

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – Nature and faith**

# Image of the day

## Nature and faith

New blossoms at Canterbury

## People and places

### Bray Choral Society holds 'come and sing' event with John Rutter's 'Prayer for Ukraine'

**Bray Choral Society was recently joined by local singers for a special 'come and sing' event to support Ukraine.**

The singers gathered recently at Holy Redeemer Church to learn 'A Prayer for Ukraine' under the guidance of Bray Choral Society's musical director Frank Kelly.

Bray Choral Society is inviting all singers, choirs, choral societies, church choirs and anyone who likes to sing to join them. All those taking part were asked to make a donation to support the Irish Red Cross Ukraine appeal.

English composer and conductor John Rutter composed his own setting of 'A Ukrainian Prayer' in response to the invasion of the country.



May 9, 2022

Mr Rutter has made copies of the score have available for choirs across the world to sing and suggested a donation is made to a charity supporting the people of Ukraine.

The words of the prayer translated into English are “Good Lord, protect Ukraine./ Give her strength, courage, faith, hope. Amen.”

Meanwhile, Bray Choral Society will stage their first concert since 2019 on Sunday, May 22 at Holy Redeemer Church at 8 p.m.



The choir will perform Carl Orff's 'Carmina Burana' under the direction of Frank Kelly, musical director.

One of the most famous choral works of the 20th Century, 'Carmina Burana' is based on a sequence of 24 medieval

May 9, 2022

poems and includes 'O Fortuna'.

Tickets cost €10 and will be available from choir members or on the door.

Courtesy of Eimear Dodd and Bray People.

## **Site of 158-year-old St Jude's Spire on sale in south Dublin**

**A church spire dating back to 1864 has been put on the market for €495,000 in south Dublin.**

St Jude's Spire, situated on the Inchicore Road in Kilmainham, is all that remains of a former Church of Ireland building which was demolished in the 1980s, Tony McCullagh writes in Independent.ie.

The sale of the site, close to the Irish National War Memorial Gardens and Royal Hospital Kilmainham, has been described by Brock Delappe estate agents as "a unique and exciting opportunity to acquire a historical landmark, with the potential to create a stunning property".

They point out the spire is a protected structure and any new build would need to incorporate it. A planning permission granted in 2000 for a four-bed house wrapping around the structure has since lapsed.

"Within the plans, the spire is incorporated as part of a dramatic entrance and elevated viewing platform with wonderful views," the sales brochure says.

According to the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage, St Jude's Church was constructed between 1862 and 1864 and designed by Welland and Gillespie in an early English gothic style, at a cost of £4,000.

"Saint Jude's was closely affiliated with the Great Southern & Western Railway which was established to the west in Inchicore in 1846," it states.

"The church was sold by the Dublin Diocese in the 1980s and was demolished by Desmond Guinness in 1988, who removed the materials to Straffan, where its timbers and stained glass were used to decorate a steam-traction museum. Only the tower and spire remain at Kilmainham, illustrating the high quality craftsmanship and materials employed in the original construction."

Councillor Michael Pidgeon (GP), who lives in the area, described St Jude's Spire as "a beautiful part of Kilmainham's history".

"It was once threatened with demolition but was eventually saved and gave its name to the nearby Belfry estate," he said. Courtesy Dublin Eye Newsletter/

## **Charles Wood Singers applications sought**

Applications are now open to become a member of the Charles Wood Singers for CWF2022. The closing date is 20th June.

For full details and to apply, visit



May 9, 2022

<https://charleswoodsummerschool.org/charles-wood-singers>.



The poster features a blue geometric background with musical notes and a silhouette of a choir. In the top left, there is a logo for Charles Wood Festival & Summer School showing three stylized figures singing. The main title 'CHARLES WOOD SINGERS CHORAL COURSE' is in large white letters, followed by 'A PATHWAY TO PROFESSIONAL CHORAL SINGING'. Below this, five circular portraits of the course leaders are shown, each with their name and role. The dates 'SUNDAY 21st - SUNDAY 28th AUGUST 2022' are prominently displayed. A paragraph describes the course as unique, featuring a BBC Radio 3 broadcast, a world premiere by Elaine Agnew, and sessions with Paul Farrington. It also mentions section leaders from top UK vocal ensembles and highly competitive rates. The BBC Radio 3 logo is at the bottom center. A light blue footer contains the website URL and social media icons.

**CHARLES WOOD SINGERS**  
**CHORAL COURSE**  
A PATHWAY TO  
PROFESSIONAL CHORAL SINGING

**DR DAVID HILL**  
Artistic Director

**PHILIP SCRIVEN**  
Organist & Associate Conductor

**PAUL FARRINGTON**  
Vocal Coach

**BOB CHILCOTT**  
Guest Conductor

**ELAINE AGNEW**  
Visiting Composer

**SUNDAY 21st - SUNDAY 28th AUGUST 2022**

A unique choral course directed by experts David Hill and Philip Scriven  
Programme includes a BBC Radio 3 Broadcast, the world premiere of a work  
by Elaine Agnew, and a Come and Sing led by Bob Chilcott  
Vocal care sessions, masterclasses and lessons with Paul Farrington  
Section leaders from some of the UK's top vocal ensembles  
Highly competitive rates



For details on how to apply and course fees visit  
[www.charleswoodsummerschool.org](https://www.charleswoodsummerschool.org)

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## News reports

### Same sex weddings could be allowed in Church in Wales within 5 years says new Archbishop

**The new Archbishop of Wales says he won't be surprised if same-sex weddings are allowed in churches in the country within the next five years.**

Most Rev Andrew John who's being enthroned at a service at St Deiniol's cathedral in Bangor today has said the church in Wales should be inclusive and "welcome people, where they are, who they are".

Last year, the Church in Wales passed legislation enabling couples to have a civil partnership blessed. That arrangement will be in place for an 'experimental' period of five years.

Archbishop Andrew who has served as Bishop of Bangor since 2008 said :

"I wouldn't be surprised if, within that five-year period, we were once again talking about the marriage of same-sex couples.

"We need to make the journey and we then need to have the debate and when we do that I think we'll find ourselves looking back and thinking perhaps the concern or the trouble, real and sincere as it was, wasn't a real problem".

The Church of Scotland could become the latest Christian denomination in the UK to officiate same-sex marriages.

A new paper submitted to the 2022 General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, expected to take place in May, has shown a majority of presbyteries are in favour of allowing same-sex marriage.

The Scottish Episcopal Church voted to allow gay couples to marry in church in 2017.

The Church of England does not permit same sex marriage, but has been consulting in a 'Living in Love and Faith' process, its teaching document on sexuality.

## **Church of England launches scheme to fast track retired Christians into priesthood**

**A new scheme by the Church of England is looking to utilise retired Christian's "lifetime of work experience", and gear them towards priesthood.**

Run by the Church Revitalisation Trust (CR Trust), the Caleb Stream is hoping to train those in their late fifties, sixties or seventies, who feel the calling to become a priest.

Currently, people are not usually put forward for ordination after the age of 55.



The Stream is looking to particularly attract those who have a track record of being involved in church life for several years as churchwardens or lay ministers.

"We are looking for those who have served the Lord faithfully over many years, those who are involved in serving and in ministry in their church contexts and have experience of much of what it will be like to be the ordained minister of a church," Sam Follett, who oversees recruitment into the ordained ministry streams at CR Trust, said.

By fast-tracking people into priesthood, the Church of England is aiming to help overstretched vicars share the load with existing members of the community.

According to Follett, priests already rely on retired priests or lay parishioners to help them look after the congregations, as some priests have up to ten churches under their care.

"There is an urgent need," Follett continued. "We think there are about 10,000 churches in the Church of England, that are in need of a focal minister and we want to see those churches flourishing, and being able to be cared for and overseen by a minister who can support that congregation.

"And so we think it's right that there's a pathway that helps enable that quickly," he continued.

It can take up to five years or longer to become an ordained priest in the Church of England. Candidates begin discussions with their priest about their intentions to become an ordained minister before going through an interview

process that can last for up to two years and that it ends with the bishop recommending for ordination.

They are then required to spend three years at theological college before being ordained, first as a deacon, and then as a priest.

Although the Caleb Stream reduces all the process to just one year of theological training, working with St Mellitus theological college in London, candidates are still required to be put forward by their dioceses and have the backing of a bishop.

Ten people will graduate from the Stream this year, while there are already 100 candidates to join the course for the next academic year.

## **Christian Aid has appoints new permanent Chief Executive**

**Patrick Watt who is the charity's Director of Policy, Public Affairs and Campaigns and current interim Chief Executive has now been made substantive in the role.**

He joined Christian Aid in 2019, having previously worked for Oxfam, Action Aid, and Save the Children on issues of education, global health, debt and trade, and aid policy.

Taking up the role he said :

"I feel enormously privileged to be given the opportunity to lead this great organisation on the next stage of its journey,

May 9, 2022

in tackling the root causes of poverty and promoting dignity, equality, and justice. I look forward to working with our passionate and dedicated staff, supporters, partners, and sponsoring churches to realise our vision.

"We're confronted by stark challenges: the economic fallout from COVID-19, the climate crisis, and the war in Ukraine are combining to push millions of people into poverty.

"Ending the injustice of extreme poverty requires fresh approaches that tackle inequality, strengthen people's voice and confront abuses of power. I am excited by the opportunity to work as part of a wider movement for change."

The Chair of Christian Aid, Lord Bishop John Sentamu, said:

"I am delighted to announce the appointment of Patrick Watt as Christian Aid's next Chief Executive.

"Patrick has proven himself as a leader for both Christian Aid and the international development sector as a whole.

"I look forward to continuing to work with Patrick and everyone at Christian Aid in our mission to turn hunger into hope and eradicate extreme poverty across the globe."

The charity's former CEO, Amanda Khozi Mukwashi stepped down last year after three years in the role to become the United Nations' Resident Coordinator in Lesotho.



## In the media

### Installation of president of the Methodist Church

Belfast Telegraph

The Reverend David Nixon will be installed as the president of the Methodist Church in Ireland on June 9 at their annual conference in Belfast.

[[] <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/life/weekend/reverend-david-nixon-our-personal-relationship-with-jesus-is-vital-and-needs-to-develop-41620795.html> ]

### Cleric's Walk of Prayer from Aberdeen to London to mark Queen's Platinum Jubilee

The Press & Journal newspaper featured the start of the Rev Dr Isaac Poobalan's walk of prayer for healing, peace and revival, to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

The Rector of St Andrew's in Aberdeen is walking from the Granite City to London, to arrive in time for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. He set off on Easter Sunday, and has been travelling down the east coast of Scotland during the first two weeks of his walk.

He told the P&J: "I'm doing it as an experiment of 50 days of walking through the landscape praying for peace to see if that will have a real impact on the community and people.

“During lockdown, I kept walking through our city and found people out and about, some with mental health issues and addiction. It was a privilege to walk with them and pray for healing.”

The full story can be read here.

[[] <https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/aberdeen-aberdeenshire/4175867/rector-of-aberdeen-cathedral-walking-to-london-to-mark-queens-platinum-jubilee/> ]

## **Death positive library opens in Omagh to encourage discussion**

BBC News NI

A new library that aims to challenge people's attitudes to death and dying has opened in Omagh, County Tyrone.

The death-positive library provides books to help people discuss this difficult and emotive subject.

A dedicated bookshelf in Omagh's main library will give people access to books on death, dying and grief.

Events such as a Dying to Talk cafe encourage people to talk openly about what matters to them at the end of life.

Compassionate Communities NI works to challenge attitudes to death and dying, and help remove some of the barriers associated with the subject.

May 9, 2022

They have collaborated with Omagh Library, Age Friendly Fermanagh, and Fermanagh and Omagh District Council to provide this initiative. More at -

[[] <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-61324640> ]

## **We've witnessed a seismic shift in Northern Ireland politics. What would Ian Paisley Sr make of it all?**

Ivan Little in Sunday Life

DUP now facing unsettling reality of playing second fiddle to the 'Shinners'

The 'old' Ian Paisley of 2003 who grabbed me by the throat to tell me he wouldn't even talk to Sinn Féin, never mind share power with them, must be spinning in his grave today.

For the party he founded is now staring at their unsettling reality of playing second fiddle to the 'Shinners' at Stormont after the seismic shift in Northern Ireland politics at the polls.

Eighteen years ago I had 'dared' to ask the Doc on live TV at an election court in Ballymoney if he would speak to Sinn Féin in light of their rising support among voters.

But he took me by the lapels of my suit jacket, looked me in the eye and said an emphatic 'no' adding that anyone from the DUP who did talk to Sinn Féin would be out of his party.



May 9, 2022

Some years later of course the 'new' Paisley not only talked to his erstwhile enemies but also went into government with them.

[[] <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/sunday-life/comment/weve-witnessed-a-seismic-shift-in-northern-ireland-politics-what-would-ian-paisley-sr-make-of-it-all-41625456.html> ]

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

## Liturgy and ecology

The LAI/CLÉ inaugural conference takes place in Maynooth on May 21st with a great line up of speakers who are very kindly giving of their



**LITURGY ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND  
CONFERENCE**

**LITURGY AND ECOLOGY**

**21 MAY 2022**

 **Renehan Hall,  
St Patrick's College,  
Maynooth**

**TIMETABLE**

- Registration**  
1:45-2:15
- Papers with Q&As**  
2:15-5:30 with Coffee Break
- Evening Prayer**  
5:45 St Mary's Oratory

**REGISTRATION**  
infoLiturgyAI@gmail.com

**The Speakers**

-   
Dr Margaret Daly Denton
-   
Dr Dermot Lane
-   
Rev Trevor Sargent
-   
Dr Cathriona Russell

**CONFERENCE FEE:**  
LAI/CLÉ members: Free  
Non-members: €20  
Online attendance possible

May 9, 2022

time and wisdom. Check poster above for more details.  
Online attendance possible

## Appreciation



### Louis Weil, Liturgist, Theologian, Professor, Ecumenist

By William H. Petersen

**With Louis Weil's death on March 9 at age 86, the Episcopal Church, the Anglican Communion, and indeed the ecumenical Church lost one of its premier liturgical theologians. His life and ministry affected so many people, both directly and indirectly.**

Louis grew up in a non-observant Jewish family, but always treasured that heritage. In his youth he bore the sting of

anti-Semitism, but in maturity he claimed that his heritage gave him a more profound appreciation of Christianity. How he came to that transformative understanding is a tale worth remembering.

A native of Texas, Louis completed his undergraduate degree in 1956 at Southern Methodist University in Dallas and seemed destined for a career in the fine arts. An accomplished pianist, he continued an arts trajectory with an MA from Harvard (1956). During that time, however, a path with an unexpected difference presented itself. Walking by the monastery of the Cowley Fathers in Cambridge one late afternoon, he stepped into the chapel of the Society of Saint John the Evangelist just in time for Solemn Evensong. He later testified to a moment of conversion: “I entered as an agnostic and left as a Christian.”

From that turning point, Louis went on to achieve a Bachelor of Sacred Theology from the General Theological Seminary (1961) and then completed his doctorate in sacred liturgy at the prestigious Institut Catholique de Paris (1972). Meanwhile, he had been ordained to the priesthood in 1962 and served parishes in Puerto Rico — a time that included some teaching at El Seminario del Caribe.

From these beginnings, he was called in 1971 as Professor of Liturgy and Church Music at Nashotah House. In 1988 he became the Hodges-Haynes Professor of Liturgy at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific and the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California. Retiring in 2009, he continued in an adjunct capacity until 2015.



During the span of his seminary teaching career, Louis had a direct hand in the liturgical formation of nearly 30 years of Episcopal clergy. Through the GTU he educated doctoral students who now form a major part of the Episcopal Church's corps of liturgical theologians, including the current Custodian of the Book of Common Prayer.

During the period of liturgical revision and trial use (1967-79), the church called upon Louis to bring his scholarship and pastoral sensitivities to that project. Louis was persistently clear that liturgical revision is not undertaken for its own sake, but always in service of renewal.

Specifically, he played a major part in the church's recovery of Holy Baptism as a public liturgy in the context of Eucharist on the Lord's Day, rather than an occasional private service for family and sponsors. This was foundational to his constant promotion of a baptismal ecclesiology as necessary to the renewal of Christianity in the contemporary world.

At a time when it was still unusual, due largely to liturgical issues, Louis collaborated as a Nashotah House professor with Virginia Theological Seminary's theology professor, Charles P. Price, on a book in service of the church's understanding of worship and the reception of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer. *Liturgy for Living* (1979), by its very title, made the point that we are not called to praise the prayer book, but to use it. After Price's death, Louis updated the book and republished it in 2001.

Serving on Standing Liturgical Commission from 1987 to 1991 was a natural result of his liturgical expertise and service. But Louis's many contributions were not limited solely to this area. From 1978 to 1982 he served on the second series of the Lutheran-Episcopal Dialogue. At the conclusion of LED II, the Episcopal Church and three predecessor bodies of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America entered into a relationship of interim eucharistic fellowship. On this foundation, the third LED series moved the two churches ultimately to full communion by 2001.

Among the several professional bodies and agencies to which Louis greatly contributed, three stand out. He was a past president of the North American Academy of Liturgy, and after his retirement received its highest honor, the Berakah Award.

As a veteran of the International Anglican Liturgical Commission, an agency of the whole Communion, Louis was instrumental in setting forth the guidelines for revision of the eucharistic rites in member churches. The IALC's Dublin Report, published as *Our Thanksgiving and Praise* in 1998, shows Louis's hand when it stipulates that "In, through, and with Christ, the assembly is the celebrant of the Eucharist" (p. 261, emphasis added).

Such a baptismal ecclesiology, in which the clergy preside within the people's celebration, is congruent with the extensive contributions Louis made over the years to the work of *Societas Liturgica*, the international and ecumenical academy of liturgical theologians. Overall, such involvements gave Louis opportunity to lecture and present workshops on five continents.

After his retirement, Louis brought much of his pastoral and liturgical experience to good effect with the 2013 publication of *Liturgical Sense: The Logic of Rite*. In that book he reiterated the corporate nature of worship. Furthermore, the book offered a critical reflection on what makes for edifying ceremonial by the clergy as planners, presiders, and evaluators of the church's liturgy.

It is true that Louis was unfailingly kind, enjoyed a wide range of friendships, and was highly revered by students and colleagues, he nevertheless had a keen sensitivity to prejudice of any variety. He did not, however, suffer invincible ignorance gladly. If a Weil statement began with a somewhat strident "Friends," an often devastating critique of some liturgical atrocity was sure to follow.

A bright spot in the long, dark Wisconsin winters at Nashotah House was the occasion of Mozart's birthday on January 27. Louis often hosted a party, and a frequent feature was an instrumental performance by an ensemble of talented seminarians. Following this was a splendid time of conviviality when, as Tolkien would have observed, "It rained drink and snowed food." Louis's taste and hospitality were legendary.

On one such occasion, the conversation turned to a comparison of composers. The ensuing spirited exchange was brought to a penultimate conclusion when Bach was mentioned in the top rank. It remained, however, for Louis to deliver the definitive bon mot: "Certainly, the heavenly chorus sings Bach, but en famille the Trinity listen to Mozart."

It is, of course, a venerable commonplace among Christians that our praises are perfected in heaven. In his published works, but especially in his rich legacy of the many clergy and doctoral students he inspired with a passion for renewal and the best practices of liturgy, Louis Weil did so much to perfect the church's worship, both here and now, and for the future.

*The Very Rev. William H. Petersen is Emeritus Dean of Bexley Hall Seminary. Appreciation courtesy 'The Living Church'*

## Poem for today

### **I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud by William Wordsworth**

I wandered lonely as a cloud  
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,  
When all at once I saw a crowd,  
A host, of golden daffodils;  
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,  
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine  
And twinkle on the milky way,  
They stretched in never-ending line  
Along the margin of a bay:  
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,  
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.



May 9, 2022

The waves beside them danced; but they  
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:  
A poet could not but be gay,  
In such a jocund company:  
I gazed—and gazed—but little thought  
What wealth the show to me had brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie  
In vacant or in pensive mood,  
They flash upon that inward eye  
Which is the bliss of solitude;  
And then my heart with pleasure fills,  
And dances with the daffodils.

## 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)

