

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Lisburn's Team Africa

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Image of the day

Lisburn's Team Africa



A team from Christ Church Parish, Lisburn, travelled this week to Uganda to work at St Apollo School in the Diocese of Luweero, Uganda, for 10 days.

This will be the fourth visit by the Parish to Luweero and celebrates a longstanding partnership, falling in the year when Bishop Eridard and his wife Jane Nsubuga will be retiring as Diocesan Bishop.



Archdeacon Paul Dundas with Bishop Eridard and Jane Nsubuga

At the commissioning service for the team on Sunday morning the Rev Chris Pollock from Saintfield Parish spoke on theme of living stones with everyone present getting a stone.

Joy Wilson from Fields of Life and Gillian Maganda, CMSI shared in the commissioning of the team and Councillor Scott Carson spoke at the soup lunch.

It was a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the partnership nurtured over 14 years and to rejoice in the journey of faith for the parish and individuals.

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People and places



Irish Girl Guides at Adelboden Switzerland

Dunshaughlin and Navan Senior Branch excited at their first sight of the snow capped alps in Switzerland this week.
#GuidesGoGlobal #GivingGirlsConfidence

World Day of Prayer at First Derry Presbyterian

First Derry Presbyterian Church is to host a service at 7.30pm on Friday 3rd March to mark World Day of Prayer.



World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by women and celebrated in around 120 countries.

People will gather at First Derry to celebrate a service prepared by women in Taiwan. Their island is culturally diverse and rich in natural resources. The women who have organised the service share issues faced geographically, politically and socially.

The preparation for the day is meticulous, with an international committee based in New York and and national

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committees in each participating country. World Day of Prayer will begin in Samoa with prayer travelling around the globe - in native languages - spreading through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas, before finishing in American Samoa 36 hours later.

For further information and resources, please visit the WDP website: <https://www.wwdp.org.uk>.

Cross-border brass bands concert in St Patrick's

You are invited to a concert with three brass bands from the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland in St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin on Saturday 11th March at 7.30 pm.

The vision is to promote cross cultural engagement in a musical environment to facilitate musicians from the two communities to learn from and about each other, experience different conductors and deliver enjoyable musical events in Dublin and Derry while doing what they love best: making music for others to enjoy.

To get your tickets for the concert see:
<https://www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/event/cross-border-massed-bands-concert/>

The proposal for Cross Border, Derry/Dublin combined workshops and fundraising concerts arose from two separate but related events. Siobhan and Brendan Devlin

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played in the Britannia Band in Derry and then moved to Dublin where they now play with the St James' and CWU



Bands.

Dean William Morton, the former Dean of St Columb's Cathedral in Derry and a longtime supporter of Britannia Band moved to become Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin; and so the idea of a massed bands cross border cross community project took shape.

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St. James' Band

St. James' Brass and Reed Band Dublin is considered to be the oldest Band in Ireland, dating from the 1700's, and has played at many historic events before and after the formation of the State. The band comes from a strong Nationalist / Republican tradition. It continues as a vibrant multicultural group welcoming all musicians seeking an outlet for their musical talents.

The Communication Workers' Union Band

The Communication Workers Union Band has a long and proud history and is the only remaining Union linked band in Dublin. They have had multiple collaborations with St James' Band over the decades.

The Britannia Concert Band

The Britannia Band is the oldest band in Northern Ireland dating back to the 1860's and is a cross community multicultural band. The band comes from a strong Unionist/ Loyalist tradition.

“Be Thou My Vision” flower festival in St Molua's

This May, St Molua's Church at Stormont will celebrate over 60 years of worship and ministry. A. Leading part

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of the celebration is “Be Thou My Vision a Festival of Flowers”



The Artistic Director is Mrs Elma McDowell. The event is on Friday 19–Sunday 21 May 2023. Proceeds are in aid of the Parish Repair Fund with donations to Guide Dogs NI and Angel Eyes NI.

Visitors will be able to view a selection of beautiful handmade quilts on display in the Parish Hall as they enjoy their refreshments. Catering options are available.

This would be an ideal outing for church groups so please take the opportunity to book ahead.

Please contact Sharon Beck: Mobile: 07958 142 612.
Email: sharonmbeck55@hotmail.co.uk

St Molua's Church, 645 Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 3LR. <https://stmoluasonline.com/>

News reports



Inter-church thanksgiving for Renal Services in Londonderry

St Augustine's Church in Londonderry was the venue, on Sunday afternoon, for a Remembrance Service with a difference – one held to honour those who had been associated with renal services in any way.

The poignant service was organised by the Altnagelvin Renal Support Group and led by the Rector of St Augustine's Church, Rev Nigel Cairns, who is the Church of Ireland Chaplain to Altnagelvin Hospital.

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The Rector was joined by the Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Rt Rev Andrew Forster; the Vicar General of the Diocese of Derry, Fr Michael Canny (representing the Bishop of Derry, Dr Donal McKeown); and Diocesan Reader Mr Sean McClafferty.



Among those in the congregation was consultant surgeon, Mr Zola Mzimba, who is a Deputy Lieutenant for the Borough of County Londonderry, and who was accompanied by his daughter, Niamh.

The service sought to remember all those whose lives (or whose family's lives) had been involved in some way with renal services, including those who had died because of renal failure; those who had died for some other reason and had donated organs, including kidneys, to give someone else a chance of a better life; and living donors who had

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donated a kidney to give someone else a chance of a better life.



The guest speaker at the service was transplant consultant, Dr Aisling Courtney, from Belfast City Hospital.

Dr Courtney talked about the impact that transplantation had made in the lives of those who had received organs. “Kidney transplantation, as well as transplanting other organs, makes such a massive difference to people that really it’s hard to put into words. There are those of you here who have experienced that for yourselves in terms of the transformation of your health with transplantation.”

Dr Courtney said that every time she and her team “plumbed” a kidney in, they were conscious that it was a kidney that had come from somebody else as a gift. “Every



time we give the gift of life to someone in transplantation – unless it’s given from a living donor kidney – it’s the tragedy of loss, and some of you here will feel that, and feel that keenly.”

The consultant wove a number of biblical references into her address, reminding the congregation of a verse in Revelations which talks about where we can go to with no more sorrow and no more death.

“I don’t know if you’re aware,” Dr Courtney said, “but the Bible talks about transplantation, as well. There’s a verse in Ezekiel – Ezekiel 36:26 – where God says, ‘I will give you a new heart’. I will take out of you your stony heart, your hard heart, your diseased heart. And we all have bits in our heart that we hope nobody else knows, parts that we’re not proud of, parts that are sinful. But God says, you know what, I can

do a heart transplant on you; I can take away the heart that's diseased and I can give you a new heart."

Music for this afternoon's service was provided by the Altnagelvin Hospital Choir, under the direction of Dr Derek Collins, who accompanied the choir on the organ. Afterwards, the congregation enjoyed refreshments in the adjoining parish hall.

Bible study plays central part of ACC-18 agenda as members reflect on the five Marks of Mission

The Bible studies at the 18th plenary meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC-18) in Accra, Ghana, have been inspired by the theme of the Conference: "The Marks of Mission – Today and Tomorrow", with each day centred on one of the Marks of Mission

On the business days of the Conference, the members sit in table groups that reflect the different ages, cultures, and geography with lay and clergy considering the early chapters of Mark's gospel and especially on passages which show Jesus and the disciples serving God's mission in a range of ways.

A similar format is followed each day that allows for the prayer, study, and discussion to inform the consultation that takes place that day. At each study the participants are invited to share their experiences of that day's Mark of

Mission, allowing them to contribute to the thinking of the ACC and to grow in their awareness and understanding of different ways of doing mission from other contexts. The passages from Mark's gospel are intended to challenge their experience and understanding of mission in different ways.

First Session: Tell

Mark 1:9-15 and the first Mark of Mission:

To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom of God.

Second Session: Teach

Mark 1:16-20 and the second Mark of Mission:

To teach, baptise and nurture new believers.

Third Session: Tend

Mark 1:21-39 and the Third Mark of Mission:

To respond to human need by loving service.

Fourth Session: Transform

Mark 2:23-3.6 and the Fourth Mark of Mission:

To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation.

Fifth Session: Treasure

Mark 4:1-2, 24-36 and the fifth Mark of Mission:

To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth



The Reverend Canon Isaac Beach of The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia spontaneously sings during the Bible study on the third mark of mission on Day 3 of The eighteenth Anglican Consultative Conference held at the Accra Marriott Hotel, Accra, Ghana.

An essential part of each study is a short testimony from a person from one of the five regions of the Anglican Communion on how the designated Mark of Mission finds expression in their own context and in their own personal life, to stimulate everyone to also share how it finds expression in their own contexts and own lives.

At the second session on “Teach” Ms Sar Kabaw Htoo a member from The Church of the Province of Myanmar (Burma) spoke of the difficulties of teaching faith in South East Asia. In referring to the gospel text of the day the

presenter asked the haunting questions: when there are difficulties how do fish for people? How do you share the love of Christ? Are you able to fish where you are?

At the third session on “Tend”, the Reverend Natalie Simons-Arendse from Southern Africa, a theological adviser for the Bible studies provided a foundation to enable the members to discuss and see how the passage could be affirmed and what challenged them.

She spoke of the different miracles in the passage and noted that faith was not a prerequisite for the healings, nor did it depend on what political party or group or cause they belonged to. At the end of the passage, they bring all in need – spouses, partners, children, people with disabilities – as all looked to Jesus. It is not a choice between evangelism and need, Natalie Simons-Arendse said, we must do both.

The Bible studies will continue throughout this week as part of the ACC-18 meeting.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

MU's Make a Mother's Day pack

The Mothers' Union Make a Mother's Day pack for 2023 will be landing with members this week! Have a peep at - <https://www.mothersunion.org/make-mothers-day-2023>.



The Marriage Course: online sessions for couples

The Church of Ireland Marriage Council is hosting The Marriage Course, a series of seven online sessions designed to help couples invest in their relationship and build a strong marriage.

Nicky and Sila Lee, authors of The Marriage Book, developed The Marriage Course for couples looking for practical support to strengthen their relationship. The course is designed to help couples build strong foundations, learn

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to communicate more effectively and resolve differences well.

The course, which is free, gets underway on Thursday April 20, and will run each Thursday evening – there's no counselling and no group discussion involved.

The course is hosted by the Rev Campbell-Smyth, rector of Ballnure and Ballyeaston (Ballyclare) and his wife Alison.

Book a place via -

[\[https://connor.anglican.org/2023/02/14/the-marriage-course-online-sessions-for-couples/\]](https://connor.anglican.org/2023/02/14/the-marriage-course-online-sessions-for-couples/)

St. Declan's Way 2023

Booking for St. Declan's Way 2023 has now opened at <https://www.kmdact.com/walking-events>. Dates are as follows:

Stage 1 - Cashel to Cahir - March 18th - 22km - (mainly flat, some minor ascents)

Stage 2 - Cahir to Goatenbridge - March 19th - 21km (mainly flat)

Stage 3 - Goatenbridge to Lismore - April 8th - 24km (challenging ascent)

Stage 4 - Lismore to Aglish - April 29th - 21km (undulating, some minor ascents)

Stage 5 - Aglish to Ardmore - April 30th - 22km (undulating, some minor ascents)

Saint Declan's Way 2023



Stages cost €45 each. There is a €200, limited time, offer for those wishing to undertake all 5 stages.

For full information visit <http://www.stdeclansway.ie/st-declans-way-2022-all-five-stages>.

Poem for today

Macavity by T.S. Eliot

Macavity's a Mystery Cat: he's called the Hidden Paw—
For he's the master criminal who can defy the Law.
He's the bafflement of Scotland Yard, the Flying Squad's
despair:
For when they reach the scene of crime—Macavity's not
there!

Macavity, Macavity, there's no one like Macavity,
He's broken every human law, he breaks the law of gravity.
His powers of levitation would make a fakir stare,
And when you reach the scene of crime—Macavity's not
there!
You may seek him in the basement, you may look up in the
air—
But I tell you once and once again, Macavity's not there!

Macavity's a ginger cat, he's very tall and thin;
You would know him if you saw him, for his eyes are sunken
in.
His brow is deeply lined with thought, his head is highly
domed;
His coat is dusty from neglect, his whiskers are uncombed.
He sways his head from side to side, with movements like a
snake;
And when you think he's half asleep, he's always wide
awake.

Macavity, Macavity, there's no one like Macavity,
For he's a fiend in feline shape, a monster of depravity.
You may meet him in a by-street, you may see him in the
square—
But when a crime's discovered, then Macavity's not there!

He's outwardly respectable. (They say he cheats at cards.)
And his footprints are not found in any file of Scotland Yard's
And when the larder's looted, or the jewel-case is rifled,
Or when the milk is missing, or another Peke's been stifled,
Or the greenhouse glass is broken, and the trellis past
repair
Ay, there's the wonder of the thing! Macavity's not there!

And when the Foreign Office find a Treaty's gone astray,
Or the Admiralty lose some plans and drawings by the way,
There may be a scrap of paper in the hall or on the stair—
But it's useless to investigate—Macavity's not there!
And when the loss has been disclosed, the Secret Service
say:
It must have been Macavity!'—but he's a mile away.
You'll be sure to find him resting, or a-licking of his thumb;
Or engaged in doing complicated long division sums.

Macavity, Macavity, there's no one like Macavity,
There never was a Cat of such deceitfulness and suavity.
He always has an alibi, and one or two to spare:
At whatever time the deed took place—MACAVITY WASN'T
THERE !
And they say that all the Cats whose wicked deeds are
widely known
(I might mention Mungojerrie, I might mention Griddlebone)

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Are nothing more than agents for the Cat who all the time
Just controls their operations: the Napoleon of Crime!

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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