

# Church News Ireland



**Image of the day – Discovering Downpatrick**

# Image of the day

## Discovering Downpatrick



**Members of the Benedictine Order at The Holy Cross Monastery of Kilbroney, Rostrevor had a gentle exploration of Downpatrick recently.**

They visited the St Patrick Centre and its garden (photo above). The Saint Patrick Centre is the only permanent exhibition in the World about Ireland's Patron Saint.

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The Community were welcomed to Down Cathedral by Dean Henry Hull (Photo front page).

Links

<https://www.saintpatrickcentre.com/>

[<https://www.downcathedral.org/>]

[<http://www.benedictinemonks.co.uk/>]

## People and places

### Sing a New Song – Armagh Schools Singing Programme

**The Schools Singing Programme is a programme set up and funded by the Hamish Ogston Foundation. The programme was set up to assist Catholic dioceses in creating or enhancing their own music programmes for school children.**

The Schools Singing Programme directly benefits children from all walks of life but supports in a special way children on the peripheries of Church and society.

The Archdiocese of Armagh and the Diocese of Dromore dreamt of a schools singing initiative some twelve months ago and have been working consistently to develop a pilot involving twelve schools which resulted in the Sing a New Song celebratory event in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh

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on 16th May 2023. The pilot lasted eight weeks and spanned the period from Lent until the middle of Eastertide.



The Archdiocese of Armagh celebrates a significant milestone in 2023, in that it celebrates the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the dedication of St. Patrick's cathedral. The Sing a New Song celebratory event has allowed a new generation of young people to encounter the Catholic tradition of choral song.

The Archdiocese of Armagh wishes to extend gratitude to the Hamish Ogston Foundation for its generous support and will continue to keep Mr Ogston and the Foundation in our prayers over the coming months. A special thanks is extended to Ben Saunders and the Schools Singing Programme steering group for their practical support during this initiative.

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Clips and photos at -  
[<https://www.armaghprays.com/sing-a-new-song-1>]



## **Team from Dundela and Ballyclare to work in Kenya**

**CMSI head of selectors, Paul Ferguson and Gillian, were delighted to be at the commissioning service in Dundela for the team going to visit the Tujisaidie Community in Kayole, Nairobi.**

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Lynn Wilson and Linda Allen from St Mark's, Dundela and Rev Jonny Campbell-Smyth from The United Parishes, Ballynure left on Friday 19th for Kenya to spend ten days with their partners there.



Sunday's prayers for the team at St Mark's were wonderfully led by the children and young people, with the choir singing a very fitting song in Swahili.

Anne Buckley attended the services in Ballyclare for the commissioning of Rev Jonny Campbell Smyth as his church family sent him out with God's blessing and protection.

Prayers for the team are greatly appreciated.

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Commissioning service in Ballyclare of Rev Jonny Campbell Smyth



## President and Lay Leader meet Ordained Ministry Formation Students



**Earlier this week the President and the Lay Leader met with the Ordained Ministry Formation Students at Edgehill House in Belfast as part of an intensive study week focusing on Ministry in the Methodist Tradition.**

The President and the Lay Leader shared with the students their own experience of lay and ordained ministry and some reflections on the ministry of the whole people of God within Irish Methodism.

**Exploring ordination in The Methodist Church in Ireland**





**Are you interested in finding out more about the candidating process?**

Please email the MCI Ministries Team at [ministries@irishmethodist.org](mailto:ministries@irishmethodist.org) to register your interest in 'Exploring Ordination' online on Tuesday 15th June at 7:30pm.

## **Memorial Evensong for last Chorister in first BBC broadcast of Nine Lessons and Carols in 1928**

Sunday's Evensong will be in memory of David Briggs (KC 1936), who died in 2020 at the age of 102.

Few people have enjoyed as long an association with King's as David. After studying as a Chorister at King's College

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School, he returned to King's as an undergraduate and choral scholar and later became Headmaster of the School until his retirement.

He was the last surviving Chorister to have sung in the historic first BBC broadcast of the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols in 1928, aged 11.

The service will be held in the College Chapel on Sunday 21st May 2023 at 3.30 pm with an address by Bob Chilcott (KC 1973). All welcome.

Find out more about this term's Chapel services at <https://www.kings.cam.ac.uk/chapel/attending-chapel-services>

St. Columba's  
**CHURCH FETE**

Afternoon Teas  
Face Painting  
Fruit & Veg  
Plants  
White Elephant  
BBQ  
Books  
CDs & DVDs  
Tuck Shop  
Games

**ENTRY €2  
KIDS & OAP,  
FREE**

**TOUR  
OF  
ST. COLUMBA'S  
CHURCH YARD  
3 PM**

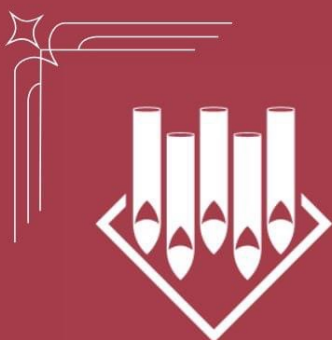
**ST.  
GEORGE'S  
BRASS  
BAND**

**PONY  
RIDES**

**RAFFLE**

Saturday 10th June 2023  
From 2:00 pm  
The Rectory Garden  
Church Road Swords  
K67 V9PO

in aid of Parish funds



# WATERFORD INTERNATIONAL ORGAN FESTIVAL

8th-11th June 2023

## PROGRAMME

### Thursday 8th June 8pm

*"A Renaissance and Baroque feast; 400 years since William Byrd"*

An evening of chamber music from England, Spain, Italy and Germany  
Malcolm Proud (chamber organ), Mariana Paras (curtal (baroque bassoon), Marja Gaynor  
(baroque violin)

**Entrance: €15 con. €12**

**Children under 18 accompanied by parents go free**

### Friday 9th June 8pm

*"Pushing the boundaries"*

In celebration of the centenary of György Ligeti and his unique sound world  
Vincent Thévenaz (Professor of organ and improvisation at the Haute Ecole de Musique in  
Geneva and titular organist and carillonneur of Saint-Pierre Cathedral)  
An eclectic programme including avant-garde and improvisation

**Entrance: €12 con. €10**

**Children under 18 accompanied by parents go free**

### Saturday 10th June 11am

*"Peter and the Wolf"*

Children's concert with an arrangement for organ of Prokofiev's classic. Simon Harden (organ)

**Entrance free, pre-registration on Eventbrite required**

**Children must be accompanied by an adult**

### Saturday 10th June 8pm

*"Songs of Sundrie Natures"*

Celebrating some of the hidden gems by William Byrd  
A Choral Concert with Sestina and Mark Chambers

**Entrance: €20 con. €15**

**Children under 18 accompanied by parents go free**

### Sunday 11th June 6pm

*"The Trumpets Shall Sound"*

An upbeat final concert of the festival for 2 Trumpets and Organ  
Colm Byrne (Trumpet – Royal Irish Academy of Music), Eamonn Nolan (Trumpet – RTE Concert  
Orchestra), Simon Harden (organ)

**Entrance: €15 con. €12**

**Children under 18 accompanied by parents go free**

For more info: 089-4133049 // [info@waterfordinternationalorganfestival.ie](mailto:info@waterfordinternationalorganfestival.ie)

## In the media

### **Veteran charity fundraiser from east Belfast still thinking of others after more than 50 years**

**An 81-year-old charity fundraiser from east Belfast is celebrating the success of farming communities in southern Malawi who have seen their lives transformed thanks to money raised here in Northern Ireland, Graeme Cousins writes in the News Letter**

To coincide with Christian Aid Week this week, Billy McAlpine, who is the charity's representative at St Donard's Church of Ireland on Bloomfield Road, shared a photo with a pea pod acting as a smile to demonstrate his happiness for farmers in the region.

Billy has been a volunteer fundraiser for Christian Aid for more than 50 years and this weekend the 81-year-old is helping organise a sponsored walk for the charity.

He said: "Around 40 of us (parishioners and friends) will set off from St Donard's car park at 10am on Saturday (May 20) for a two-hour stroll along the Comber Greenway.

"There will be a treasure hunt to keep the children occupied and everyone is invited to bring a packed lunch to enjoy at the parish centre afterwards."

Of the work of the charity in southern Malawi Billy commented: "Since joining a Christian Aid-supported pigeon

pea cooperative, they have received a higher income for their drought-resistant harvest.

“Pigeon peas thrive in drought-prone southern Malawi. They are cheap to grow from recycled seed and require only minimal amounts of fertiliser and pesticides, making them an ideal crop to grow in a region where over 60% of families live in poverty.”

Esther Saizi, a 54-year-old widowed grandmother, is one of more than 3,300 farmers helped by Christian Aid’s local partner – the Nandolo Farmers’ Association – which runs the pigeon pea cooperative in the region.

With the improved profits from her harvest, Esther began buying goats, which provide milk and meat for her family as well as manure for her crops, which saves on expensive fertiliser. Esther even used her income to buy a sewing machine and now she makes clothes for her family.

The extra income also enabled Esther to support her elder daughter’s carpentry business and her younger daughter’s dream of going to college and qualifying as a nurse. She is also paying school fees for her 4-year-old grandson.

Christian Aid Ireland chief executive, Rosamond Bennett, praised the impact of the charity’s supporters: “The transformation in Esther’s fortunes in Malawi is only made possible by our incredible supporters who generously give each Christian Aid Week to fund our work to help tackle the root causes of poverty around the world.”

Christian Aid Week has been running in Northern Ireland since 1957, making it the region’s longest running

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fundraising campaign. Each year, thousands of people donate to Christian Aid during the week to support people living in some of the poorest countries in the world as well as countries coping with conflict, drought, risk of famine and the impacts of climate change.

By giving this Christian Aid Week, people will be able to help more farmers like Esther secure a fair price for their crops and make their children's dreams come true.

For more information and to donate, please visit [caweek.ie/](http://caweek.ie/) Donate or call 028 9064 8133 to make a telephone donation.

The News Letter 19/05/1023

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

### Talking Theology with Professor David Ford on John's Gospel

Talking Theology has released a new episode in which it discusses with Professor David Ford important insights from his commentary on John's Gospel, asking - Why Should we Continually Reread the Gospel of John?

How is John's gospel both accessible and profound? What does it mean to read John's gospel as the culmination of the New Testament testimony to Jesus? How does John's

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gospel invite us to improvise in response to the love of God? And how does this gospel allow us to read our way into the presence of Jesus?

“In today's show we will be talking to Professor David Ford. David is Regius Professor of Divinity Emeritus at the University of Cambridge. He's also chair of trustees of Lyn's House, Cambridge, a Christian community of friendship between people with and without learning disabilities. He's recently published *The Gospel of John: A Theological Commentary*.”

<http://podcast.cranmerhall.com/231001/12477594>

## **Sing! In Belfast with Keith and Kristyn Getty**

**Keith and Kristyn Getty will be back in Belfast on June 16th and 17th for the Sing! Conference (16th) and a concert (17th) at the SSE Arena in Belfast.**

Details of the conference are below. Register your interest at the office and they may be able to get significant group discount tickets (from only £10!)

To book tickets for the concert go to:

<https://www.ssearenabelfast.com/whats-on/sing>

### **THEME**

The conference will explore the connection between our church worship services and the Great Commission of Christ to take the Gospel to the world.

### **WHO IS THE EVENT FOR?**

KEITH & KRISTYN GETTY

# Sing! EUROPE

## CONFERENCE

### SSE ARENA, BELFAST

FRIDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE SING! WORLD TOUR

**PURCHASE CONFERENCE TICKETS:**  
[www.universe.com/gettymusic](http://www.universe.com/gettymusic)

IN ASSOCIATION WITH NEW IRISH ARTS

This conference can benefit any Christian who is serious about mission, as well as those who have roles in planning church services. In other words, this is an event with broad appeal that can benefit your whole church.

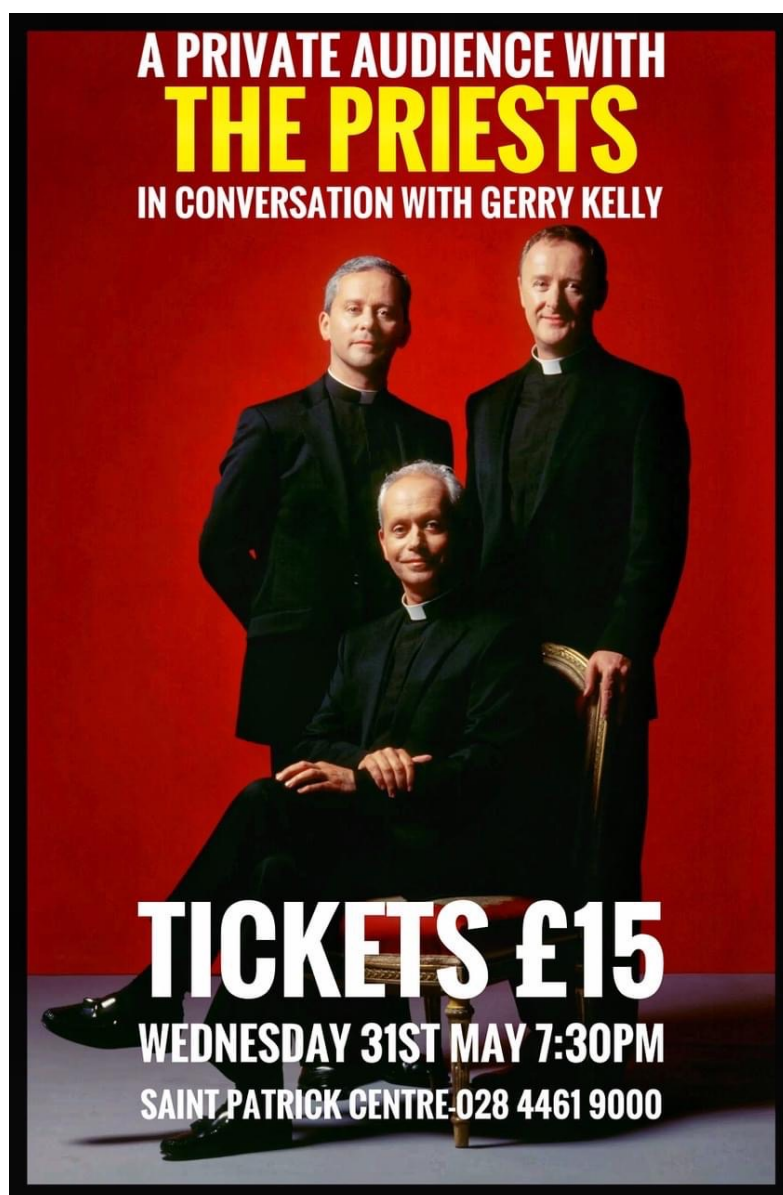
## HIGHLIGHTS

- Congregational worship led by the Getty family, Matt Boswell and Matt Papa and their superb band.
- Keith and Kristyn Getty will discuss church life and singing with children



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- Jeremy Begbie will talk about planning worship services – he is a very engaging communicator who often speaks from the piano
- Joni Eareckson Tada will appear by live link in an interview about singing and the suffering church
- John Lennox will cast a vision for fulfilling the Great Commission in current culture
- Panels chaired by Jonathan Rea about practical issues in planning church services



## The Priests interviewed by Gerry Kelly

May 20, 2023

The Saint Patrick Centre - A Private Audience of Conversation and Song with The Priests interviewed by Gerry Kelly - Wednesday 31st May Tickets £15. Tickets Limited - call 02844619000.

 **Grants Roadshow**

24th May 2023  
7.00pm - 9.00pm  
Palace Stables, Armagh

 **Armagh City  
Banbridge  
& Craigavon  
Borough Council**

[www.liveherelovehere.org/smallgrants](http://www.liveherelovehere.org/smallgrants)

## Live Here Love Here Small Grants

Applications are now open for the Live Here Love Here Small Grants Scheme in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon

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Council area which offers forward thinking groups, volunteers, schools and businesses funding of £500 to £3,000 to bring about positive change in their community.

Join ABCC for an information session on Wednesday 24 May 2023 from 7pm – 9pm in The Palace Stable, Hayloft Gallery, Palace Demesne, Armagh and they will help you with your application process.

Find out more at

<https://bit.ly/3nUWnAr>

## **Rights at the Finish Line 2nd series launched**

The 2nd series of Rights at the Finish Line podcast has been launched, showcasing the amazing human rights work being done by sports in Northern Ireland.

The first episode hears from Keith Gibson, Football for All Manager at the The Irish Football Association

You can listen on Spotify here:

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/0quRMBosyN9QF0ofmZEgwM?si=aFR52ANWRpCKxNC6-iWOnA>

Also available on various podcast platforms here:

<https://rephonic.com/podcasts/rights-at-the-finish-line>

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# Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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## Church News Ireland

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