

## The essential daily brief on the Irish churches

### Skill project launched at East Belfast Mission

**Enterprise Minister Arlene Foster on Thursday last launched a new Skill project at East Belfast Mission, which aims to assist organisations in Northern Ireland and Great Britain to develop their social enterprise ideas.**



News Letter - The Skill project will offer master [classes](#) and workshops tailored to the needs of visiting groups, who want to find out how to set up and run a successful social enterprise.

The initiative is being supported by Invest Northern Ireland through its Social Entrepreneurship Programme.

“I have been very impressed by what I have seen today at East Belfast Mission,” Mrs Foster said.

“It provides services to those in society who most need support and has had a very positive impact in this part of the city.

“Through the Skill project, this successful social enterprise will now have the capacity to help other groups benefit from the valuable knowledge and experience it has built up over many years. By sharing its experience with others, East Belfast Mission will play an important role in helping social enterprises in the wider community get up and running.”

The mission is an award-winning social enterprise providing services to the elderly, people on low income, young children, the homeless and the unemployed. It currently employs 90 people and has 100 volunteer workers.

In the past 18 months it has won five awards for its social enterprise projects and has established a growing reputation across the UK.

Director of [business](#) development at the project Anne Walsh said:“Our mission is to see community transformation and renewal in east Belfast and to offer hope and a future for all those in need, regardless of background or belief.”

While she was in the area, the minister also took the opportunity to visit a number of other businesses and organisations with local MLA Sammy Douglas.

They included Fowlens, the East Belfast Partnership, Media Design and Print and the Hanwood Centre.

[http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/business/foster-launches-skill-project-at-east-belfast-mission-1-5936963?optionValueBeforeVoting=153&pollId=poll\\_7\\_180779&pollIdpoll\\_7\\_180779=0&vote=true&pollIdpoll\\_7\\_180779QuestionId0=0&cookieSet=true](http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/business/foster-launches-skill-project-at-east-belfast-mission-1-5936963?optionValueBeforeVoting=153&pollId=poll_7_180779&pollIdpoll_7_180779=0&vote=true&pollIdpoll_7_180779QuestionId0=0&cookieSet=true)

## **Keys handed over as Coleraine churches prepare for a week of mission**

**St Patrick’s Parish in the heart of Coleraine will next month become the centre for a week of mission involving 12 local churches.**

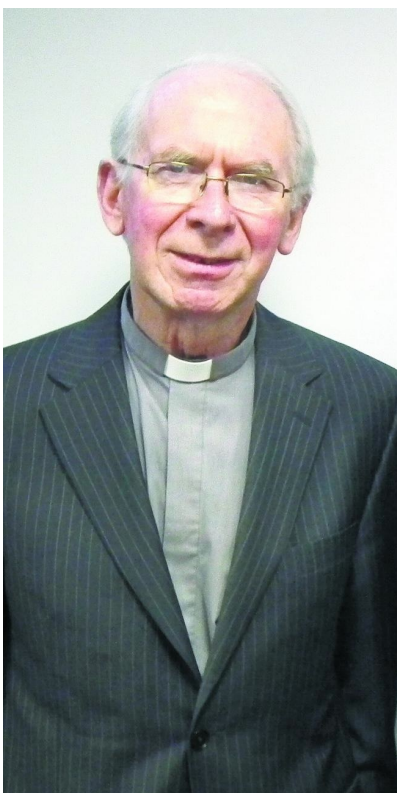
The Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev Alan Abernethy, gave his blessing to this interdenominational initiative when he visited St Patrick’s on Thursday morning to hand the keys to the building over to representatives of the churches involved in the Passion4Life Mission.

Running during Holy Week, from Sunday April 6 until Sunday April 13, Passion4Life will bring the Christian message to literally thousands of people in an engaging way, with celebrities and members of the local community stepping up to talk about what God has done in their lives.

There will be music, arts, food, a youth programme, and much much more. Keynote speaker is Pete Woodcock from Kingston, London, who has his own inspiring story to tell.

The events will all be based around St Patrick's Church, with the former XtraVision premises nearby being converted to a pop-up café cum arts gallery cum after hours music venue.

A full programme will be available soon. The rector of St Patrick's, the Rev Roger Cooke, said: "Passion4Life is simply a chance to explain the Christian message in an engaging way to anyone who wants to come along and hear it."



## Archdeacon reflects on the Catholic neighbours who helped his family 'survive'

**No-one has probably travelled the roads and by-ways of the Church of Ireland Clogher Diocese more than Archdeacon Cecil Pringle in the course of his work.**

Impartial Reporter - After 25 years in a strong supporting role to three Bishops of Clogher, he is retiring from the diocesan post of Archdeacon but is continuing in his role as Bishop's Curate of Drumkeeran, Muchcross and Templecarne, near Kesh.

His successor, Canon Helene Steed from Clones, will be installed as the new Archdeacon in St.

Macartan's Cathedral, Clogher this weekend.

This week, as Archdeacon Pringle looks forward to a slightly lighter workload, he reflects on challenges of the church in today's modern society but also gives his personal views on what it has meant to him in his 48 years as an ordained minister.

"I have often said that if other people got half as much fulfillment, satisfaction and enjoyment out of their work as I have done, they would feel great. This has been great," he says of the many personal discussions with parishioners, the many meetings he has attended where he gave his viewpoint and the

many services and church events he has attended in his role which is the second highest office in the diocese.

Archdeacon Pringle has served under three Bishops, Bishop Brian Hannon who appointed him to the post in 1989, Bishop Michael Jackson and the current Bishop, the Right Rev. John McDowell.

He jokes how he was in effect the “eyes and ears” of the Bishop dealing with any challenges or crisis but he says overall it has been a great pleasure to work with all three bishops.

Archdeacon Pringle started out in his ordained ministry in 1966, after five years training at Trinity College, Dublin. He served three years as a curate in Bloomfield Parish, Belfast where he was quickly shown the roles of pastoral visiting. Then he was appointed as rector of Cleenish Parish, Bellanaleck, with Mullaghduin parish later added. From there, he was appointed rector of Rossorry in 1980 and served there for 28 years until his current role in the Drumkeeran group.

Through all the years he has been involved in church ministry, Archdeacon Pringle says the pastoral side of the job has given him great pleasure.

“Ministering to lovely people is a tremendous privilege. I have often said that if other people got half as much fulfilment, satisfaction and enjoyment out of my work they would be very lucky.

“Part of the ministry I enjoy most is knocking on doors and listening and sharing with them. The tremendous privilege of ministry and listening to them taking you right into the heart of their lives and have things shared with you just makes you feel very humble,” he said.

However he says visiting people in their homes is not as easy nowadays especially as both husband and wife or partners are both working outside the home and evenings are busy with other social events in their lives.

Looking back over a quarter of a century as Archdeacon also brought a great degree of responsibility and leadership with it.

Archdeacon Pringle says one of the highlights for him was his membership of the Church of Ireland’s Executive Committee which comprises of just one bishop, three clergy and four lay representatives elected throughout Ireland. They meet once a month in Dublin and Archdeacon Pringle served for many years. His wise counsel was always in demand from those who required a solution to their problem.

He was also proud to be a member of the Western Education and Library Board for 10 years when he said it was an occasion “when you were treated as a person.”

Of course, his organisational skills were in constant demand. One of his duties was to chair Select Vestries where there were vacancies. This he did with precision. For example, driving to the farthest corner of the diocese, in Co. Monaghan, he would chair up to three meetings in an evening, one hour apart.

Looking at changes in the church over his many years involved in ministry, Archdeacon Pringle says it is difficult to attract younger people.

“The problem at present in rural areas is of a lost generation. So many young people after they are confirmed quickly disappear and you don’t see them again until they are getting married or having family,” he explained, saying it affected those aged 14 and over.

However there are many positives in the work he has seen going on and particularly in the role of inter-church relations.

He says that when he was ordained, he could never have dreamt of the day that he would be preaching at the Graan or that he would be attending the special Ash Wednesday service on Lough Derg which he did last week at which the speaker was the Rev. Dr. John Dunlop, former Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

He recalls the circumstances in the rural area where he grew up and when his father died when the Archdeacon and his siblings were very young.

“If it hadn’t been for our neighbours we would not have survived and they were Roman Catholic. That made me more open to people,” he says.

He says that people must realise their understanding of the Bible and God and Universe must be constantly developing otherwise their faith dies.

“The more we learn the more we realise we didn’t know,” he added.

The Bishop of Clogher, the Right Rev. John McDowell, has paid tribute to Archdeacon Pringle, saying he had unparalleled knowledge of the diocese and had brought his skills, enthusiasm and dedication to bear during his service as Archdeacon.

<http://www.impartialreporter.com/news/roundup/articles/2014/03/15/404373-archdeacon-reflects-on-the-catholic-neighbours-who-helped-his-family-survive/>

## Serving in Kenya

**In 2005, Gary and Mary Reid began serving in the Olkinyiei area of Southwest Kenya - the spiritual heartland of the Maasai people.**



Working with the **Limuru Presbytery** of the [Presbyterian Church of East Africa \(PCEA\)](#), the **PCEA Acacia Grove Mission**

was established, and over the years it has grown and developed to include a wide variety of ministries.

Over the past three years, the work of outreach and Bible teaching has grown significantly; and, along with caring, practical help for the many needs of the Maasai, has enabled three churches to be planted in the area.

Through these churches, and a weekly Bible study at the mission, the Maasai are being taught God's Word and nurtured in their new-found faith.

In speaking of the work, Gary writes:

*"At Acacia Grove Mission we seek to Get REAL for Christ (Reaching, Educating, Assisting and Loving) for Christ and encourage others to do so.*

*We reach people for Christ by loving, serving and simply living out our faith amongst these very dear people, embracing a holistic view of mission: preaching and teaching as we are commanded by our Lord whilst serving the people and caring for their real spiritual and physical needs as God grants us opportunity, to His glory."*

The list of current activities the Mission is involved in includes church planting, Bible study, training worship leaders, assisting vulnerable children and women, education, aid distribution and transportation.

Gary and Mary have recently updated the information on their [personnel profile page](#) and on the [Acacia Grove Mission \(AGM\)](#) page which gives a great overview of their work.

## Clergy appointments

**Two rectors have been appointed to parishes in Down and Dromore diocese.**

The Revd Simon Richardson, presently curate assistant in Holywood Parish in the Diocese of Down, has been appointed rector of Glenraig, also in the Diocese of Down.

The Revd Gerald McCartney, presently rector of the parish of Milltown in the Diocese of Armagh, has been appointed rector of the grouped parishes of Drumgath, Drumballyrone, Clonduff and Drumgooland in the Diocese of Dromore.

The dates of both institutions have yet to be announced.



## Hillsborough Institution

**Bishop Harold Miller welcomed Revd Dr Bryan Follis into the Diocese of Down and Dromore as rector of Hillsborough Parish at a service of institution on Saturday 15 March.**

The preacher at the service was Revd Canon Terence Cadden, who has known Bryan since his days as a parishioner in Shankill Parish when Terence was a curate there.

Bryan is married to Eleanor, who works part-time as a community midwife in Belfast, and they have two daughters, Esther (12) and Rachel (10).

Previously he was Rector of All Saints' Church, Belfast near Queen's University. Bryan served there for 13 years during which time the church enjoyed steady growth year on year. All Saints' Church drew in new people from a wide range of social backgrounds and from various ages: students, young families and pensioners.

Central to Bryan's approach to ministry is expository preaching with an emphasis on applying the Bible to all of life. He also places a high value on building a meaningful sense of church community.

Before his appointment to All Saints', Bryan Follis served as Curate in St Mark's, Portadown for almost 3 years. He was ordained in June 1998 by the then Archbishop Robert Eames. Having served in Armagh and Connor diocese, this is Bryan's first appointment in Down and Dromore.

In addition to his regular parish ministry, Dr Follis has written two academic books along with a number of booklets aimed at the 'person in the pew'. One of these on "Depression and Stress" has sold widely and been used by a number of churches to help people struggling with depression.

Prior to ordination, Bryan worked with the Northern Ireland Civil Service for 11 years.

Speaking about his new parish, Bryan Follis said: "Of course I feel rather nervous as I take over as Rector but we are thankful for the prayers of so many. As a family we really look forward to settling into our home, putting down roots in the community and getting to know individual parishioners. Those we have met so far have already helped us feel very welcome to Hillsborough!"