

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – Leaving a legacy for peace**

August 2, 2022

## Image of the day

### Leaving a legacy for peace

Past Moderator's challenge at Lord Trimble's funeral. Page

## People and places

### 200 Years of Moira Methodist Church



**A service was led on Sunday morning by Rev. David H. Nixon, President of The Methodist Church in Ireland.**

In the evening, the congregation met at in Moira Presbyterian Church for the fifth in this year's Summer Epilogue Services, led by Rev. David H. Nixon. The service was streamed on YouTube - [www.moira.tv](http://www.moira.tv)





From L to R: Rev. Philip Gallagher (Glenavy & Moira Methodist Circuit Superintendent), Mr. Neville Mawhinney (Moira Methodist Society Steward), Rev. David H. Nixon (President of The Methodist Church in Ireland) and The Rt. Hon. Sir Jeffrey Donaldson (Member of Parliament for Lagan Valley) at Moira Methodist Church's Service of Thanksgiving for 200 Years of Methodism in Moira, 31 July 2022.

**A picnic lunch followed the Service of Thanksgiving for 200 Years of Moira Methodist Church - photos next page...**



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At Moira Methodist Church's Service of Thanksgiving for 200 Years of Methodism in Moira, 31 July 2022.



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## Queen's Chaplaincy forms international partnership

The Chaplaincy is super excited to announce that we're partnering with FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) in the new academic year. Fr Dominic and Shannon attended FOCUS summer training in Gaming, Austria this past weekend and met with their new mission team. "They're a great bunch and we can't wait to welcome them to Belfast."







## Author of Autism and the Church at the Bookwell

Erin Burnett visited the Bookwell on the Belmont Road, Belfast, last week with copies of her new book 'With all your mind - Autism and the Church.' Copies are available to buy in store now and via the link below

<https://www.thebookwell.co.uk/with-all-your-mind/>

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## **Pulpit call at Trimble funeral to redouble efforts to resolve outstanding issues**

**The funeral of peace process architect Lord Trimble has been told he allowed a generation in Northern Ireland to grow up in "relative peace".**

The service at Harmony Hill Presbyterian Church in Lisburn heard how the former first minister helped forged peace in Northern Ireland, at considerable cost to himself.

Rev Dr Charles McMullen, a former Moderator of the Presbyterian Church said: "As so many have said over these past few days, history will be exceedingly kind to David even if life brought many unrelenting pressures and demands."

He added: "He was a committed family man and as I have sat with Daphne, his daughters Victoria and Sarah, sons Richard and Nicholas over these past few days I have been deeply touched and moved by so many stories, all of which underlined how dearly loved he was by them.

"They gave him to us and we want to take this opportunity to express our deepest appreciation to them."

Rev Charles McMullen said he hoped the funeral service could be used as an inspiration to redouble efforts to resolve political differences in NI.

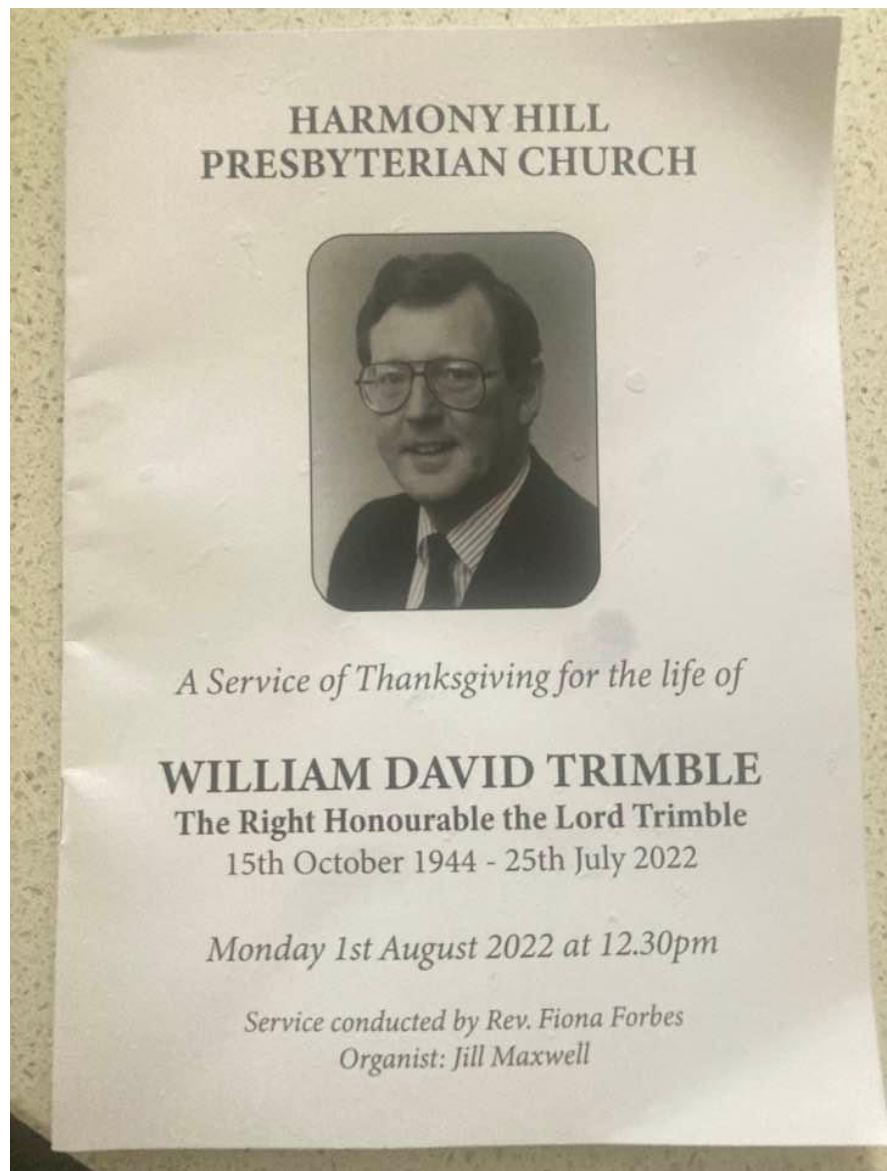
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He told the funeral service how the Omagh bombing doubled the determination of Lord Trimble to achieve peace in Northern Ireland.

He said: "As first minister, David had to cut short a family holiday in order to get home to visit Omagh in the aftermath of that terrible bombing which killed so many, an experience that left him utterly devastated but doubled his determination to keep building bridges and working for peace.

"I can remember bumping into him days after the conclusion of the Good Friday Agreement and hearing how afterwards on his way home he had gone to a hole in the wall but could not remember his pin number.

"That was an indication of being under almost unbearable stress, but then he always had the courage of his convictions and was prepared to pay the cost.





Referencing Lord Trimble's Nobel Peace Prize winning speech in 1998, he told the funeral service: "In that speech, David made this inspiring comment. 'The dark shadow we seem to see in the distance is not really a mountain ahead, but the shadow of the mountain behind - a shadow from the past thrown forward into our future. It is a dark sludge of historical sectarianism. We can leave it behind us if we wish. But both communities must leave it behind, because both created it'.

"It is a very powerful quotation because it reminds us of the achievements of the Good Friday Agreement in placing the principle of consent at the centre of our politics and ultimately removing the gun.

"It reminds us also that although we are on a journey from the past, the mountain still casts a shadow and we are all, to a greater or lesser extent, recovering sectarians.

"Can we use this service today, in a fitting tribute to one of the great, to redouble our efforts on this island home of ours?

"With courage, pragmatism and generosity of spirit may our politicians engage wholeheartedly in resolving the outstanding issues surrounding the Northern Ireland Protocol, so that our democratic institutions are quickly restored and we can all move forward together."

Conservative peer Lord Godson said Lord Trimble was the "most substantial figure thrown up by unionism" since the foundation of Northern Ireland in 1921.

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He told his funeral service: "The distinguished congregation gathered here today in this church, at short notice in August, is proof-positive that the title of David's biography *Himself Alone* is in some urgent need of revision for David has never been less alone.

"In death he is finally being afforded the respect and love from all communities on this island that he deserves, and did not always receive in the height of his powers.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson, Irish President Michael D Higgins and Taoiseach Micheal Martin all attended the service.

The 77-year-old Nobel Peace Prize winner and former first minister died last week following an illness.

The peer and former leader of the Ulster Unionist Party played a key role in forging the 1998 Good Friday/Belfast Agreement that ended decades of conflict in Northern Ireland.

## Lambeth focus – Day 1 – Sunday July 31

### Opening worship

**Anglican bishops and their spouses filled Canterbury Cathedral on July 31 for the opening Sunday Eucharist of the Lambeth Conference, a service spanning several hours and marked by prayer and pageantry in a worship**





**space with more than 1,400 years of history that was described in a welcoming message as “the heart of our communion.”**

A little over 600 bishops representing an estimated 165 countries processed into the cathedral starting at 9:15 a.m., taking about 20 minutes to all make it through the cathedral’s Great West Door. Primates and archbishops of the global Anglican Communion’s provinces were among the last to process.

A fanfare heralded the arrival of Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, who has convened the July 26 - Aug. 8 Lambeth Conference of Anglian bishops. Standing just inside the door, Archbishop Welby offered a brief opening prayer that echoed remarks he has made several times so



far at the conference, seeking unity among bishops in their shared faith despite individual differences.

**Pray for the healing of God's church not only the Anglican communion but of the church catholic and universal - Archbishop of Canterbury**

“Let us pray earnestly for God’s blessing upon those who are gathered here,” Archbishop Welby said, “that through our discussions and our walking together we may grow into a deeper understanding of one another and a deeper love for the world Jesus Christ came to save.”

The bishops at Lambeth 2022 also represent a dramatic shift in gender makeup, from only 14 female bishops in 2008 to an estimated 97 female bishops at this Lambeth Conference. No woman had ever attended a Lambeth The





Archbishop of Armagh, Most Rev John McDowell (left) at the opening service

Conference as bishop before 1998, and now a female bishop, the Rt. Rev. Vicentia Kgabe of Lesotho, was chosen to ascend to the pulpit above her peers and preach the service's sermon.

“As we gather in this 15th Lambeth Conference, we carry in our hearts and pressed on our minds, matters and situations that challenge and/or trouble our respective home countries regions dioceses and provinces. We also gather to celebrate a diversity and the gifts that have been generously given to us for the mission and ministry in God's church for God's World.”

Kgabe, reflecting on the conference's theme and on the service's three readings, chose to emphasize servant leadership and hospitality. "There is no limit to how much you can be hospitable or how much you can serve God's people," she said, and she invoked a common saying in her culture: "A person is a person through other persons."

She also seemed to allude to some of the divisions between conservative and progressive provinces that have festered on the sidelines of this Lambeth Conference. But like Jesus, who washed the feet of his disciples and then, in John 13:12-17, told them to go and do the same, "we can and we have it in us to heal and serve the world," Kgabe said. "Love is central to this act. We do this by following the model that has been set for us by our savior."

The tone remained joyous as Welby asked Archbishop Samy Fazwy of the Egypt-based Province of Alexandria to join him on the high altar before the peace. Welby also invited up one of the conference's ecumenical guests, Coptic Orthodox Archbishop Anba Angaelos, in recognition of the Anglican province's efforts to strengthen relationships with other Christian churches in its region.

And Welby presented a primatial cross to Fazwy, noting that the pandemic had thwarted plans to present the cross earlier, upon the inauguration of the new province in June 2020.

Evidence of divisions, however, crept into the service during Communion, when some conservative bishops refused to receive the bread and wine alongside the handful of gay and lesbian bishops who are attending this Lambeth Conference





at Welby's invitation, a historic first. The conservative bishops, part of the Global South Fellowship of Anglican Churches, have insisted on reaffirming a resolution passed in 1998 at that Lambeth Conference stating that homosexuality is forbidden, marriage is only for heterosexual couples and unmarried people should practice abstinence.

The Global South bishops, calling for sanctions, have singled out The Episcopal Church and five other provinces that have pursued inclusive LGBTQ+ policies. The bishops have vowed to force the issue during a plenary session on Aug. 1. They met with Welby on July 30 to discuss the matter.

The printed order of service for the Sunday Eucharist included an acknowledgement that "brokenness is present within our own Communion and all may not feel comfortable

sharing in Communion today.” Attendees were advised that they could come up for a blessing if they chose not to receive Communion.

Welby also spoke briefly to the issue, citing “our own divisions.”

“Let us as we take Communion remain in silence when we’re sitting in our place and pray for the healing of God’s church,” Welby said, “not only the Anglican communion but of the church catholic and universal, that we may find by God’s power the moment when we can come together throughout the world as one.”

## **Bishops discuss evangelism, mission and modern parallels to biblical exile**

**The business portion of the Lambeth Conference got underway on July 30 as more than 650 bishops from across the Anglican Communion gathered at the University of Kent for Bible studies, presentations on mission and evangelism and a collective endorsement of a statement on those topics of the day.**

Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, who convened the conference, chose the New Testament letter of 1 Peter to provide its biblical foundation. In the morning session, Welby offered the conference’s first Bible exposition, underscoring how the reading from Scripture finds the early Christians seeking hope through their belief in Jesus during a time of exile and persecution.





Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby leads the first Bible exposition at the Lambeth Conference of Anglican bishops on July 30 at the University of Kent in Canterbury. Photo: Lambeth Conference

Among the key themes found in 1 Peter, Welby said, are power and authority, hope and suffering, holiness, displacement and hospitality. "Although the world in which we live is completely different to that of Peter in the first century and although the world has shifted on its axis in the last 10 years with COVID and other things, the message of 1 Peter is absolutely still relevant," Welby said. "For many of us, Peter touches on difficult topics, and we are not going to skip them. We're going to talk about them."

The Lambeth Conference, though typically held once a decade, last met 14 years ago in 2008. Welby's chosen

theme for this gathering is “God’s Church for God’s World,” and the first day’s plenary session, on mission and evangelism, turned the focus outward, with a call to offer Jesus’ good news to the world, like a gift for those open to hearing it.

But conference planners also have been aware of the need to look inward to address often seismic divisions within the Anglican Communion. Welby acknowledged the church’s fault lines in his reflections on 1 Peter.

“We are united in our hope, in our love for Jesus absolutely,” he said. “But as a church – in common, by the way, with every global church – we are also divided, by the assumption that the key themes of 1 Peter mean the same for everyone, that my suffering is exactly the same as your suffering. But it is not.”

The threat of persecution is a particularly consequential difference in how Anglicans around the world experience their faith, Welby noted. Belief in Jesus can be a matter of life and death in some provinces. “In this hall, many live in places of persecution, some of it violent and open, some of it slightly better concealed,” he said. “And it is difficult for those who do not experience persecution to understand the reality of the recipients of this letter.”

**“We may be disparate. We are divided. But we have a common identity that is over everything, that we belong to Jesus Christ.”**

## Poem for today

### In Santa Maria del Popolo by Thom Gunn

Waiting for when the sun an hour or less  
Conveniently oblique makes visible  
The painting on one wall of this recess  
By Caravaggio, of the Roman School,  
I see how shadow in the painting brims  
With a real shadow, drowning all shapes out  
But a dim horse's haunch and various limbs,  
Until the very subject is in doubt.  
Conversion on the Road to Damascus, by Caravaggio

But evening gives the act, beneath the horse  
And one indifferent groom, I see him sprawl,  
Foreshortened from the head, with hidden face,  
Where he has fallen, Saul becoming Paul.  
O wily painter, limiting the scene  
From a cacophony of dusty forms  
To the one convulsion, what is it you mean  
In that wide gesture of the lifting arms?

No Ananias croons a mystery yet,  
Casting the pain out under name of sin.  
The painter saw what was, an alternate  
Candour and secrecy inside the skin.  
He painted, elsewhere, that firm insolent  
Young whore in Venus' clothes, those pudgy cheats,  
Those sharpers; and was strangled, as things went,  
For money, by one such picked off the streets.



I turn, hardly enlightened, from the chapel  
To the dim interior of the church instead,  
In which there kneel already several people,  
Mostly old women: each head closeted  
In tiny fists holds comfort as it can.  
Their poor arms are too tired for more than this  
-- For the large gesture of solitary man,  
Resisting, by embracing, nothingness.

## Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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