



Presbyterian Moderator in Dáil visit



The Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, Rt Rev Dr Charles McMullen with An Ceann Comhairle Seán Ó Fearghaíl TD at Leinster House yesterday. The Moderator was leading a Church delegation to the Oireachtas, where he met members of Dáil Éireann to continue to build relationships and discuss a range of issues.

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The Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI), Rt Rev Dr Charles McMullen, was in Dublin yesterday (3 April) leading a Church delegation to the Oireachtas, where he met members of Dáil Éireann.



Photographed on their visit to Leinster House yesterday are (left to right) Very Rev Dr Trevor Morrow, former Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and minister emeritus of Lucan Presbyterian Church in County Dublin, the current Presbyterian Moderator, Rt Rev Dr Charles McMullen, Seán Crowe TD, chair of the Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good

Friday Agreement and Rev Trevor Gribben, Clerk of the General Assembly and General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

Dr McMullen was accompanied by Rev Trevor Gribben, Clerk of the General Assembly and General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland along with former Moderator

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and minister emeritus of Lucan Presbyterian Church in County Dublin, the Very Rev Dr Trevor Morrow.

During the visit the senior Presbyterians met An Ceann Comhairle Seán Ó Fearghaíl TD and Seán Crowe TD, chair of the Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement. The clergymen were also able to attend Taoiseach's Questions in the afternoon.

Speaking after the meetings, Dr McMullen said, "It was a pleasure to make the acquaintance An Ceann Comhairle Seán Ó Fearghaíl again, having met him at the special centenary sitting of the Dáil in the Mansion House in January, and to meet Deputy Crowe for the first time.

"As an all-island denomination it is important that we continue to engage with TDs to represent the voice of Presbyterians both north and south of the border. I would like to thank An Ceann Comhairle for his welcome and lunch, and that of Deputy Crowe, as we also appreciate the opportunity to have been able to meet with him. Our conversations have been wide-ranging and reflected on the continued lack of government in Northern Ireland, the ongoing Brexit discussions, and the pace of legislative change in Ireland following recent referenda.

"Against the current backdrop of uncertainty, it is important for us to continue to build relationships that provide opportunities to discuss the issues that affect people living their lives day-by-day and the world in which we live.

"As our *Vision for Society* statement recognises 'we believe that the Good News of Jesus Christ challenges and equips

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us to develop radically new attitudes and relationships with our neighbours throughout the whole of Ireland'. We look forward to continued engagement with members of the Oireachtas and the Government in the coming months and years to come."

Yesterday's meetings were part of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland's ongoing commitment to engage with elected representatives in both jurisdictions at local, regional and national levels. In January the Moderator visited Westminster for an informal visit, meeting with members of both Houses of Parliament.

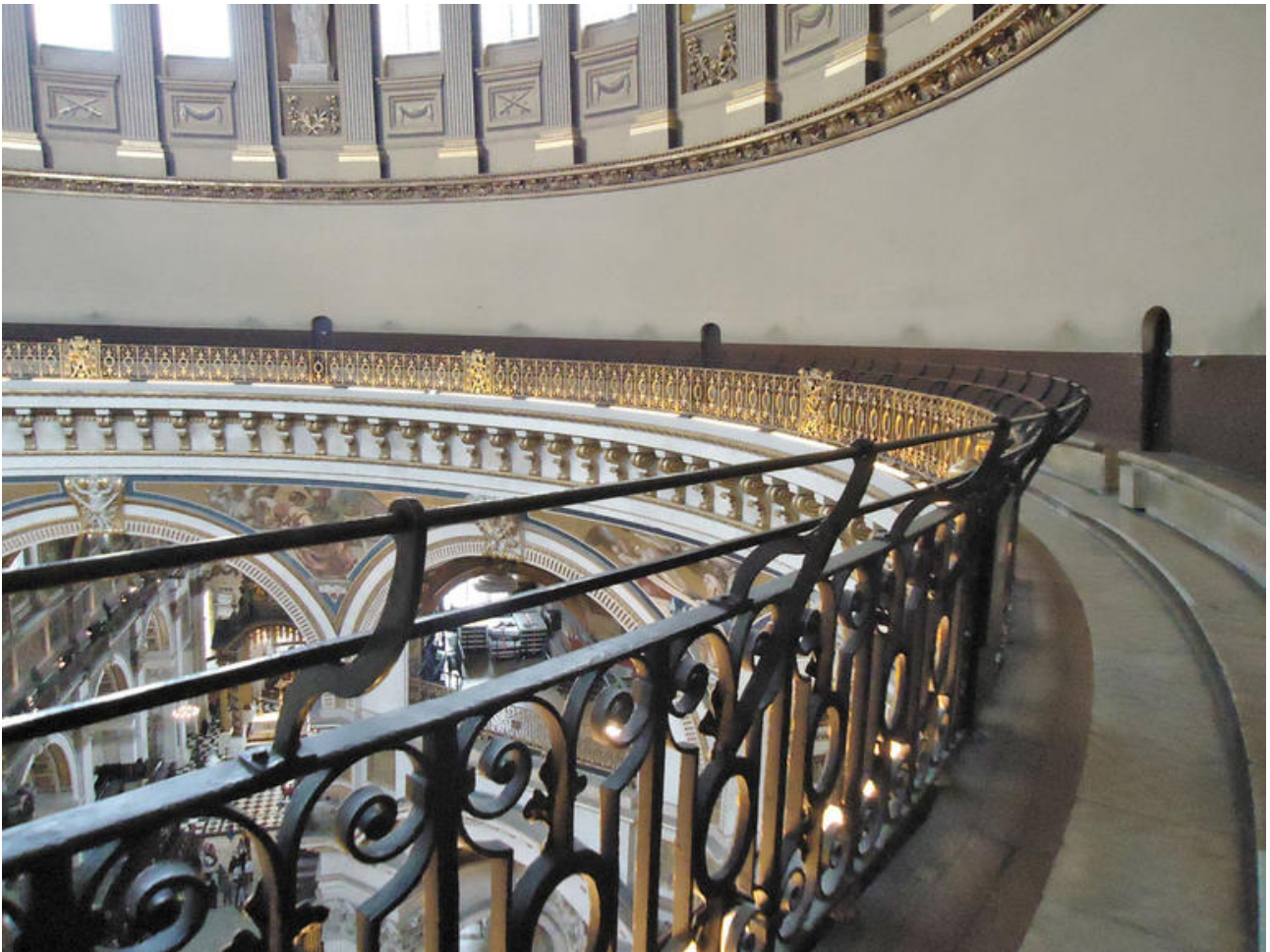
In February Dr McMullen undertook a weeklong tour of the denomination's Presbytery of Monaghan, which also included a civic reception held by Monaghan County Council. Recently, he also took part in special events in Sligo and was in Donegal where he attended an evening of appreciation for teachers and support staff working in schools that are under Presbyterian patronage.

Teen falls to his death at St Paul's Cathedral

A teenager died after falling 30 metres from the Whispering Gallery at St Paul's Cathedral earlier this week, it has emerged.

Members of the emergency services called to the central London landmark on Monday afternoon were unable to save the unidentified male.

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The death, which prompted the closure of St Paul's for the rest of the day, is not being treated as suspicious. It is the second fatal fall at the attraction within 18 months.

A City of London police spokesman said: "We were called to St Paul's Cathedral on Monday 1st April 2019 at 3.57pm to a report of a male in his late teens who had fallen from the gallery within the building."

At the time, cathedral management said: "Although robust procedures for emergency situations are in place at St Paul's, and today's response bore that out, it does not lessen the shock we feel as a close community, especially for those of us who witnessed and responded to this incident."

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Stimulating debate on the church's future

What is the Spirit saying to the Church? And are we, while attempting to be faithful, actually standing in God's way? These were among the probing questions asked at the SEARCH Colloquium "Developing Ministry" which took place in The Hub in Trinity College Dublin on Saturday March 30.

This year's theme sparked huge interest with almost 100 participants coming from all parts of the island, from Derry and Donegal to West Cork and Dunmurry to Waterford and Youghal. The Archbishops of Armagh and Dublin were also in attendance during the morning.

The main speaker was Canon Dr David Hewlett, principal of the Queen's Foundation Theological college in Birmingham and onetime lecturer in the Church of Ireland Theological College.

In his keynote address, entitled 'Radical Challenge and New Possibilities', Canon Hewlett recognised the "seismic changes" that had taken place in Irish social attitudes over recent years, along with a sharp decline in the proportion of church attenders under the age of 50 in both England and Ireland. He asked if it was the case that churches in general had ceased to be good places to be, and what we should be doing about that.

He suggested that rather than expressing panic at the decline in a spate of missional activities, churches should

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consider whether what they were losing was what they ought to lose – inherited structures and authoritarian attitudes, for example. He also suggested they should ask if a certain death was not essential before there could be a resurrection. He wondered what was God's preferred and promised future, and whether we could be open enough to reach it.

“We make vows at ordination – promises we probably can't keep, except with the rider '*with God's help.*' This is the main point. God is faithful and will help us do what we can't hope to do without him. We are there to enable people to trust God,” Canon Hewlett said.

In panel sessions throughout the day there was much plain speaking and concern was expressed regarding isolation and anxiety among clergy. Participants cited the need for a less hierarchical concept of ordained ministry and for more flexible structures so as to encourage vocations and wider participation in the ministry of the Church.

Other topics explored during the day included: The path to effective ministry: Vocation and Training; Deployment – the right person in the right place under the right conditions; and Support, spirituality and self-care for clergy and lay ministers.

SEARCH is a Church of Ireland journal which aims to provide a mix of church and faith related articles which stimulate discussion and fresh thinking in Ireland and beyond. You can find out more at <http://searchjournal.ireland.anglican.org/>

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Interns sought for The Kilbroney Centre

The Kilbroney Centre is a growing, residential ministry located in

Rostrevor, nestled between the Mourne Mountains and Carlingford Lough. The Centre was established in 1974 as a Christian residential centre under the auspices of the Church of Ireland in Down and Dromore.

This rapidly expanding ministry is in need of dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers who will work with us as Interns from September 2019 to August 2020. If you are aged 18–25, passionate about Jesus and want to reach and serve others, this could be for you.

The Vision for the Centre is to share the good news of Jesus by providing a positive and welcoming residential experience, encouraging and promoting the Christian Faith to all who use the Centre, promoting a spirit of reconciliation, harmony and inclusion through the Centre and the community of which it is a part, educating those attending the Centre of the importance of the natural habitat and of environmental conservation and empowering and inspiring young people and leaders within the Christian faith.

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Interns would be expected to help with a variety of duties to support the Centre's ministry such as house-keeping duties e.g. changeovers, laundry, set up and wash up at catered mealtimes in association with the cook, basic maintenance assistance of the site under the supervision of maintenance officer.

Interns would also be involved in hosting and welcoming our guests during the course of their stay to include all aspects of fire safety, introduction and/or departure meetings with groups, nightline, campfires and other on-site activities.

We would also expect our interns to take an active role in the planning, delivery and assistance for programmes such as our New Year House Party and Summer Camps.

A Commitment to the life and work of the local Church of Ireland Parish Church in Rostrevor through regular Sunday worship is essential and participants will be expected to be:

- * Passionate about their faith in Jesus Christ and committed to growing as Christians.
- * Enthusiastic about our vision of reaching children and young people through residential stays.
- * Keen to learn and develop skills and abilities.
- * Organised, motivated and hard-working

Committed to the ethos and values of the Kilbroney Centre and the Church of Ireland.

What will our Interns gain?

An all-round residential intern year enhancing your skills and experience in a Christian ministry setting.

- * Accommodation, heat, light, power, internet and a monthly allowance provided.

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- * Recognised and accredited training in areas such as: OCN Level 2 in Youth Work. Level 2 Food Hygiene. Level 2 Emergency First Aid.

- * Outdoor and on-site activity training e.g. archery, campfire, nightline, paintballing.

- * Development of Leadership skills.

- * Event planning and delivery.

- * Youth and children's programme development.

- * Group work facilitation.

- * Multi-media skills.

- * Reflective practice.

- * Support and challenge to help grow the faith of participants through mentoring, Bible study and discipleship programmes.

For further information or to request an application pack please contact Jan Peach

on: booking@kilbroneycentre.com

Closing date for applications: Monday 8 July 2019

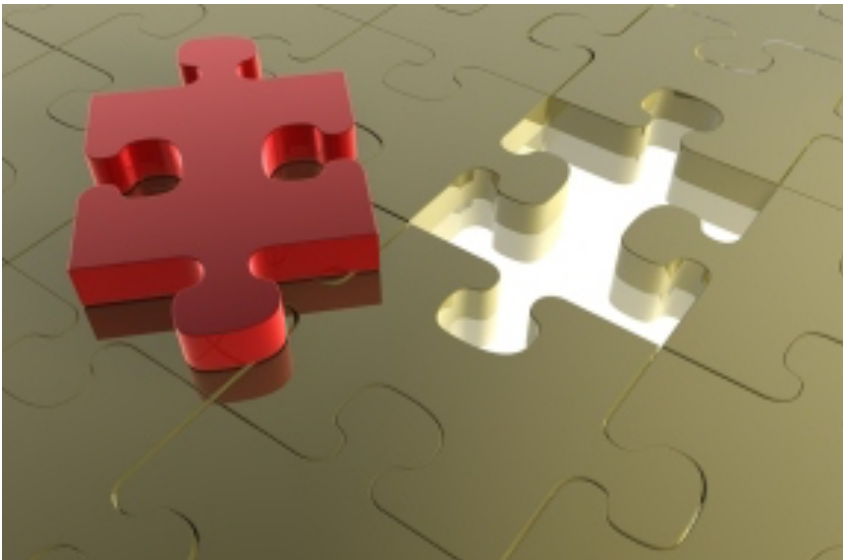
Vacancies at St Jude's, Belfast

St Jude's is an Anglican Evangelical church just a couple of miles from Belfast city centre. We seek to live and share the good news of Jesus Christ to all in this growing multicultural area of the capital.

VACANCY FOR YOUTH & CHILDREN'S WORKER

We are seeking to appoint a full time Children's & Youth Worker to help us in our task of growing young disciples.

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We are looking for
someone who has:

* a life

committed to
Christ with a
passion for serving
in His church

* an ability
to teach the Bible
faithfully and
clearly to children

and young people

* experience in leading and equipping volunteers
working with children and young people

Closing date for applications: Friday 26 April 2019.

Interviews will be held in May 2019.

For further information and a job description please contact:

Revd Peter Bourke (Rector) Email:

peter_bourke@hotmail.com

Phone: (028) 9508 9369

VACANCY FOR MINISTRY INTERN

We are also seeking to appoint a Ministry Intern to help us
in our mission to make disciples of all nations.

We are looking for someone who is:

* a committed Christian passionate about serving
Christ in the local church

* motivated to work with children, youth and adults;
sharing the gospel with unbelievers and helping Christians
grow in faith

churchnewsireland@gmail.org

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- * keen to work in a ministry team in different contexts and situations
- * willing to be trained and grow in Christian conviction, character and competence

This post is part-time (20 hours per week) and could be combined with studies or other employment. The post is available from September 2019 for at least one year.

Closing date for applications: Sunday 14 April 2019.

For further information and a job description please contact:

Revd Peter Bourke (Rector) Email:

peter_bourke@hotmail.com Phone: (028) 9508 9369

News briefs

+++ Faith Schools in a Secular Society - A Public Lecture by Professor Richard Pring, Emeritus Professor at the Department of Education and Emeritus Fellow of Green Templeton College, Oxford University.

He has a long career of publications in the Philosophy of Education, with a particular emphasis on common schools, and more recently on the place of faith schools in contemporary society.

·Monday, April 8, 2019 at 7 pm– 9 pm.

Hosted by DCU Chaplaincy and DCU Education Faculty in DCU Institute of Education, Mater Dei Centre for Catholic Education E223 DCU St. Patricks Campus Drumcondra D09 DY00. Free event

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+++ -RE Cert course for Follow Me programme - Jacqui Wilkinson is leading the course which started this week in Cork with 11 primary school teachers from Church of Ireland schools in Cork and Waterford. Jaqui said she was Looking forward to working with the group in the weeks ahead

+++Agreement to progress Enniskillen Memorial - an application has been submitted for planning approval. A press release in September concerning the siting of the memorial for the Enniskillen Remembrance Day Bomb reported that “progress had been made and a solution had been reached by all parties involved to site the memorial within the gable wall of the Clinton Centre subject to necessary approvals.” The Dean of Enniskillen Cathedral, the Very Revd. Kenneth Hall, who chaired the negotiations stated on behalf of all involved; “We can now confirm that

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agreed plans have been submitted for planning approval.” The Dean added: “I am pleased to say a very positive outcome has been achieved, with which the bereaved families and all interested parties are satisfied.”

+++Newsletter of Eco-Congregation Ireland - The latest newsletter from Eco-Congregation Ireland highlights the Church of Ireland’s #Pennies4Plastics initiative (which invites those participating to prayerfully reduce their use of plastic during Lent), Fairtrade Fortnight at St Anne’s, Shandon, children’s eco-ministry in Carlow Union of Parishes, and the recent Tree Care and Renewal conference organised by Eco CFO in Kilkenny College. The annual review is now also available online here. Eco-Congregation Ireland is an initiative of the Irish Inter Church Meeting, and includes members from the Roman Catholic Church, Church of Ireland, Presbyterian Church, Methodist Church and Religious Society of Friends.
info@ecocongregationireland.com

+++Consider running a Dawn or Dusk Chorus - during the month of May. Older people, their families and friends sing songs they love, songs anybody can join in. For further details please email or phone 01- 8057713. Or bealtaine1@ageandopportunity.ie

(This event is co-ordinated by Age & Opportunity which is a national charitable organisation established in 1988 to promote healthy, happy and productive ageing in Irish communities.

Each year Age & Opportunity co-ordinate a Bealtaine Festival (<http://Bealtaine.ie>) during the month of May, a

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festival established to encourage and celebrate older people's engagement with the arts.

One of the core events of the Bealtaine Festival is its Dawn/Dusk chorus which is a choral project where older people and choirs learn songs together and sing them at dawn/dusk on the first Sunday in May or at any other day/time during the month of May if that suits better. (It is regarded that involvement with choirs is one of the most established and effective means of artistic and community involvement).

+++Down institution date - Institution of Revd Capt Colin Taylor as Incumbent of Dromara & Garvaghy on Wednesday 24 April, 2019

+++Food for thought - People who have come to know the joy of God do not deny the darkness, but they choose not to live in it...Joy never denies the sadness, but transforms it to a fertile soil for more joy. Henri Nouwen

Today in Christian history

April 4, 397: Ambrose of Milan, the most talented bishop of the early church, dies. Biblical exegete, political theorist, master of Latin eloquence, musician, and teacher, he brought Roman Emperor Theodosius I to his knees in repentance after the emperor ordered a massacre of his citizens (This marked the first time the state submitted to the church). But he is perhaps best known for teaching his most famous pupil, Augustine of Hippo.

April 4, 636: Isidore, Spanish scholar and archbishop of Seville dies. His most extensive and famous work was his

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Etymologiae (Etymologies), an extensive encyclopedia of early medieval knowledge that, unlike other such works, used liberal arts and secular learning as the foundation of Christian education. (Isidore did remark, however, that it would be better to be without the knowledge of heretics than to be misled by their comments.)

April 4, 1507: Martin Luther is ordained a priest in Erfurt, Germany.

April 4, 1541: Spanish ascetic and theologian Ignatius of Loyola is elected the first General of the Jesuit Order (or the Society of Jesus), which he had founded the previous year.

April 4, 1687: James II issues a Declaration of Indulgence allowing full liberty of worship in England. The government allowed Nonconformists to meet (though justices of the peace had to be notified), forgave penalties for ecclesiastical offenses and no longer required oaths of supremacy and allegiance for those in royal service. Thus the declaration severely threatened Anglican control of church and state.

April 4, 1742: Charles Wesley preaches his famous sermon, "Awake, thou that sleepest," to the University of Oxford. The sermon soon became Methodism's most popular tract .

April 4, 1968: Civil rights leader and Baptist minister Martin Luther King, Jr., is assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee.

News Links

[Queen's University to end link with theological college](#)

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BBC News

By Robbie Meredith BBC **News** NI Education
Correspondent ... The Presbyterian **Church** is aware of the latest review, but declined to comment.

[Poppy Day Bomb families pleased with revised memorial for IRA bomb victims](#)

Belfast Newsletter

However, in September Dean of the **Church of Ireland** Cathedral, Rev Kenneth Hall, mediated an agreement to locate the memorial in the gable of the ...

[Parents need to make informed choices over school patronage](#) [RTE.ie](#)

There are ten schools in the area; eight Catholic, one **Church of Ireland**, and ... Parents in this north Dublin area have told RTÉ **News** that they are not ...

[Catholic schools in Ireland concerned by proposal to remove Church's patronage](#)

Catholic News Agency

The request is part of an effort to reduce the role of the Catholic **Church** in education in **Ireland**. The Department of Education wants to reach 400 multi- ...

[Religious holidays like Christmas and St Patrick's Day could be 'phased out' of Irish Catholic ...](#)

Irish Post

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS like Christmas and St Patrick's Day could soon be a thing of the past in Catholic schools. That's according to staff from two ...

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Christmas celebrations will be scrapped under new ethos - Catholic schools warn
Independent.ie

It advised playing, singing or dancing to music with any **religious** reference, including the St Patrick's Day 'anthem', would not be permitted. The school ...

Row over school patronage after claims religious holidays will not be marked
RTE.ie

Meanwhile, parents have told RTÉ **News** they are concerned about a lack of information and claim they are being asked to vote on something that is ...

Two Dublin schools tell parents Christmas won't be celebrated if there is change of patronage -
BreakingNews.ie

Claims that children can't celebrate Christmas at Educate Together schools 'incorrect and misleading' -
thejournal.ie
Full Coverage

Removing school's Catholic ethos would be 'Brexit-type disaster', parents told

Irish Times

In the case of St Oliver Plunkett's School in Malahide, the parents' association warned that the loss of the school's **religious** ethos could lead to the ...

Claims that children can't celebrate Christmas at Educate Together schools 'incorrect and misleading'
thejournal.ie

Parents at all eight schools are due to vote on the divestment process and the Catholic **Church** will then submit feedback to the department.

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[Faith Fund open to groups in Tyrone](#)

Tyrone Times

“And, we would encourage church groups and faith-based organisations to ... Most recently, UCIT provided St James **Church of Ireland**, Moy, with a ...

[105 entries make the cut for Belfast Business Awards](#)

The Irish News

Holly Wilson, Belfast Cathedral - The Cathedral **Church** of St Annes. • James Blake, Vindicta ... Aodhan Connolly, Northern **Ireland** Retail Consortium.

[Busy time for Music Generation Louth this April](#)

Dundalk Democrat

... String Orchestra Programme, they will host a wonderful afternoon showcase concert at St.Nicholas' **Church of Ireland** at 1pm on Saturday 6 April.

[Home Secretary orders urgent investigation into asylum rejection letter which criticised Bible](#)

Premier

Stay up to date with the latest **news** stories from a Christian perspective. ... A **Church of England** bishop has criticised the Home Office after it quoted ...

[Lancashire couples turning their back on church weddings](#)

Fleetwood Weekly News

Fewer couples are choosing to tie the knot in a **church**, synagogue or other religious venue in Lancashire. For the first time ever, across **England** and ...

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[Lodging for spouses becomes Anglicans' latest battleground over LGBT clergy](#)

Religion News Service

For years the issue of homosexuality and how the **Church of England** treats gay people has haunted the church and the wider Anglican Communion, ...

AN INVITATION
to become a
FACEBOOK FRIEND
of CNI
and get headlines of the CNI daily
news magazine...
...Just a click at

<https://www.facebook.com/Church-News-Ireland-261305103892998/timeline/>

+ Please share CNI with your friends
www.churchnewsireland.org



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