

Church News Ireland

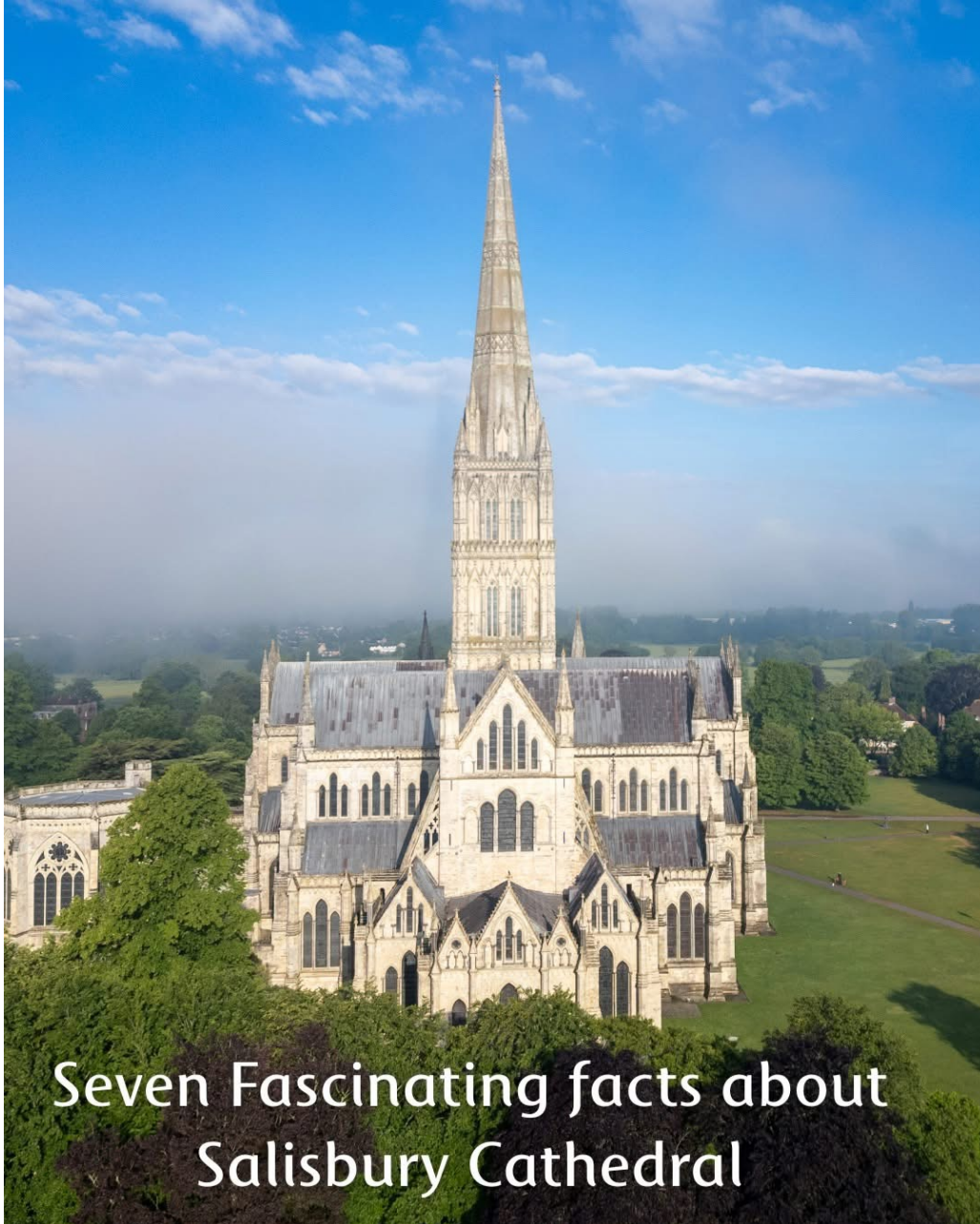
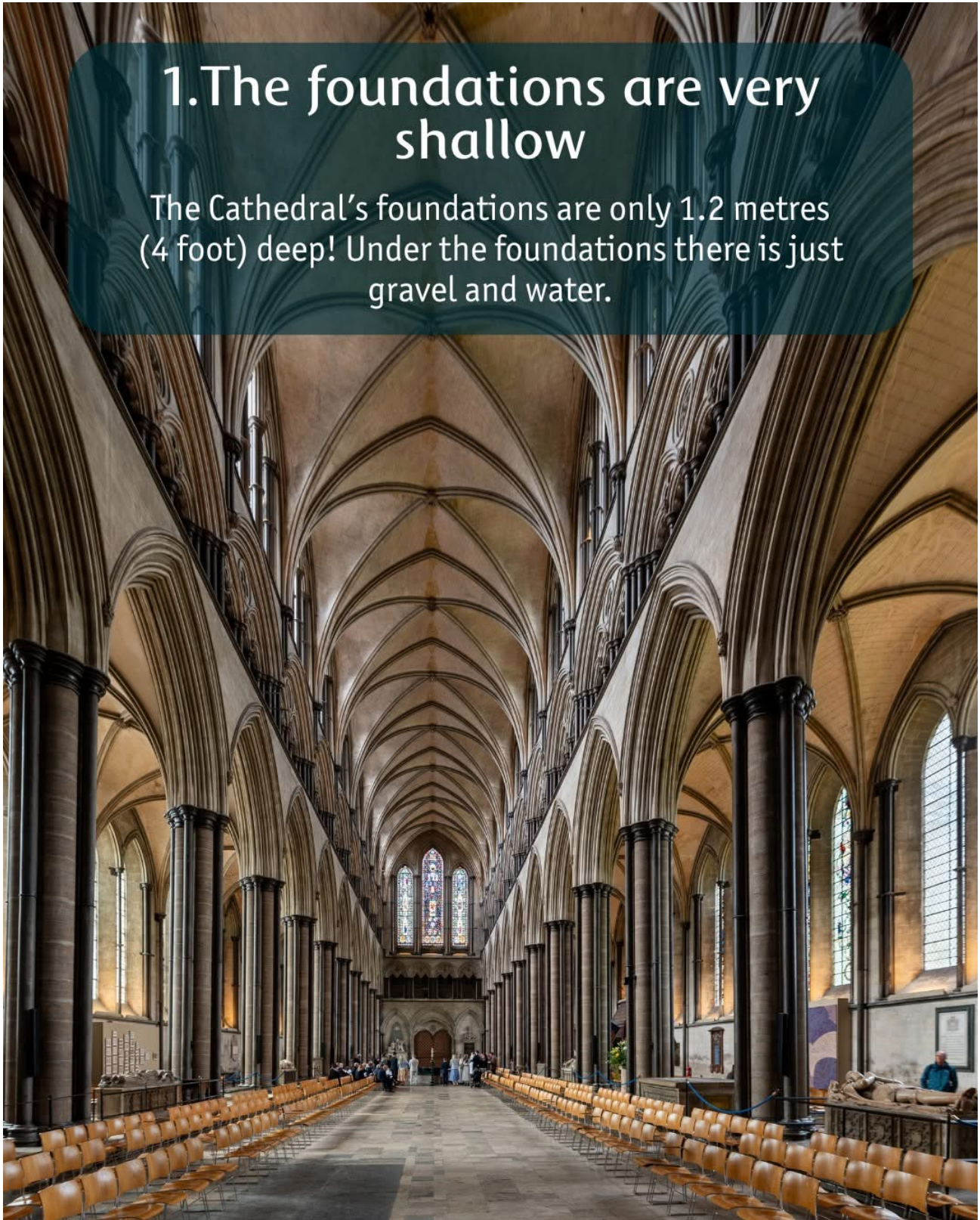


Image of the day – Salisbury's Fascinating facts

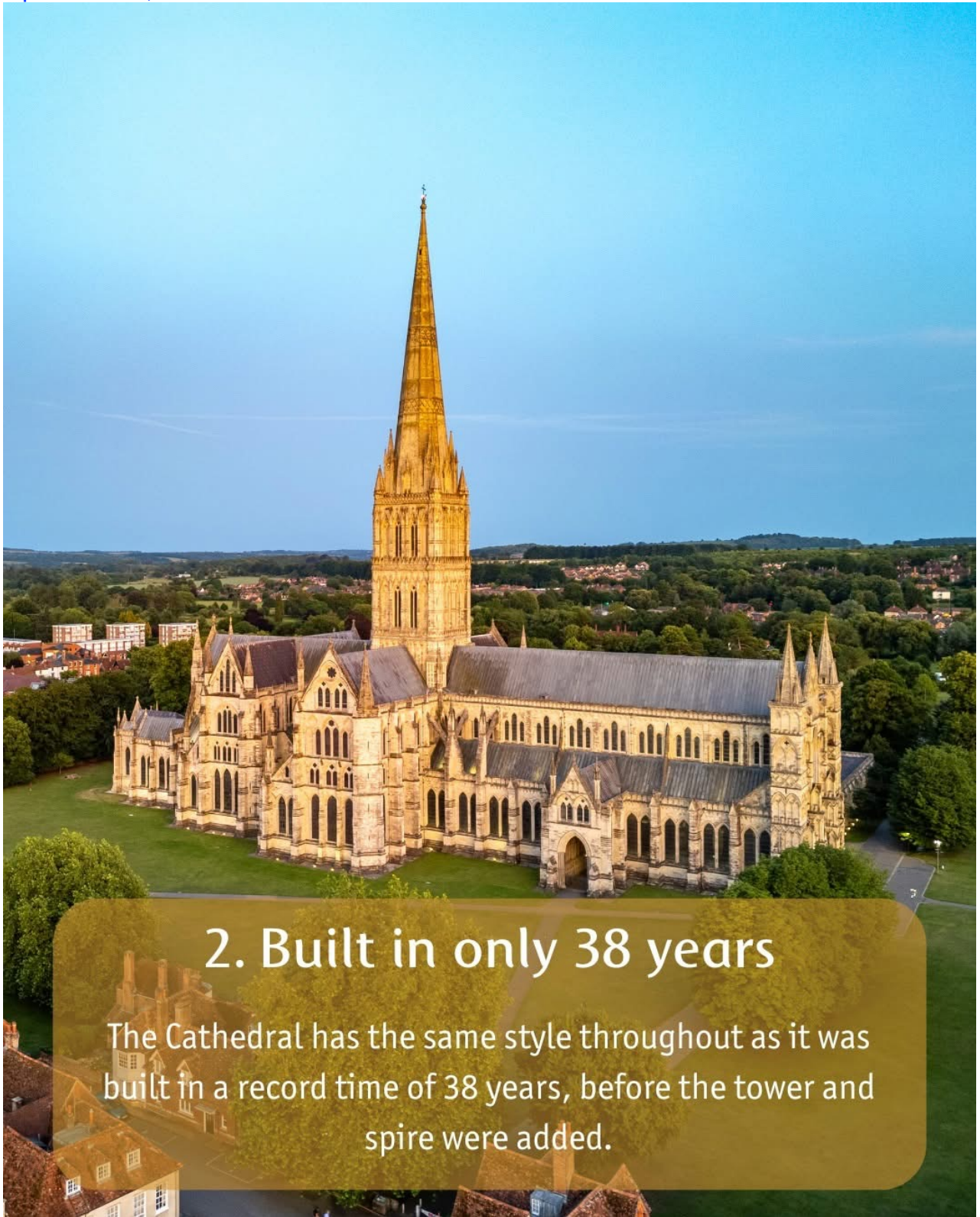
Image of the day

1. The foundations are very shallow

The Cathedral's foundations are only 1.2 metres (4 foot) deep! Under the foundations there is just gravel and water.



Salisbury's Fascinating facts 1



2. Built in only 38 years

The Cathedral has the same style throughout as it was built in a record time of 38 years, before the tower and spire were added.

Salisbury's Fascinating facts 2



Connor and Down Organ Scholarships Choral Evensong

A beautiful service of Choral Evensong was held at St John's Parish Church, Malone, to celebrate the achievements of this year's graduates: Lucy Steele (Glenavy Parish) and Katy McKnight (Holy Trinity Portrush).

Wonderful to hear from a range of our Scholars before and after the service and to be joined by tutors Joe McKee, Michael McCracken and Graeme McCullough.

September 30, 2025

Our sincere thanks to Canon Stephen Fielding, Director of Music Richard Campbell and the choir for their huge and considered contributions. Also to all those who provided refreshments.

A truly memorable and uplifting occasion.

CNI note - the death has taken place of **Dr. Martin Neary LVO**, former Organist and Master of the Choristers of Westminster Abbey.

Remembering Nicaea on Sunday, 5 October

Christian congregations across the UK and Ireland are warmly invited to participate in Remembering Nicaea on Sunday, 5 October 2025, within their own Sunday service, in whatever way they feel is appropriate.

For a historical reflection from Rev John Woodside, a minister emeritus in the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, and other resources, visit: www.nicaea1700.net/resources

A full page with links to events, articles, podcasts and a video talk about the Council of Nicaea can be found here: <https://www.churchofireland.org/news/13047/nicaea-2025>

Shared on behalf of the Irish Council of Churches

Migration and ethnic diversity hub

helping us respond in faith



Church of Ireland launches migration hub for 'times of tension'

The Church of Ireland has launched a new migration and diversity hub, to help members understand issues around migration from a faith perspective.

The Church says it will “share suggestions for responding during times of tension” in the new portal on its website, and provide government statistics on immigration and trends in diversity.

It comes in the same week that government documents have suggested Northern Ireland is at risk of being gripped by a “permacrisis” of racial tensions.

This summer, riots broke out across the region, after two Romanian-speaking teenagers in Ballymena were charged with sexually assaulting a young girl.

Visitors to the Church’s new online hub will be “encouraged to remember that every number is ultimately about a group of people, each of whom is created with dignity in the image of God”.

Similar hubs have been rolled out by the Church to help members understand the cost of living and homelessness crises.

The Church of Ireland hopes it can provide “opportunities to listen to and learn from personal experiences [and] open up more ways of understanding our neighbours.”

The hub format has been used on the website in recent years to gather and share relevant resources to help people in our communities with the rising cost of living and share hope with people who are without a home. All three hubs can be found on the Church of Ireland website at www.churchofireland.org/hubs

Irish Government has deported 24 men on a chartered flight to Pakistan

Having left Dublin airport at 7pm on September 23, the flight arrived in Islamabad the following morning (September 24).

“All people concerned were Pakistani nationals”, the government confirmed in a statement.

It marks the fourth deportation flight carried out in Ireland this year and brings the total number of people deported by charter flight to 130.

A further 132 deportation orders have been enforced on commercial flights, while 40 people subject to deportation

orders are confirmed to have left Ireland unescorted so far in 2025.

“This year sustained and significant work has been undertaken to strengthen immigration enforcement and increase the removal of people who have no legal right to be in Ireland,” Ireland’s Justice, Home Affairs and Migration Minister Jim O’Sullivan said this week.

“We are seeing the results with a doubling of enforced deportations,” he added.

“3,029 deportation orders have been issued so far in 2025.

“I want to thank the members of An Garda Síochána and my officials for the significant work in conducting these sensitive and complex operations.

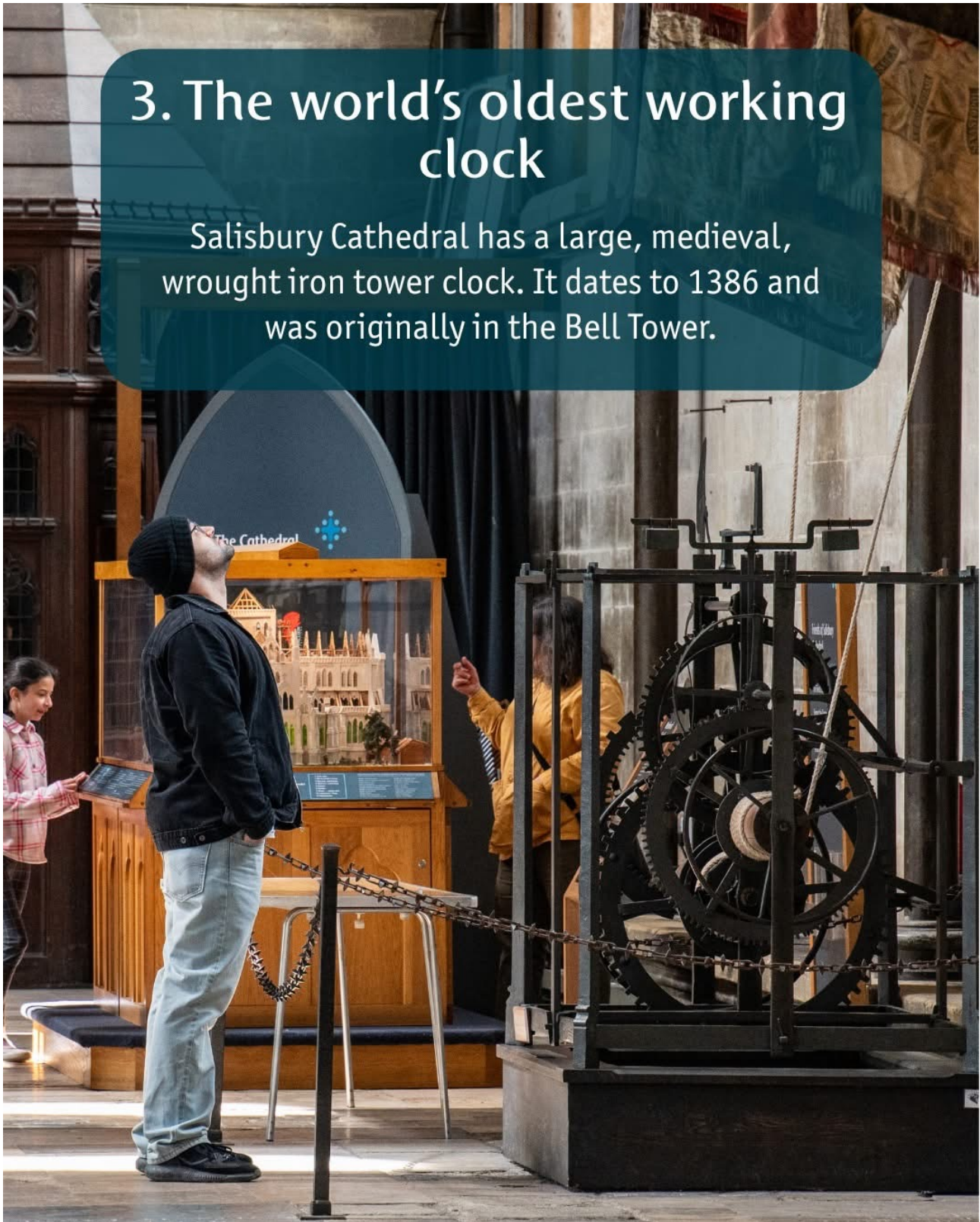
“This sends a clear message, if a person’s application for international protection is refused and they are ordered to leave the State, they must do so.

“If they choose not to leave voluntarily, they will be forced to leave.”

The Minister explained that unless a person is involved in criminality, they are “offered assistance to return home voluntarily before a deportation order is made”.

3. The world's oldest working clock

Salisbury Cathedral has a large, medieval, wrought iron tower clock. It dates to 1386 and was originally in the Bell Tower.



Salisbury's Fascinating facts 3

Education



Foyle maths and cathedral notes

Congratulations to one of Derry cathedral's Head Choristers, Ben Langan, on this fabulous achievement...

Foyle College - Huge congratulations to our Year 10 pupil who achieved the top score in Northern Ireland in the Junior UKMT Mathematical Olympiad!

The Junior Mathematical Olympiad is a prestigious competition run by the UK Mathematics Trust, designed to stretch the brightest young problem-solvers across the UK. It challenges pupils with tough, creative problems that test deep thinking, logical reasoning, and mathematical flair beyond the school curriculum.

We are incredibly proud of his outstanding achievement – a true testament to his hard work, talent, and passion for mathematics!



Devenish College and Women's Rugby World Cup

Two of our very own rugby stars, Amy Nelson and Holly Cunningham (Year 9), enjoyed the incredible climax of three months of filming and advertising around the Women's Rugby World Cup.

They were invited to take part in the final between hosts England and Canada at the iconic Twickenham Stadium in front of a world-record crowd of 81,000!

Amy and Holly, along with teammates from Enniskillen RFC, were chosen to feature in the exciting Defender advertising



campaign for this huge global event. Amy had the special honour of recreating a piece of rugby history—reenacting Emily Valentine, the first ever recorded female rugby player, who scored a famous try in Enniskillen back in 1887! Some of our older Devenish boys, also Enniskillen RFC players, joined the filming to help bring this historic moment back to life.

Amy, Holly, and their teammates are proudly representing Enniskillen RFC, Devenish College, and our community on the biggest stage of all.

What an unforgettable, once-in-a-lifetime sporting experience – we couldn't be prouder!

Victoria College Senior Chamber Choir in support of Women's Aid and Water Aid

On Saturday 18th October, the Victoria College Senior Chamber Choir will be performing in Fisherwick Presbyterian Church as part of a special fundraising concert in support of Women's Aid and Water Aid.



Tickets: £15

👉 Available now via Eventbrite using the QR code on the flyer.

👉 A limited number of tickets are also available at Cranmore reception.


September 30, 2025

We look forward to an entertaining event filled with incredible musical talent in support of two very worthy causes. ✨

A Night of Magical Music

Saturday 18th October | 7-30 PM
Fisherwick Presbyterian Church
Malone | Belfast

Compere
WENDY AUSTIN
with Special Guests
MEGAN MOONEY
CLAUDIA CLENDINNING
HAYLEY HOWE
VICTORIA COLLEGE CHOIR





Presented by the Inner Wheel Club of Belfast
IN AID OF LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL CHARITIES

Women's Aid and **WaterAid**

Tickets £15
Eventbrite

Kindly Supported by **Belfast Rotary**



Cathedral Calls

Saint Mary's Limerick has royal connections

This Saturday, 4th October at 2:00pm, our very own Noreen will lead a free tour of the Cathedral graveyard


September 30, 2025


to mark the anniversary of the birth of Prince Milo, who is buried in the grounds of Saint Mary's Cathedral.

Come along to uncover the fascinating history of the graveyard, hear the story of Prince Milo, and discover the many connections that make Saint Mary's such a unique part of Limerick's heritage.

And who knows — you might even be greeted by Martin the cat 🐾🐱.

 Saint Mary's Cathedral Graveyard

 17 Saturday, 4th October

 2:00pm

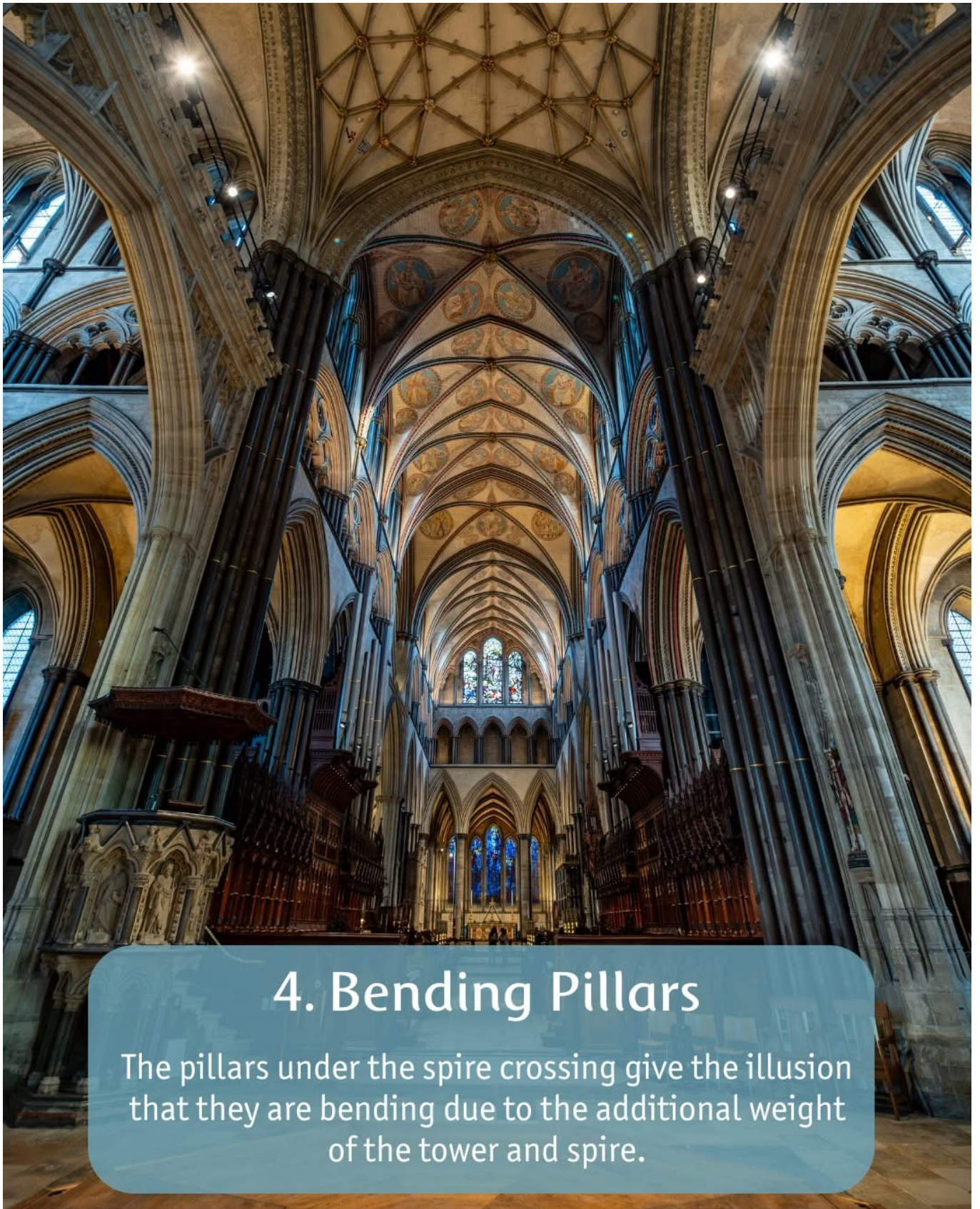
 Free Tour

All are warmly welcome

Messy Church for Harvest at Saint Canice's Cathedral

Thank you to everyone who came to our Messy Church for Harvest at Saint Canice's Cathedral.

The kids were fantastic and really threw themselves into all the activities! Roll on Harvest Thanksgiving in the cathedral and in St Aidan's.



4. Bending Pillars

The pillars under the spire crossing give the illusion that they are bending due to the additional weight of the tower and spire.

Salisbury's Fascinating facts 4

5. There is no longer a Bell Tower

The Bell Tower was built in the 13th century, separate to the Cathedral. It was demolished in 1790 and all that now remains is the outline on the ground.

© Spencer Mulholland Photography

Salisbury's Fascinating facts 5



6. The cloisters are the largest in England

They were built to accommodate the large processions of canons, rather than for monastic purposes.

Salisbury's Fascinating facts 6

800 years of worship at Salisbury Cathedral

800 years of worship at Salisbury Cathedral were marked on Monday 29th.

Choral Evensong at 4.30pm celebrated eight centuries since the dedication of the three altars in the East End, or Trinity Chapel as we know it today.

The service was sung by the Cathedral Choir, with the sermon given by the Treasurer, Canon Kenneth Padley. Following Evensong, the congregation processed to the Trinity Chapel, where prayers were offered and the choir sang an anthem in the space dedicated 800 years ago.

Clergy and ministry

Remembering Mark Lenaghan

From IRA gunman to Church deacon: a story of faith, hope and love

‘Mark’s short ministry spanned only two-and-a-half years, but in that time he touched the hearts of thousands with the prayerful hope that he might set them on fire with the same faith he himself discovered’

Few who encountered the gentle, generous and deeply spiritual figure of Mark Lenaghan could have guessed at his



7. It has the largest Close in Britain

It covers over 80 acres and contains a number of historic buildings. It is considered unrivalled in beauty.

Salisbury's Fascinating facts 7

remarkable journey to become a deacon in the Catholic Church.

It was during a jail sentence for IRA activities that the Belfast man radically re-assessed his life, turning his back on violence and committing himself to use his own “brokenness” to help lead others back to faith.

He went on to work with young people in schools and on retreats, share his story as part of peace and reconciliation projects, and ultimately undergo the five years of training to enter the diaconate.

His funeral in Castlewella, Co Down heard that he “touched the hearts of so many, many people” before prematurely passing away with cancer earlier this month.

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**

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