

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Belfast Cathedral School choirs

Image of the day

Belfast Cathedral Primary School choirs competition

The St Anne Trust Primary Schools' Choir of the Year Competition took place in Belfast Cathedral over two days. Choir on front page here - Victoria College. See report on page 10.

People and places

Trinity Chapel Choir on tour

Trinity College Chapel Choir was on tour in Monaco and Nice.

On Ascension Thursday the choir sang at Mass in Monaco cathedral including music by Charles Villiers Stanford and Charles Wood.

After Mass the choir sang at a reception in the Princess Grace library where their repertoire included George Hewson's Crossing the Bar.

On Sunday they sang at l'Eglise Saint Pierre d'Arène in Nice where the repertoire included a Mass setting by Franz Lobianco, a current member of the chapel choir.

Journeys of Hope

26th May - 4th June
St Anne's Cathedral



Habitat for Humanity Ireland photo exhibition

Around the world, disaster and war displace hundreds of thousands of people annually. Those who are displaced face a journey, whether it's short, to a different town or village, or a longer journey to a different country, this journey to find safety and security is shared by all.

MAY 24, 2023

Habitat for Humanity invites you to the 'Journeys of Hope' photo exhibition, which tells the stories of families displaced by disaster. The exhibition will be running in Belfast Cathedral from Friday 26th May - Sunday 4th June, and can be viewed anytime the cathedral is open.

Come along and read about the 'Journeys of Hope' undertaken by people around the world.

Belfast Cathedral relies on donations, please consider donating when you visit the exhibition.

Portstewart Festival of Arts and Crafts

This Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Portstewart Presbyterian Church is showcasing local talent in a festival of talents and crafts.

As well as exhibits to look at there will be performances to enjoy on Saturday. The festival will also include Sunday morning and evening services at 10:30 and 6:30.

Church Lads & Girls Brigade honour chaplain

Ten Companies and Regimental/Battalion staff were represented from within the Northern Ireland Regiment at a meeting this week.

MAY 24, 2023

Melvyn Lockhart who is also Chairman of the Trustees CLCGB NI said he was delighted that the AGM was such a success. It was the first face to face meeting since Covid.



They said farewell to their Regimental Chaplain Dean Robert Townley and welcomed his successor and newly appointed Chaplain Rev Paul McAdam (Aghalee Parish).

70th Anniversary of St Patrick's Millisle

St Patrick's Millisle has celebrated its 70th Anniversary with a special Service of Thanksgiving on Sunday 14 May.

The service was attended by many guests in addition to the regular congregation, including previous incumbent, the Ven



Pictured top L–R: Colin Williamson (Rector's Warden), Joan West, Ven. Roderic West, Canon John Boley, Rev Colin Davis, Kath Davis, Mrs Kathleen Conway, Catelin Dieaconu (Barnabas Aid), Steven Miller (People's Warden).



Roderic West, and his wife Joan. Archdeacon West gave the address, and the music was led by James and Elise Turner.

Mr Catelin Dieaconu from the charity Barnabas Aid was also a special guest. As part of saying thank you for 70 years of worship in St Patrick's, the congregation are looking beyond themselves to Christians who are persecuted and in need. Through Barnabas Aid, they are putting together 70 boxes of 'Food.Gives' which will go to an international Christian foodbank.

Refreshments followed the service and the rector, Revd Colin Davis, Archdeacon West and Catelin Dieaconu cut a special anniversary cake. (Photo above)

Re-igniting and re-imagining ministry with children and families

Earlier this month the C of I Board for Ministry with Children and Families held its first online seminar for volunteers, staff and clergy looking at the challenges of



**PORTSTEWART
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**



*Festival of
Talents
& Crafts*

**Friday 26 May 2.00 - 9.00 p.m.
Saturday 27 May 10.00 - 9.00 p.m.
Sunday 28 May 2.00 - 5.00 p.m.
CLOSING SERVICE Sunday 28 at 6.30 p.m.**

REFRESHMENTS will be served in the Church Hall during opening times

**Enquiries: HELEN 07900922383; HAZEL 07982110303;
email: hemw8253@yahoo.co.uk**

*Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve
others as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.
1st Peter Chapter 4 Verse 10*

Proceeds to Portstewart P.W. and Church Funds Registered Charity in N.I. (NIC105562)

MAY 24, 2023

**re-igniting
ministry
with families
following
the
pandemic.**

Over 50
people
attended the
seminar
representing
all the
dioceses and
a broad
spectrum of
church
situations –

from the large churches with established programmes of activities, to the smaller churches who are keen to start or restart their children and families ministry.

The talk was given by Development Officer Rachael Murphy, who hopes that these online events will become a regular fixture in the Church of Ireland calendar, will cover a variety of topics, and involve different speakers over the coming year.

During the evening the group considered recent changes in society and how these have impacted the relationship between church and families, explored the CFM Health Check app (which is a new way for parishes to review the ways they engage with children and families), and looked at



MAY 24, 2023

current research findings and considered the ways in which our churches might respond. The attendees also broke into groups based on geographical similarities, and shared ideas that they had tried or wished to try in order to establish and develop relationships with parents and carers.

The feedback on the event was very positive, and some of the responses given regarding the 'take aways' from the session included the following comments:



‘That instead of worrying about numbers, we should concentrate on the children and families that we have and build strong relationships with them.’

‘There were lots of ideas that we could adapt to suit our community.’

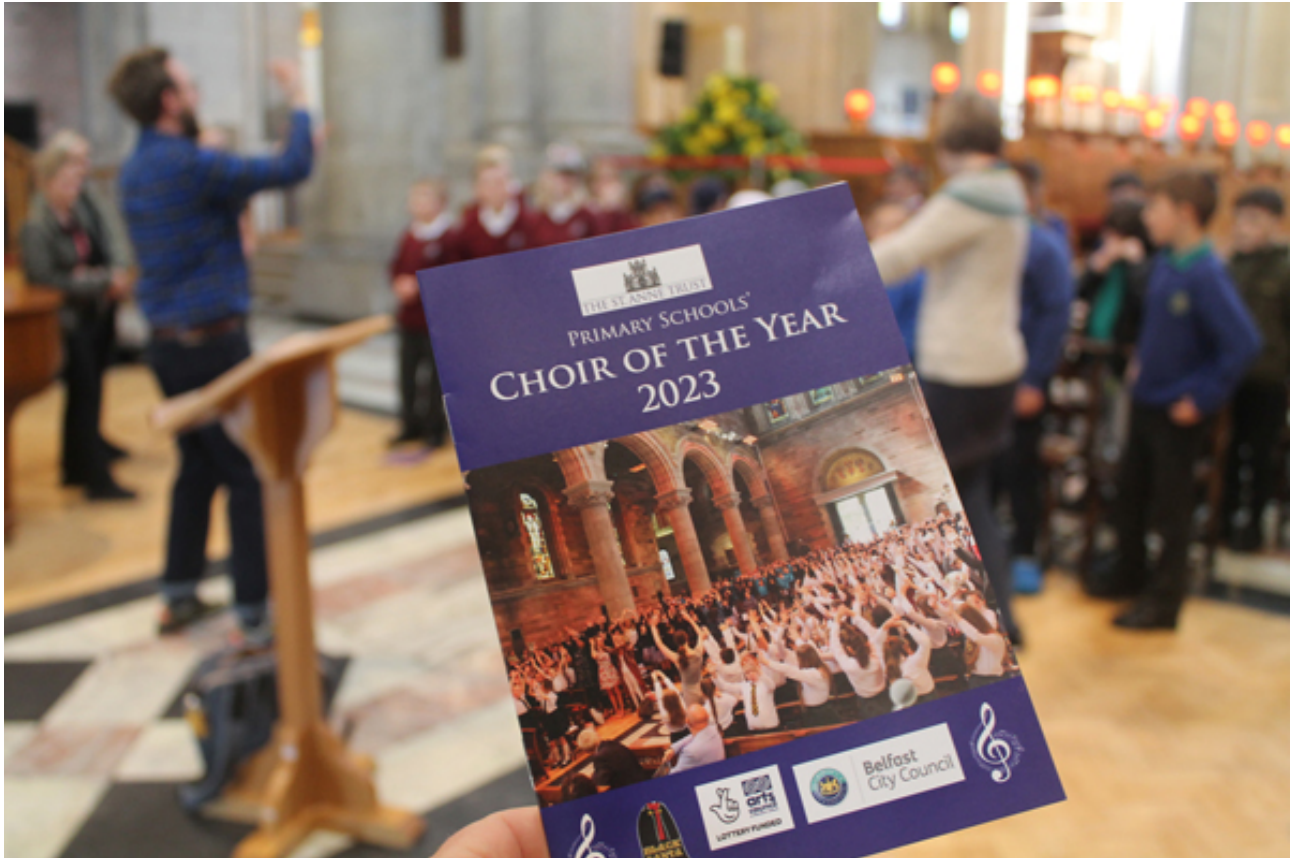
‘I’m reminded again how Children and Families Ministry is responsibility of the whole church.’

‘A great new resource to the Church of Ireland. Looking forward to the next one.’

MAY 24, 2023

Information on the next training event will be given over the CFM social media pages and via email to those who sign up for the CFM newsletter on the website:

www.cfm.ireland.anglican.org



Annual Primary Schools' Choir Competition in Belfast Cathedral

The St Anne Trust Primary Schools' Choir of the Year Competition took place in Belfast Cathedral over two days.

The St Anne Trust held its annual Primary Schools' Choir Competition in Belfast Cathedral on May 16 and 17 – the first in three years due to the Covid-19 pandemic.



On the first day, the choirs of two special schools, Jordanstown School and Harberton School, attended the Cathedral for a Come & Sing event, taking part in a workshop led by music facilitator Anne McCambridge with Lorraine Stanley providing accompaniment on the piano.

There was singing, games, instruments, lots of movement and no end of fun, evidenced in the smiles and laughter of the children taking part.

After a refreshment break, the choirs performed their chosen numbers, their voices accompanied by some wonderful movement and, in the case of Jordanstown School, the words of the song conveyed in sign language. Before leaving, they had a chance to hear the mighty Cathedral organ, played by Master of Music Jack Wilson,

and some of the children even had the opportunity to play some notes themselves!

On the second day, members of the choirs of Cliftonville Integrated Primary School, Glenwood Primary School, St Patrick's Primary School, Holywood, Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School and Victoria College Preparatory School filled the Nave of the Cathedral, along with teachers, parents and friends.

The competition adjudicator was Father Eugene O'Hagan, one of the internationally renowned classical music singing trio The Priests. Special guest was the High Sheriff of Belfast, Councillor John Kyle.

On both days the children and all present were welcomed by Mr Joe Watson, Chairman of the St Anne Trust, and the Dean of Belfast, the Very Rev Stephen Forde.

The standard of entries from all five schools was very high, and every child was a credit to their school and to their family. Each school sang two songs, and Fr Eugene had the unenviable task of deciding on a winner.

While he was reviewing his notes, facilitator Anne McCambridge led the children in communal singing, filling the Cathedral with music and movement.

Councillor Kyle said it had been a wonderful morning. To the choirs, he said: "Your singing has been inspiring in such wonderful surroundings. It has been a delight to watch your expressions and see your enthusiasm. Singing is so good for your health and confidence."

Before announcing the results, Fr Eugene gave a very positive summary of each schools' performance, praising the children for their 'smiling faces, lovely uniforms and glorious singing.'

"In today's world, it is wonderful to be able to listen to some wonderful music," he said. "You cannot go out and buy a voice in the shops. It is important if you have a beautiful voice that you use it and enjoy it and you will light up somebody else's life."

Highly commended prizes were awarded to Harding Memorial Integrated and Cliftonville Integrated Primary Schools, with St Patrick's, Hollywood, taking third place, Glenwood Primary School coming second, and Victoria College Preparatory School named the St Anne Trust Primary School Choir of the Year 2023.

News reports

Archbishop of York's first official visit to the Anglican Centre and the Holy See

The Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, is in Rome this week for his first official visit to the Anglican Centre and the Holy See

His official visit includes meetings with different departments of the Vatican connected with evangelisation and ecumenicalism building interfaith connections.



He will be meeting with the Dicastery for Evangelisation, the Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity, the Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue and the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.

On Monday Archbishop Stephen, accompanied by Mrs Rebecca Cottrell and his chaplain The Reverend Dr Jenny Wright, shared an audience with His Holiness Pope Francis.

Today Wednesday, there is an event where Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, Pro-Prefect for the Section of Evangelization of Dicastery for Evangelization, will be in conversation with Archbishop at a conference entitled The Ecumenical Impact on Evangelization which will be livestreamed from the Anglican Centre.

Archbishop Stephen Cottrell said; "Coming to Rome and meeting with sisters and brothers from within the Roman

Catholic Church has been so encouraging. My prayer is that Christians of all denominations can work together more and be united in our desire to follow the prompting of the Holy Spirit as we look to share the love of God as seen in Jesus with the many in our world who long for hope and meaning in their lives.

“It is my experience that it is when we, the Church of Jesus Christ in all its manifold shapes and sizes, reach out together in mission, in service of the world and in proclamation of the gospel, that our unity is strengthened and revealed.”

The Anglican Centre

Archbishop Stephen's visit has been organised by Archbishop Ian Ernest, the Director of the Anglican Centre and the Archbishop of Canterbury's Representative to the Holy See. The Anglican Centre is a vital link between the Anglican Communion and the Roman Catholic Church, working on shared projects as well as offering opportunities for study, hospitality and encounter.

Archbishop Ian Ernest said: “This first official visit of the Archbishop of York, the Most Reverend Stephen Cottrell, to the Anglican Centre and to the Holy See comes as an affirmation of the longing of the Anglican Communion to diligently and constantly work for the visible unity of Christians. The personal commitment of Archbishop Stephen, in the different callings he has exercised, to encourage a collaborative spirit amongst different groups of people, in spite of cultural, denominational and religious differences, inspires and encourages us to carry forward

MAY 24, 2023

with love the mission entrusted to the Anglican Centre in Rome.



His meeting with The Holy Father, Pope Francis has further consolidated the strong bonds of friendship between our two World Communions and we are now looking forward for further cooperation between the Dicasteries of the Vatican and the Anglican Centre in Rome as we seek to bear witness of the Love of God, together, to our broken world.”

Archbishop Stephen is also preaching at All Saints Church and the Anglican Centre; as well as visiting the Sant’Edigio Community, San Gregorio Magno al Celio and The Venerable English College.

Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission meets in Larnaca

A plenary meeting of the third phase of the Anglican-Catholic dialogue commission, ARCIC (Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission), took place from 7-15 May 2023 in Larnaca, Cyprus.

All members of the commission, together with expert consultants and staff members from both the Anglican Communion Office in London and the Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity in Rome, were present for the meeting. The Commission's work for the week was focused on the second part of its mandate – to examine how the Church local, regional and universal discerns right ethical teaching.

A major part of the week's work was devoted to work on two case studies about moral issues – one where Catholics and Anglicans reached broadly the same teaching, and one where they did not. Adopting a 'Receptive Ecumenism' approach, the Commission worked on identifying how each communion can learn from the experience of the other. The Commission also welcomed Metropolitan Vasilios of Constantia-Ammochostos, Co-President of the World Council of Churches, to one of its sessions. His Eminence shared with them about Orthodox approaches to moral discernment.

Over the course of the week, members met with various representatives of the local churches. They joined the Dean and congregation of St Paul's Anglican Cathedral in Nicosia

MAY 24, 2023

for Sunday worship on 14 May. Afterwards, they were received at his residence by the Orthodox Archbishop of Cyprus, and were later greeted also by the Latin Patriarchal Vicar for Cyprus.

A communiqué was issued at the conclusion of the plenary. The last ARCIC meeting was held in Rome from 7-15 May 2020. The Commission will next meet in May 2024.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

The great departure - why young people are leaving our churches

In the May edition of the Presbyterian Herald, Mel Lacy from Growing Young Disciples (GYD) presents a sobering assessment of why young people are leaving our churches at a rapid rate.

The Herald has made the article available at

https://issuu.com/presbyterianireland/docs/presbyterian_herald_may_2023/s/23290992

CS Lewis Podcast - Lewis and The Embodiment of Heaven

This week's episode of The CS Lewis Podcast with Alister McGrath features a talk from the inaugural symposium by

MAY 24, 2023

PhD candidate from The University of Iasi, Teodora Driscu. Her paper was entitled 'The Embodiment of Heaven in Lewis's Works'.

[<https://cslewis.podbean.com/e/106-teodora-driscu-lewis-and-the-embodiment-of-heaven/>]

Livestream dialogue from Rome today

Today Wednesday, as part of his visit to Rome, Archbishop Stephen will be in conversation with Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle at a conference entitled 'The Ecumenical Impact of Evangelization'.

It will be live streamed from the Anglican Centre, Rome. Watch live from 10.30am BST at www.facebook.com/AnglicanCentre

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

MAY 24, 2023

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
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!

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

