

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – HMS Mars memorial

April 28, 2022

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HMS Mars memorial

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People and places

Commemoration of HMS Mars tragedy

On Sunday 24th April, the Rector of Cobh & Glanmire Union of Parishes, the Rev. Canon Paul Arbuthnot, represented the Church of Ireland at a Service of Remembrance for those who died in the HMS Mars tragedy.

On 14th April, 1902, HMS Mars visited Queenstown / Cobh, and was conducting gunnery practice off the coast when a



turret explosion killed 12 men on board. The Service of Remembrance took place in the Old Cemetery, Cobh, where the victims of this tragedy are buried. The liturgy was led by The Rev. Canon Paul Arbuthnot and Fr Liam Kelleher of Cobh Cathedral.

The event was organised by the Cork and County Branch of the Royal Naval Association and included the laying of wreaths at the grave of those who died in the tragedy. The wreaths were laid by the Royal Navy, British Embassy, Royal Naval Association, and Cobh ONE.

The Revd Canon Paul Arbuthnot commented: This poignant anniversary reminds us once again of the huge risks which our naval forces take in protecting our shores. We commend the souls of those who died serving the common good to the loving protection of Almighty God. We also ask God's protection over all those who guard our shores and whose livelihoods depend on the maritime economy.

Healing Ministry's Holy Communion services with prayer for the sick

Services will be held by the Church's Ministry of Healing on Tuesday 3rd May and Tuesday 17th May at 10.00 in Cregagh House, 162 Upper Knockbreda Road, Belfast.

The Director, Rev Pat Mollan says - "This is a very intimate, peaceful and personal healing service. Fellowship with

others is greatly valued. If you have not been before you will be warmly welcomed and cared for.

“Come for yourself if you are in difficulty, for another, to support those present in prayer, and for those who have asked for prayer by our prayer teams.

“Everyone is welcome, those of faith and those with none.”

Parking is available in the side car park

Concert by Kerygma, the Good News Choir, for CMS Ireland and their partners in Nepal

Kerygma, the Good News Choir will be performing at a special fundraising concert in St Mary's Parish Church, Newry on Saturday 21st May at 7pm to support the work of CMS Ireland, with a special focus on their partners in Nepal.

Tickets £15.00 (children 10 yrs and under:£5.00) - pay at the door or buy in advance from choir members or online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/Kerygma-the-Good-News-Choir

The choir was formed in 2015 by Lorna Palmer and is made up of voices from many different Christian backgrounds. Well known in Northern Ireland, the choir has also performed at the Palace of Westminster and the Irish Embassy in London.



The name 'Kerygma' is derived from an ancient Greek word for 'proclaiming' used by St Paul to refer to the preaching of the gospel. Music is one of the most powerful tools for evangelism and Kerygma's mission is to 'proclaim' the Christian message using songs performed in a variety of musical styles – from popular to classical.

Members of the choir are united in their faith, love of music and desire to bring a message of peace and reconciliation. We believe this message to be important in a world where reconciliation of divided factions could bring about peace and prosperity for all, within and between each and every faith.

CMS Ireland's links with Nepal stretch back to the early 1950's when former CMSI President Trevor Strong was one of the first mission-partners to enter the country.

Currently they partner with two faith-based NGO's (SDSS & HDCS) and support Mission Associate Deirdre Zimmerman



(above) a Nutritionist in Patan Hospital, Kathmandu and consultant to NPCS.

Culture Date with Dublin 8

The 'Culture Date with Dublin 8' weekender will return from Saturday 14th - Sunday 15th of May, and Saint Patrick's Cathedral are proud to be part of this fantastic festival.

The event now in its fourth year celebrates the postal district of D8 as one of Ireland's top cultural destinations and recently described by Time Out magazine as one of "the coolest neighbourhoods in the world".



Special free entry will be available to book from next week -

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perfect for fascinating family adventures! Keep an eye out for these 👁️👁️ The The Guinness Choir will perform on the night of 14 May, so why not incorporate this incredible concert in your weekend plans? Tickets available through the link shown below. Culture Date with Dublin 8
<https://www.culturedatewithdublin8.ie/>



120 years of choral service

On Easter Sunday morning St Swithins's Parish Magherafelt were delighted to recognise Muriel Bell's 70 years unbroken service in the choir and Lenn Ritchie's 50 years plus service. The alto and tenor lines have never sounded so good! Presentations to both were made by the parish organist Lynn Fullerton.

News reports

Church not a ‘passive observer’, says Archbishop Welby in riposte to PM’s criticism

The Church of England is not a “passive observer of migration policy”, the Archbishop of Canterbury has said after Boris Johnson criticised him for speaking out over plans to send asylum seekers to Rwanda.

The Most Rev Justin Welby hit back at claims that the Church should not interfere in matters of state, after the Prime Minister said he had “misconstrued” the Government’s proposal to process migrants who arrive in the UK illegally in the east African country, claiming the clergy should be condemning Vladimir Putin instead. Addressing Conservative backbenchers last week, Mr Johnson is reported to have accused the Archbishop of being “less vociferous” in criticism of the Russian leader than he was of the Government over the refugee plan.

However, in an article for The Daily Telegraph, the Archbishop says: “The Church of England is not a passive observer of migration policy. Some of my fellow bishops, clergy and worshippers came to the UK escaping persecution or conflict.

“We welcome and serve asylum seekers at every level of society – from providing housing, food banks, social support and friendship, to scrutinising legislation in the Lords. We



partner with the Government to settle refugees from Syria, Afghanistan and Ukraine. We have consistently condemned the evil of people trafficking, and in communities nationwide we are training people to spot it, expose it and safely disrupt it.

“Government and Church are not the same, but we must surely all want to put humanity and fairness at the heart of our asylum system.

“That is why the Church has called for safe and legal routes for asylum seekers, making visas available for humanitarian reasons, and helping families to be reunited.”

Archbishop Welby’s healing visit to Canada

The Archbishop of Canterbury commenting on his forthcoming visit said, “I’m honoured to be visiting

Canada later this week at the invitation of Archbishop Linda Nicholls”.

Archbishop Welby continued - The history of the Church of England in Canada is one that has, to my profound regret, caused lasting suffering and hurt to the Indigenous communities. The Church of England had pledged to walk with Indigenous people and advocate for them ‘as long as the grass grows’. Instead, we failed to honour our commitment to be an advocate, ally and relative of First Nations people.

A significant purpose of this visit is therefore to repent and atone for where our relationships and actions have done more harm than good—and to honour the sovereignty of Indigenous communities.

The visit will be an opportunity to listen, to lament and to pray for justice, healing and transformation in the relationship between the Indigenous Peoples of Turtle Island and the Arctic, and the See of Canterbury and the Church of England.

This relationship predates both the Canadian Confederation and the creation of the Anglican Church of Canada. I pray that through the power of the Holy Spirit this relationship can be reimagined not as one of jurisdiction, but as a covenant of relatives and disciples of Jesus Christ

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Musical move from Westminster to Yale

Congratulations to James O'Donnell, Organist and Master of the Choristers at Westminster Abbey, who will be leaving the Abbey at Christmas after 23 years to join Yale University.

He has been appointed as Professor in the Yale School of Music and Yale Institute of Sacred Music. He will be greatly missed.

More: <https://www.westminster-abbey.org/abbey-news/james-o-donnell-secures-role-at-yale-university>

Archbishop Welby's Chief of Staff from Belfast to step down in autumn

The Belfast man who has been the Archbishop of Canterbury's Chief of Staff, David Porter, will be stepping down from his role this autumn.

David was made Chief of Staff in May 2016, having previously been the Archbishop's advisor on Reconciliation. He will officially finish his role in November 2022.

As Chief of Staff, David has acted as advisor to the Archbishop and has overseen the staff team at Lambeth Palace. In his six years in the role, David has advised the Archbishop at times of great change and challenge in the nation – such as Brexit and the Covid pandemic. He has travelled extensively with Archbishop Justin helping him to support the church in different parts of the world.

David has also been part of the group which oversaw the building of the new Lambeth Palace Library, and part of the project group which has planned the refurbishment works at Lambeth Palace.

He will continue to work part time with Archbishop Justin in developing a long-term strategy for his three personal priorities of Evangelism and Witness, Reconciliation and Prayer and the Religious Life.

David said: "Having recently marked 40 years in full-time Christian service, it felt like the right moment to step back from being Chief of Staff. There are too many highlights

(and challenges!) to name individually, but it has been a joy and a privilege to serve the Church in this way. I look forward to a new role helping the Archbishop further develop his vision for his three personal priorities.”

Archbishop Justin said: ‘I am immensely grateful to David for his leadership at Lambeth Palace. He has brought to the role of Chief of Staff a wealth of wisdom, experience and Christ-centred vision that has enabled the ministry here to flourish in ways seen and unseen. Prior to becoming Chief of Staff, David led the reconciliation work at Lambeth with courage and creativity. I look forward to continuing to work together on the priorities of evangelism and witness, reconciliation and prayer and the religious life, and I join many in praying for David and Fran in this time of transition.’

A recruitment process for a new Chief of Staff will begin shortly.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Living Stones – building God’s church back up again

This is a pre-recorded resource by the Presbyterian Church in Ireland for use in a children's ministry setting. This is an opportunity to host a gathering for children and families without the stress of having to plan all the content. This material includes some songs to sing along too, spoken

content and ideas for activities that can be done together- including some fitness routines!

There is also a leader's pack which highlights how the programme works and how to run the session with your young people. The content is FREE however you do need to register for it here:

<https://www.presbyterianireland.org/livingstones>

Resources to help parishes and individuals mark Platinum Jubilee

So, book your hall. Invite your children and families. Gather your resources. Let's learn, together with Nehemiah, how God uses us in his plan to build his church!
Church of England resources and liturgy to help parishes and individuals mark Platinum Jubilee

On 6 February 2022, the 70th anniversary of her accession, Her Majesty the Queen became the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee. The celebration of the Jubilee will culminate in a special weekend of events (Thursday 2 June to Sunday 5 June) including church services, the Trooping of the Colour, concerts, the lighting of beacons, and other events.

It is hoped that many churches and communities will be able to celebrate this landmark anniversary, and these resources are designed for use in a variety of contexts to help plan local celebrations, perhaps in the presence of elected representatives, service organisations, and representatives

of the wider community. The resources include special prayers, an outline Service of Thanksgiving, graces to be said at Jubilee Lunches, and prayers for planting trees as part of the Queen's Green Canopy.

As we prepare to celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, The Church of England has produced these resources and liturgy to help people mark the occasion in our churches and communities.

Find out more and download them here:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/liturgical-resources-hm-queens-platinum-jubilee?fbclid=IwAR17qls9HEceOFbbEmqFm333Xamkn18MOPSh802SugpDEiKfGFLfEI3a7aI>

Perspective

Put humanity at the heart of our asylum system by Justin Welby

Behind the headlines about migration policy are human tragedies. A former colleague in Afghanistan called me recently: “I have fled to my village. My brother was shot yesterday. We can’t get food. I must get my sons out – they have no future. Can you help? If not, I will have to send them across the Mediterranean.”

Britain still represents the best hope for many like my friend. Our language and culture, reputation for fairness and the

rule of law – these are “pull factors” of which we should be proud. For now, my friend remains in place, as does our dilemma: we cannot take all the world’s refugees, nor can any country. But the global community is currently letting down millions of people seeking refuge. There must be a better way.

This may come as a surprise, but there is much in migration policy on which the Church of England and the Government agree. The global asylum system is broken. We must destroy the deadly trade of people trafficking. We need innovative solutions to stop the suffering of millions of people – and the devastating deaths in the English Channel, the Mediterranean and elsewhere. We agree on those common ends, which are urgent and compassionate, but we profoundly differ on the means to achieve them.

Like many, I oppose sending vulnerable and traumatised people more than 4,000 miles away without their consent, and paying another country to take them in. People who would have been offered refugee status in the UK will be shipped out without their case being heard – including those with family ties or other links with Britain. The vast majority (98 per cent) of those crossing the Channel apply for asylum and most (61 per cent) are granted it. These are people fleeing war, famine and persecution.

Meanwhile, there are serious ethical questions about using “deterrence” to stop asylum seekers trying to reach our shores. For years, the hostile environment has not reduced the numbers of people seeking asylum here. This approach does not lead to better or fairer outcomes for anyone.

We can and must do better.

There are safe means of crossing the Channel, but we refuse to make them available to asylum seekers. There is no safe or legal route for persecuted Christians from Iran to reach the UK, or those fleeing famine in the DRC, or conflict in Sudan. Meanwhile, the people smugglers prosper. People trafficking is an evil crime. We must go after the traffickers and bring them to justice. They are the villains here, not the people being trafficked. We created this system, and it has failed people. We should not use it as the justification for going further down the same path.

So we must ask ourselves: who do we want to be? Jesus Christ's summary of God's law is to love God and to love your neighbour as yourself. For me, that is the standard by which we must treat those seeking asylum.

The Church of England is not a passive observer of migration policy. Some of my fellow bishops, clergy and worshippers came to the UK escaping persecution or conflict. We welcome and serve asylum seekers at every level of society – from providing housing, food banks, social support and friendship, to scrutinising legislation in the Lords. We partner with the Government to settle refugees from Syria, Afghanistan and Ukraine. We have consistently condemned the evil of people trafficking, and in communities nationwide we are training people to spot it, expose it and safely disrupt it.

Government and Church are not the same, but we must surely all want to put humanity and fairness at the heart of our asylum system. That is why the Church has called for

safe and legal routes for asylum seekers, making visas available for humanitarian reasons, and helping families to be reunited.

When the 1951 Refugee Convention was agreed, it obviously did not foresee the climate crisis that may see hundreds of millions more people displaced in the coming decades. We must renew and build on this agreement. This is not about “open borders”: it’s about global cooperation to address a global problem, with human dignity at the centre – along with an international commitment to defeat the activities of people smugglers.

We stand at a crossroads: do we lead the world into a future where rich nations outsource their responsibilities to poorer nations? Or do we lead the world in reimagining a truly global asylum system, where every nation takes its fair share of people – like my friend – desperately in search of safety and a chance of living a good life?

In Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus says to his disciples: “Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” I pray that as we seek together to build a new world in the years to come, we keep these words in mind.

Justin Welby is the Archbishop of Canterbury

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Poem for today

Ode To Spring by Elizabeth Bentley

Welcome, sweet season of delight,
What beauties charm the wond'ring sight
In thy enchanting reign!
How fresh descends the morning dew,
Whilst op'ning flow'rs of various hue
Bedeck the sprightly plain.
The artless warblers of the grove
Again unite in songs of love,
To bless thy kind return:
But first the lark, who roaring seems
To hail the orb of day, whose beams
With fresh refulgence burn.

The limpid brook that purls along,
The tuneful blackbird's joyous song,
The softly-whisp'ring breeze;
The mossy hills, which now invite,
These with the verdant meads unite,
Th' elated mind to please.
The mind with thoughts of good possest,
With innocence and virtue blest,
Untaught in vice's ways;
May taste those joys by nature giv'n,
May lift th' enraptur'd eye to heav'n,
And their great Author praise.
Stern Winter's gloomy season past,
We see fair Spring advances fast,

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With Summer in the rear;
Soon Autumn's shades will interpose,
And a succeeding Winter close
The swift-revolving year.

Of human life an emblem true,
The early morn of youth we view,
In Spring's delightful face;
Meridian life's a Summer's day,
With Autumn fades; its quick decay,
In winter's blast we trace.
Then let us prize each fleeting hour,
Improve the moments in our pow'r,
E'er time shall cease to be;
Then shall our spirits, taking wing,
Be crown'd with an eternal Spring,
From Wint'ry storms set free.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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