

**The essential daily
brief on the Irish
churches**



World Cup Cafe

Come watch the footy
Come ignore the footy
There will be stuff to do for
Football lovers/haters!

CAFE SCHEDULE

Friday 13th of June, 19:45:
Netherlands v Spain

Thursday 19th of June, 19:45:
Uruguay v England

Thursday 26th of June, 19:45:
South Korea v Belgium

Friday 4th of July, 19:45: Quarter
Final

Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 9th of
July, 19:45: Semi-Finals

**SUNDAY 13TH OF JULY, 19:45:
THE FINAL!**

St Paul's Parish Lisburn is one of several churches using the World Cup as a focus for fellowship and faith

Centenarian former chorister revisits choir

Time stood still for a short while in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, on Tuesday when a visiting voice sang Lead me Lord along with some of the members of the fledgling Boys' Choir.

Years fell away as Billy Noble, aged 105, closed his eyes and sang the well remembered words, the music taking him back to the day when he too was a boy chorister in the beautiful Cathedral.



Mr Billy Noble, aged 105, with members of the St Anne's Boys' Choir, Master of the Choristers David Stevens and Assistant Master of the Choristers Thérèse Woodfield

Jordanstown gent Billy accepted an invitation to come to the Cathedral to listen to today's young choristers rehearse and his visit will create memories the boys and everyone else present will not forget.

Billy was born on 5 January 1909. He was just three when the Titanic sank. He has lived through two World Wars and the internet revolution – and still fondly remembers the days when he too was a choirboy at St Anne's Cathedral!

He was educated at Skegoneill School under the watchful eye of the strict headmaster Pa Magill and later studied at Inst. He admits joining the boys' choir at St Anne's not just to sing, but to play football as well!

Billy was Comptroller of Estate Duty in Northern Ireland, and was a civil servant all his life. He was awarded the CBE in 1973, the year he retired.

He still lives in the home he set up with his late wife Henriette when they married in 1938 and is a parishioner of St Patrick's Parish Church, Jordanstown.

Billy is underwhelmed by the many changes in life over the years. 'Not a lot has changed,' he says. 'A whole lot of wee bits maybe.'

During his visit Billy, who was accompanied by his son Denis and daughter-in-law Pamela, obligingly posed for photographs with the choristers and offered them a bit of advice, telling the boys to start young, to sing properly and to 'keep going!' He also admitted, however, that he would sometimes fall asleep during choir practice!

Billy agreed to join the boys singing Lead me Lord, his eyes closed as he perhaps remembered when he first sang this piece in the Cathedral, almost 100 years ago.

The boys were in St Anne's for their regular Tuesday rehearsal in the Cathedral. They are all part of the Cathedral's innovative Choir School Project which involves three schools in north Belfast – Edenbrooke Primary, Sacred Heart Primary and Cliftonville Integrated – with St Anne's three singing tutors



working in the schools every weekday.

Christ Church Cathedral Receives 'Dubline' Tourism Project Grant

Christ Church Cathedral has been awarded funding of €188,500 as part of the Dubline project. The Fáilte Ireland grant will go towards the first phase of a project which will enhance the landscape around the

Cathedral grounds by creating a multiuse space in the heart of the city, designed specifically to welcome more visitor numbers.

Final plans for the project are due to be considered by the Cathedral in the coming weeks. The overall project will cost an estimated €750,000 and will be undertaken on a phased basis. The Cathedral will be seeking potential funding partners. This project is funded through Fáilte Ireland and supported by Dublin City Council.

The grant to Christ Church Cathedral is part of a major funding initiative to develop several key tourism attractions in Dublin. *Dubline* is a new tourism trail which runs across the city from College Green to Kilmainham. Its goal is to give walkers an interactive, informative and enjoyable trail through the city through the use of technology, wifi information links, signage and dedicated branding. Christ Church Cathedral made a successful application to be included on it last year.

Announcing the grant, Minister for Tourism, Leo Varadkar said: “Projects like this will boost the effectiveness of the *Dubline* project and give the city a competitive edge when it comes to attracting more overseas visitors to the city. This is not only good for tourism but also for businesses, retailers and jobs in the city”.

“The *Dubline* will tell Dublin’s story and will become a focal point for visitors,” he added. “A walk from Trinity College to Kilmainham takes you through centuries of Irish history, including our Viking, medieval, Norman and Anglo-Irish pasts. This new initiative will combine the ancient era with modern technology to immerse tourists in Dublin’s history. We also plan to develop a new Independence Trail, linking key locations in the War of Independence, as part of the *Dubline*.”

Younger speakers for Down and Dromore Bible Week

This year Bishop Harold Miller has invited a new generation of Bible teachers to be the speakers at the Bishop’s Bible Week.

The theme is [‘A Dangerous Faith’](#) and we will explore the biblical context, impact and dangerous meaning of the great commandments according to the Gospel of Mark.

The meetings will be held in Willowfield Parish Church from Monday 1 – Thursday 4 September

Simon Genoe, who has been working at Lisburn Cathedral since 2009, was born and bred in Monaghan and became a Christian aged 13 at a camp in Wicklow. He's passionate about Liverpool Football Club, watching movies and being with his lovely wife Zara.



Andrew Brannigan directs the children's, youth and families

department in Down and Dromore. He has written resources on confirmation, youth leadership, family faith and most recently an ideas resource for churches to engage with community. He is married to Lynne and has 3 daughters.



Jasper Rutherford is commissioned as a Pioneer Evangelist with Church Army. His heart is to see people transformed by the love of Jesus and he has an expectancy and vision that this should be the norm. Jasper is married to Lynne and they have 3 children.

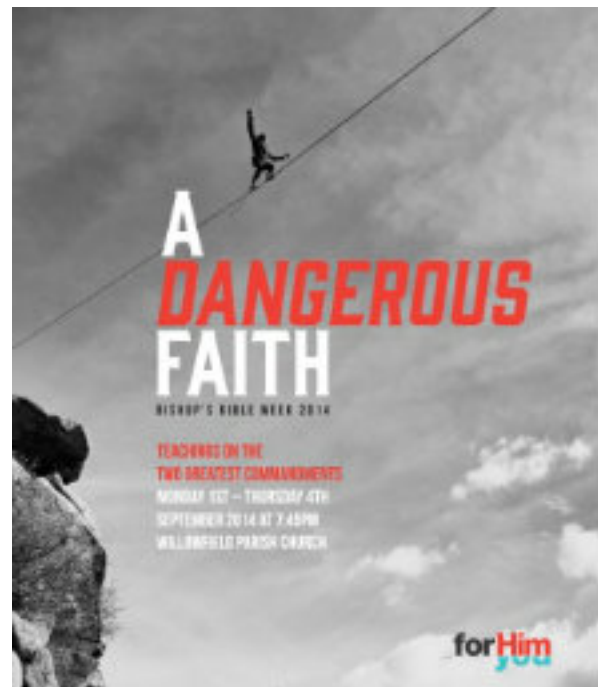


Craig Cooney leads St Catherine's (formerly CORE), a church in inner-city Dublin which has experienced considerable growth in recent years. In his spare time Craig enjoys running, going to the gym, reading, and eating good food. He is married to Becky and they have a young son.



St Patrick's Cathedral Choral Foundation Concert

The St Patrick's Cathedral Choral Foundation concert, in aid of the Cathedral Choir School, takes place on Friday June 13 at 6.15 pm in the



cathedral. Admission to the concert is free but there will be a retiring collection.

The concert will feature the Cathedral Choir (boys' and men's voices) directed by Stuart Nicholson with Tristan Russcher on the organ, Richard O'Donnell on percussion and Geraldine O'Doherty on the harp.



The candidates are pictured with the Archbishop and their Rectors outside Christ Church Cathedral

Huge Numbers for Confirmation on Pentecost

Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, was packed to capacity on Sunday, the Feast of Pentecost, when a total of 43 young people from nine parishes in Dublin and Glendalough were confirmed by Archbishop Michael Jackson.

The parishes involved were Powerscourt, Clontarf, Raheney and Coolock, Howth, Tallaght, St Catherine and St James with St Audoen, Donnybrook and Irishtown, Monkstown and Santry and Glasnevin with Finglas.

In his sermon the Archbishop focused on the concepts of communication, community and communion. Drawing on Acts 2: "They heard him speak each in their own language" he talked of what it was to hear the God of Pentecost speak to us today in our own language.

Archbishop Jackson also spoke about commission and turned to John 20 in which Jesus sent the disciples out as He had been sent out by the Father in a commissioning.

The service was sung by the Cathedral Choir and the young people were joined by their Rectors and huge numbers of family members and well wishers gathered to witness their confirmation.

New Church of England Chief Education Officer

The Revd Nigel Genders has been appointed as the next Chief Education Officer for the Church of England and General Secretary of the National Society. He replaces the Revd Jan Ainsworth who retires this summer.

As the Church of England's Chief Education Officer, Nigel will have lead responsibility for the development of the Church's strategies and policies for education - in schools, colleges and universities, and in parishes, deaneries and dioceses - to promote the highest quality of educational practice and to promote and support the Church's voluntary work among children and young people.

He talks more about this in a [Church of England interview](#).

Nigel is currently Head of School Policy, based at Church House, Westminster, supporting dioceses around the country and engaging with the Department for Education on all matters to do with the Church of England's 4,700 schools. He has worked closely with the *Church School of the Future* programme as it implements the recommendations of the Chadwick Report and has recently produced the report *A Diocesan Board of Education for the Future*.

The Bishop of Oxford, the Rt. Rev. John Pritchard, Chair of the Church of England's Board of Education said: "This is a very good appointment. Nigel has the respect of officials at the Department for Education as well as Diocesan Directors of Education around the country. He brings proven experience and much practical wisdom to a front-line job in the Church's mission."

Nigel, who will take up the appointment on 1st September, said he was looking forward to the new role: "The Church's involvement in all aspects of education is a significant gift to the nation. We have achieved an enormous amount under Jan's leadership and I look forward to building on all of that as we now embrace exciting new opportunities. I want the national education office to provide the hub for a dynamic network of schools, colleges and universities in parishes, deaneries and dioceses. Such a movement has the

power to influence the world, transform the Church and offer a life enhancing encounter with Jesus Christ to every child and young person."

The interview with Nigel Genders is available at:

<https://soundcloud.com/the-church-of-england/an-interview-with-the-church-of-englands-new-chief-education-officer>

Ukrainian Catholic bishops thank world for prayers during transition

Ukrainian Catholic bishops thanked people around the world for their prayers over the last six months and asked for continued prayers for peace in their country.

"The dignity that Ukrainians yearn for is not first and foremost material," said a message from the Permanent Synod of Bishops of the Ukrainian Catholic Church. "They seek a God-given dignity, a respect for their very being. Their right for self-determination, territorial integrity, cultural and especially ecclesial tradition has been violated brutally in the past and is demeaned today."

The bishops described recent events in Ukraine as "truly miraculous," noting that "transforming grace poured down upon the people of our country."

"In the face of systemic corruption, government repression and intolerable social conditions, millions of Ukrainians demonstrated peacefully, forging an ever-stronger interethnic, interconfessional and intercultural solidarity," it said.

"Together Ukrainian citizens are saying no to tyranny, lawlessness, violence and irresponsibility — personal and social, internal and external, domestic and international."

The message, issued after a June 4-6 meeting of the synod, was addressed to "Catholic bishops' conferences, priests, religious and the faithful of the Church; to all Christians and people of good will that stand in solidarity with Ukraine."

Referring to winter months of protest and confrontation that resulted in the February ousting of President Viktor Yanukovich and the May election of President Petro Poroshenko, the bishops expressed gratitude "for your abiding prayers and various works of charity that you conducted."

They also expressed thanks for efforts to inform people “about the true nature of developments in our country, countering the disinformation directed against Ukraine and its churches.” It said Church leaders had seen recently “how this campaign has been escalated by certain political and spiritual authorities at the highest level that share an aggressive tone and modality of dissimulation.”

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