

# Church News Ireland

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## Image of the day



## Ottawa's new Irish Famine Memorial

**Ambassador Concannon spoke at the unveiling ceremony of Ottawa's new Irish Famine Memorial at MacDonald Gardens Park.**

The Ambassador attended the unveiling alongside Mayor Mark Sutcliffe and city council members, James Maloney MP – President of the Canada Ireland Inter-Parliamentary Group and Mona Fortier Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and MP for Ottawa Vanier-Gloucester.

The memorial honours 360 Irish refugees who died of typhus after they made the long journey to Ottawa during the famine. These souls were finally laid to rest in a mass



grave in what is now Macdonald Gardens Park, a site that had been previously been lost to history. The Embassy hosted the first ever commemoration and remembrance event of the victims at MacDonald Gardens Park in August 2022.

The bronze shoes memorial at Macdonald Gardens Park forms part of the Global Irish Famine Way, an extension of the National Famine Way and will be the largest heritage trail in the world. It will eventually follow the journeys of all the Irish Famine emigrants around the world, including the UK, Canada, the United States, South Africa, and Australia. The first leg of the Global Irish Famine Way was launched in May 2024 in St John's Newfoundland and Labrador.

Find out more about the Global Irish Famine Way project at the link below:  
<https://lnkd.in/eTT5v8eg>  
Photo at -  
[\[https://www.ireland.ie/en/canada/global-irish-famine-way-the-longest-heritage-trail-in-the-world/\]](https://www.ireland.ie/en/canada/global-irish-famine-way-the-longest-heritage-trail-in-the-world/)





# News



## Burial service for First World War British soldiers

**The remains of eight British soldiers, including four who have been identified by name, have been laid to rest this week in France, more than 108 years after their deaths in the First World War.**

The burial service, organised by the Ministry of Defence's Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre (JCCC) took place at the CWGC Loos British Cemetery Extension.

## New President for SSAFA in Northern Ireland

**Templepatrick native, Danny Kinahan, late the Blues and Royals and a former MP and Veterans**

**Commissioner for Northern Ireland, is the new President for SSAFA, the Armed Forces charity in Northern Ireland.**



Growing up in a family where many of his relations had served during #ww2, Danny's parents also regularly hosted and supported military families during The Troubles. Joining the Armed Forces seemed natural career choice.

After Sandhurst, Danny's first posting out of country was to Cyprus serving with the United Nations as he commanded a troop patrolling the peace line between Turkish and Greek forces.

In 1983 and now a captain, he returned home to Northern Ireland, undertaking a six-month operational tour with the First Battalion The Black Watch.





## ***Floral Carrickfergus***

After further postings, Danny left the Regulars in the mid-1980s to return home to manage the family farm in Templepatrick but remained a Reserve Officer with the Blues and Royals, before joining the North Irish Horse as Squadron Leader in Belfast. He was made the Honorary Colonel of the North Irish Horse and helped promote its role as part of the Scottish and North Irish Yeomanry.

More recently, Danny has been a political representative for the Ulster Unionist Party, serving the people of South Antrim in local Council, as an MLA at Stormont and as their Member of Parliament at Westminster.

He was appointed as Northern Ireland's first Veterans Commissioner in September 2020, championing the health and housing concerns of veterans in NI.

Of his appointment to SSAFA NI, Danny said: "It's an honour to be President of SSAFA NI as it is one of the very best service charities excelling at delivering support to veterans and their families.

"I hope to help SSAFA NI further reach out to veterans and their families and help improve the support environment so that the necessary care is both timely and as pertinent as possible to their needs."

Robert Dunne, branch chair of SSAFA NI, added: "I'm delighted that Danny has agreed to join us, and I know that he will devote the same energy in this new role as he so ably demonstrated as Northern Ireland's first Veterans Commissioner."

## **Anglican Communion Office welcomes visitors from the global Communion**

**The Anglican Communion Office was pleased to welcome visitors from several provinces across the global Communion this week.**

They included the Most Revd Dr Cyril Kobina Ben-Smith, Primate of the Church of the Province of West Africa and Bishop of Asante-Mampong, the Most Revd Vicente Msosa, Presiding Bishop of Igreja Anglicana de Mozambique e Angola (IAMA) and Bishop of Zambezia Missionary





Diocese, Delene Mark from HOPE Africa, the Rt Revd Lusa Nsenga-Ngoy, Bishop of Willesden and the Revd Sheenagh Burrell of the Angola, London, Mozambique Association (ALMA).

Visitors joined the Anglican Communion Office staff for a Eucharist, shared in fellowship over lunch and met with the Rt Revd Anthony Poggo, Secretary General of the Anglican Communion.

## Education

## Foyle College's living links with Merchant Taylors

**On Wednesday both Blake Gray, Class of 2016, and Robert Rankin, Class of 2023, had ceremonies at the Merchant Taylors'**



**Hall in London, when Blake became Free of the City of London and Robert became an Apprentice of the City of London.**

Robert was a member of Foyle College's winning Livery Academy Awards team in 2022, the same competition which saw Blake return to his alma mater in 2023 as one of the pupils' mentors. Best wishes, gentlemen!

## Dalriada represent NI Volleyball in Portugal

**Seven of our best return from representing NI Volleyball at a major event in Portugal.**

Many congratulations to Ellen, Brooke, Hope, Erin, Ruby, Rebecca, Abigail and Georgia who earned six victories from



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ten European matches. Special mention to our very own Ruby Caskey who captained the squad throughout.

## Cathedral Calls

### Heresy, the Nicene Creed and Orthodoxy - talk St Patrick's Deanery, Dublin

**The Council of Nicaea, in 325 AD, was the first ecumenical council in the history of the Christian Church.**

The meeting of bishops and church leaders at the direction of Emperor Constantine the Great resulted in the affirmation of the Holy Trinity and the formation of what would be known as the Nicanean Creed, which has been affirmed by Christians worldwide for 1,700 years.

On Saturday, 26th July, Dr Dafydd Mills Daniel, Lecturer in Divinity in the University of St Andrews and regular contributor to BBC Radio 4, will deliver a talk entitled 'Heresy! The Nicene Creed and the Invention of Orthodoxy' on the legacy of this pivotal event in the history of the Christian Church. Contributions and responses from Dr Janet Rutherford and Dr Alexander O'Hara will follow the key lecture, concluding with a reception of tea, coffee, and refreshments.

This event will be held in The Deanery, Kevin Street. It is free of charge to attend, but please RSVP by next Thursday afternoon (24th July) through the link provided as follows:

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<https://www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/event/lecture-marking-1700-years-of-the-council-of-nicaea>

## About the speaker

Dr Dafydd Mills Daniel is Lecturer in Divinity in the School of Divinity at the University of St Andrews. Before joining St Andrews in September 2022, Dafydd was McDonald Lecturer in Christian Ethics at the University of Oxford, where he was also Director of Applied Theology at Wycliffe Hall and Director of Studies in Theology at Jesus College.

Dafydd has contributed regularly to BBC Radio 4's Free Thinking on a range of topics including Adam Smith, Richard Price, national debt, St Teresa of Avila, John Knox, John Henry Newman, George Eliot, radical deism, individualism and community, and nature writing. His contribution on the 18th Century 'parson-naturalist' Gilbert White has been highlighted in the Radio Times.

Saturday, 26th July 2025 · 1pm · St Patrick's Deanery  
(Kevin Street, Dublin)

## Parking at St. Eugene's Cathedral

**Please be advised that parking at St. Eugene's Cathedral, Derry, is restricted for Cathedral**

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## **use only.**

Due to limited space, and to ensure safety, accessibility, and availability for those attending Mass, events, and pastoral appointments, we kindly ask that parking be reserved for Cathedral related activities only.

This change also supports our efforts to accommodate:

- Elderly and disabled visitors who require closer access
- Clergy and staff during working hours
- Funerals, Weddings, and other scheduled services
- Deliveries and essential maintenance access

We understand this may cause inconvenience, and we are grateful for your understanding and cooperation as we aim to serve our Parish as best we can.

## **Southwell Minster service focus of local churches in Thy Kingdom Come programme**

**We love hearing about the various ways churches participated in this year's Thy Kingdom Come such as this wonderful summary from churches in Southwell, Nottinghamshire:**

'For the very first time, all 7 churches in Southwell collaborated for Thy kingdom Come to run a 24-7 prayer room in 'The Upper Room' of Southwell Methodist Church, for the whole of the 10 days with the support of the National



24-7 prayer team. It was very much a Spirit initiated movement and for 'such a time as this'.

'It culminated in a co-designed ecumenical service in Southwell Minster on Pentecost Sunday, 8th June. This is the first time this has ever happened. The service was full of joy and thanksgiving for what The Lord has been doing in people's lives during this time of seeking Him together.

'In faith that hearts will be turning to seek Jesus for the first time, we held a 'What's Next?' event on 27th June so that people could invite those they had been praying for, providing them an opportunity to ask questions. There will also be Alpha courses running after the summer holidays too!



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'The Church of Christ in our town has never been more united to live out The Lord's Prayer in action and we are inspired to go up to the next gear in our prayer life for the town & its people now.'

## Clergy and ministry

### Laurence Bellew to be Commissioned by Church Army

**This Saturday, 19 July, Laurence Bellew will be Admitted and Commissioned by Church Army at their annual ceremony in Sheffield Cathedral.**

He is one of nine candidates who will be admitted into the Office of Evangelists under the authority of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York.

Laurence is currently the Youth and Community Pastor in HOPE Church Craigavon, and will be introduced as Minister-in-Charge of the Parish of Stormont on Tuesday 19 August. Please pray for Laurence and Millie as they take another important step on their ministry journey.

Laurence's faith journey began in Belfast, where his foster family first introduced him to church. At 18, he encountered Jesus, igniting a passion that led him into children's ministry and worship leading.

Now living in Craigavon with his wife Millie, their young son, and two rescue dogs, Laurence extends God's love by fostering children in need. His calling to ministry flourished



### **Laurence's story**

during his time with Hope Church, where his compassionate work with young people revealed a deeper purpose.

Through transformational training with Church Army, Laurence found a community that supported his unique calling. This experience has equipped him to serve effectively, deepened his faith, and prepared him for his next role as the Minister-in-Charge of the Parish of Stormont.

Reflecting on his Commissioning as a Church Army Evangelist, Laurence describes it as a milestone of joy and affirmation, enabling him to follow God's plan to reach those who feel lost.

## **Inter-church youth Bible Club in Kells, Meath**

**This week the C of I Youth Department along with a Presbyterian team from Ballymena, are supporting a**

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## **Bible club for young people in Kells, County Meath.**

“As well as parachute fun, we played a lot of table tennis and looked at Jesus and his friends in the Last Supper”.



## **Events**

### **Open Day at Abington Church, Murroe**

**Join us for a special Open Day at Abington Church this Sunday, 20th July from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM. Everyone is warmly welcome—come explore this beautiful and historic place!**

Nestled in the scenic countryside of Murroe, Abington Church dates back to the early 19th century. Steeped in history and local heritage, it's a peaceful spot filled with stories from centuries past.



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Whether you're interested in architecture, fellowship, local history, or just looking for a lovely Sunday outing, we'd love to see you there. Tea, chats, and friendly faces guaranteed!

📍 Abington Church, Murroe, Limerick

📅 Sunday, 20th July 🕒 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Come and discover the history – and heart – of our community.

([https://www.facebook.com/AbingtonChurch/?locale=en\\_GB](https://www.facebook.com/AbingtonChurch/?locale=en_GB))



## Ballance House Strawberry Fayre

**Top rural accordion band, Bailliesmills, and Scottish Country Dancers feature at The Ballance House**



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**Strawberry Fayre on Saturday, August 2 from noon until 4pm.**

This popular Ulster New Zealand Trust event ,on the Lisburn to Glenavy Road, comes complete with rolling entertainment, especially for those with young families



CURTIS MAGEE PRESENTS

Don't Miss Out On A Great Night Out

# Summer COUNTRY & GOSPEL Show

**Portstewart Presbyterian Church Hall**  
**THURS 31ST JULY & THURS 21ST AUGUST 2025**

CURTIS MAGEE, BILLY MCFARLAND, MARTIN MOORE,  
EUGENE O'DORNAN, REV. DAVID MCBETH, NIAL PATTERSON

**ADM £15**  
Payable at door

**DOORS OPEN 7.00PM CONCERT STARTS AT 7.30PM**  
*Join us for a great night of Country & Gospel Music & Praise!*

## Country Gospel Portstewart

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**Join Curtis Magee, Canon David McBeath and many more friends for an evening of great Country Gospel.**

Thursday, 31st July & Thursday 21st August at 7:30pm  
Portstewart Presbyterian Church Hall  
Admission is £15, payable at the door.

## Heritage

### **Meet Sir Percy Everett — The quiet giant behind Scouting's success**

**While Robert Baden-Powell rightly gets much of the spotlight, Sir Percy Everett was one of the true architects behind the growth of the Scouting movement!**

In 1906, Everett was appointed by Arthur Pearson to help Baden-Powell publish *Scouting for Boys* — the very book that launched a global movement.

In 1907, he played a part in the iconic Brownsea Island camp, even joining the boys for a day of pioneering adventure.

Then in 1908, he became the first Scoutmaster of the 1st Elstree Scouts, helping to bring B-P's ideas into real-life troop activities.

But his legacy didn't stop there...





In 1919, Everett organised the very first Wood Badge leadership training course at Gilwell Park — a moment that shaped how leaders are trained around the world to this day. The six-bead Wood Badge he received was later passed on to future Camp Chiefs, becoming a treasured tradition.

In 1930, Everett was knighted for his lifelong service to both the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, cementing his place as one of Scouting's most influential figures.

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Scouting isn't just built by heroes in the spotlight — it's built by those who quietly lead, organise, and inspire others to step up. Sir Percy Everett was one of those giants.

Drop a 🙌 if you've ever worn a Wood Badge or been inspired by a great Scout leader!

## 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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# Church News Ireland

[www.churchnewsireland.org](http://www.churchnewsireland.org)

**Link in Monday through Saturday from early morning**

**Please recommend to your friends**



