

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – By Thy Cross and Passion

News reports

The Knitted Bible is coming to Glencraig



This Harvest Season, Holy Trinity Glencraig will host The Knitted Bible, a display of thirty Bible stories depicted in a fun and creative way by Fiona Storer, who is registered blind.

When: Wednesday 12 October and Thursday 13 October from 4–8.00pm

Despite being registered blind, Fiona felt it was important for people to have hope, to come together and to support each other through difficult experiences, such as her own mother's cancer journey. So, Fiona knitted the Bible and takes some of her stories to community groups, raising money for local cancer charities in the process.



Local schools will be coming along for class assembly and RE lessons whilst the display will be open to the public as above.

Donations are welcome and will go towards the parish Raise the Roof Building Fund and B Positive (a local children's cancer charity).

The exhibition will still be in the church for Glencraig's Harvest Sunday services on 16 October at 11.00am and 7.00pm.

C of I Archbishop and QUB Professor at symposium for young people in Mullingar this Friday

This Friday, October 7, from 11am – 1pm, there will be a special symposium held for young people in All Saints' Church, Mullingar.



The theme of the symposium is 'How to build a good society, and are you ready to do so'. The speakers will be the Church of Ireland Archbishop of Armagh, Most Revd John McDowell and Professor Katy Hayward, professor of Political Sociology at Queen's University Belfast (Photo above).

At a time when society in the world is facing so many challenges this symposium enables young people to explore how to build a good society.

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Archbishop McDowell's interventions before the Brexit agreement with British Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, are well recorded in the press.

Professor Hayward has worked with civic organisations and cross-border bodies and her latest book 'What do we know and what do we do about the Irish Border?' has been widely acclaimed.



The Symposium is being supported by all the Christian Churches in the Mullingar area and will also be attended by Mr Pat Gallagher, Chief Executive Westmeath County Council, John Geoghegan President Mullingar Chamber of Commerce, and elected representatives.

For further information about the symposium please contact Revd Alastair Graham (087-787 0985). Acknowledgment - Westmeath Examiner



Armagh prepares for Songs of Praise

Claire McCollum and the team from BBC 'Songs of Praise' have visited the Cathedral. t

The team recorded interviews with the Dean, Very Revd Dhane Forster and Ecumenical Canon Dom Mark-Ephrem Nolan OSB.

The interviews will form part of a 'Songs of Praise' from Armagh which will be broadcast on Sunday 23rd October 2022 at 1.15pm on BBC1.



Foresight - Fom The Chicago Sun-Times 1962

Destination event for Connor youth

As young people and their leaders get their breath back after the fun and excitement of Connor Takes the Castle, plans are already underway for the next diocesan youth event.

Destination is a series of events run by young people for young people, and the next get together will take place on Friday December 2 in All Saints', Antrim, Parish Centre.

Diocesan Youth Officer Christina Baillie said: "The young people from our Diocesan Youth Forum will be planning and running this evening so it will definitely be a lot of fun!"

The evening, which starts with dinner at 7pm, followed by fun, activities, and worship, and ends at 9.30pm, is for young people aged 11-18 and their leaders.

More information will be available soon on the Engage Connor Youth's social media pages (Instagram and Facebook), as well as the Destination event Instagram page.

Any young people interested in joining Connor Youth Forum should contact Christina at christinabaillie@connordiocese.org. It is open to young people aged 15 and over, with up to two representatives from each parish.

Charity trustee and Governance training for Republic of Ireland select vestry members

Trustee training sessions for Republic of Ireland select vestry members are due to begin this month, hosted by Mrs Janet Maxwell, Head of Synod Services in the RCB.

As part of the ongoing programme to register all parishes in the Republic with the Charities Regulatory Authority (CRA), these short sessions aim to provide all members of select vestries in Republic of Ireland parishes with key information to assist them with their roles as trustees under charity governance regulation and to answer any questions they may have on the topic.

Vestry members of Parishes in the Republic which are already registered with the CRA will receive additional training over the coming weeks to assist them with the year-end Governance Code Compliance reporting.

Nine trustee training and four governance compliance sessions will take place in the evening of select days in the first two weeks in October, with further training sessions to occur in November and the new year. A full breakdown of the dates and times of these sessions can be found on Parish Resources on the C of I web site..

A link to attend each of these meetings can be obtained from the diocesan secretaries.

Bishop says community needs to know that churches are open and ready to welcome people back

The Bishop of Clogher, the Right Revd Dr Ian Ellis, presided at his first Synod in person since his election as bishop.

In his presidential address, Bishop Ellis said the church is now on the reconstruction phase as it rebuilds from the Coronavirus pandemic.

He told parish representatives attending: “We had good safety reasons for holding back from offering our full programme of activities in parish life, but, now is the time to open the doors of our halls and all our organisations to restart and hopefully flourish again. Now is the time to make some noise to tell the community that churches are open, and that we want to welcome people in.”

He encouraged those involved in parishes to be as creative as they can to reach into parish communities and help parishioners reconnect with church life, saying it will take effort and grace and leading of the Holy Spirit.

Looking back over his first 18 months as bishop, he said the common thread has been rejuvenation as new members of the diocesan clergy team have been welcomed into the diocese.

Bishop Ellis then referred to the cost of living crisis.

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“The greatest challenge facing our society in coming months is the cost-of-living crisis. Increasing fuel bills and food and commodity costs will have a huge impact on households and businesses. This is especially so for families who are on low incomes, single parents, those coping with disability and the elderly. Local businesses too will be placed under enormous strain to meet rising utility bills, with the potential for business closure and unemployment. Economists tell us that the stark reality is that most families are only two pay cheques away from being in debt.

“In recent weeks our church leaders have called for action from our governments to address the financial losses many are going to face over this winter with crippling costs of living. It looks like the new UK Prime Minister and Chancellor are going to introduce some measures to help and begin to address these fears. The government of the Republic of Ireland has also made some announcements in this week’s Budget to address cost of living pressures in its jurisdiction. However, there is a real sense of impending crisis in the minds of the vulnerable and needy families across these islands with many feeling they have lost control of their lives.

“I made a couple of comments during my Enthronement address about this. There are many who will at this time need pastoral support or our healing ministry and the caring friendship of parishioners. But we must also engage in relevant ways with wider society and bring practical help where we can whether that is through a food bank or meals for the elderly or befriending services or whatever outreach we can offer. I know some of you are trying various approaches – but we are all going to be called on to apply



Taking part in the Clogher Diocesan Synod were (from left): Mrs Rosemary Barton, Honorary Secretary of Diocesan Synod; Mr Adrian Colmer KC, Assessor; Dean Kenneth Hall; Bishop Ian Ellis; Mr Glenn Moore, Diocesan Secretary; and Archdeacon Brian Harper.

our imagination and resources to bring help where we can and that will look different in each parish. If we fail, we will not only appear irrelevant and uncaring, we will also be ignoring the biblical injunctions to care for the poor and needy.

“This is a key moment for the future of our church, we must reach out and be relevant and welcoming.”

Clogher Diocese provides assistance to needy families through the Clogher Diocesan Social Fund whose primary purpose is to provide grants to families of Church of Ireland children who have lost a parent, for the period of the children's education. It also can provide one-off hardship grants to other families.

Bishop Ellis said rising costs of living may eventually impact parish finances. He said: "Churches too will face increased energy costs and perhaps reduced parochial contributions. As a diocese during the pandemic, we were able to provide diocesan support grants for all parishes. The first year we gave £2,000 per parish church, the next year £1,000 and we are assessing this year if we can support parishes again although is likely to be much less than previous two covid grants. However, the diocese will respond to parishes as generously as it can."

He continued: "One of the delights of being a bishop is to travel around the parishes to conduct confirmations and I have conducted 40 confirmation services in the past 18 months! It is very invigorating to be with young people and a great honour to bring the rite of confirmation and witness their commitment to Christ and his church.

"All of us a clergy challenged at times to connect with what young people are concerned about. One of the Lambeth conference calls was around the environment and sustainable development. We are called to live out our Anglican fifth Mark of Mission to strive to safeguard creation and sustain the life of the earth. I think young people really do identify with this and it is an area we can work together on.

“An initiative from Lambeth is the idea of the Communion Forest – it is a practical way of responding to this call. We are invited to respond to it by enthusing people about helping with afforestation, providing habitats, protecting ecosystems and recognising the interconnectedness of all life on earth. I think most parishioners and young people especially will respond to this.

“The Archbishop of Canterbury’s idea is that as a symbol of spiritual growth, perhaps at confirmation and other key life and faith moments, young people might plant a sapling or do something together to protect a habitat, take part in an environment project – it will vary depending on your area and setting and may be more possible for some than others. I would encourage clergy to give this some thought and leave the idea with you to develop. There is lots of inspiration on the website: Anglican Communion Forest [www.communionforest.org].”

Bishop Ellis went on to pay tribute to the late Majesty Queen Elizabeth who he said had been someone who was the constant in our national life for over 70 years. He said: “We have just come through the period of national mourning and witnessed so many beautiful and touching services of remembrance and tributes to her life. Her funeral service was one which was watched by millions of people and so impressive and deeply moving.

“There is no doubt that through it all that Christianity has been to the forefront and indeed the Anglican Church, with its dignified BCP liturgies has left a deep impression on many people. Today, we mark once again our late Queen’s

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passing and thank God for her wonderful gifts of faith and service.”

He also paid tribute to a former Bishop Brian Hannon, who died in January. He said he had been their much loved and fondly remembered Bishop in Clogher Diocese.

“His very moving funeral service had a restricted attendance due to the pandemic however many thousands joined virtually on the Cathedral live stream. His good friend Archbishop Robin Eames gave the sermon at the service and other bishops from the Church of Ireland were present to present their own tributes. We were able to offer our thanksgiving to God for Brian’s unique episcopal ministry in Clogher for over 10 years through some of the darkest days of the troubles in Fermanagh. We offer to his wife Maeve our continued prayers and good wishes.”

Bishop Ellis finished off his address by referring to diocesan administration, thanking all those who had played key roles in the diocese during the year.

Concluding, he said; “These are very challenging times we live in. I find it helpful to reflect on something a retired bishop said to me on my election. He said: ‘Remember the building of the Kingdom of God does not just depend upon you – it is the work of God.’ Let’s all remember that – God calls us to join with him in labouring in this vineyard but ultimately it belongs to him and he alone holds the future of his church. May we move forward together in prayer and faith asking for the Spirit of God to lead us.”

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The Clogher Diocesan Synod was held in St Macartin's Cathedral Hall, Enniskillen, on Thursday, 29th September.

Heritage



St Andrew's Church, Malahide celebrates 200th anniversary

Built in 1822 and partly funded by Lord Talbot of Malahide Castle, St Andrew's Church, Malahide this year celebrates its bicentennial year and is holding a range of events to mark the occasion, Ken Phelan writes in the Fingal Independent.

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Largely built as a place of worship for those who worked in the castle, as Malahide expanded so did the church itself, which was further extended in 2004.

St Andrew's, once one of the smallest Church of Ireland congregations in the diocese of Dublin, has gone on to become one of the largest in North County Dublin.

Rev Canon David Gillespie of St Andrew's Church tells The Fingal Independent how the church will celebrate its 200th year: "There's a series of events taking place really between now and the end of the year, reaching into 2023 as well.

"There's a concert with the band of An Garda Síochána and the Garda Ladies Choir, on the 15th of October in the Portmarnock Links Hotel. We're selling tickets for that at the moment and that's promising to be a great fun night with a lot of audience participation.

"We also have the church choir, who are broadcasting a morning service on RTÉ television. It's being recorded this coming Sunday week, October the 2nd for transmission on Sunday the 9th of October at 11 o'clock.

"We're also expecting a visit from the Primate of the Church of Ireland, the most reverend John McDowell and also Archbishop Michael Jackson. That will be a thanksgiving service on the Sunday nearest St Andrew's Day, which is held on November 27."

St Andrew's was expanded in 2004, but more recently extensive work has been carried out internally to the roof, with the ceilings completely replaced.

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The walls of the church were also relined and plastered and new flooring was installed, with tentative plans to now make room for more parishioners at the front of the church.

Rev Gillespie is a relatively new addition to St Andrew's, having joined the church in November 2021. He has, in his own words, had to "hit the ground running", in terms of organising events for the bicentenary.

Speaking of his parishioners, Rev Gillespie says the people of Malahide are "very enthusiastic" and "very committed to their church", adding there's a "great sense of community in the place."

That sense of community, he points out, comes not only from Church of Ireland worshippers, but also "from our Presbyterian and Roman Catholic neighbours as well."

On his role as Reverend in St Andrew's, a position which he has held for less than a year, Rev Gillespie says: "It was a big change for me, I came from St Anne's Church in Dawson Street, which is beside the Mansion House in Dublin City Centre.

"It's a very different style of ministry but I'm enjoying Malahide immensely, there's a lot more people around and I'm enjoying working with young people.

"I'm enjoying it very much indeed, it is a lovely part of the world to live in. I might say the people are very very proud, and rightly so of their church."



Overview by Malahide Historical Society

Built in 1822 at a cost of £1,200, St. Andrew's church was financed by a loan of £276 18s, a donation of £92 6s from Col. Richard Wogan Talbot (later the second Baron Talbot) and a gift of £830 15s from the Board of First Fruits. The latter was an institution of the Church of Ireland that was established in 1711 by Queen Anne, in order to build and improve churches and glebe houses in Ireland. It was funded from taxes collected on clerical incomes which were in turn funded by tithes.

A contemporary writer described the building as 'a neat edifice, in the later English style'. One of the former rectors, the Rev. Robert Walsh, in his book 'Fingal and its Churches' published in 1888 described it thus:

‘The church is Gothic in style and though it has no special architectural attractions, its general appearance, as well as its striking position on the tree-crowned slope of Malahide Hill, combine to make it one of the prettiest of the Fingal churches.’

It was enlarged in 1870 or 1874 by the addition of the south aisle to its present cruciform shape. The organ was installed just over one hundred years ago and part-financed by the philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. Further renovation work took place in the 1930s/40s and a side chapel was added in recent times.

The church contains some fine stained glass windows, depicting Biblical scenes. The street name "Church Road" or "Church Street" dates from the construction of St. Andrew's Church. The tranquil graveyard to the rear, reserved for parishioners, is well worth a respectful visit. Here, the gravestones recall famous names and some of Malahide's best known past residents including members of the Talbot family and the artists Nathaniel Hone and Flora Mitchell.

Following the tragic wreck of the ‘Tayleur’ on Lambay in 1854 two unidentified bodies were brought to shore for the official inquest held in Mr. Fagan's Hotel (now the Grand Hotel). The deceased were of unknown faith and when they came to be buried no church would claim them. Eventually they were laid to rest in unmarked graves under the gravel forecourt of St. Andrew's.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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