

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – €50,000 boost from Protestant Aid for Cork for Ukrainian Refugees project

Image of the day

Front page - Geoff Scargill, Protestant Aid, with Bishop Paul Colton at the recent Cork, Cloyne and Ross Diocesan Synod when the generous donation of €50,000 was announced for housing at Kingston College, Mitchelstown.

People and places

‘Protestant Aid’ boost of €50,000 for Kingston College Houses for Ukrainian Refugees in Mitchelstown

Protestant Aid, which was established 180 years to alleviate deprivation in Ireland regardless of religious, ethnic or social backgrounds, has donated €50,000 for the refurbishment of houses for Ukrainian refugees at Kingston College, Mitchelstown, County Cork.

Expressing delight, on behalf of the trustees of the Kingston College Charity Trust, the chairperson, Dr Paul Colton, Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, spoke recently at the Cork, Cloyne and Ross Diocesan Synod about the magnificent and generous work done by Protestant Aid throughout Ireland and in County Cork. Announcing the donation of €50,000 from Protestant Aid for the Kingston College housing project for Ukrainian refugees, Bishop Colton said:

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I am personally thrilled today, in the presence of representatives of Protestant Aid, to announce to you all that the CEO of Protestant Aid, David Webb, wrote to me two days ago, to confirm that Protestant Aid, on top of everything else it does for people will donate €50,000 to fit and equip the houses at Kingston College for our Ukrainian families. These substantial donations make our project possible.

The chairman of Protestant Aid, Trevor Watkins, spoke about his own delight, and that of everyone at Protestant Aid, at having the opportunity to support this project. He said:

It is a great honour and privilege for us to be able to donate €50,000 to the Kingston College Housing Project. Congratulations to the Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross Dr. Paul Colton, the Trustees of Kingston College and all the volunteers and workers involved in this amazing project which will bring badly needed housing to refugees who have recently arrived from Ukraine.

Protestant Aid offers a range of supports to people of all ages and backgrounds and our response to the thousands of Ukrainian refugees arriving to our shores following the shocking invasion of their country has already formed a large part of our work in 2022.

In addition to our support for the Kingston College project we have already acted quickly to play our part in helping Ukrainian schoolchildren with purchasing books, uniforms and more. The response to date has been overwhelming



The north/central section of Kingston College, Mitchelstown, County Cork (pic. Donagh Glavin)

and it is clear that the help offered is both timely and badly needed.

Protestant Aid believes in the fundamental dignity of all human beings and especially the most vulnerable members of our society.

The Kingston College Trust was founded in 1761 and in the following years houses and a chapel were built with the first residents arriving in 1780. Originally the houses were intended as retirement homes for workers who had worked on the local estate. Since then - 242 years - these 30 houses have been offered to people in this part of the world who need a house arising from their particular

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circumstances. Most come from Cork and the surrounding counties, and some have sought refuge from abroad.

Before the pandemic, conversations had begun with a variety of bodies - including the local authority and possible partner organisations and charities - to plan for the future of the houses, including the eight that had recently become vacant and in urgent need of refurbishment. In response to the Government's call for accommodation for Ukrainian refugees, the trustees decided that a long period of continuing consultation about the future wasn't tenable, and so it was decided to respond to the Government's appeal.

'Quite simply the project took off' said Bishop Colton. 'I floated the idea in a "test the waters" email in mid-March to about 200 people, and instead of talk, there was action; cheques, big and small, came in, as well as offers of hands on help. Then the One Foundation came on board, followed by RTE DIYSOS, and now Protestant Aid. The goodness and generosity of people has been amazing. And these refurbishment works will, we hope, also set these houses up for another 100 years of use for the work of this charity.'

Oxford College choral concert in Armagh

St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral, Armagh will be one of two venues in Northern Ireland to welcome the Choir of New College Oxford to give a concert.

With their Director, Robert Quinney and Organist, Donal McCann, the Choir will sing a range of music by Byrd, Elgar, Finzi, Martin and Armagh's own Charles Wood.



Choir of New College Oxford



Robert Quinney, *director*
Dónal McCann, *organ*

Music
Byrd • Elgar • Finzi
Martin • Wood

**Free entry with
retiring collection**

stpatricks-cathedral.org
stgeorges.connor.anglican.org
newcollegechoir.com

CONCERTS

St Patrick's COI
Cathedral
ARMAGH
Saturday 23 July: 7pm

St George's Church
BELFAST
Sunday 24 July: 3pm

The concert will be held in the Cathedral on Saturday 23 July 2022 at 7.00pm. Speaking ahead of the concert, Dr Stephen Timpany, the Cathedral's Director of Music, said, "I

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am delighted to welcome the Choir of New College, Oxford, to the Cathedral. They are one of the world's most famous choral ensembles, with an international reputation. It is a particular delight to welcome their organist, Donal McCann, who has previously given organ recitals in the Cathedral series.'

Admission to the concert is free, with a retiring collection most welcome.

Choir of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, sing matins in Belfast parish

Yesterday morning the welcome mat was out at St Columba's, Knock, for the chapel Choir of Emmanuel College, Cambridge. The Choir sang matins 1662. at the 10.30 am service.

Special service in Leckpatrick for youngest Troubles victim

A service of remembrance will be held next weekend to mark the 50th anniversary of the youngest victim of the Troubles, Christopher Woodhouse reports in Sunday Life.

Alan Jack was just five months old when he was killed by a piece of flying debris from an IRA bomb blast in Strabane on July 19, 1972.

He was in a pram being pushed by his mother Barbara, and as they tried to leave the area a piece of plate glass struck him in the head.

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On Sunday his family will gather at the same parish church in the Tyrone village of Ballymagorry which held his funeral to remember his brief life.

“Alan was a five-month-old baby who was treasured by all of us. He was born on February 19, 1972,” they told Sunday Life.

“At the time of his death, his parents William and Barbara [both now deceased] were aged just 27 and 23 respectively. They had their whole lives ahead of them.

“It is a source of frustration and disappointment for the family that no one has ever been arrested or interviewed for the murder of our little Alan.

“There is little ever said of our baby Alan, but his life mattered to us. He was truly an innocent whose life was erased before it had barely even started. We have never received an apology or acknowledgement for what happened.

“Alan's life was not for others to take. It was a terrible blow and for William and Barbara they were truly devastated.”

The service of remembrance will be held at 12pm at Leckpatrick parish church in Ballymagorry.

Victims campaigner Kenny Donaldson of the South East Fermanagh Foundation said: “We have been privileged to support the Jack family in recent years.

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“At the point little Alan was murdered, the crime was largely brushed aside. The family were made to feel that his life had limited value.

“In this milestone anniversary year it is important that Alan Jack's name is heard.

“In 1972 there was very limited access to technology and sadly, like the majority of homes, a camera was not something that the Jack family possessed. There exists no photograph of little Alan. He was denied that very right to have his identity captured.

“The Provisional IRA are responsible for what unfolded that fateful day in Strabane, no one else, and it is a calamity that no one has ever been held accountable”.

American Memorial Chapel travel grant

All UK-based ministers (of any denomination) are invited to apply for the American Memorial Chapel Travel Grant. The grant is provided by the English-Speaking Union and supplies funds up to £2000 for a UK-based minister, priest, deacon or pastor to visit the USA.

The application process is overseen by the Queen's Foundation for Ecumenical Theological Education.

The purpose of your trip should be to develop mutual understanding between British and American clergy/ ministers. It is entirely up to you what you focus on. In the

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past, support has been given to a wide range of projects: from parish nursing to the use of outdoor recreational pastimes in Evangelism. Queen's would this year especially want to encourage study visits which contribute to better understandings of diversity and the promotion of inclusion in churches and society.

So if you've got an idea for a project, see the Queen's website for further details on how to apply:

www.queens.ac.uk/our-centres/global/the-american-memorial-chapel-travel-grant

News reports

Diocese of London boss faces 5 million money laundering charge

A man has been charged with fraud and money laundering during an investigation into £5 million of church funds.

Martin Sargeant, who was head of operations for the Diocese of London, was investigated by the Metropolitan Police after a parish raised concerns about funds they had not received.

Mr Sargeant left his job in 2019 after a review of his role. At the time there was no suspicion or evidence of criminality but, last year, the London Diocesan Fund (LDF) made a report to the Action Fraud unit of the Police, and a serious incident report to the Charity Commission.

The former manager is said to have been “allowed to function with little accountability or supervision during the tenure of the former bishop”, according to The Church Times.

The Police have confirmed that the offences being investigated are historic, occurring between 2009 and 2019.



**Avian Influenza
ADVICE**

Avian influenza has been detected in wild birds in Northern Ireland



The public should avoid contact with wild birds including their feathers and waste.

- Do not pick up or touch sick, dying or dead wild birds.
- Avoid contact with surfaces contaminated with bird faeces.

Please keep to the footpath and keep your dogs on a lead.

If you find a dead bird, do not touch or move it. Report it to the landowner.

Further information is available at www.daera-ni.gov.uk/ai

This advice has been provided by the Public Health Agency

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A statement released by the diocese of London said: “The fraud is historic in nature, and does not relate to Common Fund or the present day funding of parishes.

“The Police’s work has involved extensive analysis of financial records relating to both the Diocese and the individual over a long period and the securing of a court order to freeze the individual’s assets.

“The total sum of money involved is believed to be in the region of £5m, affecting a number of different organisations.”

The LDF is continuing to support the Police with its investigation.

Over 3,000 people give their life to Christ at UK Christian festival

A UK Christian festival saw almost 3,500 people give their lives to Christ.

Festival Manchester – the biggest Christian mission in the North West – welcomed crowds of over 65,000 people in Wythenshawe Park.

The free event included a fun fair, extreme sports, water zorbs a family fun zone and a battle of Britain fly past.

The music lineup included Matt Redman, Guvna B, Lecrae, Kingdom Choir and more.

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One member of staff was approached by a festivalgoer that simply said: “tell me about Jesus, I need to know him.”

Matthew Anns – who attended and helped organise the event – said: “I was amazed that when they started speaking about the gospel, the crowd in front of the stage didn’t dissipate.

"People remained interested and were really positive about what they heard.”

The event was organised by The Message Trust and The Luis Palau Association.

Andy Hawthorne, CEO and Founder of The Message Trust, said: “This was mission on a scale not seen in a generation, last weekend alone over 65,000 people got to hear about Jesus’ love for them and over 3,400 responded to the good news they heard.

“This is what Festival Manchester was all about – introducing people to Jesus and seeing lives changed both now and for eternity. I honestly believe we got to be part of something huge that God is doing.”

Andrew Palau, from the Luis Palau Association, said: “As is always the case, when the Church comes together in unity, serving the city, encouraging the body, and proclaiming the good news boldly, great things happen.

"And that is exactly what we saw here in Manchester.

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“I love the United Kingdom and I love serving the region with our many friends and ministry partners.

“A big thanks to The Message Trust and all the local church partners for inviting the Luis Palau Association to help with this city-wide effort. What a joy to see the many lives changed through the proclaimed word of God.”

Simon Gallagher appointed Director of Central Secretariat for the Archbishops’ Council and Clerk to the Synod

Simon Gallagher, Director of Planning at the Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities, has been appointed Director of the Archbishops’ Council Central Secretariat and Clerk to the Synod.

Simon has been in his current role since June 2016, responsible for advising ministers on planning policy and practice. He has been a civil servant since 1993 in a range of economic and financial policy roles in a number of departments, most recently as Deputy Director for Welfare Spending and Reform at HM Treasury and as Deputy Head of Mission at the British Embassy in Berlin.

In his new role, Simon will lead a team of nine. The Central Secretariat oversees policy work on how the Church organises and governs itself and provides governance support and event management to the Archbishops’ Council and other Church governance bodies including the General



Synod and the House of Bishops. As Clerk to the Synod, Simon will be the senior administrator of the Synod's business under the Secretary General.

Simon will also work closely with Stephanie Harrison, Director of the Governance Project, the secretariat of the Church Commissioners, and other parts of the NCIs to support the implementation of the outcomes of the review into how the national Church institutions are governed.

Simon takes over from Becky Clark, Director of Churches and Cathedrals who has been Acting Director of the Archbishops' Council Central Secretariat since Jacqui Philips' departure earlier this year. Becky leaves the NCIs later this month to start a new role with the Falkland Islands Government.

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Commenting on his appointment, Simon Gallagher said:

"I am excited to be joining the NCIs at this time as Director of Central Secretariat and Clerk to the Synod. The mission of the church in this country is critical and I look forward to supporting it professionally."

William Nye, Secretary General for the Archbishops' Council, said:

"I am delighted to welcome someone of Simon's experience of policy and mission to the NCIs. We have an exciting agenda ahead of us, supporting the Church's ambitious Vision and Strategy for the 2020s and work on proposals for reforming the governance of the national Church institutions."



A unique feature of this year's Novena at Knock Shrine will be the 'Synod Tent', where members of the public will be invited to learn more about the Synod and what it means for all of us. Find out more on www.knockshrine.ie

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In addition, Simon will play a vital role in delivering the work essential to the smooth running of governing bodies such as that we saw at General Synod in York.

“I would like to take the opportunity to thank Dr Jacqui Philips for her splendid service as Director of the Central Secretariat, and Becky Clark for graciously taking on the role recently in parallel to her job as Director of Churches and Cathedrals, and Jenny Jacobs who has been Acting Clerk to the Synod. We wish Jacqui and Becky well for all their future endeavours.”

Simon starts his new role in the autumn.

In the media

Hero Stephen and Bloody Friday must not be forgotten - Suzanne Been in Sunday Life

In a part of the world where all too often the wrong people have been turned into heroes, Stephen Parker really was one.

The 14-year-old had a summer job in a shop on the Cavehill Road in north Belfast. As bombs went off all over the city on Bloody Friday, he spotted a suspect device in the back of a car parked outside.

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He ran into all the shops nearby, warning people to get away from the bomb. When it exploded, he was hit with the full force of the blast. He died instantly.

There was so little left of him that his father identified Stephen's body from his scout belt and the box of trick matches he had in his pocket.

His mother, Dorothy, spoke of a happy, high-spirited boy who never sat still and was always playing tricks on his parents.

His father, the Rev Joseph Parker, chaplain of the Mission to Seamen in the city, salvaged part of the debris from the bomb.

Along with a Catholic priest who gave Stephen the last rites, he made it into a cross as a memorial to the dead.

Two years later, the family left for a new life in Canada. When the Rev Parker died there in 2018, his ashes were brought back to be interred with his son's in Roselawn Cemetery.

Thursday marks the 50th anniversary of the day when 22 IRA bombs exploded in Belfast in just over an hour, killing nine people. Of the 130 injured, 77 were women and children.

Bloody Friday is Northern Ireland's forgotten atrocity, yet the scenes from that hellish day scarred anyone unfortunate enough to have witnessed them.

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“The first thing that caught my eye was a torso of a human being lying in the middle of the street,” a police officer who had been at the scene of the Oxford Street bus station blast told journalist Peter Taylor. “It was recognisable as a torso because the clothes had been blown off and you could actually see parts of the human anatomy.

“One of the most horrendous memories was seeing a head stuck to the wall. A couple of days later, we found vertebrae and a rib cage on the roof of a nearby building.

“The reason we found it was because the seagulls were diving on it. I've tried to put it at the back of my mind.”

Four Ulsterbus workers — William Irvine (18), William Crothers (15), Jackie Gibson (45) and Thomas Killops (39) — were killed on Oxford Street, along with British soldiers Stephen Cooper (19) and Philip Price (27).

Two women died with Stephen Parker at the Cavehill Road shops: mother-of-seven Margaret O'Hare (37) and pensioner Brigid Murray (65).

Philip Gault remembers July 21, 1972, as a scorching hot day. All his friends were away at the seaside and there was nobody with whom to kick a ball about the streets near his north Belfast home. Reluctantly, the nine-year-old agreed to go to the shops with his mother. He was standing at the Ulster Bank on the Limestone Road when a bomb exploded in a car beside him. Philip was blown 10 feet into the air.

“I remember the flash and the darkness, then the dust and blood. I screamed as loud as I could,” he says.

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“My right leg was left hanging by a few sinews. A man wrapped me in his jacket and took me to an Army Jeep. My mum was hysterical.”

The surgeons managed to save his leg, but the carefree days of before the bomb were gone forever. There were endless operations over the next seven years.

“They didn't want to do them during school term, so I spent my summers in the Royal Victoria Hospital,” Philip recalls.

“I wore callipers for four years. I got called names in school — peg leg, hop-a-long. You grow a hard exterior. You toughen up in a way a child shouldn't have to.

“It's particularly challenging in your mid-teens when girls come into your life.

“You try to hide your leg and pretend you're normal, then they notice your leg and you see them shy away.”

Philip felt he was no longer accepted in his own community.

“I was an innocent child injured by the organisation that said it was defending the community I lived in. My very existence was an embarrassment to them,” he says.

Half a century later, he lives with constant pain and wakes up shouting with nightmares.

In the aftermath of the scenes of horror on Bloody Friday, the IRA said the bombs had been aimed at the city's transport and economic infrastructure and that telephone warnings had been given to avoid civilian casualties.

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The Provisionals blamed the RUC and Army for not acting on them, alleging they had deliberately done so as a high civilian death toll was useful for anti-republican propaganda purposes.

“If the British authorities had acted as they should have, there would not have been any casualties,” said An Phoblacht.

It was utter nonsense: there was no conspiracy. As well as the real devices, the IRA also gave hoax bomb warnings.

The security system was overstretched and simply couldn't cope, as leading republicans acknowledged decades later.

Today, Belfast city centre isn't without its problems, but panic-stricken shoppers running in all directions from bombs, not knowing where another would be detonated, thankfully isn't one of them.

Northern Ireland in July 2022 remains a far from perfect place, yet at least we are not still shovelling human remains into plastic bags and 14-year-old boys no longer have to die as heroes.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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