

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Ballintoy sunset

Image of the day

Ballintoy sunset

In the land of Causeway Coast and Glens an amazing sunset at Ballintoy Harbour captured by Helena Bradbury.

People and places



MU at Work in Rwanda - Worldwide Event in Seagoe

All Ireland Mothers' Union in conjunction with Tearfund NI invite you to a Worldwide Event in Seagoe Parish Church, Portadown, on Thursday 16 March at 7.30pm.

The guest speaker is Madame Chantal Mbanda (photo) who will speak on Mothers' Union at Work in Rwanda. Chantal is

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the MU Provincial President of Rwanda and is visiting Ireland with her husband, Archbishop Laurent Mbanda.

Archbishop Laurent will be the Festival Service speaker at Down and Dromore's annual St Patrick's Day celebrations in Down Cathedral.

All are welcome. Please park at the back of the church for ease of access.

Map of Seagoe venue at -

[<https://www.downanddromore.org/news/2023/02/mu-at-work-in-rwanda>]

Headspace Lenten Prayer postcards in Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe




These resources have been prepared by the Rector of the Aughrim & Creagh Parish Union, featuring verses from the lectionary Bible readings of Lent, paired with

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photographs from the Aughrim Climate Action Park and surrounding landscape.

A message on the diocesan website introducing the series said - "We all need headspace each and every day. We all need time out to settle our weary souls, to get our thoughts clearer and to have our hearts opened up to God once



**The Apostle Paul &
Women in Leadership**
with Dr. Gary Burnett

7.30 PM, WED 1st MARCH
Kirkpatrick Memorial Presbyterian Church
259 Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast

*(*This event is free and no registration is required. Be aware that parking in the area is limited. Leave good time to find a space!)*

This event is organized by *Equal to Lead*, an informal group for the encouragement of women and men in their callings to minister in the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

Contact: equaltolead@gmail.com
or find us on Facebook.

EQUAL
to lead

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more. Doing that is not a luxury and it is not self-indulgent. It is essential for our own wellbeing: it is of benefit the people around us and it has restorative potential for the world around us.

“As a reminder of our daily need of headspace, we will be publishing a daily prayer-postcard each day throughout the season of Lent. Each postcard offers a fresh invitation to find peace and perspective day by day, as we learn to recognise the presence of God in the world around us.”

Lisburn team welcomed in Uganda



The Christ Church, Lisburn, team in Luwero, Uganda.

The team from Christ Church Parish, Lisburn, which travelled to Uganda last week, received a warm



**SAINT FLANNAN'S CATHEDRAL KILLALOE
LENTEN TALKS 2023**

THE SERIES IS CALLED 'MANDATUM TALKS' FOCUSING UPON JOHN'S GOSPEL JOHN 13:14
"SO IF I, YOUR LORD AND TEACHER, HAVE WASHED YOUR FEET, YOU ALSO OUGHT TO WASH ONE ANOTHER'S FEET"

- (1). Tuesday 28th February
7.30pm - Joe Slattery North
Star Family Project
Coordinator.**
 - Joe Slattery is an Experienced Addiction counsellor and coordinator of the NorthStar Family Support Project, a community based project in Limerick, Joe is a specialist in dealing with issues of substance abuse with adolescents and their families.
- (2). Tuesday 7th March
7.30pm, Tomi Reichental,
Holocaust Survivor. (By
Zoom).**
 - Tomáš Reichental (Tomi) is a Holocaust survivor. He was born in Czechoslovakia in 1935 to Jewish farmers and lived with his family on their farm until he was the age of eight. More than 30 members of his family were killed during the Holocaust.
- (3). Tuesday 14th March
7.30pm - Larry de Cleir,
formally Bedford Row Family
Project, Limerick.**
 - Larry de Cléir is a psychotherapist, supervisor and facilitator, and is former Project Leader of Bedford Row Family Project, in Limerick. He has supported families and children affected by imprisonment for over 30 years.
- (4). Tuesday 21st March
7.30pm - Bernárd Lynch.**
 - Bernard Lynch is an "out" gay Irish born Roman Catholic priest, author, and activist who has worked for the rights of LGBTQIA+ people for almost fifty years. He founded the first AIDS ministry in New York City and was drafted onto the Mayor of New York's Task Force on AIDS.
- (5). Tuesday 28th March
7.30pm-Tom Flynn, Saint
Vincent de Paul 'Drop-in
Centre' Limerick.**
 - After working in a number of parishes in Waterford and Tipperary I was appointed a chaplain to the Irish in New York from 1995 – 2022. Was instrumental in opening the Aisling Irish Community Centre in Yonkers 1997. He worked as manager of the Vincent de Paul Drop-In Centre, 2002 – 2023.

**ALL TALKS WILL BE STREAMED ON
THE SAINT FLANNAN'S WEBCAM**

WWW.CATHEDRAL.KILLALOE.ANGLICAN.ORG

 PAULFITZ1000@HOTMAIL.COM  086 641 139 89



welcome when members arrived at St Apollo School, Luwero.

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Team members are the rector, the Ven Paul Dundas, Janice and Richard Thompson, Stephen and Karen McKenna, Beth Harris, Roberta Thompson, Audrey Knowles, Jane Hawthorne, Beverley Ringland, Ashleigh Long, Anna Dundas and Raymond Geddis

Sharing some videos and photographs of their arrival at the school, which the parish has been involved with for the past 14 years, on the Christ Church Facebook Page, the team commented that they had been 'blown away' by the welcome they received from the pupils, staff and the community.

Healing Service
"Today is the Day of your Miracle"

7.30pm Tuesday 28th February

St. Finnian's Parish Church
Cregagh Park
Belfast

David Legge
Just back from Asbury University
& encountering signs of revival

Prayer Ministry and Anointing with Oil

DHM



New Chaplain at St John's Sandymount

A new season began for the Church of St John the Evangelist, Sandymount, on Monday evening (February 20) when members and friends welcomed their new Chaplain.

Canon Robert Jones (Photo above - centre) was introduced at a special service by Archbishop Michael Jackson who said it was a great pleasure to welcome the new Chaplain to a church which had a special place in the life of the dioceses and the Church of Ireland.

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Canon Jones succeeds Fr Paul Barlow who retired earlier this year. He had served in the Kiltegan Group of Parishes

REQUIEM

John Rutter

- Sionán Mullan and Lisa Dawson (*Soloists*)
- Chamber Ensemble
- Jack McCabe (*Organ*)

*Performed by **Cathedra**
(incorporating Cadenza and Down Cathedral Choir)*

Directed by Michael McCracken

Other works featured include:

Allegri: Miserere Mei, Deus

Mendelssohn: Hear my prayer

Chilcott: God so loved the world

Monday 3rd April 2023, 7.45pm

Down Cathedral, Downpatrick

TICKETS £15 (including light refreshments)

Available at the door

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in the Dioceses of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory since 2018.

A native of Co Carlow, in 1975 he began training for the ministry by attending Chichester Theological College and completed his studies in Trinity College, Dublin. He was made deacon in 1979 and ordained priest in 1980. He served curacies in Seapatricks Parish Banbridge, and Bangor Abbey, before being appointed rector of Rathfriland and Ballyward in Co Down.


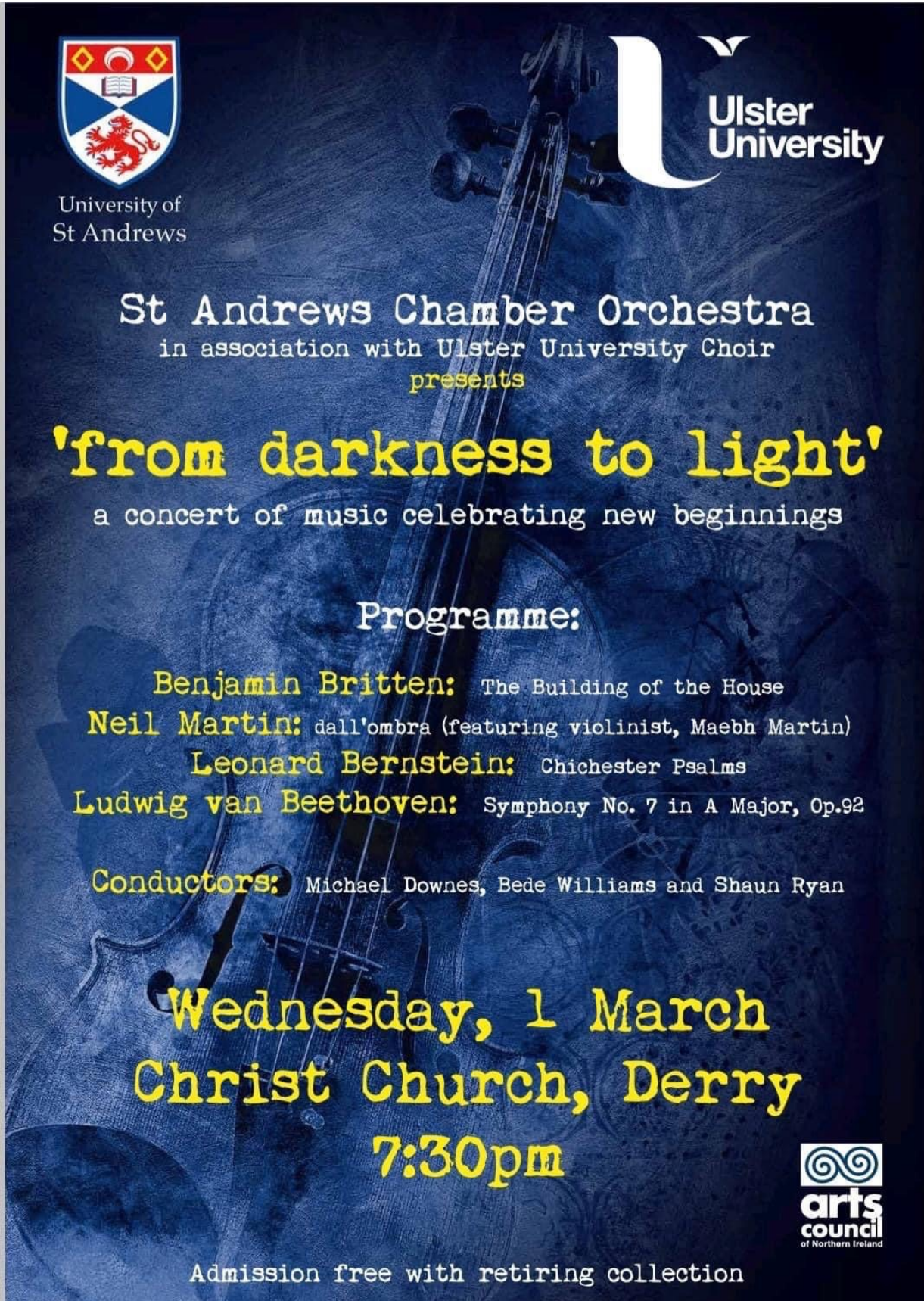
He then moved to the diocese of Connor where he served in the parish of Finaghy and the parish of Cairncastle with All Saints Craigy Hill. In 1998 he moved to Athlone which was followed four years later with his appointment as Dean of Clonmacnoise and rector of the Trim Cathedral group of parishes. He returned to Connor diocese in 2012 when he became rector of Malone parish, Belfast.

The sermon at his introduction was preached by the Very Revd Roderick Smyth, formerly Dean of Killaloe who noted that as a new season was soon to begin with signs of spring everywhere, a new season was beginning in St John's. However, he added, the introduction of a new Chaplain was an affirmation of a continuing ministry in St John's and Robert's name was just one in a long list of people who had served there.


“None of you will need me to tell you what a unique parish St John's is. It has always been and still is one of the few Anglican Catholic churches in Ireland. This parish has always valued the sacramental life of the church with a significant stress on liturgy and worship performed in order

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to maintain the beauty of holiness and makes worship an experience which is intended to appeal to one's whole



University of
St Andrews



Ulster
University

St Andrews Chamber Orchestra
in association with Ulster University Choir
presents


'from darkness to light'
a concert of music celebrating new beginnings

Programme:

Benjamin Britten: The Building of the House
Neil Martin: dall'ombra (featuring violinist, Maebh Martin)
Leonard Bernstein: Chichester Psalms
Ludwig van Beethoven: Symphony No. 7 in A Major, Op.92

Conductors: Michael Downes, Bede Williams and Shaun Ryan

Wednesday, 1 March
Christ Church, Derry
7:30pm



arts
council
of Northern Ireland

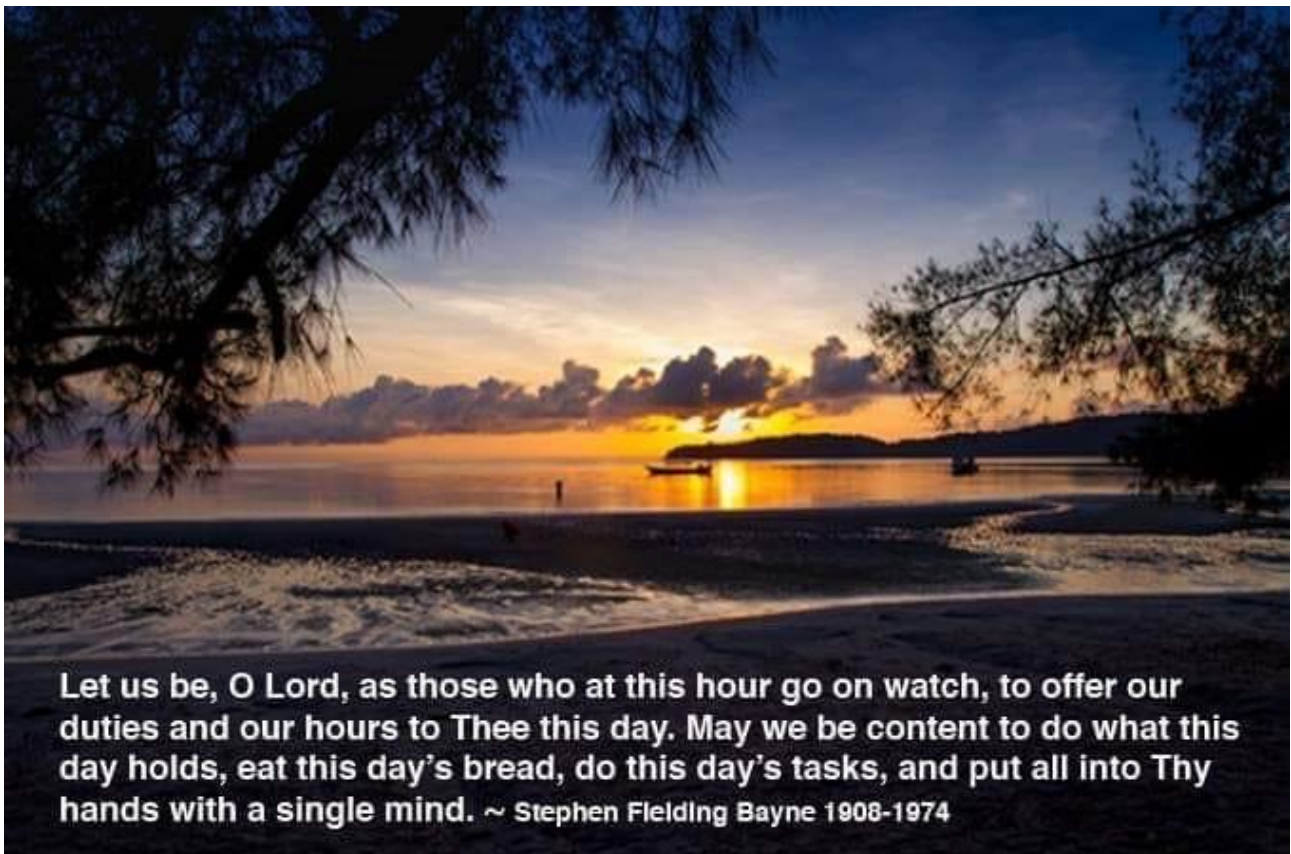
Admission free with retiring collection

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person... Those who attend services in this church cannot fail but be transformed by the experience,” he stated.

The Gospel reading [Matthew 17: 1–9] was the narrative of the Transfiguration and Dean Smyth said that Transfiguration was about transformation. For Peter, James and John it was one of those epiphany moments in which God was revealed in his glory and Jesus was affirmed as the Messiah, he said. Transfiguration invited us to encounter God afresh and be filled with new hope as we encounter the incarnate Christ, he added.

He commended Robert’s gifts to members of St John’s congregation. “In Robert you will find someone who has the perfect combination of gifts as you move forward to the next chapter in this place – a very fine and experienced liturgist who does liturgy well with decency and in order, a strong



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theologian, a provocative preacher, a fine administrator and above all else someone who is deeply pastoral and caring who has a sense of humour and is not averse to rolling his sleeves up and getting into a particular project,” Dean Smyth said.

He urged the people of St John’s to be kind to their new priest and trust him. He reminded Robert to catch the vision in a way in which others would be excited.

He said: “The collective vision for the future of this parish should be one of a transforming church, transforming lives both inside this place and in the community beyond... Let St John’s be a church which sends all of us out transformed offering the transformational experience of the beauty of its liturgy inside the church to those on the outside who need that transformation also be it on the streets, in the nursing homes, in the newsagents or even in the pub”.

News reports

Bishop Jo Bailey-Wells on the next phase of the Lambeth Conference Journey

ACC18 - the 18th meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council, which met in Ghana (12-19 February 2023), discussed the theme Five Marks of Mission – Today and Tomorrow.

The ACC combines bishops, clergy and laity who represent the different provinces of the Anglican Communion. It is one



Bishop Jo Bailey Wells – the newly appointed Bishop for Episcopal Ministry at the Anglican Communion - gave an address at ACC18, about Phase 3 of the Lambeth Conference journey.

of the four Instruments of Unity in the Anglican Communion. The report was made to the ACC as the Lambeth Conference is itself one of the four Instruments.

Having attended the Lambeth Conference last year, Bishop Jo shared some of the highlights from the event. This included progress of the Safe Church Commission, the creation of the Anglican Communion Science Commission, the launch of the Communion Forest, the connections made amongst the spouses and the establishment of new Companion Links.

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She shared appreciation for: “the joy of friendship and fellowship among bishops and among spouses, especially through small group Bible study and prayer. Our communion is nothing if it is not relational, with love, and laughter. But it's also something definitive happens when we open our Bibles together. God speaks.”

Bishop Jo’s address to ACC18 focused on plans for Phase Three of the Lambeth Conference and the work of the a new Phase 3 Steering Group, that will be chaired by Archbishop Julio Murray. The Steering Group priorities will be to sustain cross-provincial bible study; respond to the Calls and to continue to equip and strengthen bishops around the Communion. A couple of members of this new group are present at the Anglican Consultative Council (The Rt Rev Danald Jute - Church of the Province of South East Asia and The Most Rev Kay Goldsworthy - The Anglican Church of Australia).

Talking about the Lambeth Calls, Bishop Jo suggested that the calls should be thought of as ‘an invitation, an exhortation, a rallying cry, to come together and work together with these things as our agreed set of priorities, all of which find their place under the banner of the five marks admission.”

She presented an idea of ‘Call and Response’ as a model through which the Lambeth Calls might be shared more widely with dioceses around the Anglican Communion in the future. She drew on examples from scripture, to show how much of scripture is received and understood through a process of ‘Call and Response.’ She lead the room in sharing Psalm 118, who together responded to the call: ‘O



give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!' Bishop Jo also described how Call and Response is also used as a musical device in many musical genres around the world.

She invited the ACC as an Instrument of the Communion, to respond to how this idea might help the Lambeth Calls be taken forwards. "I see this as an opportunity for you as the instrument, which is the ACC, to help shape the way that the calls from another instrument might travel around our communion. I'm looking for your wisdom, your ideas, your energy, your tradition, and your participation. Calls are designed to elicit a response to shape us into action. ...I put it to you their beauty is precisely that they don't predetermine exactly how we follow up on them, then are not a top-down instruction. They are calls inviting us to get involved and respond in whatever way might be appropriate to your context."

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ACC members went on to discuss the Calls, sharing examples of Calls and Response from their own cultures and traditions. Time was given to consider how the Call and Response model might work in dioceses, parishes and churches. Feedback from the session was gathered and will be given to the Phase Three Steering Group to consider.

The three phases of the Lambeth Conference were the listening together phase (pre-event online meetings); the walking together phase (full conference in Canterbury) and Phase 3 will be about witnessing together, taking the calls forward in to the life of the Anglican Communion.

The session also heard of a new Lambeth Conference Resources Guide, that is available on the Lambeth Conference web site.

The Full Participants in the Steering Group are:

The Rt Rev Julio Murray - Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America

The Rt Rev Vicentia Kgabe - The Anglican Church of Southern Africa

The Rt Rev Paul Swarup - The Church of North India

The Rt Rev Jorge Pina-Cabral - The Lusitanian Church

The Rt Rev Danald Jute - Church of the Province of South East Asia

The Most Rev Kay Goldsworthy - The Anglican Church of Australia

Mrs Caroline Bauerschmidt - The Episcopal Church

Revd Steve Muneza - Burundi/England

Canon Dr Agnes Abuom – Anglican Church of Kenya

[Download the Lambeth Conference Resources Guide](#)

To access resources and information about the Lambeth Conference Resources Guide, visit:

<https://www.lambethconference.org/resources/resources-guide>

Moderator's army visit provides first-hand opportunity to understand chaplains' role

Senior army officers emphasised the important role chaplains play in the modern military as they hosted a visit by the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Rt Rev Dr Iain Greenshields also had an opportunity to meet some of the Church of Scotland chaplains currently serving with the military and learn something of the history of the Royal Army Chaplains' Department with a tour of its new museum, which was officially opened last year by the Countess of Wessex.

He was accompanied by Rev Scott Brown, convener of the Church of Scotland's Committee on Chaplains to His Majesty's Forces and former senior chaplain to the Royal Navy; and Rev Lieutenant-Colonel Duncan Macpherson, the Church of Scotland's senior chaplain on a busy schedule which provided an insight into the role of a modern Army in an increasingly complex world.

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This included a visit to the headquarters of NATO's Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) and a reunion with its commanding officer, Lieutenant-General Nick Bolton, who addressed last year's General Assembly in Edinburgh, where he spoke about the valuable contribution made by the Kirk's chaplains.

That message was reinforced by the Moderator's visit.

Inestimable role

"Myself and Scott were hugely impressed to see first-hand the inestimable role of the chaplains as well as meeting some of our own Church of Scotland chaplains," Dr Greenshields said.

"Good time was spent throughout with Rev Duncan Macpherson and hearing his impressions of the important role of chaplains in a modern army. This was verified by all of the senior officers we spoke with. All of those that we visited appreciated the time taken and interest shown by the Church of Scotland."

Other items on the Moderator's itinerary including meeting servicemen and women who have received commendations, talking to officers in training who are exploring ethics in defence with the help of military chaplains, and learning about the work of the Defence Christian Network, the multi-denominational network for service personnel, from its chairman, Lieutenant-Colonel Simon Maggs.

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Dr Greenshields added: "It was reassuring to see the safe, competent and intelligent hands in which our security lies."

In the media

Future of religious life in Ireland at a turning point

In a recent edition of The Irish Catholic, the future of religious life in Ireland is at a major 'turning point' as the number of women religious has halved in the last 20 years.

At the turn of the millennium, there were 9,031 women religious in the country, but there are now only 4,494 - a decline of 50.2%.

www.irishcatholic.com

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
