

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – St Matthew, Shankill, celebrates  
150 years of worship and witness**

March 8, 2022

## Image of the day

### **St Matthew, Shankill, celebrates 150 years of worship and witness**

At the 150th anniversary service in St Matthew's, Shankill on March 6 are, from left: The Rev Don Gamble, Bishop George Davison, Archbishop John McDowell, the Rev Dr Sahr Yambusu and the Rev Tracey McRoberts.

## People and places

### **St Matthew's Shankill celebrations well underway**

**Celebrations for the 150th anniversary of St Matthew's Parish Church, Shankill are well underway.**

A Daffodil Tea held in the Spectrum Centre on Saturday March 5 was attended by more than 60 people, and the Archbishop of Armagh was the guest preacher at a special anniversary service in St Matthew's on Sunday afternoon.

Joining the rector, the Rev Tracey McRoberts, parishioners of St Matthews and Archbishop McDowell were other special guests including the Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev George Davison; The Lord Lieutenant for Belfast, Rt Hon Fionnuala Jay O'Boyle; the Bishop of Down and Connor, the Most Rev Noel Treanor; the Rev Dr Sahr Yambusu, President of the Methodist Church; Michelle McIlveen, Minister of Education; William Humphrey MLA; Fr Martin



Enjoying the Daffodil Tea in celebration of the 150th anniversary of St Matthew's, Shankill.

Magill and representatives for other local churches; and previous rectors, the Very Rev Gregory Dunstan and Rev Robert Henderson.

Queen's University and the Greater Shankill Partnership have been working with the St Matthew's to mark this anniversary. To celebrate and showcase the evolving social history linked to the church and the community, Queen's is facilitating an exhibition of photos, artefacts and displays.

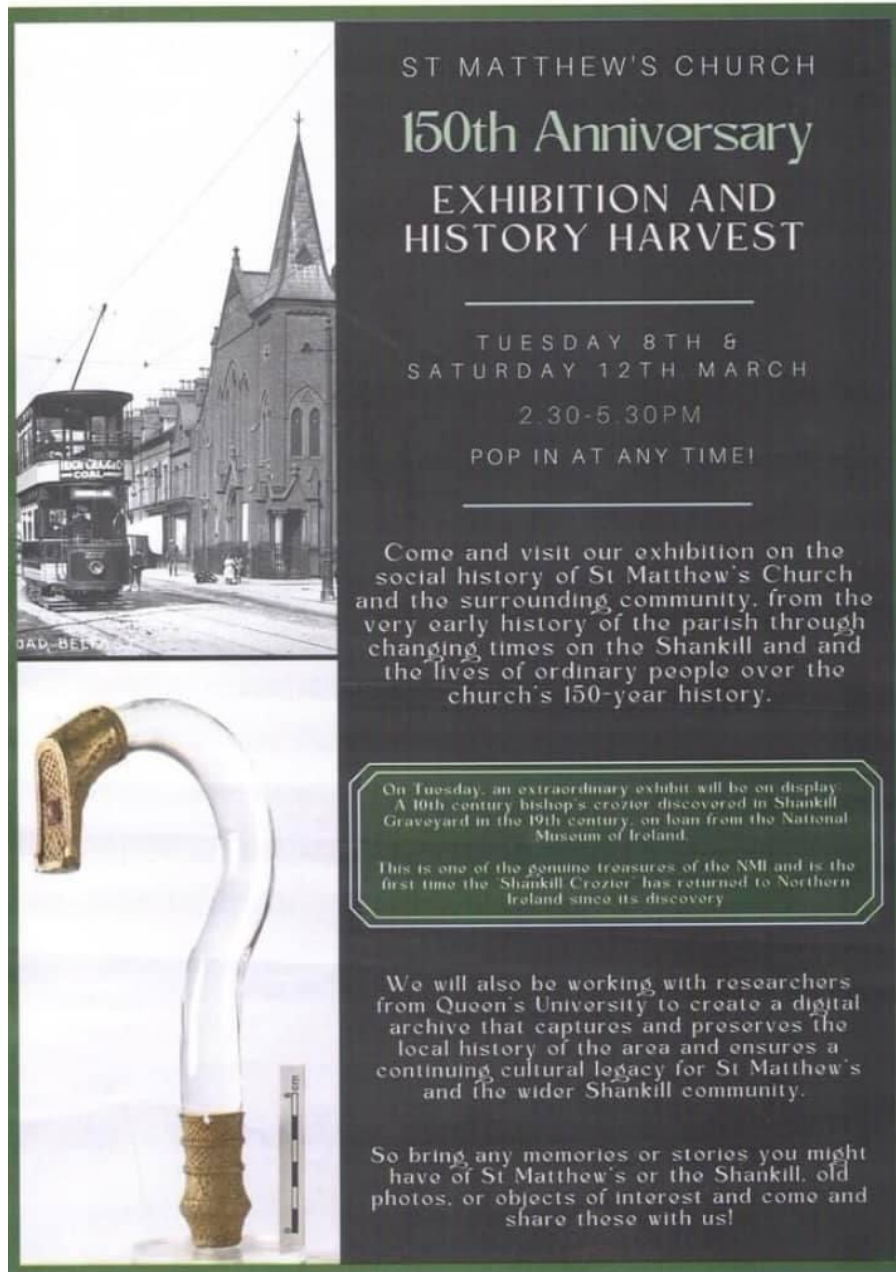
## **Historic Shankill crozier on display**

**On display for one day only at the launch of the exhibition on Tuesday March 8 will be a bishop's crozier dating back to the 9th century.**

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This was discovered in the grounds of Shankill Graveyard 300 years ago and is kept in the National Museum of Ireland in Dublin.

Rev Tracey said: “We are looking forward to welcoming children from local schools to view this priceless Shankill treasure alongside croziers used by our bishop today.



ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH  
**150th Anniversary**  
EXHIBITION AND  
HISTORY HARVEST

TUESDAY 8TH &  
SATURDAY 12TH MARCH  
2.30-5.30PM  
POP IN AT ANY TIME!

Come and visit our exhibition on the social history of St Matthew's Church and the surrounding community, from the very early history of the parish through changing times on the Shankill and the lives of ordinary people over the church's 150-year history.

On Tuesday, an extraordinary exhibit will be on display. A 10th century bishop's crozier discovered in Shankill Graveyard in the 19th century, on loan from the National Museum of Ireland.

This is one of the genuine treasures of the NMI and is the first time the Shankill Crozier has returned to Northern Ireland since its discovery.

We will also be working with researchers from Queen's University to create a digital archive that captures and preserves the local history of the area and ensures a continuing cultural legacy for St Matthew's and the wider Shankill community.

So bring any memories or stories you might have of St Matthew's or the Shankill, old photos, or objects of interest and come and share these with us!

“On Saturday March 12, we will be capturing some of the rich social history of the church and the Shankill area in a ‘History Harvest’ to gather stories, memories, old photos and memorabilia relating to the history of the church and wider area.”

Olwen Purdue, Professor of Social History at Queen's, said: “This church, and the parish it serves, has an important





history, dating back to pre-Christian times and closely connected to the wider history and growth of Belfast.

“The people of these streets have experienced wars and rebellions, industrialisation, urban change and conflict; they have also experienced work, play, loss, childhood, old age.

“This exciting collaboration between academics, public history students and local communities seeks to capture and tell the stories of these streets and the people who lived in them to explore the rich and diverse social history of this neighbourhood and community and develop new resources for learning and engaging with local history.”

Welcoming the exhibition, Jackie Redpath of the Greater Shankill Partnership, said: “We’re delighted that a partnership between St Matthew’s, Queen’s University and ourselves has come together to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the church and the rich history of the Shankill. We are especially grateful to the National Museum

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Dublin for bringing the bishop's crozier back to its origins on the Shankill to exhibit – truly an historical occasion.”

The event starts at 10am on Tuesday March 8, with the official launch at 12.30pm at St Matthew's Church at the corner of Woodvale Road and Cambrai Street, Belfast.

Continuing the celebrations, on Friday March 11 at 7pm there will be a concert by a Brass Ensemble from the Ulster Orchestra

## **Try out a chorister's life for one afternoon**

**Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, is holding a BE A CHORISTER: FOR AN AFTERNOON event on Wednesday 30th March 3-6pm.**

It's open to any child currently in either 2nd or 3rd class who would like to learn more about life as a Chorister at Saint Patrick's Cathedral.

They will spend the afternoon singing with the Cathedral Choristers and members of the music team. There will also be an opportunity to hear the Cathedral's mighty organ being played (all 4,000 pipes of it), to explore Ireland's largest Cathedral, to try on a cassock and sing Evensong in the stalls as part of the Cathedral Choir, as children have done so for nearly 600 years.

"Parents are also warmly to join us in the school where some of the parents of current and former choristers will be on hand to talk about the opportunities on offer and to show you around Ireland's oldest school.

"It costs nothing to join us but places are limited, visit our website to book your places now."

[www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/sing](http://www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/sing)

## **New funding package for former Macroom church**

**New funding package will help preserve and re-purpose landmark former Macroom church**

Ambitious plan to turn St Colman's into a community hub set to go before full council for approval

Additional funding has been allocated to an ambitious project aimed at preserving and re-purposing one of Macroom's most historic landmark buildings.

More than €215,000 has been allocated for emergency restoration works at the former St Colman's Church on Castle Street, which had lain mostly idle since being gifted to the town by the Church of Ireland in 1992.

The money is part of a €1.75million funding package announced this week by the Heritage Council for regeneration projects at 13 locations across the country under the 2022 Historic Towns Initiative.

It follows on from the allocation of €395,000 for Macroom received in January under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund, a tranche of which will be allocated to the plan to develop St Colman's into a community and enterprise centre.

## **Dublin and Glendalough Big Days Out**

**Dublin and Glendalough Youth Council is inviting youth groups in the diocese to one of their Big Days Out.**

There are two locations to choose from: Clontarf Parish, Church of St John the Baptist on March 12 and Kill o' the Grange Parish, Deansgrange on March 26.

“We've spent too much time behind screens so we are having an afternoon of fun where you can spend some time



DUBLIN  
GLENDALOUGH  
YOUTH  
COUNCIL

Cage soccer,  
inflatables,  
food, fun &  
games!

**BIG  
DAYS  
OUT**

**NOMAD**  
*Cage Soccer*

**YFC**  
.ie

**12TH MARCH:**  
CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, CLONTARF

**26TH MARCH:**  
KILL O' THE GRANGE PARISH, DEANSGRANGE  
**2:30-4:30PM**

Book in at [www.dgyouthcouncil.net](http://www.dgyouthcouncil.net)

with your teenagers and enjoy building relationships,” explains D&G Youth Ministry Coordinator Emma Fawcett.

YFC’s Nomad Cage Soccer team will be joining them and they will have inflatables as well as some other activities lined up.

The day is free! DGYC simply asks that you book numbers in advance. Please note that teenagers cannot attend without leaders/adults.

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This event is for secondary school aged young people who are part of Church of Ireland parishes/youth groups within the United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough. Young people must attend as part of a group and not as individuals.

To book see the DGYC website –  
<https://www.dgyouthcouncil.net/bigdaysout>



## Installation at St Canices

Congratulations to the Revd Canon Ian Coulter who was installed as Prebendary of Blackrath St Canices Cathedral by the Dean at Choral Evensong. Canon Coulter was supported by a large number of friends and parishioners.

## News reports

### Anglican Communion welcomes UN call for peace in Ukraine

**Chair of the Anglican Communion UN Reference Group, Archbishop Maimbo, has welcomed UN call for peace in the Ukraine.**

The Primate of Tanzania, Archbishop Maimbo Mndolwa, has welcomed calls by the UN General Assembly and UN Human Rights Council for an end to hostilities in Ukraine. In addition to being Primate of the Anglican Church of Tanzania, Archbishop Maimbo chairs the new Anglican Communion UN Reference Group, which helps to steer the work of the Anglican Communion's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Mr Jack Palmer-White.

Archbishop Maimbo said: "As the world watches the terrible situation unfolding in Ukraine, I welcome the action taken at both the UN General Assembly and the UN Human Rights Council last week. Both bodies have spoken unequivocally of the need to end hostilities now with an urgent ceasefire, support the immediate needs of those affected by the conflict, and work together to supporting the resolution of the conflict.

"I am particularly concerned that urgent action must be taken to support the more than one million people who have been displaced from their homes, particularly children, the

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elderly and those most vulnerable. I urge all UN Member States to do what they can to support the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in their vital work caring for those forced to flee.

“As Christians, we find comfort in the words of Jesus in John’s Gospel when he says: ‘Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.’ May each of us do what we can to live out this call to be people of peace and to share the Peace of Christ with our neighbours.”

Jack Palmer-White added: “The Anglican Communion is present in Kyiv and elsewhere in Ukraine; as well as many of the countries which border it. The Church of England’s Diocese in Europe has joined forces with the Anglican Mission agency USPG to launch an emergency appeal to support Christian charities and churches carrying out humanitarian work both in Ukraine and responding to the arrival of refugees in neighbouring countries.

“The Diocese in Europe and USPG have partners on the ground providing food, medicine, shelter, care for children and people internally displaced in Ukraine. With refugees they are supplying care at the border and beyond, including attention to those from Africa and Asia as well as Ukrainians who are fleeing the war.”

Launching the appeal, the Church of England’s Bishop in Europe, the Right Revd Robert Innes, said: “War is horrible. It injures, destroys and kills in an often indiscriminate and uncontrollable way. And now, we face war in Europe.



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“The people of our little church, Christ Church Kyiv, find themselves in the midst of this crisis. They are typical of so many others. Some have fled the city whilst others are still there; praying for their safety and for peace as they shelter as best they can. These people are our brothers and sisters. Those still in Ukraine and those who have fled need our help.”

People wishing to support the appeal can do so online at [uspg.org.uk/ukraine](https://uspg.org.uk/ukraine).

## **Tony Blair challenged on guilt by Archbishop of Canterbury**

**The Archbishop of Canterbury has challenged former prime minister Tony Blair on how he handles feelings of guilt, in a series for BBC Radio 4, Harry Farley, BBC religious affairs journalist.**

Mr Blair, a Catholic, told the Most Rev Justin Welby his faith had helped him cope with knowing people disliked him.

The programme, part of The Archbishop Interviews series, included questions about the Iraq war, Afghanistan and negotiating the Good Friday Agreement.

"I had to do what I thought was the right thing," Mr Blair said.

He said the decisions he took were complicated and warned people not to trust politicians who told them "simple slogans".

## 'Rooting out evil'

Mr Blair also addressed the conflict in Ukraine in the interview, recorded on the morning of the Russian invasion.

"It's massively contrary to our interests to have a country, an independent sovereign country on the doorstep of Europe, essentially invaded and taken over," he said.

Reflecting on his decisions to intervene in other conflicts around the world, he said an "enlightened view of self-interest means that it is better that you act to prevent something happening that ultimately will affect you".

He denied it was the role of a political leader to go around the world "rooting out evil".

But he added: "When you're faced with a situation in which you believe that the interests of your country demand that you stop something bad happening, it's important that you stand for that, and that you take the action necessary to stop it."

Wrong decisions?

Mr Blair defended his decisions to invade Afghanistan and Iraq, alongside US President George W Bush.

"People often say over Iraq or Afghanistan that I took the wrong decision but you've got to do what you think is right," he said.

"Whether you are right or not is another matter. In those really big decisions you don't know what all the different

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component elements are, and you've got to follow, in the end, your own instinct."

He admitted he "may have been wrong" about Iraq and Afghanistan but insisted: "I had to do what I thought was the right thing."

Asked about the dislike some people now have for him as a result of those decisions, Mr Blair said: "The most potent thing about Christian belief, to me - maybe you could say more generally about religious faith - is you acknowledge something greater and more important than yourself.

"I find that I will often have more in common with someone, for example, who is of the Muslim faith, because they are also a person of faith, than I will with someone who just regards [faith] as hocus pocus."

When asked about a sense of guilt, Mr Blair said: "You have to be prepared to acknowledge when you've got things wrong. I think in politics you can do that. I think people respect you more if you do do that."

But he added: "The problem of politics is that in a world that is in fact very complex, people search for simplicity."

He said people should "at least respect the fact of that complexity rather than reduce it to something that's a simple slogan.

"Because the politicians you really shouldn't trust are the people that get up and tell you the simple slogans."

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The Archbishop Interviews was broadcast at 13:30, Sunday 6 March on Radio 4 and BBC Sounds.

Harry Farley, BBC religious affairs journalist,  
[<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-60623502>]

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



### Videos on Anglican Chant

Church Music Dublin have recently published a series of videos on Anglican Chant and various ways to accompany them. These videos are led by Rev. Jack Kinhead. Enjoy.

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?  
list=PL0zG8FTotRgq1VfgMsjQncutv1XRyKOJB](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0zG8FTotRgq1VfgMsjQncutv1XRyKOJB)



## **C of I Evangelical Fellowship Zoom conference**

### **Bishop Graham Tomlin is the speaker at the CIEF Zoom conference on March 23.**

The Church of Ireland Evangelical Fellowship (CIEF) is holding an online conference on the topic 'Be Yourself' on Wednesday March 23.

The organisers state: “‘Be yourself’ has become the creed and mantra of our culture. It is influencing everything – Disney movies, fashion and sports-wear branding. ‘Be yourself’ is perhaps the epoch-defining idea or concept of our time. Yet, does it bring happiness, is being yourself a good idea?”

This is the question that will be asked at this year’s conference, which welcomes Bishop Graham Tomlin as the speaker. Bishop Graham has written widely on this topic, including his 2020 book *Why being yourself is a bad idea*.

Described by Church Times reviewer Jennie Hogan as ‘a sound theological primer, perfect in a parish or chaplaincy bookshelf or for a confirmation group. Tomlin does a fine job in finding a simple structure in which weighty theological conundrums can be tackled without defence or triumph.’

Dr Graham Tomlin is the Bishop of Kensington, Diocese of London. He was previously Principal of St Mellitus’ College and St Paul’s Theological Centre. He has written widely on both a popular and academic level.

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The conference begins at 7.30pm on March 23. To register for the event and receive a Zoom link, please contact [hello@cief.church](mailto:hello@cief.church). Check CIEF on social media for further information.

## Perspective

### **A European dream shattered is a time of action for all of us – Bishop Brendan Leahy**

The poor will yet again lose out in a war that has shattered the European dream, Bishop Brendan Leahy said of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

In his homily on the first Sunday of Lent, Bishop Leahy said that while we must continue to dream, we must now acknowledge reality. But reality is also about the potential always to build a-new, he said.

“When a dream is shattered, there is grief. Europe’s dream has been shattered with the war in the Ukraine. 75 years after the Second World War we had hoped the great dream of a Europe at peace had really taken hold. But that dream has been shattered,” he said.

“It’s a moment for all of us to take stock. Yes, we must dream and hope and believe in peace, but we also need to recognise peace is the fruit of our unity with one another. And we have to work at that. No relationship can ever be taken for granted.

“While watching the war on our social media and TVs, we’re seeing again how the powerful wage war, but the poor lose

out. So many ordinary folk are facing questions of life and death. We can't but feel our stomach churning at the sight of innocent young people on both sides whose lives are tragically cut short. And so many fleeing their native land. The ray of consolation at this time is, of course, the incredible outpouring of small and big gestures of solidarity and generous donations from around the world.”

Bishop Leahy said that all of this is happening just as we are entering the season of Lent which this year will have a focus on Ukraine through prayer and giving.

“Lent is very much associated with giving and giving is good for us in everyway. After all, we are created to give. It reflects what's truly in our soul. Thankfully, in the face of horror, giving is still flourishing now.

“Limerick is a giving city and county and that's very much reflected in the response to Ukraine. The wonderful response that has seen individuals such as Anna Mazeika, a young Polish woman, step forward courageously to commit to gathering a truck load of medical supplies from generous Limerick people for hospitals in Ukraine. There are many other examples and it keeps that light shining, a light of hope which will ultimately overcome darkness. Just as the Lenten experience.”

The commitment to Ukraine in terms of giving and prayer, he said, must continue. “But there's also a spiritual contribution we can make – we can check out our own personal commitment to building relationships that are genuine and true and just. Perhaps there is some relationship that has been damaged in recent times or one

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that needs a new effort on our part because things have grown stale. Lent is about beginning again. We don't have to wait for others to be the first to reach out to us. We can take the initiative. The Ukraine crisis is about a breakdown in relationships. Let's do our part to build good relationships."

## Poem for today

### Written in March by William Wordsworth

The cock is crowing,  
The stream is flowing,  
The small birds twitter,  
The lake doth glitter  
The green field sleeps in the sun;  
The oldest and youngest  
Are at work with the strongest;  
The cattle are grazing,  
Their heads never raising;  
There are forty feeding like one!

Like an army defeated  
The snow hath retreated,  
And now doth fare ill  
On the top of the bare hill;  
The plowboy is whooping- anon-anon:  
There's joy in the mountains;  
There's life in the fountains;  
Small clouds are sailing,  
Blue sky prevailing;



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The rain is over and gone!

## Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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## 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](mailto:houstonmckelvey@mac.com)