



Joyful blend of performance and worship at Kerygma Choir concert

Concertgoers enjoyed a joyful blend of performance and worship with the Kerygma Good News Choir from Down and Dromore diocese in St Anne's Cathedral on Saturday evening. The choir was joined by 27 musicians and an audience of 500 for 'A Night of

Celebration Praise' hosted by BBC broadcast journalist Will Leitch.

Led by Director, Lorna Palmer, the choir and soloists showed their versatility with pieces ranging from classical through to traditional hymns, African–American spirituals and contemporary songs. There were also 4 solo instrumental performances: Jonny Campbell–Smyth on clarinet; Orly Watson on organ; Raymond Robinson on flute and Philip Walton on violin.

Kerygma (from the Greek κήρυγμα kérugma) means 'preaching' or 'proclaiming' and this was reflected in the programme. Will Leitch hosted with a blend of gentle humour and thoughtful reflection as the choir and orchestra took the audience on a musical journey through the gospel from Christ's advent to his return and heaven.

Each half began with worship, praise and adoration before picking up the gospel themes with pieces such as Michael Card's 'Immanuel' speaking of the incarnation and 'Give me Jesus,' a beautiful African–American Spiritual, reminding us of his guidance, comfort and strength.



The audience joined the choir for a rendition of Robin Mark's 'Days of Elijah,' before Revd Dr Heather Morris shared a meditation on 'Joining Jesus'. Heather is a long-time friend of the diocese and currently serves as Secretary for Home Missions in the Methodist Church in Ireland.

In part two the cross and salvation was the theme, with moving pieces such as 'Via Dolorosa' by N. Borup and B. Sprague and 'Behold the Man' by J. Owens. The audience joined in for 'Amazing Grace' before Heather spoke for the second time and gently invited those present to respond to God's gracious offer of forgiveness.

The final triumphant section in the programme celebrated Christ's return and pointed towards heaven. 'The Holy City' by F.E Weatherly and S. Adams was snugly the choir and the audience sang along with 'God's Choir in the Sky' by R.Overholt. The evening finished with Kerygma singing Rutter's arrangement of 'When the Saints Go Marching In' with a reprise that included the audience.

Ballymena Presbytery's support for Michelin workers facing closure

The Presbytery of Ballymena has issued the following statement - "The Presbytery of Ballymena is aware that this most recent announcement, following other announcements of closures and job losses, adds further to the massive economic difficulties already being faced by many in the Ballymena area.

"Presbytery, through its 31 local congregations, will seek to offer prayerful and pastoral support to families and individuals who are impacted, directly or indirectly, by this most recent announcement of closure, and to the many other people who are facing anxiety and uncertainty

due to other redundancies, pressure on businesses and retailers, and challenging times in the agricultural sector.

“Presbytery calls on all of its congregations to engage in prayer for individuals and families who are experiencing the stress and pressure of the present economic conditions.

“Presbytery, as part of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, recognising the challenges presented by a global economy, adds its voice in urging and encouraging all who have the influence, or means, to further intensify their efforts to seek the creation of new employment opportunities, support local enterprise, and bring inward investment to our area.

“Presbytery is thankful for, and proud of, the men and women who have worked for many years in Michelin and other enterprises facing closure and prays that Almighty God will, in his wise providence and mercy, create conditions which will restore economic wellbeing to the Ballymena area.”

Cabra church receives eco - award

The Church of the Most Precious Blood, Cabra, has received an Eco-Congregation Ireland award in recognition of its many eco-friendly initiatives.

Since 2008 the local parish has been going 'green' through projects such as transforming wasteland into a garden and holding an annual blessing of pets.

'Care for the Earth' is a frequent theme in sermons and every year children in local schools design eco-care posters which are displayed in the church.

Some parishioners have even started growing fruit and vegetables in their gardens and last autumn they brought their produce to a church Harvest Festival, which was then distributed after the final Eucharist of the day.

Eco-Congregation Ireland (ECI), an ecumenical project of the Irish Inter-Church Meeting, awards parishes that have incorporated environmental care into all aspects of parish life.

Congratulating Cabra West on its award, ECI's Catholic representative, Catherine Brennan SSL, said: "It is quite clear to me that here in Cabra West you are already living out the call of Pope



Pictured at the presentation by Eco-Congregation are (l-r); Niall Greene, Fr John Greene, Sr Catherine Brennan of Eco-Congregation Ireland, Therese Storey (chairperson of the Parish Pastoral Council), Archbishop Charles Brown - Papal Nuncio, John Nugent and Sr Philomena Neary RSC (Parish Sister)

Francis to care for earth. It's wonderful to see all that you have done."

On receiving the award at his Farewell Mass, celebrated by Papal Nuncio His Excellency The Most Rev Charles Brown, Fr John Greene said: "Having Care for The Earth and Ecology as a

priority has been important for the parish team since 2008.”

Fr Greene has now returned to Chile where he worked previously as a missionary. He is confident, however, that Care for the Earth will continue to be a priority in Cabra West, especially with the added inspiration and motivation of Pope Francis’s recent encyclical *Laudato Si*.

Rich styles to be presented at Armagh’s November organ recital

The current organ recital series in St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral, Armagh will continue on Sunday 15 November 2015 at 4.15pm, when the recitalist will be Raymond Russell.

Raymond started organ lessons at St Ann’s Church, Dublin, with William Watson and was appointed to his first church organ position at the age of sixteen. While reading Physics at Trinity College, Dublin he was appointed Organ Scholar, with responsibility for directing the Chapel Choir.

He has held a number of church music posts in Drogheda and Dublin. He resumed his organ studies with Anne Marsden Thomas in 1997, subsequently gaining the ARCO diploma. Since then he has attended many courses and master classes in France, Switzerland, Germany and England and currently studies with Gerdi Troskie in Worcester. Raymond is a former Deputy Principal of a secondary school and is currently Director of Music at Monkstown Parish Church, which has a strong musical tradition in south County Dublin. He has inaugurated a very successful annual lunchtime series of organ recitals in May after a major restoration of the three manual organ.

Raymond explains his interest in the organ, “I was always attracted to the organ sound, listening to Ralph Downes playing Bach organ works on the radio, and to my local church organ when I was in the junior choir. I wished to learn the organ first but was persuaded to learn to play the piano instead, which I did to Grade 6, and then began organ lessons when I joined St Ann’s choir in Dublin. There I developed a real love for liturgical music and the organ repertoire. At Trinity College I continued my organ studies with

David Leigh and was appointed organ scholar in my final year.”

With reference to the recital programme for Armagh, Raymond says, “ I have chosen a variety of styles of organ pieces from across the centuries and the audience will hear some of the rich musical organ culture of Germany, France and England. The organ is not heard frequently enough nowadays and so I am passionate about making known the musical value of the wide repertoire of the organ to more listeners.”

The Very Revd Gregory Dunstan, Dean of Armagh, says, “Raymond promises us a programme of Bach, Mendelssohn, Vierne and Bridge. We look forward to welcoming another organist from Dublin to be part of our recital series, and hope that he, like so many of our other visitors, will enjoy playing the Cathedral organ.”

As with all the recitals in this series, admission is free, with a retiring collection towards the further endowment of the Cathedral Choir through the Archbishop’s Choir Fund.

Moderator meets police officers in Enniskillen

Accompanied by his wife Anne, Rev. David Cupples of Enniskillen Presbyterian Church and Rev. Rodney Beacom of Lisbellaw, they were met by Chief Inspector Joe McMinn, Area Commander of PSNI's Fermanagh and Omagh District.

During the afternoon visit, the Moderator heard first-hand of the changes that policing in the district had undergone and the challenges that the Police Service face in policing such a large area. Presentations were also given by a number of different departments on various aspects of policing. These included CID, Neighbourhood Policing, Operational and Emergency Planning.

It was a privilege to be able to visit Enniskillen police station and meet Chief Inspector McMinn and his colleagues who work so very hard to keep the people of Omagh and Fermanagh safe," Dr. McNie said.

"We also heard of the challenges that the Police Service face in policing such a large rural area in the face of diminishing resources, but were



The Moderator, Rt. Rev. Ian McNie (centre) with (left to right) Rev. David Cupples, Minister of Enniskillen Presbyterian Church, Chief Inspector Joe McMinn, Area Commander of PSNI's Fermanagh and Omagh District, Moderator, Rev. Rodney Beacom, Minister of Lisbellaw, Lisnaskea, Maguiresbridge and Newtownbutler.

encouraged by a number of success stories and improving community relations in parts of the district, which was good to hear.

“During my visit I was able to assure Chief Inspector McMinn and his colleagues that the Church was behind them in their work and in our

prayers. We also discussed practical ways in which local congregations, not just in Fermanagh and Omagh, could forge closer links with their local Police Service; praying for them regularly and getting to know them better,” Dr. McNie said.

Each year the Moderator makes a week-long tour of three of the Church’s 19 Presbyteries – local bodies across Ireland that are made up of a minister and an elder from each congregation in a particular area – preaching in local churches, encouraging congregations and seeing the work that they are doing in the communities where God has placed them.

The Presbytery of Omagh includes 40 churches and covers most of West Tyrone and all of County Fermanagh, where there are congregations in Lisbellaw, Lisnaskea, Maguiresbridge, Newtownbutler, Pettigo, Irvinestown and Tempo. There has been a congregation in Enniskillen since 1676.

Media digest

BBC/ITV/Guard/Mail on Sunday

Reports on the Royal British Legion's annual Festival of Remembrance commemorating all those who have lost their lives in conflicts and attended by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh at the Royal Albert Hall.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-34753730>

<http://www.itv.com/news/2015-11-08/queen-attends-royal-british-legion-remembrance-festival/>

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/nov/07/queen-and-party-leaders-honour-war-dead-at-festival-of-remembrance>

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3308409/Solemn-services-remember-war-dead-widows-head-Cenotaph-London-senior-Royals-prepare-pay-respects-Festival-Remembrance.html?](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3308409/Solemn-services-remember-war-dead-widows-head-Cenotaph-London-senior-Royals-prepare-pay-respects-Festival-Remembrance.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

[ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3308409/Solemn-services-remember-war-dead-widows-head-Cenotaph-London-senior-Royals-prepare-pay-respects-Festival-Remembrance.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3308640/The-dignified-Duchess-Kate-elegant-demure-black-lace-dress-joins-Wills-Queen-Festival-Remembrance.html?](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3308640/The-dignified-Duchess-Kate-elegant-demure-black-lace-dress-joins-Wills-Queen-Festival-Remembrance.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

[ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3308640/The-dignified-Duchess-Kate-elegant-demure-black-lace-dress-joins-Wills-Queen-Festival-Remembrance.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

Mail on Sunday

Report that the Roman Catholic Church has told its schools to teach Judaism alongside Christianity in GCSE religious studies following reforms last year to the GCSE exam which mean schools are required to teach two religions rather than one. The decision is criticised by the former secretary general of the Muslim Council of Britain Sir Iqbal Sacranie.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3308725/The-Roman-Catholic-Church-centre-row-ordering-schools-teach-Judaism-alongside-Christianity-GCSE-religious-studies-ruling-Islam-faiths.html>

BBC

Video feature on Tom Elliott, a committed Christian and comedian, magician and entertainer who tours churches of all denominations. The feature asks if the spirit of comedy and evangelism can mix

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-34715763>

Independent

Article telling the story of Sukha, one of the 1.5 million Indians who fought alongside the British in the First World War who is buried in St Nicholas Church in Brockenhurst, with a headstone bought with contributions from parishioners.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/forgotten-role-of-indian-soldiers-who-served-in-first-world-war-marked-at-last-a6725851.html>

Mail on Sunday

Columnist Peter Hitchens writes in a blog entry that he is not alone in his concerns about the treatment of the late Bishop of Chichester George Bell.

His remarks follow the [announcement last month](#) of the settlement of a legal civil claim and apology by the Bishop of Chichester, Martin Warner, concerning allegations of sexual abuse against George Bell, who was Bishop of Chichester from 1929 until his death in 1958. These date from the late 1940s and early 1950s and concern

allegations of sexual offences against an individual who was at the time a young child.
<http://hitchensblog.mailonsunday.co.uk/2015/11/an-article-from-the-church-of-england-newspaper-about-george-bell-.html>

BBC/Mail

HM The Queen will lead tributes as Britain pays its respects to the country's war dead this weekend. The monarch will attend the annual Royal Festival of Remembrance at the Albert Hall tonight, before laying a wreath at the Cenotaph in Whitehall on Sunday.
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-34753730>
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-3307865/Queen-lead-nation-silent-tribute-war-dead.html>

BBC/ITV/FT

The Archbishop of York has launched a community bank in Tynedale Northumberland. Run by volunteers, the bank will offer a community-based alternative for savers, and those in financial need who might have previously turned to pay day lenders. Speaking at the launch in Hexham,

Archbishop John described the initiative as "wonderful".

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-tyne-34745860>

<http://www.itv.com/news/tyne-tees/update/2015-11-06/archbishop-of-york-opens-northumberland-community-bank/>

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/2191f524-8481-11e5-8095-ed1a37d1e096.html?FTCamp=engage/CAP/webapp/Channel> Moreover//
[B2B#axzz3qmqirCEj](http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/2191f524-8481-11e5-8095-ed1a37d1e096.html?FTCamp=engage/CAP/webapp/Channel)

Ind

Canon Jeremy Pemberton, whose claims against Bishop John Inwood, former Acting Bishop of Southwell, were dismissed at employment tribunal this week, has told the *Independent* that he intends to continue to pursue his case. In April 2014 Canon Pemberton acted contrary to House of Bishops guidelines by marrying his long term same-sex partner in a civil ceremony. Consequently, Bishop Richard Inwood removed his permission to officiate within the diocese and later refused to grant a licence

which was a condition of appointment to a position as hospital chaplain. In a 58-page judgement delivered this week, the claim that the bishop had discriminated unlawfully against Mr Pemberton because of his sexual orientation was dismissed. He tells the paper that his lawyers believe there are “ample grounds” for appeal and insisted he would continue to fight his case as it was “a matter of public interest”.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/gay-vicar-denounces-immoral-church-of-england-and-vows-to-fight-on-after-being-sacked-over-his-a6724756.html>

Tel

Government officials are concerned that a blood test for Down's Syndrome could be used by women who want to find out the sex of their baby and then abort the foetus. A Department of Health review into “sex selective” abortions found that a simple blood test for genetic abnormalities is being used to determine a baby's gender and needs to be monitored.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/health/11980660/Experts-worried-pre-natal-blood-test-might-lead-to-sex-selective-abortion.html>

Times/Mail/Tel/Guard/Even Stand

A brother and sister have begun a legal hearing at the High Court over the type of funeral afforded to their late mother and where she should be buried. Iris Freud died on October 12, but her body remains unburied. Reports say Susanna Levrant, wants a Church of England funeral for her mother with “much loved hymns”. However, her brother David Freud, wants an “austere” funeral in line with Jewish mourning rites, and no music. The case continues.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/law/article4607334.ece>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3307306/Christian-woman-Jewish-brother-court-fight-mother-s-burial.html>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/law-and-order/11980060/Siblings-in-High-court-battle-over-whether-mother-should-be-buried-in-Jewish-or-Christian-ceremony.html>

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/nov/06/siblings-church-of-england-jewish-high-court-mother-funeral>

<http://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/feuding-brother-and-sister-in-biblical-high-court-battle-over-mothers-body-a3108461.html>

Guard

Children from religious families are less kind and more punitive than those from non-religious households, according to a new study. Researchers from seven universities across the world studied Christian, Muslim and non-religious children to test the relationship between religion and morality. They found that religious belief is a negative influence on children's altruism.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/nov/06/religious-children-less-altruistic-secular-kids-study>