

January 17, 2022



**Image of the day - Lambeth Palace**

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## Overview

### +Image of the day

Belfast Cathedral with the largest Celtic Cross in Ireland

### +People and places

Blue Christmas Service - Magheralin

Carols by Car Light in Enniscorthy

Christmas Festival this weekend – Carrigrohane, Blarney, Ballincollig & Inniscarra

Walk of Light 2021 – Video available to watch now

The Dream Café connects at Ballymena

### +Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Resources for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2022

### +News Reports

M&S Christmas jumper becomes 'new uniform' for female clergy

Anglican Communion Science Commission meets for the first time

### +Press review

Links to seven reports

### +Poem for today

In Drear Nighted December by John Keats

## People and places

### **CMSI visit to Connor's partner diocese of Yei, South Sudan**

**CMS Ireland Mission Director Jenny Smyth and her husband Billy, a mission partner with the organisation, will fly to Connor's partner diocese of Yei, South Sudan, on January 18.**

They plan to meet and spend some time with the new Bishop of Yei, the Rt Rev Levi Marandula, who was consecrated in June last year in succession to Bishop Hilary Luate Abeda.

Billy and Jenny spent a number of years living in Yei with their young family. Jenny had served as a CMS Britain Mission Partner in Uganda before joining the CMS Ireland family in 1996, when she married Billy.

The couple served together as Mission Partners in Uganda, moving to Yei in 2003 following a ceasefire in the long running civil war in what was then Southern Sudan. They returned to Ireland with their children Abigail and Caleb in 2007, and Jenny was appointed CMSI Mission Director in 2015, shortly after she had been in Yei with a CMSI team.

Billy helped establish the Yei Vocational Training College (VTC), and he has made several visits to Yei. Because of the pandemic, this will be the fi

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rst time he has been back since February 2019, when he returned at the request of Bishop Hilary who wanted to see the VTC reopened after civil unrest had forced its closure.

The VTC is now training students in many practical skills, as can be seen on the college Facebook page.

Connor's partnership with Yei dates from 2007, but at Diocesan Synod in October last year, it was agreed that the formal link would come to an end in June 2023.

## **Appreciation of clerical leadership during Limavady parish vacancy**

**A presentation was made to Canon David Ferry at the morning service yesterday 16th January to mark his leadership and service to Christ Church, Limavady,**

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**during the vacancy following Canon McVeigh's retirement.**

Canon Ferry took over pastoral duties in February 2021 at the height of the pandemic.

The Churchwardens and Select Vestry stated - "Canon Ferry was instrumental in establishing and leading Christ Church into the world of Online Services when church gatherings were postponed. He ensured that Services continued and Parishioners would not be left without Spiritual direction, he was a mainstay and reassuring face in uncertain times. Indeed his contribution to Christ Church undoubtedly played a part in what appealed to those interested in becoming our new Rector. His leadership

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CHRIST CHURCH CASTLEROCK BT51 4RA

# Flower Festival

## “Lord, for the Years”

Artistic Director Alan Beatty  
assisted by James Burnside

Friday 27th May - Sunday 29th May 2022

**Festival Times:**

**Friday 10am-7pm**

**Opening service at 11am**

**Saturday 10am-7pm**

**Sunday 2pm-6pm**

**Closing service at 7pm**

Refreshments available

Group bookings welcome

Contact Debbie Moore

07751 542013 or

[debbiemore573@aol.com](mailto:debbiemore573@aol.com)

Proceeds in Aid of Church Funds

Registered charity in NI 104695-0

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showcased the best of what Christ Church had to offer and we are indebted to him for all his work.

“Much of what Canon Ferry did was behind the scenes, such as organising Services, responding to those seeking to book weddings and baptisms and of course pastorally responding to those ill or grieving. A work that is unquantifiable but essential to the Kingdom of God.

“We parishioners are indebted to his leadership and service and are delighted that he will not be a stranger to Christ Church as he resumes life as a parishioner.”

## **Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts and books**

### **Archbishop of Canterbury on Facebook today with Professor David Ford**

**“Today Monday I’ll be live on Facebook with Professor David Ford and we’ll be exploring John 14:1-6. This famous passage contains Jesus’ final words to his disciples on the eve of his death: “Do not let your hearts be troubled...” says Archbishop Justin Welby**

They are words of comfort. In this troubled world, they are words we need to hear again.

We’ll be discussing the meaning of this passage, answering your questions about it, and spending some time praying together.

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# ‘Do not let your hearts be troubled’ *John 14:1*

Facebook Live Bible study with Archbishop Justin Welby and Professor David Ford

Monday 17th January  
6pm UK time

THE ARCHBISHOP  
OF CANTERBURY

Here’s how you can prepare: spend some time reading and praying with the passage below, and post your questions about it in the comments. We’ll try to answer as many as we can during the broadcast.

I hope you can join us on my Facebook page at 6pm UK time on Monday.

In the meantime, here is the passage in full:

[churchnewsireland@gmail.org](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.org)

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‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.’ Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’ Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.’ (John 14:1-6)

## News Reports

### Consultation will consider giving Anglican Communion say in nomination of Archbishop of Canterbury

**The Archbishops’ Council has launched a consultation on a proposal to change the make-up of the body which nominates future Archbishops of Canterbury.**

The proposal would give the worldwide Anglican Communion a greater voice on the Crown Nominations Commission (CNC) for the See of Canterbury.

At present the entire Communion outside of England is represented by just one of the current 16 voting members, compared to six from the Diocese of Canterbury alone.

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The proposal would increase the Anglican Communion representatives to five while reducing the number of members from the Diocese to three. As at present, there would also be nine other members from the Church of England, including six elected by General Synod.

The idea originated from the Diocese of Canterbury itself where the Diocesan Synod agreed a motion asking the Archbishops' Council to consider decrease the representation of the Diocese of Canterbury on future CNCs for the See of Canterbury.

The consultation, which will include key partners from across the Church of England and the Anglican Communion, will run until March 31.

Responses will be collated in the spring with an expectation of a final proposal being put to the General Synod for a vote in July. If approved it would change the Synod's standing orders, which govern CNCs.

The General Synod, as part of the consultation, will also debate the proposal within the consultation document at its next meeting next month.

## **Pope sees funny side of being snapped leaving Rome records shop**

**After a journalist reported on Pope Francis' surprise visit to a record store, the Pope surprised him back — by writing him a letter.**



Javier Martínez-Brocal, director of the Rome-based news agency Rome Reports, tweeted a black-and-white photo of the Pope exiting a record store near the Pantheon in Rome. The photo went viral as people wanted to know, “What did he buy?” The journalist also captured video of the encounter.

But while the Pope left the shop with a disc, he came for another purpose: to visit the owner, an old friend of his, and to bless the newly-renovated store.

Following the incident, Martínez-Brocal apologized to the Pope for intruding on the moment.

“I’m sorry that the Pope, who loves freedom, has to stay in his residence, because every move he makes is caught on camera,” Martínez-Brocal says in a Rome Reports video. “I

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wrote to him to apologize and to say that, on the other hand, a story like this, which can make people smile, is important in a time when we only hear about tragedies.”

To his surprise, the pontiff responded. Pope Francis confirmed that he saw the photo and even thanked Martínez-Brocal for his “noble” post.

Pope Francis revealed that he had attempted to keep his visit secret, joking that, “one cannot deny that it was a ‘terrible fate’ that, after taking all precautions, there was a journalist waiting for someone at the cab stop.”

He continued, “We must not lose our sense of humour,” and thanked the journalist “for fulfilling your vocation, even if it means giving the Pope a hard time.”

On a more serious note, he added that he missed freely roaming city streets.

“What I miss most in this Diocese is not being able to ‘wander the streets,’ as I did in Buenos Aires, walking from one parish to another,” he wrote.

Martínez-Brocal said: “I think the Pope recognizes the importance of a journalist’s job, even if it’s sometimes uncomfortable for him or causes him problems. But he is grateful for this service of honestly recounting events as they happen.”

The Pope did not reveal the genre of music the shopkeepers gifted him with. That part of his visit, it seems, he kept a mystery.

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Pope Francis is a music-enthusiast. His music library, curated by the president of the Pontifical Council for Culture, Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi, houses nearly 2,000 CDs and 19 vinyl records, Catholic News Service reported. The recordings include music from the Pope's personal collection as well as music the Pope has received as gifts.

Most of the library is classical, but it also includes Édith Piaf, Argentine tango tunes, and a 25-disc collection of Elvis Presley's Gospel songs.

## **All Church of England dioceses join Eco Diocese program ahead of 2030 net-zero target**

**All 42 dioceses in the Church of England have signed up to become an Eco Dioceses as part of their commitment to reach carbon net-zero by 2030.**

The Eco Dioceses plan, developed by the charity A Rocha U.K., sees churches and dioceses awarded bronze, silver, or gold status depending on actions taken to improve their environmental footprint.

The Church of England is seeking to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2030 to meet a target set by General Synod in 2020.

The Rt. Rev. Graham Usher, the bishop of Norwich and lead bishop for the environment, said: "Having every diocese sign up is a statement of intent from all of us as we take

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seriously the need to tackle climate change and biodiversity loss today.”

## **Paedophile artist's cathedral sculptures under review by church**

**Eric Gill statues adorning an Anglican cathedral are under review, as the church becomes the first to address the paedophile artist's works.**

The artist, posthumously revealed to have sexually abused his daughters, created sculptures of John the Baptist and Christ on the Cross that are built into the exterior of Guildford Cathedral in Surrey.

Clerics and lay staff are now reviewing the statues to address the “pain caused” by Gill, and the Church of England has offered to support local clergy to tackle his “abhorrent” legacy.

Discussions among cathedral administrators come after the artist's Ariel and Prospero sculpture at the BBC's headquarters was attacked by a protester wielding a hammer, who daubed “noose all peados” [sic] on the statue.

Nicola Pratt, head of development at Guildford Cathedral, said: “The cathedral chapter [is] considering any new interpretation which may need [to] be added to acknowledge the wrongdoings of Gill and the pain caused to others.” The chapter, which administers the Grade II listed building, is understood to be considering what form any intervention to

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address Gill's legacy would take, and this intervention may not be the last launched by clergy.

Another sculpture by Gill depicting Jesus on the Cross adorns the St Thomas the Apostle Anglican church in Hanwell, London, and a memorial relief created by the artist is displayed in the village church of St Mary the Virgin in Lapworth, Warwickshire.

Other works in local parishes include a memorial to socialite Lady Ottoline Morell in the parish church of St Mary in Garsington, Oxfordshire.

The Church of England has said support will be given to local parishes who wish to address Gill's legacy following the protest against his public work.

A spokesman said: "Eric Gill's crimes, posthumously revealed, are abhorrent.

"Comprehensive lists of his art already exist, giving parishes and cathedrals the opportunity to review individually in response to their particular circumstances, and in consultation with their communities.

"The Church Buildings Council and Cathedrals Fabric Commission for England supports parishes and cathedrals with this as needed."

The church in Surrey has indicated that, as with work to address legacies of racism and slavery, there will be no top-down review, but support will be given to local parishes who choose to act.

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Work on the building of Guildford Cathedral begun in 1936, before Gill's death in 1940.

## Perspective

### Same-sex weddings in church: the zeitgeist is moving - The Guardian

**The Church of England should follow the example of Anglicans in Wales and Scotland, and give its blessing to gay and lesbian relationships**

For LGBT+ Christians, 2021 provided two significant causes for celebration. In June, the Methodist church became the largest religious denomination in the UK to allow same-sex marriage. Soon after, the Anglican Church in Wales voted to introduce special blessings for same-sex married couples. Across the border in England, the bishop of Liverpool, the Right Rev Paul Bayes, hailed the Welsh move, saying: "I trust that my own church will follow this creative and gospel-inspired lead, and I hope that this will happen soon."

After more than a decade of bitter deadlock and hurtful division in the Church of England, there is a chance that this will be the year progress is made towards answering Bishop Bayes' prayers. In April, a church-wide consultation on sexuality will come to an end, with its findings due to be published in the autumn under the title Listening to the Whole Church. The intention, according to the bishop of London, the Right Rev Sarah Mullally, is to find "a way forward for the church in relation to human identity,



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sexuality, relationships and marriage”. A commitment has been made to establishing a clear direction of travel at a General Synod in February 2023.

This moment of reckoning was intended to come earlier, but the pandemic intervened. Opting to follow in the footsteps of Wales and Scotland (where the Episcopal Church allowed same-sex marriage back in 2017) would begin a healing process, after what the archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has described as the “hurt and unnecessary suffering” caused to LGBT+ Christians by a protracted, tortured debate. Many believers have been made to feel like second-class members of the church. It is an absurdity that gay and lesbian English Anglicans should be obliged to travel to Cardiff or Edinburgh for a church blessing or wedding, and the requirement that gay Anglican clergy remain celibate in relationships has blighted lives and fostered an un-Christian culture of suspicion and surveillance. As senior clergy have argued, the church’s rigid stance on same-sex relationships is undermining its outreach efforts, particularly in relation to the young.

Theological conservatives have argued that any change to traditional teaching on sexuality should be approved by the worldwide Anglican Communion, which has 85 million members. Given the strong opposition of almost all African Anglican churches to wider LGBT+ rights, this would in effect ensure the preservation of the status quo in perpetuity. But within the Communion, each national church is independent. As Bishop Mullally has clarified, the way forward “is a Church of England decision”.

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When the time comes to make that decision early next year, it will need to be taken in an atmosphere of mutual respect and compromise. The Church in Wales has agreed a “conscience clause” allowing individual clergy members to opt out of offering blessings to same-sex couples. But as the Church of England seeks to renew itself in the context of declining congregations, it should be bold in reading the signs of the times rather than rely on narrow readings of scripture. The gospels convey a message of loving inclusivity; England’s established church should reflect that.

Editorial in the Guardian, January 12, 2022

## Poem for today

### Woods in Winter

by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

When winter winds are piercing chill,  
And through the hawthorn blows the gale,  
With solemn feet I tread the hill,  
That overbrows the lonely vale.

O'er the bare upland, and away  
Through the long reach of desert woods,  
The embracing sunbeams chastely play,  
And gladden these deep solitudes.

Where, twisted round the barren oak,  
The summer vine in beauty clung,  
And summer winds the stillness broke,  
The crystal icicle is hung.

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Where, from their frozen urns, mute springs  
Pour out the river's gradual tide,  
Shrilly the skater's iron rings,  
And voices fill the woodland side.

Alas! how changed from the fair scene,  
When birds sang out their mellow lay,  
And winds were soft, and woods were green,  
And the song ceased not with the day!

But still wild music is abroad,  
Pale, desert woods! within your crowd;  
And gathering winds, in hoarse accord,  
Amid the vocal reeds pipe loud.

Chill airs and wintry winds! my ear  
Has grown familiar with your song;  
I hear it in the opening year,  
I listen, and it cheers me long.

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