



**The essential daily
brief on the Irish
churches**



Deloitte selects East Belfast Mission for Social Pioneer support

Deloitte, the business advisory firm, last week announced the inclusion of the East Belfast Mission (EBM) in its second wave of Social Innovation Pioneers for 2014.

The 16 new Pioneers are a range of social businesses throughout the UK who will work with the firm over the next 12 months to grow their business and improve social impact.

Deloitte Social Innovation Pioneers supports innovative businesses whose purpose is to address social issues, providing over £1m worth of tailored in-

kind support each year. This includes bespoke guidance from senior advisers within the firm who specialise in each specific market area or growth challenge, as well as workshops on common issues such as investment readiness and leadership.

Barbara Baird, Project Manager Social Economy, East Belfast Mission said, *“Having already had some notable successes this year, hearing that we had been selected for this year’s Pioneers programme was absolutely the icing on the cake! EBM are an innovative and forward thinking organisation always keen to develop and explore new openings, we are really excited to have this opportunity to learn from such a successful business practice within the private sector. We hope that it will assist us achieve our goal in taking the organisation to the next level whilst maintaining our core community values.”*

East Belfast Mission delivers integrated community support in an area of high deprivation, which experiences high unemployment, low educational attainment, ill-health and paramilitary influence. Their services include childcare, employment opportunities, training, catering, crisis accommodation, retail, and recycling and are delivered through a social enterprise model, which has the benefits of creating jobs and meeting the needs of the community.



Former Dean awarded €10k

The former Dean of St. Patrick’s Cathedral, Dr. Robert MacCarthy, has been awarded compensation understood to be in the region of €10,000 in a settlement brokered by the Irish Employment Appeals Tribunal following termination of his role as Chaplain to St. Patrick’s mental hospital, a Dublin institution founded by his famous predecessor, Jonathan Swift.

Greg Ryan in Church Times - Dr. MacCarthy, who stepped down as Dean in 2012, had travelled to Zimbabwe for a three-month work programme after his retirement but when he returned to St. Patrick’s Hospital he was told his position as Chaplain had been given to the local Rector, Revd Canon Mark Gardener.



“I arrived back at the hospital to be told my chaplaincy post was gone. I had not been notified or given a reason or grounds for this action, and was left with no option but to have the matter clarified, which the Employment Appeals Tribunal did,” he said on Saturday.

In a letter seen by the Church Times which was sent by the hospital CEO, Paul Gilligan, to Dr. MacCarthy in February 2013, Mr. Gilligan stated “In November 2012, the Most Revd. Dr. Michael Jackson, wrote me a letter indicating that the Revd. Canon Mark Gardener had been appointed as Church of Ireland Chaplain to the hospital given that you had retired.”

The perceived role of the Archbishop in replacing Dr. MacCarthy was disputed by the former Dean, who said “St. Patrick’s Hospital, like the Rotunda Maternity Hospital, is a private hospital and the Board, of which the Archbishop of Dublin Dr. Jackson is a member, appoints the chaplain. While the Archbishop would have the right to appoint chaplains to public hospitals in the Diocese, my appointment was clearly one for the Board, not the Archbishop.”

Dr. MacCarthy sought mediation on the basis that the hospital had employed him and paid him independently of the Diocese. On Tuesday, the hospital declined to make any comment.

A spokeswoman for Dublin Diocese confirmed the chaplaincy appointment was for the hospital to make, and this includes remuneration. Dr. Jackson was unavailable for comment.

A noted ecumenist and innovator, one of Dr. MacCarthy’s more controversial proposals while still in office as Dean was that St. Patrick’s Cathedral, National Cathedral of the Church of Ireland north and south, should embrace Christians of all denominations. This proposal, among other initiatives of the Dean, sometimes brought him into conflict with some members of the Cathedral Board.

Upon announcing in 2012 that he was stepping down, Dr. MacCarthy made it clear that any disagreements he might have had with individual board members had ‘absolutely nothing to do’ with his decision to retire.

Bikers on a mission

From 1-10 August 2014, Rev Nigel Kirkpatrick and Rev Andrew McCroskery will undertake a tour of all the Church of Ireland cathedrals to mark the 300th anniversary of the United Society (formerly the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel).

As well as raising funds for this organisation, they will highlight the crucial work of the United Society among the people of Swaziland. Further details will be added as to how others can contribute in due course.

Here is the schedule (all dates are August)

1st : St Anne's Belfast, Christ Church Lisburn, Dromore, Armagh.

2nd : Kilmore, Clogher, Enniskillen

3rd: Derry, Raphoe, Sligo, Killala

4th : Tuam, Kilfenora, Clonfert, Killaloe

5th : Limerick, Rosscarberry

6th: Cork, Cloyne, Lismore

7th: Waterford, Cashel

8th: Kilkenny, Leighlin, Ferns

9th: Dublin (x2), Kildare, Trim

10th: Downpatrick - then back to St Anne's Belfast.

Any and all bikers are welcome to join us for the day on any part of the tour in exchange for a small donation to the United Society

US Choir at Christ Church Dublin tomorrow

Manhattanville College Vocal Chamber Ensemble all the way from New York, will present a lunchtime concert on Wednesday 12th at 1.15pm.

The repertoire will be sacred and include a performance of Fauré's Requiem, accompanied by C C's Assistant Organist. Admission included in normal cathedral entry.



Irish night in Dublin Central Mission

There will be singing, dancing and snacks.

Tickets will be available at the door. All most welcome. Event Date: Saturday, 15 March, 2014 - 19:00 to 22:00 Venue: Dublin Central Mission. Cost Adults €5.00, Family €10.00 abbey.street@dcmiss.ie

Affirming Catholicism Ireland - Lenten Quiet Day

Ballymore Parish Church (Tandragee, Co Armagh) is the venue on Saturday 15th March 2014

The Conductor is Rev Dr Norman Gamble, Hon Convenor ACI and Rector of Malahide, on the theme - 'The Temptations Today'

1030 Gathering, tea, coffee

1100 Matins and First Address, 'Looking after Number One'

1230 Litany and Second Address, 'The Magician'

1315-1400 LUNCH. Please bring own lunch, tea and coffee will be provided

1415 Third Address 'The Lure of Power'

1500 Eucharist and depart. Silence will be observed between the First and Second Address, and between the Third Address and the Eucharist

Conversation - Can We Learn From the Past

The Contemporary Christianity 2014 series of In Conversation With ... events is focusing on Faith and History.

The next event In Conversation With ... Crawford Gribben and Andrew Holmes on Can We Learn From the Past.

This Conversation explores whether it is possible to learn from the past and how historical research and teaching can inform that process. Both participants teach history at QUB and both have published extensively on the history of Protestantism in Britain and Ireland from the Reformation to the present. They will reflect on their own experience of teaching undergraduate students as well as the possibilities and pitfalls of professional scholars contributing to wider debates about commemoration and dealing with the legacy of the past.

Tuesday 18 March, 7:30pm Contemporary Christianity office 3rdFloor, 21 Ormeau Avenue, Belfast. [Clickhere for map](#)

Crawford Gribben teaches history in Queen's University Belfast. He has published extensively on the literary cultures of puritanism and evangelicalism, and is especially interested in evangelical thinking about the end of the world.

Andrew Holmes is a lecturer in modern Irish history at Queen's. He publishes widely on the history of protestantism in Ulster and was a historical consultant and a principal contributor to the recent three-part BBC NI series *An Independent People: The Story of Ulster's Presbyterians*.

Blue Plaque for Shankill preacher

An historical Blue Plaque was erected on the Shankill Road in Belfast on Monday morning to a highly regarded Presbyterian minister the Rev Dr Henry Montgomery.



The plaque recognises the Christian witness of a celebrated pastor/preacher, a leading figure in 19th century Irish Presbyterianism.

Dr Montgomery once said: "One Sunday evening during the hour of the regular church services I walked from Royal Avenue to the Shankill, I was struck by large numbers of non-church-going people that I was moved to reach them with the message of life."

William Humphries MLA speaking at the unveiling said, "Rev Montgomery, worked tirelessly for the people of the Shankill and provided a "welfare state" for area, long before the state did, particularly during the hardship of the great depression.

"The Rev Montgomery organised many holidays for thousands of people in the area, not least for WW1 widows and their children.

“An ardent opponent of Home Rule, Rev Montgomery was the third person to sign The Ulster Covenant.

“A man greatly respected in the community for decades of practical Christian ministry, it is totally appropriate that he should be recognised in this way, Congratulations and well done to local group SASH and the Ulster History Circle for making it happen and Belfast City Council, who provided the funding.”

Presbyterian Church witness in Spain

Derek and Jane French were commissioned for service in Spain at a service held in [Drumbo Presbyterian Church](#) on 14 January 2001, and in early February that year they left for Spain to commence a period of orientation and language study.



By June 2001 they were settled in *Valencia* where they began to work in the Levante Presbytery of the [Spanish Evangelical Church](#) (IEE), principally involved in evangelism. They soon began to initiate a number of new ventures, including ‘Christianity Explored’ courses, initiatives in both youth and children’s work, one-to-one Bible studies and reaching out to people outside the church through the teaching of English.

At the beginning of 2007, Derek and Jane moved to *Bilbao* in Northern Spain to take up a new assignment with [Grupos Bíblicos Unidos](#) (GBU) – a Christian student organisation affiliated to the [International Fellowship of Evangelical Students](#) (IFES).

Their work with GBU principally involves evangelism among students and the discipling of Christian students.



GBU’s vision is to reach all non-Christian students with the gospel and to develop student leadership which, in the future, should contribute to the growth of evangelical churches in Spain.

GBU also seeks to contribute to the transformation of Spanish society through evangelical graduates and professionals who have been helped by GBU.

Currently, there are 17 GBU groups throughout Spain involving more than 500 university students.

Ecumenical Women at UN on status of women

United Nations Status of Women is underway - Check out the two videos below from the opening Ecumenical Women worship at the 58th Commission on the Status of Women.

Ecumenical Women has well over 150 delegates here at CSW across many denominations and from around the world! Stay tuned to <http://www.ecumenicalwomen.org> for stories and reflections from the churches delegates throughout the next two weeks.



Two Magdalene orders reaffirm compo refusal

Two of the four Orders which ran the Magdalene laundries have reaffirmed their refusal to offer any financial contribution to the compensation fund for survivors.

Irish Examiner - More than a year after Taoiseach Enda Kenny offered a State apology to women incarcerated in Magdalene laundries, Justice Minister Alan Shatter wrote to the Orders a number of weeks ago for the fourth time about contributing to the redress scheme and confirmed that two of the Orders had responded stating they would not contribute any money towards compensating the women.

The redress scheme is expected to cost between €34m and €58m.

“I wrote to the religious congregations again on this matter several weeks ago following a statement made by the Holy See to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child in relation to the Magdalen laundries,” said Mr Shatter.

“I have received responses from two of the congregations advising that their position is unchanged and I am awaiting a response from the other two congregations.”

The Sisters of Mercy, Sisters of Our Lady of Charity of Refuge, the Good Shepherd Sisters, and the Sisters of Charity have all stated their refusal to contribute financially to the redress scheme on previous occasions.

In 2012, the Irish Examiner reported that the four orders which ran the Magdalene laundries made almost €300m in property deals during the economic boom.

Mr Shatter also said that he had written to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and asked it to forward any evidence it may have in respect of criminal activity committed in the Magdalen laundries “for the purpose of criminal investigation and possible prosecution.” More at -

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/ireland/two-magdalene-orders-reaffirm-compo-refusal-261358.html>