

Church News Ireland



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Image of the day

Origins of the Bodleian

‘Origins of the Bodleian’ is a brand-new tour which tells the very oldest Stories from the Bodleian.



This intimate small group tour begins with after-hours access to Duke Humfrey's Library (the Bodleian's oldest reading room, recently nominated as one of the most beautiful libraries in the world by 1000 Libraries).

From there, you'll walk in the steps of so many academics before you: along the cobbled streets from the Old Bodleian, past the Radcliffe Camera, to University Church of St Mary the Virgin, Oxford itself.



You'll learn how the initial library was housed in an upstairs room of the church, opened over 700 years ago in 1320.

The tour culminates with drinks and a spell-binding choral performance inside the church.



We still have tickets available for the following dates:

!! This Thursday! Today... ✨ Thursday 19 June 2025,
17.00 – 18.30 ✨

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Thursday 3 July 2025, 17.00 – 18.30

Thursday 14 August 2025, 17.00 – 18.30

Thursday 4 September 2025, 17.00 – 18.30

To book:

<https://visit.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/tours/origins-university-oxford>

👉 Extra info:

This tour is conducted in English.

The tour will begin at 17.00 and will last for 90–120 minutes.

Meet your tour guide in the Proscholium in the Old Bodleian Library.

Children must be 11+ to join the tour, as Duke Humfrey's Library is a working library. Under 18s must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

This tour includes a number of stairs. Due to the historic nature of the buildings, we regret no lift is available.

News

Methodists marking Refugee Week this Sunday

The Irish church's Conference recommends that Methodists mark Refugee Week this Sunday 22nd June, "Sanctuary Sunday".

World Mission Partnership (WMP) has created a Prayer of Solidarity for refugees, highlighting the challenges faced by our church family across the world.

Simultaneously, The Council on Social Responsibility (CSR) is reminding us of our calling in local settings to support those who have made their way to Ireland. Sadly, recent events around the world and at home have underlined the importance of Christian support and prayer for those seeking refuge.

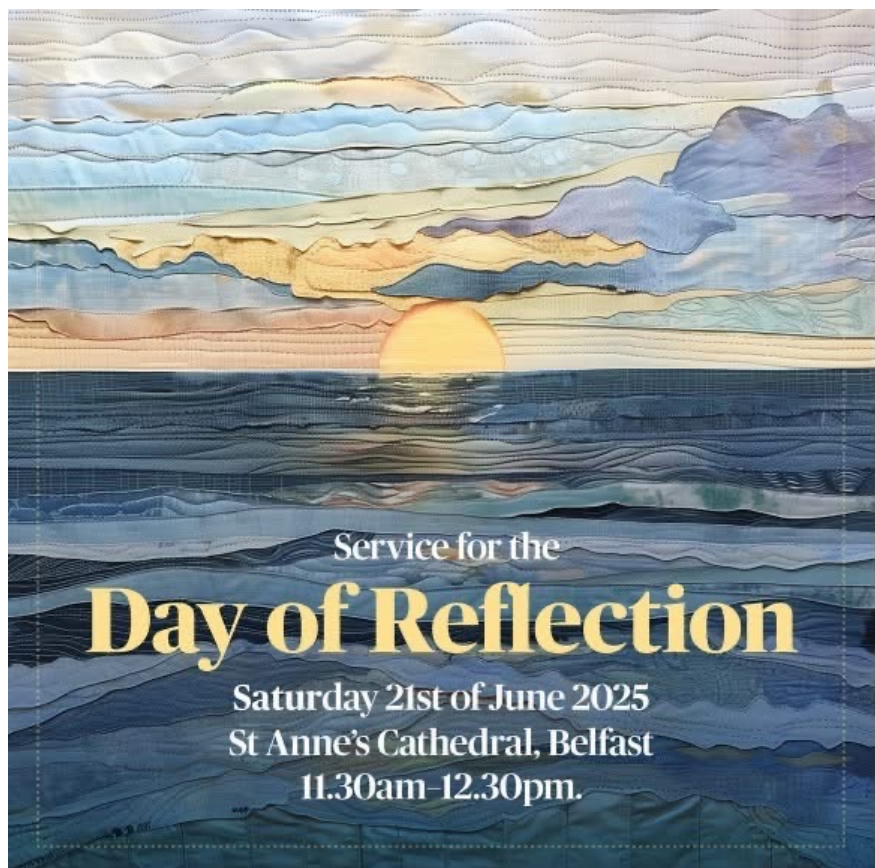
All Methodist churches are asked to consider using the prayer in their services this week. It can also be shared for personal use.

CSR's outline of how churches may respond well at home, 'Belonging and Inclusion' and the other resources are available on the church's website.

Annual Day of Reflection service

Annual Day of Reflection service to acknowledge hurt and pain of Northern Ireland conflict

The Annual Day of Reflection service organised by the Corrymeela Community will



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be held on Saturday 21st in Belfast Cathedral.

The day was set up as an opportunity for people and communities to acknowledge the deep hurt and pain caused by the conflict in and about Northern Ireland.

Good Relations Week 2025 embraces ‘Connect’ theme

Good Relations Week 2025, taking place from 13th to 19th October, embraces ‘Connect’ as its theme – recognising that the foundation of a better community is built on People, Planet, and Prosperity, all connected by the goal of Peace.

Get involved in Good Relations Week 2025 and help create a future where peace is not just an aspiration, but a reality.

Are you ready to join us, and showcase your good relations efforts this year?

[www.goodrelationsweek.com]

First Lisburn turns coffee into cash for Christian Aid

Those ‘keen beans’ at First Lisburn Presbyterian Church have managed to turn the city’s love of coffee into cash, which they generously donated to support our work with communities in poverty and crisis around the world.



They held a coffee morning recently which raised more than £1,000 for our Christian Aid Week appeal. We want to say a special thank you to Hazel McCall and everyone who made this donation possible.

First Lisburn also gave us a generous share of the proceeds of their Coffee Dock Café. The Coffee Dock is open to anyone from the local community as part of the church's outreach ministry and its proceeds are shared with various charities and good causes. We're very grateful to the Coffee Dock volunteers for their £1,000 gift which brought First Lisburn's donation to more than £2,000.

Pictured at the coffee morning are Christian Aid Ireland staff members Vikki Scanlan (left) and Ruth Cooke with the new

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minister at First Lisburn, Rev Mariann Gilicze. We want to welcome Mariann to her new role and thank her for wearing our Christian Aid colours for the occasion!

C of E diocese in Europe to livestream thanksgiving service celebrating 30 years of women's ordination

We celebrate 30 years since women were ordained to the priesthood in the Church of England with a wonderful service at St George's Madrid, which is open to everyone to attend in person or via the livestream on St George's Madrid Facebook page, on:

Thursday, June 19th at 18.30 CET here:

[www.facebook.com/stgeorgesmadrid/live\ videos/](https://www.facebook.com/stgeorgesmadrid/live/videos/)

The service takes place during a conference for women clergy who serve in chaplaincies in the Diocese in Europe. This is being held in Madrid, where Revd Canon Sal McDougall is the Chaplain. The conference, a special time for fellowship and learning, will focus on the theme of 'For such a time as this: finding our voice in Europe today'.

Rev'd Canon Debbie Flach, the Diocesan Dean of Women's Ministry, shared,

"The ordination of women in the Church of England was only a future hope when I joined MOW in 1980. And now we are celebrating together in this diocese the 30th anniversary of the ordination of women to the priesthood."

Rev'd Annie Bolger noted, "What a thrill to honour 30 years of women serving the Church of England as priests! For me, it is especially important to honour the women who have ministered in God's name over the past three decades, and whose wisdom, leadership, and vision have broadened the horizons of the church worldwide, and enabled even greater inclusion in the CofE."

"If it was good enough for Jesus, then it is good enough for us" – Pride Evensong

"If it was good enough for Jesus, then it is good enough for us" was the message from Bishop Bonnie Perry at a special service of Evensong to mark Pride in Dublin on Friday evening (June 13).

Bishop Perry, who is XI Bishop of the Diocese of Michigan in the Episcopal Church of the United States of America, was the preacher at the annual service which is organised by Changing Attitude Ireland in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin.

Bishop Perry said that when the early Christian movement was beginning to coalesce, before Saul became Paul but after the Holy Spirit drove the apostles into the streets speaking languages from near and far, the disciples Peter and John were out telling the story of Jesus's death on the cross, his resurrection, of Jesus's love and his forgiving of people's sins.

She said they were speaking with such conviction that people were gathering and listening and believing. New

believers were gathering together and forming communities and caring for each other in a way that was setting the religious authorities' teeth on edge.

“A movement fuelled by love and filled with pride is beginning,” she commented. “The religious authorities were scared. It’s not what they teach. It’s not what they grew up believing so after chastising Peter and John on one occasion and telling them to no longer speak their truth publicly, they let them go. But if you know who you are and how you are and you know that your life is changed, that’s not something you keep inside. You have pride and you keep on telling your story because – let me just say again – if it was good enough for Jesus, it’s good enough for us.”

Peter and John showed no sign of relinquishing their determination to tell the story of Jesus, so there was a stand off between those who wanted to speak their truth and those who would prefer that they just not say things that were changing the landscape and upsetting the balance of power, she said. But a pharisee spoke to them saying that if this movement was of human origin then it would fail like the others, but if it was of God then nothing the authorities could do would contain it.

Bishop Perry told the congregation that for decades society and the institutional church has told LGBTQ+ people that they are not good enough and their lives are wrong and their love is less than.

“For centuries the church has said that who we are – lesbian, gay, bisexual,

transgender, queer, intersex, asexual, non-binary, the categories keep evolving much like the universe – for decades the structures of power have said no to us and they have said: ‘Stop speaking. Be silent. Don’t tell us. Do not speak your truth’. And I say to you ... as someone who is made in God’s image and likeness, as a bishop in a Christian church, as an out, proud, partnered lesbian, I say to you: speak your truth. We are made in God’s image and likeness and fully embraced by Christ just as we are. We of the queer community are good enough.

We are called to tell the stories of who and how we are and how God lives and moves and has God’s being in our lives. For as we tell our stories others will see God in our lives and they will know that they too are beloved of God,” she said.

Bishop Perry came out when she was in seminary. She had doubts and while on retreat a nun, who reminded her of the story of Gamaliel the pharisee, said she was sure that she sinned but her love for Susan, her wife, was not one of those sins. Her fears faded and she understood that God loved her completely. “And this my friends, is what I long for for all of us. That each and every one of us may know that we are loved, that you are held, that you are cherished and adored. Hold your heads high and share that love with everyone who you encounter. That truth and our souls will change our lives. That truth will change their lives. That truth will change our world... That truth that Jesus came into this world that we might know that we are profoundly loved and if it’s good enough for Jesus, it’s good enough for us,” she concluded.

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During the service the lessons were read by Oisín O'Reilly of OutHouse LGBTQ+ Centre, Moninne Griffith of BelongTo Youth Services, and Matty Zaradich of the Community of St Laurence at Christ Church Cathedral. Prayers were led by Mark Bowyer, former chair of Changing Attitude Ireland. After the service Bishop Perry was made a Patron of Changing Attitude Ireland.

Education

St Dominic's Mock Magistrates Team in London

Our talented Year 10 Mock Magistrates team had an unforgettable weekend in London, celebrating their incredible achievement of winning the Northern Ireland Final back in March.

The trip began with some well-deserved downtime exploring the city, including a fantastic evening at the West End to see Matilda the Musical!

On Saturday, the





team competed in the Final of the Mock Magistrates' Court Trial, going head-to-head with 15 other top schools from across the UK.

They delivered confident and compelling prosecution and defence arguments, showcasing all the hard work they've put in throughout the year.

The girls have developed impressive legal knowledge and public speaking skills — we are so proud of their dedication, teamwork, and professionalism throughout the entire competition.

Well done, girls — you've done yourselves and the school proud!

Fully funded postgraduate scholarships at Ulster University

The AI Collaboration Centre, in partnership with Ulster University and funded by the Department for the Economy NI, is offering fully funded postgraduate scholarships in high-demand areas such as Artificial Intelligence, Data Science, Computing and more.

Whether you're a recent graduate, returning to education, or looking to future-proof your career, our programmes are designed to equip you with the skills Northern Ireland's industries need most in this AI powered world.

Explore available courses and apply today:

<https://ow.ly/MYC550W69Na>

Methody's Green Flag

We are proud to announce we have been awarded the Eco-Schools Green Flag!

This is an internationally recognised symbol of environmental excellence. Alex, Eve, Uilleac and Conor accompanied by Mr Hampton, represented our Rewilding Society at the award ceremony in Belfast Castle. Photo next page.

The event showcased innovative sustainability initiatives from schools across Belfast. This achievement reflects the outstanding leadership of our students and the school-wide commitment to environmental stewardship.



Clergy and ministry

Methodist Growing Churches Officer

This September, the Rev Dr Stephen Skuce will take on a new stationed post as Growing Churches Officer (Ireland).

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Stephen will be taking the lead on moving the Church towards growth, as well as resourcing and supporting the District Superintendents. He will work collaboratively with Connexional Teams and Districts to explore and empower growth across the Island.



Watch/Listen to Stephen on the Living Wholeheartedly Podcast with Heather Morris now.

→ bit.ly/LW-Pod

Ordination in Saint Brendan's Cathedral, Clonfert

Congratulations to the Rev Michael Mulqueen who was ordained to the diaconate by Bishop Burrows at Saint Brendan's Cathedral, Clonfert on June 9th.

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Rev Mulqueen will serve as OLM alongside the Rev John McGinty at Clonfert Union of Parishes and the Ven John Godfrey, Aughrim & Creagh Union. Read more about the celebration on the diocesan website at <https://tlk.ie/rev-michael-mulqueen/>

Readers, Pastoral Visitors and Healing Ministry Team commissioned in Armagh



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Congratulations, best wishes and blessings to the Parish Readers, Pastoral Visitors and the Diocesan Healing Ministry Team who were commissioned by Archbishop John in St Patrick's Cathedral Armagh on the afternoon, Trinity Sunday, Sunday 15th June 2025

Events

Young Adult Camino along St Declan's Way

For any young adults from the Diocese of Waterford & Lismore and the Archdiocese of Cashel & Emly: we'd love for you to join us on our Interdiocesan Young Adult Camino along St Declan's Way, August Bank Holiday weekend.

You can find out more about it on <https://waterfordlismore.ie/youth-ministry/frassati-camino/>

Deposit needs to be in asap to secure place.

Cinemagic Summer Scheme - still time to register for Ulster Museum, Belfast

We are recruiting our 2025 Young Film Programmers Panel...

We are looking for young film enthusiasts to take on the role of film programmers and help select a series of films for the

36th Cinemagic International Film Festival that will take place in Belfast this October. The consultants will work with the programming team to help steer the choice of films for the festival as they watch and critique short films from around the globe.

Dates/times:

Age Group 8-11: 16th & 17th July, 10.30am-3pm

Tickets: <https://wegottickets.com/f/13865>

Age Group 12-14: 22nd & 23rd July, 10.30am-3pm

Tickets: <https://wegottickets.com/f/13866>

Age Group 15-17: 24th & 25th July, 10.30am-3pm

Tickets: <https://wegottickets.com/f/13867>

Venue: Ulster Museum, Belfast / Cost: £10.00



Diocese of Down & Connor

NOVENA
TO THE
SACRED HEART

19th – 27th June

‘There is no limit to the blessings
which God can send you’
2 Cor 9:8

PILGRIMS OF HOPE

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

Church News Ireland

www.churchnewsireland.org

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

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