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Image of the day - St Petersburg

News Reports

Anglican Network in Canada founds Packer College

Packer College, a seminary named for famed Anglican evangelical theologian J.I. Packer, will be launched by the Anglican Network in Canada Saint John's, Newfoundland, in Fall 2022, according to a report from Sue Careless of The Anglican Planet.

Packer, who died in 2020, was among the founding members of the Anglican Network in Canada, a diocese of the Anglican Church in North America which includes most of the denomination's Canadian parishes, Mark Michael writes in The Living Church.

Bishop Charlie Masters told delegates to the diocese's synod on November 17 that Packer's widow Kit had given permission to honour Packer with "much joy" and "hearty approval." The residential seminary will be housed in Good Samaritan Church, which relocated to a large new building in the city centre of the provincial capital in 2020.

Packer College will aim to represent Anglicanism's Anglo-Catholic, evangelical/reformed, and charismatic traditions and will have a programme of spiritual formation focused on daily chapel worship. Its academic program will focus on scripture study, along with church history and historical theology, and it will have a focus on "church planting,



mission, pastoral care and supporting the faith of children and families.”

Dr. Gary Graber, who served for nine years as professor and academic dean of Ryle Seminary in Ottawa, worked as a special advisor to Bishop Masters to develop plans for launching the seminary. Founded in 2012, Ryle is also a church-based seminary, hosted by the Church of the Messiah, one of the Anglican Network in Canada’s congregations. Though Ryle defines itself as “an evangelical, cross-denominational school,” it is named for J.C. Ryle, a Victorian-era Anglican Bishop of Manchester and noted biblical commentator.

According to Careless, in addition to Ryle Seminary, the diocese’s ordinands are currently training for ministry at Artizo, an apprenticeship program based at St. John’s Anglican Church in Vancouver; at interdenominational evangelical seminaries Christ College and Regent College; and at Wycliffe College, Toronto, North America’s largest

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Anglican seminary, whose principal, the Rt. Rev. Stephen Andrews, is a bishop of the Anglican Church of Canada.

The Anglican Network in Canada began to form in 2007, as a grouping of conservative and mostly evangelical congregations which had left the Anglican Church of Canada. Its 80 churches are mostly in Canada, though it also includes one congregation in Vermont and two in Massachusetts. Dioceses in the Anglican Church in North America often have overlapping geographical boundaries, but the Anglican Network contains nearly all of its Canadian churches. Six additional congregations in British Columbia also belong to a missionary district called Via Apostolica, and the Reformed Episcopal Church's Diocese of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic has one congregation in Ontario.

The day after the seminary launch was announced, the synod elected Archdeacon Dan Gifford, who serves at St. John's, Vancouver as bishop coadjutor to Masters. Gifford, 56, will become the Anglican Network in Canada's third bishop when Masters retires in a year's time.

Gifford was ordained as a priest of the Anglican Church of Canada. He began serving at Vancouver's St. John's, Shaughnessy in 1998, and was part of a group of the church's clergy, including Packer, who walked out of the Diocese of New Westminster's synod to protest the approval of same sex blessings in 2002. In 2008, he was part of a majority of the congregation, which left the Anglican Church of Canada to form the church now known simply as St. John's Vancouver.

Report courtesy The Living Church.

churchnewsireland@gmail.org

Church starts Netflix-style history channel



A “NETFLIX for churches” has been launched in an effort to save historic places of worship from crumbling.

The Churches Conservation Trust (CCT) has developed a paid streaming platform to help fund the preservation of neglected Christian sites.

Heritage experts have billed the new site as a “Netflix-style platform” which Sir John Betjeman, a former poet laureate, “would have loved”.

The first show to debut on the streaming service will be a “church crawling” series inspired by the poet. It is hoped the £3.50 per month subscription for the site, named CCTdigital, will help the charitable trust tackle its £5 million annual repair

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bill and £500,000 maintenance costs for England's disused churches.

Peter Aiers, CCT chief executive, said: "If Sir John Betjeman would have made the TV programme A Passion for Churches today, we hope that he would have allowed us to stream it on CCTdigital. I think this Netflix-style platform is something he would have loved.

"It is a great opportunity for people to share in the joy of church buildings and save them at the same time."

With its poetic script, Betjeman's 1974 BBC programme A Passion For Churches led viewers on a tour of Norfolk's places of worship, and the CCT's new production will follow his example on a new streaming site modelled on Netflix, Amazon Prime, and Disney +.

Prof Diarmaid MacCulloch, an Oxford University historian, will explore the stories behind churches on a tour of sites in Norfolk, Suffolk, Wiltshire, and Oxfordshire in the series, Churchcrawls in Solitude, starting on Dec 6.

[[] <https://www.visitchurches.org.uk/>]

Papal spotlight: Migration is major theme of trip to Cyprus and Greece

Pope Francis will draw the world's attention to migration once again as he visits Cyprus and Greece in early December.

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The number of migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers on the Greek island of Lesbos — where Pope Francis will fly Dec. 5 — is a fraction of what it was when he visited in 2016 and took 12 Syrian refugees back to Rome with him.

But people are still there, living in a temporary camp, often after surviving “pushback” attempts on the part of the Greek or Turkish military, supported by European Union policies.

And no one could say the situation is better on Cyprus, even if migrant arrivals there seldom make the international news.

Pope Francis will visit Cyprus Dec. 2-4 and Greece Dec. 4-6.

Since late 2018, Cyprus has received more asylum-seekers per capita than any country in the European Union, but has been slow to react to the influx, said Elizabeth V. Kassinis, executive manager of Caritas Cyprus. “Ninety-nine percent of our beneficiary population now are migrants.”

Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops’ overseas aid and development agency and a partner in the Caritas network, has given Caritas Cyprus a grant to help care for the asylum-seekers, many of whom are homeless, Kassinis told Catholic News Service Nov. 22.

Besides being an E.U.-member country geographically close to Lebanon and to Turkey — way stations for migrants — Cyprus is seen as a gateway particularly for those coming from Turkey because there are no real borders to cross.



Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople, Pope Francis and Orthodox Archbishop Ieronymos II of Athens and all of Greece walk to meet refugees at the Moria refugee camp on the island of Lesbos, Greece, in this April 2016, photo. Pope Francis plans to meet with Archbishop Ieronymos and other Orthodox leaders during his Dec. 2-6 trip to Cyprus and Greece.

The migrants and refugees go by boat from Turkey to what only Turkey recognizes as the “Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus,” the northeastern third of the island.

Cyprus has been divided between the Greek Cypriots in the South and Turkish Cypriots in the North since 1974. U.N. troops continue to patrol what Kassinis described as a very “porous” buffer zone between the two parts of the island, but

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since the government of Cyprus does not recognize the North as a separate country, it does not run border controls along the buffer zone.

“Incendiary” rhetoric is increasingly common, Kassinis said. Many people believe Turkey is not only allowing the migrants to cross the sea but may be encouraging the crossings. “They use terms like ‘the third invasion’ and make it seem like this is an orchestrated attempt by Turkey to change the demographic character of Cyprus,” she said.

A big part of Pope Francis’ visits to Cyprus and Greece will be meetings with the heads of the Orthodox Church in both countries, where Catholics are a small minority. However, in Cyprus the Maronite- and Latin-rite Catholics are recognized in the country’s constitution and are seen as part of the fabric of a proudly multicultural society, Kassinis said.

Bishop Brian Farrell, secretary of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, said that Catholic-Orthodox cooperation in Cyprus is good, both in helping the poor and in helping each other. In fact, he said, “in some cases the Catholic priest is authorized to use an Orthodox church for the celebration of the sacraments,” something which is not common elsewhere.

In Greece, the situation is a bit more complicated, although no one expects there to be the kind of Orthodox protests of a papal visit that were seen when St. John Paul II went to the country in 2001.

“Relations between the Holy See and the Church of Greece have grown ever closer down the years and are very good,”

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Bishop Farrell said. And despite the protests, after the visit of St. John Paul “more intense collaboration began between the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity and the Apostoliki Diakonia of the Church of Greece, a department of the Holy Synod that deals with pastoral, cultural and missionary issues.”

The visit in 2016 to Lesbos by Pope Francis, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and Archbishop Ieronymos II of Athens and all of Greece “showed how Catholics and Orthodox have common concerns and how important it is to work together in the service of the most needy,” he said. “As in all churches — including the Catholic Church — there are some voices opposed to any ecumenical openness. These voices represent a small minority, albeit a rather noisy one.”

When the refugee crisis began in Greece in 2015 — with some 1.2 million arrivals that year — Caritas Hellas, the Greek Catholic agency, mobilized and started to grow into a large, professional, stable relief agency that was no longer focused only on parish-based responses to people in need or to emergency responses to earthquakes and brush fires, said Maria Alverti, the director.

While most of the full-time employees are either Orthodox or Muslim, official relations between Caritas Hellas and Orthodox agencies are “not that great,” she said. Especially in smaller towns and villages, Catholics are looked at with suspicion.

But, Alverti said, Pope Francis is “an amazing personality,” and he makes the Catholic community proud.

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Even Orthodox citizens listen to the pope, she said, “because he speaks to people’s hearts. He speaks about things we can all relate to. He speaks for the elderly, for the poor, he speaks for refugees, he speaks for the excluded, and he does that in a very consistent and very persuasive way.”

Caritas Hellas hopes the pope will help the Greek government see that its increasingly “military approach” to migration — using the army or coast guard to push migrants back to Turkey — is not the way for a civilized society to respond to people in need, she said.

The Greek government has been working to distribute migrants and asylum-seekers throughout the country. In October 2020, it said, there were 18,872 asylum-seekers on Lesbos; as of October 2021, the figure was down to just 4,532, according to the Ministry of Migration and Asylum.

But more than five years after the influx began and with fewer than 5,000 migrants on Lesbos, most of them are housed in “temporary” camps far from towns, Alverti said. “Even in a five-star hotel, if you spend two years or five years in one room, psychologically how can you function after that?”



People and places

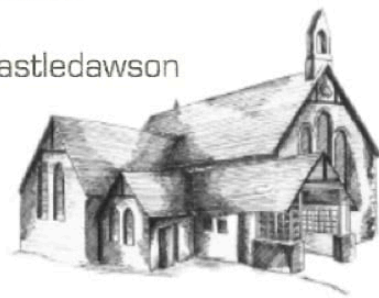
Castledawson community mission development



Christ

Church

Castledawson



The Parish of Christ Church Castledawson has acquired the Chichester Club building on Main Street, in the village, which it plans to develop for future community missional purposes.

The Parish envisions the building being used as a thrift shop, with an upstairs coffee shop/drop in centre, and there
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may be other possible future uses for the ground to the rear of the building.

Christ Church would appreciate any support whether through prayer, practical means or financial assistance for this venture which it's calling 'The Mustard Seed Project'.

"Our hope is that, through the project, our community would be blessed and the Kingdom of God extended.



Dublin & Glendalough Social Action Committee honours retiring chairperson

Members of the Dublin & Glendalough Social Action Committee have paid tribute to their longstanding chairperson, Canon Olive Donohoe.

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Canon Donohoe has announced her retirement as chairperson and the committee thanked her for her service and made presentations at their recent meeting.

Pictured are committee members: the Revd Ása Bjork Ólafsdóttir, David Whyte, Canon Olive Donohoe and Marjorie McClatchie.



Eglantine Mothers' Union provide 135 washbags for local hospitals

Following a Harvest Appeal, members of Eglantine Parish Mothers' Union, with the help of parishioners, made up 135 washbags to be distributed to local hospitals.

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Tributes to Very Rev Dr Sam Hutchinson former Clerk and Moderator of the General Assembly

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life and ministry of the Very Rev Dr Sam Hutchinson, was held yesterday afternoon at Railway Street Presbyterian Church, Lisburn, County Antrim. Dr Hutchinson, who died after a short illness on 19 November, was Clerk of the General Assembly and General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church of Ireland 1990-2003 and Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland 1997-1998.

Before praying at the close of the service, **the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, Right Reverend Dr David Bruce**, told those gathered in Railway Street Presbyterian, “I wish to offer my personal sympathy especially to Margaret on the death of her husband Sam, and to May, Sam’s sister.

“I offer the condolences of the General Assembly to the Hutchinson family on this sad occasion as we take our leave of a faithful servant of the church – a colleague who (as we have heard) served both as a parish minister in Gilford with Clare in the Iveagh Presbytery, and latterly as Deputy Clerk, then Clerk of the General Assembly, including in 1997, a year as its Moderator.”

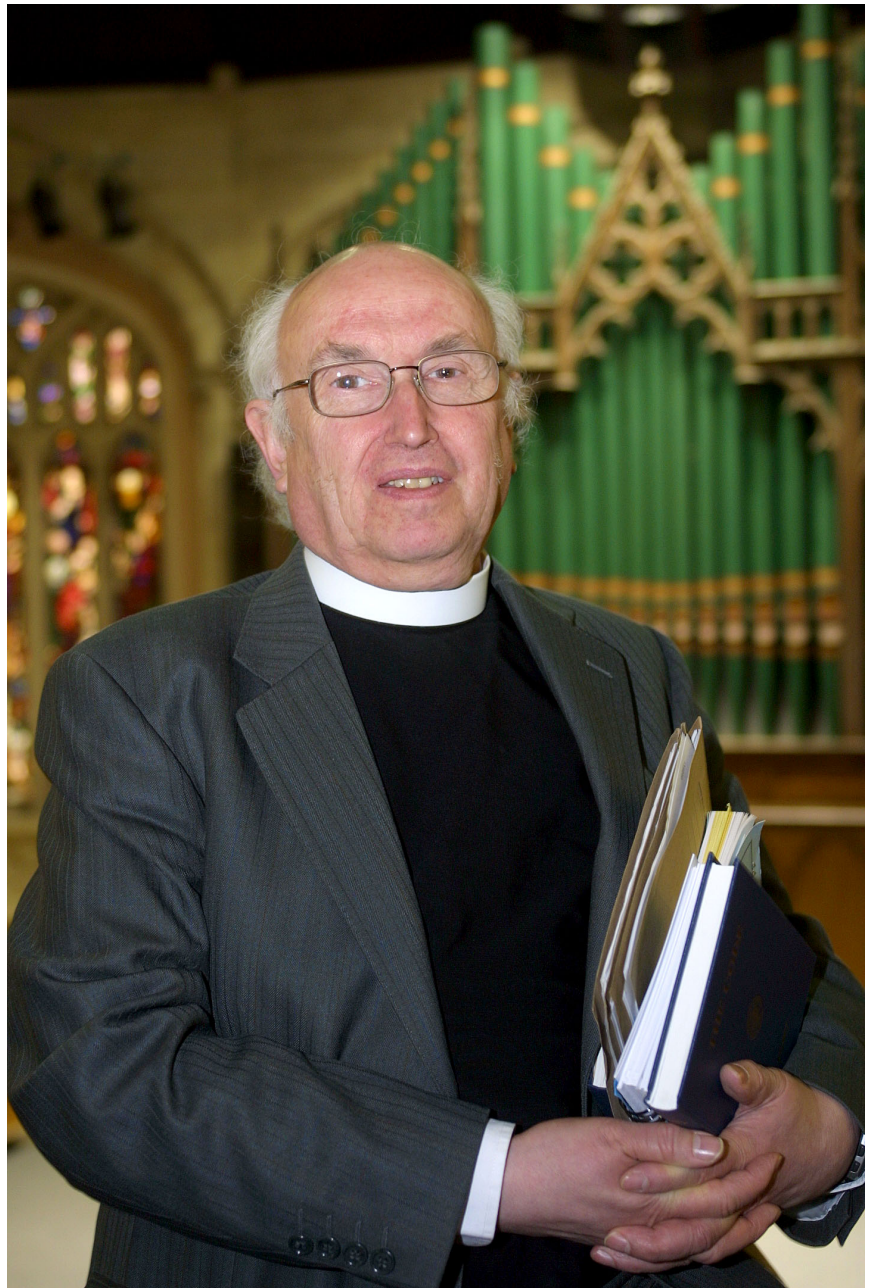
Dr Bruce continued, “These bare facts are true enough, but they conceal the humanity of a man who under Christ’s Lordship, carried these significant responsibilities with precision, determination, insight and grace. Like all of you

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gathered here
today,

The Very Rev Dr Sam Hutchinson

I enjoyed being with Sam and always came away from our encounters with answers to the questions I had sought, and in addition, a story or two from a past era, and usually with some new information that I had not previously known. The Presbyterian family across this island will miss him, as will I personally.”



In his address and tribute, **former Moderator, Very Reverend Dr John Dunlop CBE** described his predecessor as “...a quiet and effective servant of Christ, and of his church and of God’s purposes...On one occasion I sought his advice on a difficult issue and while he knew the code and the custom of the church, he was also possessed of wisdom; which is born of experience and cautious and generous Christian reflection. His colleagues who were

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Clerks of Presbyteries found him at all times to be a person of integrity, positive, helpful, precise, constructive and fair...”

Dr Dunlop continued, “Sam loved the Presbyterian church and was meticulous in his preparation for preaching and for the many committees, Boards and bodies of which he was a member. He told Margaret that whenever anything needed to be done, it was to be done correctly.

“He was an exact man, thorough in his knowledge of the history and ethos of the Church and of the Code, but he was also compassionate and understanding. In a discussion about a complex problem he would preface his remarks by saying, “Let me put it this way...” and there would follow a contribution marked by tact and balance...

“With his death, we have lost a great treasure and we will miss him very much. Today we give thanks to God for Sam Hutchinson, and for the contribution he made to the Presbyterian Church in Ireland at every level and to the wider church in Ireland and beyond our shores.”

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts and books

Experience Handel's "Messiah" from Washington Cathedral

Experience Handel's "Messiah" in a space unlike any other. This Christmas classic will be performed December 4 and 5



beneath Washington Cathedral's soaring Gothic architecture.

[[] <https://cathedral.org/event/handels-messiah/2021-12-04/>]

C of I Liturgical resources for family worship in Advent

The Liturgical Advisory Committee (LAC) of the Church of Ireland, in collaboration with the Children's Ministry Network, have produced a Service of the Word for each Sunday in Advent, along with supporting resources. Recognising that there is still uncertainty in terms of the pandemic's impact on gathering together, the materials have been developed in a 'pandemic conscious' manner and may be adapted for in-person or online worship.

For each Sunday in Advent, themes drawn from the readings have given shape both to the liturgical elements

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and the accompanying suggestions for scriptural reflection and experiential prayer. The progression of themes—Wonder, Letting Go, Take Heart, and Hope—are intended to create a sense of pilgrimage through the Advent season.

Lydia Monds, a member of the LAC children's sub-group and co-ordinator of the Children's Ministry Network, writes: 'Children are captivated by Christmas. Not just the possibility of presents, but the preparation, the lights, the anticipation. They are ready to chat and to engage with the message of what it is and more accurately who it is we are anticipating. The orders of service and supplemental materials prepared for this resource invite children and families to interact with different parts of the incredible story of "Immanuel – God with us", whether they are engaging from home or in person. These services are an invitation to reflect and engage together through the journey of Advent, and in doing so, to make room for Christ this Christmas.'

The resources are available at this link:

<https://www.ireland.anglican.org/prayer-worship/worship-resources/seasonal-items/advent-all-age-resources>

Weathering the Storm - Presbyterian Church World Development Appeal

The 2021 Presbyterian Church World Development Appeal is entitled 'Weathering the Storm'.

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For many in the world, the Covid-19 pandemic will continue to wreak havoc for years to come.

Combined with a changing climate, and the increased uncertainty and extreme weather events which that brings, millions face a very real threat: a perfect storm of covid and Climate.

As creation groans, so many communities are struggling to sustain even the most basic of livelihoods, fighting hard to provide for their families and loved ones.

For more information on the appeal and resources to promote it in your congregation visit:

<https://www.presbyterianireland.org/world-development>

Poem for today

A November Day by Francis Duggan

The pleasant scent waft in the breeze of the freshly mown
hay

And the blackbird singing sweetly in the warm sun of the
day

And the capeweed in their yellow blooms in their billions one
can see

In the paddocks and roadside margins by the roadway to
the sea

The rumble of the surf waves tells the ocean is quite near

And the familiar flute of the magpie is so pleasant for to hear

The last week of November and Spring is near a close

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And a healthy rich red colour on the petals of the rose
A nice and a warm day in very late Spring and from the
shrubs and blossom laden trees
The intoxicating scent of Nature's perfume is blown out by
the warm and freshening breeze
The coastal countryside bathed in sunshine and white
butterflies are dancing in the sky
And the dark winged welcome swallows are chirping as they
fly
Above the sunlit coast lands on this beautiful Spring day
And in the warm breeze blowing the scents of bloom and
hay.

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