

Church News Ireland



**Image of the day – Canterbury Cathedral
meeting point of the Lambeth Conference**

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See Lambeth Focus on pages 14 - 22.

People and places



Diocesan Teenage Summer Camp at Gurteen

A Diocesan Teenage Summer Camp was held in Gurteen college recently. The Diocese of Cashel, Ferns

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and Ossory linked up with the Diocese of Limerick bringing together teenagers from both dioceses.

Bishop Michael Burrows joined the group at the UL outdoor adventure centre in Killaloe when the young people were enjoying a day out there. Adult leaders from both dioceses participated.

“Worship at the summer camp was led by Canon Ian Cruikshank who spoke to the young people each evening about going the extra mile for those around us and a midweek Taize service was also enjoyed,” says Canon Nicola Halford who organised the event.



A wonderfully collaborative week. Well done to all involved.

South Belfast Friendship House

Prayers are requested for the summer kids' clubs and lunch clubs, that those attending will experience the love of God, and that the children

will be fed both bodily and spiritually.

Lots of free activities in St Patrick Cathedral's Heritage Week programme

You are invited this Heritage Week 2022 to celebrate all things Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin through a range of FREE exciting events, tours and workshops. An incredible programme from August 13 - 21 includes guided tours of the belfry to ring a bell and discover more about the art of bellringing, five days of organ recitals performed by the organists, a talk on the Cathedral's many beautiful memorials, a panel discussion on the Church of Ireland in the Revolutionary period moderated by RTE's Donal Byrne, an arts workshop led by artist Mags Harnett in which participants will recreate their own stained glass designs and much, much

SAINT PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL DUBLIN

HERITAGE WEEK
13 - 21 August 2022

BELFRY TOURS
Take a guided tour of the iconic Minot tower, learn about the art of bellringing and ring a bell yourself!

RUSH HOUR RECITALS
Come and hear the mighty Willis organ this Heritage Week in a series of free recitals given by current and former organists of the Cathedral.

SPECIAL MEMORIAL TALK
A fascinating look at the Cathedral's many memorials with Cathedral Board member Albert Fennell.

PANEL DISCUSSION
Moderated by RTE's Donal Byrne, an expert panel discusses the Church of Ireland in the Revolutionary Period.

ARTS WORKSHOP
Award-winning artist and educator Mags Harnett leads an immersive arts workshop based on the Cathedral's magnificent stained glass.

Plus daily guide and self-guided tours, family workshops and more!

more.

Keep your eyes peeled over the coming week for the full programme of talks and tours that is sure to entertain the whole family. To book your FREE spot visit <https://www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/events>

Ossory takes the fight for vocations to local level

Each of the 13 “pastoral areas” in Ossory diocese will have a vocations director, as the diocese brings the fight for vocations to the local level.

The move addresses one of the “key areas” identified by the diocese’s 2015 pastoral plan, according to co-ordinator of the plan’s implementation Gemma Mulligan. “One person will be nominated for each area specifically for the promotion of vocations,”

“We are working very hard at trying to focus the work of vocation and encourage people.”

Caring mission statement from Antrim Methodist Community Kitchen

Try this for an exemplary approach -

“As we all continue to face the growing financial pressures due to the changing economic environment, we at AMC (Antrim Methodist Church- Greystone Road), have decided

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to open our facilities on Wednesdays from the 7th of Sept. (12.30-2pm), to provide a free lunch as a way of responding to growing need and hardship in the community.

“There will be no need to book in, just arrive. You will be met with love, friendship and respect.

"I have loved you with an everlasting love, therefore with loving kindness I have drawn you" (Jer. 31:3)

Book focus - 'Psalms' by Deitrich Bonhoeffer

'Prayer does not mean simply to pour out one's heart. It means rather to find the way to God and to speak to him, whether the heart is full or empty'

An exquisite new hardback edition of 'Psalms' by Deitrich Bonhoeffer is now available to order in store at The Bookwell, Belfast and online for only £10.99
<https://thebookwell.co.uk/psalms/>

Statements by Primate and Moderator on the death of Lord Trimble

Following the death of Lord Trimble, Nobel Laureate and former First Minister of Northern Ireland, The Most Revd John McDowell, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, and Rt Rev Dr John Kirkpatrick,

Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland issued statements.

The Most Revd John McDowell said:

‘The death of Lord Trimble has removed one of the major figures in the political life of Northern Ireland and of these islands. In an age where leadership has become thinned out and almost paralysed by slavish attention to shifting opinion, David Trimble represented a different sort of politician.

Although unshakeable in his allegiance to the Union, he was one of the first unionist leaders for whom the word “agreement” had positive moral, social and political value. David Trimble had perhaps the greatest of public virtues – courage: both the courage of his convictions and the courage to acknowledge the heartfelt and sincere convictions of others. He had also a forensic quality of mind and an aptitude for attention to detail which went far beyond the merely lawyerly.

The path of the peacemaker, by its nature, is never an easy road to tread. It was the conviction that hard political and moral choices, accompanied by much personal sacrifice, would lead to a reconciled and better future that led David Trimble, the late John Hume, and many others to take the lead in building a better future for all in Northern Ireland.

I extend my deepest condolences to Lady Daphne and her family at this time.’



Paying tribute the Moderator Dr Kirkpatrick said:

“In his acceptance speech when receiving the Nobel Peace Prize in December 1998, awarded jointly with the late John Hume, Lord Trimble paid tribute to thousands of ‘heroes and heroines in Northern Ireland’ who carried out (in the words of Wordsworth) ‘little nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and love’. In doing so David Trimble recognised that the work of building peace involves many people, but without a doubt he was one of the leading peacemakers of his generation.

“It is therefore right today that we remember and honour Lord Trimble’s legacy – his personal courage, his ability to see a way forward to more peaceful future, and his tenacity in laying the foundation that enabled society to move to a better place. This was not without huge cost, not only to himself but also to his family, and we may never fully know the extent of the sacrifices both he and they made. We remember a man who provided leadership and committed himself to looking to the interests of others over and above his own.

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“On behalf of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, of which Lord Trimble was a member, I would like to extend our deepest condolences and sincere sympathy to his wife, Lady Trimble, his family, friends and former colleagues, and assure them of our prayers at this difficult time.”

Vacancies

The Hub at Queen's is hiring

“We like things that go together like traybakes and coffee... so what about you (or someone you know) and our fantastic team on Elmwood Avenue?

“We are seeking to hire new cafe staff for September 2022.”

All the info at -

<https://thehubbelfast.org/2022/07/25/were-hiring-cafe-staff-wanted-for-new-term/>

Youth & Community Outreach Worker

Cunningham Memorial Presbyterian Church, Cullybackey

Check out this new and exciting opportunity to join our ministerial team.

We are currently seeking to appoint a *Youth & Community Outreach Worker* to help us develop and coordinate our work among young people, nurture future leaders, and reach out to young people and families within the district of Cullybackey.

www.cunninghammemorial.org

JOIN OUR TEAM

Youth & Community Outreach Worker

An exciting opportunity to help us develop and coordinate our work among young people, nurture future leaders, and reach out to unchurched young people / families within the district of Cullybackey.

Post is a full-time, three-year fixed-term contract, and will include evening and weekend work.

Contact Rev. Noel Mulholland for more information.



This is a full-time (37.5 hours per week), three-year Fixed Term Contract, and will include evening and weekend work.

Salary will be in line with PCI salary scale Band B1 - £24,307.

A commitment to the Christian ethos of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland is essential.


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For job description, personnel specification & application form, please contact: Rev. Noel Mulholland 07732 686146 noelmulholland800@btinternet.com

The closing date for applications is Friday 30/09/2022

Details can also be read here:

<https://www.presbyterianireland.org/Utility/About-Us/Opportunities/Opportunities-in-Congregations.aspx>



Tristan Russcher

St Columb's Cathedral
Londonderry


Lunchtime
Organ Recitals
July 2022
Thursdays 1.10pm - 1.50pm

7th Dr Derek Collins
Organist St Columb's Cathedral

14th Nicky Morton
Assistant Organist St Columb's Cathedral

21st Jack Wilson
Graduate Organ Scholar Ely Cathedral

28th Tristan Russcher
Associate Organist St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast

 Derry City & Strabane District Council
Comhairle Chathair
Dhoire & Cheantar
an tSrátha Bál
Derry Cille & Strabane
District Council

ADMISSION FREE

Diploma in Community Development Practice for groups in the Ballymoney area



Working with NUI Galway, Rural Community Network are bringing a Diploma in Community Development Practice course to the Ballymoney area.

The Diploma course commences October 2022 and ends June 2023.

This course is aimed at those who wish to develop their knowledge, skills and understanding of Community Development and enhance effective leadership within the sector.

Applicants must be aged 21+.

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The course will take place on Wednesdays nights 7-10pm and a few Saturdays

Course duration is October 2022 to June 2023

This is a level 7 qualification

Cost of the course is £150

The course is being offered by the Investing in Community Leadership partnership between: RCN, Fermanagh Trust, Holywell Trust and the Department of Communities

To download an application, visit

<https://www.ruralcommunitynetwork.org/news/diploma-for-community-development-practice-2022-2023/>

Application form deadline: 20th August 2022

Any questions or difficulties please contact:

kelly@ruralcommunitynetwork.org



Lambeth focus

So farther news about the Lambeth Conference has been dominated by the the row that has been generated in recent days over the inclusion of what is, in effect, a new vote on the Lambeth Resolution 1.10

That Resolution, carried in 1998, defined marriage as “between a man and a woman” and rejected homosexual practice as “incompatible with scripture”.

Among the “calls” that the 650 bishops from the Anglican Communion will be asked to make at the conference, which is being held in Canterbury this week, is the “Call on Human Dignity”, framed by a drafting group led by the Primate of the West Indies, the Most Revd Howard Gregory.

It included “the reaffirmation of Lambeth 1:10 that upholds marriage as between a man and a woman and requires deeper work to uphold the dignity and witness of LGBTQ Anglicans”.

At least one of the drafting group, the Area Bishop of York-Scarborough in Canada, the Rt Revd Kevin Robertson, said that the group had not discussed the inclusion of this reaffirmation.

The group in charge of the co-ordinating the calls met the Archbishop of Canterbury to seek to defuse the row. Later the chair of the Lambeth Calls Subgroup, the Rt Revd Tim Thornton, a former Bishop at Lambeth, released a statement saying that “the drafting group for the Call on

Human Dignity will be making some revisions to the Call.”
The next text would be “released as soon as it is available”.

The other change is that bishops will now be able to reject calls. Earlier, the only options were to accept a call or to pronounce: “This Call requires further discernment. I commit my voice to the ongoing process.” They will now be offered a third option: “This Call does not speak for me. I do not add my voice to this Call.”

The statement in full:

The Archbishop of Canterbury invited bishops to the Lambeth Conference to listen, pray and discern together. It is an opportunity to listen to one another as Christians, sometimes across deeply-held differences.

Over recent days we have listened carefully to the responses of bishops to Lambeth Calls: Guidance and Study Documents that was released last week — and especially in relation to the draft Call on Human Dignity. The drafting group for the Call on Human Dignity will be making some revisions to the Call. This will be published as part of Lambeth Calls — which will be the texts that will be discussed by bishops at the conference. This will be released as soon as it is available.

It can also be announced that bishops will now be given a third option for responding to the Lambeth Calls when they are discussed during the conference — bishops will now be able to clearly state their opposition to a particular Call. The options will be:

“This Call speaks for me. I add my voice to it and commit myself to take the action I can to implement it.”

“This Call requires further discernment. I commit my voice to the ongoing process.”

“This Call does not speak for me. I do not add my voice to this Call.”

Please continue to pray for all the bishops attending the Lambeth Conference — that we may continue to listen, walk and witness together to the love of Jesus Christ.

Bishop Tim Thornton, Chair of the Lambeth Calls Subgroup
The Lambeth Conference

Reactions

Bishops in the Church in Wales and the Scottish Episcopal Church (SEC) are among those who have unequivocally condemned the call to reaffirm Lambeth 1.10. The call “undermines and subverts the dignity of an integral part of our community rather than affirming them”, the Welsh bishops said.

Their statement, issued on Saturday, continued:

“Recognising that some provinces will want to affirm the historic understanding of marriage, we wish to assure our LGBT+ sisters and brothers in Christ that we will work to amend this passage to reflect more adequately our understanding of their equal place in the Church.”

The Scottish College of Bishops wrote: “The wording of the call does not represent the position of the Scottish Episcopal Church as reflected in the Church’s Canons, which

recognises that there are differing understandings of marriage in the SEC.

“The conference calls are not binding on provinces and are yet to be discussed. The members of the College of Bishops will seek to amend the draft call on human dignity urging a more inclusive approach and will work in respectful dialogue both with those colleagues across the Communion who would share the position adopted by the Scottish Episcopal Church, and with those who may differ.”

Various individuals and groups which hold similar views also commented.

The call to reaffirm Lambeth Resolution 1.10 on human sexuality (News, 22 July) was not discussed by the Human Dignity drafting group in whose name it appeared, and did not appear in any of the early drafts, a Canadian member of the drafting group has said.

The Area Bishop of York-Scarborough, the Rt Revd Kevin Robertson, a suffragan in the diocese of Toronto, said: “I never agreed to this call in its current form. At no point in our meetings did we discuss the reaffirmation of Lambeth 1:10 at the Conference, and it never appeared in any of the early drafts of our work together.

“I can confidently say that the Human Dignity Call in its current form does not represent the mind of the drafting group, and I distance myself from the reaffirmation of Lambeth 1:10 in the strongest possible ways. I also unequivocally reject the phrase within the call, ‘It is the mind of the Anglican Communion as a whole that same gender

marriage is not permissible.’ This statement is simply not true.”

Bishop Robertson, whose marriage to his male partner in December 2018 was blessed by the Anglican Church of Canada, said that he was seeking to amend the Human Dignity Call over the coming hours and days, and was “hopeful that this is possible”.

He continued: “There are many things in the document that do reflect the good work of the drafting group, and would be tremendously positive for the Church in the world, especially the Call to protect human dignity with particular attention to sexuality and gender; so I very much hope that the Human Dignity Call can be amended rather than rejected.”

Not all members of the drafting group appear to have been present at all meetings. The Church Times approached all the named drafting-group leaders last week for general comment and information on the individual subjects of the Calls. The Bishop of Egypt, Dr Samy Shehata, apologised that his many commitments “prevented me from sharing in the discussions for the Human Dignity”.

The Bishop of Rhode Island, the Rt Revd Nicholas Knisely, has expressed widely shared feelings among bishops of the Episcopal Church in the United States, that the process has been subverted.

He writes in his blog, Entangled States: “Over the past few years, I was told that the Lambeth Conference would be laser focused on climate change and the threat it posed, particularly in the developing world.

“As the Bishop of the Episcopal Church in the ocean state, with our particular exposure to the consequences of climate change, I was ready to fully engage in looking forward to working with others post-conference. But then this week’s news dropped and suddenly that critical conversation, well, it’s on the back burner again.

“One of my fellow bishops pointed out that the fact that these call statements were produced quietly, without broad consultation, and announced at the last minute with the conference format change, wasn’t an accident and didn’t happen without planning. Why the delay in sharing the information? I’m wondering who benefits by a choice to stir up old conflicts instead of concentrating on the existential threat. . .

“We are now going to a different meeting than we expected. And people who are members of the Anglican Communion are once again having their presence and personhood debated as if they weren’t beloved of God and precious to the Church.”

Lambeth in the media

Motion to oppose same-sex marriage forces rethink of Anglican summit

Division flares in run-up to first such meeting of bishops from around world in 14 years, Robert Booth writes in The Guardian

The archbishop of Canterbury has been forced into a last-minute rethink of plans to ask Anglican bishops to oppose same-sex marriage when they meet this week for the first Lambeth conference – held in Canterbury – in 14 years.

Liberal Anglicans and gay rights campaigners in the Church of England voiced outrage after the conference recently circulated a series of “calls” – similar to motions – for the 650 bishops and archbishops from around the world to consider.

They included one that calls for a reaffirmation of a position that “upholds marriage as between a man and a woman”, that “legitimising or blessing of same-sex unions” cannot be advised, and that “it is the mind of the Anglican communion as a whole that same-gender marriage is not permissible”.

The bishop of Los Angeles, the Right Rev John H Taylor, was among those aghast at the call, warning the conference was on course to register support for a position that “divides, hurts, scapegoats and denies”.

And in a move that raises questions about behind-the-scenes machinations, the bishop of Toronto, a member of the group that drafted the call, revealed in a Facebook post: “At no point in our meetings did we discuss the reaffirmation [of the position] at the conference, and it never appeared in any of the early drafts of our work together.”

He said he was “shocked and dismayed” about what has been called the “human dignity call”.

“As a gay man married to another man, my understanding and experience of human dignity includes the blessing of two people joined together in holy marriage, regardless of gender,” he said.

The lead author of the call is listed in conference documents as Howard Gregory, the bishop of Jamaica.

Justin Welby, the archbishop of Canterbury, is the president of the Lambeth conference, which said on Monday morning that “in full consideration of comments made about the Lambeth Calls, the subgroup that coordinates the process will meet with the archbishop of Canterbury today to discuss concerns raised. A further statement will be issued later.”

On Monday evening, after the bishop of Southwark, Christopher Chessun, increased pressure on Welby by urging that references to the position on same-sex unions be cut, the conference announced it would make revisions to the text, but declined to say how. It also announced bishops would be given the option of opposing the call when it is discussed, when previously this was not possible.

Welby had already caused anger among some in the church when partners of gay clergy were not invited to the event. Socially conservative church leaders from Rwanda, Nigeria and Uganda are also boycotting the conference in protest at moves by some Anglican churches towards conducting or blessing same-sex unions.

Welby is faced with trying to reconcile a global Anglican community that is deeply divided on homosexuality and has previously said he struggles with his own position on same-

sex relationships. In 2017, when asked if gay sex was a sin, he replied: “I haven’t got a good answer to the question,” and admitted he was “copping out because I am struggling with the issue”.

But the inclusion of the call on same-sex marriage appears to have undermined trust with liberal figures in the Anglican community.

Taylor said: “The word is spreading quickly that the Kumbaya Lambeth is actually a bait-and-switch Lambeth, with moderate and progressive Anglicans and Episcopalians about to arrive in Canterbury as credulous props for what is likely to be a majority vote against marriage equity.”

The conference will not legislate or set Anglican policy, “but that won’t matter to a global audience that is likely to read that a majority of Anglican bishops refused to affirm the dignity of every human being”, he added.

In a letter to delegates on Sunday, a group of senior Anglicans including Nigel Evans, the chair of the campaign for equal marriage in the Church of England, and Prof Helen King, vice-chair of the General Synod gender and sexuality group, urged “each and every bishop of the Church of England to oppose the issuing of the call ... in its present form. Without such a stand, trust between LGBTQ+ members and many others of the Church of England will be impossible when it is most needed.”

The Church of England website states: “The law prevents ministers of the Church of England from carrying out same-sex marriages. And although there are no authorised

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services for blessing a same-sex civil marriage, your local church can still support you with prayer.”

In a vote last year, the Anglican church in Wales decided it would offer special blessings to same-sex married couples, but still does not allow same-sex marriages in church.

Robert Booth is Social Affairs Correspondent at The Guardian, Monday July 25

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

