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Lisburn church's sing-along video is an online hit

St Paul's Church of Ireland on the Ballinderry Road in Lisburn posted the video, which features church members singing along to 'My Lighthouse' – a popular Christian song by Bangor-based band Rend Collective – on its Facebook page on December 23.

Since then it has been viewed more than 16,000 times.

The post accompanying the video says: "The St Paul's family sings along to Rend Collective's 'My Lighthouse'. We have an active community here - are you part of it?"

According to a church spokesperson, the video was watched 10,000 times in the first 24 hours, and has been viewed by people around the world, including some in Canada and Australia.

For more information about St Paul's Church check out www.facebook.com/stpaulschurchlisburn

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For details about Rend Collective log on to www.facebook.com/rendcollective

Hark the Herald Agents thanked

Over the last few weeks the *Presbyterian Herald* team have been out and about in Monaghan, Ballymoney and Belfast encouraging and thanking *Herald* agents for their hard work and effort on the ground.

The Agent Days also provided the opportunity for the Herald team to recognise some of their longest serving agents *Herald* agents, who look after the distribution of the magazine in their congregations.

In Monaghan Sandra Hagan, who has been coordinating the distribution of over 500 magazines in the Presbytery of Monaghan over the last 7 years was presented with a special gift. June Menaul, from Cavanaleck Presbyterian Church in County Fermanagh, was also presented with a gift for her faithful service as an agent, which has spanned 46 years.

Meanwhile, in Ballymoney Margaret Boyd from Ballyrashane Presbyterian in County Londonderry began her Herald distribution career when she was just 11 years of age – in 1953. Margaret was recognised for her amazing 65 years' service. Finally, in Belfast, Fred Kyle of Rasharkin Presbyterian, County Antrim, received a gift for his 49 years of service.

“The faithful service given by *Herald* Agents – or ‘*Herald* Angels’ is quite remarkable and to be praised. We really value the work of each of our agents and recognise that it is

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The Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, Rev Trevor Gribben attended the Belfast *Herald* Agent Day and is pictured with *Herald* contributor Ruth Sanderson, Presbyterian Moderator, Rt Rev Dr Charles McMullen and Sarah Harding.

a time consuming and committed role that also take energy and planning,” *Herald* editor, Sarah Harding said.

“A total of 250 agents attended the Agent Days. Being an agent is often an unseen service, it can be done very discreetly and can go unnoticed, so these bi-annual Agent Days allow the team and me to say a huge ‘thank you’ to these unsung heroes who also promote the *Herald* within their individual congregations.”

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[With a publication heritage that goes back to 1843](#), the *Presbyterian Herald* represents an important part of the Church's communication strategy. It provides an opportunity for Presbyterians to communicate with each other and with those in leadership. It also enables congregations share examples of good practice provides a forum for discussion and debate.

The editor also pointed out that it is due to the assistance given by agents across the country in distributing the *Presbyterian Herald* that the cost of the magazine can be kept low.

“In an era of fake news and facing an uncertain economic and political future, the Church has the opportunity to speak light into the darkness and share the good news of what we are doing in our communities, in the public square and further afield in Jesus' name. The *Herald* team strive to have topical and engaging articles so that in each edition our readers can be inspired, challenged and encouraged,” Sarah said.

If you would like to find out more about the Herald and about taking out a subscription through your congregation or as an individual [please check our website here for details](#).

More to MU than tea making - New Diocesan President of Connor Mothers' Union

Mrs Sally Cotter has taken up her new role of Diocesan President of Connor Mothers' Union.

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Sally succeeds Mrs Valerie Ash, and will be commissioned at the Connor Mothers' Union Festival Service in April.

A former primary school teacher, Sally has been a member of Mothers' Union since 1989, and has held posts at all levels.

Her first branch was St Nicholas, Carrickfergus, where she was branch young members rep; area education rep. She was on the Prayer and Spirituality Unit and in 1996 was appointed Diocesan Marketing Co-ordinator.

In 2001 Sally became All-Ireland Marketing Co-ordinator and in 2007 was appointed to the Marketing Unit Committee at Mothers' Union headquarters in Mary Sumner House.

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She was Diocesan Worldwide rep from 2007-2013, and since 2013 has been Vice-President of Fundraising and Communications in Connor Diocese.

Sally joined the Broughshane branch of Mothers' Union in 2010, when her husband, the Rev Dr Bob Cotter, became curate in the parish of Skerry Rathcavan and Newtowncrommlin, Broughshane.

A native of Dollingstown, near Lurgan, Sally met Bob when they were both singing with the St Anne's Cathedral (Belfast) Evening Choir in 1979.

Singing is not Sally's only musical talent. She was organist in First Lurgan Presbyterian Church for five years and in Holy Trinity Parish Church, Woodburn, for 13 years. She currently plays in Donegore Parish, and has been a church organist for 30 years!

She ran a Mothers' Union choir in Carrickfergus for 21 years. Named 'Sally's Singers,' the choir sang all over Ireland, north and south, and raised money for charity.

Sally has been a trustee of Carrickfergus Home Start for 20 years, an organisation she says has aims closely linked to Mothers' Union, namely helping families and children. She has also been a Sunday School Superintendent and a Girls' Brigade Officer.

Sally taught in King's Park Primary School in Newtownabbey for 31 years before taking early retirement. She and Bob have one son, Christopher.

Speaking in the Autumn edition of *Connor Connections*, Sally said: "I am looking forward to the challenge of this new

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role. I would like to get new members involved and keep all members up to date with our project work.

“I am keen to raise the profile of Mothers’ Union. We are blamed for being tea makers but this organisation is so much more than that.”



Commissioning of Down and Dromore Mothers’ Union Diocesan President

Mrs Roberta Macartney will be commissioned as Mothers’ Union Diocesan President for Down and Dromore at a service in St John’s Rathfriland on Sunday 6 January 2019.

Roberta will be commissioned by Bishop Harold Miller.

All are welcome to attend the service which begins at 3.30 pm.

Jonathan Swift and Ulster Presbyterians, a public lecture

“The Making of the Hibernian Patriot: Jonathan Swift and Ulster Presbyterians” is the title of a public lecture being given by Professor Ian McBride, Foster Professor of Irish History, University of Oxford, on Tuesday 15 January 2019 at 7.30pm in Union Theological College, Botanic Avenue, Belfast.

The lecture is open to all. No booking is required.

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Ian McBride, who grew up in County Armagh, is the Foster Professor of Irish History at the University of Oxford and a fellow of Hertford College. His research interests include the history of Ireland in the Long Eighteenth Century and the history of Northern Ireland since 1920. He is a recipient of a Leverhulme Major Research Award to study the reshaping of Irish social and political life under the penal laws in the eighteenth century.

His publications include *The Siege of Derry in Ulster Protestant Mythology* (1997) and *Scripture Politics: Ulster Presbyterians and Irish Radicalism in the Late Eighteenth Century* (1998), both short-listed for the Christopher Ewart-Biggs Literary Prize; and *Eighteenth-Century Ireland: The Isle of Slaves* (2009).

His most recent book *The Princeton History of Modern Ireland* (2016), edited with Richard Bourke, was selected by

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both RTÉ Radio and The Irish Times as one of their best books of 2016.

Professor McBride is currently completing a volume on Swift's Irish Political Writings for the Cambridge Edition of the Works of Jonathan Swift.

Africa is now the most dangerous region for Catholic missionaries

Africa has overtaken Latin America as the most deadly region for Catholic missionaries, according to the [Fides](#) news agency.

During 2018 40 missionaries were killed throughout the world, up from 23 the previous year. Of these 35 were priests, with one seminarian and four lay people.

Africa saw 21 deaths, 19 of them priests. In Latin America 15 died, 12 of them priests; in Asia three priests and Europe one.

Fides said: 'Many missionaries have lost their lives during attempted hold-ups and robberies, ferociously committed, in impoverished, degraded social contexts, where violence is the rule of life, the authority of the state was lacking or weakened by corruption and compromises, or where religion is used for other ends.'

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'Everywhere priests, religious, and laymen share the same daily life as the common people, bringing them the evangelical witness of love and service for all, as a sign of hope and peace, trying to alleviate the suffering of the weak and raising their voices in defense of their trampled rights, denouncing evil and injustice. Even in danger of their own safety, at the request of civil authorities or their own superiors, the missionaries remained at their posts, aware of the risks which they were running, in order to remain true to the duties they bore'.

January 4 in Christian history

January 4, 1581: James Ussher, Archbishop of Armagh, is born. Famous for a chronology of the Bible that was repeatedly printed in King James Versions, he was so highly esteemed that Oliver Cromwell gave him a state funeral and had him buried in Westminster Abbey.

January 4, 1934: The "Confessing Church," led by Karl Barth, Martin Niemöller, and Dietrich Bonhoeffer in opposition to the Nazi "German Christian" church, officially organizes in Barmen, Germany.

January 4, 1965: T.S. Eliot, the most influential English writer in the twentieth century and a devout Christian who wove his religious convictions into his work, dies.'

News links

[Archbishop of Dublin role likely to become vacant in 2020](#)
Irish Times

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Major change is imminent in the leadership of the Catholic **Church** in **Ireland** as bishops in some of its most significant dioceses approach the ...

[Tuam Babies, Ireland's darkest secret, will be the biggest Irish story in 2019](#)

IrishCentral

If it is true, there will be no more sinful and horrific event in the annals of **Irish church** history. But it will not just be about the nuns and priests and ...

[Catholic politicians who have 'persistently promoted' abortion out of 'communion with church'](#)

The Tablet

Separately, the leader of the **Irish Church** also warned in a strongly worded statement that it remains gravely morally wrong to deliberately and ...

[Apprehension on all sides before launch of Irish abortion services](#)

The Guardian

Apprehension on all sides before launch of **Irish** abortion services ... **Ireland** is poised to roll out its first regular abortion services in the coming weeks ... thrall to the Roman Catholic **church** to a liberal, secular country, and will increase

[Irish people are most likely to donate to homeless and children's charities, new survey reveals](#)

Irish Mirror

The poll, conducted by Empathy Research for online lottery betting company Lottoland, found **religious** causes would be among the last to receive a ...

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How The Church Of England Began

Patheos (blog)

One of the world's truly great historians today is an Oxford scholar of the English Reformation, and his name is Diarmaid MacCulloch (Dur-mudd).

Church of England priests should call in social workers or police officers before they carry out an ...

Daily Mail

Priests should call in social workers or police before they carry out an exorcism on a child who is believed to be possessed by evil spirits, new **Church** ...

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