

Image of the day - the oldest synagogue in Europe

Reports



Irish Council of Churches' Secretary appointed to General Secretary for Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) has announced the appointment of Dr Nicola Brady as its next General Secretary. Nicola will join CTBI at the beginning of 2022 following her period of service as General Secretary of the Irish Council of Churches.

In her response, Nicola said, 'I am grateful for this opportunity to help guide and support the work of CTBI at a

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critical time, in collaboration with colleagues across Britain and Ireland. It is important that we continue to build on the close working relationships that have really shown their worth as our member churches responded to the multi-layered challenges of Covid-19. The vision for reconciliation and renewal that is at the heart of our ecumenical structures has much to offer a society that is struggling with multiple threats to social cohesion, both local and global. The pandemic experience to date has demonstrated the resilience of our faith as a force for good in society and the hope-filled leadership that churches can bring when they work together for the common good.'

CTBI's Moderator, the Revd Graham Sparkes, commented, 'We welcome Nicola at a time of challenge and opportunity. Across our four nations and beyond there are many fractures and divisions that threaten our shared humanity, and Nicola is deeply aware of the need for CTBI to witness to the reconciling hope at the heart of our Christian faith. Her rich experience and deep commitment will guide and strengthen the ecumenical vision that guides and sustains us, and we very much look forward to her leadership amongst us.'

Change and forthright leadership on climate change 'urgently required' – Bishop Martin Hayes

Tonight Jane Mellett, Laudato Si officer with Trócaire, will present a webinar on petition for climate change

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The Justice and Peace regional groups of the Council for Justice and Peace – a council of the Irish Bishops' Conference – will hold a short webinar this Wednesday 15 September at 7.30pm on the topic of 'Healthy Planet and Healthy People – the Catholic Petition'.

Welcoming this initiative, Bishop Martin Hayes, a member of the 'Laudato Si Working Group', encouraged people to join the webinar and, moreover, to sign the petition. Bishop Hayes said "During this Season of Creation, as we prayerfully reflect on God's gift of our common home, it is vitally important that we use every opportunity to put before our political leaders their solemn duty to tackle, in a serious way, the climate emergency and biodiversity crisis that confronts us.

"Pope Francis' attendance at the COP26 in Glasgow, in November, is a powerful expression of the Catholic Church's commitment to saving our planet at this crucial time. The joint message issued by the Holy Father, the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarch in recent days, points again to our responsibility, regardless of faith or worldview, to listen to the cry of the earth and of the poor who are suffering and at risk because of climate change. This petition is an important statement from Catholics and others that change and forthright leadership on this question is urgently required."

Bishop Hayes concluded, "The petition is noted by the Vatican as the key advocacy action for Catholics during this Season of Creation. Let us all play our part; in the words of Pope Francis, 'for we know that things can change ...' (Laudato Si, 13)."

churchnewsireland@gmail.org

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Conference.

Topic: Justice and Peace Networks

Time: Sep 15, 2021 07:30 PM Dublin

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://zoom.us/j/98671138028?
pwd=MmozTldPMWxKbzRMTGUvcUtaTGp3QT09](https://zoom.us/j/98671138028?pwd=MmozTldPMWxKbzRMTGUvcUtaTGp3QT09)

Meeting ID: 986 7113 8028

Passcode: 648567

Bishops ‘reduced to managers’ in revamp

The Church of England’s planned overhaul of governance causes parishioners concern

The Church of England is planning a “radical” overhaul of governance which will result in Church Commissioners merging with the Archbishops’ Council, prompting claims from parishioners that bishops will be “acting like managers instead of spiritual leaders”.

The Archbishops of York and Canterbury instructed the Bishop of Leeds, Nick Baines, to review structures within the Church in an effort to make them more “transparent and accountable”.

The Daily Telegraph revealed that the review has suggested merging the majority of national governance bodies.

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The Bishop of Leeds has recommended that the Church Commissioners, who essentially hold the purse strings for the Church, and the Archbishops' Council, which decides how the money is spent, should be combined and brought into a single charitable body called Church of England National Services.

The last time that the governance and structure of the Church of England was reviewed was in 1995, with the publication of the Turnbull Report, which recommended the establishment of a single executive body ("a National Council").

Twenty-five years on, the Church still does not have a unified national governance structure or a single focus of decision making and strategic planning.

However, the fresh proposals, which argue the case for national and unified governance reform, have sparked concern among parishioners who fear that such a consolidation would aggravate embattled parishes.

A leading campaigner for parishes across the country, who did not want to be named, said: "Simplification is in theory a good idea. But the bishops are the wrong people to do it. Bishops are not suitable to run this kind of body. They are unelected and unaccountable.

"There are already too many bishops and they are unelected – unlike those who sit in the House of Clergy and Laity.

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“It’s a coup by the House of Bishops – they want to take control of everything! These are failed middle management kind of people. They should scrap the Archbishops Council and go back to being synodically governed.

“It’s all part of seeing the bishops as if they were professional managers, but they’re meant to be spiritual leaders.” Speaking to The Daily Telegraph, the Bishop of Leeds described the reforms as “radical”.

He said: “The whole point of this is to simplify and clarify to increase transparency, accountability and effectiveness within the Church which was proposed 25 years ago but didn’t happen.

“There should be one central body that governs the church. The ultimate aim is to provide more transparent and accountable governance for the Church at parish, diocesan and national level.”

News briefs

C of I Vocation Sunday 2021

This year’s Vocation Sunday will take place this Sunday, 19th September. Anyone with an interest in exploring a vocation to ordained ministry is encouraged to speak with their Rector. The Commission on Ministry is keen that Vocation Sunday continues to be marked this year, even with our current circumstances, and to keep a conversation going in parishes around vocations.

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A range of resources is available at www.vocations.ireland.anglican.org along with the 'It's Your Call' video which highlights the call to ordained ministry. These resources include articles on pathways to ordination, lay ministry, pioneer ministry, and understanding selection, and posters for your parish to encourage people to think about the role to which God may be calling them in their lives.

MU welcome packs for Afghan refugees

As the Afghanistan crises continues to unfold, Mothers' Union is at the forefront of helping to settle refugees in the UK. In Norwich, members provide welcome packs of bedding for new arrivals. Read more: mothersunion.org/news/welcoming...

Cork confirmations continue

“My last Confirmation Service of this weekend was in St Peter’s Church, Bandon this afternoon for Bandon Union of Parishes. Another great group of young people from Church of Ireland in Cork, Cloyne and Ross More Confirmations next weekend!” - Bishop Colton

Concerts return to St Patrick’s Cathedral

Delighted to see concerts return to the Cathedral, with two events planned in the coming weeks.

First, on 26 September, London Concertante brings Vivaldi's Four Seasons by candlelight to the Cathedral. London Concertante has its audience laughing at jokes, gasping at

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virtuosity, moved by gorgeous playing, and leaving with a smile on their faces.

Then, on 2 October, Ireland's favourite trio The Three Tenors Ireland create a thrilling concert featuring a classic mix of contemporary, uplifting, inspirational songs, some great Irish folk and some special surprises –something for everyone!

Learn more about both upcoming events and book at www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/events

2021 Black Santa applications

“As we enter our 45th year of the Annual Black Santa Appeal, we're pleased to announce the release of the 2021 Black Santa applications,” Dean of Belfast, Very Rev Stephen Forde.

Link below for the application form and for more information on the history of Belfast's Black Santa Appeal:

<https://www.belfastcathedral.org/news/black-santa-applications-2021-now-open>

Church of Ireland Theological Institute begins new academic year

The new academic year at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute in Braemor Park commenced over last weekend with an Induction programme for all incoming and continuing part-time students. In line with statutory regulations the Institute was delighted to be able to offer appropriate

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arrangements for a return to in-person teaching. Sessions for the weekend included 'Beginning Ministerial Training', 'Orientation to the MTh', 'Safeguarding Trust', 'Reconciliation Studies', 'Community Living' and 'Academic Writing Skills'. Each day began and ended in corporate worship and prayer. It is hoped that a parallel spouses' programme can be held online. Nine students have been recommended by the Bishops' Selection Conference to start training, and they were joined by a Non-Stipendiary Minister who is transferring to full-time deployment.

Mayor opens Quiet Garden in Ballymoney parish



The Mayor of Causeway Coast and Glens, Councillor Richard Holmes, officially opened the Quiet Garden in the grounds of St Patrick's Church, United Parish of Ballymoney, Finvoy and Rasharkin, on Saturday. Many people from the local community turned out to take part in

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the opening of this beautiful, quiet space within the original rectory walled garden. Longer report at <https://bit.ly/3nycGkh>

Church of Ireland ordination services



The Reverend Ciaran Kavanagh was ordained to the diaconate in St Iberius Church, Wexford on Sunday night.

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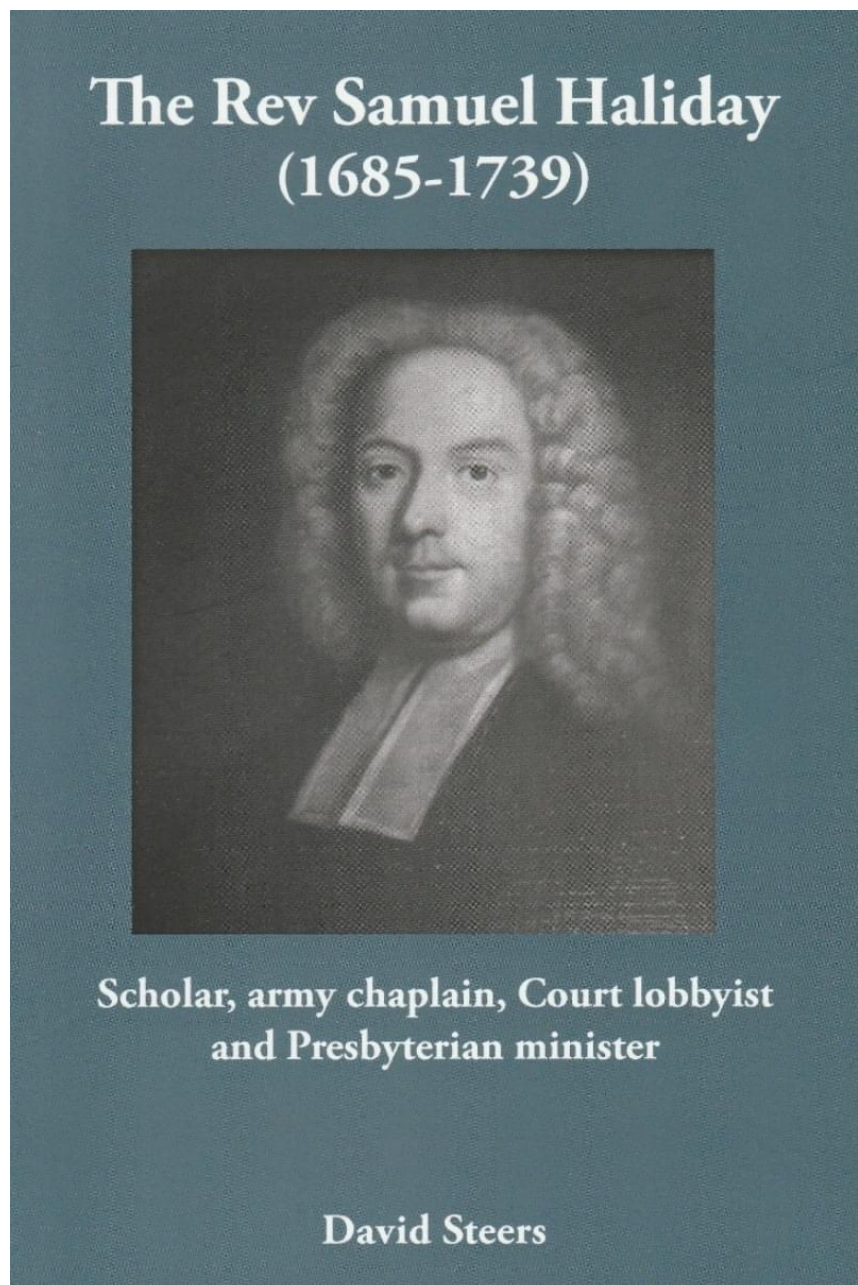
On Saturday the Bishop of Limerick & Killaloe, Dr Kenneth Kearon, ordained the Revd Dr Leonard Madden to the priesthood in Saint Mary's cathedral, Limerick. Dr Madden will serve as curate–assistant in Limerick City Parish.

On Sunday evening, Revd. Andrew Pierce was made Deacon by Bishop Ferran Glenfield in a service in St Fethlimidh's Cathedral, Kilmore. Revd. Andy will be serving his deacon-intern year with Revd. Craig McCauley in the Virginia Group of Parishes.

Books, Broadcasts, Resources and Webinars

Book on Rev Samuel Haliday

The book has just been published by the Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland . It tells the story of the Rev Samuel Haliday who was not only a pioneer of Non-Subscription, but



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also had a varied and fascinating career travelling around Europe as a scholar, an army chaplain, and accompanying the nephew of Sir Hans Sloane (the Killyleagh-born founder of the British Museum) on a grand tour. A close friend to many of the leading theologians and ministers in all parts of Europe, especially Geneva, the full story of his life is told in this book.

Copies are available in Dunmurry NS church at a price of £3. Eventually they will be available directly from the PHSI website and copies can be posted for price of £4.

It is planned that there will be a public launch of the booklet in First Church Belfast (where Samuel Haliday ministered) in November.

Church Times Faith and Literary Festival



There is still time to book tickets to the Church Times Faith and Literary Festival on 25 September. The Archbishop will be speaking with Philippa White about his book 'Dear England'

<https://faithandliterature.hymnsam.co.uk/september-2021/>

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Centre for Cross Border Studies annual conference

CCBS will host its 22nd Annual Conference on Friday 24th September.

“Testing the health of conditions for post-Brexit cooperation: The evolving social and political contexts”

Online Speaker, registration & sponsorship info here:

➔ bit.ly/3zQJtUG

Climate Sunday Online Service



Pray for those impacted by global warming and other extreme weather events in this week's C of E service. Led by Rev Canon Giles Goddard, the service focuses on the climate emergency.

You Tube

[[] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hoKMFR7wl-I>]
churchnewsireland@gmail.org

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Web site

[[] <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-church-online/weekly-online-services/climate-sunday>]

Choral Evensong today 15th September 2021

BBC Radio 3 - From Edington Priory during the 2021 Edington Festival of Music within the Liturgy.

Introit: Litany of the Saints (Plainsong)

Responses: Plainsong

Office hymn: Urbs Jerusalem beata (Plainsong)

Psalm 48 (How)

First Lesson: Ezekiel 11 vv.14-25

Canticles: Harwood in A flat

Second Lesson: Revelation 21 vv.1-7

Anthem: Blessed City, heavenly Salem (Bairstow)

Hymn: Christ is made the sure foundation (Westminster Abbey)

Voluntary: Empyrean (Francis Pott)

Jeremy Summerly, Peter Stevens (Conductors)

Alexander Pott, Charles Maxtone-Smith (Organist)

Perspective

You do not have to be religious to oppose legalising assisted dying - Bishop Rowan Williams

Pressure has again mounted for a change in the law concerning physician-assisted dying, with the British

Medical Association due to debate the topic at its conference today (Monday).

Public and professional opinion seems to have shifted somewhat since this was last considered in Parliament, but it is hard to see that any new facts have emerged that would justify the changes envisaged. The arguments remain essentially the same, and in a matter like this it is important to weigh them in their own right.

Some continue to say that opponents of this change are deliberately condemning people to protracted physical and mental agony for the sake of the religious or moral convictions of a minority.

In fact, no serious contributor to this debate believes that merely prolonging life at all costs is a good in itself, or that it is morally inadmissible to scale back medical intervention or to use procedures for the relief of pain that are known to have potentially life-shortening side effects. But two broader points need to be made clearly here.

The first is the fact that those resisting legal change include religious believers and unbelievers alike, as well as a large proportion of those most directly involved in end-of-life care and palliative medicine – ie those most immediately concerned with and responsible for the management of pain and distress.

The second is that the actual arguments against a change in the law are routinely about its effect on patient-doctor trust, on attitudes to certain kinds of disease or disability, on the

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apportioning of resources in a strained care system and a good many other practical issues.

Many – including myself – are indeed opposed on religious principle, but fully recognise that this alone is not a reason for maintaining the legal ban. The concerns that continue to be expressed are about what we believe to be the unacceptably high price of a change in the law.

We have to be aware of the reality of pressure on seriously ill patients to take certain decisions – something which Kathryn Mannix’s 2017 book, *With the End in Mind*, reports and discusses in a non-partisan and unsensational way – pressure which may (very understandably) come from overstrained families as well as overstretched medical systems.

We should note, too, that fear of such pressure within the medical system may discourage seriously ill patients from seeking appropriate medical help; the issues of doctor-patient trust involved are real.

This country has an enviable record of progress in and provision for palliative care; will this survive in the world of overburdened budgets if there are less expensive options? This is emphatically not to suggest any cynicism in the proposals for change, but to recognise an undeniable reality in terms of the triage within the funding systems of health care.

There are immensely complicated questions around how the law is to identify conditions that would “justify” medical intervention that has the direct and intended consequence

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of ending life. The obvious risks in labelling certain conditions in this way are of alarmist messages to patients at large, and of pressure to claim greater prognostic certainty than is realistic.

More could be said; but these are still the considerations that persuade many to say no to a legal change.

[Dr Rowan Williams was Archbishop of Canterbury, 2002-2012](#)

Courtesy the Daily Telegraph, 14 September 2021

Poem for today

Baltimore by Sinead Morrissey

In other noises, I hear my children crying -
in older children playing on the street
past bedtime, their voices buoyant
in the staggered light; or in the baby
next door, wakeful and petulant
through too-thin walls; or in the constant
freakish pitch of Westside Baltimore
on The Wire, its sirens and rapid gunfire,
its beleaguered cops haranguing kids
as young as six for propping up
the dealers on the corners, their swagger
and spitfire speech; or in the white space
between radio stations when no voice
comes at all and the crackling static
might be swallowing whole a child's

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small call for help; even in silence itself,
its material loops and folds enveloping
a ghost cry, one I've made up, but heard,
that has me climbing the stairs, pausing
in the hall, listening, listening hard,
to - at most - rhythmical breathing
but more often than not to nothing, the air
of the landing thick with something missed,
dust motes, the overhang of blankets, a ship
on the Lough through the window, infant sleep.



Speaking to the Soul & Pointers for prayer

Are now published in a separate post on the CNI site.

