

January 13, 2022

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**Image of the day - Southwell Cathedral**

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Southwell Cathedral

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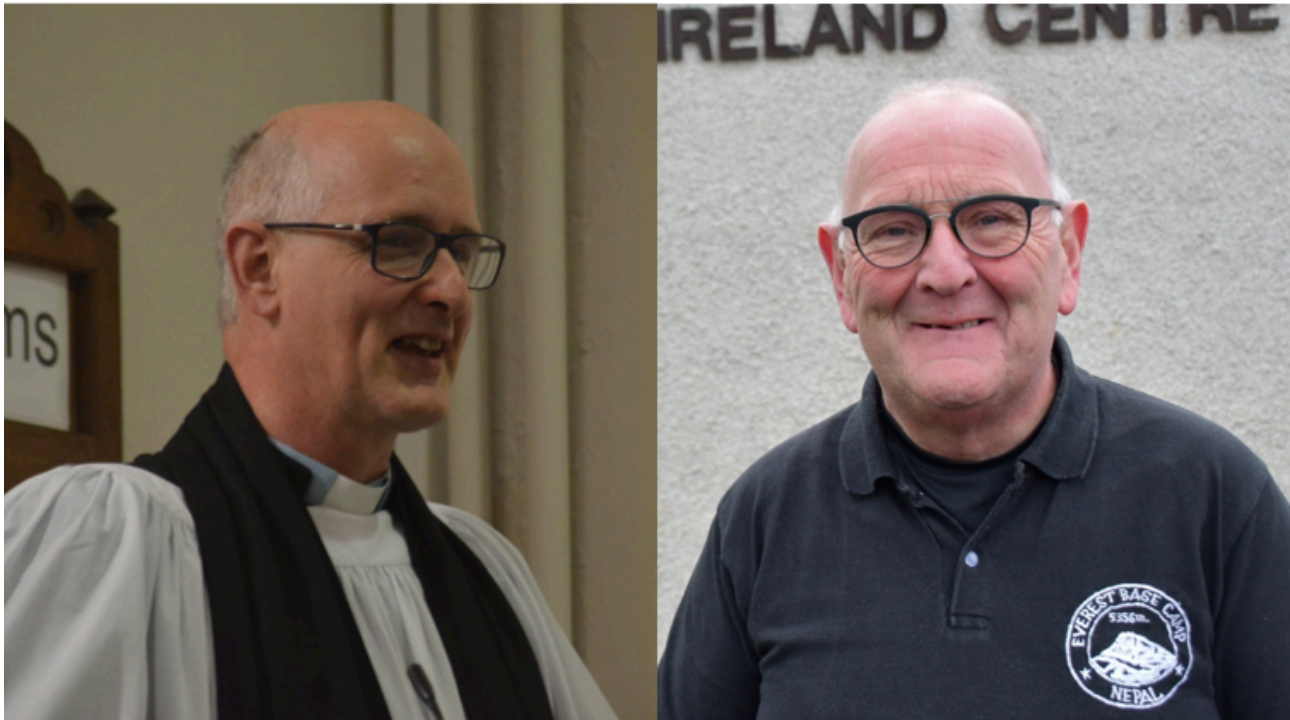
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## People and places

### More prestigious Scouting awards for Derry parish leaders



**The Parish of Glendermott and Newbuildings has become one of the most decorated in Northern Irish scouting circles following the conferment of prestigious scouting awards on two of its members.**

The Rector of Glendermott and Newbuildings, Rev Canon Robert Boyd (pictured below left) – who has a long history in the Scout Association both in Glendermott and in his previous Parish of Killyman in the Diocese of Armagh – has received a Silver Acorn Award for specially distinguished service. And Newbuildings parishioner, Richard Edgar (below right), has been awarded a Bar to his Silver Acorn Award. Canon Boyd is the chairman of the Londonderry

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County Scouts Council, while Mr Edgar is a former District Commissioner.

The two men join existing award-holders from the parish, Trevor Blair (Silver Wolf Award recipient for services of the most exceptional character) and Albert Smallwoods (who has previously been awarded a Bar to the Silver Acorn ).

## **Belfast's 4 Corners Festival celebrates its 10th anniversary**

**This year, the 4 Corners Festival celebrates its 10th anniversary with a programme beginning in St Anne's Cathedral and ending in St Peter's Cathedral.**

The week-long series of thought-provoking events, running from January 30-February 6, will be around the theme Common Ground, Common Good. This unique Christian festival includes participants as diverse as boxer Carl Frampton, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and Dr Austen Ivereigh, the Pope's biographer.

## **New Youth Outreach Programme in Sion Mills**

**The Parish of Urney will launch a new outreach programme for young people this weekend.**

The Sion Mills Youth Outreach Programme will run each Saturday evening for six weeks, with two sessions held in the village's Church of Ireland Hall in Mill Lane.



The first of these, from 6.30-8.00pm, will be for 7-to-10-year olds; the second session, from 8.30-10.00pm will be for 11-to-16-year olds.

There will be a varied programme on offer at each gathering, and over the course of the project, participants will be offered sessions on employability skills, youth justice, life skills, photography and videography, computer skills and online safety, as well as cooking, games and arts & crafts. The leaders will get things rolling each evening with icebreakers and games, and there'll be prayers, readings, songs and a ministry message from guest speakers.

The Rector of Urney, Rev Johnny McFarland and his wife, Jacqui, will lead the six-week programme, along with Nigel Collins and Linda Collins, and the four of them will be supported by the Derry and Raphoe Youth Board; the Diocesan Youth Officer, Claire Hinchliff; and the Diocesan Children's Ministry Officer, Kirsty McCartney. The DRY chairperson, Rev Peter Ferguson, will be the guest speaker at the first evening's sessions. Entry is free and all are welcome to join sessions in their appropriate age groups.

## **New Mothers' Union Diocesan President for Down and Dromore**

**Mothers' Union in Down and Dromore has announced Mavis Thompson as its new Diocesan President. Mavis will succeed Roberta Macartney who has come to the end of her three-year tenure.**



A parishioner of Dromara, Mavis has served for four years as Branch Secretary of the Mothers' Union there. She has been the Area Representative of Ballynahinch Area for the past few years and in 2020 became a Trustee as Worldwide Representative. "Overseas work has always been part of my life as my late father was secretary of a missionary society and I grew up with missionaries visiting our home", she says.

Mavis is a native of Lisburn and moved to live near Dromara when she married William 24 years ago. She wasn't brought up in the Church of Ireland but was active in the parish as a Sunday school teacher and as a Girls' Brigade officer for twenty years.

Mavis loves travelling and crafts, especially lacemaking in which she holds a City and Guilds Certificate and Diploma.

Of her new role Mavis says, "I am looking forward to visiting different branches and meeting with members as regulations allow. I would love to see branches grow, especially with younger members as they have so much to

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offer and can revitalise the more senior members, who, in turn, can teach the younger members.

“God has been with me in my decision to accept this position. Two verses have stood out – Philippians 4:6 “Do not be anxious about anything” and Deuteronomy 31:8 “The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you”. It is reassuring to know that God will be with me and will guide me as I take up this post.”

Both Mavis and the new MU Diocesan Chaplain, Revd Duncan Pollock, will be commissioned at a special service in Dromore Cathedral at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 2 February.

## **Linen Hall Library event for Holocaust Memorial Day**

**Holocaust Memorial Day will be marked with an event at Linen Hall Library, Belfast, with Rachel Levy.**

You are invited to join those in the Library or online on 27th January 2022 at 3.00pm to hear more about the Kindertransport, the Millisle Farm, and Jewish refugees in Ulster.

Book now:

<https://linenhall.com/events/from-auschwitz-to-ulster-one-day-that-changed-and-saved-lives-with-scott-edgar/>

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## Newly-commissioned Diocesan Readers



**Andrew Pender (Baltinglass), Heidi Good (Kilkenny) and Thomas Cooke (Kilcooley) were commissioned as Diocesan Readers on Sunday past by Rt Revd Michael Burrows, Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory.**

The commissioning service took place in St Laserian's Cathedral, Old Leighlin.

Pictured are: l-r Dean Tom Gordon, Bishop Michael Burrows, Andrew, Heidi and Thomas.

The Bishop wished the readers every blessing as they were commissioned and sent forth for service and also mentioned how indebted the diocesan community is to all Diocesan Readers for the huge contribution they make to the Diocese.



## Passing of noted cathedral organist

**The death at 104 years of age has taken place of Dr Francis Jackson. CBE, Composer, and the Organist of York Minster for decades.**

Many say this truly great figure in English church music should have been Knighted. May he rest in peace.

Recorded Church Music paid the following tribute to the great man himself - <https://recordedchurchmusic.org/jackson-francis>

## News Reports

### C of I to conduct survey of members on ethnic diversity, inclusion and racial justice

**A new survey is to be conducted to gather the views of members of the Church of Ireland on ethnic diversity, inclusion and racial justice.**

The initiative of the Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, the Most Rev John McDowell, follows discussions with members and clergy and those serving in lay ministry from a wide range of ethnic backgrounds on the progress made within the Church on drawing on the rich diversity of the island of Ireland.



At the Church of Ireland's most recent General Synod in September 2021, the Archbishop said: "It was a little troubling to hear about how we had not drawn anything like deeply enough on the rich diversity of backgrounds in our Church. The meeting had also helped me to understand how difficult it can be to be a person of colour on this island and even, at times, in our Church."

The research being carried out has been designed in collaboration with the group of ethnically diverse clergy and lay readers who have now met on a further occasion, and will, along with other strands, examine and make recommendations on how the Church of Ireland can become truly a place of welcome for those from every ethnic background, both lay and clergy. The research is led by Dr Lucy Michael of the Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough.

Archbishop McDowell said: "Already in their discussions the group have also highlighted the positive experience of giving and receiving, but there is much we will need to do if we are to be the place which not only includes, but also celebrates, the God-given difference of the Catholic Church which we

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stand on our hind legs and proclaim ourselves to be in the words of the ancient Creeds, Sunday by Sunday.”

The Archbishop will publish and share the findings of the research and recommendations ahead of General Synod 2022.

All lay and clerical members of the Church are invited to give their views in this survey, which can be accessed at [www.ireland.anglican.org/diversity-survey](http://www.ireland.anglican.org/diversity-survey).

## **Pope Francis pops by his favourite record store to say ‘Hello’**

**Pope Francis took an evening ride in a white Fiat 500 to visit a record store he used to go to when in Rome as a cardinal.**

Letizia Giostra, the store owner, told the Italian newspaper Corriere della Sera that the surprise visit Jan. 11 was “an immense thrill.”

“The Holy Father is passionate about music and was already our client, years ago, when he was still a cardinal and would pass through Rome. Then, of course, we never saw him again. And now he came to visit us, to say ‘hello,’” she said.

Asked about the record he was holding under his arm when a Vatican reporter happened to see the pope emerge from the store, Giostra said, “It’s a gift we gave him, a record of classical music.”

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Located right across from the Pantheon, the family-owned store, Stereo Sound, specializes in a wide variety of music, particularly opera and classical, on vinyl records and CDs.

The store's streetside display still showcased Christmas music albums, decorations and a small white Christmas tree adorned with 45 RPM records and cassette tapes when the pope was caught on camera by Javier Martínez-Brocal, a Vatican reporter and director of Rome Reports news agency.

Martínez-Brocal posted the video and photos on Twitter and explained he had been in the neighborhood when he saw the white Fiat with Vatican license plates and some police cars parked in front of the store around 7 p.m. He said the pope was inside for about 12 minutes, visiting with the owner, her daughter and son-in-law.

Just one week ago, the store's Instagram feed posted an autographed copy of Patti Smith's "Land" CD, to mark her Dec. 30 birthday and reminisce about the American songwriter-singer's many visits to the store.

"It was an immense joy, I was so excited, darned shyness that blocks your speech, that I couldn't say anything to her, only if she could kindly autograph my CD. There were no smartphones back then to capture the moment, I'm left only with the memory in my mind and my (heart emoji)," the @discoteca.pantheon post said.

The pope has made it a fairly frequent habit to get in a car and go visit people or — less frequently — to a store to conduct his own business.



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His first full day as pope March 14, 2013, he went to his hotel, picked up his luggage, paid his bill and thanked the staff. He went to drop off his eyeglasses for a new pair of lenses in 2015 at an optician in the city center and he stopped by a store specializing in orthopedic wear not far from his Vatican residence in 2016.

In a 2016 interview with “La Voz del Pueblo,” the pope said he missed being able to go out and walk or go to a pizzeria.

“I could order it, but it is not the same. It’s nice to go there,” he told the Argentine news outlet.

“I’ve always been big on walking,” he said, saying it is “enchanting” to just move along the city streets or ride the subway.

He admitted he is known for being “undisciplined. I don’t really follow protocol very much, it feels cold. But when it is for official business, I totally stick to it.”

## **Gay, lesbian bishops meet online with archbishop of Canterbury ahead of Lambeth Conference**

**Four gay and lesbian Episcopal bishops, along with two from Anglican dioceses in Canada and Wales, spoke with Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby on Jan. 11 in what they described afterward as “a very Christ-centered meeting,” as bishops across the global Anglican Communion prepare to attend the Lambeth**

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## **Conference in late July and early August, David Paulsen writes for Episcopal News Service.**

After the bishops' Zoom meeting with Welby, Missouri Bishop Deon Johnson posted a screengrab of the meeting to his Facebook page. The participating bishops declined to comment further when Episcopal News Service inquired with their dioceses. The Diocese of Missouri later told ENS that the LGBTQ bishops had initiated the meeting.

The archbishop of Canterbury convenes the Lambeth Conference of bishops about every 10 years. Tensions over LGBTQ bishops' attendance at this year's conference has focused on Welby's decision to invite those bishops but not their spouses. Within The Episcopal Church, criticism of that decision came to a head at the September 2019 meeting of the House of Bishops, which issued a message of solidarity with the bishops and their excluded spouses.

The controversy was not addressed the Facebook post by Johnson. He was joined in the meeting by New York Assistant Bishop Mary Glasspool, Maine Bishop Thomas Brown and Michigan Bishop Bonnie Perry. Bishop Kevin Robertson of Canada's Diocese of Toronto and Bishop Cherry Vann of Wales' Diocese of Monmouth also participated.

"On Tuesday, January 11, 2022, some of the LGBTQ Bishops within the Anglican Communion had a very Christ-centered meeting with the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Reverend Justin Welby, which was very fruitful as we make our way towards the Lambeth Conference 2022," Johnson's post said. "In our meeting, we had an opportunity

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to hear and share stories that allow us to continue to walk in love. We are grateful to the Archbishop and his staff for their time and compassionate listening.”

In the screengrab of the meeting, Welby was joined by Bishop Anthony Poggio, his adviser on Anglican Communion affairs, and Philippa Park, the Anglican Communion program coordinator.

ENS sought a comment from Welby but had not received a response from his communications team by the time this story was posted.

The Lambeth Conference, originally scheduled for 2020, was postponed to this year because of the coronavirus pandemic. It now is scheduled for July 27 to Aug. 8 in England at the University of Kent, Canterbury Cathedral and Lambeth Palace. Its stated purpose is to bring together bishops from the 41 Anglican provinces to discuss “church and world affairs and the global mission of the Anglican Communion for the decade ahead.”

In 2008, at the last Lambeth Conference, then-New Hampshire Bishop Gene Robinson, the first openly gay and partnered bishop in the Anglican Communion, was not allowed to attend by then-Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams.

Amid planning for the upcoming Lambeth Conference, news broke in early 2019 that Welby had excluded same-sex spouses in his invitations to all bishops. He later defended the decision by saying he saw it as a way to balance the divisions in the communion. Some of the more conservative

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Anglican provinces maintain objections to The Episcopal Church's widespread acceptance of LGBTQ clergy and same-sex marriage.

The Episcopal Church House of Bishops issued an initial statement in March 2019, saying it was "aggrieved and distressed" by Welby's decision, though a majority of the bishops still planned to attend Lambeth Conference. The bishops' follow-up message in September 2019 said each will engage in "faithful soul-searching" on how they will respond.

"The community of bishops and spouses supports and stands together in solidarity with each of our brothers and sisters in this Episcopal Church as they make these decisions according to their conscience and through prayerful discernment and invite the siblings of The Episcopal Church to join us in that solidarity," the House of Bishops' statement said.

– David Paulsen is an editor and reporter for Episcopal News Service.

## Perspective

### Meeting Bishop Hannon and his son by Steve Stockman

**The Reverend Steve Stockman is the minister of Fitzroy Presbyterian Church, a co-founder of the 4 Corners Festival, a rock fan, and a blogger.**

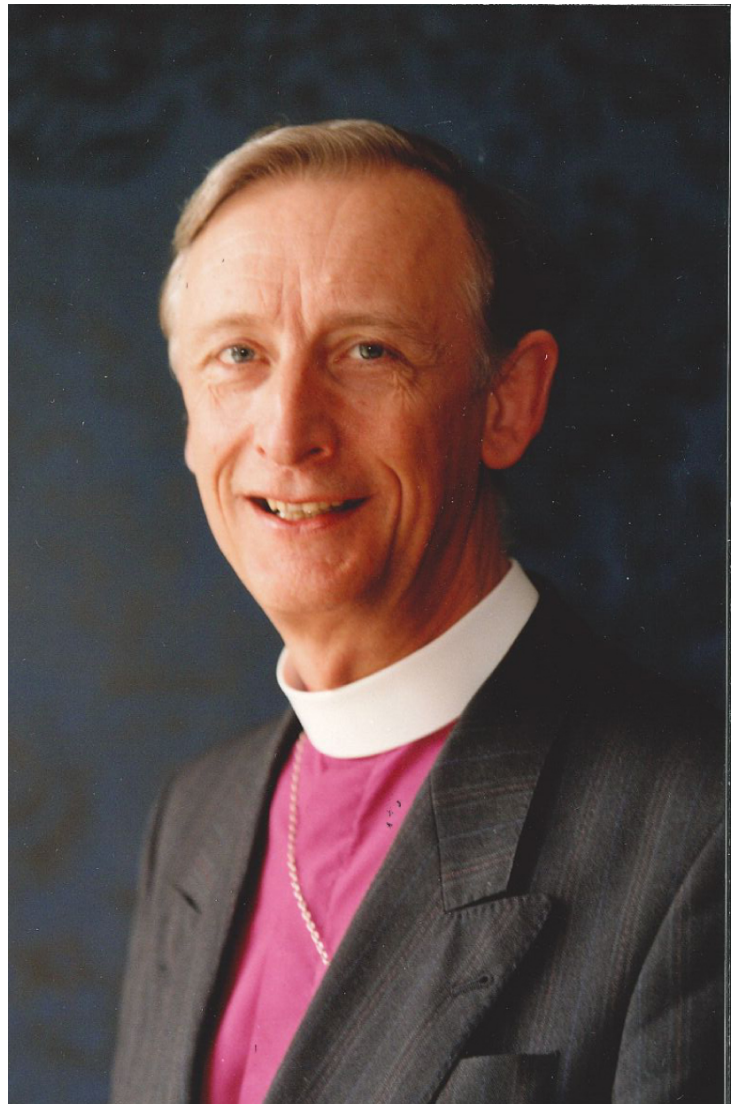


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I was so sorry to hear about the death on January 10th of Brian Hannon, former anglican Bishop of Clogher.

I imagine that growing up, especially in his late teens, Neil Hannon must have got pretty annoyed at being called the minister's son. I wonder, 10 years later, whether Rev Brian Hannon ever got used to be known as Neil Hannon's father.

I'm a minister like Brian Hannon but I am known more for being a rock fan so it will be a surprise that I actually met Bishop Hannon first and have spent a longer time with him.



I did eventually meet Neil. It was that amazing gig to reopen the Ulster Hall in 2009. Called, Remember The First Time, Northern Ireland finest did one of their own songs and a cover of the first band they actually went to see in the Ulster Hall.

I was standing in the crowd beside my friends Peter Wilson and Paul Wilkinson when I realised that their other friend was Neil Hannon! It was a perfect position to be in when The Lowly Knights introduced their cover, Divine Comedy's

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Something For `The Weekend. "Great writer", says I for effect. Neil almost fist pumped in contrived comedic glee.

It was Brian Hannon that I got to spend most time with. I was given the honour of being invited to speak at Monaghan Collegiate Prize Day. I had no idea that the Chairman of the Board of Governors was Brian Hannon, Bishop of Clogher. On the journey from the school to lunch in a nearby hotel I was driven by the Bishop.

Those who know me will know that for this particular clergyman to be thrown to such a situation was much more challenging than it would have been if Mr Divine Comedy himself had been my chauffeur.

I am reckoning it must have been late 1998 because as I got into the car the first two things I spied were cassettes of Fin de Siècle and A Short Album About Love.

I immediately confessed to the Bishop that we had something in common. I was a fan of his son. He then shared with me various things about the music industry, the press, Neil and himself.

He spoke about the press and the record company and a Bishop whose son was writing singles called Generation Sex! It was ripe for difficulties at many levels! He knew he needed to be onto the lyrics before a tabloid journalist would phone up looking a headline. The Record Company were always trying to appease the lyrics but Bishop Hannon got their weighty thoughtfulness.

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He shared with me how he had at a recent concert gone back stage and met Tori Amos and her band. Later he had told Neil how wonderful and normal they were, to which Neil shrugged and responded, "What did you expect Dad?" His son's vocation was opening the Bishop up and he was so prepared to admit his mistakes, prejudices and need for learning.

He also shared a TV moment that had moved both of us just a short time before. Neil was performing live on BBC Northern Ireland's Across The Line. To do something special he sang the old hymn Dear Lord And Father Of Mankind. I couldn't believe it at the time. It was beautiful and poignant. The Bishop and his wife Maeve were very moved. Neil would later write an Oratorio with organ, strings and a choir entitled To Our Fathers In Distress and inspired by his father's battle with Alzheimers.

Speaking of Neil's faith the Bishop said that he would tell him he was agnostic but after most of their chats the Bishop added with that mischievous humility, that I was so charmed by, that he was probably no more agnostic than the Bishop was at times himself!

I found Bishop Brian Hannon to be a warm and gracious man, humble and open. Open, not only to me or to his son's career but to himself. He was a Bishop in his early 60s whereas I was a young University Chaplain in my late 30s. His honesty near confession of what he was learning left an indelible mark on me. I regret not asking to come and spend more time with him.

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I treasure that lunch so much. As I looked back this morning I wondered if I had missed something else. Bishop Hannon's reading of others. When he introduced me to his wife at the lunch table, he introduced me as "Steve, a fan of our son Neil." He had picked up the fulness of Stockman in a short car journey - not so much Rev as Divine Comedy fan!

Today, my prayers and good wishes go to Maeve, Neil and Bishop Hannon's other sons Desmond and Brendan.

## Poem for today

### The River Foyle by John F. McCartney

Flowing wide 'twixt Derry banks  
Dark tidal rush unfurling;  
Farms nestle green along its flanks  
A river vast with deepset swirling.

Clouded with suspended mud  
Reflected blue from azure sky;  
In bygone days so prone to flood  
Seagulls swoop and steal and cry.

From Faughan mouth to Lifford bridge  
A river famed for fish;  
In summer high so plagued with midge  
Each salmon runs to gravel niche.

Whose water witnessed Viking raids  
And bore the boats of Columkille;



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The curdling cries and Norsemen blades  
Chilled clerics' hand with quivering quill.

Down through the siege of eighty-nine  
The cannons roared and spat;  
The riverside was the firing line  
But Derry walls stood round and fat.

Now ships no longer berth and stay  
The Glasgow boat is time forgot;  
The empty wharves are a parking bay  
And cars replaced the sailing yacht.

So flow you torrent of renown  
Fair maiden city on your banks;  
Culmore, Killea, and every town  
A river high in history's ranks.

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