



**Image of the day -  
Annahilt Mums walk for water**

**Six Annahilt mums have completed a walking challenge to highlight the impact of climate change on some of the world's poorest people while raising funds for international development agency Christian Aid Ireland.**



## **Bishop prints money for Cathedral**

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Above - a copy of the print of the original painting by Annie West. © 2020 Bishop Paul Colton and Mrs Susan Colton

**30th November 2020 marked the 150th anniversary of the Consecration of Saint Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork and a short Service online inaugurated a year of celebrations.**

Marking the anniversary personally, the Bishop of Cork, Dr Paul Colton, and Mrs Susan Colton, commissioned the renowned artist [Annie West](#) to paint a contemporary celebration of the Cathedral.

The Bishop and Mrs Colton decided to make a very limited edition – 100 prints in total of the original – available for purchase.



Recently, Bishop Colton presented the Dean of Cork, the Very Reverend Nigel Dunne, with a cheque for €3,000, being the proceeds of the sale of the limited edition prints

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and suggested that the money might be used for something in Saint Fin Barre's Cathedral to mark the sesquicentenary.

The Annie West painting depicts the west front of the Cathedral as it became in the years after the consecration, and as it is today with a gathering of people on the driveway of the Bishop's House opposite, on their way to a party of joyful celebration and from a Service of Thanksgiving (both of which had to be postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic).

The bunting is based on the flags of Saint Patrick and of the Anglican Communion. Among the crowd are representations of people from the community today, including some choristers and clergy, as well as, in the communion of saints, some of those who were alive at the time of the Consecration in 1870, Bishop John Gregg, Miss Frances Gregg, the architect William Burges, and some of the workmen who worked on the Cathedral in the 1860s and 1870s.

## **Six Annahilt mums 'walk for water'**

**Six Annahilt mums have completed a walking challenge to highlight the impact of climate change on some of the world's poorest people while raising funds for international development agency Christian Aid Ireland.**

Louise McGregor and Susan Wilson are among six women from the Church of the Ascension in Annahilt (Down & Dromore) who completed a 5 km walk around Hillsborough Park on 12 May while carrying buckets of water. In a normal

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year, the friends attend monthly coffee mornings held at their church to raise funds for Christian Aid but with churches closed for much of the last year, they decided to do a 'walk for water' instead, coinciding with Christian Aid Week (10–16 May).

Their walk was inspired by Rose Jonathan (68), a widowed grandmother from Kenya where severe drought and a changing climate mean that she must spend up to seven hours a day walking to fetch water for her family and livestock.

Rose has been the sole carer for her six grandchildren since her husband died and her daughters moved to the city for work. Climate change has brought drought and hunger to the Kitui region of eastern Kenya, leaving Rose and many other women and girls in Dili village with no option but to walk long distances each day to collect water.

In the rural areas of many African countries, it falls to women and girls to collect water for their families and farm animals, and in drought-affected regions this can involve long and often dangerous journeys on foot. In Kenya, Christian Aid is responding to the crisis by funding the building of low-tech, sustainable earth dams which capture and store water when the rains do come.

Elsewhere in Kenya, Christian Aid has built a sand dam for Florence Muthiani and her community, just a short distance from her village. With easy access to water, Florence has been able to grow fruit and vegetables to feed her family and surplus to sell for cash. She also manages ten beehives and sells the honey for cash at the market.

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Before the water source was built, Florence would spend eight hours a day collecting water but now she has time to develop her farm business. She has a cow, a donkey, two turkeys as well as some goats and sheep.

Christian Aid Ireland Chief Executive Rosamond Bennett thanked Louise, Susan and the other women for taking on a 'walk for water' challenge. She said: "In a year when our fundraising has been impacted by the pandemic, we're delighted that our supporters are finding new and imaginative ways to make up for the lost income. The Annahilt parishioners always give generously to support our work and their kindness is already reaching countries such as Kenya, bringing hope to people living in poverty – people like Rose."

[St Macartan's Cathedral, Enniskillen](#)



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## Give

To support the Annahilt 'walk for water', please visit [caweek.ie/annahiltwalkforwater](http://caweek.ie/annahiltwalkforwater) to make an online donation or post a cheque made payable to Christian Aid Ireland and marked 'Annahilt walk for water' on the reverse to: Christian Aid Ireland, 96 Beechill Road, Belfast, BT8 7QN.

## Former pupil of Methody leaves school £13.5m in will

**Methodist College in Belfast is celebrating the largest ever donation in its 150-year history, with a past pupil leaving an astonishing £13.5m, Allan Preston writes in the Belfast Telegraph**

In a special school Assembly video, Methody Principal Scott Naismith told pupils about the “transformational donation” legacy from former pupil Richard Henry (Prescott) Kerr.

Known as Prescott to friends of family, he was the youngest of five from a farming family and boarded at Methody in the 1940s

Excelling in his studies, he also enjoyed rowing and rugby before earning a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from Queen's University.

After continuing in his education at the prestigious Cornell University in the United States, Prescott returned to Northern Ireland where he worked in agricultural foods with Banbridge company Coburn's and later set up his own business in 1985.



Described as a deeply caring individual, Mr Naismith said Prescott retired shortly afterwards to care for his wife Bea. On January 24 last year, he passed away peacefully at Hynetown House in Dartmouth.

“Prescott cared deeply about those he loved, and gave generously of his time and himself to support and care for them,” Mr Naismith said.

“He also wanted to leave behind a legacy that would help to ensure that pupils who attended Methody would be supported in and out of the classroom to thrive and succeed.

“Thanks to the generosity of Richard Henry (Prescott) Kerr we are celebrating the largest single donation to this school in its 150 year history.

“A legacy worth £13.5m to support the life and work of the College.”



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After discussions with representatives of the Prescott estate, and in keeping with his interests, the Methody governors have agreed that a portion of the funds will be used for pupil mental health and wellbeing.

Contributions will also be made to capital development projects and “enhancing the opportunities for pupils of modest means”.

Mr Naismith added the donation has been “judiciously invested in an ethical fund” to ensure the legacy will benefit pupils for generations to come. “Prescott's kindness will have a significant impact on Methody, allowing us to embark on development work, the realisation of which would otherwise have been inconceivable.”

Mr Naismith said current and future generations of pupils at the college would benefit from the generosity and that the entire Methody community was “profoundly grateful” In the word's of the school song, he added the donation would help Methody flourish “now and in the future”.  
Courtesy the Belfast Telegraph 20.05.2021

## **Spanish bishops denounce exploitation of migrants amid crisis**

**The Spanish bishops’ conference expressed concern that migrants were being used to exert political pressure after a sudden influx of migrants in the Spanish territories of Ceuta and Melilla increased tensions between Spain and Morocco.**

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In a statement released May 18, Auxiliary Bishop José Cobo of Madrid, head of the conference's migration department, and Dominican Father Xabier Gómez, the department's director, warned of the exploitation of migrants following a diplomatic row between the two countries.

“Appealing to the supreme value of life and human dignity, remember that the despair and impoverishment of many families and minors cannot and must not be used by any state to exploit the legitimate aspirations of these people for political purposes,” the statement read.

Spanish authorities were caught off guard May 17 when an estimated 8,000 migrants — including more than 1,500 unaccompanied minors — entered Ceuta, a Spanish enclave bordering Morocco. An estimated 86 migrants entered Melilla, another Spanish territory located on the North African coast.

According to BBC News, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez deployed military forces to the territories to tighten the border controls and deport migrants back to Morocco. Diplomatic tensions between Spain and Morocco began in mid-April when Brahim Ghali, head of the Polisario Front — a group seeking the independence of Western Sahara from Morocco — was allowed to enter Spain with forged documents and receive treatment for COVID-19.

While Spain has claimed that Ghali was admitted solely on humanitarian grounds, Moroccan authorities criticized Sanchez's government for allowing the rebel leader into the country without notifying the North African country.

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In a May 15 interview with the Spanish newspaper, La Razón, Moroccan parliamentary leader Abdellatif Wahbi, said Spain's admittance of Ghali "was shocking to everyone."

Moroccan authorities accused Ghali of stealing humanitarian aid to refugees sheltering in the Algerian town of Tindouf, located along the Moroccan border.

"Authorizing the entry of a separatist from the Polisario Front who is accused of having committed serious human rights violations is, in our opinion, unjustified," Wahbi said.

"I believe that the Spanish government was aware of the consequences of its behavior; that is why it did not inform its Moroccan counterpart."

Spanish media reported that border guards in Morocco "stood by and watched" as migrants made their way to the sea attempting to cross over to Ceuta.

## **Books, Broadcasts, Resources and Webinars**

### **Voices of the Climate Crisis**

The Irish Council of Churches is hosting an online 'Voices of the Climate Crisis' event on Tuesday, 25 May 2021, from 10.30am to 12.00noon in collaboration with Christian Aid. The aim of this event is to equip people in church leadership (lay and ordained) to develop their church response to

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climate change by connecting them with people directly impacted by climate change and introducing them to resources developed by Christian Aid that will support their churches' engagement.

You will hear Bob Kikuyu, Global Theology Advisor at Christian Aid, and Julius Mbatia and Rebekah Wilson, young climate activists from Kenya and Ireland, about the impact of climate change on peoples' lives, and find out about resources from Christian Aid that can equip their churches to respond to the climate crisis.

You can [find out more here](#) on the Irish Council of Churches website and register at [irishchurches.org/voices](http://irishchurches.org/voices)

## **The Tablet Spring Festival - all events online**

Begins May 27

[thetablet.co.uk](http://thetablet.co.uk) - "Join us for a 3-day line-up of speakers at the inaugural Tablet Spring #Festival 2021 which includes interviews with Chine McDonald and Rowan Williams"

Day passes available for just £20 or a full 3-day pass for only £45

To book tickets visit: [ow.ly/K6L750EFcWw](https://ow.ly/K6L750EFcWw)

## **Sharing Faith With Confidence**

Church Army New Podcast Episode Alert. Jonny Price (Church Resource Officer) joins Hannah Ling to talk about why we might find sharing faith uncomfortable at times, and how we can grow more comfortable.

Listen to Sharing Faith With Confidence here -

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

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<https://bit.ly/3tFTzEk>

## Religious Peacebuilding Practicum

Online via UMass Boston, May 27-June 24

<https://www.umb.edu/summer/courses/detail/3040/2939/conflict-resolution-skills-practicum>

## Opinion - A younger church? - Steve Hilton

**The Rev'd Steven Hilton recalls the success of the Church of England's youth initiatives in the 1990s, and asks whether the Church's mission and growth might be better secured by employing not more clergy but more youth workers.**

In July 1996 I had just turned 17 years old and General Synod had endorsed a report called Youth A Part. It's worth quoting in full something of the vision contained in that report:

The vision is for a Church that takes young people seriously.

It is a Church where young people fully and actively participate at every level.

It is a Church which is built on good relationships, where young people particularly are concerned, not only with each other, but with those inside and outside the Church.

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It is a Church where there is a good theological understanding of why and how it goes about its work with young people.

It is a Church which recognizes that work of this quality needs resources and has the faith and courage to commit significant resources to the young people in the Church.

I wonder how the Church has measured up to these lofty words?

Skip forward to 1999 and I found myself at 'Time of Our Lives' with other young people from the Diocese of Chichester and every other diocese. Archbishop George Carey had invited 3,500 young people to a bank holiday weekend of events in London including workshops and seminars on contemporary and faith issues, a jazz concert, worship in London's cathedrals and at the Royal Albert Hall, and a massive garden party at Lambeth Palace.

We came in our droves in diocesan groups aboard coaches from every corner of England, sleeping in churches, halls, and crypts. There were 40 of us on the crypt floor at St Peter's Church, Walworth Road. It was both uncomfortable and great fun. And most incredibly our bishops came with us and stayed with us: for a whole long bank holiday weekend.

The outcome: thousands of young people feeling energised and wanting to commit further to Christ and his Church of England.

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Eighteen months later I was elected to General Synod (aged 21) and had begun a (long) journey towards ordination. But I wasn't the only one.

Out of this period of listening to, and engaging with, young people came many, many vocations including to ordained ministry and lay leadership. There was a sense that the Church and its leaders really did care about young people and wanted to listen to our experiences and learn from us.

There were reports, and strategies, and financial resources made available: a National Youth Strategy and a Youth Evangelism Fund. The Church talked about nurturing young people as leaders so they could be fully contributing and participating members of church communities. The Church talked about young people having stronger representative voices, and it developed ways of accrediting and training church-based youth workers as well as affirming the army of volunteers who enable youth work to take place safely.

A significant number of our diocesan gang are now serving as parish priests. This is not a coincidence.

Skip forward to 2019 (the year I was ordained deacon) and the mean age for stipendiary clergy being ordained was 40.7 years. Clearly, something had changed.

If we want to be a younger church (and I hope we do) then we will need to invest once again much more heavily in those who work with our young people. For the statistics make grim reading: 38 per cent of our churches have no 0-16s and 68 per cent have fewer than five young people.

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Dioceses across the Church are currently re-imagining structures and we have a new national vision that is evolving. That we are going to have to do things differently seems obvious to most by now and COVID has hastened the pace of change.

However, what we now must recognise afresh is that it is young people themselves who have the greatest evangelistic potential at reaching new generations for Christ.

It is young people who have much to teach the Church about transforming unjust structures.

It is young people who are increasingly committed to safeguarding the integrity of creation.

It is young people who, as a rule, welcome diversity and recognise its value.

It is young people who, when animated and encouraged, so easily develop hearts for loving service in their communities.

It is young people who have so much to offer as they challenge us: 'Why do we have to do it like that?' and 'Why do we have to be like this?'

And it is young people who have turned their back on the Church of England.

In order to equip young people for this ministry, we need to train and deploy first-class youth workers based in our churches and working in and across our parishes and our



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schools; often with other churches, other denominations, as well as with secular colleagues.

For this to take place, yes, this may mean we need fewer stipendiary priests and more stipendiary youth workers.

With finite resources, we may need to invest more strategically. If we need more youth workers (and we will need to pay and house them properly), this is likely to have an impact on the deployment of stipendiary clergy. We may need to be yet more creative across parish and deanery boundaries and there may be little room for the territorial preoccupations we clergy seem to enjoy.

Please do not misunderstand me: I love being a priest. It has completed me. I give thanks to God each and every day that I have the honour of sharing his priestly ministry.

However, those things that are specifically and uniquely priestly take up a very small part of my week. Much more of the week feels significantly more diaconal than priestly and the work of a youth worker is a diaconal ministry too, but one the Church has not honoured in the same way as we do with ordained ministry.

It's worth remembering that this historic commitment to youth ministry was Church-wide and across traditions. It was Bishop Eric Kemp (the oldest bishop by a country mile) that appointed the youngest bishop in the Church of England at that time. He knew that nurturing young people was the key to church growth and more vocations. Indeed, Bishop Lindsay Urwin went on to champion youth workers

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and was key in setting up that wonderful weekend in London. The result has been clear to see.

I hope that, as the Church of England continues to evolve its vision and strategy, the place of young people is recognised once again as being critical to our spiritual and numerical growth across church traditions. To achieve this we may need to cut the pie differently.

The divine paradox may be that if we want to see more vocations to the priesthood (among other things), we may need more youth workers and not more priests.

*The Rev'd Steven Hilton is Assistant Curate at Manchester Cathedral. Article first published on All Things Lawful And Honest - A blog pertaining to the future of the Church*

## **Media review**

### **Orange Order: Republicans taught threat of violence pays**

Belfast News Letter

The Orange Order has voiced disappointment over the latest probe into the Bobby Storey funeral – adding that it aims to work with the PSNI to ensure “balanced and equitable policing”.

[[] <https://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/politics/orange-order-republicans-taught-threat-of-violence-pays-3243125> ]

### **Nine years after DUP secretly blocked libel reform, NIO clears way for bill to protect free speech I**

Belfast News Letter

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[[] <https://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/politics/nine-years-after-dup-secretly-blocked-libel-reform-nio-clears-way-for-bill-to-protect-free-speech-3243327> ]

## **Older people subjected to 'ageism and stigmatisation' during pandemic**

RTE

Age-based response measures such as cocooning had a "huge negative impact" on mental health, Age Action said

[[] <https://www.rte.ie/news/coronavirus/2021/0520/1222795-ageism-pandemic/> ]

## **Archbishop Welby announces further investigations into John Smyth case**

Church Times

Everyone who knew about the abuse perpetrated by the late John Smyth and failed to report it will be investigated by the National Safeguarding Team, the Archbishop of Canterbury has said. In a statement issued, Archbishop Welby offered a “full, personal apology” to victims of Smyth, whose abuse, he says, was “done in the name of Jesus Christ by a perverted version of spirituality and evangelicalism”.

[[] [https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2021/21-may/news/uk/archbishop-welby-announces-further-investigations-into-john-smyth-case?](https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2021/21-may/news/uk/archbishop-welby-announces-further-investigations-into-john-smyth-case?utm_term=Autofeed&utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Twitter#Echobox=1621505018)

[utm\\_term=Autofeed&utm\\_medium=Social&utm\\_source=Twitter#Echobox=1621505018](https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2021/21-may/news/uk/archbishop-welby-announces-further-investigations-into-john-smyth-case?utm_term=Autofeed&utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Twitter#Echobox=1621505018) ]

## **Calls for Ballymurphy priest to be recognised as martyr**

Irish Catholic

There are growing calls for a priest who was killed while facing down a “hail of bullets” to anoint a wounded parishioner in Belfast to be recognised as a martyr.

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

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[irishcatholic.com/i-hope-to-live...](http://irishcatholic.com/i-hope-to-live...)

## **Bloc buster: David Frost on Brexit, Barnier and the backstop**

Spectator

David Frost on Brexit, Barnier and the backstop

<https://www.spectator.co.uk/article/bloc-buster-david-frost-on-brexit-barnier-and-the-backstop>



## **Pointers for prayer**

Mighty God,  
in whom we know the power of redemption,  
you stand among us in the shadows of our time.  
As we move through every sorrow and trial of this life,  
uphold us with knowledge of the final morning  
when, in the glorious presence of your risen Son,  
we will share in his resurrection,  
redeemed and restored to the fullness of life  
and forever freed to be your people. Amen.

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Living God,  
long ago, faithful women  
proclaimed the good news  
of Jesus' resurrection,  
and the world was changed forever.  
Teach us to keep faith with them,  
that our witness may be as bold,  
our love as deep,  
and our faith as true. Amen.

Creator of the universe,  
you made the world in beauty,  
and restore all things in glory  
through the victory of Jesus Christ.  
We pray that, wherever your image is still disfigured  
by poverty, sickness, selfishness, war and greed,  
the new creation in Jesus Christ may appear in justice, love,  
and peace,  
to the glory of your name. Amen.

O God, your Son remained with his disciples after his  
resurrection,  
teaching them to love all people as neighbours.  
As his disciples in this age,  
we offer our prayers on behalf of the universe  
in which we are privileged to live  
and our neighbours with whom we share it.  
Open our hearts to your power moving  
around us and between us and within us,  
until your glory is revealed in our love of both friend and  
enemy,  
in communities transformed by justice and compassion,  
and in the healing of all that is broken. Amen.

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Holy God,  
you have called us to follow in the way of your risen Son,  
and to care for those who are our companions,  
not only with words of comfort, but with acts of love.  
Seeking to be true friends of all,  
we offer our prayers on behalf of the church and the world.  
Guide us in the path of discipleship,  
so that, as you have blessed us,  
we may be a blessing for others,

## Speaking to the Soul

**When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things. Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely.**

1 Corinthians 13:11-12 NLT

When I was about four years old I can recall being very confused when I met new people. I presumed that they had just been made, because I had never seen them before! I had recently tumbled to the fact that people die, and that was probably because one of my grandfathers died at around that time. I came up with a theory that God probably took the bits of dead people and used them to make the new people that I had just met. It was all very logical and, in its way, quite impressive. It just happened to be wrong!

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When we are children, our minds struggle to understand the world around us and that's absolutely fine because we are children. If I had told you that it is still my view that God makes people out of those who have passed away you wouldn't think that was fine at all. You would, in your kindness, feel desperately sorry for me and, I trust, start praying for me. The fact is that our thinking and speaking changes as we get older. Many things that were a complete mystery to us as children are no longer mysterious. The fact is that, however old we are, we are still on a journey towards understanding. We all have a lot more to learn.

We need to draw two conclusions from this. Firstly, we need to be humble. We might know a lot, but we don't know everything. God hasn't revealed the whole truth to us, so we need to look at every day as an adventure on which we learn a little more about ourselves, our world and God. And secondly, we need to be excited by the thought that one day we will understand the whole picture.

## QUESTION

What new things have you learnt about God over the last month?

## PRAYER

Lord God our Father, thank you that you are constantly revealing more of yourself to us. Amen

