



Queensferry Crossing opening marked with church's bridge of kindness

Church members have carried out 320 acts of kindness to mark the official opening of the Queensferry Crossing.

The new crossing over the Firth of Forth opened to traffic for the first time Wednesday morning, after more than a decade of planning.

It's the longest free-standing balanced cantilever bridge in the world and has cost more than £1.3 billion pounds to build.

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The structure inspired the congregation at Queensferry Parish Church to reach out to people in the local community.

Over the last year, people of all ages have engaged in a wide range of activities to assist people such as DIY, litter picking and gardening.

They have kept a record of what they have done on post-it notes attached to a drawing of the bridge.

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Derek Hobson, a member of the church community team, said: "This was initiated in recognition of the constant need for the church to be building bridges with the surrounding community.

"Using an official drawing of the Queensferry Crossing as a template, the church was able to make its own 9ft drawing of what we call the Bridge of Kindness.

"After each act of kindness has been shared, members are invited to colour in one of the segments of the road deck, the towers or one of the viaduct supports which equates to 320 pieces."

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Hobson said children within the congregation have been particularly enthusiastic about the project, which was finally completed on Sunday.

He told Premier News : "They've been doing acts of kindness at homes, doing acts of kindness at school, helping in all sorts of ways. They've been helping people who have been hurt."

Hobson, who lives close to the bridge, said church members personally identified with the bridge because it is "right on our doorstep".

He added that it's brought people together within the Queensferry community as it was topic of discussion for several years.

He said he hopes the unity develops as the church seeks to continue to build a bridge between the community and the Church.

Hobson said: "We have got to go out to them so we can engage with them where they are and show that the love of Jesus Christ is relevant to them in their situation.

"Many have gone out of their way to be kind in the home and among their friends and seeking to include those who have no friends.

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"Older members of the congregation have also played their part in giving lifts, cooking, baking, gardening for those in need, to name but a few."

Rev David Cameron, Minister at Queensferry Parish Church, said the new bridge was an impressive feat of engineering and the design complemented the existing road and rail bridges.

"We have a striking cross on the wall of the sanctuary of the church which sums up our faith really well," he added.

"It points upward and reminds us of the importance of our relationship with God.

"But it also points outwards and speaks to the importance of living out our faith and showing love and kindness to our communities."

Rt Rev Dr Derek Browning, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, will bless the bridge next Monday.

He said he was "thrilled" to be accompanying Her Majesty the Queen who is officially opening the structure, which spans the Firth of Forth and connects Fife to Lothian.

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The event will include a welcome address by First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, a specially commissioned poem read by Scotland's Makar, Jackie Kay, and live performances showcasing a cross-section of Scotland's rich musical talent.

Ballroom dancing hit by ordination training

The Rev Danielle McCullagh was ordained a priest for the Parish of Lisburn Cathedral at a service in the Cathedral on Sunday August 27.

The 27-year-old has lived all her life in Glengormley, and is a parishioner at Carnmoney Parish Church,

She has a BA (Hons) Degree in Childhood Studies and Professional Practice Studies from Northumbria University, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Before training for ordination, Danielle worked in Carnmoney Primary School as a one-to-one Classroom Assistant with children with special needs.

Her hobbies include ballroom dancing, something she has been doing since the age of

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Pictured following the ordination of the Rev Danielle McCullagh as a priest for the Parish of Lisburn Cathedral on Sunday August 27 are, from left: The Rev Clifford Skillen, Bishop's Chaplain; Archdeacon Stephen McBride; the Rev Danielle McCullagh; Archdeacon Stephen Forde; Bishop Alan Abernethy and Dean Sam Wright.

15, but she admits she has had much less time to do it since starting ordination training!

Danielle served her internship as a Deacon at St Brigid's, Mallusk.

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She said: “I love cooking and eating good food, and spending time with friends so I’m really looking forward to being able to open my new home in Lisburn for fellowship.”

Danielle was ordained a priest by the Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev Alan Abernethy. Preacher at the service was the Archdeacon of Dalriada, the Ven Stephen Forde.

Romanian focus for Presbyterian Church’s Junior BB project

The Presbyterian Boys' Brigade World Mission Committee has just launched this year's Junior BB project, 'Revamp the Camp – Romania', which aims to raise £8,000 to pay for the refurbishment of the bedrooms in a church-run campsite in the north-west of the country.

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI) has a long association with the Boys' Brigade (BB), one of the biggest Christian youth organisations in UK and Republic of Ireland. Each year, the Junior BB project – for 8 to 11-year olds - gives Boys' Brigade companies in congregations the opportunity to help raise funds in support of an overseas project.

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While companies are free to choose how and when they raise funds for the Appeal, the aim is to have all contributions gathered in by the end of June in the following year.

PCI partners with the Reformed Church in Romania who owns the campsite in Algyogy, Transylvania, which is in north-western Romania. Over the years, many Christian camps for children and young people have taken place at Algyogy. These have included camps led by PCI global mission workers Csaba and Ilona Veres and teams from congregations in Ireland. However the rooms at the campsite are in need of major refurbishment.

PCI global mission worker, Ilona Veres, who is from Lisburn, has been involved in many camps at Algyogy over the years since she went to Romania in 1993. "It is a wonderful facility for the church to have and so many children and young people have benefitted spiritually by camp programmes and have happy memories of camp fun and games. We would be very grateful for any support the Junior BB boys and leaders can give us," she said.

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Rev. Dr. Jim Campbell, chair of the Presbyterian Boys' Brigade World Mission Committee explained that the summer camps are popular in Romania, especially as schools close for 12 weeks. "Many churches and Christian organisations use the long summer holidays to run camps for children and young people, which include Bible teaching, other activities and games."

The former minister at Cooke Centenary Presbyterian Church in Belfast continued, "Through this project we seek to help our partner in Romania to continue to provide a good facility where such camps can be held in future years, so that many more children and teenagers hear the Gospel message."

Last year's PCI Junior BB project entitled 'Crossing the Line – Kenya, raised over £8,000 to help produce booklets to give children in Kenya a good Christian foundation as they enter their teenage years. A small percentage of funds raised by the project each year is given to the BB Global Fellowship to support the worldwide work of the Boys' Brigade.

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Irish clerics appear on best-selling albums list

Irish vocal trio The Priests have topped the sales of Andrea Bocelli, Charlotte Church and The Three Tenors to become one of the biggest-selling artists in the UK of the past 25 years.

The self-titled debut album from the singing clerics is at number 10 on a new list compiled by Classic FM and topped by James Horner's Oscar-winning score to the blockbuster film *Titanic*.

The Priests are also the fourteenth highest-selling classical act on the new list, which was compiled to mark Classic FM's 25th anniversary.

The Priests are three Roman Catholic clerics from Northern Ireland. Fr. Eugene and his brother Fr. Martin O'Hagan and Fr. David Delargy enjoyed massive success with their 2008 debut, which went to No 1 in Ireland and was also a Top 5 on the UK album charts.

Horner's *Titanic* soundtrack sold more than one million copies in the UK and has come number one on the Ultimate Classic FM Chart, the

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The Priests

countdown of classical music album sales. The album was one of 26 film soundtracks on the list.

Russell Watson's albums *The Voice* and *Encore* came in at second and third place respectively.

Mezzo-Soprano Katherine Jenkins was the number one classical music artist of the past 25 years, selling more than 2.7 million albums on the Classic FM chart.

Jenkins is joined on the list by Charlotte Church, the Fron Male Voice Choir, Bryn Terfel, Aled Jones and Sir Karl Jenkins.

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Howard Shore, who wrote the score to the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy, is the best-selling living composer - while John Williams, who composed the music for *Star Wars*, *Jurassic Park* and *Harry Potter* is third.

The Italian pianist and composer Ludovico Einaudi came second on the list.

Dalkey Parish host day out for asylum seekers

Dalkey recently hosted a day out at Dublin Zoo for group of asylum seekers living in Mosney Direct Provision Centre in County Meath.

On August 21 the group of 33 people from Mosney and their Dalkey hosts braved torrential rain to see the new Zoorassic World exhibition at Dublin Zoo, as well as the usual elephants, lions and tigers.

Rector of Dalkey, the Revd Bruce Hayes spoke of the aims of their initiative. He said: "We are trying to reach out to asylum seekers in the hope that we, in our own small way can counteract the isolating effects of the Direct Provision System

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The group of asylum seekers from Mosney and parishioners from Dalkey during their day out at Dublin Zoo

and to encourage integration with a local community”.

The initiative follows on from an event in June when asylum seekers were welcomed to Dalkey town and given a tour of the local Heritage Centre and then brought out to lunch. On that day one of the asylum seekers said: “We are living in a system where the basic respect craved by every man/woman is washed out of us. That is the part I thank you like you have never been thanked before. You the people of Dalkey with what you did yesterday, your large presence, your warm smiles and eagerness to

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associate, made us feel proud, loved, wanted and human. Things that the direct provision and being an asylum seeker have tried to erode from us". The trip to the zoo was just one element of the parish's efforts. St Patrick's new 'Welcome Table' project is now up and running. The aim of the project is to enable asylum seekers living in Direct Provision Centres to access cooking facilities to prepare their own food.

Participants will be given access to the kitchen in St Patrick's where a meal will be cooked. Some of the food prepared will be eaten together at the 'Welcome Table' with the local hosts. The rest of the food can be taken back to the Direct Provision Centre to use at another time.

The parish welcomes support for its project and an online donation facility as well as further information on the project are available on the parish website: www.stpatricksdalkey.com/welcome-table

Belfast Divine Healing services re-start

Healing services start again in the first week of September:-

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Monday, 4th September at 1pm - St George's
8pm - St Anne's Cathedral

Tuesday, 5th September at 8pm - St Finnian's
10.30 - 12 noon - St Peter's Cathedral

Thursday, 7th September 10.30 - 12 noon -
Shankill Methodist

Also, on Friday, 1st September - (10am - 1pm),
there will be a morning of prayer for Divine
Healing Ministries. Brother David Jardine said,
“It will be held in silence. There is always a
beautiful sense of God's presence at these
mornings of prayer”.

Anglican Alliance announces new regional facilitator for the Middle East

A former architect from Britain has been
appointed as the Anglican Alliance's first regional
facilitator for the Middle East. In this new role,
Joel Kelling will seek to build the capacity of the
churches of the Province in regard to
development, relief and advocacy, and create
greater sustainability within the institutions of the

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Joel Telling and his wife with Archbishop Justin Welby

Province. He will also be the Provincial Administrator for the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East, covering the Dioceses of Cyprus & the Gulf, Egypt and North Africa, Iran, and Jerusalem.

Joel gained an interest in the issues of international development and humanitarian relief following a spell of volunteering in the UK and Ghana with a global housing charity fighting poverty, Habitat for Humanity. He then went on to study for an MA in Development and Emergency Practice at Oxford Brookes University, where he met his wife, Fiona.

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Fiona and Joel have since travelled to the Philippines, working in relief efforts following Typhoon Haiyan and on to Jerusalem, where Joel moved into serving in the Church, as Executive Assistant to Dean Hosam Naoum. He was instrumental in the organisation and coordination of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby's visit to the Holy Land earlier in 2017 and has been involved in facilitating both Ecumenical and Inter-faith work in Jerusalem.

He will initially be based in Jerusalem with plans to move to Amman, Jordan in 2018. Joel said: "I am looking forward to continuing to support and uphold the Christians of the Middle East, promoting a ministry of reconciliation, and helping to support greater cooperation and coordination across the Province."

The Revd Andy Bowerman, Co-Executive Director at the Anglican Alliance said: "We are delighted to welcome Joel after a careful process of consultation, prayer and discernment with the Province. His appointment comes at a crucial moment in the story of the region and we ask others around the communion to join with us in praying for him as he seeks to fulfil these two demanding roles".

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Pope and Ecumenical Patriarch issue joint plea for care of creation

Together with the head of the Orthodox Church, Pope Francis urged people to be respectful and responsible toward creation while being aware of how disrupted ecosystems impact the poor.

To mark the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation on September 1, the Pope said he and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople “prepared a message together.”

Although the text was not published immediately, Pope Francis told people at his general audience on August 30 that the message would be an invitation to all people “to adopt a respectful and responsible approach toward creation.”

“Furthermore,” he said, “we appeal to those who hold an influential role to listen to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor, who suffer more because of ecological imbalances.”

Pope Francis instituted the world day of prayer for the Catholic Church in 2015, joining with the ecumenical patriarchate, that has observed the September 1 day of prayer since 1989.

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Pope Francis with Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople

The annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, Pope Francis said when he instituted it, is to be a time for individuals and communities to “reaffirm their personal vocation to be stewards of creation, to thank God for the wonderful handiwork which he has entrusted to our care, and to implore his help for the protection of creation as well as his pardon for the sins committed against the world in which we live.”

If Christians are to make their special contribution to safeguarding creation, they must rediscover the spiritual foundations of their

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approach to what exists on earth, beginning with an acknowledgment that “the life of the spirit is not dissociated from the body or from nature,” but lived in communion with all worldly realities, he had said.

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