

CONNOR

connections

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First Minister meets people in Glencairn

First Minister Arlene Foster visited the Shankill area on February 4 and called into St Andrew's, Glencairn.

Pupils from Harmony Primary School welcomed Mrs Foster and presented her with flowers.

Community groups from Glencairn, Springmartin and Highfield were all represented, and the First Minister chatted to local people, including the Rev Emma Rutherford, Curate with Special Responsibilities for Glencairn and Whiterock.

Parishioners also turned out for the visit, along with Evangelists Karen Webb and Stephen Whitten from the Connor / Church Army North Belfast Centre of Mission.



The Rev Emma Rutherford chats to First Minister Arlene Foster and Alderman Frank McCoubrey, Belfast City Council. Photo: The Rev Ken Houston.

Royal birthday honour for Emmalee

Emmalee Wray, a teenage parishioner of St Patrick's Parish Church, Broughshane, was a leading light in the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations!

The 17-year-old from Carnlough was selected to help Her Majesty light the first in a chain of beacons to mark her milestone on April 21. Emmalee represented Northern Ireland's cadets at Windsor Great Park alongside cadets from England, Scotland and Wales.



Emmalee Wray. Photo: Kevin Scott, Belfast Telegraph.



Two ladies enjoy a warm bowl of soup at the Open Door Lunch run by Connor's Church Army Evangelists in St Anne's Cathedral Halls every Tuesday from 12 noon - 1.30pm.

Reaching out to the homeless in Belfast

An initiative by Connor's Church Army Evangelists to reach out and help Belfast's homeless people has been running in the halls of St Anne's Cathedral since April 15.

Supported by staff from the Diocese of Connor and from parishes in Belfast, Evangelists Karen Webb and Stephen Whitten are offering a warm bowl of soup, bread, tea and chat in the comfort of St Anne's Cathedral Halls every Tuesday lunchtime.

Open Door Lunch aims to reach out to those who are homeless and sleeping rough on the streets of Belfast.

The project has the support of local businesses. It was inspired by a similar outreach project in Dundee, visited by the Connor Evangelists, where the Church Army in conjunction with Dundee Cathedral meet and feed the homeless community.

"Homelessness is a growing issue in the UK and particularly in Belfast and we felt we had a call to, in some small measure, reach out and engage with the homeless community around us," said Karen. "We have been challenged by the quote from Shane Claiborne 'How can we worship a homeless man on Sunday and ignore one on Monday.'"

Among the attendees are two Romanian ladies who spend their days in Royal Avenue. When Karen first met them and told them about the Open Door Lunch, they were sitting, some distance apart, outside a business premises. One sat on a flattened down handbag, and was

wrapped in an old sleeping bag, the other had just a towel around her shoulders. It was raining heavily at the time.

Over the soup, bread, buns and tea, the ladies spoke to Karen and volunteer Roy Totten, Glenavy Parish, and overcoming a language barrier they revealed they both had children still in Romania.

Another visitor was a Polish man who came for a meal accompanied by a worker from a homeless outreach organisation in the city.

"The Polish man was on his way to register as homeless," Karen said. "I asked him why he had come to Belfast, and he said it was because there were no jobs in Poland."

Some days, the Connor team takes soup out to homeless people sitting in the streets who are reluctant to come inside in case they lose their 'spot.'

Karen and Stephen expressed thanks to those who have helped at the Open Door Lunch. Karen said it is hoped the number of people reached will increase in time as word gets around.

Anyone interested in volunteering at the Open Door Lunch should contact Karen at k.webb@churcharmy.org.uk or on 07803 272628 or Stephen at s.whitten@churcharmy.org.uk or on 07704 481489.

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Cover photo:


The new Dean of Connor, the Very Rev Sam Wright, with son Peter and daughter-in-law Vicky, wife Paula and son Michael at the Dean's installation in Lisburn Cathedral on March 3. Full story on pages 10 and 11.




Please contact us if you would like to contribute to the next issue of Connor Connections.

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A reminder of how we can sow and reap

They were planted on St Patrick's Day and in the last few weeks with some warm sunshine they have grown quickly. I look forward to harvesting and eating the potatoes come July.

They will be served with some butter as the healthy option. I have always enjoyed growing vegetables - they are a reminder to me of how we can sow and reap - but actually we are dependent on sun and rain for anything to grow.

My vegetable patch is one of the ways I relax but there are so many for whom growing crops is their livelihood. Please

pray for all farmers as they seek to provide for us and at the same time make a living.

By the time you read this we will know the result of the European Referendum. Please pray for wisdom for all involved in government as we seek to move forward.

For all involved in serving and helping in parish life I hope and pray you will get some time over the summer months for relaxation and renewal.

Grace and peace to you all,

+ Alan Connor

Theological Lecture

The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev and Rt Hon Justin Welby, delivered the annual Church of Ireland Theological Lecture at Queen's University, Belfast, on Monday February 8.

Archbishop Welby encouraged the packed Elmwood Hall audience to focus their hearts on reconciliation.

Prior to the lecture, the Archbishop visited the Church of Ireland and Methodist Chaplaincy, meeting students, chaplains past and present and other guests.

Welcoming the Archbishop and the audience to the lecture in the Elmwood Hall, Bishop Alan Abernethy congratulated the Chaplaincy at Queen's on 60 years of community and Christian worship at the heart of the university campus.

Archbishop Welby was introduced by the Vice-Chancellor of Queen's, Professor Patrick Johnston, who told the audience: "He [Archbishop Welby] is no stranger to the challenges societies in conflict face and the role reconciliation plays in lasting peace."

The Archbishop spoke for more than 50 minutes before engaging in a lively question and answer session, discussing a diverse range of topics including Northern Irish society, conflict, and theology. This section was hosted by the Rev Barry Forde, Church of Ireland Chaplain at Queen's.



A service of institution of the Rev Mark McConnell as rector of the Parish of Ballymena and Ballyclug took place in St Patrick's Ballymena on June 1. Mark was previously rector of the United Parish of Ballynure and Ballyeaston and prior to that he was rector in Killyleagh. He served curacies in Bangor Parish and Christ Church Parish, Bedford. Mark is married to Cherith and they have three children. At the service are, from left: The Ven Stephen Forde, Archdeacon of Dalriada, the Rev Mark McConnell, the Rev David Ferguson, the Bishop of Connor the Rt Rev Alan Abernethy, the Rev John McClure and the Rev Canon William Taggart, Connor Registrar.



Remembering the Belfast Blitz

One thousand candles burn at the front of St Anne's Cathedral, each symbolising a death during the Belfast Blitz 75 years ago.

Belfast City remembered those who died in the Blitz 75 years ago at a poignant service of commemoration in St Anne's Cathedral on April 17.

Hundreds attended the ecumenical service led by the Dean of Belfast, the Very Rev John Mann, and the Administrator of St Patrick's Church, Donegall Street, Fr Michael Sheehan, who preached.

More than 900 people died and 1,500 were injured on the night of Tuesday April 15 1941, when Luftwaffe bombers staged the biggest of four raids on Belfast City. Another 150 people were killed in a later raid on the night of May 4-5 1941.

One thousand candles burned during the service in St Anne's, offering symbolic reflection for those who died, and candles were also carried in procession to the altar.

Prayers were written for the occasion.

The service was attended by dignitaries including the city's Lord Mayor and Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Belfast, along with people with memories and links to the Blitz and representatives of the emergency services whose predecessors risked their own lives to save lives in the city of Belfast 75 years ago.

They included representatives of the Fire Service in Dublin, Drogheda and Dundalk, who sent engines to Belfast during the Blitz. Two Merryweather Fire Engines which attended in the wake of the bombings in 1941 made the journey back to Belfast and

were parked outside the Cathedral.

Remembering the night of April 15 in his sermon, Fr Sheehan recalled a 'darkness which brought its own horror, suffering, heartbreak and pain; a darkness which brought degradation, torture and death; a darkness which threatened to engulf goodness, honour, life and love and which threatened the very foundation of our humanity; a darkness which in so many places across the continent destroyed innocence.'

Fr Sheehan said people emerged from the darkness to strengthen, support and defend the wounded and the survivors. "We give thanks for those lights which demonstrated courage, care, kindness and honour. The ambulance service, fire and rescue, wardens and defence units as well as ordinary good neighbours from across our divide," he said.

Dean Mann said: "The image of St Anne's amidst the smouldering ruins after a night of destruction from the air is more powerful than many words for me. The indiscriminate bombing of civilians in Belfast, or anywhere for that matter, is something we commemorate with an anguish that is still real these 75 years on.

"We recall the fear, the death, the injury, the ruination, the many, to this day, whose lives were affected by those few nights that obliterated parts of our city."

As well as invited guests, the service was attended by many people with their own memories of the Blitz. The service was the culmination of a weekend of events marking the 75th anniversary.



The Blitz commemoration service was led by the Dean of Belfast, the Very Rev John Mann, and Fr Michael Sheehan, Administrator, St Patrick's Church, Donegall Street.

Shankill service spans two churches

The Rev Canon James Carson was introduced as Minister-in-Charge of the Lower Shankill Team Ministry at a service which spanned two churches on Sunday March 13.

The service got underway in St Stephen's Parish Church, Millfield, at 3pm, and mid-way through clergy and the congregation all walked the short distance to St Michael's Parish Church.

A large congregation of parishioners, family and friends heard Canon Carson introduced in both churches by the Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev Alan Abernethy.

During the service Canon Carson's daughters Emma and Lisa sang a duet. The sermon was preached in St Stephen's by the Bishop.

The 'parade,' which followed the footpath, proved quite an eye catching sight!

Canon Carson had taken his final service as rector of St Paul's, Lisburn, on February 28, when he and his wife Heather were presented with gifts from the Praise Band, the CLB, the GB and the Mothers' Union, while Norman and Andréa Briggs presented James with a photobook to remind him of his time at St Paul's. Many parishioners also left individual gifts.



Clergy make their way between the churches and, inset, the Rev Canon Jim Carson walks between St Stephen's and St Michael's with Archdeacon George Davison. Pictures: Norman Briggs.

Successful student outreach project in Ballymena Parish now in sixth year

A successful outreach project connecting with local students has been running in St Patrick's Parish, Ballymena, for six years.

The idea for student lunches, offering an 'Open Space' where students from Northern Regional College across the road from the church could come one day a week to 'chill out' and if they wanted talk about their issues and problems, originated with a former curate, the Rev Brian Lacey, now rector of St Peter's, Belfast.

Funding for the lunches is provided by the volunteers who help each week and

now, at the invitation of curate the Rev Iain Jamieson, parishioners have started to come along on a Thursday for a bite and a chat. No fee is charged, but parishioners and students are encouraged to make a small donation and in recent months the project has begun to show a small profit which is being channelled back into church funds.

Anyone in the area of the church on a Thursday between noon and 2pm is welcome to call in and have a freshly made toastie or sandwich and a cuppa.



Busy preparing and serving breakfasts at a community event and fundraiser at Derryvolgie Parish Church are L to R: Stewart Gavin, Lynn Perry, Valerie Scott, Margaret Perry and Lyn Dobbin. Photo: John Kelly.

Enjoyable events in Derryvolgie Parish

A group of 64 adults and children from Derryvolgie Parish went out for a meal to Newforge, south Belfast, on January 30 to enjoy each other's company and celebrate 50 years of the church's existence.

The meal was followed by a short reflection on where the parish had come from and what the future holds, and a cake which was enjoyed by all.

A parish quiz was prepared by Noreen Kavanagh, and Connor Children's Project Officer Jill Hamilton provided a greatly appreciated children's program.

The community spirit continued on February 13 when the parish hosted a successful fundraising event.

St Anne's Cathedral offers guided tours

St Anne's Cathedral is now offering guided tours every day except Sunday, at 11am and 2pm, until the end of September

Cathedral guides will highlight some of the key features of this historic and beautiful building which was consecrated in 1904.

They include the pillars which represent life and work in the city and province, the beautiful stained glass windows and the labyrinth depicting the journey of life. Visitors will see Lord Carson's tomb – the only one in the building – as well as the historic gems in the Treasury and the Regimental Chapel.

St Patrick's Mosaic at the entrance to the Chapel of the Holy Spirit will draw the eye and visitors will discover why St Anne's has two Bishops' Thrones!

MU Festival Service

Connor MU's Festival service in St Anne's on April 10 was a celebration of the 140th anniversary of MU and the 90th birthday of MU Patron the Queen.

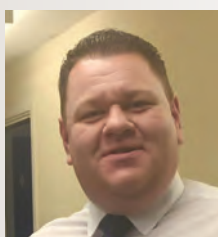
The speaker at the service was Phyllis Grothier, MU All Ireland President.



Ballymacash parishioner Noel Irwin has retired after 11 years as Lisburn and District Scout District Commissioner. Incoming District Commissioner Audrey Morrow is pictured presenting a gift to Noel in recognition of his exemplary service to scouting in the Lisburn area. Looking on is Billy Mawhinney (District President). Photo John Kelly.

Flute Band Church Outreach Worker

Flute Band Church at St Jude's Parish, Muckamore, has appointed Ryan Mairs to the new post of outreach worker.



Ryan lives in Antrim, where he was born and raised. "I have been involved within the marching band fraternity for many years, having been a member of several bands throughout the province," he said.

"The aim of my role is to reach out to the men and women of the marching band world wherever they're at and endeavour to create a safe environment whereby they can explore what it might mean to have a relationship with Christ.

"This is a new challenge for me but given my affection for those involved in marching bands it's a challenge I'm really looking forward to."

Singing for a Duchess

Tania Murphy, a member of the St Anne's Cathedral Girls' Choir, sang in St Paul's, London, with choristers from 60 cathedrals across the UK on April 28.

Tania, a Year 12 pupil at Aquinas Grammar School, Belfast, was selected by St Anne's Master of the Choristers David Stevens to represent the Cathedral.

The concert was held in the presence of HRH The Duchess of Gloucester, who took the time to chat to all the choristers.

"The Duchess greeted us very warmly and was very intrigued with the musical pieces which we were performing," Tania said.

Of singing in St Paul's, she said: "It is definitely an experience which I will never forget!"

Camping, Castles and Streetreach!

There is plenty coming up for young people in Connor, including the Summer Madness Camp, Streetreach in north Belfast, and the youth weekend in Castlewellan

The Commissioning of Connor's 2016 Streetreach team will take place at The Hub at Queen's at 2pm on June 18.

There will be an opportunity for all those who are not yet registered to hear more about Streetreach.

The Youth Council is looking forward to building on the experience of last year, and to giving more young people the opportunity to serve together.

Streetreach will be re-visiting north Belfast from July 5-8 and the Youth Council is planning a range of activities giving a missional opportunity to young people. Visit the Connor website (www.connor.anglican.org) for full details and application forms.

It's almost time for Summer Madness again, and to ensure groups from across the Diocese of Connor come together, Engage Connor Youth have planned a Summer Madness Sub Camp with lots of great food.

Diocesan Youth Officer Christina Baillie said: "We plan to camp together at Summer Madness and have a shared communal space where groups can gather. We invite you to come and pitch your tent alongside other Connor groups on Thursday June 30.

Sports tournament hotly contested!

Engage Connor Youth Council held its first Sports Tournament in Ballymoney on May 7, with young people from across the diocese competing for a variety of sporting accolades!

The event was organised to raise funds for Streetreach 2016, and some superb trophies were up for grabs.

The young people played dodgeball and volleyball as well as completing a treasure hunt around Ballymoney Parish to compete for first prize.

Everyone gathered at the end for a barbecue, co-ordinated by Girvin Woods from Muckamore Parish, and enjoyed by all despite the rain.

Christina Baillie, Diocesan Youth Officer said: "It was great to see the young people

"Thanks to the Rev Mark Taylor we will be offering three main meals to groups camping - on Saturday evening, Sunday lunchtime and Monday evening."

The third annual diocesan 'Take the Castle' weekend will be in Castlewellan Castle from September 2-4.

The weekend will be a great opportunity for young people across Connor to travel with their parish and connect with other young people in an action-packed weekend. There will be incredible food, adventure activities and challenging talks.

Engage Connor Youth Council is looking forward to this chance to encourage young people to grow in their faith alongside leaders from their own parishes. The cost of the weekend is £50.

Christina said: "The diocesan weekend is a real opportunity for developing community and so many young people have talked to me about the positive impact it has had on their faith and helping them to feel part of the wider church."

An application form and information for parents and leaders are available on the diocesan website. Places are limited so please submit forms as soon as possible to confirm a booking.

of various ages compete against one another with plenty of close matches and super sporting skill.

"Thanks to the Connor Youth Council for another fantastic event, bringing young people together and building community as a diocese."



Volleyball action from the Connor Youth Sports Tournament.



Praying creatively in Ballymena.

Making time to pray creatively

Young people from groups across Connor gathered in Ballymena on March 12 to enjoy time together and to pray.

The event was facilitated by Emma Thompson from Prayer Spaces in Schools.

Diocesan Youth Officer Christina Baillie said: "It provided a great opportunity for leaders and young people to spend time praying in creative ways. We were pleased to have Kate and Lauren from Muckamore Parish involved in the running of the evening through praise and compering respectively."

Engage Connor Youth organised the prayer focus to encourage young people to be active in how they can engage with prayer on a personal and wider level.

Christina said: "The event in Ballymena provided a peaceful opportunity for young people to spend time talking with God. Emma provided some great tools for the young people to be able to pray to make it as comfortable and accessible as possible."

"If you would like to find out more about Prayer Spaces in Schools, you can view their website: www.prayerspacesinschools.com."

Youth Forum gets to work at residential

Connor Youth Forum held its first event – a residential meeting on the north coast - on February 26 and 27.

Members of the Youth Forum began to draft a logo and consider ways of influencing their own parishes. They planned events they can organise across the diocese, and had great fun in the process.

The Youth Forum's first members are excited by the possibilities ahead and are looking forward to inviting more young people from across the diocese to get involved.

Engage Connor Youth was represented by leaders who facilitated sessions over the weekend but with the discussions being directed by the young people. Lucy Burden, Stuart Moles and Danielle McCullagh are all studying at Church of Ireland Theological Institute. Their advice was invaluable as they encouraged the young people and helped to set the scene for the impact that the Youth Forum could have.

Christina Baillie, Diocesan Youth Officer for Connor, is assisting in facilitating the Youth Forum gatherings. "It was a privilege to see these young people discussing this



Plenty of fun and chat at the Youth Forum residential.

opportunity with expectancy that it can be used by God within the diocese," Christina said.

"My hope is to see young people engage with their local parishes as well as discussing issues and actions for across the diocese. We hope to have young people from as many parishes as possible to help us to hear the voice of young people in various situations."

Engage Connor Youth and the Youth Forum would like to thank the Rev David Ferguson and the Parish of Ramoan for the generous use of the Parish Centre for the Youth Forum sessions.



Children enjoying the family day at Drummaul.

Successful family event in Drummaul

There was great support from the community and local schoolchildren for a Good Friday Family and Children's Activity Morning hosted by the Parish of Drummaul, Duneane and Ballyscullion in Drummaul Church Hall.

The rector, the Rev Derek Kerr, has run a children's event on Good Friday for several years. He wanted to develop it further this year drawing in more local families. Derek enlisted the help of some very capable leaders from within his parish who helped ensure it was a very successful event.

The morning was organised in Messy Church style, starting with refreshments followed by an hour of crafts and activities linked to the Easter story from Good Friday through to Easter Sunday.

After the crafts, everyone gathered together for songs, Easter challenges and an imaginative retelling of the Easter story. The morning ended with party food!



A prayerful moment during the St Paul's Parish, Lisburn, Church Lads' and Church Girls' Brigade display. Photo by Norman Briggs.

Workshops a hit at Equipped Training

Connor Diocese's second annual Equipped Training morning was held in Antrim Parish Halls on Saturday April 16.

There was a great turnout and Connor Children's Project Development Officer Jill Hamilton thanked all the leaders who came along to make the event such a success.

After coffee and registration everyone took part in a short session looking at resources to help encourage children to worship and ideas for teaching memory verses with signing and actions. The leaders also prayed for each other using a balloon prayer.

Everyone could choose two workshops, with brunch in the middle.

"This year we had six workshops to choose from and we tried to be very practical about what we offered and gave leaders

plenty of ideas to take away with them," Jill said. "The bible crafts workshop was really popular and everyone enjoyed having a go at the crafts. The drama workshop got great reviews from the leaders who attended and everyone participated with all the games Chris demonstrated and had a laugh along the way.

"We also had workshops on how to put on a special service involving children, how to do an object lesson, how to work with the special needs child in your group and how to run a holiday bible club."

Jill added: "There was a great atmosphere throughout and we all enjoyed being together and learning something new to take back to our churches."



Connor Children's Project Development Officer Jill Hamilton addresses the Equipped Training Morning.

Cradle roll service in Christ Church, Lisburn

Christ Church Parish, Lisburn, held its first 'Cradle Roll' service on April 24.

Guest speaker was Jill Hamilton, Connor Children's Project Development Officer, who was accompanied by her puppet friend, Scruffy.

More than 30 children aged three and under attended the service, along with older children, and the parish Junior Choir sang for the first time. It was followed by refreshments.

Rector, the Rev Paul Dundas, said: "In the past few years we have seen quite

a few families move into Lisburn, and we have been working with families who have had their children baptised here."

Paul said much of this ongoing work, and the organisation of the service, was down to the team of Beth Harris, Roberta Thompson, Debbie Reilly and Harry Allen.

"The Cradle Roll is a way of building connections with our young families and encouraging them in their faith," said Paul.



The Rev Jonny Campbell-Smyth with some of those he worked with at the Iglesia Santiago Apostol in Chile, South America.

God's spirit unites us - curate visits Chile

The Rev Jonny Campbell-Smyth, curate assistant at St Patrick's, Jordanstown, travelled to Santiago, Chile, in March.

The parish has been looking at ways to further develop its important links in World Mission, and in the past year Jonny has worked closely with SAMS Ireland (South American Mission Society) to establish a new partnership in Chile.

Through the SAMS Fusion Programme, St Patrick's hosted and supported Rocio Castro Bravo, an Intern from Santiago who lived and worked in the parish until last Christmas.

The opportunity arose for Jonny to travel to Santiago with SAMS Director Bishop Ken Clarke to help him better understand the needs of Jordanstown's partner church in Santiago.

Iglesia Santiago Apostol (ISA for short) is a small Anglican Church situated in a theatre in the centre of Santiago and has been in existence for around five years.

Jonny said there are many needs in downtown Santiago, and a focus of ISA is University students who make up 150,000 of the city's five million population.

Jonny spent the majority of his visit working alongside ISA's pastor Cristóbal Cerón and its University Outreach Worker Max Díaz.

"I've learned so much on this short visit about the important role a leader has in cultivating and shaping a new generation of leaders," Jonny said. "Cristobal places much time and passion in equipping those who lead within ISA, whether they are Sunday School teachers, house group leaders, or welcomers."



Outreach worker Max speaking at the University

Max's role, which is funded partly through SAMS, consists of outreach to students, helping lead a ministry training programme, and creating missional communities in more universities across the city.

Jonny and Bishop Ken had the privilege of being present at the consecration of two new bishops into the Anglican Church in Chile, Bishop Alf Cooper and Bishop Nelson Ojeda. This took place in St Paul's Church, Valparaíso, which was built for worship in 1869. On the same day as the consecration, St Paul's was established as the first Anglican Cathedral Church in Chile.

Reflecting on his visit, Jonny said: "I am excited what God has in store for our two churches as we learn to support each other in prayer and resources.

"Distance is no obstacle when God's Spirit unites us. Our need to think outside our own back yard is very important if we are to truly understand how wide and how deep God's love is for all nations. And therefore in this understanding, we are to go and love also."

Appeal for continued support for 'Connor's Indian hospital'

After a period of uncertainty, the future is looking bright for an Indian hospital which has been linked with the Church of Ireland for more than a century.

Each year parishes are asked to support the work of St Columba's Hospital in Hazaribagh, established in 1892 as part of the Dublin University Mission to Chotanagpur.

The Irish link is fostered by the Friends of St Columba's Hospital, a group was set up in 1968 by the late Sydney Stewart, a Connor diocesan lay reader, and currently chaired by Canon Stuart Lloyd, retired rector of Ballymena Parish.

This year the Friends were able to send £13,000 to the hospital – much of which was given by people in Connor diocese.

Stuart recently paid another visit to the hospital accompanied by Ian McKay, a parishioner in Ballymena

"For some years there has been a contraction in the work of the hospital caused mainly by the difficulty of attracting doctors. With this and with the retirement of some who had served the hospital for a lifetime the future of the hospital was in the balance," Stuart said.

But he reported that the Diocese of Chotanagpur had taken a renewed interest in the hospital and a new board, administrator and medical director are determined to turn things around.

The upgrading of basic facilities is part of this and money from Ireland has recently greatly improved the water and electricity supply throughout the hospital. Modern equipment is needed to attract doctors and some of this was installed in the operating theatre during Stuart and Ian's visit.

"St Columba's Hospital has a wonderful site with great potential, it has a history that gives it respect in the local community and now there is a determined group of people with a plan to rejuvenate its life," Stuart said.

"Thankful of support in the past, all those associated with the hospital, given the many challenges ahead, would value the continued prayer and financial giving of people in Ireland and especially those in Connor Diocese."

Communications Competition awards

Connor Diocese had a number of winners in the Church of Ireland Central Communications Board's 2016 competition, including the diocesan website and magazine.

St Anne's Cathedral picked up three prizes, and awards also went to Connor Mothers' Union and to the United Parish of Ballynure and Ballyeaston.

Connor was second to Meath and Kildare in the Diocesan website category. The judges said: "The winner and runner-up each had 'simplicity and clarity' along with a contemporary design and feel."

In the Diocesan magazines category Connor Connections was highly commended. The judges said: "The entry featured 'great stories,' adding that 'photography was used effectively to break up the content.'"

In the Parish website category, the United Parish of Ballynure and Ballyeaston was highly commended.

St Anne's Cathedral picked up first prize in the Other/Affiliated Organisation magazine category for the Cathedral Digest. Runner-up in was In Touch, published by Connor Mothers' Union.

In the Other/Affiliated Organisation website category first prize was awarded to St Anne's whose website was judged to be well-maintained with 'very clear navigation and a wealth of information.'

A twice weekly blog by the Dean of Belfast, the Very Rev John Mann, was judged the most engaging blog.



The Knotty Knitters!

The Knotty Knitters of St Colmanell's Parish have been busy knitting hats and scarves for the Mission to Seafarers and Twiddle Mitts (above) for patients with dementia.

The mitts provide something patients can hold and 'twiddle' with, helping to reduce anxiety and promote calm. This new group also raised £2,000 through knitting for the parish building fund.



The praise band and choir pictured leading the singing at the service in Lisburn Cathedral. Photo: John Kelly.

'Amazing moment' – Dean Sam Wright

The Very Rev Sam Wright was installed as Dean of Connor at a service in Lisburn Cathedral on Thursday March 3.

Two new Canons were also installed in the Chapter of St Saviour, Connor, while several existing Canons were installed in new positions within the Chapter.

The preacher at the service was the Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev Alan Abernethy.

The new Dean, who succeeds the Very Rev John Bond who has retired, has been rector of Christ Church Cathedral, Lisburn, for 17 years. He previously served a Precentor in the Chapter of St Saviour. The Rev Canon George Irwin, (St Mark's, Ballymacash), formerly Chapter Treasurer, was installed as Chancellor, and the Rev Canon John Budd (Derriaghy), former Prebendary of Rasharkin, was installed as Treasurer. The former Prebendary of Connor, the Rev Canon George Graham (Dunluce), who was unable to attend the service, is the new Precentor.

The two new Canons are the Rev Canon Peter Galbraith (Broomhedge) who was installed as Prebendary of Connor and the Rev Canon Chris Easton (Armoy, Loughguile and Drumtallagh) who was installed as Prebendary of Rasharkin.

Worship was led by Music Director, Mr Stephen Mc Loughlin and Organist Mr Andrew Skelly, and Readings were by the Rev Canon George Irwin and the Rev Canon Peter Galbraith.

In his address, the Bishop of Connor spoke about the need for Christians to go out into towns and cities with the light and hope of Christ. He referred to the initiative taken by Lisburn Cathedral parishioners through the Big Church Serve which ran for a third successive year in March.

The new Dean and his wife Paula have three children - Peter, married to Vicky, Naomi who is married to Andrew and Michael. They are also proud grandparents.

A former pupil of Bangor Grammar School, Dean Sam worked as a Civil Servant in the Department of Education before going to Trinity College Dublin to study for the Church of Ireland ministry. After leaving Theological College in Dublin he served as Curate Assistant in St Aidan's, Sandy Row, Belfast, from 1987 to 1991 before moving to Co Fermanagh as rector of the parishes of Cleenish and Mullaghduin. In 1999 he was appointed rector in Lisburn Cathedral where he will continue to serve.

Dean Sam has held a number of positions within the Church of Ireland. He said: "I consider it a great honour to be asked by Bishop Alan to be the Dean of Connor and I look forward to serving in this new role. It is my hope that the Dean and Chapter members will assist the Bishop and Diocesan Development Team in the mission and ministry of Christ in the Diocese of Connor."

He said he had been overwhelmed with the messages of support and congratulations from his parishioners in Lisburn Cathedral and from friends in other churches and denominations.

The heart of ministry, Dean Sam said, is 'in and through the local church.' "It is a great joy to serve in Lisburn Cathedral and to make many good connections with the council and community to share the love, forgiveness and new life that Jesus offers to everyone," he said.

He added that it was significant that



The Chapter of St Saviour, Connor. From left: Archdeacon Stephen McBride, Canon Peter Galbraith, Canon John Budd, Bishop Alan Abernethy, Canon James Carson, Dean Sam Wright, the Rev William Taggart (registrar), Canon Chris Easton, Canon George Irwin and Archdeacon Stephen Forde. Missing from the picture is Canon George Graham who was unable to attend the service.

Councillor Thomas Beckett, in his capacity as Mayor of Lisburn and Castlereagh, attended the service as he had been an enthusiastic supporter of the contribution churches make to the community, particularly the ReLENTless Prayer initiative which ran in Lisburn during Lent.

The Dean has a deep heartfelt belief that the role of the Church is to be engaged in the mission of Christ, both at home and abroad. Since 1976 he has been involved in the work of the Church Missionary Society Ireland, and this July, along with his wife, Paula, he is looking forward to leading a team of seven from Lisburn Cathedral to Connor's link diocese of Yei in South Sudan as they continue to rebuild after the devastating civil war in their country.

Dean Sam said the annual Good Friday Walk of Witness, arranged by a number of Lisburn City centre churches, has a deep significance for him as it brings together people from many denominations and walks of life to stand before the cross to worship and remember the death of Jesus as the one and only sacrifice that brings hope and life to all.

After the installation service Dean Sam said: "To be installed as Dean of Connor in Lisburn Cathedral where I have served for the past 17 years is an amazing moment in my life. The presence at the service of so many wonderful parishioners from the Cathedral, members of other churches,

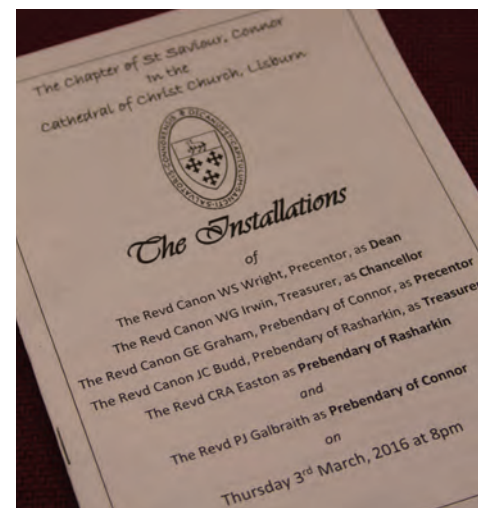


The service of installation of the Dean and Canons.

alongside good friends, family and clergy colleagues was very affirming and inspiring.

"I am very appreciative of the prayers of so many people as I set out on this new area of service for Christ."

Dean Sam added: "Congratulations to the Rev Canon Peter Galbraith and the Rev Canon Christopher Easton who have joined the Cathedral Chapter and to the clergy who have moved to new positions. I look forward to working with all the members and the Bishop and Diocesan Team as we seek to build Christ's Kingdom and introduce many more people to the wonderful love and grace of Christ."



Farewells for long serving rectors

Three rectors who have served in the Diocese of Connor for many years have retired in recent months.

The Rev Canon George Irwin retired after 27 years as rector of St Mark's, Ballymacash; Canon Ken McReynolds retired as rector of Lambeg Parish after almost 26 years; and the Rev Paul Redfern retired as rector of St Bride's Parish Church, Kilbride, after more than 12 years.

At St Mark's, Ballymacash, a Farewell Evening for Canon Irwin was held on April 16 in the Parochial Hall. During his time in Ballymacash, Canon Irwin presided at three radio broadcasts and two television broadcasts involving St Mark's parishioners and led seven Christian Stewardship Renewal Programmes. He appointed 24 Churchwardens, five Glebewardens, five Mother's Union Enrolling Members and five Sunday School Superintendents. He trained five Curates and saw five parishioners go forward to ordination with another three commissioned as Readers.

Entertainment at the farewell evening was provided by the Choir and Music Group under the guidance of Director of Music Tim Howe. Compere was George Spence. Hilary Morrison and Kaye Somerville, who played a role in bringing the Rev Irwin to Ballymacash 27 years previously, presented Canon Irwin and his wife Deirdre with a framed picture of the church.

Lambeg Parish said farewell to Canon McReynolds and his family at a social evening on February 12.

During his 26 years in Lambeg, Canon McReynolds presided over the major renovation of the church including the extension of car park facilities in the church grounds as well as an extension to the parish graveyard. Under his guidance the Hilden Centre was built and it is now a centre for worship and outreach in the Hilden/Glenmore area of Lisburn.

The evening on February 12 included entertainment and supper. More than 200 parishioners attended and were entertained by individuals and members of parish organisations in a full and varied programme. At the end of the entertainment presentations were made to Canon McReynolds and his wife Dorothy.

The Rev Paul Redfern took his last service as Rector of St Bride's Parish Church, Kilbride, on Easter Sunday.

Paul has retired after more than 12 years in the parish, and to mark the occasion he and his wife Betty were surprised with a lovely cake at the Easter Sunday service.

Betty was presented with a bouquet of flowers and the church choir sang a special anthem (The Clare Benediction) dedicated to Paul and Betty.

Before Easter, the Select Vestry took Paul and Betty out to dinner to thank them for their years of service to the parish and community of Kilbride.



The Rev Paul Redfern and his wife Betty cut their farewell cake in St Bride's Parish Church on Easter Sunday.



Hilary Morrison and Kaye Somerville present a framed picture of St Mark's Church, Ballymacash, to Canon George Irwin and his wife Deirdre. Photo: Brian Kelly.



The Rev Canon Ken McReynolds and his family at the social event in Lambeg Parish.

Clive West Memorial

The inaugural Clive West Memorial Lecture took place in All Saints' Church, Belfast, on February 22. The Rev Dr Ashley Null spoke on 'The Faith at the heart of the Book of Common Prayer.'

Clive was rector of All Saints' from 1984 to 2000. He was a Canon of St Anne's and a previous curate of both Lisburn Cathedral and All Saints.'

A Trust was also launched in Clive's memory. The Rev Trevor Johnston, rector of All Saints', said: "He was a godly mentor to many of us."

Nora turns 100!

Congratulations to Derriaghy parishioner Norah Wright, who turned 100 on April 3.



Well done to six Mothers' Union members from North Connor who completed the eight mile walk in the Belfast City Marathon on May Day. Raising funds for MU projects were, from left: Roslyn Graham, Rena Lindsay, Anna Mullen, Caroline Glover, Jean McDonald and Iris Hemphill.



Testing out the waters in Portrush are some of the young people from St Paul's, Lisburn.

Super surfing for St Paul's youngsters!

A group of 12 young people from St Paul's, Lisburn, had a great weekend in Portrush in March, learning to surf and talking about their faith

The weekend was organised by parish youth and family worker Chris Neilands, and the surf lessons and all the workshops and discussions were led by The Surf Project (www.thesurfproject.org).

Chris said: "It was a really active weekend. We surfed, hiked round the beach, ate loads of food, laughed a lot and spent time thinking about what it means to know Jesus and live life to the full."

Ballymoney Parish hosts first Filling Station in Ireland

People from churches in Ballymoney came together to worship at The Filling Station in St Patrick's Old School House on Wednesday April 27.

For the past year, St Patrick's has been hosting The Filling Station, a monthly worship meeting in the renovated building. This is the only Filling Station in Ireland, but meetings take place in many cities, towns and villages in the UK and worldwide.

Filling Stations offer monthly mid-week evening 'celebration' meetings held in non-church venues. "Our meetings are designed to be overtly spiritual but presented in a manner that those outside the church would feel comfortable," the Filling Station website states.

The rector of Ballymoney, Finvoy and Rasharkin, the Rev Andrew Sweeney, introduced The Filling Station soon after the opening of the renovated School House (St Patrick's Day 2015), and it has been attracting around 100 people from different churches in the town each month.

There is always a guest speaker. In April it was the Rev Simon Genoe, vicar of Lisburn Cathedral. Previous speakers have included the Rev Barry Forde, Queen's University Chaplain, and Bishop Ken Clarke, Director of SAMS.

There is contemporary worship – at the



Worship during The Filling Station in Ballymoney.

April meeting this was led by Ian Hanna, a former Director of Music at St Patrick's, Coleraine. A local parishioner gave his testimony, and as the meeting closed people came forward for personal prayer.

Refreshments were served before the service got underway. Andrew said: "The Filling Station is really about drawing Christians from different areas in the town and community to come and worship together in a more contemporary style and to enjoy good teaching, and then go back filled up to their own church community and help to bring renewal to their clergy and ministries. It has been a very special part of bringing renewal to this town."

St Aidan's support for Food Bank

St Aidan's Parish in south Belfast has partnered with the Trussell Trust and now sends a monthly collection as well as donating food four times a year to the South Belfast Community Food Bank.

One of the initiatives of local churches working together in the area has been to set up a hub for the Food Bank in Blythe Street. This is situated at Friendship House and managed by a team of volunteers from the churches, overseen by Alison Shaw, St Aidan's Family Worker.

The Food Bank benefited from a retiring collection lifted at a Community Carol Service last December and collected during the St Aidan's Christmas Tree Festival. A total of £330 was presented along with a large donation of food from St Aidan's, St Simon's and Donegall Road Primary School.

Appointment to Skerry, Rathcavan & Newtowncrommelin

The Rev Andrew Campbell, Curate Assistant of the Parish of Bangor Abbey, has been appointed as Incumbent of the Parish of Skerry, Rathcavan and Newtowncrommelin.

Andrew, who is married to Allison, was ordained as a deacon in September 2012 and served an internship in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast. He has been in Bangor Abbey for almost three years. The institution will take place on August 24.

After more than three decades, the Rev Gary Millar has spoken publicly about a painful and debilitating illness which has affected him since childhood.

Gary, rector of Ahoghill and Portglenone, addressed a World Primary Immune Deficiency (PID) conference in Illinois, USA, in May as an international ambassador for PID, a condition he developed aged 11.

"Since diagnosis when I was 13 I have learned to manage daily life with my disease and with the help of my faith and my family I've gained a great perspective on life with PID," he said.

"As an international ambassador I recently shared my perspective at World PI Week to encourage others to learn more about living with a Primary Immunodeficiency."

Gary attended training for his ambassador role in Munich, and has also spoken in Dublin and at a European meeting.

The 48-year-old is married to Gillian. They have four children aged from 16-23.

"Before I was diagnosed with a Primary Immune Deficiency, I endured two years of excruciating illness. My parents were desperate for answers, but were only given vague reassurances that I 'would grow out of it' or 'it was in my head,' words that would haunt me for years," Gary said.

He was in such chronic pain he was unable to attend school. He had constant ear and chest infections and bowel inflammation.

PID is a very rare condition and diagnosis can take some time. Statistics from PID UK indicate that about 1 in 50,000 people have CVID – the form of PID Gary has.

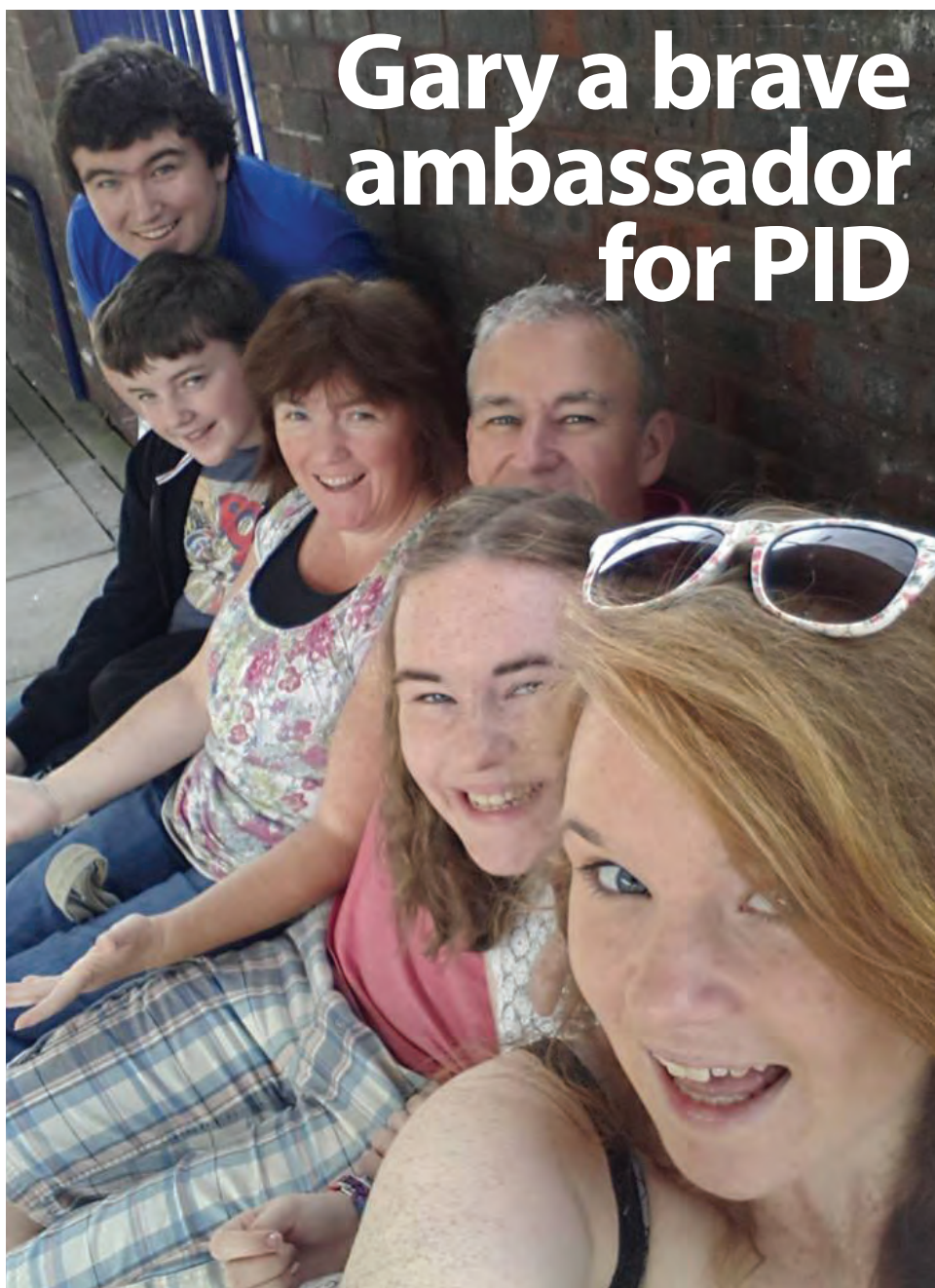
"At 13 I never thought I would have the health to work, nor find a wonderful wife who would walk with me and carry the burden of living with someone with a long-term illness," Gary said.

"Despite my health, I have achieved more than I ever realised and my life bears testimony to the truth enshrines in Eph 3.20-21 that God 'who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.'"

Gary said that he kept this part of his life private until, in January, he was asked to be an international ambassador by the Royal Victoria Hospital.

"Since being invited to be an ambassador

Gary a brave ambassador for PID



The Millar family. From front to back: Bethan, Hannah, Gary, Gillian, Timothy and Daniel.

for people in similar situations I have embraced the opportunity to share my story and experiences in the hope that no-one else feels they have to go through this alone and that medical world becomes more familiar with the symptoms of people with a Primary Immunodeficiency," he said.

Primary Immunodeficiency disorders weaken the immune system, allowing infections and other health problems to occur more easily. It happens when the immune system is either absent or not functioning properly.

Gary has to inject himself with immunoglobulins – a four hour process – every three weeks. Until recent medical advances, this had to be done weekly. "I am still prone to infections, but if I feel something coming on I ring the doctor for antibiotics," he said.

"Because of the delay in diagnosis my lungs were damaged. I have to do breathing exercises every day. I have never been able to do any sports because I just do not have the energy.

"Part of the ambassador programme was to sit down and write the story of your life. When I did that I realised that keeping it to myself was selfish, and I may be able to help other people who could identify with the symptoms."

Gary shared his story with his parish earlier this year. "The reaction was very positive, it was quite emotional for a number of people," he said.

"PID is something I now live with. It is part of who I am. I have had plenty of opportunities to share my faith through it. For me, if I can help one other person, it is worth it."



Eleanor Thompson and her great grandson look at a photo of Eleanor's father Ambrose Willis during 100th her birthday celebration at Titanic Belfast. (Photo: Titanic Belfast)

A Titanic birthday party for Eleanor!

A Cairncastle parishioner whose father was chief interior design draughtsman on Titanic has celebrated her 100th birthday – at Titanic Belfast!

Eleanor Thompson's father Ambrose Willis was on board Titanic when it set out on its ill-fated voyage to New York but was called home when it reached Southampton.

Eleanor was born in Knock in April 1916. Her father worked in the drawing office at Harland & Wolff. "He was a very modest person, never brought his work home, and valued family time," Eleanor recalled.

She said that the 'unsinkable ship' had been a source of great pain for her dad and her mum Mable, who lost many friends when it sank in April 1912.

Eleanor worked as a telephone operator until she met Emil who she married in 1940. They were bombed out of their Antrim Road home during the Blitz. Emil, a journalist with the Belfast Telegraph, was an Army Captain during WW2 but his job ended with the war.

"These were hard times, it was challenging to make ends meet, but no harder than for anyone else," Eleanor said. The couple, with sons Peter and John, moved to Larne when Emil took up the post of editor of the

Larne Times. Eleanor wrote a witty column in the newspaper under the pseudonym Eve Wisdom, and interviewed a young Engelbert Humperdinck, who she declared 'would never make it.' Emil died in 1983.

Eleanor said: "I have been blessed with good memories of the past. I have seen so much change, not always for the better, but my family has always been close."

Titanic Belfast hosted Eleanor, her family and friends, for a 100th birthday party on April 30. She was shown her father's salary book in the Titanic museum and blew out the candles on her cake at The Bridge.

Eleanor said: "There is no doubt that my father loved his job and was very proud of the work he did. All the furniture for RMS Titanic was built in what we called 'The Yard' here in Belfast and that's what my father oversaw!"

"He used to come home smelling of varnish and paint. He even travelled on board Titanic to Southampton but had to return to Belfast as Olympic was on the stocks. It was fortunate he had to return –



The Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev Alan Abernethy, visited Eleanor Thompson to mark her 100th birthday.

or otherwise I may not have been born!"

The Rev Harold Sharp, who visited Eleanor with the Bishop of Connor, said: "She is a marvellous person and one who shares her memories and freely expresses her opinions. A joy to know and always provides the visitor with a warm welcome."

Gifts of chants and music, and books

A collection of unpublished chants by the late Dr Harry Grindle, former organist at St Anne's Cathedral, is to be digitised and made available in the Cathedral Library, gifted by Mrs Heather Grindle.

St Anne's is also receiving Donald Davison's music books and organ music, the gift of Mrs Rosemary Davison. Donald was a member of Connor Diocesan Council and the organist at St John's Parish, Malone, for 36 years.

Eileen celebrates her 106th birthday!

Congratulations to Mrs Eileen Nutt, a parishioner of St Simon's, Belfast, who celebrated her 106th birthday on May 13!

Eileen has a lifelong connection with St Simon's. Originally from the Donegall Road area, she now lives in Adelaide House where her son Ernie, 87, is also a resident.

Eileen brought up Ernie and his sister Margaret alone when her husband went to mainland UK during the Depression and never returned.

During the war Eileen worked in a children's nursery and for many years was a clerical officer in Bannon's furniture shop before going back to work in a nursery in her later years. Ernie said she also looked after her brothers, one of whom had been torpedoed during the war.

Eileen was delighted to receive her birthday card from the Queen – always a very special one as she is a big fan of Her Majesty and the Royal family. "She loves the Queen," Ernie said. "She is the first down on the Lisburn Road with her wee flag every Twelfth!"

A great fan of Linfield, Eileen knows all the team's songs. She loves singing, and in her youth was also a great Irish dancer.

The Rev Raymond Moore, Priest-in Charge of St Simon's, helped Eileen open her many cards on the morning of her birthday. They included cards from Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Belfast and the Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev Alan Abernethy.



The late Canon Edgar Turner addressing Connor Diocesan Synod in September 2015.

Canon Edgar Turner - a man who 'saw God in all people'

It is with sadness we record the death on April 2 of the Rev Canon Edgar Turner, Principal Registrar with Connor Diocese.

Canon Turner was 96. Speaking at his funeral service in St George's, Belfast, the Venerable David Pierpoint, Archdeacon of Dublin, described him as a man who 'saw God in all people.'

Canon Turner served his curacy at All Saints', Kings Heath, Birmingham, from 1945-1951. He was Dean of Residence at Queen's University Belfast, 1951-1958, and was rector of St George's, Belfast, for 32 years, retiring in 1990.

He was Registrar of Connor Diocese for 24 years and continued to hold the honorary title of Principal Registrar of Connor.

He served on numerous diocesan and national Church committees and boards. This included 50-years' work with the Liturgical Advisory Committee and pioneering ecumenical work, including his involvement with the Northern Ireland Mixed Marriage Association.

Canon Turner had a prodigious knowledge of the Church of Ireland's canon law and Constitution.

He was a life-long follower of the Northern Ireland international football team and had been planning to travel to France for the European Cup Finals.

Canon Turner was predeceased by his wife Joan four years ago. He is survived by his son Justin and daughter Kate.



Birthday girl Eileen Nutt with her card from the Queen - the sixth she has received from Her Majesty!

Cathedral's successful Music Festival

Belfast Cathedral's 2016 Music Festival ended on Saturday May 28 with a superb concert in honour of the 90th birthday of Her Majesty The Queen.

This took place in the presence of Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Belfast, Mrs Fionuala Jay-O'Boyle CBE.

This festival finale was hosted by St Anne's in conjunction with the Ulster Society of Organists and Choirmasters. The Cathedral Choir was joined by the Cantate Domino Consort and the Junior Choir of Victoria College Belfast.

The Festival began the previous Sunday, May 22, with a concert by pupils from

the Cathedral's three Choir Schools – Edenbrooke, Sacred Heart and Cliftonville Integrated.

On May 25 Conor Breen, former member of the Cathedral Choir and NI Opera Young Artist, performed a recital of atmospheric music from Saint-Saëns, Hahn, Finzi, Mahler and Strass.

On May 26 the audience was guided to the north side of the choir stalls for an organ recital by Master of Choristers, David Stevens.

Soprano Andrea Delaney's recital on May 27 reflected well her title On a Wing and a Prayer.



Parishioners of Connor and St Patrick's Parish, Antrim, shared memories as they tucked into a birthday cake after a service on May 15 to celebrate St Patrick's Church turning 40. The Rev Ian Magowan is pictured with parishioners at the celebration.

Exhibition relives history of Bushmills during the two wars

Wartime sacrifices of people from Dunluce Parish and surrounding area have been commemorated each year for the past 10 years by a special exhibition in Bushmills.

The Bushmills Through the Wars exhibition, which this year runs from July 8-17, raises around £4,000 annually, with 50 per cent going to the church and the other half to another nominated charity. This year it is Connor's link Diocese of Yei in South Sudan.

The exhibition was established by Glenda Rodgers McCormick, a member of the select vestry of Dunluce Parish Church.

Many of the artefacts are from Glenda's own personal collections, built up over the years. Her father's cousin Robert Glenn was killed in action when HMS Hood was sunk and his uncle Jim McAllister was killed in action while serving as a submariner in the Royal Navy.

"My father's grandmother, my great grandmother Katy McAllister, would take out an old battered and much loved suitcase filled with all her treasured photographs, letters and medals of her only son and show them to me," Glenda said.

"I was always interested in these stories even as a child. When my dad died I inherited all these memories and they are very precious to me."

Glenda said that a large number of men from Bushmills gave their lives in the Great War, many of them brothers.

The same with the Second World War with names recorded on the parish's granite and hand written memorials.



Exhibition organiser Glenda Rodgers McCormick.

Glenda said that people have been so moved by the exhibition that they donated medals, photographs, and other items to her. "They know that they will be put out each year for all the public to see and appreciate," she said.

"Each year I try to add a new theme. Last year it was the Home Front complete with shop, rations etc, and this year it will be women's roles."

The exhibition will pay tribute to nurses, Sadie Hill, Annie Mary Gardiner, Emma Flake and others who served in the Great

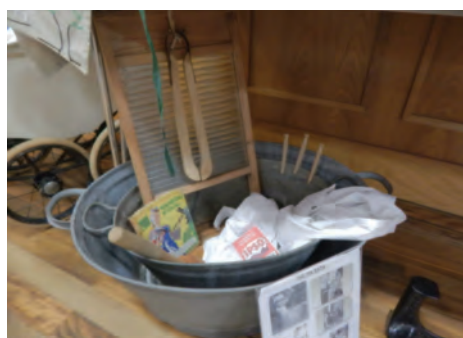
War, Elizabeth Clyde who was involved in the Land Army and among the many stories to read is one about the Lady who was one of the rat catchers.

The exhibition grows in size in collection and visitor terms. Tourists from all over the world call in when they visit Bushmills. The church is open so visitors can see the memorials.

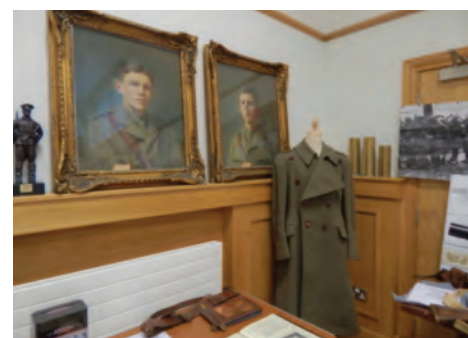
There are many anniversaries of the Great War this year. "People are fascinated with what happened during both wars, some are interested in the weaponry which I am not," said Glenda. "Many are interested in the humanitarian side, which is what I try to put forward. Children love the evacuees and the rations, the ladies love the fashions, jewellery and cosmetics."

Running alongside the exhibition will be a WW2 themed 'Forget-me-not' café serving cream teas. There will be music from the war years in the background and among the special exhibits there will be a WW2 jeep and an RAF car.

The exhibition is open Monday to Saturday from 10am-6pm, Sunday 2.30-6pm and is open late on Wednesday to 9pm.



Wartime memories - the old tin bath.



Memorabilia from the wars.



The Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev Alan Abernethy, once again led his very popular Lent Seminar Series. Over the course of five weeks, the Bishop delivered two seminars on the subject of Grace in Jordanstown Parish (pictured above), Dunluce Parish, Bushmills, and in Lisburn. Attendances over the six sessions totalled more than 800.



Margaret and Canon John McCammon, St Patrick's, Coleraine, at Bushmills.



Culfeightrin parishioners Nigel and Christine Mitchell at the Bushmills seminar.



Looking at the books on offer at the Book Well in Lisburn Cathedral.



Listening to Bishop Alan at one of the Lisburn Cathedral seminars.



Islandmagee parishioners Valerie Kincaid and Jim and Maureen Reid in Jordanstown.



Bishop Alan prepares to resume his talk after the refreshment break in Jordanstown.



Lent Seminar in Lisburn Cathedral.



People from 18 churches in Lisburn held 40 days and 40 nights of 'ReLENTless Prayer' for the City and its people during Lent. From February 10 until Easter Sunday they joined in constant prayer on a wide range of subjects including business, education, health and emergency services. Lisburn Cathedral, Christ Church, St Paul's and Derryvolgie Parish were among the churches taking part. Pictured at the launch of 'ReLENTless Prayer' are clergy and church leaders along with Councillor Thomas Beckett, Mayor of Lisburn and Castlereagh. Picture: John Kelly.

Fun for EVERYone at Love for Life party

More than 150 people of all ages attended a social evening in Lisburn Cathedral on Valentine's Night in support of Love for Life's EVERY campaign.

EVERY was launched in Connor Diocese in January, and Love for Life's Chief Executive Judith Cairns attended the Lisburn Cathedral event and also spoke at that morning's services.

On Valentine's night, a four course meal was punctuated with challenges as entertainment. These included the vicar being challenged to kiss EVERY adult woman on the cheek within three minutes, the parish's South Sudan team having to answer EVERY one of the questions posed about Yei Diocese, worship leader Grace having to sing EVERY element of the periodic table, and parishioner Tom

Stevenson having to make EVERYbody laugh!

Love for Life is a local charity which dreams of a culture where young people have a healthy respect for themselves, relationships and sex.

At the Connor launch in Antrim, Judith delivered training for clergy and staff from across the diocese. "Our young people are growing up in a world obsessed with image, technology and sex. We need to protect our young people, we need to inform our young people and we need to inspire our young people," she said.

Love for Life has worked closely with schools for many years to help them deliver high quality Relationships and Sexuality Education. This year Love for Life is offering every post-primary school across Northern Ireland a free programme.

Judith said: "We realise that schools are under increasing pressure but we believe that young people need and deserve to hear our positive message."

Love for Life is passionate about the local church playing its part in helping young people in this complex area of their lives. Four age-appropriate programmes are now available for youth and community groups across Northern Ireland. For further information on services that Love for Life can offer your church please contact the office on 028 3882 0555.

Superheros join the Big Church Serve!

Lisburn Cathedral had a truly super Holy Week and Easter as more than 150 people embarked on the Big Church Serve.

From Wednesday to Saturday, the team litter-picked, painted, planted, prayed and much more across the city centre and Hillhall.

One of the many highlights was Superhero World which saw more than 2,500 people pass through the Cathedral over four days with 3,000 specially designed comics telling the message of Easter handed out!

Lambeg appointment

The Rev Edmond (Eddie) Coulter, currently Superintendent of Irish Church Missions and senior pastor of Immanuel Church, Dublin, has been appointed rector of Lambeg.

A native of Lisburn, Eddie served curacies in Ballymena (1987-90) and Knockbreda (1990-92). He was rector of Upper Falls, Belfast, (1992 -97) and Milltown Parish, Armagh Diocese (1997- 2003) before he moved to Dublin.

Eddie is married to Hazel, and they have three children.

Summer Music series in Coleraine

St Patrick's Parish, Coleraine, hosts its annual Summer Music Programme during July and August.

The programme features a series of recitals to both entertain and relax over lunchtime.

The recitals start each Thursday at 12.30pm and last approximately 40 minutes. Recitals will be followed by refreshments. Admission is free. Full programme details at <http://www.stpats.co.uk/>

Thanksgiving service in Ballysillan

A Service of Thanksgiving was held in St Mark's Parish Church, Ballysillan, on May 1 to mark the 160th anniversary of the consecration of the church.

The church was built to serve the expanding village of Ligoniel and the surrounding area. The foundation stone was laid on May 25 1854 and the church was consecrated on May 11856.

The Service of Thanksgiving was conducted by the rector, the Rev Robin Moore, and the Rev William Hoey. The preacher was the Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev Alan Abernethy.

Glencairn reopens

After a gap of nearly a year and following much renovation and redecoration, St Andrew's Parish Church, Glencairn, reopened for worship on Sunday April 10.

Special guests at the reopening service were the Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev Alan Abernethy, and the Rev Canon Dr Heather Morris, former President of the Methodist Church in Ireland.



St Anne's Cathedral - A sacred space and place of worship in the heart of the City

Visitors to St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, will be transported on a journey through history, art, culture and music. Consecrated in 1904, St Anne's houses mosaics by Sir Charles Nicholson and sculptures by Rosamund Praegar and Maurice Harding. The Cathedral has its own labyrinth, spectacular stained glass and fine needlework. Highlights include the tomb of Lord Carson, the poignant Titanic Pall, the Military Chapel, the Baptistry and the stone pillars representing life and work in the city and province. We offer guided tours for individuals and groups (by prior arrangement). The Dean and community of St Anne's look forward to welcoming you.

- Four services daily
- Guided tours Mon-Sat 11am & 2pm
- Audio and group tours available
- The Chapel of the Holy Spirit is freely available for quiet prayer

