

Church News Ireland



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Short reading and a prayer daily on this site

June 21 2025

Image of the day



Sunshine and Hope for Dalriada

**Year 11
Geography
pupils from
Dalriada School,
Ballymoney,
enjoyed a sunny
day out in
Belfast on
Tuesday,
learning more
about inner city**



issues and regeneration in the Titanic Quarter.

Front page photo - Here they are at St Anne's Square with the Spire of Hope at the Cathedral in the background.

News



A prayer from Churches Together for Sanctuary Sunday tomorrow

Refugee Week takes place every year in June, and is marked at the end with Sanctuary Sunday.

June 21 2025

Sanctuary Sunday aims to promote the building of cultures of welcome, hospitality and safety in our churches, and its Church of Sanctuary programme.

This year Sanctuary Sunday is on 22 June 2025.

A prayer from Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, by Revd Dr Inderjit Bhogal

May God, our refuge and shelter, who takes sanctuary in us, strengthen our resolve to be people of sanctuary, that we might build cultures of welcome and hospitality and act with protective care for all who are in need of sanctuary. We pray for a world without war in which all can live safely and without fear in their own homes. Image Pixabay



Mothers' Union at Aras an Uachtarain

Sophia Dillon, Hazel Speares, Margaret Jacob and Ada Lawson from Casshel, Ferns and Ossory were delighted



to represent Mothers' Union at a Community Garden Party in Aras an Uachtarain on Wednesday 18th June.

“It was a privilege to be present and join so many other Community groups from around the country. The group were delighted to get to speak to Sabina Higgins who was very aware of the work of Mothers' Union”.



Marking Children's Hospice Week

At Northern Ireland Children's Hospice, care is about so much more than medicine.

As we mark Children's Hospice Week, we're celebrating the colour, creativity and compassion that fill every day for the children and families we support.

Just ask Alora — who recently took part in a joyful art session, painting with her toes and lighting up the room with her smile.



Festival Brass
PRESENTS
SUMMER SOUNDS
A PRE 'INTERNATIONAL BAND FESTIVAL' (TORREVIEJA, ALICANTE) CONCERT
SATURDAY 28th JUNE 2025 - 7.30pm
BELFAST TEMPLE SALVATION ARMY
(110 Cregagh Road, Belfast BT6 9ES)
Compère - Major **KELSTON STANFORD**
FEATURING
Vocal Soloist
REBEKAH DEVLIN
&
FESTIVAL BRASS
Conductor - Alan Corry
A FREEWILL COLLECTION WILL BE TAKEN IN AID OF
SALVATION ARMY JUNIOR SUMMER CAMP & LOCAL CHARITIES
FOR INFORMATION & TO RESERVE A TICKET, PLEASE CONTACT:
FESTIVAL BRASS - 07980 306425
ADMISSION £ FREE

The poster features a background image of a coastal town at night with lights reflecting on the water. It includes two circular logos at the bottom: one for Festival Brass (1995-2024) and another for Torrevieja 2025.

These moments may seem simple, but they are rich with meaning. They bring confidence, connection, and a chance for children like Alora to express themselves in joyful, sensory ways.

With your support, we can keep filling every day with colour and care.

Please - Donate to their Summer Appeal today:
<https://brnw.ch/21wTxem>

Nine children pulled from water after boat capsizes off the Co Antrim coast

Bangor RNLI respond to major rescue

There was a dramatic multi-agency rescue off the Co Antrim coast on Thursday evening (June 19), as Bangor RNLI played a key role in bringing ten people, including nine children, to safety after a 6-metre boat capsized near Carrickfergus.

The Bangor volunteer crew were requested to launch their inshore lifeboat by HM Coastguard at around 9pm. Conditions were calm, with flat seas and light cloud, when the lifeboat launched at 9.09pm. Within minutes, the team arrived on scene near Downshire Railway Station, where they were faced with a worrying sight, several people in the water, and others clinging to the overturned hull of the capsized vessel.



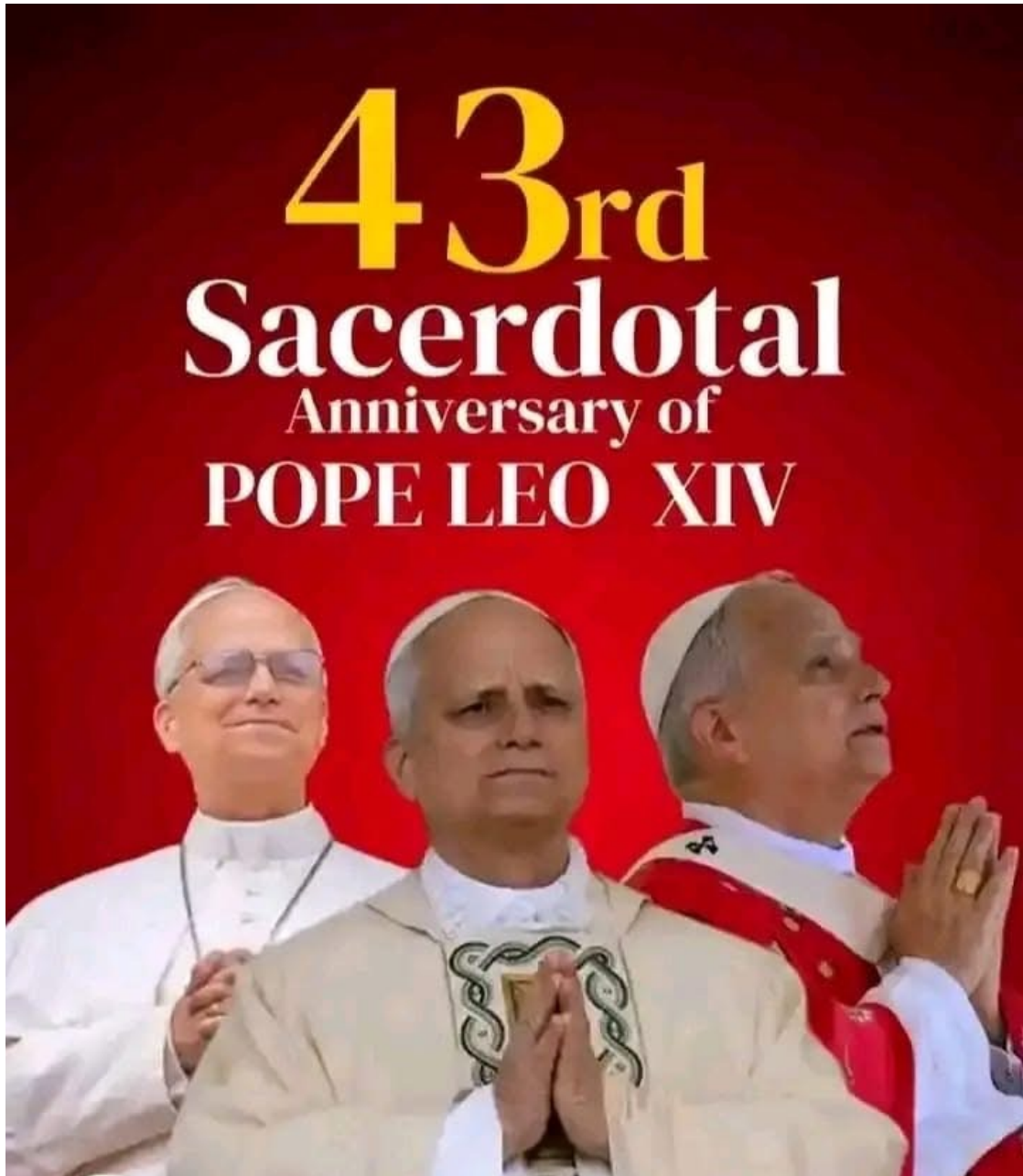
The response was immediate and well-coordinated. Alongside Bangor RNLI, emergency services including the PSNI, NI Fire & Rescue, the NI Ambulance Service, and Maritime and Coastguard Agency teams were swiftly on scene.

In total, ten people were rescued, with one child transferred to the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children. Thankfully, the others were assessed at the scene and discharged.

At one point, up to eight ambulances were present at the quayside as the large-scale response unfolded into the evening.

A spokesperson for the PSNI confirmed that all individuals on the vessel had been accounted for, and there were no reports of serious injuries.

👏 This was a night where the strength of our emergency services and the dedication of volunteers like those at Bangor RNLI, truly shone through.



Pope's sacerdotal anniversary

Thursday marked 43 years since Pope Leo XIV was ordained a priest in the Chapel of Saint Monica, just

steps from the Vatican and from Piazza del Sant'Uffizio, where he now resides as Pontiff.

He was ordained on June 19, 1982, a Priest of the Order of Saint Augustine.

Let's join in prayer for Pope Leo XIV, thanking God for his ministry and asking for continued guidance and blessings....

Father of mercy, we come before you with gratitude for the 43 years of priesthood of Pope Leo XIV. Support him with the Spirit's gifts, so he can continue to preach the Gospel with priestly zeal and lead the Church with wisdom, strength, and courage. May his example of long and faithful service inspire priests and the faithful alike. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen. Tu es sacerdos in aeternum!

Anglican Church of Canada preparing to elect a new Primate

The 44th session of the General Synod will take place June 23-29 in London, Ontario and the election of the new Primate will be held on June 26 at St. Paul's Cathedral.

The Primate leads the church in discerning and pursuing the mission of God. The Primate is also the chief executive officer of the church's national staff team, president of the General Synod, chair of the Council of General Synod and chair of the House of Bishops. The Primate represents the church nationally and internationally.

The Anglican Church of Canada currently has an acting Primate, Archbishop Anne Germond, following the retirement of Primate Linda Nicholls on Sept. 15, 2024.

Held every three years, General Synod is the national meeting of bishops, clergy and lay people that governs the Anglican Church of Canada. This year's General Synod meeting is expected to bring together more than 240 delegates from across Canada and guests from the UK, United States and Brazil.

The Secretary-General of the Anglican Communion, the Rt Revd Anthony Poggo will attend the Synod meeting and installation of the new Primate on Sunday June 29.

Learn about General Synod 2025 and Primatial candidates: <https://gs2025.anglican.ca/>

Education

Duke of Edinburgh Awards celebrated in Causeway Coast and Glens

The Deputy Mayor of Causeway Coast and Glens has welcomed the Ballymoney Cadets to a reception in Cloonavin celebrating their Duke of Edinburgh achievements.

The Ballymoney Detachment of the Army Cadet Force were recognised as the most successful Detachment in 2024 for



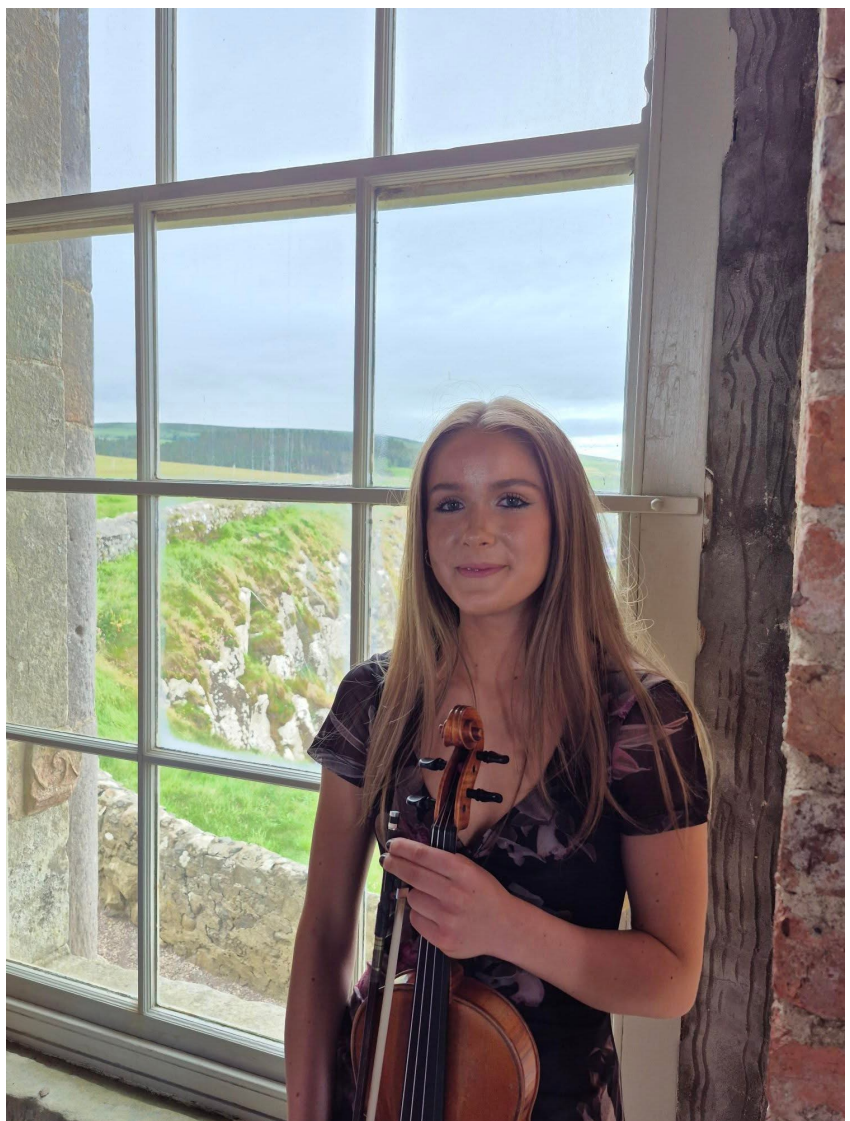
the Duke of Edinburgh Awards within the 1st (NI) Battalion Army Cadet Force.

Formed in 1956, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) aims to improve the personal development and employability of young people and encourages them to get involved in exciting challenges and work towards personalised goals. The award promotes teamwork, self-discipline, empathy and independence. Approximately 6,000 cadets and adult volunteers participate in the DofE through the Army Cadets each year, with the Ballymoney Detachment awarded Top Marks in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme 2024.

Methody recitalist at Mussenden

Well done to MCB Senior Orchestra leader Sienna who was invited by the North Coast Association to play violin in a series of three recitals at the Mussenden Temple.

Sienna then went straight from the final recital to the Ulster Hall to lead the City of Belfast Youth Orchestra in their Summer Concert.



St Malachi's Novena

The Diocese of Down and Connor Novena to the Sacred Heart runs from 19th-27th June 2025.

Our school community will be participating in the Novena by praying and reflecting each day during registration time. Our wider school community is also invited to participate.

Wallace Midsummer Concert

Come along and celebrate the end of the school year at a Midsummer Concert in the Assembly Hall at Wallace High School on 25th June at 7:30pm.

The concert is presented by the Junior School and Year 11, and will feature soloists, choirs, instrumental groups, and a few other special items.

Tickets are free and can be booked via the following link:
<https://zurl.co/q1gfp>

Cathedral Calls

1500 years of Bangor Cathedral marked with rare manuscript exhibition

An exhibition at Bangor University will mark 1500 years of Bangor Cathedral with rare manuscripts and archival treasures.

Curated by the Archives and Special Collections at Bangor University, this major exhibition marks 1,500 years since St. Deiniol founded his monastery in Bangor in 525 AD. The city's name comes from the fence, called a "bangor," that Deiniol built to enclose his community of prayer. Fifteen hundred years later, the cathedral continues to serve the city that grew up around this original settlement.

The exhibition showcases rare and significant items from the university's archival collection alongside precious materials from the cathedral library. This remarkable collection has been in the care of Bangor University for several decades. Visitors will discover illuminated manuscripts, rare printed books and archival documents that tell the story of this ancient Welsh ecclesiastical center.

The exhibition is now open and will run until Dec. 19 online and at the Main Arts Building at Bangor University.

"This exhibition offers a unique opportunity to explore 1500 years of continuous religious and cultural heritage," said Elen Wyn Simpson, archives and special collections manager at Bangor University. "The materials we're displaying reveal the important role Bangor Cathedral has played in Welsh history and the broader story of Christianity in Britain."

"It's an honour to be part of the celebrations of the cathedral and city of Bangor and a great opportunity to showcase the rare and significant items within the cathedral library."

Read the full news story on the Diocese of Bangor website.

June 21 2025

[<https://bangor.eglwysyngnghymru.org.uk/newyddion/2025/06/12/dinas-hynaf-cymru-yn-nodi-1500-mlynedd-gydag-arddangosfa-o-lawysgrifau-prin/>]

Events

The chapel choir of



**WADHAM
COLLEGE**
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Performing in Belfast this summer

Music by Tallis, Warlock, Batten, Howells and others



Music Director - Hannah Zaki Free entry with retiring collection

2 July 2025
7:30pm
St Finnians' Parish Church
BT6 9JT

3 July 2025
2pm
St Peter's Cathedral
BT12 4BU

3 July 2025
7:30pm
St George's Church
BT12 2AG



55th Irish Church Music Association Summer School is just around the corner

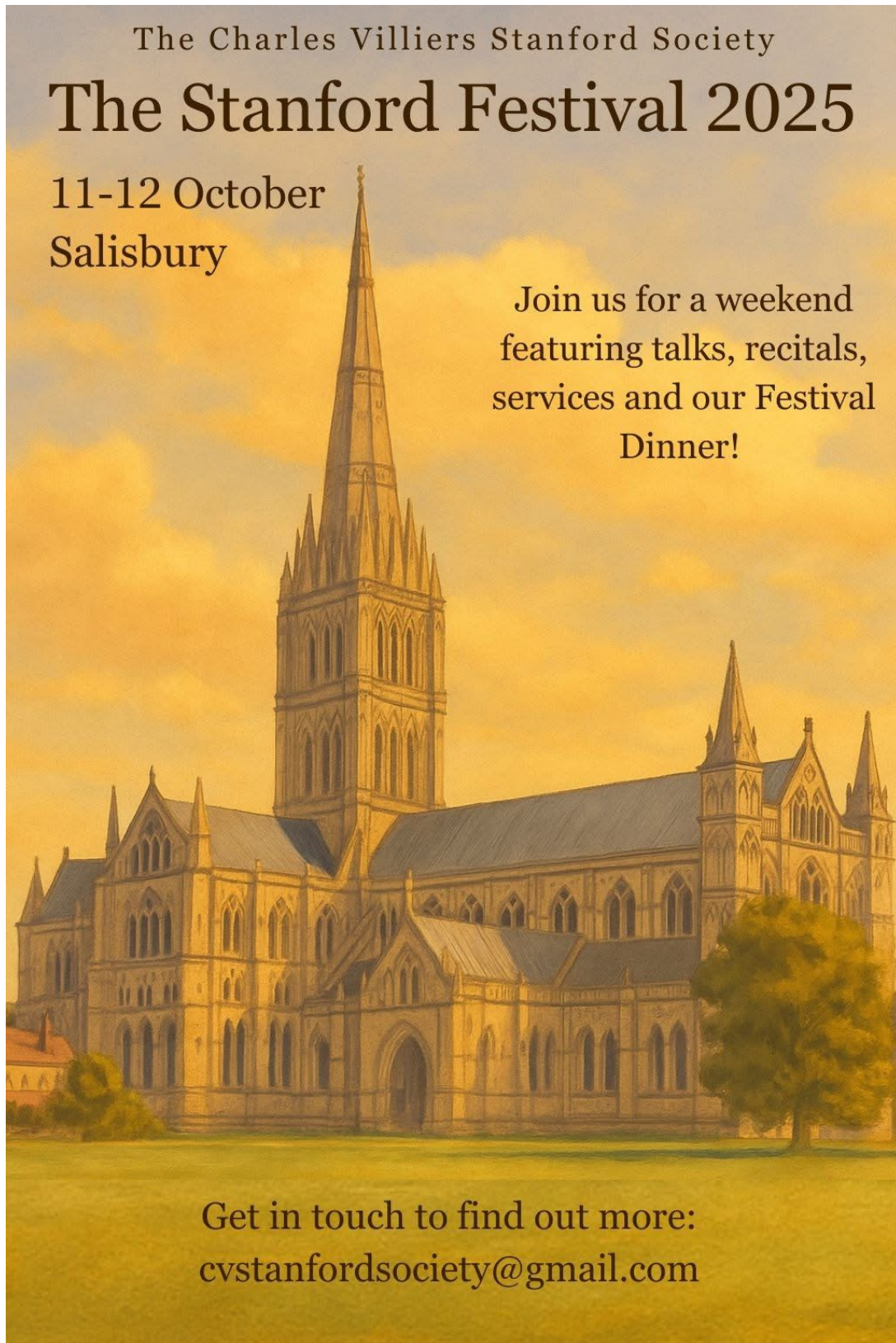
Dates: Tuesday, 1st July – Thursday, 3rd July

Theme: Pilgrims of Hope

Join us for an inspiring three days of music, reflection, and fellowship.

This year's summer school promises to bring together musicians, singers, and liturgical leaders from across the country to celebrate and explore the transformative power of music in our Church communities.

Book your place now:
<https://icmamusic.ie/book/>



The Charles Villiers Stanford Society

The Stanford Festival 2025

11-12 October
Salisbury

Join us for a weekend
featuring talks, recitals,
services and our Festival
Dinner!

Get in touch to find out more:
cvstanfordsociety@gmail.com

The Stanford Festival 2025

11–12 October - Salisbury

Join us for a weekend celebrating the music and legacy of Charles Villiers Stanford in the beautiful surroundings of Salisbury Cathedral Close.

Expect:

- ✨ Evensong
- 🎻 Chamber Recitals
- 🎵 Organ Recital
- 🗣️ Talks
- 🍴 Our Festival Dinner

Whether you're a lifelong Stanford enthusiast or new to his music, all are welcome.



Register your interest: cvstanfordsociety@gmail.com



More info: www.thestanfordsociety.org

Charles Villiers Stanford (1852- 1924) was one of the leading musicians of his generation and had a profound effect on the development and history of English music as a performer, conductor, composer, teacher and writer.

Born in Dublin to a musical family, Stanford attended Queens' College Cambridge as an organ scholar. He subsequently studied composition in Germany, became organist at Trinity College Cambridge in 1873 and Conductor of the Cambridge University Musical Society in 1875. He was appointed Professor of Composition at the Royal College of Music in London in 1883 (a position that he held for more than forty years) and Professor of Music at

Cambridge in 1888. He subsequently held appointments as Conductor of the Bach Choir in London, The Leeds Philharmonic Society and The Leeds Festival

In the media

Abortion law change is ‘dangerous’, warn bishops - Daily Telegraph

Bishops have warned against the abortion law change, writes Gabriella Swerling, Social and Religious Affairs Editor.

About 200 members of the Church of England clergy labelled the vote to decriminalise seeking an abortion at any stage of gestation, for any reason, “dangerous”.

On Tuesday night, MPs voted for the amendment with a majority of 242.

As a result, the Offences Against the Person Act 1861, which outlaws abortion, will no longer apply to women ending their own pregnancies.

However, the amendment still needs to complete its legislative journey through both the Commons and the Lords before it can become law.

The vote has divided public opinion, with many welcoming the “hard-won victory” for women, and others believing that it goes too far, arguing that “late-term abortions kill babies”.

In a letter shared with The Telegraph, leading figures from the Church of England including 13 bishops, of whom five are diocesan bishops, warned that the amendment makes for “a dangerous change” that will fail to protect women, and instead places pregnant women and unborn children “at even greater risk of harm than previously”.

The letter was coordinated by the Rev’d Richard Bastable Vicar of St Luke’s Church, Shephard’s Bush, London. He said: “The proposed change in the law puts women and unborn children at greater risk, especially in cases of abuse and coercion.”

“This, together with the current debate on assisted suicide, indicates a worrying move to prioritise social liberalism and personal autonomy in a way that causes harm to the most vulnerable and those who are voiceless, both at the beginning and the end of life. It is the Church’s task to offer advocacy, protection, and to show society a better way.”

The Government was contacted for comment.

Courtesy Daily Telegraph, 20/06/2025

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**

Please recommend to your friends