



Solid Joys, Lasting Treasure, celebration of Rev Liz McElhinney in Lurgan

A celebratory evening of poetry and music in recognition of the life of Church of Ireland minister the Reverend Liz McElhinney will be held in Lurgan next week, the Irish News reports

The event in Shankill Parish Church will feature readings of a selection of her poems by the internationally acclaimed actor Ian McElhinney, as well as musical contributions from the cross-community Lurgan Musical Society, Shankill Parish Choir, soloist Nicola Brown and traditional Irish musicians led by Sean Hanily from Dublin.

Mrs McElhinney died in June this year, aged 71, after living with the degenerative condition Motor Neurone Disease for two years.

As a former Church of Ireland minister, teacher and social worker, Mrs McElhinney was widely loved and known across many walks of life.

When she was diagnosed with MND, she chose to focus her creative abilities on writing reflective and inspirational poems over a period of 15 months.

These poems will form the core of the concert; 20 of them have been gathered together in a book entitled Solid Joys, Lasting Treasure, complemented by beautiful illustrations by her artist son, David.

The collection draws its title from an 18th century hymn by John Newton, Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken.

Liz McElhinney's poems have been described by author and editor Lynda Neilands as "gems.

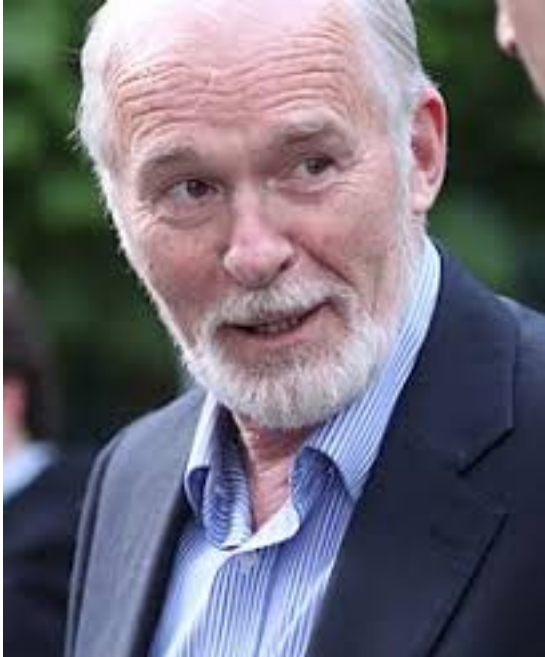
"Mined and crafted in the valley of the shadow of death, they glow with the light of Christ, the hope of heaven and appreciation of all that is true and lovely on earth," she said.

In his preface to the collection, another of her sons, the Rev Stephen McElhinney, says: "My mother's special ability was to notice; she had a unique ability to connect with people but also to notice the world in which she lived, which left her invigorated physically, mentally and spiritually."

The evening will be compered by Bishop Ken Clarke, who is well known in the Church of Ireland and beyond.

A friend of Liz McElhinney since their university days, he was Bishop of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh for 12 years and has been heavily involved in mission throughout his ministry.

The Rev McElhinney was a curate in Magheralin from 1997 until 2001 before continuing her ministry in Calry in the diocese of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh.



Ian McElhinney

She returned to the diocese of Down and Dromore in 2007, taking on the role of pastoral support for clergy and their spouses until 2012.

She then returned to the diocese of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh to serve in parochial ministry in Roscommon from 2013 to 2015.

:: Solid Joys, Lasting Treasure: Celebratory Evening of Poetry and Music in Memory of Liz McElhinney takes place in Shankill Parish Church in Lurgan on Friday November 10 at 8pm.

An admission charge of £10 includes a copy of a booklet of the Rev McElhinney's collection of poetry, Solid Joys, Lasting Treasure.

A CD of the poems, read by Ian McElhinney, will also be on sale on the evening.

All proceeds will support the work of the Motor Neurone Disease Association of Northern Ireland.

For more information, search for 'Solid Joys, Lasting Treasure' on Facebook.

Huge cross-community charity concert planned for Derry

A huge cross community concert is being held next month to raise money to help Santa visit sick children in Derry.

The charity behind the show is 'Paul's Campaign' was set up by Frank and Marion Coyle in memory of their son Paul who passed away from a cancerous sarcoma in 2011 at just 27.

'Paul's Campaign' was set up to spread awareness of Sarcomas, which are rare malignant tumours that arise from transformed



cells of the connective tissues such as muscle, fat, cartilage or bone.

In recent years the charity has also been organising visits from Santa for sick children and children whose parents are ill.

After a particularly emotional visit last year Mr Coyle decided he wanted to roll the service to both sides of the community.

“Santa visited the home of a 5-year-old boy last year whose mother was ill,” he explained.

“He asked Santa if he knew God and Santa said he did and that he’s the boss and whatever he says goes.

“Then the when Santa was leaving the boy said to him ‘the next time you see God will you ask him to make my mammy better’ and Santa said ‘I’ll ask him, he’s the boss’.

“I think that was the moment really struck a chord and we wanted to bring Santa to as many children as possible.

“When you go into the house the reaction of the children is just fantastic and they bring all their brothers and sisters and friends and there might be 10 children there.

“We want this to be for everyone.”

Frank made contact with The Dean of Derry, Very Rev Raymond Stewart, at St Columb’s Cathedral and asked for his help to stage a fundraising concert.

“I thought it would be a great idea as I want the Cathedral to be inclusive as possible- as it has always been,” said Dean Stewart.

“I put Frank in touch with Nicky [Morton] and Louis [Fields] and our choristers and we decided that a venue like the Millennium Forum would be perfect as you wouldn’t be curtailed what you can do there.”

Masters students Nicky and Louis are the musical directors for the concert 'Singing for Sarcoma' which will also raise awareness of the disease.

"We work with the boy choristers and accompany and direct them but we've never worked on something as big as this," explained Nicky.

"Hopefully this won't be the last time either, we'd love to do something like this every year," added Louis.

"We will have information stands there from The Pink Ladies, Paul's Campaign and Action Cancer," said Mr Coyle.

"The message of 'Paul's Campaign is if you have a lump, bump or cyst go to the doctor

"You know 90 per cent of the time it's nothing but it's the 10 per cent you need to think about."

'Singing for Sarcoma' will take place at the Millennium Forum on Saturday November 4, doors will open at 7pm and tickets will cost £11.

The show is being musically directed by Damien McAdam and Patsy McCallion the acts will include 'I am', The St Columb's Cathedral

Choristers, Rosemount Male Voice Choir, Two's Harmony, Katie Patton, Cross Community School's Choir and Galliagh Youth Choir. Report courtesy of Derry Noe

New full-time chaplain at Bandon Grammar School

On Tuesday, 31st October, 2017, Reformation Day, also this year the 500th anniversary of the start of the Reformation in Germany, the Reverend Anne Skuse was licensed by the Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, the Right Reverend Dr Paul Colton, to serve in a new post in the Diocese: whole-time chaplain at Bandon Grammar School.

Bandon Grammar School is a substantial and multifaceted community within the Diocese, with about 670 students (from approximately 400 families), 56 teachers and another 40 employees (non-teaching and coaching).

The photograph shows the Reverend Anne Skuse at the licensing by Dr Colton watched by Mr Billy Skuse, Diocesan Secretary and Anne's husband. Also 'watching' on Reformation Day from his portrait was Bishop William Lyon, first Reformation Bishop of the Diocese (Ross in 1582, and Cork and Cloyne in 1584). William



Lyon died 400 years ago this month and was buried in a tomb he had built for himself in the grounds of the Bishop's Palace. His bones were found by accident in 1846 and were moved to the crypt of St Fin Barre's Cathedral when it was being built in 1865.

A Service of welcome and commissioning of the Reverend Anne Skuse as Chaplain will take place at a special school assembly at Bandon Grammar School on Tuesday, 14th November at 10 a.m. All are welcome, however, please notify

the school office (contact details here) in advance of your intention to attend.

Archbishop Williams questions morality of big banks profiting on dirty fuels

- **New poll shows 80% of public agree it is morally wrong for banks to profit from investments that pollute the environment and 81% hold bank CEOs responsible.**

- **80% of people say they do not want banks to use their savings to invest in projects that damage the environment**

- **As bank profits soar 40%, a new Christian Aid report reveals UK's big four are profiting from some of the world's dirtiest coal mines**

The former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, has questioned the morality of British banks profiting from projects which cause climate change and called for them to shift their investments away from fossil fuels.

His comments come on the back of a new ComRes poll that shows 80% of the British public agree that it is morally wrong for banks to profit from investments that pollute the environment. Four in five people (80%) also say they do not want banks to invest their savings in projects that damage the environment, while 77% agree banks should be stopped from doing so.

Last week Barclays announced profit for the year to September of £3.4bn, up 31% compared to last year. Lloyds announced profit for the same period of £4.5bn, up 38%, while RBS announced a profit of £1.3bn for the same period. HSBC reported profits for the year to date of £11.3bn, a rise of 40%.

Dr Williams, who is chair of Christian Aid, said: “This year we have seen extreme weather displacing millions of people in South Asia and bringing death and destruction in the Caribbean and the United States. These communities count the cost in lives lost. But British investors, including banks, continue to

count profits from just those fossil fuel investments that contribute to climate chaos.

“The latest surveys make it plain that an overwhelming majority of the British public do not want their savings invested in holdings that damage our global future – and that they expect bank CEOs to take personal responsibility for making sure that their investments are ethically and environmentally responsible.

“Our call today is for the chief executives of our major banks to make clear and time-specific commitments to reducing and ultimately replacing fossil fuel investment, and to shift towards climate solutions. The moral case is clear, and the public increasingly recognise this. The urgency is mounting.”

Archbishop of Cape Town says “the ANC’s time may have passed”

Time may be coming to an end for the “glorious movement” of the ANC, the Archbishop of Cape Town, Thabo Makgoba, said in an outspoken



Archbishop Thabo Makgoba has intervened in the political row about the future of the ANC.

attack during a discussion on the Power98 radio programme Power Talk. The ANC – the African National Congress – has its roots in the anti-Apartheid struggle. It was the party of Nelson Mandela, and has formed the government in South Africa since the end of Apartheid.

But it has been mired in controversy under its current leader, the South African President Jacob Zuma. Zuma has been accused of corruption by the office of the public protector – a finding he is currently challenging in the High

Court; and has been found to have used public money to finance the refurbishment of his personal residence.

In a discussion with Power Talk host Iman Rappetti, Archbishop Thabo said: “Perhaps as South Africans we need to say yes, the glorious movement has done its part. If the glorious movement survives its December elective conference with whomever they elect, would the glorious party survive 2019? And maybe we need to move beyond the glorious movements and look at the glorious people of South Africa,” he said to applause from the audience.

Asked by the programme presenter Rappetti whether the ANC’s time has passed, he replied: “Yes. If the values can’t reside in the glorious movement, let it reside in the people of South Africa.”

He continued: “I’m saying that this is the time for South Africans to take their own destiny into their hands, and to rely less on political formations. Because they’re not leading us into . . . economic emancipation. They’re about power, they’re about resourcing themselves and their nearest and dearest, and for me the poorest of the poor . . . continue to be poor.”

Later in the programme, Archbishop Thabo said: “I always wrestle with . . . the question of when do we call for a withdrawal of moral support for a democratically elected government and I think that’s a deep struggle.”

The discussion was held to mark what would have been the 100th birthday of former ANC President OR (Oliver) Tambo, who died in 1993, a year before the first post-Apartheid elections.

Archbishop Thabo said that South Africans should not abandon the values of what he described as “the father of our country,” adding: “The values of OR as an Anglican Christian who nearly became a priest – his values were probably shaped by that passage in John 10: ‘He came so that we may have life and have it abundantly.’”

After referencing scriptures that mention the thief who comes to steal and rob, he said: “if I see, as a priest in South Africa, that South Africans are not flourishing because there are thieves and robbers who are jumping over the fence to steal the fat of the land, should I just stay in my chapel...?”

The ANC will elect a successor to Jacob Zuma next month when it meets for its 54th National Conference. It will also elect members of its

national executive committee and other major party officials ahead of what observers say is the “most important general election in post-Apartheid South Africa”, which is planned for 2019.

CNI

Help CNI grow

Please commend

**CNI daily news to your
friends**

www.churchnewsireland.org

CNI