

Church News Ireland



**Image of the day – Voices and Brass
Opening Charles Woods Festival Concert**

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Voices and Brass - Opening Charles Woods Festival Concert

Cappella Caeciliana directed by Matthew Quinn, alongside exhilarating local ensemble Insieme Brass on Sunday August 21 in Armagh Cathedral. Free event. See page 3

People and places

Sudanese bishop to visit Donegal after Lambeth

The Bishop of Yei (South Sudan), the Rt Revd Levi Marandulu, and his wife Agnes will be visiting Donegal on 15th and 16th August.

The couple are attending the Lambeth conference, at the moment, after which they will be coming to Ireland to visit a number of link churches.

There has been a connection between the Donegal Group of Parishes and the Diocese of Yei since 2005, when a team from Donegal visited the African diocese.

Bishop and Mrs Marandulu will be in Laghey Parish Church on Tuesday 16th August 2022 at 8pm. Their visit, which has been arranged with the help of Church Mission Society

August 6, 2022

Ireland, will provide an opportunity to meet and learn from Christian friends in a very different part of the world.

All are welcome and refreshments will be served after the meeting.

Opening Charles Woods Concert: Voices and Brass!

On Sunday 21 August at 8pm, a FREE opening concert at the Charles Woods Festival and Summer School features the acclaimed chamber choir Cappella Caeciliana directed by Matthew Quinn, alongside exhilarating local ensemble Insieme Brass, in the glorious surroundings of St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral.

Choral works include Duruflé's Quatre Motets, Áine Mallon's Dum Transisset Sabbatum and Cecilia McDowall's I Know That My Redeemer Liveth. Brass flourishes will focus on music associated with Charles Wood, from a new arrangement of his Hail Gladdening Light, to Stanford's Beati Quorum Via.

This is sure to be an unmissable start to the Charles Wood Festival week.

Full choral programme (first half of concert):

Anton Bruckner - Kyrie from Mass No. 2 in E Minor
(accompanied by Insieme Brass)



Local ensemble Insieme Brass

Maurice Duruflé - Quatre Motets

Olivier Messiaen - O Sacrum Convivium

William Byrd - Terra Tremuit

Josquin des Prez - Gaude Virgo

Anton Bruckner - Christus Factus Est

Cecilia McDowall - I know that my Redeemer liveth

Áine Mallon - Dum transisset Sabbatum

Charles Wood - O Thou the Central Orb

Tickets are available here -

August 6, 2022

[\[https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/opening-concert-voices-and-brass-tickets-371098243837\]](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/opening-concert-voices-and-brass-tickets-371098243837)

Admission is free with a retiring collection.

Venue - St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral, Armagh -
43 Abbey Street, Armagh BT61 7DY



Christian Aid Prophetic Activist Scheme

Exciting opportunity with Christian Aid for anyone aged 18-30 with a heart for climate justice.

The Prophetic Activist Scheme aims to inspire, engage and equip young adult Christians in campaigning and activism for climate justice.

More info:

[\[https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/campaigns/christian-aid-collective\]](https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/campaigns/christian-aid-collective)

Take a tour of Methodist College, Belfast

The MCB tours typically last around 60 minutes and take you around the entire Campus. For former students it is undoubtedly the best way to take a trip down memory lane

If you would like to book a tour please click the link below:
<https://www.methody.org/develop-flourish/book-a-tour>

Vacancies

Youth Project Co-Ordinator

The BLAST (Building lives through activity, support and therapy) project aims to provide a therapeutic programme for young people with learning disabilities (aged 8-18 years) in the council areas of Causeway Coast and Glens and Mid and East Antrim Council areas.

The aim of the project is to support young people at a pivotal time in their lives to create better life outcomes. The project will involve community engagement in mainstream activities, enabling the young people to understand and take control over their engagement with statutory bodies and other decision makers such as social workers, or community nurses.

For job description and information please see:
<https://www.communityni.org/job/project-co-ordinator-youth>

Let our people tell you about CAN?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0g_uRhyQbnM

Positive Futures with Coleraine Services

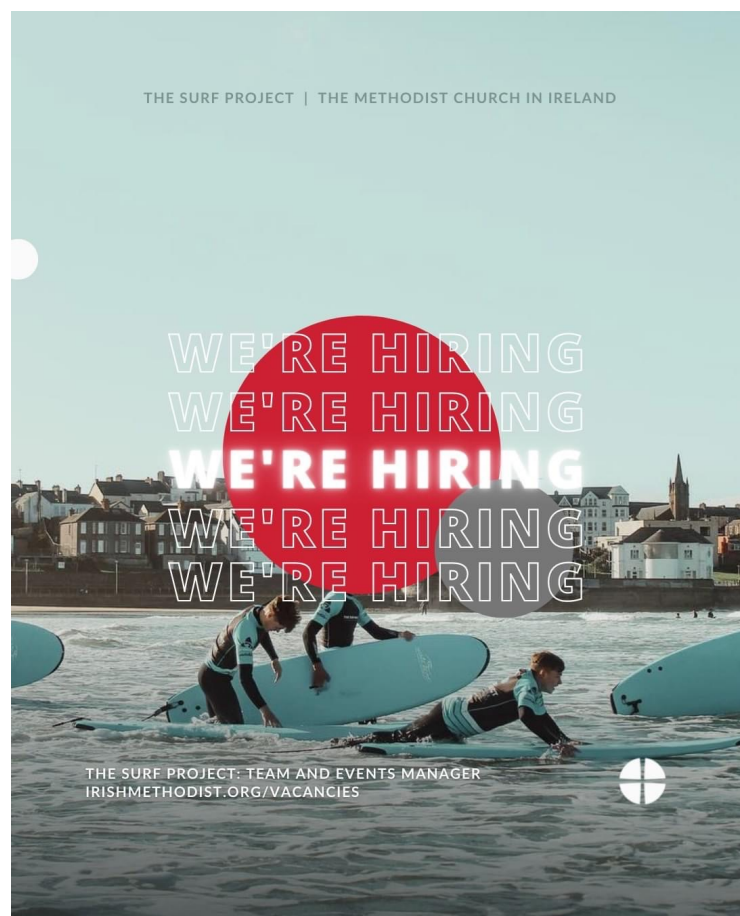
Would you like a role that's rewarding, rarely routine and life changing for the people you'll be working with?

We have lots of job opportunities within our Coleraine Services. Working for Positive Futures you can help the people we support achieve their dreams and transform their lives, as well as take advantage of a host of great benefits. And if you join now we are offering a Welcome Bonus of up to £300 (£100 after four weeks, £200 when confirmed in post

For more information and to apply go to www.positive-futures.net/jobs/current-vacancies

The Surf Project

The Surf Project are hiring a Team and Events Manager based in Portrush! For full details of current vacancies across the connexion, visit: irishmethodist.org/vacancies



CHURCH MUSIC
DUBLIN

Living Worship

with
Vocal Coach Suzanne Chadwick



Saturday 17th September
10am-12:30pm

Monkstown Parish Church

eircode: A94 HH97

Pay at the door €10

e-mail enquiries to
info@churchmusicdublin.ie



Presents

A Musical Marathon

Saturday 20th August

2pm – 9pm

inside & outside church

Guest Musicians include:

Downshire Brass

Orly Watson (Organist)

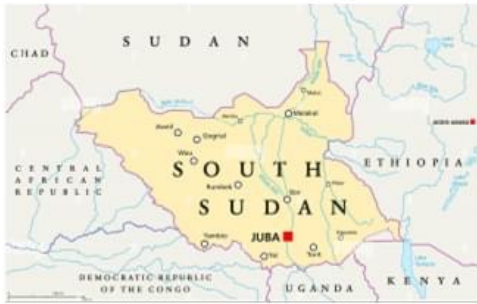
Kilbroney Handbellers

Maria Flynn (Vocal soloist)

RoLO String Quartet

Brona McVittie (Cosmic folk)

Kerygma (Good News Choir)



**An evening with Bishop Levi
and Mama Agnes Marandulu**
Diocese of Yei, South Sudan

Laghey Parish Church
Tuesday 16th August 2022 at 8pm

All are welcome!



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equipping the church **in mission**

World News

'Preacher, pastor, mentor, friend': Stuart Briscoe dies aged 91

The renowned English born pastor and author Stuart Briscoe has died at his home in Wisconsin, USA.

Briscoe, who led the Telling the Truth ministry with his wife Jill, was 91 and died unexpected of natural causes.

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In a statement, his family said: "We want you to know that Stuart Briscoe died of natural causes unexpectedly on Aug. 3rd.

"For many of you he was preacher, pastor, mentor or friend. To us, he was 'Stu', 'Dad' and 'Poppa' and we already miss him achingly. Info on his memorial service coming soon."

Briscoe was born in Cumbria and served in the Royal Marines before moving to the USA where he would lead Elmbrook Church growing the congregation from 300 to 7,000.

He's written over 40 books, preached in six continents and his sermons are broadcast all around the world via Christian radio stations including Premier Christian Radio in the UK.

Tributes have been paid online with supporters describing him as "a giant in the faith" and stating that "his voice and care have been a comfort for many".

Briscoe was husband to Jill, father to three children and grandfather to 13 grandchildren.

Truth about Beirut port blast cannot be hidden, pope says

Pope Francis has said he hoped the people of Lebanon can be comforted by justice over the Beirut port blast that killed at least 215 people two years ago, saying "the truth can never be hidden".

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Speaking at his weekly general audience, Francis noted that yesterday Thursday would be the second anniversary of the blast, which also wounded thousands of people and damaged large swathes of the capital.



"My thoughts go to the families of the victims of that disastrous event and to the dear Lebanese people. I pray so that each one can be consoled by faith and comforted by justice and by truth, which can never be hidden," he said.

Despite the devastation wrought by the blast, one of the biggest non-nuclear explosions ever recorded, a judicial investigation has brought no senior official to account.

With the probe frozen for months, many Lebanese see this as an example of the impunity enjoyed by a ruling elite that has long avoided accountability for corruption and bad governance, including policies that led to financial collapse.

Francis said he hoped that Lebanon, helped by the international community, could see a "renaissance" and be a land of peace and pluralism where members of different religions can live together in fraternity.

The pope was to have visited Lebanon in June but the trip was postponed, partly because of his health and partly because of the political situation in Lebanon.

Archbishop Samy Shehata, the Primate of Alexandria, is presented with a primatial cross

At the opening service to the Lambeth Conference, a primatial cross was presented by Archbishop Justin Welby to Archbishop Samy Shehata, Bishop of Egypt and Archbishop of Alexandria.

Archbishops of Canterbury traditionally present a primatial cross to the first primates of new provinces.

The province of Alexandria, the 41st province of the Anglican Communion, was inaugurated during the Covid pandemic lockdowns/travel restrictions.

The ecumenical guest was Archbishop Angaelos, Coptic Orthodox Archbishop of London.



Alexandria is the seat of the Coptic Pope, currently Pope Tawadros II, and the Coptic Church and Anglican Church in Egypt enjoy very warm relations.

Lambeth focus – media

Toksvig takes on Archbishop over gay marriage stance

Sandi Toksvig, the TV presenter, has said the Archbishop of Canterbury's stance on gay marriage is putting young lives at risk as she promised never to set foot in a church again - The Daily Telegraph reports.

The report continues - Earlier this week, Justin Welby wrote to Anglican bishops from across the world to clarify that a

1998 resolution condemning gay marriage had never been revoked.

He was attempting to avert attempts by conservative bishops, mostly from Africa, to force a vote on gay marriage at the Lambeth Conference, a decennial gathering of the Anglican Communion.

The conservative bishops want gay marriage banned in the Anglican Communion and for churches that carry it out to be punished.

The Archbishop told the conference that he neither had nor wanted the power to punish such churches.

In an open letter published on social media, Ms Toksvig wrote: “So, you and your other religious pals got together at the Lambeth Conference and the main takeaway seems to be that gay sex is a sin. It was a sin in 1998 and you just wanted to make clear in 2022 that no one in your finely frocked gang has moved on from that.

“Seriously, with the state the world is in, that is what you wanted to focus on? You didn’t have other more pressing matters like, I don’t know, war or poverty?”

The QI host added: “The lives of LGBTQ+ people are at stake here. I have had several credible death threats over the years, sometimes requiring the very kind assistance of the police hate crime squad. Each and every one of those threats has come from an evangelical Christian. Inevitably they have wanted to kill me on God’s behalf.”

The Archbishop made the argument that forcing gay marriage on churches in countries where homosexuality is illegal or not widely accepted made those churches the target of abuse.

Two out of 10 Church of Ireland bishops affirm same-sex relationships at international conference

Leader of Anglicans worldwide reaffirms declaration that gay sex is ‘incompatible with scripture’, Patsy McGarry writes in The Irish Times

The report continues - A document affirming same-sex relationships circulated this week at the 15th Lambeth Conference in Canterbury received approval from just two Church of Ireland bishops.

The Lambeth Conference, which usually takes place every 10 years, is attended by bishops of the Anglican Communion worldwide, including those in the Church of Ireland.

Currently 10 of the 11 Church of Ireland bishops are in attendance there, as the recently elected Bishop of Cashel Adrian Wilkinson has yet to be installed.

The document, prepared by the Primate of the US Episcopal Church Bishop Michael Curry, affirmed that “we believe that LGBT+ people are a precious part of God’s creation” and recognising “that many LGBT+ people have historically been wounded by the church” while affirming “the holiness of their

love wherever it is found in committed relationships”, the signatory bishops committed themselves to “working with our siblings across the communion to listen to their stories and understand their contexts, which vary greatly”.

They would “never shy away from tackling discrimination and prejudice against those of differing sexualities and gender identities”.

The two Irish bishops who signed the document were Bishop of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe Michael Burrows and Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross Paul Colton. Among the approximately 110 bishops who signed the document to date are five other Primates; those of the Scottish Episcopal Church, the Anglican Church in Wales, the Church of Canada, the Anglican Church in Brazil, and the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia.

About 650 Anglican bishops are in attendance at the conference, representing 42 provinces and 85 million people of the Anglican Communion worldwide. Absent are the primates of Nigeria, Rwanda and Uganda, jointly representing about 30 million Anglicans, who are boycotting the conference, as they did the last Lambeth Conference in 2008, following the ordination in 2004 of gay man Gene Robinson as Bishop of the US diocese of New Hampshire.

Addressing the same-sex issue at the conference earlier this week, leader of Anglicans worldwide and Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, affirmed the validity of a 1998 church declaration that gay sex was “incompatible with scripture”.

However, he also said he would not seek authority to discipline or exclude churches – including those in Scotland, Wales and the US – that conduct or bless same-sex marriages.

He noted how “for the large majority of the Anglican Communion the traditional understanding of marriage is something that is understood, accepted and without question, not only by bishops but their entire church, and the societies in which they live. For them, to question this teaching is unthinkable, and in many countries would make the church a victim of derision, contempt and even attack. For many churches to change traditional teaching challenges their very existence.”

He continued that “for a minority, we can say almost the same. They have not arrived lightly at their ideas that traditional teaching needs to change. They are not careless about scripture. They do not reject Christ. But they have come to a different view on sexuality after long prayer, deep study and reflection on understandings of human nature. For them, to question this different teaching is unthinkable, and in many countries is making the church a victim of derision, contempt and even attack. For these churches not to change traditional teaching challenges their very existence.”

There would be, however, he said, no attempt made “to alter the historic teaching of the vast majority of churches of the Anglican Communion”. He advised: “let us not treat each other lightly or carelessly. We are deeply divided. That will not end soon. We are called by Christ himself both to truth and unity.”

Perspective

Victim's anger at O'Neill claim 'no alternative' to IRA violence by Suzanne Been

The brother of a man murdered at Kingsmill has branded as “sickening” Michelle O'Neill's comments that there was no alternative to the IRA campaign.

Colin Worton's sibling Kenneth was one of 10 Protestant workmen shot dead in the 1976 atrocity.

He said: “There was always an alternative to violence, the IRA just chose not to use it.

“The alternative to killing people is not killing people, it's as simple as that. Nobody, on either side of the divide, should have chosen the gun or the bomb. Nobody should have killed anyone else.

“At Kingsmill, it was not a case of shooting armed men in a fair fight. My brother and his friends were armed only with lunchboxes and flasks.”

Mr Worton said the remarks illustrated Sinn Féin's mindset: “It's a very narrow one. For 30 years the IRA was wedded to the bomb and the bullet, and Sinn Féin is still trying to justify it. I don't think they'll ever change.”

Ms O'Neill's comments were made in an interview for the BBC's Red Lines podcast.

The Sinn Féin deputy leader, whose father was an IRA prisoner, said one of her earliest memories was the sound of Army vehicles coming to the front door as her family home was raided.

She said: “I don't think any Irish person ever woke up one morning and thought that conflict was a good idea, but the war came to Ireland.

“I think at the time there was no alternative, but now, thankfully, we have an alternative to conflict and that's the Good Friday Agreement, and that's why it's so precious to us all.

“My whole adult life has been building the peace process. I wish the conditions were never here that actually led to conflict, I wish that so many people didn't have the horrible experience that they've had throughout the conflict days.

“The only way we're ever going to build a better future is actually to understand that it's OK to have a different take on the past.”

She added: “My narrative is a very different one to someone who's perhaps lost a loved one at the hands of republicans.

“But we need to be mature enough to be able to say: 'That's OK, we'll have to agree to differ on that one, but let's make sure that the conditions never exist again that we find ourselves in that scenario'.”

DUP leader Sir Jeffrey Donaldson said: “There was never a justification for violence.

“Even in Northern Ireland's darkest days the overwhelming majority of our people respected democracy, the rule of law and — where they felt passionately about a particular cause — took part in peaceful protest.”

He said while Ms O'Neill had spoken about being a First Minister for everyone, “the mask has well and truly slipped”.

He added: “Hundreds of our citizens, from all faiths and backgrounds, were callously targeted by the IRA. They were entirely innocent.

“They did not stand in the way of the political cause Sinn Fein still espouse today, yet they were butchered by terrorists.

“No circumstances, of any day or generation, justified this.”

TUV councillor Stephen Cooper said: “The claim by Sinn Fein's leader in Northern Ireland that there 'was no alternative' to IRA terrorism is a telling insight into the mindset of someone who claims that she wants to be a First Minister for everyone.”

Victims campaigner Kenny Donaldson also condemned the comments.

“Whatever grievance (perceived or real) people experienced within this society, it never legitimised the murder of one neighbour by another,” he said.

Courtesy The Belfast Telegraph where Suzanne Been is the Political Editor

Poem for today

Ireland by Francis Ledwidge

I called you by sweet names by wood and linn,
You answered not because my voice was new,
And you were listening for the hounds of Finn
And the long hosts of Lugh.

And so, I came unto a windy height
And cried my sorrow, but you heard no wind,
For you were listening to small ships in flight,
And the wail on hills behind.

And then I left you, wandering the war
Armed with will, from distant goal to goal,
To find you at the last free as of yore,
Or die to save your soul.

And then you called to us from far and near
To bring your crown from out the deeps of time,
It is my grief your voice I couldn't hear
In such a distant clime.

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
