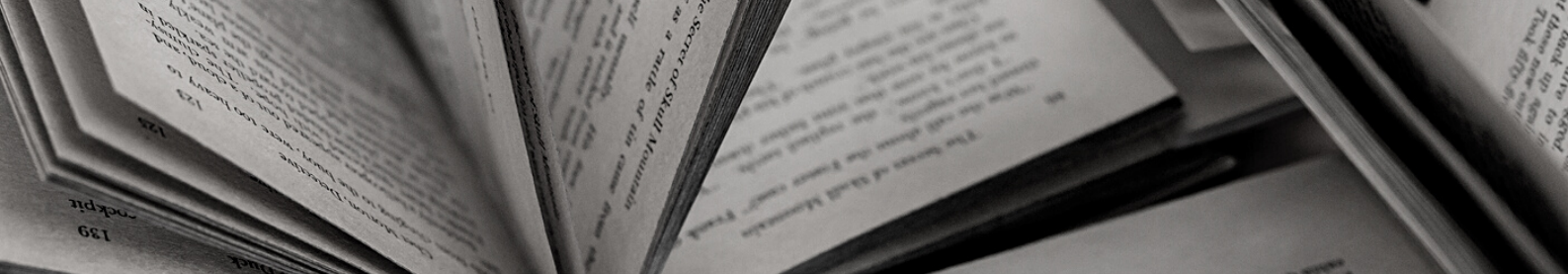


4 Corners Festival

Bringing Belfast Together



OUR STORIES

Towards A Culture Of Hope

1ST - 11TH FEBRUARY 2024

Supported by



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs
RECONCILIATION FUND




Belfast
City Council



HOW TO JOIN US...

All our events are **free** and most are open for anyone to attend but tickets **MUST** be booked.

Where not otherwise stated in this programme, tickets for events are to be booked on www.4cornersfestival.com

Some events will also be streamed online on our YouTube and Facebook accounts. These are marked on this programme with a play button. 

Events are subject to change, please book tickets to be kept informed of any changes to the listings or consult www.4cornersfestival.com



CARBON NEUTRAL

As an eco conscious festival that understands the impact of our actions on the planet, we have pledged to be a carbon neutral festival. What this means is we calculate the carbon footprint created by our events and find ways to offset this.

In calculating the carbon footprint of the 4 Corners Festival 2023, we found that a total of 5.5 tonnes of CO₂ was incurred. We will be offsetting this by making a donation of £60 to the Belfast Hills Partnership to plant trees on our behalf. We are also planning to make a larger donation which will not just make us a carbon neutral festival but a carbon negative one.

In further efforts to reduce our carbon footprint and not just offset it, we encourage festival attendees to make use of public transport where possible. Our events are mostly accessible through public transport. For planning your travel to and from events please consult www.translink.co.uk

OUR STORIES
Towards A Culture Of Hope

4 Corners Festival

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OUR STORIES

Towards A Culture Of Hope

The 4 Corners Festival is an embodiment of the change we wish to see in Belfast – a manifestation of the gospel’s teachings in action. We believe in embracing our shared humanity, fostering connections, and creating a space where meaningful conversations can flourish. With each festival we set forth on a journey toward transforming hearts, bridging divides, and leaving a lasting mark of positivity on our city. Welcome to the 4 Corners Festival: where relationships are nurtured, perceptions are challenged, and unity is celebrated.

www.4cornersfestival.com



[@4cornersfestival](https://www.instagram.com/4cornersfestival)



[@4cornersbelfast](https://twitter.com/4cornersbelfast)



[4cornersfestival](https://www.facebook.com/4cornersfestival)



[@4cornersfestival582](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4cornersfestival582)



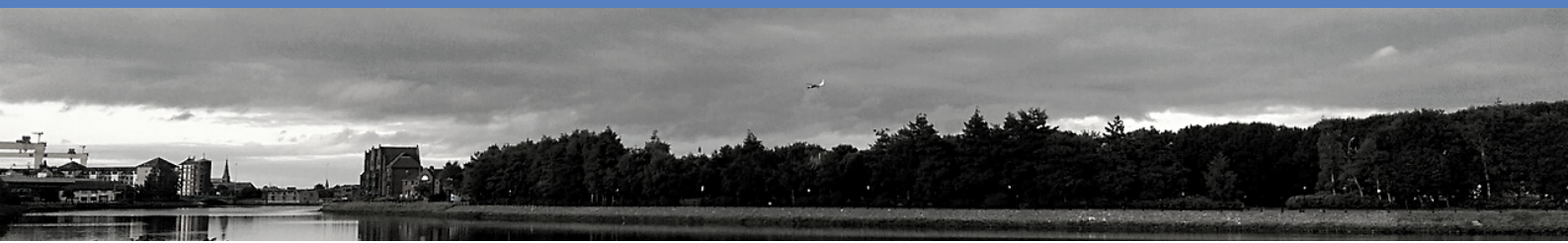
info@4cornersfestival.com



Media & Marketing Enquiries

Tina Calder, Excalibur Press – tina@excaliburpress.co.uk

Ruth Young, Ruthless Media – ruth@ruthlessmedia.co.uk



THE EVENTS

PRE FESTIVAL

26 January - 10 February



WRITE PURPOSE, WRITE HOPE

Ulster University

Friday 26 January

This is an invitation-only event delivered in partnership with Ulster University.

Sixth form students from across Belfast will gather at Ulster University, Belfast campus to explore the power of writing to promote understanding, generate dialogue and encourage positive engagement with the challenges faced by young people today.

With workshops facilitated by award-winning writer Sue Divin (Truth Be Told and Guard Your Heart), this event will offer participants an insight into the author's work and inspiration, as well as opportunities to develop their own writing skills. In the author's note on Guard Your Heart, Sue states 'Conflict dehumanises the 'other.' Stories connect us to the 'other'. I write because fiction is a powerful tool for creating empathy, and empathy is a powerful tool for creating peace.'



A CULTURE OF HOPE EXHIBITION

ArtCetera, 43B Rosemary St

Launching at 19:30 on Thursday 1 February

Tuesday to Friday 11:00 - 18:00

Saturday 12:00 - 17:00

Our stories inform and are informed by the culture around us. They have the power to have an impact on our community and to promote hope. This exhibition of work by Westcourt Camera Club will explore the stories of people who have come to make Belfast their home. It will reflect their hopes, their joys and their challenges through the medium of photography.





SHARED AND SACRED SPACE SOCIAL ACTION FOR HOPE

Saturday 3 February

This is a closed event for participating youth groups.

As part of a planned new multi-year project, targeting a different 'corner' of Belfast each year, youth groups from across the province will gather to undertake environmental clean up activities in two shared spaces in West Belfast – Belfast City Cemetery and Forth Meadow Greenway. Learning about the shared history of the cemetery, young people will work together to tidy the space and address areas of overgrowth, contributing to an improved experience for those visiting the cemetery to remember loved ones and explore Belfast's history. A litter pick will then take place in the recently developed Forth Meadow Greenway which was designed to realise hopes of improved community connections. The event will conclude with food and friendship building in St John's Parish Hall. This is a closed event for participating youth groups.



SHARED AND SACRED SPACE BELFAST CITY CEMETERY VISITING

Belfast City Cemetery, 511 Falls Rd

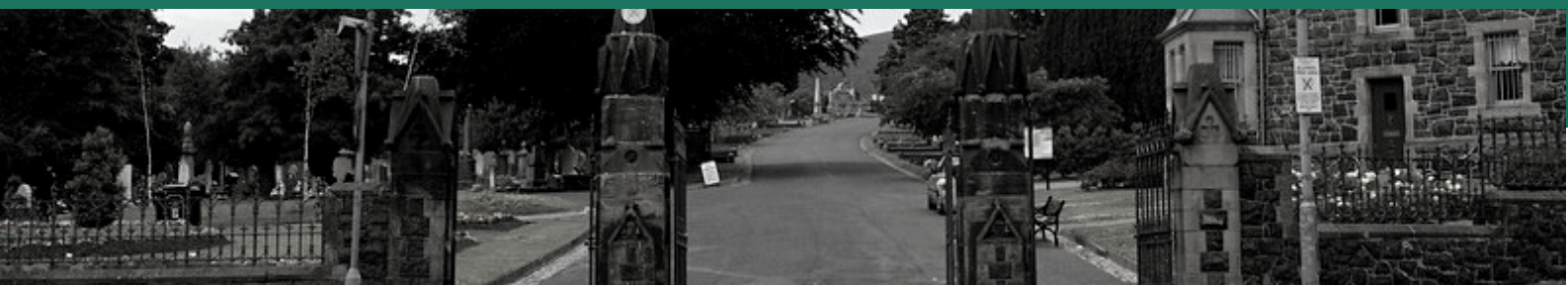
In line with cemetery opening hours

Belfast City Cemetery will have benefitted from the young people's work in time for the start of the main Festival and members of the public are warmly invited to visit the space to see the results of their efforts and appreciate the history of the place.



IF THERE IS A PARTICULAR GRAVE YOU WOULD LIKE TO VISIT...

... send the name and date of passing to info@4cornersfestival.com before 1 February and we will endeavour to have it prepared for your visit during opening hours from 4 February onwards.



SUNDAY 4TH FEB



RTÉ BROADCAST SERVICE

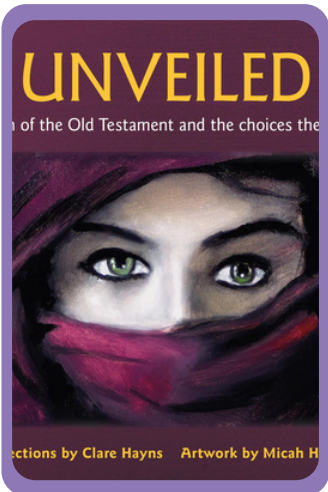
RTÉ One TV & RTÉ Radio 1 Extra / LW252

11:00

This year we will have a televised Sunday Service for the first time.

Our service will be led by Bishop Alan Abernethy, retired Church of Ireland Bishop of Connor, and Jim Deeds, Catholic lay Pastoral Worker.

Drawing from the themes in their new book, *Discovering Jesus in the Other - Challenging the Myth of Otherness*, the service will be ecumenical, inclusive and affirming of the goodness of all God's children. With music from a specially formed 4 Corners Choir, it is sure to lift our hearts and souls as we praise God together. Why not tune in.



UNVEILED - STORIES IN SCRIPTURE

Fitzroy Presbyterian Church, 77 University Street

19:00

Our opening Sunday will set up some of the Biblical thought for the Festival week.

Clare Hayns, College Chaplain at Christ Church, Oxford has authored a book *Unveiled* about the less known women in our Scriptures. She will draw from this and her son Micah who illustrated the beautiful book will help some of us learn to literally draw. Music for the evening will be by 4 Corners Festival favourites Beki Hemingway and her husband Randy Kerkman.



NIGHT PRAYER

Fitzroy Presbyterian Church, 77 University Street

21:30

'Unveiled - Stories in Scripture' will be followed by Night Prayer, a period of creative and contemplative prayer.



MONDAY 5TH FEB



UNVEILING STORIES TOGETHER

In this invitation only event, Queen's and Ulster University students will gather for a lunchtime discussion focused on the previous evening's event, 'Unveiled - Stories In Scripture', with Clare Hayns.



DISCOVERING JESUS IN THE OTHER: CHALLENGING THE MYTH OF OTHERNESS BOOK LAUNCH AND MEET THE AUTHORS



Agape Centre, 236-266 Lisburn Road

19:30

Bishop Alan Abernethy, retired Church of Ireland Bishop of Connor, and Jim Deeds, Catholic lay Pastoral Worker, recount their experience at different stages of their life and faith journey in the context of 'The Troubles' and a divided community. In all of these states they attempt to remember the gentle nudges of the Spirit as they moved from their own sectarian background to a growing awareness of the oneness of all people. Music will be provided by Beki Hemingway and Randy Kerkman

TUESDAY 6TH FEB



CRAIC AND CHRONICLES

2 Royal Avenue

16:00-18:00

This creative workshop, in partnership with the Belfast Stories Project, provides an opportunity to explore creative writing, storytelling and craft in an informal atmosphere with light refreshments accompanied by a performance of musical storytelling.



DONAL WALSH: A STORY OF HOPE

Ekenhead Memorial Halls, North Circular Road

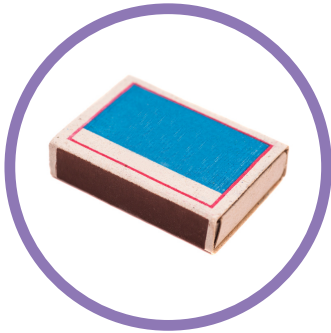
19:30

Join us for a discussion with Elma Walsh as she shares with us her story of continuing to honour the legacy of her son, Donal, who fundraised tirelessly whilst battling cancer. Inspired by Donal's faith and his hope filled outlook on the world, The Donal Walsh Foundation was set up by his family to contribute towards suicide prevention among young people, and to promote Donal's #LiveLife message.



Music on the evening will be provided by the Fitzroy Collective, performing songs from their Gospel According to Sinead O'Connor.

WEDNESDAY 7TH FEB



MATCH BOX CITY

2 Royal Avenue

12:30-14:30

This creative arts workshop, in partnership with the Belfast Stories Project, explores the connection between our memory and places or spaces in Belfast. Each participant is invited to add their own matchbox memory to build an alternative cityscape.



GAME OF 4 CORNERS

QUB PEC, Stranmillis Embankment

18:00-21:00

Pre-registration is required for this event which is open to individuals and youth groups from across Belfast.

Young people aged 11-14 are invited to an exciting evening of sports and team activities delivered in partnership with PeacePlayers - NI. Participants will try their hand at playing games including basketball, Gaelic football, rugby and soccer in integrated teams from across Belfast. They will hear inspiring stories from local sportsmen and women and be encouraged to consider how they can contribute to a positive culture on and off the pitch.



THE BLUE LIGHTS STORY

All Saints College, Glen Road

19:30

Following a highly successful first series the BBC has now commissioned a second series of the police drama Blue Lights. Screen writers Declan Lawn and Adam Patterson will join Tyree Patton (MA student in Journalism at Ulster University) for an evening of conversation followed by a Q and A in All Saints College, Glen Road in West Belfast where part of the series was filmed.



THURSDAY 8TH FEB



DEADBEAT AVENUE

Methodist College Belfast (Whitla Hall), 1 Malone Road

19:00

Come along to Methodist College as primary school pupils from across Belfast (assisted by Play it by Ear Drama Company) introduce us to the inhabitants of Deadbeat Avenue and tell their stories of perseverance, courage and hope.



CELEBRATING YOUNG VOICES HOPES FOR THE FUTURE

2 Royal Avenue

19:30

Come and hear the stories of young people who are leading the way in various spheres of influence. Connect with others and encounter new perspectives on Belfast. Lend your voice to declaring the hopes held for your city's future.

Speakers include Jamie-Lukas Campbell, James Hamber, Iona Holt, Chloe Marks, Michael McPeake and Inez Murray, with Hedley Abernethy facilitating the discussion. Music will be provided by Noah Mitchell.

Developed in partnership with YMCA, Youthlink and Politics In Action and featuring a Q&A with a panel of young leaders, food, music and a podcast, this is an opportunity for young people to come together, explore how you can shape the culture of the city and be heard by the wider community.

FRIDAY 9TH FEB



AN EVENING IN CONVERSATION WITH TRÚ

Orangefield, Presbyterian Church, 464 Castlereagh Road

19:30

In ancient Ulster the Trú were a trio of poet-musicians whose songs told the story of the future. When Zach Trouton, Dónal Kearney and Michael Mormech came together to refresh Irish traditional music with their songs and blended harmonies they took the name. This modern trio are a fascination to begin with combining Irish nationalist, Ulster-Scots and British-Ukrainian heritages.

Steve Stockman will talk to TRÚ about their personal stories and then Mylie Brennan will delve into what the stories they sing are all about. Expect some sublime songs too.



SATURDAY 10TH FEB



WONDERFUL WANDER

Starting at the Knock Road entrance to Connswater Greenway/Marshwiggie Way, opposite Glen Road.

13:30

Join us for our now customary afternoon of walking, poetry, storytelling, history and craic. This year we head east to explore another of Belfast's expanding network of greenways, including one of the most polluted rivers in the UK, which now a haven for wildlife. So come wander with us along Marshwiggie Way, through the setting for Van Morrison's "Orangefield", the confluence of the Knock and Loop Rivers, uncovering some of the ancient, industrial, natural and artistic history of our city, finishing with refreshments at East Belfast Mission in the Skainos Centre. A bus will be provided to return participants to any cars parked near the start of the walk.



4 CORNERS KNITTERS

Fitzroy Presbyterian Church, 77 University Street

14:30

Knitting the 4 Corners together with two forms of yarn (wool and conversation) has become a mainstay of the Festival over recent years. Avid knitters from across the corners are invited to a day of chat and productivity. In recent years Homeplus and the People's Kitchen have benefitted from the knitwear.

(📷 Bernie Brown)



THE STORIES THAT SHAPE US

Clayton Hotel, 22-26 Ormeau Avenue

19:30

Nigerian/British poet and novelist Ben Okri once said that "Stories are the secret reservoir of values: change the stories individuals and nations live by and tell themselves, and you change the individuals and nations." Tonight we hear five public figures tell us about a book that was significant in their lives and enjoy rehearsed readings from those books.



SUNDAY 11TH FEB



MORNING SERVICE

120 Cliftonville Road

10:00 (Attendees must be present and seated by 09.30)

This year's annual 4 Corners Festival broadcast service on BBC Radio Ulster will look Biblically at the Festival theme. Preacher Rev Doug Gay will explore biblical teaching on Christian hope for the present and the future and how we can share the fruits of this hope with others.



OUR BIG LUNCH LAUNCH

2 Royal Avenue

14:00-16:00

This June, we're inviting '4 Corners' festival goers to host a Big Lunch in your street or area, creating connection and building community around Belfast. Join us at our Big Lunch Launch, with our partners The Corrymeela Community and The Eden Project, who host hundreds of Big Lunches around N.Ireland. Over a shared meal, you'll hear inspirational stories from local people who host their own Big Lunches and get ideas about simple steps you and your neighbours could take to host one yourselves in June. Email gmcloskey@edenproject.com to book your place - spaces are limited.

Find out more about how you could get involved at thebiglunch.com.



TOWARDS A CULTURE OF HOPE

St Comgall's, Divis Street

19:00

Our closing event will send us off committed to being a people who create a culture of hope. Author, songwriter and theologian Rev Doug Gay will ruminate on what a hopeful imagination looks like and how we can land it on the streets of our city. He will be joined by the stunning music of Eilidh Patterson. Before and after this event there will be an opportunity to view the 'So Much A Part Of Us' exhibition which tells the story of Presbyterians in West Belfast in the past, while pointing to their hopes for the future through the history of one of its former congregations, Albert Street.



NIGHT PRAYER

St Comgall's, Divis Street

21:30

'Towards a Culture of Hope' will be followed by Night Prayer, a period of creative and contemplative prayer.



BECOME A FRIEND OF THE 4 CORNERS FESTIVAL

We are thankful for all who support our festival year after year and are grateful for the donations that so many of you give.

We are also very appreciative of the support of trusts and statutory bodies that have funded us over the years.

To be a sustainable and growing festival providing free and accessible events, we need a predictable core of support.



Could you afford £4 per month (more if you wish) to sustain the work of 4 Corners Festival and help us plan for the future?

ONLINE donation or set up a standing order:
4cornersfestival.com

Monthly and one off payment options are available. Full details on our website.



You can donate by text:

To donate £5, text 4CORNERS to 70970

To donate £10, text 4CORNERS to 70191

* Fundraising, payments and donations will be processed and administered by the National Funding Scheme (Charity No: 1149800), operating as DONATE. Texts will be charged at your standard network rate. For Terms & Conditions, see www.easydonate.org

DONATE

Remember if you are a taxpayer we can reclaim Gift Aid which helps even more.

4 Corners Festival is a Registered Charity in Northern Ireland NIC107877

Thank you to our Funders



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