

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – St Lappan's, Little island, Cobh

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Image of the day

St Lappan's, Little Island in the morning sunshine

Photo by the Rector, Canon Paul Arbuthnot.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St_Lappan%27s_Church,_Little_Island

People and places



Youghal Medieval Festival success

The Youghal Medieval Festival took place in the College Gardens next to St Mary's Collegiate Church on Sunday,



July31. 2022,. Canon Andrew Orr, Rector of Youghal Union writes:

Youghal is one of Ireland's oldest towns, with a rich heritage including much of the town walls still intact. The Medieval Festival has been part of Youghal's summer festivities for over ten years. Taking place in the College Gardens, there were displays of archery, falconry and sword fighting, as well as opportunities to make and purchase a whole range of medieval themed objects.

As the festival took place next door to St. Mary's Collegiate Church, we had many visitors there too, who come in their droves for guided tours and to escape the heat! Organist Kevin O'Connell played for the tourists, and the energetic parishioners provided a wonderful spread of

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teas and baked goods which were greatly appreciated. Donations on the day came to almost €600 in aid of parish funds and local charities.



HERITAGE WEEK 2022
SPECIAL TALK: LIVES
REMEMBERED

Monday 15 August at 18.30

There are more than two hundred memorials in Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin. This illustrated talk by Albert Fenton, Cathedral Board member and Chairman of the Friends of Saint Patrick's Cathedral will tell the fascinating stories behind some of them.

Lives remembered at St Patrick's

All are invited to an illustrated talk by Albert Fenton, a member of the Board of Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, and Chairman of the Friends of the Cathedral on Monday, 15th August, from 6.30pm.



HERITAGE WEEK 2022 PANEL DISCUSSION: THE CHURCH OF IRELAND IN THE REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD

Tuesday 16 August at 19.00

Moderated by RTE's Donal Byrne, this expert panel will discuss the crucial themes of the Church of Ireland in the Revolutionary Period. Dr Ian D'Alton, Dr Martin Maguire, Dr Ida Milne and Prof Brian Walker make up this panel for what will be a fascinating discussion.

The Church of Ireland in the Revolutionary Period

Moderated by RTE's Donal Byrne, a panel of historians will discuss the themes of the Church of Ireland in the Revolutionary Period. Dr Ian D'Alton, Martin Maguire (Royal Irish Academy), Dr Ida Milne, and Prof Brian Walker will make up this panel for the discussion in Saint Patrick's Cathedral's Lady Chapel.

Guests are welcome to a short reception following this event for tea, coffee or a glass of wine.



Mothers' Union highlights Gender-Based Violence at Kingdom Voices event

Jacqui Armstrong from Mothers' Union, Derry & Raphoe, co-hosted a session in Kingdom Voices last night, highlighting the new resource on Gender-Based Violence and learning from one another about this issue cross-culturally.

Belfast Cathedral was the venue for an evening of worship, prayer and shared experience organised by CMS Ireland and SAMS involving some 36 Bishops and many of their spouses from across Africa, Asia and South America.



Irish ordinand on placement in Egypt

Timothy Eldon, a C of I Theological student, is currently on a six week placement in Alexandria, Egypt. It is going really well.

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He has had the opportunity this week to take part in a holiday Bible club at All Saints' Church, Stanley, Alexandria.

Pray for stamina in the summer heat, and for Timothy's time in Alexandria to be impactful as he prepares for full time ministry in the years to come.



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World News

Lambeth and Lutheran-Anglican dialogue

Reflections from Finnish Bishop Matti Repo who attended the Lambeth Conference as co-chair of the ecumenical Porvoo group.



Three decades on from a groundbreaking agreement establishing full communion between Anglican and Lutheran churches in Europe and the Baltic states, a group of Scandinavian Lutheran bishops were in Canterbury, England, recently as full participants in the 15th Lambeth Conference of Anglican leaders from around the globe.

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The 26 July to 8 August gathering on the theme “God’s Church for God’s World” focused on identity and priorities for the Anglican Communion over the next decade, including the issues of ecumenical and interfaith relations. The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) General Secretary Rev. Anne Burghardt also addressed the conference, reflecting on the goals and progress of the ecumenical movement.

Among the Scandinavian Lutheran participants was Finnish Bishop Matti Repo, co-chair of the Porvoo contact group, which works on the implementation of the 1992 Porvoo Common Statement. That agreement, which brings together 15 Anglican and Lutheran churches in Europe, was named after the Finnish city where the first shared Eucharist took place following the successful conclusion of the theological dialogue.

Bishop Repo, tell us more about the origins of this landmark ecumenical development?

Yes, Porvoo is the result of a long dialogue which traces its roots back to an earlier Lambeth Conference, held over a century ago in 1920, when bishops issued an appeal for the unity of all Christian people. That appeal led the Church of England to begin building relationships with Scandinavian Lutheran churches, first in Sweden in the 1920s, then in Finland and the Baltic countries in the 1930s.

These early dialogues were interrupted by the Second World War but resumed in the following decades and were taken up at global level in the 1960s between the Anglican Communion and the LWF. Building on other ecumenical agreements, in particular the World Council of Churches

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pioneering 1982 document Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry, Lutheran and Anglican theologians were able to overcome their burning questions about the historic continuity of bishops as a requirement for unity.

So the Porvoo agreement marked the successful end of the journey towards unity for these two communions?

Yes, in a sense that is true, but at the same time we have to ask ourselves how do we live as churches in communion? Do we just belong to our own church families or, if not, how can we come closer in our daily lives, sharing in a common mission and service? That is why we have this contact group, that I chair with Anglican Archbishop Michael Jackson of Dublin, to get to know one another better and to help our churches build relationships at parish and diocesan levels.

As Cardinal Koch of the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity challenged us during his presentation to the Lambeth Conference, the burning question facing all in the ecumenical movement today is how do we grow into life together as one?

What are you doing in your church in Finland to build those relationships with Anglicans?

The Anglican church in Finland is very small but in my diocese of Tampere we have an English-speaking congregation which is mostly served by Lutheran clergy. There is an Anglican priest in Helsinki who comes maybe once a month, but mostly worship is held in a Lutheran church with a Lutheran pastor paid for by our Lutheran



parish
federation.

**Archbishop
Michael
Jackson of
Dublin has
been active
in
the Anglican
- Lutheran
dialogue**

Another
example is
our extensive
collaboration
with the
Anglican
diocese of
Manchester
for
confirmation

training. Every summer a group of Lutheran teenagers travels to England for a confirmation camp and similarly, a group of Anglican confirmation candidates comes to us in Finland. They get to know each other and realize that they share a common faith, so their eyes are opened to the unity of the Christian church. It is vital that we take the youth in our churches seriously, so other dioceses in Finland are also beginning to imitate this initiative.

Could the Porvoo agreement serve as a model for other churches too?

Yes, the small Anglican churches in Spain and Portugal have also joined the agreement so we can support them too. More recently, we have been able to deepen our relations with the Methodist church, thanks also to the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification, which the Methodists signed in 2006 [joining together with Lutherans and Catholics, and later with Anglicans and Reformed churches as well.

But in our context in Finland, it is not easy to develop practical ecumenical initiatives as we have very different financial resources and positions in society. We need to develop structures for mutual exchange and learning and maybe for shared decision-making too. We need to be more accountable to each other and to find ways of common witness and service. For example, since 2015 we have received increasing numbers of people from non-Christian countries in the Middle East and North Africa: how can we develop ways of welcoming them together, as well as providing food and shelter?

Where does your own passion for ecumenism stem from and how do you share it with others?

I was ordained in 1985 but even during my studies I was interested and active in local ecumenical work. What shot me into this orbit was when I was sent to serve in a Presbyterian church in Michigan in the United States. As well as learning to speak English, those few weeks also helped me to realize that I can start taking concrete steps in

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this direction too. After many years in parish ministry, I served as ecumenical secretary in my church's department for international relations, as well as co-secretary for the Porvoo group that I now chair.

Finland is a traditionally homogeneous country so most people know very little about other Christians. They may know there is an Orthodox church or a Pentecostal church in town but they never go there, as they are a bit mistrusting of anything in the liturgy that seems unfamiliar to them. The Finnish media is interested in Pope Francis but people don't know much about the Catholic church either.

But the religious landscape in our country is changing: the Orthodox church used to be the second largest faith community but now we probably have more Muslims than Orthodox. These changes are a good challenge for all our churches and we want to address them and find a way forward together.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Choral Evensong from Saint Thomas Girl Choristers, New York

The Choristers of the Saint Thomas Girl Chorister Course in New York are here! Join them here for Choral Evensong with music of Peter Nardone, Sarah MacDonald and Richard Lloyd.

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<https://www.saintthomaschurch.org/events/choral-evensong-2022-07-26/>

Anglican bishops from across the world offer their thoughts on the 2022 Lambeth Conference.



Bishop Scott Barker of the Diocese of Nebraska in the Episcopal Church.

Link at -

[[] <https://www.anglicannews.org/news/2022/08/anglican-bishops-offer-their-thoughts-on-the-2022-lambeth-conference.aspx>]

Resources for CAP Sunday - Church Action against Poverty on 16 October 2022 (or any date that suits you!)

Living shouldn't cost everything, but for millions during this cost of living crisis it does. Many are falling into poverty because their money simply isn't stretching far enough to cover their basic needs.

Every year, hundreds of churches come together to reflect on poverty in the UK and hear how they can bring hope to those in need in their community. Will your church join in and host a CAP Sunday this October?

CAP Sunday is an annual celebration of how God uses churches like yours to change lives. It's an opportunity to equip your church to transform lives in your community by shining hope into the darkness, offering practical ways your church can make a difference in such a crucial time.

Will you run a CAP Sunday service this October?

Paula Stringer, UK Chief Executive of Christians Against Poverty, says, "This year's theme is 'lament to hope', inspired by Syd's incredible journey out of debt. His story, along with posters, talk notes, and more, are all free to download when you sign up to run a CAP Sunday service. You can even book a trained CAP Speaker to come and inspire your congregation.



If I had carried on as before, I probably wouldn't be here now. I couldn't see a way out. The relief was immense. I can't thank the people involved enough! Syd, faith-filled cricket enthusiast and now debt free

“Whether this is the first time you’ve ever heard of Christians Against Poverty, or you’ve known about us for years, CAP Sunday is an opportunity to find out how your church can make a difference to those who are struggling, especially in the midst of the cost of living crisis. So, are you up for it?”

[[] <https://capuk.org/get-involved/how-your-church-can-be-involved/cap-sunday?>]

Paula Stringer, UK Chief Executive of Christians Against Poverty

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) provides free debt help and community groups tackling poverty across the UK. Through their church-based free local services, their vision

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is to see transformed lives, thriving churches and an end to UK poverty

Poem for today



Summer 1969 by Seamus Heaney

While the Constabulary covered the mob
Firing into the Falls, I was suffering
Only the bullying sun of Madrid.
Each afternoon, in the casserole heat
Of the flat, as I sweated my way through
The life of Joyce, stinks from the fishmarket

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Rose like the reek off a flax-dam.
At night on the balcony, gules of wine,
A sense of children in their dark corners,
Old women in black shawls near open windows,
The air a canyon rivering in Spanish.
We talked our way home over starlit plains
Where patent leather of the Guardia Civil
Gleamed like fish-bellies in flax-poisoned waters.

‘Go back,’ one said, ‘try to touch the people.’
Another conjured Lorca from his hill.
We sat through death-counts and bullfight reports
On the television, celebrities
Arrived from where the real thing still happened.

I retreated to the cool of the Prado.
Goya’s ‘Shootings of the Third of May’
Covered a wall—the thrown-up arms
And spasm of the rebel, the helmeted
And knapsacked military, the efficient
Rake of the fusillade. In the next room,
His nightmares, grafted to the palace wall—
Dark cyclones, hosting, breaking; Saturn
Jewelled in the blood of his own children,
Gigantic Chaos turning his brute hips
Over the world. Also, that holmgang
Where two berserks club each other to death
For honour’s sake, greaved in a bog, and sinking.
He painted with his fists and elbows, flourished
The stained cape of his heart as history charged.

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Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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