

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Garden of Remembrance

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Garden of Remembrance

Beside Belfast City Hall and at the front of the Cenotaph crosses are placed by Regiments, Regimental Associations and individuals. Many carry the names of a member of a family. The crosses are placed in the days after the formal service at which wreaths are presented by civic and military representatives. The Cenotaph was erected following the First World.

News

Air Cadets Service of Remembrance

The Cadets and Staff of 817 Squadron welcomed His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of County Antrim Mr David McCorkell and Mrs McCorkell along with Chris Hodges Wing Commander RAFAC - OC N Ireland Wing RAFAC, and Deputy Wing Commander Wilson to a Service of Remembrance and Enrollment which was hosted by Sqn Padre Reverend Jason Kernohan at All Saints' Eglantine.

Also on the evening the Lord Lieutenant presented Sgt Dunlop with her Certificate of Appointment completing a very special event.

The Squadron posted - "Thanks to all - the Padre, choir and organist Jonathan - for hosting us and special thanks to

No Greater Love

A Remembrance Festival

St Matthew's Richhill

Friday 7th - Sunday 9th November 2025

A fitting tribute to those who served their country in war time with poppy decorations, displays of local stories and memorabilia.



Friday 7th November

11.00am Opening Service with Archbishop John McDowell and The Hardy Memorial School Choir

11.00am - 6.00pm Exhibition Open

7.30pm We will remember them in story and song (200 free tickets available)

Saturday 8th November

10.00am - 8.00pm Exhibition Open

Sunday 9th November

11.30am Remembrance Sunday Parade to St Matthew's Church

2.00pm - 6.00pm Exhibition Open

6.30pm Closing Service

Refreshments will be available throughout the weekend in the Church Hall.

Donations Welcome

Proceeds towards church funds and donations will be made to military charities who help with veteran care.

 We Will Remember Them 

parents, guardians, friends and families that attended, we couldn't do what we do without you.”

Local army cadets decorate Craigs Parish Church

Army Cadets from Cullybackey Detachment did a fantastic job decorating Craigs Parish Church in preparation for Sunday morning's Remembrance Service.

They also rehearsed the laying of the wreath, honouring those who sacrificed so much for our freedom.

The service will be led by Rev. Ivan Bond, with various representatives laying wreaths to pay their respects.

It starts at 11:30, and everyone is welcome to join in this meaningful observance.

Cascades of hand-knitted poppies transform two village churches

BBC News - St Colmanell's in Ahoghill, County Antrim, and St Matthew's in Richhill, County Armagh, have both transformed their churches to remember those who fought and died at war.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cgkz28y6mv2o>

Work begins on UK's largest Christian monument after £40m goal reached

The construction of the Eternal Wall of Answered Prayer will begin on Wednesday after the charity behind the project reached its £40m fundraising target.

The 51-metre Mobius strip-shaped monument near Coleshill, Warwickshire, will contain one million bricks, each representing a personal story of Jesus answering prayer.

Richard Gamble, former Leicester City FC chaplain and founder, said the project is “a landmark of hope... where everyone represents a testimony, a miracle, an answered prayer”.

The site will also include ten acres of green space and a visitor centre, and it will be visible from the M6, M42, HS2, and Birmingham Airport, potentially exposing 800,000 people weekly to the monument.

Gamble told Premier Christian News he first felt called to the project 21 years ago:

“I was carrying a cross around my county... and God said, ‘build a landmark of a million bricks’. I’ve been on this rollercoaster journey for 11 years... it’s been incredible seeing miracle after miracle. We’ve hit our target to start building, though we still need more funds to make the site fully operational.”

He said the monument will inspire faith for generations.

“I imagine a 13-year-old in Peru searching school projects... they’ll find the Eternal Wall, see the database of a million

answered prayers, and discover how Jesus has acted in people's lives," he said.

Gamble shared one recent story: a woman struggling with dark thoughts cried out to God and was invited to church the next day. "She now has a happy marriage and family life... stories like this will encourage people for generations," he said.

The project also aims to preserve Christian heritage. "We need to reintroduce the narrative of what God has done in our country" he added.

Annual Conference of Secretaries of Christian World Communions

The Secretary General of the Anglican Communion, the Rt Revd Anthony Poggo, was among those who attended this year's annual Conference of Secretaries of Christian World Communions (CSCWC), between November 3rd and 5th in Istanbul.

First established in 1957, the annual CSCWC event gathers together leadership representatives from diverse Christian traditions. This meeting is an important ecumenical opportunity for the general secretaries of different Christian Communions, as well as a representative from the World Council of Churches, to discuss their work together.

Bishop Anthony Poggo remarked that the meeting was a 'positive time of ecumenical dialogue, prayer, fellowship and reflection on what unites us in faith.'

Education

Fabulous Coffee Morning for MacMillan & Foyle Hospice at Strabane Academy

**What an amazing
October morning
filled with delicious
treats and great
company!**

A huge thank you to everyone who donated goodies, baked something special, or bought treats, they were absolutely delicious!

We're also so



grateful to everyone who called in for a cuppa and generously donated to support these incredible causes. Your kindness and support make a real difference.

\\#ASPIRE#MacMillan #FoyleHospice #CommunitySupport

Ballyclare High School have been learning about World War I pupils

As we approach Remembrance Sunday, our Year 10 pupils have been learning about World War I and recently visited the Somme Museum & Heritage Centre.

This valuable trip included a weapons talk and an immersive experience through a reconstructed trench, helping pupils gain a deeper understanding of the lives of soldiers and the contribution made by the men of Ulster and across Ireland during the war.





Great celebrations at Kilcommon National School in Tinahely

Bishop Adrian writes - We began with a service in the neighbouring parish church.

Then I was delighted to open and bless the new special needs classrooms and see around the beautifully refurbished school building. Congratulations to the principal, staff, board of management, parents' association and all involved in this major development project. It was wonderful to meet the pupils in this very happy and busy school.



Cathedral Calls

From Darkness into Light - Black & White Photography Exhibition St Patrick's C of I Cathedral, Armagh

Now running until Saturday 29th November 2025

Opening Hours: 9.00am to 1.30pm, Tuesday to Saturday

Now that we have reached that part of the year with fewer hours of daylight, St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral in Armagh is delighted to be hosting a black and white photographic exhibition with the title 'From Darkness into Light'. As the Cathedral community celebrates the

completion of its new lighting system which totally transforms the interior of the Cathedral and shines new light on its unique architectural details, the timing and theme of this exhibition could not be more appropriate. Inspired by an Analogue Wonderland Photo Walk



between Armagh's two Cathedrals in June 2024, the exhibition showcases the work of ten passionate amateur photographers. United by their love of traditional film and digital photography, and a desire to explore their surroundings, these artists have captured sixty evocative images using classic cameras such as Leicas, Niccas, and Zorkis.

The exhibition is not just about technology – it is about community, learning, and friendship. The photographers,

ranging in age from their mid-thirties to their sixties, have grown together, sharing knowledge and encouraging each other to experiment with new and vintage film stocks, and even process their own films. Each photograph tells a unique story, inviting visitors to journey through moments of shadow and light, and to reflect on the beauty of slowing down and embracing the grain of analogue photography.

The Dean of Armagh, the Very Reverend Shane Forster, said, “We are delighted to be hosting this unique exhibition in the Cathedral. The theme reflects the Gospel message of hope, that light scatters the darkness, and through these photographic images shows how light transforms our outlook on the world. I am very grateful to all the photographers who have shared their beautiful black and white images with us.”

‘From Darkness into Light’ is a photo-essay of personal and collective growth, a pictorial record of the message that light triumphs over the darkness, and will be on display in the Cathedral from 1st to 29th November 2025. Entrance to the exhibition is free.

For more information, please contact the Cathedral Administrator admin@stpatricks-catherdal.org or telephone (028) 3752 3142.

Clergy and ministry

Celebrating Archdeacon McBride’s 30 years in Antrim Parish: All Saints’, Antrim, made a surprise presentation



to the Ven Dr Stephen McBride on Sunday November 2 to mark his 30 years of ministry in the parish.

Celebrating 50 Years of Women Lay Readers in D&G

The 50th anniversary of the commissioning of the first women lay readers in the United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough will be celebrated on Sunday November 16 at Choral Evensong in Christ Church Cathedral.

Daphne Wormell, Patricia Hastings–Hardy, Joan Rufli, Audrey Smith and Thea Boyle were personally selected and trained by Archbishop Alan Buchanan. They were commissioned by him in 1975.



*November 2000. 25th Anniversary of Commissioning, Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin.
t: Canon Ginnie Kennerley, Danhne, Patricia Hastings-Hardy, Audrey Smith, Thea Boyd*

The group marked the 25th anniversary in 2000 at a service during which Canon Dr Ginnie Kennerley was the preacher and she will preach again at the upcoming service. Canon Kennerley was the only female warden of readers in Dublin and Glendalough and has recently celebrated the 35th anniversary of her ordination. In just over a year she will celebrate 30 years as a Canon of Christ Church Cathedral.

All are warmly welcome to join the celebration at Evensong on Sunday November 16 at 3.30pm.

Scots Church Times Guide to Happy Recruitment

the CHURCH TIMES guide to happy recruitment

A handbook for congregations



A new guide has been published for Scottish Episcopal Church congregations to provide guidance around vacancies and clergy recruitment.

The Church Times Guide to Happy Recruitment has been adapted for the Scottish Episcopal Church, as a collaboration between the Provincial Personnel Committee and the Church Times newspaper. “It is a very readable and accessible document, and is suitable for people of all levels of prior experience and none”.

The Guide has also been added to the ‘Vacancy procedures’ page of this website which can be found here:

<https://www.scotland.anglican.org/vestry-resources/appointments-and-employment/vacancy-procedures/>

Events



Special Service of Healing in Donemana

The Derry and Raphoe Diocesan Ministry of Healing team will be in St James' Parish Church in Donemana on the evening of Sunday 16th November to lead a special Service of Healing.

These services are wonderful opportunities to seek healing for yourself or for someone close to you. Come along and be prayed for, or have a loved one lifted up before the Lord.

All are welcome to attend. The service will begin at 6.30pm.

250th
ANNIVERSARY
of St Nessonruss' Church
SUNDAY 16TH NOVEMBER

We warmly invite you to join us as a church family to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of St Nossonus' Church, a milestone of faith, fellowship, and legacy.

There will be two special services on the day:

- 11.00 am – Preacher: Dean Raymond Stewart
- 7.00 pm – Preacher: Canon Harold Given

Celebrate a milestone of faith, fellowship, and legacy

You are warmly invited to celebrate a milestone of faith, fellowship, and legacy with the Parishes of Kilrea and Tamlaght O'Crilly

The 250th Anniversary of St Nossonus' Church will be celebrated on Sunday 16th November

We gather with gratitude to mark 250 years of worship and witness at St Nossonus' Church — a place where generations have prayed, sung, wept, and rejoiced together. Whether you've been part of this journey for decades or days, your presence is part of the story.

Special Anniversary Services

- 11.00 am – Preacher: Dean Raymond Stewart
- 7.00 pm – Preacher: Canon Harold Given

Join us as we give thanks for the past, celebrate the present, and look forward in hope. Please note evening service is at 7.00 pm

Reconciliation webinars this November



Upcoming Webinar

PEACE AND RECONCILIATION

'We're just people in God's eyes - we're just ordinary and we're all equal. So, if we have humility and an understanding and authentic mindset to connect with other people, that will be the greatest way to do reconciliation.'



Agnes Lam

LAMBETH CONFERENCE
God's Church for God's world



Agnes Lam is an advocate for reconciliation and climate justice and believes in the role of reconciliation as a part of the Christian faith.

She's a member of the Anglican Communion Youth Network and the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) Faith for Earth Youth Council, which seeks to mobilise young people of faith for ecological action. Agnes will be one of the panellists joining the webinars on November 19th and 20th, where she will discuss her experience of 'The Difference Course' (created by the Reconciliation Leaders Network). She spoke to the Anglican Communion Office about her perspectives on fostering a peaceful world for all.

Agnes says, 'We're just people in God's eyes - we're just ordinary and we're all equal.'

“So, if we have humility and an understanding and authentic mindset to connect with other people, that will be the greatest way to do reconciliation.’

Ahead of Reconciliation webinars this November, Agnes Lam spoke to the Anglican Communion Office about how to have a mindset for reconciliation.

Agnes is an advocate for reconciliation and climate justice. She's a member of the Anglican Communion Youth Network and the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) Faith for Earth Youth Council.

Read the article and register for the webinar here:

<https://bit.ly/3WITVul>

Anglican Communion Youth Network

Resources

One Body, One Spirit: Resources from Armenia to mark 2026 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

For 2026, the prayers and reflections for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity have been prepared by the members of the Armenian Apostolic Church, along with their brothers and sisters in the Armenian Catholic and Evangelical Churches.



This annual occasion is traditionally observed from 18th to 25th January – the octave of St Peter and St Paul. Each year, the international resources are adapted by a Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) writers' group and extra material is often written, such as meditations for each of the eight days.

These resources draw upon centuries-old traditions of prayer and petitions used by the Armenian people, along with hymns that originated in the monasteries and churches of Armenia, some of which date as far back as the fourth century.

Endorsing the theme for 2026, Bishop Michael Burrows, Chair of the Commission for Christian Unity and Dialogue, remarked: “This year’s material, One Body, One Spirit (Ephesians 4:4), comes from the ancient and resilient churches of Armenia. The Armenian Church – first to embrace Christianity as a national faith – has witnessed across centuries of persecution and genocide, yet remains steadfast in hope.

“Its prayers arise from deep wells of suffering and resurrection, voiced too by a vast global diaspora that still sings the faith of Christians nurtured in the shadow of Mount Ararat. In the words of one of Armenia’s great sages, St Nersess the Graceful, ‘Light from Light, dwell within us.’ May this Armenian witness renew our longing for unity, peace, and shared discipleship across the Irish Churches and beyond.”

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity resources are now available to download from the CTBI website at www.ctbi.org.uk/resources/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2026

Department of Health NI's Core Grant Funding Scheme

NICVA writes - The Department of Health NI's Core Grant Funding Scheme for 2026/27 is now open for applications until 12pm on Friday 28 November 2025.

If you'd like to find out more about the scheme's purpose and structure of the Scheme for next year, you can join an online information session hosted by the Department at 2pm on Thursday 13 November.

To register, please email CoreGrantAdmin@health-ni.gov.uk

 Find out more about the Core Grant Scheme here: <https://lnkd.in/eVsazGfS>

In the media

Cascades of hand-knitted poppies transform two village churches

BBC News: Cascades of hand-knitted poppies and displays of treasured uniforms, diaries and medals are among the ways two villages in Northern Ireland are marking Remembrance Day.

St Colmanell's in Ahoghill, County Antrim, and St Matthew's in Richhill, County Armagh, have both transformed their churches to remember those who fought and died at war.

[<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cgkz28y6mv2o>]

Heritage



John Allen Fitzgerald Gregg

The Most Revd John Allen Fitzgerald Gregg CH, MA, DD (Dublin), DD (Cantab) (1873–1961) Bishop of Ossory, Ferns and Leighlin, Archbishop of Dublin, Archbishop of Armagh.

Wearing the Cambridge DD (Bishop Andrewes cap), St Thomas' Church, June 1930.



Poem for today

The Horse

by Ronald Duncan

Where in this wide world can man find nobility without pride,
friendship without envy, or beauty without vanity?
Here where grace is laced with muscle and strength by
gentleness confined.

He serves without servility; he has fought without enmity.
There is nothing so powerful, nothing less violent;

there is nothing so quick, nothing more patient.

England's past has been borne on his back.

All our history is in his industry.

We are his heirs;

He is our inheritance.

Speaking to the soul

Calling out to God

Bend down, O LORD, and hear my prayer; answer me, for I need your help. Psalm 86:1

Finding peace and purpose in our lives is something that we all want, and the first step to achieving it is recognising that we need God's help. David, the author of this psalm, was Israel's king in about 1000BC and had that experience time and again. This was clearly one of those times. He knew that although he was incredibly wealthy and powerful, he simply couldn't manage without God.

Bernard Levin was one of the most respected political commentators in the UK. He once wrote: "Countries like ours are full of people who have all of the material comforts they desire, yet lead lives of quiet (and at times noisy) desperation, understanding nothing but the fact that there is a hole inside them and that however much food and drink they pour into it, however many motorcars and television sets they stuff it with, however many well-balanced children and loyal friends they parade around the edges of it...it

aches!” I firmly believe that it is only God who can answer that ache. Only when we acknowledge our need of him can we start on the road to finding his peace.

Calling out to God is where it begins, and we can all do that. It may begin with a simple cry of: “God help me. I can’t do it by myself.” There is no need to come up with a long or polished prayer. God loves it when people tell him they need him because he can then get to work, doing what he loves to do and answering our prayers. However, God steadfastly refuses to work in our lives without our permission. The Bible shows us that time and again, God let people reject him and go their own way. He often warned them of the consequences of their actions, but he never compelled them to follow him, and he won’t do so today. God waits for us to recognise our need, and then the journey can begin.

QUESTION

When did you last tell God how much you need him?

PRAYER

Loving God, thank you that you hear my prayers and are willing to answer them. Amen

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

Church News Ireland

www.churchnewsireland.org

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

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