

## Abaana New Life Choir is on tour now



The Abaana New Life Choir – an amazing choir made up of 20 primary school children from Uganda – has arrived to tour the UK and Ireland.

The children are drawn from across 14 primary schools which have been built by local charity Abaana in some of the poorest communities in Uganda.

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The choir will be giving a series of concert, sharing their stories and experiences of life in Uganda and how God is working in their communities.

The concert programme will include traditional African songs with their haunting harmonies, as well as well-known contemporary and gospel songs.

The New Life Choir will be performing in Connor Diocese – with a concert at The Hub, Queen’s University, on February 27; Lisburn Cathedral at 7.30pm on Good Friday, April 19; and at St Mark’s Parish Church, Ballymacash, on Saturday evening June 8.

For a full list of choir concert dates - <https://www.abaana.org/what-we-do/new-life-choir/choir-dates>

Neville Jones, Assistant Director of the Bangor-based charity, said: “Abaana seeks to bring hope to boys and girls living in poverty in Uganda through sharing the Good News of the Gospel and providing access to education.

“We passionately believe that if we can provide a child with a good education, this gives them the best opportunity of securing a job. Then gradually over time, the young person will pull him/herself and very often their family out of poverty.”

One of the members of the choir is 15-year-old Isaac. Just five years ago, Isaac was living rough on the streets of Kampala, the capital of Uganda, with all its dangers and fears. Isaac now lives in Abaana’s New Life Children’s Home and has resumed full time education.

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# Armagh meeting of Regional Anglican Primates



**Archbishop Richard Clarke (Church of Ireland), Primus Mark Strange (Scottish Episcopal Church), Archbishop John Davies (Church in Wales) and Archbishop Justin Welby (Church of England) pictured at St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh, at the close of their meeting.**

As part of the Regional Primates' Meetings, the Most Revd and Right Honourable Justin Welby (Archbishop of Canterbury), the Most Revd John Davies (Archbishop of Wales), and the Most Revd Mark Strange (Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church) were welcomed to Armagh, the ecclesiastical capital of Ireland, by the Most Revd Richard



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Clarke (Archbishop of Armagh). The meeting took place from 27-28 February 2019.

The Primates enjoyed the pleasure of each other's company and the meeting was conducted with informality and in friendship. Discussion took place on issues affecting the Anglican Communion, Provinces, the UK and Ireland, the mission of the Church in these islands. The Primates prayed and shared Holy Communion together and with optimism look to the future and to further opportunities to meet again.

## **Listed buildings seminar at Queen's University**

A seminar to assist agents or owners of listed buildings or historic monuments with applications for heritage consents will be held on March 21 at Riddel Hall, Queen's University. The seminar is entitled 'Constructive Conservation – making smarter applications for heritage consents: shortening the timeframe from the completion of the specifications to the erection of the scaffold.'

The seminar will outline how Historic Environment Division (HED) can assist with making improvements to applications and frontload the consent regime. It will reveal how the Second Survey information can be accessed and utilised, and provide information about the work of HED in providing guidance and responding to district councils' Local

Development Plans, Community Plans and actions with the historic environment stakeholder group.



Participants will understand how energy and access issues can be dealt with to ensure that there is no detrimental impact on the heritage fabric of a building.

Bring photos and sketches and book a slot with the HED architects.

The seminar is suitable for owners, built environment professionals, planning and conservation officers and building control surveyors.

HED architects and archaeologists will deliver a free five hour session for built environment professionals who are working with developers and owners of heritage buildings.

This seminar will offer practical advice on how to help agents to help themselves to improve the timeframe from submission to formal approval.

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Download a full agenda - <https://connor.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Constructive-Conservation-Agenda.pdf> for the seminar which will run from 8.45am until

## MP says Lambeth Conference should face court over ban on gay partners



The organisers of an international Anglican summit should be taken to court over their ban on gay bishops bringing their same-sex partners as guests, an MP has claimed.

Nigel Evans (above) believes the rule, which was announced ahead of the 2020 Lambeth Conference in Canterbury next year, could equate to workplace discrimination. The Conservative representative for Ribble Valley told The Daily Telegraph: "I'm wondering whether that's discrimination. It could be tested in the courts."



"If it wasn't for the gays in the Church, the Church would crumble!"

"If it is tested in the courts, we would be doing the Archbishop of Canterbury (left) a favour."

The newspaper also quoted an employment lawyer who suggested the bar on gay spouses could contravene the Equality Act of 2010.

The Lambeth Conference - held every ten years - will see Archbishop of Canterbury Most Rev Justin Welby welcome bishops from national Anglican branches across the world.

For the first time, leaders have been invited to bring their spouses along.

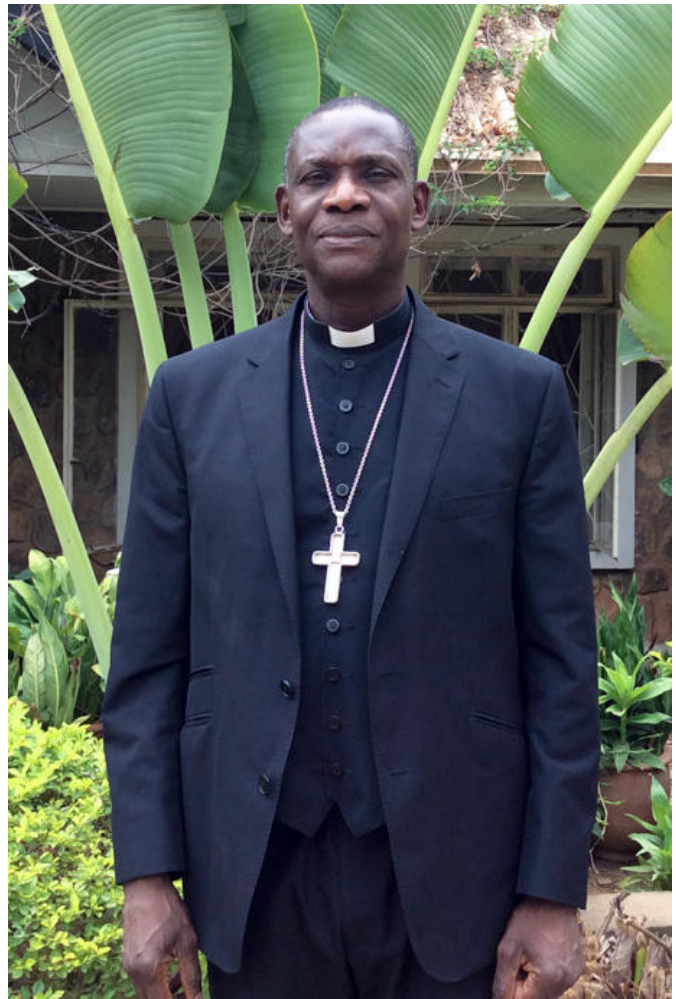
But the organiser of the conference, the Anglican Communion, was forced to clarify the invitation by explaining partners of gay bishops were not included

General Secretary Dr Josiah Idowu-Fearon (pictured below) has said in response to criticism: "The invitation process has...needed to take account of the Anglican Communion's position on marriage which is that it is the lifelong union of a man and a woman.

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"Given this, it would be inappropriate for same-sex spouses to be invited to the conference."

**General Secretary  
Dr Josiah  
Idowu-Fearon**



Earlier this week, media reported on how the Bishop of Liverpool Rt Rev Paul Bayes said he would [protest the decision by

attending the summit without his wife - <https://www.premierchristianradio.com/News/UK/Bishop-to-attend-Lambeth-Conference-without-wife-in-protest-at-bar-on-gay-clergy-partners>

.  
The head of a body representing conservative Anglicans recently cited the wedding of a gay bishop in Canada as among his concerns for the global Anglican Church - <https://www.premierchristianradio.com/News/World/Conservative-bishop-warns-global-Anglican-summit-an-obstacle-to-the-gospel>

.  
Nigel Evans, who is gay and Christian, says he would like to get married in a church. He told The Telegraph: "I've spoken



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to Justin Welby about it...it is not right that I am a first class gay but a second class Christian."

## Derry and the Ulster Revival of 1859

Grave of the Reverend William McClure, is in Saint Augustine's (Church of Ireland) Graveyard, Londonderry.

The Reverend McClure, minister of First Derry Presbyterian Church, visited America with the Reverend William Gibson, to obtain first hand impressions of a religious revival that had started there. This was a prelude to the great Ulster Revival of 1859:

'The news of the great awakening in America in 1858 to these faithful souls in Zion was, as the cloud like a man's hand to Elijah, a certain harbinger of the sound of abundance of rain. So great was the interest in the American movement that the General Assembly meeting in Londonderry in 1858 appointed two of their ministers, Dr. William Gibson and Rev. William McClure to visit North America.

'In America these ministers visited the centres of Revival and rejoiced like Barnabas of old when they had seen the grace of God.

'Upon their return the two deputies had many public opportunities of bearing testimony to what they had

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witnessed of the remarkable outpouring of the Spirit across the Atlantic.

'Their united testimony no doubt contributed to the spiritual background of the revival.' From - Ian R. K. Paisley, The '59 Revival

## News briefs



**+++St Nicholas' Parish Church, Belfast, raised £750 for the NI Air Ambulance** - through its Christmas Tree Appeal. Grace Williams, Area Fundraising Manager for NI Air Ambulance, attended on February 27 to collect a cheque presented on behalf of the church by William Carlisle,

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

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Churchwarden. The Rev Tim Close, Locum Minister at St Nicholas', is also pictured.

**+++Curate to give Larne lunch time organ recitals -** The Rev Dr Ian Mills, curate of the Parishes of Larne and Inver with Glynn and Raloo, will present four lunchtime recitals on St Cedma's Conacher Organ on Friday's during Lent. Before ordination, Ian worked as Organist and Master of the Choristers in Derry Cathedral. He also kept a busy freelance schedule as a recitalist and accompanist, and taught in St Malachy's College and Methodist College, Belfast. Ian was also involved in making music with various choirs and ensembles. He was appointed President of the Ulster Society of Organists and Choirmasters earlier this year. The recitals will take place on March 8, 15, 22 and 29, beginning at 1.05pm and lasting 25 minutes. Admission is free and the audience is invited for a light lunch in the hall following each performance.

**+++Listening process in Killala diocese launched -** The official launch of stage two of the 'Placing Hope in Faith' listening process in the Diocese of Killala took place on the evening of 28 February 2019, in the Newman Institute, Ballina, County Mayo. In an effort to respond to contemporary challenges facing the Church, Bishop Fleming and priests of the diocese of Killala decided to ask the people what they thought and felt about Church matters. A steering committee was appointed in 2017, comprising two women and one man from each of the four deaneries in the diocese, five priests and Bishop Fleming. This decision acknowledged that the future of the diocese will be in the hands of 'lay' Catholics. The committee made a number of initial observations.

**+++25 years of the ordination of women to the priesthood in C of E -**

A service marking 25 years of the ordination of women to the priesthood in the Church of England was held at Lambeth Palace today. The guests included many women who were among the first to be ordained in 1994, some laypeople that were active in the campaign for the ordination of women, as well as ordinands and a range of other female clergy. The very first woman to be ordained, Rev Prebendary Angela Berners-Wilson, was in attendance. Women participating in the service ranged from bishops to ordinands. Rev Dr Isabelle Hamley, the Archbishop of Canterbury's chaplain, preached the sermon. Five women bishops attended the service: the Bishop of Derby, Rt Rev Libby Lane; the Bishop of Sherborne, Rt Rev Karen Gorham; the Bishop of Ripon, Rt Rev Dr Helen-Ann Hartley; the Bishop of Penrith, Rt Rev Dr Emma Ineson, and the Bishop of Dorking, Rt Rev Dr Jo Bailey Wells.

**+++Mothers Union aids soldier** - After describing himself as 'broken', a soldier was able to benefit from our 'Away from it all' Scheme. Whilst away, he was able to feel the presence of God and began to make positive life changes.

[https://www.mothersunion.org/news/soldier-neils-afia-journey ...](https://www.mothersunion.org/news/soldier-neils-afia-journey...)

**+++Lenten message from Pope Francis** - Pope Francis is calling on the faithful not to let the Lenten season of grace pass in vain, and to live as children of God acknowledging and obeying His law, in particular in regards to our brothers and sisters and to creation. Lent begins this year on Wednesday 6 March. In this year's Lenten message, the Pope invites believers to prepare to celebrate the paschal



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mystery with mind and heart renewed, warning that “Sin leads man to consider himself the god of creation, to see himself as its absolute master and to use it, not for the purpose willed by the Creator but for his own interests”. The Pope’s Lenten message was released on Tuesday during a press conference at the Holy See Press Office. The theme chosen this year is “For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God” (Rom 8:19)

**+++ Foodf or thought -** Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the great German pastor, theologian, martyr, spy was asked in 1943 how it was possible for the Church to sit back and let Hitler seize absolute power. His firm answer: "It was the teaching of cheap grace."

"Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, communion without confession, absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ." - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Observation - We live in a time and culture that not only teaches cheap grace but praises it.

## **March 2 in Christian history**

**March 2, 1415:** At the Council of Constance, convened to end the Great Schism—during which three men claimed to be pope—John XXIII (one of the men) abdicated. Ironically, John himself had convened the council the previous year convinced that he would emerge victorious. Now he feared for his life and fled the city in disguise. It didn't work: he was

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brought back, condemned, and deposed. The council eventually healed the schism. It also called for the execution of Bohemian reformer Jan Hus .

**March 2, 1791:** Founder of Methodism John Wesley dies in London. Thanks to his organizational genius, we know exactly how many followers he had when he died: 71,668 British members, 294 preachers, 43,265 American members with 198 preachers and 19 missionaries. Today Methodists number about 30 million worldwide.

**March 2, 1930:** The Catholic Hour, one of the oldest religious radio programs, is inaugurated.

**March 2, 1938:** Lutheran pastor Martin Niemoller, one of the founders of Germany's "Confessing Church," is sentenced to seven months in prison for opposing Hitler. "First they came for the socialists and I did not speak out because I was not a socialist," he said. "Then they came for the trade unionists and I did not speak out because I was not a trade unionist. Then they came for the Jews and I did not speak out because I was not a Jew. They they came for me and there was no one left to speak for me".

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