

Aughrim church takes a lead on climate action



Planting Hope: the first new tree in Aughrim's Climate Action Woodland.

June 26, 2019

Last Saturday, a Church of Ireland parish launched an exciting new initiative to tackle the crisis of climate change. As part of the bicentenary celebrations of Holy Trinity Church, plans were announced for a new Climate Action Woodland, to be developed on a picturesque site in the historic village of Aughrim.

The very first tree of the new Climate Action Woodland was planted in memory of the late Michael Hyde, by members of his family. It was part of an inter-church ceremony led by the bishop of Limerick and Killaloe, the Right Reverend Kenneth Kearon, alongside Fr Gerard Geraghty, Archdeacon Wayne Carney, the Reverend Patrick Towers, and the Reverend John Godfrey, rector of the Aughrim and Creagh parish unions.

“We feel that we can’t just sit back and ignore the crisis of climate change any longer. If we are to look our children and grandchildren in the eye, then we as a church urgently need to take a lead on climate action in our own community,” said Mr Godfrey. “This Climate Action Woodland will help to take carbon out of the atmosphere and protect biodiversity. But even more importantly, as people use it, it could inspire them to make brave changes in their own lifestyles. This is a symbol of hope, that if we act together now, we can stop climate change spiralling out of control.”

Whilst enabling people to enjoy the natural beauty of the area, the new woodland walk will also encourage them to reconnect with the ruins of an ancient abbey on those grounds. “This is the site of our shared Christian heritage,” explained the rector, “so coming back here, to walk or sit, is

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a way of reconnecting with the rhythms of reflection which helped to nurture Christianity in this place, right back to the time of Saint Patrick.”

In celebration of this historic moment, the ecumenical service and tree-planting ceremonies were rounded off with a garden party in the beautiful grounds of the Aughrim rectory, accompanied by with music from the Ballinasloe Town Band.

Giving sanctuary is a human, legal and spiritual obligation

Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, marked Sanctuary Sunday at Choral Evensong yesterday (June 23). Sanctuary Sunday brings World Refugee Week to a close each year and encourages the development of cultures of welcome, hospitality and safety in churches.

The sermon was preached by the Revd Dr Inderjit Bhogal OBE, founder of the City of Sanctuary Movement, and former leader of the Corrymeela Community. Dr Bhogal facilitated the establishment of Dublin City Interfaith Forum in 2012 which continues to flourish today in celebrating and honouring diversity, welcoming people of all cultures and ensuring there is intercultural wellbeing in Dublin city.

He said he was honoured that Dublin had embraced the City of Sanctuary movement and that Christ Church and St Patrick's were Cathedrals of Sanctuary while DCU was a University of Sanctuary.

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Damien Jackson of the Irish Council of Churches and Irish Interchurch Meeting, Ellie Kisyombe who is cofounder of Our Table, Archbihsop Michael Jackson, the Revd Dr Inderjit Bhogal OBE, founder of City of Sanctuary and Shepherd Machaya, a DCU University of Sanctuary participant

Religious faith could be summarised by the New Testament reading [Luke 10: 25–37] – love God and love your neighbour, he said, adding that the instruction to love the stranger was repeated almost 40 times in the Bible.

“There is no other ethical requirement so forcibly put in Scripture... Perhaps this is because it is difficult to love a stranger. A neighbour is someone who looks a bit like us. To

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love the stranger as yourself is harder as a stranger is different from us,” he explained.

The concept of City of Sanctuary was not a new one, he explained. It can be seen in the Bible in cities of refuge created for the Children of Israel and every monastery in ancient Ireland, including the round tower in Glendalough, had a safe space where people could find refuge. Many cathedrals in the past were places of sanctuary.

The City of Sanctuary movement seeks to ensure that children, older people, those who suffer indignity, or people who are in danger can find a safe space where they will be welcomed.

June 22 marked the anniversary of the arrival of the ship, the Empire Windrush, Dr Bhogal stated. Today 64 million people have lost the protection of their countries and are seeking sanctuary. Every two seconds a person is forced to flee their home, he said, that is 44,000 people each day.

He recalled a recent visit to Italy where he saw one of the boats which had carried people across the Mediterranean. From it he took a piece of wood which he made into a cross and a piece of rope which he wears as a stole.

Brexit had come to symbolise a focus across Britain and Ireland on freedom of movement and the preacher said it was an important discussion to have. City of Sanctuary offered a contribution to that discussion, he stated.

“There is a human, legal and spiritual obligation on us all to give sanctuary to others. This is important in this time of

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hostility to others who seek sanctuary. We can all be sanctuary to each other. Sanctuary Sunday is a small reminder to continue this work,” he concluded.

During the service readings were given by Ellie Kisyombe of Our Table and Shepherd Machaya, a DCU University of Sanctuary participant while Damien Jackson of the Irish Council of Churches and Irish Interchurch Meeting led the prayers.

To learn about becoming a Church of Sanctuary please see www.churchofsanctuary.org. More information about the City of Sanctuary movement in Ireland can be found at www.ireland.cityofsanctuary.org.

Drumcliffe Church awarded over €120,000 in Leader Programme funding

Drumcliffe Church Tourism Development Committee has been awarded €122,805 in funding from the Rural Development Leader Programme for 2014–2020. The delivery of this funding will be facilitated by Sligo Local Community Development Committee as the Local Action Group with responsibility for the delivery of the Programme within County Sligo. The funding is being allocated under the theme of Rural Economic Development, Enterprise Development and Job Creation and the sub-theme of Rural Tourism.

This project will be 75% funded from the Leader Programme and 25% from Drumcliffe Church Tourism



Drumcliffe Church which has received over €120,000 in funding to support rural tourism.

Development (DCTD) in partnership with Drumcliffe Church Select Vestry.

The Ven Capt. Isaac Hanna (Rector of Drumcliffe Church and Chairperson of DCTD), commenting upon the announcement, said: “This funding announcement has affirmed the hard work and dedication from the committee over the past three years, and will act as a catalyst for the development of tourism facilities at Drumcliffe church. We are all looking forward to this project coming to fruition.”

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DCTD's philosophy for this project is to sustain Drumcliffe as one of Ireland's top visitor destinations and to bring that experience to a wider global audience, while maintaining the existing peace and tranquillity of the site. This project will meet the needs of local, national and international visitors and create a unique Drumcliffe Experience. Through this project we endeavour to create sustainable jobs, as well as having an overall positive impact on tourism in County Sligo.

The funded elements of the project will include multi-lingual audio guides, a purpose-built kiosk, and upgraded staff facilities as well as smaller project elements to create this new experience for visitors to Drumcliffe.

Drumcliffe Church Tourism Development Committee would like to express our gratitude to Sligo Leader Partnership CLG and Sligo Local Community Development Committee as the Local Action Group, the Department of Rural and Community Development, and the European Union.

Archbishop of Canterbury highlights missional role of religious communities

The vital role of religious communities in the Anglican Communion was highlighted at an Anglican Communion conference at St Paul's University in Limuru, Kenya, last month. Addressing delegates the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, said: "Religious communities are an integral part of the church today and in places they are a vibrant part of the church."



The Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby in Limuru, Kenya, for the conference on religious communities

Talking about their contribution to the mission of the church he highlighted the work of the Melanesian mission sisters in leading the church through times of civil war and difficulty in the Solomon Islands. He said members of that mission had been “working out of the love of Christ for the sake of the reconciliation of their country.”

The conference, which ran from 29 May to 2 June, brought together delegates from 14 nations and from 10 different religious communities. It was organised by the Theological Education department at the Anglican Communion Office and was the third of three conferences on the Archbishop’s priorities of reconciliation, evangelism, and the renewal of prayer and the religious life.

Archbishop Justin said, “People who are called and hear the call to take up the religious life are ordinary people who are willing to do the extraordinary, which is put their lives in the hands of God with the aim – as we find in the Rule of St Benedict set out again and again and again – of learning what it is to be in obedience to Christ and to walk together with Christ.”

Conference organisers, Canon Dr Stephen Spencer, Director for Theological Education in the Anglican Communion, and Project Manager Dr Muthuraj Swamy, will publish papers from the week next year to share with wider Communion. Dr Spencer described how the re-founding of religious communities in the Church of England in the 19th century had been “like a stone dropped into a pond”. He said that the conference had shown that the ripples from that stone were now reaching across the globe.

One of the delegates, Brother Emmanuel, the founder of a Francophone Benedictine community in Cameroon, described how encouraging it was to learn that Anglican brothers and sisters are found across the world. Sister Jemma, from a Franciscan community in South Korea, described how in all the diversity of communities there was a strong common life.

The conference gave a boost to the vision of a number of women in Kenya, including female clergy, to establish a religious community in the country which current has no Anglican religious community.

Papers and responses from the first two conferences on the Archbishop’s priorities have just been published and were

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launched during the Anglican Consultative Council meeting in Hong Kong in May.

The aim of the papers from all of the conferences is to help the Anglican Communion prepare for the Lambeth Conference next year.

- *Walking Together: Global Anglican Perspectives on Reconciliation*
- ed. Swamy and Spencer
- Forward Movement, ISBN 978-0-880-28474-5
- *Witnessing Together: Global Anglican Perspectives on Evangelism and Witness*
- ed. Swamy and Spencer
- Forward Movement, ISBN 978-0-880-28475-2

Pope presides over Council of Cardinals meeting on Curial reform

The main focus of the six members of the Council, who are in session until Thursday, is the review of the new Apostolic Constitution on the reform of the Roman Curia whose provisional title is "Praedicate evangelium".

The 30th meeting of the Council of Cardinals that is advising the Pope on the reform of the central government of the Catholic Church began in the Vatican Tuesday morning in the presence of the Pontiff.

The main focus of the meeting that will conclude on Thursday, is the new Apostolic Constitution on the reform of



A 2017 archive photo of the Council of Cardinals

the Roman Curia, the central government of the Catholic Church.

The draft text of the document, whose provisional title is "Praedicate Evangelium" (Preach the Gospel), was approved by the Council of Cardinals and sent to the presidents of the national bishops' conferences, the Synods of the Eastern Churches, the dicasteries of the Roman Curia, the Conferences of Major Superiors and a few Pontifical Universities which were asked to send observations and suggestions.

"Praedicate Evangelium" is to replace the current Apostolic Constitution "Pastor Bonus" (The Good Shepherd) of Pope St. John Paul II which has been in force since June 28, 1988, and also includes modifications and additions by Popes Benedict XVI and Francis.

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In the last meeting of the Council of Cardinals, April 8 to 10, the procedure for consultation on the new Apostolic Constitution was finalized.

All the six cardinals of the Council participated in the April meeting: Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Coordinator, Cardinal Óscar Andrés Rodríguez Maradiaga, Cardinal Reinhard Marx, Cardinal Seán Patrick O'Malley, Cardinal Giuseppe Bertello and Cardinal Oswald Gracias.

Also present were the Secretary of the Council, Msgr. Marcello Semeraro, and the Assistant Secretary, Msgr. Marco Mellino.

Among the issues that the April meeting discussed were the missionary orientation that the Curia must increasingly assume in the light of the new Apostolic Constitution, the commitment to strengthen the process of synodality in the Church at all levels and the need for a greater presence of women in leadership roles in the bodies of the Holy See.

Finally, it was reiterated that the Council of Cardinals is tasked with helping the Pope in the governance of the Universal Church and hence its function does not end with the publication of the Apostolic Constitution.

June 26 - Today in Christian history

June 26, 1097: The armies of the First Crusade gain control of Nicea, now modern day Iznik, Turkey.

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June 26, 1892: Pearl S. Buck, Presbyterian missionary to China and author of the bestselling *The Good Earth* (1931), is born.

June 26, 1932: Francis Schaeffer attends a Presbyterian church meeting where a Unitarian spoke out against the truth of the Bible and its teachings. A young lady named Edith had prepared a rebuttal, but before she could speak, Francis stood up and shredded the speaker's arguments. Edith was impressed, and after she read her remarks, Francis was impressed as well. He walked her home—the beginning of their lifelong relationship and ministry together.

June 26 News Links

[Schools identified as having sustainability issues remain open](#)

The Irish News

The **Church of Ireland** managed Desertmartin PS is facing closure, spelling doom for plans to create a joint-faith primary. It had been hoped it and the ...

[Brexit represents a breach of the spirit of the Good Friday Agreement](#)

The Irish News

Indeed, it was taken as a given in 2004, when the **Church of Ireland**, which has a substantial following in the unionist population right up to leadership ...

[Bishop appeals for unity in society at rain-soaked Eucharistic Procession](#)

Echo Live

"This indicated their support for this peace initiative from the **Church of Ireland** that had suffered considerably, especially in West Cork, during the ...

[David Quinn: Pope Francis is right to explore married priests rule](#)

The Times

The Catholic Church already has married priests. ... Although **Church of Ireland** vocations have fallen, they are higher than for the Irish Catholic ...

[The History of Philosophy: AC Grayling's insightful but blinkered view](#)

Irish Times

In an excellent chapter on George Berkeley, the **Church of Ireland** bishop is understood as having a twin-track mind – the first aimed at “defending ...

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Concert Planner: 24–30 June 2019

The Journal of Music

27.6.19 – Shore to Shore, Newman University Church, Dublin 27.6.19 ... Regina Nathan
Summer Concert 2019, St Columba's **Church of Ireland**, Ennis

Longford to welcome Dublin Welsh male choir

Longford Leader

The Dublin Welsh Male Voice **Choir** first formed in 1966 and has since become well established and widely recognised in **Ireland** and beyond for its ...

Lennox Robinson's Whiteheaded Boy for Ballineen stages

Southern Star Newspaper

Lennox Robinson spent his formative years in the area, moving to Ballineen aged six when his father became a **Church of Ireland** clergyman. Born in ...

Peter Ball, former C of E bishop jailed for sexual abuse, dies at 87

The Guardian

Peter Hancock, the bishop of Bath and Wells and the **Church of England's** lead ... Ball and our prayers and thoughts are with everyone affected by this **news**." ... made, but was allowed to continue officiating in the **Church of England**.

[Bishop who abused boys as young as 12 dies after serving half his sentence](#) - [Mirror.co.uk](#)

[Peter Ball: Sex offender bishop dies](#) - BBC News

[Disgraced bishop Peter Ball dies aged 87](#) - [shropshirestar.com](#)

Thinking Anew – The presence of Jesus in the world

Irish Times

Ireland has changed. Numbers attending Sunday Mass have ... Liturgy is a form of public **religious** worship. For it to have meaning and purpose it must ...

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