



Christopher Too

## Image of the day - Chapel of Kings College

## Reports

### Church leaders promote service of reflection and hope for dual centenary

#### **Christian commitment to peace, healing and reconciliation underpins a Service of Reflection and Hope to mark the partition of Ireland and the formation of Northern Ireland**

A Service of Reflection and Hope to mark the centenaries of the partition of Ireland and the formation of Northern Ireland will take place in Saint Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral, Armagh, on Thursday, 21 October 2021.

The service is being organised by the Church Leaders Group, as part of their wider programme of collective engagement around the 1921 centenaries, with an emphasis on their common Christian commitment to peace, healing and reconciliation.

Armagh has been chosen as the location due to its significance as Ireland's ecclesiastical capital – a status which has its origins in the 5th Century when the present site of the Church of Ireland cathedral was presented to Saint Patrick for building his 'great stone church'.

In a joint statement issued on Saint Patrick's Day the Church Leaders emphasised the need to 'be intentional in creating spaces for encounter with those who are different f



from us, and those who may feel marginalised in the narratives that have shaped our community identity’ and, in doing so, ’to face difficult truths about failings in our own leadership in the work of peace and reconciliation’. This Christian act of worship will involve people from across the community, from diverse backgrounds and traditions, and with different beliefs and aspirations, coming together to pray for the healing of past hurts and to seek God’s guidance in a spirit of hope for the future. The ongoing risks of Covid-19 will restrict the space for in-person participation, but the service will be broadcast and local church communities will be invited to support the initiative in prayer.

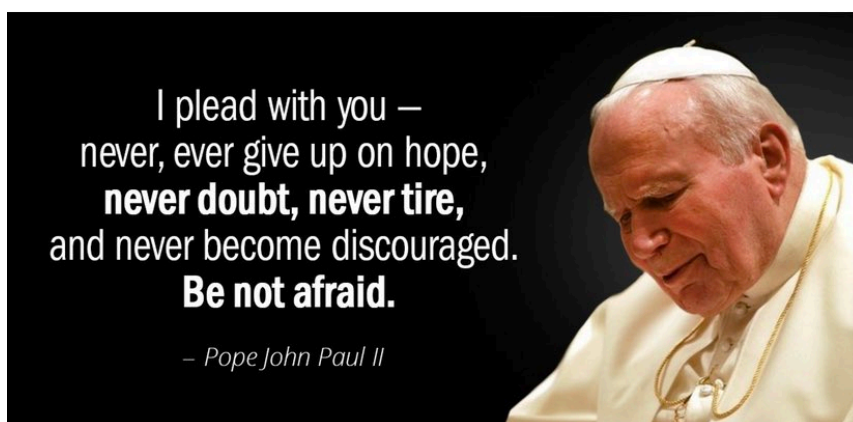
At the heart of the Church Leaders’ joint engagements over the course of this year, in prayer, in dialogue and in collective outreach to the wider community, has been a [churchnewsireland@gmail.org](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.org)

September 16, 2021

focus on relationships. In their joint statement they say: ‘We find inspiration and encouragement in the progress that has been made through our peace process in building relations of mutual respect and trust across these islands. These relationships are often tested, and will at times be found wanting, but our communities have also demonstrated great resilience, solidarity and compassion, evident most recently in the response to Covid-19’.

This Service of Reflection and Hope is offered as a contribution to the work of building community and deepening relationships.

This statement has been issued on behalf of **the Church Leaders Group** which comprises the Church of Ireland and Roman Catholic Archbishops of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, the Most Revd John McDowell and the Most Revd Eamon Martin respectively; the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, the Rt Revd Dr David Bruce; the President of the Methodist Church in Ireland, the Revd Dr Sahr Yambasu; and the President of the Irish Council of Churches, the Very Revd Dr Ivan Patterson.



The Saint Patrick’s Day statement by the Church Leaders is available at the following link: <https://bit.ly/3BPwWI9>

## Contemporary musical take at PCI centenary event

**Guests at this Friday's (17 September) Presbyterian Church in Ireland's (PCI) centenary event 'On These Steps' will be treated to the premier of a specially commissioned song by the Belfast-based indie singer-songwriter, Ferna.**

The livestreamed event, to mark the part played by its Union Theological College in hosting the Parliament of Northern Ireland 100 years ago, also marks the centenary of the creation of Northern Ireland and the partition of Ireland, recognising the diversity of views around this significant anniversary.

Launching the event at the start of this month, which will be held at the south Belfast College - known in 1921 as the Assembly's College - PCI's Moderator, Right Reverend Dr David Bruce, said the Church had "a broader aim beyond the commemorative, as we seek to build relationships by bringing people together to reflect on our shared past, in a way that enables us to look in hope to a shared future."

Speaking about the commission, Ferna said, "When Steve [Stockman] asked me I was surprised and very apprehensive about it because I felt the song could go wrong in so many ways! I mean, how do you reflect upon something as complex and troubled as 100 years of Northern Ireland in a helpful, thoughtful way?"



“As a prompt, I was asked to read the King’s speech from the opening of the Parliament in 1921 and the line “the future lies in the hands of my Irish people themselves”, stuck with me. It made me wonder whether this had been true over the last 100 years, or whether it could still become true during the next 100. I wanted to use the song to explore those questions.”

Ferna said that at the same time, the song is also her attempt to answer another intriguing question: ‘if Northern Ireland was a person what would it say today?’

“I’m used to writing songs through self-reflection, so this brought it into more familiar territory for me. It also made writing the song a lot easier, as I could speak with one voice rather than trying to represent everybody, which I had no idea how to do!” she said.

“It’s sort of a slow, pulsing ballad in which we meet someone who knows they are stuck in a weird cycle of fresh starts and setbacks. We meet them as they’re taking stock and

September 16, 2021

wondering how they might start again in a way that actually takes them somewhere different. At the same time I was very focused on painting an honest picture of this person – I wanted to show their flaws, but also their inner strength, their pain but also their stoicism. I also wanted to avoid being trite or sentimental.”

Ferna is the new project of the Coleraine born Hannah McPhillimy, which she explains merges the organic with the electronic, delivering, a sound that is both epic and intimate, confident and vulnerable, beautiful and menacing, filled with mixed emotions and powerful hooks.

Talking about the title ‘Lapsed’, Ferna said that as with many of her songs, it was the first thing that came to her. “I think it does actually do quite a good job at setting the scene. It is a past orientated word that we associate here with a loss of faith, and how a ‘lapsed Catholic’ or a ‘lapsed Protestant’ is still very much defined by the thing that they have rejected, which I find interesting. This is the kind of headspace I pictured the character of this song is in - occupying a space on a pew – either out of hope, or out of habit – but desperate to feel something like belief again.”

During the event the Moderator, Dr Bruce, will give a reflective address, while Ian McBride, the Foster Professor of Irish History at the University of Oxford - and a native of County Armagh – will bring an historic perspective. It is hoped that there will be an opportunity for political reflection, during a panel discussion, with some of the invited guests.

Accompanied by strings and percussion, Ferna will perform her song for the first time before an invited audience of

September 16, 2021

political and civic guests from across the UK and Ireland, which includes the leaders of Ireland's main churches. Guests, and those watching online, will also hear the actual words of King George V's speech, delivered at the Parliament's opening, as spoken by Jim Allen.

Looking forward to the song's premier, Rev Steve Stockman, a member of PCI's Peace and Reconciliation Panel, and a minister well known for his use of music as an important part of his ministry, said that Ferna was ideal for the commission.

Talking about the song, the minister of Fitzroy Presbyterian Church in Belfast said, "This wasn't an easy ask for any singer-song writer, but I knew Ferna was creative enough for what we wanted having worked with her at the Four Corners Festival. She had also collaborated successfully with novelist Jan Carson, capturing the heart of Jan's debut novel 'Malcolm Orange Disappears' in song, getting into the text and beyond the words themselves.

"With this in mind, I had no doubt that she would have the creative flare to get into the context of our event, adding something very different to the day that was not only original, but thought-provoking and contemporary."

**You can watch the livestream of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland's event via the PCI website**

[www.presbyterianireland.org](http://www.presbyterianireland.org) from 2pm on Friday, 17 September 2021. Ferna's song, 'Lapsed' will be available to stream, or purchase, from all major online platforms after the event.



## **Bishop appeals against closure of Family Addiction Support Network**

**Bishop Michael Router, from the Archdiocese of Armagh writes:**

This week national media coverage highlighted the serious intimidating behaviour connected to the ongoing drugs related criminal activity in the Border area. It's hard to believe therefore that funding difficulties facing the Family Addiction Support Network in Dundalk - founded 20 years ago to support families traumatised by addiction - is threatening its continued existence. I am seeking an urgent meeting with Minister of State for Public Health, Well Being and National Drugs Strategy, Frank Feighan, to seek assistance to keep FASN operating into the future.

The value of FASN to our local community has been clearly identified by the State. Earlier this year Minister for Justice Helen McEntee published the Scoping Report into Community Safety and Wellbeing in Drogheda, by the former Director of the Probation Service, Mr Vivian Geiran, who identified FASN as one of the key local projects in response to the drugs-fuelled emergency in Drogheda, as did the Department of Justice's own implementation plan, Drogheda: Building a Bridge to a Better Future, published last month.

Last October FASN applied for funding to keep its level of service going but received just a fraction of what it needed to run projects across the North East. These projects are vital at this time, providing significant support to families

September 16, 2021

facing all the stresses and strains that addiction brings including the horrifying problem of drug-debt intimidation.

As patron of the Family Addiction Support Network in Dundalk, I have seen at first hand the great work that the organisation undertakes, but I have also witnessed the negative impact that the lack of funding is having on its very dedicated personnel. Last year FASN staff helped over 250 families in the region. Without question, it will be devastating for such families if its service is forced to close.

I strongly support the role of the Family Addiction Support Network and am appealing for Government funding to help deliver its vital services for the wellbeing of our community.

Bishop Router is a member of the Irish Bishops' Drugs Initiative

## **New publication on C of I stained glass**

**One of the conspicuous features of most Church of Ireland churches is the absence of the decorative arts.**

Following the Reformation the Church of Ireland was distinctly Calvinist in its theology which allowed no space for anything that might be considered a 'graven image'. Even today, by international Anglican standards, the churchmanship of the Church of Ireland is low and so there is little in the way of vestments, altar frontals, statuary, carvings or religious paintings. One major exception to this is stained glass, which, from the 19th century onwards, became a regular feature of parish churches and cathedrals.

September 16, 2021

Much of this came from English studios, some is, to quote John Betjeman, 'many coloured Munich glass', but from the early 20th century onwards Irish artists began to be featured with the work of Harry Clarke, Evie Hone, Wilhelmina Geddes and others illuminating sanctuaries, chapels and naves. Many of these are memorials to prominent local families and to those who were killed in war. The Church's corpus of stained glass windows has been expertly catalogued by Dr David Lawrence and is available to all on the website [www.gloine.ie](http://www.gloine.ie).

But before Dr Lawrence's work became available three pioneers, David Caron, Nicola Gordon-Bowe and Michael Wynne, produced a Gazetteer of Irish Stained Glass which was published by the Irish Academic Press in 1988. Now the sole survivor of this trio, David Caron, has produced a new edition of the Gazetteer which has again been published by the Irish Academic Press.

In the current issue of the Church of Ireland Gazette Dr Caron, now retired from the National College of Art & Design, provides an introduction to the new edition of the book.

## **Mothers' Union at forefront of helping refugees to settle in UK**

**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.**

September 16, 2021

Early in August, before the Taliban took over in Kabul, members in Leeds discovered help was needed for quarantining Afghan families in hotels. A Manchester hotel manager who is the son of an MU member living in the Huddersfield Episcopal Area, became a contact for the Diocese of Leeds in their efforts to assist refugees.

Now, working alongside Manchester Diocese MU, members from the Diocese of Leeds have sent outdoor toys and games for when the Afghan children have time to play. Recently, they were asked by their contact for warm coats for the children ready for when they leave quarantine and move on again.

Following this request, members across the Diocese of Leeds have worked very hard to collect hundreds of good quality coats. These have been taken to Manchester and received gratefully by the refugee families. The members have recently supplied other clothing, including harder to get items such as underwear for the children too.

[[] <https://www.mothersunion.org/news/two-diocese-north-england-work-together-help-afghan-refugees> ]

## **Presiding Bishop Michael Curry reflects on 9/11**

**Presiding Bishop Michael Curry speaking on Sunday at Trinity Church Wall Street, New York said - “We observe this solemn occasion in a perilous moment in our national life and history. The seeds of self-centeredness —the seeds of hatred—will inevitably yield a bitter harvest.**

September 16, 2021

“This day is a testimony to that, and we cannot continue that way.

“Yesterday, former President Bush warned us about this. Our unreconciled racial history, and our deep and dangerous divisions, left unattended, will prove injurious to our democracy. This is not the time for neutrality or quietism, but it is not time for loudness and anger. Just prior to the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln rightly warned the nation, quoting Jesus, who said, “A house divided against itself cannot stand.”

“But let us not luxuriate in despair. Hope is on the way. Jesus once said, ‘No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.’

“Let us remember that, 20 years ago, there were firefighters, police officers, other first responders, and countless others who, on 9/11, disregarded their own lives to save those of people they didn’t even know.”

## **A Lancashire church minister has sung the entire Methodist hymn book to raise money for an Indian covid relief effort**

**Rev Phil Gough, Superintendent Minister of The Chorley and Leyland Methodist Circuit, sung 748 songs in slots of three to four hours a day during a week.**

Speaking to Premier News, he said the idea came after being made aware of the challenges churches in India are facing to help people suffering with Covid-19.



“We had an event a few weeks ago, looking at our partner churches in the world...we had a new link through a family connected to churches in India. And we were hearing harrowing stories, particularly

from northern India, some of the remotest parts on the border with Nepal, where there's very, very little medical assistance for anybody who has covid,” Rev Phil said.

Earlier this year, India suffered a critical shortage of oxygen tanks and ventilators after a huge rise in covid cases. The country currently ranks second in the world in terms of the number of deaths caused by Covid-19.

“Some of the churches there had a vision of having oxygen tanks and ventilation in the church, that people would come to the church to receive medical attention that they couldn't get elsewhere,” Rev Phil continued. “And that just sparked a thought in me that that was something I wanted to contribute towards.”

September 16, 2021

The 53-year-old minister wanted to “use his breath” to raise money and decided to sing, as many people in the UK have been unable to hold gathered worship over the last months.

“I thought about reading scripture, doing a sponsored reading of the New Testament or something like that. But many of us have really, really missed singing over the last 12 to 18 months,” he said, “especially when we've been unable to do it in our gathered worship. And so, it felt like an opportunity to invite others through social media to join me in singing through the hymn book.”

The Methodist hymn book, *Singing the Faith*, is divided into three topical sections, with hymns from the 20th and 21st centuries. Rev Phil said his favourite one to sing is *Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah*.

“Being half Welsh and listening, you know, as I’m singing I’m thinking there’s a Welsh male voice choir around me singing ‘Songs of praises, songs of praises, I will ever give to Thee’;

“But the songbook also has a lot of modern songs in so, indescribable was a great one to see. Just glorying in the wonder of God's creation. And songs that spoke about the breath of God. Breathe in the breath of God, those kinds of songs reminded me why I was doing what I was doing that there are churches in India, that are longing to be able to offer literally the breath of life to people in their community,” Rev Phil said.

Rev Phil broadcasted his singing through Facebook Live with the aim of raising £600, but has so far raised £1,500,

September 16, 2021

enough to pay for two ventilators for a church in northern India.

He concluded: “When we asked the pastors out there in India, they were asking for prayer for resilience...if you can imagine serving your community with very little medical backup and medical support. We were hearing that 1,000s local church pastors in this area of north of India had died with covid. So, there's a need to support local churches out in India in leadership and in their desire to serve their communities.”

## News briefs

### New Issue of the C of I Gazette

In the current Gazette, the Bishop of Cashel, Ferns & Ossory, the Rt Revd Michael Burrrows, writes about the Anglican Centre in Rome where he is Chairman of its International Board and there is an interview with the Bishop of Cork, Cloyne & Ross, Dr Paul Colton, who reflects on centenaries, commemoration and reconciliation.

The former First Minister of Northern Ireland, Arlene Foster, reflects on her political career, her faith and her family while Lydia Monds, Education Officer of the Bishops' Appeal, offer some thoughts on climate change.

Learn about the Hiroshima Day Commemoration, Refugee Week in Christ Church cathedral, Dublin, a year in review in the Diocese of Armagh, the lives of prisoners and much



September 16, 2021

more. Find out more about these and other stories and how you can subscribe to the Gazette at <https://gazette.ireland.anglican.org>

## **Ordination in Meath and Kildare**

Rev Philip McKinley was ordained deacon by Bishop Pat Storey on Sunday 12 September 2021. The service took place in St Brigid's Cathedral, Kildare. The preacher was Philip's father, Canon Horace McKinley (rector of Whitechurch, Dublin).

<https://meathandkildare.org/news/ordination-of-rev-philip-mckinley-12-september/>



## **West Belfast Scout district marks Northern Ireland Centenary**

Northern Ireland Centenary camp tree planting ceremony at Crawfordsburn Scout Centre. Trees were planted by from left to right Education Minister Michelle McIlveen, Deputy Lord Lieutenant Alan Logan MBE and Lord Rogan of Lower Iveagh, Deputy Speaker of The House of Lords. Dedication prayer was offered by the West Belfast District Chaplain Reverend Tracey McRoberts.



**In fond remembrance -  
Canon Cecil Bradley (1923 - 2003)**

“The death took place on Monday 15 September at the Cowper Care Centre of Canon Cecil R. J. Bradley, formerly Dean's Vicar of St Patrick's Cathedral. A native of Co Tyrone, Cecil Bradley was a past pupil of Methodist College, Belfast, and a graduate of Trinity College Dublin.

“In 1948 he was ordained a deacon and priested the following year. He served two curacies in the Diocese of Derry, at All Saints' Clooney from 1948 to 1950 and at St Columb's Cathedral, from 1950 to 1967.

September 16, 2021

“In 1967 he was appointed Dean's Vicar of St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, where he remained until his retirement from the full-time ministry in 1996. In addition to his duties as Dean's Vicar he was Prebendary of Maynooth from 1981 to 1996.

“Canon Bradley's Funeral Service took place on Wednesday 18 September in St Patrick's Cathedral, followed by burial in the Cathedral Graveyard. In accordance with his wishes there was no address. The lessons were read by Eoghan Ward and the Very Revd Maurice Stewart, a former Dean. The commendation was by the Archbishop of Dublin, Dr John Neill, and the committal by the Bishop of Cashel & Ossory, the Right Revd Peter Barrett.

“Canon Bradley is survived by his brother, Ivor, and his sister, Evelyn. A Memorial Service is to be arranged.”

## Poem for today

### Don't Die With Your Music Still In You by Tina Graves

You came here with a message  
You came here with a plan  
Somehow you would contribute  
To elevate your fellow man  
Everyone of us is unique  
No two are ever the same  
Your exclusive inner calling  
Is your Souls indelible aim...

Music touches everyone's Soul  
In so many different ways  
Relaxing, enlivening, provoking thoughts  
Bringing emotions to everyone's days  
If composing or playing music  
Is what you came here to do  
Share your passion with the world  
Don't Die With Your Music Still In You

Books are an unlimited way  
To share, teach and inspire  
Enabling the use of imagination  
They aid to focus your desire  
If eloquence through the written word  
Is what you came here to do  
Share your passion with the world  
Don't Die With Your Book Still In You

## Pointers for prayer & Speaking to the Soul



September 16, 2021

Are available in a separate post on CNI daily

