



Diocese hears first hand from the persecuted church

March 20, 2019

The Diocese of Down and Dromore partnered with Open Doors for its annual St Patrick's Day celebrations in Downpatrick on Monday 18 March.

The theme was Counting the Cost: Standing with the Persecuted Church, and the President of Open Doors UK & Ireland, Eddie Lyle, spoke at the Holy Communion service in Saul.

An Egyptian Christian, 'Michael Jones' (not his real name) joined in the pilgrimage and spoke at the Festival Service in Down Cathedral.

Eddie has worked alongside the persecuted church for two decades and has learned many things from the Christians he has met and ministered with.

He reminded those present that "the New Testament was written by persecuted Christians, for persecuted Christians, in the context of persecution. It focuses especially upon those who daily share our faith but not our freedoms. For our persecuted brothers and sisters, the Bible is a survival aid. It affirms the fact that if you seek to live a holy life you will be persecuted. It teaches them that persecution isn't abnormal. Around the world, wherever the gospel is shared, persecution exists."

He continued: "St Patrick understood this. What we know of his ministry in Ireland was that he preached the gospel fearlessly, knowing that his life was in danger from those who diametrically disagreed with what he was preaching."

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Eddie also read a very moving letter from a Christian Syrian family who, when offered the chance to leave the country, sensed God asking them to stay and face possible kidnapping or death.

Open Doors' Chris Phillips led the Pilgrimage from Saul to Down Cathedral. Archdeacon David McClay and the Revd Mark Harvey have met persecuted Christians from North Korea and Iraq respectively and the prayers Diocese hears first hand from the persecuted church: The Diocese of Down and Dromore partnered with Open Doors for its annual St Patrick's Day celebrations in Downpatrick on Monday 18 March.

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Mark Harvey have met persecuted Christians from North Korea and Iraq respectively and prayers were concentrated on those countries and Egypt. David and Mark later shared their experiences at the Festival Service.

The procession of pilgrims walking up the Mall and into the cathedral, was a reminder of the religious freedom we enjoy, and which is routinely denied to millions of Christians around the world.

Our preacher 'Michael Jones', is working with ministry partners to strengthen the church and teach Egyptian Christians to stand through persecution and pressure. They suffer daily discrimination in work and education and worshippers have been targeted by violent extremists. In spite of this, the church is growing.

"Pray with us, not just for us, said Michael. "We don't need or want anything but to shine for the Lord.

"The enemy wants to empty our region of Christians. Don't pray for persecution to stop. Pray for perseverance and persistence and for the joy of the Lord to shine all over the region.

He concluded: "Continue to join hands with us. Stay close. Pray for us and we will pray for you. My prayer is that God would raise up many faithful and fearless Patricks. May you shine as a church in this country and may his Word be heard throughout this land."

Following Michael's address, the Revd Julie Bell played the haunting 'Theme from Schindler's List' on violin and guests

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from the link diocese of Albany, the Revd Tom and Elizabeth Papazoglakis, led the prayers.

At the end of the service and before the wreath laying and lunch, Bishop Harold invited each person to place their hand in the imprint on the new St Patrick's cross and commit themselves to follow the way of Christ, no matter what the cost.



Restored crozier used in Kildare on Saint Patrick's Day

Bishop Denis Nulty of Kildare and Leighlin tweeted a picture on Saint Patrick's Day of a very special crozier originally

presented in 1921 to

one of his predecessors, Bishop Patrick Foley, on the silver jubilee of his consecration as a member of the hierarchy.

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The crozier was particularly appropriate for use by Bishop Nulty on Saint Patrick's Day as it incorporates a beautiful shamrock motif.

A crozier is a staff of authority, often styled to represent a shepherd's crook.

The crozier was originally presented to Bishop Foley by the Carlow branch of the Sodality of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Bishop Foley was Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin from 1896-1926.

Bishop Nulty said he was honoured to use the restored crozier which is a piece of the history of the diocese.

Archbishop asks for prayers for Cookstown tragedy families

The head of the Catholic Church in Ireland has asked for prayers following the tragic deaths of three teenagers in Co Tyrone on Saint Patrick's night.

The three young people have been named as Lauren Bullock (17), a student of Saint Patrick's College in Dungannon, Connor Currie (16) and Morgan Barnard (17), who were both students at Saint Patrick's Academy in Dungannon.

Speaking on Monday, Archbishop Eamon Martin, Archbishop of Armagh said, "The joy and celebration of Saint Patrick's Day in the Archdiocese of Armagh has given way to shock and sadness today as we try to come to terms

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with the tragic incident in Cookstown last night. Our heartfelt thoughts and prayers are with the families and friends of Lauren, Connor and Morgan, and with all of those who were caught up in the horror and distress of what happened, including those injured and traumatised, and the emergency services and staff who responded.

“The sudden loss of any life makes us stop in our tracks and ask, ‘Why?’ – but when the lives of three young people are taken away so abruptly, and in the fullness of their youth and potential, we are left speechless and the grief is overwhelming. Words are inadequate at times like this: only compassion, love and faith can offer consolation to their loved ones and a glimpse of hope in the resurrection of Christ.”

Archbishop Eamon went on to say, “In the coming days our parishes, schools and wider communities of Dungannon, Donaghmore, Cookstown, and others throughout Tyrone

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and beyond, will reach out with Christian faith, love and compassion to let these heartbroken families and school friends know that they are not alone in their grief and loss. Please join with me in praying for comfort and strength for all the bereaved and injured.

“I offer, in prayer, words from *Saint Patrick’s Breastplate*: ‘Christ in quiet, Christ in danger, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger. Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ to comfort and restore me’.”

A book of condolence has been opened in Saint Patrick’s Church, Dungannon.

A Book of Condolence for those who lost their lives in Sunday’s tragic events in Cookstown has been opened at Belfast City Hall. The Lord Mayor, Councillor Deirdre Hargey, joined representatives from all the political parties on Belfast City Council to open the book. It will be available for signing in the main reception of the City Hall during normal opening hours (8.30am – 5pm Monday to Friday, 10am – 4pm Saturday and Sunday).

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Irish President Michael D Higgins has expressed his sympathy to the families of the three Tyrone teenagers who died on Sunday night.

Last call for Developing Ministry day

With just under two weeks to go until this year's *SEARCH* Colloquium, time is running out to book your place. The thought-provoking day-long event is being held in partnership with TCD Chaplaincy on Saturday March 30 in Trinity's Long Room Hub from 10am to 5pm.

The theme is 'Developing Ministry: What is the Spirit Saying to the Church?' and Canon Dr David Hewlett, principal of the Queen's Foundation in Birmingham, will be the keynote speaker. His theme is 'Radical Challenge and New Possibilities'.

In the year when the first ordained local ministers are to be ordained deacon, the challenges of discerning vocations to varying styles of ministry, of suitable training, efficient deployment, clergy support and spirituality will all be covered.

Speakers and panelists from all contexts – north and south, male and female, ordained and lay – have agreed to take part, and include four archdeacons and two women deans. From Dublin and Glendalough, there will be contributions from Canon David Gillespie, the Revd Gillian Wharton, the

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DEVELOPING MINISTRY

WHAT IS THE SPIRIT SAYING TO THE CHURCH ?

A colloquium organised by *Search: A Church of Ireland Journal*
and the Church of Ireland Chaplaincy at Trinity College Dublin

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10.00—1700 Saturday 30 March 2019 (*Registration from 9.30*)

THE LONG ROOM HUB, TCD



SPEAKERS

Canon Dr David Hewlett (KEYNOTE)
Bishop Michael Burrows
Ven. Andrew Forster
Dean Maria Jansson
Bishop Ken Good
Canon Dr Maurice Elliot
Ven. Robert Miller
Rev. Rob Jones
Bishop Patrick Rooke

For other invited contributors to the discussion, see www.searchjournal.ireland.anglican.org/events

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Revd Rob Jones, and the Revd Cathy Hallissey, while the Revd Dr William Olhausen will chair a panel session on 'Roads to effective ministry', after input on training options by Canon Maurice Elliott.

The Colloquium will be chaired by Bishop Michael Burrows, chair of the

Commission on Ministry, in partnership with former chairman, Bishop Ken Good.

To enrol for the one-day Colloquium, please contact *SEARCH* treasurer, Mr Michael Denton, at subscriptions@searchjournal.ireland.anglican.org. Including lunch and mid-session refreshments, the day costs €35. Concessions available.

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Rebels, rescues and robbery: Maud Kells launches book on missionary exploits in Africa

The Co Tyrone missionary who miraculously survived being shot by robbers in the Congo is publishing a book chronicling her 50 years of African adventures, Philip Bradfield writes in the News Letter.

Presbyterian midwife Maud Kells OBE made national headlines after she was shot by thieves in her compound at Mulita in the Congo jungle in 2015.

However, in what she believes was a “miracle”, the bullet passed right through her, narrowly missing her spinal cord and a major blood vessel by the narrowest of margins.

‘An Open Door’ is to be launched in Maud Kells’ home church, Molesworth Presbyterian in Cookstown, on her 80th birthday on April 1.

Leaving Tyrone for the Congo as a missionary midwife in 1968, she has also survived several national uprisings, trained countless nurses, built schools and hospitals, taught in Bible college and is now adding the title of author to her lengthy CV.

“I had been taking meetings in recent years and everybody kept asking me ‘haven’t you written these stories down for a book?’ I always resisted doing it but then eventually I got so

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Co Tyrone missionary Maud Kells is releasing a book about her life in Africa

much pressure from people saying ‘you should write these stories down for the future generations’.”

The book title came from the Bible verse on which she based her five precarious decades in Africa.

“The verse God gave me was ‘behold I set before you an open door that no man can shut’. At that time the door into Congo was closed because it was the 1964 rebellion. But by the time I had finished all my training the door was open. I was evacuated several times from Congo but each time I was able to go back again.”

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She first went in 1968 and left for the final time about a fortnight ago. Although a midwife, she found herself “doing everything” as the need arose.

“I was a trained midwife but we made our own bricks and built a little hospital, a school and nursery. But I was also helping in the Bible school and the church work.”

In one situation 1998, Maud and colleagues had to be evacuated from the Congo at short notice. War was declared and the borders were closed. Rebels were threatening to take them hostage and shoot down any aircraft that tried to rescue them. An American satellite warned the missionaries that rebel forces were about to overrun their position.

Hostile rebel supporters kept removing the white sheets they laid out as a safety signal for the plane to land. So at the last moment they put down Maud’s white coat instead and the pilot landed and collected them all in a rapid turnaround.

From 1998 to 2002 she worked in south Sudan because it was too dangerous to work in Congo. “But that was like going out of the frying pan into the fire,” she said.

She added: “Hopefully the book will challenge readers about the tremendous need for missionaries and aid in third world countries. “

“Hopefully they’ll be challenged in their faith because I just had to trust the Lord to look after me and get out of so many difficult situations.”

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An Open Door is published by 10Publishing at £9.99 and will be available in bookshops and online.

News briefs



+++Appreciation of lay reader's ministry - At the Eucharist in St Iberius Church on St Patrick's Day, Ciaran Kavanagh was presented with a new Diocesan Readers Scarf on behalf of all in Wexford and Kilsoran Union. Canon Arthur Minion said, "Ciaran is a generous support to ministry amongst us and across the Diocese... our sincere thanks and every blessing to him". Pictured are Canon

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Arthur, Rector, Ciaran, Esther Lawal and Ian Prescott,
Churchwardens.

+++Highlighting the work of CMSI - CMSI hopes to have a presence at summer events and conferences, to highlight the work of the society and to promote opportunities for Short-Term Experience Placements. Pray for Gillian Maganda as she books-in for these events and begins planning for them.

+++Former Roman Catholic priest becomes Anglican bishop - A former Roman Catholic priest, Daniel Genovesi, has been consecrated to serve as interim Bishop of Uruguay “after considerable prayer and discernment”. The Bishop-elect was consecrated in Buenos Aires Cathedral on Saturday (16 March). He and his wife Mercedes will start their new ministry in Uruguay – described as the most secular country in South America – on Monday 1 April.

+++Head of CMS New Zealand to be bishop - The head of the New Zealand Church Missionary Society, Steve Maina, has been elected as the next Bishop of Nelson. The Bishop-elect was born and raised in Kenya, where he was ordained a priest in 2004. After serving in the Anglican Church of Kenya, where he planted a new church as Missions Pastor at Nairobi Chapel, he was appointed General Secretary of Church Army Africa before being recruited to lead CMS in New Zealand.

+++Step up for the Hospice Walk 2019 - This year’s Hospice Walks will take place in seven scenic locations across Northern Ireland this April, including two new walks; The Cuilcagh Boardwalk and the Forget Me Not Memory

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Walk. You can also choose to do a 'DIY' Walk, if one of the organized walks doesn't suit. Simply choose your favourite walk location and do your own sponsored walk at a date and time that suits you. With walking distances ranging from 3 to 9 miles, there's a walk to suit all abilities! This year's Hospice Walks are sponsored by Mauds Ice Creams, Mauds Bangor and Creightons. To register, please visit: <https://www.nihospice.org/events/2019/april/hospice-walk-2019>

+++Food for thought - The God who created all things, and Jesus Christ the teacher who knelt to wash his disciples' feet are One with the Holy Spirit, all powerful, all loving, all serving. How can we be a servant to others today?
Archbishop John Sentamu

March 20 in Christian history

March 20, 687: Cuthbert, bishop of Lindisfarne and a vocal supporter of Celtic practices over Roman ones, dies. Shortly thereafter the Lindisfarne monks created the Lindisfarne Gospels in his honour.

March 20, 1747: Severely ill with tuberculosis, Presbyterian missionary David Brainerd ends his work among the Native Americans of Delaware.

March 20, 1852: Abolitionist Harriet Beecher Stowe, daughter of famous Congregational minister Lyman Beecher, publishes Uncle Tom's Cabin (which had been serialized in an antislavery newspaper). The book sold one million copies and was so influential in arousing antislavery sentiment that Abraham Lincoln is reputed to have said

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upon meeting Stowe in 1863: "So you're the little woman who wrote the book that made this great war!" .

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