

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – New leader of CL & CG Brigade

October 8, 2025

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New leader of Church Lads & Church Girls Brigade

Congratulations and blessings to Armagh Diocesan Reader Martin Clayton who has been installed as Ulster Regimental Commander of the Church Lads and Church Girls Brigade

News

New interns commissioned at Dublin and Glendalough Youth Council's Big Day Out



Young people and their youth group leaders converged on Taney.

Over 100 young people from all over the dioceses converged on Taney on Saturday afternoon (October 4) for Dublin and Glendalough Youth Council's Big Day Out. An afternoon of fun activities, barbeque and live music led up to a history-making youth service during which DGYC's first ever interns, Molly Clarke and Nana O'Sullivan, were commissioned by Archbishop Michael Jackson.

Organised by Dublin and Glendalough's Youth Ministry Coordinator, Emma Fawcett, young people came from Kill O' the Grange, Rathfarnham, Taney, Kilternan, Castleknock and Clonsilla, Rathmines, Redcross and Wicklow as well as from the newest youth group in the dioceses, Rathmichael.



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Molly comes to DGYC from Nelson in New Zealand via Holy Trinity, Rathmines. She moved to Ireland last year to study in Bow Street Academy and found a warm welcome in Holy Trinity where one of the Curates encouraged her to apply for the internship. “I grew up Christian and my parents had a huge hand in shaping my faith. I definitely found a more personal relationship with God around the age of 16 or

17 but it was developed through youth groups so I feel very privileged to be working with Dublin's young people," she explains. Molly will serve her internship in Kilternan Parish.

Nana is a third year student at University College Dublin where she studies English with Creative Writing. She is Irish and South African and attended a lot of house churches growing up before arriving at Holy Trinity, Rathmines where she came to know and appreciate Anglicanism. She will serve her placement in Kill O' the Grange. "I am excited to join the youth ministry team there and will do my best to ensure young people know that God loves them as they are right now, that we will receive and value them in whatever way they arrive to youth group and that any questions they will have will be explored. And perhaps most importantly, I want them to experience the joy of the Lord and have fun," she comments.

Introducing the youth service, DGYC chairperson, Canon Alan Breen, said they were gathering to commission "two fantastic women who realise God has a call in their lives". He encouraged the young people to look around the church and reflect on the afternoon of activities and realise that they are not alone. "You can get together and have fun and connect with church. For all of us, God has a call on our lives," he added.

The Revd Scott Evans addressed the service focusing on the Parable of the Sower [Matthew 13].



Molly and Nana leading the prayers

He observed that the story was not about wheat, seeds or farms but rather it was about potential. “The one sowing the seed knows that it has the potential to grow because the soil has potential for life to flow from it. Like each one of us, it can be a source of life, growth and nourishment for others,” he said examining the different aspects of life that stop people flourishing.

He continued: “Let me tell you this. You are soil with boundless potential. You may feel walked all over and beaten down but — if you let this in — there is so much that God wants to do in and through you”.

Molly and Nana were not just being sent out to throw seed, he said. “You are being invited to join in our sacred mission,” he told them. “Those in ministry in God’s church are not just

called to be throwers of seed who resign ourselves to the inevitability that there are some places in this world where life just will not grow. You are being invited to join with us in the crucial act of transforming places of limit into gardens of abundance — teeming with God's life."

Before commissioning Molly and Nana, Archbishop Jackson continued the harvest theme. He said we need the seasons and the new interns would need to trust in the ground and the elements and the soil where they would work. He said we all have a ministry which is shared. He told Molly and Nana that they are not in ministry alone and they are surrounded by people who care for them and want them to flourish. "I hope you will continue to be examples to other people who will, in turn, become interns in the way you have committed yourselves to this ministry," he said.

Molly and Nana led prayers during the service and worship was led by the wonderful Anna Shepherd and her band.
https://dublin.anglican.org/news/2025/10/06/big-day-out-for-youth?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=facebook

Smyth's Zimbabwe victims take legal action against CofE

Victims who were abused by the late barrister John Smyth in Zimbabwe are taking legal action against the Church of England.

According to Channel 4 News, the Law firm Leigh Day has made a claim against St Andrew the Great in Cambridge which was previously known as the "round church". In 1982,



From Eglantine Parish Festival of Flowers. The RAF standard is a reminder of the WW2 air station adjacent to the church and the War graves of fatalities in the church yard

its vicar, Mark Ruston, compiled a report which gave a detailed account of abuse being perpetrated by Smyth. But no action was taken, and Smyth was allowed to relocate to Zimbabwe two years later.

An independent review into Smyth's abuse was published in November 2024. It described him as the Church of England's most serial abuser after he was found to have abused more than 100 boys and young men, many of whom

he had met at Christian Summer camps. He died in 2018 before he could face justice.

Sixteen-year-old Guide Nyachuru died at one of Smyth's Christian camps in Zimbabwe in 1992. His sister Edith has now joined forces with seven other Zimbabwean victims to demand compensation from the Church of England.

Another victim, Rocky Leanders, told Channel 4 News that the "emotional toll" on victims is "now significant" and that he had lost trust in religion and humanity because "people who were in a position of trust have abused that trust".

A Church of England spokesperson said: "We are truly sorry for the horrendous abuse carried out by John Smyth and the lifelong effects on survivors, both here and in Africa. The Church in South Africa has already carried out its own review. We have been in contact with the Church in Zimbabwe and offered to support and contribute financially to any review that it might choose to undertake".

A spokesperson for St Andrew the Great Church in Cambridge said: "We are full of sorrow about the horrendous abuse carried out by John Smyth which has had lifelong effects on survivors, both here and in Africa, and that he was not stopped sooner.

"While we are unable to comment on the specifics of this claim, we take the safety and wellbeing of our congregation, staff and volunteers extremely seriously and follow Church of England's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance designed to protect vulnerable people.



A Halloween post box topper in Belfast

“If anyone has been affected by this issue and wants to talk to someone independently, please call the Safe Spaces helpline on 0300 303 1056.

‘Repentance’ needed for lasting Israel-Gaza peace, says Christian expert

“A ceasefire is a temporary halt to the armed conflict,” said John Heathershaw, Professor of International Relations at Exeter University. “But peace is an enduring period of time where not only does war end, but there is something like the biblical term ‘shalom’; peace and justice.”

A comprehensive peace agreement involving sincere repentance is the only way forward in the Middle East, according to a Christian international relations expert.

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US President Donald Trump has urged both parties meeting in Egypt for discussions to “move fast”.

“A ceasefire is a temporary halt to the armed conflict,” said John Heathershaw, Professor of International Relations at Exeter University. “But peace is an enduring period of time where not only does war end, but there is something like the biblical term ‘shalom’; peace and justice.”

“We’re not going to get to that point unless we have something really comprehensive,” said Heathershaw. “That requires repentance by those who have been

The floral arranger at Eglantine certainly had an eye for the hue of the Mothers’ Union banner at Eglantine Parish’s floral festival marking its 150th anniversary



And these are very, very big asks in this context.” He is doubtful of both parties’ willingness to enter into a long-term agreement, adding that the imbalance of global political power heightens tensions at the negotiating table.

“This is a David against Goliath in military terms, but in reverse,” said Heathershaw. “ Hamas was in a position where it couldn’t say no [to negotiations].”

After Mr Trump threatened to release “all hell” if Hamas did not agree to a deal, the group said it was open to releasing all remaining hostages, living and dead. In return, it wants a prisoner exchange and will not concede control of the Gaza Strip to Israel, but instead welcomes its governance by “a Palestinian body of independents (technocrats), based on Palestinian national consensus and Arab and Islamic support”.

Trump and Netanyahu announced during a joint press conference that they “strongly oppose a Palestinian state.”

The US president also said he would support Israel’s use of force, if Hamas did not agree to a deal within “three to four days”.

Heathershaw is hopeful for some pause, if only to return hostages and boost Netanyahu’s national ratings ahead of Israel’s elections in 2026.

“There is real hope that we will see an end to military action in Gaza for a period of time,” he said.

“But it may be that Hamas does not release all the hostages, because they are its only bargaining chip. The big concern is that that will be a stumbling block, where the whole peace deal may not go forward.”

Christian activists urge new archbishop to take bold stand on climate crisis

Christian campaigners gathered outside Lambeth Palace on Sunday to urge the new Archbishop of Canterbury, Bishop Sarah Mullally, to show bold leadership on the climate crisis.



Among them was Rev Bill White, a 70-year-old retired vicar and grandfather, who was arrested at Bath Abbey last month during a climate protest.

This weekend, he joined members of Christian Climate Action (CCA) in revealing a banner reading “Don’t Crucify

Creation” while offering prayers of thanksgiving for the church’s work so far to address the crisis.

The group said they wanted to encourage the archbishop-designate to “speak truth to power” on the issue as she takes up her role.

The demonstration followed the launch of CCA’s new vision document, which calls for radical change within the Church of England to protect creation.

The paper has been distributed to hundreds of church leaders and was presented at vigils in cathedrals across the UK, drawing mixed responses.

At some venues, campaigners were invited to contribute to services, while at others they were removed by security. Four people, including Rev White, were arrested in Bath.

Mark Francis, CCA’s local groups coordinator, said the group had gathered at Lambeth Palace to “send our love and courage” to Bishop Sarah and to the Church of England as it works towards Net Zero by 2030.

He added: “We also prayed that the church would find its courage to speak out prophetically and persistently about climate change, cease doing harm through its own activities and return to its roots of prayer, confession and community.”

CCA said it hopes its vision will inspire further collaboration across the church to confront what it calls “the most urgent issue creation faces: climate breakdown.”

Education

Follow Me Religious Education programme for National Schools

Last Friday, 26th September, an exciting new video resource for the Follow Me Religious Education programme was launched at St Fin Barre's National School, Cork.

Follow Me is a Religious Education Programme for National Schools under the patronage of the Church of Ireland, the Methodist Church in Ireland and the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

It is published by the Church of Ireland General Synod Board of Education and you can visit their website.

Hong Kong Principal visits MCB



MCB writes - Thank you to Mrs Emily Wong, recently retired Principal of Methodist College Hong Kong, who visited us as part of a wider visit to Great Britain and Ireland.

During her brief visit to Methody, she and her husband Michael, met Sixth Formers who showed them around the campus and had conversations with Mr Lindsay and Mr Gibson.

Mrs Wong was one of the contributors to the Transforming Lives conference organised by Methodist Schools UK in Bristol in 2023 and several members of staff from Methody attended the conference. It was good to renew the connection with Mrs Wong.

Cathedral Calls



Annual Law Service marks opening of Michaelmas Law Term

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Clergy including the Archdeacon of Dublin, the Chaplain to the King's Hospital, the Primate of Ireland, the Moderator of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland and the Dean of the National and Collegiate Church of St Patrick with the choir of The King's Hospital.



The Archdeacon of Dublin with members of An Garda Síochána



Royal Army Medical Corps Centenary Service in Belfast

On Sunday Belfast Cathedral hosted a Centenary Service for the Royal Army Medical Corps Association and for the Laying Up of the former Association Standard. This will be mounted at the RAMC window in the cathedral's ambulatory.

Pictured: Rev Mervyn Jamison (Chaplain), the Lord Mayor of Belfast, the Dean, Canon Kevin Graham (Chaplain).



(2nd picture) A display of RAMC uniforms and caps.

President of the Royal College of Organists



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Congratulations to the Organist & Master of the Choristers at Westminster Abbey, Andrew Nethsingha, who has been elected President of the Royal College of Organists.

He'll serve a two-year term from July next year alongside his role at the Abbey, and you can read more at:
www.rco.org.uk/news

Events

Christmas concerts tickets

Yes, really—it may only be the start of October, but we're already preparing for ticket sales! The choir will present two



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showings of the annual Concert of Carols and Festive Readings, which will be on Sunday, 14 December and Sunday, 21 December at 6.00pm. The ticket price remains unchanged as previous years at €25.

Friends of the Choir members have exclusive access to a pre-ordering system, which will open on Tuesday, 14 October. Choir Friends can reserve two free tickets for each performance and book as many extra paid tickets as they'd like. If you want access to pre-orders, now would be a great time to become a Friend (or to renew your membership if you haven't yet done so).

General sales will start on Saturday, 25 October.

Here's the link with more details on our Friends scheme:
<https://www.stbartholomews.ie/friends-of-the-choir/>

For restoration of St Lugadius' Church

Clonleigh Church of Ireland have announced that their annual fundraising event in aid of the restoration of St Lugadius' Church will be held on Saturday 8th November.

"Enjoy a night of country gospel music with Leslie Matthews, The Mood Swings & William Sayers. All proceeds will go to the restoration fund."

Tickets are on sale now at the link below, or, to avoid fees, they can be booked over the phone at 0749141733.



<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/clonleigh-church-of-ireland-tickets-1273644056659?aff=oddtcreator>

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

The publication of Church News Ireland is overseen by Very Rev Dr Houston McKelvey OBE, QVRM, TD. He may be contacted at houstonmckelvey@mac.com

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www.churchnewsireland.org

**Link in Monday through Saturday from
early morning**

Please recommend to your friends