



Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

**Annual Gathering 2020
Information Pack
Belfast 25th – 26th September 2020**



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Welcome to Annual Gathering 2020

A new name, a new way of doing things and a welcome return to this beautiful venue. A new committee, consisting of Mothers' Union members, Trustees and staff, has come together to bring you this Annual Gathering. The community has been acting on your feedback from previous 'General Meetings', so this truly is *your* Annual Gathering.

Jesus said, '...where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them'. Our hope is that the new name for this annual event will reflect not only God's presence among us, but also the opportunity that so many enjoy to renew old friendships, as well as to establish new ones, as we come together in His name to celebrate His gifts to us.

The theme reflects this year's annual theme, Building Hope and Confidence, as we celebrate the ways we, as Mothers' Union members, have been building our hope and confidence, whilst in turn building hope and confidence in others.

Reverend Emma Ham-Riche, Chair, Annual Gathering Committee

Welcome to Belfast!

All the members of Mothers' Union in Ireland - over 6,000 of us - are very excited that the Annual Gathering is again coming to Belfast in 2020. Those of you who were here in 2014 will remember our beautiful St Anne's Cathedral, where the services of Holy Communion are again being held on Friday evening, and the excellent venue at the Waterfront Hall - now renamed the International Conference Centre.

The city of Belfast is the capital of Northern Ireland, with over 300,000 residents. It is developing apace and, in parts, is barely recognisable from even 20 years ago; it is a city I know well and love - I worked there for over 30 years. There is now so much affordable hotel accommodation and we have excellent restaurants (some of the best in Britain and Ireland), wonderful shops and markets and, of course, great attractions such as the Titanic Experience, the Ulster Museum and Belfast City Hall. If you are staying in Belfast, I would recommend you take a "Hop On/Off" tour to get a rounded perspective of the city and, if you are a "foodie", there are great food tours which focus on our local produce and include taster courses at some of the city's restaurants.

However, if you want to travel further afield, an hour's drive will take you to the north coast of Northern Ireland with its fabulous scenery and



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of course the Giant's Causeway - a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Two hours on a train will take you either south to Dublin or north to Derry/Londonderry, or if you want to travel further afield you can be on the wonderful west coast of Ireland in a few hours. What I am really suggesting is that you don't just have to come to Ireland for the Annual Gathering - why not make a holiday of it?

In terms of location, Belfast sits exactly on the boundary of the two Church of Ireland Dioceses of Connor and Down & Dromore, and MU members in both dioceses are already helping to plan for these special days in September. The two DPs, Sally Cotter and Roberta Macartney, join with me - and the other All-Ireland Trustees - in extending a special Irish greeting to you - "céad míle fáilte" - a hundred thousand welcomes!

June Butler, Provincial President, All-Ireland

Timetable of Events

Friday 25th September 2020

- 4:30pm** Service of Celebration, St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast
- 7:00pm** Service of Celebration, St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast

Saturday 26th September 2020

- 9:00am – 10:00am** Marketplace opens with optional advice and information sessions (TBA)
- 10:30am – 3:30pm** Annual Gathering, ICC Belfast
- 7:00pm** Annual Gathering Concert, ICC Belfast (Doors open 6:30pm)

Annual Gathering Venue: ICC Belfast

ICC (International Convention Centre) Belfast opened in 2016 and is a 7,000m² purpose-built conference facility in the heart of Belfast – the Lonely Planet Top Place to Visit in 2018. The ICC is a leading

events and conference venue. It holds a 2,200 seat auditorium and two interconnection halls spanning over 2500m². With two exterior terraces with riverside views and a dedicated riverside entrance, we are delighted to be holding our Annual Gathering at such a prestigious venue.

Ticketing Information:

The tickets are priced at £14.50 each – this includes VAT and the cost of ticket processing.

To order your tickets you will need to use our Eventbrite ticket site which you can access here: <https://annualgathering2020.eventbrite.co.uk>

Tickets go on sale on Monday, 30th March 2020.

You are able to choose what seats you would like to sit in. All seats are tiered except for the stalls in the front section.

Refunds can be applied for via Eventbrite up to 30 days before the event, after that there are no refunds. Refunds are via Eventbrite only and cannot be given via Mary Sumner House.

Special Requirements – Accessibility

ICC Belfast is in the heart of the city centre and is easily accessed by car, taxi and public transport.

If you have specific access requirements, please feel free to get in touch.

There will be specific areas in the venue that are used for delegates with special requirements/access needs.

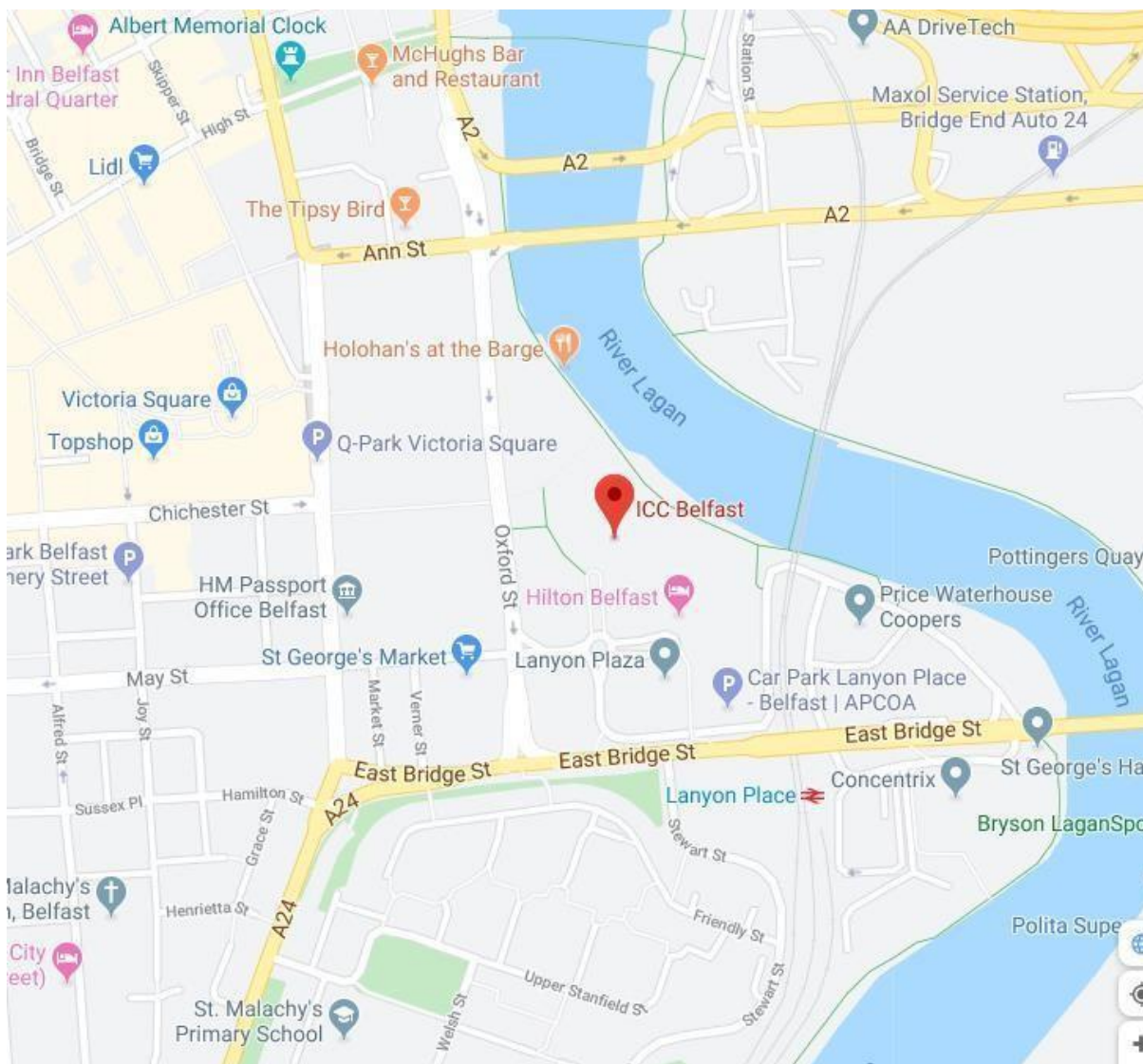
If you need accessible seating, please make sure you reserve the accessible seating ticket at point of purchase.

Personal Data Protection

In line with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) all delegates attending the Annual Gathering will be given the option to opt out of photographs being taken on the day. Those wishing not to be photographed will be given a sticker to wear so photographers know they have opted out. This sticker will be made available from when doors open.

Lunch and Refreshments

The venue will have refreshment stations selling light lunch options. There are also local coffee shops and cafes close to the venue (less than a 10 minute walk). In addition, you are welcome to bring a packed lunch which can be eaten in the venue, although space may be limited.



Travelling to ICC Belfast

ICC Belfast, 2 Lanyon Place, Belfast, BT1 3WH

ICC Belfast is conveniently located within a 10 minute walk of the city centre.



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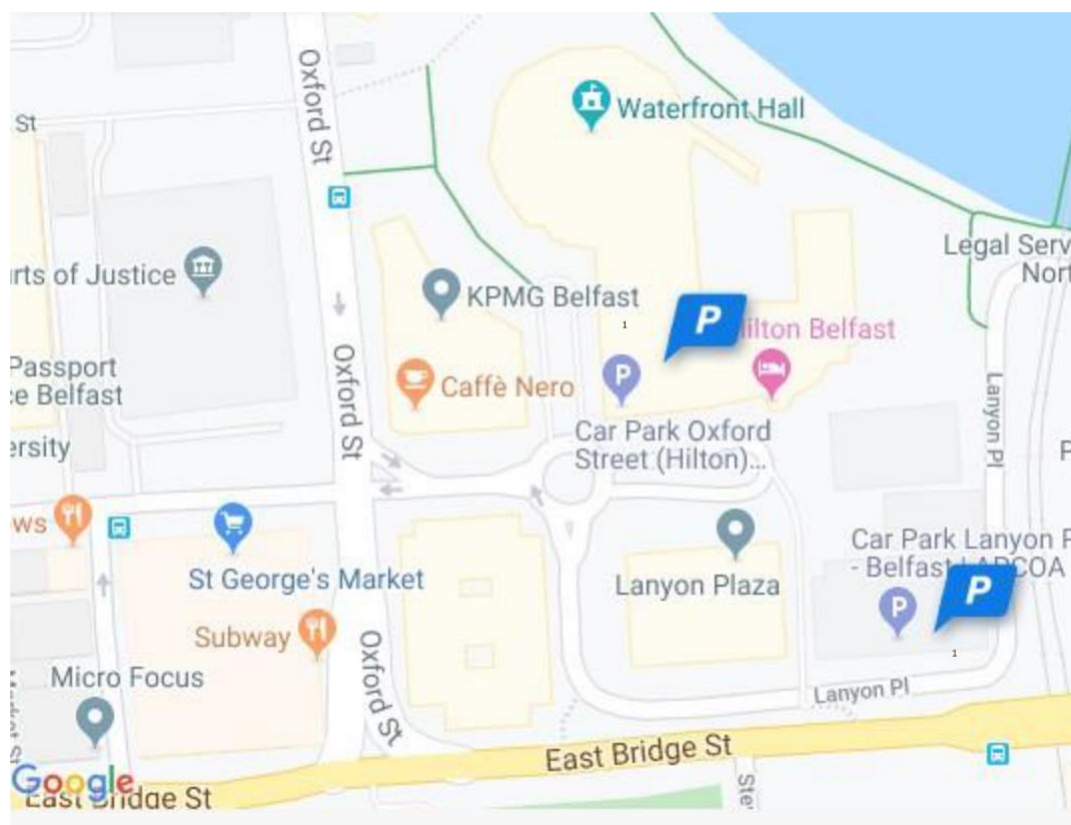


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The entrance to ICC Belfast is located beside the River Lagan, overlooking picturesque views of the river, this entrance is aptly named the Riverside Entrance.

Belfast City Car Parking

ICC Belfast is located within the heart of the city centre which offers visitors access to a wide range of car parking facilities within walking distance to our convention centre.

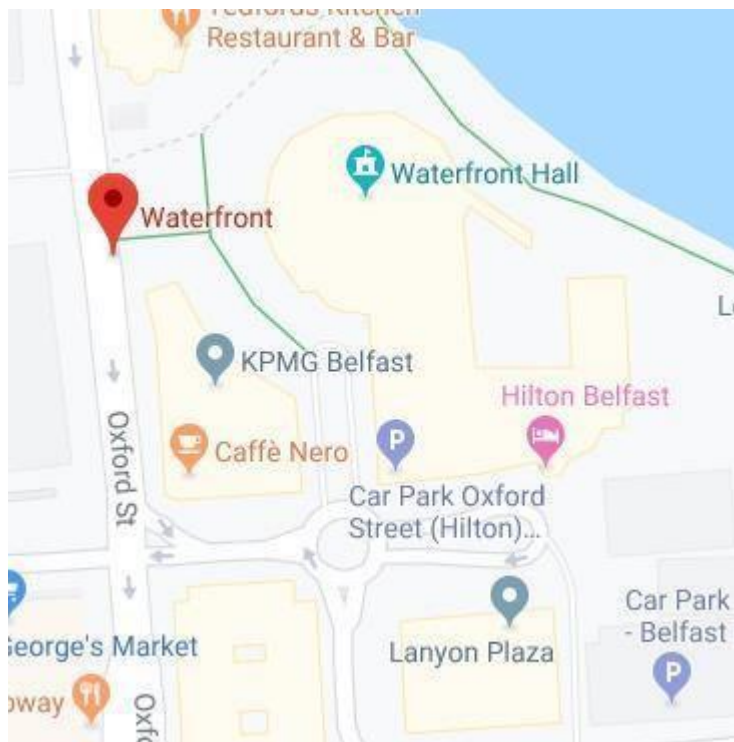


1. [APCOA Parking Lanyon Place](#) - The car park is surrounded by shopping centres, places to eat and located just 100 meters from ICC Belfast. £2.50 per hour
2. [The Hilton Belfast](#) - The Hilton Belfast multistorey car park is just a 4 minute walk to ICC Belfast. £2.80 per hour

Special rates are available for evening parking in both Lanyon Place and Hilton car parks. Park between 5:30pm and midnight and pre-pay £7.50 for your stay.

Prices correct at time of print

Buses in Belfast



There are fantastic local Park and Ride services departing frequently from Sprucefield, Black's Road, Cairnshill and Dundonald Park & Ride sites, full information and timetables can be found on:

<https://www.translink.co.uk/usingtranslink/parkandride>

The nearby station is also serviced by bus routes 1, 1b, 2, 3b, 3c, 3d, 3e, 3h, 3j, 4c, 4d, 4e, 5, 5c, 5f, 6a, 6d, 6e, 7, 7a, 9, 9b, 10, 10b, 203b, 505, 505f, 507, 510, 655, g1.

Timetables and maps can be found on:

<https://www.translink.co.uk/timetables>

Please check directly with the company before travelling as timetables are subject to change

Annual Services

Due to the success of our services last year, we are holding two services in 2020, one at 4:30pm and the other at 7:00pm at St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast.

In both cases, the services will be attended by the Worldwide President, CEO and a number of Worldwide Zonal Trustees.

Travelling to St Anne's Cathedral

St Anne's Cathedral, Donegall Street, Belfast, BT1 2HB

St Anne's Cathedral is located within a 14 minute walk from the ICC Belfast and just under 10 minute walk from the city centre.



Ticketing information for the annual service:

At the end of this pack there is a form where you can apply for tickets to attend the Service of Celebration at St Anne's Cathedral - This is being managed directly by the province, should you have any questions related to the service, please use the contact details on the form.

You can apply for tickets from Monday, 30th March 2020.

Please note the deadline for applying for tickets is Wednesday 24th June 2020

Annual Gathering Concert

Annual Gathering Concert

Mothers' Union are delighted to offer members the opportunity to join us for our evening entertainment, after the Annual Gathering on 26th September.

We will be hosting The Lindsay Chorale, who will lead us in an evening of traditional songs and choral pieces, including some audience participation as we sing along to some classics! The event will be in the same venue as the Annual Gathering, the Belfast ICC.

The Lindsay Chorale originated in the 1990s with a small group of enthusiastic singers from a Presbyterian church in Co Down forming to sing at special services and other events. Over the years, their wealth of musical talent has been experienced in many venues in Northern Ireland as well as in the Republic of Ireland, England and Scotland. They have an extensive repertoire, from sacred, classical and opera, to folk, stage musicals and even a touch of "pop" and their versatility means they are in great demand throughout the province and further afield.

Plans are still underway for even more entertainment to create a fun and relaxed evening for all attending – please do bring your friends and family! More information will be released nearer the time.

Tickets will be £13.50 and all are welcome. Doors open at 6:30pm for a 7:15pm start. Refreshments will be available to purchase.

Travelling to Belfast

Belfast is located on the East coast of Northern Ireland with excellent rail, road and ferry links.

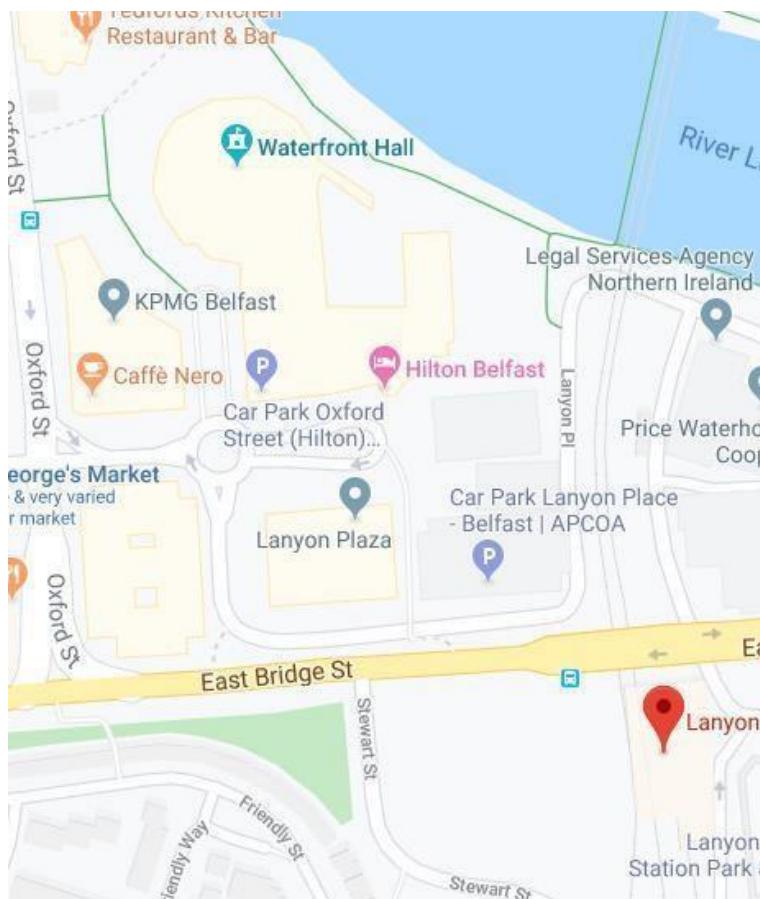
National Express coach connections across the UK Ferries and hovercrafts to Scotland (Cairnryan), England (Liverpool) and the Isle of Man (Douglas). Internal and international flights from Belfast International Airport (average 1 hour to airports across England, Scotland, Wales & Republic of Ireland).

Car

Belfast has excellent road connections within Northern Ireland and crossing into the RoI; the M1, M2, A24 are best suited to access the ICC.

Trains in Belfast

For travel across Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland you can use Belfast's Lanyon Place station. This is a great train station because it is a 5 minute walk from the ICC services, as well as many important hubs.



Timetables can be found below:

<https://www.translink.co.uk/timetables>

Flights

There are two airports in Belfast. George Best City Airport and Belfast International Airport, both of which have European and UK domestic flights. You can reach the city centre from both but the George Best city airport is in the city of Belfast. There are transport links and taxis from the airport to the centre of Belfast.

For more travel information go to:

<https://www.belfastairport.com/to-from> <https://www.belfastcityairport.com/>

Accommodation

Delegates at the Annual Gathering have access to special rates across a selection of hotels in Belfast, for a full list please see the link below:
<https://book.passkey.com/event/50039822/owner/9279435/home>

Further recommendations can be found on:

<https://visitbelfast.com/stay/>

https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Hotels-g186470Belfast_Northern_Ireland_Hotels.html

Things to do and see in Belfast

There are so many things to do in Belfast. Whether you are after some culture, the chance to take in some seaside strolls, or something else entirely, you're certain to be spoilt for choice!

Useful information

<https://visitbelfast.com/plan/essential-information/>

<https://visitbelfast.com/whats-on/>

<https://meetbelfast.com/plan-your-conference/organiser-toolkit/>

<https://meetbelfast.com/attending-a-conference/getting-around-belfast/>

Places to Visit

<https://visitbelfast.com/plan/neighbourhoods/>

<https://visitbelfast.com/article/top-10-visitor-attractions-in-belfast/>

<https://meetbelfast.com/attending-a-conference/things-to-see-and-do/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oPEbQwIfg8Y>

Other Information

All additional information will be added to the Mothers' Union website so please do check there for updates. If you have any questions please contact Georgina Anstee – Georgina.Anstee@mothersunion.org



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Mothers' Union Province of All Ireland

Application for tickets for A Service of Celebration

to be held in St. Anne's Cathedral, Donegall Street, Belfast BT1 2HB
on the Eve of the Annual Gathering

Please complete the following:

I wish to apply for..... tickets (insert number of tickets required)

..... 4:30pm service

..... 7:00pm service

Contact information:

Diocese.....

Title..... First name.....

Surname.....

Address.....

.....

..... Postcode.....

Email.....

Any special requirements (e.g. mobility, loop system).....

.....

Please note that seats will not be numbered.

Send this completed application by Wednesday 24th June 2020 to **one** of the addresses below. **Please enclose a C5 stamped address envelope for the tickets to be sent to you during July.**

Applications from UK: Mothers' Union Secretary, Church of Ireland House, 61-67 Donegall St., BELFAST, BT1 2QH; **Or**

Applications from Republic of Ireland: The Administrator, The Mothers' Union Office, St. Michan's Church, Church St., DUBLIN, 7

Any queries should be sent by email to office@mothersunion.ie

Group bookings - please return any tickets which are not required ASAP.