

Image of the day - Lady Chapel St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin

People and places

Preparing to walk the Camino de Santiago this weekend is Bev Juliene, Mothers Union Chief Exec to raise funds for the Mothers Union.



Cathedrals' Limerick-Killaloe Camino project

The Limerick-Killaloe Camino is a project of the Church of Ireland Cathedrals of St Mary's in Limerick and St Flannan's in Killaloe.

It is roughly 25 kilometres in length which is about a five hour walk. It follows part of the Lough Derg Way with a mixture of river bank, canal bank, forest trail, old roadway and minor roads.

The Limerick-Killaloe Camino is best accessed from one of three different trailheads along the Lough Derg Way which provide information boards and car parking. These are at Limerick (Arthurs Quay), Clonlara (centre of the village) and Killaloe (Riverside Car Park on the Killaloe Side of the Shannon, near the Tourist Office). A booklet containing prayers and readings for this camino can be downloaded at

[https://limerick.anglican.org/limerick-killaloe-camino/]

Craigavon Churches respond to the climate and ecological crisis

Churches in Craigavon are preparing for the global climate conference in Glasgow, the COP26, by launching an online training course on Christians and

Christianity & Climate Change

How should Christians respond to climate change, one of the biggest issues of our time? Are you keen to gain a better Biblical understanding and talk to others about why this matters?

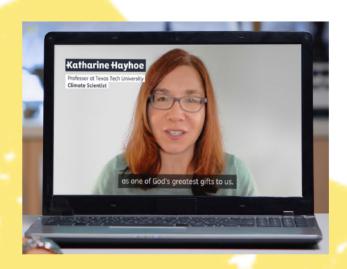
Climate Change. The training course features Professor Katharine Hayhoe, one of the world's top climate scientists, and was developed by Tearfund. It will be launched on Saturday 18th September in the Jethro centre at 7:30pm.

Professor Hayhoe is the Chief Scientist for Nature magazine, is a TED talk speaker with over 4 million views, and was given the UN's flagship honour of Champion of the Earth in 2019. She is an expert in climate change communication.

Stephen Trew, one of the course leaders, commented, "In this Tearfund course Professor Hayhoe is simply superb. She answers so many questions about what we should do in response to the climate crisis. This is a must for anyone who wants to learn how to lead change in our communities."

The launch night of the course will take place on Saturday 18th September in the Jethro Centre in Lurgan at 7:30 pm, then the course continues online from 28th September for 4 weeks. Each session includes a series of short films by Prof Hayhoe that are designed to open up discussion and reflection in these challenging times. As more and more people in our world reach crisis point due to a changing climate we need to know what to do. The course is free of charge and participants can join the online sessions only if they wish.

Dr Laura McFarland, an expert in how cities respond to climate change, said, "We need to understand how our lives, towns, cities and villages will change in the coming decades. Churches play an important role in leading action



Join us for an online film series over 6 weeks, featuring internationally renowned Christian climate scientist, Katharine Hayhoe, to help you get to grips with some of these questions and more.

to help communities grow sustainably and to respond to those in need around the world due to climate-related emergencies."

The course is being run by church leaders from the Portadown Elim Church and Magheralin Church of Ireland, in association with Tearfund.

To register use the Eventbrite link: <u>christianity-and-climate-change.eventbrite.co.uk</u>.

Clogher challenge on climate change

A cross-community group in the Diocese of Clogher has organised an online event to highlight the Season of Creation and the need for biodiversity in parishes, the Irish News reports.

Taking the call to be stewards of creation seriously means Christians have long been at the forefront of efforts to raise awareness of the damage humans are causing to the environment - and by extension, to each other.

Churches around the world joined together in 1989 for the Season of Creation initiative, which runs from September 1 to October 4 and is aimed at encouraging prayer and action on ecological issues.

These efforts were given further impetus when in 2015 Pope Francis published his 'environmental' encyclical Laudato Si'.

The document's title is inspired by the writings of St Francis of Assisi - synonymous with creation, and author of the Canticle of the Creatures - and its subtitle emphasises the Pope's intentions: 'On Care For Our Common Home'.

The Pope is clear that caring for creation should be at the forefront of the Church's agenda.

"Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience," he writes in Laudato Si'.

Pope Francis has also designated September 1 as a World Day of Prayer for Care of Creation for the Catholic Church and last year he invited Catholics to celebrate the full season: "We are beloved creatures of God, who in his goodness calls us to love life and live it in communion with the rest of creation," he said.

Among those around Ireland inspired by the call to action on climate change and the themes of Laudato Si' is the Clogher Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation group.

Organised by Fr Joe McVeigh, it is a cross-community group which works to create awareness in the Diocese of Clogher about, as it puts it, "the need to save our planet Earth".

"Each year the Season of Creation focuses on a particular theme," explained Sr Nellie McLaughlin RSM, who chairs the group.

"The suggested theme for 2021 is 'Jubilee for the Earth: New Rhythms, New Hope' - how timely as globally we struggle with Covid-19 and the twin emergencies of climate change and biodiversity depletion on an unprecedented scale.

"The biblical term 'jubilee' refers to a period of restoration for the earth and justice for all.

"One wonders if this could be any more urgent as the IPCC, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, issues an alarming 'code red for humanity'?"

Sr Nellie said the upcoming COP-15 and COP-26 meetings provided a "window of opportunity if we can act collectively and resolutely for the global political will as world leaders gather".

"In this Season of Creation we are urged to take time to reflect anew on our relationship with our Common Home," she said.

"We are urged to pray and take practical steps to safeguard the living systems of our planet home - to ensure fresh air, clean water, healthy soil and safe sunshine - so that planet and people may enjoy flourishing life."

To mark the beginning of the Season of Creation, Clogher Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation group has organised an online 'webinar' on Saturday September 4 from 11am-12.30pm.

It will address the theme: 'Implementing Laudato Si' - The Urgent Need for Action on Climate Change and Biodiversity in our Parishes'.

The guest speakers include: Rev Canon Andrew Orr (Church of Ireland, chair of Eco-Congregration Ireland); Jane Mellett (Laudato Si' officer with Trocaire); Professor John Sweeney (Maynooth University, IPCC contributor); Brian MacDonald (Monaghan Rewilding Group). Courtesy The Irish News August 26, 2021 The webinar can be booked here - [[] https://www.eventbrite.com/e/season-of-creation-tickets-166801129669?aff=ebdssbeac&keep_tld=1]

No questions asked at Co Down church 'manna table'

Churches and funeral directors work closely together every day of the week, but this vital relationship has taken on added significance in Holywood, Co Down where the needs of the living are also being addressed, Mark Rainey reports in the News Letter.

In response to the increased financial pressures being placed on families during the Covid pandemic, the town's High Street Presbyterian Church has teamed up with John Gray & Co funeral directors to accommodate a 'Manna table' for those experiencing hardship.

Thanks to the generosity of the local community, the donation bins inside John Gray & Co on High Street have been overflowing with food items and toiletries, leading senior funeral arranger Barbara Wilson to enlist the assistance of Rev Jimmy Warburton.

Rev Warburton was more than happy to help and his church is now the main distribution point for the food from the 'manna table' – named after the sustenance provided by God to the Israelites during their exodus in the Bible.

Barbara said: "We've always collected donations for people but received substantially more over the past year, possibly due to many local businesses becoming unable to do the same during lockdown.

August 28, 2021

"The buckets were mounting higher and higher inside our branch as more people became aware of the donation point.

"The manna table is easy to access and has a nonjudgemental atmosphere, where people from all walks of life can take what they need to ease their struggling, including food and various essentials."

Barbara and Rev Warburton are supported by other business owners, family and friends, and community worker Graham Speers who distributes items to charities. The manna table operates every Tuesday from 10am-1pm.

Barbara, Graham and Rev Jimmy have received an overwhelming response to the initiative, with a growing number of people arriving every Tuesday from 10am to 1pm, in addition to colleagues, family and friends being onhand to help.

Rev Warburton said anyone is free to make use of the service with "no questions asked".

"The table is very straightforward; we open the church doors, hand out bags to fill and put up a sign inviting people to come and take whatever they need. No questions asked," he said.

"Word has spread throughout the town about the manna table and a lot of local people are making use of it. It has been received extremely well, with many people also wanting to donate or help in some way. "We hope it continues to develop and that we are able to support anyone who is going through financial hardship."

Courtesy the News Letter, August 19, 2021

Reports

20th anniversary of September 11, 2002 an invitation from Trinity Church Wall Street

Friday, September 10 through Sunday, September 12

Trinity Church Wall Street - an Episcopal Parish in the heart of New York City - "invites all who are seeking solace around the 20th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks to join us, online or in person, for worship services, events, and activities, including A Time and Space for Remembrance and Healing, a vigil at St. Paul's Chapel in Lower Manhattan from Friday evening, Sep. 10, to Sunday evening, Sep. 12. In 2001, St. Paul's Chapel, part of Trinity Church Wall Street, served as a relief mission for recovery workers at Ground Zero for nearly a year after the buildings fell.

"Our worship services and other offerings onsite and online will offer time and space to pray, reflect, mourn, or simply sit with your memories. On Sunday, Sep. 12, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry will preach at our live-streamed and in-person 11:15am Holy Eucharist at Trinity Church. And, at 8pm on Sunday, we will host a live-streamed and in-



person Compline by Candlelight service at Trinity Church. Visit trinitywallstreet.org/911 to learn more about the full weekend and save the date, and for opportunities to watch videos, read content from our archives, or submit your own remembrances as audio files.

Summary of Events

All times EDT

Our events are offered in-person and online, with the exception of A Time and Space for Remembrance and Healing, which will not be live-streamed. Please note that for everyone's safety, there is limited capacity and masks are required for all in-person attendees. Read more about our policies for in-person programming here.

Friday, September 10

Vigil Psalms: A Service of Prayer, Readings, and Music for

Healing and Comfort

8pm: Streaming at

trinitywallstreet.org and on Trinity's Facebook page

A Time and Space for Remembrance and Healing

St. Paul's Chapel will be open to the public through Sunday at 8pm.

Clergy from the Episcopal Diocese of New York will be present to offer support and prayers and you may tie Ribbons of Remembrance to fences and trees.

Saturday, September 11

A Time and Space for Remembrance and Healing St. Paul's Chapel will be open to the public through Sunday at 8pm.

Clergy from the Episcopal Diocese of New York will be present to offer support and prayers, and from 7am-7pm on Saturday, brief musical interludes and the Ribbons of Remembrance will be offered.

Bell of Hope: Prayers for Peace and Reconciliation

8:40am: Streaming at

trinitywallstreet.org and on Trinity's Facebook page

Ringing of the Retreat Center Community Bell 8:46am: In-person at the Trinity Retreat Center in West Cornwall, CT, and streaming at the Trinity Retreat Center Facebook page

Sacred Pause: Noonday Prayer and Meditation on Scripture to Commemorate 9/11

12pm: Streaming at the Trinity Retreat Center Facebook page

Calling of the Names Ceremony
1:30pm: In-person at St. Paul's Chapel, streaming at trinitywallstreet.org and on Trinity's Facebook page

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An Hour of Silent Meditation at the Retreat Center in Remembrance of 9/11

6pm: Streaming at the Trinity Retreat Center Facebook page

Sunday, September 12

A Time and Space for Remembrance and Healing St. Paul's Chapel will be open to the public through 8pm.

Family Worship

9:15am: Streaming at

trinitywallstreet.org and on Trinity's Facebook page

Holy Eucharist

11:15am: Streaming at trinitywallstreet.org and on Trinity's Facebook page

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry will preach, and The Choir of Trinity Wall Street will present Fauré Requiem.

Compline by Candlelight: Anthems for Peace and Hope 8pm: In-person at Trinity Church, streaming at trinitywallstreet.org and on Trinity's Facebook page



Books, Broadcasts, Resources and Webinars

Nations' Climate Sunday Service

Have you signed up to join the Nations' Climate Sunday Service yet? Join us online on 5 September, as we celebrate, challenge our leaders and commit to action for the climate. Register for details here:

[https://nationsclimatesunday.eventbrite.co.uk]



National Churches Trust showcase Snowdonia churches

Discover Snowdonia's beautiful churches thanks to new National Parks online guide. 16 beautiful Snowdonia churches are showcased in a new national parks guide - https://explorechurches.org/national-parks



This year's Sing! Conference - Keith Getty writes

Thank you for your continued prayers and your interest in the Sing! Conference this year. Thank you especially for your responses to last week's letter and your concern for the overwhelming reality that is unfolding before our eyes in Afghanistan. We are asking all of you to keep praying for that situation and for your continued prayers for the upcoming Sing! conference.

First, please pray for all those who are grieving the loss of loved ones in the awful bombings that took place today in Kabul, Afghanistan. Pray for wisdom for global leaders who are seeking to evacuate thousands of individuals and particularly for Christians who are urgently seeking to flee the country. Pray for safety for God's people, that he would be their refuge and shelter in this moment of great danger. Pray for Voice of the Martyrs and the many other faithful Christian organizations who have been working in that region.

Second, please pray for the online conference this year.

When we first gathered for Sing! in 2017, we never expected that an online event would play such a crucial role in driving the message deeper, in helping individuals convey these ideas to those in their worship communities, and in fostering connection with fellow believers both locally and internationally. Pray for strength, wisdom, and creativity for our team, as this year is the first year we are hosting a fully hybrid conference with the virtual event happening in parallel with the in-person event. Pray for new initiatives to foster interconnectedness among all of the online attendees, for the "Premiere Conversations" (a new series of interviews with fascinating artists and leaders), for a program to teach 30 timeless hymns to congregations over the next year, and for the ongoing work all year to help equip churches through SingGlobal.com.

Third, please pray for the first day of the Sing!
Conference, Monday, September 13. Pray for Keith,
Kristyn, and Matt Merker, as they finalize the creative
structure, and for the singing and preaching of the day to lift
our minds and hearts to Christ alone amid a season of
difficulty for so many. Pray for Alistair Begg and H.B.
Charles, Jr. as they preach on "In Christ Alone My Hope Is
Found" and "This Cornerstone, This Solid Ground;" for our
interview with Voddie Baucham; for the creativity of virtuoso
instrumentalists such as David Kim and Kirk Whalum; for
Deborah and Ben Klemme putting together the orchestra,
choir, and band; for Blair Linne and Malcolm Guite as they
read Scripture and poetry; for the double album launch with
Matt Papa & Matt Boswell and the Gettys; for the beautiful
witness of Christian music at the Sweetwater Block Party in

downtown Nashville; and for the enjoyment and artistry of Handel's Messiah which will close the day.

It's not too late to join this year's Sing! Conference. Now through Monday, Aug. 30th, Family and Group virtual viewing passes are available for 25% off with code 'WATCHPARTY25'. To register and save on Sing! Online and to receive 365 days of Sing Global, please visit https://www.singglobal.com/virtual/.

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,

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

Pointers for prayer

Lord God, raise up faithful pastors, priests, deacons and church leaders who love you more than all. Give to each of us the skill to be a shepherd in some small way, the will to be shepherded by other leaders, and to trust the Good Shepherd over all.

Loving God, you hear our prayers: You live among us.

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, you sent your Son to be the Messiah, and to build your church. As members of His kingdom, fill us with joy for His resurrected presence, His loving rule, and His kingdom yet to come.

Loving God, you hear our prayers:

You live among us.

Holy Spirit, give us confidence when we walk through the valley of the shadow of death. Guard us from evil. Shepherd

us with your rod and staff. Shower goodness and mercy upon us all the days of our lives.

Loving God, you hear our prayers: You live among us.

Lord Jesus Christ, you are our peace, granting access to God the Father through the Holy Spirit, making us citizens with the saints in the household of God.

Loving God, you hear our prayers: You live among us.

Lord Jesus, the apostles gathered around you and reported all that they had done and taught in your name. Help us see the good we do in your name and rejoice in being a helpmate of yours.

Loving God, you hear our prayers: You live among us.

Lord Jesus Christ, you invite us not only to work with you, but to rest with you. Though the desires of this world tire us, touch us, that we may be healed. Hear our prayers for those in need of your healing _____.

Loving God, you hear our prayers:

You live among us.

The love of God has won. The new life has begun.

Amen

Speaking to the Soul

Next Jedaiah son of Harumaph repaired the wall across from his own house, and next to him was Hattush son of Hashabneiah.

Nehemiah 3:10 NLT

I vividly remember meeting a missionary for the first time. It was at a children's mission in our local park and with huge excitement we were introduced to a real live missionary. He was everything that I was expecting. He had been serving God in the Amazon rain forest amongst a tribe whose language hadn't yet been written down. He brought with him a long tube which was used by his new friends to blow poisoned darts at monkeys and other wild animals. Nothing surprised me. He had done an amazing job finding ways of telling these people that God loved them. It was clear to me that this is exactly what Jesus meant when he told his disciples to go to the ends of the earth.

If God has told you to go to the ends of the earth then that's great and I hope you get on really well there. But that wasn't all that Jesus said. Jesus told his disciples to start in Jerusalem. Most of us are not told to go to the ends of the earth, even if we think that we might prefer it there! Jesus tells us to start where we are. In Nehemiah's account of the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem he identified some people, like Jedaiah, whose task it was to repair the wall over the road from his house. For many people, the work that God wants them to do doesn't involve a journey. Over the years as a minister, I have worked in a number of different places but many people I have known have, impressively, served God in one place and put down deep roots in that location. What matters is that we serve God with all our hearts, wherever we are placed. But we must never overlook the importance of home. When Jesus commanded his disciples to witness for him in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth, he was saying

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start where you are. It may be that, one day, God will call you to go on a long journey for him but today your starting point is your home, your community, your shop, your office or your factory.

QUESTION

Where is God calling you to serve him today?

PRAYER

Loving God, thank you that you have given us important work to do. Help us to do it with all our hearts. Amen

