

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Luxmuralis at Canterbury Cathedral

Image of the day

Luxmuralis 'Shine : Let there be Light'

At Canterbury Festival 2022 Canterbury Cathedral hosts Luxmuralis 'Shine : Let there be Light' spectacular immersive fine art sound and light installations.

News reports

Help fill 150 boxes of goodies for outreach

The Gathering plans to give out 150 boxes of goodies to those engaging with the work of Street Soccer and Street Ministries in Belfast, Derry/Londonderry, Bangor, Downpatrick and Coleraine.

Each box will have John's Gospels in both English and Arabic for those receiving gifts.

Clothing items for all age groups will be provided by the charity ROC and their Winter Appeal. Gifts of toys will be provided by The Salvation Army Family Appeal if and when requested.

You can play your part in Follow the Star by donating items from the list below.

Items needed (Christmas themed if possible)



Shower gel, Soaps, Deodorants, Tooth brushes, Toothpaste, Hygiene products, Christmassy scented candles

Crisps, Pop Corn, Chocolate, Sweets, Chutneys, Soups, Pasta, Biscuits, Rice

For more info and drop-off details, please contact Revd Ross Munro (or send him a private message on Facebook or Instagram). Collections are starting NOW.

Mobile: 07483 933914

Email: ross@thegatheringbelfast.com

Sleep Out for Focus Ireland

Templebreedy Parish with their friends from Carrigaline Union slept out for Focus Ireland on Friday, 21st of October at Holy Trinity Church helping to build awareness, support and raise funds for Focus Ireland.

In May, homelessness figures surpassed 10,500, the highest figure recorded since before the pandemic due to a



Glenageary choir steps up to the mark

St Paul's Glenageary choir was delighted to be invited to sing in Christ Church Cathedral this morning, filling in for the resident choir which was on a mid-term break.

lack of affordable, secure housing in Ireland. Right now, there are 1,483 families, including 3,220 children without a home. These families can spend up to two years in a one-bedroom room in an emergency accommodation situation, which has a significant impact on mental health, self-esteem, and child development.

The Rev. Isobel Jackson, Rector of Templebreedy Group of Parishes, said:

Sleeping out, for one night to shine a light on homelessness in Ireland is a learning experience, it puts one out of their 'cosy' zone; and one experiences the vulnerability of sleeping out in the elements, but it is well worth it to raise vital funds for Focus Ireland.

We had a great night and would like to thank those who came along, and those who donated so generously, and to the kind family who had pizza's delivered on the night!



MU World President visits Clogher

Members of Magheracross Mothers' Union with the Worldwide President Sheran Harper (seated centre), All-Ireland President June Butler (seated right) and Worldwide

November 8, 2022

Trustee for All-Ireland Iris Suitor (back row second on the left)



After the service in the cathedral in Enniskillen

A unique event was held in St Macartins Cathedral, Enniskillen on Sunday, 6th November during a service of Holy Communion. The Dean of the Cathedral, The Very Revd Canon Kenneth Hall welcomed the Mothers' Union Worldwide President, Mrs. Sheran Harper and the All-Ireland President Mrs. June Butler.

Sheran was born in the United Kingdom and grew up in Guyana. She is a Physiotherapist by profession who in the past opened and managed new Physiotherapy Departments in hospitals across Guyana and lectured on the Rehabilitation Therapists Training Programme for the Government.

Sheran has been a member of Mothers' Union since 1987, and from 2001 devoted herself to serving Mothers' Union, at Parish, Diocesan, Provincial and Worldwide levels.

This special service saw the Commissioning of Mrs Heather Ellis as Clogher Diocesan President and of Mrs Debbie Davidson as a member of All Ireland Trustees.

Dean Hall expressed sympathy to Mrs. Heather Ellis and her husband Bishop Ian on the passing of his mother during the past week and also his Aunt.

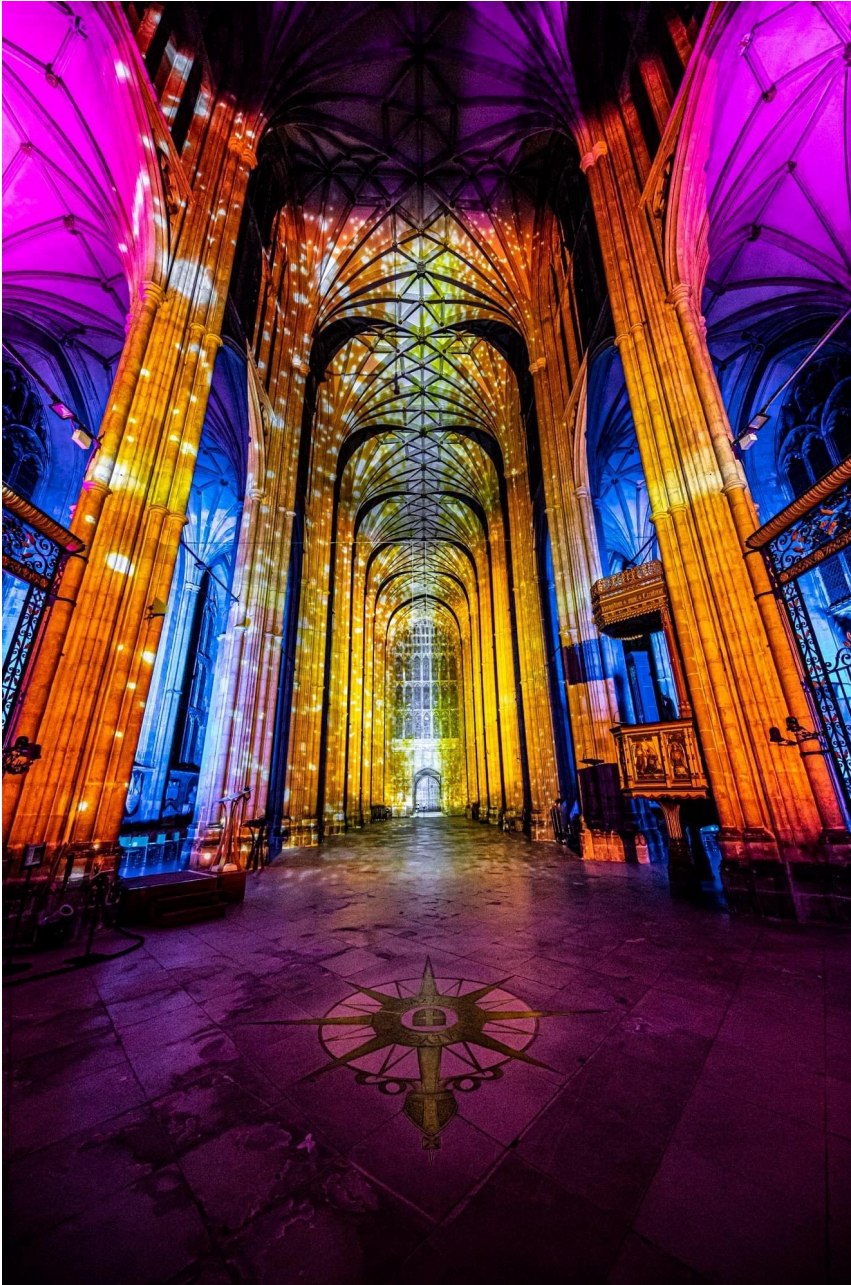
Mrs. Harper gave an interesting and challenging address. The hymns were led by the choir of the Cathedral and the organist was Mrs. Diane Simpson.

Charity tractor run in Loughguile organised by All Saints C of I

A tractor run, organised by All Saints Church of Ireland in Loughguile recently, was very well supported.

Proceeds from the charity event went to Marie Curie and church funds. As well as tractors, cars and lorries were invited along to the run with refreshments provided.

A post on the church's Facebook page thanked everyone who attended. 21 Photos on the Farming Life site at - [\[https://www.farminglife.com/country-and-farming/21-pictures-from-a-charity-tractor-run-in-loughguile-organised-by-all-saints-church-of-ireland-3899444\]](https://www.farminglife.com/country-and-farming/21-pictures-from-a-charity-tractor-run-in-loughguile-organised-by-all-saints-church-of-ireland-3899444)



**Canterbury
Cathedral hosts
Luxmuralis
'Shine : Let there
be Light'**

How's the Form? - in the farming community

With increasing uncertainty in Northern Ireland's agri-sector and farmers and farm families facing additional pressures, the Presbyterian Church in Ireland's (PCI) Rural Chaplaincy Panel is holding a special event on 20 November that asks the simple question 'How's the Form?'

Taking place at Rathfriland Young Farmers' Club Hall at 7pm, the event will focus on the wellbeing of farmers and farm families and will involve speakers from Rural Support, the Health & Safety Executive Christian Union and PCI's Rural Chaplaincy Panel.

Panel member, and minister of Second Saintfield Presbyterian Church, Rev John Torrens, who will be speaking at the event, said that it was an important and timely initiative. "‘How's the form?’ is something we say all the time, isn't it? It's really a general kind of a greeting for friends and family alike, rather than a direct question – but it's a question we want to ask.

“As a minister in a rural community, I know that these are difficult and worrying times, especially for farmers and their families. With that in mind we wanted to organise an event, which is a service of worship with a difference, while being a time of fellowship and togetherness where people can be encouraged, receive information and talk. Running through the whole evening will be a clear and holistic focus on physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing, and the support that is available for those living and working in our rural communities.”

Thanking Rathfriland Young Farmers' for hosting the evening, Mr Torrens said that it wasn't just for Young Farmers, as everyone was welcome. “While I will be talking on Psalm 49 and where we look for support and get our comfort from in hard times, I am looking forward to the contributions of our partners for the event, Rural Support and HSENI's Christian Union. I am also looking forward to



Luxmuralis at Canterbury Cathedral

hearing from William Sayers, who as 12-year-old boy in 1990 survived a serious farm accident which led to the loss of his right arm. He will talk about the help Jesus has been to him.”

Also looking forward to attending is Rev Kenny Hanna, PCI’s Rural Chaplain. Commissioned in November of last year he works across four of the denomination’s nineteen regional presbyteries - the Presbyteries of Armagh, Down, Iveagh, and Newry. This means that Mr Hanna’s focus is on famers and farming families who work and live in all of County Armagh and most of County Down.

The main function of his role is to provide a chaplaincy service to rural and farming communities, supporting

congregations in their local setting, while prioritising the pastoral and spiritual needs that are associated with geographical and social isolation of those working in the rural and agri-food sectors.

“There has been a huge increase in the cost of living for everyone. Farmers, however, have seen a 200% increase in the cost of feed and fuel, and a 300% increase in the cost of fertiliser, which adds to day-to-day pressures. Talking to farmers and those in the agri-business sector, there is no getting away from the fact that things are tight and we want to bring light into this situation,” Mr Hanna said.

Growing up on the family dairy and sheep farm in the Kingdom of Mourne, prior to becoming PCI’s first Rural Chaplain, Kenny Hanna was in parish ministry from 2001 to 2021. “Building relationships within the rural community and sharing the Good News of Jesus relevantly and warmly with people of all backgrounds is a key part of my role.

“I am also aware that the biggest hidden problem in farming today is mental health, something that is borne out by various national surveys and many conversations that I have had. How’s the form? is timely and folk from all backgrounds will be most welcome. I hope those who do come will be encouraged and uplifted by it.”

How’s the form? takes place on Sunday, 20 November at Rathfriland Young Farmers’ Club Hall, Downpatrick Road, Rathfriland, at 7pm.

Five more bishops call for Church of England to allow same-sex marriages

Growing number of senior clerics publicly back the Bishop of Oxford's plea that the Church change its stance on the issue

More bishops have come out in support of gay marriage after the Bishop of Oxford became the most senior Church of England cleric to call for a break with tradition.

The Rt Rev Steven Croft said that he wanted to acknowledge the “acute pain and distress of LGBTQ+ people in the life of the Church”, and said that he was sorry his views on same-sex marriage were “slow to change” and had “caused genuine hurt, disagreement and pain”.

In his landmark declaration on Thursday night, which broke ranks with the Church's current view on this issue, he said that as well as being able to conduct marriages for their congregation, clergy should also be allowed to marry a same-sex partner.

Currently, according to canon law, no Church of England minister can bless or marry gay couples.

However, a number of other senior clergy, including bishops, have joined Bishop Croft in publicly calling for the Church to change on the issue.

The Bishop of Worcester, the Rt Rev Dr John Inge – a diocesan bishop – and the Bishop of Dudley, the Rt Rev Martin Gorick – a more junior suffragan bishop – have now publicly backed his calls.

They published a joint letter on Twitter saying that “in the interest of transparency, we think it right for us to make our own beliefs and hopes plan”:

The Bishop of Reading, the Rt Revd Olivia Graham, praised Bishop Croft’s “contemplative, compassionate and courageous views on human sexuality and the Church”, adding: “I agree.”

The Bishop of Buckingham, the Rt Rev Alan Wilson also tweeted his “thanks and warm congratulations” for articulating “an honest and godly view”, while the Bishop of Dorchester, the Rt Rev Gavin Collins, tweeted his support and endorsement for the Church to support same-sex marriage:

The Bishop of Oxford called for a change in canon law to allow same-sex marriages and said that gay Christians, including clergy, should have the “freedom to marry same-sex partners [and] freedom to be sexually active” within those marriages.

He became the first serving senior bishop in the Church of England – out of the two Archbishops and 35 serving diocesan bishops – to explicitly call for the Church to conduct same-sex marriages.

His comments came as Church of England bishops are currently considering whether to recommend any changes to the centuries-old doctrine that only opposite-sex couples should marry.

Next February, the bishops will present their long-awaited findings to the General Synod and their recommendations could pave the way for an historic vote following decades of division.

A spokesman for the Church of England Evangelical Council said that it “rejects the theological argument in Bishop Steven’s essay”.

In contrast, Jayne Ozanne, an LGBT campaigner and member of the General Synod, welcomed Bishop Croft’s comments as a “brave, prophetic step”.

In the media

Dean of Canterbury elect hails his Fermanagh roots

A Fermanagh clergyman who will take on the role of Dean of Canterbury has spoke of the church’s responsibility to “whole communities, not just those who choose to worship in the church”, Victoria Johnston writes in The Impartial Reporter.

The Very Reverend Dr. David Monteith will be installed as Dean of Canterbury at a service in Canterbury Cathedral on Saturday, December 17.

Dean David spoke with The Impartial Reporter about his new role, his time at Leicester Cathedral and the role of the church in communities.

Reflecting on his time at Leicester Cathedral, Dean David said: "I've been in Leicester for about 14 years. I first came as one of the canon at the cathedral with a responsibility for education and public engagement.

"For the past 10 years, I've been the Dean of Leicester. During my time, I was the one responsible for the reburial of [King] Richard III [whose remains were discovered in August, 2012]. "

Dean David recalled many high points in his ministry at Leicester including Royal visits, the multicultural nature of the city, and sporting highlights for Leicester City Football Club and Leicester Tigers, as well as raising £15 million for restoration works.

When he is installed in Canterbury, Dean David will be the 40th Dean of Canterbury, and the first Irish Dean of Canterbury.

Speaking about how the two cathedrals differ, Dean David said: "It's a completely different scale of operation. So at the moment in Leicester Cathedral, we have about 15 full-time staff, and 100 volunteers; in Canterbury, I will have responsibility for 250 staff, and 850 volunteers!

“It's the seat of the Archbishop of Canterbury, and for those in the Anglican Communion, it's the centre of the communion. It's a bit like as Rome is to the Catholic community, Canterbury is to the Anglican community.”

In addition, Canterbury Cathedral is designated as a World UNESCO heritage site, due to its historical, religious and archaeological significance.

Dean David spoke at length about the Church of England's responsibility “for whole communities, not just those who choose to worship in the church”.

One issue he highlighted was his desire to work with refugees. Canterbury is less than 20 miles away from Dover, which is currently seeing refugees, human trafficking victims and others crossing the English Channel daily, many at great risk.

Also acknowledging the ongoing cost of living crisis, Dean David said: “I'm very aware that we're heading into a very difficult economic time.

"There's a fair smattering of people in dire need, and I don't think the church can solve all those problems, but it can offer a sense of sanctuary and it can work together with other community groups, food banks and in various projects to offer people support and advice.”

Dean David will move to Canterbury with his civil partner, David. He acknowledges he is taking on a senior position in the Church of England as an openly LGBT+ person.

He said: "I think often in some of these roles, whether it's deans or bishops, sometimes they'll have been gay people, but they're not being open about it, whereas me and my partner decided we would be honest and straightforward.

"We hope that in a small way, for those who look forward to the church being a welcoming place for all, that it signals that God cares for everybody – including LGBT+ people in our communities – and that everybody can aspire to whatever they're being called to do."

He continued: "Of course, not everybody agrees with this. I recognise that, and I want to be in conversation in relationship with those people, and to help learn together and discern our future together in this diverse church. It's made up of all kinds of people."

Dean David believes his roots have shaped his approach to ministry. He said: "I'm really thankful for my roots in Fermanagh; I felt that my schooling set me up for life, in a way.

"I grew up in Irvinestown and in the Church of Ireland parish of Derryvullen North. When I was a teenager, Canon Victor McKeon, was rector, and he encouraged me a lot, and I'm thankful for what he did.

"I'm conscious that the way I go about my ministry is in a slightly different way than my English colleagues.

"I still take sort of pastoral approach to things, which I think is part of the legacy of what I grew up with, and the care and

concern and just knowing people whether they go to church or not, it is part of so my Irish legacy.

"I'm really grateful for it, and draw on it deeply," he added.

Courtesy The Impartial Reporter

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Songs Of Praise from the Kingdom of Fife

Songs Of Praise this week was from the Kingdom of Fife, as Katherine Jenkins discovered the story and legacy of Saint Margaret of Scotland.

Look out for the uplifting congregational recording of the modern favourite 'Take This Moment, Sign and Space' from Canongate Kirk.

It is available on BBC iPlayer at [bbc.in/2Qlw5uT](https://www.bbc.com/iplayer/2Qlw5uT)

Mini cards retelling the story of Jesus' birth

Really like this simple idea from Sunhats and wellie boots. 24 mini cards retelling the story of Jesus' birth - one for each day of advent then...

"At the end of December, you'll have 24 mini Nativity Story Cards that can be used to retell the story encouraging children to recall the characters & all the events.



There's also a card to colour in on our printable too for you to use either during Advent or on Christmas Day. See the link in the post below -

https://www.facebook.com/266042526904871/posts/2357773361065100/?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=facebook

Mini cards retelling the story of Jesus' birth

"This is one of the most used apps on my phone and a great tool."

The number of people using the Church of England's Daily Prayer audio service has passed a million.

Read more at cofe.io/DPOneMillion.

CTBI's Richard Reddie talks about justice on TBN

Watch CTBI's Director of Justice and Inclusion, Richard Reddie, talking about justice and the new book 'Race for Justice' on TBNUKtv.

Richard's interview is also available on demand at -

ctbi.org.uk/ctbis-richard-...

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

