



## **Bird of Paradise Ministries support team commissioned in Bangor Abbey**

As Revd Jerome and Mary Munyangaju prepare to head home to Rwanda to work with Bird of Paradise Ministries, Bishop Harold Miller of Down & Dromore has commissioned a support team at a service in Bangor Abbey. Before

becoming rector of Killyleagh, Jerome served in the Abbey as an Assistant Minister.

The charity in Kigali has taken in a small number of elderly Rwandans who, as a result of losing their families in the genocide, have been left homeless. In a country where there is no social security, Bird of Paradise Ministries provides a vital service and has pioneered this kind of care for the elderly who are often overlooked in favour of the young.

The support team includes 14 volunteers to staff the charity shop in Market Street, Downpatrick, as well as deputation and prayer support. You can play your part by giving via [the website](#) or calling into the shop to donate or buy goods:  
<http://bopm.org.uk/>

## **Council of Europe hours Irish missionary nun**

An Irish member of the Medical Missionaries of Mary has been awarded the prestigious Council of Europe's North-South Prize.

Sr Dr Maura Lynch MMM, a doctor-surgeon and obstetrician, was chosen in recognition of her



ground-breaking work with women whose lives have been devastated by obstetric fistula in Sub-Saharan Africa.

She was nominated for the award by Irish Ambassador Anne Webster and it was presented to her by the President of the Portuguese Republic, Professor Cavaco Silva, in the Portuguese Parliament at the end of June.

While in Portugal the 77 year old missionary gave a seminar entitled 'A life dedicated to medical care in Africa' which was organised by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe at the Universidade Católica in Lisbon.

The North-South Prize of the Council of Europe is awarded every year to two personalities, one from the North and the other from the South.

The prize rewards their commitment to the defence and promotion of human rights, democracy and the rule of law as well as to the development of intercultural dialogue and the reinforcement of the North-South partnership and solidarity.

Born in 1938, Sr Maura was the fourth of nine children and joined the Medical Missionaries of Mary after school.

In 1964, she qualified as medical doctor and did her internship in medicine and surgery.

She then went on to obtain a Diploma in Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in London in 1966. This was followed by a Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Public Health in Lisbon in 1967.

That same year she was assigned to the 200-bed Chiulo Mission Hospital in Angola where she acted as medical director while sharing all the clinical work in medicine, surgery, obstetrics and gynaecology, paediatrics, TB and leprosy with another Sister Doctor for 20 years.

She also worked as a lecturer and examiner in the Nurses Training School during that time.

From 1983 to 1985, she studied for a post graduate fellowship in surgery in Ireland becoming an FRCSI from the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland, England and Scotland. After her studies she returned to Angola.

In 1987, she was assigned to Kitovu Mission Hospital in Uganda as a consultant surgeon/obstetrician/gynaecologist with responsibility for training of medical officers in surgical and obstetrics and gynaecology skills.

That year she also spent a month in Nigeria training in obstetric fistula repair.

In the early 1990s, she was a co-founder member of the Association of Surgeons of East Africa (A.S.E.A) and in 1993 she initiated the Obstetric Fistula Repair programme inviting specialists from the UK to Kitovu three times a year to carry out 885 fistula repairs.

During this time she also encouraged visiting surgeons and other consultants to come to Kitovu under the sponsorship of rotary Doctors Bank of Great Britain and Ireland.

This provided consultant services as well as teaching and the passing on of skills to indigenous personnel.

Between 1999 and 2004, as interest and gradual awareness and appreciation of the dignity and needs of women in the developing world increased, there was greater recognition of the need for improved maternity services for the reduction and prevention of birth injuries.

Between 2004 and 2005, Sr Dr Maura Lynch fundraised and supervised the building of a Fistula Unit in Kitovu with 28 beds. In 2007, she was awarded an honorary Fellowship of Medicine and Medical Sciences from University College Dublin in recognition of her 43 years of medical care in Africa. In 2009, she was nominated by UNFPA (Uganda) as 'Leader in fight against Fistula' and this was followed in 2013 with an honorary Fellowship in Obstetric and Gynaecology from London College of Obstetric Gynaecologist (FR.C.O.G).

## **Tuam Team Mission Support with Kajiado**

The C of I Diocese of Tuam, Killala and Achroony has been engaging in Mission Support with Kajiado for the past almost three years.



***Revd Jennifer McWhirter on a previous visit to Kaijado.***

Specifically the diocese has been helping out with the construction and furbishment of a school for Maasai girls. Revds Stephen McWhirter and Jennifer McWhirter with their daughter Kizzy, who live and work in the parish of Kilmoremoy, County Mayo, will be visiting the Diocese of Kaijado, Kenya, over the next few weeks. Bishop Patrick Rooke will be with the McWhirters for part of this trip.

In order to give a flavour of what is happening in Kaijado, and to help folk get a little bit closer to



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the project, Stephen will be sending regular 'posts' to a new page on the Kaijodo Blog website: <http://tuam.anglican.org/kajiado-blog>

## **Death of former MU World President**

The death has taken place this week of Mrs Rachael Nugee a former World President of the Mothers' Union. During her time in office she paid several visits to MU Ireland and had many friends in the organisation here. She was 88 years of age.



She had a secret past as one of the Second World War's legendary code breakers. Mrs Nugee deciphered codes for the war effort at Bletchley Park in Buckinghamshire, the government's communications centre, famously portrayed in the book by Robert Harris and feature film *The Enigma Code*, starring Kate Winslet.

See:

[http://www.thecnj.com/review/2009/080609/feat080609\\_02.html](http://www.thecnj.com/review/2009/080609/feat080609_02.html)

## **Catholic Women of the Year 2015 announced**

The four people chosen as this year's Catholic Women of the Year have been announced. The quartet are Mary-Jane Butler, who found the charity WORK, (Widows and Orphans in Rural Kenya); Dr Margaret Ann Burgess, who founded the charity Promise Nepal; Monica Cleaver, who organises and leads youth work in London; and Yolanda Fletcher, sacristan, Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, and all-round helper in her local parish in Wales.

The annual event dates back 40 years and this year's celebratory luncheon will be held on October 10 at the Thistle Hotel in Marble Arch, central London.

Fr Alexander Sherbrook of St Patrick's Soho will be the speaker..

The first committee meeting took place in January 1969 and the first luncheon was held in May that year, where 100 women attended. Last year there were more 300 guests. The event has raised more than £52,000 for charitable donations through the years.

This year's recipients have all the served the poor and underprivileged down the years. Ms Butler has helped 500 widows and orphans, and run six schools and two rural health centres, while Dr Burgess's charity helps people suffering from leprosy in Nepal, treating 200 patients a day and running a 15-bed hospital.

## **Rural partnership begins innovative project tackling financial exclusion**

A new initiative by The Arthur Rank Centre, The Plunkett Foundation and The Church of England's Mission and Public Affairs Division to extend access and use of rural credit unions is being supported by Comic Relief.

This innovative project is backed by the Association of British Credit Unions, the Methodist and United Reformed Church, and is likely to see new credit union service points created in rural churches and community buildings nationwide.

Project Consultant Janet Wilkinson, will be taking the lead on the initiative and working directly with six credit unions across the UK. Janet is the Director of Bristol Credit Union and an experienced project manager with over 15 years' experience in the financial services sector. She will be helping the six credit unions increase their rural membership and develop products suitable for rural people. Her findings will then be shared to enable other groups to establish their own rural service points.

"I'm really excited to be part of this programme," said Janet Wilkinson. "It has the potential to extend the help Credit Unions give to communities and individuals throughout the UK through collaborative partnerships, spreading

the word about local and community based finance".

Many imagine rural life to be idyllic, but over 1.3 million people live in poverty, often hidden within predominately wealthy areas, and financial exclusion is commonplace. The latest official research found that around 200,000 rural residents do not have access to a bank account and only one in eight banks or building societies are present in village communities.

The decline in mainstream banking facilities, and the low number of free cash points, has created 'financial service deserts' in many rural areas with residents often turning to payday loans and high-cost credit to fund everyday needs.

## **The Tablet 175 Awards and Bursaries**

To commemorate The Tablet's 175 Anniversary the journal is offering:

6 x £1000 bursaries for postgraduate/MA lay students of theology and religion (age 35 or under) with a place at universities in the UK or Republic of Ireland, to go towards the costs of their studies.

4 x £1000 awards for good pastoral practice in implementing Catholic Social Teaching in the form of a donation to the activity or charity concerned.

The closing date for both is 17:00 on Wednesday 30 September.

### Bursaries - How to apply

To apply please send a 1,000 word essay on the significance of religion in contemporary Britain by the closing date to [thetablet@thetablet.co.uk](mailto:thetablet@thetablet.co.uk).

Please include within the subject of your email: "Application for Tablet 175 Bursary"

Please include in your covering email your full name, contact details (email and phone number) and where you are studying.

### Judging

Your essay will be considered by a panel that will include academics and journalists. Results will be announced and awards made before Christmas and some of the winning entries will appear in the journal or on the website.

### Awards - How to apply

You are strongly encouraged to nominate projects and people that you think deserve to win an award. The submission does not have to come from the charity itself.

The awards are open to teachers and educators, parish and diocesan pastoral ministers, charity and development (J&P) workers and others involved in Catholic social practice.

To apply, please submit a 1,000 word description of the organisation and the work they do that relates to Catholic Social Teaching by the closing date to [thetablet@thetablet.co.uk](mailto:thetablet@thetablet.co.uk).

Please include within the subject of your email: "Application for Tablet 175 Award"

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This programme is also supported by The Bible Society

## **Christian Aid support for local partners in flood-hit areas of Pakistan and India**

More than 16,000 of the most vulnerable people in flood-hit areas of India and Pakistan will get help such as food, water and shelter following a grant of £158,000 to Christian Aid from the UK's Start Fund.

“These new and additional funds will allow our Christian Aid and local partners in Pakistan and India to reach thousands of already poor women, men and children who have lost almost everything,” said Ram Kishan, Christian Aid’s Regional Emergency Manager for South Asia.

“They have fled their ruined homes for higher land and are stranded with little or no food, water, shelter or medical help. Some have had to drink contaminated water from flooded wells and tube-wells and many have lost their homes and crops - their source of income.

“This new funding means our partners can give them help to survive until the floods have receded and they can start to rebuild their lives.”

In India, more than 200 have died in the floods, while more than one million are in emergency shelters. Christian Aid's local partner organisation Indo-Global Social Service Society (IGSSS) is working in some of the worst affected parts of West Bengal in the east of India, where people are living in the open, without shelter or clean water.

The new Start money will enable IGSSS to provide tarpaulins, mosquito nets, hygiene kits and water purifying equipment to the most vulnerable families, such as dalits and those with disabled or older family members. In total, well over 10,500 people will benefit from the emergency aid.

In Pakistan, some 170 people are thought to have been killed in the floods while hundreds of thousands more have had their homes and crops ruined. This has left many destitute and further indebted to their landlords on whose land they grow their crops which they sell partly to pay rent to the landlords.

Christian Aid's partner organisation Community World Service Asia (CWSA) had already started distributing one month's food supply to families stranded on river banks in the Ghotki area of



Sindh Province in the south of the country with support provided by Christian Aid.

The new Start money will fund food packages for a further 1,235 of the most vulnerable families - around 6,800 people. The packages include flour, cooking oil, lentils, sugar, tea and matches.

Neill Garvie, Pakistan Programme Manager, said: "We have supported CWSA over the last three years to help communities to become more resilient to floods, so they can save their own lives, assets and sources of income.

"However, the threat of increased flooding from further monsoon rain, rising flood levels and glacial melt from rising temperatures here is severe and people are in great need. Many still have not recovered from the catastrophic floods of 2010."

The Start Fund was launched in 2014 with contributions from the UK's Department for International Development, Irish Aid and latterly the Dutch government. It is administered by the Start Network, a consortium of 24 leading NGOs, including Christian Aid, which work together to strengthen the humanitarian aid system with rapid support where necessary.

## Media digest

### **BBC News**

#### **Politicians: 'Northern Ireland peace at risk'**

Peace in Northern Ireland has shallow roots and the political establishment is putting it at risk, political figures and analysts tell Shaun Ley.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-politics-33881429>

### **Guard**

Report that senior Church of England figures have defended the BBC's decision to film an episode of *Songs of Praise* at the migrant camp in Calais. It states both the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby and the Bishop of Leeds, Nick Baines, have signaled support for the campaign. It quotes Nick Baines' writing in his blog saying, "The decision to record in the Jungle of Calais, right at the heart of where migrants are trying desperately to find a new life in a place of safety, is absolutely the right one."

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/aug/12/church-england-defends-songs-of-praise-filmed-calais-migrant-camp>

### **Tel**

Articles on different views in the Church on assisted dying ahead of the commons vote. It quotes the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Carey saying allowing doctors to help terminally ill people to take their own lives would be a "profoundly Christian and moral thing". They also quotes the Revd Dr Brendan McCarthy, the Church of England's national adviser on medical ethics, who said that dying people would "most certainly" be put at risk by a change in the law.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11799620/Assisted-dying-would-be-profoundly-Christian-and-moral-former-Archbishop-of-Canterbury.html>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/people/lord-carey-euthanasia-for-terminally-ill-is-profoundly-christian-10452927.html>

## **Mail**

Article on the new Banking Standards Board boss Dame Colette Bowe, she talks about her plans and members of the board saying she believed that two sorts of people were needed: practitioners and non-practitioners. The Bishop of Birmingham, David Urquhart is listed among those involved and she says they are all people with a range of perspectives, views and experience - "who have something to say about

how the industry operates, and, crucially, who are good at listening."

<http://www.thisismoney.co.uk/money/markets/article-3195627/Banking-high-standards-New-BSB-boss-Dame-Colette-Bowe-mission-restore-trust-British-lenders.html#ixzz3ifWtGHCA>

## **Talking Retail**

Further report on response to proposed changes in Sunday trading regulations. It states the Keep Sunday Special pressure group has today launched a campaign to keep the existing Sunday trading laws in England and Wales in a letter to prime minister David Cameron. It quotes the Church of England's director of mission and public affairs, Malcolm Brown.

<http://www.talkingretail.com/category-news/cameron-urged-keep-sunday-special-campaign-trading-laws/>

## **Tel/Star/Exp/Mirror/Mail/Huff Post/BBC**

Reports on funeral arrangements for Cilla Black who is to be buried alongside her parents at St Mary's Church in Woolton, Merseyside - where she and her late husband Bobby Willis married in March 1969. They state her funeral is due to be held next week in her home city of Liverpool. The family announced that Auxiliary Bishop of Liverpool and former Parish Priest of St

Anthony's, Scotland Road, Thomas Williams, will celebrate the Mass.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/celebritynews/11799920/Cilla-Blacks-funeral-to-be-held-in-Liverpool.html>

<http://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/latest-news/458978/Cilla-Black-funeral-home-liverpool>

<http://www.express.co.uk/celebrity-news/597961/Cilla-Black-remembered-Cilla-the-singer-headstone-funeral-death-dead-dies>

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/3am/celebrity-news/cilla-blacks-final-wish-buried-6242713>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3195463/Cilla-Black-laid-rest-parents-private-ceremony-Liverpool-church-married-husband-Bobby-week.html>

[http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2015/08/12/cilla-black-funeral-liverpool\\_n\\_7977904.html?utm\\_hp\\_ref=celebrity](http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2015/08/12/cilla-black-funeral-liverpool_n_7977904.html?utm_hp_ref=celebrity)

<http://www.bbc.com/news/entertainment-arts-33892891>

## **Tel**

Article on how climate change is putting investments at risk and oil and gas businesses are already facing issues caused by climate change concerns. It states major investors, including the Church of England, are selling their holdings in businesses that they believe have the potential to adversely affect the environment.

And it says regulatory changes are the biggest threat to many investors whose portfolios are exposed to the oil and gas industry.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/sponsored/finance/investments/climate-environment/11799182/how-climate-change-affects-investments.html>

### **BBC** (scroll down)

Item on secretary-general of the Anglican Communion, Archbishop Josiah Idowu-Fearon. It says his attempts to promote unity between Christians and Muslims in the face of Boko Haram's attacks weren't always welcome and his opposition to Nigeria's new anti-homosexuality laws put him at odds with many people of faith, including most of his own church hierarchy.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/live/world-africa-33846543>

### **Times**

Further report that a Church of England lay preacher Jeremy Timm has disclosed that he is prepared to have his licence removed in order to marry his male partner. It states the Archbishop of York, Dr Sentamu told him he would revoke his licence to preach if he went ahead with his plans to marry.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/faith/article4525766.ece>

[churchnewsireland@gmail.com](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.com)

## **BBC**

Report that more £40,000 of lead has been stolen from a 13th Century church with links to the family of the late Princess Diana. Thieves stole about 12 tonnes of lead from the roof St Mary's Church, Great Brington, Northamptonshire, in the early hours of Tuesday morning. It states they stripped more than 3,000 sq ft of lead from the church where Princess Diana's father, the 8th Earl Spencer, is buried and which also includes the Spencer Chapel.  
<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-northamptonshire-33890784>

## **Mail**

Report that hundreds of cyclists accompanied the coffin for the funeral of a 79-year-old cyclist who was stabbed to death. It states more than 2,000 people are estimated to have lined the streets of Worthing, West Sussex, as the procession of at least 200 cyclists accompanied the hearse carrying Don Lock to the town's crematorium. Mr Lock, himself a keen cyclist, was stabbed after a crash involving his car and another vehicle on the A24 at Findon, near Worthing, West Sussex, on July 16.  
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3195260/Hundreds-cyclists-perform-guard-honour-great-grandfather-stabbed-death-churchnewsireland@gmail.com>

alleged-road-rage-attack-coffin-driven-home-town-Worthing.html#ixzz3ifYigAL0

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