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day -
Castlerock
Parish
Church**

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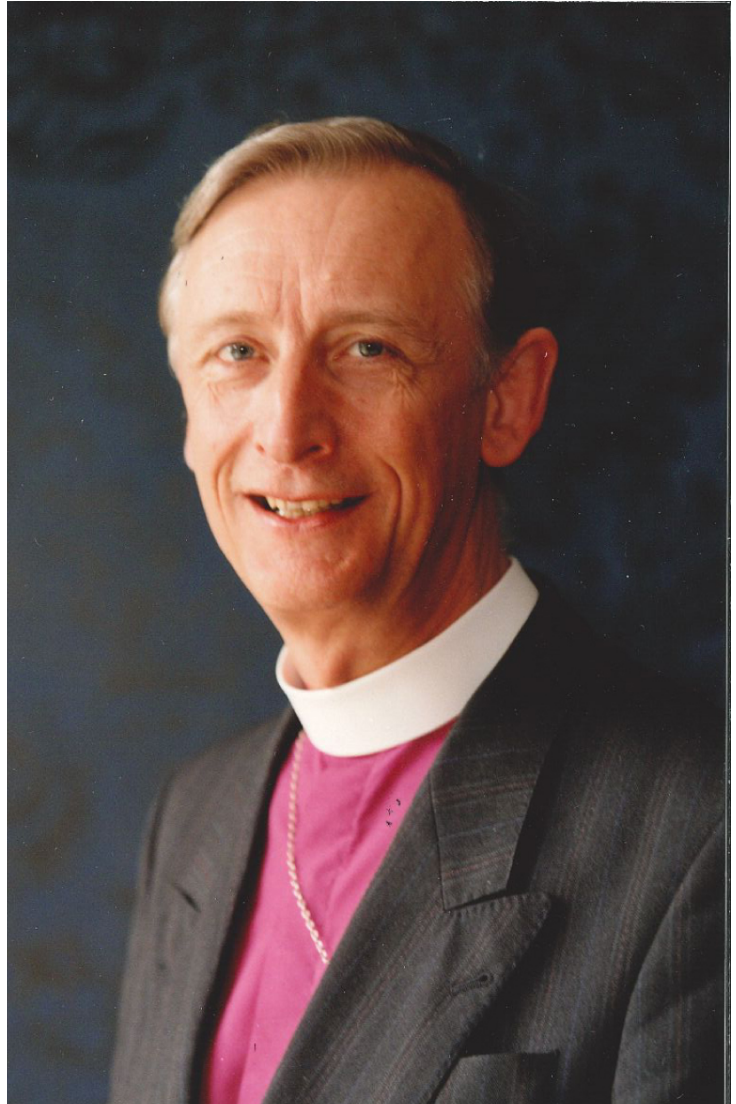
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People and places

Funeral of Bishop Brian Hannon

The funeral has taken place in County Fermanagh of Bishop Brian Hannon.

Bishop Hannon died on Monday at the age of 85 after a long illness. He was bishop of Clogher from 1986 to 2001, retiring on his 65th birthday.



He is survived by his wife and three sons, Desmond, Brendan and Neil. Neil is the singer of pop group The Divine Comedy.

The funeral was held in St Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen.

Mourners were told Mr Hannon was a sincere man of faith who lived every day the faith he preached.

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Lord Eames, former Archbishop of Armagh, in his address said; "He cared for the people of Clogher diocese as though they were parishioners of a large parish - he knew them as individuals, he knew their problems and through the darkness of the Troubles he carried their pain on his heart.

"I will long remember him moving among the beds of Enniskillen hospital on the day of the Enniskillen bomb as together he and I sought to bring some comfort to those in such tragic circumstances.

"The prayers of us all reach out to Maeve and his sons Desmond, Brendan and Neil in their sorrow and loss."

The service, which had restricted numbers of people attending due to social distancing regulations, was streamed on the Enniskillen Cathedral website.

In a statement issued on behalf of the family, Neil Hannon thanked people for their expressions of sympathy.

"Even after so many years of retirement, and his subsequent long and debilitating illness, the esteem in which he is held appears wholly undiminished," he said.

"Dad practised what he preached. Always had time for people. Always looked for ways to unite the community rather than divide it.

"The genuine warmth and fondness with which he is remembered is a wonderful testament to this, and such a comfort to us right now.

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"It makes this time a little less sad, a little more celebratory. We're very grateful."

He said the family would miss his father very much.

"My parents' marriage was a partnership that withstood the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune with grace, courage and dedication," he said.

"And Desmond, Brendan and I couldn't have wished for a better father. Intelligent, patient, encouraging, interested, fun. We will be trying to live up to his example for as long as we live."

Following the funeral service, a private family burial took place in Craghan Cemetery, Ballinamallard.

Portstewart Parish nurses featured by Health and Social Care Trust

The role of Agherton's parish nurses in combating loneliness is highlighted in a new report on the topic from the Northern Health and Social Care Trust.

The 'Northern Area Loneliness Framework' outlines a framework for tackling loneliness and social isolation across the generations.

In a foreword to the document, Health Minister Robin Swann writes: "There is growing recognition that loneliness is becoming a serious issue across all of our population and it can contribute to poor health outcomes and pressures on our health and social services. It is an issue we simply



▲ L-R: Eileen Irwin and Noelle McNinch, Parish Nurses, Portstewart „making up packs during the pandemic.

“Everyone from the youngest to the oldest citizen should enjoy healthy active lives with meaningful connections in the community in which they live.”

Agherton parish nurses Eileen Irwin and Noelle McNinch pictured in the Northern Health Trust framework document on loneliness.

cannot afford to ignore as we know loneliness is as damaging to our health as smoking 16 cigarettes a day.” He adds that the restrictions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic have exacerbated isolation and loneliness.

The report reveals that there are currently four Locality Loneliness Networks within each council area in the Northern Trust. Chief Executive Jennifer Welsh writes: “I look forward to the day when a Northern Ireland Loneliness Strategy is launched.”

Agherton Parish appointed the first parish nurses in Northern Ireland in October 2019. Since taking up their roles, Eileen Irwin and Noelle McNinch have been working

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to improve the mental and physical well-being of parishioners and the community.

In the Northern Area Loneliness Framework, Eileen and Noelle are featured as part of the Causeway Loneliness Network making up packs for distribution to isolated people during the pandemic.

The rector of Agherton, the Rev Malcolm Ferry, said the inclusion of the parish nurse scheme in the document shows the importance of church engagement in local health initiatives.

Two appointments in Armagh

The Archbishop of Armagh, the Most Rev'd John McDowell, has made the following appointments:



The Rev'd Diane Matchett (below) to be Rural Dean of Tullyhogue

The Rev'd Gary McMurray to be Warden of Readers for the Diocese of Armagh.

Making the announcement the Archbishop expressed his thanks to Canon Barry Paine the outgoing Rural Dean of Tullyhogue and Canon Aonghus Mayes the outgoing Warden of

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Readers. “Canon Barry Payne has served almost ten years in the office of Rural Dean with efficiency and cheerfulness. Although a Rural Dean is for the most part involved in property and governance matters, here in the Diocese of Armagh, a strong tradition of fellowship and mutual support within rural deaneries has developed, which has been very beneficial to clergy morale and wellbeing. I know that the Rev’d Diane Matchett will bring her own gifts of friendship and enthusiasm to this role.

“The office of Reader is an ancient one in the Church, and was revived over a hundred years ago in the Church of Ireland to allow those with a particular vocation relating to the reading of The Office and the proclamation of the Word to exercise their

calling within the due order of the Church, for the building up of the Body of Christ.

Canon Mayes has carried out the role of Warden of Readers in that same spirit and I know that the Rev’d Gary McMurray (right) will apply himself to this important role with equal judiciousness and devotion. I am delighted to say that Canon Michael Kennedy, who has a wealth of experience



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in this field, has agreed continue in his role as Assistant Warden of Readers.

Rev'd Diane Matchett said "I am humbled and honoured to be asked by the Archbishop to take on the role of Rural Dean in Tullyhogue Rural Deanery. I have been so grateful to Canon Barry Paine for all the help and support he has given over his tenure, and I am confident of his ongoing support and help as I begin mine. I would genuinely value your prayers; thank you."

Rev'd Gary Murray commented "I would like to thank Archbishop John for appointing me as the Warden of Readers. Diocesan and Parish Readers have a valued ministry in our diocese, in leading God's people in worship, and reading and preaching God's Word. I look forward to supporting and equipping our current Readers, and to developing Reader ministry in the diocese."

Bishop of Salisbury announced

The Queen has approved the nomination of The Very Reverend Stephen Lake, Dean of Gloucester, for election as Bishop of Salisbury, in succession to The Right Reverend Nicholas Holtam following his retirement.

Stephen trained for ministry at Chichester Theological College. He served his title at Sherborne Abbey with Castleton and Lillington in the Diocese of Salisbury and was ordained Priest in 1989.

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He became Vicar of Branksome St Aldhelm from 1992 and was additionally appointed Rural Dean of Poole in 2000. In 2001, Stephen was appointed Sub Dean of St Albans, and took up his current role as Dean of Gloucester in 2011.

Stephen is a Church Commissioner and Lead Dean for Safeguarding. He is married to Carol and they have three adult children.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts and books

Racial Justice Sunday 2022

Racial Justice: What's it got to do with me? — the theme for the event on 13 February 2022

Racial Justice Sunday (RJS) is a call for all Christians to engage in the righteous struggle for racial justice because racial justice is everyone's business.

New resources, provided by our colleagues at Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, contain a range of materials that will enable churches and congregations to carry out an act of worship or a service focusing on racial justice. The second part of the resources provides groups and individuals with information, ideas and activities that enable them to continue the conversations that may emanate from RJS.

All churches are encouraged to focus on the 3 Rs of 'Remembering', 'Reflecting' and 'Responding':

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Remembering the importance of racial justice.
Reflecting on human diversity and thanking God for it.
Responding by working to end injustice, racism and
ignorance through
prayer and action.

CTBI's Director of Justice and Inclusion, Richard Reddie, says "...the Bible has a lot to say about justice because as God's Word, it reflects God's heart for justice. It can be argued that we should love justice because God does! Racism and racial discrimination are justice issues because they deny basic justice and human dignity to women and men who are made in the image of God. Equally, they are sinful because, among other issues, they assume all are not equal before God and are not part of God's family."

Resources to download at -

[[] <https://cte.org.uk/racialjusticesunday2022/>]

Methodist Covenant resource for children

MCI has developed a brand new easy-to-use resource to help you navigate through the idea of "Covenant" with children. Download this free resource and discover more about God and His promises with your children in Church, Sunday School or at home.

irishmethodist.org/imyc-children-

Feel let down by COP26?

Want to know what to do now? Climate Sunday is running a webinar next week looking at how churches can take climate action in 2022.

churchnewsireland@gmail.org

ZOOM WEBINAR

**Leaving a lasting legacy
in churches after COP26**



**Climate
Sunday**

CLIMATE SUNDAY: WHAT'S NEXT AFTER COP26?

20 January 2022, 7.00PM – 8.30PM

COP26 may be over, but it will continue to be vital for churches to build on the progress made over the Climate Sunday campaign. We're calling on churches to continue to deepen their understanding of creation care and climate justice, to continue to take action in their buildings and community for the environment, and to raise their voices to put pressure on the UK government to scale up and follow through on climate commitments made in Glasgow.

Join us to hear about where you can go next in the pursuit of creation care and climate justice. We'll be focusing on three main questions:

1. How can churches continue to incorporate the environment and climate in their teaching and worship?
2. Why is it helpful for churches to be part of a greening scheme as they make commitments for the climate?
3. What needs to happen to keep 1.5 degrees alive?

We'll have panellists from the Climate Sunday steering group as well as guests from the greening schemes to tell you about their campaigns and actions. The panel will be chaired by Andy Atkins from A Rocha UK.

REGISTER YOUR ATTENDANCE

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Street artist on Songs of Praise

Bristol is famous for its street and graffiti art. Aled Jones went to meet the artist who's created an impressive design on the side of a church, to find out the link between butterflies and the Bible. Songs of Praise Sun 1.15 @BBC One and [bbc.in/3f9V48U](https://www.bbc.com/1/programmes/3f9V48U)

Online Martin Luther King Jr Prayer Vigil

The Episcopal Dioceses of Western New York and Northwestern Pennsylvania will host an online prayer vigil to mark the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday on Monday, January 17 from noon until 5 p.m.

Titled "Embodied Peacemaking," the vigil will include prayers, music, scripture readings, and readings from Dr. King's writings and speeches. The free event is open to everyone with online registration: <https://bit.ly/31B5xae> .

"In 1963, Dr. King specifically addressed the apathy of white Christians and why African Americans could no longer wait for justice," said Dr. Gabriele Atchison, the dioceses' missionary for administrator, who has organized the vigil. "Now, many decades later and one year after the death of George Floyd, what steps do we need to take as leaders of the Christian church to become the Beloved Community that Dr. King called us to be?"

The Martin Luther King Day Prayer Vigil launches a series of programs funded by a Becoming Beloved Community

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SEED Grant from the Episcopal Church. Click here to register for upcoming events. Learn more: <https://bit.ly/3qNJtBK>.

For bishops - Ministry in a Conflicted World

Bishops of the Anglican Communion are invited to take part in a new discussion series in 2022.

‘Ministry in a Conflicted World’ will run online in February, March and April 2022, and consider formational habits that can shape leadership and ministry in a complex world.

“The Lambeth Conference theme is all about exploring what it means to be ‘God’s Church for God’s World’. The world we live in today is complex and divided. Bishops around the world are often leading and ministering in situations facing conflict, challenge, or polarisation. Our hope and prayer for this new series are that it will provide bishops with a space to share and listen to one another, as they learn from each other’s contexts and the challenges they face.” Said The Right Reverend Anthony Poggio – Adviser to the Archbishop of Canterbury on Anglican Communion Affairs. All Anglican Bishops are invited and can register for this special series by contacting the Lambeth Conference team.

The Lambeth Conference is running this series in partnership with Difference - part of the Archbishop of Canterbury's reconciliation ministry. It is part of the listening phase in the lead up to the full conference.

Read the full news article here: <https://bit.ly/3raOLHs>

News Reports

Health chaplain's national role in Scotland

A Church of Scotland Deacon has been appointed as the Scottish Government's first national advisor and operational lead on Spiritual Care.

Mark Evans DCS will be responsible for advising the government and NHS boards on the development of spiritual care policies, and setting up a board to ensure that the same standards of spiritual care are delivered in every health board throughout Scotland.

Mark who will divide his time between the new role and his current job as Strategic Lead for Spiritual Care and Bereavement at NHS Fife, said he was 'excited about it, but also a bit overwhelmed about the size of the task'.

He said: "I think if we're being honest, Covid-19 has brought up huge issues about the role and importance of spiritual care and the importance of chaplaincy. Through the main peaks my team have been in red (zone) intensive care, we've been in red accident and emergency, we've been in red receiving unit, and we've been there not just to support patients - who of course come in alone - but the staff, who have seen significant amounts of death and trauma and distress.

"So during Covid-19 many chaplains up and down the country have been heavily involved in providing staff support."

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Mark added that part of the new job, which will begin in February, would be about looking at what lessons could be learned from the pandemic. “What do we keep, what do we not keep, what do we adapt, what do we develop and where do we put resources?”

“We need to abandon the idea that chaplains are just the religious people who come and do the churchy stuff. Our remit is much wider than that – it’s bereavement care, it’s end of life care, staff support. These are all elements of spiritual care.”

Perspective

Holocaust Memorial Day 2022 by Toni Griffiths

Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) is the international day on 27 January to remember the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust, the millions of people killed under Nazi Persecution and in subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

Faith and interfaith organisations play a crucial role in fostering understanding and good relationships between different communities. HMD is an opportunity to celebrate the diversity within these communities and to challenge prejudice and intolerance.

HMD has special significance for faith and interfaith groups. During the Holocaust, under Nazi Persecution and in the subsequent genocides, individuals and groups were

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targeted simply because of their differing identities and beliefs.

The Holocaust was a campaign to murder European Jewry in its entirety. In addition, Nazis persecuted Jehovah's Witnesses, as well as Roma and Sinti people. Many Christians who resisted the Nazis in the name of their faith also died. There are examples of convent communities and individual Christians hiding and rescuing Jews. During the 1990s war in Bosnia, extremist Bosnian Serbs promoted hatred of Muslims and murdered around 8,000 Muslim men and boys in Srebrenica.

The theme for HMD 2022 is One Day. Survivors of the Holocaust and of genocide often talk about the One Day when everything changed, sometimes for the worse and sometimes for better. One Day is just a snapshot in time and therefore cannot give the full context, the background that is needed, but it can help bring a piece of the full picture to life. For those who suffered for days, weeks, months, years focussing on just One Day is a starting point. It is a way in for us to learn more about what happened during the Holocaust and the genocides that followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur and help create a safer, better future.

Holocaust Memorial Day Trust (HMDT) is funded by the UK Government to promote and support HMD and we are here to help you to mark HMD 2022. We understand that being physically together whilst living with the challenges of Covid-19 may not be possible this year and that is why we have created HMD Together. This collection of virtual resources has been specifically designed to enable you to

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mark HMD in meaningful ways with other people – even if you are not able to gather together in person.

The HMDT website has an extensive amount of helpful information and resources to help you explore ways to commemorate HMD, including tailor made guidance specifically for faith and interfaith groups. We have also supported the Council of Christians and Jews (CCJ) in their production of a resource designed for use by Christians in a worship setting on or around HMD 2022. It includes prayers, activities, scripture readings, a poem, and a testimony. This resource can be adapted as necessary for your own context, and it will provide inspiration and guidance so that church communities can remember the Holocaust, Nazi persecution of other groups, and subsequent genocides, as a fundamental part of their Christian witness and discipleship.

We encourage you to mark HMD in 2022 and play your part in creating One Day in our communities without hate, prejudice and intolerance.

Toni Griffiths is Senior Outreach Officer at the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust. You can contact her on toni.griffiths@hmd.org.uk

The HMDT website can be found at: www.hmd.org.uk

Poem for today

A Song for Simeon by T.S. Eliot

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Lord, the Roman hyacinths are blooming in bowls and
The winter sun creeps by the snow hills;
The stubborn season has made stand.
My life is light, waiting for the death wind,
Like a feather on the back of my hand.
Dust in sunlight and memory in corners
Wait for the wind that chills towards the dead land.

Grant us thy peace.

I have walked many years in this city,
Kept faith and fast, provided for the poor,
Have taken and given honour and ease.
There went never any rejected from my door.
Who shall remember my house, where shall live my
children's children
When the time of sorrow is come?
They will take to the goat's path, and the fox's home,
Fleeing from the foreign faces and the foreign swords.

Before the time of cords and scourges and lamentation
Grant us thy peace.

Before the stations of the mountain of desolation,
Before the certain hour of maternal sorrow,
Now at this birth season of decease,
Let the Infant, the still unspeaking and unspoken Word,
Grant Israel's consolation
To one who has eighty years and no to-morrow.

According to thy word,
They shall praise Thee and suffer in every generation
With glory and derision,
Light upon light, mounting the saints' stair.

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Not for me the martyrdom, the ecstasy of thought and prayer,

Not for me the ultimate vision.

Grant me thy peace.

(And a sword shall pierce thy heart,

Thine also).

I am tired with my own life and the lives of those after me,
I am dying in my own death and the deaths of those after me.

Let thy servant depart,

Having seen thy salvation.

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