



**Image of the day - These days will pass
Southwark Cathedral**

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Launch of ‘A Welcoming Church’ – A resource for churches to better support people with disabilities

The Church of Ireland Youth Department, in collaboration with Dublin and Glendalough Youth Officer Susie Keegan and the Disability Advisor with the Diocese of Leeds, Katherine–Alice Grasham, has produced a new resource pack – entitled A Welcoming Church – to help churches think about how they might better support people with different disabilities in the church environment. Clergy, staff and volunteers are encouraged to visit www.awelcomingchurch.com and find out more.

Susie Keegan says: “Collaborating on this resource was a huge privilege and there was a huge amount of learning for me in it. When researching and designing, I had to ensure that it was and is accessible. We need to create and design with accessibility as a priority rather than an afterthought.”

Katherine–Alice Grasham remarks: “We’re really hoping that this new resource will be a way to start parishes thinking about small changes that they can do to make a big difference to disabled people. This resource is not just a tick–box exercise; it’s designed to start conversations and get people thinking together about accessibility and welcome.”

The 14–page resource includes general tips on what to do to help welcome people with disabilities, and suggestions (also provided as A4 posters) for how a parish can be a



welcoming church for people who may have one or more of the following particular disabilities:

- dyslexia;
- hearing impairment or deafness;
- visual impairment or blindness;
- autism, neurodiversity and cognitive disorders;
- mobility difficulties or who are using a wheelchair;
- anxiety and mental illness;
- dementia;
- asthma and allergies; and
- chronic pain or illness.

The resource was made by disabled people in consultation with disabled people, and was born out of discussions at disability awareness training between children's and youth officers who have a passion for disability inclusion within the Church.

Readers who wish to raise an issue, suggest an alternation or addition, or flag up something, are encouraged to email the team at awelcomingchurch@gmail.com

Isaac Herzog's Belfast links celebrated as he becomes Israeli president

The Belfast links of veteran politician Isaac Herzog have been celebrated after he was elected Israeli president.

Mr Herzog is considered one of Israel's most influential public figures. He was a former leader of the opposition Labour Party as well as an ex-minister in coalition governments in Jerusalem, Jonathan Campbell reports in the Belfast Telegraph.

He was also chairman on the powerful Jewish Agency, the largest Jewish non-profit organisation in the world which works closely with the government to promote immigration to Israel.

The 60-year-old unsuccessfully ran against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in the 2015 parliamentary elections.



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He has been a critic of Mr Netanyahu who is battling to remain in office.

His father Chaim Herzog was born in Belfast. He was ambassador to the United Nations before being elected president.

A blue plaque marking his birth over a century ago was removed from the former Herzog home on Cliftonpark Avenue after repeated attacks.

North Antrim DUP MP Ian Paisley said he was friends with the new president and hoped he would revisit NI soon.

"I wish to congratulate my friend and grandson of Belfast, Isaac Herzog on his election to the Presidency of Israel.

"Isaac has a great pedigree. His father was a Belfast boy who helped form the state of Israel and became its president now bears witness to the second generation succeed to that post.

"I congratulate Isaac and wish him well as he handles a most difficult situation in Israel. He will be up to the job and I look forward to seeing him again in Belfast soon and welcoming him here."

Last month at least 242 people were killed in Gaza and 13 people killed in Israel during 11 days of fierce fighting ahead of an Egyptian-brokered ceasefire. The violence came after weeks of spiralling Israeli-Palestinian tensions.

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The position of president is a largely ceremonial role that is meant to serve as the nation's moral compass and promote unity.

Mr Herzog will be Israel's 11th president, succeeding Reuven Rivlin, who is set to leave office next month after seven years in office. The anonymous vote was held among the 120 members of the Knesset, or parliament

His uncle, Abba Eban also lived in Belfast in 1918, having arrived in the city as a child evacuee during the First World War when his home was in Kinnaird Street off the Antrim Road. He went on to be Israel's first foreign minister and ambassador to the United Nations and United States. His grandfather was the country's first chief rabbi.

Chaim Herzog returned to Northern Ireland during the Second World War, serving as an intelligence officer in the British Army stationed in Lisburn and he later took part in the liberation of Europe.

Mr Herzog, in an interview in 2018, with this news organisation, said his family had "fond" connections to Belfast saying the city was "embedded in his being and in his personality".

"My father talked in his memoir about the battles between Protestants and Catholics and how they influenced his life as President, because he said we should always prevent civil war, or conflict, within a nation," he said.

Mr Herzog's Rabbi grandfather was seen as a prominent figure in the history of Irish independence. He was a fluent

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Irish speaker, who was a friend of Eamon de Valera and he was dubbed by some as the "Sinn Fein Rabbi".

It's also said that he was asked during a riot if he was a Protestant or a Catholic Jew.

Mr Herzog said his father always followed the news from Northern Ireland, "often with great anguish during times of conflict".

"My father felt moves towards the peace process in Northern Ireland held some hope for our own situation in the Middle East, where he passionately advocated compromise and co-existence between Jews and Arabs," he said.

He said people in Israel were "envious" of the progress made towards peace here.

"After the Good Friday Agreement, we could only yearn to get to a Good Friday Agreement," he said.

He also said his family were "deeply offended" by attacks on his grandfather's blue plaque which forced its removal.

Courtesy Belfast Telegraph 02.06.2021

Tweet observed - As Belfast City Council urge the UK and Ireland to expel the Israeli ambassadors, Israel elects as President Isaac Herzog, who's father, was born in Belfast and whose grandfather was the Chief Rabbi for Ireland, a fluent gaeilgeoir and a supporter of the First Dáil.

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Canon rollerblades 100km for Al Ahli Hospital Fundraiser

As part of the Dublin and Glendalough Council for Mission's fundraising efforts for Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza, Canon Peter Campion is traversing the distance from Gaza city to Jerusalem (100 kilometres) on rollerblades.

He, along with a group of people who are covering the distance on foot, is answering the call from their link diocese, the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, which runs the hospital in Gaza city.

The appeal aims to raise €10,000 and runs from May 24 to June 11. To sponsor Peter or any of the walkers go to the Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, website – <https://christchurchcathedral.ie/al-a...>

The latest conflict in the Holy Land has put huge pressure on hospitals and the Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem, the Most Revd Hosam Naoum has appealed for support for Al Ahli. Although Anglicans make up a minute proportion of the population in Gaza, Al Ahli Arab Hospital serves all people of Gaza city, no matter what their religion, gender, social or political background. Dublin and Glendalough has had a link with the Diocese of Jerusalem for six years and has raised funds for the hospital previously.

Over the three weeks of this fundraiser a number of people have committed to walking 100 kilometres – the distance from Gaza city to Jerusalem. They are: Diocesan Lay

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Reader David Reynolds, along with other parishioners of Bray; the Revd Abigail Sines, Dean's Vicar, Christ Church Cathedral; Lydia Monds, Bishops' Appeal; Canon Peter Campion, Chaplain, King's Hospital School; the Revd Martin O'Connor, Clondalkin and Rathcoole Parishes; the Revd Stephen Farrell, Rector, Zion Parish; the Revd Nigel Pierpoint, Curate, Taney Parish; the Revd Sean Hanily, Rector, Rathmichael Parish; and Canon Adrienne Galligan, Rector, Rathfarnham Parish.

[<https://dublin.anglican.org/news/2021/06/03/watch-canon-peter-campion-rollerblading>]

C of I and Southern African ordinands meet virtually

On Monday 31st May, ordinands from the Church of Ireland Theological Institute (CITI) took part in a virtual meeting with fellow ordinands from the College of the Transfiguration (COTT), Grahamstown, South Africa, which is the provincial training centre for the Anglican Church of Southern Africa.

The meeting, which was co-chaired by CITI 2nd Year ordinand Philip McKinley and COTT 4th year ordinand Ntswele Molefi, provided an opportunity for students and staff to ask questions of one another's training requirements and differences in cultural contexts. There was even time to sing one another's rugby anthems.

The students were accompanied by Revd Dr Simon Tibbs, Lecturer in Anglicanism, Liturgy and Church History from

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COTT and Dr Bridget Nichols, Lecturer in Anglicanism and Liturgy from CITI. Dr Nichols grew up in South Africa and is also an external examiner for the College of the Transfiguration.

It is hoped that the meeting could lead to deeper connections between the two institutions, especially in advance of Lambeth 2022 when Anglicans around the world are encouraged to renew their connections with one another.

The Anglican Church of Southern Africa is ten times larger in membership than the Church of Ireland. The majority of its four million members live in South Africa, but Dioceses also stretch across Mozambique, Angola, Lesotho, Namibia, Swaziland (ESwatini) and Saint Helena.

For further information on the College of the Transfiguration in South Africa see <https://cott.co.za>

Please Believe These Days Will Pass opens at Southwark Cathedral

Southwark Cathedral has unveiled its major art installation, *Please Believe These Days Will Pass*, by artist Mark Titchner – first seen in the early days of lockdown on posters and billboards across cities in England.

The work was due to open in Lent as Southwark Cathedral's annual art installation – now in its tenth year, this much anticipated event aims to spark new conversations, attract new visitors to the cathedral and bring contemporary art to those who may not have access to it.

The Dean of Southwark, the Very Revd Andrew Nunn, said:

“As we move as a nation through the various stages of the roadmap leading to the complete relaxation of the Coronavirus restrictions, it is easy to believe that it is all behind us.

‘But the world is still in the grip of a pandemic. Mark Titchner’s monumental installation in Southwark Cathedral will be a stark reminder that we need to look beyond these islands to a world still suffering.

“But it is also a message of hope, because the truth is ‘these days will pass’ and we must hold on to that belief, that hope.”



Mark's Please Believe artwork appeared on posters and billboards across the country during the early stages of Lockdown and was widely shared on social media.

He said:

“I had no idea then how this artwork would connect itself to the terrible days that followed and how far it would ultimately travel. Something about that message seemed to connect with the need for hope that was so felt so keenly by us all.

Mark said that his artwork imposed its message on the Gothic architecture of the building and placed it within the context of faith and contemplation.

“I am excited and grateful for the opportunity to present a new large-scale version of this work to a new audience

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within the resonant, historical setting of Southwark Cathedral,” he added.

Opening times are 8am – 6pm daily.

For more information click here.

[[] <https://cathedral.southwark.anglican.org/visiting/please-believe-these-days-will-pass/>]

People and places

Derryvolgie parishioners set to walk the length of Chile

St Columba’s, Derryvolgie, Diocese of Connor, is challenging its parishioners to walk the length of Chile in South America during the course of this month as part of its Communicating Clearly project.

The audio visual project was launched in October 2020, and in a video shared on the parish Facebook page, the rector, the Rev James Boyd, said it had enhanced worship online and in-person, and had also enhanced outreach work including Life groups and children’s ministry in the parish.

Now, the parish wishes to expand Communicating Clearly beyond Derryvolgie. “We see our mission as not just on the streets and community around where God has planted us, but also across the world,” James said.

The parish has partnered with the South American Mission Society (SAMS) on a project based in Chile and is aiming to

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The Rev James Boyd kicks off the parish Chile walk.

raise funds for a new media department to support theological education in Chile to train the next generation of church leaders and church planters.

Running along the south western coast of South America, Chile is 2,653 miles long, and Derryvolgie Parish is challenging supporters to walk a combined total of 2,653 miles during the month of June.

Details of how to get involved are available on the Derryvolgie Parish website (<http://derryvolgie.com/>) or check out the Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/DerryvolgieParish>) for updates.

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“Let’s walk the length of the nation of Chile as we seek to share the good news of Jesus Christ in our community and across the world,” James said.

Books, Broadcasts, Resources and Webinars

A Service Celebrating Healing and Wholeness

Led by the Revd Baden Stanley, Rector of Christ Church Bray will be broadcast on Sunday June 6 at 2.15pm on the RTE News Channel.

Presbyterian Digital Dispatches

Latest update from Stephen & Angelina Cowan, PCI global mission workers partnering with the Presbyterian Church of East Africa. To download for use in church services and to see other video updates, visit:

www.presbyterianireland.org/digitaldispatches



Down & Dromore Leadership Weekend open for bookings

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D & D Leadership Weekend Residential is open for bookings. Running from 16–18 July at the Kilbroney Centre, it's for anyone aged 17–21 who wants... Latest news from... <https://downanddromore.org/news/2021/06/>

New Methodist site is live

“One step forward in our long standing commitment as Methodists to be where the people are (online & offline!)” Watch the Secretary of Conf & President launch the site here:

vimeo.com/558630380



Down & Dromore BBQ for Youth & Children's Leaders

If you're involved in leading Children's and Youth ministry in a church in the diocese you're invited to a gourmet BBQ to celebrate and thank you! It's free and will be...

<https://downanddromore.org/news/2021/06/b>

Postgraduate Programmes at St Patrick's College -

Applications close 25th June. For more details visit

churchnewsireland@gmail.org

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<https://maynoothcollege.ie/postgraduate>

Free digital summary of Church of Scotland General Assembly 2021

A free digital summary of GA2021 is available here
<https://lifeandwork.org/resources/general-assembly-2021-special-supplement>

45,000 people called SVP for help in the first 3 months of this year...

The highest number in a decade. Please consider donating today. You can make all the difference for just one local family by providing food, fuel and essentials.

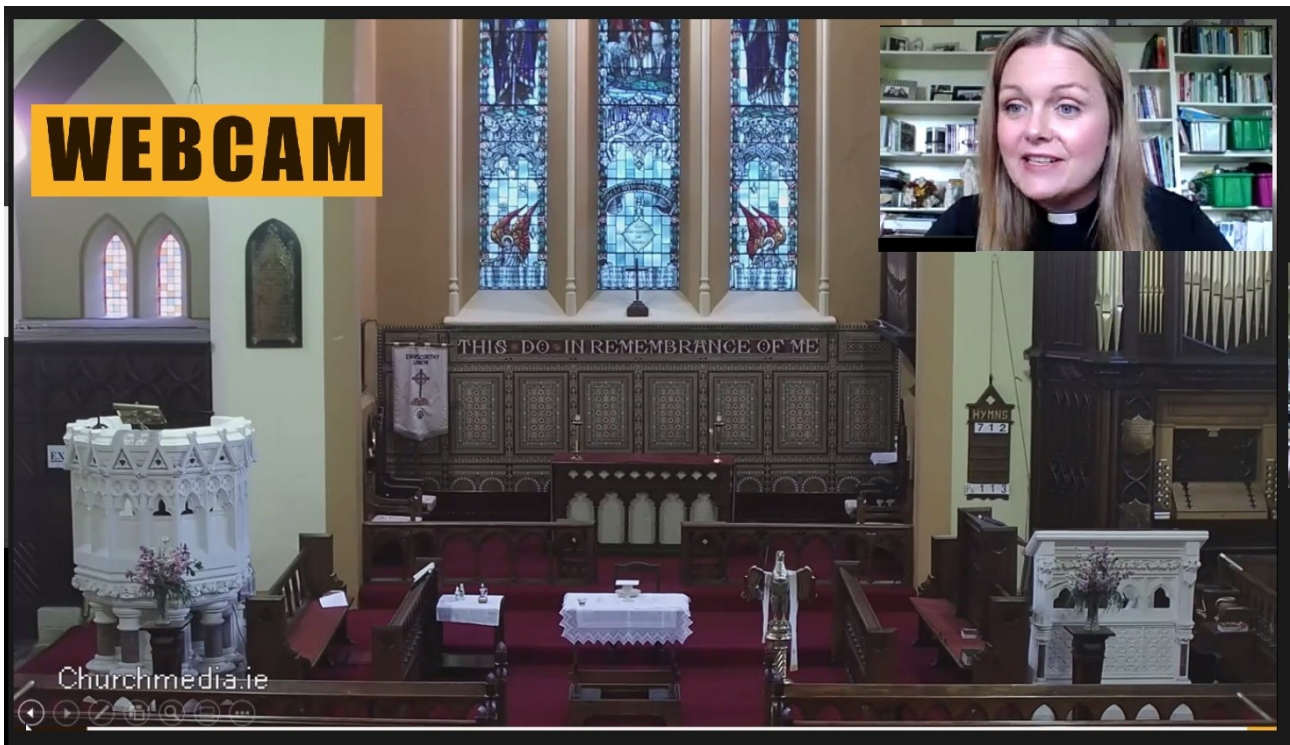
svp.ie/specialappeal

Council for Mission webinar on Online Church now available

The Church of Ireland Council for Mission held a webinar using Zoom on Thursday, 3rd June 2021, on the theme of 'Online Church – Practical Lessons from the Frontline'. To facilitate anyone who was not able to attend, a video of the webinar is now available on the Council's public Facebook page (which can be viewed by anyone) here.

The guest speaker was Dr Nick Shepherd from Church of England Digital Labs, who led us through some practical theology of online church. Three different Church of Ireland rectors gave examples of livestreaming from different churches on the island of Ireland, each using different technologies.

churchnewsireland@gmail.org



The Revd Nicola Halford speaks on her experience of online church services.

There were over 50 participants in the webinar who were representative of most dioceses from around the Church. They had the choice of attending one of the three breakout groups which were led by the rectors from the example parishes. The participants had an opportunity to follow-up on the presentations and ask further questions. Videos of two of the three break-out groups are also available to view and can be found on the Council for Mission Facebook page.

The Very Revd Tim Wright, Chairperson of the Church of Ireland Council for Mission, said: “I hope that this webinar will be useful for anyone who is contemplating their digital outreach potential and is planning an online presence in the future.”

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For further information, please contact
councilformission@ireland.anglican.



Pointers for prayer

Your hand is upon your people, O God,
to guide and protect them through the ages.
Keep in your service
those you have called and anointed,
that the powers of this world may not overwhelm us, but
that, secure in your love,
we may carry out your will
in the face of all adversity. Amen.

O God our ruler and shepherd, you anointed Jesus
as the king and servant of your people. Make us attentive to
your word, that we may accept your reign over us and serve
you alone. Amen.

Friends in Christ,
God invites us to hold the needs of our sisters and brothers

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as dear to us as our own needs.
Loving our neighbours as ourselves,
we offer our thanksgivings and our petitions
on behalf of the church and the world.

Intercessions

....

Hear our prayers, God of power,
and through the ministry of your Son
free us from the grip of the tomb,
that we may desire you as the fullness of life
and proclaim your saving deeds to all the world. Amen.
As you heard the prayer of Isaac and Rebekah, O God,
and guided them in the way of your love,
so listen now to those who call upon you.

...

Intercessions

....

Move us to praise your gracious will,
for in Christ Jesus you have saved us from the deeds of
death and opened for us the hidden ways of your love.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
Lord God, friend of those in need,
your Son Jesus has untied our burdens
and healed our spirits.
We lift up the prayers of our hearts for those still burdened,
those seeking healing,
those in need within the church and the world.

...Intercessions....

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Hear our prayers
that we may love you with our whole being
and willingly share the concerns of our neighbours. Amen.

Creator God,
you call us to love and serve you
with body, mind, and spirit
through loving your creation
and our sisters and brothers.
Open our hearts in compassion
and receive these petitions
on behalf of the needs of the church and the world. Amen

Speaking to the Soul

‘In the last days,’ God says, ‘I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams. In those days I will pour out my Spirit even on my servants—men and women alike— and they will prophesy.’

Acts 2:17-18 NLT

Peter responds to the suggestion that Jesus’ followers were drunk by making the practical observation that it was far too early in the morning for anything like that! He then goes on to point out that Joel, in the 9th Century BC, had prophesied that in the last days the Spirit would be poured out upon everyone in exactly this way. In Old Testament times we often see the Spirit coming upon people but it was always to the prophets, priests and kings. In this new era of the Spirit it would be fundamentally different. The leaders of the

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church would continue to play a crucial role but now the doors were flung open to everyone to receive the Spirit and to hear God speak with them.

We are still living in the last days, as described by Joel, and we should expect to hear God speaking through one another as his Spirit comes upon us. I find this incredibly exciting. We thank God for those whom he has called to be church leaders and we will often hear them faithfully declaring God's word. But we should be expecting to hear God speak to us through everyone else in the church as well. We should expect to hear him speak through the shy and retiring people just as much as through the bold and talkative ones. We need to do what I love to call "deep listening". Because we know that God loves to speak to us through one another within the church we need to give our best attention to one another. Deep listening takes time, effort and much love but as we listen we can be sure that we will hear God speaking to us.

QUESTION

Who are the people who have spoken God's word to you most clearly in recent months?

PRAYER

Thank you, Lord, that you love to speak with us. Help me to listen out for your voice in all my Christian brothers and sisters. Amen

