and tried to fire it into the back garden.

If any of our neighbours walked on the Twelfth I saw no sign of it. Nor did any hang out the Union flag.

Years later, a woman with Protestant cousins told me that her Orange friends and relations would pocket their collarettes, climb over a fence and come up to her house for tea. They were the lucky ones.

In the evening, the weary warriors would plod back to where they came from, leaving the flattened grass and their litter and more lemonade bottles. I felt sorry for them having to do that and couldn't comprehend that they would want to, but they found the energy from somewhere.

The drums and the flutes would start again, a little desultorily at first, and then with more energy as the limbs loosened up. They raised their banners and trudged off again, out of the field and up over the railway bridge, rising and descending and finally disappearing down the other

July 13, 2022

side while the music was still reaching us on the breeze an hour later.

Courtesy - Belfast Telegraph, July 12, 2022

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