

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Exploring St Patrick's pathways

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Exploring St Patrick's pathways

CNI tries to catch up with the pilgrims from Carnmoney C of I Parish...

After a walk around the prayer garden in the grounds of Tobar Mhuire this morning we enjoyed a fascinating guided tour in the afternoon taking in the St. Patrick's Centre, Down Cathedral, and Patrick's grave (which he shares with Brigid and Columba)
Photo here



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and Saul church where he first landed on his mission to Ireland.

It's been fascinating to learn more about St. Patrick from some very knowledgeable people and also visit such fascinating and 'thin' sites.



News

PCI hold Creation Conference

Over 150 people will come together in Belfast next Saturday for a special conference organised by the Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI) entitled ‘God’s world; our responsibility?’

The one-day conference, will take place in PCI’s Assembly Buildings on 27 September. Michael Jemphrey, PCI’s Agent for Stewardship of Creation, said that he was encouraged by the numbers attending so far. “We chose the title of the conference with care. ‘God’s world, our responsibility?’ is not just a rhetorical question - it is an open invitation for Christians to engage with a vital issue. It challenges us to reflect deeply, especially in light of Psalm 24:1, ‘The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it.’

“From the very beginning God created humanity in His image and entrusted us with the responsibility to care for His creation. Yet, as creation itself now groans, we are left asking: how can we faithfully live out this calling as disciples of Jesus Christ?”

He continued, “This conference is designed to help us reflect on God’s world, the place He has given us within it, and the role He has called us to play. Our keynote speaker, theologian and author Rev Dr Chris Wright, will guide us through key moments in the biblical story - from creation in Genesis to the vision of new creation in Revelation, and reveal how our responsibility for the earth in Genesis

connects with proclaiming the good news of Jesus and living out love for our neighbour. There will be opportunities for participation through Q and A and break out groups.”

The conference has its roots in last year’s General

Assembly, which received a report from PCI’s Council for Global Mission. That report included the findings of an extensive denominational survey on climate change. Nearly 1,200 responses were gathered from individuals across 209 congregations. While views varied, the survey revealed a clear majority who affirmed that:

caring for creation is an intrinsic aspect of Christian faith human-induced climate change is a reality, and the Church is called to act responsibly in its attitudes and actions toward creation.

In light of these findings, the General Assembly recommended holding a conference

1875 ALL SAINTS' EGLANTINE 2025



"We love the place, O God"

A Festival of Flowers



Friday, 3rd – Sunday, 5th October 2025
We invite you to come and join us to celebrate the
150th anniversary of All Saints' Church
Friday: 10am – 8pm
Saturday: 10am – 8pm
Sunday: 2pm – 6pm
Artistic Director: Mr David McConkey
Catering available each day

Contact:
Maureen Campbell
Tel: 07966 585 393
Email: mo@anfieldtransport.co.uk
Jane McCambley
Tel: 07955 354 575
Email: janemccambley@yahoo.com

 **Facebook:**
All Saints' Eglantine

All Saints' Church is situated on the Eglantine Road, Lisburn – only 5 minutes from Sprucefield.
(Postcode: BT27 5RQ)
NIC 101 582

to provide both theological grounding and relevant scientific background. As part of the day, breakout workshops will address practical themes on such topics as eco-anxiety, sustainable food, and stories of congregations who are making tangible responses.

Reflecting on the forthcoming event, Rev Richard Kerr, Global Development Convener, said that it is not too late for others to book a place. “It is vital for the Church to listen deeply and learn from what God is saying through His Word, and from each other. The conference will explore what it means, as followers of Christ, to live responsibly and hopefully, in relationship with our environment, others and our Creator.””

Looking forward to the conference, keynote speaker, Chris

A vibrant poster for the Clontarf Autumn Fair. The background is a deep blue with colorful, abstract patterns resembling autumn leaves and swirling lines in yellow, orange, red, and green. In the lower right corner, there is a photograph of a smiling woman with long blonde hair wearing a red headband and a young girl in a red dress. The text is arranged in a clear, hierarchical manner. At the top, the title 'clontarf autumn fair' is written in a large, white, sans-serif font, with 'clontarf' and 'fair' in lowercase and 'autumn' in all caps. Below the title, the date and time 'Sunday 28th September 2-5 pm' are displayed in a smaller white font. Further down, the text 'Biggest Book Stall Ever!' is written in a bold, white font. Below this, the ticket prices 'Adults €2, Children €1' are listed. The location 'Clontarf Church of Ireland Parish Centre and grounds, Seafield Road West, Clontarf' is provided in a smaller white font. A red circular graphic contains the text 'In aid of parish funds' in white, followed by a list of stalls: 'Stalls to include hot food, Coffee Shop, cakes, books, curios, toys, good-as-new clothes, sweets & minerals. There will also be Bouncy Castles and lots of fun carnival games!'. Below this, the 'Monster Curios Stall' is advertised with a list of items: 'glassware, ceramics, candles, pictures, frames and much much more – great for bargain hunters. Fun for all!'. In the bottom right corner, a white box with a blue border contains the text 'Proudly sponsored by' above a logo for the 'Progressive Credit Union', which features a stylized building icon.

Wright said, "People will have different views of the practical implications of the biblical theology of creation, and what should be the nature and the limits of our responsibility to it, both as humans and as Christians, and whether and where creation care fits into our understanding of the gospel and gospel-centred mission. That's what we will wrestle with on the day, and I hope people will come along and join the discussion, with open Bibles and open minds."

Celebrating Earlsgift Happy Space on the edge of Donemana

Bishop Andrew Forster of Derry and Raphoe joined the parishioners of St.James, Donagheady, recently to share in their Sunday morning worship and to formally open and dedicate the newly refurbished communal space outside their church hall.

The cheerfully-named 'Earlsgift Happy Space', on the edge of Donemana, was built by members of the congregation and friends from the wider community.

At the beginning of this morning's service, the Rector, Rev Richard Beadle, shared a video presentation, compiled by Peter Hamilton, which captured work on the project from start to finish. It showed photographs of the site being cleared and surfaced, garden furniture being built, the area being landscaped, and lots of happy, smiling faces.

In his sermon, Bishop Andrew said he was delighted to be with the parishioners on such a joyful occasion. "Today we're going to give thanks to God for beauty - for the good

things he gives us." The new happy space would be there for the whole community – for all of the children – the Bishop said. "But, you know what? It wouldn't have happened without people getting the idea, working it through, doing the work, and seeing it come to fruition. And for me that paints us a beautiful picture of how God in his goodness and his love seeks to use every one of us to build his kingdom, to make his world a better place, and – as the prayer we used this morning said – helps us to share his love."

It was unfortunate, Bishop Andrew said, that we lived in a very individualistic world where people seemed to be more and more concerned about themselves. "The picture of your garden is saying that, as a parish, you aren't just concerned about yourselves, you want to make the village a brighter place. You want to share something of beauty. You want to make the world a better place. And that's what God calls us to do in our daily lives, not just to be so caught up in ourselves but to be people who share love and goodness and his grace in our world.

"In this individualistic world that we live in, I think people crave three things: security, significance and identity. When we strip away a lot of the conversation that we have with people, that's what it comes down to: who we really are, what are we meant to be doing, something beyond us that's greater than us. I want to tell you today that the Gospel of Jesus Christ answers those questions in people's hearts because he gives us security, he gives us significance, he helps us see beyond ourselves to his glory and love around us."

Bishop Andrew said Matthew, the tax collector in that day's Gospel [Matt. 9: 9-13](#), was compelled to "get up from his desk" and follow Jesus. "Something within him recognised that it was Jesus who would bring the security he would need, not what was in his bank account; that Jesus would bring the significance of being able to offer something back to the world – not from being a corrupt tax collector; and it was Jesus who would help him see beyond himself, to the glory of God, to a God who cares about him and is there for him.

"And I want to say to you, this morning, nothing's changed. There are people who are striving for security, for significance, for transcendence, doing all sorts of things to try and get what we find in Jesus Christ who says, 'I am the way, the truth and the life'.

"What you're doing today in opening this garden is, in a little way, pointing to the beauty of the transcendence of God, saying that there is more to life than just the concrete around us. There is beauty in faith, there is beauty in love, there is beauty in the hope that Jesus Christ alone gives us. And the great thing is that - as he offers us that security, that significance, that transcendence - he brings his transforming love into our lives and into the world."

As this morning's service ended, Rev Beadle, the Bishop and the congregation processed the short distance to the church hall, next to the local primary school, where Bishop Andrew blessed the new happy space. As the dedication drew to an end, and with near perfect timing, the skies opened and rain began to fall, forcing those present to beat

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a hasty retreat into the hall where they enjoyed refreshments and fellowship.

Education



Royal School badge presentation welcomes its Senior Prefects

The Royal School proudly welcomed its Senior Prefects for the 2025–2026 academic year at a traditional badge presentation ceremony last week.

The Head Girl, Head Boy, and their deputies were formally presented with their silver badges in the presence of proud



parents and staff, marking the start of a year of leadership and service.

Continuing a cherished tradition, the badges were presented by His Grace, the Archbishop of Armagh, the Most Reverend John McDowell. The silver badges symbolise responsibility, dedication, and the high standards expected of the school's senior student leaders.

This year's Senior Prefects bring energy, commitment, and a passion for school life. Their leadership will be instrumental in creating a supportive and inclusive environment, inspiring younger students, and championing the school's values throughout the year.



We are delighted to introduce our 2025–2026 Senior Prefects:

🎓 **Head Girl:** Alicia Salt

🎓 **Head Boy:** Finlay Starrett

🎓 **Deputy Head Boys:** Ruben Finlay, Isaac Kingston

🎓 **Deputy Head Girls:** Ellie Broomfield, Gracie Johnston

We look forward to seeing the many ways our Senior Prefects will make a positive impact, from leading school initiatives to fostering community spirit. We congratulate them on their achievement and wish them every success as they guide the Royal School through the 2025–2026 academic year.



Photos at - <https://royalschool.com/senior-prefects-honoured-in-time-honoured-ceremony/>

Annual County Donegal Schools' Service

Around 500 pupils from 30 different schools throughout the county were in Ramelton Presbyterian Church this week for the annual County Donegal Schools' Service.

The service, which is now in its 10th year, is for schools in Donegal under Protestant church patronage, and clergy from the three main Protestant denominations attended the service.



As usual, the 70 teachers and staff, and a host of stewards, rose to the logistical challenge of organising and running the huge event, with a fleet of buses ferrying the children from schools in every corner of the county and back to their communities again.

The weather for the day was benign – bright and sunny, if a little cool – but the minister at Ramelton & Kilmacrennan Presbyterian Churches, Rev Richard Tregaskis, offered his guests, young and old, a very warm welcome.

Worship was led by the Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Rt Rev Andrew Forster, who got the children to interact with a number of prayer drills, and pupils from all the schools present read prayers. Rev Philip Poots from the 'Inishowen Four' – the name given to the joint charge of Greenbank,



Moville, Carndonagh and Malin Presbyterian Churches – led the singing, which, as usual, was loud and boisterous.



The theme for this year was 'Foundation for the Future'. The Gospel reading, the Parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders from Matthew 7: 24-29, was read by a pupil from Ballymore National School.

The Moderator of Derry & Donegal Presbytery, Rev Stephen Hibbert, used the story of the Three Little Pigs to help illustrate the significance of the parable for his young congregation. "What Jesus is telling us here in this parable is that when those tough times in life, those problems that we face, come along, that's when the cracks from the foolishness of what we trusted in really shows." The good news, he said, is that Jesus provides us with some principles here to help us.

"It's a pretty straightforward message. The first truth is that every single one of us will experience hard times and

difficulties in life. It means even if we're followers of Jesus it doesn't give us immunity to the difficulties that we will inevitably face....But it's worth noticing that [in the Gospel](#) Jesus doesn't focus on the cause of the storms. He wants us to focus on building the right foundation so that when those tough times come, we are prepared. Instead of wondering why bad things can happen, Jesus is more concerned that we take the proper steps to make sure that we're prepared for when they do come along and, of course, that means building on the right foundations."

After the service, as pupils filed out of the building, their teachers were given 'goody bags' to share with the children on their homeward journeys.

Down High in the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge



Congratulations to six of our Year 14 Chemistry students who took part in the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge. This competition is run by the University of Cambridge and requires students to solve a demanding range of chemistry problems.

Abigail Elliot was awarded a Gold Award, Rudy Miskelly, Darragh McAllister, Conor Hale and Ian Wei were awarded Silver Awards, and Holly Edgar was awarded a Copper Award. Well done!

Cathedral Calls

Celebrating St Oliver Plunkett in Armagh

This year we mark two special milestones in the life and legacy of our former Archbishop, St Oliver Plunkett. His witness of faith, courage, and fidelity to Christ continues to inspire the Church in Ireland and far beyond.

In July, we gathered in Drogheda for his Feast Day in what was a moving celebration of unity and faith. Now Archbishop Eamon warmly invites you and your parish community to join him in St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh on Friday, 10 October at 6.30pm for Sung Evening Prayer.

The liturgy will be enriched by choirs from across the diocese, and afterwards all are welcome for refreshments in the Synod Hall. The celebration will also be recorded by the BBC and streamed later.

Through the intercession of St Oliver Plunkett, may we continue to place our hope in Christ, and may Ireland experience a new springtime of faith.

Christmas music at the other Cathedral in Armagh...

We are excited to announce, that once again we are planning for another unforgettable evening of carols and timeless Christmas classics in the stunning St Patrick's Cathedral Armagh.

Together we'll celebrate the joy of the season and prepare our hearts for Christmas with the music we all love. Friday December 12th

Keep an eye out for Malachi's new Album - Healing Sounds - coming your way soon

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/christmasatthecathedral>

A truly unforgettable celebration of Arvo Pärt's 90th birthday

We gathered at Saint Mary's Cathedral for a moving lunchtime concert in honour of one of the world's most performed living composers, Arvo Pärt.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for this special occasion in the heart of Limerick. The music resonated

beautifully through our 12th-century cathedral, creating an atmosphere that was both powerful and deeply reflective.

The Very Revd Niall J. W. Sloane, Dean of Limerick, warmly welcomed H.E. Kairi Künka (Estonian Ambassador to Ireland), Julie Long (Honorary Consul for Estonia in the Midwest), and all our distinguished guests. He also extended heartfelt thanks to Mr. Peter Barley for his outstanding dedication in organising and overseeing today's event.

It was an afternoon of music, meaning, and celebration - and for those who couldn't join us, we hope to welcome you at our next event.

Clergy and ministry

‘God has lit a new lamp in this place’

Institution in Holy Trinity Killiney: Holy Trinity Church in Killiney was filled to overflowing as the parish began a new chapter with the institution of the Revd Jane Burns as Rector.

(Monday September 22). Jane made history when she was instituted as the 10th incumbent of the parish by Archbishop Michael Jackson, the preacher pointed out.

She is the first female Rector since the church was built in 1859.

Welcoming the congregation, which included a large number of public representatives as well as visitors from Jane's home parish of Athy, and from Taney, where she served her curacy, Archbishop Jackson said that their presence in such great numbers was testimony to the respect and love in which Jane is held in Dublin and Glendalough and throughout the Church of Ireland. He paid tribute to all involved in the preparation of the service and said it was an evening of celebration for Jane and Dermot and their children Jamie, Ellen and Kate.



The Revd Jane Burns with Archbishop Michael Jackson, Archdeacon David Pierpoint and Archdeacon Ross Styles, registrar the Revd Robert Marshall, the Revd Nigel Pierpoint (preacher) and church wardens Lewis Purser and Michael Wolfe.

The sermon was preached by the Revd Nigel Pierpoint, Rector of Taney, who commended the parish on choosing

their new Rector wisely. “You have chosen a person who has so much to give. Jane is such a loving, compassionate and loyal person, she oozes charm and empathy in equal measure. She will provide pastoral care and support where it is needed and as Jane will support you, I know that you, the parishioners of Holy Trinity will support her in turn,” he stated.

Speaking of the joy Jane had brought to Taney during her time there, he said she was willing and obliging in all areas of parish life. He encouraged parishioners of Holy Trinity Killiney to support her and her family as they adjusted to their new parish.

The readings [Psalm 126 and Luke 8: 16–18](#), the preacher said, were close to Jane’s heart. The Psalm spoke of those who dream of restoration, revival and renewal and he said the institution was a milestone in the life of the parish. “This appointment is not a job, it is a vocation. For Jane it is a crossing into a new place where she and you can dream and work together for the future good of this parish. The Lord has done great things for us and we look at what God has done in Holy Trinity Killiney [...] (#) This evening is not about one person’s ministry, it is about what God can do when Rector and congregation dream together,” Mr Pierpoint said.

Members of the choir of Holy Trinity Killiney.

Referring to the Gospel reading, he said that a lamp had been lit at the institution and it was not to be hidden. He added that the new Rector would not hide the Gospel from view. “For your new Rector, that means preaching the word,

administering the sacraments, guiding the flock and standing in the light even when it might be an easier option to stay in the shadows. For you the parishioners, it means supporting your new Rector. The lampstand is not just the front of this church, it is the Sunday School, around the Vestry table, it is the parish kitchen, it is in caring for those who perhaps have no voice in the world. It is every place where the Gospel should be visible in your lives together as Rector and people,” he stated.

“This evening is a time of fresh illumination in the life of this parish. God has lit a lamp in this place—not to be hidden—but to be lifted high in a world that so desperately needs light,” he continued.

Presenting the symbols of ministry.

Speaking after the service, Church Warden Lewis Purser welcomed Jane and her family on behalf of the parish. He noted the proud history of Holy Trinity Killiney but emphasised the importance of looking to the future as they continued to serve the rapidly changing community of Killiney.

Bringing good wishes on behalf of Taney Parish, Rachel Doak Howe said parishioners had been touched deeply by Jane’s graciousness, kindness and good humour, and her sense of style. They had also appreciated the gift of Jane’s family, she said.

On behalf of the wider community, Monsignor Enda Lloyd, representing the parish of Ballybrack, Killiney and Loughlinstown, said he looked forward to working with Jane in building up the body of Christ in the area.

The Revd Jane Burns is congratulated after the service.

Addressing her new parishioners and well wishers, Jane said it was an honour to stand before them as the new Rector of Holy Trinity Killiney.

She thanked the Archbishop and Board of Nomination, particularly the parochial nominators, for putting their trust in her. “I consider it a privilege to service in this parish and to remain in these United Dioceses,” she stated. She thanked Nigel for his guidance and training in Taney and the Rural Dean, the Revd John Tanner for his work in preparing for the service and the care of the parish during the vacancy. She also looked forward to working with her ecumenical neighbours and thanked the public representatives for attending. She paid tribute to all who had prepared for the evening and everyone who had welcomed them to the parish.

Archbishop Jackson brought the evening to a close by thanking the Rural Dean for his support of the parish. He said that the final hymn chosen by Jane, Be Thou My Vision, brought the congregation back to their roots in Irish and Celtic Christianity. He suggested they could carry that vision with them as they left the church. He paid tribute to Jane’s mother Jennifer and the Sisters of the Holy Rosary as well as to Jane’s husband and family.

New Chaplain of the Anglican Centre in Rome



The Revd Jules Cave Bergquist has been appointed as the new Chaplain of the Anglican Centre in Rome.

Read the full article here: <https://www.anglicancentreinrome.org/news/new-chaplain-announced>

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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

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