



Image of the day -Craigmacagan Lough on Rathlin

Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza ‘overwhelmed’ – Dublin & Glendalough appeal enters final week

With one week left to run, the fundraising appeal for Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza city has received fantastic support with €8,000 donated so far.

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The appeal is being organised by Dublin & Glendalough Council for Mission and concludes on Friday next, June 11 and the fundraising target is €10,000. Donations can be made securely via the Christ Church Cathedral website.

Over three weeks from May 24 to June 11, nine people have undertaken to walk (or in one case rollerblade) 100km – the distance from Gaza city to Jerusalem – to raise funds and awareness. Those who have taken to the highways and byways include: Diocesan Lay Reader David Reynolds, along with other parishioners of Bray; the Revd Abigail Sines, Dean's Vicar, Christ Church Cathedral; Lydia Monds, Bishops' Appeal; Canon Peter Campion, Chaplain, King's Hospital School (who is rollerblading); the Revd Martin O'Connor, Clondalkin and Rathcoole Parishes; the Revd Stephen Farrell, Rector, Zion Parish; the Revd Nigel Pierpoint, Curate, Taney Parish; the Revd Sean Hanily, Rector, Rathmichael Parish; and Canon Adrienne Galligan, Rector, Rathfarnham Parish.

Al Ahli Arab Hospital is run by the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem with whom Dublin & Glendalough has had a link for the past six years. Although Anglicans make up a minute proportion of the population in Gaza, Al Ahli Arab Hospital serves all people of Gaza city, no matter what their religion, gender, social or political background.

Individual Giving and Campaign's Manager with USPG, Janine Goddard, has given an update on the situation in Gaza and on the current situation in Al Ahli Hospital having received news from their programme manager in the region in recent days. She said there is still a huge need for funds for Al Ahli Hospital.



Gaza city. (Photo: Anglican Overseas Aid 2019)

Like all medical institutions in the region, Al Ahli is overwhelmed, she said adding that it is receiving many women and children who are both injured and traumatised. As of last week, people were still being pulled from the rubble of bombed buildings seriously injured, dehydrated and traumatised.

The power has been cut so the hospital is relying on generators to run and desperately needs funds to fuel the generators. Currently only UN organisations are permitted to enter Gaza, so aid is unable to get through, according to the programme manager.

Al Ahli hospital is situated inside Gaza so is well placed to provide much needed support. The hospital is undertaking emergency surgery for those injured in the bombing, trauma counselling and care. The hospital is also feeding local people, providing basic food and sanitation to those who have lost their homes and families in this crisis.

USPG's programme manager in the region reports that the situation is still a very dangerous and people are afraid to go outside where there is rioting between extremist groups.

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All the money donated will be channelled directly to the Diocese of Jerusalem for Al Ahli Hospital. To donate see the cathedral website <https://christchurchcathedral.ie/al-ahli/> If you want to sponsor a specific walker there is an opportunity to state that once you have selected the amount you wish to donate. Some of the walkers have provided video updates on their progress which you can watch on the diocesan YouTube Channel – <https://www.youtube.com/c/TheUnitedDiocesesofDublinandGlendalough>

Organist takes on 800–hymn marathon challenge to boost parish funds

A Dublin organist is to play the entire Church Hymnal to raise funds for his parish. David O’Shea, Director of Music at St Philip’s Church in Milltown Parish will play through the Church Hymnal (5th edition) on Friday June 11. The Hymnathon will be livestreamed on Music at Sandford and St Philip’s YouTube channel starting at 9.30am next Friday morning.

Over the last 15 months parish funds have been hit hard and in exploring suitable alternative ways to raise income, David settled on the hymnathon as it is an event which can easily be followed remotely. Donations are invited and details of how to contribute are below.

There are 719 hymns and a total of 799 tunes in the Church Hymnal and some tunes are used several times resulting in over 800 pieces. David will play the first verse of each



David O'Shea at the organ in St Philip's sister church in Sandford.

hymn. He has calculated that the Hymnathon will take approximately 10 hours to complete.

He is planning to play the hymns in order from start to finish which will mean that, because of the way the hymnal is structured, he will also proceed through the seasons of the Church year. So those wishing to tune in for some 'unseasonal' Christmas cheer, for example, can do so and David expects to reach Christmas at about 11am. He will shout out the hymn numbers as he goes along so that

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people following at home will know where in the hymnbook he has reached.

Asked if he had put in any additional training for the gruelling marathon of organ playing, David answered: "In a foolhardy way, no". However, he added that he had spent many hours playing piano at feiseanna and would often practice for six hours at a time before an organ recital. He says he will take some breaks and already has received kind pledges of tea and homebaked goods during the day.

David would know a lot of the hymns in the hymnal through regular inclusion in services however he expects there will be many he has never played and the hymnathon offers a chance to explore lesser known church music.

He has been part of other hymnathons with singers or a series of organists but this will be his first solo event and the first time he has attempted the entire hymnal. "This is an organ marathon. But it is something I have thought of doing as an endurance test," he comments agreeing that a global pandemic presents an opportunity to try new things. "My organ shoes may be worn out by the end of the day," he adds.

You are invited to tune into the hymnathon during the day on the Music at Sandford and St Philip's YouTube Channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjpXKvUfmixmFLZGptJLkpw>

Donations will be gratefully received to: St Philips Church, Milltown, IBAN IE43 AIBK 9310 9842 7130 31, BIC

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AIBKIE2D or via St Philip's Milltown Parish GoFundMe page
<https://www.gofundme.com/f/st-philips-parish-dublin-6>

Churches in North East England at centre of revived pilgrim routes



A ‘Santiago of the North’ has been launched, encouraging people to walk ancient pilgrimage routes to Durham dating back more than 1,000 years.

Around 30 churches in the dioceses of Durham and Newcastle are part of four revived pilgrimage routes starting from villages and towns in the region, re-creating the routes taken by pilgrims to Durham Cathedral,

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'The Way of Learning, The Way of Life, The Way of Light and The Way of Love,' allows pilgrims to walk from 27 to 45 miles while exploring places of historical and religious significance.

Modern- day pilgrims can visit churches and historical monuments, museums and galleries on the route, including shrines and places associated with Saints Cuthbert, Bede, Hilda, Helen, Wilfrid, Oswald, Aidan and Godric.

Further pilgrimage routes The Angels Way (30 miles) and the Way of the Sea (62 miles) link Lindisfarne and Durham, the two most important pilgrimage centres in the region.

Pilgrims on 'The Way of Light' can stand where medieval pilgrims once made the Sign of the Cross as they caught their first glimpse of Durham Cathedral from a hill near the village of Esh.

Mount Joy, just south of Durham, on the Way of Life, takes its name as the place where pilgrims had their first sight of the cathedral close at hand.

In Esh, 'Cuthbert's Cross' commemorates the village's role as a refuge for the coffin of St Cuthbert during the era of Viking invasion.

Other highlights of the trails include St Mary's Well near a ford on the River Tees at Gainford, where Cuthbert's coffin is likely to have crossed on its last journey from Ripon to Durham.



Northern Saints Trail Coordinator David Pott said he believed the new routes will help cater for a growing interest in pilgrimage

and a hunger for spiritual exploration.

"There is a 21st-Century revival in pilgrimage – only 2,500 people walked the Camino to Santiago in 1985, but there were 347,538 pilgrims recorded in 2019," he said.

"Pilgrimages are attracting people who are not necessarily of strong Christian faith but want to explore more.

"For many from the London and the South East, this will be the first time they have visited the North East and learned about its crucial role in the history of Christianity in Britain."

People and places

Armagh Cathedral Gardens

The gardens on the south side of the Cathedral consist of a monastic herb garden laid out in the simple pattern employed by the early Christian monasteries. They include

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herb beds edged with dwarf boxed hedging; an orchard garden laid out in the classic walled garden manner with bush-trained fruit trees in grass, and fanor espalier-trained trees on the walls; a parterre garden popular in Renaissance, Georgian and Victorian times; a contemplative garden designed in a modern style, consisting of trees and a pattern of hedges dividing the garden into 'rooms' where people may sit and meditate; and a transition garden linking the walled gardens and the Garden of the Future. In contrast to the walled gardens, this has an open prospect and abstract design.

The gardens are accessible from Market Street as well as the main entrance to the Cathedral. Opening hours are 10.00am to 5.00pm every day during the summer months. Everyone welcome.

Mossley 50th anniversary

The Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev George Davison, joined parishioners in the Church of the Holy Spirit, Mossley, on Sunday May 30 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the creation of the parish.

Mossley Parish was formally created on Sunday May 30 1971, following the establishment of a new worshipping community in Newtownabbey in 1967.

Bishop Davison was the preacher at two thanksgiving services held in the church.

The rector, the Reverend Peter Jones, said: "In the year ahead, we hope to gather for an anniversary dinner in a

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local hotel, further develop our Christian mission and ministry in new and innovative ways and continue to reach out into our local community. We look forward to welcoming Streetreach back to Mossley in July 2022.”



Townhouse Assistant The Surf Project

The role is to support and assist the Manager of Portrush Townhouse in all operational aspects of the Townhouse. Interested? Find out more here: <https://buff.ly/3g48bsh>
Closing Date: 11th June 2021

Appointments Armagh diocese

The Archbishop of Armagh, the Most Rev'd John McDowell, yesterday announced the following appointments in the Diocese:

[The Rev'd David McComb](#) - currently part-time stipendiary curate in St. Swithin's, Magherafelt to be Diocesan Curate of

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the grouped parishes of Lisnadill and Kildarton, effective from 5 September 2021. David will work under the supervision of the Rural Dean for the remaining two years of his curacy.

[The Rev'd David Moses](#) - currently Bishop's Curate of the Drumgoon Group in the Diocese of Kilmore, to be Incumbent of the grouped parishes of Keady, Armaghbreague, Derrynoose, and Newtownhamilton. The Institution date to be during the third week of August.

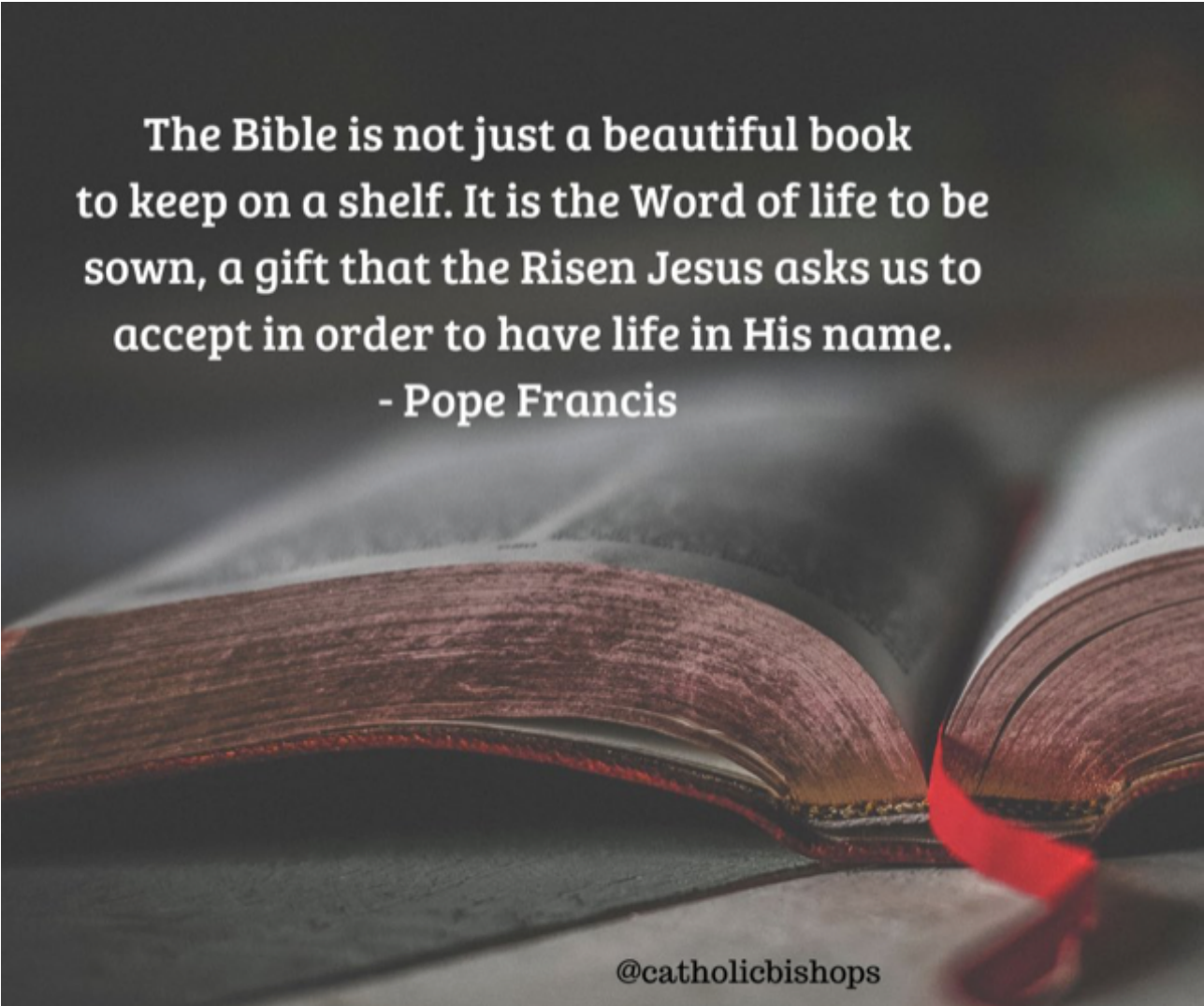
The Archbishop said "I am delighted that the Rev'd David McComb has agreed to accept this position as he continues his progress in ministry. David will be missed by the people of St Swithin's, Magerafelt, where he has been a very highly valued colleague of Archdeacon Terry Scott's. David's new sphere of ministry in the parishes of Lisnadill and Kildarton

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will provide ample opportunities for extended engagement with all aspects of parish ministry. I wish David well.

It is also a pleasure to welcome the Rev'd David Moses back to his home Diocese of Armagh, where he served as a Diocesan Reader for twenty-seven years before ordination. David has gained wide experience in the past three years in charge of the Drumgoon Group of parishes in the Diocese of Kilmore and I have no doubt that he will be welcomed and find his feet quickly in an environment of rural ministry to which he is so well accustomed”

Rev'd David McComb commented - “I am sorry to be leaving St Swithin’s, it is a wonderful parish, full of great people.



**The Bible is not just a beautiful book
to keep on a shelf. It is the Word of life to be
sown, a gift that the Risen Jesus asks us to
accept in order to have life in His name.
- Pope Francis**

@catholicbishops

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Everyone has been patient and encouraging, and I am immensely grateful for the support I've been given over the last 2 years. Lesley and I are excited that God has called us to Lisnadill and Kildarton and look forward with great anticipation to meeting and getting to know parishioners. I feel very privileged to have the opportunity to be both servant and shepherd to all in the Parish."

Rev'd David Moses commented - " I am looking forward to getting to know the congregations over the coming months as I serve God in the parishes of Keady, Armaghbreague, Derrynoose and Newtownhamilton. I was a Diocesan Lay Reader in the diocese for 27 years prior to ordination to full time ministry and I have previously conducted services in all the churches in the group."

Books, Broadcasts, Resources and Webinars

What do Mothers' Union members do?

They work at grassroots level in Ireland and around the world. They bring hope and practical support to millions of people every year through parenting, literacy and community development programmes.

Read more: mothersunion.org/what-we-do

Music from King's College

"In a week's time we're releasing this stunning new album on our own record label. Thomas is a former organ scholar

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of King's, and in 2020 was awarded the Queen's Medal for Music. This one is not to be missed – listen to some little previews here”: <https://smarturl.it/ThomasTrotter>

YMCA **YOUTH-LED SOLUTIONS**

THE FUTURE OF WORK SUMMIT

A generation of opportunity lost to COVID?
No, there are new ways of working for young people...

#YMCAYouthLedSolutions youthsolutions.ymca.int

YMCA Ireland - “Join us this week for the YMCA Youth Led Solutions Summit on ‘the Future of Work’, 7-9 June”.

All details can be found at:

<https://youthsolutions.ymca.int/future-of-work-summit>

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Mary Ann 250 - Free Online Event Series

To mark 250 years since her birth, the Mary Ann McCracken Foundation have created a unique series of free events to celebrate the life, legacy and relevance of Mary Ann McCracken today.

Mary Ann McCracken (1770-1866) was an abolitionist, social reformer and activist who fought for the rights of women and championed the disadvantaged at both home and abroad. She lived a long life that encompassed the most turbulent years of Irish history.

See the full calendar of events here:
www.maryannmccrackenfoundation.org

National Churches Trust property events for parishes in NI

The National Churches Trust is organising a number of free online events in the next couple of weeks, aimed specifically at supporting places of worship in Northern Ireland. Please see details of each event below, including booking details.

Every Church has its own Story to Tell (Wednesday, 9th June, 10.30am) – the first of three interactive communications and marketing workshops designed for places of worship in Northern Ireland and focussing on how Churches can tell their stories. Bookings can be made here

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[[] <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/every-church-has-its-own-story-to-tell-tickets-148631074545>]

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Church Storytelling and Interpretation (Monday, 14th June, 10.30am) – this second workshop explores the history and development of interpretation, in both the traditional and non-traditional senses, and will consider the best and most appropriate interpretation techniques, to put our own church stories into practice. Bookings can be made here -
[[<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/church-storytelling-and-interpretation-tickets-148636145713>]

Storytelling and Marketing (Wednesday, 16th June, 10.30am) – the workshop explores what is meant by a marketing toolkit and the steps can be taken to connect our church stories with new visitors, via a detailed and cost-effective marketing plan. Bookings can be made here -
[[<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/storytelling-and-marketing-tickets-148637178803>]

Northern Ireland Places of Worship Forum – the next Places of Worship Forum will take place on Thursday, 17th June, at 2.00pm. This is an opportunity to hear about the latest developments in the Treasure Ireland project as well as discuss issues that relevant to places of worship in Northern Ireland. Bookings can be made here -
[[<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/northern-ireland-places-of-worship-forum-tickets-158082522079>]

Media review

Brexit minister reiterates belief that NI Protocol is 'unsustainable'

BBC News

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[[] <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-57324713>]

EU could retaliate against Britain over protocol, Coveney warns

Irish Times

[[] <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/politics/eu-could-retaliate-against-britain-over-protocol-coveney-warns-1.4583673>

[[]

Farmers' opposition to UK-Australia trade deal grows

BBC News

[[] <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-57268681>]

Irish language legislation 'victory for Sinn Fein' says Jim Allister branding Ulster Scots element 'a joke'

Belfast Telegraph

[[] <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/irish-language-legislation-victory-for-sinn-feinsays-jim-allister-branding-ulster-scots-element-a-joke-40502441.html>]

Gas and electricity bills 'the hidden debt crisis from Covid lockdowns' as ban on disconnections ends

Irish Examiner

[[] <https://www.irishexaminer.com/business/economy/arid-40305653.html>]

A global agreement on corporate tax is in sight – let's make sure it happens

Guardian

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[[] https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/jun/04/g7-corporate-tax-is-in-sight-finance-ministers?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other]

German Cardinal tenders his resignation over Church's abuse failings

Church Times

[[] <https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2021/11-june/news/world/german-cardinal-tenders-his-resignation-over-church-s-abuse-failings>]

US Bishops try to rein in the Biden administration, but the Vatican is all smiles

RNS

The pope has shown that he is willing to sidestep his American bishops to strengthen his relationship with Biden. When John Kerry, the White House's special envoy on climate change, visited Pope Francis earlier this month, the moment garnered popular attention mostly for an image that emerged from the meeting: a pontiff known for appearing stone-faced in meetings with foreign leaders (not least former President Donald Trump) grasping Kerry's outstretched hand, grinning from ear to ear. According to Ken Hackett, former U.S. ambassador to the Vatican, the real surprise was that the meeting happened at all.

[[] <https://religionnews.com/2021/05/28/bishops-criticize-the-biden-administration-but-the-vatican-is-all-smiles/>]

Pointers for prayer

Lord, you have taught us
that all our doings without love are nothing worth:



Send your Holy Spirit
and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love,
the true bond of peace and of all virtues,
without which whoever lives is counted dead before you.
Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake.

Your hand is upon your people, O God,
to guide and protect them through the ages.
Keep in your service
those you have called and anointed,
that the powers of this world may not overwhelm us,
but that, secure in your love,
we may carry out your will
in the face of all adversity. Amen.

O God our ruler and shepherd,
you anointed Jesus
as the king and servant of your people.
Make us attentive to your word,
that we may accept your reign over us
and serve you alone. Amen.

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Friends in Christ,

God invites us to hold the needs of our sisters and brothers as dear to us as our own needs.

Loving our neighbours as ourselves, we offer our thanksgivings and our petitions on behalf of the church and the world.

...

Intercessions

....

Hear our prayers, God of power, and through the ministry of your Son free us from the grip of the tomb, that we may desire you as the fullness of life and proclaim your saving deeds to all the world. Amen. As you heard the prayer of Isaac and Rebekah, O God, and guided them in the way of your love, so listen now to those who call upon you.

...

Intercessions

....

Move us to praise your gracious will, for in Christ Jesus you have saved us from the deeds of death

and opened for us the hidden ways of your love.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord God, friend of those in need, your Son Jesus has untied our burdens and healed our spirits.

We lift up the prayers of our hearts for those still burdened, those seeking healing, those in need within the church and the world.

...Intercessions....

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Hear our prayers
that we may love you with our whole being
and willingly share the concerns of our neighbours. Amen.

Creator God,
you call us to love and serve you
with body, mind, and spirit
through loving your creation
and our sisters and brothers.
Open our hearts in compassion
and receive these petitions
on behalf of the needs of the church and the world.

Speaking to the Soul

‘In the last days,’ God says, ‘I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams. In those days I will pour out my Spirit even on my servants—men and women alike— and they will prophesy.’

Acts 2:17-18 NLT

Peter responds to the suggestion that Jesus’ followers were drunk by making the practical observation that it was far too early in the morning for anything like that! He then goes on to point out that Joel, in the 9th Century BC, had prophesied that in the last days the Spirit would be poured out upon everyone in exactly this way. In Old Testament times we often see the Spirit coming upon people but it was always to the prophets, priests and kings. In this new era of the Spirit

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it would be fundamentally different. The leaders of the church would continue to play a crucial role but now the doors were flung open to everyone to receive the Spirit and to hear God speak with them.

We are still living in the last days, as described by Joel, and we should expect to hear God speaking through one another as his Spirit comes upon us. I find this incredibly exciting. We thank God for those whom he has called to be church leaders and we will often hear them faithfully declaring God's word. But we should be expecting to hear God speak to us through everyone else in the church as well. We should expect to hear him speak through the shy and retiring people just as much as through the bold and talkative ones. We need to do what I love to call "deep listening". Because we know that God loves to speak to us through one another within the church we need to give our best attention to one another. Deep listening takes time, effort and much love but as we listen we can be sure that we will hear God speaking to us.

QUESTION

Who are the people who have spoken God's word to you most clearly in recent months?

PRAYER

Thank you, Lord, that you love to speak with us. Help me to listen out for your voice in all my Christian brothers and sisters. Amen

