

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Irish tribute at new Shackleton memorial at Westminster Abbey

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On Thursday past the life of Sir Ernest Shackleton was celebrated with the dedication of a new memorial to the Antarctic explorer in the cloisters of Westminster Abbey.

The memorial was unveiled by HRH The Princess Royal, Patron of the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust on the 150th anniversary of Shackleton's birth.

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The service was led by the Dean of Westminster, the Very Reverend Dr David Hoyle, who welcomed the congregation to the Abbey.

Sir Ernest's granddaughter, the Honourable Alexandra Shackleton, read a tribute.

Camilla Nichol, Chief Executive UK Antarctic Heritage Trust, read an excerpt from the poem *The Ship of Fools*

by John Lucas; and Sir Ernest's great-grandson, Patrick Bergel, read an excerpt from Shackleton's poem *L'Envoi*.

Professor Joe Smith, Director of The Royal Geographical Society, gave a reading from Job 38; and Rear Admiral Nick Lambert, Chairman of the James Caird Society, read from Psalm 107.

The Princess Royal asked the Dean, on behalf of the Dean and Chapter of Westminster, to take the memorial into the



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safe custody of the Abbey. Flowers were laid by Jonathan Shackleton, a cousin of Ernest Shackleton.

Prayers were led by the Reverend Mark Birch, Minor Canon and Precentor of Westminster.

A tribute to Sir Ernest's Irish heritage

The new stone lies in the Abbey's south cloister, close to a memorial to pioneering sailors Captain James Cook, Sir Francis Chichester and Sir Francis Drake.

The triangular shaped memorial, designed and made by sculptor Will Davies, reflects Shackleton's preference to be at the apex of a triangle in group photographs. The memorial incorporates stones including Connemara marble and Kilkenny limestone to reflect Shackleton's Irish heritage. The names of Shackleton's expedition ships, Nimrod and Endurance, are inscribed on the memorial, along with the lifeboat 'The James Caird', and the family motto:

'Fortitude Vincimus' ('By Endurance We Conquer')

News

Commissioned as Pioneer Evangelist for Newry mission centre

The Bishop of Down & Dromore commissioned Natalie Trainor as Pioneer Evangelist for the Newry Centre of Mission at a service on Sunday evening 11 February.



Pictured above L–R: Revd Scott McDonald, Capt George Newell, Natalie Trainor and Bishop David McClay

Many of Natalie’s friends and family joined the congregation in St Mary’s Parish Church to support her as she embarks on this pioneering role.

Rector and Lead Evangelist, Revd Capt Scott McDonald, led the service and Captain George Newell preached on Isaiah 61:1–11.

Also taking part were Revd Graeme Fowles and Carol Herron from Shore Street Presbyterian Church, Donaghadee, Natalie’s home church.

Natalie was commissioned to: “Seek out the lost in Newry, point them to Christ, disciple them in the ways of his kingdom and to establish a new worshipping community in the city of Newry in partnership with the ministry of St Mary’s and St Patrick’s parish churches.”



Derry diocesan confirmation day

Almost 20 young people took part in the first of this year's two Diocesan Confirmation Days, which was held in Christ Church Parish Hall in Limavady.

The gathering was organised and led by our Diocesan Youth Officer Claire Hinchliff and Children's Ministry Officer Kirsty McCartney. They were assisted by leaders from each of the four parishes which were represented, and the Curate in Drumachose Parish Church, Rev Andrew Neill, was there throughout to lend a hand.

Claire had prepared a full programme of activities, interspersing biblical teaching with games (some of which she had devised herself).



Bishop Andrew (that is him above!) dropped in to meet the young people whom he'll be confirming later in the year. He shared a short reflection encouraging them to remain close to God and active in their parishes.

"Sometimes there's no doubt we can drift away from church," the Bishop said, "but I want you to know something: first of all, I really hope you don't because we need people like you in church – young people who bring life and vitality and challenge us, and all of that – we need you in church, so I hope you don't drift away.

"But I want to say this to you. Do you see if at some point in your life you might drift away from us, we will always, always be here for you. We'll always be here to want to help you, to pray for you, and care for you – we'll always be here for you, no matter what. Okay?"



Laurel Award for Girlguiding Ulster member

Secrets are hard to keep, but with the help of her friends and family, the Guide movement in Northern Ireland managed to surprise Geraldine Linford with a Laurel Award last week.

It is due recognition for this dedicated and committed long-standing member of Girlguiding Ulster who were delighted to be joined by Chief Guide Tracey Foster, who presented Geraldine with her Laurel. This award is given for exceptional service to Girlguiding Ulster. Geraldine is a parishioner of Broughshane in Connor diocese.



Guild of Zoom Readers in Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe

On Saturday 3rd February the Diocesan Readers from across the Diocese met in St Flannan's Cathedral in Killaloe for a Quiet Morning followed by a

lunch at a nearby hotel.

The morning began with a service of Holy Communion at which the Very Revd Dr Richard Marsh, the new Dean of Killaloe presided.

Bishop Michael explained that the task of bringing together the two groups of Diocesan Readers is nearly complete. Previously there had been two different training schemes in the previous Tuam, Killala and Achonry Diocese the



previous Limerick and Killaloe Diocese. There would now be one training route validated by Maynooth Pontifical University would be coordinated by the Dean of Killaloe.

The course would consist of 6 modules over 2 years with a 7th module on Sermon preparation and Preaching. The modules would be mainly delivered by Zoom with occasional study weekends to bring the students together during the year. The academic validity of the course would be monitored by Prof Steven Ellis, a Diocesan Reader Emeritus.

Revd Dr Leonard Madden then led discussion on what Readers thought Spirituality was and what absence of Spirituality was. After an active discussion Leonard introduced a period of meditation.

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Previously there had been a Guild of Readers in the Diocese of Limerick and Killaloe but not in Tuam, Killala and Achonry and it was decided to continue this in the United Diocese and Stephen Fletcher agreed to act as Secretary to this body to act as a conduit between the Bishop, Dean Richard and the Warden Lynda.

The Readers confirmed they would like some form of continuing education and had found the series of talks given via Zoom last year to be very useful and worthwhile.

Bishop Michael expressed his deep gratitude for the service that Readers provide to the Diocese, without which the Dioceses could not function.

The Readers then repaired to the Killaloe Hotel for lunch hosted by the bishop and celebrated the birthday of Diocesan Reader Marjory Cavanagh with an impromptu spirited singing of 'Happy Birthday'!

Dean of Ferns to receive Korean peace prize

Congratulations to The Very Reverend Paul Mooney Dean of Ferns as he travels to Korea to accept major church peace prize

The Second Peace Cultivator Prize awarded by TOPIK (Towards Peace in Korea), the foundation established by the Anglican Church of Korea to promote peace and reconciliation in Korea in the city of Seoul this weekend



following a service in Seoul Anglican Cathedral of St. Mary the Virgin and St. Nicholas (below) where the Dean will preach. (Above-earlier photo of Dean Mooney in Seoul Cathedral). Dean Mooney is receiving this award for his missionary work in North Korea over the years.



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Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

The Organ Podcast Episode 2

Episode 2 of The Organ Podcast is out now! Presenter Mark O'Brien meets Magnus Williamson at Auckland Castle to explore a remarkable 1688 Father Smith instrument & discuss how English politics of the 16th & 17th centuries affected (and nearly ended!) the organ tradition. Mark also interviews Martin Baker about life after Westminster, and



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Love Songs
By Candlelight

Friday 23 February 2024
7.30 pm in St Mark's Church

STRING QUARTET
BELL RINGERS
MUSICIANS & SINGERS

Well-known songs for all ages!

Tickets: £10 adults (children free)
includes light refreshments

Tickets available from the parish office,
proceeds to parish funds

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hears about the discovery of two previously unpublished & unknown pieces by Bairstow.

Search for The Organ Podcast with your favourite podcast provider, or listen & subscribe at: <https://bit.ly/49vURa7>

Methodist College Gala Easter Concert

Hot on the heels of their participation in The Coronation of King Charles III & Queen Camilla, Methody's musicians present their annual Easter Concert, featuring Choirs, Orchestras, Big Band, Swing Band & Trad Group in an eclectic programme of music to suit all tastes. The new Methodist College Choristers will also make their Waterfront Hall debut.

In the second part of the concert, Methody's Senior Choir and Orchestra will present music by the popular composer Karl Jenkins, as well as some pop classics. The mezzo-soprano soloist will be former pupil, Caroline McCartney.

This concert will also mark the retirement of Director of Music Ruth McCartney MBE, after 30 years of teaching music in Methody.

Waterfront Hall - Thursday 14th March 2024

TICKETS ON SALE NOW: <https://ow.ly/kcLT50Qeiiw>

Recital on restored Elgar Organ

Hollywood Parish is delighted that restoration of the Elgar organ is now complete.



It's looking - and sounding - magnificent. You can hear this amazing instrument in action on Saturday 2nd March at 7.30pm, when our soloist will be internationally acclaimed Jonathan Scott. Tickets (£15) are available from the Parish Office, or online from this link:
<https://holywood-parish-church.sumupstore.com/>

Working Webinar on leadership skills for organists

The next RCO Working Webinar will focus on leadership skills for organists and it takes place on 29 February.



Led by Tansy Castledine, Director of Music at Peterborough Cathedral, and in partnership with the Musicians' Union, this online event is ideal for individuals in charge of a large department in an ecclesiastical or educational setting, or simply leading a small choir in a local church.

Free to RCO members, register here: <https://bit.ly/3tVe85E>

Armagh workshop for Sunday School teachers

Mrs. Rachael Murphy (Children's and Families Ministry Coordinator for the Church of Ireland) will be running a morning's workshop for all Sunday School teachers on



**DIOCESAN CFM
NETWORK**

In person workshop



Church of Ireland ✝
Board for Ministry with
Children & Families



Armagh Youth & Children

9 March
10.00am

ST MARK'S PARISH HALL.
ARMAGH BT61 9DU

**WELCOMING FAMILIES WELL.
TRAINING, RESOURCING, SHARING
& ENCOURAGING EACH OTHER**

Saturday 9th of March 2024 at St. Mark's Parish Hall, Armagh.

Rachael brings a wealth of children's and family ministry experience and the morning will be jam-packed with ideas, resources, networks and information in terms of welcoming children and families into the life of the Church.

To book in simply email David Brown at doycarmagh@gmail.com



Lavery On Location - You're invited to a homecoming...

'Lavery On Location' is coming to the Ulster Museum on Friday 23rd February!

After first being at the National Gallery of Ireland, this major exhibition explores the travels of Belfast-born Irish artist, Sir John Lavery. Discover the places and people he encountered throughout the 70+ works found in this exhibition. Many of these works have never been seen before alongside our own Lavery collection, as they're from private collections. After Belfast, it goes to National Galleries.

This is a charging exhibition and tickets are on sale now on our website. Wednesday morning tickets (10:00 - 12:00 noon) are free to all!

Painting pictured: 'Daylight Raid', Sir John Lavery (1856-1941) Courtesy of National Museums NI, Ulster Museum Collection.



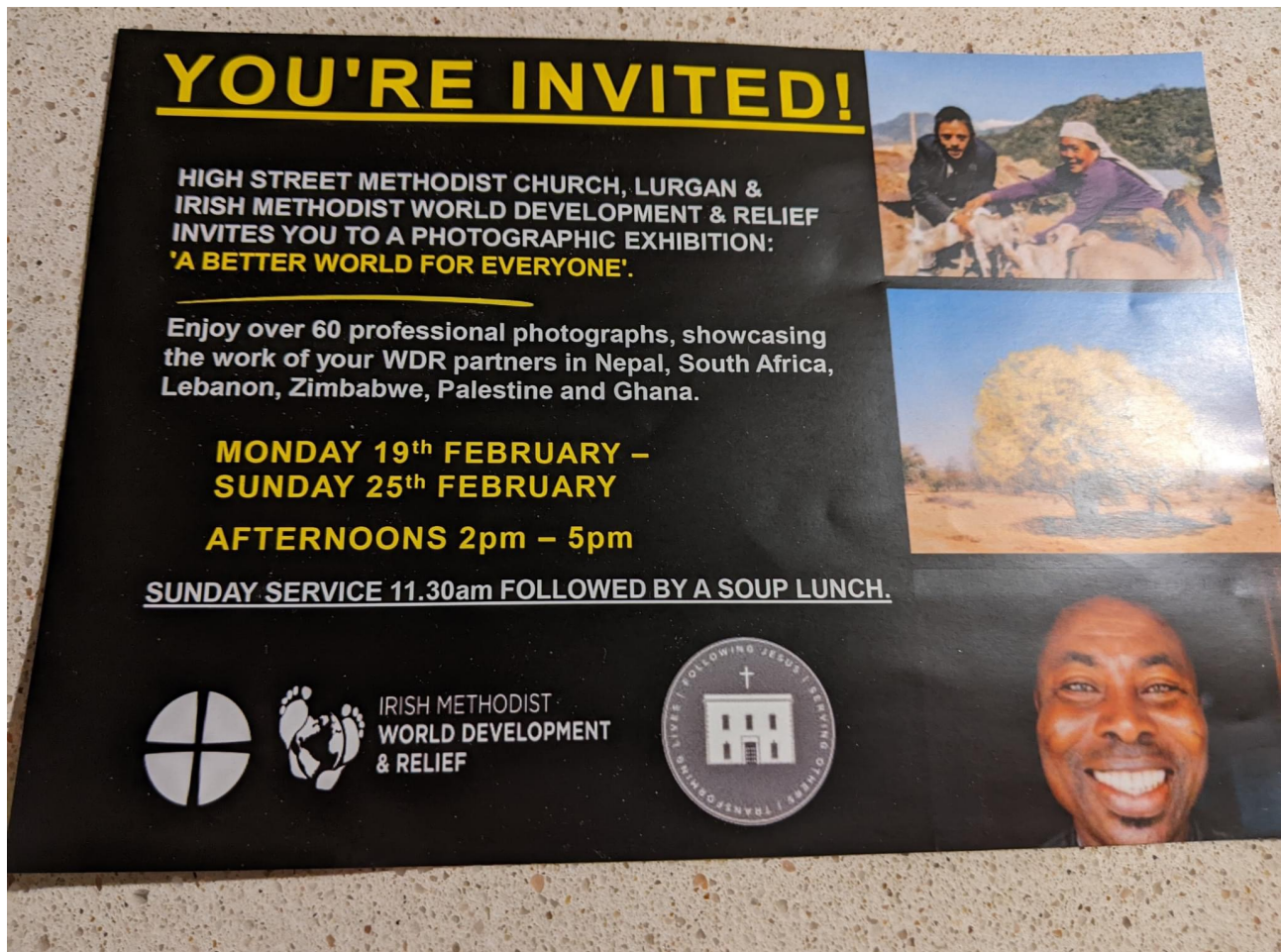
Fellowship of Contemplative Prayer in Ireland - Derry/ Donegal Reflection Morning

Derry/Donegal Reflection Morning
is on Saturday 2nd March, 2024
In St. Peter's Church,
Londonderry

Witness: Rev Canon George Irwin (photo)

10.00

Tea/Coffee in choir vestry



YOU'RE INVITED!

HIGH STREET METHODIST CHURCH, LURGAN & IRISH METHODIST WORLD DEVELOPMENT & RELIEF INVITES YOU TO A PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION: **'A BETTER WORLD FOR EVERYONE'.**

Enjoy over 60 professional photographs, showcasing the work of your WDR partners in Nepal, South Africa, Lebanon, Zimbabwe, Palestine and Ghana.

MONDAY 19th FEBRUARY – SUNDAY 25th FEBRUARY

AFTERNOONS 2pm – 5pm

SUNDAY SERVICE 11.30am FOLLOWED BY A SOUP LUNCH.

Logos: A cross in a circle, a footprint with a globe, IRISH METHODIST WORLD DEVELOPMENT & RELIEF, a church building in a circle with the text 'FOLLOWING JESUS | SERVING OTHERS | TRANSFORMING LIVES', and a portrait of a smiling man.

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10.30 First Contemplation
11.30 – 11.45 Break, in silence
11.45 Second Contemplation
1.00 Contemplative Communion
1.30 Lunch
Contemplations focus on a saying of God or Jesus.
Everyone Welcome.



WILL YOU LEND US
A HAND?

DOCTORS & NURSES

The Down & Connor Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes is seeking volunteer doctors & registered nurses for our pilgrimage from 10 - 15 July 2024 .



Working with other volunteer doctors and nurses in a specially designed care setting, you will be part of a very special and faith filled community.

For more information, please email your contact details to

lourdes@downandconnor.org



Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

The publication of Church News Ireland is overseen by Very Rev Dr Houston McKelvey OBE, QVRM, TD. He may be contacted at houstonmckelvey@mac.com
