

Homeless choir to present concert in Derry cathedral



Ireland's first choir composed of people affected by homelessness, and alcohol will perform a Candlelit Concert in St. Columba's Cathedral, Londonderry, later this month.

The High Hopes choir is Ireland's first choir composed of people affected by homelessness, and alcohol. The choir is led by Dr Phil Brennan and recently performed on The Late Late Show.

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A spokesperson for the event said: "The choir benefits people by raising awareness, and allowing its members the opportunity to sing, play instruments, gain confidence and trust and a reason to get up in the morning.

"As we approach Christmas I feel this is the perfect time of the year to support initiatives such as The High Hopes Choir to look at the reasons why people become homeless.

"Anyone can become homeless for many different reasons and it is not up to us to judge.

"This concert encourages members of the community to come together to enjoy the performance."

The concert will take place on Wednesday, November 29 at 7.30pm.

A green note at Cork Harvest Jazz Festival

The Harvest Thanksgiving was celebrated in St. Anne's Church, Shandon, Cork coinciding as usual with the 'Jazz Festival weekend'. The church was full to capacity with parishioners, friends and visitors coming together to give thanks for harvest and celebrate through music



Jazz on the church steps

on this fortieth year of the Cork Guinness Jazz Festival. Lord Mayor of Cork, Councillor Tony Fitzgerald and Fiona Collins from the Cork Guinness Jazz Festival Committee, read the lessons.

The Archdeacon of Ossory and Leighlin, the Venerable Andrew Orr preached from his experience as the Chair of Eco- Congregation Ireland, an organisation that seeks to support and encourage churches to take an 'eco approach' to all they do. Archdeacon Orr encouraged making small changes as individuals

and as churches using resources responsibly and working together on issues of climate change which, as he noted, are essentially issues of peace and justice. The Climate Justice Candle was lit in St. Anne's for the service as it concluded its travels around Cork having already been at the Carrigaline Union Harvest Thanksgiving, the Cork, Cloyne and Ross clergy conference and a Douglas Churches Together event about climate change.

The New York Brass Band and St. John's Gospel Choir along with organist Adam Nuzum created a vibrant atmosphere in the beautifully decorated church teeming with fruit and vegetables. This year all those who attended were invited to bring along a non-perishable food item to add to the delivery of edible decorations to Cork Penny Dinners.

The children of St. Luke's School wowed with their performance of 'The Fruits of the Land'. Their hard work under the direction of Peter Stobart and their teachers paid off on the day and everyone enjoyed their talent and enthusiasm!

A collection was taken for the mission and ministry of St. Anne's as well as for COPE locally and for the work of Christian Aid further afield.

New Methodist and C of I Ordained local ministry open learning course

The Church of Ireland, along with the Methodist Church in Ireland, has been developing a course of training for those who wish to offer themselves for service as an ordained local minister. Training for ordained local ministry (OLM) is now due to begin in September 2018 and applications for the training next September should be submitted to Diocesan Directors of Ordinands by the end of January 2018 (at the latest). An ordained local minister will not be an incumbent of a parish but will be someone who can exercise some leadership role within a local congregation – the nature of their deployment may vary from diocese to diocese.

The underlying philosophy of the open learning course is that it will be integrated so that the development of learning and understanding takes place alongside the honing of practical ministerial skills and continuing spiritual formation. There will be a blended form of learning with the use of lectures, tutorials, workshops, on-line learning and self-study. It will be accessible to OLM training but also to ministerial training for the Methodist Church in Ireland and to a wide range of other users. It is

hoped too that future modules will be developed for the training of specialist areas of ministry such as pioneer ministry and chaplaincies.

It will be a flexible Open Learning Certificate Course provided through Queen's University, Belfast. Teaching may be local, which might mean diocesan or inter-diocesan depending on location and numbers, with central input. Five modules may be undertaken per year in years 1 and 2, with a further two modules in Year 3. OLM training will last two years but those who have undertaken the Foundation or Readers' Course will be given an exemption for two modules enabling them to be ordained deacon after one year. Training will continue beyond ordination as a deacon with the aim that all students will successfully complete the necessary modules to gain the Open Learning Certificate. The modules being put together for September 2018 are Biblical Studies, Theological Reflection, Worship and Preaching 1, Introduction to Pastoral Skills, and Church History. Staff from both the Church of Ireland Theological Institute (CITI) and Edgehill College are involved in this module preparation.

The bishops have put together a Selection Process with Criteria for OLM. Central to it is a sense of God's call. Those applying must be baptised and confirmed members of the Church

of Ireland with a sense of their vocation to this particular ministry; a vocation which in the first instance may have been locally identified. Their personal commitment, spirituality, character, leadership potential and flexibility will be assessed during the selection process. Selection itself will be undertaken in each diocese to reflect the local or diocesan nature of this ministry. Those wishing to pursue OLM should speak to their Diocesan Director of Ordinands.

Applications open for Down & Dromore Diocesan Readers Course

Applications are now open for the 2018–2020 Down & Dromore Diocesan Readers Training Course.

You'll find everything you need to know about the selection process and the course in the brochure which is [downloadable here](#).

Diocesan Lay Readers have a significant voluntary role in assisting the ministry of the church. They are authorised by the Bishop to preach, teach, lead worship and engage in pastoral work, not just in their own parish but in other churches throughout the diocese.

As the role of a Reader in teaching and leading is significant, potential Readers are given training in Biblical studies, theology, ministry and preaching over a two year period before they are commissioned.

Applicants must have the endorsement of their rector and are advised to discuss it with them at the outset.

Cost

The total cost for the course is £1,650. The diocese pays one third of the amount with the remaining two-thirds shared by agreement between the sending parish and the candidate. This sum can be paid in instalments. Applicants approved to omit elements of the training will have the costs reduced accordingly.

The cost includes all the teaching, materials and any accommodation and food required during study days but does not cover travel expenses.

Closing date for applications for the 2018–2020 course is Thursday 11 January 2018.

Contact andrew@downanddromore.org for more details

Archbishop of Canterbury to visit Moscow

The Archbishop of Canterbury is visiting Moscow from 20-22 November 2017. His visit is set to be pastoral, ecumenical and political.

He will visit the Anglican Church of St Andrew, Moscow, which dates from the late 19th Century when the church was built for the English-speaking community in Moscow. During the Soviet era the church was used as a recording studio for the record label Melodia. Since its re-establishment as a place of worship the church has become a multi-national English-speaking Anglican presence in the city. The building is also home to the Moscow Protestant Chaplaincy, and to a number of social and cultural events and programmes.

The church welcomed a new Chaplain in September 2017. The Revd Malcolm Rogers came to Moscow from having been Rector of Bury St Edmunds. Malcolm and his wife Alison served in St Petersburg in the early 1990s.

Father Malcolm also holds the post of the Archbishop of Canterbury's Representative (known as 'Apokrisiarios') to His Holiness Kirill, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia. During the



Archbishop Justin Welby welcomes His Holiness Kirill to Lambeth Palace in October 2016.

visit the Archbishop will formally present and introduce Father Malcolm to the Patriarch.

The Archbishop will have a formal meeting with the Patriarch on Tuesday 21 November. This meeting follows on from the visit of the Patriarch to London in 2016, **when His Holiness visited Lambeth Palace** and the Archbishop accompanied him to Buckingham Palace for a meeting with Her Majesty The Queen. The Archbishop will also meet with Metropolitan Hilarion, chairman of the Patriarchate's

Department for External Church Relations, and will visit the Postgraduate Institute of St Cyril and St Methodius, a theological school attached to the Patriarchate.

During the visit the Archbishop will attend a reception and give an address to invited guests to the residence of the British Ambassador to Russia, and will meet senior Russian political figures.

\$500m Museum of the Bible opens in Washington DC

The \$500 million Museum of the Bible opened on Friday in Washington DC.

Situated three blocks from the U.S. Capitol, the museum includes towering bronze gates inscribed with text from the Gutenberg Bible and a soundscape of the 10 plagues, enhanced by smog and a glowing red light to symbolize the Nile turned to blood.

The museum was the brain child of US store chain, Hobby Lobby's owner, Steve Green. Eight years ago he began collecting biblical artifacts that he hoped could become the starting point for a museum.



That vision has been realised with the 430,000-square-foot museum.

Green said the institution he largely funded is meant to educate, not evangelise, though critics are dubious.

Museum administrators have hired a broad group of scholars as advisers.

Lawrence Schiffman, a New York University Jewish studies professor and Dead Sea Scrolls expert, called the museum a "monument" to interfaith cooperation. Exhibits have been planned from the Vatican Museum and the Israel Antiquities Authority.

"There's just a basic need for people to read the book," Green said. "This book has had an impact on our world and we just think people

ought to know it and hopefully they'll be inspired to engage with it after they come here."

The building alone has been designed to inspire a sense of wonder.

A 140-foot LED display runs the length of the entrance hall ceiling, bathing the lobby in a changing array of colour.

The floors are a mix of shimmering marble from Denmark and Tunisia, complemented by columns of Jerusalem stone.

From two high stories, a glass atrium curves from ceiling to floor, echoing the shape of a scroll and providing a clear view of the Capitol dome and the Washington Monument.

A section dedicated to the Bible's modern-day influence includes a replica of the Liberty Bell, inscribed with a verse from Leviticus, and exhibits touching on slavery, abolition and the civil rights movement.

A motion simulator called Washington Revelations creates the sensation of flying over the nation's capital to see Bible inscriptions and references in buildings and monuments throughout the city.

Festivities surrounding the opening include a gala fundraiser for the museum at the Trump International Hotel, a dedication ceremony at the museum with Roman Catholic, Jewish and Protestant religious leaders, and a gala in the museum ballroom.

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