



A snake made by Springhill Primary school

Interactive snakes, boats and boots at Belfast Cathedral's St Patrick's event

An interactive trail telling the story of St Patrick at St Anne's Cathedral helped local

schoolchildren explore '[Patrick's Mysterious Adventure](#)'

Pupils from eight inner Belfast primary schools came over the first two days of the event, which will be open to the public on Friday (today) and Saturday, with a closing service at 3.30pm on Sunday.

First to experience Patrick's adventures were over 250 children from Blythefield, Harmony, Forthriver, Springhill, Sacred Heart Boys, Black Mountain, St Mary's and Cliftonville Integrated.. Bringing the story to life are members of the Play It By Ear Christian drama group, members of the children's council and others with a talent for telling a great story!

The Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev Alan Abernethy, joined the cast and crew of Patrick's Mysterious Adventure yesterday. Bishop Alan visited the fantastic exhibition detailing the life and times of Ireland's Patron Saint, currently running in the Cathedral and organised by Connor Children's Officer Jill Hamilton and Connor Children's Council, with support from the Connor Development Team.

Patrick's Mysterious Adventure is a FREE family friendly event aimed at helping people of all ages



***Bishop Alan Abernethy learns all about Parick's
Mysterious Adventure from Danielle McCullagh and
Karen Webb.***

to discover first-hand the adventurous life story of St Patrick. Actors are re-enacting the tale from Patrick's capture by Irish pirates to his return to serve the people of Ireland.

It will open to the general public from 12pm-4pm on Friday and Saturday. A full programme of performances will run alongside the interactive exhibition. These include Irish dancers, 'Mr and Mrs Leprechaun,' circus walkabout acts and Irish harpist. Children can take part in creative workshops hosted by Jumping Clay and churchnewsireland@gmail.com

Doodlebugs and re-enact battle scenes with Ardglass Vikings. The event concludes with a St Patrick's themed all-age service at 3.30pm on Sunday March 19.

Children's Officer Jill said: "Our aim is to give visitors the opportunity to reconnect with the life story of St Patrick, discover more about him and be inspired by his faith and faithfulness to God.

"The event will inform and educate visitors in an enjoyable and entertaining way about Ireland's Patron Saint and will encourage people to come into St Anne's Cathedral and experience something of the culture and early Christian faith as it dawned in Ireland. Through the trail, we aim to provide insight into local culture and provide historical information as well as telling stories and legends in an interactive and fun way."

NVTV will feature Patrick's Mysterious Adventure on their news show to be broadcast at 7.15pm and 10.15pm on Friday, St Patrick's Day. NVTV is on Freeview Channel 7 or Virgin Channel 159.

Cistercian College Roscrea saved from closure by €1.5 million in pledges

The historic Cistercian College Roscrea has announced a rescue package which has prevented the closure of the well-known boys' boarding school at Mount St Joseph Abbey.

The breakthrough comes just one month after it was announced that Cistercian College was to close in June of this year due to a dramatic fall off in student numbers. In the past ten years, there has been a 45% decrease in student enrolments at the college.

However, a group of volunteers made up of parents and past pupils formed the CCR Action Group which pledged to devise a restructuring plan to ensure the future viability of the school.

That group has worked to see enrolments increase sufficiently to keep the school open.

The school's trustees paid tribute to the wider school community for its "incredible response" which made it possible to reverse last month's closure announcement.

It said a rescue package, which includes significant financial contributions in the form of personal pledges totalling in excess of €1.5million, could not have been achieved without the efforts of the CCR Action Group.

“This is one of the most joyous days in the history of Cistercian College. We have witnessed a small miracle over the past 4 weeks. The decision to close was an extremely difficult one for the monastic community to make and so we are understandably overjoyed to now be in a position to announce that the college will remain open,” said Dom Richard Purcell, Abbot of Mount St Joseph Abbey.

CCR Action Group Chairman Ronnie Culliton reiterated the Abbot’s sentiments, adding: We are looking to the future with great enthusiasm now. This is a wonderful place for young men to be educated, play sport, develop musical talents and grow friendships that will last a lifetime. We are delighted that we can now offer this fantastic opportunity to receive an education grounded in the Cistercian ethos to a greater number of families. The school counts Brian Cowen, Dick Spring, Willie Mullins and Gavin Duffy among past pupils.

Former Irish president’s concerns about Brexit and Europe’s refugee crisis

Mary McAleese, Ireland’s former president, knows what it’s like to flee her home, to be, as

she once described it, “a refugee on my own island”, writes Lorna Donlon in *The Tablet* (March 16).

Growing up in the Catholic Ardoyne area of north Belfast in the 1960s and 1970s, she witnessed first-hand the violent sectarianism that ruptured the city, destroying lives and families, and buttressing hatreds and fears that had blighted Northern Ireland for generations.

Loyalist gunmen attacked her family home in December 1972. The house was empty at the time, but nothing could prepare her for what she saw on her return. The front garden was strewn with shells from machine guns; her sister Nora’s bedroom, in the direct line of fire, had been so riddled with bullets it was like a colander. “They had shot only into the rooms with the lights on. There were bullet marks on the dressing table and the drawers. It was the most chilling thing,” McAleese recalled later. The family left immediately, never to return.

That experience of watching her strong parents become victims of circumstances over which they had no control, impels her response to the current refugee crisis. Tomorrow, in the Church of Ireland cathedral in Waterford, she will launch “Joy Bells”, a bell-ringing initiative that will



sound a note of solidarity to counter the intolerance and exploitation that swirls in the volatile ether of Europe's reaction to refugees. Churches and bell-ringers across the world have taken up the invitation of the Dean of Waterford, Maria Jansson, to join this communal summons to a more compassionate, human engagement with people who have been forced from their homes.

It is the simplicity and timelessness of Jansson's idea that attracts her, McAleese explained when we met recently in Dublin: "There's no dogma or doctrine going to get in the way of it because this is something that everybody can subscribe to. It seemed to me all the more important that it would be a Christian initiative because so often

these days the voice of Christians, or at least an appeal to so-called Christian culture, is used to exclude other ethnicities, other races, and again to breed intolerance. And that's always seemed to be so counter-cultural and so contradictory of the Christian faith."

C of I's Bishop Colton raises Mother and Baby Homes at Cork St Patricks' Day Civic Service

In his sermon at the annual Civic Service and Festival Eucharist for St Patrick's Day in St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork, the Bishop, the Right Reverend Dr Paul Colton, spoke about the place of religion in Irish society in the wake of the harrowing accounts about Mother and Babies Homes.

He said, "There's something curiously unsettling and profoundly challenging, against this background, about being here today celebrating our national saint on our national day, to be here cherishing the place of religion in Ireland and its contribution to who and what we are, when we know full well that all was not well, and unless we acknowledge too the mistakes of the past.

“There is much in our religious legacy to be worked through, and not only in institutional religion in Ireland, but also its relationship with the State, to come to understand, and to be reconciled about, even within ourselves perhaps.

Many people, including many people who are religious, find themselves in an emotional heap - a heap that has tilted their world on its axis. We live in times when the relationship of many Irish people with religion is, at best, complicated.”

He referred again to his call in 2015 for the terms of the Commission of Enquiry to be broadened to include Protestant-run Mother and Baby Homes.

Irish language group's visit to Bandon C of I Parish

In recent weeks Caroline Nolan, Development Officer with Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise met with a number of clergy in Bandon to encourage the greater use of Irish in services. St Peter's Church Bandon could not have been a more fitting location as it was Richard Boyle's son, the Hon Robert Boyle, considered by many as the 'father of modern chemistry' who oversaw, and

financed, the first translation of the bible into Irish.

William Bedell, an Essex man, was Provost of Trinity College and later became the Bishop of Kilmore. He began the work of translating the bible into Irish but died before it was completed.

This is just one example of how members of Church of Ireland have been influential in supporting and preserving the Irish language down through history.

Bhí Caroline Nolan, Oifigeach Forbartha, i nDroichead na Bandan ag bualadh le cléir na háite, ina measc, an tUrr. Kingsley Sutton (Cloch na Coillte), an tUrr Anne Skuse (Moviddy Union), an tUrr John Ardis (An Sciobairín), an tUrr. Denis MacCarthy (Droichead na Bandan), agus bhí an Canónach George Salter agus an tUrr Tony Murphy ó Chumann Gaelach na hEaglaise ag roinnt a saineolais leo. Táimid buíoch do Denis MacCathy a thug an-aire, agus ceapairí álainn, dúinn ann.

Ní thiocfaidh linn dul go Droichead na Bandan gan smaoineamh ar an Onórach Richard Boyle (1st Earl of Desmond) agus a mhac iomráiteach, Robert Boyle, atá clú agus cáil ar de bhrí a chuid oibre ceannródaíochta i gceimice nua-aimseartha. Ach tá clú air Robert Boyle i saol



na Gaeilge freisin de bhrí go raibh ról lárnach aige sa chéad fhoilseachán don Bhíobla i nGaeilge, Bíobla Bedell. Chuir William Bedell tús leis an aistriúchán nuair a bhí sé ina Propast i gColáiste na Tríonóide agus, ina ndiaidh sin, ina Easpag i gCill Mór. Ach fuair sé bás sular raibh an tionscnamh críochnaithe aige. De réir Choláiste an Rí, Londain (According to King's College London):

The manuscript of the translation was rescued by his friend Denis Sheridan, who many years later gave it to Narcissus Marsh (1638–1713), provost of Trinity College Dublin. With the aid of two

Jesuit scholars, Andrew Sall and Paul Higgins, and of the scientist Robert Boyle, Marsh revised the translation. Boyle nursed it through the printing process in London and an edition of 500 copies was finally published in 1685.

Angelina Jolie teams up with Archbishop of Canterbury on sexual violence and Sudan refugee crisis

[Angelina Jolie](#) is teaming up with the head of the Church of England.

The actress and humanitarian met with the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, at Lambeth Palace in London on Thursday, where the two discussed issues surrounding sexual violence, the refugee crisis and South Sudan.

Jolie met with the archbishop in her capacity as a special envoy for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. She was appointed to the post in 2012.

The actress and archbishop have [worked together before](#), and met in 2015 at the opening of the Center for Peace and Security at the



London School of Economics, where she spoke to religious leaders from around the world about ending sexual violence as a weapon of war.

“The role of the U.N. Secretary General’s Special Envoy on Refugees, Angelina Jolie Pitt, is one that has been extraordinary,” [Welby said of Jolie](#) at the time.

He continued, “What she said just now sums up so beautifully the issues we are facing, and puts it so precisely in terms of the challenge that there is. It’s wonderful that she has committed her time, her energy, and has taken great personal risks in order to be able to speak authentically as to what she’s done.”

Earlier in the month, Jolie gave a lecture at the London School of Economics' Centre for Women, Peace and Security, the same place where Jolie, as a visiting professor, will [start teaching a master's course in September](#) on the same subject.

Later in the day, she and her son Maddox, 15, were spotted enjoying a private tour of [Buckingham Palace](#).

Jolie has been overseas commemorating the fifth anniversary of the [Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative \(PSVI\)](#) she helped launch in 2012. She has also been promoting the Time to Act initiative to hold sexual offenders accountable for their war crimes.

Scottish Episcopal Institute launches new Journal

The new Scottish Episcopal Institute Journal is an outreach of the Scottish Episcopal Institute. The Journal highlights the thinking of clergy and laity on living lives of holiness and service as Episcopalians in Scotland in the twenty-first century.

The Scottish Episcopal Church has a breadth and depth of theological acumen, liturgical

expression, pastoral life and ministerial experience. The Journal hopes to share these riches in its new quarterly, peer-reviewed, open-access, online journal. Please see its first issue [here](#).

The Journal – electronic and free to all – welcomes previously unpublished contributions from those who write to advance the Good News of Jesus Christ. The Scottish Episcopal Institute hopes the Journal will be a catalyst for prayer, thought and reflection at the heart of the Scottish Episcopal Church. For details on submitting an article or book review, please look [here](#). For more information, please contact the Rev Dr Michael Hull by email dos@scotland.anglican.org or call 0131 225 6357.

New Director for the Anglican Centre, Rome

The former Primate of the Anglican Church of Burundi, Archbishop Bernard Ntahoturi, has been appointed as the Representative of the Archbishop of Canterbury to the Holy See and Director of the Anglican Centre in Rome. He succeeds Archbishop David Moxon who retires in June.

Archbishop Ntahoturi, who served as Primate of the Anglican Church of Burundi from 2005 until 2016, has been active in seeking peace in war-torn Burundi and the great Lakes region of Africa and has represented the protestant churches of Burundi during the peace and reconciliation negotiations in Tanzania, which were instrumental in bringing peace to Burundi. He also has extensive ecumenical experience and is Chair of the Inter-Anglican Standing Committee on Unity, Faith and Order (IASCUFO).

He said: "I am honoured and delighted to have been appointed: I am looking forward to continuing the work of the dedicated men who have held this post before me. I would like to strengthen those areas, especially in peace building, where the Anglican Church and the Roman Catholic Church can work together for a common witness."

Born in 1948, Archbishop Ntahoturi grew up in a small village in southern Burundi, the son of a poor farming family. After training at Bishop Tucker Theological College in Mukono, Uganda, he was ordained in 1973. He came to England to further his theological training at Ridley Hall and



St John's in Cambridge, where he is now an honorary Fellow, and then at Lincoln College, Oxford. After his studies, he returned to Burundi where he joined the civil service, becoming chief of staff to President Jean-Baptiste Bagaza. After the overthrowing of President Bagaza in 1987, in a military coup, he was jailed from 1987 to 1990. In the 1990s he became Provincial Secretary of the Anglican Church of Burundi and was consecrated in 1997.

Archbishop Ntahouri already speaks French, English, Kirundi and Swahili and is looking forward to learning Italian! He will take over from Archbishop Moxon in September 2017.

The Archbishop of Canterbury welcomed the appointment: “I am personally delighted that Archbishop Bernard Ntahoturi has agreed to take up the joint post of Archbishop’s Representative to the Holy See and Director of the Anglican Centre in Rome. The appointment of a former Primate to this post for the second time running demonstrates the importance I attach to developing the increasingly close relationship between the Anglican Communion and the Roman Catholic Church. Archbishop Bernard has played an immensely valuable role in the life of the Anglican Communion for many years both as a bishop and more recently as a Primate. He also brings extensive ecumenical experience in Burundi, in the Anglican Communion and in the life of the World Council of Churches. I wish him every blessing in his new role.’

Bishop Stephen Platten, Chair of the Anglican Centre, Rome added: “Archbishop Bernard Ntahoturi's appointment as Director is exciting, building on the work of his eminent predecessors. He brings wide ecumenical and international experience as an Anglican Primate in a predominantly Roman Catholic country. He follows directors from Eurasia, the Americas and Australasia and so broadens the base of the Centre in completing our continental spread. It is

excellent that, like his predecessor, he is a former primate and serving archbishop.'

News briefs & Upcoming events

+++ Northern Ireland International Organ Competition - NIIOC has announced that the world-renowned concert organist and teacher Thomas Trotter will be the Chair of the 2017 Competition Jury. Thomas will also be performing in recital and providing masterclasses as part of the Competition - the Seniors on Monday 21 August and Intermediate/Juniors on Tuesday 22 August. NIIOC's new website, will full information, will be coming very shortly but, if you have any queries, please email NIICO at info@niioc.com

+++ Bishop of Brechin to retire - The Right Rev Dr Nigel Peyton has announced that he will retire as Bishop of Brechin on 31 July 2017. Bishop Nigel was consecrated Bishop of Brechin in St Paul's Cathedral Dundee in 2011, returning to the Diocese and city where his ministry began in 1976. In announcing his retirement, Bishop Nigel said, "I shall always be proud and grateful that the Diocese of Brechin has provided the bookends of my 41 years' ministry. My time here has been a privilege, challenging and rewarding

in equal measure. In our city and region, local things matter, and I have enjoyed working with so many good and interesting people”.

Partnering with Church Army, Bishop Nigel pioneered the Dundee Centre of Mission, encouraging outreach initiatives across the diocese under the strategic leadership of a new Diocesan Council. Clergy and lay training have been a priority and he recently inaugurated a new Diocesan Centre at St John the Baptist in Stobswell, Dundee.

+++ Mothers' Union Scotland online

magazine - The spring edition of the Mothers Union (MU) bi-annual Scottish E News is now available . [Scottish E News March 2017](#). This edition focuses on working in Partnership in Scotland and highlights Domestic Abuse, Glasgow and Galloway support families with premature babies, the elderly and the homeless, Study guide launch on domestic abuse. If anyone wants to be added to the mailing list, please contact hilary.moran@btinternet.com

+++ Children and Family Ministry Co-ordinator, Part time

-The Parish of St John the Evangelist, Orangefield (Castlereagh Road,

Belfast) seeks to appoint a Children and Family Ministry Coordinator (Part-time). The parish states:

- To oversee our ministry to children and families.
- To develop discipleship of children within the church.
- To develop new and existing ways of serving children and families in our local community.
- To inspire and engage the wider church in supporting this ministry.

We are looking for:

- A committed Christian, who can demonstrate a love of children and a desire to help them thrive and grow in a relationship with God.
- A self-starter who will take prayerful initiative in pioneering and developing children and family ministry.
- A well-organised communicator and team player.

Hours and Salary: 20 hours per week.

Salary is negotiable, depending on experience, within the range £10,363 to £11,343 (NJC Pay Scale Point range 20 to 23) per annum. For further information, please contact us on email: office@stjohnsorangeield.org or telephone: 028 9070 4493. Closing date: April 28, 2017

+++ Cathedral Verger Dublin wanted - Christ Church Cathedral is seeking suitably experienced candidates to join our Verging team to work in a busy working cathedral environment, and one of Ireland's top heritage attractions. The Vergers' responsibility is to care for the cathedral's upkeep, maintenance and security and to welcome all who enter it. The Vergers play an important part in ensuring the proper functioning of the Cathedral as a place of worship and for the many other roles and activities which it serves. A detailed job description and job application form are available at: [Christ Church Cathedral Verger Job Description](#) [Application Form](#) Application closing date: Friday 24th March 2017. Applications should be sent to: Recruitment, Christ Church Cathedral, Christchurch Place, Dublin 8, Or by email: careers@christchurch.ie

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