

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Music at Balligan

March 11, 2023

Image of the day

Music at Balligan

Just before Christmas 2022, John McDonald was invited to consider becoming the next director of the Balligan Consort, a small chamber



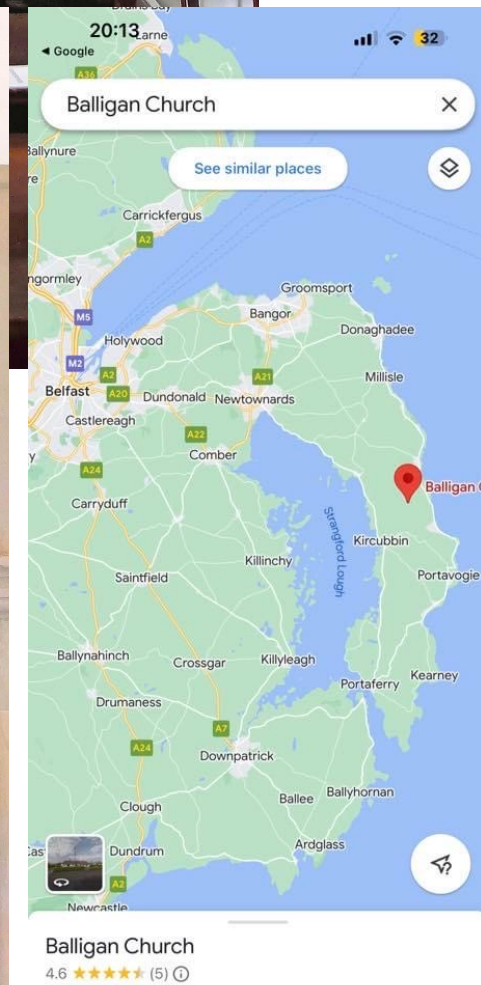
choir which exists primarily to sing Choral Evensong at St. Andrew's Church, Balligan in rural east Co. Down.

This little whitewashed, Queen Anne-period (1704) church is lit mainly by candles and Tilley Lamps and is home to a [probably Georgian] chamber organ.

The choir is currently an 8-piece ensemble of SSSSAATB, around half of whom have been in various choirs with John over the years, some of them back in the 1980s or 90s.



John's first evensong at Balligan is this coming Sunday, 12th March at 3.30pm when the music includes Purcell's "Thou Knowest", Ayleward Responses with Stone



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Lord's Prayer, Psalm 40 (Turle and Fitzherbert doubles in F), June Nixon Fauxbourdon Mag and Nunc and Farrant's "Hide Not Thou".

People and places

Methodist Youth Ministry says 'Adios Gemma' as colleague goes to new post in Ibiza



The Methodist Church's Youth Ministry team is sad to be saying farewell to their friend and colleague Gemma Barclay.

Gemma has worked as Youth Ministry Coordinator for IMYC for the last 6 and a half years. Her colleagues say - "We have loved her heart to see others grow in their faith and identify their gifts and skills to serve God.

"She is a community builder, encourager and prayer warrior who will be hugely missed by the IMYC staff team and the many many others she served alongside!

“We are so excited for her new adventure, as she heads off to work with 24-7 Ibiza later this month. We are eternally grateful for all she has given to the Methodist Church in Ireland during her time with us and we will continue to pray for her as our new Mission Associate in Ibiza.”

World Mission Partnership asks all of their supporters to keep Gemma in their prayers, and if they're able, to consider giving her some financial support. Gemma is responsible for raising her own salary and expenses: WMP will be making a contribution toward these costs, but donations from individual supporters are still needed for Gemma to carry out her ministry.

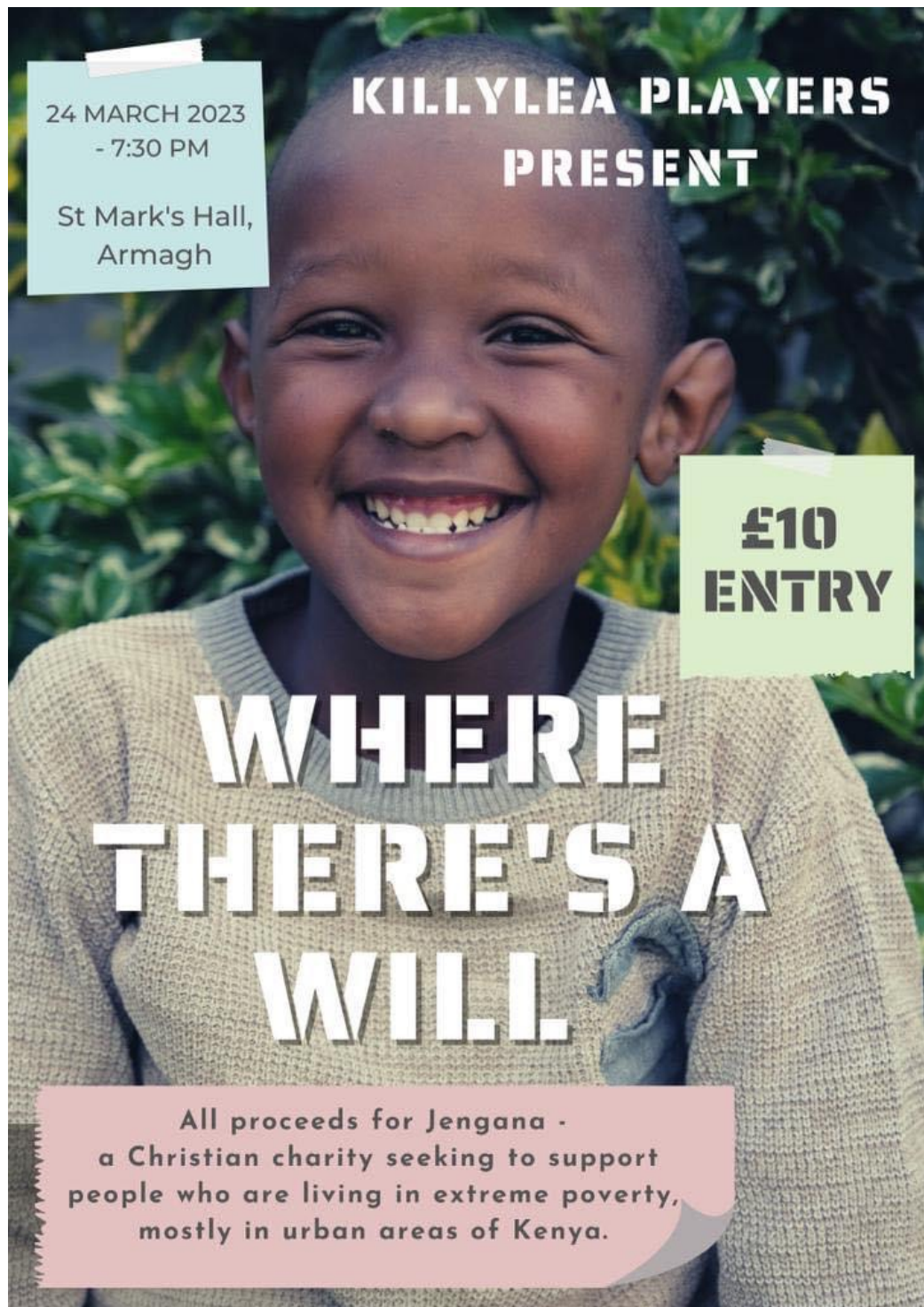
You can find out more about Gemma's move here:
<https://irishmethodist.org/world-mission-news/called-to-serve-in-ibiza>

Comedy drama in Armagh to support Christian Charity in Kenya

On Friday 24th March the Killylea Players will perform 'Where there's a Will' in the Crozier Hall, St Mark's, Armagh.

This is a fundraising event to assist a Parishioner, Ms Katie Hassard, travelling to Kenya this summer to serve with the Christian Charity 'Jengana'.

The money raised will go directly to Jengana, helping to develop their Kipepeo Home for vulnerable children as well



as providing education support and feeding programmes within slum areas.

The play is a comedy and features unforeseen circumstances for a bachelor who receives word that he has been left money by an old school friend, but is persuaded to claim for a wife and child also.

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Tickets for the play are available from the Parish office.

The parish office is open weekdays (except Wednesday) from 9am-1pm or you can call on ☎ 37523197

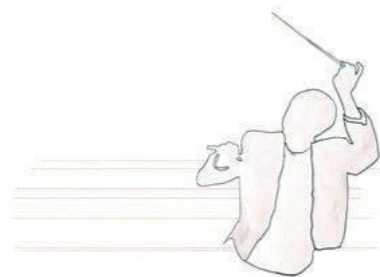
US Chorale in Kilkenny



PROGRAMME

Sacred, traditional and popular songs for choir including Mozart, Emerson, Arcadelt and many more

Conductor **Jack Rifkin**



Wednesday 15th March 2pm
St Canice Cathedral, Kilkenny

 **WorldStrides**
Educational Travel & Experiences

Best foot forward for Christian Unity



Rev Peter Morris, Father Michael Canny and Rev Andrea Cotter.

Around 80 people took part a walk by worshippers from three of the Waterside churches in Derry to mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the first time such a walk has been held since the pandemic.


The ecumenical event began in All Saints, Clooney, where participants were welcomed by the Rev Andrea Cotter who told those present that the theme for this year's week was 'Be-Longing: praying for unity amidst injustice'. Globally, the week was focusing on the injustice of racism, but here the service was being adapted to also take account of issues such as racism and sectarianism.

Easter VESTRY MEETING

Monday 27th March

7.00pm Drinks Reception
7.30pm Meeting

Elections:
Parochial Nominators
Diocesan Synod
members
Select Vestry members



Everyone welcome to attend.
Only Registered General Vestry Members can vote



**It is that
time of
year...**

...when Church
of Ireland
parishes elect
church wardens
and select
vestries...
And perhaps...
Last of the
Communion
Wine...

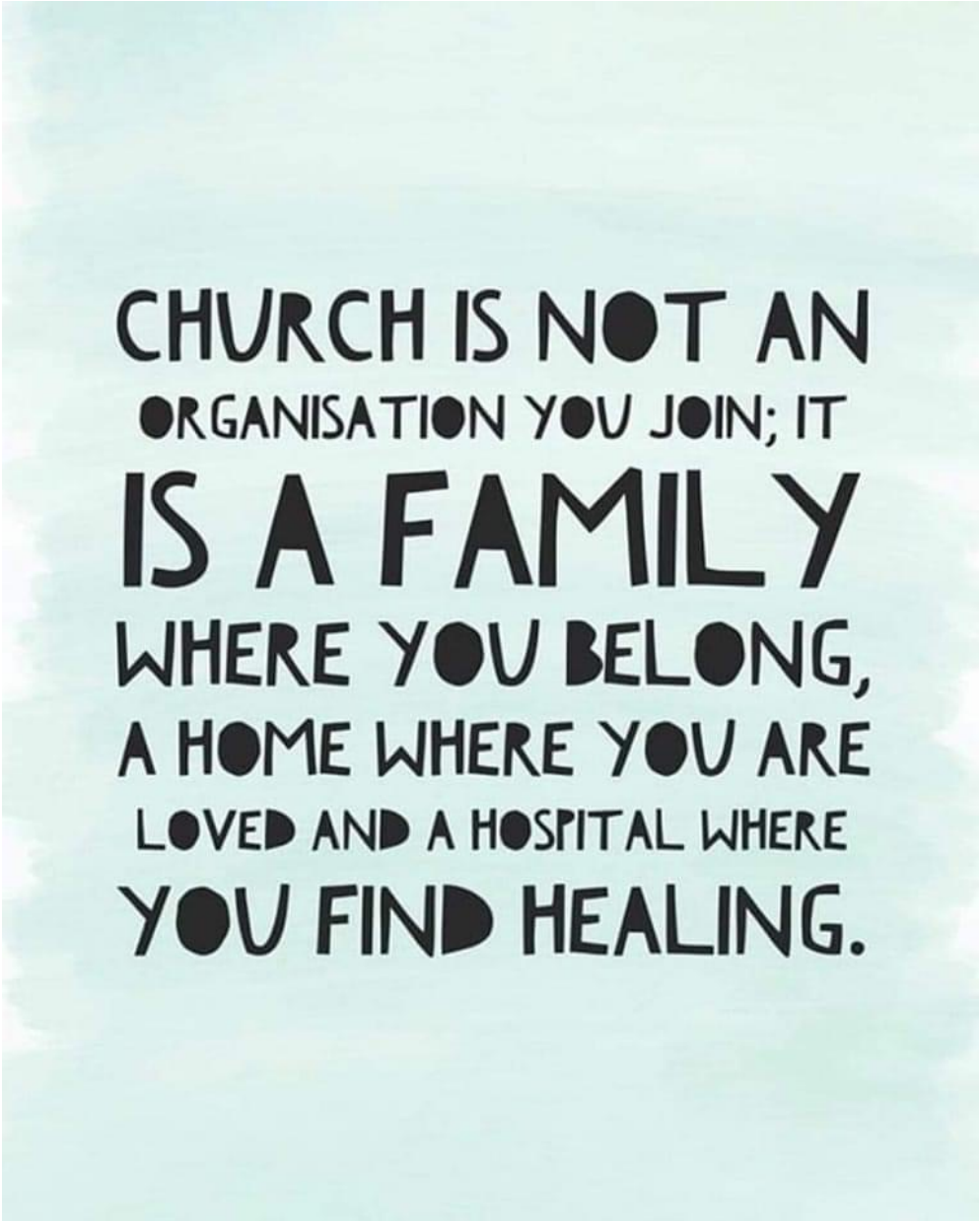
St Patrick's Day Teas are back

You are invited to the Methodist Hall, Moville for tea and traybakes on Friday 17th March from 2.30pm - 5pm.

Proceeds from this event will be shared between Culdaff and Moville St Vincent de Paul charities, and the Inishowen Methodist Hall.



News reports



CHURCH IS NOT AN
ORGANISATION YOU JOIN; IT
IS A FAMILY
WHERE YOU BELONG,
A HOME WHERE YOU ARE
LOVED AND A HOSPITAL WHERE
YOU FIND HEALING.

Take the risk for Christ - a year to promote vocations to the diocesan priesthood

On Tuesday 7 March last, the second day of the Spring General Meeting of the Irish Bishops' Conference, the Council of Vocations announced a year to promote Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood, which will take place next month on the theme: 'Take the Risk for Christ'. Bishop Alphonsus Cullinan, chair of the Council for Vocations of the

Bishops' Conference, a number of seminarians, priests and bishops launched the year in the College Chapel of Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth.

Bishop Cullinan said, "from speaking to newly ordained priests, there is a strong correlation between their calling and the influence and encouragement received from a priest who had previously spoken to them about their ministry, about taking the risk for Christ.

"One of the objectives of this Year of Vocations is to start conversations within families, with priests and in parish communities on the beauty of the vocation of priesthood."

The year-long awareness campaign will open on 25 April, the Feast of Saint Mark the Evangelist. On this date a special conference, entitled 'Evangelisation and Vocation: Diocesan Priesthood in a Synodal Church', will be hosted at the national seminary of Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth.

The keynote address will be delivered by Archbishop Rino Fisichella, Pro-Prefect of the Vatican Dicastery for Evangelisation.

Bishop Cullinan concluded, "in 2023, answering God's call to journey as a priest is a counter-cultural and courageous decision. Future priests need support to discern their vocation. I encourage any man who seeks to explore their calling to priestly ministry to make contact today with their local priest or diocesan vocations director. They would also be very welcome to attend our special conference next month."

Ministers contribute to first audio Bible solely recorded by women

Two Church of Scotland ministers have helped narrate the first audio adaptation of the New International Version of the Bible recorded solely by women from across the UK.

Rev Shuna Dicks and Rev Rosie Frew said they are delighted to contribute to the groundbreaking project which is being officially launched today which is International Women's Day.

They said that they hoped that the free-to-access audio book, recorded by women with a wide range of regional accents, would enable listeners to engage with Scripture in a new and exciting way.

Mrs Dicks, minister of Cults Parish Church in Aberdeen, narrated Corinthians, book one and two, while Mrs Frew of Bowden and Melrose Church in the Scottish Borders read Matthew's Gospel, the longest book in the New Testament.

The group behind the project is called Her Audio Bible UK and both ministers heard about it on social media and submitted audition tapes.

Inspiring

They were both successful and recorded their parts separately last year - Mrs Dicks travelled to Bath while Mrs Frew went to a town called Burford in Oxfordshire.

Run by a group of volunteers, Her Audio Bible UK say this version makes the Bible accessible to people who find reading a struggle as well as for those in situations where reading it is unsafe or socially unacceptable.

It says that listening to a woman's voice can be particularly helpful for those who find it more difficult to listen to a male voice, for example people who have experienced abuse or violence that they associate with men.

Appreciation

Kenneth Montgomery Former Belfast Cathedral chorister and Conductor of Ulster Orchestra

Kenneth Montgomery, who has died aged 79, was the first Belfast-born musician to be principal conductor of the Ulster Orchestra; a natural communicator, he had an ability to connect with both musicians and audiences, sharing with them a wide range of repertoire and leading them in the city's annual Proms in the Park concerts despite loyalist intimidation in 2005.

With only one full-time professional orchestra in Northern Ireland, flexibility was key. For music by Handel, Montgomery invited the players to imagine themselves in the 18th century using instruments that had different strings

and bows. For Tchaikovsky they considered how much vibrato he would have expected.

There were few composers whose music Montgomery avoided, but Puccini was one of them. “I don’t really understand him,” said the bushy-bearded conductor, spectacles perching on his nose. “I’ve done some of his operas but I don’t think I do them as well as other people so I leave them alone. Their stories don’t resonate very well with me. It’s not the music, it’s the stories.”

He was born in east Belfast on October 28 1943, the only child of Tom Montgomery, a charge-hand electrician at Shorts aerospace company, and his wife Lily. Kenneth was educated at the Royal Belfast Academical Institution and joined the choir of St Anne’s Cathedral, Belfast, capturing the attention of Capt Charles Brennan, the cathedral and city organist.

He played bassoon and piano, but when his parents bought him an old “honky-tonk” instrument one of his teachers suggested that something better was needed. “My father had saved up for a second-hand car, but he bought me a reconditioned Steinway instead,” he recalled.

His first operatic disaster came as an angel in an amateur production of Hansel und Gretel. After a couple of small-town performances the show moved to Belfast with a dress rehearsal on Monday night. “On Tuesday morning I woke up with the mumps, so that was the end of my first opera,” he said.

When he was 11 Kenneth attended his first concert, given by the City of Belfast Orchestra, and at 12 he announced that he would become a professional conductor. His headmaster allowed him to attend Wednesday-afternoon orchestral rehearsals rather than be dragged across the games field, the start of a lifelong aversion to exercise.

He went on to study with Adrian Boult at the Royal College of Music in London and took lessons in Siena with Sergiu Celibidache and in Hamburg with Hans Schmidt-Isserstedt. His first professional engagements were assisting John Pritchard at Glyndebourne Festival Opera and with Sadler's Wells Opera.

In 1973 Montgomery was appointed music director of the Bournemouth Sinfonietta, on one occasion conducting Kiri te Kanawa with their sister ensemble, the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. Two years later he joined the Dutch Radio Symphony Orchestra and settled in the Netherlands.

“Basically, they are Calvinists,” he said of the Dutch. “They think like many of the people in Northern Ireland. They say ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ and that’s it, unlike the south of England.” He also conducted in Tehran and Toronto and since 1982 had been a regular at Santa Fe Opera, where in 2007 he was interim music director.

Having been chief guest conductor of the Ulster Orchestra, he was appointed principal conductor in 2007. When he told his elderly mother, writing out the news to bypass her deafness, she banged her fist on the table declaring: “I told them so” – not a reference to the musical authorities, but to the neighbours who had said she was stupid for taking her

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son to countless rehearsals and concerts, a journey requiring two bus rides each way.

Kenneth Montgomery was appointed OBE in 2010. He is survived by his husband, Jan van Dooren.

Kenneth Montgomery, born October 28 1943, died March 5 2023

Courtesy The Daily Telegraph 10/03/2023

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Coronation Daily Prayer booklet

The Coronation of King Charles III will take place on Saturday 6 May 2023 at Westminster Abbey, in a service steeped in centuries of tradition and rich in Christian symbols and values. To mark this important moment in our nation's life, the Church of England has compiled this series of Daily Prayers.

From Easter Day (9 April) to Coronation Day (6 May), this booklet provides a daily theme, reading, reflection and prayer for use by individuals, churches or groups who wish to use these days to:

- * pray for The King, our nation and the world
- * explore the symbolism of the Coronation service



* reflect on Jesus, the Servant King.

It also includes prayers for The King and the Royal Family for use in years to come.

Digital versions will also be available via the Church of England's website and social media channels. Churches and cathedrals around the country will be leading and joining local celebrations throughout the Coronation Weekend.

Ahead of the Coronation of King Charles III, join us in praying with and for the King, from Easter Sunday to the Coronation.

You can order Coronation Daily Prayer booklets at cofe.io/CoronationBooklet.

Poem for today

I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud **by William Wordsworth**

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced; but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
A poet could not but be gay,
In such a jocund company:
I gazed—and gazed—but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,

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They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.

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
