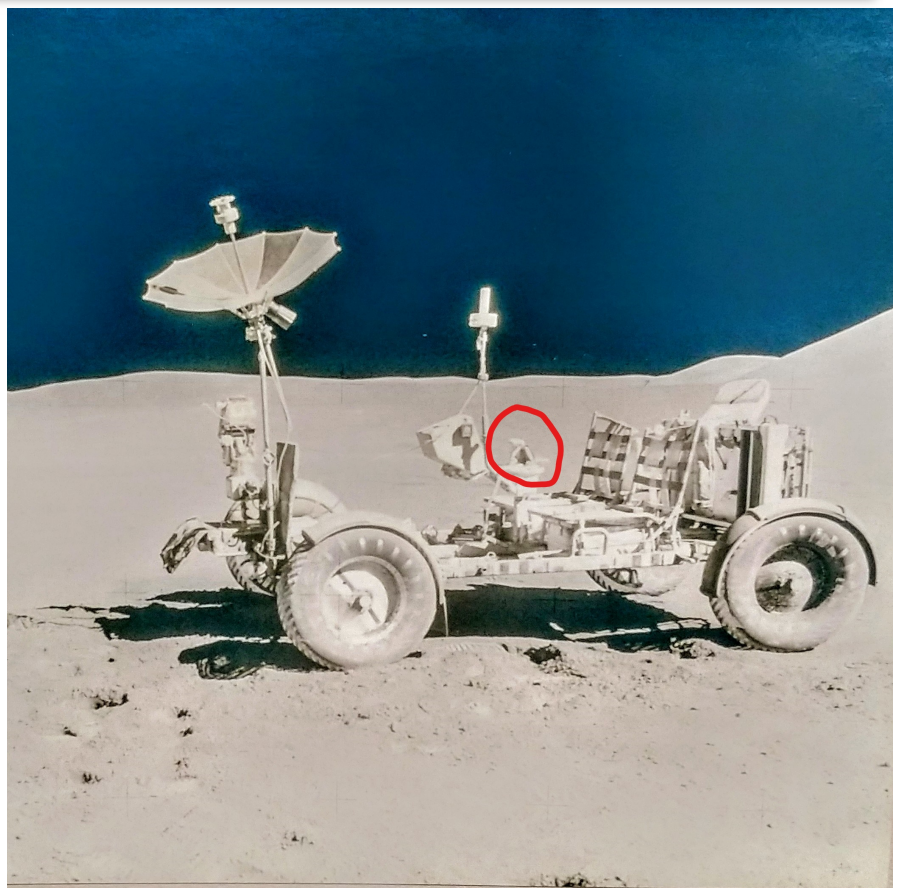




The only Bible on the moon was left there by Apollo 15 commander on behalf of his parish
The Bible left by David Scott is shown in the red circle.



St. Christopher Episcopal Church in League City, Texas, gave a Bible to a parishioner, David Scott, to take with him on a business trip. To this day, the congregation still has not gotten it back.

That's because he left it on the moon.

July 24, 2019



David Scott was the commander of Apollo 15.

As the world commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing on July 20, the parish southeast of Houston is remembering its own small part in the history of space exploration. The

Bible they presented to Scott appears to be the only one ever left on the Moon, and perhaps the only Bible outside Earth today.

Scott was the seventh person to walk on the moon (one of four living people to have done so) and the commander of the Apollo 15 mission. When Apollo 15 launched, Scott was carrying the Bible his parish had given him, though it's unclear whether this was officially allowed. Apollo astronauts were permitted to bring personal items with them in small bags with weight restrictions. Earlier that year, Apollo 14 astronaut Edgar Mitchell **took 100 microfilm**

July 24, 2019

Bibles – the entire King James Version printed on a 1.5-square-inch piece of film – with him to the surface of the moon, but he brought all of them back to Earth.

Apollo 15 was the first mission to bring a lunar rover to the moon, and Scott was the first person to drive it there. On Aug. 2, 1971, just before returning to Earth, Scott placed the St. Christopher Bible on the lunar rover's control panel. He walked to a nearby hollow, where he placed a memorial plaque and statuette honoring the astronauts who had died during their missions, and then he returned to the lunar module. (This was kept secret until the post-mission press conference.)

Scott, who recalled the moment in the book “Two Sides of the Moon,” later presented to his parish a signed copy of a photo showing the Bible sitting exactly where he left it on the lunar rover. That's **where it remains today**: in the moon's Sea of Showers, between Hadley Rille and the Apennine Mountains.

Coleraine Parish takes to the hills for Alzheimer's Society

A hardy group of hikers from St Patrick's Parish, Coleraine, completed the Seven Seven's challenge in the Mourne Mountains, raising £3,611 for The Alzheimer's Society.

The group undertook the challenge on Saturday June 22, walking 18 miles and climbing seven of the highest peaks in a trek which took 15 and a half hours.

July 24, 2019



David Green, the Rev Stuart Lloyd, William McCandless, Alistair Taylor and James McDowell.

After a night at Meelmore Lodge Hostel, the walkers made their way to Donard Park in Newcastle for a 7am start. Spirits were high as they walked through the forest and onward along the stone pathway to the saddle between Slieve Donard and Commedagh.

Team member James McDowell said: “With cloud blowing in through the mountains from the south east, visibility was poor on the highest peak of Slieve Donard.

“As we climbed the steep incline the challenge can be in the mind and it’s a victory when behind you.”

The Rev Neill Cutcliffe, retired rector of Mossley Parish, accompanied the group to the summit of Commedagh

July 24, 2019



Vital Support: The Rev Neill Cutcliffe, Patricia Taylor and Diane McDowell with James McDowell, the Rev Stuart Lloyd and Alistair Taylor.

before returning to Donard Park to meet up with support team members Diane and Patricia.

As the day progressed the sun began to shine and a welcome breeze kept the temperature down. To reach their third mountain, Slieve Lamagan, the walkers traversed Slieve Beg and Cove mountain before tackling Slieve Binnian.

“The dramatic tors on Binnian have names like The Black Castles, and the views are stunning with the Silent Valley and Ben Crom Reservoirs stretching far below,” James said.

July 24, 2019

“We had to return the way we had come and the group was by now beginning to feel the effects of the exertion and water was running low. Descending to Ben Crom dam we received a welcome from our support team with more food and water provided.”

After a well-earned rest and replenishment of supplies, the group crossed the dam and proceeded to climb the shoulder of Ben Crom leading into a two and a half kilometres walk through rough grassland and bog passing Doan (Maol Chobha’s Fort) before meeting a hardcore track.

The next phase of the walk took the group up Slieve Meelbeg then Meelmore and finally Bernagh. “Our pace was slow and steady with the group frequently resting for a few minutes and being careful to rehydrate,” James said. “The downward treks were as challenging as the upward with the pressure on aching knees; our walking poles were helpful in these situations.

“The final climb to the summit of Bernagh was over rock and scree as we picked our way up and the relief felt at the final ascent was palpable.

“As the sun sank further toward the horizon the mountains took on a warm glow and the beauty displayed was truly astounding.”

The group descended to Hares’ Gap and finally a seven kilometre trek along the Brandy Pad, which James said seemed to go on forever, until the challenge ended where it had begun in Donard Park.

“Neil, Diane and Patricia were waiting for us as we came out of the forest at 10.30pm, tired but with a sense that we had

July 24, 2019

accomplished our goal, overcoming our misgivings and self-doubt,” said James.

Total amount raised for The Alzheimer’s Society was £3611.92.

The team, made up of James McDowell, David Green, the Rev Stuart Lloyd (retired rector of Ballymena Parish), William McCandless and Alistair Taylor, was ably supported by the Rev Neill Cutcliffe, Patricia Taylor and Diane McDowell.

Gavin Calver announced as new CEO of the Evangelical Alliance

The Evangelical Alliance (EA) has announced the appointment of Gavin Calver as its new chief executive.

Calver will [succeed general director Steve Clifford](#) at the Christian charity, who revealed in April that he would step down later this year.

Calver has been the EA’s director of mission since 2015, and he previously spent 14 years at the charity Youth for Christ - six of which as their national director.

He is also chair of the Spring Harvest Planning Group, and regularly preaches and teaches in churches around the UK and beyond.

Commenting on Calver’s next career opportunity, Dr Tani Omideyi, chair of the Evangelical Alliance’s board of trustees, said: “Gavin excelled throughout the interviewing process.

July 24, 2019



“With a strong field of applicants, he impressed the board with his extensive expertise and his vision for the future, and he left us with a sense of excitement and great expectation.

“We came out of the process feeling confident that we have found someone chosen of God for this new season. His appointment is fully endorsed by the whole board.”

Calver said he felt “privileged” to have been selected as the charity’s new CEO.

“The Evangelical Alliance has been at the heart of evangelicalism in the UK since 1846,” he said.

“This unity movement, which has a rich and prestigious heritage of gospel unity in the Church, has had a profound impact on the social fabric of the UK, and I am deeply humbled to accept the role of CEO.

“Every week I have the opportunity to visit and share with local churches that are living out the hopeful reality of the gospel, and I am continually amazed at what the Church is doing.

July 24, 2019

“I am looking forward to the Evangelical Alliance developing even deeper relationships with local churches as we seek to understand and celebrate what God is doing in our communities.”

He also said he was “grateful to Steve, who has been a big influence in my life”, adding that “the legacy he leaves, especially around the work of uniting ethnically diverse evangelicals, will last for years to come”.

Clifford shared his optimism over Calver building on EA’s achievements. “I am delighted that Gavin is to be the next CEO of the Evangelical Alliance,” he said.

“I believe he is uniquely equipped to build on what God has been doing in and through the Evangelical Alliance during my time as general director.

“I have so appreciated working with Gav, and I know the Evangelical Alliance is in safe hands as it steps into what God has planned for its future.”

Rev John Risbridger, chair of the EA’s council, said: “Gavin has been a dedicated and prolific evangelist, faithfully preaching the gospel in churches across all four nations of the UK week in and week out.

“He leads with integrity and an unwavering commitment to unity. I am thrilled that he will be leading the Evangelical Alliance, supporting the church as we make Jesus known throughout the UK.”

Calver is married to Anne and has two children. He is an ordained evangelist, a regular public speaker, and has authored five books. He follows in the footsteps of father Clive who led the Evangelical Alliance during the 1990s.

July 24, 2019



The next Lambeth Conference of Anglican bishops begins exactly one year from this week

Yesterday (Tuesday 23 July) marked one year to go until more than 1,000 bishops and spouses from around the Anglican Communion join together for the 15th Lambeth Conference.

Running from 23 July to 2 August 2020 and convened by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, the conference invites participants from over 165 countries and will shape the future direction of the Anglican Communion for the next decade.

July 24, 2019

The theme for the Lambeth Conference will be “God’s Church for God’s World”, inspired by the book of 1 Peter. The event will call participant together for prayer, Bible study, reflection, fellowship and dialogue on shared topics, concerns and opportunities in the Anglican Communion.

The conference will also explore important global issues, including climate change, gender justice, poverty, modern day slavery, peace and reconciliation, mission and discipleship.

The programme for the 2020 event is being shaped by a Design Group comprised of archbishops, bishops, theologians, and other lay members.

In a video released to mark the one-year milestone, members of the Design Group have shared their hopes for the Lambeth Conference.

July 24 - Today in Christian history

July 24, 1725: John Newton, author of "Amazing Grace" and other hymns, is born in London. Converted to Christianity while working on a slave ship, he hoped as a Christian to restrain the worst excesses of the slave trade, "promoting the life of God in the soul" of both his crew and his African cargo. In 1764 he became an Anglican minister and each week wrote a hymn to be sung to a familiar tune. In 1787 Newton wrote Thoughts Upon the African Slave Trade to help William Wilberforce's campaign to end the slave trade.

July 24, 2019

July 24, 1874: Oswald Chambers, author of "My Utmost for His Highest" (which was published posthumously in 1927), is born in Aberdeen, Scotland.

July 24, 1921: C.I. Scofield, editor of the Scofield Reference Bible and defender of dispensational premillennialism, dies in Douglaston, New York

July 23 - News briefs

+++ Last confirmation - Bishop Harold Miller conducted his last Confirmation Service as Bishop of Down and Dromore at St Brendan's, Sydenham, on Sunday 21 July. 10 young people and adults were confirmed. In total, 176 people were confirmed this year – 65 adults (37%) and 111 young people (63%).

+++ Ardoyne support for Air Ambulance - Immanuel Parish Church, Ardoyne, recently welcomed Grace Williams from Air Ambulance NI to collect a donation of £900. The money was donated at the church's All Age Services during 2018/2019. Parish Secretary Rachel Gilliland said: "Each year we choose a different charity and after each All Age Service we have refreshments and give some money towards the charity of the year. We always try to help local charities and in the past have donated money to Tiny Life, The Children's Hospice and other very worthwhile charities."

+++ C of I Clerical appointments - The Bishop of Down and Dromore has appointed Revd Sam Johnston, as Minister-in-Charge of **Comber Parish**. Sam is currently

July 24, 2019

Curate Assistant in Shankill Parish Lurgan. The Service of Introduction will be held in St Mary's, Comber, on Tuesday 3 September at 8.00 pm.

The Rev James Boyd, rector of Derryvolgie Parish (Connor), has been appointed **Derriaghy Rural Dean**. He succeeds the Rev John Rutter who has retired. James has been rector of Derryvolgie since November 13 last year. He is a past pupil of Ballymena Academy and has a degree in computer programming from Ulster University.

James worked with the Church of Ireland Year Out team in 1998-99, and was Youth Ministry Co-ordinator in Moira Parish for five years. After training for ordination at the Church of Ireland Theological College in Dublin, James was curate in the parish of Magheralin with Dollingstown, Diocese of Down and Dromore, for four years before his appointment as rector of Holy Trinity, Dromore, Co Tyrone, Diocese of Clogher. He was vicar of Willowfield Parish, Belfast, from 2015 until his move to Derryvolgie.

Bishop Kenneth Kearon of **Limerick** has announced the appointment of the Revd Kevin O'Brien as the next incumbent of the Drumcliffe group of Parishes which comprises Drumcliffe, Kilnasoolagh and Spanish Point

+++ 30th anniversary of ordination - St Bartholomew's Parish Church, Stranmillis, celebrated the 30th anniversary of the ordination to the priesthood of Rev Colin White on Sunday July 7. Ordained a priest on July 31 1989, Colin has served in the Non Stipendiary Ministry and Stipendiary Ministry in the Episcopal Church in Scotland and the Church of England.

July 24, 2019

Upon retirement, he has served the Church of Ireland with a permission to officiate, primarily at St Bartholomew's. The Rector at St Bartholomew's, The Rev Canon Kevin Graham, said: "Reverend Colin is a great asset to our parish, he served well during the last vacancy and has been a very faithful and supportive priest during my incumbency. It's with great delight that we celebrate his ministry amongst us and we look to continuing to benefit from his ministry in the future."

+++ Clonard obit - The sudden death has occurred of Fr Phil Dunlea C.Ss.R. of the Clonard Community.

+++ Methodist All In gathering - ALL IN 2019 will be held on Sat 16th Nov in Lismore Comprehensive School, Craigavon, "Last year, we gathered as Methodist people to give our corporate 'yes' to mission, this year we're excited to gather again to explore, 'what's next?' This is a day to be equipped, to dream for your community and to discover missional tools for application in your area. Will you join us?" More information and booking details coming soon, but for now you can find a snippet of what the day will have to offer here <https://buff.ly/2pgjjry>

+++ Food for thought - "The terrible thing, the almost impossible thing, is to hand over your whole self--all your wishes and precautions--to Christ. But it is far easier than what we are all trying to do instead. For what we are trying to do is to remain what we call 'ourselves.'"CS Lewis

July 24 News Links

[Boris Johnson urged by Presbyterian moderator to work for restoration of Stormont](#)

July 24, 2019

Belfast Newsletter

The Moderator of the Presbyterian **Church in Ireland**, Right Reverend Dr William Henry, has congratulated Boris Johnson as he prepares to become ...

[Johnson's appointment sparks polarised reaction in Northern Ireland](#)

News & Star

The appointment of Boris Johnson as leader of the Conservative Party has sparked a polarised reaction among politicians in Northern **Ireland**.

[Church of Ireland has put its survival over public engagement](#)

Irish Times

Church of Ireland has put its survival over public engagement ... Disestablishment meant that the **Church of Ireland** was now made wholly independent ...

[Opinion: Sparse rural parishes are as much “the Church” as the big city communities](#)

Southern Star Newspaper

I took the opportunity to reflect on the challenges facing the **Church** in sparsely populated rural areas in **Ireland**. Crookhaven, a place I've known well ...

[Church of Ireland cleric swaps Arctic for life in Northern Ireland](#)

Belfast Telegraph

A **Church of Ireland** cleric and his family have swapped the harsh frozen landscape of the Arctic to live by the seaside in south Down. And watching ...

[US Navy contingent to return to Derry for dedication of memorial at former base](#)

Derry Now

Prayers for the dedication of the memorial will be conducted by **Church of Ireland** Archdeacon Robert Miller and a series of gifts to Foyle College will ...

[Church sex abuse victim says Archbishop of Canterbury has never apologised](#)

ExaminerLive

Church sex abuse victim says Archbishop of Canterbury has never The **Church of England** has been approached for comment but no one has ...

[Archbishop of York looks forward to retiring before he goes 'gaga' and becomes 'embarrassing'](#)

Premier

The Archbishop of York has explained why he supports a compulsory retirement age of 70 for all **Church of England** clergy, with less than a year ...

[We are neglecting mid-sized churches, Nye admits](#)

Church Times

July 24, 2019

MID-SIZED churches — defined as worshipping communities of between 20 and ... an extra five people, the **Church of England's** decline would be reversed. ... to plant smaller churches in deprived areas (**News**, 14 December 2018).

AN INVITATION
to get Twitter leads from CNI
Just a click on the Twitter logo on
the CNI home page

+ Please share CNI with your friends
www.churchnewsireland.org

