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NOVEMBER 2025

CLOSE NEWS



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Remembrance
exhibition in the
North Transept

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the new staff in the
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Advent, Christmas,
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Candlemas services

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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

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Cover: The Tree of Remembrance in the North Transept. Photo by Tristan Hutchinson.

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)

Ms Kryzel Bonifacio (EDUCATION OFFICER)

Ms Melissa M. Carton (MARKETING ASSISTANT)

The 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.



THE DEAN WRITES...

THE VERY REVD DR WILLIAM MORTON

November is the month of remembering, and our Cathedral calendar this year captures that theme in many ways. On Remembrance Sunday, we gather to honour those who gave their lives in war and conflict for the causes of justice, freedom, and peace, their sacrifice reminding us of the fragility of peace and the enduring duty of reconciliation.

This year also marks a moment of national reflection as we witness the final official attendance of President Michael D. Higgins at the Cathedral before his term of office concludes on Monday 10th November. Throughout his presidency, President Higgins has been a steadfast advocate for culture, compassion, and community – values deeply resonant with our Cathedral's

mission. Later in the month, on Sunday 23rd November, at Choral Evensong, we continue our tradition of remembering those from the world of theatre, film, journalism, broadcasting, and the world of entertainment who have died in the past year. Their names are read aloud in the Office of Evensong that celebrates the imagination and creativity through which God's truth and beauty are revealed.

And as the month draws to its close, the cycle turns again. On Sunday 30th November, we begin Advent, that season of expectant waiting – remembering the promises of God and looking toward the light that breaks into our darkness.

From remembrance to renewal, November draws us gently from memory into hope, preparing our hearts once more for the coming of Christ. Yours, *William*

CONDOLENCES

Sincere condolences are expressed to all who have been bereaved: Canon Paul Willoughby, Prebendary of Tymothan, his wife, Amanda, and family on the death of Amanda's mother, Desirée Elizabeth Wilson, widow of the late Canon Allen Wilson, former Rector of Rathfarnham; Mrs Wilson, who was in her 97th year, was resident in Ashley Lodge Nursing Home, Kildare.

We remember also another member of the Chapter of Saint Patrick's, Canon Peter Campion, Precentor, and his wife, Rebecca, and family, who have been bereaved by the death of Rebecca's mother, Julia Bertram, Cambridge, England. Julia, and her husband, Dr Roger Bertram, Rebecca's father, often occupied the Precentor's pew at services in Saint Patrick's.

Condolences are also expressed to one of our security personnel, Shane Coughlan, on the death of his brother, Daniel, Champions Avenue, Dublin 1.

All who mourn are assured of our thoughts and prayers.

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A SHOT FROM THE CANON

THE REVD CANON
CHARLES MULLEN

The often-overlooked purpose of graves and memorials is to remind us of death, so as to keep in mind our need of God's mercy. Taking a walk in late October reveals so many homes adorned by Hallowe'en skeletons. For the skeletons' often-overlooked purpose, see above. Most of us try to overlook death. But in Church we're surrounded by it in a positive way that links death with life. 'Death is swallowed up in victory' is the message of Jesus who rose from the dead. Life here is precious, not least because it prepares us for more abundant life to come.

CM

GIRDED WITH GRACE

In our day of thanksgiving one psalm let us offer
For the saints who before us have found their reward;
When the shadow of death fell upon them, we sorrowed,
But now we rejoice that they rest in the Lord.

In the morning of life, and at noon, and at even,
He called them away from his service below;
But not till his love, at the font and the altar,
Had girt them with grace for the way they should go.

from a hymn by William Draper (1855–1933)

SUNDAY SERVICES & PREACHERS

DAILY SERVICES

Please see Page 2 for our normal pattern of daily worship.

Sunday 9th November 2025

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

09:15 – Eucharist (*said*)
10:55 – Choral Matins
15:15 – Choral Evensong

Canon in Residence:

THE REVD G. V. WHARTON

Prebendary of Dunlavin

Preacher at Evensong:

THE REVD P. M. RUTHERFORD

Chaplain to the R.B.L., Ireland

Sunday 16th November 2025


THE SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT

09:15 – Eucharist (*said*)
11:15 – Choral Eucharist
15:15 – Choral Evensong

Canon in Residence:

THE REVD P. K. McDOWELL

Prebendary of Clonmethan



LIVE

STREAM

If you can't make it in person to our services this month, remember: you can tune in for free online.

Sunday 23rd November 2025

THE KINGSHIP OF CHRIST

09:15 – Eucharist (*said*)
11:15 – Choral Matins
15:15 – Choral Evensong

Canon in Residence:

THE REVD B.M. MCKAY

Prebendary of Clondalkin

Sunday 30th November 2025

ADVENT SUNDAY

09:15 – Eucharist (*said*)
11:15 – Choral Eucharist
15:15 – Choral Evensong

Canon in Residence:

THE REVD D. W. OXLEY

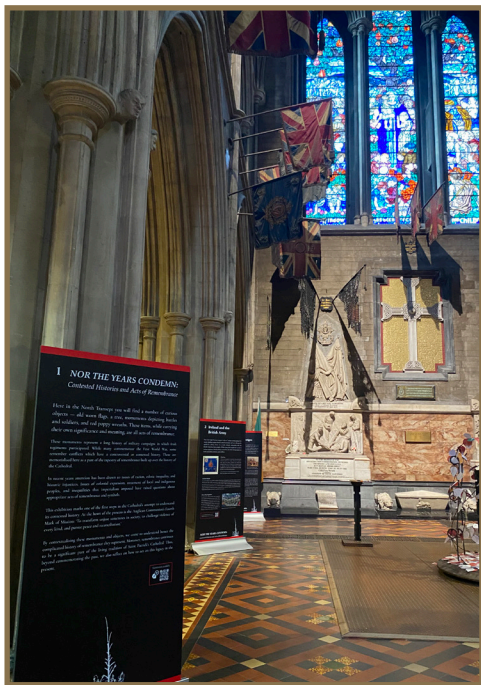
Prebendary of St Audoen's

SERVICES & MUSIC LIST

For an up-to-date and comprehensive list of forthcoming services, scan the QR code or visit the monthly Worship page on our website.



NORTH TRANSEPT EXHIBITION



On 1st November, a new exhibition was installed in the Cathedral's North Transept entitled 'Nor the years condemn: Contested histories and acts of remembrance'. The exhibition explores the history and continuing tradition of remembrance of various wars and conflicts at the Cathedral.

The North Transept, filled with war memorials, regimental flags, and poppy wreaths, is a space that often elicits many questions and strong emotions for visitors. This is understandable; the monuments and objects here represent the Cathedral's history of remembrance from the 17th century into the present day. They also reflect the complex relationship between Ireland and the British Army over the centuries. In my time working

at the Cathedral, I've seen a wide range of reactions to the North Transept. Some people are moved by the poignant reminders of the loss of war, whilst others feel discomfort or confusion at the presence of many symbols historically associated with British imperialism.

In recent years, there has been a wider movement in the heritage sector to examine and address issues tied to racism, ethnic inequality, and colonial exploitation. For many cathedrals in Britain and Ireland, this has meant beginning dialogue about what to do with their colonial monuments.

It was against this background that, in August 2024, the Cathedral's Interpretation Committee began discussing the possibility of organising a temporary exhibition for the North Transept.

As you can imagine, it was ambitious to have a full exhibition installed for that November. In fact, in between research, writing, consultation and feedback, panel design, and installation, it took us over a year to organise. One of the biggest challenges was striking the correct balance of tone and messaging, especially for an exhibition that was all about contestation and the multitudes of emotions the space elicited.

Those visiting the exhibition can view six panels themed around topics such as 'Ireland and the British Army' and 'Remembrance Sunday'. Additionally, there is a display case with artefacts such as hymns and a helmet used during the

First World War. The Irish Memorial Records, which display nearly 50,000 names of Irish soldiers who died in the First World War, has also been relocated to the centre of the space.

This is just the beginning of a much longer and ongoing project. We hope this exhibition will encourage engagement with these complex historical issues with open minds and allow for reflection on the impact of conflict, both in the past and in the present day.

‘Nor the years remember: Contested histories and acts of remembrance’ will be on view in the North Transept until November 30th.

The Interpretation Committee is comprised of Kryzel Bonifacio (chair), Aaron Hoey, James Phelps, Laura Lowe, and Jack Cassidy.

KB



STAFF CHANGES



Mrs Stacie Carruth

Following the departure of Ms Dymphna McHugh as Accounts Officer, we welcome Stacie as the Cathedral’s new Finance Manager.



Ms Chiara Rucks

Following the departure of Ms Eppie Claffey, we welcome Chiara as the Cathedral’s new Events Officer.



SWIFT SYMPOSIUM

The 23rd International Dublin Symposium on Jonathan Swift took place in the Deanery on Saturday 18th October. More than thirty Swift enthusiasts (incidentally we are known as Swiftians and not Swifties who are enthusiasts for a star in a somewhat different genre) heard four short papers followed by a response.

This long-running symposium, which takes place in the Deanery each October to coincide with the anniversary of Swift's death on 19th October 1745, is an important forum whereby scholars from around the world can present their latest research on the life and times and works of Jonathan Swift. Swift was Dean of Saint Patrick's between 1713 and 1745.

The symposium is organised by Professor Robert Mahony of Catholic University Washington.

2026 will be the 300th anniversary of the publication of Swift's most famous work, *Gulliver's Travels*, in October 1726. Three of this year's papers focused on exploring aspects of the travels.

The symposium opened with a paper from Dr Kirsten Juhas of the University of Münster in Germany, in which she examined the controversial incident concerning the bombing of Lindalino by the empire of Laputa. This episode, which is an allegory for the contested colonial relationship between Dublin/Ireland and London/England,

was not included in the published editions of *Gulliver's Travels* for over 150 years.

This was followed by a paper from Dr Brendan Twomey from TCD, which examined the somewhat underexplored financial, economic, and colonial themes in *Gulliver's Travels*.

The third paper was from Dr Anna Paluchowska-Messing from the University of Krakow who told us about a recent, creative and highly ambitious all-female staging of *Gulliver's Travels* in Krakow.

The final paper, on Swift's numerous interventions into public debates about the Irish national debt in the late 1720s, was delivered by Professor Ivar McGrath of UCD. The response was delivered by Professor Clement Hawes of the University of Michigan.

After the event, the participants were treated to a wonderful reception by the Dean and his wife Rosemary. We are already looking forward to next year's symposium which no doubt will again focus on *Gulliver's Travels*; full details will be on the cathedral website in due course.

Brendan Twomey

FRIENDS' CHRISTMAS EVENING

The Friends' Annual Christmas Evening will take place this year on 6th December, in the Deanery (by kind permission of the Dean and Mrs Morton). The usual wine, savouries, mince pies and a chance to meet up with old friends and to make new ones. We are delighted to welcome back the *Close Singers*, under the direction of the inimitable The Revd Canon David Oxley, who will provide the musical entertainment. Doors open at 19:30. Admission is €10, payable at the door, and includes a raffle.



**ADVENT · CHRISTMAS
EPIPHANY · CANDLEMAS**
at Saint Patrick's Cathedral

Sunday 30th November | 18:00

**ADVENT PROCESSION
BY CANDLELIGHT**

Sunday 14th December | 15:15

CAROLS FOR ALL

Friday 19th December | 19:30

A SAINT PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL CHRISTMAS

Sunday 21st December | 15:15

Wednesday 24th December | 16:00 (*admission by ticket only*)

NINE LESSONS & CAROLS

Thursday 25th December | 11:15

FESTIVAL CHORAL EUCHARIST

Sunday 11th January | 15:15

**BENJAMIN BRITTEN:
A CEREMONY OF CAROLS**

Sunday 1st February | 15:15

CANDLEMAS CAROL SERVICE

stpatrickscathedral.ie/worship



A SAINT PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL CHRISTMAS

Join us on **Friday 19th December** 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 and orchestra, directed by Stuart Nicholson, with seasonal readings from Bryan Dobson.

Programme includes a veritable feast of Christmas classics including music from Handel's *Messiah*, Britten's *Ceremony of Carols*, and Vaughan Williams' *Fantasia on Christmas Carols*. There will also be carols for the audience to sing (accompanied by David Leigh on the Cathedral's mighty Willis organ, all 4,000 pipes of it).

BOOK TICKETS TODAY

For more information and to book tickets, scan the QR code
or visit: stpatrickscathedral.ie/christmas25



BELLRINGER ACHIEVES GAISCE



Cormac is a member of the Society of Bell Ringers Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, the Irish Association of Change Ringers, and a non-resident member of the Lancashire Association of Change Ringers, the Liverpool Branch.

Bronze Award Challenge Areas:

Cormac dedicated a minimum of one hour per week for 13 weeks to each main Challenge Area:

- **Personal Skill: Quarter Peel Attempt** – preparation and practice culminating in the peel attempt from March 2025 to May 2025. A Quarter Peel Attempt involves continuous change ringing for 50 minutes.
- **Community Involvement:** In 2023, Cormac developed his bellringing capabilities in the Minot Tower with the team of volunteers, led by the Ringing Master Robert MacDonald and Tower Captain Derek McEndoo.
- **Physical Recreation: Legacy Taekwondo, Drogheda** – weekly classes from October 2023 to February 2024
- **Additional weeks of a challenge area:** Cormac undertook a series of bellringing storytelling videos which are available on his YouTube

Gaisce – The President's Award – is Ireland's national youth award and is a personal development programme for young people aged 14-25.

It is a direct challenge from the President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, to all young people to dream big and fulfil their potential. In 2025 Gaisce celebrates its 40th Anniversary.

The Community Officer, Kelley Bermingham, has been a President Award Leader (PAL) and has signed off on elements of candidates' Gaisce portfolios since commencing the collaboration with the Cathedral as a Gaisce Award Partner.

We are absolutely delighted to announce that our youngest bellringer has successfully attained his Gaisce Bronze Award with the entirety of his activities in four specific areas signed off by the Cathedral.

account 'The Drogheda Bellringer'. Cormac's work featured in the Drogheda 'Jumpcut' Film Festival and received a special mention in the Junior Programme.

Bronze Adventure Journey:

Cormac went on a tour of bell towers across northwest England in the summer across four and a half days including participation in the Northwest Ringing Course held at the historically significant Borwick Hall, Carnforth, Lancaster. The duration exceeded the minimum required but is demonstrative of the commitment that Cormac has made to pursuing his achievements.

Cormac has already set out rough plans of how he will attain his

Silver Award, and we are planning a youth adventure journey in 2026. Silver involves each challenge area set out as in Bronze, and requires a minimum participation of one hour per week for 26 weeks. The Adventure Journey takes place over a minimum of three days and two nights.

Young people with an interest in exploration of bellringing in specific locations, especially the adventure journey are invited to email community@stppatrickscathedral.ie

A meeting can be set up to discuss and plan your Gaisce level and challenge areas (virtual or in-person).

Kelley



BECOME A BELLRINGER

*To learn more about volunteering, scan the QR code
or visit: stppatrickscathedral.ie/volunteering*





SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP COURSE

Congratulations to Cathedral Administrator, Gavan Woods, who, as part of Saint Patrick's commitment to sustainability, recently graduated from the inaugural cohort of the University of Cambridge's 'Future Ready: Accelerating Climate Action in Tourism' programme. Delivered by the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership and supported by Fáilte Ireland, the programme is designed to empower tourism leaders to take meaningful climate action within their organisations and across the sector.

The programme combined online learning with in-person sessions at Jesus College, Cambridge, and focused on strategic planning, carbon reduction, and

stakeholder engagement. Participants were guided through the development of a three-year climate action plan tailored to their organisation's operations and goals.

Through participation in this initiative Saint Patrick's Cathedral is positioned as a leading example of how historic sites can embrace climate responsibility while enhancing their role as sustainable tourism destinations.

Photo: Gavan receiving his certificate with Jenny DeSaulles, Fáilte Ireland's Director of Sector Development



COMMUNITY NEWS

Positive presence works! After many years of consistent Halloween anti-social behaviour mitigation efforts, we have had probably the best night of them all last Friday, eight years on from commencement of interagency collaboration. Despite early inclement weather, spirits were not dampened for the actual event! From the last stats shared, over a thousand individuals had come to the park for the family-friendly event. Feedback has been consistently positive from people on the night, and since.

Thanks are due in abundance to Dublin City Council Area manager Brian Hanney and his community team under Síle McNulty-Goodwin, and

Kevin Kelleher who planned and engaged contractors to facilitate the programme of activities. An Garda Síochána Community Policing Team under Supt David Butler, Insp Ian Lambe, and Sgt Mick Nagle were present throughout the day from the 10 start of setup right through to load-out and lockup.

Commitment and partnership in making this little pocket of D8 safer for all to enjoy has been a labour intensive investment that we are beginning to see bear fruit. Of particular note was the feedback in relation to the quiet hour in the earlier part of the evening. One mum shared that her child had never attended before but, this year was so welcoming, she even managed to stay

later into the event, making it easier all round for the whole family. It was such a pleasure to see the youngest members of the community coming out in vast numbers to enjoy a shared space safely. Garda presence, civil defence, multiple stewards, and consistency throughout the day and evening ensured that antisocial behaviour was kept at bay. Looking forward to seeing how we might spread this across the year in smaller ways on a regular basis to support better outcomes for people living closest to the park especially.

Interagency partners and stakeholders include: DCC South East Area, An Garda Síochána, The Iveagh Trust, 61st Merchants Quay Scouts, YMCA Dublin, Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Child & Family Support Network, RADE (Recovery through Arts Drama and Education), Maldron Hotel, Hyatt Centric Liberties Dublin, Local Residents and Schools.

Kelley



SUPPORT US

If you would like to support the Cathedral's mission, scan the QR code or visit: spcd.ie/support





NIGHT TOURS

For a limited time only we invite you to embark on a hauntingly beautiful journey through the heart of Dublin's rich history with our Guided Night Tours of Saint Patrick's Cathedral. As twilight falls, the ancient bells toll, resonating through the city's soul. Step inside the majestic Cathedral, where shadows dance in the dim candlelight, and history whispers through every stone.

Tuesday 11th November | 18:30

Tuesday 25th November | 18:30

BOOK TICKETS TODAY

For more information and to book tickets, scan the QR code
or visit: stpatrickscathedral.ie/events





The Jonathan Swift Festival

20th – 27th November | Tickets: *Various prices*

Join us for this year's Jonathan Swift Festival to celebrate the life and works of Jonathan Swift, the renowned satirist and author of *Gulliver's Travels*. The festival includes a range of events including lectures, performances, and guided walks that explore his influence on literature and satire. Highlights from this year's programme include:

A Georgian Christmas: Gala Dinner

20th November | 19:00

Step back in time to the 1700s and celebrate Christmas in the era of Jonathan Swift.

Join us for a Georgian Christmas Gala Dinner in the magnificent setting of Saint Patrick's Cathedral, where history and tradition come alive. Guests will enjoy a festive menu inspired by the flavours and customs of 18th-century celebrations, accompanied by the Cathedral's timeless atmosphere.





Sculpture Tour with Aidan Harte

22nd November | 14:00

Discover the stories carved in stone at the Cathedral with sculptor Aidan Harte as your guide. This focused tour explores selected monuments and memorials, revealing how material, technique and symbolism shape their meaning. Hear the human histories behind the works, learn how artists approached sacred subjects, and see details you might otherwise miss. The tour concludes at the celebrated bust of Jonathan Swift, where Aidan reflects on the Dean's image, legacy and the artistry that brings him to life.

Savage Indignation: Performance

26th November | 20:00

The life of Jonathan Swift is told through music, an interview, and drama.

Presented by Gerry Mullins, the unique show features music from the Choir of Saint Patrick's Cathedral and an interview with Swift expert Dr Brendan Twomey, before there is a rude interruption from Jonathan Swift who reappears in his Cathedral after almost 300 years.



BOOK TICKETS TODAY

For more information and to book tickets, scan the QR code
or visit: jonathanswiftfestival.ie



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WILL US WELL

When 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 *administrator@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



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



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