

## C of I's Hope Community Church 'makes room for more'



**Hope Community Church in Craigavon, which started in 2015, is launching an additional service this coming Sunday (24th February) to accommodate the increased numbers who are attending the church.**

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The Sunday morning congregation has doubled in the past 12–18 months, with well over 200 people regularly worshipping at Hope. A quarter of the congregation is under 18 years of age. As the church building currently only has seating for 200, the leadership have made the decision to increase their capacity so they can continue to welcome new people from the surrounding area. Hope Minister-in-Charge, Revd Craig Cooney (pictured on previous page), commented:



“We are delighted to see new faces showing up at Hope literally every week. People of all ages are receiving a warm welcome, getting involved, using their gifts to serve, and developing

friendships. However, the increased attendance has created what I call, ‘a high-quality problem’.

“Even as far back as June 2018, our average Sunday attendance was 230 and we have a situation where children have to sit on the floor before they go out in the middle of the service for their kids’ ministry. Obviously, this was never going to work long-term. We are currently speaking to our landlord about increasing the size of our building, but until then, we are creating extra space by adding this additional service.”

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Craig continued: “We want both services to be as identical as possible, and so we have had to spend time increasing our volunteer base to ensure that our incredible team don’t get burnt out. It’s been so encouraging to watch new people step up into roles of leadership, responsibility and service.”

In the past few months Hope have also purchased their first rectory and have employed a part-time youth and children’s pastor, Hannah O’Neill. Hannah is working in various schools in the local community, as well as discipling the young people within the church. Just this past weekend



three of their teenagers committed their lives to Jesus. The church also partners with many local organisations such as Youth for Christ, Aspire, and Love for Life.

“We long to see more and more people reached with the life-transforming gospel of Jesus Christ,” said Craig. “While we are deeply thankful to God for all that He has done, we long for more. We are expectant and excited for the future and believe that God wants to do a significant work in Craigavon and beyond. Our job, in the words of the old children song, is simply to trust and obey.”

Hope Community Church meets at 20 Highfield Road, Craigavon. Their service times are now 9.30 am and 11.30 am. More information can be found on their website

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

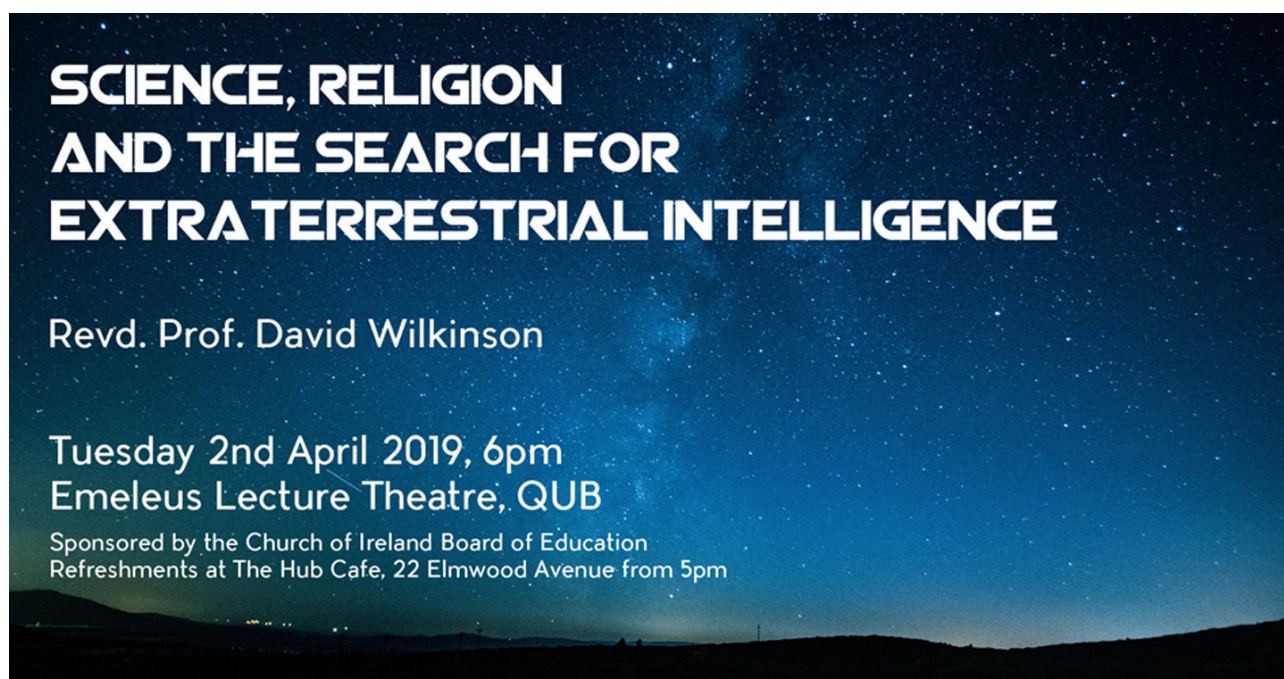


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# Searching for Extra Terrestrial Intelligence at theological lecture

This year's Church of Ireland Theological Lecture at Queen's University, sponsored by the Board of Education, will be delivered by the Rev Prof David Wilkinson on Tuesday April 2.

The lecture is entitled: Science, Religion and the Search for Extra Terrestrial Intelligence.



Prof Wilkinson, BSc, PhD, MA, PhD, FRAS, is the Principal of St John's College, Durham, and is a renowned writer, broadcaster and theologian.



He trained first as a scientist and then as a theologian. His first PhD was in astrophysics, looking at the process of star and galaxy

formation, and mass extinctions. After this he studied theology at Cambridge and became a Methodist minister.

Later he completed a PhD in theology and since then has held a number of different positions at Durham University in apologetics and theology.

He is now Principal of St John's College and Lecturer in the Department of Theology and Religion, Durham University. Prof Wilkinson is interested in current culture and has written books relating subjects such as 'The X-Files' and Star Wars to Christianity, as well as a number of other popular level books.

The discovery of exoplanets, alongside new missions to the surface of Mars, has given fresh interest and indeed excitement to the search for extra-terrestrial intelligence. In this lecture, Prof Wilkinson will explore the science of this quest and then ask how it relates to Christian faith, such as the doctrines of creation, image of God and redemption.

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Rather than science and theology being in conflict, it will be argued that Christian theology promoted belief in other worlds and can be a fruitful dialogue partner today

In keeping with the theme, the lecture will this year be hosted in the historic Emeleus Lecture Theatre in Queen's Old Physics Building on the main QUB campus.

The lecture will begin at 6pm. A tea and coffee reception will be hosted beforehand from 5pm at The Hub Cafe, just a minute's walk away at the chaplaincy buildings on Elmwood Avenue.

Due to popular demand, it is highly recommended that attendees register for free tickets through Eventbrite <https://www.ireland.anglican.org/https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/theological-lecture-at-queens-2019-tickets-5636560403>

## **Beckett in Foxrock drama**

Tullow Parish and Mouth on Fire Theatre Company present Beckett in Foxrock 2019. This year's production, 'All that Fall', takes place in Tullow Church, Brighton Road, Foxrock, on Saturday March 23 at 8pm.

Beckett's "All that Fall", originally written as a radio play and seldom performed, features the characters and sounds of a re-imagined Brighton Road, Leopardstown Racecourse, Foxrock station and village.

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A cast of eight – Geraldine Plunkett, Donncha Crowley, Neil Fleming, Michael Judd, Paul Marron, Deirdre Monaghan, Melissa Nolan and Matthew O'Brien – will bring to life what has been called 'Beckett's best play'.

You can experience this special limited capacity rare event in a unique location – the church where Beckett and his mother worshipped.

Directed by Cathal Quinn, the production also features keynote speaker Dr Feargal Whelan. Beckett in Foxrock is the fourth annual event honouring the writer's close connection with the Foxrock area.

2019 is the 50th anniversary of Beckett being awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature and the 30th anniversary of his death in 1989.

Samuel Beckett was born and brought up in Foxrock and was a regular attender, along with his mother, at Tullow Church. A commemorative plaque was unveiled in 2016 by Beckett's niece.

Tickets cost €30 and include a wine reception and photographic exhibition showing the many links between Beckett's work and the Foxrock area.

Booking essential on [eventbrite.ie](https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/beckett-in-foxrock-2019-all-that-fall-tickets-54969461138?aff=ebdshpsearchautocomplete)  
<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/beckett-in-foxrock-2019-all-that-fall-tickets-54969461138?aff=ebdshpsearchautocomplete>

Beckett in Foxrock 2019 – All that Fall is organised by Tullow Parish and Mouth on Fire Theatre Company in [churchnewsireland@gmail.org](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.org)

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association with Foxrock Area Community and Enterprise (FACE) with the support of Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown County Council and Dublin UNESCO City of Literature.

## Praying with the Psalms during Lent

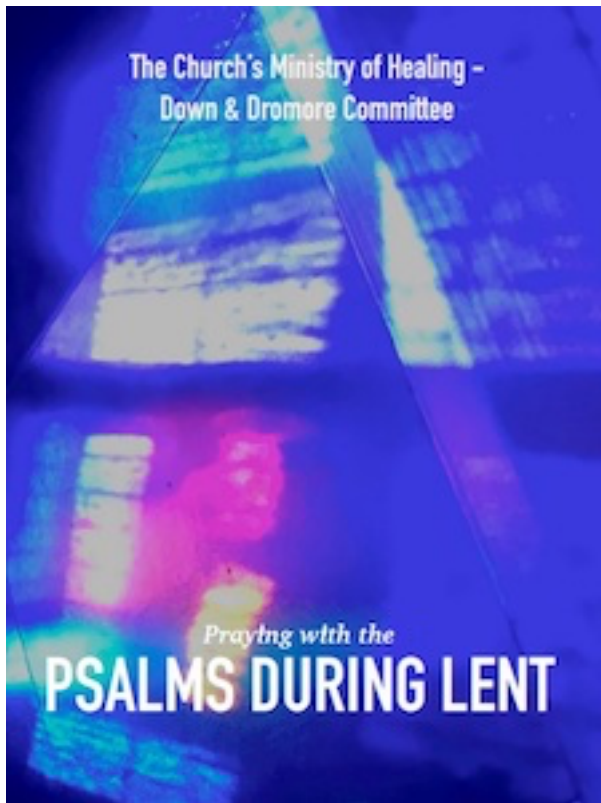
The Down and Dromore Diocesan Committee of the Church's Ministry of Healing has announced a new devotional resource for Lent 2019 – "Praying with the Psalms during Lent".

Each member of the committee spent time using a version of the /Lectio Divina/ process to respond to the Psalms, in the hope that their thoughts and reflections would prompt and encourage others. The booklet offers readers a chance to reflect on a different Psalm each day during the lenten season.

Speaking about the resource, the Committee's Chairperson Canon Gill Withers, said: 'Each day's devotion is quite different because the whole membership of our committee is represented. Some members responded by writing prayers or short meditations, while other members simply noted a verse or verses that stood out to them. Each day, we are encouraging people to let themselves pause for a few moments with the Psalms as they take time to "Read, Reflect, Respond and Rest"



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Some hard copies will be distributed to each Parish in the Diocese, but the resource will be made widely available via the following routes:

To download a copy visit the CMH website

\*<http://cmh-themount.org/wp>

\*Alternatively email [adriandorrian@gmail.com](mailto:adriandorrian@gmail.com)

\*

A limited number of additional hard copies may be obtained from the CMH office by

telephoning (028) 9079 5832.

## Lisburn's hidden bell removed from tower

After 150 years hidden in the bell tower, Christ Church Parish, Lisburn's historic bell has been hoisted back into the light of day!

The bell, manufactured by W Curtis & Sons of Dublin in 1869, was removed from the tower this week as part of a renovation project.

The bell was decommissioned around 20 years ago in favour of an automated chime. The parish has now embarked on a £250,000 project to replace the sandstone in

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the bell tower, and for health and safety reasons the heavy old bell had to be removed from its home.

Thanks to the work done by the team on the Vestry, along with Beattie Cranes, the bell removal happened efficiently and safely.

The parish is now hoping to put the bell on display. The rector, Archdeacon Paul Dundas, said:

“It is part of our history and we want to preserve it for future generations.” Fundraising for the tower renovation project is ongoing.



## **Cork workshop on Mental Health Training for Working with Children**

Cork, Cloyne and Ross Children's Ministry Group organised a workshop on the subject of 'Mental Health Training for Working with Children' which was held in Northridge House, St Luke's Mahon on 9th February.

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Led by Tom Tate ( <http://www.whymind.ie>) the Workshop was a timely discussion around the mental health needs of children – How do we ensure we create a caring, safe and welcoming environment in our ministries for children who may suffer from issues around their mental health while at the same time, understand the responsibility we hold as caregivers in our ministries relating to these issues, and identifying the time to pass on concerns we may have?

It was a most informative and useful session attended by clergy and lay workers.

## Gay conversion therapy is ‘scarring’ people, report warns C of E

Attempts to change sexual orientation have left people “scarred”, a new report being presented to the Church of England’s governing body has found.

The survey of 4,600 individuals identifying as gay, lesbian, bisexual or same-sex attracted found one-in-ten (458) had first-hand experience of the controversial practise.

Of those, almost a third (91) told the Ozanne Foundation they had attempted suicide, while more than two-thirds (193) had been affected by suicidal thoughts.

Project Leader Jayne Ozanne (pictured below), who experienced mental ill health after bids to alter her sexual orientation, said “urgent action” was needed.





She said: “For many, much of this report will confirm what they already know regarding the dangers of ‘conversion therapy’.

“However, it is the scale and

severity of the problems experienced and the age at which children are said to be exposed to these practices that are of the gravest concern.

“The high level of reports of attempted suicide and suicidal thoughts amongst those who have attempted to change their sexual orientation is not something that can be easily dismissed.

“These are serious safeguarding issues which require urgent action.”

More than half of respondents who said they had experience of the practice reported that their first encounter took place when they were aged 18 or under.

Two-fifths reported experience of self-harm, while a quarter said they had been affected by an eating disorder such as anorexia or bulimia.





Chair of the Foundation, Rt Revd Paul Bayes the Bishop of Liverpool said: “The level of considered and attempted suicide reported here is shocking and sobering.

“The statistics

reflect lives which have been scarred and strained by mixed messaging of love, acceptance, condemnation and fear.

“My hope is that the courageous sharing of our respondents will not go unheard, and that human flourishing and human life will not be treated as a mere intellectual battleground for dry conversation.”

A small portion of people answering the survey (22) said they had been forced into sexual activity with a person of the opposite gender - with “overwhelmingly unsuccessful” results, the report concluded.

The ‘Faith and Sexuality Survey 2018’ is due to be presented to the Church of England’s General Synod during its meeting in central London this week.

Last summer the Uk government indicated plans to ban gay conversion therapy.

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## Pope Francis: Hear the cry of the little ones who ask for justice

Pope Francis has opened the “Protection of Minors in the Church” Meeting in the Vatican telling the Bishops and Religious gathered, “the Holy People of God look to us and expect from us not simple and predictable condemnations, but concrete and effective measures to be prepared”.

The “Protection of Minors in the Church” Meeting began today with prayers, readings, and brief periods of silent reflection, before Pope Francis gave his opening remarks in the Vatican’s Synod Hall.

In front of the Patriarchs, Cardinals, Archbishops, Bishops, Religious Superiors and other leaders, the Pope told them that, “in the face of the plague of sexual abuse perpetrated by men of the Church against children”, he had called them together so, “we may listen to the Holy Spirit and with docility to His guidance we may hear the cry of the little ones who ask for justice.”

He told those gathered that this meeting was, “weighed down by the weight of pastoral and ecclesial responsibility which obliges us to discuss together, in a synodal, sincere and profound way, how to deal with this evil which afflicts the Church and humanity.”

Pope Francis noted that, “the Holy People of God look to us and expect from us not simple and predictable



condemnations, but concrete and effective measures to be prepared”.

“Let us therefore”, he commented, “begin our journey armed with faith and the spirit of maximum *parresia* [frankness], courage and concreteness.”

As a help, the Pope said, he wanted to share with them “some important criteria formulated by the various Commissions and Episcopal Conferences... They are guidelines to help our reflection which will be handed over to you. They are a simple starting point, which comes from you and returns to you, and does not take away from the creativity that must be present in this meeting.”

Concluding his remarks, Pope Francis thanked, “the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and the members of the Organizing Committee for the excellent work done with great commitment in preparing this meeting.”

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Finally, he asked the Holy Spirit to support all those gathered in the Synod Hall “in these days and to help us transform this evil into an opportunity for awareness and purification. May the Virgin Mary enlighten us to try to heal the serious wounds that the scandal of paedophilia has caused both to children and to believers.”

## **Archbishop of Canterbury calls an Anglican Primates' Meeting in Jordan in January 2020**

The Archbishop of Canterbury has written to the leaders of the 40 autonomous Churches in the Anglican Communion to invite them to attend a Primates' Meeting in January 2020. Primates' Meetings are one of four “Instruments of Communion” within the Anglican Communion. The last one took place in Canterbury in October 2017. The 2020 meeting will be in the Jordanian capital Amman from 13 to 17 January.

Archbishop Justin announced the meeting in an Epiphany letter to his fellow-Primates last month. He gave further details in a subsequent letter this month.

In his Epiphany letter, Archbishop Justin spoke of the “long and agonising” list of difficulties facing Christians across the world, including violence, corruption, poverty, religious-based discrimination and climate-change related rises in water levels. But, he said, “it is our vocation to be bearers of joy . . . in the midst of the real troubles of our world.”



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A poster for Handel's Messiah. The top half features a portrait of George Frideric Handel on the left and the title 'HANDEL's Messiah' in a large, stylized font on the right, set against a background of musical notation. The bottom half is a dark brown rectangular box containing white and gold text.

**THE  
OCCASIONAL SINGERS**

CONDUCTOR ROBIN MOORE

**St. Mary's Church of Ireland**  
(Former chapel of the Dukes of Leinster)  
Parson Street, Maynooth, Co. Kildare W23W300

**Sunday 3rd March 2019 at 7.30pm**  
(Doors open 7pm)

-- Admission €20 per person --

*Tickets available from parishioners or you may call  
Cherry at 087-6686236, Reverend Alison at 087-9851035,  
Marvyn at 086-2455336*

*Proceeds in aid of Dunboyne Union (Dunboyne, Dunshaughlin and Maynooth)  
and Rathmolyon Union (Rathmolyon, Rathcore and Agher)*

The  
Communiqué  
from the  
Primates'  
Meeting in  
October 2017  
explained that  
a series of  
regional  
Primates'  
Meetings  
would take  
place in the  
run-up to the  
Lambeth  
Conference of  
Anglican  
bishops in  
2020; and said  
that the  
Archbishop of  
Canterbury  
would consider  
whether to call

a full Primates' Meeting in advance of it too. In his Epiphany letter, Archbishop Justin explained why he had now decided to call such a meeting.

“When we come together at the Lambeth Conference in 2020, we will speak of holiness seeking to ensure that we aim to be a holy church”, he said. “We will reflect on intentional discipleship and the proclamation in word and deed. We will pray together and find the refreshment of

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worship in many styles. We will gather in fellowship and mutual love.

“Yet to get there we must prepare. We must prepare in witness, so that we arrive in Canterbury like the 70 (Luke 10:17), full of joy and testimony. We must prepare in worship, so that we are able to worship with others.

“I have been privileged to spend time with some of you at three regional Primates’ Meetings in 2018 and I’m looking forward to three more this year. Following on from these regional meetings, it is my intention to call a meeting of all Primates in January 2020. It is my hope that you will all be able to attend and that together we will be able to take forward the richly diverse conversations that we have enjoyed at regional level.”

One of three regional Primates’ Meetings this year took place earlier this month in Amman for leaders from the Middle East and south Asia. The leaders of other Asian provinces will gather in Kuala Lumpur in October. European Anglican leaders will gather in Northern Ireland later this month.

In his latest letter, Archbishop Justin confirmed that he wanted the Primates to decide the agenda together, as had been the practice in recent Meetings. But he said that he wanted the Primates to discuss the 2020 Lambeth Conference; and also the work of the Archbishop’s Task Group, which was established following the 2016 Primates’ Meeting to explore ways to restore relationships, rebuild mutual trust and responsibility, heal the legacy of hurt and explore deeper relationships within the Anglican Communion.

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“The Task Group is preparing a report and recommendations for the 2020 Primates’ Meeting”, Archbishop Justin said. “One of its recommendations, which has my strong support, is to have a short season of Prayer and Repentance across the Communion during the fifth week of Lent 2020.”

He said that he hoped that the Season would be formally launched and committed to at the Primates’ Meeting; but he wanted to give primates early notice so that they could plan for the Season in their provinces.

## **News briefs**

**###The story of Irish missionaries in the global south -** continues whilst local and indigenous religious whom they trained - their legacy - have been taking over much of the work initiated by the Irish over many decades. Catholic mission is local and global and inter-cultural which will be the theme of the Extraordinary Mission Month (EMM 2019) next October. World Missions Ireland, Misean Cara, Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference, The Irish Catholic Newspaper, Irish Aid, Ciaran Cannon, Catholic News Agency

**###New Irish Youth Choir Millisle on Sunday -\*** Come and see the New Irish Youth Choir and Youth Orchestra perform together and showcase all the work each group has done throughout the year. Sunday 24th February 2019 at 4pm in Ganaway Activity Centre, Millise. Tickets available on the door. Adults £5 | Children free



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**The Moderator of the Irish Presbyterian Church, Rt. Rev. Charles McMullen, visited 26 Regiment, Royal Artillery in Guttersloh, Germany, to spend time with one of his church's serving chaplains - Chaplain Graeme McConville. The Moderator was accompanied by Rev Professor Patten Taylor, chair of the church's chaplains committee, a former Principal of Union College, Belfast, and a former reserve chaplain. The Moderator tweeted, "Fascinating and nostalgic to be in an area of Germany where I studied as a student!"**

**###Easter Eucharist on RTE** - RTÉ 1 television and RTÉ Radio 1 Extra will broadcast a Eucharist service on Easter Sunday, 21st April. The service will be celebrated by the Very Revd Paul Bogle, Dean of Clonmacnoise, who will be joined by the Meath Diocesan Choir.



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**###The Church of Ireland General Synod 2019 -** will take place in the Millennium Forum, Derry, \*from Thursday 16th to Saturday 18th May 2019.\*For more information, please visit the General Synod <https://synod.ireland.anglican.org/2019/welcome> which includes information on the venue, accessibility, important dates, forms and frequently asked questions. More details will follow in due course as General Synod approaches.

**###Kilkenny cathedral farewell -** the choir joined the cathedral community in bidding farewell to Mr David Forde as director of the cathedral choir. We thank David for all his hard work over the past seven years and wish him every blessing in his future endeavours. Pic on iPad

**###Vacancy: Director of the Anglican Centre in Rome -**

The Governors of the Anglican Centre in Rome, in co-operation with the Archbishop of Canterbury, announce they are seeking a Director of the Anglican Centre in Rome, and Representative of the Archbishop of Canterbury to the Holy See.

The post combines two inter-related strategic and operational responsibilities. Firstly as Director of the Anglican Centre in Rome the role involves leadership of a team ministry of hospitality and prayer, and providing educational opportunities and resources. Secondly, as representative of the Archbishop of Canterbury and of the Anglican Communion to the Holy See, the Director operates in a two-way ambassadorial role. These two responsibilities are multi-layered, binding together representational,

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educational, pastoral and interpretative elements. It is in the light of this broader context that the work of Director of the Anglican Centre can be understood.

Closing Date: Friday 15 March 2019

Interviews: Wednesday 8 May 2019 in Rome

A full job description and person specification, and information about how to apply is posted on the Anglican Communion website.

<https://www.anglicancommunion.org/media/344338/director-anglican-centre-in-rome-job-description-2019.pdf>

**###Food for thought** - Every time you experience the pain of rejection, absence, or death, you are faced with a choice. You can become bitter and decide not to love again, or you can stand straight in your pain and let the soil on which you stand become richer and more able to give life to new seeds. Henri Nouwen

## **February 22 in Christian history**

**February 22, 1906:** Black itinerant evangelist William J. Seymour arrives in Los Angeles to lead a Holiness mission. The group grew larger as word spread of its revival meetings and speaking in tongues, and it eventually moved to a rundown building on Azusa Street. The church's revival is often cited as one of the birthplaces of Pentecostalism.

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