

Lisburn Cathedral young adults to work with charity in Kampala



A team of young adults from Lisburn Cathedral will travel to Uganda on Saturday July 21 to work with the charity Abaana.

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During their first week, the team will be:

- working with street children in Kampala
- visiting Abaana's New Life Children's Homes and meeting the children who have been rescued from a life on the streets
- organising Holiday Bible Clubs at two of Abaana's Primary Schools, Strathearn Primary and New Foundations Primary in the Kampala area
- meeting up with the children from the Abaana New Life Choir

The choir won the hearts of many people across the UK and Ireland during their tour in 2017, and during their trip the Cathedral team will have the opportunity to meet the children who make up the New Life Choir 2019, who will be returning to the UK and Ireland next year.

In week two, the team will travel to the Gulu region of northern Uganda, where they will be based at Dr Andrew McAvoy Primary School. There they will be involved in helping build a new toilet block for the pupils and running another Holiday Bible Club.

Neville Jones, a Lisburn Cathedral parishioner and Assistant Director of Abaana, will travel with the team. He said:

“This will be a challenging and potentially life-changing experience for the team members, most of whom have never been to Africa before. It will be an opportunity to see at first hand the lives God is changing in Uganda through the work of Abaana.”

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The 11 team members are Lee Boal, Becky Lester, Vicki Bell, Sara McGucken, Beth Irwin, Erin Gardiner, Zoe McLoughlin, Emily Lester and Owen Churton, Matthew Cairns and Neville Jones.

Adventures in Faith and Fun at D&G Diocesan Kids' Camp

The Dublin and Glendalough Diocesan Kids' Camp took place 2–6 July at the Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation in Co. Wicklow for children finishing 4th class to 6th class. This was our second year at Glencree, a peaceful and quiet setting with stunning views of the Sugarloaf. We were blessed with brilliant weather for the week and despite road closures around Enniskerry and gorse fires in the surrounding hills, the week came together without too many harrowing adventures!

Abigail Sines writes - We were delighted to have a good, early response to the camp this year and at the week of the booking deadline we were full up with 24 campers registered. Campers came from parishes across the diocese and included kids from Greystones, Castleknock, Clontarf, Rathmines, Rathfarnham, Donard, and St Catherine's, Thomas St.

'Adventure: Faith!' was our theme this year and we kicked off our discussion thinking about superheroes (we couldn't avoid the Avengers!) and the superpowers that make a superhero. We looked at faith as the foundation of the Christian life, the engine that powers our words and actions, and the anchor that holds us firm in the midst of challenge, hurt or loss. Each day included a main meeting focusing on a different biblical text and an evening small

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group time to allow for reflection on the day and prayer. The campers ended each day with time to articulate what that they were thankful for or appreciated in the day.

Camp wouldn't be complete without plenty of fun and our days were filled with games, challenges, relay races, a blindfolded obstacle course, a quiz, a movie night (The Incredibles of course!) outdoor pursuits at Clara Lara, and a campfire with an endless supply of marshmallows for toasting.

It was remarkable to see how, in creating the space for reflection, the campers were able to engage in serious conversations about their faith. Some children came to the camp already having delved into their faith deeply. Others expressed that camp had created a space for them to consider their personal faith more seriously than they had before. They were able to share and react to each other's experiences. A session of creative prayer at the end of the week saw the children engaging profoundly: writing down their own prayers, re-reading the biblical texts of the week, and taking time in stillness and silence to reflect. It was encouraging to see the children participate with such seriousness. We pray that the seeds planted will flourish in years to come as these children become leaders in their schools and parishes.

As the saying goes, 'it takes a village to run a summer camp'! The core leadership team comprised the Revd Abigail Sines (camp coordinator), Amy Deverell (camp administrator, taking up the mantle after many years of faithful service by Lynn Storey), Karl Tyrrell, Lionel Deverell, and junior leader Karen Mukasa. The Revd Ross Styles and the Revd Cathy Hallisey joined on different days to give a

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talk and take part in the games and general mayhem. The Revd Rebecca Guildea took part in the evenings for small group time; Kate Robbins was as an additional chaperone for the outing to Clara Lara; and Susie Keegan, diocesan youth development officer, led a special session on the last day of camp for the 6th class kids about the transition to secondary school. The camp would not have been possible without the contribution of every member of the team! We are grateful also to the Country Air Association for continuing to make a number of bursaries available for families who need assistance.

Down and Dromore youth experience Albany summer camp

Beaver Cross operates two simultaneous Camps at the Spiritual Life Centre – a Day Camp (kindergarten to yr8 approx) and an overnight camp (the age range for overnight camp while we're here is Middle School but that varies over the Summer).

Adrian Dorrian writes - Our team is divided between these camps, with a couple also being involved in programme support, which effectively means providing logistics for the two camps.

Each morning begins with a time of worship and teaching called 'Good Morning God' followed by different activities. Some of these activities are undertaken for the whole week and classed as skilled eg Tae Kwan Do, Sport (this week's skilled sport is rugby, ably taught by Adam and Andrew), Arts and Crafts.

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Other activities change over the course of the week and range from swimming to fishing to meeting the Cashmere goats tended by the Nuns who live on site. Of course meals are important and both camps have a range of other games like capture the flag and goldrush, which is kind of a treasure hunt. Overnight Camp also ends each day with worship before devotions in the Cabins.

Compared to Down and Dromore's camps, the days here start much earlier (campers from overnight gather at 7.40am and dropoff for daycamp is 7.30am) but also end much earlier (lights out for middle camp povernight is 9.30pm for kids and 11pm for staff).

Of course, at the heart of the busy programme of activities is the chance to build relationships. Beaver Cross is well staffed and so we as a team are trying to be as useful as possible...and having a few more leaders around seems to allow time for some really valuable conversations with Campers.

I know a lot of parents and family of team members will read this, and I want to tell you how wonderful the members of this team are. They are keen to learn, mostly keen to listen (and happy to be reminded to listen!) and genuinely engaged with the programme here. In this first week, which ends tomorrow, I've seen them make wise decisions, forge relationships of true value with campers and other staff and stretch themselves, going outside their comfort zones when asked. I'm very proud of them as a leader, and I know you as their families will be as well.

Although both camps end tomorrow (Friday), the weekend will see some of the campers staying over (as they've

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signed up for two weeks), but the atmosphere at the weekend with as many leaders as children will be quite different. Much of Saturday will be spent at a theme park and water park.

Please continue to pray for the team, for energy, for growth in existing friendships and the development of new ones and for the Spirit's power and strength when they face challenges. Pray also for the goodbyes that will be said to some campers tomorrow – never an easy thing! It is an exciting and positive experience, being here at Beaver Cross, but it is hard being away from home, especially when the news from home is not always good. While we continue to be blessed by your prayers, we have been praying for 'Our wee country' and for the peace of God to reign.

Derry parish serves breakfast alresco on July 12

Parishioners from St Augustine's Church in Londonderry refused to be deterred by the security alert in the city centre on July 12, and succeeded in serving a Twelfth of July cooked breakfast—as planned—to members of a local flute band, albeit in a nearby car park rather than the parish hall.

The Rector of St Augustine's, Rev Canon Malcolm Ferry, had intended serving the 'fry up' in the church hall, overlooking the famous City Walls but arrived, shortly before 7.00 a.m., to find the hall and the surrounding area cordoned off. "We had two options," Canon Ferry said, "abandon our plan or improvise. We decided to improvise."



Church volunteers cooked the breakfast elsewhere and brought the food to Bishop Street car park where it was gratefully received by members of the Churchill Flute Band. “We weren’t quite able to lay on ‘a full Ulster’ for the band,” Canon Ferry said, “but they got a hearty breakfast that set them up well for the day. They must’ve enjoyed it, because — as well as covering the cost of the food — the bandsmen and bandswomen had a whip round and gave a generous donation to church funds.”

St Augustine’s—known by many as ‘the Wee Church on the Walls’—has found itself too close for comfort to this week’s rioting in the city. Canon Ferry has a number of parishioners living in the Fountain, which was attacked by petrol bombers and stone-throwers. Shots were fired at the police and viable explosive devices were thrown at officers on duty on the city walls – only yards from the church.

“It’s been a fairly tense week in the city,” the Rector said, “but, amazingly, the bandsmen’s form remained good and their spirits high. They were determined not to let the recent violence—or the early morning disruption—spoil their

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‘Twelfth’. They enjoyed their breakfasts ‘al fresco’ in the car park and they went on to enjoy their big day.”

“It’s been disappointing, after a number of largely peaceful years, to see the return of serious rioting,” Canon Ferry said. “The vast majority of us want to see the trouble stopping – the sooner the better. Our church is a popular attraction for the thousands of people who visit the city and walk on the Walls, but our ministry here is being affected by the rioting. It’s been sad to see tourists walking past ‘the Wee Church’, this week, and taking photos, instead, of the trouble down below the Walls in the Bogside. It’s giving visitors completely the wrong impression of this beautiful, historic city of ours.”

Glenstal Abbey rings new bells on feast day

The Benedictines at Glenstal Abbey celebrated the feast of Saint Benedict on July 11 with the ringing of new bells.

The bells, named Benedict, Scholastica, Joseph and Columba, were decorated and ready to be blessed at Mass on Wednesday.

“Thanks to a generous gift, we are installing a set of four brand-new bells this week,” stated the monks as they issued an open invitation for the public to attend the celebration.

They were hoisted into position on the library, from where they rang out to call the monks and all others who heard them “to give honour and glory to God in the sacred liturgy,” the monks stated.



Fr Brendan Coffey, the sixth and current Abbot of Glenstal, spoke during the Mass, stating that bells have the important task of calling people to pray. “But bells do more than just summon, they ring out a particular message, and for us that message is summed up in the life of [St] Benedict of Nursia,” he said.

“As we face the challenges and difficulties of living in the 21st century, our temptation today is to rely more than ever on power – something which is conspicuously absent from Benedict’s list. Our leaders tend to be powerful people with big personalities. We can see it around the world today,” he said.

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He highlighted how all over the world people spend huge sums of money to keep “safe” and “to keep the stranger out”. But this goes against the second beatitude: “Blessed are the gentle”.

He explained that that this is a world view built on fear, and which is not a very happy place in which to live.

“Benedict’s world is built on hospitality, the search for God and mutual wellbeing and in the end it is a much safer place to live,” he said. “Change begins with me. This is the Christian message which rings out from a Benedictine monastery, the call which summons the Christian people everywhere to pray, the clear pure resounding chime of peace.”

The service was open to the public and could be viewed on the internet, as it was streamed live on the Glenstal Abbey website.

Rare 1616 King James Bible found in cupboard of 57-year-old New Zealand church

Only 30 copies of the 1616 edition of the King James Bible are thought to exist – and one of them has recently surfaced in the cupboard of a 1960s church in Manawatū, in the lower North Island of New Zealand. It was discovered during a search for Palmerston North’s oldest Bibles for a display by neighbouring church St Johns, for New Zealand’s Bible Sunday this weekend. The assistant priest at St Peter’s, Amy Houben, believes the Bible may have been passed to the Church in 1912, but there are no records of the gift other than an inscription on its cover.



The 1616 King James Bible at St Peter's Church in Manawatū, in the lower North Island of New Zealand.

The inscription says that the Bible was donated by congregation member Thomas Pattinson, who emigrated from England to New Zealand between 1874 and 1881.

“People gift bibles all the time because no one likes throwing them out,” Houben told the Stuff news website. “It may be that it was passed to the church without knowing its true significance.”

St Peter's Church has been in existence since 1902; but the present building was constructed in 1961. The Bible was printed in 1616 – some 330 years after the islands were first settled in around 1280 by Polynesian travellers who became the Maori; and more than 153 years before British

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explorer Captain Cook first arrived on the islands, leading to a wave of European migration.

The Bible was first accidentally discovered in 2012 wrapped in a tea towel. It was authenticated by Dunedin City Library curator Anthony Tedeschi, who said that only 30 copies remain from that 1616 print run. Most are in Britain and the US. It is thought that St Peters' copy is the only one in Oceania.

Since its discovery in 2012, the Bible has been restored and placed in a secure display cabinet. This weekend it will join other old editions in a Bible Sunday exhibition.

"I'm not sure what place an old bible would have had in a new church," Houben told Stuff. "I feel quite sorry for this old girl in a way. They were made to be read and held. They weren't made to be locked in a glass coffin.

"It almost seems out of place having it down in little, old New Zealand. It's got old bones and a good heart, but it's from a whole different world."

News briefs

+++Belfast speaker from Burundi -Simon Guillebaud will be speaking at the 7.00 pm service in Willowfield Parish Church on Sunday 15 July. Author, speaker, social entrepreneur, family man, cyclist and charity founder, Simon had a very clear call to Burundi in 1999, when it was regarded as the most dangerous country on earth. Having unexpectedly survived 7 years of genocide and civil war, he set up GLO with the vision to transform Burundi and beyond through holistic mission, working with gifted local

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leaders of integrity. Now married with three young children, he still lives in Burundi, which is one of the hungriest and unhappiest countries in the world. He and his wife Lizzie have both been awarded an MBE for their services to Burundi.

+++Children's ministry - week commencing 16 July - 20th July. Seagoe Parish's Holiday Bible Club, *Pyramid Rock*, which focuses on the well known story of Joseph and his family. St Jude's *Parents and Tots Summer Scheme* with a tots Bible slot, sensory play, toys, refreshments, sand and water pool. And Bangor Parish Church will host Ballyholme CSSM.

+++Rural Mission Sunday - on July 15 provides an opportunity for rural churches to celebrate who they are and to give thanks for their community. Organised by Germinate, part of the Arthur Rank Centre, you can register and download free resources. Germinate.net

+++Why on Earth - ChurchArmy and SPCK publishing have partnered together to create *Why on Earth...?* A great new resource which looks at some of the toughest questions of faith and provides sessions you can use to explore these sharing your own experiences and perspectives. vimeo.com/275796426

+++“Sharing faith, nurturing hope” - the WCC Annual Review 2017 is now available in four languages: English, French, German and Spanish. The annual review records many of the activities undertaken by the council during

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2017. Download at - <https://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/other/wcc-annual-review-2017>

+++Charles Wood Girls Choir - Four places still available for our Charles Wood Girls Choir Open audition session this Monday (16 July), 6.15 - 6.45pm, Music Hall, Vicars' Hill, Armagh



<http://www.charleswoodsummerschool.org/>



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