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## **Cathedral art to honour Irish First World War victims**



**Vlad Mountaniol from Los Angeles watches as 36,000 leaf-shaped messages are hung**

An art installation containing thousands of messages in memory of those killed in conflict is set to go on display at

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Dublin's St Patrick's Cathedral to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War.

Some 36,000 handwritten messages, written on leaf-shaped pieces of paper, feature in the artwork, which will hang from the nave of the 800-year-old Irish cathedral throughout the month of November to commemorate Armistice Day.

Each leaf symbolises one Irish man or woman who died in the First World War.

Lead artist Ciara Ni Cheallachain said it had been a long road and she was delighted to see it all in situ.



“36,000 Irish people didn't come home from the first World War so this was an attempt to show that number in a way that makes sense to people,” she said.

She added that the aim of the display was to show the scale of the impact of the war on Ireland and also acknowledge each person who died.

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“It is quite an emotional thing when you begin to think about what it represents,” Ms Ni Cheallachain said.

“It looks beautiful but it also goes much deeper than that as well when people realise the enormity of what each leaf means and what it represents.”

The display is the culmination of a project that began in 2014 to mark the 100th anniversary of the start of the war.

Visitors to the historic cathedral over the past four years were asked to write a message to a loved one who had been killed in conflict and hang it on the cathedral’s Tree of Remembrance.

More than 220,000 messages in numerous different languages were penned by people from all over the world.

While there were thousands of messages for those who died in past wars, many of the messages were written by people who had lost loved ones in modern-day conflicts.

The installation will be on view until December 1.

## **Newtownards leaders unite against hate crime**

Church, civic and Muslim leaders from Newtownards have met together in a show of unity against hate crime in the borough.

The group was photographed outside the Islamic Prayer House in Greenwell Street, Newtownards, after a group of men posing as Ku Klux Klan members posed in the same

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**Far left, the Revd Alan Peek, rector of Movilla, pictured with other local religious leaders, the Mayor of Ards and North Down, Cllr Richard Smart, and Mike Nesbitt MLA. Ards Churches Together is a collective of leaders from Anglican, Methodist, Catholic, Presbyterian, non-denominational and other backgrounds.**

spot last weekend. Police are treating the weekend's incident as a hate crime.

Local church leaders have condemned the group and Ards Churches Together, which includes the Church of Ireland parishes of St Mark's and Movilla Abbey, issued the following statement:

“Newtownards is known as a kind, friendly and helpful community, so we were appalled to see symbols of hate appear on our streets this past weekend. The choices of those individuals to wear KKK robes have hurt the whole

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community and made people feel unsafe in their own homes.

“To those who feel intimidated or unwelcome as a result of these actions we say: You have our support. We stand with you.

“We encourage those involved to take responsibility for their actions and to come forward to the police. We also encourage them to talk to their local churches confidentially, if they would like to find a way to leave hate and hurt behind. As Ards Churches Together we say that hate has no place in our town.”

## **Derry woman raises plight of refugee teenagers in Uganda**

The desperate plight of children at a refugee camp in Uganda has moved a south Derry woman to raise funds to improve their quality of life.

Andrea Givans helped at a nursery school in the Bidibidi Camp, Arua, near the South Sudan border, last year and provided them with school books.

“There was one toilet or latrine in the camp and we were able to build another two,” said the mother-of-two from outside Ballyronan.

She stayed for 10 weeks in the African country and it has changed the way she looks at life.

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Now she is planning to return on November 26 for two weeks in a personal trip to see two of the girls she sponsored graduate from school and to “gather facts” about setting up an orphanage.



Andrea, a member Ballinderry Church of Ireland, became a STEP volunteer in the diocese of Madi West Nile for the Church Mission Society of Ireland.

As a qualified cook she spent a lot of her time teaching cooking skills to young women in a place where kitchens don't exist. But her work was not all to do with cooking. On one occasion she had to help deliver a calf in the camp! She also managed to put in place a system for purifying water.

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Despite having concerns, including the possibility of being kidnapped, Andrea said she had to have trust that God was leading her.

Her work in Uganda made her “feel complete” for the first time since her parents died. After the deaths of her father at the age of 52, some 27 years ago, and her mother just six years ago, she had felt restless no matter what she did at home.

Before going to Africa she decided that she wanted to “stripe back everything” and live like the culture of the people in the camp: a basic diet, cold shower from a single hose each morning and, of course, making use of the latrines.

Her upcoming visit to Arua will be a surprise for the two girls who are not expecting to see her.

In the meantime, she has been doing some fund raising , with the help of neighbours and businesses in Cookstown who kindly contributed towards raffles.

She has also GofundMe page to help toward work of sponsoring a child at the nursery school purchasing teaching equipment and school books. Courtesy of Stanley Gamble and the Tyrone Times

“Any contribution would be gladly received and will be donated towards the work in Arua,” she said.

Andrea says her husband Colin and children Julie and Andrew have been very supportive.

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## **Irish voters support daily Angelus broadcast**



Irish voters supported overwhelmingly last week a daily broadcast of the “Angelus Bells” on national broadcasting network RTE.

In a centuries-old custom, Church bells have rung daily across Europe at noon and 6 p.m., reminding Catholics to pause in schools, in farm fields, in offices, and in their homes, to pray the Angelus, a short prayer remembering the Annunciation and the Incarnation of Jesus Christ, and asking for the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Since 1962, Angelus bells have been broadcast on RTE daily- a minute-long video with images of men and women at prayer or quiet reflection, as bells peal in the background is played at 6 p.m., before the evening news. The Angelus bells are also broadcast daily on RTE radio at noon and 6 p.m.

RTE asked Irish voters about the daily television broadcast during exit polls it conducted amid the country’s Oct. 26 presidential election. 68 percent of respondents said they would keep the Angelus broadcast. 21 percent would stop it, and 11 percent declined to comment, RTE reported.



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3,474 Irish voters were interviewed during the exit poll, outside 138 polling stations across the country.

The RTE Angelus bells broadcast does not include recitation of prayer. A 2015 report from an RTE executive quoted an Irish viewer who summarized his view of the daily broadcast: “To the person of faith, it’s a moment of grace; to the person without faith, it’s a moment of peace. What’s not to like?”



## **DHM input at Church Resources Exhibition**

Brother David Jardine will be speaking at the Church Resources Exhibition in Assembly Buildings, Fisherwick Place, Belfast on Tuesday, November 13 at 1.30pm.

His theme will be Equipping For Life. This is a new ministry, recently established, asking Church people to give their time and talents free of charge to serve those who are suffering deprivation in life.

Work has begun in the Shankill area of Belfast. The organisers DHM say, “Groups are going into schools to help children with reading, and efforts are being made to help young people to find employment, but whatever need

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people have we want to provide someone who can help them in that area of their lives.

“We will also be co-operating with Church and community workers, some of whom have given many years of service to the Shankill area.

“Everything we do in Equipping For Life is surrounded in prayer. That is a key factor in our ministry. If you would like to find out more about this exciting and challenging work please come along to Assembly Buildings on November 13.”

## **Bake Bread for Peace a success in Dublin**

Christ Church Cathedral was the venue for the first Bake Bread for Peace gathering on Tuesday October 30. The hands-on baking workshop was a collaboration between Christ Church and St Patrick's Cathedral and allowed participants to bake bread, share stories and build community. The morning concluded with participants processing down the hill to St Patrick's Cathedral to Break Bread Together.

At the heart of the workshop was the meeting of three cultures. It was presented by Donegal woman Breezy Kelly, founder of the Bake Bread for Peace Initiative; Ellie Kisyombe from Malawi, co-founder of Our Table; and Laila Tellawi Quintela from Syria, founder of Za'atar Bakery.

The Bake Bread for Peace movement aims to bring people together in a celebration of everything communal and good through one of the most common and basic activities that

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humanity shares all over the world – baking bread. The movement was started in 2014 by Breezy Kelly and has now found enthusiasts across Ireland and further afield.

There is no membership or formal organisation; it is simply an invitation to be part of a movement for peace by engaging in the simple human acts of baking and breaking bread together. This is an opportunity to span generations and cultures, to share stories and deepen relationships around the table.

After a morning sharing recipes and baking, participants were joined by Archbishop Michael Jackson who paid tribute to the sense of community that was being engendered through the simple sharing and breaking of bread.

In the Lady Chapel of St Patrick's Cathedral, where the bread was broken and shared, Dean's Vicar, Canon Charles Mullen, observed that the church has a very close relationship with bread.

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## **Oxford bishops offer interim LGBT guidance and support**

A new chaplaincy team for LGBT people and their families is to be set up in the diocese of Oxford, where bishops are considering producing “short-term” guidance on pastoral responses to same-sex relationships, the Church Times reports.

In a letter sent to all clergy in the diocese on Tuesday, the four bishops express concern about the “pain” caused to LGBT people and their families by the Church’s ongoing debates over sexuality, and set out a range of actions designed to ensure better pastoral care.

In addition to a volunteer chaplain in each episcopal area the bishops invite “dialogue and conversation” with clergy seeking guidance on the recognition of same-sex relationships: the subject of “an increasing number of enquiries”.

While acknowledging that the House of Bishops guidelines prohibit services of blessing and that the Pastoral Advisory Group, led by the Bishop of Newcastle, the Rt Revd Christine Hardman, is still at work, the bishops write that they “warmly welcome dialogue and conversation with clergy across the Diocese who are looking for further guidance”.

They continue: “Depending on the timetable of the national group’s work, we may look to draw the fruits of our own conversations and reflections together in the short term for the benefit of this Diocese.”

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The letter acknowledges the work under-way nationally — including the teaching document *Living in Love and Faith* ([News, 13 July](#)) — but suggests that, given the timescales involved, an episcopal response is required.

“It is clear that it will be some time before the process of discernment in the Church of England reaches a conclusion,” they write. “During that period we want to encourage, above all, an attitude of inclusion and respect for LGBTI+ people across the Diocese of Oxford.”

They write: “We have received many requests for guidance and we are convinced that remaining silent on these issues is not serving the Church well. . . We are conscious as bishops of the pain felt by many LGBTI+ people and their families in the midst of these continuing debates. As a Church we have continually failed our sisters and brothers in Christ.”

The letter notes that the presence in the diocese of “a number of individuals . . . holding different views are currently playing a role in national and international debates. We hope that each will be supported and respected by their home diocese in the ministry to which they have been called.”

Debates should be “grounded in Scripture, reason and tradition as well as in deep prayer and our common life of worship”, they write. “They must also be conducted with attention to people’s experiences and in a spirit of love, mutual care and respect.”

Online exchanges that can be “hurtful and damaging” are noted. “Bullying and harassment are damaging and not

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acceptable as part of the reasoned and loving debate the Church needs to have.”

The diocese is home to both Jayne Ozanne, a prominent LGBT campaigner and member of the General Synod, and the Rector of St Ebbe’s, Oxford, the Revd Vaughan Roberts, a signatory of the Nashville Statement ([News, 8 September 2017](#)). The Bishop of Buckingham, Dr Alan Wilson, is an outspoken advocate of a change in the Church’s teaching on sexuality ([News, 3 October 2014](#)).

The bishops envisage that the role of the new volunteer chaplains will be “to listen, to offer support and to advise local clergy and congregations and ourselves in our welcome and support of LGBTI+ people and their families, and to learn from the insights of LGTBI+ people about being church together.”

Emphasising that both they and the chaplains will “continue to work within existing Bishops’ Guidelines on human sexuality”, the bishops pledge to “continue to listen to different streams in the debate. We will seek to be honest about our own views and also listen with respect to the views of others.”

They also announce plans to set aside time to “listen in particular to the experiences of LGBTI+ people”, some of whom have been convened as advisers by the Bishop of Oxford, Dr Steven Croft. “We are concerned to listen well to LGBTI+ people from a variety of perspectives including both those seeking change in the Church of England’s polity and those seeking to to live faithfully within it.”

With the deadline for completion of national work still almost two years away, several dioceses have sought to

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issue guidance on the “radical Christian inclusion” called for by the Archbishops last year.

The Oxford letter commends the five principles set out by the Bishop of Lichfield, the Rt Revd Michael Ipgrave, earlier this year, which include a proscription of “intrusive questioning about someone’s sexual practices or desires, or their experience of gender” and of barring people from leadership on grounds of sexuality ([News, 18 May](#)).

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