

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – Royal Hillsborough**

## Image of the day

### Royal Hillsborough

The Hillsborough Community group held its first free walking tour of Royal Hillsborough on 4th March for residents who have recently moved to Royal Hillsborough.

The Hillsborough Fort Guard took the lead in organising a brilliant tour which included the Fort and the Parish Church.

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council supported this event through the Community Support Grant.

## People and places

### Ballyclare to Walkthrough the Bible

**The United Parish of Christ Church & St John's, Ballyclare, is hosting Walkthrough the Bible – an interactive and engaging teaching event that uncovers the ‘Big Picture of the Old Testament – Genesis to Malachi.’**

This will take place in the church on Friday evening June 16 from 7pm-9.30pm, continuing the following morning from 9.30am until 1pm.





The course is aimed at helping put all the biblical people, places and events into chronological order, inspiring participants to go deeper into God's word, and to put into action everything they have learned.

Walkthrough the Bible is a Christian charity which has been teaching the 'Big Picture of the Bible' for more than 40 years. The event costs £15 and lunch (optional) is £5.

The rector of the United Parish of Christ Church and St John's, the Rev Jonny Campbell-Smyth, said: "We are extremely excited to host this event.

"All of us at some point will have scratched our heads at some of the detail of the Old Testament, so I truly believe this overview will help all of us go deeper in our study of God's word and understand his big plan through it.

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“We look forward to welcoming people to Ballyclare in June.”

To find out more and book your place, visit [www.theunitedparish.org.uk](http://www.theunitedparish.org.uk) or contact Jonny at [jonny@theunitedparish.org.uk](mailto:jonny@theunitedparish.org.uk).

## **‘Stories of Hope’ at Our Lady of Lourdes, Steelstown**

**Baroness Nuala O’Loan, the well-known Irish Catholic columnist, Police Ombudsman and IRA bombing survivor heads up a wealth of people who will recall their personal journeys of hope at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Steelstown, Derry Now reports.**

Speaking ahead of this week’s first talk, a member of the Parish Pastoral Committee of Steelstown said that so many are looking forward to each evening. She said everyone is very welcome.

Hope, Faith and Love help in situations of need. Hopefully each evening will give each person who attends a sense of hope and inspiration. The music will be uplifting and refreshments will be served after each event.

Activities will include talks and music with former Principal of St. Mary’s College, **Marie Lindsay** will start proceedings on Tuesday, 7th March. A Donegal native, well known in teaching circles in the city, Marie will recall her journey over this past few years.



## **Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Steelstown**

Tuesday, March 14 will see **Geraldine Mullan**, who tragically lost her husband and two children in an accident in 2020 recall her story and tell how faith, love and hope enabled her to keep going one day at a time.

**Archdeacon Robert Miller** will give a talk on Tuesday, 21st March. The Church of Ireland clergyman is active in conflict resolution in both church and community contexts.

Children in Crossfire founder and well-known Derry man **Richard Moore** will host events on Tuesday, March 28. Richard tragically lost his sight when hit by a rubber bullet when he was at secondary school in the Creggan back in the 1970s. He explains how he lives an inspiring and fruitful life.

The finale on Tuesday, March 31 will see **Baroness O'Loan**, a high-profile figure in Ireland, both north and south, explain how she survived an IRA bombing but lost her unborn child.



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Each night will also have live music by local musicians such as Eibhlin and Rory O'Donnell, Erin Carlin and Lauren and Beth Doherty, as well as tea/coffee served.

Each event will have a 7pm start and all are welcome to attend. Report courtesy of Derry Now

A JOINT VENTURE OF ST JUDE'S & KNOCKBRED A CHURCHES

**THE WORDLESS BOOK HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB!**



**P1 - P7 WELCOME**

GAMES / SONGS / CRAFTS / BIBLE TEACHING / REFRESHMENTS

**MONDAY 3RD - FRIDAY 7TH APRIL**

**10.30AM - 12 NOON**

**KNOCKBRED A CHURCH HALLS**  
(1 PURDY'S LN, BELFAST BT8 7AN)

Register through  
the QR code!





## **New Area Dean for Lecale**

**The Bishop of Down & Dromore, Rt Rev David McClay has invited Revd Adrian Dorrian to become Area Dean for Lecale in Down Diocese.**

Adrian will assume the role from 28 March when the current Area Dean, Revd Colin Darling, takes up an incumbency in Armagh Diocese.

Adrian is Vicar in the LAMP group of Parishes where he usually leads Sunday services in Seaforde and Down. He has been serving in LAMP for over seven years, initially as Director of Youth and Children's Ministry.

Adrian was ordained in 2006 for the curacy of Newtownards and has been incumbent of two Belfast Parishes – St Mark's, Dundela in Down and Dromore and the Parish of St Peter and St James in Connor. He leads the liturgical training for Diocesan and Parish Readers in the Diocese and for OLM and Diocesan Reader trainees centrally in the Church of Ireland.



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Speaking about his appointment, Adrian said: 'I am grateful to Bishop David for his invitation to become Area Dean of Lecale and honoured by his confidence in me. Since coming to LAMP I have been blessed by the fellowship in our Deanery Chapter (first under Henry Hull and then Colin Darling as Area Deans) and I hope that sense of fellowship will continue. I will be immediately put to work during the vacancy in Killyleagh and I look forward to getting to know the Select Vestry and parishioners.'



**MONAGHAN METHODIST CHURCH**

**GOSPEL CONCERT**  
**THURSDAY 9TH**  
**MARCH 2023**  
**8PM**

in

*"The Four Seasons Hotel"*

**Live Issue & Lorraine Vance**

**DOORS OPEN FROM 7.30PM**

**€10**

PAYABLE AT DOOR

**Proceeds to Monaghan Church  
Restoration Fund**



## News reports

### Death of former presiding bishop of The Episcopal Church

**The Most Rev.  
Frank Tracy  
Griswold III died  
Sunday, March 5,  
2023, in  
Philadelphia,  
Pennsylvania.**



Bishop Griswold's family provided the following obituary:

The Most Rev. Frank Tracy Griswold III died Sunday, March 5, 2023, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. A renowned preacher known for his warmth and wit, Griswold served as the 25th presiding bishop of The Episcopal Church, leading the Protestant denomination from 1998 to 2006. Griswold also co-chaired the Roman Catholic-Anglican Commission from 1998 to 2003 and made significant contributions to the 1979 Book of Common Prayer and to its practical use in the liturgical life of the church. Griswold's private spiritual

practice was deeply informed by the early mothers and fathers of the church, and he championed Eastern traditions of the open-hearted and healing power of God's love.

Born in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, in 1937, Griswold earned a Bachelor of Arts at Harvard College and a Master of Arts from Oriel College at the University of Oxford. He was ordained as an Episcopal priest in 1963. He married his beloved wife, Phoebe Wetzel, in 1965, and they raised two daughters in Philadelphia and Chicago, where Griswold was elected as Episcopal bishop in 1987. Griswold practiced a wide ministry of teaching, writing, lecturing, and leading retreats, nationally and internationally. After completing his term as presiding bishop, he served as a visiting professor at seminaries and universities in South Korea, Cuba, and Japan, as well as at the Episcopal Divinity School, the Church Divinity School of the Pacific, Virginia Theological Seminary and Seabury-Western Theological Seminary. He also served as bishop visitor to the Society of St. John the Evangelist. His books include "Going Home" (Cowley Publications Cloister Book), "Praying our Days: A guide and companion" (Church Publishing Group), "Tracking Down the Holy Ghost: reflections on love and longing" (Church Publishing Group), and, co-authored with the Rev. Mark McIntosh, "Seeds and Faith" and "Harvest of Hope" (Eerdmans).

He is survived by his widow, Phoebe, his two daughters, Hannah and Eliza, and three grandchildren.

The Presiding Bishop preached in Belfast Cathedral prior to attending a conference of Anglican Primates in Newcastle.



## **Christian Aid responds to fire in Bangladesh Rohingya refugee camp**

**In response to a massive fire at an overcrowded Rohingya refugee camp in Bangladesh, Christian Aid is set to work with local partners to repair shelters and provide essentials.**

The international development has also warned world leaders “can no longer sit on their hands where Rohingya refugees are concerned.”

Christian Aid, which has been working in Bangladesh since 1972, understands the fire that broke out at Cox's Bazar refugee camp on Sunday 5 March has left some 2,000 shelters burnt affecting around 12,000 refugees from Myanmar.

Describing the situation on the ground, Christian Aid's Country Director in Bangladesh Pankaj Kumar said: “The devastation of the blaze has left thousands homeless, without any of their worldly possessions and in immediate need. It's not just homes but mosques, health centres, wash blocks, and much more than has been engulfed.”

Christian Aid is undertaking an immediate needs assessment by working with partners based in the camps. The development agency expects to repair individual shelters and health centers and provide essentials such as clothing, non-food items, toilets and cooking utensils.

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Pankaj Kumar added: “Even before these fires, the refugees living in these camps were facing a hunger crisis and required help. They need access to food, clean water to drink, shelter, clothing and cooking utensils.”

“This fire should be a wakeup call to the international community too. World leaders can no longer sit on their hands where Rohingya refugees are concerned. They must now fully fund the humanitarian response that is needed.”



Portstewart Presbyterian Church

14 Feb · 🌐

Portstewart Presbyterian Church is delighted to present Moycraig YFC's production of "Don't Tell The Wife", a comedy by Sam Cree.

It takes place in our church hall complex on Central Avenue, on Saturday 11th March 2023 at 7.30pm.

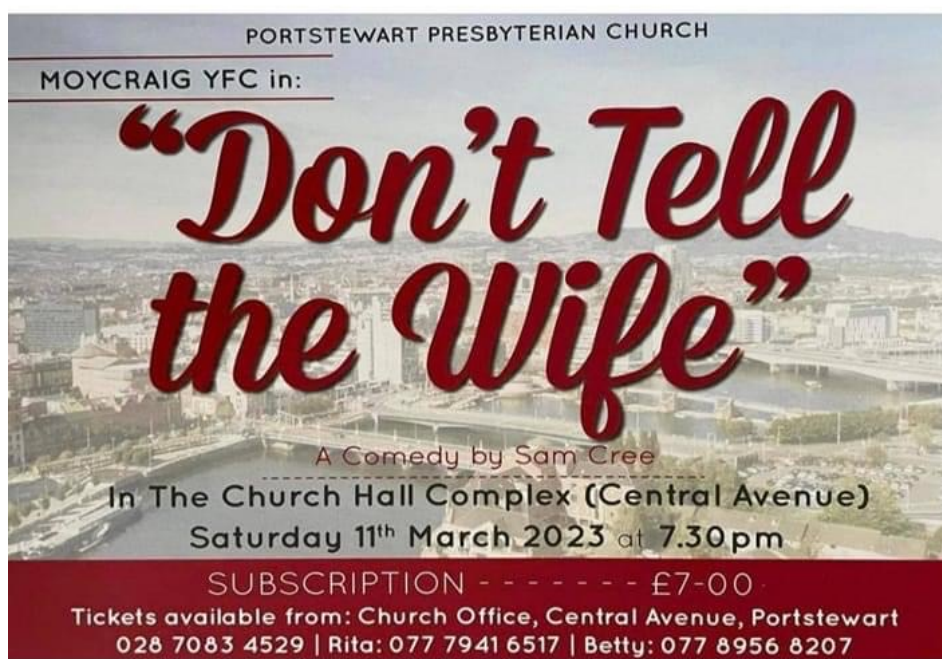
Tickets available from:

Church Office 028 7083 4529

Rita 077 7941 6517

Betty 077 8956 8207

Subscription £7.00





Most refugees living in the area fled a campaign of persecution by Myanmar's military in 2017. Further health and security concerns have been raised due to the start of the hot season and high temperatures on the day of the fire.

Recently, monthly food vouchers for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh were cut from 10 to 5 per person. The UN World Food Programme (WFP) previously warned further cuts were “imminent” without an immediate cash injection.

Christian Aid’s work in the camps includes supporting women and girls in safe spaces, advocating for access to justice and security services and raising awareness to reduce gender-based violence.

## **Stop human traffickers, Pope Francis says after Italy's migrant shipwreck**

**Pope Francis on Sunday called on authorities to stop human traffickers operating in the Mediterranean, as he expressed his sorrow over last week's migrant boat disaster off Italy's Calabrian coast, in which dozens of people were killed.**

"I renew my appeal to prevent such tragedies from happening again. May traffickers of human beings be stopped," the pope said in his weekly address to crowds in St. Peter's Square.

Local authorities said 70 bodies had so far been recovered following the incident. The migrants had departed from



Turkey and were from countries including Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, Somalia and Syria.

"May journeys of hope never again turn into journeys of death, may the clear waters of the Mediterranean no longer be bloodied by such dramatic accidents," the pope said.

Around 80 people survived after the boat broke up and sank in rough seas near Steccato di Cutro, a resort on the Calabria region's eastern coast. Authorities estimated it had carried up to 200 migrants.

Three alleged traffickers were arrested this week and prosecutors began looking into the way emergency services responded to the disaster, after accusations that authorities were slow to react.



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"I pray for the many victims of the shipwreck, for their families and for those who survived," the pope said.

Right-wing Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, who this week called on fellow European Union leaders to do more to halt illegal immigration, praised the pope's remarks.

The government was "continuing to deploy all necessary forces to combat human traffickers and stop deaths at sea," she said in a post on Facebook.

## In the media

### **Rishi Sunak has questions to answer on the true nature of his Protocol deal**

**There are serious differences between the claims UK ministers have made about the agreement and those of the EU, Bill Cash writes in the Daily Telegraph**

It is only six days since the Prime Minister made a statement in the House of Commons on the Windsor Framework and the implications for Northern Ireland. No one had a real opportunity to study the voluminous and complex papers, only published shortly before the statement.

So, is the “unfinished business” of the Northern Ireland Protocol finished? Not so. During the statement, I asked the Prime Minister to respond to questions of democracy that arise on both the substance and the procedures involved. In

particular, the making of EU laws and the European Court, the Joint Committee and its procedures, and the Stormont brake – not to mention the context of sovereignty in the entire process under Section 38 of the 2020 Withdrawal Agreement Act. This enables the Northern Ireland Protocol and the Withdrawal Agreement to be overridden.

He confirmed that he would look forward to answering questions. Sir Jeffrey Donaldson, leader of the DUP, asked a similar question, and the Prime Minister, to his credit, agreed that they too would be given the time and space, and that he stood ready to provide any clarifications.

There is an inconsistency between the claims made by the EU Commission and by the British Government. The only way to resolve these inconsistencies and contradictions is for meaningful and accurate answers to the questions, including pressing for an exit clause. The European Scrutiny Committee has invited the Prime Minister to come to the committee on Tuesday March 14.

### **Around 670 laws have been imposed on Northern Ireland's voters since Brexit without involvement from its MPs or Westminster**

The committee has the power to call for persons, papers and evidence under its standing orders. These questions include the making of EU laws, of which around 670 have been imposed already on the voters of Northern Ireland since Brexit without any involvement from Westminster or Northern Ireland MPs. These were made behind closed doors by majority vote of the European Council of Ministers without even a transcript.



This is not democratic consent – no other democratic country in the world would accept this, and the so-called Stormont brake is inconsistent with the full constitutional consent demanded by the Northern Ireland Protocol and the Good Friday Agreement.

The Withdrawal Agreement Joint Committee “Decision” is, at present, only a draft. To have effect, it must be adopted by the UK and the EU in that committee, which has not yet met.

This is a crucial meeting, co-chaired by a UK minister. The Decision could be amended before the Joint Committee sits, and the Government can still make representations to the EU beforehand. It is essential that the accumulating uncertainties, risks and criticisms are answered by the Prime Minister before that Joint Committee sits. Only then will Parliament and the people of the UK be able to judge whether the claims made for the deal are justified in the national interest.

There has been a vast tide of new information as various experts, groups and individuals, including the European Research Group and those in Northern Ireland, raise ever-increasing practical questions and concerns about the vital issues of real democratic consent and the nature of the deal.

This analysis is crucial in the national interest and in the interests of the people of Northern Ireland, and to the Good Friday Agreement and stability. The Windsor Framework does not dispose of the Northern Ireland Protocol. It amends it. Both the Northern Ireland Protocol and the Good Friday

Agreement are based on community consent in Northern Ireland. There is substantial opposition.

It is to be recalled that on October 16 2019, Boris Johnson came forward with proposals which led to our leaving the EU, save only for the unfinished business of Northern Ireland, represented by his Northern Ireland Protocol. His government was enduring a deep paralysis created by Conservative backbench Remainers working with the opposition to frustrate progress on our withdrawal from the EU.

All this had been preceded by the unacceptable Chequers deal and the third attempted Withdrawal Agreement, which was voted down by the Spartans on March 29 2019, and by the resignation of Theresa May. This led to Boris Johnson's election as prime minister, resulting in the massive majority for Brexit in the December 2019 general election. Immediately, the Withdrawal Agreement Act 2020 was passed, including Section 38 guaranteeing UK sovereignty.

The Northern Ireland Protocol Bill, which sorted out the issue of UK sovereignty, the integrity of the territorial jurisdiction of Northern Ireland as part of the UK, and practical issues affecting business and trade, was passed by the elected House of Commons without amendment by a majority of 72 votes. It is now in the House of Lords like the Mary Celeste, awaiting its final stages. The EU demanded that it be withdrawn without any right to do so.

The Windsor Framework is part of the price paid. However, according to Lords rules "a Commons Bill may not be

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withdrawn in the House of Lords” – the Parliament Acts still apply.

Now is the opportunity and time to answer the questions.

Sir Bill Cash MP is chairman of the European Scrutiny Committee.

## Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



*Worship Resource Hub*

### New Presbyterian Church Worship Hub

**The new PCI Worship Hub is a resource for those who plan and conduct worship.**

Gone are the days when all our congregations simply used the same hymnbook. Now there are many different books of hymns and songs, as well as an enormous amount of



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material available digitally. As a result suitable hymns and songs for services of worship can be hard to find.

The PCI Worship Hub is, and will continue to be, a work in progress. The aim is that it will be updated as new materials and useful information become available. Sections include:

🎵 Psalms in contemporary versions

🎵 Worship songs for seasons

🎵 Worship resources - this more general section of the hub will contain links to resources for help with planning and preparing worship and will include digital links for finding songs and hymns

Check it out...

[www.presbyterianireland.org/worshiphub](http://www.presbyterianireland.org/worshiphub)

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## Church News Ireland

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