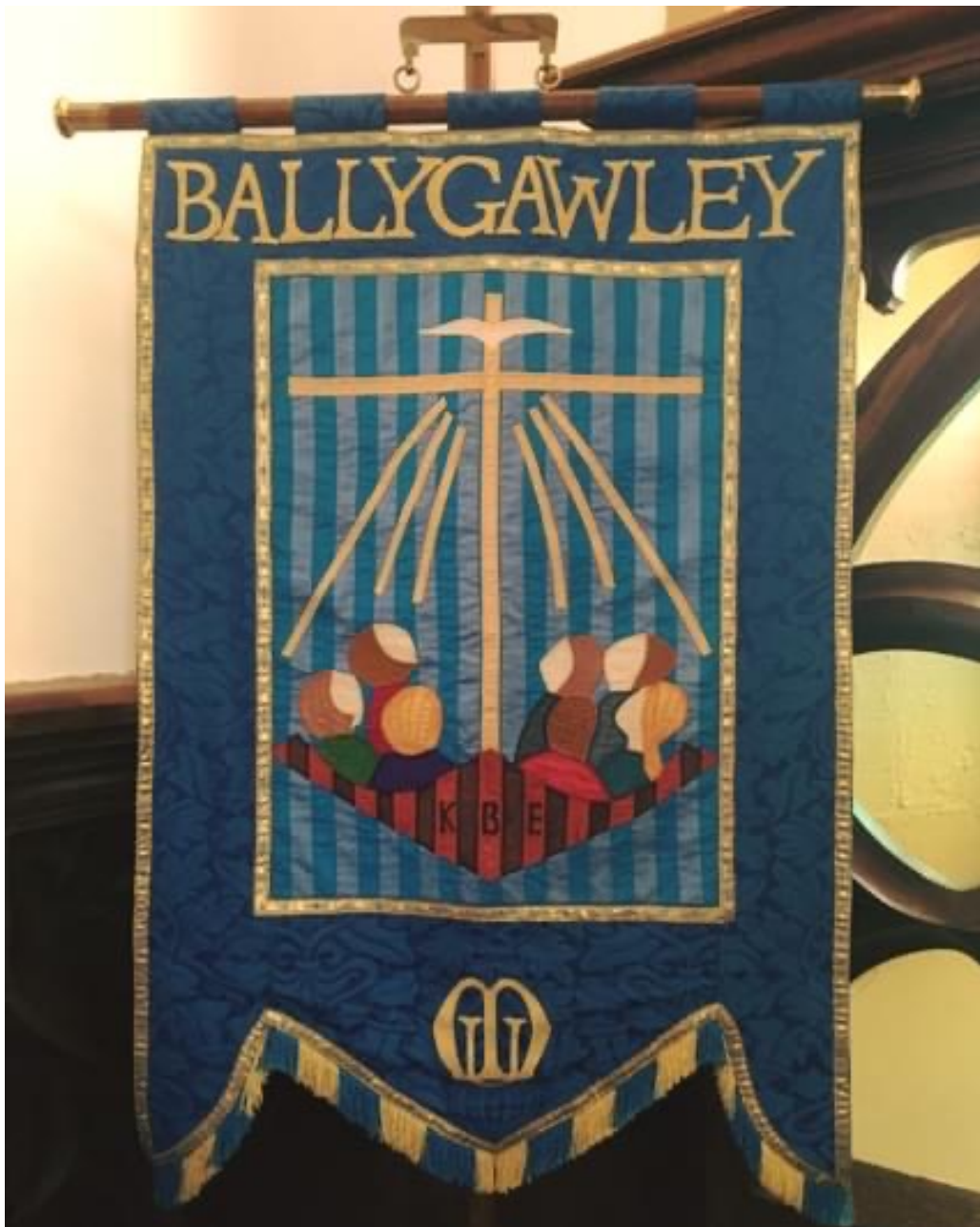


Church News Ireland



**Image of the day – Ballygawley Mothers Union
worldwide banner**

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Image of the day

Ballygawley Mothers Union worldwide banner

Earlier this year Mothers Union Worldwide invited branches to send photographs of their branch banners.

Each day one of these photographs is shown on the MU's web site.

This week Ballygawley's banner was the banner of the day.

Branch member Anne told viewers, "It features figures in a boat and represents members of the MU on a journey together. Their faces are upturned signifying that their inspiration and motivation comes from the cross of Christ. Their strength and effectiveness comes from the power of the Holy Spirit.

The branch was formed in 1989 and a fund was in place for a number of years to purchase a banner... The banner was dedicated in 1998"

The branch is in Errigle Keerogue, Ballygawley & Killeshill Parish Group in the Diocese of Armagh. See more on parish Facebook site.

People and places



Antrim service for Presbyterian Church's Accredited Preachers

On Sunday 21 May, the congregation of First Antrim hosted an evening service, at which the 2022-23 cohort of Accredited Preachers was recognised.

The APS scheme has trained sixteen new preachers, from ten Presbyteries, over the past year, and the Council for Training acknowledges the huge support of supervising ministers, and congregations, in the task of mentoring the APS trainees.

Rev Nigel McCullough (Council Convener) presented the certificates of accreditation, and Rev Dave Clawson (West Kirk, N Belfast) preached, at the service.

A challenge to win the next generation for Christ

On three consecutive evenings in May, Select Vestries from across the diocese of Down & Dromore were invited to focus on winning the next generation for Christ. Bishop David gathered parish leaders so that Jasper Rutherford could share research showing the state of Christian youth ministry in Ireland.

Jasper is a Church Army Captain and European Director of Christ in Youth. He is a passionate evangelist and has been involved in youth ministry within the local Church and with para-church organisations for nearly 20 years. He conducted the research towards the end of the COVID pandemic in 2020.

Before Jasper spoke, Bishop David read Judges 2: 6–15, a passage telling us that the generation after Joshua didn't follow the Lord and it did not go well for them. He reminded us that each generation is called to pass on the faith to the next, but we are in danger of failing in that task.

Jasper's findings revealed that the number of employed youth workers in Ireland across all denominations in churches and para-church organisations, falls dramatically

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short of what's needed. He also noted that the numbers of youth workers employed in para-church organisations was



Capt Jasper Rutherford who has produced some very disturbing and challenging research revealing the urgent task of passing on the faith to young people, and children across Ireland. Jasper was the main speaker at this week's meetings around the Diocese for newly elected Select Vestry members in all parishes. The area meetings were held in Newtownards, Banbridge and Carryduff.

outstripping those in churches, the place where Christian discipleship is most effective.

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Although 77% of employed youth workers in Ireland were working in Ulster, this translated to only 1 church-based youth worker for every 2,821 young people aged 10–24. By another measure a young person in Ulster might have to



The Bishop speaking at one of the three area meeting organised around the Diocese this week for the newly elected members of Select Vestries on the urgent challenges facing parishes over the next few years . Venues were Newtownards, Banbridge and Carryduff.

travel 12 km to find a church-based youth worker. The situation is even more serious in other parts of rural Ireland.

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This raises the serious question as to the extent of faith formation for youth in our churches, especially given that 84% of young people in Northern Ireland will choose to follow Jesus before the age of 25 and only 1% will make this decision after 45.

“I believe that on the back of Covid we have a once in a lifetime opportunity to shape the future of youth ministry,” Jasper said. “These are just facts and figures but what are we going to do with them? What is God saying to us in these times? What’s our legacy of faith?”

Even though Down and Dromore is the diocese with the most employed youth workers in Ireland, a number that



Church's
Ministry
of Healing
✝ Ireland

Service of Thanksgiving

Sunday 11th June, 3pm

St Mary's Church of Ireland,
Maynooth,

All are Welcome

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increased post-Covid, Bishop David also left us with a challenge.

“This is a reality check, and we need to repent because this has happened under our watch, under my watch. However, it’s also an incredible opportunity. For things to change it will take resources, but there are enough out there to do the job that needs to be done.”

Clergy meet the King

Dean Kenny Hall and Monsignor Peter O’Reilly greet and welcome King Charles to Enniskillen. Also in the photo is Mrs Jenifer Johnston DL.



Canon Kevin Graham and Mrs Graham of Saint Bartholomew’s Parish, Stranmillis, Belfast, at the Royal Garden Party in Hillsborough

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New Crematorium at Newtownabbey

The new Crematorium at Ballyearl near Glengormley is due to open mid June. It will be the only other crematorium in NI apart from Roselawn.

News reports

Chaplains thanked for compassionate and insightful services role at Scots General Assembly

The military head of the Royal Navy has paid tribute to the role military chaplains play in making the UK's armed forces what they are today.

The First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Ben Key, was addressing the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland following the annual report from the Kirk's Committee on Chaplains to HM Forces.

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This highlighted the work of Kirk chaplains in all three services, including those supporting military deployed to Ukraine, as well as their contribution following the death of Queen Elizabeth, which was deeply felt in the service community.



The Chaplain General and Deputy Chaplain General joined chaplains from across HM Forces at the Church of Scotland General Assembly. Attendees were given an insight into the role of military chaplains in the UK and overseas during one of the speeches.

Admiral Key, the grandson of an Anglican bishop, spoke about the important role of chaplains generally, but also of his personal experience of the Royal Navy Chaplaincy Service.

"There are three components to fighting power," Admiral Key said.

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"There is the physical: what kit do you have - what type of person are you? The second is the conceptual: what tactics and strategies are we going to employ? Most importantly, there is the moral component: do we believe in what we are being asked to do and do we believe in each other?"

"Never has that been more clearly demonstrated than in Ukraine where the moral component of fighting spirit is proving to be such a determinant, but it is also apparent every single day in every single unit around the world of His Majesty's Armed Forces, and the Chaplaincy is fundamental to our ability to have it.

Admiral Key thanked the chaplains for helping make the Armed Forces what they are today.

"That is done with enormous compassion, it is done with wisdom, it is done with insight."

Admiral Key also spoke about how chaplains had supported him as a commanding officer, including one chaplain who had come to his cabin to ask if he was all right.

"I knew at that moment that I wasn't," he said.

"We were on the far side of the world, we had been away from home for many months, I was 34 years old, and I was feeling the weight of responsibility."

In an era when most servicemen and women can maintain contact with their loved ones by mobile phone or email, Admiral Key asked the General Assembly to think in particular of those serving aboard the submarine fleet based



The First Sea Lord (left) with Major General Alistair Bruce (right), Governor of Edinburgh Castle and a senior British Reservist, with the Reverend Angus Smith who was chaplain to the Scots Guards during the Falklands War at the General Assembly.

on the other side of Scotland, whose duties meant they could go for months without family contact.

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"I cannot think of a group on the planet more socially isolated from the people they love than the submariners who serve our nation," he said.

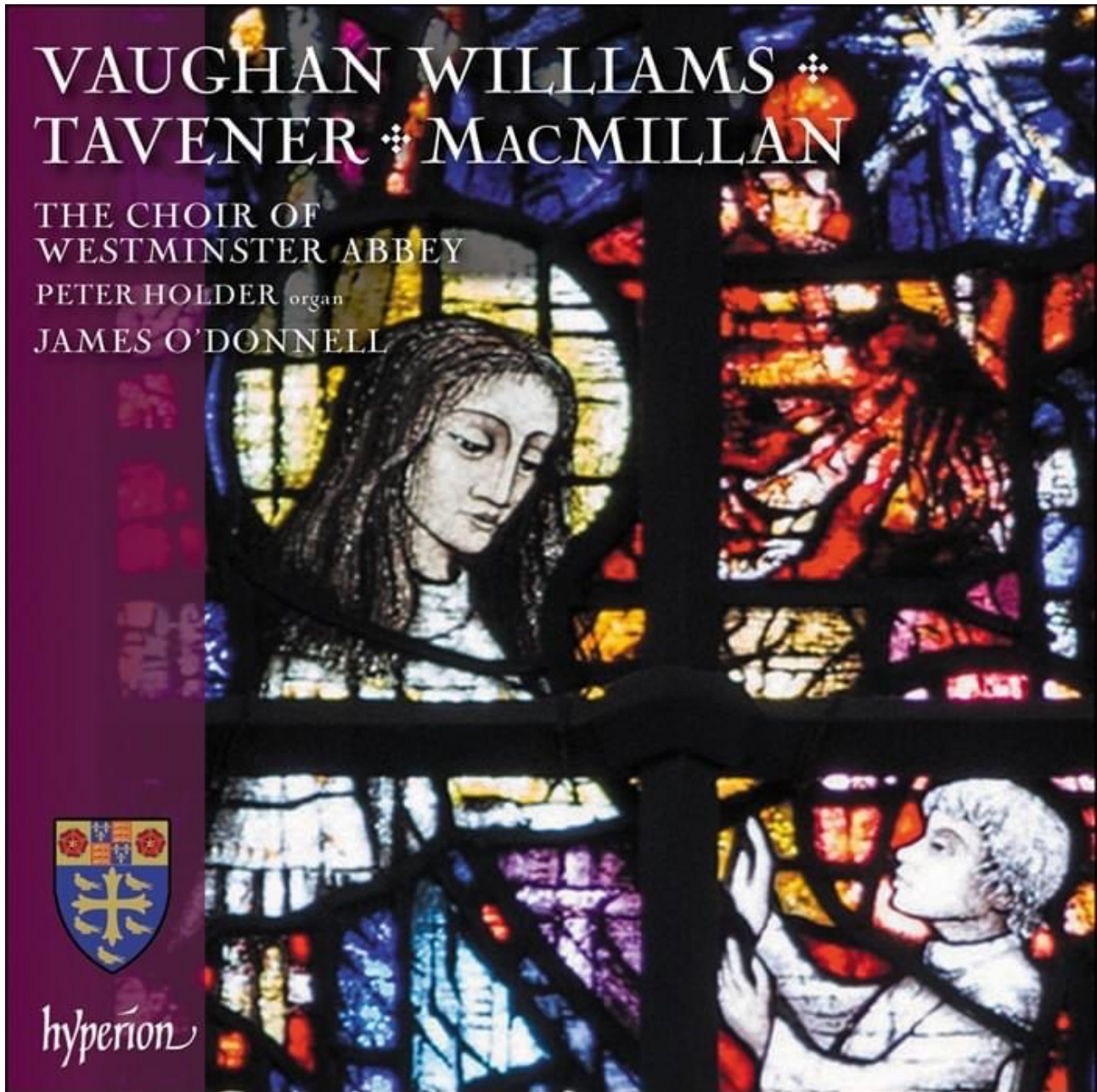
"Particularly in Scotland, where the submarine service is such a profound part of the Royal Navy's presence, can I ask you to keep an eye out for those whose partners, sons, daughters, mothers and fathers are submariners because the pressure on them in a world that expects instant connectivity is enormous."

Admiral Key began his address with a tribute to former Chaplain of the Fleet, the Venerable Martyn Gough, whose funeral was taking place the same day in Salisbury. Rev Scott Brown, convener of the Committee on Chaplains to His Majesty's Forces and himself a former Chaplain of the Fleet, also paid tribute to the Venerable Martyn Gough, describing him as an outstanding leader and man of faith.

Inviting any interested minister to talk to him about what ministry in the Forces could mean for them, Rev Brown said: "The bond between the chaplain and your flock is enduring, is built upon decades of being seen as trustworthy, of being approachable, of being confidential, of being where your people are – in a ship, in a trench, in the back of an armoured personnel carrier, or in an aircraft hangar.

"Today is an opportunity again to give our thanks to those who serve in this unique community, that in the highs and lows, they may know that they are held in the prayers of the Church."

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



Westminster Abbey Choir's latest disc

Next Friday - the latest disc of Vaughan Williams, MacMillan and Tavener is released, which was recorded last year.

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“We're delighted to be Record of the Month for Hyperion Records.”

More info and listen to extracts here:

https://www.hyperion-records.co.uk/dc.asp?dc=D_CDA68420



[Watch Norwich Cathedral organ rebuild in Timelapse](#)

Some pipes are the size of a pencil. Some are nearly 10 metres long.

Now that the 3 month rebuild of the organ is complete, the tuning ('voicing') of it's 5,767 pipes is underway.

Expect to hear some strange noises if you're visiting.

Find out more here and watch the rebuild #timelapse below

<http://ow.ly/puQY50OqYgl>

Songs and Sonnets By Saint George's Singers

An evening of choral music for summertime - In their summer concert, Saint George's Singers will be performing works by Shakespeare set to music by George Shearing, A Little Jazz Mass by Bob Chilcott, and a selection of folk songs and madrigals.

Tue, 13 Jun 2023 19:45 BST. 1 hour 15 minutes. Saint George's Church 105 High Street Belfast Belfast BT1 2AG



CHILDREN AND FAMILIES' COORDINATOR

PART-TIME POST
25-30 HOURS (NEGOTIABLE)

You can download an application pack at shankillparish.co.uk/jobs

Deadline for completed applications:
12pm Wednesday 14 June

Shankill Parish Lurgan
Building Faith Building Community

Children and families ministry at Shankill

“We have a fantastic children and families ministry at Shankill and we're looking for the next person to lead it!”

Go to shankillparish.co.uk/jobs to download an application pack.



Bangor book launch - Unveiling Our New Identity in Christ by Heather Thompson

A second book by Heather Thompson from Bangor, will be launched on Saturday 24th June at 10am at West Church Presbyterian, 91 Crawfordsburn Road, Bangor, BT19 1BG.

The publisher outlines the purpose of the book - "The world tells us that we are defined by our past. We then believe the

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lies that we are too messed up, have made too many mistakes, and that it's impossible to change. We see ourselves through the lens of our fallen character and we allow that to shape our identity, carrying it through into our Christian life. Thankfully, that's not the whole story.

“In her second book ‘Unveiling Our New Identity In Christ’, Heather Thompson explores what our identity is as a new creation and that our past no longer has to define us.

“You’ll explore the depths of Scripture as you uncover the beauty of your worth and purpose in Jesus Christ. You’ll learn about the resources you have because the Spirit of Christ lives within you. You’ll experience the freedom that comes from understanding who you are in God’s eyes and learning how to live out that truth every day.”

You may pre-order at -
www.MauriceWylieMedia.com

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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
