



***Four Seasons care home in Garvagh***

## **Developments in Presbyterian residential care homes in North West**

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland is to purchase the former Four Seasons care home in Garvagh, County Londonderry, creating a new

residential care home for older people, including those with dementia.

The £1.5 million redevelopment and refurbishment of the home will increase overall residential care for older people, with the creation of 50 en suite rooms. It will also involve the relocation of services from its Londonderry and Portrush residential care homes, Ard Cluan House and York House, which will be sold.

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland's (PCI) Council for Social Witness has overall management responsibility for the Church's six residential care homes for older people and its other services. Making the announcement, Council Secretary Lindsay Conway, said, "As the continued wellbeing of our residents is our priority, this development is an exciting opportunity for the future as we are committed to improving the standard of our residential care.

"Due to changing legislation, increasing standards and rising expectations of residents and their families, we review aspects of our service provision regularly. This ensures that our residents across all of our homes are provided with the best care. Unfortunately, Ard Cluan and York House, which were both built in 19th

Century, no longer provide the opportunities for improvement.”

He explained that the envisaged relocation to the new site, which is only 20-years-old, would increase PCI’s ability to provide much needed residential care for older people in the north west region, including services for those with dementia.

“There is huge potential in Garvagh to create a wonderful, modern and welcoming home with a Christian ethos that will be fit for purpose for many years to come. We do however, understand the complexities and issues associated with the move, which is why throughout the process we will keep our residents, their relatives and our staff informed of developments,” Mr. Conway said.

As part of the relocation and refurbishment process, which should take between six and nine months to complete, staff and relatives will also be involved in the selection of furnishings for the new home and choosing its decoration.

“The whole process will be carefully managed and undertaken with minimal disruption. It will also take place in consultation with our colleagues in the Health and Social Care Trusts. While we give thanks for Ard Cluan and York

House, which the Church has managed for nearly 50 years, we ask for your prayers at this time as we begin a fresh in the north west," Mr. Conway said.

In making the announcement he said that residents, their families, staff and the Trusts had been told of the plans. He also thanked the volunteers and local support committees, as they had made an important difference in the lives of many older people through their hard work over many years.

It is hoped that the new residential home in Garvagh will open in the spring of 2017.

See also -

Presbyterian Church: Concern over plans to close Londonderry and Portrush care homes  
BBC News

The healthcare union Unison calls for an urgent meeting over plans to close two care homes in the north west.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-foyle-west-36329298>

Londonderry Sentinel

<http://www.londonderrysentinel.co.uk/news/londonderry-news/pci-purchase-garvagh-care-home-1-7390417>

## **New Zealand synod debates Irish model of Anglican and Methodist unity**

Moves towards the mutual recognition and acceptance of Anglican and Methodist ministers in New Zealand have been delayed by at least two years after the General Synod of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia heard that the Province's Council for Ecumenism had not considered a report from the Anglican-Methodist Dialogue Group.

The General Synod last considered the report in 2014, when it asked the Council to report back to this year's General Synod on the dialogue group's recommendations. The synod, when it met last week, had been asked to approve a motion confirming that it "formally affirms, accepts, and recognizes the validity of Methodist presidency and presbyteral ministries as effectively equivalent to Anglican episcopal and priestly ministries, such that interchange is possible without the requirement of re-ordination."

The motion would have authorised “the necessary enabling legislation” to permit “an act of reconciliation of episcopal ministries so enabling a full interchangeability of ordained ministries, in accord with the Irish Model.”

But the motion was withdrawn when it emerged that the Council for Ecumenism had not considered the dialogue group’s report.

The three primates of the Province, Archbishops Brown Turei, Winston Halapua and Philip Richardson have apologised to the Methodist Church of New Zealand and stressed that the withdrawal of the motion “did not reflect a change in Anglican commitment to dialogue or close and positive relations between the two churches.”

Under the “Irish Model”, the President and other senior clergy from the Methodist Church of Ireland take part in the consecration of Anglican bishops; and the two Anglican Archbishops of the Church of Ireland participate in the installation of the President of the Methodist Church.

In the case of the Methodist President, this first happened on 12 June 2014 when the Revd Peter Murray was elected and installed as President of

the Methodist Church in Ireland at Christ Church Leeson Park, Dublin. The first consecration of an Anglican bishop under the new ecumenical agreement took place on 24 January 2015 when the Methodist President Peter Murray; and former Presidents the Revd Donald Ker and the Revd Winston Graham joined Church of Ireland bishops in the laying on of hands on the former secretary general of the Anglican Communion, the Rt Revd Kenneth Kearon, when he was consecrated as the Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe.

The proposals for the interchangeability of Methodist and Anglican ministers New Zealand will return to the General Synod of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia when it next meets in 2018.

## **Anglican and Roman Catholic Canon Lawyers met in Dublin**

The sixteenth, and final, meeting of the Colloquium of Anglican and Roman Catholic Canon Lawyers met in Dublin on Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th May, 2016. The subject of discussion was the law of the Church governing the parish: legal definitions of parish, of parish



***At the Sixteenth Colloquium of Anglican and Roman Catholic Canon Lawyers were (l-r) Professor Norman Doe, Dr Paul Colton, Professor James Conn, Father Andrew Cole, Father Flintan Gavin, and Professor Mark Hill, Q.C.***

and church membership, the constitutional organisation of parishes, parish officers, parish property, finance and trusts, and also the legal relationship of the parish with the wider church.

The meetings took place at the Pro-Cathedral in Dublin.

Anglican participants were: Professor Norman Doe, Professor Mark Hill, QC, and Dr Paul



Colton, Bishop of Cork, all of the Centre for Law and Religion at the School of Law and Politics at Cardiff University. Roman Catholic participants were: Professor James J. Conn, S.J. (School of Theology and Ministry, Boston College), the Reverend Fintan Gavin (Archdiocese of Dublin) and the Reverend Andrew Cole (University of Nottingham).

## **Handling the Word**

Handling the Word is a two day course organised by Down Presbytery of the PCI, for church members who wish to learn how to prepare and deliver a talk from the Bible.

The organisers state - Handling the Word is a course for those who wish to learn how to deliver a biblical talk. It would be useful for anyone who gives talks to a youth fellowship, a Presbyterian Women meeting, a Men's Breakfast as well as those who have the opportunity to preach a Sunday sermon. The course is normally a pre-requisite for the Accredited Preacher course but there is no obligation to progress to that scheme. The only entry requirement is to be a communicant member of a Presbyterian Church in Ireland congregation.

Each day will include teaching sessions and practical workshops.

Topics covered: the Bible as the foundation, understanding and applying the Bible passage and considering your hearers.

This course is organised by Down Presbytery but is open to people from other Presbyteries. A charge of £25 will be made to cover the expenses involved in running the course. Lunch and tea/coffee at breaks will be supplied. Pre-registration is required.

Note: Day one, Saturday, 18th June will be held at Killinchy Presbyterian Church. Day two, Saturday, 25th June will be held at Second Saintfield Presbyterian Church – both days run from 9am to 4pm.

To register please contact Rev. Dr. Annes Nel by email: [killinchy@gmail.com](mailto:killinchy@gmail.com) Please register by Friday, 10th June 2016.

## **News briefs**

**Down and Dromore Youth Council** is organising its last Saturday Night Live of the school year, on June 4th at 7.30pm in Dromore

Cathedral Halls. There will be a bit of a summer theme, worship, Brandy (Andy Brannigan), speaking about faith “with all your heart, mind strength and soul” and plenty of good fun too. There is still some space available at DDYC summer camps - see <http://www.ddyc.co.uk/news/item/377&Itemid=477>

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**Christian Aid Ireland** - Help fight **#Hunger** this May by **#running** the **@1WorldRun** which is happening Sun 22 May in Ormeau Park. Register now: <http://bit.ly/1ZgNtoA>

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**YMCA Ireland** - is holding a Football Quiz Night at Bangor FC on 23rd June. All proceeds to YM's work with young people **#Bangor**

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**Simon Community NI** - Where did the sun go ? Why not join us walk to **#endhomelessness** **@CaminoWays** in September sunshine?

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**BCM NI @bcm ni** -Belfast City Mission invite you raise funds for Kirk House's new garden and buy their fundraising cookbook for £5.00.

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**Sky diving Limerick priest** - A Catholic priest based in the Diocese of Limerick will take a leap of faith this weekend when he jumps from the sky to raise funds for his local parochial house. Fr Tom Mangan, who is Parish Priest of Donaghmore, which is about 15 miles from Limerick City, will take part in a sky dive with 12 others this week at Abbeyshrule airfield in Co Longford. Fr Mangan said that he is “currently unable to live in the parochial house in Donaghmore due to its poor conditions – so I live in rented accommodation some miles away.” The skydive on Sunday which is entitled ‘Flying High for Fr Tom’ will see Fr Mangan accelerate from 0 to 100 miles per hour in five seconds after jumping out of the plane. After free falling for 25 seconds the parachute will open at 5,000 feet and he will glide safely to the ground. Asked if he is bothered by the dive he jokingly, he responded “No, it will be grand.” The skydive takes place in Abbeyshrule Co Longford on 22 May.

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At the recent commissioning of the **Garvaghy Select Vestry(Down & Dromore)** for the incoming year, the parish marked 60 years of service from 86 year old vestry member, Mr Bobby Lavery. Bobby, who received his initial



the parish hall) has served the parish faithfully over the years in a whole variety of ways including the role of Rector's Church Warden. He is also a lifelong supporter of Tottenham Hotspur FC! The parish marked this 60 year milestone by presenting Bobby with a certificate and a small gift.

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The **Episcopal Church in the USA** has developed an online toolkit with a webpage that [churchnewsireland@gmail.com](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.com)

outlines how individual Episcopalians and congregations can participate in the **electoral process** through a number of nonpartisan activities.

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The Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop Michael Curry brought his message of the Jesus Movement to the 21<sup>st</sup> **Global Episcopal Mission Network Conference** during a May 18 keynote address.

“Evangelism is just one beggar telling another beggar where to find [some] bread,” he said, offering a quote from by the Ceylonese Methodist pastor, D.T. Niles. “And so I’m just one beggar talking to other beggars about and our work of helping other beggars find some real bread.”

## **Cathedral, choral and musical**

**St Fin Barre’s Cathedral Cork** - Tickets for Frankfield Gospel Choir in concert on Saturday at 7.30pm in Cathedral Shop now [@Corks96FM](#) radiothon

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A vibrant poster for a Discovery Gospel Choir concert. The top half features a group of diverse choir members clapping and singing. The bottom half shows a close-up of several members singing into microphones. The text is overlaid on a background of red, green, and black bands.

Templepatrick Presbytery  
presents...

# DISCOVERY GOSPEL CHOIR

SATURDAY 21ST MAY, 7:30PM  
ASSEMBLY BUILDINGS, BELFAST

TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE REID'S  
DIGGER PROJECT IN KENYA

DISCOVERY  
GOSPEL  
CHOIR

ADMISSION  
£10

**'A fantastic choir'**  
- Archbishop Desmond Tutu

BOOK [kpc-office@inbox.com](mailto:kpc-office@inbox.com) 07713 273027

## **Discovery Gospel Choir Belfast Concert.**

DGC is Ireland's leading intercultural choir, singing songs of hope from all over the world. Described by Archbishop Desmond Tutu as "a fantastic choir", they will be performing at this event organised by Templepatrick Presbytery to [churchnewsireland@gmail.com](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.com)

raise funds for PCI missionaries Gary and Mary Reid's digger project in Kenya. Cost: £10. Date: Saturday 21st May 2016 at 7.30pm. Location: Assembly Buildings, 2-10 Fisherwick Place, Belfast. Contact: tel. 07713 273027 or email [kpc-office@inbox.com](mailto:kpc-office@inbox.com)

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**The choir of St Paul's Church in Glenageary,** return to the Diocese of Derry and Raphoe after last year's successful summer visit. This concert, in **St Columb's Cathedral**, Londonderry, on May 20 at 8.00pm will be the first of two performances that weekend in the Diocese. St Columb's BT48 6RQ, UK. The choir will sing a Choral Eucharist in St Eunan's Cathedral at 12 noon on May 22.. The choir - who performed in the Cathedral last summer - will be led by organist and musical director, Nathan Barrett.

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**The Great American Songbook: concert hosted by Concern Worldwide**, June 23, 2016 in Ulster Hall - A fabulous 'feel good' evening of popular American classics and show songs performed by the Midwest Young Artists Conservatory from Chicago and special guest Peter Corry. Further information on the concert and details on how to book visit:

<http://www.downandconnor.org/blog/event/>



[great-american-songbook-concert-hosted-concern-worldwide/](#)

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

### **Orange Order: Warm welcome and tough talking as Catholic college opens up to Protestant history**

BBC News:

Orangemen receive enthusiastic welcome in outreach to Catholic student teachers.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-36325339>

### **Plan for more non-faith schools**

Irish Examiner

Only eight Catholic and **Church of Ireland** schools have so far divested their patronage to multi-denominational control. However, only two so far have ...

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/ireland/plan-for-more-non-faith-schools-400303.html>

### **A Ballymun school is finally set to get a new building after 22 years of prefabs**

The Journal

Generations of kids have been waiting for a new school.

<http://www.thejournal.ie/new-ballymun-school-to-replace-prefabs-2776728-May2016/>

## Schools may be forced to close due to reduced funding

Irish Times

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/politics/schools-may-be-forced-to-close-due-to-reduced-funding-1.2652614>

## Polish schools in Limerick teach children about their identity

Irish Times

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/polish-schools-in-limerick-teach-children-about-their-identity-1.2652550>

## Vatican spin-doctor criticises Catholic keyboard warriors...

Sluggar O'Toole

One of the ironies of Northern **Ireland** is the enemy for some protestant churches is not the Catholic **Church** but their splinter **church** down the road.

<http://sluggerotoole.com/2016/05/18/vatican-spin-doctor-criticises-catholic-keyboard-warriors/>

## Author welcomes **Church of Ireland** report into Royal Black

Belfast Newsletter

A Co Down man whose book fuelled **Church of Ireland** doubts about the ... at how direct the **Church of Ireland** report was," he told the **News** Letter.

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/northern-ireland-s-loyal-orders-mirror-freemasonry-1-7387376>

**BBC/Guardian/Times**

[churchnewsireland@gmail.com](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.com)

Reports that one of the 219 schoolgirls abducted by Boko Haram has been reunited with her family more than two years after she went missing. Amina Ali Darsha Nkeki, was found close to the border with Cameroon, carrying a four month old baby. The Times notes that Stephen Davis, a former canon at Coventry Cathedral, had tried to negotiate the girls' release.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-36321249>

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/may/18/chibok-abductions-first-girl-found-say-nigerian-activists>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/kidnapped-schoolgirl-escapes-boko-haram-jtbqjprcz>

### **Times**

Further coverage of Zen Buddhist meditation taking place within the grounds of York Minster. The fortnightly sessions have been held for two years in the Old Palace, the library in Dean's Park within the cathedral grounds, The Times reports.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/raised-voices-over-zen-at-cathedral-x2tjph38w>

### **Mirror/Sun**

Reports that a grieving mother wishing to erect a fairy princess castle as a memorial to a daughter has been told "that it may look out of place" in a CofE churchyard. Eighteen year old Alycia McKee is buried in St Margaret and St Andrew's, in Littleham, Exmouth. A spokeswoman for the Diocese of Exeter said the existing design fell outside churchyard regulations and needed to be referred to the diocese for consideration. She adds: "We very much want to work with the family to ensure that a headstone marking Alycia's life can be placed on

her grave and will last as a fitting memorial for generations."

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/grieving-mum-banned-putting-princess-7995139#ICID=nsm>

<http://www.thescottishsun.co.uk/scotsol/homepage/7159327/Grieving-mum-denied-permission-to-put-this-princess-castle-headstone-on-the-grave-of-her-Downs-Syndrome-daughter-because-it-may-look-out-of-place.html>

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