

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Listening with Lutherans

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Listening with Lutherans

The General Secretary of the Lutheran World Federation, Rev. Anne Burghardt, addressed the recent Lambeth Conference.

Her address is in the World News section of this issue of Church News Ireland

Photo - The Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby with LWF General Secretary Rev. Anne Burghardt and LWF Assistant General Secretary for Ecumenical Relations Prof. Dirk Lange. *(Photo: Lambeth Conference/Richard Washbrooke)*

People and places

Knock National Novena returns to traditional format

Next week, the National Novena to Our Lady of Knock will return to its traditional format for the first time since 2019.

The theme for this year is 'A Journey in Hope' and the novena will run from Sunday 14 until Monday 22 August. More than 8,000 pilgrims are expected to attend each day at



St Paul's Parish Church
(Celebrating 350+ yrs of Worship and Witness in Garvagh)

Flower Festival

"Old but Beautiful"
(and still bearing fruit)

Artistic Director Mr Alan Beatty
assisted by Mr James Burnside

Friday 7th - Sunday 9th October 2022

TIMES:
Friday: 10am to 8pm – Opening Service 11am
Saturday: 10am to 8pm
Sunday: 2.00pm to 5.30pm – Closing Service 7pm

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE - GROUP BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

Contact Eleanor Livingston Tel: 07792 000 274
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NIC 104706  St Paul's Church of Ireland, Garvagh

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the Shrine. As in years gone by, over the course of the novena the pilgrimage will offer nine days of reflection, prayer and a chance to reconnect with one's faith in the unique and sacred space of Knock Shrine.

Following a three-year break due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Knock parish priest and Rector of Knock Shrine, Father Richard Gibbons said: "as we gather together to give thanks at our beautiful Marian Shrine, I hope to make this year extra special for all those pilgrims who will be travelling to the Shrine to take part in the annual novena."

On each of the nine days, ceremonies will take place at Knock Basilica beginning with concelebrated Mass at 3.00pm and 8.00pm, followed by contributions from guest speakers. There will also be the special candlelight procession, a traditional feature of the Novena at Knock, which takes place following the 8pm ceremony (weather permitting).

Fr Gibbons said: "The purpose of the Novena is to recognise the unique role that Knock, as an International Eucharistic and Marian Shrine, has to play in the life of the Irish Church and to honour Our Lady. So many of the people who joined us online over the course of the pandemic are now coming back to visit the Shrine which is great to see. The Novena is always a very special highlight of the year, and we are delighted to be able to proceed with it this year. We look to the future with the hope of renewal, for God's guidance and pray that this Novena will offer pilgrims the chance for thought-provoking reflection and discussion."

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A unique feature of this year's Novena will be the 'Synod Tent', where members of the public will be invited to learn more about the Synod and what it means for all of us. It will also provide an opportunity for pilgrims to listen to the ideas of what others think Knock Shrine has to offer and the Church in Ireland at this critical juncture in our history.

Sunday 21 August is the Anniversary of the Apparition, which will coincide with the Family Day. Taking place from 11am - 3pm in the beautiful grounds of the Shrine. The Family Day is a lovely opportunity for families to get together to enjoy a range of fun activities. All events and activities are free of charge and will take place on the beautiful grounds of Knock Shrine, close to the award-winning Knock Museum and Café Le Chéile.

Visit: www.knockshrine.ie for more information, and to view the Novena 2022 Brochure.

New Girls' Choir at Derry Cathedral

St Columb's Cathedral has announced a major new musical initiative in the formation of a Girls' Choir from September 2022.

This will provide an exciting opportunity for young musicians to develop their potential and is open to people of all faith backgrounds – not just the Church of Ireland.

The Cathedral will continue to maintain a Boys' Choir, and the new Girls' Choir will play its own part in the schedule of services.

MAIDEN CITY FESTIVAL SIEGE STORY



*Stunning performances reliving the accounts of
the Siege of Derry in:*

St Columb's Cathedral

Three performances daily 12 noon, 2 pm and 4pm
Saturday 6th to Friday 12th August 2022



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The Cathedral is becoming part of a major development in many Cathedrals across the UK and Ireland in taking this step of establishing a choir of Girl Choristers.

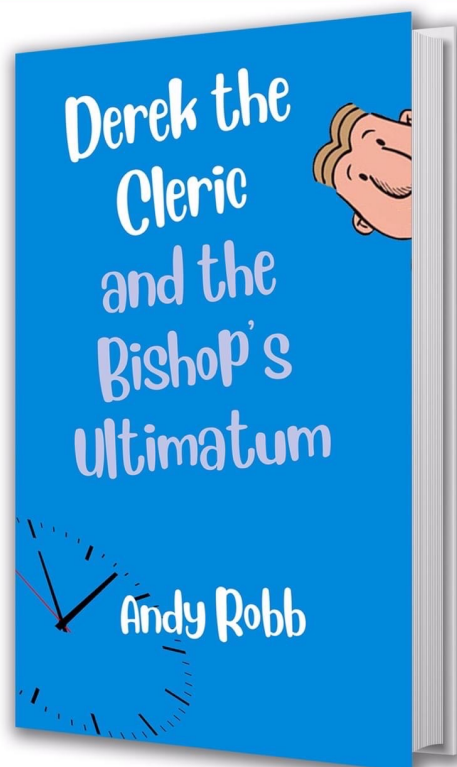
Being a Cathedral Chorister carries many benefits:

- A free, first-class musical education,
- Experience being a valued member of a team,

For Derek the Cleric fans everywhere...
his very first ebook.

The bishop has given Derek twelve months to increase his dwindling congregation or be moved to another parish. But Derek's good lady wife has hit upon a plan. The bishop didn't specify that it had to be the congregation of St Cliff's, Derek's church, so why not start an 'online congregation'. Download a copy of '**Derek the Cleric and the Bishop's Ultimatum**' today and discover what happens next.

[Available on Amazon ebooks for just 99p.](#)



If you don't own a Kindle, just download the app to your phone.

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- The chance to sing at special opportunities (e.g. TV and Radio broadcasts),
- Improved confidence/performance skills,
- Improved reading and presentation skills and
- Opportunities to learn to play the piano/organ

If you are a girl aged between 7-16, and have an interest in becoming a Chorister at the Cathedral, please contact the Assistant Organist, Nicky Morton on: 07858097290 or by e-mail at nickymorton@hotmail.co.uk

World News

Edinburgh Festival: Peace Cranes Project

Peace Cranes is a two-year project by Peace & Justice (Scotland) - a major part of its Arts and Activism Programme.

The project sets out to explore the impact of nuclear power on peace, people the planet, and the significance of the UN nuclear weapons ban treaty. It features a series of contemporary art exhibitions and events across Edinburgh in-person and worldwide online, showcasing works by Scottish and international artists. Peace Cranes is curated by Iliyana Nedkova and Heather Kiernan and delivered with the support of a range of partners, volunteers, donors and funders - all spreading the message about planetary care, climate and nuclear justice worldwide.

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The Peace Cranes project began online on 6 August 2020 with a series of films, talks and theatre events commemorating the 75th anniversary of the nuclear catastrophe caused by the US atomic bombing of the Japanese civilian populations in Hiroshima and in Nagasaki in August 1945. The project continued with exhibitions and events held across Edinburgh 6 August - 26 November 2021 which attracted over 20,000 visitors.

The Peace Cranes project culminates with Consequences. Art and Activism in the Nuclear Age 16 August - 3 September 2022 - an in-person exhibition and events at Out of the Blue Drill Hall, 36 Dalmeny Street, Edinburgh EH6 8RG. Free and open to all Monday - Saturday 10am - 5pm (except 27 August 2022).

Through artist's films, photography, installations and poetry, it explores the humanitarian and environmental consequences posed by the Russia's invasion of Ukraine, together with the nuclear power accidents at Chernobyl and Fukushima, as well as the dropping and testing of the atomic bomb in Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Kazakhstan and Marshall Islands.

The artists featured include Es Devlin (England), Ian Dodds (Scotland), Maxim Dondyuk (Ukraine), Alla Georgieva (Ukraine/Bulgaria), Su Grierson (Scotland), Janis Hart (Scotland), Madelon Hooykaas (The Netherlands), Kathy Jetnil-Kijiner (USA), Peter Kennard (England), Dan Lin (USA), Alena Rogozhkina (Ukraine/Scotland), Keiko Sato (Japan/The Netherlands), Makana (USA), Pam Skelton (England), Elena Subach (Ukraine), Daria Svertilova (Ukraine), Edward Thompson (England), Mare Tralla

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(Estonia/England), Machiko Weston (Japan/England) and Helen Zhgir (Ukraine).

The exhibition is accompanied by a series of free events, including a preview and poetry readings on 19 August from 6pm.

Please register via Eventbrite: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/consequences-art-and-activism-in-the-nuclear-age-exhibition-launch-tickets-385837068057

The exhibition is also accompanied by a selection of poems introduced weekly on our dedicated Peace & Justice (Scotland) Art and Activism Facebook page: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100082493810472

And look out for the play in Edinburgh - 'The Mistake: a play by Michael Mears'. The dropping of the first atomic bomb is referred to on the Peace Memorial in Hiroshima as "the mistake". In this 77th anniversary of Hiroshima, Michael Mears' new play explores personal stories surrounding that catastrophic event. <https://cnduk.org/events/the-mistake-a-play-by-michael-mears-3/>

Walking a new path together towards Christian unity

How do we – as Christian world communions – define the goal of visible unity for our churches? Can we find a way forward, walking together towards a shared vision? Or do we “simply fall back and expect the other to look like us?”

Those were key questions posed by the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) General Secretary Rev. Anne Burghardt to Anglican bishops and representatives of other Christian world communions gathered at the 15th Lambeth Conference in Canterbury, England.

Under the leadership of the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, over 650 Anglican leaders, as well as bishops in full communion from across the globe, are meeting from 26 July to 8 August. Reflecting on the theme ‘God’s Church for God’s World: walking, listening and witnessing together’, they are discussing the mission and the priorities of the worldwide communion for the next decade.

“The welcome from the bishops has been generous and the work of discernment is seriously engaged by the all those gathered at Lambeth,” said LWF Assistant General Secretary for Ecumenical Relations, Prof. Dirk Lange.

“Every day, in prayer, small Bible study groups and respectful dialogue sessions, participants are discovering a path of unity and reconciliation for both the church and the world.”

On day nine of the conference, dedicated to Christian unity and interfaith relations, General Secretary Burghardt joined panelists from the Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox, Anglican and Pentecostal traditions, who shared perspectives on the doctrinal, spiritual and social justice dimensions of the ecumenical journey.



Noting that this Lambeth Conference comes just over a century on from the 1920 Lambeth Appeal which called for “a reunited Christendom,” the LWF leader reflected on the *Lutheran World Federation General Secretary Rev. Anne Burghardt addresses the Lambeth Conference on day nine dedicated to Christian unity. Photo: Lambeth Conference/ Richard Washbrooke*

definition of unity “for which we all yearn,” yet one which is “not always easy to define.” Decades of dialogue, she said, have helped to shape that definition, including one of the key statements on unity from the World Council of Churches (WCC) New Delhi Assembly in 1961.

Reaffirming the importance of “spiritual ecumenism,” Burghardt stressed that “liturgy and prayer can turn us around, shape us anew, reorient us differently towards one

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another and to the suffering world.” Yet prayer and theological reflection, she said, must remain closely connected to diakonia and public witness. “Is this a time,” *Anglican bishops, their spouses and ecumenical participants listen to Archbishop Justin Welby leading a Bible study.* *Photo: Lambeth Conference/Neil Turner*

she asked, “when our solidarity with the suffering neighbor and the distressed creation may open up a new hermeneutical framework for our doctrinal and theological reflection?”

Speaking of the full communion agreements that have been achieved between Lutherans and Anglicans in different parts of the world, Burghardt noted that “visible unity does not necessarily mean institutional unity,” but rather “koinonia between our churches,” as the WCC document ‘The Church

Towards a Common Vision' spells out. She mentioned the Porvoo agreement between some Lutheran and Anglican churches in Europe (including her own Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church), as well as the Waterloo Declaration between Anglicans and Lutherans in Canada and the 'Called to Common Mission' agreement between the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Episcopal Church in the U.S. as examples of this shared communion.

Through these agreements, Burghardt said, "living traditions are shared among different church families" while, at the same time, maintaining "their special spiritual and theological 'accents'." The notion of "differentiating consensus," developed in the Lutheran-Roman Catholic dialogue, "points in the same direction," she added, and led to the signing of the Joint Declaration of the Doctrine of Justification in 1999, now affirmed by five world communions (Lutheran, Catholic, Anglican, Methodist and Reformed).

This consensus statement, the LWF leader said, "seeks implementation on the local level, as local, neighboring parishes, rather than living in isolation or occupied only with themselves, turn to each other to proclaim Jesus, to share Jesus, to engage in the world out of love for Jesus and to do so together." In that ecumenical dynamic, she concluded, "we evangelize, [...] but we do it together, not for the sake of the church but that God's immeasurable goodness and God's good intent for all people and all creation be known."

In the remaining days of the gathering, Anglican church leaders, alongside the ecumenical participants, will continue to explore what visible unity signifies and how it is already

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being lived out in hospitality, generous discipleship and joint witness to the gospel in the world.

The best is yet to come': Nicky and Pippa Gumbel retire from HTB

Rev Nicky Gumbel has delivered his last sermon at London's Holy Trinity Brompton Church (HTB) as he steps down as leader.

Gumbel thanked a packed-out congregation on Sunday, with wife Pippa stating it has been an 'honour and privilege' to be part of the church.

Rev Gumbel has led the 4,000 strong congregation since 2005 and has overseen considerable growth in that time.

His final message was titled "The Best is Yet to Come" - a sentiment he believes is true both in our lives, and in the lives of HTB.

Throughout his sermon he referred to the apostle Paul and read the Bible passage Acts 20:28 in which Paul gives his farewell speech to his church congregation in Ephesus.

Acts 20:28 reads: "Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood."

Reflecting on this passage Rev Gumbel said: "God loves you unconditionally and this is God's church."

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"We have been here 46 years and have been involved in the leadership and we love this church, we are so grateful to all of you and this is our farewell address!"

Using Paul as an example he expressed as Christians we are to finish the race that God has set before us.

Rev Canon Archie Coates, who currently serves at St Peter's church in Brighton, has been chosen as HTB's vicar designate.

Rev Gumbel said: "I am so thrilled that Archie and Sam are coming here to this church."

Many people expressed their praise and gratitude towards Rev Gumbel, including HTB churchwarden Angus Winther who said: "Nicky and Pippa how can we possibly thank you for the past 46 years of outstanding leadership of our church?"

"The Lord has done extraordinary things through them and we think of the thousands and thousands of lives that they have personally touched."

Nicky Gumbel is perhaps most known for his development of the Alpha course which was founded in 1977.

The series of evangelistic talks and discussions explores the basics of Christianity and has been adopted by over 30,000 churches of all denominations.

Having published international best-sellers, Rev Gumbel also pioneered HTB's ministry of 'church planting' in

dioceses across England and Wales. Many churches have been planted during his time in cities such as Birmingham, Cardiff and Coventry.

In the media

Fall in number of people who think Protestant-Catholic relations are improving

Belfast Live - Changing attitudes on community relations have been monitored in a new Stormont report, Brendan Hughes writes.

The number of adults in Northern Ireland who think relations between Protestants and Catholics are improving has fallen to its lowest level in 17 years.

Some 39% of those surveyed believe relations across the religious divide are better now than five years ago, according to Stormont's latest Good Relations Indicators report.

The figure for 2019 was a 4% drop on the previous year and the lowest it has been since 2002 when the proportion was 30%.

Among young people, there was no significant change compared to the previous 12 months, with 44% in 2019 saying relations were better than five years ago.

The Good Relations Indicator report compiles a range of statistics from different sources, such as hate crime figures and attitudes to mixing in schools, neighbourhoods and the workplace.

It monitors changes against the Stormont Executive's "Together: Building a United Community" (T:BUC) strategy, which was launched in 2013 in a bid to improve cross-community relations.

Just over a quarter of adults (28%) in 2019 said they believed relations between Protestants and Catholics would be better in five years' time - the lowest proportion since the launch of the T:BUC strategy.

The figure was 34% among young people - the second-lowest proportion since 2013.

Alliance MLA Kellie Armstrong said: "It is disappointing that after years of good relations development, relationships between the two main religions has fallen and we now see that 24 years after the Good Friday Agreement the political tensions between religions has grown further apart.

"Alliance would like to see investment in good relations to develop community solutions and build cohesion. More must be done to bring single identity communities together, to build a shared society."

Some 63% of respondents said they see town centres as safe and welcoming places for people of all walks of life, a 4% drop compared to 2018.

Poem for today

Soliloquy by Francis Ledwidge

When I was young I had a care
Lest I should cheat me of my share
Of that which makes it sweet to strive
For life, and dying still survive,
A name in sunshine written higher
Than lark or poet dare aspire.

But I grew weary doing well.
Besides, 'twas sweeter in that hell,
Down with the loud banditti people
Who robbed the orchards, climbed the steeple
For jackdaws' eyes and made the cock
Crow ere 'twas daylight on the clock.
I was so very bad the neighbours
Spoke of me at their daily labours.

And now I'm drinking wine in France,
The helpless child of circumstance.
To-morrow will be loud with war,
How will I be accounted for?

It is too late now to retrieve
A fallen dream, too late to grieve
A name unmade, but not too late
To thank the gods for what is great;
A keen-edged sword, a soldier's heart,

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Is greater than a poet's art.
And greater than a poet's fame
A little grave that has no name.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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