

Church News Ireland



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Image of the day



Poppy Appeal launched

Present at the RBL Poppy Launch in Dungiven Parish Church -

L-R Front Rev Rhys Jones (Dep Chaplain of the RBL in NI), Rev Mark Loney (Dungiven Parish Church), Cllr Steven Callaghan QPM (RBL Limavady Branch Chairman), Mrs Alison Miller (Lord Lieutenant for County Londonderry), Ernie Norris (RBL Limavady Branch President), Richard Wilson (Dungiven Poppy Appeal Organiser)

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L-R Rear Alistair Harper (RBL Senior Poppy Appeal Organiser), Jennifer Tait (RBL Limavady Branch), Roy Stewart (RBL Limavady Branch), Hilary Stewart (RBL Limavady Branch) and Garrow Way (RBL Limavady Branch).

His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for County Londonderry Mrs Alison Miller was the principal guest when The Royal British Legion, Limavady Branch, launched their 2024 Poppy Appeal this week from the beautiful Church of Ireland Parish Church in Dungiven.

Mrs Alison Miller (Lord Lieutenant for County Londonderry) received the first Poppy of the Limavady & Dungiven 2024 RBL Poppy Appeal in Dungiven Parish Church, from Richard Wilson (Dungiven Area Poppy Appeal Organiser).

Mrs Miller spoke during the service about the importance of the RBL in supporting veterans and the reason we should all continue to remember those of our Armed Forces lost to conflict.

In 2023 the Limavady & Dungiven area generously donated, through the Poppy Appeal, a total of £32,000 and the Legion would like to thank all those who supported it.

Once again they ask that whoever wishes to support their valuable work can donate or purchase a poppy from their shop on Main Street, or from one of the many Poppy Collectors in town throughout the appeal.

The Limavady Branch expressed its gratitude to the Rev Mark Loney and Parishioners of Dungiven Church for the use of their church for the service and the teas afterward.



Mission partnership - Armagh and Burundi

A new Partnership Agreement between the Diocese of Armagh, the Diocese of Gitega, Burundi and CMS Ireland was inaugurated at the Armagh Synod on Tuesday this week.

This exciting venture fits with the vision set out by the Most Revd. John McDowell in his Presidential Address when he encouraged parishes to re-examine their vocation to bear witness to God in holiness and loving-kindness.

Jenny Smyth (CMSI Mission Director) commented, “In the epistle read at the Synod’s Holy Communion Service St Paul writes to the Ephesians that ‘In Christ Jesus the whole structure (of the household of God) is joined together and

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grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God' (Eph 2:21-22). Through this partnership there is an open invitation to explore where God is at work in Burundi in and through his Church in Gitega, and to ask how we can draw alongside one another in ministry, and what can we learn in order to be more effective witnesses in our own communities.'



Mission partnership - Derry & Raphoe and Kondoia in Tanzania

The Bishop of Derry and Raphoe has signed a partnership agreement with the Anglican Diocese of Kondoia in Tanzania that could see individuals or groups from both dioceses visiting one another over

the next five years to witness and share in work for the Kingdom and supporting one another through prayer, resources and skilled personnel.

The document was signed at the Derry & Raphoe Diocesan Synod, on Wednesday afternoon, by Rt Andrew Forster, Rt Rev Dr Given Gaula (Bishop of Kondoa), and the Mission Director of CMS Ireland, Jenny Smyth.

Bishop Andrew described the partnership as a “companionship link”. In committing to it, the two dioceses have agreed to pray regularly for one another’s work; maintain regular contact through a named link person; and offer opportunities for individuals and groups to visit and join in with the life and work of the church in the other jurisdiction.

The people of Kondoa survive mainly through subsistence farming and are overwhelmingly Muslim. Despite this, Bishop Given has succeeded in growing the Church in the area through what he has described as “aggressive evangelising”, raising church membership there to more than 25,000.

Among his aspirations for the link with Derry & Raphoe are assistance with the training of new clergy for his diocese and the provision of safe, clean water supplies for local people.

In his Presidential Address to this year’s Synod, which had 'partnership' as its theme, Bishop Andrew spoke of his excitement about the new relationship. “Today, we are stepping out – reaching out – in faith,” he said, “as we



Bishop Andrew Presented Dr Gaula with a number of gifts, including a copy of the Book of Common Prayer and a plaque bearing the Diocesan crest.

inaugurate a new companionship link with the Diocese of Kondoia in Tanzania.”

Bishop Andrew, who first met Bishop Given at the Lambeth Conference of Anglican Bishops in 2022, said it was a great personal pleasure to welcome his counterpart to our synod.

“I am tremendously excited by this joint initiative,” Bishop Forster told delegates. “My prayer for our partnership is that we will spur each other on in mission and evangelism, and that our new relationship will prove mutually beneficial.”

Paddington's new chapter in the West



Great morning in Westport, on Wednesday, with Midweek Holy Communion in Holy Trinity, Westport, followed by coffee and chat in Clew Bay Hotel, capped by an ecumenical photo op at the Green with Paddington, Fr John Kenny, Tom Smith and Revd Suzanne Cousins.

If you have children/ grandchildren and are interested in a family cinema outing to see the movie ('Paddington in Peru') on Sat 16 November, please get in touch.

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Girls' Brigade a supportive environment for its members



One of the things we love about Girls' Brigade is the supportive environment it provides its members from a diverse range of family backgrounds.

Ruth Warmington, from Bangor, County Down, part of The Girls' Brigade Northern Ireland, became a young carer at the age of eight, when her brother was diagnosed with epilepsy.

As a young carer, Ruth was limited to what she could do outside school but it was at Girls' Brigade that Ruth found her respite, friendship group, and fun. From the age of four, Ruth loved going to GB to learn about God each week, looking smart in her GB uniform and taking part in the crafts, dancing and singing, all part of the weekly programme. There were times when it wasn't possible for Ruth's family to get her to weekly meetings or the extra activities. But with the support of the wonderful team of leaders in 297th NI West Presbyterian Girls' Brigade, Ruth was able to fully take part in all activities.

"Cheryl knew what was going on me" Ruth explains, "She would go out of her way to give me extra support, arrange lifts and provide equipment. I'll never forget that kindness and understanding".

"It has been a privilege for me, as Company Captain, to see Ruth grow from the little girl joining us (age 4) to now completing her Officer training aged 20. Ruth has developed lifelong friendships, worked hard, and grown into the outgoing, confident young lady she is today. She has shown real determination especially through her teenage years and always has a smile on her face!"

Ruth successfully completed her Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award earlier this year and was invited to Buckingham Palace to celebrate her outstanding achievements with her mum, Corrin who quotes, "Girls' Brigade Northern Ireland is

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a dynamic, relevant, Christ-centred organisation, which has valued, nurtured and equipped Ruth for life.”

Cathedral Calls

Tributes to Robert Willis, Dean Emeritus of Canterbury

Berkeley mourns the death of Robert Willis, Dean Emeritus of Canterbury

Berkeley Divinity School at Yale is grieved to share news of the death of Robert Willis '09 DD Hon, Dean Emeritus of Canterbury, who died suddenly and peacefully while a resident fellow at Berkeley earlier this week. Andrew McGowan writes.

We share this message from his partner Fletcher Banner at his request:

“It is with great sadness that I have to tell you all of Dean Robert’s passing. After a brief illness whilst at Yale in America, Robert suffered heart failure and died last night.

Robert was a man of great faith and intellect whose greatest joy was to share his life with others. This has been particularly so since we left Canterbury and have been welcomed elsewhere all over the world.



Robert has been my partner in life and ministry for more than twenty wonderful years. Like me I am sure you will carry his memory in your hearts.

Details of the funeral, which will take place in New Haven to follow and of a memorial service next year at Salisbury Cathedral.”

Dean Robert was preacher at Berkeley’s Convocation Eucharist last October 9th, during which the Berkeley Center renewal was celebrated. He had been a beloved host to pilgrims from BDS while Dean of Canterbury for well over a decade, and he received the honorary degree of doctor of divinity in 2009.



Robert Willis was Dean of Canterbury 2001–2022 after being Dean of Hereford 1992–2000. Educated at the University of Warwick and then at Oxford, he ministered in Shrewsbury, Salisbury, Tisbury and at Sherborne Abbey before his leadership of those two English Cathedrals. He was also a noted hymn writer, and became globally prominent during the COVID-19 pandemic during which his Morning Prayer services on YouTube(link is external), accompanied by beautiful gardens and curious cats, became known to many thousands.

The Dean, students, faculty, staff, and trustees of Berkeley give profound thanks for Dean Robert's long and faithful ministry and offer our deep condolences to Fletcher, as well as to all who knew and loved Robert. May he rest in peace, and rise in glory.

Please contact berkeley.communications@yale.edu with any inquiries.



Canterbury Cathedral

We're deeply saddened and shocked to hear that Robert Willis, our former Dean, has died. Our thoughts and prayers are with Fletcher, and their family and friends.

Dean Robert was a much-loved member of our community, and had a profound effect on the Cathedral during his 22 years of service. Through the coronavirus pandemic he became familiar to online audiences worldwide via his daily Morning Prayer videos from The Deanery Garden - and the impromptu appearances of cats Leo and Tiger. Robert retired as Dean in May 2022 on the eve of his 75th birthday.

May he Rest In Peace and Rise in Glory.

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A message from Bishop Rose of Dover & Bishop in Canterbury

It is with great and deep sadness that I received the news of the passing of Dean Robert Willis today. Dean Robert served here in our diocese of Canterbury for 22 years and although Dean of the cathedral, he had a love for the diocese as a whole, enabling us to be supported by the Archdeacon of Canterbury role.

During the pandemic he sacrificially made himself available through what became known as the 'Garden Congregation' sharing the message of God's love daily to all who tuned in. This gained an international audience as well.

His role as Dean, broadened his engagement with the Anglican Communion and he embraced fully the role of Canterbury Cathedral as the 'Mother Church' and a place of pilgrimage for Anglicanism. I have spoken with the Archbishop of Canterbury who like me, has expressed his 'shock and sadness at the Dean's passing, someone who was prayerful and gave so much to the life of the Church.'

Dean Robert will be greatly missed not only by the cathedral community, but by others in the wider diocese who knew him personally. We give thanks for all that he achieved in his life-long ministry and pray especially for Fletcher, his partner and all who are deeply grieving his loss.

+Rose

Bishop of Dover & Bishop in Canterbury



Launch Service
of the new
Diocesan Mission Link with
the Diocese of Kondoia
Sunday 27th October at 7pm
St Eunan's Cathedral, Raphoe

FREE LUNCHTIME CONCERT
Tuesday 26th
November,
1.15pm
Celia Donoghue
(clarinet)
and
Ethna Tinney
(piano)

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Price
FREE

**SAINT MARY**
CATHEDRAL
LIMERICK



Exhibition of Ukranian Icons painted on Russian ammution boxes in the Eastern chapels at Newcastle Cathedral



Clergy and ministry

Novena to St John Paul

Various ministries in and to St John Paul

Badoney Lower Parish Pastoral Council in Derry diocese posted this note of thanks from Father Devine

“I would like to thank everyone who came out for the novena to St John Paul. It was a great nine days with so many blessings and graces poured out and received.

I want to thank all who helped with the organising, especially Geraldine, the sacristan and those who cleaned and prepared the chapel throughout the novena, our readers each night and our musicians who added so much to the liturgy, to Michaela, Ciara and Lasairíona and to the men who assisted with the car parking.

I would also like to thank our priests for offering the Masses and guiding us through the liturgy. But a big thank you to Colm O'Neill for all of his promotion of the novena that undoubtedly inspired so many from our parish and surrounding parishes to come and be blessed with the relic of St John Paul. Thanks also to Fr Daniel McFaul who allowed us to have the relic for the duration of the novena. We are so grateful.

May St John Paul continue to bless us and our parish“. Fr. James Devine

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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