

January 7, 2022

**CNI**  
CHURCH  
NEWS  
IRELAND



**Image of the day - Lincoln Cathedral**

## Overview

### **+Image of the day**

Lincoln Cathedral

### **+People and places**

Blue Christmas Service - Magheralin

Carols by Car Light in Enniscorthy

Christmas Festival this weekend – Carrigrohane, Blarney, Ballincollig & Inniscarra

Walk of Light 2021 – Video available to watch now

The Dream Café connects at Ballymena

### **+Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books**

Resources for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2022

### **+News Reports**

M&S Christmas jumper becomes 'new uniform' for female clergy

Anglican Communion Science Commission meets for the first time

### **+Press review**

Links to seven reports

### **+Poem for today**

In Drear Nighted December by John Keats

## People and places

### Key Lambeth post for Queen's graduate



**The next Archbishops' Secretary for Appointments will be Stephen Knott, currently deputy chief of staff to the Archbishop of Canterbury, it was announced yesterday, Thursday.**

Mr Knott has been part of the Lambeth Palace staff team since 2013, filling several positions, including assistant and then deputy chief of staff from 2016. Before then, he spent more than a decade working as a researcher in the House of Commons. He grew up in Northern Ireland and studied geography at Queen's University Belfast. He was an officer in the Royal Naval Reserve from 2011 to 2018, and in July last year, he married Major General Alastair Bruce of

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Crionaich, Governor of Edinburgh Castle, in St John's Episcopal Church, Edinburgh, with the Bishop of Edinburgh officiating.

The Archbishops' Secretary manages the process for the appointment of bishops, deans, and other senior posts in the Church of England, working closely with the Prime Minister's Appointments Secretary...

...Welcoming the appointment of Mr Knott, a joint statement by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York said: "His commitment to, and knowledge of, the Church of England stands him in sure stead to manage the processes for senior appointments, as the Church seeks to follow God's call in the coming years."

## **Whitehead parishioners are walking to the USA**

**The parishioners of Whitehead and Islandmagee are once again stepping out to clock up the miles and raise funds to support the work of the parish locally.**

They will aim to collectively walk 3,381 miles – all the way to the USA!

The challenge is not only to get fitter, boosting positive mental health, but to support the caring work of St Patrick's & St John's churches in the local community.

Parishioners have from New Year's Day to St Patrick's Day, March 17, to complete the challenge. Taking on something



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like this is nothing new for those planning to step out – last year, parishioners collectively completed 4,310 miles – more than meeting their target of lapping the island of Ireland twice in the same time frame.



Flashback to early 2021, when parishioners from Whitehead and Islandmagee clocked up 4,310 between them between New Year's Day and St Patrick's Day.

completed 4,310 miles – more than meeting their target of lapping the island of Ireland twice in the same time frame.

Participants will record their weekly mileage online. Anyone wishing to support their efforts can make a donation here -

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[https://www.gofundme.com/f/step-out-for-st-patricks-walk-to-usa?member=16065267&utm\\_campaign=p\\_cp+share-sheet&utm\\_medium=copy\\_link\\_all&utm\\_source=customer](https://www.gofundme.com/f/step-out-for-st-patricks-walk-to-usa?member=16065267&utm_campaign=p_cp+share-sheet&utm_medium=copy_link_all&utm_source=customer).

## New appointment at Queen's Catholic chaplaincy

**The Chaplaincy has announced the appointment of Shannon Campbell as Director of Campus Ministry at Queen's.**

“In her new, strategic role, Shannon will help Chaplaincy deliver a world-class model of campus ministry which provides for the faith and pastoral needs of our students, staff and alumni.



Shannon, a graduate of St Mary's University College Belfast, previously served as Chaplaincy's Pastoral Manager. She recently completed an MPhil in Christian Theology at Trinity College Dublin. We wish Shannon every

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blessing as begins this new and exciting chapter in her service of the Church and University.”

## **Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts and books**

### **The Rise and Fall of Christian Ireland by Crawford Gribben**

#### **David Chillingworth reflects on Ireland and its history of division**

THIS is a book of remarkable ambition: the whole story of Christian Ireland, its rise and fall, in a single and concise volume.

It is a story of faith constant through 1500 years. But Crawford Gribben sees it also as a story of “emergence, dominance, division and decline”. The attempt to tell the whole story from Celtic times through to the astonishingly rapid secularisation of today is what makes this book so special and important (Features, 19 November).

Many will turn first to the attractive story of the early Celtic Church. Columbanus writes to Pope Boniface as, “We Irish, inhabitants of the world’s edge . . .”. In affirming that they hold the faith intact, he announces the birth of Christian Ireland. The early Irish Church was full of missionary energy — spreading the faith by peregrinatio, an “improbable strategy of random discovery”.

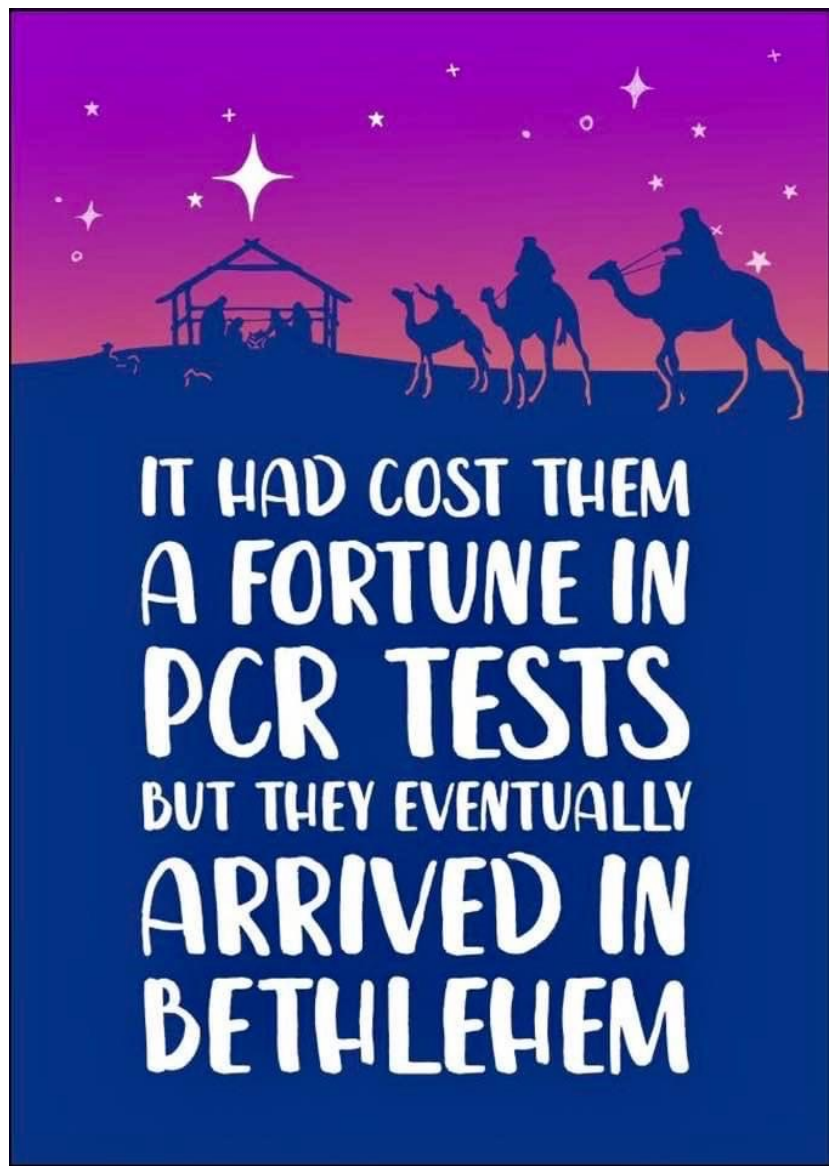


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But that clear-sighted faith was to be gradually supplanted by darker stories. The failure of Protestant reformation in Ireland is obviously of seminal importance: “Catholics and Protestants promoted different ways of being Christian and different ways of being Irish.” The 16th and 17th centuries brought violence and death.

The Ulster Irish rose in 1641, with the result of thousands of deaths among Protestant settlers. Sustained but ultimately unsuccessful attempts to make Ireland Protestant continued. Later, the Penal Laws represented a failed attempt to preserve the privileges of the Ascendancy.

But it is the account of more recent times which will probably catch the attention of many readers; for the fall of Christian Ireland is a story of extraordinarily rapid collapse. Irish Partition of 1922 has had a remarkable impact on the peoples and the Churches that it divided.





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Those who shaped the Irish Free State under Éamon de Valera's Constitution of 1937 hoped that "Ireland's principal religious communities would be brought together in a single jurisdiction under the moral and social oversight of the Catholic Church". Meanwhile, north of the new Irish border, there emerged James Craig's "Protestant parliament for a Protestant people" — a State that from the beginning carried the seeds of the violence that was to come.

The last moments at which the possibility that Christian Ireland might fall must have seemed unthinkable were the Eucharistic Congress of 1932 — marking the 1500th anniversary of the arrival of St Patrick — and the visit of Pope John Paul, when one third of the total population attended mass in the Phoenix Park in Dublin.

The collapse when it came was "sudden, shocking and decisive". Successive scandals involving the abuse of children in Catholic institutions destroyed trust in the Church. Taoiseach Enda Kenny argued that "in defending its own institutions, the church had undermined Irish democracy." Weekly mass attendance plummeted as secularisation took hold in a morally conservative society. No doubt the "Celtic Tiger" economy played its part in that rapid change.

I found Gribben's account of the fate of Christian Ireland north of the Irish Border rather less compelling. I did wonder, for example, about one surprising omission: the story of the Orange Order and the Drumcree Protests of the 1990s. Enmeshed in its historic links with the Orange Order, the Church of Ireland struggled to maintain its integrity as a "bridge Church" north and south.

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More subtle, too, are the ways in which declining faith — the rise of the “nones” — has diluted the pervading sectarianism of Northern Ireland. The author wonders about a future when the Irish Border no longer has a self-sustaining rationale. He sees further decline in the movement of the two largest Churches of the Protestant community to the Evangelical Right of the faith spectrum.

Yet, in the ebb and flow of what seem at times to be unconnected movements, Gribben sees a more hopeful future for Irish Christianity. “After the failure of religious nationalism”, he wonders whether “what looks like irredeemable failure might actually be a second chance.”

The Rt Revd David Chillingworth is a former Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church.

Courtesy The Church Times 10/12/2021

## **Alpha Marriage Course for church leaders**

**The Church of Ireland Marriage Council is running an Alpha Marriage Course for church leaders and their spouses later this month.**

The course is open to all church leaders, including lay readers who serve in this role, as, for example, lay chaplains, church plant leaders, Church Army officers etc.

The Rev Jonny Campbell-Smyth, rector of Ballynure and Ballyeaston (Ballyclare) and Chair of the Church of Ireland Marriage Council, said the last two years have been

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extremely difficult for anyone involved in leading a church community.

“Sometimes as we care for others we can so easily forget to care for ourselves and our own relationships,” he said. “In considering

this as a Marriage Council, we wanted to provide encouragement to church leaders and their spouses to carve out time to support each other in your marriages.”

The Online Marriage course will be run by the Rev William and Tanya Olhausen, and is being offered in partnership with Alpha Ireland. There will be no group discussions. “This is simply valuable time for you as a couple to invest in your marriage,” Jonny said.

The Marriage Course starts on Wednesday January 19, with each session beginning at 8pm lasting an hour and a half. Alpha Ireland can provide an alternative start date for anyone who already has diocesan commitments. Costs will be covered by the Marriage Council

[churchnewsireland@gmail.org](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.org)





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Book your place on this course. Link at -  
<https://connor.anglican.org/2022/01/04/alpha-marriage-course-for-church-leaders/>

If you have any further questions or would like to hear more about the course, please contact John Quinn from Alpha Ireland on +353 83 4879542 or [john@alphaireland.org](mailto:john@alphaireland.org).

## News Reports

### Clergy in the dark about their mental and material well-being

**“How do clergy know that they are doing a good job?” is among the questions raised by the latest report of the Living Ministry study in the C of E.**

It finds that fewer than half the respondents feel that they have any space to reflect on and measure their performance...

...Part of the report focuses on clergy well-being. Almost half (44 per cent) reported their mental well-being as being worse than before the pandemic, while 42 per cent reported feeling more isolated in their ministry.

“While this may reflect changes in the general population and be less severe than experiences of some other occupations, such as healthcare workers, social workers and teachers, these are still notable drops and are already

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likely to have recovered from steeper declines in 2020,” the report observes.

More clergy reported an improvement than reported a fall in their personal financial and material well-being: 30 per cent reported managing better financially, while nine per cent reported that their financial situation had worsened. Almost two-thirds (62 per cent) said that their overall health was about the same; 16 per cent reported an improvement; but 23 per cent said that it had deteriorated.

The proportion of clergy reporting that they had adequate time to pray increased from 68 per cent in Wave 2 (2018) to 76 per cent in Wave 3. Vocational-fulfilment questions produced a “mixed picture”: 28 per cent felt that they were fulfilling their vocation less, rising to 45 per cent of those in parochial positions, which, the report suggests, may be connected to restrictions on ministry.

## **Realistic hope’ needed as Canadian church weighs pandemic’s toll, primate says**

**Canada’s Anglican Journal reports that Archbishop Linda Nicholls, primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, told the Council of General Synod (CoGS) in its most recent meeting that, “The pandemic has left its mark on the Anglican Church of Canada in many ways — including, possibly, a permanent decrease in in-person attendance — and new spiritual resources will be needed as the church continues to emerge from it, Archbishop Linda Nicholls, primate of the Anglican**



## Church of Canada, told the Council of General Synod (CoGS) in its most recent meeting.

In her opening address at the first in-person meeting of the council since March 2020, the primate said her recent conversations with bishops and clergy had revealed a number of new challenges to the church.

“The hopefulness that anticipated the end to the pandemic in the spring and summer has given way to new and other concerns,” she said. “The grief of all that has been left behind is real and strong.”

Read the entire story here -

[[] <https://www.anglicanjournal.com/realistic-hope-needed-as-church-weighs-pandemics-toll-primate-says/> ]





## Canadian General Synod may revisit rules for membership, voting

**When it meets next summer, the Anglican Church of Canada's Council of General Synod is expected to vote on a set of proposals concerning its own rules for membership and voting, the Anglican Journal reports**

On Nov. 5, CoGS voted to direct the Governance Working Group (GWG) — a body tasked to review rules around order, procedure and composition of General Synod — to draft resolutions for General Synod necessary to implement the five proposals in a report it made to CoGS in May 2021.

These proposals include a modification to the rules determining the number of elected clergy and lay members from each diocese; changing the threshold for required votes, in the case of votes by order, from two-thirds of each order to two-thirds of General Synod as a whole with a majority in each order; and eliminating the need for certain

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resolutions to be approved by two successive sessions of General Synod.

Read the entire story here -

[[] <https://www.anglicanjournal.com/general-synod-may-revisit-rules-for-membership-voting/> ]

## Poem for today

### The Journey of the Magi by T. S. Eliot

“A cold coming we had of it,  
Just the worst time of the year  
For a journey, and such a long journey:  
The ways deep and the weather sharp,  
The very dead of winter.”  
And the camels galled, sore-footed, refractory,  
Lying down in the melting snow.  
There were times we regretted  
The summer palaces on slopes, the terraces,  
And the silken girls bringing sherbet.  
Then the camel men cursing and grumbling  
And running away, and wanting their liquor and women,  
And the night-fires going out, and the lack of shelters,  
And the cities hostile and the towns unfriendly  
And the villages dirty and charging high prices:  
A hard time we had of it.  
At the end we preferred to travel all night,  
Sleeping in snatches,  
With the voices singing in our ears, saying  
That this was all folly.

Then at dawn we came down to a temperate valley,  
Wet, below the snow line, smelling of vegetation;  
With a running stream and a water-mill beating the  
darkness,  
And three trees on the low sky,  
And an old white horse galloped away in the meadow.  
Then we came to a tavern with vine-leaves over the lintel,  
Six hands at an open door dicing for pieces of silver,  
And feet kicking the empty wine-skins.  
But there was no information, and so we continued  
And arriving at evening, not a moment too soon  
Finding the place; it was (you may say) satisfactory.

All this was a long time ago, I remember,  
And I would do it again, but set down  
This set down  
This: were we led all that way for  
Birth or Death? There was a birth, certainly,  
We had evidence and no doubt. I had seen birth and death,  
But had thought they were different; this Birth was  
Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death.  
We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,  
But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,  
With an alien people clutching their gods.  
I should be glad of another death.

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