

New WWI Naval Roll of Honour presented to NI War Memorial Building



Commander Rob Milligan, Senior Naval Officer NI, Steve Aiken MLA, Ian Wilson, chairman of NI War Memorial building and Very Rev Dr Houston McKelvey, former dean of Belfast who compiled the roll of honour

A ceremony has taken place to recognise the Northern Ireland men who served in the Royal Navy during World War One – a roll of honour that includes Bear Grylls' great grandfather, the News Letter reports.

The first known roll of honour of the brave Ulstermen who served in the Navy during the Great War was compiled over five years by the Very Rev Dr Houston McKelvey, who was an honorary chaplain to the Royal Naval Reserve.

Yesterday afternoon, Steve Aiken, MLA, OBE and former Royal Navy submarine commander – presented a copy of the roll of honour to the Northern Ireland War Memorial in Belfast. Present at the ceremony were the chairman of the NI War Memorial, Ian Wilson, and current members of the Royal Naval Reserve, Derek Rankin, a former commanding officer of HMS Caroline, Lt Commander Kurt Courtenay, executive officer of HMS Hibernia, and the Senior Naval Officer

Northern Ireland. Commander Rob Milligan.

Very Rev Dr McKelvey conducted the last naval marriage and baptisms on HMS Caroline as well as the final service aboard marking the ship's decommissioning by the Royal Navy, and the service of commissioning of HMS Hibernia. It was during this period that Dr McKelvey became aware that there was no roll of honour for Royal Navy personnel from Northern Ireland for either of the world wars.

He said: "With the help of a number of friends, authors, schools, newspapers, websites, the Masonic Order and various churches, in the region of 5,000 names have been recorded and wherever possible we have researched their service records and summarised them in the roll which contains almost 500 pages.

“Those who served come from all parts of Northern Ireland, from all social backgrounds and religious denominations.”

One of the best known officers in the Naval Air Service Armoured Corps Division was Sir Walter Smiles, son of a director of the Belfast Rope Works, and great grandfather of Bear Grylls, the explorer and chief Scout.

Sir Walter was lost in the Princess Victoria in January 1953. He was awarded the DSO for his wartime service. The full roll of honour can be seen at NI War Memorial building at 21 Talbot Street, Belfast.

Archbishop's fears as more Catholic children shun Catholic schools

The Londonderry-born head of the Catholic Church in Ireland has voiced concern at the



Archbishop Eamon Martin was speaking at a conference in Dublin

“increasing numbers of Catholic children no longer attending Catholic schools”.

Archbishop Eamon Martin said this presents “clear issues” for parents, families and parishes in ensuring that these children are receiving appropriate religious instruction and are being suitably prepared for the sacraments of the Eucharist and confirmation.

Dr Martin told a conference in Dublin that religion in a Catholic school was “not an added extra to be fitted in during break time or twilight hours or during registration. Everything that happens in

the school community is rooted in the Gospel values,” he said.

He said he wondered “how a state – which appears to recognise the importance of ERB (Education about Religions and Beliefs) and ethics – at the same time appears to want to remove religious education from the core curriculum”.

He said there was “a reasonable concern that much of current educational policy in Ireland would promote a generic model of primary education”.

Such, he said, would “dilute the right of parents to have access to a school which unashamedly and intentionally lives by a faith-based ethos”.

He added: “In choosing to send their children to a Catholic school, parents not only exercise their human and constitutional right to have their children educated in accordance with their religious beliefs, but they are also placing trust that the school community will assist them in accompanying their children on their itinerary of faith.” Report courtesy the News Letter

Remembrance Day service broadcast from Ballynure

A service for Remembrance Sunday from Christ Church, Ballynure, will be broadcast on Sunday morning (12 November), at 8.10am on BBC Radio 4. The service will be led by the Rt Revd Kenneth Clarke, with the Rt Revd Lord Eames as preacher and worship led by the New Irish Choir, directed by Jonathan Rea.

On Remembrance Day 1987, Lord Eames, then the Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, was preparing to preach the sermon at a service in St Macartin's Cathedral in Enniskillen. The service did not happen due to the bomb explosion at the town's Cenotaph. On the 30th anniversary of the Enniskillen bomb, he will reflect on the effects of that event and consider the role of remembrance.

Nenagh Christmas Tree Festival to turn St Mary's into a winter wonderland

Nenagh Christmas Tree Festival was launched in St Mary's Church of Ireland with Cllr John



**Kathleen McLoughlin, CEO, St Cronan's;
Mary Smith, chairperson, St Cronan's;
Dympna Harty, director, St Cronan's; Deborah
Powell, Nenagh Christmas Tree Festival; Cllr
John Carroll, Cathaoirleach, Nena**

Carroll, Cathaoirleach of Nenagh Municipal District Council, and Robert Gill, president of Nenagh Chamber of Commerce in attendance.

The festival will run from December 13 to 17, with the proceeds going to St Cronan's Association, Nenagh branch.



The Nenagh Christmas Tree Festival Advent calendar

Rev Rod Smyth of St Mary's Church of Ireland, welcomed everyone to the launch.

One feature of this year's festival will be a colouring competition for primary schools and the colouring corner was part of the launch festivities.

Another new feature for this year is the silent auction sale of a knitted Advent Calendar and 25 ornaments which are to be removed from the calendar pockets, one for each day of Advent, and hung on the Christmas tree.

All bids for the advent calendar are being accepted until November 22, and can be submitted with the name and phone number of the bidder to either Rae Croft, 10 Radharc Darach, Nenagh, or Marty Sanders, Turravagaun, Dromineer, Nenagh.

Trees can be submitted in business or retail (supported by the Nenagh Chamber of Commerce); individual or organisation. To exhibit a tree is free! For more information, email nenaghchristmastree@btinternet.com or text 086-8206514. Report courtesy The Tipperary Star

Midleton College celebrates 1696 Charter

On Founder's Day, October 23rd, Midleton College celebrated the anniversary of the signing of the school's charter in 1696. On Founder's Day two significant events took place in the presence of the Bishop of the Diocese, the Right Reverend Dr Paul Colton, Minister David Stanton TD, and a large gathering of invited guests, including past members of staff, students and teachers, and former Principal, Simon Thompson.

A report from the College states - "To mark the occasion, and also as it was 300 years since the first students arrived in the school in 1717, we were delighted to have a number of past staff and Board members back to the school for a celebration lunch.

"As we celebrated the school's history this Founders Day, further history was made as 2 major school developments were marked.

"The recently resurfaced hockey pitch on the Cairns' playing fields, named to mark the wonderful contribution of Mr & Mrs Cairns to Midleton College, was reopened by Mrs Cairns. The Form I students formed a guard of honour leading to the pitch where our interprovincial hockey players held the ribbon to be cut. Hopefully our students will get much enjoyment from the new surface.

"The school recently announced the commencement of the 'Trevor West Sports Complex', so named to mark the great legacy, both in Midleton College and nationally, of Prof. West. Ms Maura Lee West, a great supporter of the school, turned the first sod in the corner of the Sports Hall and launched the construction; the site was blessed by Bishop Colton. Ms West also met representatives of many of the sports

undertaken by the school. This will be a great addition to the school; we wish the builders CField well over the coming months.

“Thank you to all in the school and wider community who have supported the development of the sports hall; we very much look forward to its completion.

“It was lovely to reflect of the history of the school, to remember contributions of the Cairns and West families and look forward with confidence to continuing their legacy.”

Derry Reformation 500 anniversary service

Several hundred people gathered in Saint Columb’s Cathedral, in Londonderry, on Tuesday evening, for a Service of Thanksgiving to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. They included leaders of some of the main Christian churches in the North West and members of parishes right the Diocese of Derry and Raphoe, from Castlerock to South West Donegal.

The Service was organised by the Diocese of Derry and Raphoe’s Board of Mission and Unity.

It was an appropriate church in which to mark the quincentenary: Saint Columb's was the first cathedral built in these islands in the aftermath of the Reformation.

The Preacher at the Service, Rt Rev Ferran Glenfield, Bishop of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh Diocese, told the congregation that five hundred years ago the winds of change were sweeping across medieval Europe. Things were changing and changing fast. Europe was on the move and yet, ironically, Europe's great thinkers and shapers looked back in order to go forward into the brave new world of the sixteenth century – “ad fontes’ – back to sources”.

“Justification by faith alone,” Bishop Glenfield said, “was an act by which God provides the righteousness required for salvation as a free, unmerited gift. God's love is not conditional on our transformation; rather, personal transformation follows God's acceptance and affirmation and reconciliation through the cross and resurrection of his son. Luther's discovery was ‘dynamite’. And it undermined the consensus and world view of medieval Christianity. It's about salvation through faith alone, in Christ alone.”

The preacher compared Luther to the early apostles, like St Peter, who were aware of the corruption around them. “Nothing has changed,” Bishop Glenfield said. “Our generation is corrupt. The Paradise Papers reveal once again that the rich corporations and super-rich individuals will always seek to sidestep their responsibilities to the countries that they reside and work in. The sexual harassment and abuse in the corridors of power, and in the tinsel-town of the art world and the movie world, confirm yet again that powerful individuals think they can get away with anything over the weak, the vulnerable and the impressionable.

“In our streets and in many of our homes, indebtedness, insecurity, addiction, violence and hate stalk the lives of so many people. It’s about salvation, God in Christ saving sinners: freeing, delivering, restoring, reconciling lives from the inside out – through faith alone, in Christ alone.”

The Reformation was about the Bible, the Bishop said, and scripture alone became the reformers principle guide. In reformed churches, life and belief were reshaped and aligned with the Bible.

“Since the sixteenth century,” he said, “enlightenment thinking has elevated reason

above everything, and has eroded and emasculated the Bible in most reformed churches. The Bible has been taken apart like a dismantled car engine on a mechanic's workbench and is powerless to drive our Church. And yet, the power of the Bible remains innate and awaits rediscovery.”

Bishop Glenfield described the Reformation as a ‘bottom-up’, not a ‘top-down’ movement; it came from outsiders rather than from insiders; it came from the periphery rather than from the centre; it was wrapped in the grace of God.

“In his life, on the cross and in his resurrection,” the Bishop said, “Jesus restored humanity, giving peace and forgiveness and acceptance and healing and wholeness to the common people. Grace alone. God for us. God with us. God in us. God’s grace freely given was a gift to be received by all and unwrapped in grace-filled lives. It’s about grace, a grace which gives people value and respect; a grace which says they matter – matter to God; which creates community; which lives in relationship and fellowship; and is fuelled by generosity and welcomes all.

The Cathedral choir was under the direction of Dr Derek Collins. The service included hymns

written by Martin Luther. The Bishop of Derry, Dr Donal McKeown, was among those who delivered the readings; the Superintendent of the Methodist Mission, Rev Peter Murray, led the Prayers of Intercession; and the Minister of Faughanvale Presbyterian Church, Rev Lindsay Blair, was in the congregation. As they made their way into the church, they passed a portrait of Luther painted by Coleraine artist, Bruce Robinson, who is a churchwarden in Killowen Parish Church.

Earlier, the Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Rt Rev Ken Good, welcomed all those present in the Cathedral to the Service of Thanksgiving. “It is appropriate that we take time to reflect, to remember, to be reformed, to repent, to rejoice and to be reconciled,” Bishop Good said. He thanked the Board of Mission and Unity – and its chairman, Rev Paul Hoey – for “imaginatively combining words, music and scripture” to allow the congregation to do these things. Bishop Good also thanked Bishop Glenfield for preaching, representatives of other churches for their presence, and the Dean of Derry, Very Rev Raymond Stewart for allowing the Cathedral to be used for the occasion.

Scottish Episcopal Church names first female bishop



The Scottish Episcopal Church has elected its first female Bishop. The Church's Episcopal Synod chose Rev Canon Anne Dyer as the new Bishop of Aberdeen & Orkney on Thursday. Canon Dyer said she was "delighted to be elected" and added: "It will be a privilege to lead the people of this diocese as they continue to make known the love of God to those in their communities and beyond.

"I am looking forward to both the challenge and excitement of serving and worshipping together in diverse locations across the diocese and to joining the College of Bishops."

The General Synod of the Scottish Episcopal Church voted to allow the election of female bishops in 2003 but no female appointments have been made in the following 14 years. The See of Aberdeen & Orkney became vacant last November when the Rt Rev Dr Robert Gillies retired as bishop of the Diocese.

Most Rev Mark Strange, Bishop of Moray, Ross & Caithness and Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church said; "Anne brings with her a wealth of experience in theological education and mission development, and has so many of the gifts sought by the diocese together with a deeply loving and generous personality.

"I am also delighted that those gifts have allowed us to elect a woman to our College of Bishops. Please pray for Anne, her family, for the congregation at Haddington and for the Diocese of Aberdeen & Orkney as they journey on in faith."

Canon Dyer has been the rector of Holy Trinity church, Haddington since 2011. Her wider church involvement includes being a member of the Scottish Episcopal Institute Council and a member of General Synod.

Being in the first group of women for each of these Orders, Canon Dyer was ordained Deacon in 1987 and Priest in 1994 in Rochester.

She served as Warden of Cranmer Hall, Durham and before that was Ministry Development Officer in the Diocese of Rochester.

Prior to ordination Anne Dyer read Chemistry at St Anne's College, Oxford and was a Business Systems Analyst with Unilever before training for ordained ministry at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford and studying theology at King's College London.

Trailblazing woman bishop in move to Ripon from New Zealand

Rt Rev Dr Helen-Ann Hartley, the first female Church of England priest to become a bishop, has been named the next Bishop of Ripon.

Currently the Bishop of Waikato, the new position will require Dr Helen-Ann to relocate than 11,000 miles away from her current home in New Zealand.

Raised in Sunderland, Dr Helen-Ann said the move feels like "a return" for her, and also for her husband, whose family come from Cumbria.



She said: "For both of us, this is very much a return [or] a coming home in really deep sense, so it's really good to be back in the North."

Born in Edinburgh, the 44 year old was ordained as a priest in 2006 and became first female bishop in the international Anglican Church in 2014 - before the Church of England had passed legislation pathing the way for women bishops.

Describing her style of leadership, Dr Helen-Ann said: "I'm used to getting my wellington boots on... and having a walk around; feet-on-the-ground is how I like to be a bishop, getting to know the people and places."

Succeeding Bishop James Bell, who retired earlier this year, an installation service for Dr Helen-Ann will be held at Ripon Cathedral on 4th February 2018.

Dr Helen-Ann added: "It [the bishop role] just seemed like such an amazing fit.

"I think that the way I've been able to come into this role, at every step, it's felt like God has been calling me and the Holy Spirit has been very much moving and enabling this to happen - which I rejoice in very much."

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