

Work together and be innovative, says C of E rural school report

Plaque In Memory Of Seamus Heaney Dedicated



At the dedication of the plaque in memory of Seamus Heaney in Nun's Cross Church, Killiskey were Jenny McCrohan, Christopher Heaney, Anna Rose, Marie Heaney, Archdeacon Ricky Rountree, the Revd Ken Rue and Fr Eamonn Crosson

Family and friends of Seamus Heaney gathered in Nun's Cross Church, Killiskey, last night, Sunday 13 October, for the dedication of a plaque in memory of the celebrated poet. The Nobel Laureate was connected to the area through the nearby Glanmore Cottage where he lived with his wife Marie for five years in the 1970s.

He maintained a close connection with the area and visited regularly as he sought inspiration for his poetry. He bought the cottage when it went on the

market in 1988 and divided his time between Dublin and Wicklow.

Last night's service was attended by Marie Heaney and the couple's son Christopher along with his wife Jenny McCrohan and their daughter Anna Rose. Welcoming them, the Vicar the Revd Ken Rue noted that the Heaney family had been very generous to the church.

The dedication took place after the Wicklow and Killiskey Harvest Thanksgiving Service. The Vicar was joined by the Archdeacon of Glendalough, the Ven Ricky Rountree, who preached and dedicated the plaque and the new Parish Priest of Ashford, the Very Revd Eamonn Crosson, who read the Gospel.

A number of Seamus Heaney's poems were read during the service. Local historian and writer, Sheila Clarke of Ashford Development Association, read Glanmore Sonnets VII while Professor Jim Mays, Emeritus Professor of Modern English and American poetry at University College Dublin, and a Member of the Royal Irish Academy read St Kevin and the Blackbird.

During his sermon, Archdeacon Rountree read The Harvest Bow. Dedicating the plaque, which is located in the porch of the church, the Archdeacon said the memorial was an acknowledgement of what Seamus Heaney had done for the area. Reading Banks of a Canal, written just days before the poet's death, he said that like the meandering canal, the soul and life of Seamus Heaney would live on. He added that it was wonderful to have a memorial to him in a place so close to where he wrote so many of his poems.

St Columb's Cathedral series on 1st World War

3 November - 'A Literary World Bereft'

The loss sustained by the deaths of war poets.

By The Dean of Derry, The Very Rev Dr William Morton

11 November - 'Marching as to War'

The Story of the Hamilton Flute

Band in words and music. By The Dean of Derry, The Very Rev Dr William Morton

During the First World War the Hamilton Band is reported to have joined "to a man" the 10th Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers and became the regimental Band of 'The Derrys'.

18 November - 'The contribution of 'The Derrys' to the First World War '
by Richard Doherty

25 November - 'The Chords Which Linger'

The contribution of composers who died in the First World War By The Dean of Derry, The Very Rev Dr William Morton

All of the events commence at 7.30pm in St Columb's Cathedral.

Celebration of Praise with Kenyan Children's Choir

On Sunday 19th October there will be a "Celebration of Praise" with children from Kindfund Kenya together with local Enniskillen choirs from Holy Trinity Primary School, the Model Primary School and St Macartin's Cathedral. Commencing at 7.00pm in St Macartin's Cathedral and concluding St Michael's Church, Enniskillen.

Refreshments afterwards in the Cathedral Hall where there will be an opportunity to meet with the children who have been in Northern Ireland for the past month, and will depart for Kenya after this event which concludes their outreach visit to the province.



Irish Church Lads' story of courage and sacrifice in WW1

In this World War One commemorative year, the [Church Lads' & Church Girls' Brigade](#) remind us that Brigade lads from Ireland joined with members from all parts of the world in a remarkable story involving great courage and sacrifice. It is estimated that a quarter of a million former members of the C.L.B. volunteered for service during The Great War. Virtually every Brigade member of appropriate age joined the Colours immediately. Many younger lads lied about their age and soon

found themselves facing danger at the front.

Hundreds of Brigade lads from Belfast, over one hundred from Limerick, and dozens more from Armagh, Ballymena, Cork, Drogheda, Enniskillen, Lisburn,

Londonderry, Portadown and Portrush joined up, eager to do their duty. Those who wavered were told by the Chief Staff Officer, Walter Gee, 'Don't hesitate. For Church and Country throw up your job and be a man.'

Mostly they fought with the famous Irish regiments but many served with English or Scottish regiments. Others, who had emigrated to Australia, Canada or New Zealand in search of a better life, returned to fight with the armed forces of their adopted countries.

Along with more than a thousand others from Britain, men from Cork, Limerick and Portrush helped to form the 16th (Service) Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps. The C.L.B. Battalion was so highly regarded that it was often treated like a regular battalion. Out of seven Distinguished Conduct Medals awarded to members of the Battalion, two went to Portrush men Sergeant Major Harry Hamilton (pictured) and Corporal George Bothwell.

By the end of the war, 20,000 Church Lads had been killed and another 20,000 wounded. Over 1,000 decorations for bravery had been awarded, including 21 Victoria Crosses. The French Government presented Brigade Headquarters with a Diplome D'Honneur in recognition of the contribution of the C.L.B. to the War Effort.

The [Church Lads' & Church Girls' Brigade](#) is embarking on a project to commemorate the contribution of Irish Church Lads to The Great War. [Read more about the project here.](#)

Martina Purdy 'overwhelmed' by goodwill messages as she quits for religion

News Letter - News that long-time BBC NI political correspondent Martina Purdy is to leave journalism to join a religious congregation has initiated a plethora of goodwill messages on social media.

On Sunday she tweeted: "I'm not planning a running commentary – but I'm truly overwhelmed. x" and "Thanks ALL for your generosity – from those of my faith, other faiths, those trying to find Him, those trying to ignore Him. God bless you".

In a statement announcing her decision last week she said: "I'm very grateful for all the support I've had over many years from colleagues, family, contacts and friends.

“I know many people will not understand this decision. It is a decision that I have not come to lightly, but it is one that I make with love and great joy. I ask for prayers as I embark on this path with all humility, faith and trust.



Martina Purdy said she was 'truly overwhelmed' by messages of goodwill

“This is a very personal decision. I ask that the media respect my privacy and that of the religious congregation which I am entering, as I face up to the new challenges of my life. I will not be making any further public comment about this matter.”

Among those to wish her well was First Minister Peter Robinson.

On Friday he tweeted: “Finished a busy afternoon of appointments but took time to call @purdypols & wish her well. NI’s journalism certainly won’t be the same.”

DUP councillor Christopher Stalford added: “Aww! I always enjoyed a bit of verbal jousting with you! All the very best!”

Meanwhile, TUV leader Jim Allister tweeted: “@purdypols Best wishes. Pleasure to have worked with you.”

More at - <http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/martina-purdy-overwhelmed-by-goodwill-messages-as-she-quits-for-religion-1-6353151>

Methodist Church’s National Dodgeball Tournament

This year at Autumn Soul the first National Dodgeball Tournament will be held. It's going to be EPIC!

To get you in the mood, watch the clip from Dodgeball the movie below, and then gather a team and register yourselves for a chance to be in with winning an awesome prize, and of course the trophy!

DODGEBALL

Registration:

Team registration must take place before Monday 20th October.

Team Size:

Maximum of 6 players on the court and a minimum of 2 females on each team at the start of the game.

Team Uniform:

We encourage all teams to come kitted out to play - suitable footwear is essential - perhaps pick a team colour, or get creative and make some team t-shirts!

Game Rules:

Download the attachment below to see the rules of the game.

Saturday, 25 October, 2014 - 17:00

 [Dodgeball rules.pdf](#)

St Mary's Newry to host The Linen Memorial

From 6–9 November 2014, St Mary's Church in Newry will host The Linen Memorial, an installation which seeks to remember those who died in 'The Troubles' between 1966 and 2006. Regardless of race, religion or political persuasion, all are remembered in the same way.

An intimate, yet public, monument to those nearly 4000 killed, The Linen Memorial is created on white, linen squares or handkerchiefs, with the names



printed and overstitched with embroidery (2004 – 9), and also, with the first names sewn with strands of hair (started 2010). Learn more about the installation www.linenmemorial.org.

St Mary's Church of Ireland is also a building of historical interest – two reasons to visit between 6–9 November. [Read more here](#).

Armagh appointments

The Archbishop of Armagh has appointed Revd Canon Terry Scott, Rector of Magherafelt as Archdeacon of Armagh in succession to the Venerable Raymond Hoey. The appointment took effect from 1 October

As a consequence there will be a vacancy in the Cathedral Chapter and the Archbishop has appointed Revd Neville Hughes, Rector of Mullabrack and Kilcluney to a canonry.

Archbishop Welby encourages rural leaders at Germinate conference

ACNS - The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has called for a "brave" and "radical" approach to rural ministry in a welcoming address at a conference today for church leaders working in the countryside.

The Archbishop delivered words of encouragement to nearly 300 lay and ordained church leaders and congregation members from major denominations active in rural areas, at the Germinate conference in Coventry.

Rural ministry is not more difficult than any other ministry, but is very often more complicated, Archbishop Justin said in a video message to the conference.

He added that reimagining ministry in the countryside involved "coming back to the faithfulness of God in all his people, especially lay people."

"I would really want you to be brave and radical in how you look at rural ministry, how you think about it, how you pray for it, what you hear the Spirit saying to the churches about the future of rural ministry," Archbishop Justin said.

Bishop of Shrewsbury, Mark Rylands, in a key note address, told the conference that shared leadership was crucial for the future of rural ministry.

"If mission is more about discerning God's direction, then prayer needs to be our first and primary activity and shared leadership is crucial," he said.

He added: "The parish church, the church or the chapel in the village, is not to be an exclusive place but an inclusive place for the local stranger, for those who do not know the way, the truth and the life, who do not know that they have a place in the heart of God. It is the inside place for the outsider."

More at -

<http://www.anglicannews.org/news/2014/10/archbishop-welby-encourages-rural-leaders-at-germinate-conference.aspx>

Work together and be innovative, says C of E rural school report

Small rural primary schools must form effective partnerships and collaborations if they are to survive into the future and continue to be a vital part of rural community life, says a new report published by the Church of England.

Working Together released today by the Church of England's National Education Office says that they are one of the state's last remaining points of contact with rural communities and they have a key role in rural life. But it warns that the days of the individual autonomous small school are numbered as they face financial challenges particularly with likely changes to the way schools are funded.

The Church of England is responsible for more than 50% of the 4146 small rural schools in England (with less than 210 pupils*) as 200 years ago it set out to offer education to all when the landscape was very different.

The report points out the benefits of collaboration with other schools, creating formal partnerships and shares case studies from around the country where this has successfully been done. It also notes that few rural schools have the capacity to convert to academy status without support - and says the Church of England already has support structures in place with diocesan Multi Academy Trusts (MATs).

It also suggests proactively using parts of the school building for other services including post offices, community centres, nurseries and holiday clubs.

The report goes on to issue a 'dare to be different' challenge to schools to in their teaching approach: one example is introducing virtual learning already working effectively in the Scottish Highlands and parts of Australia and New Zealand.

The report faces hard questions and sets out helpful checklists for governors and Diocesan Boards of Education to map a way forward for their rural schools. It states that there is still a government presumption against closure, saying any cases must be strong "and in the best interests of the overall education provision for an area."

More information on Church of England schools at <https://www.churchofengland.org/education/church-schools-academies.aspx>

New ways needed to share gospel of the family, says Cardinal Nichols

Catholic Herald - Cardinal Vincent Nichols has called for new means to be used to share the Church's vision of the family.

He also praised the contribution of married couples at the family synod, who have been introducing each session with a reflection on family life.

In an interview with the bishops' conference on Wednesday, the cardinal reflected on hearing around 100 talks during the first two days of discussions at the synod.

"There's a desire to make an announcement again, to really announce the good news of the family," he said.

"We're going to have to find some fresh ways of doing that. Quite often the truths of the gospel come across as tried and tired.

"We're looking at this challenge of where do we get new imagery from, what are the means we use, is the truth about the family best shown rather than argued, are there ways of getting its underlying truth across through art and drama."

He praised the work of Ten Ten Theatre, a Christian theatre company based in the UK which educates young people through drama.

Each meeting at the synod begins with an address from a married Catholic couple which frames the following discussion.

“They have the first say and set the scene for us,” said Cardinal Nichols.

“The biggest picture in that scene is the underlying confidence and desire to convey to our societies today that the family is an absolutely crucial part of our wellbeing, and that God’s design for the family, made possible in our life in Christ, is critical for our future.”

More at -

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2014/10/10/new-ways-needed-to-share-gospel-of-the-family-says-cardinal-nichols/>