



Spirit Radio ‘roll out challenge’ seeks €20,000

After a two year battle, radio licences for Kilkenny, Carlow and Athlone have just been released and Spirit Radio is appealing to its supporters to help it raise €20,000 to fund some of the equipment it needs to expand its area of transmission.

Ireland’s only national Christian radio station has a licence to broadcast FM and AM high quality radio throughout Ireland.

According to CEO, Rob Clarke, agreements for the use of masts are in place. While the station is

optimistic about this new development, it must surmount this financial hurdle.

“We have always believed that Christian Radio should be funded by a lot of people all doing a little,” Clarke said in a statement.

He explained that the ‘Spirit Radio Roll Out Challenge’ is the fundraising tool created by the station to raise the money.

“We hope it will mobilise thousands and help us launch broadcasting in Kilkenny, Carlow and Athlone. We know Christmas is a bit of a stretch for everybody – but we would be very grateful if you would get on board and help support this initiative,” he said.

Currently, Spirit Radio is broadcasting in a number of cities across Ireland, but it aims to extend its transmission in a number of other locations, and bring its output to 90% of the Irish population.

On 27 January, Spirit Radio will be five years on air and today it now reaches over 206,000 people weekly on 89-92FM, 549MW and online.

According to Rob Clarke, “God has been able to use the station to touch lives up and down the

country. We hear from listeners all the time who tell us the station helps them keep going.”

One listener, recently commented, “I found Spirit Radio one day, never heard of it before, I turned on the radio and it just landed there. I feel I was guided to hear it. Two and a half years I have been listening. A lot of challenge we have had in the last few years. Listening to Spirit Radio it just lifts you up. I couldn’t go a day without it.”

More information: [https://
www.spiritradiorolloutchallenge.ie/](https://www.spiritradiorolloutchallenge.ie/)

New C of I Secretary General announced

David Ritchie is to be the new Secretary General and Chief Officer of the Church of Ireland’s Representative Church Body (RCB). David will join the RCB in April 2016 and will succeed Mr Adrian Clements who retires in June 2016.

Mr Ritchie is a civil engineering graduate of Trinity College Dublin and a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants. He holds

a Masters in Business Administration from University College Dublin and currently



serves as Executive Director of De Lage Landen Ireland (DLL Ireland) where he has been responsible for developing new markets and finance product development.

David has a keen interest in overseas development and is a non-executive Director of Concern Worldwide. He previously worked

as an engineer for Concern in Cambodia and Rwanda, where he helped to manage the construction of refugee reception centres. David has a qualification in applied theology and is an active member of St Catherine's parish church, Dublin, where he is a Sunday School teacher.

Welcoming David to the role, Archbishop Richard Clarke said: "I am truly delighted to welcome Mr David Ritchie as the new Secretary General of the Church of Ireland. The Secretary General plays a significant role in supporting the wider mission of the Church and, as Chief Officer of the RCB, David will be overseeing the central activities of the Church's trustee body. I look forward to working closely with David and wish him well in this new chapter of his career."

The Representative Church Body, incorporated by charter in 1870, is the main statutory trustee body for the Church of Ireland. It exists to serve and support the Church, primarily as the trustee of central Church finance and property. Its foundation was part of the process of disestablishment of the C of I.

Prayer walking in north Belfast



Evangelist Stephen Whitten walking with Phyllis from Shankill Methodist Church on a prayer walk in north Belfast.

Connor's Church Army Evangelists have been holding Prayer Walks in north Belfast every month since August.

Stephen Whitten and Karen Webb from the North Belfast Centre of Mission have joined with other churches in the area to walk around and bless the communities they serve in prayer. Walkers meet at a different church in the Shankill area,

and to date these have included St Columba's, Whiterock, Shankill Methodist, Woodvale Methodist and Shalom House.

Stephen said the prayer walk has many benefits. "It brings people from different churches together under one cause allowing us to know we are part of something bigger than just our own context," he said.

"For the people in the community that we meet and pass by it shows that the church is not just a bunch of buildings but a group of people who care and believe there is hope."

Stephen added: "Mostly we believe that prayer is powerful and it is worth giving time to in the hope that we see God move more and more in these communities."

Meath Peace Group focus on 1912-1922, a Decade of Change and Violence in Ireland

"Remembering a Decade of Change and Violence in Ireland 1912-1922" - is the title theme of Meath Peace Group's Course on Ethical and

Shared Remembering . It will be held from January 28 to February 18, 2016, at St Columban's College, Dalgan Park, Navan

The organisers state, “During the decade events occurred that have shaped 20th Century Ireland and still cast long shadows over relationships. Ethical remembering is about critical remembering in relation to the practice of the politics, religion, class, and gender relations during the decade.

“Using a developed ethical template the course will explore the key events of the decade, which are inseparable, interconnected and indivisible. The approach will be interactive, in which all are educators and learners. The decade has left legacies and there are themes and issues that still need to be addressed. The future is ever present in the course as imagination is encouraged and used to envision a different future for Ireland.”

The course is hosted by the Meath Peace Group and is based on a programme of The Junction, Derry/Londonderry. The course facilitators are Dr Johnston McMaster and Dr Cathy Higgins (researchers and historians based at the

Junction, assistant professors, Irish School of Ecumenics, TCD). The course will consist of 5 sessions of presentations, workshops and group discussions accompanied by resource manuals, and will run over 3 Thursday evenings and 1 Saturday; light refreshments provided. [Financial assistance from the Ireland 2016 fund (through Meath Co Library) and the Department of Foreign Affairs Reconciliation Fund].

Admission is free. Places are limited. Advanced booking necessary. Contact Julitta Clancy, tel 01 8259438; julitta1@hotmail.com.

The Dates and themes are: January 28th (Thursday, 7-9pm): Decade overview and context; February 4th (Thursday, 7-9pm): Rising, blood sacrifice and equality deferred; February 13th (Saturday, 10-3.30pm): The Somme, slaughter, and sectarianised memory, patriarchy, gender and the decade; February 18th (Thursday 7-9pm): War of Independence and Civil War.

Ulster rugby players' cathedral date

On Monday, January 25th, 2016 at 8pm three Ulster Rugby Players will be speaking at St



Anne's Cathedral. They are Ruan Pienaar, Wiehehn Herbsp, and Paul Marshall.

They will be interviewed by Mark Simpson of the BBC. Brother David Jardine of Divine Healing Ministries said, "It promises to be a wonderful evening."

Cork C of I school board members introductory training

The new Boards of Management of primary schools in the Dioceses of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, who were formally appointed on 1st December by the Patron, Bishop Paul Colton, met with the Bishop last evening, Monday, 7th December, for a briefing about their role, in the Radisson SAS Hotel, Little Island, County Cork.



Members of the Board of St Mary's Church of Ireland National School, Carrigaline, County Cork with visitors from the General Synod Board of Education (l-r) Mairead Quinn (teacher), Dr Ken Fennelly (Church of Ireland Board of Education), the Reverend Elaine Murray (Rector), Dr Andrew Gleasure (Chairperson), Ollie Bradfield (Acting Principal), Hilary Warren-Perry (Community Representative), Ms Eimear Ryan (Church of Ireland Board of Education), and Peter O'Regan (Parent Representative)

The group of 126 was representative of all the primary schools in the Diocese, and many of the schools had 100% of the members of their new Board of Management in attendance. Also present were staff from the Board of Education of the General Synod of the Church of Ireland: Dr Ken Fennelly, and Ms Eimear Ryan.

Bishop Colton thanked everyone for taking on the important role of school management. 'The purpose of the briefing,' he said 'is to set out, at the earliest opportunity in their four year term of work, an overview of their work, and the fundamental principles to guide and support them.' Delivering the training session himself, Dr Colton said, "I take this responsibility directly on myself at the outset of each term of office of Boards of Management to signal my personal support for you and interest in your work. There is, of course, a cauldron of debate about many aspects of our education system in Ireland, but, for now, Boards as leaders in school management and supporters of our school principals and staff, have an existing framework that is detailed and complex. The purpose of this briefing and training evening, in the midst of all the density of regulation of the schools' sector, is to set out the core elements of your work as boards."

The Bishop's presentation covered keywords (vision, partnership, communication, trust, representative, and confidentiality), the legal framework governing schools and the work of boards, the role of boards, what is a school?, the school plan, the specific functions of particular

members of a board, as well as some of the current topical issues such as religious education, and equality/inclusiveness in the school community.

There will be further training sessions in the Diocese so that board members can explore some of the issues in more depth: staff appointments, finances, child protection, anti-bullying procedures, legal issues and data protection.

Church appointments

The **Revd Rob Clements** has been appointed Rector of Kilternan in the Diocese of Dublin. Rob is currently curate assistant in St Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen, having served as a deacon in Rathfarnham parish. He succeeds Canon David Moynan who moved to New Zealand in September.

A native of Belfast, he has previously worked in the social sector; in Dublin in drug and alcohol services, in Seattle as director of an adult

education focused non–profit and in Belfast as a youth and community worker.

His ministry focus is on church growth and development, faith formation and liturgical renewal. He has particular interest in the church's ministry to younger families where he had achieved much in St Macartin's. Through his ministerial and professional life, Rob has been committed to the process of social inclusion and to supporting those labeled the hardest to serve.

Before he completed his M.Th. in the Church of Ireland Theological Institute he completed a M.Sc. in Equality studies in UCD, and trained as a mediator in Seattle.

The **Revd Canon Roy Byrne**, Rector of Drumcondra and North Strand has been appointed rector of Monkstown, also in the Diocese of Dublin. He succeeds Canon Patrick Lawrence who retired earlier this year. Originally from Clondalkin, he was educated in St Patrick's Cathedral Grammar School and later read Theology in Oxford. Whilst in the Church of Ireland Theological College he completed an M.Phil degree in ecumenics.

He was ordained in 1999 for the curacy of the Christ Church Cathedral Group of Parishes which included work in the cathedral itself. In 2003, he moved to the diocese of Leighlin to take up the incumbency of the Killeshin grouped parishes but returned to Dublin in 2007 becoming incumbent of Drumcondra and North Strand.

During his time in Drumcondra and North Strand the school in North Strand has grown considerably with over 100 pupils now on the roll. Drumcondra school has been totally renovated and extended and was re-dedicated by the Archbishops of Armagh and Dublin in May 2015. A particular priority for him has been to encourage the next generation of families to take an interest in the parish and this has included the introduction of monthly informal family services in North Strand and increased integration between the parish and its two schools.

He was appointed a canon of Christ Church Cathedral in 2012 and a board member in 2014. He has been involved with the cathedral's library and archives committee with special responsibility for the cathedral's extensive plate collection for many years and has curated a number of historical exhibitions during his time

there. In his spare time Roy collects antiquarian books and antiques (which he modestly describes as his 'junk collection'!) and has a weakness for furniture auctions.

Revd Stuart Burns, rector of the Down Group of Churches in the Lecale Area Mission Partnership (LAMP) has been appointed as rector of The Benefice of Cheddar, Draycott and Rodney Stoke.

Revd Burns' new parish is in the Church of England Diocese of Bath and Wells, Somerset and his last Sunday in Down and Dromore diocese will be Easter Sunday, 27 March 2016.

Wales holds day of prayer for refugees

Churches across Wales will be holding special services and opening their doors for members of the public to pray and light candles TODAY (Thursday) as part of a national day of prayer for refugees.

And as part of the day an ecumenical prayer gathering, organised by Churches Together in

Wales, will be held outside the Tabernacle Church in the centre of Cardiff.

“When we hear the horrific stories night after night of people leaving their homes and enduring perilous journeys as they flee for their lives, we all want to do something to help, but feel helpless at such a distance,” the Bishop of Swansea and Brecon, John Davies, said. “One thing we can do is to hold both them and those who have the means to help them directly up to God in our prayers and thoughts.

“Doing this ensures that neither they nor the enormity of needs are forgotten. By setting aside a special day to do this we hope as many people as possible will join us in prayer and give the message to all refugees that we care, we are concerned and we are walking with them.

“May such a day also assure those who are faced with answering their needs that we recognise their need of wisdom, grace and vision.”

Churches are marking the day of prayer in a variety of ways. Some are holding a 24-hour prayer vigil; others are opening their doors during

the day for the lighting of candles and to provide a space for people to pray. Others will hold specific times of prayer during the day on the refugee theme; and some are holding formal liturgical services.

Those taking part have been asked to post their prayer activities on Twitter using the hashtags [#refugeeprayersDec10](#) and [#refugeeswelcome](#).

Media digest

Catholic ethos offers more than religious schooling

Irish Times

At long last the **Irish** church could be part of that impulse across Catholic Europe following the Reformation that prioritised the importance of better ...

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/education/catholic-ethos-offers-more-than-religious-schooling-1.2453230>

RE needs to be renamed, include non-religious viewpoints and focus less on indoctrination

Belfast Telegraph

Religious education and acts of collective worship are compulsory by law in Northern **Ireland** schools, although parents may withdraw their child from ...

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/education/re-needs-to-be-renamed-include-nonreligious-viewpoints-and-focus-less-on-indoctrination-34267671.html>

The Transferors Representatives' Council (TRC) represents the three main Protestant dominations - the **Church of Ireland**, the Presbyterian Church ...

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/education/re-needs-to-be-renamed-include-nonreligious-viewpoints-and-focus-less-on-indoctrination-34267671.html>

Tel

Report that Lambeth Palace Library is to be moved into a new multi million purpose-built building in the Palace grounds to ensure the treasures are preserved to modern standards. Article states proposals are at an early stage but the Church Commissioners have announced the appointment of architects to develop the project. The library at Lambeth Palace houses the largest collection of religious books and manuscripts in Europe apart from the Vatican. Declan Kelly, Director of Libraries for the Church of England is quoted.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/12040377/21st-century-home-for-Lambeth-Palace-treasures.html>

Guard

Report on yesterday's annual Wilberforce address for the Conservative Christian Fellowship where the Welsh Secretary, Stephen Crabb, a committed Christian, said that Britain's increasingly secular society risks "pushing more young Muslims into the arms of Isis". Article also makes ref to the recent banning of the CofE's Lord's Prayer ad.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/dec/08/britains-secular-society-pushes-muslims-towards-isis-says-tory-minister>

Christian Today

Report that the leader of Britain's Coptic Christians Bishop Angaelos has called for refugees and other displaced people to be helped to return to their homelands if that is what they wish.

TES

Report on education aspects of report from Commission on Religion and Belief in British Public Life. Article includes comment from Nigel Genders CofE's Chief Education Officer and link to his blog [Church schools make a difference](https://www.tes.com/news/school-news/breaking-news/faith-school-selection-can-be-socially-divisive-says-new-report)
<https://www.tes.com/news/school-news/breaking-news/faith-school-selection-can-be-socially-divisive-says-new-report>

Tel

Allison Pearson writes in response to the Commission on Religion and Belief in Public Life saying this Christmas more than ever Britain needs to remember its Christian roots

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/12039591/This-Christmas-more-than-ever-Britain-needs-to-remember-its-Christian-roots.html>

Guard

Joanna Moorhead writes that "as Bishop Nick Baines says, going to church is no longer the family bonding experience it once was – watching telly together is the new midnight mass."

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/dec/08/church-worship-christmas-tv-bishop-nick-baines>

Guard

Asking for readers views and stories on faith in British schools including RE and collective worship.

http://www.theguardian.com/education/2015/dec/08/faith-in-british-schools-share-your-experiences-with-us?CMP=tw_t_gu

Guard

Comment is Free: The Church of England should not feel threatened by the rise of atheism - we all want the same thing

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/dec/08/why-dont-all-the-religions-gang-up-on-faithless-heathens-like-me-because-we-want-the-same-thing>

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