OUT OF THE FIRE











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Lisburn Cathedral, Castle Street, Co Antrim 25th – 28th October 2007

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Welcome

The angel of God appeared to him in flames of fire blazing out of the middle of a bush. He looked. The bush was blazing away but it didn't burn up. Moses said, 'What's going on here? I can't believe this! Amazing! Why doesn't the bush burn up?' God saw that he had stopped to look. God called to him from out of the bush, 'Moses! Moses!' He said, 'Yes? I'm right here!' God said, 'Don't come any closer. Remove your sandals from your feet. You're standing on holy ground.'

Exodus 3: 2-5 (The Message)



It gives me great pleasure to welcome you, to the 'Out of the Fire' Flower Festival in Lisburn Cathedral. It is amazing to think that 300 years ago the spot where you are

standing today was a scene of devastation after a massive fire destroyed the town and the Cathedral. Today we reflect on that historic event and the rebuilding of our town – which has now become the modern and thriving City of Lisburn.

Since the Cathedral was rebuilt people have gathered in this beautiful building for worship and we look forward to continuing to worship Christ here until he returns. New life has come 'Out of the Fire'.

A considerable amount of work has been completed to enable the Cathedral to adapt to the 21st century and to continue its fine tradition of relevant worship and witness. This includes a new heating system, new outside lighting, a refurbished Chapter room and Choir room. However, we have some vital work still to do as the Cathedral building is now in need of a hospitality area, redecorating, rewiring,

audio and visual updating to enable all who gather here to meet with the Lord Jesus. The tower and spire which are part of the historic landscape of Lisburn are in need of re-pointing and repair. We also want to serve our partners in the worldwide church by giving a tenth of all that we raise to the church in Southern Sudan to assist the building of Mongo Primary School.

Like the people of Lisburn 300 years ago Moses also witnessed a fire, one that didn't burn up. Out of the fire he realised that God was with him and that he was standing on holy ground. As you look around the amazing floral displays which have been arranged for us by the Rev William McMillan and Ballymacash Flower Club, I would encourage you to realise that the same holy God who spoke to Moses is close to you today.

My prayer for all who visit this 'Out of the Fire' Flower Festival is that you meet with our creator God who loves you so much that he gave his Son to be your saviour.

I hope you enjoy this flower festival and that the light of God burns stronger in you each day.

Canon Sam Wright, Rector

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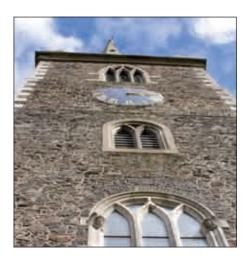
Noel Kelly BSc Dip AAS RIBA Des Cairns MCIAT MCIOB MaPS



Church Beginnings

In 1608 when Sir Fulke Conway was granted the site of modern Lisburn, he built first a place to live and then a place to worship. The castle was completed in 1622, and the church was consecrated in 1623. The church was built on the site where the Cathedral now stands and was called 'St Thomas'. It was really a private chapel to the castle, and not at first a parish church.

This first church was destroyed in 1641 during the Irish Rebellion. The town was attacked by a rebel army but beaten off. The rebels, however, set fire to the town, and the whole town, including castle and church, was left in ruins.





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Modern Cuisine In Lisburn

Cafe Square, in the heart of Lisburn, is a fully licensed bistro and bar restaurant serving a range of delicious, good quality food and drink. With convenient parking in Lisburn Square and right in the centre of the shops, Cafe Square is popular with families, shoppers and for an evening meal. If you are looking for a lunch bite or coffee break, come into Cafe Square to enjoy 'Seattle's Best' quality, fair trade coffee.

Live music on Saturday evenings

As a fully licensed bistro restaurant, a wide selection of quality wines and beers are available for you to enjoy.

THESE ARE SOME OF THE COMMENTS ON OUR BEST OF LISBURN WEBSITE:

'Food is always consistently great, wither for a snack, lunch or special evening meal! The atmosphere with the music on Saturday evening is a lovely touch. Prices for starters and main courses are excellent, if I had a negative to say it would be that I feel sweets are over priced-which is a shame-other than that, cannot recommend highly enough! Glad to see that more people are going which must be reward for the owners hard work! Well done!'

'Cafe Square offer a great lunch menu and the staff are always pleasant and helpful. It's good to see a successful restaurant in Lisburn Square.'

'The food is delicious, menu very varied. Staff are friendly and very helpful. The restaurant has an intimate atmosphere and is also child friendly. Not to be missed so give it a try and be sure of excellent food and warm welcome.'

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The Great Fire of Lisburn, 1707

20th April 1707... and a quiet Sunday morning in the town of Lisnagarvey, as it was then called. A strong wind was blowing after a long drought. The timber and plaster houses, with their wooden shingle roofs, were an accident waiting to happen.

It is said the fire started in Sluice Street, near Bow Street. Sparks from turf ashes thrown on a dung heap were blown on to a roof.

Many people were in church, but those in the fields outside the town saw the whole sky swept by a sheet of flame.

People ran to get their possessions and brought them to the churchyard, where they thought they would be safe. But the fire took hold of the church as it had already destroyed the town: soon all that remained were ashes.







'... the miserable ruins of the late fire which happened here, and not a house in the town escaped. When I stood in the churchyard I thought I never had seen so dreadful a scene before. All around me the church burnt to the ground. The tombstones all cracked; vast trees burnt to their trunks, Lord Conway's Castle, some distance from the rest; burnt to ashes and all his gardens in the same condition...'

(Extract from 'Journey to the North, 7th August 1708', by Dr Thomas Molyneux)

'There are families wholly broken... not so much as to buy bread'.

(Rev McCracken)



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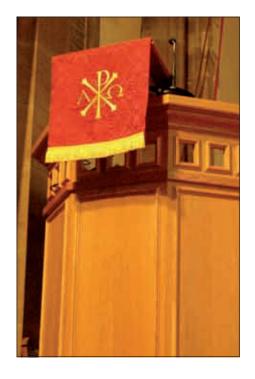
Rebuilding of the Church

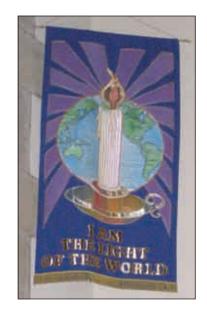
Rebuilding the cathedral took from 1708 to 1723, when it was consecrated. But it was very different from the church today. It had a tower, but no spire, gallery, or chancel. The only heat was from two coke stoves in the centre aisle, with light from a chandelier.

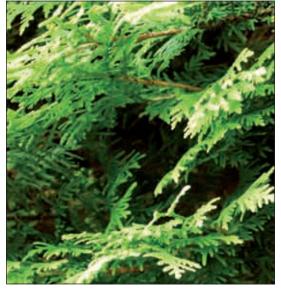
Music was led by an eight-piece orchestra. The vestry room was added in 1727 (extended in 1955) and the organ was built in 1790, a gift of the 3rd Marquis of Hertford, who added a tower clock in 1796. The steeple and spire were built in 1804, and the gallery was in use by 1814.

The hall was built on land given by Sir Richard Wallace in 1884 and the chancel was added in 1889.

Lady Wallace presented the window in the south side of the chancel, in memory of her husband, while the window in the south side of the nave was paid by public subscription in memory of the Wallaces.







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Rebuilding of the Church

In 1923 a house at the front of the church was demolished to widen the entrance. Electric light was installed in 1929 and the church got its first sound system in 1941.

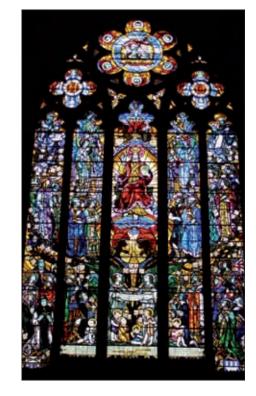
The east window was given in 1950 by Sir Milne Barbour, in memory of his wife and son, who died in a plane crash.

The chapter stalls and timber surround were built in 1950 to remember those who served in World War Two.

In 1975, the pews and entrance door were presented by two sisters. In 1990 the chancel was reformed, by moving the choir seats into the main body of the building.

In 2003 new front gates were installed and in 2004 the clock was repaired - to strike again for the first time in 50 years.

The vestry and choir rooms have recently been restored and the heating system replaced, and floodlighting added – the biggest upgrade of the cathedral since 1889.







YOUR GUIDE TO THE ARRANGEMENTS

THE FIRE OF LISBURN, 1707

Exhibit 1 – Entering the porch you are reminded of the great fire of Lisburn which it is alleged began in the house of widow Walsh of Sluice Street. Many of the people of Lisburn were at church and few could have believed that a trivial fire could spread so quickly. A contemporary writer stated 'it burnt with great fury along both sides of the street consuming every thing as it went'

The cathedral register of the date states on the 20th day of April 1707 'the town of Lisburn with the church and castle were consumed by an accidental fire'. Floral material and suitable accessories seek to illustrate this tragedy.

THE BAPTISMAL FONT

Exhibit 2 – Again we have used red as a colour to decorate the font. This links with the major exhibit depicting the fire and reminds us of the baptism of fire and the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

TRIBUTE TO HUGUENOTS AND GARDENS OF SIR ARTHUR RAWDON

Exhibit 3 – In 1697, William III invited Louis Crommellin to settle in Lisburn. He was soon followed by other Huguenot families and a French Settlement became connected with the Cathedral. THE QUIET CONQUEST, as their arrival has been called, is symbolised in the garden scenes on each side of the aisle as you enter the cathedral.

These exhibits also record the unique contribution to gardening in Europe made by Sir Arthur Rawdon or Roydons, a member of an old Norman family. Sir Arthur sent his gardener, James Harlow, to Jamaica to collect plants for a garden he was establishing in Moira. An astonishing collection of rare plants – over one thousand – were thus introduced to Ireland. They thrived in the amazing hot houses whichRawdon had built. He was soon able to send material to friends in England and to the great Botanical gardens in Leipzig, Uppsala, Chelsea and Oxford.

A SCREEN OF PRAISE

Exhibit 4 – Passing through this ultramodern screen of flowers, we begin our floral tribute to Jesus Christ 'King and head of the Church'.

THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

Exhibit 5 – The poverty of the manger is illustrated here, while Joseph and Mary are symbolised in the willow structures. A stem of white Philaenopis is introduced to symbolise the Christ Child.

THE VISIT OF THE WISE MEN

Exhibit 6 – Exotic flowers with suitable accessories tell of the visit of the Magi, as recorded by St Matthew.

THE VISIT OF THE ANGELS

Exhibit 7 – A modern exhibit seeks to capture the story as recorded in the gospel according to St Luke in chapter 2.

THE FLIGHT INTO EGYPT

Exhibit 8 – Here we have used strelitzia (birds of paradise) to illustrate the flight into Egypt, again suitable accessories emphasise the story.

THE TEMPTATION IN THE WILDERNESS

Exhibit 9 – Christ's temptation in the wilderness is illustrated in this 'Desert Scene'. His agony is symbolised in the gnarled wood.

THE MIRACLE OF WATER INTO WINE

Exhibit 10 – Our Lord illustrated his gospel message through parable and miracle. Here we seek to emphasise the event at the marriage at Cana in Gallilee.

THE SCOURGING

Exhibit 11 – They put upon him a scarlet robe and scourged him before taking him out to die upon the Cross.

THE CRUCIFIXION

Exhibit 12 – This striking arrangement tells of Christ's death upon the Cross.

THE CHANCEL

In the chancel are exhibits to remind us of the glory of the resurrection. They are worked in colours to highlight the great east window. The modern banner has inspired an ultra-modern replica in dried plant materials and wire.

We invite you to sit in the cathedral and contemplate the saving power of him whom we seek to honour in this festival of flowers. One, who was crucified, died and buried, but is alive for evermore. His praise has echoed here over three centuries.

THANK YOU – All our exhibits have been linked by garlands and other arrangements and we express our thanks to all the flower arrangers who have made this festival possible.



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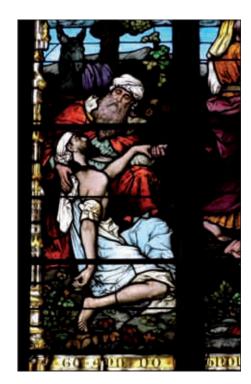
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Dramatic Times

The destruction of the town was not the only landmark in the cathedral's history.

Following the death of King Charles I, the citizens of Lisnagarvey declined to support Cromwell and, after the Restoration of the Monarchy in 1660, the Parish Church of Lisngarvey was granted the status of a Cathedral by a Royal Charter of King Charles II, dated 25th October, 1662, in recognition of the inhabitants' loyalty to the Royalist Cause.

It was at that time that the town's name change from Lisnagarvey to Lisburn, the new name being recorded in a baptismal entry in the Cathedral on 11th January, 1662, and Lisngarvey appearing for the last time in the Burial Register of the Cathedral on 13th February, 1662.





During the military preparations for the Battle of The Boyne, Lisburn played an important role. In the winter of 1689-90, the renowned European soldier and Williamite Commander, the Duke of Schomberg, made Lisburn his headquarters and lived at 13 Castle Street, where Bishop Jeremy Taylor had also lived.

Many of the 10,000 men Schomberg brought to Ulster to fight against King James The Second's army at the Battle of the Boyne on 1st July, 1690, were quartered in the town and throughout the surrounding districts.

The Prince of Orange, later King William III, dined in a house that stood on the site now occupied by the Northern Bank (now Shannon's Jewellers), at the corner of Market Square and Railway Street, and on his way to the Boyne, met a deputation of Presbyterian ministers at Hillsborough to negotiate with them the Reguim Donum.

The Battle of Lisnagarvey in 1641 saw around 300 die in and around Castle Street and in 1798, Henry Munro, a member of the cathedral vestry, was executed in Market Place for his part in the rebellion that year.

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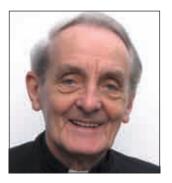
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Our Flower Demonstrators



The **Rev William McMillan MBE**, the artistic director. He is a clergyman in Dunmurry. Born in Dromore, his love of gardening was first encouraged by his grandmother.

Many years later, and in the ministry, his attention was caught by a flower display in church. He made a few alterations and soon after went to a flower arranging demonstration.

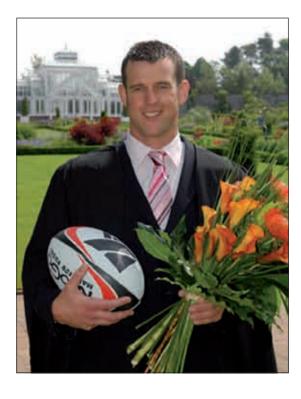
He never looked back, and now his talents are in demand all around the world.

Floristry might seem an unlikely vocation for a rugby player, but **Ian McNeill** (right) proves that cauliflower ears and perfect blooms can go together.

A first XV player with Carrickfergus Rugby Club, he is now a partner in his mother's floristry business, The Flower Shop, in Whitehead.

Ian says, 'I must be the only florist in the country to have worked for my floristry qualifications with fractured ribs and staples in my head due to rugby injuries but I love playing and floristry is a tough business – you need stamina to make it these days.

My mates at the Rugby Club now see me as a useful contact when they want flowers for their wives and partners'.



Joan Lockhart and **Pat Leahey** won a silver gilt award at this year's Chelsea Flower Show. They run the Fleuriste flower shop in Finaghy. Joan is a founder member of Ballymacash Flower Club and a past chairman of Inspirations Contemporary Floral Design Group.











Lisburn Today

Lisburn today is a bustling, thriving, growing city, with new developments in shopping and housing, but always very aware of its eventful history.

It has many tourist attractions, including the newly refurbished Castle Gardens, which are immediately beside the cathedral, the neighbouring Irish Linen Centre and Lisburn Museum, and the Island Arts Centre, just across the River Lagan, and the nearby Lagan Valley Leisureplex and Omniplex cinema. Within a short drive are Lady Dixon Park, Hillsborough Castle, Ballance House, Brookhall Historical Farm, and The Courthouse, Hillsborough.

Shopping – the cathedral is next to Bow Street and Mall, the new Lisburn Square and a short car ride from Sprucefield Shopping Centre.

Lisburn Crest



The fleur-de-lys on the extremities of the cross refer to the town's historic connection with the Huguenots. The bishop's mitre is reference to the fact

that for three centuries there has been a cathedral in Lisburn. The weaver's shuttle and the sprigs of flax are symbolic of the linen industry. The ostrich head with the horeshoe on its beak are from the arms of Sir Richard Wallace and refer to his fame as a collector. The mural crown, that is the crown in the form of wall with battlements, is the badge of the municipality. The gamecock is a punning reference to the old name of the town – Lisnagarvey, the fort of the gamesters. The two phoenix rising from the flames and the motto 'I will arise out of the fire' refer to the fact that the town was twice burnt down and rebuilt in its early days.

'If the story of the Phoenix be ever true, sure 'tis in this town. For here you see one of the beautifullest towns, perhaps in the three Kingdoms – all brick houses, slated, all new and almost finished – rising from the most terrible rubbish that can be imagined'.

(Extract from 'Journey to the North, 7th August 1708', by Dr Thomas Molyneux)

OUT OF THE FIRE 19



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Thank-You

A great number of people have helped us with this Flower Festival and I am grateful to all who volunteered and served so willingly throughout this event.

I would particularly thank the Rev William McMillan, Ian McNeill, Joan Lockhart, and Pat Leahey for the Flower Demonstration. The Ballymacash Flower Club for their dedication and skill to making this Festival a blooming success.

The Mayor of Lisburn who performed the official opening of the Festival.

Paul Allison from Lisburn Museum for arranging the tours of the newly restored Castle Gardens and providing the Flax spinning.

The organists, choir, musicians and singers who have led our worship throughout this Festival.

Our guest speakers, the Ven John Bond, Dean of Connor.

Mrs Margaret Crawford, All Ireland President of Mothers' Union.

The Right Rev Alan Abernethy, Bishop of Connor.

Mr David Gough CMSI Regional Mission Partner for Sudan and Egypt.

The Committee members have worked tirelessly to make this 'Out of the Fire' Festival a success. I thank them all for their devotion, patience and determination. I have noted just some of the tasks they undertook beside their names.

Jim McAdam (Historian) who was assisted by Phil McConnell and Des Henry in creating the audio visual historical presentation.

Heather Duggan (Catering).

David Lamont (Lighting).

Martin Lester (Sound & Musicians).

David White and Alan Johnston (Site Managers).

Jean Hughes (contacts and networking).

Pat Bell (Secretary and keeping us up to speed).

Tim Webb (Brochure & Publicity).

Paul Duggan (Sponsorship).

Finally, enormous thanks to Heather Gibson who has been the inspiration behind this Flower Festival.

Canon Sam Wright, Rector

New Irish Orchestra & Choir Concert

Do order your tickets from the Parish Office to join with us in the Cathedral on Saturday 19th January 2008 for a Concert with the New Irish Orchestra and Choir.



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Mongo School

Education was one of the many casualties of the 21 year war in Sudan, indeed there are tens of thousands of teenagers and twenty something's today in Sudan who have not had any formal education.

Mongo is one of the six Archdeaconries of the Diocese of Yei, the Archdeacon of Mongo is the Rev Stanley Soroba.

One of the objectives of the Diocese's five year 'Strategic Plan titled Post War Response to Human Need' is to provide a new Primary School in each of the 6 Archdeaconries. To this end CMS Ireland has been seeking support from Parishes in Ireland for two Archdeaconries – Longamere and Mongo.

Although Mongo already has a Primary School, what classrooms there are have grass-roofs and are temporary wooden structures with no walls, there are some classes still taught under trees. The school at Mongo was opened in 1936 and currently has 265 pupils, seven classrooms and 12 teachers.





Classrooms have no desks, or chairs – the children sit on branches of trees. The school's head teacher is David Latio, and understandably, he is very excited about the prospects of a fully equipped and furnished new school building.

The Diocese of Connor Council for Mission has recently entered into a five year partnership with CMS Ireland and Yei Diocese to support Education in Yei Diocese. Agherton Parish has already provided some initial support for Mongo School.

David Gough, CMS Ireland's Regional Mission Partner for Sudan and the Diocese of Egypt, cut the sod at the site of the new Primary School in Mongo on 19th October to mark the commencement of the construction work.

The new school building will have eight classrooms and a head teachers office and library. CMS Ireland believes that education is an investment in the future of the young people and the church – education can make a huge impact and a lasting difference to the lives of the people of southern Sudan.

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