

# DC Cathedral Life



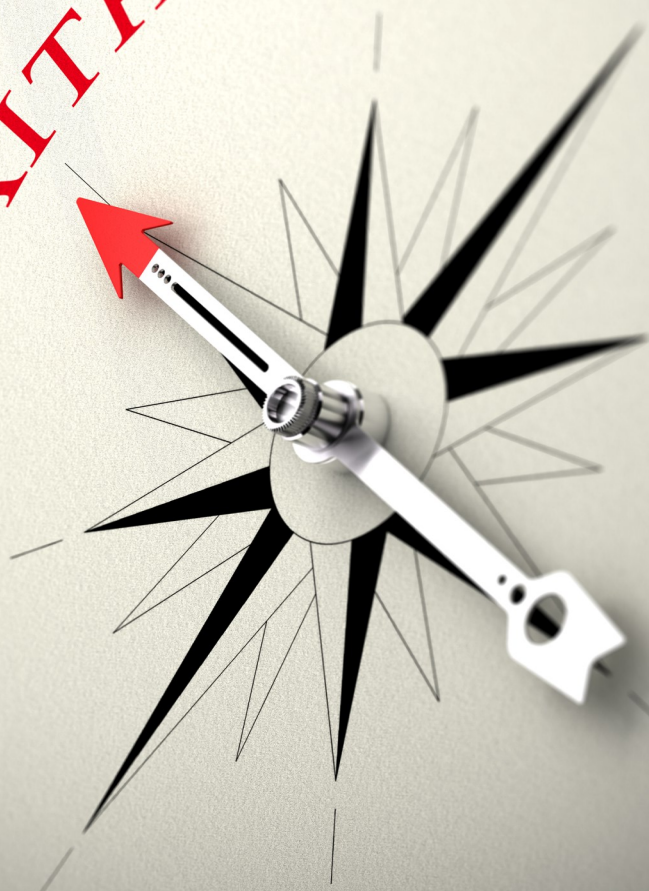
The Cathedral Church of Christ the Redeemer, Dromore

**MAY 2022**

**FAITH**

DOUBT

DOUBT



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**Rector:**

**The Very Revd Geoff Wilson, B.Th**  
**Dean of Dromore**

**Curate Assistant:**

**The Revd Trevor McKeown, B.A.**  
**(Hons)**

**Pastoral Duty**

**In the event of pastoral need  
or emergencies, please  
contact the Rector on 028  
9269 2275 or, if unavailable,  
the Curate on 028 3832 1217**

Dear friends

One of the things which has really stood out for me this Easter, as I reflect on the set readings from both the Gospel of Luke and John, has been the clear fact that different characters in the stories come to the realisation that the tomb was empty because Jesus was risen at different times.

According to John's account, it was Mary Magdalene who visited the tomb early on that first day of the week and discovered that the stone was rolled away. Without further investigation, Mary found Simon Peter and John, who ran to the tomb with John getting there first. Simon Peter, impetuous as ever, arrived after John and rushed on into the tomb to discover that the grave clothes were folded where the body had been laid, but the body was gone. John entered after Simon Peter, saw and believed. Both of them went back to their homes leaving Mary to wonder, to weep and to mourn.

Mary engages with Jesus, whom she mistakes for a gardener, and asks him where they have taken the body of Jesus so that she can go and retrieve his human remains. Jesus reveals himself to Mary, and she believes. Mary rushes to tell the disciples the good news that Jesus has risen, but her words seem like nonsense to them.

But later that evening, the disciples are in a locked room for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus stands among them, shows them his hands and his side and declares "Peace be with you." The disciples believe. But Thomas isn't there along with the other disciples. The other disciples tell him about their encounter with Jesus and the fact that he is risen. But Thomas isn't for believing because of the testimony of others. Thomas is adamant that *"Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."* John 20: 25b.

One week later, Jesus appears once more to the disciples, but this time Thomas is with them. Jesus speaks directly into the doubt which Thomas has felt and the way in which he has expressed it, but he does so gently, graciously and tenderly. Jesus invites Thomas to touch his wounds, and Thomas believes. John believes when he enters the tomb. Mary believes outside the tomb in the garden. The disciples believe in a room when Jesus appears to them. And Thomas believes when he touches the wounds of Jesus one week after all of the others. The point of coming to believing may differ as may the circumstances, but the faith expressed by all of them is just the same.

This understanding of how the early followers of Jesus came to the point of believing is crucial for us today as we consider how we might continue to share the good news with a world which considers our words to be nonsense. We all have different personalities, experiences and world views. We have all been socialised in unique settings and had vastly different experiences of family life and loving relationships. We all have different ideas of what love might look like and where to find it. So when we share the good news with others, realising that faith is something which the early followers of Jesus adopted at different times and through different encounters, it is vital to our understanding of how we might share our faith with others today. Not everyone is going to believe through our testimony. Not everyone is going to believe through the biblical evidence. Not everyone is going to believe through supernatural intervention. Not everyone is going to believe at the end of the day.

But what can we learn from this to enable us to share the good news in a more sustainable way today? Well, the stand out thing for me in the whole of the narrative is the gracious, gentle and patient way in which Jesus related to Thomas in that room which was locked for fear of the Jewish leaders. That must be our model as a church and as individual followers of Jesus.

Whether our message is heard at a wedding or a regular Sunday service, it must be shared in a generous way. Whether our testimony is shared over the garden fence or standing in a supermarket queue, it must be dripping with grace and love for others. May that be our guide as we seek to see others coming to believe in the fact that the tomb was empty because He is risen. Alleluia!

Every blessing in Christ

**Geoff**

## Looking After Creation: Part 1

On Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, Lauren Agnew from Tearfund was with us at our main morning worship. Lauren spoke about how we are putting God's creation and our brothers and sisters in the developing world in danger by the choices we are making. We have misused and damaged the gift of creation that God has given us.

The climate crisis is not just affecting people with extreme weather changes but in many other ways as well - these include malnutrition, hunger, domestic abuse and violence. The climate crisis is not just an issue that affects people in the developing world, it is affecting us here.

As part of the Lauren's talk, she showed us two videos - Pastor Traore from Burkina Faso said in one of the videos that, on average, rainfall has fallen year on year for the last 10 years. This is affecting crops and the way people farm. He said "People who don't believe in climate change don't want to believe. We just look back five years to when the river started to dry up, trees and animals disappearing. I would ask people to think again, there really is a change. And the Bible invites us to be the people who take care of the environment." In the same video, Tiaho & his wife Loyara stated, "If you have good rainfall, you have a good harvest. But if it is not good you have nothing."

Tearfund's local church partner in Ouarkoy, Burkina Faso is the Christian Relief and Development Organization (CREDO). CREDO supports families to farm more efficiently while caring for the environment. Tiaho & Loyara, along with others in their community, have learnt different farming techniques to take better care of the land. They farm using natural fertiliser and cover their crops with mulch. This helps the crops survive the changing weather patterns, such as drought. Most people in the area depend on farming to make a living. Climate-related food shortages are putting lives at risk. One in ten people are facing hunger.

Your neighbour's harvest is empty. Share the load.

Proverbs 3:27 – Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act.

The second video explained the Tearfund Theory of Poverty

- We are careless with this precious Earth.
- The Earth groans and suffers.
- Our relationship with others and the physical world is damaged.

- At the heart of all this brokenness is our broken relationship with God, who made everything in love and made it good (God states this six times and the seventh time He claimed it was very good).
- Some suffer more than others.
- God has always been interested in mending things, and through Jesus, He showed us how.
- God invites us to join his work.

Looking after creation is woven through the Biblical story, it is not a side issue or an optional extra that God calls us to do.

The book of Esther teaches us that following Jesus requires us to speak up against injustice even if it is costly to ourselves and that we should always act from a foundation of prayer.

The main thing I took out of the 2 videos was Pastor Traore said “Even if I knew the world was to end tomorrow, I would still plant a tree today”. To me this is a bold statement, this is someone who doesn’t care what other people think, he wants to create a better earth to worship God, to help creation ‘heal’. This is someone who has done the least to create the climate crisis.

Can we join him in his desire to help heal creation and worship our creator? We can all play a small part in reducing the impact of climate change, both as individuals and as a church family. The Cathedral has already started to make some changes such as removing single-use plastics from catering and there are many more things we can and should be doing.

There will be more on this theme in next month’s Cathedral Life, following on from the Irish Churches Creation Care Conference that was held on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April and Tearfund’s Living Justly Conference on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April. **Donna Mackey**



**Tiaho & his wife Loyara and their son**  
(Photo taken from Tearfund video)



**Pastor Traore from Burkina Faso**  
(Photo taken from Tearfund website)

## Returning to something resembling Normality

Over the past number of months restrictions, which have protected us from the worst of Covid-19, have been eased to such an extent that we now find ourselves in a place where “normality” is almost once again our lived experience. In the world around us, face coverings are no longer required in many settings, social distancing is a thing of the past and hand sanitising is for many of us something which we may continue to observe, but more out of personal hygiene rather than protection from Covid. But within our church family, we recognise that we are something of a mixed economy with a whole range of views on how we should emerge from the pandemic.

The Select Vestry have been extremely careful in responding to the relaxation of restrictions by easing into something resembling normality bit by bit rather than taking a quantum step in one go and finding ourselves in a situation where some of our members feel uncertain and anxious. The way we have achieved this is through setting apart sections of the church where social distancing is no longer observed (the Tower aisle) whilst maintaining social distancing throughout the remainder of the Cathedral. No one is required to sit in any particular area, but rather each person chooses the area which best fits where they feel most comfortable. Face coverings are still encouraged whilst moving around the Cathedral and whilst singing as is hand sanitising on entering and leaving the building and prior to receiving Holy Communion. Contact and trace and booking your space at a service are no longer requirements. All of the above measures will be reviewed on an ongoing basis with any further changes being prayerfully and carefully implemented with the best interests of everyone in mind.



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## Mothers' Union

In January we held our AGM, elected new Office bearers and a new Committee after Covid restrictions keeping us apart it had been postponed for a couple of years.

It was great to be able to have our Enrolment Service in April after such a long time. We welcomed our new Office Bearers and new Committee Members and we all renewed our commitment to serve our Mothers' Union Branch and our members across the world.

This month we are celebrating our Queen's Platinum Jubilee and with everything that we will be able to attend, we will not be having a Mothers' Union Meeting in May.

I hope everyone has a lovely summer and I will see you all in September.

**Anne Cochrane**

## What is Confirmation?

When we confirm something we say yes. At confirmation we say yes to Jesus' call to follow him on our journey through life. We confirm our faith in him. Parents and godparents will usually have said yes for us when we were babies and were unable to speak for ourselves at baptism, but confirmation gives us the chance to say yes.

We have all had the experience of getting lost I'm sure. This can happen because we have either no map or in the world we live today, our Sat Nav isn't working properly! Confirming our faith in Jesus is like deciding to travel through life with a really accurate map or effective Sat Nav.

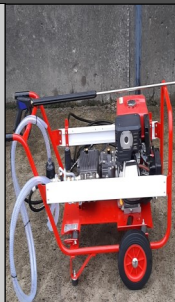
If you would like to say yes to Jesus through confirmation, there will be an opportunity to do so on the afternoon of Sunday 18th September 2022 in the Cathedral. As a rule of thumb, candidates need to be of an age that they understand clearly what it is they are saying yes to, generally from age 14 and above, though there are individuals who clearly understand at a younger age. Confirmation isn't just limited to young people, as adults who have not yet been confirmed can choose to be confirmed in their faith, often at a much later stage in life.

If you would like to find out more about what is involved in being prepared for confirmation this September and whether it is right for you, then please do let Geoff know in order that adequate time is set aside for preparation for what should be a very special service in which you say to the world that you are choosing to follow Jesus.

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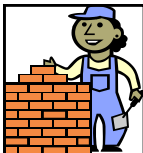
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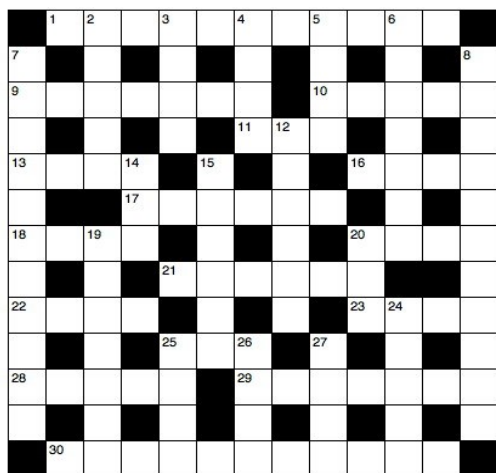
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## Across

- 1 Overpowered (Deuteronomy 11:4) (11)  
 9 'The — are mantled with corn' (Psalm 65:13) (7)  
 10 'Each man—a sword to his side'(Exodus32:27)(5)  
 11 On the death of Jesus the curtain in the temple was torn from— to bottom (Matthew 27:51) (3)  
 13 Stagger (Isaiah 28:7)(4)  
 16 'Anyone then, who knows the good he ought—and doesn't do it, sins' (James 4:17) (2,2)  
 17 Stir up or provoke(Acts13:50)(6)  
 18 Burden(Luke11:46)(4)  
 20 'As far as the east is from the—,so far has he removed our transgressions from us' (Psalm 103:12) (4)  
 21 Sign(Luke23:38)(6)  
 22 'After that, Jesus poured water into a basin and began to—his disciples' feet' (John 13:5) (4)  
 23 The nature of the seven ears of corn which swallowed up the good ears in Pharaoh's dream (Genesis 41:23) (4)

25 Has(anag.)(3)

28 'This is the account of Shem, Ham and Japheth,—sons' (Genesis 10:1) (5)

29 'I will...make them drunk, so that they...sleep for—and— awake' (Jeremiah 51:39) (4,3)

30 Paul said of him, 'he often refreshes me and is not ashamed of my chains' (2 Timothy 1:16) (11)

## Down

- 2 Worth (Matthew 13:46) (5)  
 3 'A bruised — he will not break' (Matthew 12:20) (4)  
 4 'Suddenly a great company of the heavenly — appeared with the angel' (Luke 2:13) (4)  
 5 Slip (anag.) (4)  
 6 'Take an awl and push it through his — into the door, and he will become your servant for life' (Deuteronomy 15:17) (3,4)  
 7 Bountiful (2 Corinthians 8:2) (11)  
 8 'Therefore, as we have — , let us do good to all people' (Galatians 6:10) (11)  
 12 Acquire(2Timothy2:10)(6)  
 14 Container cover(Numbers19:15)(3)  
 15 'He...became obedient to death, even death on— —!' (Philippians 2:8) (1,5)  
 19 Refrain(1Peter2:11)(7)  
 20 'She began to—his feet with her tears'(Luke7:38)(3)  
 24 One who worships Brahma, Vishnu or Shiva(5)  
 25 'Give to everyone who—you'(Luke6:30)(4)  
 26 'I lift up my eyes to the hills; where does my—come from?' (Psalm 121:1) (4)  
 27 One of those whom the Lord said would be taken from Jerusalem and Judah as judgment on them (Isaiah 3:2) (4)

## History Reading Group

The next meeting of the History Reading Group is on -

**Tuesday 10th May 2022 at 7.30pm - Venue The Clayton Memorial Hall.**

The book that the group are currently reading is -

**Blood and Iron - The Rise and Fall of the German Empire 1871 - 1918**

**by Katja Hoyer.**

The April 2022 published paperback edition is a relatively short read - 240 pages. It is widely available at high street and on line retailers and at reasonable cost.

Everyone is warmly invited to join with the group in reading this book and to take part in what promises to be a lively discussion at the forthcoming meeting.

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## JOY

Join us on Thursday 12th May for a visit to the gardens of Sara & John McCorkell, Lower Quilly, followed by some light refreshments. Please meet in the Cathedral Hall car park at 1.50pm so that we can travel out together. Anyone who needs a lift can come with Beverley or myself.

We always welcome new members to our group. Looking forward to seeing all the colours and blooms of these beautiful gardens.

## MATCH

Following our Easter break the next night will be on Wednesday 18th May at 8pm in the Cathedral Hall. We will be joined by Hope & Light Jewellery who were born out of a deep desire to help vulnerable woman and children escape an unimaginable life of slavery and trafficking. On the night there will be an opportunity to purchase some jewellery if you wish. This evening is open to all ladies and friends.

## Smile Line... Parking Space

Angus was driving down the street worried because he had an important meeting and couldn't find a parking place. So, looking up toward heaven, he said "Lord, take pity on me. If you find me a parking place I will go to church every Sunday for the rest of my life and give up whisky." A moment later, miraculously, a parking place appeared. Angus looked up again and said, "Never mind. I found one."

## Services for May

### Sunday 1st

3rd Sunday of Easter

8.30am

10.00am

11.30am

6.00pm

Holy Communion

Cathedral Praise

Holy Communion

Evening Epilogue Service

### Sunday 8th

4th Sunday of Easter

8.30am

10.00am

11.30am

6.00pm

Holy Communion

Cathedral Praise

Morning Prayer

Evening Epilogue *with* Holy Communion

### Sunday 15th

5th Sunday of Easter

8.30am

10.00am

11.30am

6.00pm

Holy Communion

Cathedral Praise *with* Holy Communion

Service of the Word

Evening Epilogue Service

### Sunday 22nd

6th Sunday of Easter

Rogation Sunday

8.30am

10.00am

11.30am

6.00pm

Holy Communion

Family Service

Morning Prayer

Evening Epilogue Service

### Sunday 29th

7th Sunday of Easter

Sunday after Ascension Day

8.30am

10.00am

11.30am

6.00pm

Holy Communion

Cathedral Praise

Service of the Word

Evening Epilogue Service

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Says the Spirit, for they rest from their labours."*

## Audio Visual System

One of the great blessings which has come out of the pandemic has been the upgrade and wider use of our Audio/Visual system. The benefits of the new system are evident for all to see. Whether you are attend services or avail of the livestream or recorded services, the sound and picture quality has improved beyond what we could ever have hoped for. We are currently seeking to develop our team of volunteers in this crucial area of ministry. If you are interested in being part of a team whose ministry blesses people in so many different settings, then please do let Scott Mackey know. Full training will be given to everyone who volunteers.

May	1st	8th	15th	22nd	29th
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## MAY DATES

Tuesday 3rd	10.30	Craft Class	Clayton Hall
Tuesday 3rd	8.00	Tuesday Life Group	Clayton Hall
Wednesday 4th	10.00	Morning Life Group	Clayton Hall
Monday 9th	10.30	Parish prayer Meeting	Clayton Hall
Tuesday 10th	10.30	Craft Class	Clayton Hall
Tuesday 10th	7.30	History Reading Group	Clayton Hall
Wednesday 11th	7.30	Parish Bible Class	Cathedral Hall
Thursday 12th	2.00	JOY	Cathedral Hall
Tuesday 17th	10.30	Craft Class	Clayton Hall
Tuesday 17th	8.00	Tuesday Life Group	Clayton Hall
Wednesday 18th	10.00	Morning Life Group	Clayton Hall
Wednesday 18th	8.00	MATCH	Cathedral Hall
Monday 23rd	10.30	Parish Prayer Meeting	Clayton Hall
Tuesday 24th	10.30	Craft Class	Clayton Hall
Tuesday 31st	10.30	Craft Class	Clayton Hall

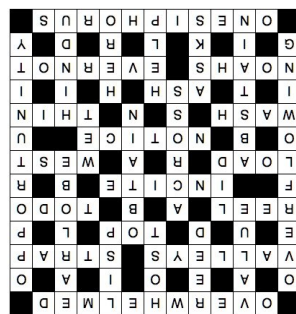
## Church Collections: March

GENERAL FUND	2021/22	2020/21
March	10,091.50	12,193.00
<b>Total to date</b>	<b>£101,248.80</b>	<b>£93,336.70</b>
DEVELOPMENT FUND		
March	786.10	1,353.00
<b>Total to date</b>	<b>£10,442.25</b>	<b>£9,730.85</b>

## Attention all Magazine Distributors

The June edition of our magazine will be ready for collection and distribution on **Friday 27th May** with items for inclusion to be with Jill in the office by **Friday 20th May at 1pm**. Items can be sent to Jill by emailing - [dromorecathedral@outlook.com](mailto:dromorecathedral@outlook.com)

**SOLUTION**





## The Cathedral Church of Christ the Redeemer, Dromore

### Contact details for Staff and Office Bearers



<b>Rector:</b>	Very Revd Geoff Wilson, 28 Church Street, Dromore BT25 1AA email: revgeoffwilson@gmail.com	028 9269 2275
<b>Curate:</b>	Revd Trevor McKeown 39 Cedar Park, Bleary BT63 5LL e-mail: curate@dromorecathedral.co.uk	028 3832 1217
<b>Office:</b>	Jill Wylie, Cathedral Office, 30 Church St, Dromore BT25 1AA e-mail: jill@dromorecathedral.co.uk or dromorecathedral@outlook.com	028 9269 3968
<b>Organist:</b>	Orly Watson, B.A. Mus (Oxon), M.A. Mus (RAM) e-mail: organist@dromorecathedral.co.uk	0777 030 5491
<b>Praise Group:</b>	Karen Bowden e-mail: karenbowden@me.com	0780 094 1256
<b>Sexton:</b>	Boyd McClurg	028 9269 3968
<b>Children's &amp; Youth Worker:</b>	Christine Shanks e-mail: dromore.youth.children@gmail.com	028 9269 3968
<b>Parish Panel:</b>	Very Revd Geoff Wilson 028 9269 2275 Robert Beggs 0777 160 7914 : Sue Pegrum 028 9269 3280	

*Please contact the Office to request the issue of Weekly Envelopes or Cathedral Life, and for queries about Hall Bookings, Record Searches, Adverts, etc*

### Select Vestry 2021-2022

<b>Churchwardens:</b>	Rebekah Davidson (Rector's)	Scott Mackey (People's)
<b>Glebewardens:</b>	Ian Purdy (Rector's)	Bill Forsythe (People's)
<b>Vestry Members:</b>	Ian Cardy, Andrew Carson, Paul Cochrane (Honorary Treasurer), Andrew Cuthbert, Jonny Jackson, Nan McMurray, Samuel Newell, Jane Russell, Ashley Silcock, Joanne Silcock, Leanne Teggart (Honorary Secretary)	
<b>Honorary Secretary:</b>	Mrs Leanne Teggart, 8 Maypole Park, Dromore, Co Down BT25 1SH email: leanne218@btinternet.com TN 028 9269 3870	
<b>Honorary Treasurer:</b>	Mr Paul Cochrane, 38 Backnamullagh Road, Dromore, Co Down BT25 1QT email: spcochrane@hotmail.co.uk TN 028 9269 3561	

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## Easter Family Celebration

What a fantastic time we had celebrating Easter with our children, young people and their families on Saturday 16th April. Around eighty people joined us in the Cathedral to hear the Easter Story told through an Easter Egg hunt.

We then made our way over to the Rectory Garden for some fun and refreshments. The children enjoyed time on the bouncy castle, getting their faces painted, participating in Easter competitions such as the traditional egg and spoon race. There was also some Easter garden games, a photo booth and a scavenger hunt to participate in. We could not have asked for better weather! Thank you to all those who attended the event, those who helped set up and decorate the church and the garden and to those who welcomed, the AV and sound team, those who provided refreshments, those on bouncy castle duties and our wonderful face painters. We could not have done it without you!







Pictured are Branch Leader, Anne Cochrane, along with Office bearers and committee members of our MU Branch following their recent enrolment service.



Sincere thanks to Scott Mackey, People's Churchwarden, and Rebekah Davidon, Rector's Churchwarden, for their service over the past 18 months during what has been a most challenging period to hold office.



Dromore Cathedral is the Parish Church serving the Dromore and Kinallen areas and a Cathedral of the Diocese of Down and Dromore in the Church of Ireland.

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Cathedral Life