



Maud Kells has helped build a hospital, maternity ward, nursery and school in the Mulita area of DR Congo

Maud Kells gets ready for her final African mission

The inspiring Cookstown pensioner who has spent much of her adult life working in DR Congo

is about to head off on her last trip to the country, The Belfast News Letter reports.

Maud Kells, a midwife and a missionary, has spent over 40 years building a hospital, maternity ward, nursery and a school in the rural Mulita area. And despite an almost fatal attack when she was shot by bandits there in January 2015, she has since returned – determined to finish what she started all those years ago.

Although feeling emotional about her last trip, Maud said that, at 77, she thinks “it’s time” to hand over the various projects she has worked on down through the years. “This will probably be my last time going out and I’m only going out for two months,” she told the Mid Ulster Mail. “I’m hoping to get the nursery completed and just hand over various aspects of the work to various leaders. It will not be easy saying goodbye to everybody, but you have to draw a line somewhere.”

Looking back on the work she has done there, Maud said what stands out most is the difference she was able to make in terms of midwifery. “Before I went there, women were dying in childbirth or they had to go a long distance – 30

miles by foot or on a bicycle – which was just impossible,” she explained.

“They died or the babies died, so it’s just wonderful that we have been able to help them and other patients as well. “Also the children are having proper schooling now. There were lots of children there that had no means of school. It’s wonderful just to see it all set up. I just pray that will continue.” In order for it to do so, Maud said she is hoping for an answer from the country’s education minister on whether the little school will be “accredited so the teachers will get a subsidised salary from the government” and the children can continue to learn. As for what she will do when she returns for her first Christmas in Cookstown in 20 years, she said: “There’s plenty still to do.

School children part of tomorrow’s launch of Dublin and Glendalough’s 800th anniversary celebrations

School children from all over Dublin and Glendalough will help make history as they become part of the launch of the United

Dioceses' 800th anniversary celebrations. Dublin and Glendalough 800 will officially begin at the annual Diocesan Service for Pupils and Teachers of Primary and Junior Schools in Christ Church Cathedral on Thursday October 13 at 11.00 am.

The celebration of the 800th anniversary of the unification of the dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough will officially begin on that day and a programme of events will continue over the coming year. Up to 600 pupils from every primary school in the dioceses are invited to attend and each school will contribute to a time capsule which will be created on the day.

The theme of the service is Living History, Living God and the preachers will look at the history of Christianity over the last 800 years but also at how the children of today are making the history of tomorrow.

Archbishop Michael Jackson will preside at the service which will also be attended by the Anglican Bishops of the Dioceses of Spain and Lusitania (Portugal). The Anglican dioceses of Spain and of Portugal view the United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough as their mother diocese dating back to Archbishop Plunket and Archbishop Gregg. The bishops will also attend

Dublin and Glendalough Diocesan Synods in Temple Carrig School, Greystones, on October 11. Their presence celebrates Dublin and Glendalough's connections throughout the Anglican Communion and the Porvoo Communion of Churches.

Archbishop Eames Preaches on special night at St Peter's Derry

The former Church of Ireland Primate, Archbishop Robin Eames, has spoken of the importance of parishes as places of strength, encouragement and witness in an era when the value of faith is being questioned by wider society.

Archbishop Eames was speaking at a Thanksgiving Service in Londonderry marking the 50th anniversary of the consecration and opening of St Peter's Church in Belmont. The Archbishop and his wife, Lady Eames, had lived in the parish for the six years that he served as Bishop of Derry and Raphoe.

Several hundred people attended Sunday evening's service in the iconic church near the Foyle Bridge. The worship was led by the Rector



of Christ Church, Culmore, Muff and St Peter's, Ven Robert Miller, Archdeacon of Derry. Archdeacon Miller was assisted by Rev Katie McAteer, and the Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Rt Rev Ken Good, also took part. Among those in church for the service was the Mayor of Derry City and Strabane District, Alderman Hilary McClintock.

In his sermon, Lord Eames compared parishes like St Peter's to base camps from which people set out to carry out the exploration of life, and to which they return to be refreshed, find rest and encouragement, and find God. "That sort of definition helps me to make a sense of some of the problems that face the Church today," the

preacher said. “For the sense of a parish is not something that is static, monumental and there all the time, simply as a landmark. The parish that doesn’t move and develop and remember that its source is in the light of people is a parish that has lost its way.

“When I go to parishes now – and during my ministry – and see young people learning the faith, asking their questions and growing up in the faith; when I see people with responsibility in the world looking at the depth of the faith and asking questions of themselves, as of the faith they are taught; and when I see those in the eventide of life come to church to thank God for his mercy over the years, I see a living church, I see a moving church, I see a base camp that has withstood the ages.”

Archbishop Eames said a great deal was being said nowadays about the value of faith. No longer was it inevitable that the view of the church was being asked by society. “Now the question ranges from virtually every department of life: what’s important? And so often those who represent our church are left to pick up the pieces and give answers where they try to show the relevance of the faith once delivered. But my

friends, if the base camp is playing its full role and is doing so with the integrity of the living God, why do we fear, why do we doubt? For it's in society that the church of God has to say 'We have a contribution, we have a message, we have a connection, and without it your society is going to be not just less than it is but it's going to be a place that has lost its way.' And the base camp which allows us to do this is the strength we get from our parish and our life within it.

"The base camp for which we thank God tonight in this place is a place where the lives are transformed, the lives are lifted up and the lives are strengthened because God walks among them. Jesus is a reality and the worship – every time it is organised in this building – is something that has a meaning, a message and a strength for us all. And if I believe that the church is ever in danger of losing that aspect of the life of a parish, then something of immense value will be lost forever.

"That's the burden of leadership," Lord Eames continued, "that's the burden of ministry, that's the burden of relationships within the base camp. It is that burden which is transformed into a privilege when we remember the words that are

at the centre of so much of our worship: 'Be still then and know that I am God.' Be still and know; don't doubt; don't lose heart; don't lose your way. Find the truth of that statement as the real answer to the question: 'Who do men say that the Son of Man is?'

“My friends of St Peter’s, we are asked that question as our worship ends. We are asked not in the words of the gospel reading from St Matthew, but we’re confronted by it wherever we are, whoever we are, whatever we’re doing, for we have come from this base camp to explore, confront, and serve and witness to the Son of Man who has always caused confusion to those who tried to restrict him and to define him. For we are those who represent his faith by the life we live, the words we use and the image that we give.”

Following the Service, the congregation moved to the nearby Acorn Centre for refreshments which had been prepared by members of St Augustine’s Church. Bishop Good enlisted the help of two of the youngest members of the St Peter’s congregation in cutting a celebratory cake which had been baked specially for the occasion.

***Songs of Praise* is first to go out to commercial tender**

The BBC series *Songs of Praise* could in future be made by an independent programme-maker.

The show, which first aired in 1961, is one of a number of BBC-made shows coming to the end of their current run, and the Corporation is taking the opportunity to fulfil its recent pledge to open up 40 per cent of its content to competition over the next two years. Other programmes going out to tender will include *Question of Sport* and *Holby City*.

A BBC spokesman said: "The first programmes chosen for tendering were chosen because they are already approaching recommissioning decisions. As with any programme at that point, we would look at the ambition for the series, but the tendering process will test value for money and ensure we are delivering the very best programmes for audiences. They are some of our best-loved shows and are precious to us."

Songs of Praise could remain an in-house product, as the tendering process will include

pitches from BBC Studios, which currently makes the programme.

No decisions have been made whether the format of the next series would alter, but it is understood that the BBC is open to new ideas. Details of what it should contain will be included in the tender document due for publication later this autumn.

The BBC was keen to point out that the tendering process would not affect its commitment to religious programming. “It’s just about the choice of supplier to make it,” the spokesman said.

Under the terms of the BBC’s new draft charter, all BBC shows will be offered for tender over the next 11 years. In return, BBC Studios will be allowed to become more commercial next year and make shows for other broadcasters.

The strategy is part of a bid to help the BBC stem the tide of talent moving to the more lucrative commercial sector and, instead, encourage them to stay and come up with new hits for the corporation.

The BBC TV managing director and BBC group commercial director, Bal Samra, said: “It is a big,

bold move, but I think what we're doing in generating this competition — with a strong independent sector and the creation of BBC Studios — could make our industry even stronger. These are BBC shows that will still be on BBC channels, and we will still own the rights.”

Bishop of Meath pays tribute to Columban martyrs of the Maynooth Mission to China

One hundred years ago, on 10 October 1916, the Bishops of Ireland gave their blessing to a new venture known as the Maynooth Mission to China. It became known as the Society of St Columban on 29 June 1918.

Bishop Michael Smith has paid tribute to the courage and witness to the faith of the many Irish Columban martyrs who died over the past one hundred years.

Speaking to CatholicIreland.net, Bishop Smith welcomed efforts by the Korean Catholic Church to promote the beatification of seven Irish priests of the Society of St Columban (popularly known

as ‘the Columbans’) who are included in a list of 84 modern-day martyrs in Korea.

The Bishop of Meath was a concelebrant at a special Mass on Monday evening at the headquarters of the Columbans in Dalgan Park, Co Meath to mark the beginnings of the Maynooth Mission to China in October 1916.

“The seven included one of our own – Fr Paddy Reilly from Drumraney,” Dr Smith said.

He recalled “Their courage, their commitment, their witness to faith and the way that they stayed in the places they were assigned to during the Korean War and then ended up in prison or on death marches.”

The seven priests were stationed along the border with North Korea at the outbreak of the Korean War (25 June–27 July 1953) and were killed during the early days of the Communist invasion.

The main celebrant for Monday’s Mass was Fr Neill Collins, Columban historian, who was joined by the president of Maynooth, Mgr Hugh Connolly and the acting president, Fr Francis Mullaney, as well as a representative of the

archdiocese of Tuam and the Columban assistant regional director, Fr Padraig O'Donovan.

In his homily, Fr Collins recalled that on the evening of 9 October 1916, two priests, Edward Galvin and John Blowick, waited nervously in the rooms of one of the professors in St Patrick's College, Maynooth for the decision of the Standing Committee of the Irish Bishops.

“It was just six months after the Easter Rising and the execution of its leaders. In France, the Battle of the Somme began on 1 July and was still raging – with more than a million casualties. The bishops had many serious matters to discuss. At half past three Blowick was summoned down to them. He was only 27, facing ten senior bishops. His proposal was the opening of a college to train Irish priests for China.”

Blowick was a Professor of Dogmatic and Moral Theology in Maynooth, and was haunted by the words of Our Lord, “Go, make disciples of all the nations”.

His companion, Galvin, was a missionary just home from China, practically unknown in Ireland.

He wanted an Irish mission to China, but he was terrified and confessed candidly “that the immensity of the task and the necessity of having to appear before a body of Irish bishops frightened me.”

Their proposal was approved by the full meeting of the bishops on the 10 October, and that approval was published in the newspapers on the 11 October.

It read: “The Bishops joyfully approve and bless the project and earnestly commend to the generous help and support of the faithful the establishment of this Mission House for the training of Irish missionaries for China, who, in a spirit worthy of our missionary race, offer their lives for the propagation of the Faith in a pagan country.”

According to Fr Collins, Fr John Blowick regarded that document as the Magna Carta of the Maynooth Mission to China.

The mission house was leased at Dalgan Park, Shrule, Co Mayo and 19 students, mostly from Maynooth, arrived on 29 January 1918.

Two years later, on 17 March, there were departure ceremonies in Dalgan.

Speaking after the Mass, which was attended by Columban priests, sisters, lay missionaries and co-workers, Bishop Smith described the bishops' decision in 1916 as "extraordinary".

He said Bishop Galvin was "obviously a very persuasive man" with "a lot of personal skills", because he had managed to convince the bishops to back the project even though it meant setting off for China in the middle of a world war and in the wake of the Rising.

He said Bishop Galvin, Fr Blowick and the early members "had extraordinary courage". Noting the bishops' reference in 1916 to pagan China, Dr Smith suggested that they obviously weren't well informed about China's extraordinary culture.

In his homily, Fr Collins noted that Fr Blowick, the first editor of the Far East magazine, accompanied the first 16 priests to Hanyang in China. "They were going to preach the gospel, to millions of people who had absolutely no interest in their message."

Following Mao Zedong's declaration of the People's Republic of China on 1 October 1949, foreign missionaries were expelled and Bishop Galvin was forced to leave on 17 September 1952.

However, the story of the church in Hanyang, the city the Columbans first went to in the 1920s, didn't end with the expulsions.

Bishop Galvin left a Chinese priest, Peter Zhang, as his successor. After years in prison, Zhang was released. In 1986, in a railway station, he was ordained Bishop of Hanyang, and began to build again.

Ten days ago a new edition of the *Guide to the Catholic Church in China* was published online.

For Hanyang it lists seven priests, all ordained since 2001, six major seminarians, 20 sisters in the congregation founded by Galvin, and 30,000 faithful.

News briefs

+++ Sung compline in three Dublin churches - Peregrine returns to sing compline in three

churches in central Dublin. The office will take place at 5.30pm each day beginning on Friday 14 October in St Werburgh's church on Werburgh Street; on Saturday 15 October in St Catherine of Alexandria's church on Meath Street, and lastly in the Lady chapel of St Patrick's cathedral on Sunday 16 October. The music will include 'Mater Christi sanctissima', composed by the finest English composer of his era, John Taverner (c.1490–1545), and a five-part 'Salve regina', one of only four known works by the ambitious Eton College stalwart, Robert Wylykynson (c.1450–after 1515). The Virgin and Child pictured in the poster is by the famous German artist, Albrecht Dürer, and dates from 1498, the midpoint of the lives of Taverner and Wylykynson. All are most welcome.

+++Christ Church Choir in Blessington on Sunday - As part of the Music Department of Christ Church Cathedral's Diocesan Music Outreach Project, Christ Church Cathedral Choir will visit St Mary's Parish Church in Blessington on Sunday 16th October to sing a Festival Evensong at 3.30pm. Everyone is welcome to join this service as the Music Department seeks to serve the parishes of the United Dioceses. During the past three years the Cathedral Choir

has visited Kilbride Church near Bray, St Maelruain's Church in Tallaght, St John The Baptist Church in Drumcondra and St Mary's Church, Howth.

+++ Derry Youth Team for Lourdes -

Applications are now open for young people from the Diocese of Derry to be part of the Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage Youth Team. The Youth Team will travel to Lourdes with the Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage on 1st - 6th July 2017. You should be in Year 13 (or equivalent) and under 18 years old at the time of the pilgrimage. The fare to travel as part of the Youth Team is £555. This can be met by fundraising initiatives which you should discuss with your school and parish. If your application is successful a deposit of £150 is required to secure the place. Places are limited and applications must be submitted by 18th November 2016. Please contact Miss Kathryn Kelly, if you have any questions. Tel: 028 7135 1261 or Email: kathryn@threepatrons.org

+++ Belfast St Cecilia's Day concert - Cantate!

– a concert to celebrate St Cecilia's Day, will be held in St Anne's Cathedral on Tuesday November 22 at 7 pm. You are invited to join with Belfast Cathedral and the Corrymeela

Community for an evening of beautiful music and poetry. The concert will feature three choirs - Jubilate! Chamber Choir, St Anne's Girls' Choir and the Voices Together Community Choir. There will be poems and readings by the Very Rev John Mann, Dean of Belfast and Padraig O'Tuoma, leader of the Corrymeela Community. Tickets, at £15, are available from <https://www.musicglue.com/belfast-cathedral> or call into the Cathedral office or at Corrymeela.

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

NI Homeless alcoholics 'falling through the cracks'

BBC News

There are more than 18,500 homeless people in NI, but those with addiction issues are falling through the cracks, according to a charity.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-37564939>

Homeless choir to bring High Hopes to Sligo Choral Festival

thejournal.ie

Its members first hit the headlines after an RTE documentary in 2014, and there is more good **news** for **Ireland's** first homeless **choir**, as they have ...

<http://www.thejournal.ie/high-hopes-choir-sligo-festival-3019650-Oct2016/>

Catholic Herald

Reports that the Archbishop of Canterbury has been invited to preach at Westminster Cathedral at the close of Year of Mercy. The announcement that Archbishop Justin will speak follows [the meeting between the Anglican leader and the Pope in Rome last week](#) to mark 50 years of efforts to strengthen relations between Christian denominations.

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2016/10/10/justin-welby-to-preach-in-westminster-cathedral-at-close-of-year-of-mercy/>

[Christian Today/West Mids Express and Star](#)
Further coverage of the conversation between the Archbishop of Canterbury and Noble Peace Laureate, Malala Yousafzai at Dudley College. Ms Yousafzai, told the audience she wants to promote "religious and cultural harmony". The *Express and Star* site features a video of the two in conversation.

Guard

Feature on Brits helping refugees in Britain with a focus on All Hallows Church in Leeds and its work led by the vicar, Revd Heston Groenewald.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/oct/10/brits-helping-refugees-help-britain>

Christian Today

Reports that leaders of more than half of the world's Anglicans have issued a joint statement on same sex relationships and have also warned of "serious implications" should the C of E decide to offer blessings to same-sex couples, following the sixth conference of Global South Anglican leaders in Egypt. Article notes the Bishops of Durham and Winchester were guests at the meeting with the knowledge of the Archbishop of Canterbury and quotes both of them. The Bishops of Blackburn and Birkenhead were also present.

Christian Today

Further coverage that the C of E is to revive traditional terminology in some of its services to help Alzheimer's sufferers, hoping that familiar texts of prayers and passages of scripture, often learnt by heart in childhood, could help trigger memories. The CofE's Liturgical Commission, the body responsible for any changes to the Church's official service style, is calling in experts to help it plan "dementia friendly" services

Comment

Guardian: Simon Jenkins writes, “There is one sure way to save our ailing churches – give them away.”

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/oct/10/save-ailing-churches-desanctified-secularised>

Letters

Guardian: The church and other institutions in decline

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/oct/10/the-church-and-other-institutions-in-decline>

Blogs - C of E Communications:

Code for the Kingdom:

<http://cofecomms.tumblr.com/post/151605374242/code-for-the-kingdom>

World Mental Health Day:

<http://cofecomms.tumblr.com/post/151578004447/world-mental-health-day-love-your-neighbour-and>

Praying for the needs of all those affected by prisons:

<http://cofecomms.tumblr.com/post/151465523167/praying-for-the-needs-of-all-those-affected-by>

October 12

GET CNI HEADLINES EACH DAY

Facebook and Twitter

Click on logo at CNI Home page

www.churchnewsireland.org

+ Please share CNI with your friends

www.churchnewsireland.org