

€2.00

JULY & AUGUST 2024

# CLOSE NEWS



## ► GUIDE BOOK

Read about our new souvenir guide book, available later this summer. *Pg22*

## ► EVENTS

Discover our National Heritage Week 2024 programme of events during August. *Pg23*

## ► VALEDICTION

News from the Music Department about the end of term farewell to the choristers. *Pg17*



## SERVICE TIMES



### Sunday

- 09:15 Eucharist (*said in the Lady Chapel*)  
11:15 Choral Eucharist *or* Choral Matins  
15:15 Choral Evensong

### Monday–Friday

- 09:00 Sung Matins (*during school term*)  
11:05 Eucharist (*said in the Lady Chapel on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Festivals*)  
17:30 Choral Evensong *or* Evening Prayer

### Saturday

- 11:05 Eucharist (*said in the Lady Chapel*)

God has been worshipped in this place through the prayers and praises of countless generations. Worship lies at the heart of our life as Christians and we express our theology and belief through our liturgy. It is through these liturgical patterns of words and actions that we are formed and transformed.

We invite you to join us for any of the services here this month. If you are unable to join us in person, you can tune in to the online live stream of all services: [spcd.ie/live](https://spcd.ie/live)

<b>The Dean Writes...</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Tommie Gorman Address</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Obituaries</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>A Shot from the Canon</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Services &amp; Preachers</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>The Administrator Writes...</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Congratulations</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Dean's Gift Day Appeal</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>News</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>I'm An Anglican, Get Me Out Of Here!</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Souvenir Guide Book</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Heritage Week 2024</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Marketing &amp; Events Department</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Cathedral Contacts</b>	<b>34</b>

*Cover image: The girl choristers just before their final service of the academic year. More information on Page 17.*

## **THE CLOSE NEWS EDITORIAL COMMITTEE**

The Very Revd Dr William Morton (DEAN)  
 The Revd Canon Charles Mullen (DEAN'S VICAR)  
 Mr Gavan Woods (ADMINISTRATOR)  
 Mrs Elizabeth Lowrie (RETAIL MANAGER)  
 Mr Albert Fenton (BOARD MEMBER & CHAIRMAN OF THE FRIENDS)  
 Mr Ed Coleman (MARKETING MANAGER)  
 Mr Clark Brydon (EDUCATION & SAFEGUARDING OFFICER)

**T**he publication of *Close News* is made possible only as a result of the dedication of a number of people within the Cathedral Community. The Editorial Committee wishes to thank all those who have submitted content for publication. If you would like an item to be featured in the next edition of *Close News*, please contact Mrs Elizabeth Lowrie before the middle of this month.



## THE DEAN WRITES...

THE VERY REVD DR WILLIAM MORTON

Back in the 1990s, during my time as Rector of Conwal Union (Letterkenny) with Gartan, one of my parishioners, Chris Ashmore, who was on his way out of the church after morning service remarked that he had an interesting job ahead of him that afternoon. He went on to say that he had been asked to provide a commentary on the locally-based Highland Radio of a GAA match in the town. Chris was a journalist in Letterkenny with much experience in the field of newspapers and radio.

As he went on his way, I wished him well, saying that I knew he would be a great success. He turned, and he said to me: 'You know, my absolute hero is Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh.' I knew what he meant. The voice of the former RTÉ broadcaster was synonymous with the GAA during

a career that spanned six decades. I never had the privilege of meeting Mícheál, but I loved to hear him on radio, not only commentating on sport, but also being interviewed by various presenters for their respective programmes. What struck me forcibly about Mícheál was that, while he had his own viewpoint on a whole range of issues, he was always happy to concede that the other person, whose stance differed from his, was every bit as entitled to their opinion as he was.

On the same sombre day that the funeral of Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh took place in Kerry, another RTÉ iconic personality, veteran broadcaster Tommie Gorman, was laid to rest in Sligo.

I had the great privilege of meeting Tommie on several occasions, most of them years back during my time



as Dean of Derry, but much more recently when, through the good and helpful offices of Bryan Dobson who contacted him initially, Tommie kindly agreed to give the address at the Evensong in which we remembered Queen Elizabeth II on her death in September 2022.

When I rang Tommie, I began to explain why I was ringing, where I was, and suddenly he stopped me. 'Sure I know all about you!' he said. 'Didn't you help to arrange interviews for me when you were up in Derry, and sure didn't I interview you at times as well?'

Tommie had an amazing knowledge, and a wonderful memory, for people and for events. As many commentators have been saying – and quite rightly – Tommie had the ability to get to know people, to win their trust, and they, his, and to aim ever so sensitively to create movement towards a solution, particularly

when there was not always any sign of one! He could easily say to a political leader, 'How do you think it might be, if you were to....?' In this wonderful way, he was a person of immense influence for the good, always seeing the best in others, helping them to identify actions which could lead to harmony and stability – and, of course, the whole landscape of The Good Friday Agreement is a case in point.

People like Tommie Gorman, and Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh, have much to teach us as we live our lives as believers in God, and members of His Church. That is why it was decided to print in this issue of *Close News* the address which Tommie delivered at that Evensong back in October 2022. After all, as Tommie said, 'we live in the shadow of each other.'

With prayerful good wishes for a restful summer,  
*William*

CHURCH OF IRELAND

# GAZETTE

WWW.GAZETTE.IRELAND.ANGLICAN.ORG

AN ALL IRELAND PUBLICATION

## SUBSCRIBE NEVER MISS AN ISSUE

The Church of Ireland Gazette, your monthly magazine for news, features and opinion from across the island.

Why not sign up to a monthly subscription?  
Contact us online, by post, or by phone.

TO SUBSCRIBE: [www.gazette.ireland.anglican.org](http://www.gazette.ireland.anglican.org)  
The Church of Ireland Gazette,  
3 Wallace Avenue, LISBURN,  
Co Antrim BT27 4AA; or  
t: (048) 9266 7580.





## AN ADDRESS FOR A SERVICE IN COMMEMORATION OF QUEEN ELIZABETH

TOMMIE GORMAN  
(1956–2024)

*This address was given at Choral Evensong on Sunday 9th October 2022, following the death of Elizabeth II, Queen of the United Kingdom and other Commonwealth Realms.*

Representative of the President of Ireland, Ambassador and Mrs Johnston, Archbishop Jackson and Archbishop Farrell, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, I am honoured to be among you for this important occasion, including the challenging readings and the exquisite music and choir. Thank you for inviting me here, Dean Morton. (Thanks too, for the encouragement of my colleague and friend, Bryan Dobson.)

I have tracked your work in reconciliation in the North West, Dean Morton, and know the role you played at Saint Columb's in Derry during what was a fragile time in the peace process. Derry was different. It showed courage when it was in short supply. And you were to the forefront in that outreach. You, like every citizen on the island and beyond, are acutely aware of the sadness over Creeslough in the North West during these awful days.

When the news came through that the Queen had died, I immediately thought of Angela Kelly. She was working as the housekeeper at the British embassy when the Queen was visiting Germany. Such was the impression made by Angela that she was encouraged to apply for a vacancy in Windsor. That's how she became the Personal Assistant, Advisor and Curator to Her Majesty. Their working relationship began in 1994, the year of the IRA ceasefire. I have no doubt that for Angela, the most difficult part in their 28-year friendship – and it became a friendship, a labour of love – was during the final phase when she could see the Queen ailing.

I will never know the intimate details of those times because I would never ask Angela. Nor would she tell me. But there was a bond between them. In 2011, I sought an interview with Angela but the request was refused.

I was provided with the then British prime minister, David Cameron, instead. Angela Mary Kelly is of a Liverpool/Irish background. Her father worked on the docks. Her mother was a nurse. Some of her relations were from the West of Ireland, where I come from.

You may remember the first pictures from what was the first state visit of a British Monarch to Ireland in 2011. The Queen emerged from the plane that landed at Casement Aerodrome, exactly at noon, wearing a jade green dress. The colour established the tone and the intent. Angela's advice had a role in it.

For months beforehand, she and Edward Young had been discreetly visiting the intended venues of the four-day itinerary, where Angela, with her designer's eye, was inspecting the surroundings and assessing what might suit. Their driver during those planning days was a man called Brian O'Driscoll. He had retired from his role on the embassy staff but was called back to service for the momentous times ahead. He was honoured to be asked because for him, like so many of us, the visit involved catharsis of sorts and more.

On a morning in July 1976, Brian was the official driver behind the wheel of the embassy car, that exited the residence in the South Dublin foothills. His wife was walking with their new baby in the pram, in the grounds and he waved to her. 317 yards down the road, a huge landmine exploded under the armoured Jaguar vehicle. Brian O'Driscoll and a senior Northern Ireland Office official, Brian Cubben, were injured. But two other passengers were killed, 26-year-old civil servant, Judith Cooke and the

British ambassador to Ireland, 54-year-old Christopher Ewart Biggs. He had taken up his posting in Dublin just two weeks before.

At a memorial service in this very Cathedral, the then Minister for Foreign Affairs, Garret Fitzgerald said, 'No doubt the perpetrators calculated, with their unfailing lack of insight or understanding, that Anglo-Irish relations would be severely weakened, perhaps permanently damaged by such an atrocity. That the opposite has been the case is now evident to all.'

The distinguished guests among the gathering here today include the current British ambassador, Paul Johnston and his wife, Nicola. A sense of the bonds of kinship that Garret Fitzgerald sought to convey forty-six years ago was evident during all the carefully crafted elements of the Queen's visit in 2011.

On the first afternoon at the Garden of Remembrance, she bowed in silence and respect in recognition to those who died for Irish Independence.

The following day at Islandbridge, she and Prince Philip, with President McAleese and her husband, Martin, laid wreaths to the 49,400 Irish soldiers who died in the First World War. The Queen and her husband visited Croke Park, the headquarters of the Gaelic Athletic Association, where the first Bloody Sunday atrocity involving British forces occurred in 1920.

I had the honour to be seated alongside my wife, Ceara, among the guests in Dublin Castle, when the Queen opened her speech with the words 'A Uachtaráin agus a chaired...' I heard her say, 'we can all see things which we would

wish had been done differently or not at all.'

There had been some disinterest – and in cases reservations – about that visit. It had been discussed in the early 1990s when Mary Robinson became the first Irish President to show an interest in exploring the possibilities. The Good Friday Agreement of 1998 created the political circumstances to allow it to happen. One piece of that complex jigsaw proved difficult – the transfer of responsibility for policing and justice matters from Westminster to Stormont. Once that issue was resolved, the way was clear. The then Taoiseach, Brian Cowen, was glad it would happen before the bridgebuilder President, Mary McAleese, left office.

The Northern Ireland Deputy First Minister, Martin McGuinness, that I knew, wanted to attend the banquet, but his party wouldn't sanction it. His partner in government, the DUP leader, Peter Robinson and his wife Iris travelled south.

On the final day of the visit, something unexpected and unplanned happened. The visitors' itinerary included a trip to the Rock of Cashel. The local Mayor, Michael Browne, was struggling with cancer but was conscious of his responsibilities. He was a member of Sinn Féin. Contrary to party policy, he shook the hand of the visiting monarch. Before the summer ended, he died from his illness. If he is no more than a footnote in history, he was confirming a pattern that I saw many times in my working life. It was the story with Hume and Mallon, with Trimble and Paisley, with Adams and McGuinness, with Thatcher: there

is that instinct, especially in the autumn and winter seasons, to understand the importance of generosity.

One example I remember was from March 2017 when Martin McGuinness died from cancer. He had once given the oration at the funeral of a man linked to the unsuccessful attempt to murder Arlene Foster's father. She went against some advice and some of her own instincts to attend the McGuinness funeral.

Queen Elizabeth and her husband got some sense of how their actions were being perceived at the end of the concert in the National Convention Centre. Arthur Edwards, a photographer, had attended her engagements for decades. He told me how he observed her well up when the packed attendance applauded after she stepped onto the stage. Thousands of people turned out in Cork, on streets that were once set alight by the Black and Tans, during what was her final event, a visit to the appropriately named English Market.

I know from some of those close to her that she hoped she had done enough to convey her intention and her hopes. It was not a one-off. The following year, in a carefully choreographed event, she and President Higgins, in their role as joint patrons of *CoOperation Ireland*, agreed to attend an event at Belfast's Lyric Theatre. It allowed Martin McGuinness to meet her in his role as Northern Ireland's Deputy First Minister. Another stage of peace-making was underway.

*The Crown* television series may not fully capture it. But there are apples and trees and mothers and sons and patterns that flow.





In May 2015, four years after his mother's state visit, Prince Charles was driven through the gates of Classiebawn Estate near Mullaghmore in Co. Sligo. He had come to visit where his mentor and great uncle, Lord Louis Mountbatten, had breakfasted for the final time before the IRA detonated a bomb, killing him and three others in August 1979.

Just two others, Tim Knatchbull and his wife Isabella, accompanied Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall through the doors of Classiebawn Castle that afternoon. If it was an emotional time for the Prince, it certainly was that for Timmy Knatchbull. He was a 14-year-old on the boat, *Shadow V*, that August Monday when the bomb exploded. It killed two of his grandparents, Lord Mountbatten and the Dowager, Lady Braeborne, his twin brother Nicholas and his friend, 15-year-old Paul Maxwell from Enniskillen. Timmy was thrown from the vessel in the explosion. He lost an eye. He was spotted head down in

the water, by Elizabeth and Dick Wood-Martin who were out fishing in their small boat. At first, they thought the head of hair was a punctured football floating in the water. They saved the boy's life. They are part of an old Church of Ireland family in Sligo. At times some sought to make them feel uncomfortable over their goodness.

In the years since, I have observed Prince Charles carry out his mother's work. In his own way but with the same intentions. The pace was indeed affected by the Covid pandemic and complicated by Brexit, but I have no doubt the policy will continue.

I'm Irish. I am at home in this country. There were times, particularly in the Brexit climate, when I was glad to be part of a state run by a government in Dublin rather than Westminster. But there is not a day that passes without me giving thanks that the taking of life that blighted our land is over. I know that same peace was cherished by Queen

Elizabeth and the son who succeeds her as monarch.

I'm also a Catholic and I'm honoured to be asked here. I know that in the past, in our land, colonisers did what colonisers often do and our ancestors were on the receiving end of unfairness and injustice. I know how too politics and power sometimes become intertwined with religion. But I have travelled enough and read enough to know terrible things were done under the banner of Catholicism.

I was lucky to find true love and to be blessed with two children. I could never conform to the restriction that if my wife happened to be a Protestant, children from our marriage would have to be brought up as Catholics. That was one stricture I could not condone or follow and there were more.

Our next-door neighbour in Sligo was Robert Lindsay. One could not ask for a better friend. He was a member of the Church of Ireland. In the field behind our homes, there is the ruin of Lisheen House. It was once owned by the Phibbs family – they were linked to the legal firm, with the immortal name, Argue and Phibbs. The house was badly damaged during the strife that affected our country a century ago.

One day, during my Brussels years, I was in the Ardennes, interviewing a Dutchman called Max Kohnstam. He was the best living authority on the history of the European Union as he had been the secretary and friend of one its founding fathers, Jean Monet. Max was a Dutchman who had been imprisoned during the Second World War. He introduced me to his wife. She was Dutch.

But her Christian name was Kathleen. I was intrigued and asked the obvious question. She was called after her Irish Grandmother. A woman called Kathleen Phibbs. A member of the Phibbs family that once lived in Lisheen House I see every day when I look through the fields towards the sea near Strandhill.

There are so many connections that bind us while we still have our differences.

Like so many others, I watched the ceremonies that followed the Queen's passing. On one level there was the attention to detail and the layers of pageantry, those images of magnificent buildings that were financed and built in a period of empire and influence that is now gone.

Another important theme was the mass, entirely genuine, public expression of grief and loss. Often, the British are reserved as they mourn the dead. The Irish are different. But during that long, dignified, sincere and heartfelt goodbye to Queen Elizabeth, there was an element of an Irish wake. And at the most personal level, we could identify with that sadness, because we knew and empathised with the authenticity of a life that was given to service. There was also the recognition that death comes to us all. She rests in peace now, in the Memorial Chapel at Windsor Castle, alongside her husband, her parents and her sister.

Seven years ago, close by, during what was the first state visit by an Irish President to Britain, President Michael D Higgins said, 'Ar scáth a chéile a mhairimid' – we live in the shadow of each other.

So be it.

# OBITUARIES

## CLIVE ARMSTRONG

The funeral service of Clive Armstrong, Brewery Road, Stillorgan, was held on Friday 14th June. Clive, who had been predeceased by his wife, Valerie, and also by his brother Keith, died peacefully in Saint Vincent's University Hospital after a time of illness. Throughout his life, from his days as a boy chorister in Christ Church Cathedral, his singing as a gentleman of the Choir in Saint Patrick's on Fridays and Sundays at Choral Evensong, and through his playing of the organ, and his directing of choirs within, and without, the Church, Clive gave of his absolute best from the gifts which God gave him: he led and served the Church's never-silent voice of prayer and praise. He has now been called by God into His Nearer Presence, to the one equal music of heaven.

Clive's funeral service was conducted by the Dean, and the tribute was delivered by one of Clive's sons, Warwick. The members of the Choir who were present were directed by Mr Stuart Nicholson, and the Organist was Mr David Leigh. The Strollers' Band, conducted by Mr Frank Hughes, sang *At A Singer's Grave* in honour of Clive's faithful and dedicated membership.

Sincere condolences are expressed to Clive's daughter, Melanie, and her husband, Eamon; and to his sons: Warwick, and his wife, Amy; and Russell, and his wife, Marie; also to the grandchildren, and a wide circle of friends, especially Olive. Burial followed in Saint Pappin's Cemetery, Santry. The ashes of Clive's brother, Keith, were interred in the grave as well. *WWM*

## DAVID STEPHEN CRAMPTON

The funeral service of David Stephen Crampton took place on Thursday 4th July. David, the son of the late William and Wilhelmina Crampton, was one of a family of eleven children, from Crumlin. He died peacefully in Kiltipper Woods Care Centre, Tallaght, after a long illness.

No fewer than five of the Crampton brothers sang in the Choir of Saint Patrick's Cathedral – although not all contemporaneously. David's brother, Leslie – now the Reverend Leslie Crampton, retired – recalls that he, and one other brother were in the Choir with David. This would have been at the end of the 1940s and early 1950s.

Leslie remembers vividly, his brother David narrowly missing the opportunity to travel to London and represent the Choir at the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in Westminster Abbey on 2nd June 1953. The regular routine of attendance for practices and services was never regarded as a chore: rather, the ultimate privilege, something to which the brothers looked forward and greatly enjoyed.

Sincere condolences are expressed to all the members of the family circle. The funeral service was conducted by The Reverend Leslie Crampton, and the Reverend Ruth Jackson-Noble, Rector of Crumlin and Chapelizod.

The service was followed by cremation at Mount Jerome, Harold's Cross. *WWM*



## A SHOT FROM THE CANON

THE REVD CANON  
CHARLES MULLEN

**H**appy holidays! The gospels contain many instances of Jesus urging his disciples to withdraw and rest awhile: Jesus clearly recognised the toll that hard work takes. He restored the true meaning of the Sabbath, the Hebrew day of rest: ‘The Sabbath was made for people, and not people for the Sabbath.’ Though he has nowhere to lay his head, he gives us liberation and repose. We rightly enjoy taking holidays for the refreshment and rehabilitation they offer us. At this time of year, we rejoice because God knows our need to rest, as he knows all our needs. Happy holidays!

CM

## GUARD US, GUIDE US

Summer suns are glowing  
Over land and sea;  
Happy light is flowing  
Bountiful and free.  
Everything rejoices  
In the mellow rays;  
All earth’s countless voices  
Swell the psalm of praise.

*From a hymn by  
William Walsham How (1823–97)*

Thou hidden love of God, whose height,  
Whose depth unfathomed,  
no-one knows;  
I see from far thy beauteous light,  
I ever sigh for thy repose;  
My heart is pained, nor can it be  
At rest, till it finds rest in thee.

*From a hymn by  
John Wesley (1703–91)*



# SUNDAY SERVICES & PREACHERS

## CATHEDRAL CHOIR HOLIDAY

The Cathedral Choir will return in September. During the vacation, a number of visiting choirs will join us from across the world to offer sung worship.

## SUNDAY SAID SERVICES

A said Eucharist takes place at 09:15.

## SUNDAY 14TH JULY 2024

*sung by Academia Musica (Hereford, UK)*

11:15 – Choral Eucharist

15:15 – Choral Evensong

*Canon in Residence:*

**THE VEN. P. THOMPSON**

*Prebendary of Donaghmore*

## SUNDAY 21ST JULY 2024

*sung by Chandos Chamber Choir*

11:15 – Choral Eucharist

15:15 – Choral Evensong

*Canon in Residence:*

**THE REVD C. W. MULLEN**

*Resident Preacher*

## SUNDAY 28TH JULY 2024

*sung by the Choir of Saint Canice's Cathedral (Kilkenny, Ireland)*

11:15 – Choral Eucharist

15:15 – Choral Evensong

*Canon in Residence:*

**THE VERY REVD S. A. FARRELL**

*Prebendary of Monmohenock*

## SUNDAY 4TH AUGUST 2024

11:15 – Eucharist

15:15 – Evening Prayer

*Canon in Residence:*

**THE VEN. D. A. PIERPOINT**

*Treasurer*

## SUNDAY 11TH AUGUST 2024

*sung by the Choir of Saint John's Lutheran Church (Connecticut, United States)*

11:15 – Choral Eucharist

15:15 – Choral Evensong

*Canon in Residence:*

**THE VERY REVD N. J. W. SLOANE**

*Chancellor*

## SUNDAY 18TH AUGUST 2024

11:15 – Eucharist

15:15 – Evening Prayer

*Canon in Residence:*

**THE REVD P. R. CAMPION**

*Precentor*

## SUNDAY 25TH AUGUST 2024

11:15 – Eucharist

15:15 – Evening Prayer

*Canon in Residence:*

**THE VERY REVD W. W. MORTON**

*Dean & Ordinary*

*All services are live streamed online.*

## SERVICES & MUSIC LIST

For an up-to-date and comprehensive list of forthcoming services, please visit the monthly Services & Music List on the website.





## THE ADMINISTRATOR WRITES...

MR GAVAN WOODS

The summer season is in full swing with record numbers of visitors attending the Cathedral for the year to date. Systems that we introduced in 2023 to deal with capacity constraints and overcrowding appear to be working well thanks to the tour operators' cooperation and the professionalism of our staff at the welcome desk and booking department. We are currently hiring a small cohort of school leavers to help in the Cathedral to enable experienced staff to deliver more guided tours for our visitors. These young people will graduate to be full Cathedral Assistants in due course, helping to ensure a supply of staff for the years ahead. The tourism season begins significantly earlier now than it once did, leaving us with a shortfall of staff from February to early May, before the third-level students return for the summer. We will look to retain more seasonal workers through the winter to minimise the impact of this situation on our operation next spring.

We are now in the second year of our three-year participation in *Fáilte Ireland's* employer excellence programme. We have almost completed the staff engagement piece and will look to introduce a new appraisal system this autumn. We also plan once again to gain accreditation as a '*Great Place to Work*' with a view to improving our capacity to retain and attract staff. This has become a major focus for us as we continue to operate in a tight labour market coupled with significant increases in the cost of living, especially here in the capital.

Within this summer edition of *Close News* you will read about some of the new developments and initiatives ongoing within the Cathedral. Of note is the work of our Schools Officer, Kryzel, who has been instrumental in delivering workshops and tours to the 4,000 Irish school children who visited this year. Education workshops continue for families and community groups through the summer. Our Marketing and Events

team have created a tremendous presence for the Cathedral across online platforms and have significantly improved our share of the tourism market. This year we look to be on track to host more events than ever and I doubt there is another organisation in the country with as busy a *Heritage Week* programme as ours or of such quality. All of this would not be possible without the quiet commitment of the operations and administration teams, for which I am very grateful. Our Interpretation and Conservation committees continue to do much work in relation to the care and presentation of our collections, and our Health and Safety Officer, Ken Hartnett, has ambitiously undertaken to achieve *International Organisation for Standardisation* accreditation for our health and safety procedures this year.

I will conclude by saying that those of you not involved directly with the Cathedral will be unaware of the engagement by so many of the staff in external organisations on our behalf, whether they be tourism, conservation, charity, or church bodies. This representation informs our planning as we strive to achieve best practices in all we do, and it helps to maintain the Cathedral's standing in wider society. Finally, I wish you all a wonderful summer and I hope you get to enjoy a holiday at some stage!

GHW

## CONGRATULATIONS

We extend our good wishes to Ms Claire Callanan and Mr Lyndon MacCann S.C. who were married in Saint Patrick's Cathedral on 18th May. The Officiant was The Right Reverend Dr Paul Colton, Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, who was assisted by the Dean & Ordinary of Saint Patrick's, the Very Reverend Dr William Morton, and the Dean's Vicar, the Reverend Canon Charles Mullen. The intercessions were led by the Very Reverend Kieran McDermott, and the Reverend Canon Gillian Wharton read the Epistle. Mr MacCann is Registrar to the Dean and Chapter.

WWM

## SUPPORT US

If you would like to support the Cathedral's mission and work, please consider donating securely online. You can scan the QR code or visit: [spcd.ie/support](https://spcd.ie/support)



# DEAN'S GIFT DAY APPEAL

The Dean's Gift Day Appeal 2024, the focus of which this year is to help defray the cost of a new console, pedalboard and bench for the prestigious Willis organ, has raised, to date, over €30,000. With our choirs, the organ provides the heartbeat of our liturgical life, forms part of our identity, our reputation as a centre of excellence for musical and choral tradition, and into the bargain is a world-class instrument. The reality is that over and above the annual budget of maintenance, tuning and routine repairs (for which the Board allows in the annual budget), the organ requires this additional work urgently. It is the most important romantic instrument in Ireland, and attracts international attention, and it is our great desire to nurture and care for it.

The Dean wishes to acknowledge with most grateful thanks the generosity of all those who have already contributed to this year's appeal. If you would like to contribute to this extremely worthy cause please send your donation in any of the following ways:

Please forward your cheque made payable to:

'Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin'  
and send to:

Dean's Gift Day Appeal  
c/o Saint Patrick's Cathedral,  
Saint Patrick's Close  
Dublin D08 H6X3



For more information about the appeal and to donate online, please scan the QR code:



You can also visit this link: [spcd.ie/giftday](https://spcd.ie/giftday)

To donate by EFT, use these *new* details:

Account Name: Saint Patrick's  
Cathedral, Dublin

Account Number: 27467145

Sort Code: 900017

IBAN: IE57 BOFI 9000 1727 4671 45





## MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEWS

The end of the academic term brings a series of *lasts*. Earlier in June, we said a (temporary) goodbye to Mimi, Ella, and Emma, who sang their last service as girl choristers; they will be joining the Schola in September.

After a visit to a well-known burger restaurant on Grafton Street, the boys' last Evensong of the academic year took place, with the boys choosing the music for it. They chose well: Howells' Saint Paul's Service, and Vaughan Williams' Easter. For the girls' last Evensong, the music choices were full of Moore and Rutter.



## STAFF SUMMER PARTY

On the night of Friday 14th June 2024, the Dean and Rosemary held their annual summer barbecue in the Deanery Garden, following Choral Evensong. All staff from across all departments were invited by the Dean to attend as a way of thanks for their work throughout the year. It is almost a tradition at this point that the summer barbecue is also visited by showers of rain. Although the weather was somewhat dampened, spirits were not. Indeed, it seemed to bring people together – literally, under an umbrella! The staff would like to thank the Dean and Rosemary for their hospitality.



## ORDER OF SAINT JOHN SERVICE



Members of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem gathered at Saint Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday 30th June 2024 for the annual

ecumenical service of rededication. The service took place within the context of Choral Evensong, which also happened to be the final service of the summer term for the Cathedral Choir.



# CHOIR SCHOOL BARBECUE

Following their final service of the year on Wednesday 19th June 2024, the Choristers and staff of the Cathedral Choir School were welcomed by the Dean for a barbecue in the Deanery Garden.



# WINDOW REPAIRS



In the final weeks of June 2024, several windows underwent repair works. Thanks to Derek Tobin (Cathedral Verger) for these photos and others throughout this month's publication.

Should you wish to support the essential maintenance of the fabric of this 800-year-old Cathedral, please consider donating using the information on the rear cover page.



## I'M AN ANGLICAN, GET ME OUT OF HERE!

**W**arning: this article contains extreme heat and extempore prayer. But how *did* I end up serving as a chaplain for two weeks on a searingly hot Greek island during the height of summer? Our story begins in the snow-covered Swiss Alps. I have a phobia of annual leave. I like working here a bit too much at times, so I had quite a bit of leave to use up after Christmas. Not one to do things by halves, I elected to spend all of January in Switzerland, in a beautiful traditional chalet in the Alps. This was, at least in theory, to dedicate time to writing my PhD, but in practice, it was just as much a holiday.

During my time in Zermatt – a glamorous skiing village at the base of the Matterhorn – I stumbled upon a sign that said ‘English Church’ pointing towards an unusually familiar-looking building

perched on the side of a mountain. Curiously crossing its threshold, I was greeted with that unique smell of a dusty Anglican parish church: damp walls and dusty BCPs. The architecture – both inside and out – was categorically not Alpine; instead, it was peak Church of England. English monuments were on the walls commemorating those (men) who had died on the slopes; the words of the Venite were emblazoned around the base of the ceiling, like a news ticker in Times Square; a blue carpet stretched the length of the nave, with a pattern found only on *Wetherspoon's* plates and Anglican parish church carpets.

I found myself back there the following Sunday and, upon introducing myself to the chaplain, ended up playing the organ for that service. The chaplain – coincidentally, a Northern Irish Church



of Ireland priest – explained that this church was built for the English-speaking skiing community and is maintained by a Church of England organisation called the *Intercontinental Church Society* (ICS). They send priests (more on that later) for two-week-long placements to their churches all over the world to minister to English-speaking people. Although the priests volunteer their time to do this, ICS pay for their travel and accommodation during their stay.

The chaplain heard me explain how I am in the ordination discernment group in the diocese here – a process only held up by my PhD (which I was supposed to be writing at the time...) – and encouraged me to talk to ICS and see if they would be willing to take me on as a lay person. The worship in this church was not my ideal flavour, but I could make it work! Many readers of *Close News* might have attended multiple services that I've led myself in the absence of the Cathedral clergy, so I felt that I would at least have the experience if not the qualifications. Furthermore, the chaplain suggested that I would lower the average age of the chaplains – significantly!

A long story short, because the Archbishop has not (yet) laid hands upon me, ICS were not able to send me to Zermatt to fend for myself. However, I would be allowed to be sent to a church where there is a permanent priest: Corfu. When I received the email offering me a two-week placement on a Greek island in the height of summer to be a 'resort mission chaplain', my immediate reaction was to laugh. I hate the summer; I hate Irish summers less as there is very little summer about it. But a Greek summer?

In the heat? Shorts, not chinos?! No, thanks.

There was something niggling away at me as I let the email sit there, unresponded. I felt like my chance discovery of a church in the Alps and my slipping into involvement there was something I shouldn't ignore. My calling has been punctuated by doing the unexpected and ending up somewhere even more unexpected. After all, I was hoping to put my recently reacquired EU citizenship and Luxembourgish passport to good use. So there I was, agreeing to a chaplaincy on Corfu. Dog-sitting arranged, time off booked, flights purchased (thanks to my cousin's pilot discount!) – off I went, not knowing what to expect.

I simply cannot begin to describe the wall of heat and humidity which slapped me in the face as I stepped off the plane. It felt like wading through treacle on the bus transfer to the terminal building. The sheer relief as I stepped



inside the air-conditioned terminal was palpable for all of us in the queue for passport control (alas, they bundled EU passports together with all others!). Although the temperature was officially only mid-thirties for my two weeks there, the feels-like temperature and the heat in direct sunlight regularly reached the high-forties. That's just under 120° in old money. Air conditioning was going to be the only way to survive!

Having told everybody I was going 'on a mission' to Corfu, I feel it's only right to tell you what work I actually did there. ICS is an evangelical organisation and their chaplains are recruited to talk to people and encourage them to explore their faith and attend church. As a stiff-upper-lip Brit – and a particularly introverted one at that – this sends shivers down my spine. It was only right that I was pushed outside my comfort zone, as that is what I felt I was called to do during this time. I would be lying if I said I executed this evangelism duty 100% effectively, though I definitely engaged with many British and Irish people, telling them about what I was doing and the existence of Holy Trinity Church on Corfu. Most of my 'working' time was spent in service of the church in the church. They had recently opened a church café, which functioned as a community space. I was regularly on duty there, greeting the people as they walked in off the street and offering a warm welcome and conversation. They also had very popular events, for which I offered my presence and occasional musical input: a lunchtime jazz club and a folk music evening.

There is no denying that my

skills are somewhat more liturgical, so I arranged some services in addition to their usual diet of worship. With the help of some of my musical friends, we had a come-and-sing Compline, lunchtime concerts, and enhanced musical pieces for the main Sunday morning service. At the invitation of the permanent chaplain, I preached at this service on my second week there too. Furthermore, my friends and I transformed an otherwise-spoken Eucharist service, which takes place at a borrowed Roman Catholic chapel on the south of the island, with a sung Latin Mass setting. This was all very different to their usual: worship songs with a live band and informal liturgical adherence. It might well be my calling to explore the unexpected, but I can at least elevate others further up the candle en route!

Indeed, possibly my most out-of-place moment was during a 'Prayer and Worship' session during one of the mornings. Five of us sat assembled in a circle around a candle in the church. The permanent chaplain led us in an opening prayer before – quelle horreur, or perhaps I should say, πόσο αιαίσιο! – everyone started to pitch in with their own prayers. This Prayer Book Anglican was suddenly faced with a non-liturgical expectation! Each person's prayer and subsequent silence added to the weight of this expectation. I had to call upon my memory of prayers I had written hurriedly during a clerical absence here. Fortunately, the Holy Ghost worked away, and my prayers sprung forth based on a seventeenth-century Bishop of Bath and Wells, Thomas Ken's prayer: O God, make the door of this Church wide enough to receive all who need human

love and fellowship, and narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride, and strife. This was particularly apt for a church hoping to utilise its new café as a place of welcome, and also for my involvement with an evangelical organisation whose theology, unlike mine, is not always the most inclusive. Indeed, my sermon that Sunday based on Mark 5:21-43 can be summarised with the three headings: Living Faith, Generous Hearts, and Healing Grace – topical, given the Church of England's division over authorised prayers and the United Kingdom's general election.

It was not just church business though. There were plenty of opportunities to explore. I hired a car to travel about the island. Indeed, the roads were the width of the car itself and no more, so most journeys were perilous. Crossing the middle of the island meant

climbing over mountainous terrain – nothing compared with Switzerland, but this poor 1-litre Citroen C3 spent most of its wretched life in first gear. I missed the ease with which my Volvo XC90 sailed through the Alps with Hannibalian success. There were beaches aplenty; as someone who does not care for sun holidays, I was not impressed with my friends' constant desire to be at one. Surely once you've seen one beach, they're all the same? To be sure, there were plenty of people on the beaches, even before the British schools finished for summer. It was noticeable just how many English speakers there were: I seldom heard a word of Greek! On one day, we chose to take a break from the tourist idyl of Corfu and get the boat to Albania. I was hoping for a non-EU passport stamp in my British passport (otherwise known as my 'stamp collector'), though apparently,





this is now old-fashioned. Even though Greece isn't known for its orderliness, especially in comparison to some of its Western European neighbours, Albania made Greece look like Germany! We 'borrowed' a car for €40 (they don't use Euros in Albania...) to drive to a national park. The brakes were merely for show. En route, we were passed by many motorbike cavalcades travelling much faster than advised; we saw many British-registered cars being driven by locals; absolutely nowhere accepted card. Albania had much more of a spice of life to it!

Back on Corfu, the people – mostly British retirees – were always very welcoming to both me and my friends, as was the permanent chaplain, who supported and encouraged me a lot during my placement. There is a real sense of holiness about that church

community, leading a life dedicated to loving Jesus and each other in their own ways. As my time drew to a close, another young person – an ordinand on placement with that church for the rest of the summer – arrived to assume some of the duties I had been fulfilling. He was a convert from the Greek Orthodox Church and was adamant that he was the only actually-Greek Anglican there is! Although most ICS chaplains are more successful at holding conversations with those outside the church or on its fringes, I believe the conversations I had and the prayers offered with everyone within this unusual church community helped my discernment and, I hope, I instilled something good in each of them too.

As I left Corfu, I couldn't help but reflect on this journey. Despite the challenges, both expected and unforeseen, my time as a chaplain on this



*Clark with his friend, Helen, who played the piano and organ on Corfu.*



*Clark with his friend and Cathedral colleague, Sarah, who sang on Corfu.*



vibrant island was immensely rewarding. It was more than just a test of endurance in the sweltering summer heat; it was a crucible of personal growth and spiritual reaffirmation. The warmth (!) of the Corfu community, their unwavering dedication to faith, and the deep connections forged during my stay underscored the essence of my calling. Each conversation, every shared prayer, and the moments of communal worship enriched not only my understanding of others but also my own spiritual journey. This experience taught me the invaluable lesson that stepping out of one's comfort zone can lead to unexpected blessings. For anyone considering a similar path, I encourage you to embrace the unknown. Whether you are seasoned clergy or someone exploring their faith, these experiences

hold the power to transform and inspire. The beauty of such a journey lies in its unpredictability and the profound ways it can touch your soul.

In the end, my time in Corfu was not just a mission; it was a testament to the enduring power of faith, community, and the willingness to answer a calling, no matter how daunting it may seem. May we all find the courage to step into the unexpected and discover the boundless grace that awaits.

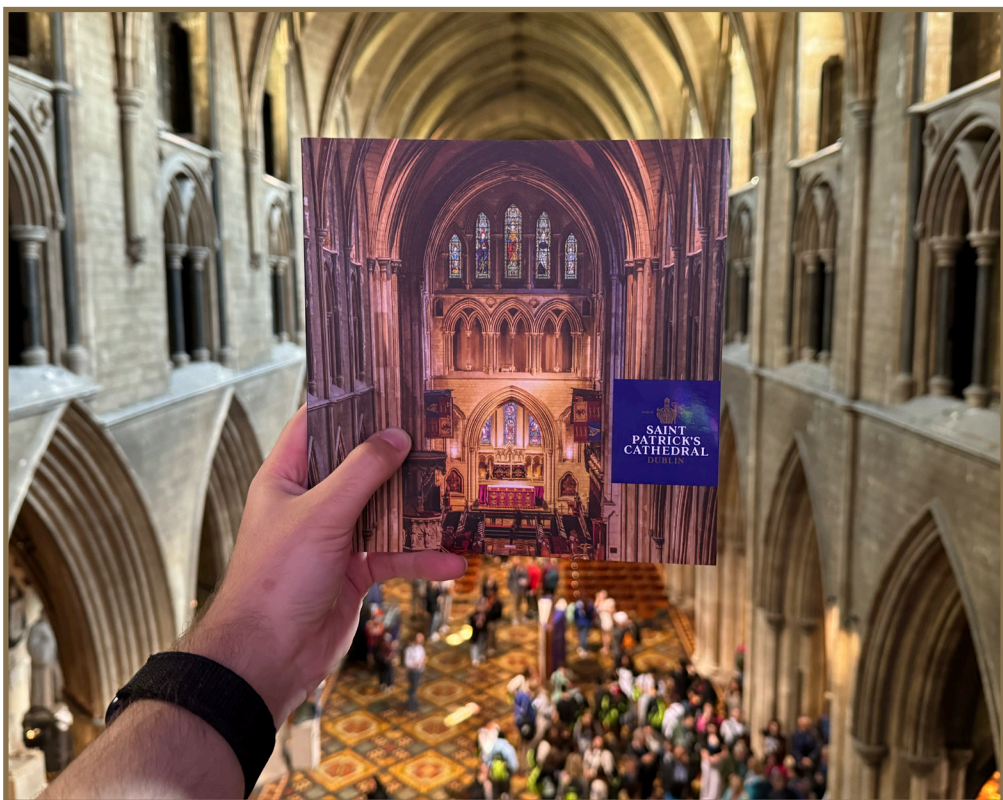


**CLARK BRYDON**

Education &  
Safeguarding Officer

@ClarkBrydon  
clark@spcd.ie





## NEW SOUVENIR BOOK

Back in November 2023, Gavan asked me to assemble a team to discuss the creation of a new souvenir guide book to replace the old one, which was beginning to show its age. The planning group consisted of Liz Lowrie, Aaron Hoey, Laura Coyle, Albert Fenton, Kryzel Bonifacio, and Louis Parminter. With a wide range of representatives from across the Cathedral community, we hoped that we would be able to offer a comprehensive overview of our intentions from across the organisation. This was vital as the new book would reflect the Cathedral

as a whole to our visitors, even long after they have left.

We settled on the key priorities for the book's contents: a welcome, our history, worship and music, community, learning, and conservation. Rather than a text-heavy book, we opted instead for a photograph-dominated tour of the Cathedral, interwoven with facts and information to inform the reader about our story as a whole.

With Liz's commercial acumen at the helm, we received a plethora of quotations from publishers. We eventually settled on *Memory Lane Media*,

a professional print company based in the United Kingdom. It transpires that this was an excellent choice because their holistic, detailed, and meticulous approach to the book's design and print has resulted in the delivery of an incredibly high-quality publication, which I cannot wait for you to see.

The team from *Memory Lane* – Louise Sword and Andrew Humphries – were quick off the bat to provide us with designs based on our artistic vision. One thing we realised early in the process was that, if we wanted a photographic book to reflect the grandeur of our Cathedral, we needed to commission more photographs. There was only one person for the job: Tristan Hutchinson. Tristan has worked with the Cathedral for many years; most of our high-quality photographs online and in print are his work and he knew exactly what needed to be done to capture the Cathedral in all its beauty.

To complement the photographs, concise yet informative text had to be written. The groundwork for this was laid by *Memory Lane*'s Stephen De Silva, before I went about shaping this into what the team wanted it to say and

how we wanted to say it. As anyone who has written something for a committee will know, managing editorial opinion is often the most difficult part of any writing project. Fortunately, we were always on the same page (perhaps with a little persuasion).

Following numerous drafts and many (very tight, often postponed!) deadlines, we arrived at the final proof copy. I flew over to London and was driven by Andrew and Louise to the industrial estate where the whole book was professionally printed and shown to us – page by page – for final colour checking and the like. Only a few weeks later, many thousand of these new books arrived on pallets, ready to be sold in the Cathedral Gift Shop.

The new Saint Patrick's Cathedral Souvenir Book will be launched on **Saturday 17th August 2024 as part of a Heritage Week event at 18:30**. The book will be available to purchase then, as well as at Albert Fenton's talk on Monday 19th August 2024 at 18:30. *CDJB*

*The photo on the left page shows the first copy of the book received by the Cathedral, held by Clark, with its cover photo of the Nave.*



# HERITAGE WEEK 2024

## Seachtain Náisiúnta na hOidhreacht

Clár den Chomhairle Oidhreacht



Last year's Heritage Week programme saw thousands of visitors attending dozens of events throughout that week. It was, by far, the busiest Heritage Week the Cathedral has ever hosted, with concerts, talks, tours, and workshops offering something for everyone.

If you can believe it, this year will be even bigger and better than before, with over 90 different events happening in the 9 day period: **Saturday 17th August to Sunday 25th August 2024.**

As this bumper edition of Close News goes to print, I am still adding the final touches to this year's programme; however, I am delighted to present this overview, featuring only *some* of the highlights. There is plenty more to come.

Every event during Heritage Week is free to attend. I strongly urge you to consider coming along to a few of them and – even more strongly – urge you to share the programme with friends and family. These are wonderful opportunities to introduce new people to the Cathedral.

Tickets are not yet available to reserve, but do keep your eye on our website for the latest up-to-date information.

CDJB

## FAMILY WORKSHOPS

A variety of crafty workshops will take place for families with younger children.

**Saturday 17th August**

10:00; 11:00; 12:00; 14:00

**Monday 19th – Friday 23rd August**

10:00 – every day on the weekdays

**Saturday 24th August**

10:00; 12:00; 15:00

*There will be no workshops on Sundays.*

## TWO O'CLOCK TOURS

Bespoke tours given by expert guides throughout the week.

**Saturday 17th August** *with Clark Brydon, featuring behind the scenes places and knowledge*

**Monday 19th, Wednesday 21st, & Friday 23rd August** *with Jack Cassidy, featuring the stained glass windows*

**Tuesday 20th, Thursday 22nd, & Saturday 24th August** *with Jean Traynor, featuring the stories of the characters depicted in monuments*

## CHILDREN'S CONCERTS

Bring the children along to the ever-popular *Disney* concert, with the latest and greatest hits alongside the classics, led by Judith Lyons.

**Saturday 24th August** 11:00; 14:00

## ORGAN RECITALS

A chance to hear the world-renowned Cathedral Organ played by our organists: Stuart Nicholson and David Leigh.

**Wednesday 21st August** 18:30

**Friday 23rd August** 18:30

**Saturday 24th August** 18:30

## BELFRY TOURS

A chance to visit the Bell Ringing Room and learn how to ring one of our bells, taught by our expert bell ringing team.

**Saturday 17th August**  
10:00; 12:00; 14:00; 16:00

**Saturday 24th August**  
10:00; 12:00; 14:00; 16:00

## BEHIND THE SCENES

Tour delivered by Clark Brydon, featuring the launch of the new souvenir book.

**Saturday 17th August** 18:30

## MIDDAY MUSIC

**Wednesday 21st August** 12:00  
*Eric Gentet*

**Thursday 22nd August** 12:00  
*Rory Lynch & William Bosworth*

**Friday 23rd August** 12:00  
*Ira Schwitzer & David Leigh*

## LUNCHTIME TALKS

A variety of speakers have been invited to share their expertise on a number of different topics.

**Monday 19th August** 13:15  
*Silver Works Jewellery Demonstration*

**Tuesday 20th August** 13:15  
*Irish Guild of the Church of Ireland*

**Wednesday 21st August** 13:15  
*Patrick Hugh Lynch (Photographer)*

**Thursday 22nd August** 13:15  
*Rachel Phelan (Conservation)*

**Friday 23rd August** 13:15  
*The Dean's Lecture (Very Revd William Morton)*

## CHURCHYARD TOURS

Tours delivered by Adrian LeHarivel.

**Wednesday 21st August**  
11:00; 12:00; 14:00; 15:00

[www.heritageweek.ie](http://www.heritageweek.ie)



An Roinn Tithíochta,  
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht  
Department of Housing,  
Local Government and Heritage







## FROM THE OUTSIDE IN

**M**y name is Conor Finn, and I am a 22-year-old marketing intern who has just wrapped up a summer internship at Saint Patrick's Cathedral for about a month now. Originally from New York, I am a fourth-year Journalism and Communications student at *Ohio State University* with a keen interest in Marketing. After a great interview, I got the opportunity to live in Dublin for the summer, hoping to gain a wealth of experience doing marketing for one of Ireland's most popular tourist attractions.

Rule number one in marketing is knowing your audience and, initially, I was concerned about this since I had never visited Saint Patrick's Cathedral

before. However, with the guidance of my manager, Ed Coleman, I quickly grasped the mission of the Cathedral team. Whilst I consider myself a fast learner, my smooth adaptation was greatly aided by the helpfulness of the staff, including vergers, office workers, and others. They all made me feel incredibly welcome, allowing me to contribute my skills to the Cathedral's overarching goals. One thing I did not expect going into the internship was the incredible passion everyone has for the Cathedral's heritage and culture. Whenever I ask anyone in any department about something within those walls, they light up with interest and eagerly share information and fun facts. Something I did expect, which proved to



be accurate, was the magnificence of this Cathedral when I first saw it in person. After seeing photos online, I was thrilled at the thought of helping to market such a historic place. Upon arrival, I was in awe of the stunning stained glass windows, a grave slab from around the year 700, and several pieces of Irish history spanning centuries. The novelty of the enchanting feeling of stepping inside that magnificent Cathedral during my internship could never wear off.

On my first day on the job, I had the opportunity to work with the Cathedral staff and welcome visitors to a place that had just welcomed me a couple of hours earlier. It was a great experience greeting people from all over the world and assisting them in the same way I had just been assisted. I enjoyed it so much that my manager allowed me to work once a week inside the beautiful Cathedral and assist with customer service, giving me a unique opportunity inside such a magnificent place. Shortly after my first day, some staff members encouraged me to attend the barbecue party hosted at the Deanery that upcoming Friday. Although I was nervous at first, the party turned out to be a wonderful experience. I could not have felt more welcomed by the Dean and his wife, Rosemary, whilst getting to know several employees and learning about their roles was a pleasure.

Since then, I've tackled new projects such as composing newsletters for subscribers to Cathedral updates, writing press releases, and developing exciting and new social media content. I have already gained so much from this experience abroad. Being in a vibrant city like Dublin has significantly improved

my growth. The fresh air from the River Liffey and the incredible culture and spirit of the Dublin people make this a happy place for me to live. I am a massive fan of history myself as well, especially medieval.

Coming from Irish immigrant grandparents, I hope I am making them proud by venturing back to the country they left 55 years ago. I am elated to continue the rest of my summer internship with such a tight-knit group and cannot wait to see what the future holds. An aspect of my internship that stands out is how I can provide a unique American tourist perspective to the marketing team. My fresh viewpoint highlights what is particularly intriguing or captivating for other American visitors. This cross-cultural insight allows us to tailor our marketing strategies to a broader audience, enhancing the Cathedral's appeal to international tourists.

I always tell people back in the U.S. that this Cathedral is a place with a unique Irish legacy, full of welcoming people and making it feel like home. The warmth and friendliness of everyone have made my experience here special. I never thought I would live abroad, but I am happy that it has been in Dublin, and I am thrilled it includes daily life going to Saint Patrick's Cathedral. I am surrounded by history and beauty daily, contributing to a place that feels incredibly grand and wonderfully familiar. This experience enhances my professional skills and enriches my personal life in ways I never imagined. Here's to a memorable summer filled with growth, learning, and new friendships. *CF*

# THE LIBERTIES FESTIVAL



Join Saint Patrick's Cathedral at the Liberties Festival

Saint Patrick's Cathedral is thrilled to participate in the Liberties Festival, one of Ireland's oldest and most beloved celebrations. Running from Monday, July 22nd to Sunday, July 28th, this week-long event has become a summer highlight in Dublin, offering a diverse array of family-friendly, sporting, and community activities alongside a vibrant multi-cultural and arts programme.

## A LEGACY OF CELEBRATION

The Liberties Festival, which began in 1970, has grown from humble beginnings into a dynamic celebration that embodies the vibrant spirit of Dublin. Taking place in The Liberties – the festival promises a unique blend of music, culture, environmental awareness, classic traditions, youth engagement, health and wellbeing initiatives, and family fun events.

## SAINT PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL EVENTS

As part of the Liberties Festival, Saint Patrick's Cathedral will be hosting special free events on Saturday 27th July 2024:

**Kids History Tours:** At 10:00 and 12:00, children are invited to embark on an engaging history tour designed especially for young minds. These tours will bring the past to life, offering a fascinating glimpse into the history of the cathedral and its significance.

**Behind the Scenes Tour:** At 14:00, visitors can delve deeper into the mysteries of Saint Patrick's Cathedral with an exclusive behind the scenes tour. This unique opportunity allows participants to explore areas not typically accessible to the public and uncover the hidden stories of this historic site.

For more information on the festival and to book your spot on the cathedral tours, please visit our website or [thelibertiesfestival.com](http://thelibertiesfestival.com)

# BECOME A CHORISTER

The choristers are educated at the Cathedral Choir School (a co-educational National School) which is renowned for the excellence of its teaching staff and its friendliness. Small classes mean a focus and care for each child. It is also unique in being the only choir school in the country, as well as being the oldest school in Ireland.

In recent years, our choristers have performed regularly on live television and radio, in front of VIPs (including the President of Ireland and the Pope), and on the stage of the Gaiety Theatre and the National Concert Hall, with both the National Symphony and RTÉ Concert Orchestras. They have also toured extensively including most recently the US, and recorded six critically-acclaimed CDs, the most recent of which was released in 2023.

Saint Patrick's Cathedral Choir School, the oldest school in the country, is currently enrolling for the 2024/25 academic year. At Saint Patrick's, we believe in nurturing young talents. If your child enjoys singing then they will receive top-notch classical music training alongside a comprehensive primary education curriculum, allowing them to reach their full potential, academically and musically.



## DISCOVER CHORISTERSHIPS

Do you know a boy or a girl who can sing? Find out more about becoming a chorister online: [spcd.ie/sing](https://spcd.ie/sing) or scan the QR code.



# CATHEDRAL CONTACTS



**The Very Revd Dr  
William Morton**  
DEAN

*dean@stpatrickscathedral.ie*



**The Revd Canon  
Charles Mullen**  
DEAN'S VICAR

*deans.vicar@stpatrickscathedral.ie*



**Mr Gavan Woods**  
ADMINISTRATOR

*administrator@stpatrickscathedral.ie*



**Mr Ed Coleman**  
MARKETING OFFICER

*marketing@stpatrickscathedral.ie*



**Mr Stuart Nicholson**  
MASTER OF THE MUSIC

*music@stpatrickscathedral.ie*



**Mr Clark Brydon**  
EDUCATION &  
SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

*education@stpatrickscathedral.ie*



**Mr Louis Parminter**  
DEAN'S VERGER &  
CATHEDRAL MANAGER

*manager@stpatrickscathedral.ie*



**Mrs Rowena Janota**  
DEAN'S SECRETARY &  
OFFICE MANAGER

*officemanager@stpatrickscathedral.ie*



**Cathedral Assistant  
Manager & Safety Officer**  
Mr Kenneth Hartnett  
*safety@stppatrickscathedral.ie*

**Vergers**  
Mr John Kinirons  
Mr Derek Tobin  
Ms Colette Garry  
Mr John Reardon  
Mr Aaron Hoey  
*verggers@stppatrickscathedral.ie*

**Accounts**  
Ms Dymphna McHugh  
*accounts@stppatrickscathedral.ie*

**Welcome Desk Supervisors**  
Ms Freda Doyle  
Ms Laura Coyle  
*supervisors@stppatrickscathedral.ie*

**Organist & Assistant  
Master of the Music**  
Mr David Leigh

**Schools Officer**  
Ms Kryzel Bonifacio  
*edassist@stppatrickscathedral.ie*

**Events Officer**  
Ms Eppie Claffey  
*events@stppatrickscathedral.ie*

**H.R. Manager**  
Ms Barbara Whelan  
*humanresources@stppatrickscathedral.ie*

**Retail Manager**  
Mrs Elizabeth Lowrie  
*retail@stppatrickscathedral.ie*

**Senior Retail Assistant**  
Ms Violeta Dalmau  
*retail@stppatrickscathedral.ie*

**Administrative Assistant**  
Mr James Phelps  
*info@stppatrickscathedral.ie*

## WILL US WELL

**W**hen making or amending your will, please consider including a legacy bequest to the Cathedral. If you are interested in supporting us in this way, let your solicitor or will-writer know that you wish to make provision for the Cathedral in your will.

For more information, please contact the Cathedral Administrator, Mr Gavan Woods, at *adminstrator@stppatrickscathedral.ie*

## SAFEGUARDING

The Cathedral's Safeguarding Policy can be viewed on our website.

If you have a general enquiry or any concern relating to safeguarding at Saint Patrick's Cathedral, please contact the Safeguarding Officer:

**Mr Clark Brydon**  
Education & Safeguarding Officer

*safeguarding@stppatrickscathedral.ie*  
+353 (0) 86 103 0931

If you recognise a safeguarding emergency in which a child or vulnerable adult is in danger, Tusla Child and Family Agency can be contacted on +353 (0) 1 856 6856.

# SUPPORT US



The ministry of Saint Patrick's Cathedral is made possible entirely through the support of individuals like you. The donations which we receive from people all over the world support our worship and music tradition, education programmes, and community outreach work, as well as contributing towards the vast cost of maintaining this historic building.

If you would like to support the Cathedral's mission and work, please consider donating securely online. You can scan the QR code or visit: [spcd.ie/support](https://spcd.ie/support)



# STAY IN TOUCH

You do not have to wait until the next edition of *Close News* to see the latest updates from the Cathedral! Why not follow us on social media or visit our website for up-to-date news and information? From our website, you can also sign up to our digital newsletter in order to receive news straight to your email.



[/StPatricksCathedral](https://www.facebook.com/StPatricksCathedral)



[@StPatricksCath](https://twitter.com/StPatricksCath)



[@StPatricksCathedralDublin](https://www.instagram.com/StPatricksCathedralDublin)



[/StPatricksCathedral1](https://www.youtube.com/StPatricksCathedral1)



[stpatrickscathedral.ie](https://stpatrickscathedral.ie)



The Deanery Office  
Kevin Street Upper  
Dublin D08 AW65

