



## **Belfast parish goes away for a weekend**

All Saints' Church, University Street, Belfast, held its first Church Family Weekend in more than 10 years on the second weekend in February.

The parish was very encouraged when nearly all of the regular church family came to stay over for the weekend, joined by additional travellers

coming and going for the day. At one stage, there were nearly 130 people enjoying time together, listening to God's word, praying, and having fun together.

The weekend was held at Castlewellan Castle and everyone enjoyed the surroundings of the castle and forest park.

The speaker was the Rev Lee McMunn from Scarborough in England.

Lee is the minister at a growing church plant in the area, having been curate-assistant at St John's Parish, Newland, Hull. He is also the mission director of AMiE, the Anglican Mission in England.

Reporting on the weekend, Ryan Scott, ministry apprentice, All Saints' Church, said: "Throughout the weekend, Lee taught through the book of 2 Peter, showing us what amazing promises we have in Jesus, and how we should live in the light of the return of Jesus.

"In addition, the children and teenagers had their own, concurrent programmes facilitated by CEF and Beth Warburton, a former ministry apprentice in All Saints'."

All Saints' parish is looking forward to this weekend being a regular fixture in the church's calendar.

## **'Prayers on the Move' throughout Dublin's transport network**

If you are out and about in Dublin over the next four weeks keep an eye out for prayers which have been placed on public transport networks throughout the city. The ecumenical Prayers on the Move initiative was officially launched in St Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday (February 25), and is aimed at encouraging commuters and those using public transport to give prayer a go.

Prayers on the Move is a joint initiative between SPCK and its Irish counterpart APCK.

Advertising panels, featuring different prayers, have been placed in 144 DART carriages, 150 buses and in 20 train stations for the coming month. The campaign also includes a booklet with 31 simple prayers and an app containing the prayers in audio form as well as prayer alerts which remind users to pray and help form a habit of regular prayer. Both of these can be downloaded from the Prayers on the Move website <http://prayersonthemove.com>



**Dean William Morton, Primavera Quantrill of SPCK and Dean Niall Sloane of APCK at the launch of Prayers on the Move in St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin.**

Primavera Quantrill of SPCK said that the project was pioneered in London, Newcastle and Birmingham and aims to reach out to people of all faiths and none and help them to develop a prayer habit. Giving the example of commuters crammed on the London Underground, she said there was often nothing they could do other than look at the advertising posters.

Commending the campaign, the Dean of Limerick and National Coordinator of APCK, the



Very Revd Niall Sloane, said Prayers on the Move had been supported by a number of parishes, APCK, the Methodist Church in Ireland, the Catholic Archdiocese of Dublin, the Carmelite Order, the Society of Jesus and St Patrick's Cathedral.

The Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral, the Very Revd William Morton, thanked Primavera and Niall for their work in developing the worthwhile and effective initiative and said he was sure it would be used throughout the city.

You can follow Prayers on the Move on Twitter @PrayersOTM and if you spot a prayer around Dublin Tweet it using the hashtag #prayersonthemove

## **Nightlight ministry to ever expanding entertainment areas of Belfast**

The Nightlight ministry works around the constantly expanding entertainment areas of Belfast including the Golden Mile, the Cathedral Quarter and the Odyssey complex. Nightlight endeavours to make clear Christ's message, both as an invitation to those who are, as yet,



outside God's Kingdom, as well as a challenge to those who are within.

In 1989 the Presbytery of Belfast South directed the Rev. Bill Moore, Minister of Taughmonagh congregation, to undertake a pilot scheme, leading a group onto the streets in the early hours of the morning.

In 1991 this pilot project came to an end, not because there was no mission there, but rather because there was too much work for someone already committed to Parish ministry. The South Belfast Presbytery recommended to the General

Assembly that the night ministry project become a recognised part of the Presbyterian Church's outreach in the area. In 1995 a full-time Director, Mr. John Luke, was appointed and in December 2012 he retired. Nightlight now employs two full-time personnel, [Brian Simons](#) and [Linzie Cobain](#).

Since September 1995, a small group of volunteer team members have been "on the streets" from 11pm to 3am on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights.

If you would like more information about the work of Nightlight, how to support the project or how to become a volunteer team member, please contact: Nightlight, 13 Botanic Avenue, Belfast BT7 1JG. Phone: +44(0)28 9033 2777  
Email: [info@pcinightlight.org](mailto:info@pcinightlight.org)

Copies of their quarterly newsletter Nightlines can be [found here](#).

## **Hilda has busy schedule planned for young people of Cork diocese**

Investing time in teens should be our biggest priority, the Church of Ireland's new youth worker, Clonakilty native Hilda Connolly tells Emma Connolly of The Southern Star.



Lack of volunteers is the biggest problem facing young people's organisations in the area – but for the sake of our teens, it should be our biggest priority.

That's according to Clonakilty woman Hilda Connolly who is the newly appointed Church of Ireland youth worker in the diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross.

The mother-of-two, who was appointed by Bishop Paul Colton, will be working closely with the Diocesan Council and the Diocesan Youth Council to implement a youth programme for the area.

And, most importantly, she will be focusing on making it fun to get involved.

She has lots planned as part of her new role, including setting up new youth groups in the parish and connecting with other groups and activities from other Christian denominations.

Hilda originally trained in hair and beauty but always had a keen interest in working with youth. 'I completed a foundation level psychology course in 2010. From there I got involved in schools work through the Church of Ireland holding retreat days and workshops in any area that needed addressing – self esteem, bullying, social networking and sex education. I became the co-ordinator of the team in 2011. Since then, my role has developed and in 2014 I was appointed the West Cork youth development officer for the Cofl on a part-time basis before my new role since January.'

Hilda is 'born and bred' Clonakilty and lives on the Dunmanway Road.

Mum to Rory, (7), and Barry, (6) she said: 'I didn't move to far from home when I got married nearly 11 years ago to Kevin Connolly – a Rosscarbery man. We built our home on my dad's farm, next door to him. Kevin is my greatest support and my rock.'

The second of four girls and one boy, her mum died suddenly when she was almost 17.

‘That’s something that has probably driven me but has developed me too, as I had to grow up very fast and to take on “mom” tasks and jobs from a young age. But my dad was just a super guy and was always there for us all. He lives next door to me and is very involved in the Skibbereen Motor Sport. He competed in the World Championships Rally in 2009. He is a legend and I am his biggest fan.’

Hilda feels that, not just West Cork but everywhere, has realised that it needs to do more for our youth whose challenges include dealing with social media, bullying, exam pressure, relationships, money, self esteem, image and more.

‘There is definitely a lot more [to deal with] out there than when I was growing up. But there is always room for improvement. There are a few areas that run very good Foroige groups now, Ballinascorthy and Rosscarbery being two of them. There is also the option of music programmes, drama, dance, computer groups.’

However, the biggest challenge is to get volunteers and support.



‘It is an amazing and very fulfilling role – and also very entertaining – when you are involved with youth. It does take up a bit of time but for the sake of our teens, it should be a priority. It does shape them and mould them into young adults, if we invest some time into them.’

## Interest growing in Jars4Journeys



As Lent continues, interest is growing in the Jars4Journeys initiative promoted by Bishops' Appeal, the Representative Church Body and Eco-Congregation Ireland.

The idea is to invite people to save an old jam jar (or another recyclable container) and to put

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money in it every time they travel using a vehicle powered by fossil fuels to offset the carbon footprint of that journey. The money raised will go towards three conservation projects around the world that support and help build resilience in the communities most affected by climate change.

In this interview with Soul Waves, Bishops' Appeal Education Advisor Lydia Monds highlights how the idea came about and how it's motivating people to give of what they have this Lent to serve and support others facing the challenge of climate change. To find out more, check out the Jars4Journeys page on the Bishops' Appeal website [here](#).

## **Pope backs UN ceasefire over 'inhuman' violence in Syria**

Pope Francis is denouncing the “inhuman” violence in Syria and is backing a U.N. Security Council-demanded cease-fire so food and medicine can reach desperate Syrians and the sick and wounded can be evacuated.

The Pope led thousands of people in St Peter's Square in praying Sunday for an “immediate” end to hostilities.



He said: “The month of February has been one of the most violent in seven years of conflict: hundreds, thousands of civilian victims, children, women and the elderly, hospitals have been hit, people can’t get food. All this is inhuman.”

He insisted: “You can’t fight evil with evil.”

On Saturday, the U.N. Security Council unanimously approved a resolution demanding a 30-day cease-fire across Syria to deliver humanitarian aid to millions and evacuate the critically ill and wounded.



## **President Trump to attend Rev Billy Graham's funeral**

The White House has confirmed President Donald Trump will attend Friday's funeral for Rev Billy Graham.

The US evangelist died last week at his home in North Carolina at the age of 99. Every living current and former US President is being invited to attend **Rev Graham's funeral** at the Graham family home.

Before the funeral, Rev Graham will be afforded the rare tribute of lying in honour in the US Capitol Rotunda on Wednesday and Thursday.

Jonathan Rebsamen, a pastor at First Baptist Church in Charlotte, Graham's hometown, told

Premier what the evangelist means to people there.

"He changed a lot of people's lives through his faithfulness and through his preaching and through his teaching.

"He had a crusade here in Charlotte in the late 90s where tens of thousands of folks came and gave their hearts to Christ."

Thousands of people **lined streets in North Carolina at the weekend** to watch Rev Graham's coffin procession, as it was taken to his hometown Charlotte.

He will be buried in the grounds of his namesake library in Charlotte, North Carolina, beside his wife, Ruth.

## **Jerusalem's most famous church closes in tax protest**

The doors of Jerusalem's most sacred church have been closed until further notice due to a row over a new land law and tax.



Church leaders at The Holy Sepulchre claimed the new rules are an attack on Christians in the Holy Land.

The site, which many Christians believe Jesus was crucified and buried, will remain closed until further notice, leaving disappointed pilgrims locked outside.

Dr Russell Rook, advisor to Theophilos III, the Patriarch of Jerusalem, told Premier why the proposed bill is so bad.

"It's a bill that is due to go before the Knesset - the Israeli parliament, that would make it



possible for the government of Israel to essentially confiscate church properties and properties owned by different churches... in Jerusalem," he said during Premier's News Hour.

"So this has been the issue that has pushed the church leaders in Jerusalem over the edge to say 'this threatens our very existence as churches, as Christians in this holy city and enough is enough'."

A statement was issued on Sunday signed by the Greek Orthodox Patriarch Theophilos III of Jerusalem; the Catholic Custos of the Holy Land, Fr Francesco Patton; the Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem, Patriarch Nourhan Manougian and others.

It said that the campaign was a "discriminatory and racist bill".

Announcing the closure of the 4th-century church, they condemned a "systematic and unprecedented attack against Christians in the Holy Land" that "severely violates the most basic... and sovereign rights, trampling on the delicate fabric of relations between the Christian community and the authorities for decades".

Dr Rook urged Christians to pray for the nation.

"Pray for a peaceful resolution. Scripture tells us we've got to pray for the peace of Jerusalem, so we're not trying to stir up a fight and certainly the Patriarch isn't wanting to fight - he's wanting peace.

"Pray that the discussions between the Christian leaders and the politicians in the municipality and the city of Jerusalem and in the Knesset - the Israeli government actually come to a peaceful conclusion and we get to a much better position.

"And if they want to act, they can write to their MP, or maybe even better - the Prime Minister... and say 'would the UK use its influence to bring about a peaceful reconciliation to this really difficult problem?'"

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