



**Image of the day - St Georg's Chapel, Windsor**

## **Duke of Edinburgh's contribution to peace in Ireland recalled at Special Service in St Columb's Cathedral, Derry**

**The Bishop of Derry and Raphoe has recalled the late Prince Philip's contribution to peace in Ireland as one of The Duke of Edinburgh's many legacies. His remark came during his sermon at a Special Service in St Columb's Cathedral, Londonderry on Friday evening, marking the death of His late Royal Highness.**

A socially-distanced congregation and people watching online, heard the Dean of Derry, Very Rev Raymond Stewart, describe the Service as an occasion when Church, city and community came together to remember a great and a good man. "This evening," the Dean said, "we thank God for Prince Philip's long life – two months and one day short of 100 years – his commitment to Her Majesty as a husband for over 73 years; we remember his sense of duty and loyalty to his Queen and country, as well as his association with many charities, particularly his involvement with The Duke of Edinburgh Award since its inception in 1956. We recognise his long service to this nation and all the nations of the Commonwealth. We rejoice in the Christian faith by which he lived and in which he died."

The Dean welcomed representatives of other Churches in the city, as well as representatives of political and civic life, among them the Mayor of Derry City and Strabane District, Cllr Brian Tierney; Her Majesty's Vice-Lord Lieutenant for the City of Londonderry, Stuart Keys; the Clerk to the Lieutenancy of the County Borough of Londonderry, Alan Moore; the High Sheriff for the County Borough of

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Londonderry, Linda Heaney; and Lord Hay of Ballyore. The Lord Lieutenant for the City of Londonderry, Dr Angela Garvey, and her husband Gerald were unable to attend and sent their apologies, as did the Foyle MP Colum Eastwood and Foyle MLA Gary Middleton.

In his sermon, Rt Rev Andrew Forster said they had gathered to give thanks for an extraordinary life and an extraordinary influence right across the world. Bishop Andrew recalled how, as a baby, Prince Philip had been rescued with his family from political turmoil in Greece and how he had been carried off in a cot made from an orange box into exile. “The next years are well documented, characterised by disruption, break-up, grief and misfortune. When he joined the Royal Naval College at Dartmouth, whether by his wry sense of humour or the reality, when he registered he signed up as ‘Prince Philip of Greece and Denmark, of no fixed abode.’

“Yet this young man, from such a fractured and disrupted background, would go on to ingrain himself in the consciousness of our country and Commonwealth, and transform the lives of many through his deep commitment to improve lives. In some way, Prince Philip could be seen as the Good Samaritan who was not prepared to pass by on the other side when he saw people whose lives he could help change for the better. And perhaps that commitment was borne out of his early hardship.

Bishop Andrew referred a number of times in his sermon to the naval command, ‘Action Stations’, which summons all hands to battle stations on warships and which will be played by buglers as The Duke’s body is laid to rest in the royal vault at Windsor Castle. “As a naval officer he would

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have heard the sound, 'Action Stations' during his distinguished career in the Second World War – mentioned in dispatches, saved his own ship from certain destruction – and on The Queen's accession to the throne in 1952, when he had to walk away from his beloved career, it was again as if 'Action Stations' had been sounded, as his life of seemingly perpetual action and motion shifted to dedication in supporting The Queen. There was no job description, there was no one to tell him what he should do or shouldn't do, and he carved his way in making life better for those whom he served, and in dutiful care and love for our sovereign Queen.”

Bishop Andrew said the qualities of Prince Philip's life had been spoken of at length over the past week: duty, service, diligence, discipline, straightforwardness and straight-talking. Many had said that Prince Philip's greatest legacy was The Duke of Edinburgh Award – a scheme borne out of his desire to improve lives and make people's lives better.

“There are many facets of his remarkable legacy,” the Bishop said, “and perhaps all of us would choose different things that we would say about his legacy and that we would celebrate – war hero, innovator, whatever it might be – but perhaps his greatest legacy of all is as the man who walked a few paces behind The Queen, and was always right behind her, physically and emotionally: with her, supporting her, guiding her, loving her, caring for her, always at 'Action Stations' to support Her Majesty.

“As The Queen herself said on their 50th wedding anniversary, he was her strength and stay all these years, the man behind perhaps one of the greatest monarchs in history, her liege man of life and limb, always ready to use

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the soft power for the greater good, including building peace in this island. A man who was prepared to put aside in many ways his own great grief at the loss of his uncle in the Troubles, to reach out, to try to do the best to help this island to move to better days – again the desire to make life better for people.”

Bishop Andrew described The Duke of Edinburgh as a man of deep faith. He said that Prince Philip and The Queen had sought to live their lives in the public gaze by the principles of Almighty God. “Tomorrow, as he is laid to rest, at his request ‘Action Stations’ will be sounded. Tonight, we are thankful for a life lived at ‘Action Stations’; a life that is an example to each one of us; a very long life, remarkably lived; a life that made a difference in the lives of many; and a life that in some small way we can seek to mirror by



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making a difference for the good in the lives of those around us. ‘Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.’”

Dean Stewart was assisted during Friday evening’s Service by Rev Canon John Merrick and by the Roman Catholic Bishop of Derry, Rev Dr Donal McKeown, who gave the Scripture Reading. The Reverends Keith Hibbert (Presbyterian Church) and Paul Gallucci (Methodist Church) were in the congregation. Music at the Service was provided by the Gentlemen of the Choir. The organist and Master of the Choristers was Dr Derek Collins. At the end of the Service, the congregation left in an orderly fashion, consistent with Covid guidelines.

## **A lively Prince Philip played a part to help unite people in and beyond Enniskillen**

**The significance of Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip’s visit to Enniskillen, and what it meant for reconciliation in Northern Ireland, still stand out, almost a decade on, Ciaran Flaherty writes in The Impartial Reporter.**

A stand-out moment from their visit – which saw The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh crossing the road from St. Macartin’s Cathedral to St. Michael’s Church – was a simple gesture, but one that cannot be understated in importance.

It was the first time Queen Elizabeth had been inside a Roman Catholic Church on the island of Ireland, and as well as the wider significance of what it meant, it displayed the close relationship between the two churches and, indeed, the Very Reverend Canon Kenneth Hall, and Monsignor O’Reilly.

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In a joint statement from both clergymen following the passing of Prince Philip at the age of 99, they recalled the day in June, 2012.

“With the announcement of the death of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, we wish to join our voices with the many others who have sympathised with Queen Elizabeth and their family.

“We do so while recalling the visit of The Queen and Prince Philip to Enniskillen on June 26, 2012.

“Those who were present on that day to see The Queen and Prince Philip cross the street from St. Macartin’s Cathedral to enter St. Michael’s Church will remember the joy of that occasion, and its witness to our one community, rooted in our common Christian heritage.

“We remember Prince Philip’s lively interest in Enniskillen and his faithful support for The Queen, plainly visible on that day.”

Former Impartial Reporter editor Denzil McDaniel was also in St. Michael’s that day and he remembers the light-hearted nature of the Duke on such a memorable occasion.

“It was actually typical of him – he was quite relaxed and quite funny,” recalls Denzil.

“I remember there was a group beside us, some medical people, and when they were introduced to the Duke, he sort of quipped: ‘Who is looking after all the patients?’ and everybody had a good laugh about it.

“He just seemed to have that knack of putting people at their ease.”

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The visit to Enniskillen came a year after the Royal Visit to Dublin, and Denzil believes both occasions were a “massive step for reconciliation” and something the Duke of Edinburgh would have been in favour of. “It was very significant, the whole thing, and they were very much a team, and he was very much supportive of it.

“I think he was quite supportive of her doing that [making a formal visit to the Republic]. It was a massive step for reconciliation that she went to Dublin, and the Garden of Remembrance, and when she came here, the significance of the walk [across the road to St. Michael’s],” added Denzil.

Looking back at the day, the Very Reverend Hall also recalls the Duke of Edinburgh as a man who brightened up the special occasion.

“Prince Philip brought a lot of humour to the day. It would have been a very serious business, and I think The Queen is quite a serious character, but certainly he added a lot of humour.

“He wasn’t afraid to crack a joke and bring things down to normality. He wasn’t in a rush anywhere.”

Dean Hall had the pleasure of escorting the Duke around St. Michael’s, which proved to be a slow process, as the Duke talked with the people inside the church.

“The Queen was going the opposite way with Monsignor O’Reilly, and I had to keep moving him on because he was talking too long!

“Prince Philip certainly wouldn’t miss out a conversation and he was a very humourous character. He liked the light-hearted moments and could cheer people up.”



## Tributes to Rev John Anderson

**The death took place on Saturday April 17 of the Rev John Anderson, rector of Billy and Derrykeighan in the Diocese of Connor, due to Covid-19.**

The Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev George Davison, paid tribute to John. “John Anderson’s death has come as a terrible shock to us all. Just as many people were beginning to believe that Covid was on the retreat, it has robbed us of one of the most likeable people,” Bishop George said.

“John was a warm-hearted individual and a very faithful pastor to the people of Billy and Derrykeighan for almost the last 16 years. John’s whole life has been one of service to Christ and His Church.

“He will be missed by so many people, but none more so than his wife Eleanor and their precious children. They, and John’s mother and the wider family, are uppermost in my thoughts and prayers at this time.”

John, who was 46, has been rector of Billy and Derrykeighan since June 2005. Prior to that, he was curate assistant in Magherafelt, Armagh Diocese, from June 1998 until September 2002 and then the Parish of Ballymena and Ballyclug in September 2002 until his appointment to Billy and Derrykeighan.

Before ordination, John studied at Queen’s University Belfast, then Trinity College, Dublin, and the Church of Ireland Theological College.

John took ill just over a week ago and despite the careful support of the medical staff of the Causeway Hospital,

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Coleraine, passed away in the Intensive Care Unit of the hospital on Saturday morning.

Former Causeway Coast and Glens mayor, Ulster Unionist councillor Joan Baird, said the village of Bushmills was shocked by the news of his death.



“It was very sudden and at the age of just 46 and I wish to send my condolences to his wife and family,” she said.

“It's such a tragic time and poignant as it occurred on the same day as the funeral of the Duke of Edinburgh.

“But it's also telling as we think we are getting away from Covid but it's still there and still rife in the community.”

Parishioner, Laura Walsh Irvine, in a reply on social media to the diocese's announcement of his death spoke with thanks for his community work.

“Heartbreaking to hear this, our thoughts and prayers are with Eleanor, their children and all the family. Rev Anderson did so much for our church, the primary school and our wee village and he will be greatly missed,” she said.

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Rev Anderson met the Queen and Prince Philip when they came to Bushmills in June 2016 for the unveiling of a life-size statue of Battle of the Somme hero Sgt Robert Quigg VC in his home town.

Robert Quigg, who died in 1955, had been a life-long member of Billy Parish Church and Rev Anderson was one of the two clerics who conducted the religious service at the unveiling.

Services in Billy and Derrykeighan on Sunday April 18 were cancelled as a mark of respect to the Anderson family.

## **Clerical appointment**

The Board of Nomination for the parishes of Kilmore and St Saviour's in Armagh Diocese has elected the Rev'd Carlton Baxter to be the new Incumbent. Carlton currently serves as the curate-assistant of the Parish of Magheralin, in the Diocese of Dromore. The date for the service of Institution will be announced later.

## **Books, Broadcasts, resources and webinars**

### **Online Lecture Armagh Robinson Library: 250 Years**

On Thursday 29th April at 7.30pm the Library's Director, Dr Robert Whan, will give an online lecture on 'Armagh Robinson Library – 250 years'.

This will provide an overview of the history of the Library and an insight into some of the treasures that it has. The free talk will be delivered by Zoom.



This year marks the 250th anniversary of the foundation of Armagh Robinson Library, the oldest public library in Northern Ireland. The Library was founded in 1771 by Richard Robinson, the Church of Ireland Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, at a cost of £3,000. Robinson had it incorporated in 1773 by having an Act passed by the Irish Parliament for 'settling and preserving a Publick Library in the City of Armagh for ever'. The Library was built to the design of the English-born architect Thomas Cooley, whose original drawings are still held in the Library. Today the Library has some 45,000 printed volumes, the earliest dating from the 1480s. In addition, the Library has manuscripts, coins, medals, antiquities and fine art. The latter includes Archbishop Robinson's collection of 4,500 prints and engravings, dating from the fifteenth to eighteenth centuries.

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Places are limited in number and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. To reserve a place, please email [[director@armaghrobinsonlibrary.co.uk](mailto:director@armaghrobinsonlibrary.co.uk). ]

## **A Look of Love Witnesses to Jesus**

Jim Deeds brings the stories of Jesus and his early followers to life. Through a series of imagined conversations, stories and poems, he invites the reader to experience familiar Gospel stories through the lens of various characters who witnessed Jesus' ministry first-hand – a servant at the Cana wedding, a man who helped Zacchaeus climb the tree, the woman at the well, the apostle Peter in his old age, and many others. Jim's love of the Gospels shines through, while his gift for storytelling imbues each of these unique stories with emotion and gentle humour. With questions to encourage further reflection and prayer, this book is the ideal companion for anyone looking for a fresh approach to the Gospels.

Redemptorist Communications 9.95 Euro

[[] <https://www.redcoms.org/product/a-look-of-love-witnesses-to-jesus/> ]

## **CMSI Virtual volunteering**

CMSI says - "Back in January, we launched our Virtual Volunteering initiative and we are delighted to introduce 3 individuals who will be providing Teaching support remotely in the Primary School section of Kathmandu International Study Centre (KISC). Wendy Houston (Bangor Parish), Rev Heather Cooke (St Nicholas Parish, Carrickfergus) and Jonathan Stanley (Holy Trinity, Rathmines), have had their induction training, and will be starting next week with small

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groups of students to offer one on one teaching support, with Jonathan doing music lessons. Pray for good connections with the kids and that their input will be a blessing and support to KISC as they continue to operate fully online. We'll keep you posted!"

## **Media focus - Is Stormont about to blow its last chance? - Brian Rowan**

**“If the Executive fails again, it should fail forever”, writes Brian Rowan, author of the recently published book, “Political Purgatory: The Battle to Save Stormont and the Play for a New Ireland”**

Fifteen months ago, then Secretary of State Julian Smith knocked on an office door in Stormont House and interrupted a conversation. He wanted to speak with the Tanaiste, Simon Coveney, who was in a meeting with the Alliance Party; another meeting as part of a seemingly never-ending negotiation involving the governments and the main political parties here.

After three years in the political wilderness, this was Stormont's moment of decision. On a bitterly cold night, we were about to witness a piece of winter theatre.

Smith and Coveney appeared on that political hill overlooking Belfast. They had a document with them — New Decade, New Approach, a compromise agreement which they would dare the parties to reject.

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Within 48 hours, a new Executive was in place. Politics would breathe again. That was then. And this is now: January 2020 seems a lifetime ago.

In the here-and-now — and in Northern Ireland's centenary year — there is a new question and yet more doubt. Is Stormont about to blow its last chance?

The post-Brexit reality is a different Union and a louder, more credible, conversation about a “New Ireland”.

That Irish Sea border has created further difference and distance between this place and the rest of the United Kingdom.

It is the next crossroads. Ulster's next nightmare. Some will tell you, the next moment of danger.

With centenary, there is uncertainty — a cake with 100 candles, but how many more?

The pandemic is the thin thread on which the Executive hangs. Loyalists have written to Prime Minister Boris Johnson withdrawing support for the Belfast Agreement. It is not the first time. Twenty years ago, the UDA did exactly the same thing — not in a letter to the then-Prime Minister, Tony Blair, but in a statement outlining their position.

Indeed, they went further, standing down the UDP, one of the loyalist parties involved in the Good Friday Agreement negotiations.

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At times like this, other grievances emerge, including in the fallout from the Bobby Storey funeral, allegations of two-tier policing — one set of rules for republicans and another set for everyone else.

This is the mood in which young people have again charged to the frontlines of this place with petrol bombs and bricks in their hands. And the conflict generation watches a replay of past madness.

So far, that street violence has been localised and sporadic. Not Belfast burning, but evidence of a smouldering anger. In the loyalist leadership there is still a foot on the brake. If they wanted to escalate that street play, all it would take is an order.

But there are those who know that the violence is simply destroying loyalist communities.

They also know that the Union is not as safe as it was when declared as such in the Combined Loyalist Military Command ceasefire statement of October 1994.

As far back as October 2019, there were those who could see Boris Johnson's direction of travel: "I think we're f\*\*\*\*d," one of them told me at that time. If Sinn Fein think it's all right, loyalists will think it's all wrong.

Loyalists were waiting for what they knew was coming; what they could see at a distance from the Brexit negotiation. That to get his deal, Johnson would throw Northern Ireland under the bus.



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In recent days, it was a burning bus in Belfast that caught the Prime Minister's attention. He tweeted about his deep concern at the scenes of violence in Northern Ireland: "The way to resolve differences is through dialogue," he wrote.

He is right, of course, but Johnson is seen as part of the problem — part of the betrayal. That Irish Sea border means he is not trusted.

This place is too complicated for his attention span. Remember how he raced in to steal a slice of the Smith-Coveney success in January 2020, only to sack the Secretary of State in a Cabinet reshuffle weeks later.

That told us everything we needed to know about his interest — or lack of such — in this place. There are other priorities — more important than Northern Ireland.

The political whispers are getting louder. That the Executive might not survive. Talk of an early election — and yet another negotiation. There would be little tolerance of that.

All of this suggests stale bread rather than that cake with 100 candles. In 2021, the air is out of the balloons. Politics deflated — nothing to celebrate.

What is the next negotiation in this place? In my book, *Political Purgatory: The Battle to Save Stormont and the Play for a New Ireland*, I write that this really should be Stormont's last chance. If it fails again, then it should fail forever.

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Beyond the Good Friday Agreement, the next conversation is the “New Ireland” — defining it, describing it — a dialogue about its shape.

That conversation — whenever it happens — should be chaired/facilitated from outside of us. There should be a chair for everyone in the room. It should begin with a blank sheet. What is the Northern political model? What is Britishness and unionism within it? Is it economically credible and viable? How does education and health work across the island? What is the transition period?

Brexit, like heavy machinery on fragile ground, has left cracks across the Union. The learning from that project and experience is that, before you ask the questions, you need the answers. The “New Ireland” cannot — should not — be the “Old Ireland”.

It was the late John Hume who spoke of an “agreed Ireland”. If there is no agreement, then it is not agreed. This next conversation is about so much more than a vote. We needed outside help to get the agreement of 1998, to achieve decommissioning and police reform.

Do we really believe that, on two bigger questions — our past and our future — we can do it on our own?

*Political Purgatory: The Battle to Save Stormont and the Play for a New Ireland by Brian Rowan is published by Merrion Press, priced £19.99. But look around £12.99 in Hollywood.*

## Media review

### **Mother and baby homes: Government wants swift redress from churches**

The Irish Times

A tense negotiation is in prospect as the Government seeks a significant financial contribution from Catholic and Church of Ireland leaders for a new redress scheme for survivors of mother and baby homes.

[[] <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/mother-and-baby-homes-government-wants-swift-redress-from-churches-1.4539791> ]

### **Up to €1bn needed for 'modest redress' to mother and baby home survivors**

The Irish Times

The Government is working on the basis that it will need up to €1 billion to provide even “modest redress” to survivors of mother and baby homes as it presses church leaders to make significant contributions to a scheme. The preliminary calculation by officials comes as the Government sets the ground for what are likely to be difficult and complex talks with Catholic Church and Church of Ireland leaders. “You’re talking about up to €1 billion and that would be for modest redress,” said a person involved in the preparations.

[[] <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/mother-and-baby-homes-up-to-1bn-needed-for-modest-redress-1.4539794> ]

### **Prince Philip embodied the values of a generation that made Britain great**

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His service was never for self-advertisement or aggrandisement

Daily Telegraph

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/royal-family/2021/04/10/prince-philip-embodied-values-generation-made-britain-great/>

### **Chapel solos were a choral triumph**

Spectator

'Those of us who have some involvement in the world of choral music were mightily impressed at how the music was delivered, by only four choristers.'

<https://www.spectator.co.uk/article/the-st-george-s-chapel-solos-were-a-choral-triumph>

### **Graham James: Prince Philip surprised me with his theological knowledge and spiritual engagement**

Church Times

<https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2021/16-april/comment/opinion/prince-philip-surprised-me-with-his-theological-knowledge-and-spiritual-engagement>

### **Greensill: Ex-Civil Service boss 'baffled' by business links**

BBC

[ [ ] <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-56763460> ]

### **Report on a legal opinion about conversion therapy**

Sunday Telegraph

[ <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/04/10/conversion-therapy-ban-would-criminalise-christian-parents-stopping/> ]



## Pointers for prayer

Almighty God,  
who hast given thine only Son  
to be unto us both a sacrifice for sin,  
and also an ensample of godly life;  
Give us grace that we may always  
most thankfully receive that his inestimable benefit,  
and also daily endeavour ourselves  
to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life;  
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Mighty God,  
in whom we know the power of redemption,  
you stand among us in the shadows of our time.  
As we move through every sorrow and trial of this life,  
uphold us with knowledge of the final morning  
when, in the glorious presence of your risen Son,  
we will share in his resurrection,  
redeemed and restored to the fullness of life  
and forever freed to be your people. Amen.

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Living God,  
long ago, faithful women  
proclaimed the good news  
of Jesus' resurrection,  
and the world was changed forever.  
Teach us to keep faith with them,  
that our witness may be as bold,  
our love as deep,  
and our faith as true. Amen.

Creator of the universe,  
you made the world in beauty,  
and restore all things in glory  
through the victory of Jesus Christ.

We pray that, wherever your image is still disfigured  
by poverty, sickness, selfishness, war and greed,  
the new creation in Jesus Christ may appear in justice, love,  
and peace,  
to the glory of your name. Amen.

O God, your Son remained with his disciples after his  
resurrection, teaching them to love all people as neighbours.  
As his disciples in this age,  
we offer our prayers on behalf of the universe  
in which we are privileged to live  
and our neighbours with whom we share it...  
...Open our hearts to your power moving  
around us and between us and within us,  
until your glory is revealed in our love of both friend and  
enemy,  
in communities transformed by justice and compassion,  
and in the healing of all that is broken. Amen.

## Speaking to the Soul

**Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen.**

Ephesians 3:20-21 NLT

The resurrection of Jesus is so completely amazing that it needs to challenge every aspect of our thinking about life. It needs to take us on to a new level. If God was like us then it would be understandable if we expected only ordinary and predictable things to happen in life. But he isn't like us. He was able to bring his son Jesus back to life again, and so we need to stop expecting ordinary and predictable things to happen and to expect him to do infinitely more than we can even imagine.

William Carey was a Baptist and the founder of the modern missionary movement. He lived in Northamptonshire and worked as a shoemaker at the end of the 18th Century. Carey was overwhelmed by the greatness of God and, in order to become more useful to the Lord, he learnt many languages alongside running his shoe business. He taught himself Hebrew, Italian, Dutch and French. He famously once said, "Expect great things of God; attempt great things for God." His amazing life changed the course of mission work throughout the world and it happened because his faith in a great God was matched by his willingness to work incredibly hard for God.

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As we continue to thank God for the privilege of being an Easter people let's kiss goodbye to our small time, comfortable thinking and allow God to give us a much bigger vision of what he wants to do in the world. And at the same time let's work hard at whatever God has called us to do.

## QUESTION

What great things are you expecting God to do?

## PRAYER

God our Father, thank you that you are such a great God. By your Spirit help me to expect you to do great things and give me the willingness to attempt great things for you. Amen

