



The choir from Methodist College, Belfast, who will sing in Carnegie Hall, New York

Methodist College Belfast choir to hit high notes at New York's Carnegie Hall premiere

There's only one way to get to Carnegie Hall, the old New York jokes goes - practice. And for

Methodist College's Chapel Choir, all their hard work has paid off, the Belfast Telegraph reports

The award-winning Belfast group is heading to New York city on November 16 to perform in Howard Goodall's Eternal Light Requiem.

Goodall is an Emmy Award-winning composer who created the themes for several famous TV shows, including Mr Bean and Blackadder.

The premiere will take place at Carnegie Hall, one of New York's most famous and prestigious venues.

The Northern Irish singers will be joined by choir singers from across the US, as well as Mexico and Canada and even further afield.

Choir director Ruth McCartney said: "We feel very honoured to be the only school choir in Europe chosen to sing in this premiere and felt this was an opportunity not to be missed.

"Our choirs have performed Howard Goodall's music in the past.

"In fact, we commissioned a piece by him in 2009. His music is very accessible and the young people enjoy singing it.

"To perform in a US premiere in Carnegie Hall is a tremendous opportunity and something the choir will never ever forget. We are all very excited about singing in this magnificent venue. The pupils are working very hard to make every note secure."

Methodist Chapel Choir has held 11 residencies in Westminster Abbey over recent years, singing choral services during the holiday seasons.

They also sang for the Queen when she visited Dublin in 2012, and have also won the UTV Choir of the Year and RTE Choir of the Year competitions.

Discussing the Eternal Light Requiem, Goodall said: "I stripped down the old Latin texts to a few phrases and in each movement laid beside them words from English poems from across the last 500 years."

Bishops of Spain and Lusitania explore Camino of Glendalough

The Bishops of Spain and Lusitania were in Hollywood, County Wicklow, on Wednesday October 12, to learn about the new 'Camino de

Glendalough'. The camino is being officially launched on Sunday November 6 and will follow St Kevin's Way from St Kevin's Church in Hollywood to Glendalough.

The Camino de Glendalough is an initiative which arose from the Come&C project but is also linked to the celebration of the 800th anniversary of Dublin and Glendalough as united dioceses.

Kevin's Way begins at either Hollywood or Vallemount and follows the King's River valley before climbing the Wicklow Gap and descending through Glendassan to Glendalough.

On November 6, the modern day pilgrims can start in St Kevin's Church in Hollywood or in St John's Church in Laragh at 9.30 am. They can choose to undertake the camino along the full 30 kilometres of St Kevin's Way or a number of shorter walks. The day will finish with a gathering at the Upper Lake in Glendalough at 3.30 pm.

People are welcome to take in as much or as little of the programme as they like and St John's Church will be a hub for various activities throughout the day. (More details will be available in the coming days).

The Anglican Bishop of Spain, the Rt Revd Carlos López–Lozano and the Anglican Bishop of Lusitania (Portugal), the Right Revd José *Jorge de Pina Cabral*, are in Dublin and Glendalough as part of the dioceses' 800th celebrations. The dioceses, through Archbishop Plunket and Archbishop Gregg, were instrumental in establishing the Anglican Churches in both Spain and Portugal.

The bishops visited St Kevin's Church this morning connecting their interest in the Camino Santiago de Compostela with the new Camino de Glendalough. The Revd Leonard Ruddock, Rector of Blessington and the Revd Brian O'Reilly, Rector of Rathdrum, outlined the camino route and gave a brief history of Glendalough and St Kevin.

New Lay Canon strengthens Cathedral's link with Portstewart

They may be miles apart geographically, but Agherton Parish Church, Portstewart, and St Anne's Cathedral in Belfast are also remarkably close!



Mr Robert Kay MBE, left, and the Rev Mark Niblock outside St Anne's Cathedral.

The Dean of Belfast, the Very Rev John Mann, recently announced the historic appointment of two Lay Canons to serve in St Anne's. One of the new Canons is Mr Robert Kay MBE, who has been a member of Agherton Parish since he and his wife Carol moved to Portrush 10 years ago.

Mr Kay recently retired as lay honorary secretary of the Diocese of Connor, a role he had occupied for more than 30 years. He also served on the Representative Church Body (RCB – the governing body of the Church of Ireland), the churchnewsireland@gmail.com

RCB Executive and was until very recently chair of the plans committee of the RCB.

He is a member of the Select Vestry of Agherton Parish Church, and played a part in the recently completed £300,000 extension at the church. Mr Kay is married to Carol and has three children and six grandchildren. Before moving to Portrush, he was a member of the Select Vestry in Greenisland Parish for almost 50 years.

But Mr Kay is not Agherton's only link with St Anne's. The Rev Stephen Fielding, rector of the Church of John the Baptist in Portstewart, is a Minor Canon in the Cathedral. Minor canons are appointed by the Cathedral primarily to undertake the role of cantor at Evensong, and Mr Fielding is one of six Minor Canons in St Anne's.

And the Rev Mark Niblock, a former curate of Agherton Parish, is now Dean's Vicar in Belfast Cathedral! Mark was curate assistant in Agherton from his ordination in June 2008 until his move to St Comgall's, Rathcoole, in May 2012. He took up the position of Dean's Vicar at St Anne's in May this year.

Mr Kay, 76, a retired Chartered Building Surveyor and Chartered Architectural Technologist, was

awarded an MBE in 1999 for services to architecture. He said the Dean's phone call inviting him to be a Lay Canon at St Anne's had come 'out of the blue!'

"I was aware that other cathedrals had Lay Canons, but when the Dean rang I could not believe it," he said. "I was delighted and honoured and I said yes immediately."

This is an honorary position, but Mr Kay and the other new Lay Canon, Mrs Myrtle Kerr, will both have a dedicated 'Seat' in St Anne's.

Mr Kay said: "It is just coincidental that three people connected to Agherton are now also connected to St Anne's, but it is lovely that this link has been established and is growing.

"I would love to see lots of Agherton parishioners at the service of installation of Lay Canons in St Anne's on Sunday January 15."

Christ Church Cathedral is offering a different Halloween

The organisers at Christ Church pose a number of questions - What are you afraid of? We sometimes throw this question around as a

challenge, a dare, and yet many of us face very real fears in our daily lives: fear of the future, of hurt, of betrayal, of death. How do we handle these fears? What can we do with them? This Halloween night, you're invited to bring those fears and hold them up to see them in a different light. Christ Church Cathedral will be open from 7 pm with interactive prayer installations relating to day-to-day fears. Prayer ministry will also be available for those who would like someone to pray with them about a need.

An alternative style All Saints' Eucharist begins at 8 pm. The Rev Dr Anne Lodge will be the preacher. She is Intern Deacon in the parishes of Raheny and Coolock and Director, Church of Ireland Centre, DCU Institute of Education, DCU All Hallows' campus. The cathedral will remain open until 10:00 pm. Stop for just a little while or stay for the whole evening. All are welcome. Free of charge.

Eglinton C of I Parish distributes booklets of truly terrible 'Knock Knock' jokes

Knock Knock!

‘Who's there?’

‘Abbott.’

‘Abbott who?’

‘Abbott time you opened this door.’

Most people can give a humorous response to the question, “Who’s there?” But the people of Eglinton should be particularly adept at replying now that their local Church of Ireland has delivered a booklet of ‘Knock Knock’ jokes to every home in the village.

People from St Canice’s Parish Church, right in the heart of Eglinton, have spent the past week knocking on every door in every street and offering a compendium of truly terrible ‘Knock Knock’ jokes. It is an unusual way of highlighting a week of special outreach activities, according to the Rector of Faughanvale, Rev. Paul Hoey.

“We are running a week of special events entitled ‘Knock Knock!’ for everyone in the community and we reckoned that this might be a way of drawing people’s attention to it,” the Rector explained. As well as the joke book, people have been offered an invitation to attend the events, which run from October 15-23. “Eglinton is a growing community,” Rev Hoey said, “with very

good relationships between all the local churches; but the bigger the village gets, the harder it becomes to get to know our neighbours. This is one of the aims of this week – simply to bring people together for a bit of fellowship and a bit of fun.”

So, what sort of things will be happening during ‘Knock Knock!’ Week? “There’s something for everybody,” the Rector said. “A barn dance, a Ladies’ ‘Body and Soul Night’, a Dads ‘n Lads activity night (with target shooting and other fun activities), Fun Bowls, a Gospel and Country Concert, a Couples’ Meal, and much, much more. A full list of activities is available on the church website www.faghanvale.derry.anglican.org.”

Among those who have been enlisted to help out with the week’s activities is Paul Woodman, a Christian escapologist and illusionist from Hampshire. Paul is the minister of a large and growing church in Southampton, and uses his tricks to help people who are puzzled by questions of faith. He’ll be visiting schools and community venues to perform everything from the classic ‘escaping from a chained up sack’ routine to the scary ‘teacher’s arm through the

guillotine' act. "It's not magic," Paul insists, "it's just a trick."

'Knock Knock!' Week is part of a series of activities taking place in parishes throughout the Church of Ireland Diocese of Derry and Raphoe as part of its 'Year of Opportunity 2016'. "It's been a lot of work getting ready for our week," the Rev Hoey says, "but we're looking forward to seeing what happens. Opportunities like this don't come along very often. And we're determined to seize this one with both hands."

'Knock Knock!'

'Who's there?'

'Adare.'

'Adare who?'

'Adare YOU to come along.'

News briefs

+++ Anniversary Mass in Dunsford and Ardglass - A Mass to mark the 225th anniversary of the building of St. Mary's in Dunsford and Ardglass will be held at 10am on Sunday 16th October. The celebrant will be Bishop Noel Treanor.

+++ Woolly sheep knitters wanted - Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin is on the look-out for knitted sheep for our Advent Sheep Trail project. Throughout December we're hiding as many knitted sheep as possible around Christ Church for all of our school and community groups to find so that they can gather them and be ready for the birth of the baby Jesus. A lot school children will be looking for them so we need a lot of sheep! Knit for Christ Church by contacting welcome@christchurch.ie

+++ Boxing champion at parish craft fair - The organisers were delighted when World Champion boxer, Carl Frampton MBE, dropped in on Annahilt's fundraising Craft Fair on Saturday 8 October.

The local hero happily posed for photos and, along with his wife Christine and 2 children Carla and Rossa, seemed to enjoy the event in Hillsborough Village Centre. There were lots of craft stalls for parents and activities for children including Dr Funnybone's Magic shows as well as the chance to relax over a chat and a cup of tea or coffee. All proceeds went to the Parish Development Fund. Rector of Annahilt and Magherahamlet, Revd Canon Robert Howard and event organiser Roberta Erwin welcomed the churchnewsireland@gmail.com

Mayor and Mayoress of Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council, Councillor Brian Bloomfield MBE and Mrs Rosalind Bloomfield.

+++ Dromore clergy changes - Bishop John McAreavey, Bishop of Dromore has announced his diocesan changes for 2016:

Canon F Boyle has retired as P.P., Saval;

Canon G McCrory has retired as P.P.,

Magheradroll;

Father Colum Wright has resigned as P.P., Aghaderg and Adm., Donaghmore on health grounds; Father Wright will take up another pastoral assignment in the New Year.

Very Rev P J Murray, P.P., Dromore to be *pastor emeritus*, Dromore;

Very Rev Brian Brown, P.P., Magheralin to be PP, Magheradroll;

Very Rev Conor McConville, C.C., St Peter and St Paul's parishes, Lurgan, to be P.P., Magheralin and P.P., Dromore; he will assist with school chaplaincies in Lurgan, as well the chaplaincy in Craigavon Area Hospital;

Rev Anthony Corr, C.C., Newry to be PP, Donaghmore and P.P., Aghaderg; he will assist with school chaplaincies in Newry;

Father Mario Jachym (Society of Christ) to be Adm, Saval; he will assist in Newry parish and,

when necessary, in the Clonallon pastoral area. The priests of Newry parish will celebrate a Mass in Saval each weekend.

Rev Brendan Kearns, C.C. Kilbroney and Clonallon to be Adm., Kilbroney;

Very Rev Jarlath Cushenan, P.P., Clonduff and

Very Rev Gerard Powell, P.P., Tullylish become members of the Cathedral Chapter.

+++ Episcopalians take stock of Hurricane Matthew's damage - Episcopalians along the southeast coastal United States are assessing the damage wrought by Hurricane Matthew. Some still cannot return to their homes because of severe damage in their communities or because rain-swollen rivers and creeks are still flooding. The storm killed more than 1,000 people in Haiti by the estimate of the Reuters news service. Officials there have begun burying people in mass graves.

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

Dublin manager Jim Gavin plays "groomsman" to 5,300 animals being airlifted to Africa



The Journal.ie- The Bóthar Ark has flown with a cargo of Irish-donated animals which will be presented to farming families in Rwanda.

<http://www.thejournal.ie/jim-gavin-animals-3022149-Oct2016/>

Why Quebec may be the answer to Ireland's school patronage debate

Irish Times

Karin Fischer is author of *Separate but Equal?: Schools and the Politics of Religion and Diversity in the Republic of Ireland*, published by Manchester ...

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/education/why-quebec-may-be-the-answer-to-ireland-s-school-patronage-debate-1.2825078>

‘The Hour is Coming:’ Why Evangelicals Must Drop Trump

Newsweek

<https://www.fulcrum-anglican.org.uk/newswatch/the-hour-is-coming-why-evangelicals-must-drop-trump-newsweek/>

Christian Today

Report that nearly a hundred evangelical leaders have written to C of E bishops warning that any change in teaching or practice over same-sex relationships would cause "fundamental disunity". The letter was sent to every bishop including the Archbishop of Canterbury and warns the smallest change would "trigger a process of division and fragmentation among faithful Anglicans".

Mail

Report on Wednesday's service at Westminster Abbey to raise awareness of modern day slavery. The service, led by Dr John Hall, Dean of Westminster, commemorated the work of William Wilberforce, the social reformer and anti-slavery campaigner who played a leading role in the abolition of the slave trade. During the service Princess Eugenie laid a wreath of white lilies and other flowers at the grave of William Wilberforce and in an address, the Prime Minister pledged to put Britain at the forefront of the fight to bring the perpetrators to justice.

Tel

Report that York Minster has disbanded its bell ringing team of 30. Officials at the Minster said the move was due to health and safety concerns and a need to create a new Head of the Bell Tower role accountable to the Chapter, the Telegraph reported. Ringing will re-commence next Easter when the Minster will have recruited a new team with all the bellringers who have been disbanded entitled to apply to join the new team where they will go through a training and induction process, the newspaper reported. The article includes a statement from York Minster Chapter.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/10/12/ding-dong-at-the-belfry-as-york-minster-axes-all-its-30-bellringing/>

BBC/Christian Today

Reports that Dr Derek Browning will be the next Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. Dr Browning, who has served Morningside parish church in Edinburgh since 2001, said being nominated is a "huge privilege". He will take over the 12-month role in May 2017.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-37617607>

C of E Communications Blogs

There are numerous stories of people forming new friendships

<http://cofecomms.tumblr.com/post/151470063632/there-are-numerous-stories-of-people-forming-new>

Code for the Kingdom:

<http://cofecomms.tumblr.com/post/151605374242/code-for-the-kingdom>

World Mental Health Day:

<http://cofecomms.tumblr.com/post/151578004447/world-mental-health-day-love-your-neighbour-and>

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