



The Most Revd Dr Richard Clarke, Archbishop of Armagh, discusses hospice services during his visit to Somerton House.

Archbishop Clarke's tribute to Belfast hospice

The Archbishop of Armagh, The Most Revd Dr Richard Clarke, has paid a warm tribute to the work of the Northern Ireland Hospice after visiting its new hospice building for adults at Somerton

House in North Belfast. He remarked: “It’s marvellous to see it going from an aspiration a few years ago to an absolutely wonderful facility for patients and their families.”

C of I Gazette - During the visit, Archbishop Clarke viewed one of the 18 in-patient suites where a person can be accommodated and receive palliative care. Each suite includes a private bathroom, fridge and TV – and a bed for a visiting relative. Patients can also rest in a garden area and the building is decorated by artwork themed around care and togetherness, which features comments from patients.

The day services centre is a bright and spacious area where patients who require less intensive support can enjoy companionship, and receive therapy and a weekly symptoms check by specialist doctors and nurses. Each year, the Northern Ireland Hospice cares for around 3,000 people – most of whom receive that support at home. These community services will be co-ordinated from Somerton House and an education and research centre will help to further improve the quality of care.

The building includes a sanctuary for worship and spending quiet time with God in prayer and reflection and a relatives' room, which was generously funded by schoolchildren in the Belfast area. One hundred and twenty handheld crosses for patients have been provided by the nearby St Katherine's Parish Church; these have been crafted from olive wood grown in the Holy Land. The first patients moved into the new hospice in late May.

On his visit, Archbishop Clarke expressed his gratitude for the hospice's committed care for people experiencing terminal illness. "The end of life on Earth is such an important time for both patients and their families and they deserve the very best we can give them," he added. "It still seems sad that three-quarters of the cost of the hospice has to be found from private funding."

The £13 million building was designed by Consarc Design Group and constructed by H&J Martin Ltd. £6 million is needed to cover the adult hospice's annual running costs and a range of fundraising and volunteering opportunities are highlighted on the Northern Ireland Hospice's website: www.nihospice.org

Methodist President commends Rural Support

“The Church has recently had conversations with Rural Support and is impressed by its proactive approach in providing practical support to the farming community. I commend this to colleagues serving rural congregations and see it as a useful tool as they offer pastoral support in that environment”...*Rev Brian Anderson, President of the Methodist Church in Ireland*

Rural Support in drive to reach out to farming congregations.

Rural Support has recently been reaching out to make connections and build fruitful and sustainable relationships with churches and faith leaders in rural Northern Ireland, with the view to helping churches to best provide pastoral support to their members. At present, the agricultural sector is experiencing its worst downturn in many years and Rural Support is urging others to join with them as they seek to carry the torch for those who are feeling the health and social effects of straitened financial situations.



Set up in 2002 in the wake of the Foot-and-Mouth crisis, Rural Support offers a listening, guiding and connecting service to rural and farming families and businesses. In the fourteen years since its inception, the independent charity has expanded its horizons and now offers a helpline, a financial mentoring programme, coordinates the social farming initiative in Northern Ireland, carries out original research on issues affecting rural dwellers and works with government in helping shape both policy and delivery of rural governance. With funding from various sources, as well as generous donations from organisations, churches and individuals, Rural Support employs a dedicated team of five staff, assisted by thirty six volunteers and twelve mentors.

Rural Support recognises and applauds the contribution made by the Methodist Church in Northern Ireland in helping to reach out to the vulnerable and disadvantaged in a spirit of charity and compassion, as well as the sense of community and pastoral support that churches provide to farmers and rural dwellers. In that spirit, we ask that faith leaders across the province join with us in challenging many of the 'invisible' problems faced in rural communities. Rural Support are therefore seeking more, and enhanced partnership work with the Methodist Church in order to better aid and advocate for the mental health needs of our rural communities. If you are interested in availing of the support being provided or if you would like to find out more about Rural Support and its services call the helpline – 0845 606 7 607. The helpline is available from 8am-11pm, seven days a week (voicemail and support options available at all other times).

Roadmap for European Reformation 500th anniversary

A celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, called the 'European Reformation

Roadmap,' will begin in November 2016 in Geneva, before touring across sites of significance through May 2017.

There will be activities in 67 cities in 18 countries, featuring a show truck — or “story-mobile” — travelling to different locations in Europe to support local events. The tour through Europe will start on 3 November in Geneva, the city of John Calvin, and now home to the head office of the World Council of Churches (WCC) and many other international organizations. The programme includes seminars, a panel discussion on peace and a digital exhibition.

The Revd Dr Emmanuel Fuchs, President of the Protestant Church in Geneva, says, “It is a great honour for us in the Protestant Church of Geneva (in partnership with the World Council of Churches, the Reformation Museum and the Federation of Swiss Protestant Churches) to launch this European tour of Reformation cities.”

“Geneva, certainly, is a key city in the Reformation,” Fuchs adds. “This Geneva stage of the tour gives us an opportunity, quite apart from its historical aspect, to emphasize Geneva’s open, ecumenical and multicultural character. A certain ‘spirit of Geneva’, a product of the



Geneva,
Reformation City,
the international
and ecumenical capital,
City of Peace

Reformation, still permeates our city, beyond the churches.“

Fuchs concludes: “So, the rich, varied programme, intended not only for the friends of the churches, but also for the whole population, for passersby who want to have a look, will provide, among other things, an opportunity to celebrate with our many immigrant communities, an opportunity for our young people from different religions to meet one another and have discussions, or even for families to see a puppet show. We look forward to seeing you on the Reformation Bus.”

The culmination of the tour will be in central Germany, at the story-mobile’s final stop in

Wittenberg, in time for a World Reformation Exhibition entitled 'Gates of Freedom'. There, churches from around the world and civil society exhibitors will present their activities over the summer, illustrating what the Reformation set in motion and what it still means today.

Bring 'order and honesty' back to football, Pope tells Fifa president

Pope Francis has urged the president of Fifa to bring "order and honesty" to football's world governing body.

During a meeting at the Vatican this week, the Pope told Infantino: "Clear paths, put things back in order and honesty. And football is a weapon, in a good way, it serves as an educational and social integration with the kids."

The Pope added that "with soccer, go forward showing honesty and cleanliness."

In response, Infantino told Francis: "We want to do just that."

Fifa has been beset by allegations of widespread corruption for many years. Last summer the US

Department of Justice indicted several of the organisation's top executives and this was followed by long-serving president Sepp Blatter stepping down.

Shortly after he was elected as the new Fifa president in February, Infantino said "Fifa has gone through sad times, moments of crisis", but he "promised to restore (the organisation's) image."

US archdiocese offers \$65 million in compensation for sex abuse victims

The Archdiocese of St Paul and Minneapolis will compensate victims of abuse with more than \$65 million.

Their compensation plan outlines specific sources for funds available for victim remuneration, including at least \$8.7 million from the sale of archdiocesan properties, including three chancery buildings, as well as more than \$33 million from insurance settlements.

It establishes a trust for victim remuneration funds, with a court-approved allocation protocol.

The plan also includes settlements from parish insurers of approximately \$13.7 million with the potential for future settlements from archdiocesan insurers that are not currently entering into agreements with the archdiocese. The archdiocese is seeking to transfer the rights of recovery for those policies to the trustee of the trust for victims.

“We filed our plan today – at 16 months – because victims/survivors cannot be compensated until a plan for reorganisation is finalised and approved,” Archbishop Bernard A Hebda of St Paul and Minneapolis said during a news conference last week.

“The longer the process lasts, more money is spent on attorneys’ fees and bankruptcy expenses, and, in turn, less money is available for victims/survivors. ... We are submitting our plan now in the hope of compensating victims/survivors and promoting healing sooner rather than later.”

Cathedral, choral and musical

St John’s Cathedral, Sligo, will host a Festival of Flowers on theme of *‘All things bright and beautiful’* from 3rd–6th June 2016. Further information is available

from the Dean of Sligo, the Very Revd Arvon Williams on arvonwilliams@eircom.net

+++

Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin - A new exhibition entitled 'Where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt' – an alternative history of Christ Church Cathedral will be launched on Tuesday 7 June 2016 at 6:00pm in the cathedral.

+++

Belfast Cathedral's 2016 Music Festival ended on Saturday May 28 with a superb concert in honour of the ninetieth birthday of HM The Queen which took place in the presence of Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Belfast, Mrs Finnouala Jay-O'Boyle CBE and Mr Richard Jay. This festival finale was hosted by St Anne's in conjunction with the Ulster Society of Organists and Choirmasters. The Cathedral Choir was joined by the Cantate Domino Consort and the Junior Choir of Victoria College Belfast.

The concert also included three organists: Ian Barber and David Stevens, current Organist and Master of Choristers respectively, and an invited guest organist and former musician of St Anne's, Christopher Boodle. Brian Hunter, a past

chorister, choir member and director of music, directed the Cantate Domino Consort in a number of pieces, several of which were directly linked to Royal occasions.

St Anne's choir sang the popular *Zadok the Priest* and organ works punctuated the choral works. The Dean of Belfast, the Very Rev John Mann said: "It was a suitable end to a wonderful and very successful festival of music."

The Festival began the previous Sunday, May 22, with a concert by pupils from the Cathedral's three Choir Schools – Edenbrooke, Sacred Heart and Cliftonville Integrated. Visit

The second concert of the Festival took place on Wednesday May 25 when Conor Breen, former member of the Cathedral Choir and NI Opera Young Artist, performed a recital of music from Saint-Saëns, Hahn, Finzi, Mahler and Strass. On Thursday May 26 the audience was guided to the north side of the choir stalls for an organ recital by Master of Choristers, David Stevens. Soprano Andrea Delaney's recital on May 27 reflected well her title *On a Wing and a Prayer*

News briefs

Queen Elizabeth II's 90th birthday was marked at **St Nicholas' Church of Ireland in Carrickfergus** on Sunday (May 29). Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for County Antrim, Joan Christie OBE hosted the official service for the County of Antrim with Mid and East Antrim Borough Council assisting. In attendance were the Rt Rev Ian McNie, Presbyterian Moderator; Most Rev Noel Treanor, Bishop of Down and Connor; Rt Rev Alan Abernethy, Bishop of Connor and Rev Maureen Hassard, Ballymena Methodist Church with the address by **Lady Eames OBE**. A procession left the Town Hall and made its way to the historic church for the service. Writing in the May edition of St Nicholas' Parish News, Rector George Davison said the church had the "privilege of hosting the County Antrim Service of Thanksgiving for Her Majesty the Queen's 90th birthday".

+++

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 Wednesday June 1. A native of Lisburn, Mr. McConnell 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.

+++

Parish appointment - The Rev Edmond Coulter, currently Superintendent of Irish Church Missions and senior pastor of Immanuel Church, Dublin, has been appointed rector of Lambeg. He was a member of Lisburn Cathedral when called to Ordination in 1984. He did his training at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute in Dublin and in 1987 was ordained in Connor Diocese. He served his first curacy in Ballymena (1987-90) and a second curacy in Knockbreda, Diocese of Down and Dromore (1990-92). In 1992 he 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 as Superintendent of Irish Church Missions and senior pastor of Immanuel Church.

+++

The Central President of the Mothers Union, Lynne Tembey is in Canada. She texts, "I am with Anne Marie (Action and Outreach team) joining with Canadian Mothers' Union Council

members for their meeting. Hearing about the work achieved and their future plans is truly inspirational. I am also preparing to meet with members for their Conference. Please do pray for safe travel and God's blessings for the Conference.”

+++



Stephen Doherty leader of the Glen Community Church

Here we grow, Newtownards community church weekend - “It’s with great excitement that the ministry team from **Glen Community**

Church alongside members of **St Marks Select Vestry** are organising a “Here We Grow” weekend in Londonderry Primary School from Friday 10 to Sunday 12 June. Stephen Doherty , leader of the Glen Community Church, says:

“The purpose of the weekend is to celebrate how God has blessed the church family here in the Glen, but also to raise awareness of the ministries we provide locally, and to seek God’s guidance in making the church sustainable for future growth.

“Our speaker on the Friday evening will be Archdeacon David McClay and some of our people will be sharing their stories of how the church has impacted their lives and their community.

“Back in August 2014, we began worshipping with a regular attendance in the low 20s, and now, some 20 months later, God has brought some 70–80 regular, local worshippers, but we don’t want to stop there!

“Over the weekend there’ll be lots of food and fun but also opportunities to invest in the future of the ministry here. “Please pray for the members of

the organising team and for the release of financial gifts for the growth and sustainability of the Glen Community Church.” The Glen Community Church is a church plant sponsored by the Diocese of Down and Dromore.

+++

A wave of prayer for parent and toddler groups began yesterday in churches across the UK with prayer marathons and special services planned in the next few days. With more than 20,000 churches estimated to be running toddler groups in the UK, the organisers say it is important for groups, leaders, children and their families to be supported in prayer. Early Years Adviser for the Diocese of Chelmsford, Jo Gilks, said, “Some of our churches have fantastic toddler groups and some people don’t even know anything about them. It’s important for the church to support them and pray for them because it can be lonely and sometimes they don’t feel they are part of the church mission. But they are a fantastic mission opportunity for our churches.” **The National Month of Prayer for toddler group ministries** runs throughout June and has been coordinated by Make them Count – National Strategy for Christian Toddler Groups. For further details and resources see:

[www.1277.org.uk/
resources](http://www.1277.org.uk/resources) [www.facebook.com/groups/
1277makethemcount/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1277makethemcount/)

+++

Applications are invited for the **post of Assistant Librarian** based in the **Representative Church Body (RCB) Library**, Braemor Park, Dublin 14.

The person appointed will be responsible for assisting in the care and custody of the Library's printed collections and the provision of user services. Candidates should have a primary degree and a recognised relevant postgraduate qualification together with at least three years' relevant experience. Application for the position is by completed application form together with CV. Further details and application form are available to download at [http://ireland.anglican.org/information/vacancies/431?](http://ireland.anglican.org/information/vacancies/431?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Church%20of%20Ireland%20E-bulletin%20June%202016&utm_content=Church%20of%20Ireland%20E-bulletin%20June%202016+CID_65b133addff172131ed88b4b12dd7fe6&utm_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm_term=Assistant%20Librarian)

[utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Church%20of%20Ireland%20E-bulletin%20June%202016&utm_content=Church%20of%20Ireland%20E-bulletin%20June%202016+CID_65b133addff172131ed88b4b12dd7fe6&utm_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm_term=Assistant%20Librarian](http://ireland.anglican.org/information/vacancies/431?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Church%20of%20Ireland%20E-bulletin%20June%202016&utm_content=Church%20of%20Ireland%20E-bulletin%20June%202016+CID_65b133addff172131ed88b4b12dd7fe6&utm_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm_term=Assistant%20Librarian)

**News links to reports on faith,
politics and education**

Martin McGuinness expresses hope for reconciliation on visit to Somme battlefields

Irish News

http://www.irishnews.com/news/northernirelandnews/2016/06/01/news/martin-mcguinness-expresses-hope-for-reconciliation-on-visit-to-wwi-battlefields-543237/?mc_cid=8d7b7d6d1b&mc_eid=23f2f80c40

Academic selection better for social equality: Weir

News Letter

Stormont's new Education Minister has insisted that scrapping academic selection would increase social inequality rather than reduce it.

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/academic-selection-better-for-social-equality-weir-1-7411341>

Priest claims Irish Catholic Church 'beyond point of redemption'

Irish Times

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/priest-claims-irish-catholic-church-beyond-point-of-redemption-1.2669139#.V0-BRzVjzUQ.twitter>

Does the Irish Catholic Church have a contingency to combat vocational decline?

the Irish News

A new survey has revealed that 42 per cent of Irish Catholic priests believe that the celibacy requirement should be dropped. However, 63 per cent of ...

<http://www.irishnews.com/lifestyle/faithmatters/2016/06/02/news/does-the-irish-catholic-church-have-a-contingency-to-combat-vocational-decline--533222/>

Large increase in under-16s having children, but decline in overall teenage birthrate

The Journal

The teenage birthrate has decreased by 60% since 2001.

<http://www.thejournal.ie/increase-children-decline-2799235-Jun2016/>

Pieta House founder will donate €65k senator salary to the charity

The Journal

Joan Freeman was named as one of the Taoiseach's nominees to the Seanad last week.

Split row church St Matthias in Knocknamuckley advertises for new minister

Belfast Telegraph

Bethel Church leaders talked of followers "trying to raise the dead" and ... "I am a **Church of Ireland** clergyman and I preach about the Kingdom of God.

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/split-row-church-st-matthias-in-knocknamuckley-advertises-for-new-minister-34762712.html>

Guard/BBC Today Prog (7.20)

Reports that the C of E has released new Ministry Statistics (see above) giving trends in ministry over the period between 2012 and 2015. Guardian focuses on ageing clergy noting that 25% are over 60 while BBC has interview with Rev Rose Hudson-Wilkin and Peter Ould.

The statistics show that total ordained ministry over the last four years has remained stable, with over 20,000 ordained people serving the church in various roles.
<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jun/02/church-of-england-ageing-clergy-crisis>
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qj9z>

Christian Today

Reports that one of the country's oldest parish churches that was once the Cathedral of Cornwall has been leased by the C of E to an independent trust. It was set up to run St Germans Priory, the Grade One listed church after the PCC found it increasingly difficult to raise funds for repairs. The Bishop of Truro is quoted.

Mail

Report that a student who scrawled 'don't bomb Syria' in on a church opposite the Houses of Parliament has been fined. Peter Harris daubed the slogan on St Margaret's Church - a World Heritage Site - in Westminster. He attacked the Parliament-facing wall of the church and the court heard traces of the paint can still be seen. Harris, of Thamesmead, South-East London, has since claimed he acted without thinking and was ordered to pay £100 in compensation at Westminster Magistrates' Court.

Even Stand

Reports that a retired London vicar has said he is prepared to be bankrupted and go to prison to highlight benefit cuts and charges he claims are "shortening people's lives". The Revd Paul Nicolson, spoke out ahead of a court hearing to deal with his refusal to pay council tax since 2013. He calls it an "act of civil

disobedience” in a fight against tax and welfare policies which he says unfairly hit those on low incomes.

<http://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/vicar-risks-jail-and-bankruptcy-in-stand-against-cuts-that-hit-the-poor-a3260831.html>

ITV

Report that Durham Cathedral has launched a lottery to select who will place the final brick on its replica built in Lego. The model, which was set up as a fundraising tool for the Open Treasure exhibition experience, has attracted world-wide attention since it started in July 2013. Now, The winner will place the final brick on the model in a special ceremony on July 25. Durham Cathedral's Head of Development, Gaye Kirby is quoted. <http://www.itv.com/news/tyne-tees/2016-06-01/durham-cathedral-to-select-final-lego-bricklayer/>

BBC/Tel

Further reports that artefacts from an abbey destroyed by Henry VIII have gone on display for the first time in nearly 500 years. The items at Rievaulx Abbey, near Helmsley, North Yorkshire, are being displayed following a £1.8m redevelopment by English Heritage.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-york-north-yorkshire-36418947>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/06/01/revealed-the-monastic-treasures-henry-viiis-men-missed/>

GET CNI HEADLINES EACH DAY
Facebook and Twitter
Click on logo at CNI Home page
www.churchnewsireland.org

+ Please share CNI with your friends
www.churchnewsireland.org