

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Sudan bishops tribute to C of I cleric

August 12, 2022

Image of the day

Sudan bishops tribute to C of I cleric

**Five
Bishops
from the
Episcopal
Church of
South
Sudan
visited
Down
Cathedral
on Tuesday**



9th August to pay their respects at the grave of Canon Cecil Wilson of CMSI - Church Missionary Society Ireland.

The visit was at the request of the Archbishop of Juba, the Most Rev'd Justin Badi. The delegation also included the Right Rev'd Moses Zungo, Bishop of (Down and Dromore's link Diocese of) Maridi and Rev Patti Johnson from the Diocese of Albany. Albany Diocese has maintained a link



with CMSI and Maridi forged during the partnership with our own Diocese of Down and Dromore.

Archbishop Justin spoke of Canon Cecil bringing teams from Ireland to South Sudan during the earliest days after the long conflict there, including Bishops from Ireland, and the importance of these visits to the Church there. ‘Because of Canon Cecil,’ he said, ‘we have friends in Ireland.’

The bishops offered prayers and songs of thanksgiving before briefly visiting inside the Cathedral.

CNI

People and places

Parish raises €12k for Trócaire's Lenten campaign



Anne Marie Mulhall, Jessica Healy, Paul Healy and Fr Martin Cosgrove

Parishioners from the Church of the Annunciation in Rathfarnham raised €12,000 for Trócaire's Lenten campaign – which will be used to build a new healthcare facility in Somalia, Aideen O'Flaherty writes.

The money will be used to aid the charity's work in Somalia, where there is currently a drought and a food shortage.

During Mass last weekend, Fr Martin Cosgrove and parishioner Anne Marie Mulhall presented the cheque for

August 12, 2022

€12,000 on behalf of the parishioners to Paul Healy from Trócaire.

Frank Browne, who is a deacon in Rathfarnham Parish, said: “Paul thanked all the parishioners in Rathfarnham parish for their generosity and outlined how desperate things are in Somalia.

“He said that as a result of both famine and drought, up to 350,000 children are at risk of dying by the end of the year.

“The desperate situation is the result of the shortage of food and most recently the supply of grain from Ukraine, and also the failure of the rainy season for a number of years due to global warming.

“The donation from Rathfarnham parish will go to building a new health-care facility to treat severely malnourished children in particular.”

Report courtesy echo.ie

Volunteers welcome at Glencairn Community Garden

Glencairn Community Garden is full of colour and life, and Stephen Whitten and his team would love to hear from anyone who would like to volunteer to help in this wonderful natural haven.

The garden, on an acre of what was previously derelict land beside St Andrew’s Parish Church, Forthriver Road, was



Church Army Evangelist Stephen from Connor's North Belfast Centre of Mission in the Glencairn Community Garden.

established in February 2020, but development work was impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Since restrictions eased, Church Army Evangelist Stephen from Connor's North Belfast Centre of Mission, and a core team of enthusiastic volunteers have been busy planting, painting, building, harvesting and more.

And now the garden is bursting with vegetables – some have already been gathered and distributed to pensioners in the local area – as well as flowers, trees and an abundance of wild grasses and wildflowers.

August 12, 2022

Stephen and regular volunteer Isaac Castle have been busy painting a container which will be used for storage and shelter at the site. Another volunteer was lending a hand, but, there is a long list of jobs to be done to keep the garden at its best – including the erection of two new polytunnels.

Volunteers are welcome to join Stephen on Tuesday and/or Thursday each week at the Community Garden anytime between 9.30am and 3pm. If you would like to find out more about getting involved, please call Stephen on 07704 481489 or email him at s.whitten@churcharmy.org.uk.

Mariupol to Belfast – we're one family now

Revd Andy Hay, Curate Assistant in St Finnian's, Cregagh, in East Belfast, tells us how very special new family ties have been forged as a result of the war in Ukraine.

St Finnian's Parish, Cregagh, became our family's home nearly a year ago. Our new friends, a family from Mariupol in Ukraine, also have a new home but they have had to do a great deal more to adapt. The Mariupol family are Mum, Dad, two daughters aged five months and ten, and Granny. And a cat. Here is a little of how they came to join our Belfast family here in Cregagh.

The Hay family

August 12, 2022



Having moved out of our family home and into the Curatage, we were finally in a position to rent it out. We had 39 prospective tenants lined up but, thanks to Covid, the rental was put on hold. One morning my wife asked if I had thought about using the house for a family in Ukraine. I had. That night, in my absence, the Select Vestry met and they had been having similar thoughts. The next day we signed up for the Homes for Ukraine Government scheme.

It was evident that the Government scheme was coming to nothing. Thousands had registered interest but had heard nothing back. There was, however, the option of sponsoring people from Ukraine and applying for a visa on their behalf.

One evening we were looking at a Facebook page dedicated to finding homes UK for Ukrainians. The page was a bit of a nightmare really, a cross between a wartime railway platform full of evacuees, and a meat market. Every now and then a picture of an attractive young woman was posted: Can you find me a home? Young men would reply: Yes!

August 12, 2022

A picture of a family from Mariupol came up with the message: Can you help my friends? We made contact.

Do you speak any English? No. Can you use Google translate? Yes. Where are you now? Poland. Are you safe? Yes. We have a cat. It has a passport.

The Mariupol family

Having been burned out of their family home some months before, the Mariupol family had found a room to rent in Warsaw, Poland. The decimation of their home city and the loss of family members had been just the start. The baby was born during a military onslaught in February 2022. Since then they had been taken into Russia against their will, had managed to travel north through Russian territory and had finally crossed into Poland via Latvia and Lithuania. How they stayed together and alive, God only knows.

The Parish family

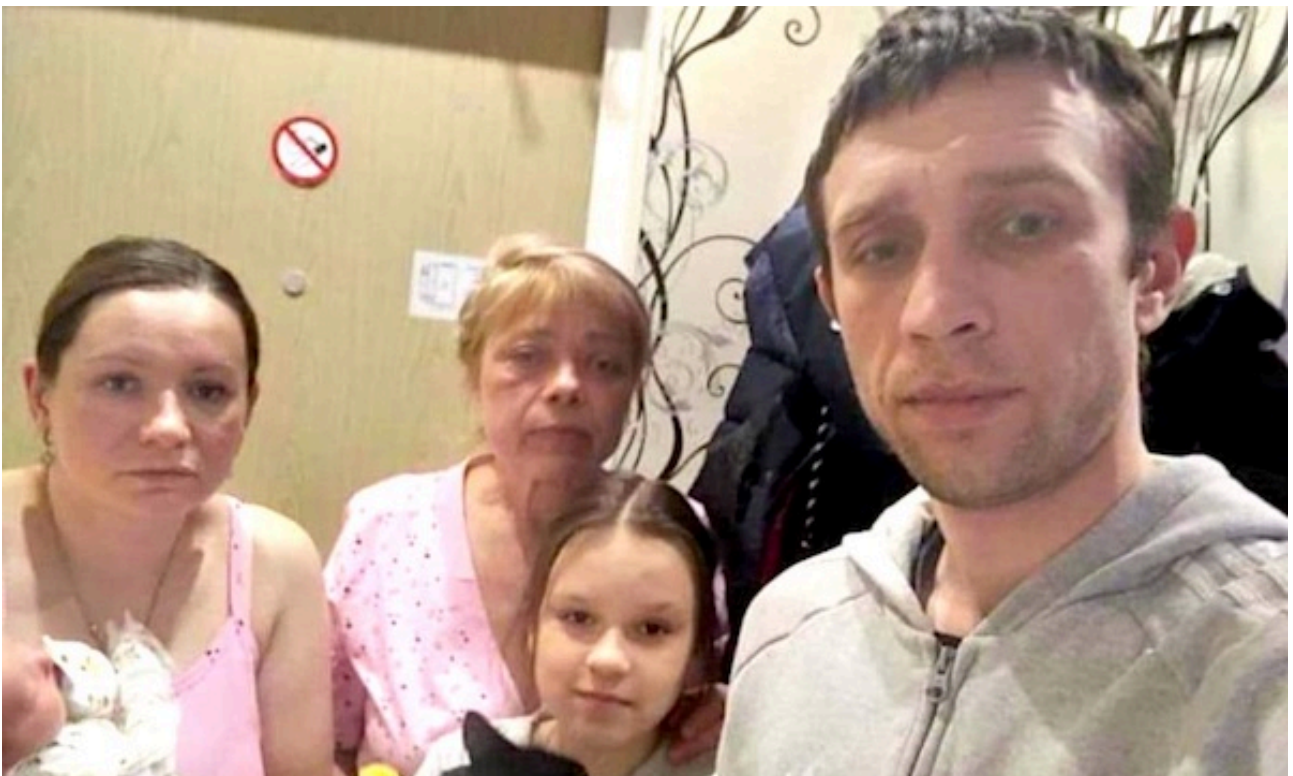
The Select Vestry were keen to support the Mariupol Family and having consulted the parish accountants, they decided to rent the accommodation on their behalf. The Vestry also agreed to cover the family's travel costs to get to Northern Ireland, as well as a number of other expenses.

The congregation of the church were on board from the outset. There was no real question of whether or not this was the right thing to do. There were no prayer meetings during which guidance was sought. In retrospect, we were rather like children. We knew this was the right thing to do and so we asked God to overcome any barriers and bring

August 12, 2022

the Mariupol family to their new Belfast home. Of course there is a time for seeking guidance. However, what we wanted to do seemed to coincide with everything we knew about our loving Father. It seems so simple when you say it out loud.

Visas



One Sunday night, eight of us from St Finnian's sat in the church after the evening service and together we applied for the five visas that were needed for the family to legally enter the UK. It was a long and tortuous business but we got there. By around 11.00 pm we had made five appointments for the family members to go the Visa Centre in Warsaw to upload their details.

Once the visas had been applied for, we had to wait. During this time, the members of the church started to contribute items of furniture, kitchenware, bedding and anything that a



Mothers' Union in Ireland – speaking up for victims of domestic abuse, in all its forms

'Souls of Our Shoes'

Everyone is welcome to call in and explore this (no charge)

Exhibition

- a powerful & compelling place, with shoes that seek to tell stories on behalf of people who experience physical or emotional abuse

in **The West Wing of
The Carraig Centre,
Ballincollig P31 PV20**

Opening Saturday 6th August and remaining in place for the month. The doors will be open from 10 am - 12 pm every Saturday, Monday and Wednesday in August.

Don't look away, act against abuse



It is God's intention for all human beings, male, female, child and adult, to enjoy safety, freedom, dignity and fullness of life."

(From the Scottish Inter-Faith Statement)

August 12, 2022

family would need if they had to start from scratch. It was amazing. To be honest, the house could have been kitted out twice over. Alongside this, the congregation had begun to make financial contributions so that the Mariupol Family not only had the security of their own front door, they also had some financial security in case of emergencies. As well as the Select Vestry and the congregation, my wife took on the role of receiving and arranging the household items and I am pretty sure she didn't sleep for a month.

Active waiting

It seemed the visa applications may have been lost.

For around two months we were bloody minded. We harassed politicians, we prayed, the rector made an appearance on Newslane, we prayed some more. Every now and then we would receive an email to say that the Home Office had made a decision about a Visa for one of the family members and a visit had to be made to the Warsaw office. We passed these to the Mariupol family. We harassed more politicians and prayed some more.

In Poland, the Mariupol family endured much frustration, hardship and a lot more waiting. Sometimes we would receive messages from them saying they had given up hope of coming but eventually all five Visas were awarded.

Arrival

The Mariupol family arrived in Dublin late on 2nd June. A few of us went down to collect them. Our rector has described it as being like a blind date. They were tired and

August 12, 2022

disorientated. The cat was met by a very kind man from the Department of agriculture. As kind as he was, he still had to take the cat into quarantine. They will have the cat returned to them in September. It breaks their heart. They had pulled their family pet out of the rubble that was their home, protected it through Russia and beyond. The family are safe but not quite restored.

They arrived in Belfast in the early hours of 3rd June. I still have a video, sent to me at 3.30am of them going through the kitchen cupboards of their beautiful new home and seeing that they had more than they needed.

They are learning English, negotiating the welfare system, the eldest daughter started school, baby is getting strong, and the adults are itching to work. It is the start of a new phase, but they know they are not alone. The church are generous with their prayer and practical support. There has



August 12, 2022

been a snowball effect as more members of the church are making moves to sponsor families themselves. God answered our prayers by bringing the Mariupol family here. So, like any normal children who have been amply provided for by their loving Father, we now ask for more.

The shape of the St Finnian's family and the Mariupol family has changed. When there are fraught moments, and there are, we say: It's ok, we are one family now.

World News

Bishop of Manchester reflects on the Lambeth Conference

Bishop David Urquhart writes to his diocese on:10th August 2022

Dear sisters and brothers,

I was very grateful for the many clergy who engaged with our two CMD events on 1 Peter ahead of the Lambeth Conference. I believe that has enabled all five of us at the conference (three bishops and two spouses) to feel that our diocese was present with us during our fortnight in Canterbury. I'm now writing to complete the circle, bringing Lambeth back home to Manchester. This isn't intended to be a conference summary, I'm sure there are websites well-positioned to provide that for those who want it. Rather it is my personal selection of reflections, having consulted with my fellow bishops here in the diocese.

August 12, 2022

Like many of those present, I found the heart of the conference to be in the small groups who met each morning to study 1 Peter. For bishops, the same groups met in the afternoons, when we discussed a range of thematic “calls”. My own group of seven contained three bishops from Africa, two from England, and one each from the West Indies and the USA. The variety of cultures from which we came was immense. The problems we face range from war and poverty via corruption and complacency to climate change and neo-colonialism. Crucially, we discovered a deep fellowship and unity in our shared Anglican identity.

The authors of the commentary that I drew from in our diocesan gatherings, worked with Archbishop Justin to prepare him for leading us in a plenary bible study each day, before we broke into our groups. In these, as well as in the three keynote addresses he gave, his final sermon, and above all his speech in our session on Human Dignity, he was hugely inspirational. If our overall conference title was “God’s Church for God’s World”, it felt very much that he was wearing the mantle of “God’s Archbishop, for God’s Church for God’s World”.

At less than two weeks in total, this was by historic standards a short Lambeth Conference. But that still allowed time for reflection on process as well as content, and for plans to be changed in the light of the mood of those attending. The most obvious example of this was in the abandonment of the voting machines, after just one attempt to use them. I admit to being hugely relieved by this. No longer were we expected to claim, as 650 bishops, the right to declare the mind of the entire Anglican Communion. Instead we were reflecting on draft “requests” in our small



groups, and offering contributions which may or may not lead to some future public facing document. The significance of the change of language, from Resolutions, via Calls to Requests, cannot be underestimated. I hope we have now drawn a line in the sand, and that future conferences will refrain from any attempt to exercise coercive control over several dozen autonomous provinces; provinces whose bonds are forged in prayer and fellowship, love and respect, shared ministry and twinning, not in confessional conformity. For me that is a crucial difference between a Communion and a Church.

As far as the secular media were concerned, there was only one topic on the conference agenda, namely sexuality and gender identity. Archbishop Justin's address on this issue is well worth reading in full; you can find it [here](#).

In a few short minutes, he enabled bishops from vastly different cultures to recognise their own position in his words, and also to see that those from other provinces who

disagreed with them, were equally striving to interpret the scriptures and to live faithfully in Christ. He explicitly and firmly rejected the route of sanctions or expulsions as a means of dealing with disagreements. The long, standing ovation that greeted his remarks showed that this simple truth telling had ushered in a fresh mood among us, one that built on the relationships we were already developing in our groups. A mood that enabled even deeper fellowship to grow in the days that followed. In consequence, off stage attempts by pressure groups to divide us proved far less effective than many had feared. As Cherry Vann (our former archdeacon, now Bishop of Monmouth) put it, 'We can all go home feeling that we are bound together with something stronger than our context, our experience, our views and opinions, our reading of scripture. We are held together in the love of Christ, and we have to honour the fact that we are working in massively different contexts'. From an English perspective, the Living in Love and Faith process can now continue its work over the coming autumn and beyond, our bishops better informed of diverse Anglican perspectives, yet not improperly constrained in our discernment.

Within the conference, we discussed a wide variety of issues. Our own Archbishop Stephen spoke passionately on Mission and Evangelism. We had sessions on Safeguarding, Ecumenism, Relations with other World Faiths, Science and Religion, and Anglican Identity. The session that included sexuality and gender issues also had a very useful paper looking at the heritage of slavery and colonialism in the Communion. Our day trip to Lambeth Palace had a particular focus on environment issues and sustainability; including the launching of the new Anglican

August 12, 2022

Communion Forest. Back at Canterbury, I pressed the point that our aim has to be a net zero world, not a net zero Anglican Communion and shared my experience of how investors such as our own award-winning Church Commissioners are at the cutting edge of working towards that carbon neutral planet.

No conference of 1100 participants is ever perfect. Several plenaries comprised a succession of lengthy speeches from the platform. Advance contributions in writing, with speakers emphasising a smaller number of key points, would have given us more time to reflect on the important things that were being said. I felt also that the worship could have been better balanced. Emphasis on diversity of language resulted in what felt at times like a procession of very similar sounding late twentieth century worship songs. I did miss the one language which can unite us all, that of spending time together in silence before God. I made good use each day of the chapel, which was quiet, beautifully decorated, and contained the reserved sacrament.

We are much blessed in Manchester by our twinning relationships. Bishop Irfan of Lahore is now in the final few weeks of his role. He and his wife Rosina made quite a splash at an evening supper in the grounds of the Canterbury Old Palace, turning up in full national dress. His successor has not yet been appointed, so please keep Lahore in your prayers. Namibia has however elected a new bishop, Patrick Djuulume. Patrick was able to come to the conference, which will have proven a very good crash course in episcopal ministry. He brings extensive experience of prison chaplaincy as well as many other gifts to his new role. I will be travelling to Namibia for his consecration on

August 12, 2022

Saturday 27th August, and hope to be taking with me a new cope and mitre that will be a gift from us in Manchester for him to wear on the occasion. I'll be praying hard that the robes manufacturers keep to the schedule they promised in Canterbury! Archbishop Philip of Melbourne, with whom Manchester retains the informal link which has served us well for over a century, continues in good form. Meanwhile, our good friend Bishop Matti from Tampere was also present, representing the World Lutheran Federation, as one of a small number of ecumenical delegates.

Questions have been asked as to why we spend time and money coming to Canterbury, if not to declare the authoritative position of the Anglican Communion on matters of concern. The conference helped me realise that I hadn't come to change the Communion, I'd come to change me.

My hope is that every bishop has gone home a changed woman or man. Changed by the experience of meeting in the flesh, worshipping, praying, studying, sharing our stories, and having fun together. That is how our fellowship of churches can and will be changed, and changed for the better.

May God bless us as we journey alongside so many sisters and brothers in this amazing worldwide Anglican Communion.

+David Manchester

CNI

Perspective

Garrison Keillor on “Methodists”

We make fun of Methodists for their blandness, their excessive calm, their fear of giving offense, their lack of speed, and also for their secret fondness for macaroni and cheese.

But nobody sings like them. If you were to ask an audience in New York City, a relatively Methodist-less place, to sing along on the chorus of "Michael Row the Boat Ashore," they will look daggers at you as if you had asked them to strip to their underwear. But if you do this among Methodists, they'd smile and row that boat ashore and up on the beach! And down the road!

Many Methodists are bred from childhood to sing in four-part harmony, a talent that comes from sitting on the lap of someone singing alto or tenor or bass and hearing the harmonic intervals by putting your little head against that person's rib cage.

It's natural for Methodists to sing in harmony. They are too modest to be soloists, too worldly to sing in unison. When you're singing in the key of C and you slide into the A7th and D7th chords, all two hundred of you, it's an emotionally fulfilling moment. By joining in harmony, they somehow promise that they will not forsake each other.

August 12, 2022

I do believe this: People, these Methodists, who love to sing in four-part harmony are the sort of people you can call up when you're in deep distress.

*If you're dying, they will comfort you.

*If you are lonely, they'll talk to you.

*And if you are hungry, they'll give you tuna salad.

*Methodists believe in prayer, but would practically die if asked to pray out loud.

*Methodists like to sing, except when confronted with a new hymn or a hymn with more than four stanzas.

*Methodists believe their pastors will visit them in the hospital, even if they don't notify them that they are there.

*Methodists usually follow the official liturgy and will feel it is their way of suffering for their sins.

*Methodists believe in miracles and even expect miracles, especially during their stewardship visitation programs or when passing the plate.

Methodists think that the Bible forbids them from crossing the aisle while passing the peace.

*Methodists drink coffee as if it were the Third Sacrament.

*Methodists feel guilty for not staying to clean up after their own wedding reception in the Fellowship Hall.

August 12, 2022

*Methodists are willing to pay up to one dollar for a meal at the church.

*Methodists still serve Jell-O in the proper liturgical color of the season and think that peas in a tuna casserole adds too much color.

*Methodists believe that it is OK to poke fun at themselves and never take themselves too seriously.

And finally, You know you are a Methodist when:
It's 100 degrees, with 90% humidity, and you still have coffee after the service.

You hear something funny during the sermon and smile as loudly as you can.

Donuts are a line item in the church budget, just like coffee.

When you watch a Star Wars movie and they say, "May the Force be with you," you respond, "and also with you."
And lastly, it takes ten minutes to say good-bye!

Editorial note - If perchance you have not been exposed to Garrison's take on church and society, beg, borrow or buy "Tales from Lake Woebegone"

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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