

# Church News Ireland



**Image of the day – BB Queen's Awards**

## Image of the day

### BB Queen's Awards

Mothers and sons at BB Award presentation. See page 4

## News reports



*L-R Keith McMichael (RBL Chairperson), Bobby Thompson (RBL), Canon Harold Given, Deborah Boyd, Albert Hepburn and Alistair Harper (RBL)*

### Parish effort raises 3K pounds for Poppy Appeal

Tamlaghtfinlagan Church (Ballykelly) presented the Royal British Legion, Limavady Branch, with a cheque for £3,000



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towards their 2022 Poppy Appeal. This was following their successful 4 day poppy festival and world wars display at the church.

Limavady Branch RBL posted on their Facebook site - "So very grateful to Tamlaghtfinlagan Parish Church for this generous donation to the Poppy Appeal. Months of hard work in the planning and preparation for a memorable Remembrance event which will be long remembered by all those who visited in person and those from further afield



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who were able to appreciate all the exhibits through photographs shared via social media. Well done.”

More than 10,000 knitted and crocheted poppies were suspended - in a net - from the church tower over the four days of the festival, from Thursday 10th to Sunday 13th November.

The Poppy Net, which measured almost 19 metres in length, was prepared over the last few months by an enthusiastic band of volunteers.



## BB Queen's Awards presented in Irvinestown



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Yesterday was Boys' Brigade Enrolment and presentation of the Queen's Awards in Irvinestown. It was wonderful to see so many Boys along with family and friends and also to have many of the Boys take part in leading the Service.



Thank were expressed to Captain Joe and all the Leaders for all their commitment to the organisation and to the well being of the Boys.

## **Susan Colton – A Legacy of Learning**

**After 41 years of vocational service to the Irish education system as a Teacher, Principal, and Deputy Principal, Susan Colton retired from her position as Teacher and Deputy Principal of Saint Luke's NS,**

## **Douglas on Friday 28th October 2022, just before the October mid-term break.**



To celebrate Susan's 23 years-long career at Saint Luke's NS as a teacher for Rang 3, Junior Infants and Support Teaching, a special service was held on Thursday, 27th October at Saint Luke's Church in Douglas, followed by a lunch gathering in the school afterwards. Current and former students, teachers, Board of Management members, and staff of Saint Luke's NS all were present to celebrate with Susan and her family and friends.

Every single class made a small presentation to Susan, where they recited poems, sang songs, and recollected some of their favourite memories of their teacher,



most notably from their time in Junior Infants.



Olwen Anderson, Principal of Saint Luke's NS, said during the service: "There is a well known saying – 'Teaching is the profession that teaches all the other professions'. You have without doubt taught future engineers, doctors, sportspeople, marketing gurus, architects, teachers and there must be the odd influencer in there too! [...] Susan – we will miss your lovely relationship with our pupils, your thoughtful teaching, your witty sense of humour, your entertaining stories, your calm wisdom, your practical solutions to problems, and that very unique umbrella.

"As one of our pupils said in their message to you – "Have fun. You've worked really hard. Hope you will always remember that you are part of St. Luke's"

“So, on behalf of everyone in St. Luke’s School, I want to wish you a very healthy and a very happy retirement.

Susan Colton also recollected some memories from her time at Saint Luke’s NS:

“One of my duties as deputy Principal was to keep and update the School Records. This involved making sure the roll was taken correctly every day. I also had to keep an eye on all the pupils attendance – how many days pupils were present and how many days pupils were absent in the year.

“I had to fill in these two Clar Leabhair, one for boys and one for girls. [...] My name is also in a Clar Leabhair not as a teacher, but as a pupil, because I started St Luke’s School in Junior Infants just like you, in 1965 – 6th Class do your sums. I am very proud that my name is in a St Luke’s Clar Leabhair. [...] I feel very privileged that since 1965 I have been connected to St Luke’s as a pupil, teacher, parent and deputy principal. [...]

“ I now have the opportunity to thank past and present Patrons, Managers, Chairpersons, clergy, Boards of Management, PTA, Principals, teachers, parents, staff, pupils and everybody associated with St Luke’s who have worked so hard over the years to make St Luke’s the progressive school it is today. [...]

“Winston Churchill once quoted Confucius and said “If you find a job you love, you will never work again”. I was fortunate enough to find a job that I loved. Thank you to all who made it possible to allow me to do the job that I love. I have had 23 very happy years teaching in St Luke’s and 18



years before that in other happy schools. I hope all of you pupils will find a job in the future that you love.

## **Keith and Kristyn Getty have earned their first Grammy nomination for their album Confessio**

**Northern Irish Christian hymn-writers Keith and Kristyn Getty have earned their first Grammy nomination for their album Confessio – Irish American Roots in the Best Roots Gospel Album category. Joanne Savage writes in the News Letter**

Described by the couple as their “love letter to Northern Ireland”, Confessio showcases 15 modern and timeless hymns including renditions of Be Thou My Vision, Amazing Grace and It Is Well With My Soul, as well as their own In Christ Alone and Immigrant’s Song.

Recorded on the North Coast as the Gettys spent time at home during the pandemic, Confessio traces their journey back to Northern Ireland to explore the connection between the island’s enduring faith music heritage and its legacy in America, from St Patrick and Be Thou My Vision to their own work and Kristyn’s duet version of “In Christ Alone” with Alison Krauss.

It highlights traditional Irish melodies and instrumentation and features performances from an array of guests including multiple Grammy-award winning artists Alison Krauss, Ricky

Skaggs and Kirk Whalum as well as their daughters making an appearance.

The Gettys are nominated in the Best Roots Gospel Album category alongside Willie Nelson, the Gaither Vocal Band and Karen Peck & New River. The category is for albums that feature more than 50% playing time of newly recorded, vocal, traditional gospel music, including country, Southern gospel, bluegrass, and Americana recordings.

The 65th GRAMMY Awards 2023 will be held on Sunday 5 February at Los Angeles' Crypto.com Arena. To Download "Confessio – Irish American Roots" [click here](#).

Commenting on the nomination, Keith Getty said: "We made this album when we were home with our four daughters in Northern Ireland during Covid. It started one day as I was at Ballycastle harbour looking out to sea, thinking of our heritage and the gift it is to be from here. The album is a love letter to our home: the place that gave the origins and the meaning to why we write hymns; from its first hymn writer St Patrick and his 'Confessio', to 'Be Thou My Vision', to our own journey writing 'In Christ Alone' and other modern hymns. Some of the tracks were simply recorded in the outdoor 'Cove' in our home outside of Bushmills, with one even recorded at 'Harrys Shack'. So it's funny but also lastingly beautiful to think we're going to the Grammys because of it!"

Keith added: "Kristyn and I are grateful to have contributions on this album from legends such as Ricky Skaggs, Alison Krauss, and Kirk Whalum as well as many of our own team. We are honoured to be nominated for our first Grammy



award, and we hope the project shines a greater light on the Christian heritage of the West, the importance of hymn singing, and the beauty of Christ.”

Keith and Kristyn Getty are best known for writing many popular modern hymns with veteran English songwriter and worship leader Stuart Townend.

Due to the success of “In Christ Alone”, the duo has spearheaded the modern hymn genre.

Other popular hymns include “The Power of the Cross”, “The Lord Is My Salvation”, “By Faith”, and “Speak O Lord”.

Many hymnals include their modern hymns, and some of the Getty’s songs have also been covered by other musicians.

Report courtesy the News Letter

## **Pioneering York Minster leads way with photovoltaic roof installation plan**

**As COP 27 draws to a close, major plans for York Minster to generate its own electricity through renewable energy have taken a step forward.**

The first of the major cathedrals to do so, the Minster proposes to install 199 photovoltaic panels on the roof of the South Quire Aisle, which originally dates from 1361 but was renewed after the 1829 fire, producing 75,000 kilowatt-hours of power every year.



Light captured from the sun by the panels during daylight hours will be converted into electricity and used to power the cathedral's evening services and events.

A planning application for the installation, led by historic building specialists Caroe Architecture, has today been submitted to City of York Council. It will be the largest of its type on any cathedral in the UK and will follow other similar successful projects at Bradford, Gloucester and Salisbury cathedrals.

The panels, which will be able to be glimpsed at ground level but will not detract from the cathedral's architecture or heritage values, will support its ambitions to achieve operational net zero carbon, as outlined in its adopted Neighbourhood Plan, which sets out a 15-year route map to create a sustainable future for the Precinct.

The application, which follows extensive consultations between York Minster and key stakeholders, including City of York Council and Historic England, comes as the Minster, like many others, faces significant increases in the cost of energy.

It is estimated that in 2023 the annual gas and electricity costs to heat and power not only the cathedral itself but the many surrounding buildings that make up its wider Precinct could triple.

The planning application follows the successful installation and operation of solar tiles on the roof of the Precinct's Refectory earlier this year, marking the first time that solar tiles have been placed on a listed building in the city and already producing 11,000 kilowatt-hours of power a year.

Alex McCallion, Director of Works and Precinct at York Minster, said: "With a climate emergency having been recognised worldwide and City of York Council having set an ambition for York to be a net zero carbon city by 2030, alongside a similar pledge by the Church of England, it is timely that we are submitting this important planning application as the COP 27 conference reaches its conclusion.

"We have committed to taking a lead on addressing the climate emergency through the implementation of our Neighbourhood Plan and have been very clear that the greatest threat to the fabric of our historic Minster, the Precinct and our many heritage properties are extreme weather events brought about by climate change.



“We are extremely proud of this application and the positive impacts it will bring, and I invite City of York Council to please support this fundamental project to allow the Chapter of York at York Minster to play its part as we move towards our net zero goal.”

The Dean of York, the Very Revd Dominic Barrington, said: “Through our Neighbourhood Plan we have set a clear policy-led approach that is not only making positive improvements to the cathedral for both its benefit and that of the city, but is also setting a guiding example for others to follow in how heritage estates address climate change.

“We believe that this well-placed, carefully judged and justified photovoltaic installation on the roof of the Minster is a fundamental part of this vision. The installation, which is sensitive to the Precinct’s historic architecture, will be celebrated inside with a panel displaying the energy production and carbon savings, and we welcome the fact people will be able to glimpse the panels and understand their importance to the Minster’s sustainable future.”

Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York, said: “The message from COP27 is that everyone has a role to play in effectively implementing the ambitious climate action required to meet the urgent needs of the planet.

“York Minster has already committed to taking a lead on addressing the climate emergency through the implementation of its Neighbourhood Plan, and this installation if approved will go a huge way in supporting the future care and conservation of this significant monument.”

For more information about the York Minster Neighbourhood Plan, visit: <https://yorkminster.org/about-us/master-planning/>.

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

### May tyrants tremble - William Brennan (1754 - 1820)

**Written by Fergus Whelan, 'May Tyrants Tremble' is the first-ever biography of one of the chief architects of the Society of United Irishmen, Belfast man William Drennan.**

This long-awaited book demolishes long-held assumptions about Drennan's life and work, and reveals the reality of Presbyterian radicalism in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

As Whelan demonstrates using new archival material, Drennan remained a leading voice of Presbyterian radicalism until his death in 1820 and his ideals, along with those of Wolfe Tone and other pivotal United Irishmen, formed the basis of Ireland's republic.

By 1784, Drennan had already established a national reputation as a leading writer in the radical cause. He composed the United Irish Test and he was the Society's most prolific literary propagandist.

Whelan offers new evidence that Drennan was 'Marcus', author of the most seditious material published in Dublin in 1797–8, and he also establishes that Drennan, an Ulster Presbyterian, championed Catholic Emancipation throughout his life.

May Tyrants Tremble repositions William Drennan as the father of Irish democracy. The brazen walls of separation he so eloquently lamented are with us still, but his story shines a light on one of the great mysteries of Irish history: what happened to Presbyterian republicanism after 1798?

**About the Author:** Fergus Whelan is the author of 'Dissent into Treason: Unitarians King-killers and the Society of United Irishmen' (2010) and 'God-Provoking Democrat: The Remarkable Life of Archibald Hamilton Rowan' (2015). He has contributed to History Ireland magazine, An Irishman's Diary in The Irish Times and the Irish Humanist and Look Left magazines. 'May Tyrants Tremble' is his third book.

## Poem for today

### Father and Son

by Frederick Robert Higgins

Only last week, walking the hushed fields  
Of our most lovely Meath, now thinned by November,  
I came to where the road from Laracor leads  
To the Boyne river-that seems more lake than river,  
Stretched in uneasy light and stript of reeds.



And walking longside an old weir  
Of my people's, where nothing stirs-only the shadowed  
Leaden flight of a heron up the lean air-  
I went unmanly with grief, knowing how my father,  
Happy though captive in years, walked last with me there.

Yes, happy in Meath with me for a day  
He walked, taking stock of herds hid in their own breathing;  
And naming colts, gusty as wind, once steered by his hand,  
Lightnings winked in the eyes that were half shy in greeting  
Old friends-the wild blades, when he gallivanted the land.

For that proud, wayward man now my heart breaks-  
Breaks for that man whose mind was a secret eyrie,  
Whose kind hand was sole signet of his race,  
Who curbed me, scorned my green ways, yet increasingly  
loved me  
Till Death drew its grey blind down his face.

And yet I am pleased that even my reckless ways  
Are living shades of his rich calms and passions-  
Witnesses for him and for those faint namesakes  
With whom now he is one, under yew branches,  
Yes, one in a graven silence no bird breaks.

## Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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# Church News Ireland

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