

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – No Greater Love Richhill

NOVEMBER 4, 2025

Image of the day

No greater love - St Matthew's Richhill

After a year of planning, knitting and crocheting; a week's worth of sewing; and a day of lifting and fixing, St Matthew's poppy net is now in place.

The parish posted - A big thank you to everyone who came along to help install the poppies on the tower in advance of 'No Greater Love' next weekend. A special word of thanks to Gary McCoo and David Jameson Roofing for the use of the cherry picker.

Please spread the word about 'No Greater Love' and

[Church News Ireland](#)





plan to come along next weekend to see the displays inside the church building. Admission is free, with an opportunity for donations.

News

Peace flows like a river at Ulster Project Service of Thanksgiving

The Service of Thanksgiving for 50 years of the Ulster Project was the loveliest of services with the service commencing in Saint Macartin's Cathedral and continuing in Saint Michael's Church

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The Order of Service

Procession of Banners

Welcome: Dean of St Macartin's Cathedral - The Very Rev Kenny Hall

Introduction: James McLoughlin, Ulster Project Enniskillen

Reading: Arthur Rainey, Ulster Project Omagh

Address: the Most Rev. John McDowell, Archbishop of Armagh

Prayers of thanksgiving Laura Richmond Ulster Project Enniskillen

Aidan Waterstone - son of Kerry & Edie Waterstone

Gavin Robinson - past teen participant : Belfast-Milwaukee 2000

Maureen Stacier - Ulster Project Madison, Indiana

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Eoin Tennyson - past teen participant : Portadown-Hutchinson 201

Mario Gribbon - Portadown Co-Ordinator & past teen Portadown-Manchester 1975

A Memorial Plaque was dedicated in memory of Rev. Kerry & Edie Waterstone

“We sang Peace is flowing like a river and moved to Saint Michael's Church still singing until we all entered the church”.

A teen Aideen McDonnell told her story a 2025 participant: Enniskillen-Madison

Reading: Canon John Forsythe - Chair Ulster Project NI Leadership Committee

Address: The Most Rev. Eamon Martin, Archbishop of Armagh

Prayers for Peace

Rev. Alan Wardlow - President of the Methodist Church in Ireland

Irene Hewitt - Joint Co-Ordinator Derry/Londonderry: East Tennessee & Greenville

Rev: Gunther Andrich representing the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Sheryl Smith: Ulster Project Castlederg

John Hough: Ulster Project East Tennessee, President US Steering Committee

Joy Greer Ulster Project, Cookstown

Closing Remarks: Parish Priest of Saint Michael's The Right Rev. Monsignor Peter O'Reilly

Blessing & Dismissal: The Most Rev. Larry Duffy & the Right Rev. Ian Ellis- Bishop of Clogher

Poignant stories from upcoming Ahoghill Remembrance Exhibition shared on airwaves

A poignant Remembrance Exhibition being hosted by St Colmanell's Parish Church, Ahoghill, over six days from this Thursday featured on BBC Radio Ulster at the weekend.

The church will be open from Thursday November 6 daily until Tuesday November 11. As well as a variety of poppy displays, wall hangings and floral displays, there will be the stories of local people and unsung heroes told in imaginative ways, including secret trench diaries, various wartime items and much more.

Some of those involved in putting together the exhibition, including parishioners who are sharing personal memorabilia and stories, featured in 'Your Place and Mine,' first broadcast on BBC Radio Ulster on Saturday morning, November 1, and available online [HERE](#) – report begins 39 minutes into the programme.

We hear about a number of wartime radios which will be available to view, including a Dutch resistance radio hidden inside a biscuit or toffee tin, and a rudimentary radio used inside a Prisoner of War camp – with German headphones!

One parishioner shares the diary of her great grandfather, written in the trenches with a pencil he sharpened with his teeth, and a separate display tells the story of three generations of one family who served in war.

And there is the tale of Paddy the Pigeon from Carnlough who was parachuted behind enemy lines, where he picked up a message and flew home in four hours and 50 minutes, being awarded a Dicken Medal for the best recorded time for a pigeon returning from Normandy.

[These medals were instituted in 1943 to honour the work of animals in World War Two].

Reflecting on the connection between remembrance and faith in the radio interview, the rector of Ahoghill and Portglenone, the Rev Dennis Christie, says: “When we... think about what these individuals had to have gone through, we are quick to think they must have felt so fearful, and maybe lonely at times, and there is no doubt that many of them will have turned to God. It really makes you think what they went through and who they leaned on in those darkest moments.

“Nearly every generation has a story about it that can be shared and sometimes they stay within families. Exhibitions like this bring them together and... they can be celebrated as well as mourned.”

The ‘Your Place and Mine’ feature is a fascinating listen and the exhibition will be well worth a visit. Opening hours next page / below.



Education

Honouring Cadet's response to a critical emergency



Mid and East Antrim Mayor, Councillor Jackson Minford, recently presented Cadet Sergeant Major Ethan Moore from the Larne Detachment, 1st (NI) Battalion Army Cadet Force, with the ACT UK Praiseworthy Award from the Army Cadet Charitable Trust (ACCT UK).

This prestigious award recognises Ethan's exceptional bravery during a critical emergency.

In a heartfelt ceremony at the Mayor's Parlour in Carrick Town Hall, Ethan was honored for his quick action when he stepped in to assist a man suffering a heart attack. His effective CPR skills, honed through his training in the ACF, allowed for immediate medical attention and provided comfort to the man's family during a difficult time.

Mayor Minford praised Ethan, stating, “It is a privilege to meet and present this award to CSM Moore. His actions at Ballygally Castle Hotel were nothing short of heroic.”

Colonel Sam Donnell, Commandant of 1st (NI) Battalion ACF, echoed this sentiment, highlighting Ethan’s composure and bravery in traumatic circumstances.

Since joining the Larne Detachment in July 2021, Ethan has shown incredible dedication, recently completing first aid at work training and excelling as the current Lord Lieutenant’s Cadet. His achievements, including being the Top Student in the Master Cadet Course at Frimley Park, showcase his leadership and commitment to service.

Ethan’s courage and competence not only inspire his peers but also underscore the vital importance of first aid skills in our communities. He celebrated this remarkable achievement with his family, who were there to support him.

Cathedral Calls

Belfast Cathedral candlelight to be replicated in regimental chapels in Armagh and Enniskillen cathedrals

The Royal Irish Regiment held its annual Remembrance Service on Sunday 2 November, in St. Anne’s Cathedral Belfast.

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This year in particular remembrance was made of all who

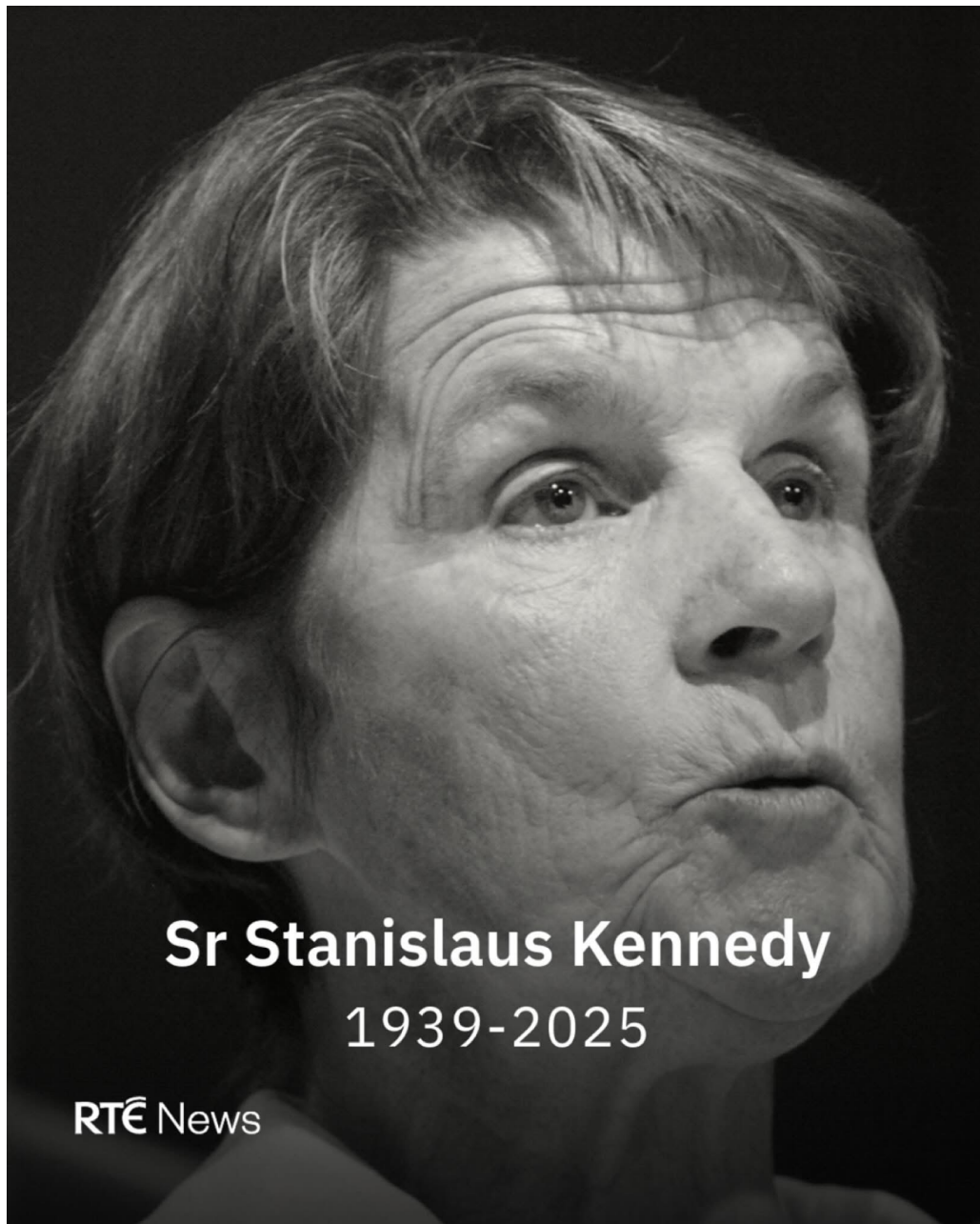


fell while serving with the antecedent Regiments during the Second World War. Their graves span the globe from North-West Europe to South-East Asia.

At the conclusion of the Act of Remembrance, the Dean dedicated a candlestand, and a cadet soldier of the Regiment lit the Candle of Remembrance. In due course, this candlestand will be replicated in the regimental chapels in the cathedrals in Armagh and Enniskillen and in St. Patrick's Church, Ballymena.

Clergy and ministry

Sr Stanislaus Kennedy



Campaigner and advocate Sr Stanislaus Kennedy has died at the age of 86.

Known to many as Sr Stan she died at St Francis Hospice, Blanchardstown.

In 1985, she founded Focus Point, (now Focus Ireland), following her research into the needs of women experiencing homelessness in Dublin in the 1980s.



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Statement from Taoiseach Micheál Martin on the passing of Sr Stanislaus Kennedy

I am deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Sr Stanislaus Kennedy - a passionate advocate for helping those in need.

In 1985, she founded Focus Point now known as Focus Ireland, to support those experiencing homelessness.

I met her many times over the years and always admired her tireless advocacy and her ability to inform policy. She had great energy.

She was a true Christian who dedicated her life to helping those on the margins.

My thoughts and prayers are with Sr Stan's family and friends at this time.

Micheál Martin
Taoiseach na hÉireann

In a statement, the Religious Sisters of Charity said she worked tirelessly to support the homeless, immigrants and those in disadvantaged communities throughout Ireland and beyond.

Former Moderator was gifted preacher and compassionate pastor

The Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, Right Reverend Dr Trevor Gribben, has paid tribute to his predecessor, Very Reverend Dr Ivan Patterson, whose funeral took place in County Antrim, saying that he was “...a wise leader, a gifted preacher and a compassionate pastor.”

Dr Patterson, who was 76 and passed away last Wednesday, served as minister of Newcastle Presbyterian Church for 22 years from 1991 until his retirement in 2013. In 2011 he was elected Moderator of the all-Ireland denomination, PCI's highest office, serving the Church faithfully during his year in office. He is survived by his wife Maureen, who he married in 1972, and his son Stephen, daughter-in-law Morag, and three grandsons, Sam, Tom and Nate.

The Moderator took part in the Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Dr Patterson, which took place at High Street Presbyterian Church in Antrim, followed by a private committal at the old Buckna Presbyterian Church, near Broughshane, the church of Dr Patterson's youth.

During the service Dr Patterson's son Stephen paid tribute to his father, while scripture readings were taken from Psalm 27 and 1 Thessalonians 4 13-18. Hymns sung included 'Bless the Lord O my soul' and 'Guide me O thou Great Redeemer'. The tribute was given by Rev William McCully, minister of Dundonald Presbyterian Church, who had been

Dr Patterson's assistant in Newcastle for two and a half years in the late 1990s. He was also one of his chaplains during Dr Patterson's year as Moderator.

The youngest of three children, Dr Patterson was brought up near the County Antrim village of Buckna, where he worshipped with his family at the local Presbyterian Church. Attending Ballymena Intermediate School, he went on to the town's Technical College before working as a television repair engineer.

After seven years, he attended Queen's University where he obtained a degree in Semitic Studies, spending time at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He completed his training for the ordained ministry at Union Theological College.

Dr Patterson was ordained in First Presbyterian Church, Bangor (now City Church Bangor) as assistant minister in 1980, serving there for two years before being installed as minister of Bushvale Presbyterian near Ballymoney in 1982. In 1991 he was called to Newcastle Presbyterian where he served until his retirement in 2013. During his ministry in the seaside town, Dr Patterson developed a special interest in Romania and formed a twinning arrangement with a congregation of the Hungarian Reformed Church in Hodos, Romania, where he often visited.

After nearly 30 years in parish ministry, in February 2011 Dr Patterson was nominated by 12 of PCI's 19 regional presbyteries to be Moderator, the office he formally assumed at that year's General Assembly. The 166th person to hold the office since 1840, his theme for his year as Moderator was 'The Word is Life', as his term was set

against the backdrop of the 400th anniversary of the publication of the Authorised King James Version (KJV) of the Bible that year. As part of the commemorations around the KJV, Dr Patterson took part in a special service in Westminster Abbey, which was attended by the late Queen and other members of the Royal Family.

Healing words - New book by Brother David Jardine

“Healing Words” is the title of a new book by Brother David Jardine of the Society of St Francis. It will be launched in Belfast Cathedral on Monday December 1st at 7.00 pm.

CNI prompted this comment from Brother David -

The early 1970s were years which helped to lay a foundation for my spiritual life. In 1973 I joined a religious community in the Anglican Church, the Society of St Francis. An important part of their lifestyle is three hours of prayer and worship every day.

Up until then I had unquestionably been a man of faith and I did spend a short time in prayer every day. But the Society of St Francis raised the level of my prayer life enormously. They gave me the opportunity to study prayer and, crucially, time to practise it. I can only say now that this life of prayer must have made me the man of God that I am today.

Just a year earlier, in 1972, I was introduced to the ministry of divine healing. Up until then I knew nothing about it – probably didn’t even believe in it if the truth were told. But in

DIVINE HEALING MINISTRIES
invite you to attend



HEALING WORDS

A BOOK BY BROTHER DAVID JARDINE

Monday, December 1st at 7:30 p.m.

St Annes Cathedral
Donegall Street, Belfast, BT1 2HB



To register for your free ticket scan QR code
or email office@divinehealingministries

the middle of 1972 I had taken a herbal medicine which had a very bad effect on me. And even when I stopped taking the medicine, the unpleasant side effects carried on. The medical people were unable to help.

What saved me was that I was working at that time with one of the great men produced by the Church in Ireland in the twentieth century, the Rev. Cecil Kerr. Cecil was already involved in the ministry of divine healing, and the next time he was taking the Friday lunchtime service in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, he asked me to come along. When Cecil

invited us to come to the communion rail for prayer and laid his hands on my head and prayed, that was a transforming experience for me.

I could feel the peace and the power of God gently flowing through me. What a blessing that was. I knew afterwards that the Lord had just introduced me to a ministry I could use if I were ever sick again. It also became an integral part of my ministry to those under my pastoral care. Since that time in 1972 I must have prayed with the laying-on of hands for literally thousands of people.

So this book is the product of my life of prayer and my involvement in the ministry of healing over the last fifty years. It is mostly a collection of leaflets and articles which I have written. As you read the book, my prayer for you is that it will help you in your spiritual life, particularly your life of prayer, and that it will help you both to receive healing and to pray more effectively for the healing of others.

Please register by scan. Or email for your free ticket. See notice displayed above.

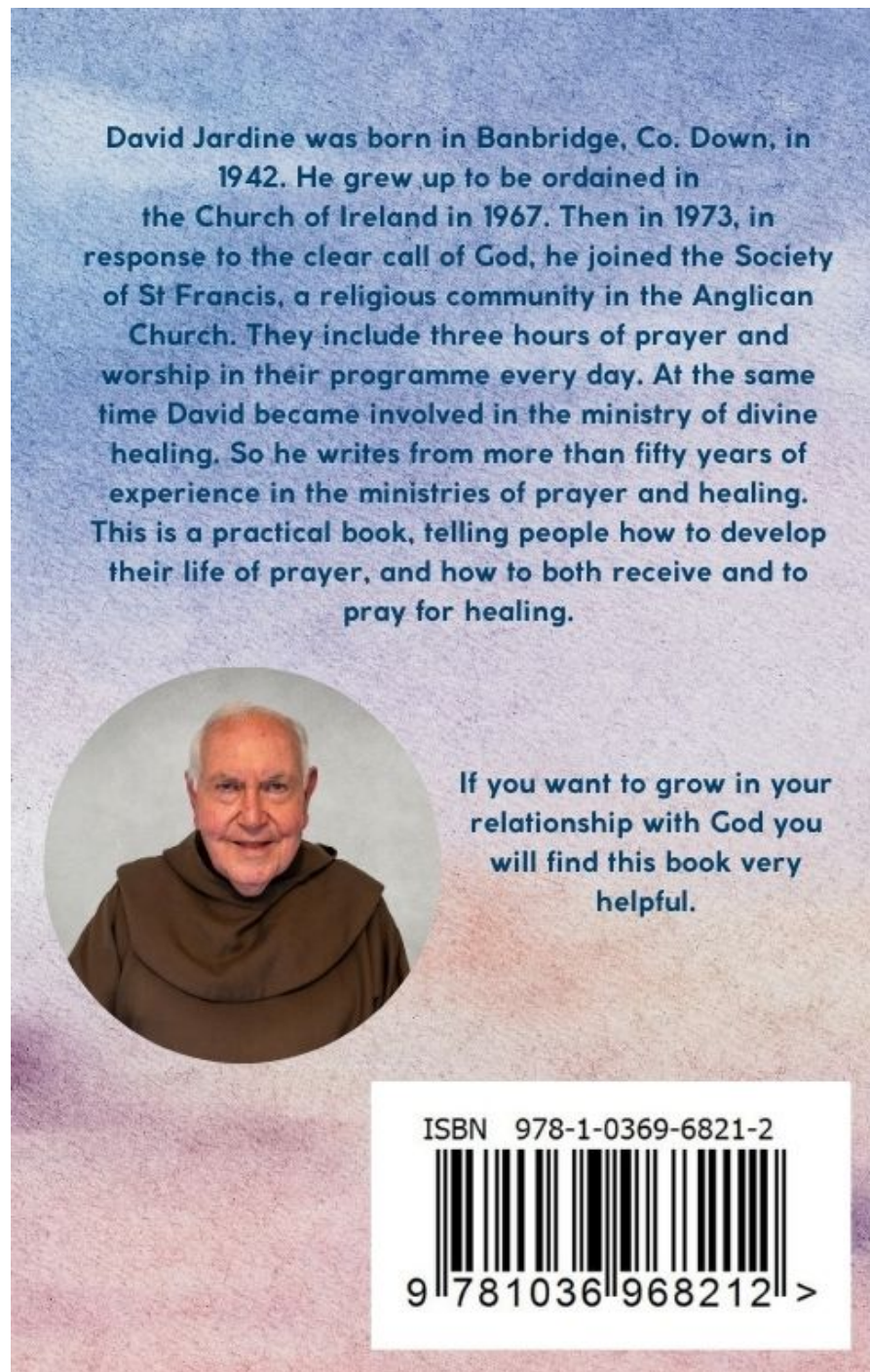
Revd Jim Rea, a former President of the Methodist Church in Ireland has contributed this foreword to Brother David's book. He writes -

‘Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tyre?’ These words by German prisoner of war Corrie ten Boom resonate deeply in this remarkable book by Brother David Jardine.

Having endured the challenging years of the Troubles, David learned first-hand about the significance of prayer,

healing and forgiveness.

I first met Brother David around forty years ago. I had previously heard of him by reputation for his work as a Curate in east Belfast and for the profound impact he made on prisoners as a chaplain at Crumlin Road, Belfast, as well as through his many years of working with Divine Healing Ministries.



This book draws on a lifetime of experience in prayer, healing and forgiveness. It is written in an easy-read style but is nevertheless profound. It addresses numerous life issues with wisdom and insight. David shares teachings that have significantly awakened my understanding of the power of prayer. All of which is centred on Jesus Christ.

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Brother David Jardine is someone I regard as a friend and confidant. My greatest praise is that I cannot think of anyone, whether sceptic or believer, who would not benefit from reading this enlightening book. In life's difficult moments, it offers hope.

Resources

Bibles for Babies went live on 1st November

You are now able to register your baby with Bible Society Northern Ireland's Bibles for Babies project.

BSNI wants to gift a FREE Storybook Bible to every baby born in Northern Ireland on their 1st birthday, and a Children's Bible on their 5th birthday.

Why?

"Because we want to see families transformed by God. We pray that these gifts will encourage families to read to their young ones from the very beginning of their lives, no matter what their background is, learning about the God who sees, knows, and loves them unconditionally."

How?

Once a child has been registered, they'll receive a Storybook Bible on their 1st birthday. On their 2nd, 3rd, and 4th birthdays they be sent some fun activities, and on their 5th birthday they'll be given a Children's Bible that can grow with them.

Registering

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Anyone can register a baby for this project provided they have the parent or guardian's permission to do so.

BSNI is only accepting registrations for 2025 newborns who are living in Northern Ireland.

Find out more and register at biblesocietyni.co.uk/bfb
(Registration is open until 31 January 2026)

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

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**Link in Monday through Saturday from
early morning**

