

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Remembrance

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Remembrance

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

News reports



Standing room only for Ballykelly Festival of Remembrance opening



The King's Lord-Lieutenant for County Londonderry, Mrs Alison Millar, formally launched the Parish of Tamlaghtfinlagan's four-day long Festival of Remembrance in Ballykelly.

It was standing room only in St Findlughan's Church, Ballykelly, as the Rector, Rev Canon Harold Given, led the festival's Opening Service at which

music was provided by the North-West Choir.

Canon Given welcomed the congregation, which included members of the Armed Forces past and present.

The highlight of the evening was the 'launch' of the parish's 'Poppy Net', which was made up of thousands of woollen poppies knitted and crocheted by Tamlaghtfinlagan parishioners, people in the wider Ballykelly community and members of parishes throughout the Diocese. The poppy net, which is suspended from the church tower, measures



almost 19 metres in length. It was inspired by the ceramic poppy installation at the Tower of London, in 2018, which marked the centenary of the ending of the First World War.

After this evening's service, Mrs Millar – who was accompanied by the Lord-Lieutenant's Cadet for the County of Londonderry, Cadet Chris Johnston, Royal Artillery – planted a rowan tree in front of the church.

It was one of only 300 Queen's Canopy trees distributed throughout the UK to mark the late sovereign's Platinum Jubilee. The tree was presented to the parish last month and came in a pot bearing Her Late Majesty 's cypher.

The Lord-Lieutenant was assisted in the tree-planting ceremony by one of Tamlaghtfinlagan's longest-attending parishioners, Mr Albert Hepburn.

The Festival Of Remembrance will continue until 6pm on Sunday evening. Collection buckets will be in place throughout the church and hall throughout the event, and donations – in aid of the Poppy Appeal and Church Funds – will be much appreciated. The parish's annual Remembrance Service will take place at 10.45am on Sunday morning.

The daylight photographs of Tamlaghtfinlagan Parish Church and the poppy net were kindly provided by Nigel McFarland.

Dublin ordination

The Revd Edwin Aiken will be ordained to the priesthood in Christ Church Cathedral on Sunday November 20. Edwin will serve as Dean's Vicar at Christ Church Cathedral. The Archbishop will preside at the special service which begins at 11am.

Edwin has served his year as Deacon Intern in the Holmpatrick Group of Parishes having been ordained to the Diaconate in September 2021.

“Prior to training for ordination I was an academic with special interests in the relationship between science and religion in the nineteenth century, the history of ideas and the historical geography of the Holy Land; my research revolved around issues of knowledge and power in discourses of Orientalism and postcolonialism. My department at Bristol University was only a few minutes' walk from the city's Anglican cathedral and I very much

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enjoyed the daily sung offices, connecting with my faith through the stillness and music and prayers,” Edwin explains.

He adds: “This brought a sense of vocation to the front of my mind, and ordination followed a few years later.

My diaconate year in the Holmpatrick group gave me great experience of the blessings and challenges of ministry. I am much looking forward to serving as Dean’s Vicar in



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Christchurch Cathedral and I'm very keen to get to know the people and the work of God in that place".

If you are unable to attend the Service of Ordination in person it can be watched live on the cathedral's webcam: <https://christchurchcathedral.ie/worship/live-video-stream/>



Food bank thanks Limavady parish

The Roe Valley Food Bank would like to say thanks to Christ Church Limavady, for their kind donation - photo above.

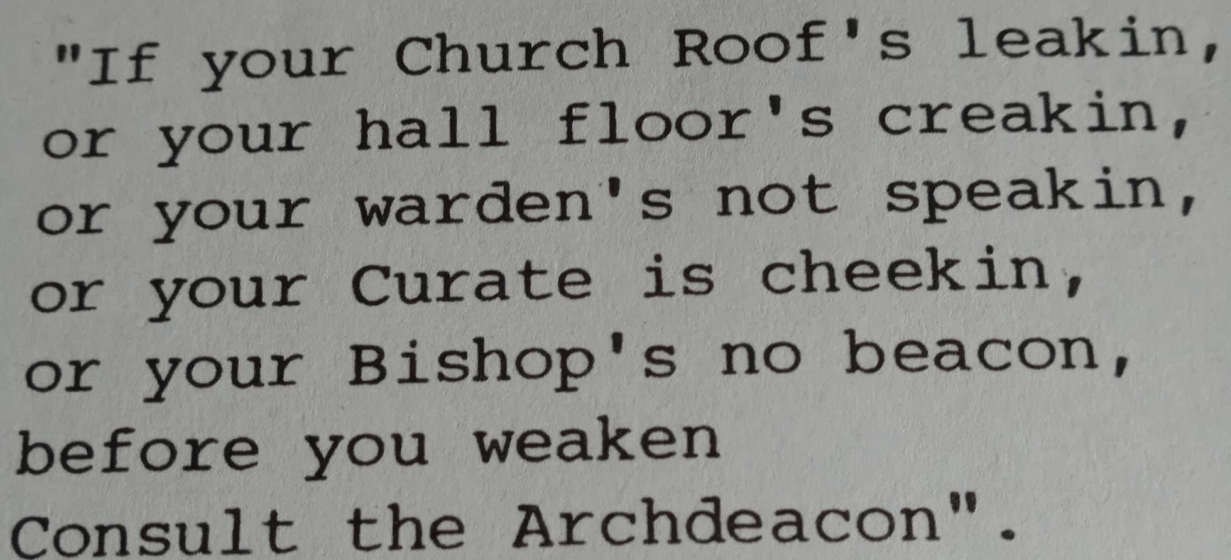
Vacancy for full time youth ministry coordinator

Scripture Union NI are looking for someone to oversee and develop the creation of relevant Bible-based resources aimed at young people and those who lead them; and to be involved in the creation, planning and delivery of training that will seek to inspire youth ministry across the country”.

Applicants should be in full personal agreement with the Aims, Beliefs and Working Principles of Scripture Union.

Contact Joanne Coulter (joanne@sun.co.uk) for the job description and application form.

Closing date for receipt of all applications is 12noon, Thursday 24 November 2022.



"If your Church Roof's leakin,
or your hall floor's creakin,
or your warden's not speakin,
or your Curate is cheekin,
or your Bishop's no beacon,
before you weaken
Consult the Archdeacon".

Oxford college spent £6.5m in campaign to get rid of its dean

An Oxford University college spent more than £6.5 million in a campaign to oust its dean, the Charity Commission has revealed, as it accused trustees of “mismanagement” and “misconduct”.

Christ Church’s four-year battle to remove the Very Rev Prof Martyn Percy ended in February after it agreed to give him a substantial undisclosed payoff.

However, it can now also be revealed that the college had already spent more than £6.6 million on legal fees and public relations costs in the dispute with the former dean who left his post amid claims of scandalous behaviour, unsound judgment, mental incapacity and sexual harassment, all of which he denied.

Following the settlement, the college reimbursed Prof Percy’s legal costs and agreed to an independent review of its governance.

The spending was revealed as the Charity Commission published its official warning to the college after finding that the trustees “failed to manage the charity’s resources responsibly”.

The regulator concluded: “The commission has determined there has been mismanagement and/or misconduct in the management and administration of the charity.”

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Following the ruling, Prof Percy, who officially left his post in April, said: “This is a devastating finding against a charity that was clearly out of control. It is beyond doubt now that a small group of trustees at Christ Church were determined to get rid of me at any cost...

“Alumni and donors will be shocked that £6.6 million – money ostensibly earmarked for education – was instead squandered on lawyers and PR agencies.”

The individuals responsible should be held to account, he said, adding: “Christ Church cannot recover from this episode until that happens.”

The commission’s official warning also calls for the college to complete its governance review, led by the Rt Hon Dominic Grieve KC, and keep it informed of its progress. It said that failure to take steps to remedy the misconduct and/or mismanagement may lead to further regulatory action being taken against the charity’s trustees.

Helen Earner, director of regulatory services at the Charity Commission, said: “These long and protracted disputes risked undermining the reputation of Christ Church and harming wider trust in charities.

“It is not for us as regulator to take sides in disputes.

“Our role is to ensure that charities are governed effectively and that charitable funds are properly accounted for. All trustees must demonstrate sound financial stewardship, regardless of the level of resources available to them.”

A spokesman for Christ Church, which was founded in 1546 and has educated 13 UK prime ministers as well as 17 archbishops, said: “In very complex and constantly changing circumstances, trustees made decisions which, having taken professional advice, they judged to be in the best interests of Christ Church.”

In the media

Jeffrey Donaldson and the DUP deserve the thanks of Irish Democrats - Eoghan Harris

The DUP did the heavy lifting on the Protocol. If a deal is done, as seems likely, Jeffrey Donaldson deserves the lion's share of the credit Eoghan Harris writes in the Belfast Newsletter.

Alternatively, if an election is called, Donaldson will get an enhanced mandate from Survival Unionists, whose morale he has lifted over the past eight months by persisting with the platform on which the DUP was elected, and not buckling under a storm of abuse from the UK and the Republic of Ireland.

By Survival Unionists, I mean unionists determined to resist Sinn Féin's 24-year campaign, starting as soon as the GFA was passed, and passively endorsed by the UK, to erode the status of unionism, as a prelude to some kind of joint authority.

Donaldson's defiant stance is actually far more important than the Protocol issue itself because it marks a major blowback by unionism against the passivity of London, the aggressiveness of Dublin, and the determination of the mass media to demonise the DUP. Let me take these three actors in turn.

First, the UK. For the past 24 years, the policy of successive UK governments towards unionism can be summed up in William Wordsworth's line: "Greetings where no kindness is meant." Britain has been a reluctant sovereign, a *roi faineant*, as medievalists would call it, lacking the will to defend the Union, or defend those who defend it.

In any crisis, one UK foot is always on the Sinn Féin accelerator, the other on the unionist brake. This culminated in Boris Johnson throwing the DUP under a Dublin bus by agreeing the Protocol, so he could call and win an election in 2019.

Second, Dublin showed a shameful willingness to betray the GFA's principle of parity of esteem by weaponising the GFA, enrolling it the Brexit battle of the backstop, and mobilising the EU and Washington in a campaign it knew would eventually undermine the status of unionism.

Stephen Collins's recent book, 'Ireland's Call, Navigating the Backstop' reveals how DFA (Department of Foreign Affairs) officials took advantage of Boris Johnson's lack of interest in detail to bounce him into the Protocol.

Basically, Dublin did a deal with the Brits to shaft Northern Irish unionists, whom we treated as outsiders, rather than Irish people with whom we claim to seek unity, and to whom, under the GFA, we owed a political duty of care. Yes, it was a great stroke for Dublin and the DFA - if the object was to build distrust and disunion.

Finally, the British and Irish media present the DUP as a pariah party. In a brazen inversion of reality, the BBC, Guardian and Irish Times continually project Sinn Fein's narrow nationalism as a woke progressive universalism, whereas the DUP is presented as a dinosaur of introverted localism.

The most recent proof the BBC has swallowed the Sinn Fein playbook came last week when a Today reporter, clearly astonished by Donaldson's "yes" to a question about whether he would work with a Sinn Fein First Minister, repeated the question.

Against that background of British and Irish betrayal, Donaldson's hard line on the Protocol was also a symbolical hard line against Sinn Fein's 24-year campaign to subvert unionist status which recently produced two chilling revelations.

First, Michelle O'Neill's "no alternative" of August 2022, aimed at packaging all IRA atrocities into a single emollient

entity: the just war. Second, the LucidTalk poll confirming that a majority of northern nationalists had fully adjusted their moral system by doubling down on their delinquent vote for Sinn Fein, a party which condones the Provo murder campaign.

Behind these chilling endorsements of a campaign that I believe was sectarian, lies a long litany of Sinn Fein erosions of unionist status, stretching from the strategic to the spiteful. Here's a small sample:

- the IRA's erosion of early GFA hopes by delaying decommissioning;
- Sinn Fein collapsing the Executive, allegedly due to 'cash for ash' then changing the reason to an Irish Language Act;
- The Legacy scandal and the weakness of the UK Government in the face of the shameless application of lawfare by republicans;
- Twenty years of mainstream media in NI (BBC NI, Belfast Telegraph and Irish News) harping on about 'collusion' and the 'dirty war';
- Revelation of 'on the run' letters ensuring non-prosecution of Provos;
- The relentless pursuit of Army and RUC members over unlawful killing while not manning up to IRA atrocities;
- Proliferating victim lobbies and NGOs, beloved of nationalists, like the Finucane Centre, Relatives for Justice

and CAJ. All largely focus on state forces and overlook republican paramilitaries, the biggest killing force during the Troubles. All are treated with uncritical deference by BBC NI and the NIO;

- QUB and Ulster University legal academics who treat NI as akin to Pinochet's Chile;
- Elimination of UK statutory flag days, particularly City Hall's union flag;
- Petty insults to the unionist heritage. Although Arlene Foster stood for the Republic of Ireland's national anthem at a GAA game, Sinn Fein minister Caral NI Chuilin did not take her seat at Windsor Park for NI v Faroe Islands until after God Save The Queen;
- Spiteful nationalist behaviour around the NI Centennial celebrations which even prevented the planting of a tree at Stormont.



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www.belfastphilharmonic.org.uk or 07985 200 265



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By standing firm against the Protocol, Jeffrey Donaldson is also symbolically standing firm against Sinn Féin's subversion of the GFA, a stand of crucial importance to all democrats on the island of Ireland."

Courtesy The News Letter 11/11/1022

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



Methodist Home Mission Sunday 2022

Each year the Irish Methodist church sets aside Home Mission Sunday to focus on local mission and to raise

money to support mission initiatives throughout Ireland. This year Sunday 20th November is Home Mission Sunday

→ Download the Service Guide, Video stories and more at:
irishmethodist.org/home-mission-sunday

Poem for today

For the fallen

by Robert Laurence Binyon

With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,
Britain mourns for her dead across the sea.
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,
Fallen in the cause of the free.

Solemn the drums thrill; Death august and royal
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres,
There is music in the midst of desolation
And a glory that shines upon our tears.

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted;
They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;
They sit no more at familiar tables of home;
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;
They sleep beyond Britain's foam.

But where our desires are and our hopes profound,
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,
To the innermost heart of their own land they are known
As the stars are known to the Night;

As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain;
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,
To the end, to the end, they remain.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this sit

Church News Ireland

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