

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – Couple's 100+ years of service**

## Image of the day

### Couple's 100+ years of service to Castlerock and Dunboe

A special presentation was made on Sunday morning to Ian and Emily Hempsey to acknowledge their more than 100 years (yes, you read that right!) of serving on the Select Vestry in the parish. The Rector Rev Chris Mac Bruithin paid tribute.

## People and places

### Home effort for Christian Aid in County Sligo

**Herbie and Marion Watt raised more than €1,500 during Christian Aid Week with a drop-in event at their home near Skreen, mid-way between Sligo and Ballina.**

About 25 neighbours and friends enjoyed a cup of tea or coffee and some of Marion's delicious home baking in exchange for a donation to support our work.

Although modest Marion describes her event as a 'coffee morning', there was a steady stream of guests arriving throughout the day - the first person showed up before 10.30 am and the last person left around 9.30 pm - so it's perhaps more accurate to call it an 'open house'.



Herbie and Marion are members of the Methodist community in County Sligo (part of North Western District - Methodist Church in Ireland) and their daughter Rev Ruth Watt is a Methodist minister at Adare and Ballingrane Methodist Church in County Limerick.

The couple were delighted that their event was supported by members of all the local churches as well as by people of no faith.

Herbie and Marion have been holding their coffee morning every year since around 2000, during which time they have raised more than €25,000 to bring hope and justice to people living in extreme poverty.

Which just goes to show that the Watts are 'powerful' by name and powerful by nature.





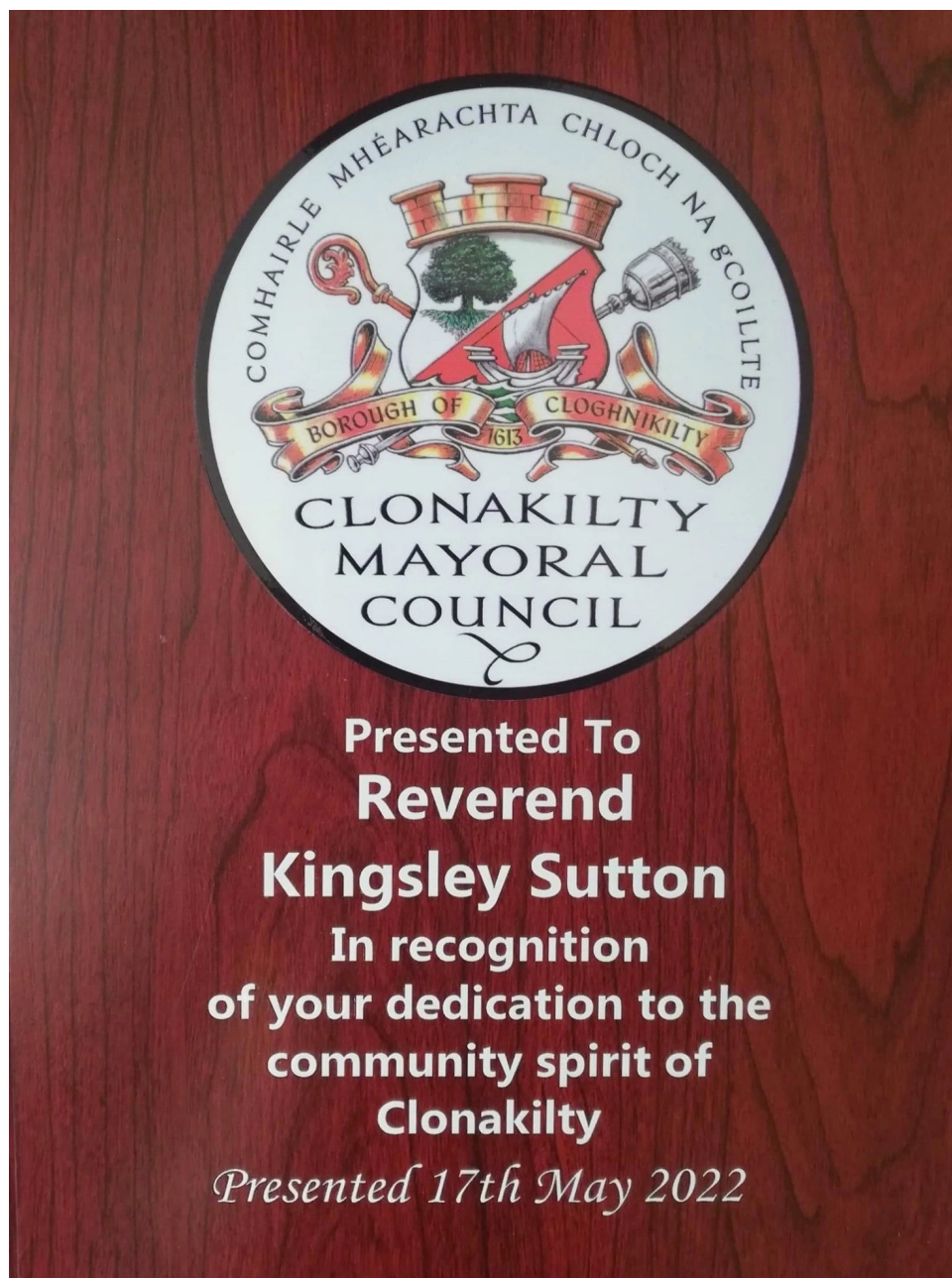
## Rector of Kilgariffe receives Community Award

**On Tuesday, 17th May 2022, the Mayor of Clonakilty Mr Anthony McDermott and the members of the Clonakilty Mayoral Council presented the Rev. Kingsley Sutton**

**with a community award for his outstanding community spirit in his many video productions over the Covid-19 Pandemic.**

The awards are given to various people/groups each year by the Mayor of Clonakilty to highlight their many outstanding achievements.

‘Mayor Anthony McDermott said that he is delighted to be able to honour outstanding people and said it just goes to show what a fantastic community we live in. There is something for all, young and old, in our town and it is so important that we honour the outstanding achievements of



these people and groups.'

The Rev. Kingsley Sutton commented: I am really humbled and yet honoured to accept this award. I am so glad that my videos have helped to give people a lift in life, especially in the darkest days of the pandemic. There is so

much community spirit in Clonakilty, it has been a joy to record it and broadcast it to the world!

## Supporting refugees and asylum seeking families living in Belfast city centre

St Luke's and St Stephen's Parish in Belfast hosted an evening with over 60 church leaders/members from across Belfast to talk about the churches response to supporting



May 24, 2022

the many refugees and asylum seeking families living in the city centre.

Led by Nathaniel Jennings from OMF with speakers from the PSNI, Mears Housing, International Meeting Point, All Nations Ministries, Acacia Path, Churches Together and more it was a very interesting evening. The organisers expressed thanks to Rev Janet, Rev Johnny, Emma, Emily, Christine, William, and Alan for hosting and providing an excellent buffet tea and to James for managing the sound and visuals.



## Raphoe in the Holy Land

Bishop McGuckian is representing Ireland this week on visit of Bishops to the Christians of the Holy Land. On Sunday

morning he celebrated Mass in the Parish of St Saviour's in the Old City. After Mass he met with parishioners especially some very dedicated Scout leaders who are committed to building up the Christian youth who form a tiny minority in their homeland.

## C of I Vocation Sunday

**The C of I Commission on Ministry is encouraging parishes to keep conversations and discussions going around vocations by holding a Vocation Sunday on a date at their discretion.**

Parishes may wish to mark Vocation Sunday on one of several occasions in this year's church calendar – for example, the 7th Sunday after Easter (29th May) just after One of the Diocesan Directors of Ordinands in Down & Dromore, Revd Karen Salmon, is preparing the diocese for Vocation Sunday on 29 May. On that Sunday look out for an address from another Down & Dromore DDO, Revd Simon Genoe.

Ascension Day, Pentecost Sunday (5th June), or in September during the traditional season for ordinations in the Church of Ireland.

Anyone with an interest in exploring a vocation to ordained ministry is encouraged to speak with their Rector in the first instance.

A range of resources is available at [www.vocations.ireland.anglican.org](http://www.vocations.ireland.anglican.org)



## Revd Karen Salmon One of the Diocesan Directors of Ordinands in Down & Dromore

along with the 'It's Your Call' video which highlights the call to ordained ministry.

These resources include articles on pathways to ordination, lay ministry, pioneer ministry, and understanding selection, and posters for parishes to encourage people to think about the role to which God may be calling them.

## Dixon Rose, a leader on and off the field of play

**Cricket and hockey could contest which Dixon Rose served most during a lifetime devoted to the two sports but he will be missed in both after his death at the age of 88.**

As a player Dixon was undoubtedly better at hockey, capped 14 times as a centre half for Ireland, including one



as captain and 104 appearances for Ulster, leading the side on 20 occasions.

He went on to be Irish Hockey Union president from 1985-87, serving on the executive for 22 years from 1979 and he was also a selector for 13 years.

At provincial level he served on the Ulster Branch from 1958, becoming president in 1979-80 and was secretary of Cliftonville Hockey Club before, fittingly becoming secretary of the Cliftonville Cricket and Hockey Clubs from 1965-72.

One of his proudest achievements was keeping Cliftonville Hockey Club going during the height of the Troubles when it was “driven out” of their home.

The great Denis Compton was his idol on the cricket field and Instonians was his club.

On the field he was a determined opening batsman who is now the club's second leading run scorer (the leading right-hander, he still insists) and sometime captain of Ulster Town in the old Guinness Cup (the forerunner to the present Inter-provincials) but it was as administrator that he will be remembered for in this sport.

A Member of the NCU Executive from 1963-88, he never achieved high office in his own union but was Irish Cricket Union president in 1984 when he infamously praised the groundstaff for their hard-work at Rathmines during the one-day match against the West Indies. He was also an Irish selector for two years at the start of the 1980s.

His final years at Shaw's Bridge, the current home of Instonians, were spent as groundsman, devoting endless hours to the maintenance of the square and outfield.

Educated at Royal Belfast Academical Institute, he and his younger brother (by two years and three days) Carson came from a family with a hockey tradition, their father Andrew was president of the IHU in 1932, so it was almost inevitable Dixon would follow in his footsteps.

Paying tribute, current Instonians chairman Norman Shannon said: "He was a wonderful supporter of the cricket club, a great wit and as the late David Holmes said, "Instonians royalty".

A minute's silence was held before all Instonians matches on Saturday.

In a tribute Hockey Ireland said they were saddened to learn of the passing of Dixon Rose. Dixon served as Hockey Ireland president from 2006 to 2008 and was widely respected for his love and work for hockey in Ulster and across Ireland.

Dixon was an Honorary Life member, highlighting members of the hockey public who have significantly contributed to hockey. Captain at both International and Province level with an Umpire of the year award being named after him. Dixon made his debut for Ireland in 1957 against Scotland in Inverness alongside fellow debutants David Judge, Derek Hennessy and Newry's RB Poots.

Dixon served Cliftonville/CI Mens Hockey for 56 years as Hon Secretary. Honoured as Ulster President and also President of the NCU. Also a Irish Hockey Selector for many years. Awarded the MBE in 2008 for voluntary service to NI Sport, he chaired a plethora of Committees and played a key role in the Ulster Hockey Union formation in 2009.

Dixon's funeral service will be held in St John's Malone Parish Church on Friday.

## News reports

### General Assembly approves scheme to conduct same-sex marriages

**An historic vote has taken place which will allow Church of Scotland ministers and deacons to marry same-sex couples.**

The General Assembly voted to change a standing church law to allow the right to apply to become an authorised celebrant to conduct same-sex ceremonies by 274 votes to 136.

The decision, which would enable ministers and deacons to opt-in to a new scheme, came after a majority of presbyteries – 29-12 - approved the "Solemnisation of Same Sex Marriage Overture".

A report to the General Assembly makes it clear that no person would be required to participate in the solemnisation





### Moderator Rt Rev Dr Iain Greenshields.

of, or be involved in the arrangements for, a same sex marriage unless they explicitly wished to do so.  
Humility and grace

Rt Rev Dr Iain Greenshields, Moderator of the General Assembly, said: "The Church of Scotland is a broad church and there are diverse views on the subject of same-sex marriage among its members.

"There has been a lengthy, prayerful and in-depth discussion and debate about this topic for many years at all levels of the Church to find a solution that respects diversity and values the beliefs of all.

"The Church is committed to ensuring that debates on this subject are held in a spirit of humility and grace, the tone

and tenor of discussions are civil and people are respectful of those who hold opposing views.

"The General Assembly has today approved the Solemnisation of Same Sex Marriage Overture to change a standing Church law to enable Ministers of Word and Sacrament and deacons to apply to become authorised celebrants if they wish.

"However, no minister or deacon would be required to participate in the solemnisation of, or be involved in the arrangements for, a same sex marriage unless they explicitly wished to do so.

"All celebrants would be expected to take account of the peace and unity and pastoral needs of the congregation and any parish or other grouping of which it is a part while considering to conduct a same-sex marriage ceremony."

Under the terms of the legislation, an individual would have to apply to the Principal Clerk's office to become a celebrant and an application would then be made to the Registrar General for Scotland on their behalf.

The Principal Clerk would maintain an up to date record of celebrants and they would be personally responsible for renewing their status every three years.

Only a parish minister who has become a celebrant will be permitted the use of a church building in their charge for the solemnisation of same sex marriages.

They would be able to grant consent to other celebrants to use the building for this purpose, however.

The issue sparked a lively debate among ministers and elders on both sides of the argument.

## God's love

Rev Phil Gunn, minister of Rosskeen Parish Church in Ross-shire, asked: "A Church that does not provoke any crisis, preach a Gospel that does not unsettle, proclaim a Word of God that does not get under anyone's skin or a Word of God that does not touch the real sin of the society in which it is being proclaimed, what kind of Gospel is that?"

"Quite simply put, this overture is not biblical and we see the scriptures, old and new, that point to God's teaching on marriage and human sexuality.

"We are called to love everyone as Christ commanded us, we are to demonstrate God's love to the world so they might recognise something different in us but that does not mean we have to conform to the ways of society or the world."

Mr Gunn said the Bible is the supreme rule of faith and life for the Church.

"God has called us as his followers to be bold and make a stand for what is right in his eyes," he added.

"If we choose to turn our back on scripture how can we stand up and say we are ministers of God's church if we then change what God says?"



## Church together

But Rev Lezley Stewart, speaking as a minister and a commissioner, told the General Assembly "it is time to say I do."

"We have always lived with differences and we always will, no one in this General Assembly hall is the same as you and no one thinks the same as you and maybe we should thank God for that," she said.

"But we are the Church together and if you look to your right, to your left, look in front of you and look behind you, hopefully what you can see is simply a reflection of Christ – we are the Church together.

"Jesus said we should be seen by our love for one another.

"It is time to day I do respect the choice of ministers to choose, I do respect the faith and desire of members and ministers to say I do and be married in their church in a way that most of us have been able to do throughout the whole of our lives and take for granted."

The Church's Legal Questions Committee is producing guidance to accompany the amended Church law.

It will be prepared in consultation with the Faith Nurture Forum and the Theological Forum and issued to presbytery clerks and posted online this summer to assist in the practical operation of the revised Act's provisions.

The Faith Nurture Forum will produce a suggested liturgy for celebrants to use to bless same-sex marriages.



CHRIST CHURCH CASTLEROCK BT51 4RA

# Flower Festival

## “Lord, for the Years”

Artistic Director Alan Beatty  
assisted by James Burnside

**Friday 27th May - Sunday 29th May 2022**

**Festival Times:**  
**Friday 10am-7pm**  
**Opening service at 11am**  
**Saturday 10am-7pm**  
**Sunday 2pm-6pm**  
**Closing service at 7pm**

Refreshments available  
Group bookings welcome  
Contact Debbie Moore  
07751 542013 or  
[debbiemoore573@aol.com](mailto:debbiemoore573@aol.com)

**Proceeds in Aid of Church Funds**  
**Registered charity in NI 104695-0**

# Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

## Resources for World Communications Day

**World Communications Day will be celebrated on Sunday 29 May – the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord. Pope Francis has chosen to reflect on the theme of ‘Listening with the ear of the heart’.**

This year’s message is an invitation to reflect on how listening involves more than simply the sense of hearing. True listening is a foundation of genuine relationships, and is foundational to the relationship between God and humanity.

In his message Pope Francis notes that many people ‘are quickly losing the ability to listen to one another, while at the same time listening is undergoing new developments, especially due to new forms of communicating.’

The Holy Father highlights the importance of listening in the context of the Synodal Process, which the Church is currently engaged in at a local and universal level. In his message Pope Francis says,

‘The most important task in pastoral activity is the ‘apostolate of the ear’ – to listen before speaking, as the Apostle James exhorts, ‘Let every man be quick to hear,



**WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY  
SUNDAY 29 MAY 2022**

Listening with the  
ear of the heart



[www.catholicbishops.ie](http://www.catholicbishops.ie)

slow to speak' (1:19). Freely giving some of our own time to listen to people is the first act of charity.

‘A synodal process has just been launched. Let us pray that it will be a great opportunity to listen to one another. Communion, in fact, is not the result of strategies and programmes, but is built in mutual listening between brothers and sisters.

‘With the awareness that we participate in a communion that precedes and includes us, we can rediscover a symphonic Church, in which each person is able to sing with his or her own voice, welcoming the voices of others as a gift to

manifest the harmony of the whole that the Holy Spirit composes.'

Click below to read Pope Francis' message in full

Click below for more on the Universal Synod and the Synodal Pathway Ireland

Read Archbishop Eamon Martin's welcomes for Pope Francis' message for World Communications Day 2021

[\[https://www.catholicbishops.ie/2022/05/19/resources-for-world-communications-day-2022/\]](https://www.catholicbishops.ie/2022/05/19/resources-for-world-communications-day-2022/)

## Poem for today

### Advice from a Tree by Ilan Shamir

Dear Friend,  
Stand Tall and Proud  
Sink your roots deeply into the Earth  
Reflect the light of a greater source  
Think long term  
Go out on a limb  
Remember your place among all living beings  
Embrace with joy the changing seasons  
For each yields its own abundance  
The Energy and Birth of Spring  
The Growth and Contentment of Summer  
The Wisdom to let go of leaves in the Fall  
The Rest and Quiet Renewal of Winter  
Feel the wind and the sun  
And delight in their presence  
Look up at the moon that shines down upon you

May 24, 2022

And the mystery of the stars at night.  
Seek nourishment from the good things in life  
Simple pleasures  
Earth, fresh air, light  
Be content with your natural beauty  
Drink plenty of water  
Let your limbs sway and dance in the breezes  
Be flexible  
Remember your roots  
Enjoy the view!

## Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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## Church News Ireland

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