

Church News Ireland



**Image of the day – Ambulances from Ireland
for Ukraine**

July 4, 2022

Image of the day



Ambulances from Ireland for Ukraine

SMART Medical Aid received 10 ambulances from Ireland, donated by National Ambulance Service (NAS), HSE Ireland and facilitated by Lifeline Ambulance Service.

July 4, 2022

Filled with life-saving equipment, these ambulances will be vital for health services.

SMART said “We are sincerely grateful to all involved Stephen Donnelly for Wicklow, Medical Help Ukraine, Razom for Ukraine.

“Thanks also to Derek and his team CWS BOCO, ten Irish police officers who helped pick up the cars from HSE Tullamore. Thanks to Lucy and the Cantor Fitzgerald team for helping with the cleaning and loading of the cars, as well as Association of Ukrainians in Republic of Ireland for the incredible support! “

People and places

Support for Air Ambulance and Armagh Cathedral

The Armagh County Grand Master, Rt Wor Bro Denis Watson, and County Grand Secretary, Wor Bro Roger Gardiner, last week presented cheques to Air Ambulance NI and St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral, each for £1,350, this being the collection from the recent County NI Centenary and Queen's Platinum Jubilee Service.

They are pictured at the Cathedral with Amy Henshaw, Air Ambulance representative; the Dean of Armagh, Very Rev Shane Forster; and Eric Marshall, Cathedral Treasurer.



The County Officers also presented the Dean with copies of the Grand Lodge Queen's Platinum Jubilee Bible for himself and the Archbishop of Armagh, Most Rev John McDowell. (Photo credit Ian Maginnis)

Training for Small Group Leaders

Down & Dromore diocese has announced a new training course for the autumn – five sessions to help you be a more effective small group leader.

Using video content and group discussions and following 'The Small Group and the Vine' programme, it will explore the ways in which God builds his church through small groups.

July 4, 2022

The sessions will be led by Josh Hooker, a Crosslinks Mission Partner who's been seconded to work with the Diocese of Down and Dromore for the next few years.

The sessions will be on Monday evenings from 7.30–9.00pm at St Ignatius Church, Carryduff

Programme

- 12 September: Understanding small groups
- 19 September: Understanding your role as a leader
- 26 September: Leading people to God's word
- 3 October: Leading in prayer
- 10 October: Persevering with people

Cost: £30pp (this covers training materials and refreshments)

Register via Eventbrite by 5 September -

[[] <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/training-for-small-group-leaders-5-sessions-tickets-365863356147>]

Leaflet at -

[[] <https://www.downanddromore.org/news/2022/06/training-for-small-group-leaders>]

Debut at “Voices and Brass!” opening concert at the Charles Wood Festival

Capella Caeciliani has said members are delighted to be making their first-ever appearance at the Charles Wood Festival.



This year's Summer Madness festival is underway at Bethlehem Abbey, Portglenone.

They will perform at the "Voices and Brass!" Opening Concert at 8pm on Sunday 21st August in St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral, Armagh. Free entry, retiring collection

Under the direction of Matthew Quinn, they will perform alongside the exhilarating local ensemble, Insieme Brass, in the glorious setting of St. Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral.

Choral works include Duruflé's Quatre Motets, Áine Mallon's Dum Transisset Sabbatum and Cecilia McDowall's I Know That My Redeemer Liveth. Brass flourishes will focus on

July 4, 2022

music associated with Charles Wood, from a new arrangement of his Hail Gladdening Light, to Stanford's Beati Quorum Via.

This is sure to be an unmissable start to the Charles Wood Festival week.

Admission free with retiring collection.

The complete event listing for this year's Charles Wood Festival of Music and Summer School is available at -
[[<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/cc/charles-wood-festival-and-summer-school-2022-571029>]

Presbyterian Herald is now available

The July/August 2022 edition of the Presbyterian Herald is now available. Editor, Sarah Harding, introduces this month's edition.

The issue features a profile on Hamilton Road Presbyterian Church in Bangor, the bite-size resource for young people, Luther's Legacy and of course with every edition, Mission Connect, which highlights what God is doing in many churches across PCI.

Read Sarah's editorial here:

[<https://www.presbyterianireland.org/Blog/June-2022/Presbyterian-Herald-July-August-2022.aspx>]

To find out more go to [www.presbyterianireland.org/herald] or access the digital version via Issuu.



Appointment to Kilwaughter, Cairncastle and Craigyhill

The Rev Arlene Moore, Priest-in-Charge of Rathcoole, has been appointed as Priest-in-Charge of Kilwaughter and Cairncastle with All Saints, Craigyhill.

Arlene grew up in Glynn, attending both First Larne Presbyterian Church and St John's Parish Church, Glynn. She was a pupil at Glynn Primary School. She later lived in Craigyhill, attending Linn Road Primary School, and also visiting All Saints, Craigyhill, with her grandmother.

The family moved to Antrim and later to a farm in the countryside at Newferry, near Toomebridge.

Arlene says she has fond memories of visiting 'the Armada tree' in Cairncastle as a child after a paddle at Ballygally.

She attended Ballymena Academy and then Dundee University, graduating in 1987 with a BSc Joint Hons in Biochemistry and Pharmacology. Arlene worked in cancer research in the Department of Medicine & Therapeutics at

July 4, 2022

Aberdeen University before qualifying with a PGCE and teaching in both secondary and primary schools in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

She was accepted for ordination in 1992 and during her time at Theological College developed a love of world mission, completing an elective placement in South East Asia. Overseas trips continued throughout Arlene's curacy years in St Mark's, Portadown, to places including South America and Africa.

Moving to England in 1999, for several years Arlene worked as a research assistant in a second curacy at St Thomas' Crookes (Sheffield), and then in disabled student support work as an assistant lecturer in both Sheffield and Sheffield Hallam Universities whilst studying for various further qualifications, including two Masters' degrees – one in Education, and one in Theology and Evangelism Studies through the Church Army.

Returning to Northern Ireland in 2009, Arlene took up the role of full time NHS Chaplain in both the Mater and Musgrave Park Hospitals and Priest-in-Charge in the Church of the Good Shepherd, Monkstown, a single Covenant Partnership Church with the Methodist Church.

In 2016, she moved to St Comgall's, Rathcoole, as part-time Priest-in-Charge whilst training in the Facilitation of Lectio Divina and qualifying as a Spiritual Director.

Looking ahead to her new role, Arlene said: "Any parish move is bittersweet.

July 4, 2022

“I have had six very happy years in Rathcoole and will indeed miss the parishioners and friends I have made there very much, but I have lots of good memories of all that we have done together in the work of God.

“Having lived in Larne for the past six years, it will be strange not having to travel up the A8 regularly for work. But I trust the good people of Rathcoole will know they are more than welcome to travel down the A8 at any time to visit!”

She said 2022 was a very special year for the people of All Saints, Craigyhill, as the parish marks 60 years as a congregation.

“I welcome the privilege of being able to join them in looking back with thanksgiving for all the blessings they have known in those years, and to celebrating that milestone anniversary in due course.” Arlene said.

“In the present my focus is on getting to know the people of both parishes, loving and serving them in Jesus’ name, and building on the solid foundations laid by previous generations of clergy and faithful laity alike. I look forward also to taking time with both parishes, listening to the Lord, discerning where God is leading for the future and stepping into that together.”

Arlene enjoys photography, crafts – particularly crochet and cross stitch – and walking her dog Cara. She has a passion for local and natural history and is currently researching her family tree.

No date has yet been set for the Service of Introduction.

Chapel of former C of I College of Education deconsecrated

The Chapel of the former Church of Ireland College of Education in Rathmines was deconsecrated last Thursday (June 30).

The Act of Deconsecration was read by Archbishop Michael Jackson, in the presence of the Diocesan and Provincial Registrar the Revd Robert Marshall and a congregation.

The Chapel, which was consecrated by Archbishop George Otto Simms in March 1969, is part of the former CICE campus which was vacated by the college following its incorporation into DCU's Institute of Education in 2016. The Church of Ireland Centre based at DCU's All Hallows Campus supports the Irish Protestant community and its network of schools. It provides the B.Ed pathway for those particularly preparing to teach in Protestant primary schools, within the wider DCU teacher training programme.

Recently, the college building in Rathmines has been used by the boarding department of Alexandra College and the Chapel was used regularly for worship throughout the school year. The school's new boarding residence, the Hermione Building, will open this August and the former CICE building has been taken over by a language school. It plans to use the Chapel as a quiet space for all associated with the language school in their diversity of world faiths.

The Act of Deconsecration took place in the context of



Archbishop Michael Jackson reads the Act of Deconsecration with the Revd Robert Marshall.

Morning Prayer for the Feast of St Peter (transferred). In a short sermon, Archbishop said that the readings for the Feast of St Peter [Isaiah 49: 1–6 and Acts 11: 1–18] opened up a spirit of adventure both for the people of Israel and for the infant Christian Church. He further suggested that in deconsecrating the Chapel building, there was adventure in allowing the spirit to exist in the world and that we, as gentiles of today, were empowered by the spirit in the service of God.

The Archbishop prayed for the future use of the building for God's purpose as a quiet space to meet human need. He also prayed for those who had worshiped in the Chapel for

July 4, 2022

over 50 years, remembering particularly those who had died and those who had led worship there.

NI marriage laws to be changed to fully recognise humanist weddings

Non-religious weddings, such as those involving humanist ceremonies, are set to be given the same status as religious weddings in Northern Ireland, Nial Deeney reports in the News Letter.

Finance Minister Conor Murphy signalled his intention to reform the laws around marriage in Northern Ireland following a public consultation.

The change would also see the minimum age for marriage raised to 18.

Currently, people aged 16 and 17 can get married with parental consent.

Three of the largest Churches in Northern Ireland — the Church of Ireland, Presbyterian and Catholic Churches — took part in the consultation but made no formal objection to the change in status for non-religious marriage.

The proposed law change follows a court battle by the model and public speaker Laura Lacle to have her humanist marriage to the former Bournemouth and Leeds United footballer Eunan O’Kane, who is from Co Londonderry, recognised on the same footing as a religious marriage.

July 4, 2022

High Court and Court of Appeal rulings in 2017 put an onus on the government to recognise humanist and religious marriages equally.

While temporary arrangements are now in place, meaning humanist and religious weddings do enjoy a similar status already, the Mr Murphy said a law change is required to achieve the “full equality signalled by the courts”.

In a written statement, the Minister said there was “little opposition” to the proposed change.

“None of the three churches that responded, for example, raised any objection,” he said. “While naturally noting their own preference for religious marriage, all agreed with the proposal on equality grounds.”

Announcing his intention, Mr Murphy added: “A clear majority supported the proposal to put belief marriage on an equal footing with religious marriage.”

A Church of Ireland body told the News Letter, meanwhile, that it has to “realistic” in accepting a new category of non-religious belief marriage in Northern Ireland.

The Methodist Church in Ireland and Evangelical Alliance declined to offer any comment on the issue.

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland and Catholic Church were also invited to comment but had not done so at the time of going to press.

Mr Murphy’s intention to change the laws, meanwhile, was welcomed by the Alliance MLA Kellie Armstrong.

July 4, 2022

“I am delighted these impending changes have been announced, particularly to ensure non-religious marriages are treated equally in law to faith marriages,” the Strangford MLA said.

Perspective

Jesus preached an astonishing message of grace and love - The Archbishop of York

Last week Archbishop Stephen Cottrell addressed York Diocesan Synod. The reading was Matthew 9.14-17. The address follows in full:

Jesus preached an astonishing message of grace and love.

It was radical - i.e., it got to the root of the matter.

It was profoundly new and yet at the same time a reworking of what was there already.

He took the story of the Old Testament – of God’s love and justice and grace – and repurposed it, putting new wine into new skins.

He told disturbing stories that challenged how we see ourselves and how we saw the world.

He hung out with sinners and those on the margins and all the wrong sort of people; and he dared his disciples to do the same. To let go of the old ways of doing things and

July 4, 2022

embrace the new commandment of love, a way that was scandalously hospitable to – well, everyone.

As Christ's disciples today, here in the great diocese of York, we are called to do this as well. We are the church for everyone in this diocese and with a responsibility everywhere. We are asked to take the old story of God's love and justice and grace and turn it into new wine for 2022.

But there is a but coming.

As well as 'new wine in new wineskins' so the wine is not lost, Jesus says that no one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak, for the patch pulls away and the tear is made worse.

Well, I'm sure he's right when it comes to working with unshrunk cloth that will then shrink and pull away, but watching the Sewing Bee the other week – yes, I like to watch the Sewing Bee and before you ask, no, I don't sew – I gained some other insights that I think are relevant here.

It was Japanese week, and the contestants were asked to do a variation on the well-known Japanese art of repairing broken pottery with gold to create something beautiful and new, and yet still bearing the scars of its brokenness.

It was the Transformation Challenge, and the sewers were given some torn denim skirts and jackets and asked to patch and repair them to make a new garment; but not repaired in a way that would make them seem 'as good as

July 4, 2022

new', but where the now beautified holes and tears were part of the garment, a technique called Sashiko.

Jesus does this as well. He makes things new. But the scars are often visible. It is through the cracks, said Leonard Cohen, that the light gets in.

Our task in diocese of York is to live and tell this story with great faithfulness to Jesus and to the revelation of God's love that is given us in the whole of scripture, for both Old and New Testament are the foundations for our theology, but to do so, because we are faithful to Jesus the one who died on the cross and whose risen body still bears the marks of the nails, by sharing our own vulnerability, nor pretending we have all the answers, being honest about failure in a way that is gracious and undefended, being determined to live as well as tell Christ's story.

For we are not trying to build the earthly empire of a human institution, nor merely trying to survive, but to grow and participate in the Kingdom of God, which as we well know in the diocese of York usually begins in small ways with mustard seeds, handfuls of yeast, a widow's mite and few pieces of bread.

The message is always the same – the big God of small beginnings and fantastic endings, but the way in which we are called to participate in God's Kingdom and God's mission in this world will look different, because life is different, and our context constantly changing.

So, could I say a huge thank you through this Synod to the amazing and faithful work that is going on in parishes and

July 4, 2022

deaneries to work out how we will build a sustainable and flourishing future, and set about the transformative change that we believe, under God, will bring growth and renewal to the church, always remembering that beyond the number crunching of the strategy, there is the vision of making Christ's story known afresh, inspiring new participation in God's Kingdom and working out what our part of the story is across all the towns, cities and villages of our diocese.

In this Synod, we will hear about the progress we are making, and I want also to thank my colleagues in the leadership team of the diocese as well as Area and Lay Deans for all the work that has gone into this, and especially Archdeacon Sam for the patient and tenacious way she is bringing this together.

There is much to celebrate – which is why our synods – and how good it is to at last be meeting in person - should be joyful occasions.

We celebrate the appointment this week of Eleanor Sanderson as the new Bishop of Hull bringing with her from New Zealand where she has served as priest and Bishop, many insights, particularly into discipleship and Christian community that will enrich our witness.

We celebrate all those who have been ordained as priest or deacon in the diocese in the past month; the appointment of a new DDO, and a fresh resolve to encourage across the whole diocese a new springtime in Christian ministry and mission, where each of us will discover the part we have to play, allowing God to patch us up and make us even more beautiful, even bearing beautiful scars like his.

July 4, 2022

We celebrate the work that is done day in day out, week in week out, year in year out, in a parishes and chaplaincies and multiply and mustard seed ministries and in the daily lives of thousands of Christian people who bear witness to Christ and long to see his Kingdom come.

Just as Jesus says to the pharisees that you don't fast while the bridegroom is with you, so we rejoice because God is with us, Jesus is with us, the Spirit is at work among us, that the gates of hell will not prevail against the Church; that, yes, we are facing big challenges and painful change, but we have confidence in God and confidence in the gospel and bear witness today and give thanks for all that God has done in Jesus Christ, committing ourselves to him as we serve this diocese of York and live Christ's story.

Poem for today

The Second Coming by William Butler Yeats

Turning and turning in the widening gyre
The falcon cannot hear the falconer;
Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere
The ceremony of innocence is drowned;
The best lack all conviction, while the worst
Are full of passionate intensity.

Surely some revelation is at hand;

July 4, 2022

Surely the Second Coming is at hand.
The Second Coming! Hardly are those words out
When a vast image out of Spiritus Mundi
Troubles my sight: somewhere in sands of the desert
A shape with lion body and the head of a man,
A gaze blank and pitiless as the sun,
Is moving its slow thighs, while all about it
Reel shadows of the indignant desert birds.
The darkness drops again; but now I know
That twenty centuries of stony sleep
Were vexed to nightmare by a rocking cradle,
And what rough beast, its hour come round at last,
Slouches towards Bethlehem to be born Fir Today

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

