



CNI

Irish Healing team for Bolivia

A team from Divine Healing Ministries will be commissioned at a service in Belfast Cathedral on Monday March 9 at 8 pm.

Eric Lewis, Andrew Irvine, Rev Colin Darling and Brother David Jardine will be based in La Paz where they will be hosted by Pastor Hendrick who has brought DHM teams to Bolivia on several occasions.

The speaker will be Very Rev Raymond Ferguson, former Dean of Kilmore, and the worship will be led by West Church Bangor music group.

Personal prayer and anointing with oil will be available.

Lisburn team leaves today for another phase of service in Uganda

A 14-strong team from Christ Church, Lisburn leaves for Uganda today. It will run teaching and other activities in St Apollo School, Kasizi,

churchnewsireland@gmail.com

Luwero, which was built with funds raised by parishioners.

In 2009 the parish started to explore the possibility of developing a partnership with a community in Africa building on strong support for mission partnership over many years in the church.



The parish spoke to a number of Mission Agencies and linked up with Fields of Life whose heart is for education in Central Africa and who at present have built over 100 schools in that area.

St Apollo School was established in 2007, but only had the use of one small building and had to hold many classes under trees.

The parishioners of Christ Church raised £75,000. Through the partnership with Fields of life, two new blocks of classrooms were built at the St Apollo School in early 2012.

A team from Christ Church, along with friends from Lisburn Rotary, travelled to the school in February 2012 to complete work on those buildings, work with the children and support the local community and church.

The support for the school continued through provision of books and desks for pupils, a rain water project, purchasing land for growing crops and through child sponsorship by parishioners of Christ Church.

In 2014 Lisburn Rotary provided funding for the construction of a cook house.

The parish's project for 2015 was to raise funds for the staff residence which would create a more settled environment for teachers and create greater stability for the school.

The rector of Christ Church, the Revd Paul Dundas, said: *"We thank the Lord for his faithfulness and the generosity of parishioners and friends that the target of £24,000 has been exceeded."*

At present around 300 children receive an education at St Apollo School. The team travelling to visit the school this month comprises the rector, along with parishioners Beth Harris, Beverley Ringland, Roberta Thompson, Anita Evans, Jane Marks, Emma Jane Marks, Audrey Knowles, Jayne Logan, Johnston Boyle, Raymond Geddis, Patrick Logan, Colin Mitchell and Gary Knowles. They were commissioned at a service in Christ Church on Sunday evening. They return on 2 March.

Archbishop Eamon Martin launches new Facebook page for Lent 2015

Archbishop Eamon Martin has launched a special web feature and a new Facebook page for Lent 2015 which begins today - Ash Wednesday.

Archbishop Martin said, "I love the phrase which Pope Francis uses in his Message for Lent this year and where he describes Lent as a time for *'formation of the heart'*. During this Lenten

season I invite everyone to look into their heart, see the things which might be closing our heart to God's love and make a special effort to open ourselves up to the grace that God offers during this Lenten season. I ask that we:
Open our hearts to the love of God,
Open our hearts in charity and love for others,
Let our hearts be formed and shaped this Lent so that they can be more like the heart of Jesus."

Archbishop Martin concluded, "For many years we have provided online resources to assist with our Lenten preparations which seek to guide us as we prepare spiritually for the joy and hope which comes with the Easter season. During this season of Lent, I invite everyone to visit and avail of the information provided on our website and on Facebook and to join in the conversation on Twitter using the hashtags #lent and #lent2015."

The website catholicbishops.ie offers Lenten information and resources, which are also available on the new Facebook page:

The Lent Facebook page can be accessed at the following link <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Lent/506371582805408>

CPSMA welcomes announcement by Minister O'Sullivan concerning sustainable school communities

Father Tom Deenihan, the General Secretary of the Catholic Primary School Management Association, has welcomed the announcement today by Minister for Education & Skills, Ms Jan O'Sullivan, concerning sustainable school communities.

Father Deenihan said that CPSMA, with their colleagues in the INTO, have been engaging with the Minister's officials for some time in relation to this initiative. The issue of small schools is a critical one for local communities, teachers and management, impinging, as it does, on both the areas of pedagogy as well as health and safety. It is also true that the number of small schools has increased greatly in recent times. Most of these schools are in rural areas. Today's announcement, which should be welcomed by all, will alleviate, in some way, concerns that are held in these communities.

The reduction in the retention figures for the second, third and fourth teachers is a positive step and will make a real difference to many

schools. Of greater importance is the further reduction for rural schools that are located more than eight kilometres from another school of the same patronage in respect of the second teacher. The concern about the increase of one teacher schools is shared by the INTO and CPSMA. The reduction of the retention figure to 15 pupils will reduce the number of one teacher schools in Ireland. That must be welcomed. It also represents a protection for the ethos and patronage of these small, isolated schools that serve their communities.

For some time now, CPSMA with the INTO, the Church of Ireland Board of Education, and the Department, have been discussing a voluntary protocol in relation to schools that wish to amalgamate or close. The nomination of a single contact person within the Department is enormously helpful. The pro-active approach of the Department to write to school patrons when enrolment decreases to 25 pupils should allow for a structured discussion locally on the viability of the school or the desire to amalgamate with another such school.

CPSMA welcomes the initiatives announced today and thanks the Minister and her officials for their engagement with them and our educational partners in relation to this matter.

- The CPSMA is a recognised school management association and represents all the boards of management of the over 2,900 Catholic primary schools in the Republic of Ireland.

St Mary's Cathedral Limerick lunchtime concerts

25th Feb - Shannon Golf Club Choir - *the first visit to St Mary's of this local choir*

4th March - Moira Gray and Geoffrey Pratley (piano duet) - *Music by Mozart, Dvorak and Ravel*

11th March - Students from Villiers School - *Leaving Certificate Students perform a varied programme.*

18th March - Helen Houlihan (soprano) Irina Dernova (piano) - *Music by Schubert, Barber and Baroque composers.*

1st April - Peter Barley (organ) - *Special recital for Holy Week - The Stations of the Cross* (Alan Ridout)

Retiring collection in aid of The Companions of St Mary's Cathedral music. Concerts commence 1.15 pm

Mission in Northern Ireland 2015 focus for Queen's Chaplaincy 60th anniversary

The 58th Annual Church of Ireland Theological Lecture at Queen's University, Belfast took place in the Great Hall at QUB on Monday night past.

To mark the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the Chaplaincy Centre at Queen's, the event departed from the normal pattern of hearing from one guest lecturer but instead heard from four leading Church figures from the Church of Ireland, the Methodist, the Presbyterian and the Roman Catholic Churches in Ireland, each addressing the subject of The Mission of the Church in Northern Ireland in 2015: Obstacles and Opportunities.

Following a welcome from the Bishop of Connor, The Rt Revd Alan Abernethy, and the Vice Chancellor of Queen's, Professor Patrick Johnston, The Most Revd Dr Richard Clarke,

Archbishop of Armagh, spoke from the Church of Ireland perspective; the Revd Dr Heather Morris (former President) from the Methodist Church; the Revd Dr Stafford Carson (former Moderator and Principal of Union Theological College) from the Presbyterian tradition and the Revd Dr Eddie McGee from the Catholic Diocese of Down & Connor (representing Bishop Noel Treanor).

Each spoke about the significance of discipleship, disciple-making and the mobilisation of Church members across the Christian traditions in a markedly changed cultural landscape where church members now find themselves in a minority position.

The event was in two parts: the individual contributions were followed by a lively and engaging hour-long Question and Answer session chaired by the Revd Barry Forde, Church of Ireland Chaplain at QUB. Addressing a wide range of topics from engaging with the issues of our day and clashes between liberal and secular culture with faith-based viewpoints to the economy and exploitation, the panellists spoke about the need for Christian people to show grace, love, compassion and courage, to build relationships across society and with

individuals and to find better ways to communicate intelligibly and intelligently.

Graham Kings named mission theologian in the Anglican Communion



The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Church Mission Society and Durham University have become partners in creating an innovative seven year post: Mission Theologian in the Anglican Communion.

The purpose is to research, stimulate, connect and publish works of theology in the Anglican Communion, with particular focus on insights from Africa, Asia and Latin America, in their ecumenical contexts.

The Rt Rev. Graham Kings, currently bishop of Sherborne, has been appointed and will take up this new post in July 2015. He will be based in London, visiting Durham University, as an honorary fellow, and will travel in the Anglican Communion. He will convene a series of seminars in Anglican Communion studies for theologians, particularly in Africa, Asia and Latin America. A new website, launched this week, MissionTheologyAngCom.org, will publish the papers.

The Archbishop of Canterbury said, “I am delighted that this strong partnership has developed with CMS and Durham University. It is very gratifying that the concept of a Mission Theologian in the Anglican Communion has attracted the necessary support to get to this stage where the post can be established. I know that the Anglican Communion has many gifted theologians and it is so important that their voice is heard more widely. I am glad that Bishop Graham’s experience and knowledge of the Communion is being made so generously

available and I shall encourage the development of this project with a keen interest.”

The Rev. Professor Joseph Galgalo, vice chancellor of St. Paul’s University, Limuru, Kenya, said, “This partnership affords new and creative ways of initiating and managing theological discourses across the Communion; and equally provides opportunities for constructive engagements. Bishop Graham Kings, with his vast experience in cross-cultural mission, is well placed to build a wide network of theologians to stimulate fruitful theological conversations, and to inspire partnerships across communities of faith. I wish him well and all God’s blessings as he lays the foundation for this exciting responsibility.”

Canon Philip Mounstephen, executive leader of the Church Mission Society, said, “CMS has long been committed to enabling the theological insights and voices of the global south to be better heard around the world as together we explore, and learn more, of the mission of God. I’m thrilled with this new post in CMS.”

Professor Alec Ryrie, head of the Department of Theology and Religion, Durham University, said: “This partnership is exactly the kind of

creative enterprise that we should be entering into, to make more of the fresh and important theological thinking taking place in areas which are sometimes remote to readily accessible scholarship. Our leading research and alumni networks can hopefully bring emphasis and credibility to this initiative. We are delighted to welcome Dr Kings as an Honorary Fellow in the Department.”

WCC mourns the killing of Egyptian Christians

The World Council of Churches (WCC) has joined its member churches, partners and people in Egypt as they mourn the killings of 21 Egyptian Christians kidnapped by the so-called “Islamic State” (IS) militants in Libya.

“We express our deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of the young Egyptian men who had traveled to Libya to work for their support, and who became the victims of this outrage,” said the Rev. Olav Fykse Tveit, WCC general secretary, in a letter addressed to Pope Tawadros II, patriarch of the Coptic Orthodox Church in Egypt, issued on Feb. 17.

“We pray for them, their communities and for the whole Church in Egypt, from whom these precious lives have been torn,” he added.

Tveit stressed that these killings add to the lengthening litany of brutality conceived by minds disordered by a twisted misinterpretation of religion.

“We pray for *metanoia* – a transformative change of heart on the part of those driven to such inhuman violence and hatred of the other,” he said.

Tveit affirmed the WCC’s commitment towards “active solidarity across faith and community boundaries with all those affected by such violence and hatred, and with all those who seek peace and who recognize the God-given human dignity and equal and inalienable human rights of all.”

WCC general secretary’s letter on killings of Egyptian Christians

WCC member churches in Egypt

The World Council of Churches promotes Christian unity in faith, witness and service for a just and peaceful world. An ecumenical

fellowship of churches founded in 1948, by the end of 2013 the WCC had 345 member churches representing more than 500 million Christians from Protestant, Orthodox, Anglican and other traditions in over 140 countries. The WCC works cooperatively with the Roman Catholic Church. The WCC general secretary is the Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit, from the [Lutheran] Church of Norway.

Archbishop of Egypt's statement on murder of Coptic Christians



Dear Friends,
It is with great sadness I write you today about the heinous murder of 21 Egyptian Christians at the hand of the so-called Islamic State branch in Libya. These men from the Upper Egyptian city

of Samalout are no different from thousands of other Muslim and Christian Egyptians in Libya, seeking employment to support their families back home.

Except that these 21 were specifically chosen for their Christian faith. The video of their beheading expressed the Islamic State's intention to increasingly target the Copts of Egypt.

This morning the Egyptian government launched airstrikes on Islamic State positions. It has declared a week of mourning, banned further travel to Libya, and will work to facilitate the return of all Egyptian citizens. The foreign minister has been dispatched to the United Nations to discuss the necessary international response.

The Anglican Church in Egypt and the world expresses its deep condolences to the families of these men, and also to his Holiness Pope Tawadros II, patriarch of the Coptic Orthodox Church.

Please join me in praying for peace in Libya, Egypt, and the entire Middle East. Please pray the international community will act in wisdom, correctly and efficiently, and support Egypt in its war on terror. Please pray the churches of Egypt will comfort their sons and daughters,

encouraging them to resist fear and hatred. And please pray for the perpetrators of this terrible crime, that God would be merciful to them and change their hearts.

Jesus tells us in John 16:33, “In the world you shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”

Such cheer may seem impossible, but it is God’s promise.

Please pray for us, that we may live lives worthy of his name, and hold to the testimony exhibited by the brave Egyptians in Libya.

The Most Rev. Dr. Mouneer Hanna Anis

Archbishop of Episcopal / Anglican Diocese of Egypt
with North Africa and the Horn of Africa

Primate of the Episcopal / Anglican

Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East

Pope Francis hails murdered Coptic Christians as martyrs

Pope Francis has prayed for God to welcome the 21 Coptic Christians murdered by ISIS as martyrs since they had their “throats slit for the sole reason of being Christians.”

“The Lord welcome them as martyrs, for their families, for my brother [Coptic Pope] Tawadros, who is suffering greatly,” he said.

The Holy Father was speaking at Mass yesterday morning in the chapel of the Domus Sanctae Marthae, which was offered for the Egyptian Coptics killed in Libya.



Mass offered at the Vatican for Egyptian Copts killed by ISIS in Libya

On Sunday Islamist militants claiming loyalty to ISIS released a video showing the beheading of the men who were taken hostage in Libya several weeks ago.

Every human heart has the capacity to do good or evil, but the strength to make the right choice comes from Christ, Pope Francis said during his homily, before adding, “but why are we like this? Because we have this possibility for destruction, this is the problem.”

The Pope also criticised weapons dealers as being merchants of death and said countries that sell arms allow wars to never end.

C of E Bishops pastoral letter on 2015 General Election

The House of Bishops of the Church of England yesterday expressed the hope for political parties to discern "a fresh moral vision of the kind of country we want to be" ahead of the General Election in May of this year.

In a pastoral letter from the House of Bishops to the people and parishes of the Church of England, the Bishops urge Christians to consider the question how can we "build the kind of society which many people say they want but

which is not yet being expressed in the vision of any of the parties?"

The letter also encourages church members to engage in the political process ahead of the General Election and to put aside self-interest and vote for 'the common good': "The privileges of living in a democracy mean that we should use our votes thoughtfully, prayerfully and with the good of others in mind, not just our own interests."

The letter also states that: "In Britain, we have become so used to believing that self-interest drives every decision, that it takes a leap of imagination to argue that there should be stronger institutions for those we disagree with as well as for those 'on our side.' Breaking free of self-interest and welcoming our opponents as well as our supporters into a messy, noisy, yet rich and creative community of communities is, perhaps, the only way we will enrich our almost-moribund political culture."

The letter defends the right of the Church to enter into the political arena: "It is not possible to separate the way a person perceives his or her place in the created order from their beliefs, religious or otherwise, about how the world's affairs ought to be arranged. The claim that religion and political life must be kept separate is, in any case, frequently disingenuous - most politicians and pundits are happy enough for the churches to speak on political issues so long as the church agrees with their particular line."

The pastoral letter draws on the experience of the Church of England as a Christian presence in every community to warn of the disengagement between politicians and the people. They note that "with few exceptions, politicians are not driven merely by cynicism or self-interest" but nevertheless, "the different parties have failed to offer attractive visions of the kind of society and culture they wish to see.... There is no idealism in this prospectus".

The letter encourages political parties across the spectrum to seek bold new visions of hope and idealism rather than "sterile arguments about who might manage the existing system best."

The bishops also argue Britain is in need of a stronger politics of community to boost solidarity between people and reverse a drift towards social isolation: "The extent of loneliness in society today, with the attendant problems of mental and physical health, is one indication of how far we have drifted into a society of strangers. But that drift is far from complete - and few people, if asked, would say that a society of strangers represents a vision of society which they desire."

The letter specifically avoids advocacy for one any political party but instead encourages those in the Church to seek from political candidates a commitment to building a society of common bonds over individual consumerism. The bishops say Britain is hungry for a new approach to political life which reaffirms

our ties at a national, regional, community and neighbourhood level. There is a need for a strong corrective to halt the move towards increasing social isolation, they say, through strengthening the idea that that Britain is still a "community of communities." This, they say, is a theme which has roots in the historic traditions of different parties: "We are seeking, not a string of policy offers, but a way of conceiving and ordering our political and economic life which can be pursued in a conservative idiom, a socialist idiom, a liberal idiom - and by others not aligned to party."

The pastoral letter argues that the Church of England finds its voice through being a presence in every community with churches remaining one of the primary agents of social action and social care in parishes across the country. The letter argues that Intermediate institutions such as housing associations, credit unions and churches are needed for their role in building stronger communities. A thriving society needs many

intermediate institutions, they say, including those who disagree with each other.

The letter also recognises the inherent danger in the current situation where people are disengaging from politics, arguing that restoring faith in both politicians and the political process requires a new politics that engages at both a deeper more local level within a wider, broader vision for the country as a whole.

In the letter, the bishops warn against despair and urge people to vote in the General Election: "Unless we exercise the democratic rights that our ancestors struggled for, we will share responsibility for the failures of the political classes. It is the duty of every Christian adult to vote, even though it may have to be a vote for something less than a vision that inspires us."

The Pastoral letter can be read [here](#).

A guide to the pastoral letter and its contents can be found [here](#).

The statements from the [Bishop of Norwich](#) and [Bishop of Leicester](#) can be found by clicking on the link on their names.

The Church of England & Church Urban Fund research "Church in Action" can be found at:

<http://www.cuf.org.uk/blog/churches-respond-loneliness-crisis>

See also -

Tory fury over Church of England letter -
Telegraph

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/conservative/11417226/Tory-fury-over-Church-of-England-letter.html>

The Church has been hijacked by a woolly left-of-centre Keynesianism - Telegraph

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/comment/11415783/The-Church-has-been-hijacked-by-a-woolly-left-of-centre-Keynesianism.html>

Media digest

Telegraph

Lego Luther - This historical Christian figure just became Playmobil's fastest selling toy ever

www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/newsbysector/retailandconsumer/11409405/This-historical-Christian-figure-just-became-Playmobils-fastest-selling-toy-ever.html

Irish Examiner

New family Bill 'most important in State's history': Taoiseach

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/breakingnews/ireland/new-family-bill-most-important-in-states-history-taoiseach-662540.html>

Belfast Newsletter

Church ponders Ford's position - is justice minister's stance incompatible with being a church elder?

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/regional/church-ponders-ford-s-position-1-6581372>

ITV/BBC/Int Business Times/Tel/Mail

Reports that the Archbishop of Canterbury has condemned terror attacks in Libya, Denmark and

Nigeria in recent days, calling for "deep compassion for the bereaved and killed". In a statement, Justin Welby called the beheading of Christian hostages in Libya by Islamic State (IS), shootings in Denmark and a suicide bombing in Nigeria "terrible cruelty".

<http://www.itv.com/news/update/2015-02-16/archbishop-condemns-terribly-cruel-terror-attacks/>

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-31487633>

<http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/archbishop-justin-welby-condemns-isis-killings-21-coptic-christians-terrible-cruelty-1488197>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/david-cameron/11416872/Cameron-in-deal-to-extend-British-troops-stay-in-Brunei.html>

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-2955282/Egypt-hostage-deaths-retaliation.html?](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-2955282/Egypt-hostage-deaths-retaliation.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

[ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-2955282/Egypt-hostage-deaths-retaliation.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

BBC/Tel

Report that Church of England leaders will urge members to take an active role in May's general election. It states the House of Bishops is to call for debate on issues such as inequality and Britain's place in the world, in a letter to be released later. It is expected to back the concept of a living wage and urge political parties to

avoid scapegoating groups such as immigrants and those on benefits. The letter is the first of its kind to be issued by the Church. Telegraph comment article refers to it claiming the Church has been hijacked by a woolly left-of-centre Keynesianism, and suggests it might be better if church leaders stayed out of the economic debate and just stuck to spiritual matters.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-31499189>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/comment/11415783/The-Church-has-been-hijacked-by-a-woolly-left-of-centre-Keynesianism.html>

Mail

Report that former defence minister Sir Gerald Howarth said the Archbishop of Canterbury should never have expressed regret over the British bombing of Dresden - because it helped save 'thousands' of lives. He said the RAF attacks 70 years ago helped shorten the War. He also criticized BBC coverage of the 70th anniversary commemoration for including a prisoner of war who claimed the UK had been 'worse than' the Nazis.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2956324/Justin-Welby-wrong-Dresden.html#ixzz3Ryd09AV5>

Mail

Further article on serialized extracts from Rev Joanna Jepson's book, which looks at her campaign to stop conditions such as cleft palate being grounds for abortion.

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2956448/Demonised-sisterhood-daring-question-abortion-free-all.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490

BBC/Express/Metro/Mirror/Mail

Reports that Reverend David Davies, former vicar of Cockington and Torre, was convicted of assaulting his wife and drinking and driving and has been ordered to carry out community service. They state the former Army chaplain was banned from driving for two years and ordered to carry out 120 hours of unpaid work over 12 months. Clive Cohen, acting archdeacon of Totnes is quoted saying, "the diocese will conduct its own internal process, which will include looking at David's future ministry."

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-devon-31486041>

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/558564/David-Davies-vicar-brawled-wife-drunk-drove>
<http://metro.co.uk/2015/02/16/vicar-to-lose-his-job-and-home-after-drunkenly-assaulting-his-wife-5065601/>

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/vicar-who-beat-up-wife-5173864>
http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2955789/Vicar-drunkenly-assaulted-wife-faces-losing-job-home.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490

Tel

Report on how the [beheading of 21 Coptic Christians in Libya](#) by forces sympathetic to [Islamic State](#) over recent days is not an isolated case. The article says it is the latest of countless outrages perpetrated against Christians in or near the Church's Biblical heartlands over many years. It claims that acute hostility to Christians in the Middle East long predates the invasion of Iraq.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/islamic-state/11416779/The-Middle-East-is-red-with-the-blood-of-Christians.html>

BBC

Report on a bid to swell the numbers of bell ringers launched by a group that wants to set up a school for budding campanologists in Norwich. It states organisers are attempting to raise £400,000 to establish the school at the city centre church of St Peter Mancroft.

February 10

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-norfolk-31492696>