

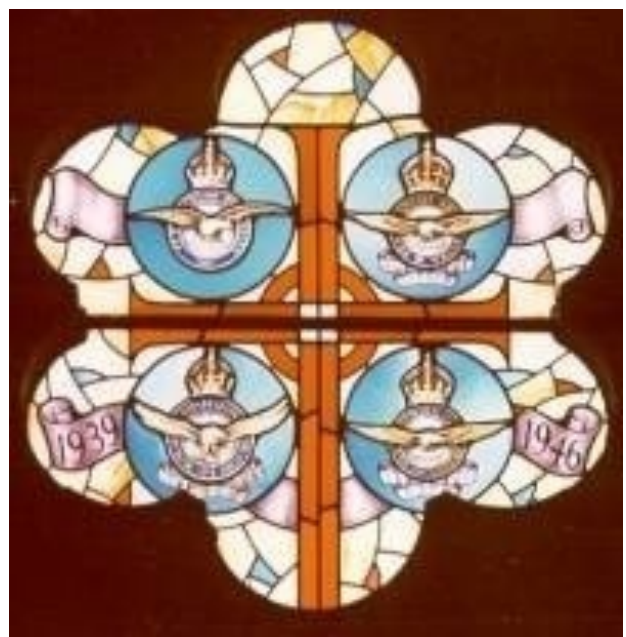
## Australian woman's pilgrimage to Connor Parish

During World War II, Royal Australian Air Force Flight Sergeant Alan Gilbert Potter's plane went down in the mountainous terrain of Northern Ireland.



An Australian newspaper - The Whyalla News - reports that - Sophie Pahl, of

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*A Memorial window was Installed in Eglantine Parish Church and Dedicated in 1990 During the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain.*

Lameroo, is 10 months into a one-year exchange to Italy and last month she made a 10-day trip to Ireland, where Sgt Potter is buried with 20 other men and women at the Eglantine Church.

### Prayer for Today

Almighty God, your Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence. Give us new hearts and constant wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *Methodist Worship*



***Sophie Pahl, with the Rector of Eglantine, Rev Tim Close at her great grandfather's grave***

He passed away six weeks before his only daughter and Sophie's grandmother, Alanee Gilbert Potter, was due to be delivered.

Sophie said it was a humbling and emotional day for her and her host, cousin Davide, who joined her on the trip.

"When I first arrived at Grandpa Potter's grave site I was overcome with so many emotions," she said.

"I didn't only mourn for me, I mourned for the rest of my family, especially for my Nan, who never had the opportunity to meet her own father."

Sophie said she had dreamt of visiting Ireland and "meeting" her grandfather since she was young.

"When I was about 12-years-old, my Nan one day explained to me what had happened to her Dad, and it was from her

stories that I had the idea to do an exchange, ideally to Ireland," she said.

"As the years went on, I obviously kept that dream but instead have taken part in an Italian exchange.

"Although I love Italy passionately and it has become my second home, upon arriving in Ireland I felt like I had truly arrived home."

Sophie said visiting the cemetery and her great-grandfather was the "cherry on the cake" of her Irish visit, but leaving the cemetery she experienced the most touching moment.

The taxi driver who escorted the pair back to their tour group in Belfast was particularly interested in their Eglantine Church visit, and gave her an offer she couldn't refuse.

"After explaining the reason for our visit, he was so moved he asked permission to visit great-grandpa Potter's grave site on Remembrance Day and in future, on special occasions such as Anzac Day," she said.

## **Is Christ divided?**

### **Theme for week of prayer for christian unity 2014**

CTBI in its advance notice comments - Is Christian disunity a scandal before God? Or is it something we have grown accustomed to, as though it were a creaky door that we never seem to get around to fixing? St Paul's words challenge us as we reflect upon this question. To suggest that disunity is something acceptable is declaring that Christ himself is divided - and that really is a scandal!

2013 was the year in which churches from all inhabited continents of the world gathered in Korea for the 10th General Assembly of the World Council of Churches. We gathered for no other



reason than to declare to the world that our disunity is a scandal and that we will go on praying for and working for that unity which is God's gift to the church and to the world.

The Churches of French Canada have chosen for us a key biblical text of the ecumenical movement and have invited us to think about what our divisions say to the world and to each other about the Christian faith. They have also suggested that we use the Millennium Goals as a focus for our prayers for the world.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> January - the octave of St. Peter and St. Paul. However, some areas observe it at Pentecost or some other time. To allow for local decision making, the material has only the year on it and the days are denoted by the numbers one to eight, so you can use it at any time of year.

This year we are again continuing our partnership with Christian Aid which has provided *Go and Do* action points for each of the daily reflections - linking into the important work of Christian Aid in the relief of poverty and advocacy of justice.

The resources for 2014 are available as downloads from our [resources page](#). There is also an order form to purchase the material in a published format.

<http://www.ctbi.org.uk/657/>

## Connor Children's Ministry development

**Jill Hamilton has taken up the post of Children's Project Development Officer with Connor Diocese.**

Jill grew up in Portadown, where she was a parishioner at St Mark's. She has a degree in Applied Economics from the University of Ulster, Jordanstown, and a PGCE in Secondary Education.

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After graduating Jill volunteered with SAMS (South American Mission Society) in Paraguay, and it was in neighbouring Uruguay she met her husband Geoff, now Development Officer with SAMS.

"I had done some short term mission work with Operation Mobilisation in Europe and with Scripture Union in Zimbabwe. I really had a heart for going out and doing something overseas," Jill said.

Jill returned home after more than three years in Paraguay, and worked as a primary school teacher. She and Geoff lived in Co Londonderry for seven years and during this time Jill taught at Belmont House Special School where she specialised in working with children with autism.

When the couple moved back to Lurgan, Jill worked with the autism unit at the Southern Education and Library Board, and most recently has been working in administration with SAMS.

Looking forward to her new role with Connor Diocese, Jill said: "One of my

goals is to set up localised training for volunteers in children's ministry in our parishes. I also want to develop resources and ensure people can easily access these

"Initially I am hoping to make contact with clergy and with volunteers and youth leaders across the diocese. I want to establish what people's needs are and to tailor training and advise on resources to suit these needs.

"I also want to explore with parishes the development of different kinds of children's ministry such as homework clubs and breakfast clubs and other ways of doing children's ministry in a creative and fun way.

Jill said she considers children's ministry to be vital in the church. "It is a great way of linking to people in the community who may not engage in church, and is an outreach opportunity to get parents and families into church in a non-threatening way

"I hope to help parishes to provide a child centred approach, where children find learning interesting and fun, and where they feel involved, important and valued."

The Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev Alan Abernethy, said: "We are delighted to welcome Jill to facilitate children's ministry, something we have said for some time is a very high priority for the diocese. I am sure she will be a gift to us all."

## Cathedral's First Foundation Day Celebration

**The evening of Thursday November 14) saw the first Cathedral Foundation Day in Christ Church Cathedral.**

The celebration of cathedral life took place on the feast of St Laurence O'Toole, the patron of the diocese of Dublin.

Traditionally the dean and chapter of the cathedral meet to mark St Laurence tide. Members discuss the affairs of the cathedral along with arranging the canon in residence schedule for the coming year. The chapter has faithfully fulfilled this function ever since the Reformation.

This year, Dean Dermot Dunne arranged for a shorter meeting to take place making



way for foundation day, an occasion which was aimed at allowing everyone connected to the cathedral to meet.

The evening was a great success with the regular cathedral family joined by Friends, the cathedral board and chapter, celebrants, occasional preachers, volunteers, all the staff, the choir and anyone with a connection to the cathedral.



Choral evensong was sung by the cathedral choir. The sermon was preached by Archbishop Michael Jackson. Following the service repaired to the Crypt for a wine and buffet reception.



***Rev David Huss was installed as Archdeacon of Raphoe in Raphoe Cathedral on Friday November 15.***

## **Limerick Candlelit Advent Liturgical Procession**

**The annual liturgical procession by candlelight with Readings and Carols for Advent will take place as usual:**

St. Mary's Cathedral, 7:00 p.m. Sunday 1st December 2013

Including music by Byrd, Rheinberger and George Guest together with traditional hymns and carols

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

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel

Refreshments – Mulled Wine and Mince Pies – will be served after the Service

## **RSCM course for churches with no choirs**

**The Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) has launched a new range of courses for church musicians and worship leaders to take place during 2014.**

In addition to its already popular courses for organists and choristers, there will be new sessions for cathedral and collegiate organ scholars, worship leaders, and for churches with no choirs. A course for music group leaders is also being offered.

The new courses are taking place throughout the UK and are a response to changes in church worship. *“Lift up your voice”* – a day course for churches with no musical leadership – is taking place in Devon in March, and in Suffolk in April. These sessions are intended for those – whether lay or ordained – who do not have the services of a regular organist or music director. “In many churches, responsibility for the music often falls to the minister or lay reader, and we know that a good number of them can feel out of their depth,” says Rosemary Field, the RSCM’s Head of Education. “This session will provide resources and creative ideas for celebrating the church seasons effectively.” Booking for these closes in mid-January.

A new day course for instrumental group leaders is to be held in Coventry in June under the direction of Paul Leddington Wright, who is well known as a musical director for BBC TV’s *Songs of Praise*, and as a composer and arranger. Intended for those leading groups of acoustic instruments, the session will explore

matters such as arranging, rehearsal techniques and the use of instrumental music in worship.

For the first time, the RSCM is offering a course for those taking up organ scholarships in cathedrals and collegiate churches. The session, based at Bristol Cathedral, will address practical skills such as accompaniment and managing a cathedral organ, administrative matters such as copyright, and the teaching of very young choristers.

This year's very concentrated short courses for organists will take place in Birmingham and Liverpool, led by Daniel Moulton and Gerard Brooks respectively. The popular cathedral courses for boys, girls and young adults will be centred in 2014 at Lincoln Cathedral where participants

will sing a number of services, and receive vocal and musicianship tuition. As always, the Singing Course for Young People which takes place in Bath during August, continues to attract many choristers both from the UK and further afield. Alongside all these courses, training workshops and other courses are organised by the RSCM's area committees, as well as a new Residentiary Choir for adults, which will sing at a cathedral for a week each summer.

For further information including booking details, terms and conditions go to

[www.rscm.com/courses](http://www.rscm.com/courses)

## Noye's Fludde at St Patrick's

**Friday 22 November 2013 is the centenary of the birth of the great British composer Benjamin Britten (1913–1976), and the DIT Conservatory will be celebrating the event with a performance of his much-loved**



### children's opera Noye's Fludde in St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin at 8.00 pm.

Noye's Fludde tells the biblical story of Noah and the Ark. The text is taken from one of the medieval Chester Mystery Plays. Britten's music is brilliantly scored for an orchestra and choir of children with parts for professionals and audience participation – and, of course, a menagerie of animals – all in the dramatic setting of St Patrick's Cathedral.

Keith Pascoe conductor; Jennifer Hamilton director; Lorraine O'Connell choral director. David Howes, Noye Bríd ní Ghruagáin, Noye Joseph Nelson, Voice of God. DIT Junior Choirs, DIT Junior String, Recorder, Percussion and Bugle Ensembles, DIT Instrumental Ensemble.

Tickets: €10, €5 concession, €20 family ticket

Available online at [www.entertainment.ie](http://www.entertainment.ie)

## New Organist

**Richard Campbell has been appointed Organist and Director of Music of St. John's, Malone, Belfast.**

Commenting on Face book he said, - I'm very pleased to announce my appointment as Organist and Director of Music of St.



John's, Malone, taking up the reigns early next year. Church music friends who owe me favour (and even those who don't) prepare for it to be called in!

CNI note - Richard succeeds the late Dr Donald Davison.

## Meeting for abuse victims of Rathgael school and Kincora home

**An invitation has been issued by the Survivors and Victims of Institutional Abuse (SAVIA) to former residents of Rathgael Training School and Kincora boys home who suffered abuse of any kind to an information session on November 21 at 11am.**

News Letter - The meeting is set to be held at 51 Donegall Street in Belfast (1st floor above the John Hewitt Bar Side entrance).

The meeting has been designed to enable people to gain a fuller knowledge of the Inquiry - and to enable them to make an informed decision about giving evidence about their experiences.

Individuals who have already been to the inquiry will speak about the procedure and a solicitor will be on hand to answer queries.

For further information please contact [survivorsni@gmail.com](mailto:survivorsni@gmail.com) and/or 02890313008.

Organisers say this will be a confidential informal discussion and questions will be welcomed.

They also ask those hoping to attend to supply a phone number so they can be contacted beforehand to discuss their area of interest to ensure all expectations are met.

The on-going Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry in NI. <http://www.hiainquiry.org/index/documentation/terms-of-reference.htm>

## Chapel Royal Choir to sing at TCD

**On Wednesday at 8pm in the Chapel of Trinity College, Dublin, there will be a concert by the Choir of the Chapels Royal of the Tower of London, directed by Colm Carey.**

The programme will include works by Byrd and Purcell and will feature the Irish premiere of James MacMillan's Te Deum.

## Gala Christmas Concert

**The Polyphonics Barbershop Choir Featuring Tenor Ryan Morgan head the programme of star attractions on Friday 13th December 8pm, at Mallow Union's Gala Christmas Concert.**

Admission €15.00 includes complimentary Mulled Wine and Mince Pie! Further details 022-21473



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