



**Image of the day -
Broglasco Farm in Myroe outside Limavady,
as the sun shines and the morning dew clears
the work begins in earnest**

Reports

Reality of Claudy attack and role of 'Provo Priest' much more shocking than many expected

It is almost 50 years since the IRA bombed the rural village of Claudy, killing nine people, the youngest just eight years old.

Little Kathryn Eakin had been washing the windows of her family's grocers' shop when the bomb exploded. No one ever claimed the attack. No one was ever convicted.

Relatives of three Claudy bomb victims have settled legal action against the police and Northern Ireland Office.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) and Northern Ireland Office (NIO) agreed confidential settlements "without an admission of liability".

Nine people were killed when three bombs exploded in the County Londonderry village in July 1972.

The BBC reported - The case centred on investigative failures into the attack, for which the IRA was blamed, but did not admit.

[[] <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-foyle-west-58512319>]

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The Irish Times stated - Claudy bombing victims' relatives to continue legal action against Catholic Church. Priest allegedly implicated in 1972 car bombings which killed nine people

[<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/crime-and-law/claudy-bombing-victims-relatives-to-continue-legal-action-against-catholic-church-1.4670402>]

St Patrick's Ballymena public appeal

Anyone who has recently travelled past St Patrick's Church on Castle Street, Ballymena, will no doubt have noticed the extensive scaffolding at the front of the building.



The interior of the church, which is now closed for public worship, is also a hub of activity as work proceeds to address the extensive dry rot issue which has been identified. Recent investigative work has unfortunately revealed that the problem is greater than at first thought.

ST PATRICK'S CHURCH RESTORATION 2021



**WE NEED
YOUR HELP
TO RAISE
£75,000!**

MAJOR
RESTORATION
WORK COSTING
OVER **£400,000** HAS
BEEN IDENTIFIED
TO SAVE
ST PATRICK'S
PARISH CHURCH!



You can keep up to date on progress by following "Ballymena Parish" on Facebook.

If you are able to help by giving a donation please visit the parish "Just Giving" page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/stpatricks-ballymena/donate>

THANK YOU!

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Work has already been completed on the Church tower with the replacement of all the timbers affected by dry rot with steel girders. This required an investment of approximately £50,000 and it is hoped that this remedial work will prevent any further major issues in this part of the building.

The much larger part of the project to address the internal issues has now commenced. Despite the fact that emergency repairs to the church roof were undertaken just three years ago the dry rot has continued to spread! Significant preparatory work to protect the organ, windows and pews had to be undertaken before the extensive framework of scaffolding was erected in the main nave of the church. It is expected that the contract period will be at least six months.

total cost of the work required is estimated to be in the region of £400,000 although the final bill will depend on the full extent of the problems identified. The parishioners are hopeful of being able to raise just over £300,000 and although several fundraising initiatives are planned it is expected that there will ultimately be a shortfall of around £75,000.

As St Patrick's represents one of the most important Civic buildings in the town an appeal is being made to the wider community to help meet the cost of completing this essential work.

This year marks the 300th anniversary of the original church in Church Street and is also 140 years since the current church building was re-opened after a major fire in 1879.

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If you would like to contribute towards helping to save this important building for future generations please contact the Parish Office Tel 028 2563 0741 (open mornings Mon-Wed).

You are also welcome to make a donation using the JustGiving link
<https://www.justgiving.com/stpatricks-ballymena>

Associate Organist at Belfast Cathedral

Tristan Russcher has agreed to offer his services as Associate Organist at St Anne's

Whether by providence or good fortune, Tristan has just moved from Dublin to live in Belfast.

Tristan grew up in Perth, Australia, and has been playing the piano since the age of three. He left Australia to study for his A-levels at Ampleforth College, York. On entry to university Tristan was awarded the organ scholarship at Worcester College, Oxford.

After completing his Bachelor of Arts in Music, Tristan was appointed to the post of joint organ scholar at St. Patrick's Cathedral and Christ Church Cathedral, in Dublin. He won prizes in the Royal College of Organists' diploma examinations, gaining his Fellowship diploma in 2004.

From 2005 to 2009 Tristan was Assistant Director of Music at Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, working with the late



Dean Desmond Harmon. While at Christ Church, Tristan was responsible for playing the organ at all services and for running the Cathedral Girls' Choir.

During this time he was runner-up in the Pipeworks

International Organ Festival (2005) and in 2008 he presented a joint recital series of the complete organ works of Olivier Messiaen.

From 2011 Tristan has been Director of Music at St Bartholomew's Parish, Clyde Road in Dublin. There he has developed and enhanced the choral and musical life of the parish, in addition to pursuing a freelance musical career. Tristan has also worked with the renowned choir, The Choral Scholars of University College Dublin.

With close family ties to Northern Ireland, Tristan and his family have recently decided to make the move north and settle in Belfast.

Welcoming the news of Tristan Russcher's new association with Belfast Cathedral, the Dean of Belfast, The Very Reverend Stephen Forde said "Tristan's move to our city could not have come at a more opportune time. He brings a wealth of musical experience to Belfast Cathedral. I look forward to an extremely fruitful partnership developing with Matthew Owens that can only enhance the music which this cathedral offers. Tristan's commitment to St Bartholomew's runs until mid-November. After this we look forward to welcoming his full involvement with the musical life of our cathedral."

Matthew Owens added "It is tremendously good news that Tristan will be joining us at Belfast Cathedral and I am very much looking forward to working with him."

Major concerns for parochial ministry in C of E

In 2019, Anglican worshippers in the diocese of Sheffield were informed of the existence of a “four-headed beast”.

They were not alone in facing this creature, they were told: it existed in every other diocese, especially in the north and more urban areas.

Its four heads may be familiar to Church Times readers: falling attendance (in Sheffield, a fall in Usual Sunday Attendance from 20,000 in 1988 to 12,000 in 2018); significant shortfalls in most parishes, “squeezing” the

diocesan board of finance (DBF) (out of 192 contributors to the diocese's common fund in 2018, only 17 paid the full costs of a dedicated stipendiary priest); problems presented by buildings and structures (leaving clergy, lay leaders, and congregations "overwhelmed by compliance, safeguarding, and administrative demands"); and a heavy dependence on the "magnificent" contribution of older members.

In 1999, there had been 155 stipendiary incumbents in the diocese of Sheffield; now there were just 100 (News, 28 May 2021). It was possible, the diocese agreed, to use historic reserves and other funds to maintain current numbers: "But it is surely obvious that, as long as expenditure exceeds income, the long term is bleak."

A more radical approach was needed, one offering "an exciting and thoroughly Anglican prospect . . . groups of disciples, meeting in a variety of venues, led locally, mostly by focal leaders and volunteer teams of lay people and self-supporting clergy, overseen by stipendiary incumbents (and some self-supporting clergy) offering oversight of wider areas, as leaders in mission".

It is a model that will, by now, be familiar to Anglican churchgoers in many English dioceses. Several dioceses are consulting about variations of it at the time of writing. It is also an approach that has attracted significant financial support from national sources. In total, Sheffield has been awarded £5.7 million from the £45-million Strategic Transformation Fund announced by the Archbishops' Council in July 2019, "to help those dioceses facing significant financial challenges and planning a major

restructuring programme to provide a platform for the Church's sustainable growth".

The allocation was described in the Strategic Investment Board's annual report as "a significant milestone in the life of the Church". The board has also awarded £1.7 million to support Manchester diocese in developing its transformation plan, while Birmingham's People and Places strategy was awarded £5 million (News, 1 March 2019).

By 2025, it is projected that the number of full-time stipendiary priests in Sheffield will have fallen to 83. Reductions will happen only as people choose to retire, or leave the diocese. There are no plans to pursue parish boundary changes (a way to trigger the loss of a post), and the diocese has acknowledged that it can implement the new model only with "the good will of the clergy and the whole people of God". This includes the consent of the stipendiary incumbents currently in post, all of whom have been invited to become "oversight ministers".

A report on responses to the 2019 consultation noted that, while worshippers agreed that the model was the best of the six options presented for tackling the "four-headed beast", "many did so with resignation and without much joy. Respondents clearly struggled with feeling 'excited' about the model."

The diocese is clear, nevertheless, that there is no Plan B. Across the diocese, 59 mission areas are being created, each made up of a group of parishes with at least one oversight minister. In 2019, the diocese warned that it had more stipendiary incumbents than it would be able to afford,



Sunshine and scaffolding at Frankfield, Cork

and would, therefore, be “exercising considerable caution in making permanent appointments under Common Tenure before allocations of numbers of stipendiary incumbents to deaneries have been agreed.

“Where appointments are possible, there will be a strong expectation that parishes are able to indicate how an appointment will carry forward the Diocesan Strategy.”

The Bishop of Sheffield, Dr Pete Wilcox, has acknowledged: “We will be hard pressed to sustain a reliable pattern of a weekly celebration of the eucharist in the ‘golden slot’ on a Sunday morning, i.e. starting between 9.30 a.m. and 11 a.m., in every parish or benefice.”

Asked whether he understands the concerns of those who wish to “save the parish” (News, 4 August), Dr Wilcox is unequivocal, but makes a request for “historical analysis”.

“I am absolutely clear that we are dealing with at least a 30-, 40-year problem, a threat to the parish,” he says. “I’m very happy to call it a threat to the parish, but it’s not a three-to-four-year threat to the parish.

Courtesy The Church Times

One million legacies left by kind-hearted Brits with a 30% rise in Gifts in Wills

More kind-hearted Brits are leaving gifts to charities in their Wills than ever before, with a million legacies left in the past decade*, according to new research from Remember A Charity and Smee & Ford.

To mark Remember A Charity Week, the data reveals that the percentage of people leaving a gift to charity in their Will has increased by almost a third (30%) over the past 20 years**, with more people than ever choosing to support a charity close to their heart – even after they’ve gone.

Gifts in Wills are a critical source of funding for charitable services across the country, raising more than £3 billion for good causes annually – and have been the fastest growing source of voluntary income for charities over the past twenty-one years.

Remember A Charity Week is an opportunity for charities around the country to raise awareness of passing on something wonderful by including a charity in your Will after family and friends have been taken care of.

Kerry McMenamain, Christian Aid's Legacy Partnerships Specialist, said: "We are proud to be part of Remember a Charity Week this year as it helps shine a light on the impact that gifts in Wills have, enabling missions of both churches and charities, like Christian Aid. Many supporters feel leaving a gift in their will is the best way to continue their lifetime of faithful action for justice. Raising awareness through Remember A Charity Week means more people will consider doing the same. We are holding a series of events for our staff this week as well as supporting our partner churches to talk more easily about gifts in Wills with their congregations."

Former head judge of Strictly Come Dancing, Len Goodman, is lending his support to the week, having altered his own Will to include a charity close to his heart.

Len Goodman, head judge on Dancing with the Stars, commented: "I am honoured to be supporting Remember A Charity Week for the fourth year running and to have the opportunity to meet some of the inspiring people working hard for a range of charitable causes. I really hope this week will encourage more people to leave a gift, however big or small, after they've gone. I've included a charitable gift in my Will after my family has been taken care of – it's so simple and it really does make an enormous difference!"

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Rob Cope, Director of Remember A Charity, says: “It’s so inspiring that we’ve reached this milestone of one million Brits leaving gifts to charity in their Wills. We really hope that this will become increasingly common, and that the number of people supporting charities in this way will continue to rise. Leaving a gift in your Will is a wonderful way to support charities in continuing to do amazing work and also provides an opportunity for your legacy to live on after you’ve gone.”

To find out more visit caid.org.uk/remember-a-charity.

News briefs

Methodist church generosity

Nearly £20,000 has been donated to support our global partners as they continue to tackle poverty, in the midst of the new challenges they're facing due to Covid-19 - Irish Methodist World Development and Relief

Pastoral Visitors commissioned

Pastoral Visitors from across the Armagh Diocese were commissioned at a service on 8th September in St Mark's Armagh

Vatican appointment for Kilmore priest

Pope Francis last week appointed Irishman Fr Enda Murphy as Head of Office at the Vatican’s Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments. Fr

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Murphy - a priest of the Kilmore Diocese - has worked in that department for the last six years.

Priest ordained in Cork, Cloyne and Ross



On Wednesday, 8th September, Pat Culleton was ordained priest by the Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, Dr Paul Colton. The Ordination Service took place in St Peter's Church, Bandon Union of Parishes, where Pat has been ordained Priest into Ordained Local Ministry.

In his sermon Bishop Colton said that, in addition to the routine and rhythm of the 'normal' in priestly ministry, there is predominantly the unexpected and lots of surprises.

He said: "The ministry has its routines and so it should. As disciples we follow a discipline and a rule of life – things that

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are common to each day. Things that you are going to promise to do as a Priest when I put the questions to you. My overriding sense, however, is that ministry takes unexpected turns – joys and opportunities, challenges and disappointments, beautiful art and blank walls, and many alternatives – and all of us in ministry need to be ready for that – in every pastoral encounter, in each engagement with Scripture – most especially in our reading and study of those passages we think we are already familiar with – in our sacramental ministrations, in God’s on-going revelation to us of grace, of faith, hope and love.”

OLM ordinations in Lisburn



Clergy at the Service of Ordination of OLM Deacons for Connor Diocese held in Lisburn Cathedral on September 8 are, from right: Stephen Green (ordained for St Bartholomew’s, Stranmillis); the Ven Barry Forde, Archdeacon of Belfast; Glenn Thompson (ordained for Kilmakee); the Rev Canon William Taggart, Registrar; the

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Very Rev Stephen Forde, Dean of Belfast; the Rev Canon Kevin Graham, Director of Ordinands; the Rt Rev George Davison, Bishop of Connor; the Rev Danielle McCullagh, Vicar, Lisburn Cathedral; the Very Rev Sam Wright, Dean of Connor; the Very Rev Paul Dundas, Archdeacon of Dalriada; Peter McCausland (ordained for Templepatrick and Donegore); the Ven Dr Stephen McBride, Archdeacon of Connor; and Peter Meenagh (ordained for Lisburn Cathedral).

Preach on the beach



One of the "benefits" of Covid restrictions was the transferring of this year's Courtmacsherry Harvest Thanksgiving Service to the beach.

Rev Kingsley Sutton made it possible, and it is reported "We might even continue to Preach On The Beach post-covid next year. But that's West Cork for you..."

Quote on discipleship

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“You can make churches without necessarily getting disciples. But if you really make disciples, you will definitely get churches. Let’s set our discipleship to Jesus’ standards of holiness, love, learning and commitment.” Bishop Nick Drayson on discipleship

Armagh Festival celebrates at Robinson Library



To celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Library, and to highlight its music collection, an event was held in collaboration with the Charles Wood Festival. The musicians were (l.) Gail Evans and (r.) Aisling Kenny, the speaker was (m.) David O'Shea.

Part-time Youth Officer post at Divine Healing Ministries

Interdenominational Divine Healing Ministries are currently seeking to recruit a part-time Youth Officer who who will

churchnewsireland@gmail.org

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work alongside the Director and the IDHM Team to promote and develop the healing ministry among young people in a manner in keeping with the ethos of IDHM.

For more information on the role, Job Description, Personnel Specification and an application form, please contact: divinehealing@live.co.uk

Poem for today

Leisure by W H Davies

What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare?—

No time to stand beneath the boughs,
And stare as long as sheep and cows:

No time to see, when woods we pass,
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass:

No time to see, in broad daylight,
Streams full of stars, like skies at night:

No time to turn at Beauty's glance,
And watch her feet, how they can dance:

No time to wait till her mouth can
Enrich that smile her eyes began?

A poor life this if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.



Speaking to the Soul & Pointers for prayer...

...are now being posted separately on CNI site for ease of access.. Please commend these daily thoughts and prayers to your friends.

