



**Image of the day - Ballintoy Church and Rathlin west light**

## Reports

# First Writer in Residence at Belfast Cathedral

**Belfast Cathedral has announced its first Writer in Residence, Deirdre Cartmill.**

Poet and writer Deirdre Cartmill will take up her residency in the Cathedral over the summer. Deirdre will write a series of poems inspired by her time in the Cathedral.

During the residency Deirdre will run a writing workshop themed around the Cathedral. She will also host a post residency reading and Q&A – COVID restrictions permitting.

It is hoped that Deirdre will be the first of many Artists in Residence at the Cathedral. You can follow Deirdre's journey on the Cathedral Instagram page where she will be sharing her insights, inspiration and experiences throughout her residency - <https://www.instagram.com/belfastcathedral/>

Commenting upon her appointment Deirdre said:

“I'm very excited to be Writer in Residence for St Anne's Cathedral. As a poet, the Cathedral provides the perfect environment for contemplation, reflection and endless inspiration.

This residency has a very personal meaning for me. I had 2 heart attacks in a week at 43 and my life fell apart. I had to find a new way of living and I stumbled onto a spiritual



journey. It turned my received ideas on their head. Now as well as being a writer, I'm also a spiritual teacher and healer. During my time in the Cathedral I hope to explore the tension I feel between religious labels and my own personal experiences of spirituality.

I'm sure it will also provoke some thoughts on my upbringing. I was brought up Catholic and it will be interesting to

explore the similarities and differences between my childhood experiences and the world of this Church of Ireland Cathedral.

But there is so much more to write about too – the beauty, the history, the endless stream of souls passing through.

I'm also feeling the excitement and trepidation of coming out of lockdown and entering this beautiful place full of visitors and tourists. Some of my writing will reflect the joys, fears,

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strangeness and wonder of returning to some sort of normality.”

## Deirdre Cartmill Bio

Moy born Deirdre Cartmill is an award winning poet, writer and screenwriter.

She has published two poetry collections with Lagan Press The Return of the Buffalo and Midnight Solo.

She was Monaghan County Libraries Writer in Residence 2020 and has previously been IWC Roaming Writer in Residence, IWC Community Writer in Residence with Womens Aid, and joint Artist in Residence at the Belfast International Arts Festival.

She co-commissioned and curated Ireland’s first poetry jukebox which is now a permanent installation in Belfast.

She is one of the originating artists on the collaborative project Bridging the Silence – a poetic audio walk and installation shown on pedestrian bridges which gives a voice to survivors of abuse and political violence.

Her poetry has been widely published. She has performed many poetry readings across Ireland and Europe. She read at the first Muldoon’s Picnic to be held outside New York.

Deirdre is also an award winning screenwriter and playwright and has written for TV, film, radio and theatre.

## **Bishop of Liverpool: Church of England should adopt “a gender-neutral marriage canon”**

**The Rt. Rev. Paul Bayes, Bishop of Liverpool, speaking on Saturday to MOSAIC (“Movement of Supporting Anglicans for an Inclusive Church”) said:**

“I want to see a gender-neutral marriage canon, such as they have in the Episcopal Church or in the Scottish Episcopal Church. And as a necessary but not sufficient first step I want to see conscientious freedom for the Church’s ministers and local leaders to honour, recognise and, yes indeed, to bless same-sex unions whether civil partnerships or civil marriages.

“I want to see an abolition of the foolishness that sees the call to ordained ministry as a call to a state morally higher than that of the baptised, as though baptism called us to a lesser holiness. I want to see an end to LGBTQ+ people hiding who they are for fear of being exposed to conversion therapy or to being forbidden to minister in churches. I want to see an end to the inquisition of ordinands about their private lives.”

**[The Guardian has this report by Harriet Sherwood](#) -**

A senior bishop has said the Church of England should recognise marriage between people of the same sex and allow such ceremonies in church, a move that would break with centuries of Christian teaching.

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Paul Bayes, the bishop of Liverpool, called for a “gender-neutral marriage canon” in a controversial and hard-hitting speech on Saturday, making him the most senior figure in the C of E to explicitly back a change in church law and teaching.

The “world beyond the church” has found it to be offensive, oppressive and hypocritical, he said.

Issues of sexuality, gender and same-sex marriage have caused deep and bitter divisions within the C of E in recent decades. Conservatives have sought to uphold traditional teaching that marriage is a union between a man and a woman. Campaigners for change say the bible teaches inclusivity and equality.

More at -

[[] <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jun/26/church-of-england-should-recognise-same-sex-marriage-says-bishop> ]

## **Use of leper to mean outcast is ‘derogatory’**

**A crossword answer has embroiled the Church of Scotland in a row after campaigners claimed its use of the word “leper” as an answer was “archaic, derogatory and harmful”.**

Calling someone a “leper” derives from the disease leprosy, a feature in one of Jesus’s most famous miracles in the New Testament, in which he heals a man suffering from the

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disease with a single touch. Now, however, the Church of Scotland's house magazine has been dragged into a row over using "leper" as the answer to 2 Down – Outcast (5) – in its crossword.

The crossword appeared in the June edition of Life and Work.

Linda Todd, CEO of The Leprosy Mission Scotland, wrote to the magazine to say she was "somewhat dismayed" and the use of "the 'L' word" should be banned. "In fact we have a campaign entitled 'Delete the L word'," she said.

Historically, leprosy was considered as a curse from God, but in reality, it is a chronic infectious disease which mainly affects the skin, peripheral nerves, upper respiratory tract and eyes.

The disease, which is caused by bacteria, is endemic in more than 100 countries and can be cured with multi-drug therapy.

Ms Todd's request to the magazine was to use terms such as "people affected by leprosy" or a "leprosy village or colony", rather than "leper", in the future.

She said: "One of the most damaging effects of leprosy is the stigma, isolation and discrimination it can lead to.

"The use of the word 'leper' to describe someone affected by leprosy is archaic, derogatory and harmful."

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She added: “People affected by leprosy have asked that it not be used – surely that in itself should be reason enough to stop.”

A spokesperson for Life and Work said: “We were grateful to the leprosy society for bringing the issue to us and we were happy to publish their letter to the editor raising awareness about the impact of language and the leprosy society’s campaign.”

## People and places

### Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem worship on St John’s Eve

Members of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem gathered at Saint Patrick’s Cathedral in Dublin on St John’s Eve (23rd June) for the annual ecumenical service of rededication.

The service was led by the Dean of Saint Patrick’s, the Very Rev Dr William Morton, and chaplains to the Irish members, the Rev Fr Kieran Cronin OFM MStJ and the Very Rev Philip Bradley Adm (Terenure).

Irish members of the Order were joined by the Chancellor of the Irish Association of the Sovereign Order of Malta, Chev Desmond Carroll KM, and the Lieutenant of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre, Chev Peter Durnin GCHS.



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Music for the service was provided by Mr Stuart Nicholson, Master of Music at Saint Patrick's, who played the organ, and Ms Judith Lyons from the Department of Music at Saint Patrick's who was the Cantor.

## **Eggshell Cambodia Summer Challenge**

The Belfast-based charity Eggshell Cambodia wants you to get active in support of the education, care and safety of some of Cambodia's most vulnerable children.

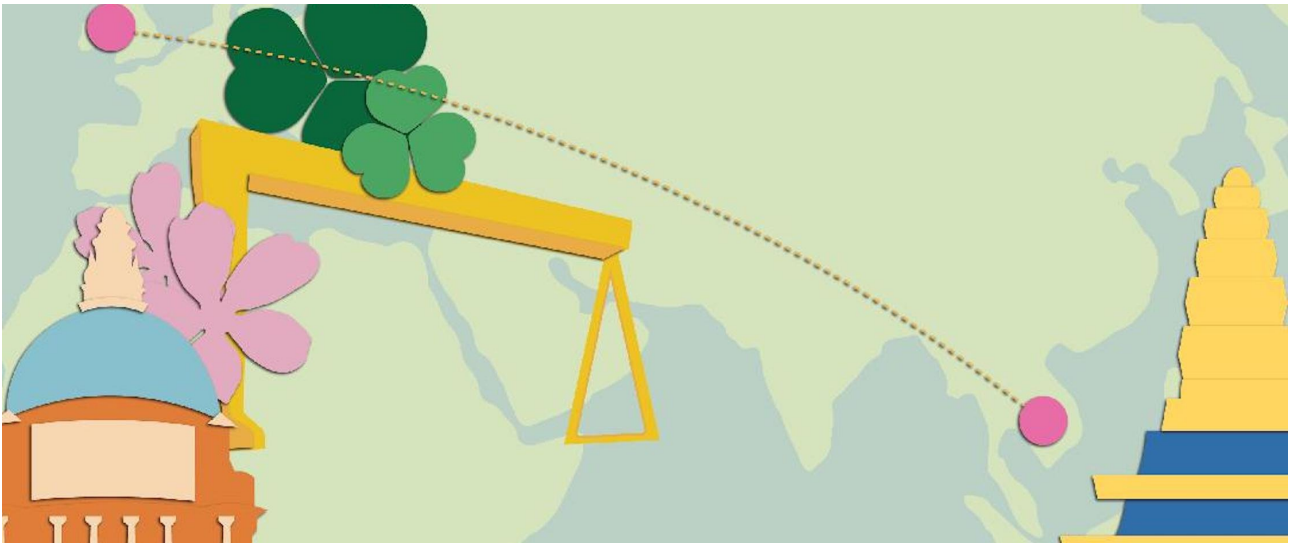
“And I would walk 500 miles.....” and 5868 more to get from Belfast to Phnom Penh. This summer join in the challenge: walk, run, cycle, swim, rollerblade, skateboard, cartwheel your way to helping us cover the distance from here to all those we support in Cambodia. We'd love for you to challenge yourselves – and each other – to use the time to reconnect and forge friendships. Include friends, families and anyone willing to join you.

About

Mark and Liz Fetherstonhaugh (parishioners of Willowfield Church) first developed an interest in and concern for Cambodia in 2008. Some of the poorest families there live in cardboard homes, built in the cesspits under other homes – the conditions are indescribable.

“In the next few months an exciting expansion is planned that would see more than double our current number of children supported in an environment that teaches them necessary skills, feeds them well and, most importantly, keeps them safe from possible exploitation in an

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environment that nurtures creativity, curiosity and a love for Jesus.

“In caring for them, we also help their families by allowing them to earn money to help lift them out of poverty. The expansion would also provide a facility for the wider community.”

Please sign up at [6368@eggshellcambodia.com](mailto:6368@eggshellcambodia.com) Share pictures, journeys and, most importantly, miles using the hashtag #6368 and join the fun on Facebook and Instagram #6368. Eggshell Cambodia – Charity Registration No. 106896

## **The Chapel of the Resurrection, Belfast**

In 1868, the third Marquis of Donegall started building the present Belfast Castle in the shadow of Cave Hill, north Belfast, to replace the one burned to the ground in 1708. Designed by Charles Lanyon and built by John Lowry, it was finally completed in 1870.



Former mortuary chapel on Cave Hill, Belfast. (Photos 1920s)

During this period, the Marquis also built the mortuary chapel as a memorial to his son Frederick Richard, Earl of Belfast, who died and was buried in

Italy in 1853.

Frederick's body was initially exhumed and buried in the family vault in St Nicholas' Parish Church in Carrickfergus. When the new mortuary chapel was ready in December 1869, he was exhumed again and reburied in the vault beneath. The third Marquis brought the remains of a further six relatives to the vault. He himself was buried there in 1883. Brasses on the walls commemorated various members of both the Donegall and Shaftesbury families.



At the beginning of the first world war, services in the chapel were discontinued. However, it opened again in 1938, having been transferred with the freehold of the ground to the Church of Ireland by the Earl of Shaftesbury. Belfast Castle and its estate had been presented to the city corporation four years earlier.

During the second world war, the chapel suffered superficial damage during air raids but services continued every Sunday. The chapel bell, which had been silent for years,

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was cleaned and re-hung at the end of the war, when it was rung in honour of the Allied victory.

In subsequent years, many Belfast parishes helped to keep the chapel going by conducting Sunday services there.

However, there was no endowment of any kind and all outgoings had to be met from collections. Sadly, the last service was held on August 27, 1972. The building had become impossible to maintain and the remains from the vault were cremated and returned to St Nicholas' Parish Church. In 1982, grave robbers entered and desecrated it, so it was deconsecrated and eventually sold in 1985.

Today, the building, accessible from Innisfayle Park on the Antrim Road is now apartments. Courtesy Northern Ireland Historical Photographic Association.

## **Primate joins Sunday worship in Dunfanaghy churches**

It was a special day in the Church of Ireland's north-westernmost diocese as the Primate of All Ireland and Archbishop of Armagh, Most Rev John McDowell, joined congregations at two separate services in the Dunfanaghy Group of Parishes.

The Archbishop joined the congregation at Holy Trinity Church, in Dunfanaghy, for the 10.30am service, at which he preached the sermon. Afterwards, Archbishop McDowell made the journey a few miles south to St Paul's Church, in

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Raymunterdoney, where he was back in the pulpit to preach at the midday service.

On each occasion, the Primate was welcomed to the parishes by the Rector, Rev David Skuce

## **Outdoors Friends of St Canice's**

The Society of the Friends of St Canice's Cathedral held their AGM (outdoors) at St Canice's Cathedral, this was followed by the Friends annual lecture given by local archaeologist Mr Ben Murtagh. A garden party in the Deanery garden followed Choral Evensong.

## **Books, Broadcasts, Resources and Webinars**

### **Island of Peace ISE at 50 Webinar**

The Irish School of Ecumenics is marking its 50th anniversary including a webinar “Ireland - Island of Peace” on 1 July 2021 at 5pm (Irish Time)

#### **Speakers**

Noel Dorr, Former Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations and Former Secretary General of the Department of Foreign Affairs

John Maguire, Professor Emeritus of Sociology, University College Cork and Board Member of Action from Ireland (Afri)



Shona Bell, Programme Manager – Sectarianism,  
Corrymeela

David Mitchell, Assistant Professor in Conflict Resolution  
and Reconciliation, School of Religion, Trinity College  
Dublin at Belfast

Lisa Clark, Co-President of the International Peace Bureau  
(IPB) and the IPB Representative to the World Summit of  
Nobel Peace Laureates

Chaired by Iain Atack, Assistant Professor, Peace Studies,  
School of Religion, Trinity College Dublin

## Event Information

The history of the island of Ireland, which suffered colonisation, conflict, famine and mass migration, resonates in many countries affected by protracted conflict, and yet signals hope that a peace process is possible. The ongoing

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position of Irish neutrality, commitment to international peacekeeping, and the current role as a member of the UN Security Council, also contribute to the potential for Ireland to be put forward as an island of peace. However, there are significant internal and external challenges for the island to reach this potential. This ISE at 50 webinar, 'Ireland - Island of Peace', explores the challenges and opportunities for Ireland to become an island of peace.

In the roundtable webinar, chaired by Iain Atack (Trinity College Dublin), we are fortunate to be able to draw on the depth of wisdom and range of expertise embodied in our contributors: Noel Dorr (Former Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations and Former Secretary General of the Department of Foreign Affairs); John Maguire (Professor Emeritus of Sociology, University College Cork and Board Member of Action from Ireland); Shona Bell (Programme Manager – Sectarianism, Corrymeela); David Mitchell (Assistant Professor in Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation, School of Religion, Trinity College Dublin at Belfast); and Lisa Clark (Co-President of the International Peace Bureau (IPB) and the IPB Representative to the World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates).

This webinar, 'Ireland - Island of Peace' is part of the webinar series to celebrate the Irish School of Ecumenics – ISE at 50. The ISE was founded in 1970 by Fr. Michael Hurley, with a vision of a place where people from diverse backgrounds and disciplinary perspectives could explore the meaning and possibilities of peace and reconciliation together. The ISE continues to uphold Fr. Hurley's vision as an academic institute in Trinity College Dublin.





## Pointers for prayer

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy:

Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal that we finally lose not the things eternal:

Grant this, heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our Lord.

Heavenly Father, when our yoke is heavy, when our patience is short, when silence is deafening, by your Holy Spirit remind us of your great faithfulness, and have compassion on us.

Loving God, you hear our prayers: You live among us.

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Holy Spirit, you make the bonds of love between warriors on the field of battle “stronger than lions.” Make our love for each other equally wonderful, as we struggle together on earth against all the forces of sin, death and the devil.

Loving God, you hear our prayers: You live among us.

Holy Spirit, hear our prayers when we are in the depths of despair, and reform our laments into praise, as we sense that the Lord Jesus Christ is bearing our burden.

Loving God, you hear our prayers: You live among us.

Lord Jesus Christ, as we share our gifts for your work, we do it because we first learned it from you. Receive our thanks for your Holy Spirit's encouragement to be generous, and bless all whose needs are attended to.

Loving God, you hear our prayers: You live among us.

Lord Jesus Christ, you know the cost of healing. You felt the power leave from yourself for the sake of others. Make us willing also to expend ourselves for another.

Loving God, you hear our prayers: You live among us.

Holy Spirit, you remind us that the seasons of our lives pass quickly, and at the end of our time, you have promised us a new home. Yet we are bold to ask for your mercies for those who need you here and now \_\_\_\_\_.

Loving God, you hear our prayers: You live among us.

The love of God has won. The new life has begun.

Amen

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Lord God, friend of those in need, your Son Jesus has untied our burdens and healed our spirits.

We lift up the prayers of our hearts for those still burdened, those seeking healing, those in need within the church and the world.

As you heard the prayer of Isaac and Rebekah, O God, and guided them in the way of your love, so listen now to those who call upon you.

*Intercessions may be inserted concluding with:*

Move us to praise your gracious will, for in Christ Jesus you have saved us from the deeds of death and opened for us the hidden ways of your love. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord God, friend of those in need, your Son Jesus has untied our burdens and healed our spirits.

We lift up the prayers of our hearts for those still burdened, those seeking healing, those in need within the church and the world. Amen

## Speaking to the Soul

**“This is the kind of fasting I want: Free those who are wrongly imprisoned; lighten the burden of those who work for you. Let the oppressed go free, and remove the chains that bind people. Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless.”**

Isaiah 58:6-7 NLT

It is incredibly sad that Isaiah's words written more than 2,500 years ago still apply today. There continue to be

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people who are wrongly imprisoned, hungry and homeless. God's word to us today is, therefore, unchanged from Isaiah's day. He declares that the reality of our worship will be revealed by our willingness to care for those who are denied justice and as we reach out to feed the hungry and give shelter to the homeless.

I am thrilled that Christians are busily engaged in fighting for justice and in providing practical relief for the hungry and homeless. The need is still enormous. There are more than 300,000 homeless people in the UK. I have often spoken with homeless people and have been struck by the terrible ease with which people can slip into homelessness. An ugly row with parents or a partner; the loss of a job; a time of depression; or simply the inability to find affordable housing in a new town. Homeless people are just like us, apart from the fact that they no longer have the security of a home.

Before the 2008 recession the term "food bank" was rarely heard. There are now more than 2,000 food banks in these islands and during the pandemic they have played an even more crucial role in ensuring that people are adequately fed. Christians do not have a monopoly in caring for the hungry, nor do we seek it, but it is wonderful to see that so many of these food banks are based in churches and supported by Christian volunteers. This is exactly what God wants to see. Fasting is a wonderful form of worship but if it doesn't find expression in practical gritty action to support people in need, then God doesn't want to know. He would rather we kept quiet until the time we sorted ourselves out.

## QUESTION

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In what ways are you supporting vulnerable people in your community?

## PRAYER

Lord God, I ask you to open my eyes to the needs of people around me, and to open my heart and pocket to respond to them. Amen

