



St Polycarp's does ABBA

St Polycarp's Choir brought the music of ABBA to life in a fantastic tribute to the world renowned band, with the choir performing for a full church on Friday March 8.

Getting into character – the rector of St Polycarp's, the Rev Louise Stewart, with Director of Music, Simon Neill.

For some, it was standing room only as the 46-strong parish choir delivered an outstanding rendition of 20 of ABBA's famous hits and those from the successful Mamma Mia movies.

MARCH 13, 2019

They were accompanied by a band comprising of Director of Music Simon Neill and a number of his school students.

The evening, which ended with a standing ovation from a very impressed audience, was yet another amazing success for the famous choir which tours annually and has sung at services in Westminster Abbey, Chester Cathedral and Portsmouth Cathedral among others.

Proceeds from the ABBA concert will support the Parish Choir's 34 Choral Scholarships which are offered to children and teenagers across the Greater Belfast area.

Funding workshop for churches in Northern Ireland

A free half day Funding Workshop organised by the National Churches Trust in partnership with the Department for Communities will be held at St Thomas's Parish Church, Eglantine Avenue, Belfast on Monday March 25.

The workshop is designed specifically for churches in Northern Ireland of all denominations.

The session will cover:

- * The benefits of carrying out regular inspections and maintenance;
- * Common issues facing churches and how to resolve them;
- * How to devise and carry out a simple maintenance plan;

MARCH 13, 2019

- * Making sure you are doing it right (what you can do yourself, what you should get help with, permissions etc)
- * New technologies available and cost saving tips and techniques;
- * What funding is available to churches in Northern Ireland and how to access it;
- * What makes a good funding application (what funders are looking for, top tips from other churches);
- * Other sources of help available to churches in Northern Ireland.

There are two identical workshops – one in the morning and one in the afternoon.

To book tickets and find out more about the event see - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/planning-and-funding-regular-maintenance-and-minor-repairs-tickets-57804730505>

Commissioning of Connor Mother's Union Diocesan President

Connor Mothers' Union Festival Service will be held in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, on Sunday April 7 at 3.30pm, during which Mrs Sally Cotter will be commissioned as Diocesan President of Connor Mother's Union. Sally took up the post in January.

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

MARCH 13, 2019



The Westminster Abbey Choir met The Duke and Duchess of Sussex and The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge after the Commonwealth Day service on Monday.

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.

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

MARCH 13, 2019



Mrs Sally Cotter

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 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.

MARCH 13, 2019

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

Enniskillen tribute to hymnwriter Cecil Frances Alexander

A large congregation of people from across Clogher Diocese and beyond paid tribute to the hymnwriter, Mrs Cecil Frances Alexander with an evening of praise interspersed with stories about her life on Sunday evening, 10th March.

Marking the 200th anniversary of her birth, the evening of praise in St. Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen, completed a weekend of celebration of the iconic Irish hymnwriter, as a two-day exhibition was also organised by Clogher Diocesan Board of Religious Education.

The exhibition comprised items on loan from St. Columb's Cathedral, Londonderry and St Bestius' Parish Church, Killeter and covered Mrs Alexander's life from her birth in Dublin until her death in Derry, where her husband, the Right Revd William Alexander was Bishop of Derry and Raphoe. He went on to become Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All-Ireland.

The exhibition featured letters, manuscripts and photographs of family members and places where the Alexanders lived during their life together serving in the Church of Ireland. The exhibition attracted people from all

MARCH 13, 2019



Some of the congregation attending the service in St. Macartin's Cathedral.

over Ireland including some distant descendants of the Alexanders.

A welcome to the praise

service was given by Dean Kenneth Hall of St. Macartin's Cathedral and Canon Desmond Kingston from the Clogher Diocesan Board of Religious Education introduced the service with prayer.

The praise evening included narration of the life-story of Mrs Alexander by Mrs Eva Baxter interspersed with the singing of almost a dozen of her well-known hymns. During one section of the story, Rebekah Clingan, dressed as Mrs Cecil Frances Alexander, walked along the aisle to show people how she would have dressed in the 1800s.

Taking part in the service were members of St. Macartin's Cathedral Choir as well as the GFS choir from Clogher Diocese which included the All-Ireland President, Mrs. Alison Jackson.

MARCH 13, 2019

**Rebekah Clingan
dressed as Mrs
Cecil Frances
Alexander for
the praise
service.**



The service opened with the processional hymn, “The Golden Gates are lifted up” followed by “Once in royal David’s city” with a first verse solo by James Morrison.

The GFS choir sang “Do no sinful action” and the Cathedral Choir sang; “All things bright and beautiful” with a quartet singing “When wounded sore the stricken soul.”

Another hymn, “His are the thousand sparkling rills” was sung with a first verse solo by Jane McKinley.

Other hymns sung included “There is a green hill far away” with a solo by David Burton, “Jesus calls us! O’er the tumult,” “In the roll-call of God’s son,” “To the God of our creation” and “For all Thy saints a noble throng.”

The organist was Mr. Glenn Moore with Warren Kerr and Gavin Rogers on Cornet and Rodney White on drums. The choir conductor was Jayne Malcolmson.

MARCH 13, 2019

The Bishop of Clogher, the Right Revd John McDowell, gave the closing remarks and blessing.

Mother's poignant tribute to son who died serving UN World Food Programme

Micheál Ryan embraced life and wanted to make a difference in the lives of the marginalised and downtrodden, his mother said.

Christina Ryan led the tributes to her son, who was due to turn 40 later this month, after his death in the plane crash in Ethiopia on Sunday.

Speaking on Clare FM's 'Morning Focus' programme, she told broadcaster Gavin Grace her son had worked in "dangerous situations" before, and the news that he lost his life in a plane crash came as a terrible shock.

Micheál (39), from Lahinch in Co Clare but living in Cork, had been working as an engineer for the UN World Food Programme (WFP) in recent years.

A father of two children aged three and seven months, he was married to wife Naoise. The family was due to relocate to Rome in the next few weeks for Micheál's work.

He was travelling with six colleagues from the WFP aboard the Ethiopian Airlines Boeing 737 Max 8 aircraft bound for

MARCH 13, 2019



Nairobi, when it crashed just six minutes after take-off from the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa.

She paid tribute to her son, citing the work he had done in the fight against Ebola and his work to help the Rohingya people in Bangladesh.

She said his family and his work were his main passions.

“It was a passion. His work was a passion. And his family was a passion. He loved his wife and kids and was always there for them. And he embraced life with a passion.”

Ms Ryan said her son kept her fully informed about his work. She said she last spoke to him the day before the crash, and he had told her that he hoped his three-year-old daughter would follow in his footsteps in that she would dream and travel a lot, helping people.

MARCH 13, 2019

“The whole thing was about helping people and making a difference in society. And helping the marginalised and the downtrodden internationally,” she said.

“And he did that. He did a lot. He did as much as he could within a very, very short life.

“I mean, he’s been in Afghanistan, he’s been in a lot of dangerous situations.

“We didn’t realise this trip to Nairobi was going to be fatal. He has been in earthquake zone regions and he’s been in situations that have been very difficult. And he survived all of those. And this took him and we didn’t expect it, you know. We didn’t think this was really a big danger area.

“He was brilliant with his family and his kids. He lived for his family and his kids and he was so enthusiastic with them.

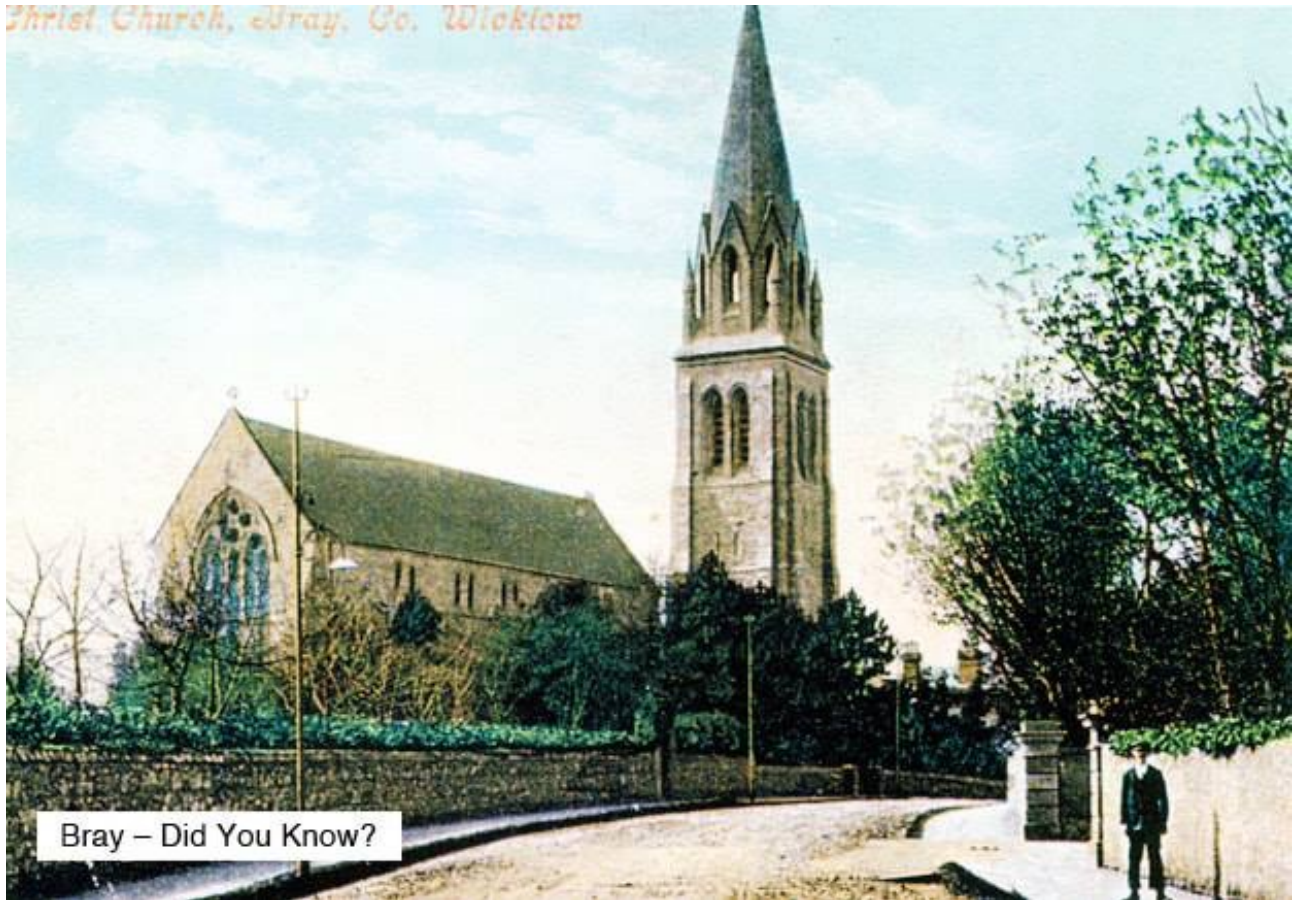


Derek and Jane French, PCI global mission workers in Spain, continue with their work on MOCLAM (theological training

course) and are thankful for those currently working their way through the modules.

MARCH 13, 2019

Heritage



A fine postcard image of Christ Church on Church Road, Bray. The Church was consecrated in 1863 and the spire was built between 1865 and 1870.

The tower contains the peal of eight bells, which it is said that the impetus for a collection for the bells came in a visit to Bray in 1877 with a remark by Prime Minister William Ewart Gladstone that "so noble a church tower as this should not be silent". Messrs. Taylor of Loughborough in Leicestershire supplied the bells. The Tenor (D Natural) weighs nearly 1.45 tons. The entire weight of the bells slightly exceed 5.5 tons. The bells were described as one of

MARCH 13, 2019

the finest in these islands when they were first rung on 10 February, 1881.

The wonderful sound of the bells could be heard regularly up until recently. (Image courtesy Christy Harris).

News briefs



+++Confirmed by former archbishop - The Rt Rev the Lord Eames OM, former Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of Ireland, was at All Saints', Eglantine, on March 10 for a Service of Confirmation. There were eight candidates presented by the rector, the Rev Jason Kernohan and confirmed during the service which was conducted by the former Archbishop.

MARCH 13, 2019

+++Gareth messes up the Mothers' Union - An area service in Strabane was postponed due to the adverse weather warning. Diocesan President of Mothers' Union, Jacqui Armstrong, explains - "With the Storm Gareth impending and a YELLOW warning between 3pm today and 3pm tomorrow, it has been considered wise to cancel tonight's Strabane Area Service. The Mothers' Union Strabane Area Service is rescheduled to take place on Tuesday, 26th March in St. Bestius' Church, Termonamongan Parish Church, Killeter at 8pm. Our apologies for any inconvenience caused and may all who have to travel later today, travel safely."

March 13 in Christian history

March 13, 1815: Presbyterian medical missionary James Hepburn is born in Milton, Pennsylvania. In the course of his missions work, he compiled the first Japanese-English dictionary and supervised the first complete translation of the Bible into Japanese (which was published in 1888).

March 13, 1925: Austin Peay, governor of Tennessee, signs the "Butler Bill," prohibiting any teaching that contradicted the Genesis creation story. By July, John Scopes was on trial for violating the legislation and the "trial of the century" had begun.

**AN INVITATION
to become a
FACEBOOK FRIEND...**

MARCH 13, 2019

**... 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**

