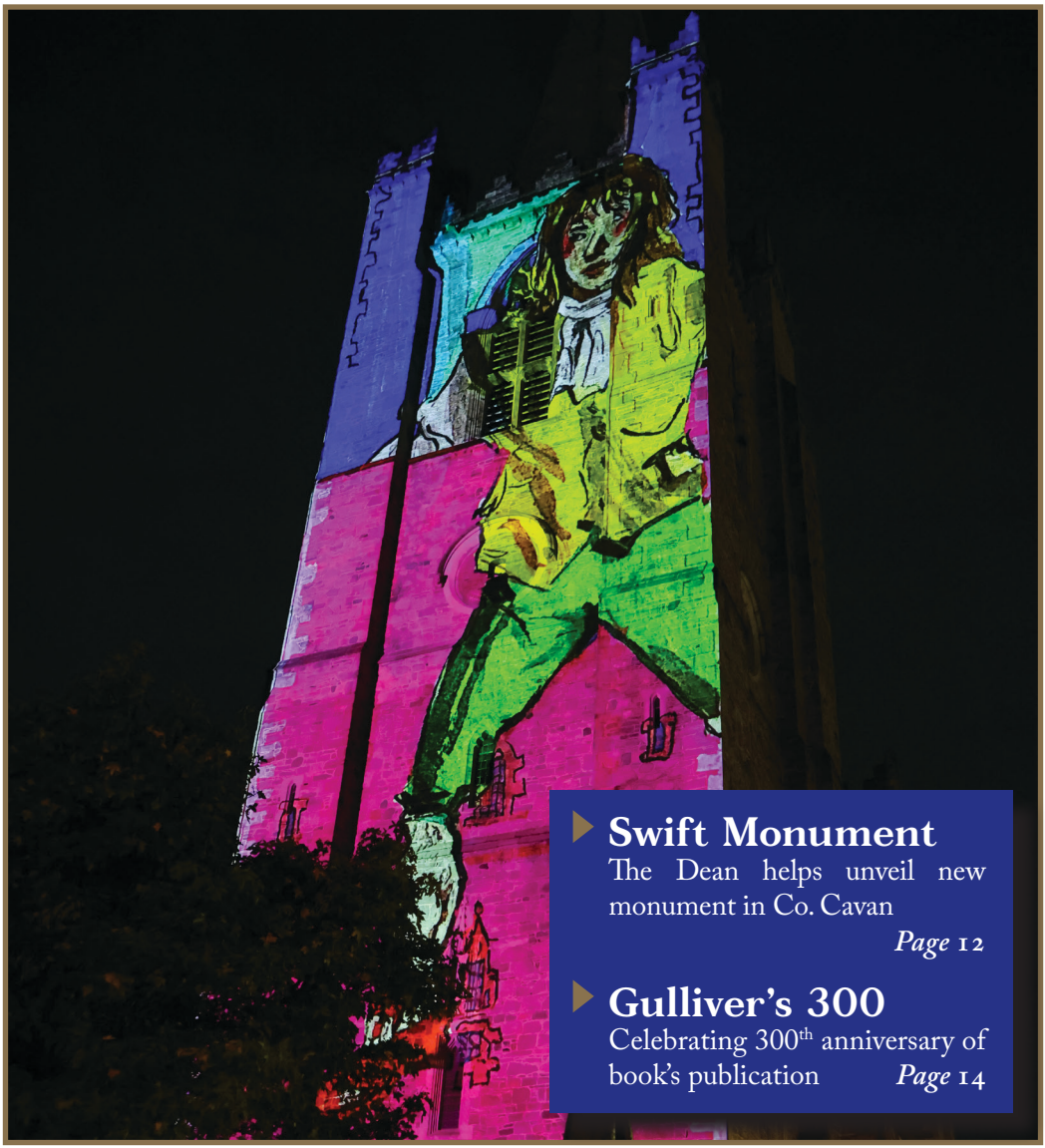
Close News

Oct/Nov 2026 · Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin · €2.50



Swift Monument

The Dean helps unveil new monument in Co. Cavan

Page 12

Gulliver's 300

Celebrating 300th anniversary of book's publication

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The Daily Offices & Holy Eucharist

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 Feast Days)*
17:30 — Choral Evensong *or* Evening Prayer

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

In this Cathedral, the worship of Almighty God has been offered without interruption for generations. In word and sacrament, psalm and canticle, the Church's liturgy orders our common life and gives voice to what we believe. Here, the Scriptures are read, the Sacraments faithfully celebrated, and the prayer of the Church is offered day by day according to the rhythm of the Christian year. All are welcome to join us in an act of worship. Further service information appears on *Page* 6. Those unable to be present in person may join the Cathedral's worship online at **spcd.ie/live**.

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Cover: Children's drawings were projected on the Minot Tower on 28th October to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the publication of Gulliver's Travels. More details on page 14. Photo by Milly Staniforth.

SAINT PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL DUBLIN

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The Reverend Canon Charles Mullen
Dean's Vicar & Prebendary of Rathmichael

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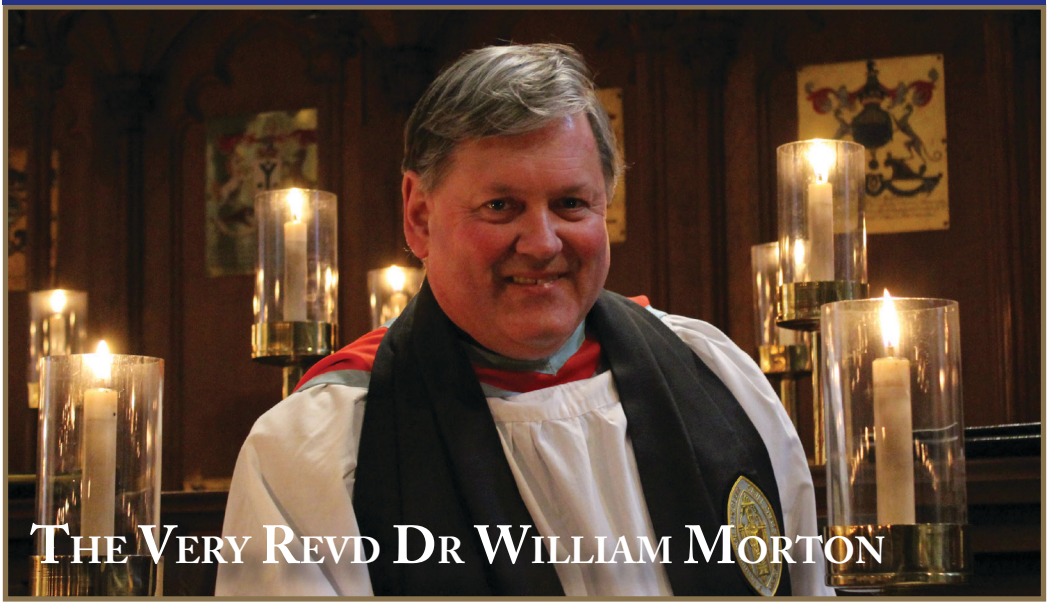
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Close News is the monthly newsletter of Saint Patrick's Cathedral. It is designed and printed in-house by the Editorial Committee. Any views which may be expressed in the features, news reports, articles, letters, and reviews are no t necessarily those of the Board and Chapter of the National Cathedral and Collegiate Church of Saint Patrick in Dublin.

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The deadline for publication in the Dec/Jan issue of *Close News* will be: Wednesday 25th November 2026

The Dean Writes...



The Very Revd Dr William Morton

November has a particular place in our hearts and in the life of the Church. It is a month when we pause, remember and give thanks for lives that have touched our own and helped shape the world in which we live.

On 1st November, All Saints' Day, we remembered all those who have died in faith: the celebrated and the unsung, those whose names are widely known as well as those whose goodness and faithfulness were witnessed by only a few. They remind us that holiness is not about greatness in the eyes of the world, but about living with love, generosity and faithfulness.

This Sunday, Remembrance Sunday, we turn our thoughts to those who made the supreme sacrifice in the cause of freedom and peace. We remember with gratitude the courage and commitment of those who gave their lives, and we renew our responsibility to work for a world where peace, justice and reconciliation may flourish. Remembrance must surely call us not only to honour the past, but to build a better future.

Then, on 22nd November, our thoughts turn to those from the world of the arts and entertainment – actors, musicians, performers and all who have enriched our lives through their creativity and gifts, and who have died during the past year. Their talents have brought us joy, comfort, laughter and inspiration. Their

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***

work reminds us of the extraordinary ability of human creativity to touch hearts and bring people together.

Three occasions, three different ways of remembering, but one common thread: gratitude.

For every life has a story, every person leaves a mark, and every act of love or kindness makes a difference. Perhaps that is November's invitation to us: to remember with gratitude, to live with purpose, and to face tomorrow with hope.

As we remember those who have gone before us, may we be inspired to make our own lives count, so that we too may leave something of goodness, faith and love for those who follow.

Yours, as ever,
William



Leaves on the Tree of Remembrance. Photo by Tristan Hutchinson.



Services & Preachers

Sunday Services

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

Day	Services	Canon in Residence
Remembrance Sunday **Sunday 8th November**	09:15 – Eucharist *(said)* 10:55 – Choral Matins 15:15 – Choral Evensong	**The Revd G. V. Wharton** *Prebendary of Dunlavin*
The Second Sunday before Advent **Sunday 15th November**	09:15 – Eucharist *(said)* 11:15 – Choral Eucharist 15:15 – Choral Evensong	**The Revd C. W. Mullen** *Prebendary of Rathmichael*
The Kingship of Christ **Sunday 22nd November**	09:15 – Eucharist *(said)* 11:15 – Choral Matins 15:15 – Choral Evensong	**The Revd P. A. Harvey** *Prebendary of Stagonil*
The First Sunday of Advent **Sunday 29th November**	09:15 – Eucharist *(said)* 11:15 – Choral Eucharist 15:15 – Choral Evensong	**The Revd P. M. Willoughby** *Prebendary of Tymothan*

Saints & Celebrations

October and November mark a number of notable saints and sacred feasts. **Canice** (11th October) was a sixth-century missionary linked to Kilkenny and Ossory and a disciple of Finnian, founding monasteries and nurturing communities in prayer and learning. **Luke** (18th October) was a physician and companion of Paul, author of the Gospel and Acts, and patron of doctors. **James** (23rd October), called 'the Just', was a key leader in Jerusalem's early Church, known for wisdom and fairness and reconciling tensions between Jewish and Gentile believers. **Laurence O'Toole** (14th November) was the first native Irish Archbishop of Dublin and a key figure in the Church's transition following the Anglo-Norman invasion. The Feast of the **Kingship of Christ** (23rd November) celebrates the sovereignty of Christ over all creation, and reminds believers that true authority is found not in power or domination but in love and service. **Columbanus** (23rd November) was one of Ireland's greatest missionary monks, renowned for founding monasteries across Europe that became centres of learning and faith. **Andrew** (30th November) was originally a fisherman from Galilee and became one of the first disciples called by Jesus, remembered for his missionary zeal and humility. **Advent Sunday** (30th November) marks the beginning of the Christian year and the season of preparation for Christmas.

Courtesy of the Church of Ireland Gazette



A Shot from the Canon

The Revd Canon
Charles Mullen

One of the many things that makes the Church of Ireland unique amongst the reformed churches in Ireland is our calendar of saints' days, which includes feasts of our Lord and of the Blessed Virgin Mary along with other scriptural saints. Our calendar goes further than that by including local saints, sometimes the first bishops of our diocese, for example Saint Canice of Kilkenny (11 October). We identify readily with local saints who link us with local history, encourage us by their example, and enrich our devotion: real people who faced the real challenges we face, in our own locality.

CM

For all the saints who from their labours rest

Almighty God,
you call people in every age to make known the good news of your love;
we give you thanks for the preaching of your servant Canice
among the hills and rivers of Kilkenny;
may our ears and minds be open to your Word and Wisdom;
even your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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.



The Administrator Writes...

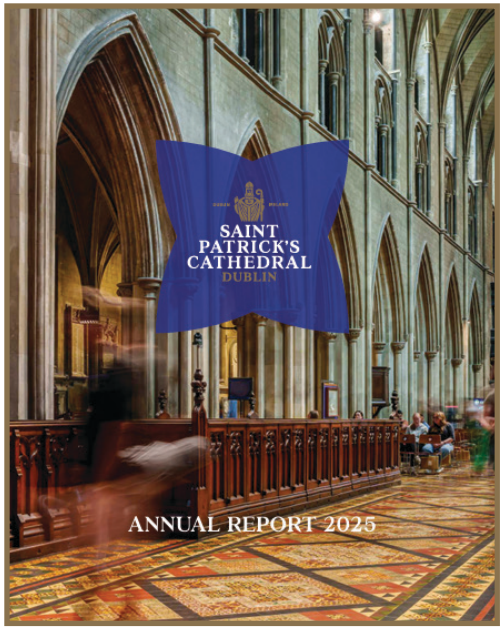
Mr Gavan Woods

In early November we have our end of season staff and volunteer meeting. For the second time we shall hold the meeting in the newly refurbished Deanery Mews. As mentioned previously in this publication, the Mews has proved its worth many times over. It is hard to imagine how we managed without it up to now!

One of the benefits of this annual meeting is the space it gives to allow us to come together and reflect on what went well or otherwise in the busy months just past. Overall the season was positive. The level of dedication by our teams was wonderful to see. The Cathedral can be an intense place to be at the height of the season, and so we never take the goodwill of our colleagues for granted.

2025 was an exceptional year; our busiest ever by a considerable margin. We forecast similar footfall this year. Interestingly, after a very strong year to June, visitors from North America diminished both suddenly and sharply, leaving us 3% down overall year to date. US visitors were down considerably, though somewhat offset by gains in other markets, notably from Canada. We will continue our sustained focus on Canada, but hard work continues on the ground by our marketing team in the US and EU to try and ensure we maintain robust numbers, and hence income, in the months and years to come.

In addition to our seasonal staff moving on, this week we said goodbye to Urszula who has been with us for four years as an important member of the Welcome team. We sincerely thank her for all she has done for the Cathedral over that time and wish her well in the future.



Autumn is exceptionally busy for our Education, Community and Events teams, especially as this year we have a bumper Swift Festival focusing on the tricentenary of the publication of *Gulliver's Travels*. Full details on our website!

The Cathedral's annual report is available for all to view in the governance section of our website (towards the bottom of our homepage). Please do have a look; the Cathedral's new strategic plan will also be posted there shortly so keep an eye out for that. Our annual audited accounts have been returned to the CRA and the CRO. They have also been emailed to all members of the vestry for whom we have an email address. If you are a registered member of the vestry but we don't have your email address please don't hesitate to contact me and we will arrange to send you a copy by post.

Have a lovely autumn and I hope to see you in the Cathedral over the weeks ahead. *GHW*

Condolences

Please remember in your prayers all who mourn: Vyvyenne Chamberlain, one of our Saint Patrick's Cathedral bellringers, on the death of her son, Adam, while both on holiday in Japan; Scott and Andrea Lowrie, on the tragic death by accident of Andrea's sister-in-law, Evelyn, Bunclody, County Wexford, remembering Evelyn's husband, Warren, and their two young sons, Liam and Luke; the family of Neville Pickering, Rathgar, who often worshipped in Saint Patrick's, and who died recently, and also the family of Neville's sister, Jill Watson, widow of the late William Watson of the University of Oxford, and aunt of Mrs Rowena Janota, Dean's Secretary and Office Manager; Louis and Catherine Parminter and family on the death of Louis' uncle, Patrick, a brother of Louis' mother; Noel Maher, one of our Frontline team members, and his fiancée, Gwendoline McGowan, on the death of Noel's brother, Richie; and the family of Gerry Fogarty, a neighbour of one of our Vergers, John Reardon, and a supporter of Saint Patrick's. We also remember the family of Shirley Wilson, Essex, sister-in-law of Irene Wilson Power, and especially her daughters Sue, Jackie, Tracey, and Christine.

All who mourn are assured of our thoughts. *WWM*

Hazel Walker – A Tribute from Canon Mullen

I was saddened by the news of Hazel's death, aged 97, at St John's House where she moved following Garry's death in 2022. Nonetheless there is sure and certain consolation in knowing that she has fulfilled 'the hope of blessed reunion in heaven' with her beloved Garry, her husband of seventy years. Hazel's father was Canon Coulter, Rector of Milltown: it's unsurprising that she and Garry met at a parish function. They were faithful members of Saint Patrick's congregation. I express my condolences to Hazel's daughters Sally, Susan, Lynn and Caroline, and her sons Richard and Mark. Hazel had a wonderfully mischievous smile and a marvellous sense of humour. Time spent in her company was always delightful. I miss her. She rests in God's nearer presence, in his light and peace.

CM

News

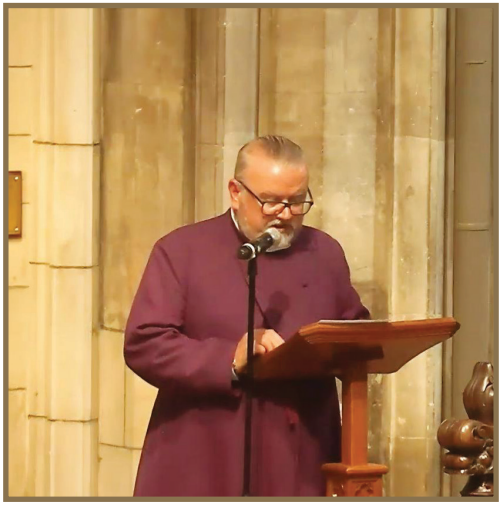
Vergers' Evensong

On Sunday 13 September we celebrated the role and the liturgical work of the Cathedral vergers. Specially-chosen readings were read by John Kinirons and Louis Parminter, and prayers were led by Derek Tobin, Colette Garry and Aaron Hoey. John Reardon, Thomas McTague and Labhaoise Darkling verged their fellow vergers with customary style, grace and aplomb. Our vergers continually enhance and uphold that dignity for which the Cathedral services are renowned.

Following Evensong the vergers and their families repaired to the Lady Chapel for a short ceremony of commissioning at which the virges, the symbols of the vergers' ministry, were blessed by the Dean.

The full team are pictured here in perfect procession formation before Evensong. *CM*





Culture Night

This year the Cathedral again took part in Culture Night, which took place on Friday 18th September. Over 1700 people visited the Cathedral during the evening's events, which included Choral Evensong, a choral performance, and guided and self-guided tours.





Saint Patrick's Cathedral 1926: A Year in the Life

On 1st October as part of the Dublin Festival of History, a lunch time talk was delivered by Assistant Cathedral Manager, and historian, Aaron Hoey, focusing on Saint Patrick's Cathedral and the surrounding area in the year 1926. Utilising archival material and data from the newly released 1926 Free State Census, the talk explored the key events which occurred that year, and some significant and some forgotten players who contributed to life and culture at the National Cathedral.

While 1926 was not a major year of events in comparison to the previous decade of the Great War, Easter Rising, War of Independence, and Civil War, it was a year of navigation in the new reality of the Irish Free State. In Saint Patrick's Cathedral, the Cathedral board considered the practicalities of an automated clock winder, musical performances of Dr George Hewson were broadcast on the newly established national broadcast service 2RN, and acts and symbols of remembrance were key considerations 10 years after the Easter Rising and the Battle of the Somme, resulting in conflict on the doorstep of the Cathedral on Remembrance Sunday with a vocal protest by members of Na Fianna.

Key figures such as Dean Hugh Jackson Lawlor were discussed, while the lives and contributions of lesser known figures such as Cathedral Sexton John Henry Atkinson were highlighted as part of the lecture.

The talk was well attended and well received. *AH*

Photo by James Phelps.

Cathedral Helps Unveil Monument to Jonathan Swift in County Cavan



The Dean helps unveil the new monument at a ceremony in Quilca. Photos by Ed Coleman.

Saint Patrick's Cathedral was delighted to play a part in the unveiling of a commemorative engraved stone in Quilca, County Cavan, on Thursday 8th October, celebrating the area's connections with Jonathan Swift and marking the 300th anniversary of the publication of *Gulliver's Travels*.

The Cathedral co-funded the monument, which was officially unveiled by the Dean of Saint Patrick's Cathedral, the Very Revd Dr William Morton, alongside five pupils from a local primary school.

Quilca holds a special place in the story of Jonathan Swift. During his time as Dean of Saint Patrick's, Swift was a frequent visitor to the home of his close friend, Dr Thomas Sheridan, in the area. It is believed that the landscape, people and experiences he encountered during these visits may have helped inspire elements of *Gulliver's Travels*, his celebrated satirical masterpiece, first published in 1726.

The unveiling ceremony brought together local historians, Swift enthusiasts, members of the community and schoolchildren to celebrate this remarkable literary connection.

The afternoon featured a series of talks exploring Swift's life and legacy. Dr Brendan Twomey discussed *Gulliver's Travels* in the context of 18th-century Ireland, while Madeleine Uí Mhéaloid explored Swift's enduring connections with Quilca. Conall McGovern also

spoke about Swift's links with nearby Swanlinbar.

Local schoolchildren contributed a poetry recital, before Dean Morton reflected on Swift's life and work at Saint Patrick's Cathedral, where he served as Dean from 1713 until his death in 1745.

The highlight of the afternoon was the unveiling of the commemorative stone by the Dean and five pupils from Crossreagh National School, a fitting moment that brought together the area's rich literary history and a new generation discovering Swift's remarkable legacy.

The Cathedral's involvement reflects its continuing commitment to celebrating the life and work of its most famous Dean, whose influence extends far beyond the walls of Saint Patrick's and remains an important part of Ireland's cultural and literary heritage.

As we mark three centuries since the publication of *Gulliver's Travels*, the new monument in Quilca provides a lasting reminder of the connections between Swift, the people and places that shaped his writing, and the extraordinary literary legacy he left behind. *EC*





Jonathan Swift

A poem written by 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th classes from Crossreagh National School.

Jonathan Swift was born long ago,
In Dublin town, where the Liffey flows.
In 1666, he came to the world,
A clever young boy with ideas unfurled.

He loved to read, and he loved to write,
And used his words to make things right.
He wrote funny tales with lessons inside,
And shared his thoughts with courage and pride.

His famous book was *Gulliver's Travels,*
With giants and tiny people on islands and gravel.
Gulliver sailed across oceans blue,
And met strange new people and creatures too!

Jonathan Swift became famous for what he'd say,
Using jokes and stories in a clever way.
He spent much of his life in Ireland,
And helped people who needed a helping hand.

So when you read his stories, remember his name,
Jonathan Swift, who brought his words to fame.
A writer, a thinker, with stories so bright,
His books are still read by children tonight!

A Giant Celebration: *Gulliver's Travels* Turns 300 at Saint Patrick's Cathedral



Over 100 children performed for the anniversary celebration. Photos by Milly Staniforth.

Saint Patrick's Cathedral was filled to capacity on Wednesday, 28 October, as visitors gathered for a spectacular evening celebrating the 300th anniversary of Jonathan Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*.

The special event brought together music, literature, creativity and imagination in a fitting tribute to one of the world's most celebrated works of fiction, written by the Cathedral's most famous Dean.

One of the highlights of the evening was the world premiere of *Man Mountain*, a new musical work composed by Professor Seán Doherty and performed by children from across Dublin. The young performers brought tremendous energy and enthusiasm to the Cathedral, helping to introduce Swift's extraordinary world to a new generation.

Throughout the evening, audiences were treated to readings from *Gulliver's Travels*, bringing some of the book's most memorable adventures to life. These were accompanied by wonderful organ performances from the Cathedral's Master of the Music, Stuart Nicholson, whose music added drama and atmosphere to the storytelling.

The celebrations concluded with a particularly magical moment outside the Cathedral. As darkness fell, the side of the Minot Tower was transformed into a giant canvas, displaying colourful drawings inspired by *Gulliver's Travels*. Created and submitted by children from all around Ireland, the artwork showcased the remarkable imagination of young people, each offering their own interpretation of Swift's fantastical characters and adventures.





The projections provided a joyful and fitting finale to an evening that celebrated not only the enduring legacy of *Gulliver's Travels*, but also its continued ability to inspire creativity, curiosity and wonder, three centuries after its publication.

With a packed Cathedral, outstanding performances and a spectacular display of children's creativity, the anniversary celebration was a wonderful success and a memorable occasion for everyone involved.

Three hundred years on, Jonathan Swift's imagination continues to inspire, and judging by the creativity on display, the next generation has plenty of imagination of its own. *EC*

Battle of Britain



Brigadier General Rory O'Connor, General Officer Commanding The Air Corps; and Canon Mullen after the annual Royal Air Force Association Evensong on 20 September to commemorate the Battle of Britain. *CM*

Photo courtesy of Canon Charles Mullen.

Dublin City Neighourhood Awards



We are delighted to announce that the Mews at Saint Patrick's Cathedral has been named Best New Entry at the Dublin City Neighbourhood Awards 2026, which took place on Saturday 3rd October.

Opened earlier this year, the Mews is our new community space, created to provide a welcoming place for people to come together, connect and engage with the life of the Cathedral.

We're thrilled to see this new space recognised in its very first year. A huge thank you to everyone who helped bring the Mews to life, and well done to our Community Officer Kelley Bermingham, who represented the Cathedral at the awards ceremony and proudly collected the award on our behalf.

New Lectern

Canon Mullen with Wendy and Ruth Thompson at the lectern in memory of Alan Thompson which was blessed and dedicated at All Souls' Day Evensong. *CM*

Photo courtesy of Canon Charles Mullen.





Saint Patrick's Cathedral After Dark

On Saturday 31st October the Cathedral held its annual AFTER DARK Halloween concert.

The evening saw a full house of children and adults alike with many showcasing their costumes to get in the spirit of the evening. In total, over 600 people were in attendance.

The audience enjoyed a line up of spooky music, including Bach's *Toccata and Fugue in D minor* and Saint-Säens' *Danse Macabre*, along with some equally chilling music from everyone's favourite scary movies.

All proceeds from the ticket sales were donated to BUMBLEance, Ireland's Children's Ambulance Service.

Pictured above is Morgan Crowley, one of the Lay Vicars Choral, who performed in the concert in suitably spooky fashion.

Photo courtesy of Morgan Crowley.

Community Fund Award Update

In May 2025 Dyspraxia (DCD - Developmental Coordination Disorder) Ireland received €2500 as part of the Cathedral's annual Community Fund disbursement. Their CEO, Sharon Lane, has provided a report on the use of these funds to support their counselling programme:

Expanding Our Counselling Team

With the support of St Patrick's Cathedral, we have welcomed five new counselling students to our team, bringing our total number of counsellors from three to eight. Our newest team members, Skye Turner, Alex Rizzi, Natalie Boterman, Brian McDonald, and Nicole Storck, are all counsellors and psychotherapists in training, working alongside our qualified practitioners Siân Keary, Tracy Burke, and Ciara Lee Kin.

The process for offering these student placements was robust and included interviews, Garda vetting, reference checks and an induction process which included DCD specific training.

Providing placements for student counsellors is a model that benefits everyone: it gives emerging practitioners invaluable experience working with a specialist neurodevelopmental client group, while significantly increasing our capacity to reach more of the people who need us.

Clearing Our Waiting List

The expansion of our team has had a direct and meaningful impact. Prior to this growth, our waiting list stretched back to late 2024, a situation we found deeply frustrating, as we were acutely aware of parents and carers of children with DCD and adults with DCD waiting for support. We are pleased to report that we have now been able to offer appointments to everyone on our waiting list up to April 2026, representing a significant milestone for the programme.

This progress means we can now promote our counselling service more widely, confident that we have the capacity to respond to new referrals in a timely way.

Expanding In-Person Access

In addition to growing our team, St Patrick's Cathedral's support has enabled us to expand our in-person counselling appointments at the Healing House in Dublin. Funding has been used both to develop the programme infrastructure and to cover the cost of counselling room hire, ensuring that clients who benefit most from face-to-face support are able to access it.

We are currently working to provide an in-person placement opportunity for another student counsellor and psychotherapist in training. This young man is a wheelchair user and we are currently seeking an appropriate space for him to work from as our existing space in Dublin is not fully accessible.

Looking Ahead

Your investment in our counselling programme has strengthened a service that is genuinely unique; specialist counselling for individuals with Developmental Coordination Disorder (DCD/Dyspraxia) and their families, delivered by practitioners with an understanding of the condition.

We are committed to continuing to grow this service and to ensuring it remains accessible to those who need it most, and we thank you again for your generous support in helping us do so.

Sharon Lane
CEO, Dyspraxia Ireland

Dyspraxia DCD Ireland

Vergers' Away Day







On Tuesday 13th October the vergers had their annual away day. They enjoyed a visit to Trinity College Dublin, where they attended Eucharist in the chapel and learned about life in the college chaplaincy from Canon Paul Arbuthnot. Photos courtesy of Aaron Hoey and Derek Tobin.

Saint Patrick's Cathedral Online Shop

If you visit the Cathedral's website you will find a button with the word 'Shop' listed on the front page. The online shop is now open and taking orders. New products are being added as it is being developed. Take a minute to browse through the pages and perhaps there will be something of interest to you. By purchasing at the online shop, you are supporting the works of the Cathedral and its mission. The first eight orders were collected by DHL who are partnering us in this venture which, we hope, will be another line of revenue for the work and mission of this Cathedral. *EL*



What's On?



The Jonathan Swift Festival 2026

This November Saint Patrick's Cathedral will once again celebrate the life, work and extraordinary legacy of Jonathan Swift, with a programme of events marking a particularly significant milestone: 300 years since the publication of *Gulliver's Travels*.

Few writers have left such an enduring mark on literature, satire and political commentary as Jonathan Swift. Born in Dublin in 1667, Swift is remembered around the world as the author of *Gulliver's Travels*, but his connection to Saint Patrick's Cathedral is an equally important part of his story. Appointed Dean in 1713, he served the Cathedral for more than three decades, becoming one of the most distinctive and outspoken figures in eighteenth-century Irish society. The Jonathan Swift Festival, taking place this November, offers an opportunity to explore that legacy through an imaginative programme of music, theatre, talks, storytelling, workshops and special events. Whether visitors are lifelong admirers of Swift's writing or encountering his work for the first time, the festival aims to make his remarkable life and ideas accessible, entertaining and relevant to contemporary audiences.

Gulliver's Travels was originally published on 28 October 1726. Although often remembered today as a fantastical adventure involving tiny people and giants, the novel was originally written as a sharp and frequently outrageous satire of politics, society and human nature. Three centuries later, its themes of power, prejudice, ambition and absurdity remain remarkably familiar. The Cathedral marked the anniversary on 28 October with a special celebration *(see pg 14)*, but the anniversary festivities continue throughout November, with events that explore Swift's imagination and his influence on literature and the arts.

One of the defining features of the Jonathan Swift Festival is the diversity of its programme. Visitors can look forward to an entertaining mixture of historical talks, theatrical performances, storytelling and creative workshops, alongside opportunities to experience the Cathedral in unusual and atmospheric ways.

The popular Swift Night Tour will offer visitors a chance to discover the building after dark, exploring the stories, characters and events associated with its most famous Dean. Meanwhile, Jonathan and the Jest, alongisde a range of storytelling and drawing workshops will introduce younger audiences to the humour, imagination and adventure of Swift's writing.

Music will also play an important role in the celebrations. The programme includes A Baroque Christmas, bringing the festival towards a suitably festive conclusion, while a new musical production, *And Then There Was Gulliver*, will offer a fresh theatrical interpretation of Swift's remarkable literary world. For those looking for something a little different, Craicademia, hosted at Rascals Brewery, will bring together lively discussion, humour and the spirit of Swiftian satire in a more informal setting.

Among the festival's special highlights is the Gulliver's Gala Dinner, which will transform the Cathedral into the setting for an imaginative evening inspired by the four extraordinary worlds visited in *Gulliver's Travels*. Guests will enjoy a four-course menu reflecting Gulliver's adventures in Lilliput, Brobdingnag, Laputa, and the land of the Houyhnhnms, accompanied by music from the Cathedral Choir and theatrical appearances inspired by Swift himself. The event promises to



be a memorable celebration of the book's anniversary, bringing together literature, food, music and performance in the historic surroundings of the Cathedral.

Today, the Cathedral remains the natural home for a festival celebrating his achievements. It is a place where visitors can encounter Swift not simply as a famous name from literary history, but as a real person whose life was closely connected to the streets and communities surrounding the building. The Jonathan Swift Festival seeks to preserve that connection while introducing his work to new generations. Through creativity, humour, scholarship and performance, it demonstrates that Swift's writing continues to provoke thought, inspire imagination and entertain audiences three centuries after his greatest work first appeared.

The Jonathan Swift Festival takes place from 18-28 November 2026. Visit the link below for full programme details and booking information. *EC*

Photos by Leon Farrell.

Book tickets at *www.jonathanswiftfestival.ie*

Who's Who?



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humanresources@stpatrickscathedral.ie

Administrative Assistant
Mr James Phelps
info@stpatrickscathedral.ie

Marketing Assistant
Ms Melissa M. Carton
melissa@stpatrickscathedral.ie

Events Officer
Ms Chiara Rucks
events@stpatrickscathedral.ie

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: **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.

Advent · Christmas
Epiphany · Candlemas
at SAINT PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL

Sunday 29th November at 6:00pm
ADVENT PROCESSION by CANDLELIGHT

Sunday 13th December at 3.15pm
CAROLS FOR ALL

Friday 18th December at 7.30pm
A SAINT PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL CHRISTMAS

Join us 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.

Programme includes a veritable feast of Christmas classics including Finzi's gorgeous Christmas Scene *In Terra Pax* & 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).

Tickets are available from www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/christmas26

Sunday 20th December at 3.15pm & Christmas Eve* at 4.00pm
NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

Christmas Day at 11.15am
FESTIVAL CHORAL EUCHARIST

Sunday 24th January at 3.15pm
BENJAMIN BRITTEN: A Ceremony of Carols

Sunday 31st January at 3.15pm
CANDLEMAS CAROL SERVICE

[*admission to the Christmas Eve service is by ticket only]