



CNI

Haematology research funding to honour former rector

The former rector of Magheragall Parish Church, Canon Alex Cheevers who died in August, was honoured in the church on Sunday December 21. At the service of Nine Lessons and Carols that evening, a special offering was held in memory of Canon Cheevers, with the money raised going to support the research work of Professor MF McMullan of Haematology at Queens's University, Belfast.

This charity was selected by Canon Cheevers' widow Maureen, who joined the service with her family. Her daughters Pauline and Joyce and their respective husbands Paul Connolly and Robin Mack, read at the service and her granddaughter Emma sang a solo – In the Bleak Midwinter.

Canon Cheevers was rector of Magheragall Parish from 1991 until his retirement in 2004. The



church has compiled articles written about Canon Cheevers, and his daughter produced a booklet

in his memory which was given out to everyone who attended the service.

“In the parish the news of Alex’s death was met with great sadness and heartfelt sympathy for Maureen and the family,” said the rector of Magheragall, the Rev Nicholas Dark.

In his foreword in the booklet, Nicholas encouraged the congregation to support the special offering. “Professor McMullan was Alex’s Consultant. Professor McMullan is responsible for writing the protocol for the management of Polycythemia Ruba Vera in the UK,” Nicholas explained.

“Through research they have identified the gene, called the Jak2 gene, which is responsible for the disease process involved in Polycythemia Ruba Vera. Further research is required to determine if the fault in the gene can be reversed or slowed down. This has the potential to greatly improve the quality of life of patients with this disease.”

Nicholas said the parish was honoured that Maureen and her family were able to join it for this service of lessons and carols.

“Alex with his truly pastoral heart passed on something of inestimable value to the parishioners of Magheragall, the love of Jesus,” he said.

Canon Cheevers also had a great interest in the two world wars. He regularly led groups of local people on guided tours of the battlefields and war cemeteries of Europe.

In honour of this, and to mark the centenary of the World War One Christmas truce, parishioner Susan Donaghy performed a new version of Silent Night. This new version of Silent Night (Christ the Saviour Is Born) with additional words by writers Ben Cantelon and Nick Herbert, has also been recorded by multi-platinum-selling tenor Paul Potts.

At time of writing, £1,090 had been raised for the research work at Queen’s selected by Maureen.

New Carol premiered in Glencraig

Sunday last was an exciting day in the life of the members of Glencraig Parish Church Choir. At their service of 9 lessons and carols they sang a carol entitled ‘The Carol of St. John’ which was



pecially commissioned for them by Anthony Shillingford. It was written by Simon Clark the London based composer and organist.

The carol is based on the words of the Christmas Gospel from St John Chapter 1 verses 1–14 and principally on verse 14. This may be the first time that these words have ever been set to music.

As the nephew and godson of the late Sir Graham and Lady Shillington and the late Molly Shillington, Anthony Shillington is a child of the Parish. It was in Molly and Lady Shillington's names that the choir robes were presented and

dedicated at a special anniversary service in 1978.

Last May Anthony and his wife Suzanne were visiting Northern Ireland and joined the choir in Glenraig one Sunday morning. Anthony was so impressed with the choir and in particular, with the organist, Mr Peter Harris, that he wanted to present a piece of specially commissioned music to the choir. The format was to be Peter's choice and so a new carol was written for the enjoyment of the parishioners of Glenraig and, the family hope, many others in the future.

Christmas broadcasts from Saint Mel's Cathedral Longford reopened after major fire

In Longford town last Friday Bishop Francis Duffy, Bishop of Ardagh & Clonmacnois, reopened a restored Saint Mel's Cathedral five years after a devastating fire destroyed the interior of the building, most of its furnishings and fittings, and the roof on Christmas Eve/Christmas morning in 2009.

Live broadcasts on RTÉ One Television, and on RTÉ Radio 1

Christmas Eve

The Bells of Saint Mel's 10.00pm RTÉ Radio 1

Midnight Mass 11.00pm RTÉ One Television

Christmas Day

Christmas Mass 10.00am RTÉ One Television

Tuesday 30 December

Would You Believe? Special at 6.30pm RTÉ One Television documentary entitled 'The Longford Phoenix'

Broadcasts on Shannonside Radio (104.1FM)

Saturday 20 December

Opening Mass at 7.30pm

Christmas Eve

Midnight Mass at 11.00pm

Webcasts – www.longfordparish.com and www.churchservices.tv

Parish serves 800 Festive Fries raising 18K for African school project

This year's 'Big Festive Fry' for Charlene's Project raised a staggering £18,000 plus! Almost 800 fried breakfasts were served in St Saviour's Halls, Dollingstown on Saturday 13 December and the money raised will be put to good use in the Kilwara/Kahara community, Uganda.

Charlene Barr started to raise money to build Hidden Treasure school in Uganda before she died in October 2010 and Charlene's Project continues in her memory.

For further information contact Janice at info@charlenesproject.org or 07709806418. Find the Charlene's project on Facebook [here](#).

Scriptures come to life for USA families through Irish Jesse Box initiative

Catholic World Report.- A new initiative out of Ireland is using Biblical dioramas to engage parents and children in Scripture. The Jesse Box, says one of its creators Sebastian Kraszkiwicz, aims "to help pass the faith to the children and to encourage family liturgy."

The diorama kit provides tools for children who, with the help of their parents, can create and act out different stories from the Old and New Testament. The biblical stories currently available include the Creation account, Exodus, the Christmas story, and Pentecost. The set is



accompanied by study manuals and activity books to help guide the children through each story.

The Jesse Box, co-creator said Paul Barnes in an interview with CNA, has the potential for engaging the entire family – parents and children alike – to learn more about the faith. It is designed in such a way that, by helping the children assemble the dioramas and guiding them through the stories with the provided study guides, parents also engage with the Scripture stories.

“The family gets together, reads some Scripture and then make that story using the components

that you find in the story manual for that story,” Barnes said. “And the basic components are the backgrounds you put in three background scenes, you make the characters and you make the props for that story and as you are doing that, of course, you are talking about the story.”

“Even though this is for children, it is really for the whole family,” he said.

Barnes, along with fellow Jesse Box creators Gerry Malone and Sebastian Kraszkievicz – who is married to Malone's daughter – where recently in Rome to bring this initiative to Bishop Jean Laffitte secretary for Pontifical Council to the Family.

Speaking of their meeting with Bishop Laffitte, Gerry Malone told CNA that the prelate expressed “the need of initiatives like the Jesse Box box to help our children and families grow discovering the love of God in the Scripture. Because the family faces extraordinary challenges in today’s society.”

More at -

<http://www.catholicworldreport.com/NewsBriefs/Default.aspx?rssGuid=scriptures-come-to-life-for-irish-families-through-jesse-box-26433/>

Ballydehob kids are tops for Maths tasks in challenge



The students from St Matthias' Church of Ireland National School who came out tops in the Bebras Challenge, a worldwide computer-based Maths programme.

Southern Star - Pupils of St Matthias' Church of Ireland National School have had great success in an informatics challenge, in which 750,000 young people around the world took part.

Thirteen young children took part in the 'Bebras Challenge', a worldwide computer-based Maths problem solving test aimed at children of all ages. To undertake the challenge, pupils had to answer a set of short questions or challenges called

‘Bebras Tasks’, for which they had to think about information, computation, data processing, and other concepts, used in computer programming. Of these, one pupil scored in the top 100 and three scored in the top 2,600. Six others scored in the top 3,600, while the remaining six achieved an above average score.

Expressing pride in their achievement, principal Ian Haseldine, said: ‘Their success reflects the talent of the pupils involved and the emphasis that is placed on information technology within the school.’

Appointment - interim C of I Chaplain to Trinity College, Dublin

The Revd Hilary Dungan has been appointed interim Church of Ireland Chaplain of Trinity College, Dublin, following the departure of the Revd Darren McCallig who has taken up the post of Chaplain of St Alban’s in Copenhagen in the Diocese of Europe. She will occupy the post from January until June 2015.

Hilary’s association with academic life at TCD began in 1989 with an evening diploma course in Biblical & Theological Studies which she



undertook whilst earning her living as music teacher in Brook House School, Bray and as a church musician. The diploma was followed by a two–subject degree in Biblical & Theological

Studies and Classical Civilization which led to B.A. Mod.

Hilary then entered the Theological College and while there also attended the Irish School of Ecumenics. She was ordained to the Priesthood in St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh, for the Curacy of St Mark's Parish, Armagh. In 2003 she was instituted incumbent of Portlaoise (Maryborough) Group of Parishes where she served until her retirement in 2011.

Since then Hilary has been taking services as required, including the recent four month coverage of a rector's sabbatical, and is on the rota for mid-week services at St Ann's Church, Dawson Street.

Hilary is also a continuing education student in piano and chamber music at DIT's Conservatory of Music and Drama.

Commenting on the appointment, Archbishop Michael Jackson said: "I am delighted that the Reverend Hilary Dungan has accepted my invitation to be interim Church of Ireland chaplain of Trinity College, Dublin with effect from mid-January 2015 until June 2015. Building on the

creative and pioneering work which the Reverend Darren McCallig has done while chaplain, Hilary will bring a warm personality and an open interest in people to this job along with her considerable musical capacity”.



Margaret Young during one of her spells in a midwifery unit in Malawi

Obituary - Life-saving Presbyterian Church missionary Margaret Young

News Letter - Margaret Young made it her life's mission to help mothers and babies in one of Earth's most poverty-stricken places.

In total she spent roughly 15 years working in east Africa as a midwife and teacher, before she died of cancer last month.

She was born into a Christian household on September 12, 1959, in Londonderry, the daughter of Harriet and William, the latter being a civil servant with the admiralty in Ebrington.

She attended Clooney Primary School and became involved in Sunday school teaching, Girls' Brigade and Junior Bible Club in her home congregation of Glendermott.

After her A-levels at Foyle College she began training as a nurse, going on to work at the Royal Victoria Hospital.

She served for a year as a midwife in Ekwendeni Hospital, northern Malawi, in 1990 and the experience was a pivotal one.

Her mother Harriet said: "She loved it. She felt it was where she was meant to be."

On May 7 1995, the Presbytery of Foyle commissioned her for missionary service to the country, and she left 10 days later to take up the role of second-in-charge of a 72-bed maternity unit.

She served there for almost nine years and during that time the number of babies being delivered annually grew from about 2,000 to 3,000.

She returned home in 2004 and went back to working in the Royal – but after a few years, Malawi drew her back once again.

She went to work at St Luke's Hospital in Zomba, southern Malawi, where her duties included training midwives and running an HIV treatment and prevention programme for pregnant women.

She also found time to start a Sunday school class for 60 to 80 children.

She spent a final year at Daeyang Luke Hospital in the capital Lilongwe, where she set up the maternity department.

She returned to Londonderry in 2009, and took up work at Altnagelvin.

The BMO issued a statement, reading: “Her commitment to demonstrate Christ’s love and to engage holistically in mission in both the hospital and in the wider community is testimony to her as an ambassador of Christ.”

It added that they “miss her and wish her every blessing”.

Her mother said she became frustrated by what she saw as waste in Northern Ireland, with “so many things being thrown out because they’re not up to the latest standards”. She organised for redundant medical equipment to be sent out to Africa instead of being dumped.

Harriet added: “She was certainly very dedicated to her work, and very fond of the people out there.

“She found them very grateful for anything that was done for them.”

Even when she was at home in Northern Ireland, she would constantly knit little cardigans and baby clothes to be sent out to Africa.

On November 1, 2013, she was diagnosed with a brain tumour. It caused her to lose the use of her left hand, and she was forced to stop work.

More at -

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/obituary-life-saving-christian-missionary-margaret-young-1-6483433>



Moderator's sadness at George Square tragedy

In response to the tragic events in Glasgow's George Square, the Moderator of the General Assembly, Rt Rev John Chalmers, said: "The news from the city centre of Glasgow just a few days before Christmas is simply devastating. For the second year in a row Glaswegians will have to dig deep into their reserves of compassion and sympathy as they support the families of those who have been killed and injured today

"I am sure that in these circumstances the churches and faith communities of Glasgow would do all that they could to bring support and

comfort to those caught up in this tragedy and that all round Scotland and beyond; Glasgow would be remembered in the prayers of the people."

Several people were killed and several others injured after a bin lorry crashed into pedestrians in central Glasgow.

Justin Welby 'trying to bridge gay marriage split'

BBC - The Archbishop of Canterbury has said he is trying to bridge a split in the Anglican Church over same-sex marriage.

The Most Rev Justin Welby told Radio 4's Desert Island Discs he wanted to listen to both sides. He also admitted to moments of frustration on the issue.

He did not discuss his previous opposition to gay marriage, saying it would be "inappropriate" while the Church was debating it.

He also told the programme about growing up with an alcoholic father.



On gay marriage, he told presenter Kirsty Young: "When I listen to people I know that I'm listening to people for whom not just the issue of sexuality but the whole way in which the Church lives and exists and reaches out to people, what it looks like to be a holy church, is something on which they feel passionately and are deeply, deeply, deeply disagreeing."

He added: "If you love them you listen carefully".

The archbishop was also asked why he opposed same-sex marriage in the past.

He told the programme: "I'm really not going to answer the question very well because we're now into conversations within the Church, both

globally and locally, and I think if I weigh in at this stage it's inappropriate."

Earlier this year, the archbishop said the Church of England accepting gay marriage could be "catastrophic" for Christians in other parts of the world.

He warned Christians in Africa had been killed by people who associated their faith with homosexuality.

More at -

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-30562505>

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