



Image of the day - St Ann's open for visitors

May 27, 2021

St Ann's in Dawson Street, Dublin is open for visitors.
<https://stann.dublin.anglican.org/>

Duke of Cambridge visits Kirk-supported charities in Edinburgh



The Duke met with founder and Greyfriars Kirk minister, Rev Dr Richard Frazer (right), as well as Chief Executive Officer Jonny Kinross (left). Photo courtesy of Kensington Palace.

During a week-long visit to Scotland, in his role as Lord High Commissioner to the Church of Scotland's General Assembly, Prince William spent Sunday (23 May) visiting a CrossReach care home, Queen's Bay Lodge, and the Grassmarket Community Project in Edinburgh.

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The Duke of Cambridge heard how communities and organisations associated with the Kirk have been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, but have continued to support one another in spite of physical distance.

In the morning, The Duke visited the Grassmarket Community Project before joining attendees, staff and volunteers for Sunday lunch. The project was originally developed in partnership between Greyfriars Kirk and Grassmarket Mission in 1982 and provides sanctuary and support for vulnerable people through community innovation and social enterprise. They became a standalone charity in 2010.

During his time there, The Duke met with founder and Greyfriars Kirk minister, Rev Dr Richard Frazer, as well as Chief Executive Officer Jonny Kinross. The team shared how their work makes a positive difference to people who are dealing with a wide range of complex issues including mental and physical health problems, disabilities, learning difficulties, poverty, substance misuse, abuse, social isolation and more.

“It is wonderful to have had a visit from Prince William to our Grassmarket Community Project,” said Dr Frazer.

“Over the years, the project has developed as our ministry of hospitality at Greyfriars Kirk to the community we seek to serve, and especially to those who have found themselves on the edge of society.

“The Grassmarket Community Project has collected numerous awards over the years for the outstanding and



The Duke also visited the Grassmarket Community Project's workshop, which makes furniture from recycled pews and other responsibly-resourced wood. Photo courtesy of Kensington Palace.

innovative approach it takes to supporting some of our most vulnerable citizens.

“Much of this work, which is about building a nurturing community, developing people’s self-confidence and enabling people to contribute positively to their community, is rooted in Gospel values.

“The visit showcased the amazing work of the team of members, staff and volunteers who make the Grassmarket Community Project the thriving, supportive and enterprising place that it is. The project shows that the church, working with partners and people who share our values, is able to create thriving communities of hope.”

The Duke also visited the Grassmarket Community Project's workshop, which makes furniture from recycled pews and other responsibly-resourced wood, to hear how the social enterprise creates volunteering, training, apprenticeships and employment for community members to develop work-related skills, ethics and experience.

Their diverse programme helps members develop confidence and resilience in ways that suit their individual needs, interests and abilities. A typical weekly programme includes practical (e.g. literacy, IT, gardening), creative (art, music, drama), physical (walking, yoga) and wellbeing (mindfulness, self-care) activities.

'Lifted everyone's spirits'

In the afternoon, The Duke then visited residents of Queen's Bay Lodge in Edinburgh, a care home for older people run by CrossReach, the Church of Scotland's Social Care Council.

Built in 1974, Queen's Bay Lodge provides round-the-clock residential care for older people. The Duke chatted to some of the home's 28 residents as they enjoyed afternoon tea in the garden and spoke to staff about the impact of Covid-19 on the home over the past year.

"Staff and residents were thrilled and honoured to have welcomed the Lord High Commissioner to Queen's Bay Lodge," said Maria Toth, the care home manager at Queen's Bay Lodge.

“There was a real sense of excitement and anticipation around the visit, which we hosted in our gardens.

“This really has lifted everyone’s spirits following such a difficult and challenging year and will live long in our memories.”

CrossReach was launched in June 2005 and continues the Church of Scotland's 150-year long tradition of providing high quality social care to the community. CrossReach supports over 10,000 people in Scotland living in challenging situations, making it one of the country’s largest providers of social services.

Their services include care for children and families as well as older people and help with alcoholism, drug and mental health problems, assistance for homeless people and support for those with special learning needs. Although CrossReach is part of the Church of Scotland, its range of services are available to people of all faiths, or none at all.

Clergy glue themselves to Church House furniture

Yesterday two members of the clergy have glued themselves to furniture in the reception of Church House in London in protest at the Church of England continuing to invest in Exxon Mobil despite their extraction of fossil fuels.

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Rev Sue Parffit, 79, from Bristol, and Rev Tim Hewes, a retired vicar from Oxfordshire, have been told they will be arrested.

Earlier yesterday afternoon Christians held vigils outside Church House in London and at cathedrals in Chester, Salisbury, Liverpool and Bristol. They have been asking and praying for the Church to 'Exit Exxon' and divest from all fossil fuels immediately. Instead, they would like to see the church invest in funds that promote the common good.

Rev Sue Parffit also hand delivered a letter to the Church Commissioners asking them to divest from Exxon Mobil. The building manager sent it to the head of the Church Commissioner who acknowledged that he had received it and will note its contents. She said he thanked them for their respectful protest.

In a livestream of the vigil, Rev Tim Hewes said: 'I am taking this non-violent direct action against the church commissioners and the pension board today, because of their persistence in investing in fossil fuels... It is grossly irresponsible and an obscenely irreverent use of money donated by parishioners... I am consumed with planet grief and unspeakably angry that the church to which I have sworn allegiance acts in a way that is alien to the doctrine of the Trinity: the Trinity from which God's love flows over all creation.

'To invest at this moment in history in fossil fuels, is akin to the investment by the church in previous centuries in sugar and the slave trade... To believe that maintaining investments in some way provides the church with leverage

for the greater good is a nonsense and merely provides these companies with a fig leaf to cover their continued acts of ecocide. It is not the duty of the church to attempt to guide them onto a more ecologically appropriate path - market forces will do that. It is the duty of the church to invest ethically, and by propping up these companies, it is reneging on this fundamental principle. The time for engagement is over. Divestment must be immediate and total and I will continue to do everything within my power to ensure that this happens.'

Maria Havey-Ashcroft, who was part of the vigil in Chester, said: 'If I really do understand the vastness, the depth and breadth of God's love not only for me but for the world - then as a Christian I must speak up against the injustices caused by Exxon Mobil against people and planet. That's why I'm protesting today.'

Archbishop Farrell shocked by shooting of Gardaí in Dublin

Archbishop Dermot Farrell of Dublin in a statement issued yesterday , May 26, said -

"I was shocked to hear of the shooting and injury of two Gardaí in west-Dublin yesterday. I thank God that there was no loss of life. We are indebted to all members of An Garda Síochána who provide a vital and professional service as guardians of the peace. At this time I will remember the injured Gardaí, and their families, in my prayers."

Rector pays tribute to Ethiopian school founder

A minister from Northern Ireland who has raised almost £2.4m to help educate underprivileged children in Africa has paid tribute to the late founder of the Ethiopian school he helped to fund, Alf McCreary writes in the Belfast Telegraph.

Asfaw Yemiru died earlier this month, in his late 70s. In a lifetime of service to education, he founded the Asra Hawariat School in the capital Addis Ababa, which over the past 60 years has educated 120,000 children who would otherwise not have had any schooling.

His work was recognised internationally, and an obituary of Mr Yemiru in an edition of The Economist notes that he was awarded the World Children's Prize in 2001.

It notes: "He also felt touched by luck or the blessing of God. When he was desperate for money, which was often, something turned up. Once he was given the unclaimed prize money from the National Lottery. Another time Winchester College sent him money."

The headmaster of his old Wingate school also helped to wipe out his debts.

The Reverend Canon Tim Kinahan, the rector of Helen's Bay, first met Asfaw when he visited Ethiopia over 50 years ago as a volunteer teacher in the school.

He said: "In the early days the classrooms were built by the kids themselves by what was at hand, including wood from

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eucalyptus trees they had cleared and broken bricks from a local factory. The earliest classrooms had shelves which were used as bunks by the orphans, until dormitories could be built. From the 1990s the orphans were placed with local foster families.”

Almost 60 years after its foundation the school is still going strong.

He added: “It has been through tough times, navigating the collapse of the Imperial regime of Emperor Haile Selassie, the Red Terror, the Stalinist dictatorship, and the civil war during which the school became a field-hospital for the war wounded and a transit camp for demobbed soldiers.”

During most of this period, Rev Kinahan has headed the Asra Hawariat School Fund, which he established in Northern Ireland on his return from his first visit to Ethiopia.

He said: “So far the fund has raised almost £2.4m. Much of the money, though not all, has come from people in Northern Ireland, including donations from individuals, from schools and churches, from Rotarians and from everyone in between.

“This generosity was inspired by the remarkable work of this truly remarkable man Asfaw Yemiru.”

The Reverend Kinahan added: “His vision and determination changed the lives of thousands of Ethiopians for the better.”

St Paul's needs miracle after tourist ticket sales plunge

St Paul's Cathedral is facing a financial crisis amid fears that a lack of tourists could force its doors to close and its choir to disband.

The London landmark relies almost entirely on income from tourist ticket sales, and has had its finances devastated by the pandemic.

The 90 per centage fall in income experienced by St Paul's Cathedral last year due to the loss of revenue from tourist tickets has been followed by a similar decline seen this year.

The Dean of St Paul's, the Very Rev Dr David Ison, told The Daily Telegraph: "If we can't get money and resources in the long term, then we would have to close. What else can you do in terms of having a building [that is empty?]"

"The reality is that as church incomes fall, and the number of worshippers reduces, then the ability to maintain thousands of Grade I-listed buildings decreases."

Before the pandemic hit, income from visitors accounted for 90 per cent of the cathedral's income. In 2019, this was £13.4 million, but by 2020 it fell to just £2.25 million – most of which was in the first three months of the year.

While it received £3.3 million from the government's £1.57 billion culture recovery fund, the annual running costs alone amount to £8 million.

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Nearly all the cathedral's reserves have been spent and although some staff have been furloughed, a restructure has seen almost a quarter made redundant.

The Dean's comments come amid fears that the renowned St Paul's Cathedral choir could also be at risk.

The group – comprising 30 choirboys and 12 adults – has existed since the 13th century, but the cost of continuing to pay for the adult singers is in question.

NI's oldest library turns the page on 250 years

A series of special events are planned to mark the 250th anniversary of one of Northern Ireland's most famous libraries, Alf McCearry writes in the Belfast Telegraph

The renowned Armagh Robinson Library, which reopens today after the relaxation of lockdown restrictions, is celebrating the landmark with a “silver and gold” exhibition and other commemorative events.

The oldest public library in Northern Ireland, it was built in 1771 by Archbishop Richard Robinson, the polymath 18th century Church of Ireland Primate who created many of the Primatial City's best known buildings.

It is situated beside the Church of Ireland Cathedral, where Robinson's remains are interred in the crypt.

Carol Conlin, the assistant keeper of the library, said: “The opening exhibition will carry books on the subjects of gold

and silver which were donated by the Archbishop, and a silver medal which commemorates the establishment of the library will also be on display.

“In Robinson's will he left his large collection of coins, medals and gems and prints, as well as his books, to the library, which he decreed should be open to the public, and also used as a university library.”

One of the outstanding features of the library is Dean Jonathan Swift's personal copy of the first edition of his famous Gulliver's Travels, with his handwritten corrections. There were printing changes made by the publisher in the original edition, without consulting the author.

Swift was furious about not having been consulted, and when he had finished all his corrections, he brought them to another publisher to have a fresh edition printed.

Among the 8,000 or so visitors to the library each year are many Japanese tourists keen to check Swift's references to Japan in Gulliver's Travels.

Ms Conlin said “They are delighted to be here in the library and to see for themselves the original edition with references to their home country.”

Distinguished visitors to the library have included the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, and the Irish President, Michael D Higgins. Overall the library contains some 45,000 books on theology, philosophy, classic and modern literature,

Archbishop Robinson established and then gave the library as a gift to the people of Armagh and to the public in general - Dean Shane Forster

medicine and law and many other subjects, as well as coins, sculptures and 18th century fine art.

There is also a 1614 book written by Sir Walter Raleigh, and an edition of the 1611 Geneva Bible known as “the Breeches Bible.”

The library director Dr Robert Whan said: “In essence the library is a unique record of the cultural and social history of 18th century Ireland, and it reflects the changing intellectual climate of Europe since 1500.

“It is open to everyone and above the public entrance is a welcoming message in Greek, chosen by Archbishop Robinson. When translated it means 'The Healing Place of the Soul'. I think that this sums it up.”

The Dean of Armagh, the Very Reverend Shane Forster, who is also keeper of the library, said: “Archbishop Robinson established and then gave the library as a gift to the people of Armagh and to the public in general.

“We are keen to make people realise that they can come here and share these rich treasures which have been enjoyed by generation after generation of people from all backgrounds down the ages. “It is not just for the great and the good — everyone is welcome here.”

Courtesy The Belfast Telegraph 24.05.2021

People and Places

Watch: The Revd Stephen Farrell Walking for Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza

The Revd Stephen Farrell, Rector of Zion, is among the people who have committed to walking 100 kilometres – the distance from Gaza city to Jerusalem – over three weeks to raise funds for Al Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza city. He will be pushing his daughter in her buggy and between them they are supporting Dublin and Glendalough Council for Mission's fundraising appeal which runs from May 24 to June 11. In this video he outlines his plans for the walk.

The latest conflict in the Holy Land has put huge pressure on hospitals and the Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem, the Most Revd Hosam Naoum has appealed for support for Al Ahli. The hospital is run by the Diocese of Jerusalem and serves all people of Gaza city, no matter what their religion, gender, social or political background. Dublin and Glendalough has had a link with the Diocese of Jerusalem for six years and has raised funds for the hospital previously.

You can donate to the fundraising efforts securely via the Christ Church Cathedral website at:
christchurchcathedral.ie/al-ahli/.

Once you have chosen the amount you wish to donate you will be given the option to sponsor a walker if you wish to do so.

Over the three weeks of this fundraiser a number of people have committed to walking 100 kilometres – the distance from Gaza city to Jerusalem.

They are: Diocesan Lay Reader David Reynolds, along with other parishioners of Bray; the Revd Abigail Sines, Dean's Vicar, Christ Church Cathedral; Lydia Monds, Bishops' Appeal; Canon Peter Campion, Chaplain, King's Hospital School; the Revd Martin O'Connor, Clondalkin and Rathcoole Parishes; the Revd Stephen Farrell, Rector, Zion Parish; and the Revd Nigel Pierpoint, Curate, Taney Parish.

If you or your parish would like to join them please email abigail@christchurch.ie

Voices of Hope video

Voices of Hope has been the CMSI Annual Theme over this past year. For the society's recent AGM, Roger Cooke pulled together "a wee video" which looks back over the past year, highlighting CMSI's engagement with their Global Partners. "It's exciting to be reminded of God's faithfulness and provision".

Country graveyard at Crebilly, Ballymena, vandalised

There has been outrage and disgust after vandals attacked graves and statues in a country graveyard at Crebilly, Ballymena. A spokesperson for Ballymena Kirkinriola Parish commented: "During the night an act of total desecration has taken place in Our Cemetery in Crebilly. Everyone who's graves have been affected have been contacted."

Walk4 Burundi Diary Update Week 3 (of 4)

Rev Tony Murphy's 100km Walk in aid of the Cork, Cloyne and Ross Burundi Maize Project - One interesting aspect of these walks is that they also offer parishioners an opportunity to meet (at a distance) as a result of the opening up after the lockdown. Such was the situation on Monday morning when parishioners from Templemartin, Kilmurry and Kilbonane came together for a walk around the old Kilbonane Church.

"Aherla lies in a valley so inevitably we ended up on another hill, albeit not as steep as the one we walked down on the return journey. It was a very enjoyable occasion and an opportunity to renew friendships with old friends. Many thanks to the Reverend David Bowles for organising this and for his post walk hospitality. "

Media review

'Religion entered into me': A talk with Jane Goodall, winner of the 2021 Templeton Prize

(RNS) — The celebrated primatologist is only the fourth woman to win the prize, established to honor those who use science to explore humankind's place and purpose in the universe.

[[] <https://religionnews.com/2021/05/20/jane-goodall-celebrated-primatologist-wins-2021-templeton-prize/>]

Vatican employees criticise pay cuts by Pope Francis as 'anti-meritocratic and disincentivizing'

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(RNS) — Vatican employees complained to Pope Francis about the pay cuts he enacted at the Vatican, which is struggling financially due to mismanagement and the pandemic. Employees say it should not be up to them to foot the bill.

[[] <https://religionnews.com/2021/05/20/vatican-employees-criticize-pay-cuts-by-pope-francis-as-anti-meritocratic-and-disincentivizing/>]

Sinn Féin MLAs challenge Gregory Campbell over allegations

Irish News

The DUP MP claimed Martina Anderson and Karen Mullan were involved in “illegality in community groups” in Derry

Husband calls for probe into mental health care of mother cleared of murdering three children

Irish News

Andrew McGinley said: “Whatever the outcome of this trial, it remains that our beloved children Conor, Darragh and Carla have died. As I write this, I’m no closer to understanding why”

Pointers for prayer

Holy God,
you spoke the world into being.
Pour your Spirit to the ends of the earth,
that your children may return from exile
as citizens of your commonwealth,



and our divisions may be healed
by your word of love and righteousness. Amen.

Empowering God,
you gave the church
the abiding presence of your Holy Spirit.
Look upon your church today and hear our petitions.

... Petitions...

Grant that, gathered and directed by your Spirit,
we may confess Christ as Lord and combine our diverse
gifts with a singular passion to continue his mission in this
world
until we join in your eternal praise. Amen.

Creator Spirit and Giver of life,
make the dry, bleached bones of our lives
live and breathe and grow again
as you did of old.
Pour out your Spirit upon the whole creation.
Come in rushing wind and flashing fire
to turn the sin and sorrow within us
into faith, power, and delight. Amen.

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Holy Spirit,

you poured yourself out on the people of the early church,
pour yourself out on us now.

Holy Spirit you set their tongues on fire with languages so
as to speak to one another in ways that could be
understood.

Set our tongues on fire to speak in different languages and
ways so others may hear the good news about Jesus.

Jesus, you said you had to go away so that the Holy Spirit,
the advocate, the counsellor would come and it was so.

Come once again Holy Spirit as the advocate that we all
need, as the counsellor we all need, and as the helper we
all need.

Come Holy Spirit, fan your flames of love and
empowerment, set us on fire for you once again. Bring life to
each of our dry bones.

Amen

Speaking to the Soul

**Better to be patient than powerful; better to
have self-control than to conquer a city.**

Proverbs 16:32 NLT

It's good for us to ask the question, "What matters most in
life?". Time and again the book of Proverbs helps us to think
through this question. Many people would assume that it is
good to be powerful and to have control of people and even
whole communities. Some would want to be a powerful
politician or the head of a major company. To be in charge of
a whole city might seem like an amazing and very desirable
achievement. But the writer observes that it is far more
important to have patience and self-control than to have

great power and influence. He is talking about what the New Testament describes as the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

The Bible never suggests that it is wrong to have wealth or power. If either of them have come your way then you should give thanks to God for them. What matters is that we put them in their proper place. They are nowhere near as important as living for God with the love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control which he gives to all those who walk in his ways. Money and power come and go. They are temporary. But the fruit of the Spirit is of a completely different nature being as eternal and indestructible as God himself.

As ever, the focus of the book of Proverbs is on helping the reader to live life to the full. The writer's many severe words of warning are always with the intention of helping the reader to avoid pitfalls and disaster. He sees living for God as the most exciting and desirable way of life which not only brings blessing to us as individuals but to all those around us as well. Choosing God's way is often not the easiest path but it's always the best.

QUESTION

Be honest. What matters most to you in your life?

PRAYER

Thank you Lord that you love us so much that you share the unvarnished truth with us. Help us to seek the fruit of your Holy Spirit before anything else. Amen

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