



## **Dromore's Food For the Soul project wins £49K funding in the People's Project**

Via Wings, a Dromore-based charity has won £48,900 of funding in the People's Project competition.

Speaking on the competition the staff of Via Wings said, "We are so excited and blessed to



***Bishop Harold Miller in the kitchen***

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The funding is to run our Food For the Soul project. This is a year long project which will train 30 young people with learning difficulties and from socially disadvantaged backgrounds, within the community of Dromore. These young people will be trained in cooking skills, first aid and health and safety. It will be a chance for them to increase their self confidence and employability skills. We already have 5 young people with learning difficulties who volunteer with us and we have seen the huge impact it has in their lives.”

The social enterprise projects of the charity include Hope & Soul, a ‘shabby chic’ shop stocking preloved clothes and upcycled furniture and The Olive Branch coffee shop in Dromore’s Market Square. For more information about the work of Via Wings go to

<http://viawings.co.uk/>

## **Mayor Takes Part in Good Friday Walk of Witness in Londonderry**

Leaders from the four main churches in Derry-Londonderry have taken part in a Christian ‘Walk of Witness’ through the city centre to mark Good Friday. They were joined by the Mayor of Derry City and Strabane District, Alderman Hillary



McClintock, and members of the different churches.

Taking part in his first procession was the recently appointed Moderator of Derry and Donegal Presbytery, the Reverend Mark Russell, who is the minister at Leckpatrick Presbyterian Church. Rev Russell joined the Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Rt Rev Ken Good, the Bishop of Derry, Dr Donal McKeown, and the Superintendent of the city's Methodist Mission, Rev Peter Murray, who were all veterans of the annual walk. Bishop Good was accompanied by his wife, Mary, and their young granddaughter.

The clergymen and other participants took turns to carry a large wooden cross which was borne

in procession from St Columb's Hall to the steps of the city's Guildhall. The route took them through one of the city's main shopping centres, the Richmond Centre, and the procession stopped at various points along the way for prayers, hymn-singing and gospel readings. The Mayor helped carry the cross on the final stage of the walk, from Shipquay Street into Guildhall Square.

## **Scotland remembers the Battle of Arras**

Arras and Vimy Ridge hosted a day of commemorations on 9 April 2017 bringing together the nations who fought in the Allies' first concerted Western Front offensive of 1917.

Events in and around the city of Arras paid tribute to the soldiers of all the countries involved, and in particular Canada, New Zealand and Scotland for whom the Battle of Arras has special resonance.

Hundreds of children and students from all over Scotland played a central role in the commemorations at this Commonwealth War Graves Commission site, a reflection of the Scottish Centenary programme's educational message, 'What do we learn from all this.'



***A First World War telegram bearing the news of a family forebear's death was held up by the Right Reverend Dr Russell Barr, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, during his centenary address in Arras***

The Battle of Arras had the highest concentration of Scottish troops fighting in a single First World War battle. Of 159,000 Allied casualties, about a third were Scots.

A Scottish pupil and a French counterpart jointly laid a wreath in memory of all the Allied nations - the UK, France, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa.

Leading the service, the Rt Revd. Dr Russell Barr, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, reflected on the loss of a forbear in his wife's family.

He held up a telegram bearing the news of the death of 28-year-old David Wyllie, a soldier in the Black Watch. He died from his wounds on 24 April 1917. It was a tangible example of a moment all families feared as their loved ones went off to fight in the Great War.

In a letter found on David Wyllie's body, he'd written to his sister that the bad weather in the trenches was miserable, and 'they were having anything but a pleasant time of it.'

Dr Barr said: "We all have this in common. We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to the young men who dared all, and gave all, in the battles fought in and around this town. Young men like David Wyllie, for whom the hope and dream of a just and peaceful world was hard fought and came at a terrible price."

Scotland's First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, attended the event, accompanied by the Canadian Defence Minister, Kent Hehr.

She said: "Forty four Scottish battalions and seven Scottish named Canadian battalions took part in the Battle of Arras - the highest concentration of Scottish troops fighting in a single battle during World War One.

"Pupils representing every local authority in Scotland are in Arras this weekend to learn more about its impact. These young people are not much younger than many of those who fought in the battle, many of whom never returned to Scotland.

"Education is an important part of our commemorative programme – ensuring pupils understand the impact and significance of the battle, and share what they have learned with their peers and wider community."

## **WCC shares concern over escalating tensions on Korean peninsula**

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The World Council of Churches (WCC) has joined the National Council of Churches in South Korea (NCCCK) in expressing grave concern at the redeployment of the USS Carl Vinson aircraft carrier group to the seas surrounding the Korean peninsula.

“In a context of already heightened tensions – especially in the midst of the ongoing joint US and South Korean Foal Eagle-Key Resolve military exercises and the steps being taken to deploy the US missile defence system THAAD in South Korea, and North Korean threats of a nuclear response – this constitutes a further escalation of military confrontation in the region,” reads the statement.

The WCC has been engaged for more than 30 years in promoting dialogue and encounter between North and South Korean Christians, accompanied and supported by representatives of the global fellowship of churches in WCC membership.

“Our purpose has been and continues to be the promotion of peace and reunification of a

country and people divided by an unresolved conflict,” the statement continues. “Particularly in recent years almost all other channels of dialogue and encounter have been closed off, in favour of escalating military confrontation and tightening sanctions.”

\* Read the WCC statement on on Peace and Reunification of the Korean Peninsula [here](#)

\* The World Council of Churches promotes Christian unity in faith, witness and service for a just and peaceful world. An ecumenical fellowship of churches founded in 1948, by the end of 2012 the WCC had 345 member churches representing more than 500 million

## **Londonderry Festival of Flowers**

May 12 11:00 am - May 14 @ 6:00 pm in All Saints' Clooney, Clooney Terrace Londonderry. A festival of flowers to celebrate the church's 150th anniversary. Details in the flyer below. Everyone welcome. Directions at - <http://connor.anglican.org/event/festival-flowers-saints-clooney-parish-church-londonderry/>



***Queen Elizabeth II arrives at Leicester Cathedral last week for the traditional Royal Maundy service.***

## **Tobermore Flower Festival**

19 May 11:00 – 21:00 in [Kilcronaghan Parish Church, Tobermore](#), Wood Road 1, Magherafelt

## **Stainer's Crucifixion appeals in Cork**

On Good Friday night (14th April) the choir of Saint Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork, under the baton of Director of Music, Peter Stobart,



performed John Stainer's Holy Week oratorio *The Crucifixion*. The soloists were Josh Spink (Tenor) and Chris Southgate (Bass), accompanied by acclaimed Limerick organist Trevor Selby on the Cathedral Organ.

Over 150 people came along to make this special occasion part of their Good Friday observance and Holy Week journey. The Dean of Cork, the Very Revd Nigel Dunne, said after the performance:

Following some considerable thought and debate about how the Cathedral could provide something beyond of our usual Good Friday solemn liturgy, we decided to offer the city and wider county this 'liturgical performance' - not quite a concert, and not quite a service. I am delighted that it has appealed to so many and hope that we might offer something similar during Holy Week next year.

The full Cathedral choir, now with over thirty boy and girl choristers, eight Lay Vicars Choral (adults), and several other deputy Lay Vicars, produced a wonderful sound on the night, not to mention those present, who joined heartily in the singing of the hymns which are part of the oratoria.

## **BBC Choral Evensong - Dallas**

**Tomorrow Wed 19th April (repeated Sun 9th April)**

[Choral Evensong on BBC Radio3 @ 3.00 pm](#)

From the Church of the Incarnation, Dallas, Texas (recorded 2016)

Introit: King of glory, King of peace (Harold Friedell)

Responses: Bruce Neswick  
Psalm 105 (Ritchie, Dettra, Fenstermaker)  
First Lesson: Song of Solomon 3  
Office Hymn: Lift your voice rejoicing, Mary (Fisk of Gloucester)  
Canticles: Dallas Service (Howells)  
Second Lesson: Matthew 28 vv.16-20  
Anthems: I was glad (Leo Sowerby)  
Light's Glittering Morn (Horatio Parker)  
Organ Voluntary: Toccata (Vincent Persichetti)

Scott Dettra, Director of Music  
L. Graham Schultz, Assistant Organist

## Today in Church History - April 18

**April 18, 1161:** Theobald, Archbishop of Canterbury, dies. He repeatedly quarreled with his superiors about church appointments and other political questions, but he the influential French abbot Bernard of Clairvaux supported him. Theobald helped strengthen the English church and build the career of Thomas Becket, whom he recommended as chancellor to England's newly crowned King Henry.

**April 18, 1587:** English Protestant historian John Foxe, author of Actes and Monuments of Matters Happenning to the Church (the shorter

version is now known as Foxe's Book of Martyrs), dies at age 71.

**April 18, 1874:** Having died nearly a year earlier (May 1, 1873) in what is now northern Zambia, missionary-explorer David Livingstone (whose remains had been brought, as his tombstone reads, "by faithful hands over land and sea") is interred in London's Westminster Abbey.

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