

D-Day “Songs of Praise” this Sunday



Aled Jones travels to Normandy with 93-year-old Christian veteran Harry Billinge, who was just 18 on D-Day

On BBC1 at 1.15pm this Sunday 9 June the story of Padre Leslie Skinner will feature among those of other Christians who played a part in D-Day, in a special edition of “Songs of Praise”.

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Paratroopers perform a jump over Sannerville in north-western France prior to D-Day commemorations

On 6th June 1944 the largest invasion force ever assembled landed on the beaches of Normandy. D-Day, as it became known, was a turning point in the Second World War that led to the liberation of Nazi-occupied Europe, but it came at a heavy cost. Almost a hundred thousand of the Allied forces and local civilians lost their lives on that day and in the fierce Battle of Normandy that followed.

To mark this 75th anniversary, Aled travels to Normandy with 93-year-old Christian veteran Harry Billinge, who was just 18 on D-Day. He is aware this is one of the last trips he will make. On Gold Beach, where Harry came ashore, he recalls the sound of the guns and the memories of the men he fought alongside, as well as those in his group who were killed. And later, in the immaculate war cemeteries in Bayeux, Harry shares with Aled memories of how he used to pray with his fellow soldiers in the heat of battle and how his

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Limerick RBL D Day Remembrance

faith has helped him in his tireless efforts not to forget those who gave their lives.

Former Royal Marine JJ Chalmers visits the Imperial War Museum in Duxford to read the diary of chaplain Leslie Skinner, a Methodist minister who was the first Padre to land on D-Day. He meets Padre Skinner's daughter Annette and hears how this modest man carried 46 wounded men back to boats, even though he was injured himself, and how his Bible - tucked carefully away - took a bullet and saved his life.

We also learn about the top secret planning for D-Day that began years before the invasion at Bletchley Park in Buckinghamshire. Home of the genius code-breakers including Alan Turing and Bill Tutte, Bletchley Park decoded millions of intercepted enemy messages giving invaluable intelligence to the forces on the frontline. We hear from 95-year-old Christian veteran Rena Stewart about her time at Bletchley and how after living through war, peace becomes even more precious.

The episode has a very special performance of Abide With Me by Aled Jones on the beaches and among the war graves of Normandy.

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It will subsequently be available on iPlayer:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0005xkv>

Rev Chris Hudson slams Belfast council Israel boycott

A former trade unionist, now a cleric, says he is “saddened and disappointed” by Belfast City Council’s decision to block council representation on a trade mission to Israel, the News Letter reports.

Sinn Féin, the SDLP, the Green Party and People Before Profit opposed the move at committee level on grounds of “ethical trading”.

The trip would involve delegates from the council, Invest NI and Catalyst Inc.

Committee chair, Sinn Féin’s Deirdre Hargey, said the council had no “direct connection” with Israel or Palestine and that a majority of members felt the trip was “inappropriate” in advance of the council considering a proposal to support the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement on 1 July.

“There have been numerous UN violations of sanctions perpetrated against the Palestinian people,” she told BBC Talkback.

But former trade union activist, Rev Chris Hudson, said he was “saddened and disappointed” at the move, which he said was not logical and would make no difference to Israel.

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Rev Chris Hudson of All Souls Church, Elmwood Avenue, Belfast.

“I could give you a list of 10 countries where human rights violations exceed anything that’s happening between Israel and Palestine,” he said.

He pointed to the recent commemorations of the Tiananmen Square killings in China, adding that despite its poor humanitarian record, “there will be no question that Belfast will continue [trading] with China”.

Last month Mrs Hargey’s party colleague, Belfast Lord Mayor John Finucane, welcomed the NI Chinese Consul General and a high profile delegation of Chinese business leaders to City Hall.

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DUP councillor Guy Spence tweeted: “A dark day for Belfast as Sinn Fein, SDLP, People Before Profit & the Greens showed their true colours towards the State & People of Israel...”.

PCI's Union College responds to QUB review

At Thursday's meeting (6 June) of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI) in Belfast, the Church's Union Theological College (UTC) announced a range of new courses as it looks to the future following April's decision by Queen's University of Belfast's (QUB) to end its 92 year link with the College, and close the university's Institute of Theology.

The General Assembly also heard the College's detailed response to the QUB Review and the events that led up to April's decision. These were contained in a detailed and robust report to the Assembly to enable members to be fully aware of what had taken place.

The report concluded by saying that the Review had been 'based on a flawed and confused review process that did not permit engagement on the substantial issues; lacks supporting evidence for its claims and conclusions [and] did not adequately or respectfully include Union College in its consultations.

The management of Union Theological College is undertaken by the Union Theological College Management Committee, with general and strategic oversight given by the PCI's Council for Training in Ministry. Addressing the

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The PCI Young Adults team to South Africa departed yesterday morning. Please pray for safe travels and good health on their journey to George. The team will partner for the next two with Sports Academy, sharing the gospel with young people through schools

General Assembly, Council Convener, Rev Nigel McCullough, acknowledged that it had been a difficult year. He said that, “We do not believe that the decision to sever the link was arrived at after a full and robust review process.”

Mr McCullough explained that when the 4 other colleges involved in the Institute of Theology stepped back from involvement in teaching undergraduates, Queens conducted a Strategic Review in 2016. A central concern then, was the

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The Rt Rev John McDowell, Bishop of Clogher addresses the Scottish Episcopal Synod on reconciliation and social change

ability of a single college to deliver a sufficiently diverse undergraduate degree programme. “Union College worked with the University at that time and the agreed solution was a BA in Theology, which comprised 70% Union modules and 30% modules drawn from other Queens departments. This programme was due to commence in September 2018, and indeed it did, and it was the agreed solution to the diversity concern,” he said.

The Review that came in 2018, “was entirely unexpected, considering the fact that the BA in Theology had not even

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begun...We feel that no review would have taken place were it not for the reaction to last year's Assembly," Mr McCullough said.

He was referring to the intense reporting and public comment that followed some of the decisions taken at the 2018 General Assembly. The Convenor also told the General Assembly that as a major stakeholder, no opportunity was given to the College to respond to the report, or its conclusions, before key decisions were taken by the university. This included suspending student intake for September 2019 and the withdrawal of all future undergraduate and post graduate programmes.

The College report adds that, 'The ending of the relationship is highly regrettable but the Council and the College are committed to ending it well. While the adjustments to be made are significant, the Council is in no doubt that an exciting future for the College lies ahead.'

In looking to the future, the General Assembly also heard that the College was developing its student base through online and campus based courses, through the introduction of 10 new courses, with 7 being fully online in September. The courses, in a variety of subjects, will be at Master's degree level, as well as graduate and postgraduate certificate and diploma level. A PhD will also be offered.

The Council's report also states that the 'potential to develop this work is significant and this could prove to be great resource for the global church as well as having the potential to provide income for the college.'

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In December 2018 a Review Task Group was set up by PCI to review the options for the college, the training of ministers and what financial savings might be made. To enable this and to look at a range of options for the future, specific resolutions will be put to the General Assembly by the General Council tomorrow.

The questions, discussion and debate on the Council for Training in Ministry's report, lasted over two hours and covered a wide range of other important areas of its work. These included the development of online teaching, pastoral care of ministers and their families and more flexible pathways to the ordained ministry. The Council also has responsibility of looking after all aspects of selection, training and ongoing development of ministers. In addition, it selects, trains and develops auxiliary ministers, accredited preachers and deaconesses, who in turn serve in congregations and communities across Ireland.

During the course of the afternoon's session, the General Assembly accepted 13 candidates as students for the ordained ministry, which represents a significant increase in ministry students for September 2019.

Pope officially changes the Lord's Prayer

Pope Francis has officially changed the wording of the Lord's Prayer, after claims that the translation was misleading.

The pontiff first voiced his concerns about the wording in 2017, and called for the line "lead us not into temptation" to be altered to reflect that it is not God that tempts us to sin.

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Speaking to Italian broadcaster TV2000 last year, he said: "It is not a good translation because it speaks of a God who induces temptation.

"I am the one who falls. It's not him pushing me into temptation to then see how I have fallen.

"A father doesn't do that, a father helps you to get up immediately. It's Satan who leads us into temptation, that's his department."

The line has now been re-written to say "do not let us fall into temptation", following approval by the General Assembly of the Episcopal Conference of Italy on 22nd May.

The revised prayer will appear in the third edition of the Messale Romano, the liturgical book that contains the guiding texts for Mass in the Roman Catholic Church.

Anglican and other Protestant translations will not be affected by the change.

June 8 - Today in Christian history

June 8, 793 (traditional date): Vikings attack the monastery at Lindisfarne, Scotland. The date is often considered the first event of the "Viking Age".

June 8, 1536: Following Henry VIII's Declaration of Supremacy, English clergy draw up the Ten Articles of Religion, the first articles of the Anglican Church since its break from Roman Catholicism.

June 8, 1794: French revolutionaries replace Christianity with a deistic religion honoring a trinity of "Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity." They renamed churches "Temples of

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Reason," and a new calendar announced a 10-Day week and holidays commemorating events of the revolution. The "reign of terror" followed, with some 1,400 people losing their heads. Napoleon recognized the church again in 1804, then proceeded to imprison Pope Pius VII.

June 8 - News briefs



+++ Visit Marsh's Library - 18th century Marsh's Library is open every Saturday from 10.00 to 17.00 and is well worth a visit. Situated in the shadow of St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, the library remains largely unchanged after 300 years and houses a wealth of books from the early Enlightenment

+++The Abaana New Life Choir - will sing tonight Saturday June 8 at 7pm in St Mark's, Ballymacash, in one of the last concerts of its 2019 tour. The Choir, all the way from Uganda, sang in Lisburn Cathedral on Good Friday evening. If you would like to hear more about the work of Abaana, please get in touch with Neville Jones at the Abaana Office, 028914451918 or by email neville@abaana.org.

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+++ Module on reconciliation at CITI - The Church of Ireland Theological Institute will be running a Reconciliation module from the 10th to the 14th June for their part time M Th students. The lecturer for the module is Rev Dr Johnston McMaster. Anyone outside CITI who would like to attend for a day or for the week should contact Jane at janeKelly@theologicalinstitute.ie for further information.

+++ Irish language service - Glencolumbkille Church will host a Service as Gaeilge - in the Irish language - on June 19 at 7.30pm. Rev Chris Mac Bruithin will officiate. Rev Robert Wray and his parishioners will be delighted to see you. All are welcome.

+++ Institution to Kingscourt Union of Parishes - On the evening of 4th June the parishioners of Kingscourt Union welcomed Rev Martin O'Kelly as their new rector. He was instituted in St. Ernan's, Kingscourt by Bishop Pat Storey. Kingscourt Union of Parishes straddles Counties Cavan and Meath. Rev Martin was joined by his wife Rev Ruth O'Kelly, family and friends, parishioners and friends of Kingscourt Union, as well as colleagues across the dioceses of Meath and Kildare. Parishioners from Bray also attended the Service. The choir of Christ Church Bray robed, singing two anthems: 'The Lord is my Shepherd' by Howard Goodhall, and 'A Gaelic Blessing' by John Rutter. Local clergy from other denominations, members of the community as well as local public representatives were also in attendance. The preacher was Rev Baden Stanley, rector of Christ Church Bray. The new rector of Kingscourt Union was ordained to the Priesthood in 2016, in Christ Church Cathedral. He then served as a curate in Christ Church Bray, with rector Rev Baden Stanley. One of his passions is music. He is also an

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avid amateur photographer. Martin his wife Ruth have three adult children Daniel, Owen and Rachel, as well as a grandchild. At the conclusion of the Service a number of speeches were made, formally and warmly welcoming Martin, Ruth and their family to Kingscourt Union and to the dioceses.

+++ 200th Annual Field Meeting held by the Adair and Ballingrane Circuit - A wet morning could not dampen the enjoyment of adults and school children who joined together in the marquee erected in Adair Manor Golf Course, Co. Limerick, to celebrate the 200th Annual Field Meeting held by the Adair and Ballingrane Circuit. The afternoon included a tour of the castle, and in the evening tea was served in Embury Close, a sheltered dwelling complex, followed by worship and an epilogue. Congratulations to Rev Ruth Watt, stewards and congregations for all they did to make this a special day for everyone attending.

+++ Royal recognition for East Belfast Mission - Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, on the 65th Anniversary of her coronation, has granted East Belfast Mission the Queen's Award for Voluntary Services.

We will officially receive the Queens Award from Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant at a ceremony and celebratory lunch here in the Mission on Thursday 12th September.

+++ Music in Calary – June 2019 - The following are the programmes for June in Calary Church (Eircode A98 H766):

1. On Friday **21 June**, Musici Ireland with Lance Coburn (piano) Miriam Roycroft (cello) and Beth McNinch (viola) will perform Beethoven's Eyeglass Duo,

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Schumann's *Marchenbilder*, Da Falla's *Suite Popular Española*, Carl Vine's 5 Bagatelles and Brahms's Piano Trio in A minor Op. 114.

2. On Tuesday **25 June**, Ellen Jansson (piano) will perform Beethoven's Sonata in A-flat Op. 26, Debussy's *Feux d'artifice*, Alexina Louie's 'Warrior' from *Scenes from a Jade Terrace*, Bach's Chromatic Fantasia and Fugue and Liszt's Ballade No 2. Local artist, Declan Cooke (piano) will perform Edvard Greig's 'Wedding Day at Troldhaugen'
3. On Thursday **27 June**, The Janet Ashe Memorial Concert: Adam Heron (piano) will perform Bach's French Suite No. 3 in B-minor BWV 814, Schubert's Piano Sonata No. 16 in A-minor D. 845, Albéniz's *Iberia*, Cuaderno 1 and Beethoven's Sonata No. 14 in C-sharp minor Op. 27 No. 2 "Moonlight". Local artist, Jack Lawlor (piano), will play Chopin's Nocturne in Eb major, Debussy's *Clair de Lune* and Debussy's *La Fille Aux Cheveux de Lin*.

All concerts begin at 8 pm and tickets, which are €18 and €15 for concessions, are available from John (01) 2818146 or by emailing derekneilson@eircom.net.

+++ Food for thought -

Go to Glenarriffe if you'd know this Antrim,
From Waterfoot's wide street of lime-washed walls
With the broad sandbank where the children play
And the gulls cry among the billowy washing.
Go to Glenarriffe, take the rising road,
The curving road that hugs the northern slope.
John Hewitt

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June 8 News Links

[Drugs don't make you king. Drugs make you into a corpse' - priest delivers powerful address at ...](#)

[Independent.ie](#)

There was an obvious garda presence at the **Church** of Our Lady Immaculate in Darndale for the funeral mass this morning, just yards from the ...

[QUB criticised for cutting theological college links](#)

BBC News

By Robbie Meredith BBC **News** NI Education Correspondent ... At its general assembly last year, the Presbyterian **Church in Ireland** (PCI) decided to ...

[Child abuse and its concealment did occur within Protestant institutions](#)

The Irish News

Patrick Murphy observed that, "Protestant **churches** have generally not been ... We are ignorant of it because down south official **Ireland** and its media ...

[Model of Clonmel's oldest building presented to St. Mary's Church of Ireland](#)

[TipperaryLive.ie](#)

Chris Collins recently presented a model of Old St. Mary's **church** in Clonmel that he made from wood to the **church**. The Mary Street **church** is the ...

[Pope Francis gives support to Day for Life 2019](#)

Premier

Day for Life is celebrated annually by the Catholic **Church** in **Ireland**, ... "The responsibility to share the good **news** that every human life is beautiful ..

[Slavery: 'Apology without cost would be empty'](#)

Church Times

The **Church of England's** General Synod issued an apology for slavery in ... from Slavery, the following year, to redress it (**News**, 15 February 2019).

[Bishop defends actions after suggestion he told vicar to leave Church over transgender complaint](#)

Premier

Rt Rev Stephen Cottrell has said it is not true that he suggested a vicar should leave the **Church of England**. John Parker, a clergyman in the Diocese ..

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