

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – the Killala Quilters

May 18, 2023

Image of the day

The Killala Quilters

Presentation of quilt by Killala Quilters to St. Patrick's Cathedral Restoration Fund

People and places

Followers of Jesus for the transformation of the world - Methodist Church annual conference

The 254th annual conference of the Methodist Church in Ireland will be held in Assembly Buildings, Belfast, on Thursday 8th – Saturday 10th June.

The Representative Session of the Conference will begin with the Service of Installation of Rev David L Turtle as President of the Methodist Church in Ireland on Thursday 8th June at 7.30pm and will end with the Ordination Service, which will take place at 5:00pm on Saturday 10th June.

The Conference will relate to the ongoing theme the church is currently exploring -

“Living wholeheartedly as Followers of Jesus for the transformation of the world”. View the programme and

May 18, 2023

watch live here: <http://bit.ly/mciconf23> Mothers Union explores new Life Boat



Mothers Union visit new lifeboat

Trory and Killadeas Mothers' Union organised a fascinating day out to the new RNLI Lough Erne lifeboat station for members

May 18, 2023



and anyone interested in seeing around. The afternoon finished with a delicious afternoon tea in Killadeas.

Chaplaincy community faith celebration



It was a joyous evening for the Catholic Chaplaincy community at Queen's University.

May 18, 2023

Ogaku was baptised, confirmed and made First Holy Communion, Tara was received into the Church and Felicity made Confirmation. Please hold them in your love and prayer as they begin these new and exciting chapters in their faith stories.



Come to our Big Brekkie!

Ready to change the world over breakfast? We'll be serving a delicious morning meal, while raising money to fight poverty and injustice worldwide.

**Bangor Abbey Parish Centre
Sunday 21 May
Breakfast served from
9am - 10am
Last orders taken 9.45am**

Tickets available from the Parish Office

£10 each

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May 18, 2023

The Chaplaincy stated, "Already this year seven students have received instruction in the Catholic Faith at Chaplaincy with another preparing at present. Any student who wishes to connect with Church and be prepared for the sacraments, know we stand ready to assist you however we can. Just drop an email catholicchaplaincy@qub.ac.uk "

The service was hosted in nearby St Brigid's Parish, Belfast.



ST MOLUA'S FLOWER FESTIVAL
19th – 21st May 2023
FRI/SAT 10am-8pm & SUN 2-6pm

FRIDAY 19th MAY
11am Opening Ceremony
opened by The Rt. Revd. David McClay,
Bishop of Down & Dromore

During our Flower Festival we are so very blessed at St Molua's to have great musicians, supporters and associates giving their time to make your visit even more special!

FRIDAY
to include: Noel Lamont - viola / Ken Robb - piano/organ

SATURDAY
to include: 2pm Hayley Howe - violin / 3.30pm Una Voce Ladies Choir
5pm Tristan Russcher - piano/organ

SUNDAY
2pm Cantionculae Chamber Choir
Further musicians will include:
singers - Janine Asquith and Melissa Murray
organ and piano - Audrey Gillian, Revd. Percy Patterson, Stella Bell

SUNDAY 21st MAY
6.30pm A Service of Thanksgiving
at the closing of the Flower Festival
Guest preacher: The Most Revd. John McDowell,
Archbishop of Armagh & Primate of All Ireland

Sunday's Thanksgiving service will include worship led by Stormont Community Choir.



United youth groups good turn for Irvinstown

A great bit of work took place last Wednesday evening in Irvinstown - members of the Scouts, Girls' Brigade and Boys' Brigade (drawing in young people from the Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Methodist and Church of Ireland churches) joined together for a litter picking session around the town.

May 18, 2023

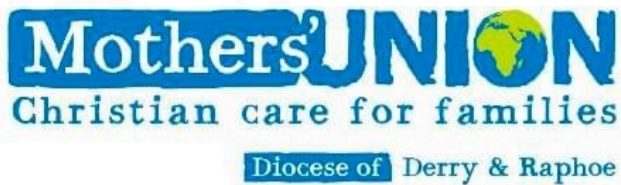
This kind of working together is nothing new for these youth groups and it also reflects the very positive whole-community spirit of the area.

Well done indeed to all the leaders, young people and parents.



The TLK Diocesan Communications Team

Together at General Synod - Ros Stevenson, Canon Andrea Wills, Janet Bray, Heather Pope, Stephen Fletcher DCO with Canon Kevin O'Brien



Family Fun Day!



Saturday 10th June 2023

10:00am – 3:00pm

Ulster American Folk Park

Omagh

£5/€5 per child, adults free

Come along for:

Games

Story

Songs

Treasure Hunt

Exploring



Parishes must book in advance with numbers.

For a booking form email

kirsty@derryandraphoe.org

Presbyterian Women's annual conference

Women of all ages in Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI) congregations gathered to worship and find out how Presbyterian Women – or PW as it's known - has continued to make a difference to the lives of so many across the country and overseas this past year, at the organisation's annual conference in Belfast.

Supporting the development of ministry among women in PCI congregations, upwards of 1000 women attended the meeting where they heard that Mental health and counselling at home and supporting Christian broadcasting across the Middle East and North Africa will be the special projects Presbyterian Women will be focussing on this year.

Founded over 130 years ago the annual conference, which is the largest event organised by PCI after its General Assembly, also heard from guest speaker, Rev Ali Calvin, the current rector of Christ Church in Kilkeel, who spoke on this year's theme 'Being Transformed', which is taken from Romans 12:2.

Pauline Kennedy, PCI's Women's Ministry and PW Development Officer, explained that Presbyterian Women is an organisation within PCI, "that enables, encourages and equips women to become disciples of Christ. We are very blessed as an organisation of some 450 groups, as we are able to do more together than we could do alone. Together, PW is a real partnership that is able to support the development of ministry to women in the Church each year, and support our Mission Fund annually to the tune of around

May 18, 2023

£300,000. We are so grateful for the generosity of our groups up and down the land who also enable us to support our various special projects,” she said.

Esther Parker, Ann Wilson, Ali Calvin, Pauline Kennedy at the Presbyterian Women's Annual Conference.

In her address, Presbyterian Women’s President for the forthcoming year, Ann Wilson, said that it was good to be able to come together without the restrictions of the recent past. “We are thankful to God that this past year so many PW Groups have got up and running once more, despite the challenges they may have faced. Moving forward hasn’t always been easy, and for some of our groups difficult decisions have had to be made...”

Beating the bounds in Balteagh

The parishioners of the Balteagh Group of Parishes, near Limavady, have revived an old tradition which dates back to medieval times called ‘Beating the Bounds’ during which they will travel throughout the four parishes, giving thanks for creation and praying for those who live and work in the community.

The initiative is the brainchild of the local Rector, Rev Rhys Jones, and was launched on Tuesday evening (May 16th). The date was chosen because of its proximity to last weekend’s Rogation Sunday – which the Rector describes as “an ancient and much neglected festival” in the witness of the Church's liturgical year.



“The word ‘rogation’ comes from the Latin rogare, ‘to ask’,” Rev Jones says, “and in times-gone-by it was a festival in which parishes asked God’s blessing on the land, its people, its crops, its livestock, and on all that dwelt upon and within God’s Good creation.”

The first ‘Beating the Bounds’ walk took place on Tuesday evening in the Tamlaghtard Parish, beginning at the Old School in Bellarena. Unfortunately, illness prevented the Rector from leading the first walk and his place was taken instead by Diocesan Reader and Tamlaghtard Parish stalwart Brian Robinson.

In the days before legally recognised maps were commonplace, the yearly tradition of clergy ‘Beating the Bounds’ was accepted as a means of re-establishing



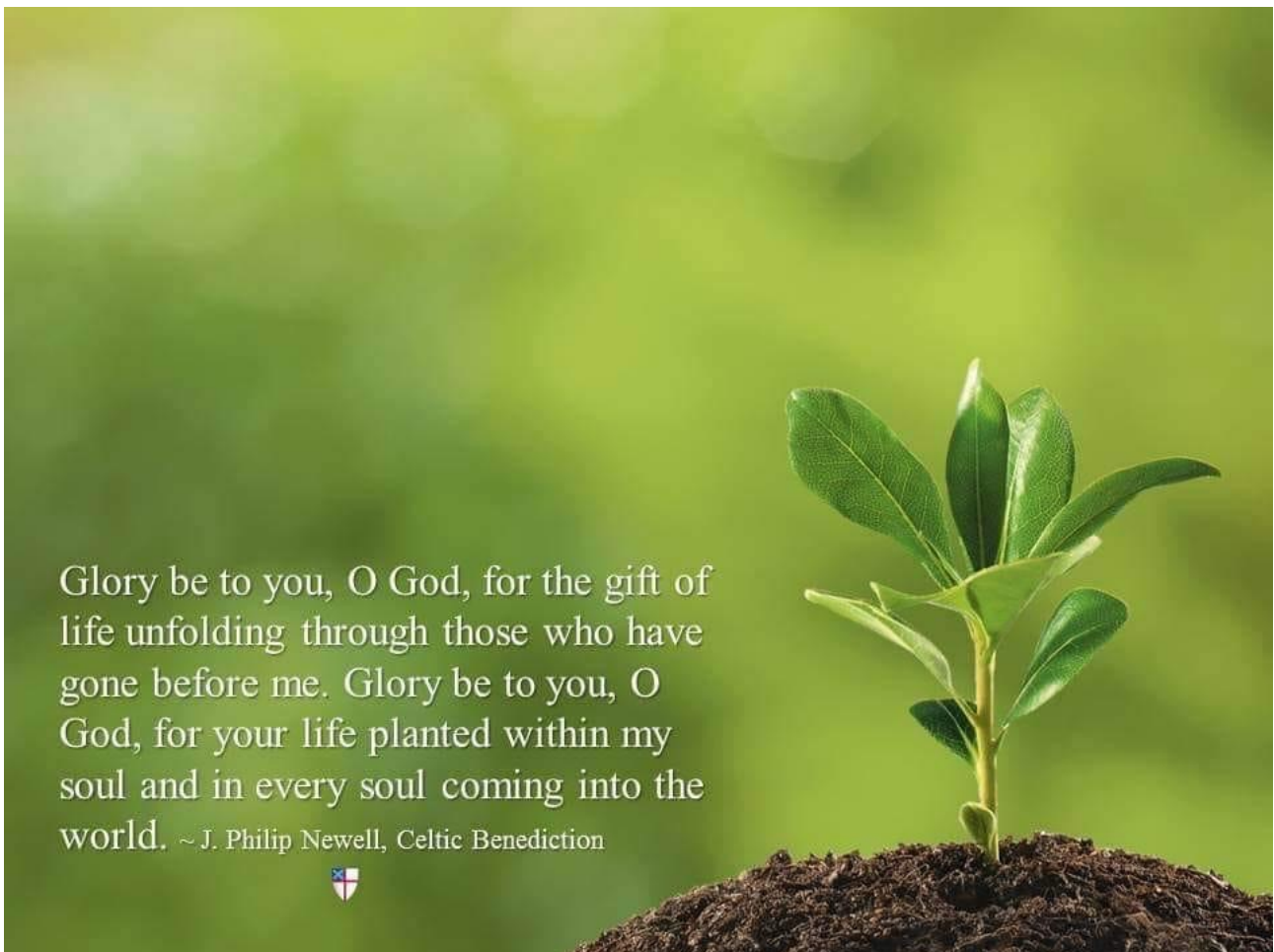
property ownership and the extent of parish lands. Markers would be laid and erected to indicate various property limits and the people and livestock therein prayed for. “That seems a wonderfully symbolic means of not only invoking God’s blessing upon our parishes,” Rev Jones says, “but of offering thanks to God for the wonder that surrounds us; for after all: ‘The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it.’”

Over each of the four Tuesdays following Rogation Sunday, parish members – and the Rector, once he is restored to health – will walk several miles of each of the four parishes in the Group, giving thanks for creation, and praying God’s blessing and providence for parishioners' livelihoods and homes, and for every member of every family on the parish registers.

May 18, 2023

Next week's walk, departing from Binevenagh Mountain Lake on Tuesday 23rd May at 7.15pm, will include part of St Lugh's Parish. On Tuesday 30th May, it'll be the turn of St Canice's Parish, departing from Keady Quarry at 7.15pm. And the final walk will be in the Parish of Carrick on Tuesday 6th June, setting off from the Church grounds at 7.15pm.

Balteagh is on the coastal route between Limavady and Coleraine. If driving come in that direction. To your right will be the massif of which Benevenagh mountain is part. Sunshine on the rock faces contrast with the plain stretching on your left to the Atlantic is immense. Where else in Ireland can you see a landscape similar to the Dutch polders or the English Fens? The sight of the church in a small stand of trees is picture postcard.



Glory be to you, O God, for the gift of life unfolding through those who have gone before me. Glory be to you, O God, for your life planted within my soul and in every soul coming into the world. ~ J. Philip Newell, Celtic Benediction



May 18, 2023

And at Bellarena you can be amazed at the largest remotely-sited modern railway station in Ireland. Here there are two really long platforms to facilitate Belfast and Londonderry bound trains to stop side by side on an otherwise single track. It was officially opened by the Late Queen Elizabeth who remembered the journey from her first visit to Northern Ireland accompanied by her husband, the Duke of Edinburgh. The railway going north runs alongside the sea for several miles. Michael Palin is a committed fan. Beating bounds in Bellarena with superb scenery , yes - but on a dry, sunny day.

Perspective

A life changed by Jesus

Read the story of a Bolton mum who was struggling with alcohol addiction before receiving care, compassion and community at her local church.

As a young mum who had fled an abusive relationship, Jenny Garland found herself on a destructive path of alcohol abuse.

“In my early twenties I fell into a fun, party lifestyle, but this soon crossed an invisible line, and I became addicted to alcohol,” recalls Jenny (pictured next page), “I relied on drinking to get me through the day. To the outside world, I was coping; going to work and taking my children to school.

May 18, 2023

But behind closed doors I was struggling.



“After a heavy weekend of drinking I had reached a really low place, looking in the mirror I could see nothing but darkness.

“That same Sunday I received a text message from our local vicar’s wife, Amy, inviting me to a barbeque. I replied to say that I couldn’t as I was an alcoholic. These were words I’d never even uttered to my own family, but I felt desperate for help.”

The kindness shown by Amy and her husband Rev Ben Woodfield (pictured next page), the vicar at the planted church in Oldhams estate in Bolton, was immediate. They welcomed Jenny and her children into their home offering practical and emotional support.



“Ben helped me to see that Jesus was there for me and I didn’t need to look for love in the wrong places. As I sat and prayed, pleading for God to help me, I physically felt a huge weight lifting off my shoulders. This experience was the start of a transformation in my life.

“I had always felt that church was a peaceful place and had a feeling of coming home when stepping through the doors, but I didn’t feel worthy of God’s love. The people at our local planted church on Oldhams estate showed me that God loves me no matter what I had done in the past.

“I was in a dark, lonely place for many years, and alcohol had destroyed my faith, hope and was destroying me and my family. In 2016, I found Oldhams Church and my relationship with Jesus. I haven't touched a drop of alcohol since. A true miracle from God.”

Six years on, Jenny is now an active member of Oldham's church. She has completed Bible courses including Alpha and M:Power, helps run the community café and has recently trained as an Authorised Lay Minister.

Her experiences have led her to help others, through a Bible-based recovery programme called 'Celebrate Recovery'. Jenny co-runs the women's group helping others suffering with addiction to overcome the disease.

The future is bright for Jenny and her next goal is to train as a Christian counsellor; she is working on her Level 3 counselling course and assisting with prison chaplaincy work. Jenny's compassion, empathy and love of Jesus shines out of her as she goes about this work.



May 18, 2023

The Diocese of Manchester's estate churches, working out of our community centres and other public buildings, are able to reach out to local people and sharing Jesus' message. The work they carry out makes a real difference to the lives of local people and Jenny's story is a testament to the support they can offer.

Supported by Strategic Development Funding, Oldhams church was established six years ago, and was the first church planted by the Antioch Network - they now have 10 churches. The Antioch Network works within the Diocese of Manchester with the aim of growing disciples of Jesus and serving those living in some of the area's most disadvantaged communities. You can read more about the initiative in this interview with Ben and Amy Woodfield [<https://ccx.org.uk/content/ben-amy-woodfield/>]

Poem for today

To Daffodils by Robert Herrick

Fair Daffodils, we weep to see
You haste away so soon;
As yet the early-rising sun
Has not attain'd his noon.
Stay, stay,
Until the hasting day
Has run
But to the even-song;
And, having pray'd together, we
Will go with you along.

May 18, 2023

We have short time to stay, as you,
We have as short a spring;
As quick a growth to meet decay,
As you, or anything.
We die
As your hours do, and dry
Away,
Like to the summer's rain;
Or as the pearls of morning's dew,
Ne'er to be found again.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

The publication of Church News Ireland is overseen by Very Rev Dr Houston McKelvey OBE, QVRM, TD. He may be contacted at houstonmckelvey@mac.com

May 18, 2023