



Church organist tuning up for 12 cathedrals fundraising challenge



Organist Elise Crean and husband Dessie Moorcroft prepare for a 270-mile dash playing 12 organ recitals in 12 cathedrals across Northern Ireland.

July 2 2018

A motorcycle-loving church organist from Co Armagh is getting ready to take to the roads in a race against the clock as she bids to perform 12 concerts in 12 cathedrals in just one day, the News Letter reports.

Musician and keen biker Elise Crean will don her leathers for the unique challenge, which will take her to venues across Northern Ireland, on July 21.

Helping Elise make the 270-mile dash around the 12 cathedrals will be her husband, Dessie Moorcroft, who will be giving her a lift on the back of his powerful Suzuki motorbike.

Elise, 35, from Darkley, the resident organist at First Armagh Presbyterian, is aiming to raise money towards the £70,000 required to rebuild the church's historic organ.

Members of public are being invited along to each of the concerts, while bikers are being encouraged to ride alongside Elise and Dessie on all or part of their journey. "This may be the first time a church organist has been seen in motorcycle gear and I am hoping that a combination of curiosity and generosity will help generate audiences for each concert," Elise said.

"Each stop will be exactly 30 minutes long. We have to stick very strictly to the schedule so that we can complete the round trip through each of the six counties on time. "I think it is going to be a challenge, but as an organist it is a fantastic opportunity to get to play some of the finest instruments in the Province."

Elise, who has already been practicing on the various organs that she'll encounter on the day, will be playing a programme of favourites from across the centuries including Pachelbel's Canon in D and Elgar's Nimrod. Each concert will also feature an organ and bagpipe duet of Highland Cathedral. Anyone who would like to support Elise in her fundraising effort can make a donation online at www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/firstarmaghorgan

• 12 concerts on July 21...

July 2 2018

0700: Armagh – St Patrick’s RC Cathedral
0800: Newry – Cathedral of St Patrick and St Colman
0925: Downpatrick – Cathedral Church of the Holy Trinity
1030: Dromore – Cathedral Church of Christ the Redeemer
1115: Lisburn – Lisburn Cathedral
1205: Belfast – St Anne’s Cathedral
1345: Belfast – St Peter’s Cathedral
1545: Londonderry – St Columb’s Cathedral
1625: Londonderry – St Eugene’s Cathedral
1840: Enniskillen – St Macartin’s Cathedral
1945: Clogher – St Macartan’s Cathedral
2100: Armagh – St Patrick’s COI Cathedral

Corpus Christi College Choir begins tour of Ireland

The choir of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, will be in Dublin, Belfast and Enniskillen this month for a series of concerts. Under the direction of Matthew Murphy, from Enniskillen, as Senior Organ Scholar and Theodore Hill, the Irish tour begins on Tuesday, 3 July in Dublin. There, they will be leading Evensong in Christ Church Cathedral on 3 July and 4 July and on 5 July in St. Patrick’s Cathedral. On 6 July, the choir will be performing Sung Mass in St. Patrick’s Cathedral (RC), Armagh, and Evensong in St. Anne’s Cathedral, Belfast.

On Saturday, 7 July, the choir will be performing at a lunch-time concert (1pm) in St Macartin’s Cathedral followed by Sung Mass (6pm) in St. Michael’s Church, Enniskillen.

They finish the tour with Choral Eucharist in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, at 11am on 8 July.



Since the foundation of the college in 1517, choral music has played an important part in the worship of Corpus Christi College Chapel.

The original college statutes made provision for a choir of just five members to sing daily services. Today, the Choir is made up of 30 students drawn from across the college community who provide music for sung services each term—time Sunday as well as for important feast days such as Ash Wednesday, Ascension Day and Corpus Christi Day. Under the direction of the Organ Scholars, the choir sings a range of music spanning over 450 years from the English cathedral repertoire.

Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church reaches out to LGBT people

In a Facebook post Mountpottinger NSPCI on 27 June at 15:00 stated:

July 2 2018

“EVERYONE is welcome here at the Crossroads Church.

“Communion is open to EVERYONE here at the Crossroads Church.

“Baptism is open to EVERYONE here at the Crossroads Church.

“Freedom of thought and freedom of conscience are open to EVERYONE here at the Crossroads Church.

“Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Churches have been, are, and can be again, the liberal expression of Presbyterianism throughout Ireland.

“We are trying to rebuild such a place in East Belfast. If you have been marginalised and rejected by the dominant voices of Ulster Christianity, and you still desire to be part of a worshipping community, come and help us build it. YOU ARE WELCOME HERE.”

A Day of Prayer for a peaceful ‘Twelfth’

A Day of Prayer for a peaceful ‘Twelfth’ and for healing in our land will be held in St George’s Parish Church, Belfast, on Wednesday July 11.

The day will start with a Service of Holy Communion at 10.30am and will run until 2pm. People are welcome to come and go as they wish during this time and refreshments will be available.

July 2 2018

This Day of Prayer around the period of the 'Twelfth' has been organised by Divine Healing Ministries (DHM) for a number of years. It also marks the completion of more than a year of weekday prayers for the city and the land which have been held in the Chapel of the Holy Cross at St George's.

Divine Healing Ministries believes that God has responded positively to the prayers offered up in previous years, with a marked reduction in violence particularly at flashpoint areas. The Day of Prayer is for people of all Christian traditions. Short reflections will be held every 30 minutes with silent prayer to follow. Personal prayer will be available for anyone who wishes to receive it.

Fergus McMorrow, Director of Divine Healing Ministries, said: "We are very pleased that St George's is once again hosting this Day of Prayer with DHM. It will be a special privilege to begin the time of prayer with Holy Communion at 10.30. We come confidently to God to ask His blessing on our land and this city of Belfast for a peaceful 12th July again this year."

Young people to join US diocesan camp

Twelve young people from the Diocese of Down and Dromore, and two adult leaders, will fly out to their link diocese of Albany in upstate New York on Friday where they will spend two weeks helping at Beaver Cross Ministries Summer Camp.

This expression of the link between Down and Dromore and Albany has been happening since a team of young people



travelled to Beaver Cross in 2003. Since then a number of groups have travelled in each direction, with Down and Dromore regularly hosting American teams at Summer Madness.

The Revd Adrian Dorrian will be leading the Down and Dromore team.

He said: “This is the first time in several years we will have sent a team out to Albany. It’s wonderful to see so many of the team members coming up through our own Kilbroney Adventure Camps (which owe much of their structure to Albany’s model), but also to see interest from young people who are active in their own parishes but don’t necessarily connect with our camps.

July 2 2018

New President of the Methodist Conference promises a year of radical grace



The Revd Michaela A Youngson has been elected and inducted as the new President of the Methodist Conference, taking over from the Revd Loraine N Mellor. The induction took place on Saturday 30 June.

It is the first time in the history of the Methodist Church that a woman has been elected to succeed a woman President. During the ceremony, the new President receives a Bible that was used by John Wesley.

During his lifetime John Wesley chaired the Methodist Conference but after his death the Conference determined to elect a President annually.

Michaela was ordained in 1997 and is one of the Chairs of the London District. She is a regular contributor to *Pause for Thought* on BBC Radio Two, Chair of Trustees for Methodist Central Hall, a trustee of *Making Herstory* and a trustee of Southlands College.

July 2 2018

Having chosen 'radical grace' as her theme for the year, Michaela is looking forward to helping the Methodist Church consider the radical nature of God's grace and the ethic of hospitality and love-centred mission that flows from that grace.

During her Presidential address, Michaela commented: "God's grace is radical. It goes beyond what is only fair, to a prodigious reckless generosity. It is prevenient grace, which flows from the Lover's desire to see the beloved flourish, to be whole and to live in delight.

"We need to let go of our tendency to 'niceness' and, prompted by just how uncomfortable God's grace is, make a nuisance of ourselves again in the market place and in the public square, refusing to remain silent in the face of systems that reinforce injustice, and oppress vulnerable people."

Former Moderator accepts honorary doctorate with historic Gaelic address

Former Moderator Very Rev Dr Angus Morrison received an Honorary Degree from the University of Glasgow on Tuesday 26 June, addressing the audience in both English and Gaelic for the first time in the University's 561 years.

The University of Glasgow cited "his contribution to championing Gaelic, refugee and asylum seekers and changing attitudes within the Church to same sex relationships" as their reasoning for his commendation.



Dr Morrison, the Convener of the Gaelic Group at the Church of Scotland, is a champion and keen advocate for the Gaelic language.

Speaking at the ceremony, Dr Morrison said, “Today is a day full of joy and excitement, and to be sharing it with my family means a huge amount to me.

“This is my first University, I was an Undergraduate here in the 70s. Now to come back to receive this award, it’s deeply humbling and absolutely thrilling. It’s a wonderful day.”

A ‘deep love’ for the Gaelic language

Dr Morrison, the Convener of the Gaelic Group at the Church of Scotland, is a champion and keen advocate for the Gaelic language.

July 2 2018

During his address to the audience at the ceremony, he became the first person in the history of University of Glasgow's 561 years to address the graduation audience in both English and Gaelic.

Speaking of his love for the language, he said, "Although I'm not a native speaker of Gaelic, my parents were both from the Isle of Harris. They tended not to use it in the home to their children, but I made up my mind I was going to learn it as a boy, and took it as a subject in school and University.

"I've always had a deep love for the language and I've done my best to promote its use. Within the Church of Scotland, for example, I've been convening the Gaelic group of the Church in recent years and we now have a Gaelic plan in place, which is very exciting.

"I think Gaelic is a wonderful part of our national heritage. It's a wonderful language and well worthy of our support!"

A 'prophetic voice for a number of causes close to his heart'

Dr Scott Spurlock, the University of Glasgow's Senior Lecturer in Scottish Religious Cultures, presented the honorary degree to Dr Morrison.

During his introductory speech, Dr Spurlock said, "Angus provided a prophetic voice for a number of causes close to his heart.

"In 2016 he voiced grave concerns over plans to cut Gaelic medium education in Edinburgh schools, stating 'I fear that if

July 2 2018

Gaelic is allowed to wither in Scotland's capital, it becomes very fragile'.

He concluded his address stating, "Drawing from the Scripture that has shaped him and in the language that he loves, let me finish with an exhortation befitting Angus Morrison and his life of service. 'Is math a rinn thu, a sheirbheisich mhaith is dhìleis.' (Mata 25:21) [Well done, good and faithful servant!]"

News briefs

+++Discover Dunmanway and Sam Maguire

Discover Dunmanway, a new tourism brochure, is just one part of an all-out campaign to put the town on the tourism map. The brochure, the new website – visitdunmanway.ie – and the new Tourism Information Point in the centre, are all part of a promotion that was formally launched last week. The event also coincided with the unveiling of the Sam Maguire exhibition at Dunmanway Swimming Pool. Local Church of Ireland rector Rev Cliff Jeffers said the brochure will highlight the top 10 tourist attractions in a town that has become synonymous with Sam Maguire. The attractions include Sam Maguire's homestead, the Windfarm Walk, Funmanway, the West Cork Biscuit Factory, St Mary's Church and the Sam Maguire Community Bells, the guided and self-guided historic walking tour and the town's impressive new swimming pool.

+++BBC service from Charles Wood Festival

BBC Radio Ulster's Morning Service on Sunday, 19th August, will be broadcast from the Charles Wood Festival of Music and Summer School at St Patrick's Church of Ireland

July 2 2018

Cathedral, Armagh. The programme will be available afterwards here.

+++Tallaght hero

The winner of the Tallaght Hero's Exceptional Dedication Award is Fr John Kelly of the pastoral care team. John is exceptional in his care and compassion to patients, their families, and his fellow staff; and is universally liked by those in Tallaght Hospital.

+++Ordination at Raedemon

On Saturday 23rd June, the Raedemon congregation of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church in Ireland held a service of ordination as they welcomed their new minister Rev Dr Heather Walker. We wish Raedemon and their new minister God's richest blessings as they continue their journey together.

+++Rural Dean of Fingal appointed

The Revd Lesley Robinson has been appointed Rural Dean of Fingal in the Diocese of Dublin. Lesley is Rector of Clontarf and assumes the role in succession to Canon Robert Dean, former Rector of Swords, Donabate and Kilsallaghan, who retired in June. Making the announcement, Archbishop Michael Jackson thanked Lesley for her willingness to undertake the work and responsibility of Rural Dean of Fingal. "Lesley has shown herself to be committed to creativity and compassion in parochial life. I have every confidence that the people and clergy in the Rural Deanery will benefit from her commitment and wisdom," he said.

+++Summer Music at Sandford

‘Summer Music at Sandford’ continues in Sandford parish church, Ranelagh, each Friday during July with the recitals beginning at 1pm. Next Friday there will be a recital by the Dulciana Female Choir directed by Judith Lyons. Admission is free but donations are welcome in aid of the Organ Fund of St Philip’s church, Milltown, with which Sandford is grouped.

+++Growth in humanist marriages

The Politics web site reports - Legal recognition has already had a transformative effect on Scottish and Irish society. In Scotland, humanist marriages gained legal recognition in 2005, and have risen in number from 85 in the first year to over 4,900 in 2015, [overtaking the Church of Scotland in the process](#). In the Republic of Ireland, humanist marriages gained legal recognition in 2012. In 2016 around [seven percent of legal marriages were humanist](#), more than three times as many as there were (Protestant) Church of Ireland marriages.

<http://www.politics.co.uk/opinion-formers/humanists-uk/article/the-court-of-appeal-in-belfast-has-ruled-that-humanist-celeb>

+++Dispensation for Wales’ youngest deacon

Bishop of St. Asaph Gregory Cameron ordained a 22-year-old as deacon on June 30 – a year younger than that normally allowed in the church’s rules. Archbishop of Wales John Davies gave special permission for Dominic Cawdell to be ordained deacon – making him the youngest ever ordinand in the Church in Wales. He is one of thousands of

July 2 2018

people who was ordained as deacon or priest in the weeks around Pentecost, a traditional season of ordination.

Read the [full article here](#).

+++ 'A Global Ireland Without Musicians?'

The Irish Government has launched a new initiative, 'Global Ireland', with international aspirations – but what does it mean for Irish music? ow.ly/6Z1330kuCnC

+++ 'Youth travel pass to discover EU'

If you're 18, you can apply for a travel pass around the EU – applications open now #DiscoverEU European Youth https://europa.eu/youth/discovereu_en



July 2 2018