



**Image of the day -
The Church of St John
in the Episcopal diocese of Washington, Lego**

People and places



Church tractor run in Annalong for Mercy Ships

A recent fundraising event in Annalong was an interesting mix of tractors and ships. The Kilhorne Church Tractor Run attracted 104 vehicles, with proceeds going to parishioner Jane White who nurses with Mercy Ships.

Mercy Ships deploys hospital ships to some of the poorest countries in the world, delivering vital, free healthcare to people in desperate need.

“Everyday’s a school day on your first incumbency, said the rector, Revd Goeff Hamilton. “This was definitely a new experience for me as I had never been to a tractor run before.



“What a joy to be part of it, especially watching the brilliant team of volunteers embrace their numerous tasks as they made it a night to remember. The tractors travelled around the local area and then as the one-hour route was concluding the convoy headed up the main street to the church grounds. The team was ready for action as they handed out hot dogs and ice-cream along with a creative Christian resource that used tractor colours to share the basics of the Christian faith. From a local perspective it was a brilliant community night for the village, but it was special to be able to raise funds for Jane.”

Founded in 1978, Mercy Ships has worked in more than 55 countries, providing healthcare delivery in every country it

visits, as it seeks to eradicate the diseases of poverty and effectively do itself out of a job. In simple terms it's 'belief in practice' as Jane and the team follow the model of Jesus by "bringing hope and healing to the forgotten poor."

Geoff said: "I've heard it said that we live today in what some call the 'attention economy' as big businesses spend serious amounts of money feeding us images and suggestions, trying to grab and hold our attention. Let's give our attention to things that really matter and fully participate in life and live lives that bring hope to our local communities and further afield!"

As we publish more than £4200 has been raised.

Ulster and America linked in Livingston Days Festival in Killinchy Parish Church

A special evening of 'Word and Music' took place in Killinchy Parish Church on Friday 6th August 2021 to celebrate the amazing connections between Ulster and America. It was part of the Livingston Days Festival and sponsored by the Ulster-Scots Agency.

The Reverend Dr Stanley Gamble, current Rector of Killinchy, welcomed everyone to the event, especially Susan and Henry Livingston of Massachusetts, USA, 11th great grandchildren of Reverend John Livingston, first Protestant Rector of Killinchy (1630).

Notable guests included Lord and Lady Rogan of Lower Iveagh, Jim Shannon MP, and Michelle McIlveen MLA, Minister of Education as well as Alderman Robert Gibson.

Dr James Dingley, Chairman of the Francis Hutcheson Institute opened the evening with an introduction to the life and contribution of the renowned political philosopher who was born in Saintfield, County Down in 1694. 'The Father of the Scottish Enlightenment', Francis Hutcheson is widely recognised in the universities of the United States as a founding philosophic influence, inspiring both the Declaration of Independence and the foundational principles of the American Constitution. Both of the preceding went on to inspire the French Revolution and constitution, and then the general development of liberal-democratic constitutions and ideals throughout the world.

After Dr Dingley's very interesting talk, Jack McCabe, Organ Scholar Elect, Queens' College, Cambridge, performed J.S. Bach's Sinfonia (from Cantata No. 2) and The Londonderry Air arranged by Richard W Elsassheron The Reverend John Livingston Memorial Organ. Jack is currently the organ scholar at Killlinchy Parish Church and plays for divine services each Sunday.

Bryan Johnston OBE, former CEO of TSB Northern Ireland, delivered a fascinating lecture on 'The impact of Ulster on American Independence and Beyond'. Charting the various waves of immigration from Ulster to America, Bryan Johnston provided the background to the war of independence, focusing on key figures of the Ulster-Scots community across the pond and the contributing factors that



led to the formation to the United States of America. Leading figures from the Ulster Scots community who were the grandchildren and great children of Reverend John Livingston, played a significant role. Robert R. Livingston was involved in the drafting of the Declaration of Independence.

On April 30, 1789, under the new Constitution, Chancellor Livingston administered the oath of office in New York City to the nation's first president, George Washington.

Bryan Johnston pointed out that the Ulster-Scots community, when they crossed the Atlantic, became known as the Scots Irish. This distinctive body of people continued to make a positive contribution to the life of the United States beyond the formation of the States, with famous

names including Neill Armstrong, Dolly Parton and John Wayne. He said seventeen of America's presidents are generally accepted as being of Ulster-Scots ancestry.

Following the lecture, Dr Joe McKee OBE, Organist & Choral Director, at St Columba's, Knock, explained the history and pedigree of the Reverend John Livingston Memorial Organ.

Dr McKee explained that the Harrison & Harrison organ of 1899 was built for High Spen Methodist Chapel in Northumbria 14 years after the church opened (1885). Sadly the church closed in 2003. The organ was rescued and fully restored and installed in Killinchy Parish by the Pipe Organ Preservation Co. The organ was unveiled on 29th September 2018 by Henry & Susan Livingston who donated the organ in memory of their 11th great grandfather.

Dr McKee then performed Handel's Variations (from Organ Concerto Set 1, Op. 4, No.1), The Cuckoo by Claude Daquin before playing two pieces by Samuel Wesley; No. 1 Air (Andante) and No.2 Gavotte (Allegretto). Dr McKee brought the recital to a close with John Thompson's arrangement of Swing Low, Sweet Chariot, and The Washington Post by John Philip Sousa.

Lord Rogan, Jim Shannon MP, and Michelle McIlveen MLA, Minister of Education formally thanked the lecturer and musicians for a most enjoyable evening and praised the Livingstons for their support of the Ulster-Scots community in Northern Ireland. Canon Raymond Fox, former Rector of Killinchy, closed the evening with prayer before visitors and guests enjoyed refreshments in the new Livingston Centre.

Rev Jim Martin remembered as a ‘man who made a difference’

Former clergyman and founder of the Martin Residential Trust, the Rev. Jim Martin MBE, has died after a short illness. He was 88.

Mr Martin was the first rector of St Brigid’s Church of Ireland in Glengormley.

A service of thanksgiving for his life was held in Fleming and Cuthbert funeral home, Ballyclare, on August 2.

Due to Covid restrictions, only members of his immediate family were present. But over 100 people - including close friends, members of the St Brigid’s congregation and representatives of the MRT - attended the committal in Antrim Cemetery.

Mr Martin made it a personal mission to build the MRT - a residential home for the profoundly mentally disabled - after experiencing at first hand the immense difficulties one family in the St Brigid’s congregation was experiencing caring for their severely disabled son in their own home.

He vowed that “under God” he would build a new home for Roy and Dorothy Greer’s son Steven, who sadly passed away two years ago.

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Mr Martin, originally from east Belfast, served his time as a joiner, starting work at the age of 14 in Harland and Wolff shipyard.

However, married with two young children, he “answered a call from God” to study for the Church of Ireland ministry at Trinity College Dublin.

Mr Martin’s son Timothy, speaking at the service, said: “Everyone I have spoken to has said how kind and nice my father was - but there was another side to him that was more important than that.

“My dad possessed a ferocity. As a new parish, St Brigid’s didn’t have a rectory. My father built one with his own bare hands. That’s fierce.

“Promising Dorothy Greer he would build a home for her son Steven, when he knew nothing at all about working with the profoundly mentally disabled - that is fierce.”

Timothy said the family had been taking turns to be at his father’s bedside in Antrim Area Hospital during his last days. He stressed how hot the ward had been due to the heatwave.

“But then, just after my father passed, we walked outside and the sky darkened. The heavens opened and there was a flash of lightning and thunder.

“I have a good friend from Nigeria and when I told him that, he said ‘in Nigeria they say when that has happened, a giant has fallen and the earth weeps.

“But Caroline, Lisa (his two sisters) and I had a different theory. We think he might’ve been getting an earful from Kate (referencing their mother Kathleen, who passed away eight years ago) about how he didn’t spend enough time with the grandchildren - or what took him so long to get there!”

Timothy also told of how, one time when he and Lisa had been at their father’s house in Antrim, they had come upon the MBE he had been awarded in the bottom of a drawer.

“My dad said, ‘You take that - I don’t need it.’ That summed up my dad. He had kept many things my mum had bought him over the years - over 50 dress shirts, an old rusty exercise bike from 40 years ago - but he’d no interest in the MBE. Today is probably the first time the letters MBE have appeared after his name,” said Timothy.

During the service, Mr Martin’s grand-daughters - Deborah, Sarah, Lara, Grace and Elise - also paid tributes and read scripture passages.

The Rev Stephen McBride, Archdeacon of Connor - who officiated at the service - said: “A joiner by trade, he was a man used to working with his hands and his tools. When I saw him in hospital, there on his bedside locker was his bible - the best tool he ever used.”

In a social media post, Penny McCanny (who had been appointed general manager of the MRT when it was built in 1988 - and who just stepped down from the post earlier this year) described Mr Martin as “a wonderful, caring and

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compassionate man who I had the privilege of knowing and working with for 30 years.

“A good man who made a difference, not only to the people who lived in the MRT, but to all who knew him.”

Mr Martin was laid to rest with his wife Kathleen. He is survived by his children - Caroline, Timothy and Lisa - grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Courtesy the Newtownabbey Times.

Reports

'Wake up world!' – Bishop calls for action to protect God's creation after climate report

The Bishop of Norwich, Graham Usher, has called for immediate action on climate change in light of the IPCC report.

He was speaking as the major UN scientific report was published.

The Bishop of Norwich, Graham Usher, the Church of England's lead bishop for the environment, said: “The message of today's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Sixth Assessment Report is loud and clear: ‘Wake up world!’



“It is time to stop playing political games and take action now.

“We are already seeing the effects of the climate emergency around the world - and it is the world's economically poorest people who are already suffering the most.

“So it is our moral duty and a Christian calling to do all we can to try to turn the tide.

“In just a few months at COP26 there will be an opportunity to act, our leaders must seize this moment and deliver real and impactful change for the future of God's creation.

“We don’t have a spare Earth – this is our precious home.”

Mind the Gap – Making Tracks Chester Cathedral

Trains are running through the nave of Chester Cathedral this summer – thanks to the support of celebrity record producer and lifelong railway enthusiast, Pete Waterman OBE.

Making Tracks – Discover the West Coast Mainline

The 74 ft model railway traces the West Coast Main Line and is the result of a two-year collaboration between the cathedral and Mr Waterman to commemorate the work of Chester's Thomas Brassey, who in his lifetime was responsible for one-third of the railways in Britain.

The exhibition, called 'Making Tracks – Discover the West Coast Main Line' was planned to go on show last year to mark 150 years after the death of the Chester-born civil engineer who is memorialised in Chester Cathedral's St Erasmus Chapel and the model railway features some of his work.

The Dean of Chester, the Very Revd Dr Tim Stratford said:

“Brassey was the most remarkable civil engineer and at his death he was responsible for one in every twenty miles of railways around the whole world.

“He is estimated to have kept 80,000 people in employment and is remembered as an honourable and fair man.



“This model railway exhibition was originally planned to take place in the summer that covid cancelled, and celebrates Brassey 150 years after his death.

“In it we seek to open visitors’ eyes to something that changed the world but that we often take for granted.”

Chester Model Centre is sponsoring the event and Pete Waterman said: “We’ve worked very hard on this model, used some innovative techniques, and created a layout that represents how the West Coast Main Line really appears.

“What’s interesting though, is that none of us have seen the whole model together, in one piece; there’s nowhere big enough for us to do it, so bringing it into the nave of the Cathedral will be the first time the whole entire model is brought together, and I know it will impress model railway enthusiasts and families alike,” he added.

Nicky Thompson's "Marvellous Days Out" railway poster exhibition, courtesy of the Northern and Mid-Cheshire Community Rail Partnerships, is on show alongside

Making Tracks runs until Friday, September 3 Monday to Saturday

Tickets are £2.50 per person. To book, visit the Chester Cathedral Website

[[] <https://chestercathedral.com/event/making-tracks/>]

St. John's in Washington gets full Lego treatment as brick-building parishioner pairs faith and hobby

Matthew Taylor, a parishioner at St. John's Episcopal Church, spent about a year designing and assembling his model of the church with up to 5,000 Lego bricks.

In Matthew Taylor's imagination, the historic church in Washington, D.C., that sits across Lafayette Square from the White House is 144 "studs" long (about 45 inches). It is 15 inches wide, rises about 2 feet from its base and is made from as many as 5,000 bricks, many of them purchased online from after-market sellers around the country and the world.

The parishioners who worship in this version of St. John's Episcopal Church are made of plastic and, whether sitting or

standing, are only the size of a thumb. Even so, this yearlong project was an outsized achievement for Taylor.

“This is the biggest Lego model I’ve ever built,” Taylor, 31, said when Episcopal News Service reached him by phone to assemble the story behind his scale model of St. John’s. With the model mostly complete, Taylor showed it off last week at the annual BrickFair expo in Arlington, Virginia, alongside his Lego model of Christ Church in Alexandria, where he now lives. The Lego St. John’s caught the eye of CNN’s Jake Tapper, who posted a photo of it to Twitter during a family visit to BrickFair.

The first brick, or cornerstone, of the real-life, full-size version was set in 1815. St. John’s now is best known as “the church of the presidents” because of the occasional visits made by the sitting commander in chief. Last year, it was the backdrop to the large Black Lives Matter protests that occupied Lafayette Square. During those protests, the church sustained minor damage from vandalism, and the site became a focal point for outrage directed at then-President Donald Trump for posing for a photo outside St. John’s after police had forcibly cleared protesters from the square.

Taylor’s model of St. John’s includes Lego versions of the police officers and police vehicles that now regularly patrol outside the church, but he said he didn’t set out to make a political statement. A more central goal in his design was detailed authenticity, and in that, Taylor’s biggest hurdle was getting the color right.



It's hard to find Lego bricks in St. John's unique shade of yellow.

"I think it's probably one of the few churches or few buildings that are that sort of pale yellow. It's super distinctive in D.C.," Taylor said. The color is also rare in the Lego world. The Denmark-based toy company has produced 6,233 different brick shapes in its standard yellow, Taylor said, but only 363 in the "cool yellow" he needed for his St. John's model.

That still may sound like a lot of shapes, but for a Lego builder, an accurate architectural rendering can depend on finding the perfect brick. Taylor, for example, was having trouble with some of the church's arches and angles until Lego released a Fiat 500 car kit that included some of the

yellow shapes he was looking for. Most other bricks were mined from Lego's "Friends" series, with its heavy reliance on pastels.

The model captures other key features of St. John's, from its six street-facing white columns to subtle details of the interior, such as the pulpit, pipe organs and chandelier. Taylor started the build last August, while the pandemic still was preventing the congregation from gathering for worship inside the church, so he conducted much of his research on interior details using online resources, such as the Historic American Buildings Survey.

"Now that we're back in the church, I've been able to take pictures of things," Taylor said. He began noticing details that previously had escaped his attention, like a big brass cross positioned in the balcony. The model took about a year to build and revise, and he's still adding some finishing touches. Only half of the pews are installed.

"Building sort of happens in fits and spurts because of shipping delays," he said. "It's been really rewarding to see it all come together."

More at -

[\[https://www.episcopalnewsservice.org/2021/08/05/st-johns-in-washington-gets-full-lego-treatment-as-brick-building-parishioner-pairs-faith-hobby/\]](https://www.episcopalnewsservice.org/2021/08/05/st-johns-in-washington-gets-full-lego-treatment-as-brick-building-parishioner-pairs-faith-hobby/)



Books, Broadcasts, Resources and Webinars

Eurovision Global Network to televise Mass on the Feast of the Assumption from Knock Basilica

This Sunday 15 August, the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into Heaven, Father Richard Gibbons PP will celebrate Mass from Our Lady's Basilica in Knock, Co Mayo, Archdiocese of Tuam. This Mass will be broadcast via the Eurovision Global Network.

Attendance at the Mass will be restricted to 200 people on a first-come, first-served basis with strict queuing systems in place. The liturgy will feature music by the Schola Cantorum Basilicae under the direction of Úna Nolan with Organist Charles O'Connor. The Mass will also be live-streamed on the Knock Shrine website www.knockshrine.ie/watch

At 11.00am on the feast day, outside broadcast coverage of this Mass, which will be produced by Kairos Communications, will be televised on RTÉ One, on RTÉ Radio 1 Extra / LW252 and also via the Eurovision Global Network, making it available to watch in France (F2), Belgium (RTBF, VRT), the Netherlands (KRO) and Switzerland (RTS, RSI). The broadcast will also be accessible on the RTÉ Player and RTÉ Radio Player.

Poem for today

I Am Kerry - by Sigerson Clifford

I am Kerry like my mother before me
And my mother's mother and her man
Now I sit on an office stool remembering

And the memory of them like a fan
Soothes the embers into flame.
I am Kerry and proud of my name.

My heart is looped around the rutted hills
That shoulder the stars out of the sky
And about the wasp-yellow fields
And the strands where the kelp streamers lie;
Where soft as lovers' Gaelic the rain falls
Sweeping into silver the lacy mountain walls.

My grandfather tended the turf fire
And leaning backward into legend spoke
Of doings old before quills inked history.
I saw dark heroes fighting in the smoke,
Diarmuid dead inside his Iveragh cave
And Deirdre caoining upon Naoise's grave.

I see the wise face now with its hundred wrinkles
And every wrinkle held a thousand tales
Of Fionn and Oscar and Conán Maol
And sea-proud Niall whose conquering snails
Raiding France for slaves and wine
Brought Patrick to mind Miolchú's swine.

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Ah! I should have put a noose about the throat of time
And choked the passing of the hobnailed years
And stayed young always shouting in the hills
Where life held only fairy fears.
When I was young my feet were bare
But I drove the cattle to the fair.

'Twas thus I lived skin to skin with the earth
Elbowed by the hills, drenched by the billows,
Watching the wild geese making black wedged
By Skelligs far west and Annascaul of the willows.
Their voices came on every little wind
Whispering across the half-door of the mind

For always I am Kerry

Pointers for prayer

Intercessions from Tenth Sunday after Trinity Year B– 8th
August 2021

Everlasting God Help us to understand the way that you
would like things to be done and to be ready to follow your
ways until we too can enter the wide open doors of heaven.

Almighty God you want us hold the needs of our sisters and
brothers in Christ as dear to us as ourselves. Help us to love
our neighbours as ourselves as we offer our thanks and our
intercessions on behalf of the church here in the Costa
Blanca and throughout the world.

(Short Silence)

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Creator God, you call us all to love and serve you with body, mind, and spirit. Help us to demonstrate our love for your creation and the world in the way that we live. Open the hearts of those with power both elected and non-elected and give them compassion in all that they do for the good of the people that they lead.

(Short Silence)

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Creator God we pray for all those here in the Costa Blanca on holiday this Summer despite the ongoing restrictions imposed because of the Pandemic. Thank you for the refreshment which holiday brings to their lives, for the freedom from routine and for the new experiences and opportunities they have as they explore our countryside and relax in our resorts. Thank you for the gift of your wonderful creation and help us to be good steward especially in our leisure time and also to continue to take all the necessary precautions for the safety of ourselves and others.

(Short Silence)

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Loving God friend of those in need, your Son Jesus has healed so many in body, mind and spirit. We hold before you those still burdened, those seeking healing, those in need within the church and the world.

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(Short Silence)

(add names of those requesting prayer)

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Merciful God we pray for all who grieve for loved ones who have died. Be with them in their sorrow, lead them with your love to accept their loss and to go on with their lives. We raise before you those who have died recently and those whose anniversary falls at this time

(Short Silence)

(add names of the recently departed or on Anniversary list)

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

God of power, hear our prayers, and through the ministry of your Son free us from the grip of the world and all that is evil. Lead us as we go forward into another week strengthened and upheld by your love, the knowledge of the Gospel and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Merciful Father: accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen

Intercessions for Eleventh Sunday after Trinity Year B – 15th August 2021

Everlasting God as we approach your throne in the House of Wisdom in humility and simplicity we ask that you will hear our prayers of thanksgiving and intercession.

Almighty God we pray for our churches in The Costa Blanca and ask that our church here in..... be given a clear vision of what is needed to be both focused and relevant in all that is good and serves your purpose of spreading the Good News to both residents and visitors.

(Short Silence)

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Creator God we thank you for the beauty of the created world; for its wonderful variety and the bounty that it brings forth. Help us all to be good stewards showing love and friendship to all peoples and the enjoying the warmth and light they bring to our lives. Be close to all who govern ensuring the decisions that they make, day by day, are made for the benefit all of the people entrusted to them in their leadership.

(Short Silence)

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Father God we pray for our own communities and all of our neighbours. We thank you also for our families and friends, raising before you those we know with particular needs. May your peace and love surround them bringing with it comfort and strength.

(Short Silence)

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Gracious God we thank you for those we know who are on the road to recovery and for the miracle of healing. We pray for all who minister to the sick and infirm, both at home and in hospital care centres. We name before you now, those we know who are ill or in need of our prayers asking that through these requests they may all experience the light of the Gospel and a real sense of your healing presence.

(Short Silence)

(add names of those requesting prayer)

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Merciful God we pray for those whose lives have been shattered by the death of someone close and dear to them. We pray for members of our natural and church families who have died and whose anniversary we remember now.

(Short Silence)

(add names of the recently departed or on Anniversary list)

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Faithful God receive our intercessions and thanksgiving on behalf of the church and the world. Hear our prayers and reward our stewardship of this earth with the riches of heaven.

Merciful Father: accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen



Speaking to the Soul

I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me.

Philippians 3:12 NLT

Perfection is a word that makes most of us shudder because we are so well aware that we fall very far short of it. But the danger with that kind of response is that we give up even trying. We accept, reluctantly, that we are the people that we are, and everybody else has just got to get used to it. We come up with endless excuses to explain why we are the people we are today. I've heard people say that they have a bad temper because that's exactly how their father used to be. Or they blame their impatience on their bad back. Paul fully acknowledges that he has got a long way to go on the road to perfection, but he was determined to travel further on that journey and not to excuse his shortcomings. Wonderfully God does accept us just the way we are, but he

loves us so much that he is determined that we should change and take steps forward towards perfection.

“Perfection is attained by slow degrees; it requires the hand of time,” commented Voltaire, the French philosopher. I find that a helpful observation and he was undoubtedly correct but he missed out the vital factor of Christian faith. By ourselves we will never make much progress. But when we commit ourselves to Christ we discover that, as Paul says, the very reason that he took hold of our lives was to make us perfect. And that’s the reason why Paul was so determined to put all his energies into making progress. Like a runner who is always checking his times to ensure that he is getting faster, so too Paul was focussing on becoming everything that Christ wanted him to be. That’s our challenge today. We aren’t perfect but we must strive each day, in the strength that God gives us, to become more fully the people Christ want us to be.

QUESTION

What progress are you making towards perfection?

PRAYER

Lord God, thank you that you lovingly accept me just the way I am, but that you love me so much that you want me to change each day. Amen

