



**BALMORAL
SHOW 2018
16TH - 19TH MAY
✻ Ulster Bank
150TH
SHOW**

**Methodist Church in Ireland engaging
with Balmoral Show**

April 24, 2018

The Methodist Church in Ireland is taking a stand at the 150th Balmoral Show in 2018.

This a joint venture between the Lisburn & Dromore Circuit and the Home Mission Department and will provide a 'quiet space' in the midst of the bustle of the show. The Stand and literature available will represent who we are as a Methodist community across Ireland. In addition, those who are staffing the stand will be trained to offer a welcoming presence in the name Christ and we hope that will create the environment for an informative chat or a moment to pause and reflect.

Recognising that Balmoral Show is a national show the Home Mission Department is inviting circuits that have significant links with the farming community to support this initiative. Two specific ways that support can be given is either financial support or to offer suitably gifted people to volunteer to give some time to staff the stand. The Lisburn and Dromore Circuit is undertaking the planning and management of the event. This year the show runs for four days, the 16th -19th May 2018 at Balmoral Park, Maze Long Kesh, Lisburn, Co. Antrim, BT27 5RE.

If you are planning to visit the Show look forward to a welcome at the MCI stand at Balmoral Show 2018. If you would like more information contact the Chairman of the Steering Group Rev Thomas Clarke, contact: thomas.clarke@irishmethodist.org
Phone: 07771 918615

Balmoral Show Times: Wednesday 9.30am - 6pm; Thursday 9.30am - 8pm; Friday 9.30am - 7pm; Saturday 9.30am - 6pm
Event Date: Wednesday, 16 May, 2018 - 09:30 to Saturday, 19 May, 2018 - 18:00

C of I plans environmentally sustainable synod

The Church of Ireland General Synod, in Armagh City Hotel (10th-12th May), will seek to be a 'sustainable synod' following on from a number of similar initiatives undertaken at central Church level. The Synod Department has provided an electronic option for churchnewsireland@gmail.org

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distribution of packs to members and is working with the venue to reduce the environmental footprint of General Synod, encourage recycling, and reduce waste as much as possible. In recent years, General Synod has adopted an Environmental Charter (2015) and a further motion on climate change and investments (2017). Previous General Synod resolutions have encouraged the use of Fairtrade products and the ending of the use of tropical hardwoods, except those from managed forests, in Church buildings.

Information on environmental sustainability for parishes, including suggested eco-actions and a template for undertaking an energy audit, is available in the Parish Resources section of the Church of Ireland website: www.ireland.anglican.org/parish-resources. Other environmental projects at a central Church level include the Jars4Journeys fundraising initiative over Lent 2018 to support communities which are at the greatest risk from climate change; locating beehives in the grounds of Church of Ireland House, Dublin, and the Church of Ireland Theological Institute; and switching to as many compostable, recycled, or reused items as possible in Church House.

The Representative Church Body, the central trustee body for the Church, has adopted a Climate Change Policy (2017) and an Environmental, Social and Governance Policy (2016) which seek to reduce investment in companies with high carbon emissions and to increase investment in companies which are committed to reducing their carbon footprint,...

...such as those involved in renewable energy and forestry. The Church avoids investments in companies where more than 10% of turnover is derived from coal-mining activities or tar sands production, and it is continuing to reduce its exposure to oil and gas production (currently at 2.5%); this work is led by Ms Sarah Dunne, Manager, Investment Portfolio and Environment, Social and Governance.

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The RCB's Property Department has also set up a pilot scheme, involving 10 parishes in the Diocese of Down and Dromore, to review the efficiency of existing energy management controls and to make recommendations for improvements to systems in parish halls and centres. Under its tree-planting strategy, two trees must be replanted (where practicably possible) in place of every tree that needs to be cut down on church property. Parishes are encouraged to consider renewable energy options such as solar energy for electricity or heat and/or hot water; heat recovery/ventilation systems; central heating and/or cooling systems using geothermal heat pumps; or sustainable lighting such as daylighting design, sunlight transportation systems, energy efficient light bulbs or LEDs. Examples of geothermal initiatives can be found in Kilmore See House and the new parish centre for Athy Parish, Co. Kildare, in the Diocese of Glendalough.

The Church of Ireland's commitment to the environment reflects the Anglican Communion's Fifth Mark of Mission: 'To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the Earth.'

Limerick Cathedral 850th anniversary concerts

On Saturday 21st April, Saint Mary's Cathedral, Limerick hosted the first of three concerts marking its 850th anniversary. The concert which included music by Hadyn and Beethoven was performed by musicians from the Cathedral Choir, An Cor, Limerick Sinfonia and Limerick School of Music. Guests included the Bishop, Mayor of Limerick County and the deputy Mayor of the City.

The next event, the 3 Choirs Festival, takes place on Saturday 19th May – for more information please visit www.saintmaryscathedral.ie

New Rector for Aghavea Parish, Clogher

The Bishop of Clogher, the Right Revd John McDowell, has appointed the Revd Johnny McLoughlin as the new Rector of Aghavea Parish, near Brookeborough. The appointment follows a

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recent meeting of the Board of Nomination for the parish that nominated Revd McLoughlin to the Bishop for consideration.

Mr McLoughlin is currently Rector of the Parochial Group of Clonfeacle, Derrygortreavy and Eglis in the Diocese of Armagh where he has been since December 2011. He was ordained in July 2009 and served his curacy in St Mark's Parish, Armagh.

Prior to his ordination, he worked as a Computer Consultant. He and his wife, Kim have two children, Naomi (21) and Ben (15). Mr McLoughlin had the privilege of conducting the wedding service for his daughter last July, when she married James.

Commenting on his appointment, he said, "I am thrilled that God is bringing me to this new stage in my ministry, and I look forward to working with all those in the parish of Aghavea, and integrating with a new diocesan family.

"My vision is that our church should be a place where we all feel comfortable, and also challenged in God's presence, and I am excited for the future that God has for us all."

The date for the Institution of Mr McLoughlin will be announced later.

The Crucible: a morning for leaders with leaders

If leaders are made and not just born, what is it that makes them, and how are they shaped by various 'crucible' experiences they encounter along the way.

Dr Alan Wilson (who has recently researched this subject) will interview three experienced Christian leaders:

- Roz Stirling director of Cleopas, a ministry dedicated to helping people - not least leaders - to cultivate their relationship with God;

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- Bishop Ken (Fanta) Clarke, mission director for SAMS (UK and Ireland) and formerly Church of Ireland Bishop of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh;
- Dr Trevor Morrow, Minister Emeritus of Lucan Presbyterian Church and former Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.
- Alan Wilson has led churches in Switzerland and Northern Ireland. He has recently completed his doctorate in which he explored the significance of 'crucible' experiences in the development of Christian leaders. He is a part time tutor at both Belfast Bible College and the Irish Baptist College, and will be joining the adjunct faculty at Irish Bible Institute.

The conference will be hosted by Irish Bible Institute and will include tea/coffee on arrival, and a light lunch.

Tue, May 8, 2018, 10:30 AM – 1:30 PM, Irish Bible Institute, Foley Street, Dublin 1. €21.43

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-crucible-a-morning-for-leaders-with-leaders-tickets-44019847549?aff=es2>

Conference at QUB: Theology, Spirituality and Mental Health

This one-day interdisciplinary conference on spirituality, theology and mental health with two of the worldwide leaders (Prof. Harold Koenig and Prof. Chris Cook) in the field will provide delegates with an opportunity to consider how innovations can emerge through a visionary, interdisciplinary focus. It is on Sat May 12 from 09.15 - 16.15.

Keynote Speaker Profiles

Prof. Harold Koenig

In brief, Prof. Koenig is Director of the Center for Spirituality, Theology and Health at Duke University Medical Center, and has published extensively in the fields of mental health, geriatrics, and religion, with over 500 scientific peer-reviewed publications and book chapters and nearly 50 books in print or preparation. Prof. Koenig has given testimony before the U.S. Senate (1998) and U.S. House of Representatives (2008) concerning the benefits of religion and spirituality on public health. His latest books are a series on religion and mental health (Catholic Christianity, Protestant Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism).

Prof. Chris Cook

In brief, Prof. Cook is Director of the Project for Spirituality, Theology & Health in Durham. This project was collaborative between the Department of Theology & Religion and the School of Medicine, Pharmacy & Health (until the recent move of SMPH to Newcastle). Prof. Cook is also an honorary consultant psychiatrist with Tees, Esk & Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust, President of the British Association for the Study of Spirituality and an Executive Editor of the Journal for the Study of Spirituality and was Chair of the Executive Committee of the Special Interest Group in Spirituality & Psychiatry at the Royal College of Psychiatrists from 2009-2013. Similarly, like Prof. Koenig; Prof. Cook has published extensively in peer-reviewed publications, books and book chapters.

Background

In recent decades, worldwide academic and public consciousness regarding the relevance of spirituality and religion to health issues has increased. The World Psychiatric Association and The Royal College of Psychiatrists' Special Interest Group on Spirituality affirmed a need for more research on both religion and spirituality in mental health (Cook, 2016). This area is still in early stages and is primarily focused on two areas: first, the training of mental health care professionals to increase their sensitivity to spiritual needs and religious orientation. Second, co-opting faith-based organisations and their clergy to support mental health programmes. However, in NI there is notable reluctance to engage with religion and spirituality in mental health, consequently, such engagement is significantly under-examined within research and policy despite greater recognition and increasing empirical evidence supporting its use (Carlisle, 2016).

Key objectives

- Provide insightful training: for those involved in pastoral counselling in churches (including clergy, pastoral carers, youth workers and counsellors), those involved in specialist areas of mental health (including psychiatrists, psychologists, psychotherapists, social workers) and those in academia (including lecturers, researchers and students).
- Inspire delegates to form a Spirituality and Mental Health Research Forum in Northern Ireland.
- Encourage cross-pollination and creative endeavours in Psychiatry, Psychology, Social Science, Nursing and Theology.
- Open conversations on spiritual and religious psychopathology in mental health and discuss opposing and supporting perspectives.
- Cultivate opportunities for ecumenical, multifaceted, rich interdisciplinary research and training.
- Learn from the advances in the area of spirituality and mental health in Durham University and Duke University.

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- Provide an opportunity for delegates to think more innovatively about interdisciplinary approaches.

The conference is free. Further details at -

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/conference-at-qub-theology-spirituality-and-mental-health-tickets-43804092219?aff=es2>

Engage Catholic Youth Ministry Conference



Following on from last years groundbreaking event, Fortify 2017, Engage 2018 seeks to challenge, envision and equip those working with youth and young adults. It is a conference for Bishops, Priests, and Laity, exploring how we evangelise and disciple young people. Its an excellent preparation for the Synod on Youth in the Autumn.

The Keynote Speaker is David Wells. David has spoken at more than 300 conferences worldwide. He is a regular contributor to the Religious Education Congress at Anaheim in California, where over 30,000 delegates gather to hear some of the world's most prolific religious writers.

In the UK he has presented at conferences in every diocese in England and Wales, served on several working parties for the Bishop's Conference of England and Wales, guest lectures at three

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English Universities, and in 2000 he scripted and produced the video series “You, your Children and their Catholic faith” which sold widely throughout the English speaking Church.

He has published two books, The Reluctant Disciple and The Grateful Disciple, both available from Redemptorist Publications.

Bishop Malcolm McMahon Chair of the Department for Education and Formation in the Bishop’s Conference described David as a “Remarkable and gifted speaker.”

St.Paul's Church, Arran Quay, Dublin. Sat, May 12, 2018. 9:30 AM – 5:30 PM.

€25 – €60 . <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/engage-catholic-youth-ministry-conference-tickets-43174714734?aff=es2>



Praxis - a conference re-imagining mission for ordinary people

Do you have a heart for Gods mission? Are you interested in following Jesus on his mission to rewrite the story of our culture? This is an invitation to join with others to the movement of Jesus and to learn from experienced practitioners about what mission could look like.

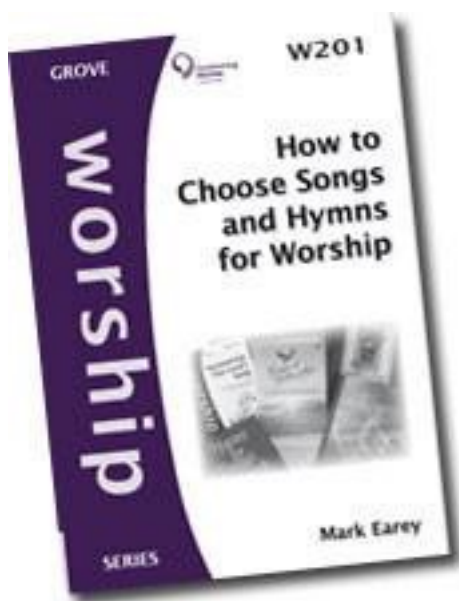
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Praxis is a conference bringing together ordinary people who care about mission and seeing the gospel impact others. Through this gathering and ongoing learning communities we want to envision and encourage more practical expressions of mission across Ireland. Our main speaker is Brian Sanders (Underground Network), Brian has extensive experience internationally in facilitating small communities turn theory into action and practice mission in many different contexts.

Tickets include lunch and tea/coffee throughout the day. Organisers are - David Gardner, North Dublin Methodist Churches; Simon Kilpatrick, Urban Junction and Ignite Network; Ross Hill, 24/7 Prayer Dublin; Fraser Hosford, Dublin West Community Church and Sam Moore, Innovista

Sat 19 May 2018, 11:00 – 21:30. Dublin Central Mission, 1 Abbey Street Lower €25 – €180

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/praxis-a-conference-re-imagining-mission-for-ordinary-people-tickets-42495313627?aff=erellivmlt>



How to Choose Songs and Hymns for Worship

In Christian corporate worship, singing is generally seen to be the norm: indeed, in many places 'worship' has become a synonym for 'singing.' And yet, very often, those choosing music have little opportunity to consider the criteria by which they do so or the implications of their choices.

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This timely study looks at the whole range of issues involved in such choices, highlights the wide range of resources, and offers criteria by which to evaluate decisions. It should be essential reading for all those involved!

Mark Earey has been teaching liturgy to Anglican and Methodist ministerial students (and a lot of other people too) at The Queen's Foundation for Ecumenical Theological Education, Birmingham for the last nine years. Previously he was Team Rector of Morley, West Yorkshire, and National Education Officer for Praxis. Grove Books - £3.95
<https://grovebooks.co.uk/collections/worship/products/w-201-how-to-choose-songs-and-hymns-for-worship>

On Twitter

The Priests - ten years on

Yesterday The priests tweeted - Today marks our 10th anniversary as "The Priests" . We've met wonderful people and sang in places we could only ever have dreamed about. Thanks for being with us on this unexpected journey.

Holy Trinity, Portrush

Today (Sunday) we wished **Rev Robert Simpson** a happy retirement from full time ministry. He has served as a faithful pastor & priest to the parishioners for the past decade, and we wish him a long, happy and healthy retirement.

On Facebook

The Legacy of Irish Missionaries Lives On

Education is foundational in peace-building. Irish missionary-led Shalom in Kenya has provided 15 local-based inter-ethnic and inter-religious schools with books, desks, chairs, solar panels and building materials. As a result of this generous provision, over 8,000 pupils are now studying in better classrooms, have lockers and chairs, enough and relevant books and are able to study in the evening because they have lighting in their classrooms. [Shalom Center For Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation - SCCRR Irish Aid](#). Joe McHugh TD

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Killeshandra Group of Parishes

Some photos from today's Tractor Service at Carrigallen Mart. Great to see so many there to worship God and pray for our farming community.

Choral Appreciation Society

One can only admire **the Precentor of Bradford Cathedral** (Rev Paul Maybury) for his brilliant reading of the O.T. Lesson at Choral Evensong last night... Nehemiah 8.... you know the passage, of course:

" ...

4 Ezra the teacher of the Law stood on a high wooden platform built for the occasion. Beside him on his right stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah and Maaseiah; and on his left were Pedaiah, Mishael, Malkijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah and Meshullam.

5 Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up.

6 Ezra praised the LORD, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, "Amen! Amen!" Then they bowed down and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

7 The Levites—Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan and Pelaiah—instructed the people in the Law while the people were standing there. ... etc etc "

He deserves a medal! Faultless!



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