

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Valeriana

June 16, 2022

Image of the day

Valeriana at Limavady

People and places



Rt Rev Lena Cockcroft
MODERATOR OF NSPCI



Very Rev Robert McKee
CLERK OF NSPCI



New Moderator of Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church

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The new Moderator of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church is the Rt Rev Lena Cockcroft.



Making the announcement, the NSPCI said, “Lena has contributed overwhelmingly to our ministry and denomination and we wish her every blessing for her time in office.”

Tribute was also paid to the Retiring Moderator - “We give thanks and pay tribute to Rt Rev Christopher Hudson MBE of All Souls Church Belfast who completed his term of office as Moderator of the NSPCI this evening. We thank him for his vision and leadership during his term in office and wish him every blessing in the future.”

What Does “Non-Subscribing” mean?

The Church states -

It means that we are not bound by compulsory subscription to man-made creeds and doctrines of Faith.

Our Faith is governed by the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments of the Holy Bible.

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Our Faith asserts and upholds the right of each and every individual to search these scriptural records for themselves and to use reason and personal conscience to discover God's Divine Truth.



Our Faith removes Human Tests and Confessions of Faith that restrict private judgement and prevent free enquiry

Our Faith upholds the beautiful simplicity of the great commandments as defined by Jesus Christ: “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and all your mind” and “You must love your neighbour as yourself”

As part of the wider NSPCI Communications Committee, the Social Media Officers continue to explore and promote our liberal, free Christian & non-subscribing faith tradition. Alongside this we aim to provide you with news and updates, as well as info about events and special services from across our denomination.

Could you be the next Connor parish to host Streetreach?

Connor Youth Council is on the hunt for a new parish to partner with the young people to host Streetreach in 2023 and 2024.

Streetreach is a missional event provided by Connor Diocese offering young people the opportunity to practically serve in a parish, grow in their faith and be able to share their faith with others.

Streetreach can be a blessing to a parish as the partnership seeks to facilitate opportunities for young people and to engage with the local community.

Since the first Streetreach in 2015, the diocese has committed to partnering with a parish for two years. Streetreach runs from the Tuesday evening (following Summer Madness finishing in the morning) to the Friday evening. In 2023 it will run from July 4-7.

Parishes who are interested in applying are welcome to visit Streetreach which is running this year in partnership with Mossley Parish from July 5-8. Please contact Diocesan Youth Officer Christina Baillie christinabaillie@connordiocese.org to arrange a visit.

What Streetreach requires from a parish:

A clear sense of purpose for how the team can be involved with the parish and the local community. The Streetreach



Flashback to Streetreach 2019 in Mossley Parish, which – following a two-year gap due to the pandemic, is also hosting this year's event.

sub-group will work alongside the parish to plan the details of the programme, but appreciates your ideas for how you could see the team being of most use during Streetreach.

To provide dinner for the team each evening.

A key person to be the point of contact for the Streetreach sub-group.

Encouragement for members of the parish to get involved in the work during Streetreach, especially any young people within the parish.

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Suggestions for accommodation as the team will stay together nearby.

Prayer support from the parish in advance and during Streetreach.

Host a Commissioning Service for the team with Bishop George Davidson.

Closing Date for applications is Friday September 16 2022.

The Streetreach sub-group will meet to discuss the applications and may wish to follow up with parishes for further discussion or arrange a visit before a final decision is made.

For queries, please contact Christina on 07753312405 or at the email address above.

You can access more information and apply [HERE](https://connor.anglican.org/2022/06/14/could-you-be-the-next-parish-to-host-streetreach/).

[[] <https://connor.anglican.org/2022/06/14/could-you-be-the-next-parish-to-host-streetreach/>]





Liturgical welcome to Kerry

The Rev Jim Stephens, Select Vestry and Parishioners of the Tralee and Dingle Group of Parishes greeted Bishop Michael Burrows with a liturgical welcome to Kerry on Saturday evening (11th June) Guests included Bishop Ray Browne, Norma Foley, Minister & TD,

Joan O'Regan Tralee Lions, Fionnán Fitzgerald, Cathaoirleach Castleisland-Corca Dhuibhe, Cllr Sam Locke, Cllr Jim Finicane, Fr Tadgh Fitzgerald, Fr Gregory and the Dean of Limerick, the Very Revd Niall Sloane.

CNI



News reports

Archbishop calls for 'safe routes' to the UK

The Archbishop of Canterbury is calling on the government to ensure "safe routes" to the UK after the first flight scheduled to take failed asylum seekers to Rwanda was grounded following legal action.

"To reduce dangerous journeys to the UK we need safe routes: the church will continue to advocate for them," Archbishop Justin Welby said on Twitter.

"But deportations — and the potential forced return of asylum seekers to their home countries — are immoral and shame us as a nation."

It echoes the criticism voiced in a joint letter signed by Welby, the Archbishop of York and all 26 bishops serving in the House of Lords that was published in The Times.

"The shame is our own, because our Christian heritage should inspire us to treat asylum seekers with compassion, fairness and justice, as we have for centuries," the Church leaders said.

Tuesday's deportation flight was stopped at the 11th hour following an intervention by the European Court of Human Rights.

Home Secretary Priti Patel has refused to back down despite strong criticism. She said that the government "will not be deterred from doing the right thing and delivering our plans to control our nation's borders".

Writing in *The Independent*, the Bishop of Durham, Paul Butler said the policy was "deeply regrettable".

"We have a rich history of providing sanctuary to those around the world fleeing war and persecution, and it is intolerable to see us abdicate both our moral responsibility and commitment to international law," he said.

A different position has been taken by Michael Nazir-Ali, the former Anglican Bishop of Rochester and now member of the Catholic Ordinariate.

Writing in *The Telegraph*, he said, "These policies can certainly, like others, be criticised, but religious leaders should refrain from demonising politicians unless it is crystal clear that they are acting from ulterior motives and not out of concern for the public good.

"In the world of realpolitik, difficult decisions have to be made in balancing the claims of one group against another:

in this case the continuing welfare of those already here with those pressing their claims to come here.

"The exponential increase in those coming in small boats is putting intolerable pressure on counties like Kent to provide, for example, for unaccompanied children and, in times of austerity, on the public purse generally."

‘Calls,’ not resolutions on Lambeth Conference agenda

Bishops who attend this summer’s Lambeth Conference will issue “Lambeth Calls” instead of resolutions, short statements meant to “discern what God is saying to the Church.” The shift, Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby said in a June 9 video, should make it clear that the conference is “not there to order people about.”

Welby said, “One of the problems is, that so often in the past we have had things called resolutions. And in a sense, we all know what a resolution is. But when the Lambeth Conference resolves something, it doesn’t mean it’s going to happen, and that is a bit confusing. It means it just gets offered to the whole Anglican Communion, who are called to consider what it means.”

“So to be absolutely clear about that, and to emphasize that the Lambeth Conference is a beautiful, exciting moment of hearing God’s call to us, the Lambeth Conference in 2022 is going to make decisions, but it’s going to make them in the form of what are called ‘calls.’ So, they will do what they say

they are. They will call on the Anglican Communion — the whole Anglican Communion — to pray, and to think and reflect, and for each province to decide on its response.”

Welby said that the conference would issue, at most, a dozen calls, and “each one will be carefully structured to talk about scripture, about the tradition of the Church, and what the bishops assembled feel to be the way that God is calling them.”

“If the bishops think something is right, it doesn’t mean it’s Anglican thinking, that it’s automatically right. It means that it is something to be tested, and thought about, and received by the whole Communion,” Welby added.

“It’s humble. It says, ‘we offer this to you as what we think God is calling us to do.’ It respects different cultures. It says, although though each province is autonomous, and therefore needs to make up its own mind, they’re also interdependent.”

An accompanying guide laid out a series of what Welby called “the biggest issues that are facing the world today,” which will be discussed by the bishops, and could become the subject of Lambeth Calls. These include mission and evangelism, reconciliation, safe church issue, the environment and sustainable development, Christian unity, inter-faith relations, Anglican identity, human dignity, and discipleship.

The Lambeth Conference “will also deal with some of the contentious subjects,” Welby notes, “but actually not with

the aim of a dramatic change in the Church's teaching, but bringing us into to deeper love of one another."

The Lambeth Calls, he said, would become the subject of follow up conversations, akin to the "Bishop's Conversations" focused on 1 Peter that have been convened over the last 18 months. "We will go on sharing, using modern technology, about how we respond to what we have heard from God," he said. Articles on several of the Bishops' Conversations can be found on TLC's Lambeth Conference homepage.

Most Lambeth Conferences, including the first one in 1867, have issued resolutions, but their authority to constrain the actions of the Communion's member provinces has long been controversial. The bishops worded their common actions as "recommendations" at the 1878 Lambeth Conference, partly as a concession to secure the full support of the English bishops, many of whom had boycotted the first gathering.

Past Lambeth Conferences have sometimes issued statements in a more exhortatory voice, most notably the 1920 Lambeth Conference, whose "Appeal to All Christian People" set the generous terms for subsequent Anglican ecumenical work and served as a major encouragement to the Faith and Order and Life and Work Movements that would bring churches together in many ways in the following decades.

The last Lambeth Conference to issue traditional resolutions was in 1998. Its Resolution 1.10, which sets out a traditional understanding of human sexuality and marriage as

Anglicanism's official teaching, has become the most obvious demonstration of Welby's observation that "when the Lambeth Conference resolves something, it doesn't mean it's going to happen."

The 2008 conference eschewed parliamentary-style debate, gathering the bishops instead in small groups for "indaba," personal sharing and conversation that was meant to discern a common mind. Instead of numbered resolutions, the Conference produced a 37-page document entitled "Lambeth Indaba," which aimed to summarize the conversations.

The "Lambeth Indaba" text, in a move criticized by some Episcopal bishops, noted widespread support for the Windsor moratoria on the ordination of partnered LGBT people, the blessing of same-sex unions, and cross-border incursions by bishops. "The moratoria will be difficult to enforce, so there are some fears about whether it will hold. But there is a desire to make it do so," it concluded.

Urging African Primates to Reconsider Boycott

On June 6, Anglican Communion News Service released a joint letter by Archbishop Welby and Archbishop Joshua Idowu-Fearon, the Anglican Communion's Secretary General, to the primates of Nigeria, Rwanda, and Uganda. Welby and Idowu-Fearon encourage them to reconsider their decision not to attend the conference, as described in an open letter they jointly issued on May 6 explaining their decision.

“Boycotts do not proclaim Christ,” Welby and Idowu-Fearon said. “Those who stay away cannot be heard, they will lose influence and the chance of shaping the future. All of us will be the poorer spiritually as a result of your absence.”

They criticized the African primates’ judgment that the Lambeth Conference’s agenda was focused on “peripheral issues,” stating, “We are distressed to read that you consider matters of the environment, poverty and economic disadvantage to be ‘peripheral.’ These are matters of life and death for large parts of the Communion. They are the result of human sin of despoiling and ruining God’s creation, and it is anticipated that the world will see devastating wars and the displacement of up to one billion people as a direct result of climate change.

“Not to care for God’s creation and for the poor and destitute is in direct contravention of the teaching of scripture and the words of Jesus Christ.”

The letter also denied the African primates’ charges that the Church of England had changed its traditional teaching about marriage and asserted that Lambeth Resolution 1.10 “remains the latest expression of Anglican Communion teaching on the subject. It has not been rescinded. This resolution holds in balance the traditional understanding of marriage which is held by the Anglican Communion and the necessity to resist any form of homophobia and discrimination against homosexual people. It is important to note, always, the two sides of this resolution.”

In the media

Nato may have provoked Putin into invasion, says Pope

Pope Francis has repeated his accusations that Nato may have “provoked” the war in Ukraine with Russia, Nick Squires in Rome writes in the Daily Telegraph

The head of the Roman Catholic Church first made the remarks last month and has reiterated them in an interview with *La Civiltà Cattolica*, a Jesuit publication.

He said he had been told by an unnamed head of state that war was brewing in the weeks before Russia’s invasion of its neighbour on Feb 24. “He told me that he was very concerned about the way Nato was moving. I asked him why, and he said, ‘They are barking at the gates of Russia. They do not understand that the Russians are imperialists and will allow no foreign power to approach them.’

“He concluded, ‘The situation could lead to war.’ This was his opinion. On February 24, the war began.”

The war with Russia “was perhaps somehow either provoked or not prevented”, the Pope added.

Despite much of the world siding with Ukraine in its attempts to stand up to Russian aggression, the Pope insisted that there were “no good guys and bad guys” in the conflict.

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“Someone may say to me at this point: so you are pro-Putin. No, I am not. It would be simplistic and wrong to say such a thing,” he said.

The Pope praised Ukrainians for their brave resistance and condemned Russian troops for their “monstrous” ferocity and cruelty.

His claim that Nato should shoulder blame for the war is likely to be poorly received by many Ukrainians.

The Pope has already faced criticism for organising an Easter event in Rome which involved a Ukrainian woman and a Russian woman carrying a wooden cross together as part of a procession.

“The Pope calls for peace and expresses sorrow for the perished, but does not say a word about who has started the war, who is killing Ukrainians, who is raping Ukrainian women and dropping bombs on Ukrainian children,” said Sgt Andrii Andrushkiv, 37, a member of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church who joined the Ukrainian army a week after the invasion.

“The Vatican cannot send us tanks, missiles or cannons. Instead, the Vatican and Pope Francis can use the most powerful weapon: the word of truth.”

In an online essay, Sgt Andrushkiv said: “I expect the leaders of the Catholic Church of today to be ready to testify the truth: that the leadership of Russia and President Putin, in particular, have started the genocide against the Ukrainian people, that soldiers of Russia are obediently

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executing their orders, and that Russian people support this war.”

The Vatican’s eagerness to pursue a policy of “ostpolitik” to forge closer relations with the Russian Orthodox Church was responsible for the Pope’s failure to speak out against Moscow, he added.

Courtesy The Daily Telegraph, June 15, 2022

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This Everyday Faith Journey is also available in audio format.

Login and start 'Stories Jesus Told' at cofe.io/StoriesJesusTold.



Ulster Organists and Choirmasters Society recitals

The annual members' recital takes place this Saturday 18 June in St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh - Anglican - COI at 3:00 PM.

This year, the recital is given in memory of the Society's late member Mr David McElderry, with performances by Jonathan Gregory, Professor Desmond Hunter and Michael McCracken.

Everyone is welcome.

Poem for today

Essex by John Betjeman

The vagrant visitor erstwhile,"
My colour-plate book says to me,
"Could wend by hedgerow-side and stile,
From Benfleet down to Leigh-on-Sea."

And as I turn the colour-plates
Edwardian Essex opens wide,
Mirrored in ponds and seen through gates,
Sweet uneventful countryside.

Like streams the little by-roads run
Through oats and barley round a hill
To where blue willows catch the sun
By some white weather-boarded mill.



“A Summer Idyll, Matching Tye”
“At Havering-atte-Bower, the Stocks”
And cobbled pathways lead the eye
To cottage doors and hollyhocks.

Far Essex, – fifty miles away
The level wastes of sucking mud
Where distant barges high with hay
Come sailing in upon the flood.

Near Essex of the River Lea
And anglers out with hook and worm
And Epping Forest glades where we
Had beanfeasts with my father’s firm.

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At huge and convoluted pubs
They used to set us down from brakes
In that half-land of football clubs
Which London near the Forest makes.

The deepest Essex few explore
Where steepest thatch is sunk in flowers
And out of elm and sycamore
Rise flinty fifteenth-century towers.

I see the little branch line go
By white farms roofed in red and brown,
The old Great Eastern winding slow
To some forgotten country town.

Now yarrow chokes the railway track,
Brambles obliterate the stile,
No motor coach can take me back
To that Edwardian “erstwhile

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