

CONNOR

connections

Youth
Streetreach
in north Belfast
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Eleanor working on an Advent quilt.

Stitching an Advent treat in St Cedma's

A group of nimble-fingered ladies in Larne are piecing together a fantastic Christmas exhibition of quilts.

The Parish Piecemakers of St Cedma's meet every Tuesday and for many months they have been sewing busily to create a unique and different exhibition.

The results will be on display during Advent - quilts depicting the Christmas story as revealed in the nine lessons of the traditional carol service.

Group organiser Anne Marcus said: "The Parish Piecemakers have been going for about 10 years but no-one can be quite sure as we have sewed and talked so much we can't remember!

"Many of us have faced testing times over the years but we all know that anyone can come in, be welcomed and included."

All of the ladies had sewn at school but

none had ever done patchwork. Anne said they began with simple patterns, making Irish Chain quilts out of squares, and progressed to triangles, appliqué etc, and as each person sewed they began to find their favourite elements.

The ladies then moved on to individual projects. "Over the years the work produced has been tremendous - every stitch is by hand - yes every stitch! No machines. It takes time but it gives purpose and pleasure," said Anne.

Their work has often been exhibited at coffee evenings held in the Parochial Hall, but now the parish is planning to build a new hall adjacent to St Cedma's.

"This requires a lot of money and so to

play our part in the fundraising efforts we decided to go one step further on our exhibitions," Anne said. "Last January we came up with the idea of holding a quilt exhibition in the church depicting the Christmas story.

"It has been fabulous - it started as an idea and from there we have designed and made a set of wall-hangings in patchwork sewn and quilted nearly entirely by hand. There was no great plan, rather the thing has grown organically as we talked, looked at ideas and sewed very hard!"

Each member gets sections for their 'homework.' "The enthusiasm has been unbelievable and to look at the results you could never guess that perhaps 14 different people sewed it!" Anne said.

Margaret Sittington has been a member for four years. She made her first quilt as a gift for her baby granddaughter. "It's great, it gets me out and stops me from eating," she joked. "When you have sewing in your hands you can't reach for a biscuit."

Eleanor Ellison has been with the group since it started. "I could sew but I was never a sewer," she said. "I enjoy it and I find I surprise myself. I have made bed quilts and have a table cloth on my table that I sewed in 2010."



Nimble fingers hard at work!

Eleanor McSeveney, aged 75, said: "I enjoy the company. Good friendships have been made here over the years. I find it relaxing and very therapeutic. If I am stressed this calms me down."

The rector of St Cedma's, Archdeacon Stephen Forde, said: "This is a unique event. It has been a huge combined effort by a really talented group of people. It will be an interesting and unusual take on a traditional Carol Service and I hope lots of people will come."

Quilts for Advent will open in St Cedma's Church on Saturday November 26 at 2pm and from then will be open each Saturday and Sunday from 2-4pm for three weeks, ending on December 11. Teas will be served in the adjoining hall.

More information from Anne Marcus on 028 2827 4304 or Parish Administrator Ann Shaw on 028 2827 4633.



The Parish Piecemakers with group organiser and tutor Anne Marcus, seated left.

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Cover photo: The 'Tree of Life' mural at Corrymeela. The leaves were embroidered by people from around the world. Pupils from Belfast Cathedral's Choir Schools enjoyed a day out at Corrymeela. See page 12.




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

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South Sudan – a tragic and difficult situation

The news from Yei in South Sudan has been very disturbing and sad. Bishop Hilary is obviously very concerned about his clergy, his people and everyone in Yei and beyond.

On October 3, Bishop Hilary wrote: "The situation seems to be becoming desperate around Yei town as rebels attacks move closer to town as far as four to five miles with heavy fighting....We can't predict how long it will take for air transport to cease operating into Yei to get cut off...."

Having been in Yei I can picture the scene and how difficult travel has been for many years. Bishop Hilary added: "Our biggest worry is the displaced that are desperately hungry under the mango trees at Immanuel Cathedral. In all there are over 60,000 displaced from their comfortable homes."

We were hoping to take a team to Yei in January for their diocesan anniversary celebrations but we are unable to travel for obvious safety reasons.

I am having conversations with CMSI and am in contact with Bishop Hilary, to see how we might be able to offer support to this tragic and difficult situation.

Please pray Bishop Hilary, Mama Joyce and all the people caught up in this violent and dangerous situation.

Grace and peace to you all,

+ Alan Connor



St Patrick's, Ballymena, was packed for a Service of Ordination of Priests in Connor Diocese on September 4. At the service, the Rev Denis Christie was ordained to serve as curate in the Parish of Ballymena; the Rev Aaron McAlister to serve as curate in All Saints', Antrim; and the Rev Isobel Hawthorne-Steel to serve as curate in St Paul and St Barnabas, Belfast. They were ordained on Sunday by the Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev Alan Abernethy. Pictured at the service are, back from left: The Rev John McClure, curate, St Patrick's; the Ven George Davison, Archdeacon of Belfast; the Ven Stephen Forde, Archdeacon of Dalriada; the Rev Mark McConnell, rector, St Patrick's, Ballymena. Front, from left: The Rev William Taggart, Registrar; the Rev Denis Christie; Bishop Alan Abernethy; the Rev Isobel Hawthorne-Steele; and the Rev Aaron McAlister

Great turnout for St Katharine's Fun Day

More than 260 local children and their families attended a Community Fun Day at St Katharine's, Belfast.

The free event was part of a new initiative by the parish to promote the church's ministry within the local community in this working class part of north Belfast.

Rector, the Rev Canon William Taggart, said the numbers were overwhelming.

"We were delighted to receive so much appreciation from people afterwards and it provides a welcome boost to our ongoing ministry in this area.

"I'm also very grateful to the other organisations that partnered with us on the day including local schools, the PSNI, St John Ambulance, the NI Fire Service and the Orphans and Children Society for their financial assistance."

Up to 1,000 attend silent Day of Prayer

The Rev Canon David Jardine, organiser of a Day of Prayer to find God's Peace in St Anne's Cathedral on September 17, said it had been a 'tremendous day.'

The public were invited to come to the Cathedral between 9am and 6pm, to pray in silence. A large wooden cross was erected on the Chancel steps, and the day began with church leaders of all denominations knelt in prayer at its foot. David estimates that 800 -1,000 people came in to pray during the day.

The event was originally to be held at Balmoral Park, Maze, Long Kesh, but was changed to St Anne's Cathedral after discussions with victims' groups.

Charity Commission

All 368 vestries in Northern Ireland are now successfully registered with the Charity Commission.

The Archbishop of Armagh, the Most Rev Dr Richard Clarke, thanked the select vestries. "The commitment of members of the select vestries as they engaged with this registration process has been remarkable," he said.

For parishes undertaking annual reporting, guidance is available at www.charitycommissionni.org.uk or email parishsupportofficer@rcbdub.org.

Agherton Lecture

The Archbishop of Armagh delivered the inaugural Annual Agherton Lecture in the newly augmented and refurbished Church of St John the Baptist in Agherton Parish, Portstewart, on June 13.

His topic was 'Redeeming the Church.' The lecture was masterfully argued and presented and made accessible through his examples from popular, classical and theological literature. Archdeacon Stephen McBride acted as MC.



The Rev Stephen Fielding, rector, Archbishop Dr Richard Clarke, speaker and Archdeacon Stephen McBride at the inaugural Agherton Lecture.



Mrs Jeanette Lundy with the defibrillator acquired by St Brigid's, Mallusk, in memory of Jeanette's late husband Hugh. Also in the picture are parish treasurer John White, who liaised with the British Heart Foundation, the rector the Rev Bill Boyce, and Hugh and Janette's daughters Agnes Colgan, Anne Campbell and Jeanette Allen.

St Brigid's installs life saving defibrillator

St Brigid's Parish, Mallusk, has installed a potentially life saving defibrillator and has been awarded a CPR training kit by the British Heart Foundation (BHF) Northern Ireland.

The family of the late Hugh Lundy gave the Newtownabbey church a generous donation towards the defibrillator in his memory. Hugh was a parishioner and member of the church choir.

The parish applied to the BHF for a National of Lifesavers package, and has been awarded the Call Push Rescue training kit. This contains everything needed to learn CPR in half an hour.

The defibrillator is a portable device that can be used by a member of the public to help restart the heart when someone has had a cardiac arrest. For every minute that passes without defibrillation and CPR, chances of survival decrease by around 10 per cent.

It is therefore vital that members of the congregation and local community who use the church and its halls know both the steps to help someone in an emergency.

The BHF says that approximately 1,400 cardiac arrests happen out of hospital in Northern Ireland every year, but currently less than one in 10 people survive. The charity wants to create a 'Nation of Lifesavers' in a bid to boost these alarming survival rates.

The Rev Bill Boyce, rector of St Brigid's, said: "We are delighted to have raised enough money to help fund the defibrillator

through the generous donation in memory of our much-loved parishioner Huge Lundy. We are extremely grateful to his family for helping us achieve this.

"The defibrillator will be for the use of the church and all the community organisations who use our building.

"As a centre of our community it is vital to be able to administer lifesaving CPR and defibrillation. It was very important to us as a church that we have these facilities for our parishioners and the surrounding community."

Janette Lundy, wife of the late Hugh, extended the family's thanks to treasurer John White of St Brigid's for liaising with the BHF to secure the defibrillator and the CPR training.

Jayne Murray, Head of the British Heart Foundation Northern Ireland, said: "We are delighted that St Brigid's have joined BBHF Northern Ireland's National of Lifesavers campaign by making a defibrillator available in the church and teaching CPR locally. It could really be the difference between life and death."

BHF NI asks for a contribution of £400 towards each defibrillator as part of the Community Package. To find out more visit www.bhf.org.uk.

The Diocese of Connor / Church Army North Belfast Centre of Mission now has a bricks and mortar presence on the Shankill Road.

Connect Base is open for business in the Spectrum Centre and Church Army Evangelists Karen Webb and Stephen Whitten are welcoming local people in for tea and a chat, and discussing other missional opportunities with parishes, schools and community groups in the area.

Connect Base offers a great space. There is a comfortable sitting area, with sofas and coffee tables, a multi-purpose room with a large table which can be used for meetings, homework clubs and round-table chats, a kitchen, office space, and a relaxing prayer room.

Lead Pioneer Evangelist Karen Webb said: "Between now and Christmas we will be engaging with parishes and local people to find out the best way to use the centre."

Parishes will be invited to visit Connect Base to share their visions and ideas for the centre, and hopefully become involved with the Centre of Mission.

Connect Base may host a youth drop-in facility, and Karen and Stephen have also identified a need for a homework club. "We will be working with Connor Children's Officer Jill Hamilton, who will spend part of her time in Connect Base, and her training, both as a teacher and in special needs education, will be invaluable," Karen said.

The drop-in facility will not be limited to young people - when Connect Base is open anyone will be welcome - indeed many local people have already stopped by to find out what it is all about.

The team has been working with Church of Ireland parishes within the Mid Belfast Rural Deanery. "We want them to feel a sense of ownership. This is not just



Church Army Evangelists Stephen Whitten and Karen Webb, North Belfast Centre of Mission, outside Connect Base in Shankill Road.

Centre of Mission opens Shankill 'Base'

our space, but their space too," Karen said. "Having a base in the middle of the community that is not a church building gives us the freedom to connect with people who would not go into church.

"We are working with a diocese but are right in the heart of the community, and we are very clear in our identity. Bishop Alan said he would like this to be a lighthouse for other parts of the diocese."

Stephen said that the Centre of Mission was very much a resource for all of Connor Diocese. "We are keen to get involved in helping parishes where we can, and this gives us something more concrete in terms of our work here," he said.

Working alongside Karen, Stephen and Jill in Connect Base will be Christina

Baillie, Diocesan Youth Officer. The team is supported by Diocesan Development Officer Trevor Douglas.

Trevor said: "Thanks to the Church of Ireland Orphans and Children Society for funding this project for the next four years, and also thanks to the Church of Ireland Priorities Fund. Without this help the project would not have gone as planned.

"The project itself is based in the Centre of Mission on the Shankill Road, however this base will also be used for training in children's work and evangelism for parishes across the diocese."

Any parish interested in availing of this opportunity should contact the team. Details on the Connor Diocesan website.

June institution in Ballymena Parish

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.

A native of Lisburn, Mark was previously rector of the United Parish of Ballynure and Ballyeaston. Prior to that he was rector in Killyleagh, Co Down, and previously served curacies in Bangor Parish, Co Down, and Christ Church Parish, Bedford.

Mark is pictured at the service with his wife Cherith and children Daniel, Matthew and Erin.



Streetreach sees prayers answered

Connor Streetreach 2016 allowed young people from across the diocese to live out their discipleship together while working with local communities in north Belfast.

The young people were involved in running kids' clubs, gardening, providing activities in homes for the elderly, praying for others, hosting community festivals and bringing the love of God to all they encountered.

The team was made up of young people age 15 plus from parishes including

Ballymena, Antrim, Belfast and Lisburn.

Many of the young people started Streetreach feeling anxious about new and different experiences outside of their comfort zone, but as the team bonded during morning team time, each young person jumped into each new challenge expectant at what God would do through them.

Diocesan Youth Officer Christina Baillie said: "We saw children learn about our

incredible God, young people challenged through the witness of faithful disciples, our team praying for individuals in the community with various needs and we saw prayers being answered.

"We are incredibly thankful for the partnership with the Rev Emma Rutherford and the Rev Tracey McRoberts and their parishes in supporting the team through hospitality and connections within the local community."

Christina continued: "The Streetreach team is glad to be part of the continuing witness within these communities and the team will continue to pray for all that is being done through the local parishes. Thank you to all who prayed for the team, we are so grateful!"

Each young person left Streetreach with a devotional with 14 sessions to help them personally consider the experience of Streetreach and how it can impact the rest of their lives. Please pray as the young people continue to use these and put their discipleship into practice each and every day.

The Engage Connor Youth team is thankful for all those who supported this valuable missional opportunity for young people which sees lives transformed and faith developing in just a few short days.

Streetreach 2017 will take place from July 4-7 and the diocesan youth council will be inviting parishes to apply to host Streetreach 2017. An expression of interest form is available on the diocesan website, or contact Christina on 07753 312405 or christina@connor.anglican.org.



Music on the streets of north Belfast during Streetreach 2016 in July.

Bring on the burgers at Summer Madness!

Young people from parishes across Connor Diocese had a fantastic time at Summer Madness 2016 - despite the rain!

The Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev Alan Abernethy, joined them for a barbecue, and helped cook the burgers and sausages.

Diocesan Youth Officer Christina Baillie said: "It is great to have the Bishop's support and see the young people engage with the diocese. Words cannot express our gratitude to Canon Mark Taylor for his service and bringing together the groups of Connor through the ministry of food!"



Enjoying the Connor barbecue at Summer Madness!

Leaders' retreat

Engage Connor Youth is hosting a Retreat for Youth Leaders at Drumalis Conference Centre, Larne, on Saturday November 12.

The event, from 10am – 2pm, will be helpful to anyone involved in leading young people across the diocese, including volunteer leaders and leaders of uniformed organisations.

Worship will be led by Jude Frame, and Judith Cairns, Chief Executive of Love for Life, will contribute.

Cost is £5 and this includes lunch and a resource pack.

Another date for the diary is December 10 when the annual Christmas EVENT takes place in Antrim.



Young people had a fantastic time at the Connor Takes the Castle Weekend in September.

A fantastic time 'taking the Castle!'

From quality food to outrageous games, from great discussions to singing God's praise, from water fights to quiet reflection – the Connor Takes the Castle Weekend had it all!

Connor Youth Council welcomed groups from across the diocese to the fantastic Castlewellan Castle to share in the fun from September 2-4.

Stephen Whitten, Church Army Evangelist with the North Belfast Centre of Mission, and Christina Baillie, Connor Diocesan Youth Officer, led the sessions on the theme of fear and speaking God's truth into our fears.

Christina said: "We decided to speak on this topic as fear can be such a common emotion but can be really difficult to talk about. Fearfulness can stop us living our lives fully for God but we wanted the young people to understand how God's perfect love casts out fear and how we all can claim the promise of being a child of God.

"The sessions were made up of interactive activities, worship, discussion and bible study which the young people engaged with really well."

For the rest of the weekend, the young people took part in Fear Factor games including some strange or scary activities.

There were competitive games on Saturday culminating in the grand finale

of 'Connor's Got Talent' which had all the young people involved in acting out a skit with some incredible performances.

And, helped by the rain, the young people enjoyed a water fight and slip & slide!

In their feedback, young people from St Patricks, Coleraine, said: "We had a great time at Castlewellan Castle. It was good to have time to sing about God and learn more about Him that was just for us.

"One of the things that we enjoyed most about Castlewellan was the opportunity to go somewhere together as a youth group and to get to make new friends with people from other groups. We just really enjoy things like this that give us a chance to go away together and learn about God. We would highly recommend that everyone try to go to events like this."

Christina said: "Thanks to Connor Youth Council for all the hard work put into organising the weekend. Thank you to all the leaders for bringing their young people along. A massive thanks to Kate Peden and Adam Girvin from St Jude's, Muckamore for leading our worship so wisely throughout the weekend, and to Matthew Cairns for the audio/visuals."

New ministries set up at Christ Church Parish, Lisburn

Children's and Youth Ministry is developing fast in Christ Church, Lisburn.

The parish has several well established ministries engaging with children, young people and families, including the Girls' Friendly Society and Guides.

Under the Rev Paul Dundas and parish volunteers, new ministries have included a Summer Holiday Bible Club and a Youth Fellowship on Sunday evenings, supported by Diocesan Youth Officer Christina Baillie and the Rev Julie Bell.

The Fellowship has a discipleship focus and is an opportunity for young people to come together on a social level.

Christina said: "We really want to celebrate all that is being done in the parish by Paul, Julie and the team of volunteers and all that it means for the children, youth and families within the parish."

Victoria Jackson, Northern Ireland Development Officer for Church Lads & Church Girls Brigade, has been working with the parish to develop a Church Lads' Brigade.

Victoria said: "We are so excited to be starting up a new Church Lads' Brigade group in Christ Church, for the boys of the parish and also to reach out to boys in the community. The Rev Paul Dundas, had recognised a need for a ministry to boys and I am delighted to now have the opportunity to work alongside the Parish to help meet this need."

Hold South Sudan in your prayers

Hundreds of people are sheltering outside the Cathedral in Connor's partner diocese of Yei, South Sudan as civil unrest continues to threaten lives and property.

Archdeacon Stephen Forde appealed to Connor Synod on September 28 to 'hold Yei, Bishop Hilary and the people we have got to know' in their prayers.

The latest news from Yei comes via Church Mission Society Ireland (CMSI) who reported that increased tensions and political in-fighting had been sparked by a confrontation between different factions in the capital Juba in early July. This confrontation resulted in the cancellation of a planned visit to Yei by a team from Lisburn Cathedral

"Life has become increasingly challenging with a breakdown in law and order, confusion politically, insecurity across the nation, transport and communication links badly affected and inflation spiralling out of all control," CMSI reported.

"There are shortages of the most basic necessities and mobile and internet connections sporadic at best and in many places non-existent.

"It is impossible to keep up with the catalogue of atrocities and human misery. For many, life has become a matter of survival on a day to day basis, with a desperate search for places of safety, for food and water. In towns there are acute shortages of food and clean water. Shops are empty, fuel has run out."

CMSI said Yei town has been very badly affected by the instability. "Rumours of armed groups roaming the countryside are causing great fear. Shooting incidents in the town are a common occurrence. Ambushes on the road have effectively stopped imports and public transport.

"Bishop Hilary with the other church leaders in Yei have appealed to the UN for emergency food relief. In the countryside around Yei there are many reports of attacks at night, homes burnt, people being killed, property looted.

"Refugees fleeing the countryside around Yei have chosen to use tracks through the bush to cross the border to Uganda or DR Congo."

All schools, Yei Teacher Training College and the Bishop Alison Theological College are closed, with teachers and families having fled to refugee camps or deep into rural areas.

In the week of Connor Synod, the Bishop emailed: "As I write, there are more than 200 families displaced to the church compound. We have no food to give them and our facilities cannot take them all. We are worried because of cholera outbreaks that always follow congested humans living in a small area with no proper sanitary facilities.

"We urgently need humanitarian intervention with food and non food materials like water, mosquito nets, ORS, etc.

"The medical outlets in town cannot provide services. All



Old Mission Road, Yei, in 2013. The peace of this very new country has been shortlived.

staff have fled and there is no medicine around. Only Yei Civil Hospital operates at very reduced levels."

In an later email, Bishop Hilary stated: "Our biggest worry is the displaced who are desperately hungry under the mango trees at Immanuel Cathedral. In all there are over 60,000 displaced from their comfortable homes."

The UN have reported that 100,000 people are now trapped in Yei town and more than 1,000,000 have fled the country since July, many of these are now in northern Uganda.

Magheragall family's amazing sacrifice

As the sacrifices in the Battle of the Somme were remembered last July, one Magheragall parishioner reflected on his own family's huge sacrifice.

On July 1, at an early morning service of remembrance at the War Memorial in Castle Street, Lisburn, Cyril Hawthorne learned that the city council will add the names of his grandfather Thomas and his great uncle Albert to its Memorial.

Thomas was killed in action at the Somme on July 1 1916. He had enlisted at Lisburn, and served in B Company 11 Royal Irish Rifles. He was one of eight brothers to enlist at the start of World War One.

A wartime newspaper cutting reads: "Many instances of patriotism of family have come to light in the North of Ireland but few if any can excel that of Mrs Hawthorne of Magheragall, Lisburn, who has given no fewer than eight sons to the army.... The record of her family is a splendid one and we congratulate her on giving eight astute sons to the service of the King."



Verner Moore, Robena Rimmer (nee Hawthorne) Deputy Mayor of Lisburn, Alderman Stephen Martin, Cyril Hawthorne, the Rev Nicholas Dark, and Joyce McComb (nee Hawthorne), at Lisburn War Memorial.

Whistles at St Simon's

Whistles sounded during an early morning service at St Simon's, Belfast, on July 1 in tribute to the men from the Donegall and Grosvenor Road areas who lost their lives in the Battle of the Somme.

The 'Over the Top' service was conducted by the Rev Raymond Moore.

To mark the moment the Lochnagar mine (the first of 19 deep mines to go off that day) exploded, the church organ sounded a loud blast, and the congregation moved outside where whistles were blown, followed by The Last Post, a silence, the Ode of Remembrance and the Reveille.

Raymond said the War Memorial from St Philip's (Drew Memorial) – now closed – bears the names of 30 men who died during the course of World War One. The memorial in St Simon's has eight names.



Victoria Cross Citations were read at the service in St Anne's Cathedral by the descendants of four soldiers awarded the VC for acts of valour at the Somme.

Remembering the Battle of the Somme

St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, was packed on July 3 for a moving service to commemorate those who died or were injured or bereaved at the Battle of the Somme 100 years earlier.

The sermon was preached by the Dean of Belfast, the Very Rev John Mann, who said that the 1,250,000 who died in the battle was 'a number too great to contemplate, too high to imagine.' He said that the service commemorated 'not a statistic but a human tragedy, a catastrophe.'

The names of 17 sets of brothers from Ulster who died on the first day of the battle were read out, and the citations of four members of the 36th (Ulster) Division who were awarded the Victoria Cross for acts of valour at the Somme were read by their descendants.

The service was attended by First Minister Arlene Foster, Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the County Borough of Belfast, Mrs Fionnuala Jay-O'Boyle CBE, and the Lord Mayor of Belfast, Alderman Brian Kingston.

The Northern Ireland Military Wives Choir sang the poignant 'Bring Him Home' from 'Lès Miserables,' accompanied by members of the Band of the Royal Signals.

The Battle of the Somme lasted from July 1 1916 until November 18 1916. At the end of nearly five months of fighting there were 420,000 British, 200,000 French and 660,000 German casualties.

In just two days the 36th (Ulster) Division saw 2,000 killed. Four members of the Division were awarded the Victoria Cross

for acts of valour. They were Rifleman William Frederick McFadzean VC, The Royal Irish Rifles; Captain Eric Norman Frankland Bell VC, The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers; Rifleman Robert Quigg VC, The Royal Irish Rifles; and Lieutenant Geoffrey Cather VC, The Royal Irish Fusiliers. Their citations were read at the service.

The names of the so called Band of Brothers, the 17 sets of brothers from Ulster killed on July 1 1916, were read by Lt Col Kingsley Donaldson, WW1 Centenary Committee Secretary, and Rt Hon Sir Jeffrey Donaldson MP, Committee Chairman, to accompaniment by Tracey McCrory. These losses were representative of the wider suffering of families throughout Ulster and Ireland.

The members of the 16th (Irish) Division were also remembered in recognition of their heroic service and sacrifice at Guillemont and Ginchy in September 1916.

The service included an Act of Remembrance and the laying of wreaths at the War Memorial. Representatives of churches in Northern Ireland lead prayers specially written for this Somme commemoration.

This service was organised by St Anne's Cathedral in conjunction with the Northern Ireland First World War Centenary Committee.



At Diocesan Synod are, from left: Bishop Noel Treanor, Roman Catholic Bishop of Down and Connor; Mr David Ritchie, Chief Officer of the RCB; the Most Rev Eamon Martin Roman Catholic Archbishop of Armagh, guest speaker; and the Rt Rev Alan Abernethy, Bishop of Connor.



Ladies from Church of the Good Shepherd, Monkstown, and St John and St Ninian, Whitehouse, with the Rev Canon Ruth Patterson.



Archbishop Eamon Martin and Bishop Alan Abernethy on stage during the evening question and answer session.



Members listen to the business of Synod in Carrickfergus Methodist Centre.



Synod 2016 Re-imaginin

In his address to the annual Diocesan Synod, Bishop Alan Abernethy, said he prayed that the previous year's disputes would be 'something that I

The Bishop told Synod, held in Carrickfergus Methodist Centre on September 28, that within the local community there is still 'a real difficulty in dealing with the past.'

"I do believe that the legacy of the past is something we cannot avoid as we seek to build a better future. It will need courage, grace and wisdom but we must find ways of living with the past that can honour all and recognise deep and unresolved pain," the Bishop said.

He said many parishes in the diocese had faced change in the past year. "I am increasingly convinced that groups and unions are not the way forward in terms of reshaping parish life, we need to find new models of ministry and parish.

"The issue that concerns me most is the isolation and loneliness that can be the lot of parish clergy. I do want to find ways of



Bishop Alan leads the Service of Holy Communion in St Nicholas, Carrickfergus, before Synod.

5 focuses on ng Church

d, the Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev Alan
s weekend's agreement in the north Belfast
helps us move to a better tomorrow.'

making parish ministry something that can
be done as team with limited resources."

Bishop Abernethy also referred to
restructuring of the administration of the
two dioceses of Down and Dromore and
Connor. "Change is never easy but I do
believe this will help us as a diocese as we
look to the future," the Bishop said.

He said it was exciting to see Connor's
Centre of Mission established with the
opening of Base Connect in Shankill Road,
describing it as a great asset to the local
churches and the wider diocese. "I am
convinced that alongside traditional church
we need to find ways of connecting with
people who are not going to come to
church and we have to be willing to take
risks to do so," he said.

The Bishop expressed sadness that he will
be unable to travel to Connor's link diocese
in Yel in South Sudan in January. "Please

pray for this country as it seeks to find a
better future from some tragic and painful
hurts of the past that keep coming back to
destroy hope and peace," he said.

Guest speaker was the Roman Catholic
Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of
All-Ireland, The Most Rev Eamon Martin.
He spoke inspirationally about re-imagining
church in the present culture and the need
to take risks and 'get out there.'

Earlier, members watched a video showing
how three Connor parishes are doing
very different – and innovative – things to
connect with the communities they serve.

Featured parishes were St Jude's,
Muckamore, which among other things
organises a festival during the week of the
annual Eleventh Night Bonfire; Ballymoney
Parish which has refurbished its old
Schoolhouse and now runs a monthly
contemporary worship there; and St
Aidan's in Sandy Row which runs a thriving
charity shop and a vibrant Messy Church.

During the afternoon business session,
members stood for a minute's silence in
respect of the late Canon Edgar Turner,
Connor's Senior Registrar, who died in
April at the age of 96. The tribute came
before Registrar Canon William Taggart
read communications from General Synod,
something Canon Turner had done for
many Synods previously.



Paddy Wallace with Diocesan MU President Valerie Ash at the MU stand.



Diocesan Development Officer Trevor Douglas and the Rev Lynne Gibson.



Frank Foster, St Matthew's, Belfast, and Jack Briggs, St Mark's, Ballysillan.



Enjoying a chat at the CMSI stand at Synod.

Choir School pupils have a fun day out

Twenty children from two of St Anne's Cathedral's Choir Schools travelled from north Belfast to the north coast on September 27 to spend a day with the Corrymeela Community.

Corrymeela is Northern Ireland's oldest peace and reconciliation organisation so it was a perfect venue to bring children involved in this cross community project together to get to know each other.

The pupils came from Edenbrooke Primary School and Cliftonville Integrated. The Cathedral Choir School Project works in these schools and Sacred Heart Primary, teaching choral singing to all the children in the school setting during term time. Some of the children progress to the St Anne's Boys' and Girls' choirs.

At a sun-soaked Corrymeela the fun included songs and games, a challenging 'Corry Hunt,' a lunch of burgers and salad with Corrymeela volunteers, and the children gave a short concert. Before going home they each came up with a word to describe how they had felt about the day, and these included 'happy,' 'brilliant,' 'fantastic,' 'brave,' 'blessed,' and 'friendship.' When asked who had made a new friend, almost every hand shot up!

Dean's Vicar, the Rev Mark Niblock, gave a blessing before the children returned to the bus. "Go from here with kind words and actions," he told them. "Not only can we receive a blessing but we can also be a blessing to other people."



Alicia and Abigail get to know one another during the Corry Hunt at Corrymeela.

St Patrick's turns 40

Parishioners of Connor and St Patrick's Parish, Antrim, shared memories as they tucked into a birthday cake to celebrate St Patrick's Church turning 40.

St Patrick's came into being on May 3 1976. To mark the anniversary, parishioners enjoyed refreshments and chat after the service on May 15.



A local hero remembered

The Rev John Anderson beside the Statue of Robert Quigg VC which he dedicated in the presence of The Queen in Bushmills.

Her Majesty the Queen visited Bushmills on June 28 to unveil a statue of World War One hero Rifleman Robert Quigg, lifelong member of Billy Parish.

The rector of Billy and Derrykeighan, the Rev John Anderson, dedicated the statue in the presence of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh.

This special event was organised by the Robert Quigg VC Commemoration Society, whose chairman Leonard Quigg, hon treasurer of Drumtallagh Parish, is a great great nephew of Robert Quigg.

Rifleman Robert Quigg received the Victoria Cross, the highest military honour awarded for valour in the British Commonwealth, for his actions at the Battle of the Somme.

His medal citation reports that: ".....early next morning, hearing a rumour that his platoon officer was lying out wounded, he went out seven times to look for him under heavy shell and machine-gun fire, each time bringing back a wounded man. The last man he dragged in on a waterproof sheet from within a few yards of the enemy's wire. He was seven hours engaged in this most gallant work, and finally was so exhausted that he had to give it up."

The last casualty that Quigg saved was Robert Matthews, from the village of Mosside, less than six miles from Bushmills. Sadly, in all those seven hours, Quigg never found his platoon commander.

To commemorate Robert Quigg's bravery in this the centenary year of the Battle of the Somme, the Society appointed David Annand to create his sculpture. David has worked on several high profile public sculptures of famous people, including Robert Dunlop in Ballymoney.

Her Majesty unveiled the statue just days

before the 100th anniversary of the start of the Battle of the Somme.

At the service of dedication, John was assisted by the Rev Victor Dobbin, retired Chaplain General and a former Chaplain to the Queen. Representatives from Billy Parish were among the invited guests.

Robert Quigg died in 1955 and is buried at Billy Parish Church. John said his grave had become such a focus of attention that signs had to be erected.

"He was a very private man, but he is a real local hero," John said. "I was not formally introduced to Her Majesty at the service but she nodded a hello when she arrived and when everyone was seated she looked over to me as if to say 'Get on with it!'"

"I sat beside her and brushed shoulders with the Duke of Edinburgh, and I also met First Minister Arlene Foster."

John added: "It was a great occasion and I was glad to be part of it."

You can learn more about this local hero by visiting the Robert Quigg VC Commemoration Society website <http://www.robertquiggvc.com/>



Her Majesty seated beside the Rev John Anderson at the dedication of the statue to Robert Quigg VC.

Clergy appointments

The Rev Eddie Coulter, Superintendent of Irish Church Missions and senior pastor of Immanuel Church, Dublin, was instituted as rector of Lambeg on October 13.

Eddie was a member of Lisburn Cathedral when called to Ordination in 1984. He was ordained in Connor Diocese in 1987. He served his first curacy in Ballymena (1987-90) and a second curacy in Knockbreda, Diocese of Down and Dromore (1990-92).

In 1992 Eddie returned to Connor Diocese as rector of Upper Falls, Belfast, and in 1997 moved to Milltown Parish in Armagh Diocese. He remained rector there until 2003 when he moved to Dublin.

The Rev Arthur Young, rector of Kill o' the Grange Parish, Diocese of Dublin, has been appointed incumbent of St Paul's Parish, Lisburn.

Arthur worked in the DIY trade before studying at Belfast Bible College and completing a Degree through Liverpool University. He moved to England where he was a youth worker in Leeds and London.

Arthur was ordained in 2001. He was curate assistant in Donaghadee for three years, before being appointed rector of All Saints', Tullylish, Diocese of Down and Dromore, where he remained for nine years until his appointment to Kill o' the Grange in 2013. The institution in St Paul's will take place on October 20 at 8pm.

The Rev Canon David Humphries, incumbent of the Parish of Stormont, Diocese of Down and Dromore, has been appointed as rector of the Parish of Kilbride, Diocese of Connor. The institution will take place on November 8.

The Rev Campbell Dixon MBE, a member of the clergy team at St Anne's Cathedral, was introduced as Priest-in-Charge of St Mark's Parish Church, Ballysillan, on October 9.

Campbell worked with the police service for 33 years before training for ordination, and was curate in St Patrick's, Jordanstown, for four and a half years before his appointment to St Anne's Cathedral.

The Rev Canon Denise Acheson, former Dean's Vicar at St Anne's Cathedral, is to take up a new temporary position with the clergy team at Lisburn Cathedral.

Denise, who lives in Lisburn, begins at Christ Church Cathedral on October 16 in a part-time capacity.



Members of the Chapter of St Saviour, Connor, at the installation service in Lisburn Cathedral on September 8. Back, from left: Archdeacon Stephen Forde; Canon James Carson, Canon Peter Galbraith; Canon William Taggart. Front, from left: Canon John Budd; Canon Derek Kerr; Dean Sam Wright and Canon George Graham.

St Saviour's reshuffle!

A service of Installation of Canons in the Chapter of St Saviour, Connor, took place in Christ Church Cathedral, Lisburn, on Thursday September 8.

It followed the retirement of the Rev Canon George Irwin, and during the service the Rev Canon Derek Kerr, rector of Drummaul, Duneane and Ballyscullion, was installed as Prebendary of Cairncastle.

Those installed in new positions in the Chapter were: The Rev Canon George Graham – Chancellor; the Rev Canon John Budd – Precentor; and the Rev Canon Jim Carson – Treasurer.

The following positions within the Chapter remain the same: Dean - the Very Rev Sam Wright; Archdeacon of Connor - the Venerable Stephen McBride; Archdeacon of Dalriada - the Venerable Stephen Forde; Prebendary of Kilroot - the Rev Canon William Taggart; Prebendary of Rasharkin - the Rev Canon Chris Easton; Prebendary of Connor - the Rev Canon Peter Galbraith.

The preacher was Dean Sam Wright.

Institution of Lynne Gibson in Ballymacash



The Rev Lynne Gibson, front, centre, with the Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev Alan Abernethy, right, and the Dean of Belfast, the Very Rev John Mann, who preached at the institution in Ballymacash, and other clergy.

The institution of the Rev Lynne Gibson as rector of St Mark's, Ballymacash, took place on Wednesday September 7.

Lynne was curate assistant at St Mark's, Dundela, for six years. She previously studied German and Biblical Studies at the

University of St Andrew's, and worked with the Social Security Agency for 18 years.

Lynne's home parish was St Finian's, Cregagh. She studied at the Church of Ireland Theological College and was ordained in 2010.



Making lion masks at St Aidan's Messy Church.

Fun at Messy Church

Messy Church at St Aidan's Parish in Sandy Row has been running for several years and the team welcomes a faithful group of families every month.

The programme is simple – tea, coffee, juice and biscuits for everyone to begin with and an easy-to-do craft, colouring or puzzle sheet for the children, another more challenging craft where parents get stuck in and help the kids, a celebration time with songs, a story and a prayer all rounded off by a fantastic sit down meal.

At a recent Messy Church, the theme was prayer and the bible story was Daniel - the man of prayer who wouldn't bow down to King Nebuchadnezzar and so got himself thrown into the lion's den. The children created some fantastic lion masks!

The previous month, everyone was asked to write down what they liked about

Messy Church so that a Messy Church prayer could be put created. Alison Shaw, family worker, put all the ideas together into a prayer which she printed and the children decorated it with their hand prints. Everyone said the prayer together at the end of Messy Church and took the decorated copy home.

Mealtime is a chance for everyone to chat and enjoy the food. Choices include pizza and chilli or curry with chips and salad. The adults all pitch in and tidy away the tables.

Anyone interested in Messy Church should contact Connor Children's Project Development Officer Jill Hamilton at jill@connor.anglican.org.

First Holiday Bible Club for St Peter's

St Peter's, Belfast, held its first Holiday Bible Club in August, organised by Frank Dillon, parish Children and Family Worker.

Frank has been working tirelessly to build up the number of children engaging with activities at St Peter's by providing fun, friendly, child focused events with a great message about Jesus told in a relevant and up to date way.

The club followed the theme of the popular Disney movie 'Inside out,' taking a different emotion from the movie as the theme on each of these five evenings. "This took us on a journey, explaining anger and how to properly deal with it, looking at fear and how God is with us in everything and many other aspects," said Frank.

"Over the week, we had over 20 children attend, which is a great number for this part of north Belfast, and we hope to build on what we have seen this year in both numbers and content!"

Huge turnout at St Paul's, Lisburn

An action packed Activity Week hosted by St Paul's Parish, Lisburn, proved so popular registration had to be suspended after the first two days!

Events ran from July 25-29. On the first night, around 120 kids checked in at the church hall to enjoy crafts, games, drama and stories and a host of other activities.

On the Tuesday night 146 children enjoyed crafts and football fun. Organisers were delighted with the response, but to ensure the health and safety of children and the great team of leaders, had to close registration.

Games and sport were the main theme of Wednesday night, while on Thursday there was street dance and a huge parachute Friday was a great night of family fun, face painting, doodlebugs, Sumo, bouncy castle, a visit from the Mayor and Lady Mayoress, and a very successful BBQ.

Following the BBQ, the excess food was taken to the homeless in Belfast.

Ahoghill finds Dory!

St Colmanell's, Ahoghill, ran a very successful Holiday Bible Club on the theme 'Finding Jesus' - based on the movie 'Finding Dory.'

A great week of Bible teaching, stories, games, crafts, singing and encouragement was led by a group of 20 plus parishioners.



The Transforming Work programme has been introduced in Lisburn Cathedral by Arthur Canning, left, and Drew Johnston.

Life-changing men's project in Lisburn

An initiative to take mission out into the community seven days a week has been set up in Lisburn Cathedral, with 69 men joining London Institute for Contemporary Christianity's (LICC) Transforming Work programme.

The programme is already in place in other parts of UK, and has been introduced here by Cathedral parishioners Arthur Canning and Drew Johnston.

Arthur said: "We have watched with interest the work of many organisations who have been placing a renewed emphasis on the fact that the Lord is interested in all the things that we do and not just what happens on a Sunday. The LICC is one such organisation and has done research into the 'workplace' and the theology surrounding that.

"LICC has coined the term the 'secular/sacred divide.' This is the commonly held belief that what people do on a Sunday, for example at church, is more important than the many things the majority do as their daily work 40 hours or more each week."

In response, LICC produced study resources including 'Transforming Work.' Mark Green, Executive Director of LICC says many workers today feel that what they do is undervalued. "However all work is important and we must not underestimate the value of what each of us does as His servants/agents here on earth," he said.

With the support of the Dean of Connor and rector of Lisburn Cathedral, the Very Rev Sam Wright, Arthur and Drew held an information meeting for men in April.

"To our surprise we gathered 69 names. Working with the course guidelines we have now formed six groups each with two leaders to study the course over the next few months. The journey has begun," Arthur said.

"There has been a lot of enthusiasm as the realisation takes hold that all the things that we do really do matter together with the importance of each individual calling. It is this calling that each of us will have to give an account for. We believe the outcome could be life changing for many."

Drew said the project would complement work that goes on in churches. "The church does vitally important work with



Tim Flanigan, Glenn Steenson and Phil McConnell have all become involved in the Transforming Work initiative at Lisburn Cathedral.

youth groups, Sunday School, older people's groups, evangelical work, house groups etc, but our mission is about going out into the workplace, supermarket, sports clubs. In these areas we can be more effective for Christ as that is where we spend most of our time," he explained.

Arthur added that men sometimes struggle with the relevance of what they do Monday to Friday. "There is no hierarchy of importance in preaching. What we do in God's world is important. The challenge is we have to live out our faith as we are, being and doing things with integrity, honesty, compassion, and sincerity.

'The challenge is we have to live out our faith as we are'

"We need to not only come to church on a Sunday, we need to celebrate the Lord on Monday out there in our world, and the church needs to empower us. We are not saying we know what the next step is. We will pray about it and listen to the men."

Transforming Work is delivered in eight sessions. It is accompanied by an app which helps participants see where God is already at work through them and to spot other opportunities in their everyday work.

Drew said: "This is about living out our faith in our interactions with other people. It may lead to us telling them why we do what we do, but it is not about going out and preaching to people."

The six groups have each a balance of age, interests and experience.

Drew's own experience makes him believe that a ministry outside of Church on a Sunday is very important. "I used to be involved with the Select Vestry and youth ministry and when I stepped back I did feel guilty, but I realised that running my own business and dealing with the issues my employees faced in their lives was what God was calling me to do," he said.

A number of ladies have also expressed an interest the project. "We did not intend to exclude ladies, but wanted to start somewhere," said Arthur. "Women naturally get together and chat and belong to different groups and societies, whereas men tend to bottle things up and try to cope with things themselves."

If any other parish is interested in introducing Transforming Work in their area, Drew and Arthur would be willing to come and talk to them. Contact Arthur on arthurcanning@ntlworld.com



A number of ladies and gents aged 90-99 were among those who attended a service and lunch at Magheragall Parish in celebration of Her Majesty the Queen's 90th birthday. Charlotte Dickson, aged 98, helped the rector the Rev Nicholas Dark cut the birthday cake, and special guests included Mayor of Lisburn and Castlereagh, Councillor Thomas Beckett and Mayoress Linda Beckett. Mrs Beckett presented gifts to all those present who had already celebrated their 90th birthday. Before the service, parishioners spelled out a birthday message to the Queen, as the photograph shows!

Celebrating Her Majesty's birthday in style!

The Parish of Ahoghill and Portglenone organised a Senior Member's Street Party at St Colmanell's on June 4 to celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's 90th birthday.

As part of parish outreach the residents

from the nursing home next door were invited to join in the fun.

Entertainment included a quiz on the Queen's life and old time singing lead by (not the real) members of the Royal family!

Special Evensong

First Minister Arlene Foster MLA, Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Belfast Mrs Fionnuala Jay-O'Boyle, and Belfast's Lord Mayor, Alderman Brian Kingston, were among the honoured guests at a celebration Evensong for Her Majesty the Queen's 90th birthday in St Anne's Cathedral on June 8.

Also in attendance were Lady Ballyedmond, Honorary Counsul for Chile, Sir Nigel Hamilton, Her Majesty's Deputy Lord Lieutenant for Belfast, the Council General of China, representatives of the Army, RAF, PSNI, Navy and Army cadets and MLAs.

This was very much an occasion of celebration. The service opened with the singing of the National Anthem and later Cathedral organist Ian Barber, Master of the Choristers David Stevens and the Choir presented a rousing version of the popular coronation anthem, Parry's 'I was glad.'

There were special prayers and hymns suitable for the occasion. Scripture was read by Sir Nigel Hamilton and by Lord Mayor Kingston.

Installation of Roman Catholic Ecumenical Canon at St Anne's

The Very Rev Edward O'Donnell, Parish Priest of St Brigid's, Belfast, was installed as an Ecumenical Canon of St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, at Evensong on September 25.

Fr O'Donnell is the first Roman Catholic Priest to serve on the Cathedral Chapter, and he now joins Methodist Minister the Rev Ruth Patterson, and Presbyterian Minister, also the Rev Ruth Patterson, to complete the Cathedral's complement of three Ecumenical Canons.

Fr O'Donnell said: "While this is a personal privilege for me, the honour is shared with all those who work quietly but persistently to improve and strengthen inter-church relationships.

"I recognise that for St Anne's Cathedral community, and for the Catholic community of Belfast, that this is a significant step, perhaps even historic, but more so, I recognise the generosity of the Dean and Chapter in inviting me, as a representative of the Roman Catholic Church, to be an Ecumenical Canon.

"I look forward very much to working with them and making a contribution to the



The Dean of Belfast, the Very Rev John Mann, with new Canon Fr Edward O'Donnell.

Christian life of our City. Our common faith in Jesus Christ commits us to strive for reconciliation and unity – that unity, wonderfully described by the great Lutheran theologian, Oscar Cullmann, as 'unity in reconciled diversity.'"

Dean Mann said Fr O'Donnell's presence in St Anne's will be source of strengthening already important ecumenical bonds. "Our unity in Christ is important to us both," the Dean said.

In a statement, the Diocese of Down and Connor expressed 'sincere appreciation to St Anne's Cathedral Chapter and the Dean for this symbolic gesture of communion which demonstrates an ongoing commitment to work together for peace and reconciliation, building bridges across a divided community.'

Fr O'Donnell is a native of Magherafelt. He studied in St Malachy's College, Belfast, and St Kieran's College, Kilkenny. In June 1976 he was ordained priest for the Diocese of Down and Connor, and recently celebrated his 40th anniversary as a priest.

There was a peaceful protest outside the Cathedral during the installation service.

New Rural Dean

The Rev Rachel Creighton, rector of Holy Trinity & St Silas with Immanuel, Ardoyne, has been appointed Rural Dean of Mid Belfast. Rachel served two curacies in Nottingham and was Priest-in Charge of Broxtowe Parish. She was also Chaplain at both Bedford Prison and at HMP Wellingborough.



The Rev Andrew Campbell at the gate of St Patrick's, Broughshane. Photo courtesy of Ivan Connor.

Institution in Broughshane

The institution of the Rev Andrew Campbell as rector of the Parish of Skerry, Rathcavan and Newtowncrommelin took place in Broughshane on August 24.

Andrew was ordained as a deacon in September 2012 and served an internship in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast. He was curate assistant of Bangor Abbey, Diocese of Down and Dromore, for three years.

A native of Carrickfergus, Andrew was educated at Belfast High School and read Ancient History and Byzantine Studies at Queen's University. He went on to read Theology at Union Theological College.

Prior to his ordination, Andrew worked with the Church of Ireland as student worker in the chaplaincy team in the Jordanstown and Belfast and as a youth worker in St Nicholas, Carrickfergus.

Andrew, who is working on the final stages of a PhD thesis on the ethical impact of Jesus' death, described his move to Skerry, Rathcavan and Newtowncrommelin as 'a new and exciting phase in his ministry.'



Leah Batchelor, a parishioner at St Michael's, Belfast, who has recovered from Locked-in Syndrome, has written a book. 'Believe' tells how Leah's faith in God helped her after she suffered a major brain stem stroke. Five years on she has graduated from University, passed her driving test and is now a published author! "I did early on question God, but I was so scared that I soon forgave Him and turned back to Him," she said. "As I couldn't talk or move, He was the only one who knew what I was feeling."



Julian Netherton.



Nonie Scott.



Janet Hunter and Tina McCready.

Charity champions!

Connor parishioners have undertaken some pretty impressive feats to raise funds for charity in recent months.

Nonie Scott, a churchwarden at Lisburn Cathedral, completed an awesome 192 mile trek across England to raise funds for Abaana.

Nonie, who is a keen walker, followed the famous Wainwright's Coast to Coast route, starting from St Bees on the Cumbrian Coast right across England to Robin Hood Bay on the Northumberland Coast.

Her route crossed the mountains of the Lake District and the Pennines and traversed the Yorkshire Dales and the North York Moors, climbing a total of 8,800 metres – the height of Mount Everest!

Nonie thanked all her sponsors. Abaana is a local charity which has been working to help children living in poverty in Africa for the last 18 years.

Another Lisburn Cathedral parishioner, Julian Netherton, also put his best foot forward in aid of Abaana, raising almost £1,500 by running the 2016 London Marathon.

He completed this in a very creditable four hours 12 minutes. Thanking everyone who sponsored him, Julian said: "It was an amazing experience to be part of such

an event, with thousands of people taking part and running past so many iconic and historic landmarks."

Two parishioners of St Paul's, Lisburn, took the head staggers and had their hair shaved off to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Care.

Janet Hunter and Tina McCready both lost their mothers to cancer and took up the challenge of Macmillan's Brave the Shave in memory of their mums.

They got a number three all over on September 24. Janet, who will be commissioned as a Lay Reader in St Paul's on November 9, said beforehand: "I am braving the shave in memory of my mum and for all my family and friends who are fighting cancer and those in remission."

Janet's mother Annie McIlwaine died on June 3 this year and Tina's mum Betty McKay died from cancer two years ago. Both were parishioners of St Paul's.

Janet and Tina said a big thank you to everyone who made a donation and their efforts raised a fantastic £2,424 including gift aid.



Two new deacons were ordained to serve in Connor Diocese at a service in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, on September 11. Danielle McCullagh was ordained to serve an internship in St Brigid's, Mallusk, and Christopher St John was ordained to serve an internship in the parish of Holy Trinity, Woodburn. Preacher at the service was the Rt Rev Harold Miller, Bishop of Down and Dromore. Pictured before the Ordination Service are, back from left: Archdeacon Stephen Forde, Archdeacon George Davison, The Rev Clifford Skillen, The Rev Canon William Taggart, Bishop Harold Miller and Dean John Mann. Front, from left: The Rev Danielle McCullagh, Bishop Alan Abernethy, The Rev Christopher St John and Archdeacon Stephen McBride. Photo: Douglas Goddard.



Derryvolgie marks a half century

Fifty years of faithful church witness were celebrated at St Columba's Church, Derryvolgie, at morning worship on Sunday September 11.

The 50th Anniversary Service was led by the rector, the Rev Stephen McElhinney. During this special service, an act of dedication of new church chairs and a bible trolley (a gift from the Mothers' Union) was conducted by The Rt Rev Alan Abernethy, Bishop of Connor, who also gave the address.

During the service Derek Shuter, the Rector's Churchwarden, gave a brief history of the church. Among the special guests was Canon Bertram Livingston, the first rector of Columba's Church (1963-1979).

The Rev Stephen McElhinney (present rector), Canon Bertram Livingston (first rector) and the Rt Rev Alan Abernethy (Bishop of Connor) pictured at the 50th anniversary service in St Columba's Church, Derryvolgie. Picture courtesy of John Kelly.

Give us church halls - not football stands!

A copy of the Belfast Telegraph May 27 1952 is a reminder of the days when diocesan synods made front page news in the Northern Ireland papers!

Not only did the Telegraph report that day on a debate at Connor Synod when it was argued that steel was being 'wasted on football stands' when it should be used for church halls, but it also revealed that Belfast's oldest church had been given a reprieve from amalgamation.

That particular church was St George's which this year celebrates its bicentenary – and a proposal that it should be amalgamated with the Parish of St Anne was rejected following a two hour debate.

The main heading on the paper's front page is: 'Steel plea by churches.' The introduction reads: "Dr DS McIlhagger, of Belfast, during a discussion at Connor Diocesan Synod in Clarence Place Hall, to-day, on the allocation of steel for the building of churches said that while he was not against the health-giving game of football he



Steel plea by churches - the Belfast Telegraph front page on May 27 1952

could think of no more wasteful use of steel than in the erection of football grandstands."

It appears that during the year the 'Extension Committee' had only been granted one licence by the Government – and that was for Cloughfern.

"This places your committee in an impossible position to deal with the

demands for accommodation in the new housing areas and in the provision of places for worship in the parishes where church buildings were destroyed by enemy action in 1941," the committee's report to Synod stated.

The newspaper goes on: "Dr McIlhagger said steel had been used for the building of factories which after a short period had gone on short-time. Greyhound racing tracks and been rebuilt and refurbished.

"Down-town stores had been rebuilt and redecorated in lavish style. Yet they could not get steel for a few paltry church halls.

"The tithe they were offering God was an extremely small one."

Dr McIlhagger argued that it was a 'good investment' to build churches, and asked how children could 'reverence God's house' if a room was used for both secular and religious purposes.

To put this newspaper in a historical context, an infant Prince Charles and Princess Anne, and separately a very young Queen Elizabeth II and Duke of Edinburgh, are pictured on the front page having visited Queen Mary for her 85th birthday!

Bishop attends WCC meetings in Norway

The Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev Alan Abernethy, spent a week in Trondheim, Norway, in June, where he represented the Church of Ireland at the World Council of Churches (WCC) Central Committee meeting.

Bishop Alan was elected to the committee when he attended the 10th Assembly of the WCC in Busan, Republic of Korea, in November 2013.

The overarching theme of the meeting in Trondheim was 'Pilgrimage: Discerning the Landscapes Together.'

Bishop Alan said: "The Central Committee carries out the visions and policies of the Assembly and determines the strategies to do so; it also aims to deepen fellowship between the member churches, bringing greater ecumenical coherence and providing opportunities to consult with one another on issues of mutual concern."

He said the opening service of the Central Committee had been very moving. "Trondheim Cathedral is very beautiful. We sang songs from different parts of the world, and the liturgy was from all around the world. Everyone said The Lord's Prayer in their own tongues. I loved it."

'I came back inspired by the witness of Christians in difficult places'

During his week in Norway Bishop Alan also joined Afternoon Prayer at Bakke Church, and attended a reception at the Archbishop's Palace, hosted by the Mayor of Trondheim.

But most of the week was taken up with meetings. The Central Committee is sub-divided into smaller committees focused on different areas. Bishop Alan was on the public issues committee.

Each committee debated matters covered by its remit and then reported back to the main plenary, where the statements prepared were either accepted by majority – or returned to the relevant committee for redrafting.

Statements issued by the public issues committee included religion and violence; the situation in Papua New Guinea, the situation in Palestine and the Middle East, and a statement on Brexit.

"In total we issued seven statements," Bishop Alan explained. "We were trying to

get a sense of the view of the world church on some of these issues."

The debates in the committee were far reaching. "We learned more about the world, particularly figures on religion and violence, facts relating to children and suffering. We heard frightening stories of how people are living in Syria and the Middle East. To hear how they are living out their faith puts some of our problems into perspective," he said.

"Every day was very intense, we worked from early morning until late with not a lot of free time."

This was Bishop Alan's first visit to Norway, and Trondheim is located in the north. "It didn't get dark until 2am and was bright again at 3am so it was hard to get to sleep," the Bishop said.

Of the WCC meetings, he said: "I always come back inspired by the witness of some Christians in difficult places and challenged by the breadth of the church, the amazing mix of people from different places in the world yet somehow we are connected in one family despite our cultural differences. We do see the world at times through a very narrow lens."

St Anne's appoints first Lay Canons

Myrtle Kerr and Robert Kay have been appointed as Lay Canons by the Dean and Chapter of St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast.

This is an historic move as the appointment of Lay Canons to Church of Ireland Cathedrals only became possible in 2010. Mrs Kerr and Mr Kay will be installed in the Cathedral on January 15 2017.

Mr Kay served faithfully as lay honorary secretary of the Diocese of Connor for more than 30 years. He also served on the Representative Church Body, the RCB Executive and was until very recently chair of the plans committee of the RCB.

The Bishop Alan Abernethy, said: "He offered his professional expertise as his service and it was indeed his ministry and example for us all. This was all done with humility and humour.

"I am delighted his ministry is recognised in this way as a Lay Canon of St Anne's Cathedral."

Mrs Kerr and her late husband Cecil moved from the chaplaincy in Queen's University, Belfast, to establish the Christian Renewal Centre in Rostrevor in 1974.

Bishop Harold Miller, said Mrs Kerr was 'quite simply, a saint of God.'

"She is an example to all of us of what it means to follow Jesus Christ and to carry in her very being the message of reconciliation," Bishop Miller said.



Mrs Miriam King and Miss Tara Devers, front, received their Organ Scholarship Certificates at St Anne's Cathedral on September 18. Also pictured are some of the members of the Organ Scholarship Board, Canon David Humphries, Canon John Auchmuty, Lady Brenda Sheil, the Rev Julie Bell, Prof Alan Hibbert, and Mr Gerald Hill, along with guest preacher Bishop Alan Harper and tutors, Mr Michael McCracken and Dr Joe McKee.



ST. ANNE'S
CATHEDRAL

CANTATE!

A concert to celebrate
St Cecilia's Day



22nd November @ 7pm in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast

COME CELEBRATE

with Belfast Cathedral & The Corrymeela Community

An evening of music and poetry featuring

Jubilate! Chamber Choir

St Anne's Girls' Choir

Voices Together Community Choir

Tickets £10 on sale from St Anne's Cathedral, Corrymeela or
www.musicglue.com/belfast-cathedral/

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