

March 30, 2019



Duke of Kent gives Royal approval at service to dedicate new church organ



The Duke of Kent at St Mary's Church, Kilmoody along with Rev Dr Stanley Gamble

March 30, 2019

The Co Down parish of Kilmood, near Ballygowan welcomed a special visitor on Thursday – His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent, Duncan Elder writes in the News Letter.

The Duke visited St Mary's Church for a service marking the unveiling and dedication of the church's newly installed Walker pipe organ – an instrument that is more than 100 years old and was rescued from a church in England, restored and given a new lease of life.

The event was also a celebration of the church's Peace Bells, which were unveiled in November 2018 to mark the centenary of the Armistice.

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Speaking to the News Letter after the duke's visit, the Rector of St Mary's, Rev Dr Stanley Gamble, said the event had been "a terrific success".

"It all went extremely well. There was glorious sunshine, the children were out to welcome him and he thoroughly enjoyed his visit to Kilmood. "Everybody was in good form and the whole thing went off without a hitch," he said.

Ahead of the service, the duke was introduced to Dr Terry Cross and representatives of the David Cross Foundation for Peace and Reconciliation.

March 30, 2019



The Duke of Kent (third left) with Dr Terry Cross, Rev Dr Stanley Gamble, Fr Gary Donegan, Rev Bill Shaw and David Lindsay, HML County Down

He was shown the Cross Memorial Bell, which was installed in memory of Dr Cross's father, William Maxwell Cross, who served in 8th (Belfast) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment during World War Two, and his son David, who died of skin cancer at the age of 33.

Dr Cross, Fr Gary Donegan and Rev Bill Shaw spoke to the duke about ongoing peace and reconciliation work in Northern Ireland, and the former presented him with a bottle of his new brand of Irish whiskey, Hinch.

HRH was introduced to military historian Nick Perry at the newly erected Roll of Honour on the west wall of the church, which tells of the local contribution to the Great War.

March 30, 2019



The Duke of Kent with children from the Kilmoody play group

He also met with families who donated bells to the Peace Bells Project.

The Bishop of Down and Dromore Rt Rev Harold Miller conducted the short service of dedication comprising a reading, a hymn and a prayer.

A key feature of the event was the music played on the new organ.

Following the service the duke was introduced to the bell ringers before being shown around the recently restored Sexton's Cottage, given a soda bread-making

March 30, 2019

demonstration and invited to see the newly furnished parish office and counselling suite. “

“The big thing in the church was he unveiled the Walker organ and met with Pádraig O’Donovan of O’Donovan Organ Builders, Cork and Alistair McCartney of the Pipe Organ Preservation Company, and also Mr Gerry Egan who installed an organ in the past for the late Queen Mother, so he was very interested to chat to Gerry about that,” Rev Dr Gamble said. The duke, HM The Queen’s cousin, was also introduced to the staff and children of Kilmood Play group – a not-for-profit organisation which meets in the parish hall and is run by a committee of parents and members of the local community.

He learned about the play group’s ‘Happy, Healthy Kids’ initiative and unveiled a commemorative plaque to mark his visit. Rev Dr Gamble, 36, continued: “Overall it was a fantastic day. “He had been to Florida Manor (a 17th century mansion near Killinchy) and toured the restoration and conservation work there with Michael and Barbara Lagan and then came to Kilmood. “The visit went really well. All in all it was a terrific visit. It all went very smoothly and it was a very good day.”

Young leaders present views to Down and Dromore’s bishop and archdeacons

There was quite a buzz at the last night’s Leadership Symposium for 20s and 30s held in Church House, Belfast.

March 30, 2019



Bishop Miller of Down & Dromore at a meeting to hear young leaders' views

Twenty–six young leaders from around the diocese of Down and Dromore met with Bishop Harold Miller and the Archdeacons who were keen to hear their views on leadership and the Church. The event was part of the Down and Dromore’s review of leadership development.

Bishop Harold began with some thoughts on 1 Timothy 4:12 (*Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity*) before the group split into smaller discussion groups to discuss a set of questions:

– What is church: To you? To your peers? To the wider community?

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March 30, 2019

- Where do you perceive most life in the church?
- What sort of church would you like to see the Church of Ireland be in 10 years?
- What are key characteristics of leadership that the church needs most? Of these what would be your top four?
- What would encourage you and your generation to further develop as church leaders?

The groups were mixed up throughout the evening so that everyone heard a range of views and experiences. The atmosphere was positive and the feedback honest and challenging.

The diocese will be drawing all the comments together but final thoughts shared with the whole group included comments about: authenticity in leadership; a desire for biblically-based leadership; lay involvement; the challenge of change whilst respecting the past; and acknowledgement of the current leadership in the Church of Ireland with a desire to encourage and support it.

Bishop Harold said that he was ‘humbled’ by what he had heard and looked forward to resuming the conversation in the future.

Baby Basics ministry launches in Ballyclare

The United Parish of Ballynure and Ballyeaston (Ballyclare), Connor Diocese, has launched a new Baby Basics ministry

March 30, 2019

in the Antrim and Newtownabbey area, inspired by the impact of Baby Basics Belfast.



The Rev Jonny Campbell-Smyth (rector), Hilary Scott (Mothers' Union Chair), Dianne Hamilton (Family Associate), Cat Ross (CEO of Baby Basics UK), and Gillian Taylor (Pastoral Care Team).

Baby Basics offers help and assistance to vulnerable families with new babies by providing them with packs filled with baby clothes, baby bedding, toys, nappies, wipes, and toiletries for baby, mum and dad.

The rector of Ballynure and Ballyeaston, the Rev Jonny Campbell–Smyth, said: “There has been an incredible sense of partnership across the diocese as many parishes

March 30, 2019

have supported the Baby Basics Ministry located at Connect Base, the North Belfast Centre of Mission.”

Along with united parish’s new Family Associate, Dianne Hamilton, Jonny has been seeking and praying about more ways of blessing people in need in the community.

“When I saw the incredible impact of Baby Basics, I sensed God prompting me to consider the similar issues within our borough,” he said.

After discussions with Connor diocesan staff, the Centre of Mission and Baby Basics, Sheffield, the United Parish this week signed a new partnership agreement to establish a Baby Basics Centre in Ballyclare and Ballynure.

Named ‘Baby Basics Antrim & Newtownabbey’, the centre will receive referrals through midwives and health visitors from the Northern Health and Social Care Trust.

Initially the new ministry will pilot into the greater Ballyclare area, commencing on May 1 this year, but it is then envisaged that with the support of the Health Trust it will be rolled out across the entire Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough.

The United Parish Family Associate and Baby Basics Co-ordinator, Dianne Hamilton, said: “We are so excited to see how this new ministry will grow with God’s direction. We are delighted at how our Mothers’ Union branch and other volunteers have come on board to help with sorting clothes and other items and blessing new mums. In some small

March 30, 2019

way we pray that we will see transformation take place in families in our area.”

Two major funding boosts for St Patrick’s Cathedral, Dublin



Minister for Culture, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht Josepha Madigan and Dean William Morton with some of the cathedral's choristers at the funding announcement.

St Patrick’s Cathedral received two major funding boosts this week. Two separate announcements will see the cathedral receive grants totaling €320,000 which will enable improvements to the visitor experience and facilitate essential repairs to the cathedral.

The first announcement came on Tuesday last when Fáilte Ireland revealed that St Patrick’s Cathedral was among the

March 30, 2019

successful applicants for the ‘Dublin’s Surprising Stories Grants Scheme’. The cathedral has been awarded €120,000 towards providing overseas visitors with access to the great stories Saint Patrick’s Cathedral has to offer via audio-guides.

On Thursday it was announced by the Department of Culture, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht that the cathedral will also receive €200,000 towards essential roof repairs, the largest amount awarded via the Built Heritage Investment Scheme.

Both announcements were warmly welcomed by Dean William Morton. “Both of these successful funding applications reflect a tremendous effort on the part of the cathedral staff in seeking out and engaging in opportunities for institutional advancement and I hope you will join me in congratulating them on this very positive news,” he commented.

Life of John Wesley Launch of guided tours on life of John Wesley at new multi-million pound visitor centre

From next week, fans of church history - and Methodist history in particular - will be able to learn close-up what life and faith looked like for John Wesley with the launch of guided tours at a new multi-million pound visitor centre and museum in Bristol.

March 30, 2019



Volunteer tour guides will help bring the world of John Wesley to life at the New Room museum and visitor centre

The visitor centre at the New Room in Bristol has been funded by Heritage Lottery and will offer a revealing glimpse of Wesley's life and times.

Built in 1739, the New Room is the oldest Methodist building in the world and the cradle of the Methodist faith.

Today, the chapel also houses a museum, visitor centre, new library and archives and an award-winning café.

Starting next week, visitors will be able to join guided museum tours on Wednesdays and Saturdays at 11:30am and 1:30pm.

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Page 12

March 30, 2019

In addition to shedding light on the founder of Methodism, the tours will also reveal what life was like in 18th century Bristol and the historical context that shaped his views on social justice and slavery.

One of the stops on the tour is the bedroom where Wesley wrote many of his inspiring sermons and letters, while surprising gems include some of his health tips and the remedies used at the time to treat scurvy and baldness.

Louise Wratten, operations manager for the New Room, said: "Our volunteer tour guides have all been eagerly absorbing their training and are keen to share their knowledge.

"The New Room is where Methodism had its roots back in the 18th century – a movement whose leader, John Wesley, was a man ahead of his time in so many ways – and the story that will unfold on each tour is really fascinating."

Tickets cost £7 for adults (£6 concessions), £4 for children aged 5 to 16, and free for under 5s and are valid for 12 months after purchase. Book online [here](#) or for more information about the New Room visit www.newroombristol.org.uk

Anglican-Jewish Commission holds latest round of talks

Senior Anglican and Jewish leaders met this week for the latest meeting of the Anglican-Jewish Commission. The Commission is the vehicle for the official dialogue between churchnewsireland@gmail.org

March 30, 2019

the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Chief Rabbinate of Israel.

The annual meetings usually alternate between Lambeth Palace and Jerusalem; but this week's meeting took place in Manchester, England.

“There is a strong Jewish population here and there is a vibrant Anglican Diocese”, the Anglican Co-Chair of the Commission, Archbishop of Dublin Michael Jackson said.

He added: “We’ve had the opportunity to meet with local Jewish people, local Anglicans, and also with young people from the Jewish tradition, the Christian tradition and the Islamic tradition who work together; so as well as our own discussion, we have also had the opportunity to hear about what is happening in this community.”

The young people were members of the Forum for the Discussion of Israel and Palestine (FODIP). “These students shared their experiences of partaking in innovative educational programmes that had equipped them with the language and tools to engage in fruitful conversations over contentious matters related to the Holy Land, as well as to address issues raised about the Holy Land in their own local communities”, the Commission said in their communiqué. The Commission members said that they “were impressed by the maturity and impact of these students.”

Archbishop Michael said that the commission “draws together people who are very conscious of conflict, and yet seek to transcend it through sharing ideas of mutual respect, sharing ideas of the shared identity under God

March 30, 2019



Members of the Anglican-Jewish Commission and young people from the Forum for the Discussion of Israel and Palestine after their meeting this week. Co-chair is Archbishop Michael Jackson

while at the same time having different traditions and wanting to converse with an openness and curiosity.”

Rabbi David Rosen, the Interfaith Adviser to the Chief Rabbinate of Israel, said that the Commission was established to promote deeper understanding between the leaders of the two communities and “to build up friendships, to be able to address challenges today that face our communities equally, and to see ways in which we can offer a message in society, in science and in the major challenges of our contemporary world for the benefit of humanity at large.”

March 30, 2019

The Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem, Suheil Dawani, offered reflections on the current situation in his city. He called for “increased efforts for peace and reconciliation in the Holy Land”, the communiqué said.

Rabbi Eliezer Weisz gave a presentation on the meeting’s theme, “Remembering the Past, Committing to the Future”, expounded on the concept of memory in the Jewish tradition. He said that “its purpose is to internalise and express the ethical messages born out of the people’s collective experience.”

He spoke of the “six types of memory mentioned in the Pentateuch which are summarised in the daily prayer book after the morning service”, the communiqué said. “He added to these the memory of Jerusalem and the Temple after their destruction, central to having guaranteed the future renewal of Jewish life in the people’s ancestral homeland.”

The Anglican-Jewish Commission is due to meet in Jerusalem next year. Members expressed their “hope of holding sessions” at St George’s Anglican Cathedral in Jerusalem, at the invitation of Archbishop Suheil Dawani.

News briefs

+++BBC Radio Ulster’s Morning Service - on Sunday, 5th May, will be broadcast from St Nicholas’ Church, Carrickfergus, at 10.15am. The preacher will be the Ven George Davison, Rector of Carrickfergus and Archdeacon of Belfast, and the service will be available online afterwards at www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b007cphq

March 30, 2019



The current Armagh choir

+++Armagh Past Choristers' Service - Former choir members and their families are cordially invited to attend a Past Choristers' Service on Sunday 14 April 2019, beginning at 3.15pm. The service, which will last around 45 minutes, will be followed by refreshments in the Music Hall, where old photographs of the choir will be on display. Dr Stephen Timpany, the present Choirmaster, commented, "I look forward to welcoming past choristers to the inaugural past choristers' service on 14 April. While I realise that many people lead busy lives, I hope that former members of the Cathedral Choir will attend this special service in a place where they sang during their formative years. I am delighted that Canon Martin White, the Cathedral's Organist Emeritus, and Organist for many years, will also be in attendance."

March 30, 2019

+++Chapter Canon of Belfast - The Rev Kevin Graham, rector of St Bartholomew's, Stranmillis, has been elected a Canon of the Chapter of St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast.

+++Esther in Belfast - Belfast based Sestina perform Esther at Belfast Cathedral on Friday 5th April with the Irish Baroque Orchestra and star Soprano Anna Devin. If you enjoyed IBO's Messiah you won't want to miss this <http://bit.ly/EstherBelfast> Use discount code 'Sestina' at checkout for 50% off!

+++Forty stories of Amazing Grace - Willowfield Church continues to inspire with its use of social media following its 40 Psalms video series last year. This Lent, 'Forty Stories of God's Amazing Grace' alternates film with written stories from people of all ages and is proving a source of great encouragement in the parish and beyond.

Willowfield's talented Operations and Admin manager, Dave Bradshaw, is behind the idea which was conceived a year ago: "Last Holy Week we had some people share their stories and I saw the opportunity to put them on record. Some people are happier writing it down rather than appearing on film so we decided to alternate written stories with video. Each of our staff members is on the lookout for people with a story to tell and so far we've been able to share a story of grace every day." The series runs all the way to Easter Saturday and you can follow it either on social media or on the Willowfield website [here](#).

+++Music in Derry cathedral - Mothering Sunday at 10.00am, a Family Service sung by the Ladies Choir. This is followed by Choral Matins at 11.00am, with music by

March 30, 2019

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (Laudate Dominum) and Johann Sebastian Bach (Jesus joy of man's desiring).

At 4.00pm a service of Choral Evensong sung by the Cathedral Choir. Music is by Charles Villiers Stanford (Evening Canticles in Bflat) and Peter Hurford (Litany to the Holy Spirit). On Wednesday evening, the Lenten series continues with a service of compline at 7.30pm, sung by the Ladies Choir. The Lenten mid-week address with hymns and music also continues on Thursday at 1.05pm.

+++Food for thought - Outward appearance, money, career, hobbies: these are sirens that enchant us and then set us adrift. Lent is a time of grace to free our hearts from vanities. Pope Francis

March 30 in Christian history

March 30, 1533: Thomas Cranmer is consecrated Archbishop of Canterbury, England's highest religious post. Believing himself subject to the king, Henry VIII, he granted the monarch's annulment ending his marriage to Catherine of Aragon. This touched off the English Reformation, and Cranmer became its chief architect. He is also known for writing the first Book of Common Prayer.

March 30, 1820: The first Protestant missionaries arrive at the Sandwich Islands, now known as Hawaii, and are welcomed by King Kamehameha II.

March 30, 1858: Episcopal minister Dudley Tyne, burdened for the salvation of husbands and fathers, speaks to a rally of 5,000 men in Philadelphia. "I would rather this right arm were amputated at the trunk than that I should come short of

March 30, 2019

my duty to you in delivering God's message," he said. Over 1,000 men were converted. Two weeks later, Tyne lost his right arm in a farming accident, and he died soon after. His last words, "Stand up for Jesus, father, and tell my brethren of the ministry to stand up for Jesus," inspired the hymn "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus.

News Links

[City's hidden park is given a new life](#)

Dublin People

They were joined by the Canon Mark Gardner, St Audoen's **Church of Ireland** and Fr Stanislaw Hajkowski, St Audoen's Catholic Church. Before the ...

[England can't get out of Ireland — but Ireland can't get out of England either](#)

New Statesman

In case you are unaware, the **Church of Ireland** is a Protestant church. In English cities, descendants of mostly Irish Catholics will be waving the flag of ...

[Church of England invites parishioners to “tea and prayer drop-ins” as Brexit deadline nears](#)

Anglicannews

Other Anglican Churches in Britain and Northern **Ireland** are also urging prayer. Last month, the Scottish Episcopal **Church** College of Bishops said ...

[€34000 already spent in search for new county Limerick graveyard](#)

March 30, 2019

Limerick Leader

“The council's answer is to bury people in graves already used in St Mary's or the **Church of Ireland**,” he said. “I am not happy with the response,” he ...

[I Can't Believe It's 3500-Year-Old Bog Butter](#)

History

People in **Ireland** stored their butter in bogs for at least 3,500 years, leaving ... some have also suggested that bog butters were **religious** offerings.

[Rebel Judge and Executioner? The Brutal Cromwellian Conquest of Ireland](#)

Ancient Origins

In **Ireland**, the Confederates formed an alliance with the Royalists, which ... I attempted to impose high Anglican practices on the **Church** of Scotland.

[How religious reformers justified, but ultimately overthrew, the 'empire of hell' of penal colonies](#)

University of Bristol

A fascinating new book which explores, for the first time, how religion was used to justify the ... with 160,000 British and Irish prisoners transported from the UK and Ireland - most famously to ... “Religious reformers and anti-convict transportation campaigners finally brought it to an end, ...

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March 30, 2019

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