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SEP/OCT 2024

# CLOSE NEWS



## ► HERITAGE

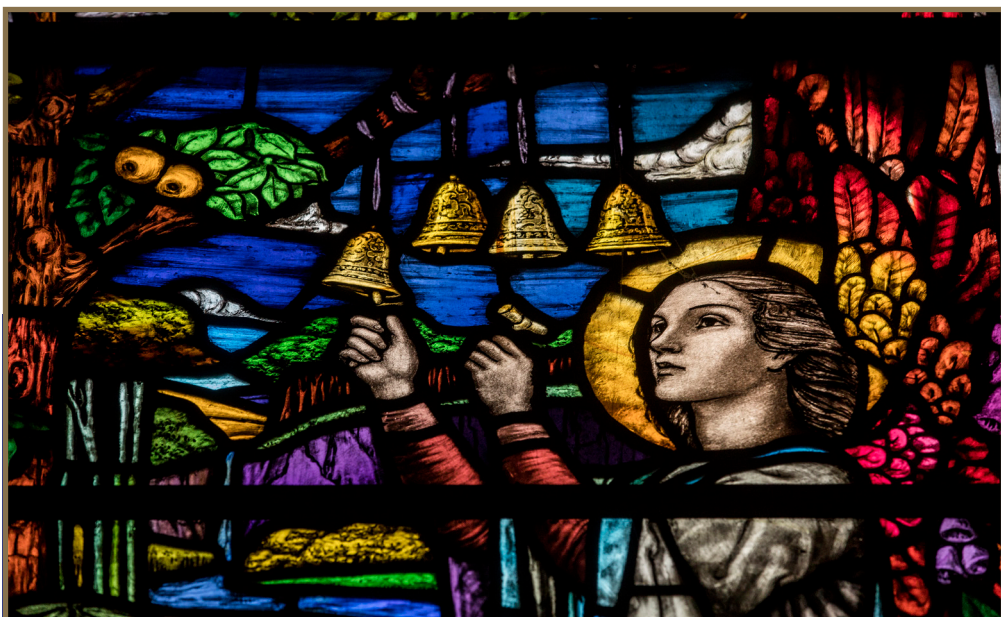
Heritage Week a tremendous success throughout August.  
*Pg16*

## ► COMMUNITY

We welcome back Kelley Bermingham with all the latest community news. *Pg20*

## ► EVENTS

Lots of exciting festive and cultural events to look forward to. *Pg26*



## 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)

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*Cover image: Cathedral Guide Daire Kiernan leading a special architecture tour of the building during Heritage Week.*

## **THE CLOSE NEWS EDITORIAL COMMITTEE**

The Very Revd Dr William Morton (DEAN)

The Revd Canon Charles Mullen (DEAN'S VICAR)

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Mr Ed Coleman (MARKETING MANAGER)

Ms Kryzel Bonifacio (SCHOOLS 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

**A**mong my earliest memories of being brought to church are those around harvest thanksgiving services. I still recall the familiar sights and smells of harvest: the sheaves of corn, the vegetables, the flowers, the bread and the grapes, and on it goes! Harvest can be a powerful reminder of our dependence on the natural world and cycles of planting, growth and gathering, with each stage involving its particular combinations of human endeavour, patience and dependence on conditions outside of our control. Theologically we're reminded that nothing grows without the seed that falls into the earth and dies so that it might yield a rich harvest.

In later life, and certainly following ordination, I began to think of harvest in an additional way. In the different settings in which I found myself ministering, services of thanksgiving for harvest, while reflecting some of the above dimensions, began to focus on what was the connection and way of life specific to that parish and to that area. For example, in County Donegal, in the Parish of Dunfanaghy, where I was invited to preach at harvest a few times over the years, there would have been an emphasis on location, in terms of that for which we were thanking God. In addition to the harvest of the land, and all the symbols of God's bounty, there were also lobster pots, and fishing nets



on display, and beautiful illustrations by children in the local national school of the harvest of the sea.

Similarly, on moving to a civic environment in Derry/Londonderry, there was an emphasis on industry and commerce, about manufacture, and factories, and the employment created for local people. With the passing years, I reckon I have come to recognise a 'here and now' element of an urban harvest that relates more particularly to our experience and context. Harvest can be a festival of place, connecting us with where we live and the people who live and work in our place: in other words, the work of human hands and hearts as well as the fruits of the earth. What this, in essence, amount to is this. Harvest can also connect us with the Lord who

is here, whose Spirit is with us.

It is really a case of beginning to discover the fruits of wherever one is, and where one is glad to be. Thomas Merton, who was a monk, writer, theologian, mystic, poet, social activist and scholar of comparative religion, said this: "It is essential to experience all the times and moods of one good place." Harvest, in fact like any other time in the Church's year, or in the calendar, is about gratitude, celebration, and enjoyment of encounter with God, his presence, and his gifts.

In thanksgiving for all God's bounty, and in the hope of utilising his gifts to the full for his greater glory.

Yours ever,

*William*

CHURCH OF IRELAND

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## A SHOT FROM THE CANON

THE REVD CANON  
CHARLES MULLEN

Most of us have keepsakes such as photographs, letters and objects that evoke special memories of people, events and places. Keepsakes give us comfort and encouragement: their value stretches far beyond words. Often the keepsakes themselves are ordinary, even mundane, things. The Church's sacraments are like them: water, bread, and wine are commonplace and easy to come by. God uses them to bless us by shifting our focus so that we can see in them something of God's grace and love. By them, heaven reaches down to us, whilst we find ourselves reaching up in heart and mind to heaven.

CM

## VEILED IN FLESH THE GODHEAD SEE

Teach me, my God and King,  
In all things thee to see;  
And what I do in anything  
To do it as for thee!

Though the lowliest form doth veil thee  
As of old in Bethlehem,  
Here as there thine angels hail thee:  
We in worship join with them.

*From a hymn by George Herbert  
(1593–1633)*

*From a hymn by John Armitage Robinson  
(1858–1933)*

# SUNDAY SERVICES & PREACHERS

## SUNDAY 22ND SEPT 2024

11:15 – Choral Matins

15:15 – Choral Evensong

*Canon in Residence:*

**THE REVD S. E. DOOGAN**

*Prebendary of Wicklow*

## SUNDAY 29TH SEPT 2024

11:15 – Choral Eucharist

15:15 – Choral Evensong

*Canon in Residence:*

**THE REVD M. D. GARDNER**

*Prebendary of Maynooth*

## SUNDAY 6TH OCT 2024

11:15 – Choral Matins

15:15 – Choral Evensong

*Canon in Residence:*

**THE REVD P. A. HARVEY**

*Prebendary of Stagonil*

## SUNDAY 13TH OCT 2024

11:15 – Choral Eucharist

15:15 – Choral Evensong

*Canon in Residence:*

**THE REVD G. V. WHARTON**

*Prebendary of Dunlavin*

## SUNDAY 20TH OCT 2024

11:15 – Choral Eucharist

15:15 – Choral Evensong

*Canon in Residence:*

**THE REVD P. M. WILLOUGHBY**

*Prebendary of Tymothan*

▶ **LIVE**

**STREAM**

Can't make it in person to our services this month? Remember: you can tune in for free online.

## SUNDAY 27TH OCT 2024

11:15 – Choral Eucharist

15:15 – Choral Evensong

*Canon in Residence:*

**THE REVD D. W. T. CROOKS**

*Prebendary of Howth*

## SUNDAY SAID SERVICE

Eucharist at 09:15 (Lady Chapel).

## FORTHCOMING FEAST DAYS

The Feast of Saint Matthew is celebrated on Saturday 21 Sept 2024.

The Feast of Saint Michael and All Angels is celebrated on Sunday 29 Sept 2024.

The Feast of Saint Philip the Deacon is celebrated on Friday 11 Oct 2024.

The Feast of Saint Luke is celebrated on Friday 18 Oct 2024.

## 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

As I write the final details of the contract for the Mews Community Hub project are being finalised. We hope to issue a letter of intent within a few days with the contractor, Kelbuild, to begin on site about a fortnight later.

Separately to the main work we were lucky to secure a Built Heritage Investment Scheme grant to reinstate the old arch above the stable door in the east front of the building. This can be clearly seen in the drawing below from a refurbishment project that occurred in the 1940s. Under the terms of this grant we had to have the work complete by the beginning of September. Fionnuala, of Howley Hayes Cooney Architects, developed the drawings for the project with the stonemasons from Conservation and Restoration undertaking the work.

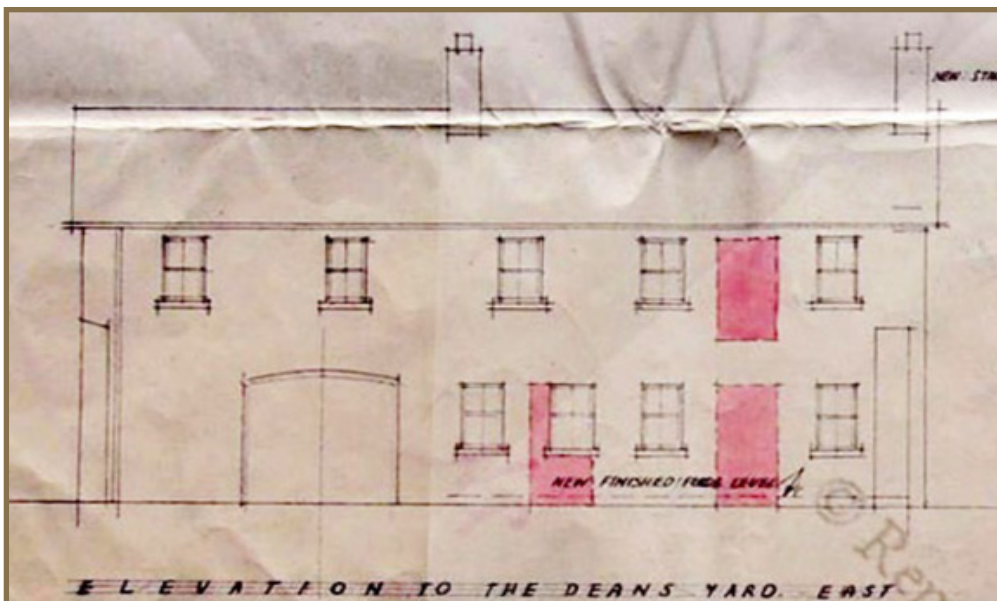
You will see from the accompanying photographs that this work, using traditional methods and materials, was executed the highest

standards. Reinstating this original feature had given life to the facade of what is a plain but attractive and well-proportioned building.

I made several visits during the course of the work and it was a pleasure to see the arch develop. The knowledge of the stonemasons and their use of brick, stone and mortar to deliver both strength and form was most impressive. The section of wall above the arch was removed to facilitate the work and then rebuilt when the arch was complete, with the upper facade and internal floor supported on jacks throughout the work. These will be removed completely when the lime mortar has set and everything is secure in a week or two.

Our thanks to the architect, engineer and stonemasons for delivering this small but worthwhile and impactful project!

*GHW*



## 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)



## CHAPTER NEWS

The Bishop of Derry and Raphoe has appointed Canon Harry Gilmore as Prebendary of Howth to succeed Canon David Crooks. Canon Gilmore is rector of Tullyaughnish (Ramelton) in the diocese of Raphoe, and he was a minor canon of Saint Patrick's from 1978, when he served as curate assistant in the former Cathedral Group of Parishes. He will be installed on 14 October.

Canon David Crooks was appointed Prebendary of Howth in 2016 to succeed the Dean. We appreciated Canon Crooks's generous service to the Cathedral Chapter where his vivacious and convivial personality were a source of joy and encouragement to us. We wish him well in his retirement after 47 years' ministry, 40 of which he served as rector of Taughboyne (Raphoe diocese).

*CM*

## CONDOLENCES

### IRENE BLACK

Her colleagues on the Council of Friends of Saint Patrick's Cathedral were deeply saddened to learn of the death, after a short illness, of Mrs Irene Black, on 7th August. Irene was a lovely lady, who, with her husband Victor, was a most active and dedicated supporter of the many initiatives and events of the Friends. She will be very sadly missed. The funeral service was held in Saint Mary's Church, Shinrone, Birr, County Offaly. A memorial service for Irene will be held in the Church of Saint John the Baptist, Clontarf, on Sunday 6th October at 3.00 p.m. Sincere condolences are expressed to Victor, and to the family.

### DENIS MACCARTHY

We condole also with Mr Keith MacCarthy, a member of the Cathedral congregation, on the death of his father, Denis, Ferns, County Wexford, on 20th July. Denis and his wife, Dorothy, often worshipped in Saint Patrick's when visiting Keith in Dublin. Denis was in his 94th year. Sincere condolences are expressed to Dorothy, and to Keith, and his brother, Derek. Denis's funeral service took place in St. Brigid's Church, Kilbride, Kilcrone, Bray, County Wicklow, followed by burial in the adjoining churchyard.



# CONDOLENCES

## SEÁN O'BRIEN

Sincere condolences are also expressed to Dr Sylvia O'Brien, a member of the Choir School Board of Management, on the death of her brother Seán.

## ROSALIE (ROLY) PICKERING

Our sincere condolences are expressed to Mr Neville Pickering, and to his family, on the death of his wife Rosalie (Roly), formerly of Rathgar, who died peacefully on 9th July after a long illness. The funeral service and cremation took place in the Victorian Chapel, Mount Jerome.

## WENDY STEWART

The Dean and the Precentor were in attendance at the funeral service of the late Mrs Wendy Stewart in Sandford Parish Church on Tuesday 3rd September. Wendy was the wife of the late Very Reverend Dr Maurice Stewart, Dean of Saint Patrick's from 1991-1999. She had been living at The Mageough, Cowper Road, Rathmines since 2018, previously having resided in Greystones. She was predeceased by Maurice in 2004. Sincere condolences are expressed to their daughters, Susan and Mary, their families, and to the entire family circle. The service was conducted by the Rector of Sandford and Milltown, Canon Sonia Gyles, and the address given by the Reverend Robert Kingston, Chaplain to The Mageough.

## IAN KEATLEY

It was with deep shock and sadness – particularly among his colleagues in the world of Church music – that news spread of the untimely death, on 6th August, while on holiday in Austria, of Mr Ian Keatley, Organist and Director of Music in Christ Church Cathedral from 2011 to 2019, from whence he moved to become Director of Music in Southwark Cathedral. Ian was born in Belfast and was in fact a chorister in Saint George's Church, High Street. Sincere condolences are expressed to Ian's parents, and to his brothers, from Ian's many friends at Saint Patrick's Cathedral who had the pleasure of knowing him. In memory of Ian, at the Eucharist on Sunday 1st September, the Choir in Saint Patrick's sang Matthew Martin's setting of *Iustorum animae in manu Dei sunt* (*The souls of the just are in the hand of God*).

# MIRA GUINNESS 1979 – 2024

**I**t was with utmost sadness very early on the morning of Sunday 25th August that I received a message from the Honourable Rory Guinness that his wife, Mira, had died peacefully in The Royal Marsden Hospital in London. Throughout her eight years of illness, and of receiving chemotherapy, we remembered in our prayers Mira, and Rory, and their children, Aoife, Beatrice, and Aidan, and while Mira sadly did not find the healing for which we had all hoped, she found a wonderful sense of peace, without (as she said) any fear of death, and with deep trust in God.

Rory is a member of the Cathedral Board, and of the Governance Committee, as well as a marvellous supporter – like his forebears – of Saint Patrick's Cathedral. On behalf of the Board members, the members of the Chapter, and all at the National Cathedral, we extend our sincere condolences to Rory, and to Aoife, Beatrice, and Aidan.

A Memorial Service for Mira will follow later in Saint Patrick's Cathedral.

*WWM*



*Photo courtesy of David A. Pierpoint.*

### AN APPRECIATION...

I first met Mira Maini when the Honourable Rory Guinness brought her to Dublin for a visit. Rory's "new" girlfriend was a stunningly attractive young lady whom everyone admired and with whom everyone felt at ease. Sometime later, Rory phoned me to say they had become engaged and he was the happiest man in the world!

Roll on a couple of years and I had the great pleasure to conduct their marriage in Elveden estate, and then later to baptise their first two children, Aoife and Beatrice, and then to be their son Aidan's godfather. We kept in touch over the last 19 years or so watching the children grow up and Mira being such a wonderful loving mother and devoted wife.

I was devastated when Rory contacted me to tell me that Mira had died and that her wish was that I was to conduct her funeral service along with Dean Morton. The dean, my wife Denise and I travelled to Wilbury estate on the night before Mira's funeral to spend some time with Rory, Aoife, Bea and Aidan as well as Mira's parents, Tidu and Meta and her sister Maya and brother Zubin.

On Tuesday 19th September hundreds of people gathered inside and outside the local St Andrew's Church, Newton Toney for her funeral and celebration of a young life so fully lived. This was followed by a reception back at Wilbury where over four hundred people from all walks of life gathered to share stories about Mira and to reflect on her life and achievements.

Some words from the sermon that day: "As a grieving community, we

have gathered here this morning to share with the Guinness and Maini families and especially with Rory, Aoife, Bea and Aidan in their sad loss and to pay our own personal respects to Mira, whose life was all too short.

"As Christians, we live by faith, walk in faith and die in faith. But for those left behind when death strikes, what little comfort we gain comes from our faith and the hope of resurrection that we will meet again those loved ones who have died. When human comfort cannot help, how marvellous it is to have faith in Christ who has prepared many mansions for us for endless and blessed peace with him and our loved ones in heaven.

"We will miss Mira for so many different reasons, but her immediate family will miss her most. And so to Rory, Aoife, Bea and Aidan: her parents, Meta and Tidu as well as sister and brother, Maya and Zubin and their families we extend our deepest sympathies and remind you all of the words of Saint John's Gospel, 'Jesus said, 'Do not let your hearts be troubled: and do not be afraid.'"

"We thank God for the privilege of knowing and loving such a beautiful, lovely young lady as Mira Guinness. And so, as God gave her to us, so now we give her back to God, for the souls of the righteous are in the hands of God.

"A young life so fully lived, it was and is a privilege to know you. Mira was as good as she was beautiful.

"May she Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory. Amen."

*David A. Pierpoint*





## BERNARD SAWIER CELEBRATES 90 YEARS

If someone without any knowledge of Saint Patrick's was given the challenge of finding the name 'Sawier' in the Cathedral, they would not face an easy task! That's because it's not to be found prominently on a large monument or wall tablet. In very small and fine engraved lettering, it is to be found on some of the brass plaques or plates, towards a bottom corner.

While the engraved letters may be small, there is a huge significance and history in the name, because it refers to a Master Engraver, Charles Sawier. The story goes back even further than that,

however, in that Charles's father, William, also in the same line of craftsmanship, created the brass plates marking the graves of Dr Jonathan Swift and his beloved friend Esther (Stella) Johnston. Some of Charles's expert work is to be found also in prestigious locations across the world.

Over my eight years as Dean it has been a privilege to welcome Bernard and his family to the Cathedral several times to re-trace his father's steps, and to explain to his children and grandchildren the quality work of this Master Engraver.

I was delighted to learn that

earlier this year Bernard had accepted our invitation to come in and record with Deirdre Nuttall from UCD some of his reminiscences as part of our oral history project. Not only this! Bernard's family asked if they could bring him back in July, when his son, Justin, and one of his daughters, was home from Chicago to celebrate Bernard's 90th birthday. It would be an occasion for a tour of the Cathedral and also to visit the Deanery for a quick tour there too.

Aware of Bernard's birthday on that very day, I had a birthday cake and candles, and a few other edible fancies(!) at the ready! Here I have to let the reader into a little secret! It was my birthday too – of which Bernard was unaware until he arrived!

In the course of a very enjoyable afternoon, Bernard reminisced about some of the stories told him by his father who was a chorister in Saint Patrick's Cathedral. His training with the Cathedral organist of the day, Dr Charles Marchant, instilled in him a tremendous love of music in that he was later to be appointed Choirmaster of St Kevin's Church, and was also a founder member, with 'Maestro Viani', of the Dublin Operatic Society. Interestingly, he was also to use his tremendous skills with brass later in life to create a fitting memorial in the Cathedral to the late Dr Marchant.

Bernard said that his late father absolutely adored his work, especially when it involved the life of his beloved Saint Patrick's. Referring to the various brass plaques – including the List of Deans – which his father had created, Bernard also spoke about the brass memorial which his mother had erected

in memory of his father, Charles. It is of brass, on black marble, and the inscription reads: 'Designed and executed by Charles George Sawier 1884-1973, Master Engraver of this city. Examples of his excellent work can be seen in this Cathedral. Erected by his loving wife, Elsie. 'I thank my God upon every remembrance of you.'

Bernard's is blessed with a very lucid recall of the history of the Cathedral. He considers this a real gift. He mentioned as well that he has a collection of tools which were used to make these beautiful pieces of art work.

It was a very enjoyable celebration of Bernard's 90th birthday and he and his family left absolutely delighted. It was a birthday they will never forget!

*WWM*



# HERITAGE WEEK HIGHLIGHTS

## Seachtain Náisiúnta na hOidhreacht

Clár den Chomhairle Oidhreacht



**H**eritage Week at Saint Patrick's Cathedral, which ran from Saturday 17th to Saturday 24th of August was an outstanding success, attracting a wide range of visitors and engaging the community with a series of enriching events that celebrated the Cathedral's historical and cultural significance.

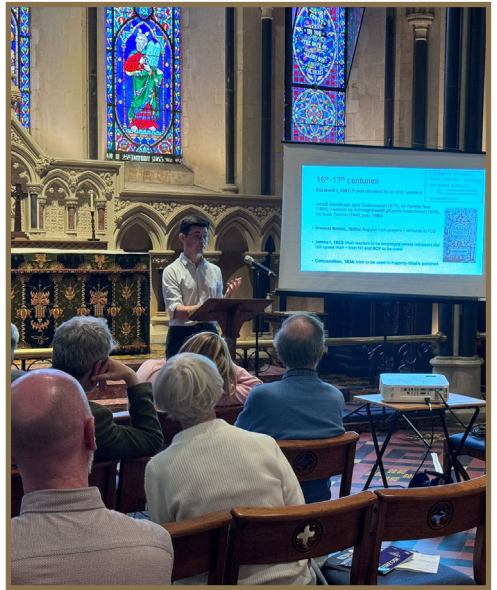
From guided tours and family-friendly workshops to special recitals and educational talks, each event was met with enthusiastic participation and praise. The week's activities not only highlighted the rich heritage of the Cathedral but also fostered a deeper appreciation of its role in the local community. Feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing their appreciation for the insightful experiences and warm hospitality shown throughout the week.

Special thanks to Mr Clark Brydon for his tireless efforts co-ordinating such a well rounded and successful programme of events. Also to note, Clark has taken some time away from the Cathedral to focus on his dissertation and so we wish him well in his endeavours and look forward to his return further down the line.



*Images above and top-right:  
Our busy Heritage Week schedule was packed with events including musical performances, special themed guided tours, and lunchtime talks delivered by a variety of guest speakers.*





## SOUVENIR BOOK LAUNCH

Heritage Week began with the launching of the new souvenir book. The evening included introductions from the Dean and the publishing team from Memory Lane, followed by an evening tour with Mr Clark Brydon.

The souvenir book is for sale at the cathedral shop.





## BACK TO SCHOOL ON THE CLOSE

**A**larms trill cheerily before reluctant little hands reach out to snuff the din. School bags creak open as the final rays of summer sun stretch like buttery fingers along the Close. The Cathedral Schools are once again open for business!

We are delighted to welcome our boys and girls, our scholars, our scientists, our musicians, our mathematicians, our epicurious and our comics. Our lively community is thriving once more.

We have had fund raisers, Christmas Parties, Culture Days, Speeches and by kind permission of The Dean, Garden Parties. We have been

blessed with all the help and guidance we have received from our Music Staff, led by Mr. Nicholson and Cathedral Staff. We will miss Mr. Brydon, our Education Officer but look forward to seeing him soon.

We are grateful to have such support from The Cathedral and Grammar School Staff and such contributive, involved parents helping us out along the way and look forward to another glorious year.

*Jennifer McCormack*



# GRAMMAR SCHOOL SERVICE

On September 13th Saint Patrick's Cathedral Grammar School held their annual opening service in the Cathedral. The service included musical performances, a prize-giving ceremony, and the presentation of a music bursary from the Past Choristers' and Pupils' Association.



# GIRL CHORISTERS ARMAGH TRIP

This year we sent 6 of our girls to Armagh to attend the weeklong course as part of the Charles Wood Girls' Choir which was directed by Christopher Gray, the director of music at Saint John's College, Cambridge. By all accounts, a good time was had by all.





## COMMUNITY NEWS

I'm BACK!

So, the adventures of covid-life interrupted the flow of community engagement to a huge extent. Once laid-off due to the pandemic, I had the privilege of working with our nearest neighbours in the not-for-profit sector – The Iveagh Trust. This was hugely important work as they chose to support three of the ongoing initiatives that began when I was community officer in the Cathedral up to the lay-off. Those projects were:

- CRiTICall (Community Response Team Call) partnering with beneficiary organisation, Safe Ireland, and collaborators: Dublin City Volunteer Centre, The Iveagh Trust, An Garda Síochána, Serve the City Dublin to provide essential supplies and support to families experiencing domestic abuse.

- A food distribution scheme sourced from FoodCloud and supported by a number of programmes and organisations to help families struggling to put food on the table.
- Ongoing interagency work in relation to the Cabbage Garden of which the Iveagh Trust are a critical partner.

In April 2023, I commenced as Pioneer Evangelist in the Kildare Centre of Mission based at Saint Brigid's Cathedral, Kildare Town. The role was part-sponsored by Church Army UK & Ireland and the Meath and Kildare Diocesan Council, with Rev Philip McKinley as Lead Evangelist. While there, I engaged with the congregation and local community to extend the mission of the Church to the local community. Throughout the time there, it was a very significant year of celebration marking not only 800 years



of the current construction, but also 1500 years since the death of Saint Brigid. This was a great opportunity to work in a small community who have very similar presentation of needs to the capital city, yet with much smaller scope and resources to combat the challenges abounding. I had continued my relationship with Saint Patrick's as a volunteer steward, and that ensured me keeping in contact with the colleagues I have so much respect and care for.

Since returning to Saint Patrick's, I have resumed my role as Designated Liaison Person for Child and Adult Safeguarding. Relationships have been rekindled with key agencies such as the Child and Family Support Network, local Social Work Teams and so on. As a result of Clark not being in post, we needed a driver for the minibus and I was supported to undertake lessons, and I successfully did the test in August.

The first group to experience me as a driver are from the Cathedral the furthest away from Saint Patrick's in the lovely southwest of Cork – Saint

Fachtna's in Roscarberry. The Very Rev Cliff Jeffers 25th Dean of St Fachtna's Cathedral, arranged for 15 parishioners and current Curate – Michael Kinney to travel with us to Saint Patrick's Cathedral. En route we stopped off at the Horse & Jockey, and Saint Brigid's Cathedral Kildare where we dined in the Silken Thomas before continuing to Dublin. The group split in 2 with one being hosted by Derek McEndoo and Dean Jeffers to the bellringing room and higher roof spaces as well as the top of the Minot Tower.

Meantime, I kept my feet firmly on the ground with the visitors who remained for the ground floor experience. All attended Evening Prayer, said by the Dean's Vicar, Canon Charles Mullen, who was very welcoming and spent time with the visiting pilgrims. Colette and John, two of our Vergers ensured all was in order for our tea in the south transept which sustained the group in their evening enjoyment at the Gaiety where they attended the Riverdance experience.



The group were then whisked away to the CITI College for a restful night. Day 2 involved breakfast and Morning Prayer before departing for Carlow Arboretum. A quick coffee stop, and we were on the road again to Saint Carthage's beautiful Cathedral in Lismore, County Waterford. We were back in Roscarberry in nice time for the Dean to host his Vestry meeting! It has been a busy few weeks, and I have not only been to the southern-most point, but also the northern-most! St Columb's in Derry have been hosting an exhibition which began as a result of a talk I gave last Spring on Saint Brigid. At the time, a wonderfully curated collection of 'cloaks' made of homegrown, hand spun, hand-dyed wool from around Ireland was on display in St Brigid's Cathedral, Kildare Town. Since the talk, Vestry members were inspired about the potential for them to host the cloaks as the Ulster representative group and to their credit, they not only hosted the 4 pieces which are symbolic of communities across the

4 provinces, they expanded to display cloaks from all walks of life including from our very own collections of Dean's robes! The community saw more than 15,000 people from over 59 countries visit the Cathedral and engage with the exhibit, the space and the people they met. I was thrilled to be there when a Cloak created by 125 members of the community was presented at a service if celebration followed by a reception and social gathering. The exhibition has been extended until mid-September, so if you can, it's definitely worth seeing. We await news on where the exhibition might travel in Munster and Connacht next! (Maybe even further afield!)

Another exciting development is a project spearheaded by Detective Chief Supt Brian Woods who has partnered with Belvedere Youth Club. We have supported the work with a donation towards kit costs for a group of young people engaged with The Gateway Life Skills Project. This transformational, global youth leadership engagement





project has seen a group of dynamic young people travel to the town of Pyla - a town which is home to Greek, Cypriot, Turkish and UN Peacekeepers! A global crossroads opportunity for everyone involved. Some photos are included and a more detailed insight will follow once the group return to Ireland. We hope to host a group of young men and women from Pyla soon.

Since returning to Saint Patrick's Cathedral, I've been supported to see through some initiatives commenced at Saint Brigid's Cathedral prior to my departure. One such occasion took place last Saturday August 31st when Niamh Strong headlined a concert hosted by Kildare Centre of Mission in aid of Kildare's only refuge for women and children fleeing domestic abuse in its many forms. Also performing were members of Newbridge Gospel Choir under the direction of Lisa Nagle and Mairead Carroll from Newbridge town who is a traditional musician and singer.

A group of 10 transition year graduates supported the running of the event with setting up, stewarding, safety planning and take down. They had successfully participated in a programme of training with Kildare Centre of Mission in the academic year 23/24 as TY students and Gaisce Bronze candidates.

In other news, the distribution of the community fund will commence at the end of September with an online application system for consideration, remaining open until November 1st. In the next edition of Close News, we will have more updates on the progression of community engagement.

*Kelley*



**KELLEY  
BERMINGHAM**

Community &  
Safeguarding Officer



## EXPERTS' CHOICE AWARD

Saint Patrick's Cathedral is thrilled to be awarded the Experts' Choice Award from Tripexpert. The award honours Saint Patrick's Cathedral as one of the top rated attractions in Dublin. Experts' Choice is the only industry award based on professional reviews. Our data is sourced from 120+ publications – including travel guides, magazines and newspapers. Experts' Choice Awards are regularly covered in major media, including *The New York Times*, *The Guardian* and *Vogue*.

We would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to all the staff for their hard work and dedication in helping to achieve this prestigious award.



## LUXEMBOURG VISIT



Through a visit organised by The Department of Foreign Affairs, the Prime Minister of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, His Excellency, The Honourable Luc Frieden, paid a visit to Saint Patrick's recently.

During his time at the Cathedral, the Prime Minister toured the building and met with the Dean, as pictured here.



# CELEBRATING YMCA DUBLIN

This year, YMCA Dublin are celebrating 175 years of service to the local community.

For many years, the Cathedral has worked alongside and supported YMCA Dublin's work with mentoring programmes, placements (which led to employment at within the team), graduations, collaborations in local initiatives, #PrideofPlaceAwardWinners and strategic alliances in supporting families in the area.

Check out some photos from our past collaborations below!

*Images clockwise, from top-left:*

1) Scott Cloona with Kelley, whose birthday fell in the middle of his placement from the Steps programme in May 2017 – Scott worked in the shop with Liz after his placement.

2) Class of 2017 of the Steps Programme having their graduation in the Lady Chapel.

3) YMCA at the Choral Evensong post-service celebration of Community and Charitable work in Oct 2019.

4) ) YMCA Team at LoveD8 in February 2019.



# AFTER DARK



**A**re you looking for a frightfully good concert experience that will send a chill down your spine and get your heart racing?

This Halloween, come and be part of our spine-tingling annual event at Saint Patrick's Cathedral, where the atmosphere will be set with dim lighting and a hauntingly beautiful recital of hair-raising music. Talented musicians from Saint Patrick's Cathedral will perform in support of BUMBLEANCE, the children's ambulance service, with a program filled with spine-chilling Halloween classics. Expect iconic pieces

like Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D minor, Saint-Saëns' Danse Macabre, Prokofiev's March of the Capulets, and other thrilling music by renowned composers such as John Williams (Harry Potter), Hans Zimmer (Pirates of the Caribbean), and Jeff Wayne (War of the Worlds) and much more!

This concert is guaranteed to captivate audiences of all ages, though be warned, it's not for the faint of heart!

**Saint Patrick's Cathedral: After Dark**  
Thurs Oct 31st at 19:30.



## STANFORD 100

This year marks the centenary of the death of the renowned Dublin-born composer Sir Charles Villiers Stanford, whose contributions to classical music have left a lasting legacy. Stanford had a profound connection with Saint Patrick's Cathedral, and to honor his extraordinary body of work, we are proud to present Stanford 100, a special series of free recitals. Taking place every Sunday from September 15th until October 13th, these free-to-attend performances will showcase some of Stanford's most celebrated compositions, with at least one of his famous sonatas featured in each recital. Join us in celebrating the life and music of this remarkable composer in the magnificent setting of the Cathedral.



### Stanford 100

To mark the centenary of the death of Dublin born composer Charles Villiers Stanford, Saint Patrick's Cathedral presents a series of five organ recitals given by some of Ireland's leading organists.

Sundays at 7pm | Admission Free

[www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/stanford100](http://www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/stanford100)

**Sunday 15 September | DAVID LEIGH**

Programme includes ORGAN SONATA no.1

**Sunday 22 September | STUART NICHOLSON**

Programme includes ORGAN SONATA no.2 "Eroica"

**Sunday 29 September | ANDREW JOHNSTONE**

Programme includes ORGAN SONATA no.3 "Britannica"

**Sunday 6 October | JUDIT MATÉ**

Programme includes ORGAN SONATA no.4 "Celtica"

**Sunday 13 October | DAVID LEIGH**

Programme includes ORGAN SONATA no.5 "Quasi una fantasia"

For more information visit our website  
[www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/stanford100](http://www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/stanford100)

Saint Patrick's Cathedral | Saint Patrick's Close | Dublin 8

# DUBLIN FESTIVAL OF HISTORY

## FÉILE NA STAIRE BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH DUBLIN FESTIVAL OF HISTORY 2024

### Join Saint Patrick's Cathedral for the Dublin Festival of History

Saint Patrick's Cathedral is thrilled to participate Dublin Festival of History, an annual free festival, organised by Dublin City Council, and Dublin City Libraries, in partnership with the Dublin City Council Culture Company. Running from Friday 27th September to Sunday 13th October, the festival has become a cultural highlight in Dublin, offering a diverse array of history themed family-friendly and community

activities alongside a vibrant multi-cultural and arts programme.

#### SAINT PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL EVENTS

As part of the Dublin Festival of History, the Cathedral will be hosting special free events throughout the programme:

#### **'Cow without Horns': Urban Development and Decline of Sacred Spaces.** *At 19.00 on Tue 1st Oct.*

This talk explores the impact of urban development on Dublin's ecclesiastical skyline. Presented by Aaron Hoey, a verger at Saint Patrick's Cathedral with degrees in history and heritage conservation, is studying heritage conservation and management at UCD.

#### **'Past Lives': The Memorials of Saint Patrick's Cathedral.** *At 19.00 on Tue 1st Oct.*

There are some 200 memorials in Saint Patrick's Cathedral. In this talk, the biographies of those commemorated are explored by Cathedral Historian, Albert Fenton.

Also featuring a number of **Behind the Scenes Tours** of Saint Patrick's Cathedral and **Children's History Tours**.

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



# A SAINT PATRICK'S CHRISTMAS

Join us on **Wednesday 18th Dec at 19:30** for an enchanting evening of seasonal music at our annual Christmas concert given by Choristers and Lay Vicars of Saint Patrick's Cathedral Choir & Orchestra, directed by Stuart Nicholson, with Jeffrey Ledwidge (bass) & RTÉCO Principal Harpist Geraldine O'Doherty.

Programme includes a veritable feast of Christmas classics including music from Handel's *Messiah*, Britten's *Ceremony of Carols* & Vaughan Williams' *Fantasia on Christmas Carols*. There will also be carols for the audience to join in and raise the roof with (accompanied by David Leigh on the Cathedral's mighty Willis organ, all 4,000 or so pipes of it), and seasonal readings from our very own Bryan Dobson.

So why not come and join us for a wonderful feast of festive music, performed with a seasonal dose of Christmas cheer by this renowned choir.



# CATHEDRAL CONTACTS



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DEAN

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

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## 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@stpatrickscathedral.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:

**Ms Kelley Bermingham**  
Community & Safeguarding Officer

*safeguarding@stpatrickscathedral.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.



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



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