



Monasterboice High Cross

Presbyterian Church forums on pastoral care of manse families

The Presbyterian Church is holding two similar meetings in one day, the first in Waringstown Presbyterian Church and then Union Theological

College, presbytery representatives who are responsible for providing pastoral care to ministers met to share experiences, discuss common issues and pray for each other. A former GP and psychiatrist also provided professional insight and advice.

Presbyterian



Caring
for ministers
ministers' families

Rev. Gabrielle Farquhar, Convener of the Pastoral Care of Manse Families Panel opened each Forum quoting from Psalm 142, a cry for help from David. She also quoted Psalm 145, a psalm of praise, where in verse 14 he extols God

as being worthy of praise writing, ‘The Lord upholds all who fall, and lifts up all who are bowed down.’

“We currently have 342 active ministers with congregational responsibilities, so how as a Church we pastor our pastors is crucially important,” explained Mrs. Farquhar.

“As a Church we are committed to providing effective pastoral care to our ministers and each of our 19 presbyteries has ongoing and day-to-day responsibility for providing that pastoral care to ministers and their families.

“The outworking of that pastoral care varies from presbytery to presbytery. Some, for example, have a person known as the Pastor Pastorum, who has that responsibility. Others have a team of people, while in some it becomes part of the Moderator of Presbytery’s duties for their year in office. Yet others do this in other ways. The important thing is that there is a committed resource for people to turn to, and that pastoral care is undertaken professionally and compassionately and encouraged and supported,” Mrs. Farquhar said.

One key area that can affect a minister’s wellbeing and is often neglected or overlooked,

is taking a Sabbath Day's Rest. "Many people who work Monday to Friday have the weekend to rest. For my colleagues and I, Sunday is of course a full day, but many of us don't take that additional Sabbath Day's Rest, which surely is a biblical imperative.

"We discussed this at the Forum and other issues and pressures that ministers and their families face, including the importance of being open about how we feel and barriers to seeking help," Mrs. Farquhar said.

C of I Long-term Church initiative

At the April meeting of the General Synod Standing Committee, Mr Adrian Clements, Chief Officer, provided a verbal update on a range of developments under the umbrella of the 'Long-term Church' initiative. It is envisaged that a person will be appointed shortly to help assist parishes in their future planning for long-term financial sustainability. Work is also ongoing in relation to providing a simple and easily accessed guide to the duties of Select Vestry members, drawing inspiration from the Parish Handbook.

The RCB is looking to progress a pilot project to work in partnership with parishes in regularising the work of local trustees, ensuring that security of title of parish assets and governance is complied with as trustees begin to register activities under the new charities legislation; this is a process which will inevitably take considerable time.

Mr Clements also reported that the RCB is keen to respond to the current consultative planning process in Northern Ireland on ecclesiastical exemption for listed church buildings and is taking appropriate advice; the maintenance of architectural heritage is important yet must be carefully balanced with the needs of churches to function as living places of worship. Finally, Mr Clements relayed the RCB's intention to lobby on VAT in the Republic of Ireland and the cost to charities in concert with other Churches in coming months.

New Parish Centre at opened at Dunboyne

A large gathering from across the community and the dioceses of Meath and Kildare joined with



Mr Jonathan Goodwin and Bishop Pat Storey.

members of the Parish Union to celebrate the opening by Bishop Pat Storey. The gathering included TDs, clergy from local Catholic parishes and the Presbyterian Church, as well as clergy from the dioceses.

Rev Janice Aiton (Rector) introduced the evening and compered a range of excellent musical items from local talent to mark the event. Performances came from Sarah Bass, St Peter's National School, Dunboyne Consort and Sean Boylan Jr.

After the musical items Rev Aiton thanked the wider community, parishioners, the Select Vestry

and the planning team led by Jonathan Goodwin for all their dedication and hard work in making the new centre a reality. She said, “The official opening is a celebration of the faith and generosity of all who made the new Parish Centre a reality.” Mr Jonathan Goodwin talked of his hope that the new facility would be used by both the parish and the wider community.

Bishop Pat Storey said, “The building of this new Centre has been a tremendous act of faith by the parish. It serves as an inspiration to us all – showing what is possible when we have courage to step out in faith.”

Bishop Storey and Holly Blick then cut a ceremonial ribbon to open the Centre. Following this a plaque was unveiled by Marvyn Henry and Lauren Prole. A special cake was then cut by Rev Colin McConaghie (Curate).

Tribute, Captain Sir John Leslie, Bart., KCSG

The funeral mass will take place today in St Mary’s Church, Glanaan, of Captain Sir John Leslie, Bart., KCSG, Knight of Honour and



Devotion, Sovereign, Military and Hospitaller Order of Malta. (Aged 99). Sir John, (Jack) died peacefully at his home, Castle Leslie, Glaslough, County Monaghan. April 18th 2016

Sir John, (Jack), was the oldest Knight of Malta in Ireland having become a member of the Irish Association in 1948 and would have been 100 in December. He was honoured in November 2015 by the French Government with the Legion d'Honneur in recognition of his service in World War II as a member of the Irish Guards.

Ambassador of France to Ireland Jean-Pierre Thébault paid tribute saying: "With Sir John Leslie, France loses a friend and mourns a hero. Like thousands of other Irishmen and

Irishwomen, he voluntarily enlisted and put his life, his future, at risk in the darkest hours of World War II, to fight for freedom and all the core values of our free societies. Their legacy will always inspire us."

Sir John toasted the Legion d'Honneur with a glass of champagne in the French embassy in Dublin and dedicated it to "all soldiers from the island of Ireland who fought and died between the two great wars".

He was educated at Downside and Magdalene College, Cambridge.

In 1937 he joined the Irish Guards. In 1940 during the Battle for France he was captured while defending Boulogne-sur-Mer. He remained a POW for five years. During this time distressed at the suffering of some of his colleagues who were seriously ill he risked his life by smuggling out a postcard to his cousin Sir Winston Churchill requesting an exchange of sick and infirm prisoners.

In November 2015 he was awarded the Legion d'Honneur on behalf of the President and People of France the citation as given by the Minister Jean-Marc Tedeschini "...you did far more than

your duty that you accomplished because you committed your life for the survival of your country, of France, of Europe and of your comrades, for me it is an honour to convey to you today, such a special day for Ireland, the eternal recognition of France".

Requiescat in Pace.

NI election, Huge flyer campaign by anti-abortion activists

Anti-abortion activists in the west of Northern Ireland have printed up to 30,000 leaflets urging voters to make abortion the key election issue.

News Letter - One unionist source from the west of the Province said that he believed that most churches across Fermanagh-South Tyrone had been leafleted at the weekend while worshippers were inside.

With abortion an increasingly significant political issue – and one which is certain to be raised again in the next Stormont mandate – both sides of the debate are putting pressure on candidates.

Liam Gibson from the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child (SPUC) said: “We have

issued a flyer for these elections outlining the positions of all the major parties,” , adding that they had printed between 20-30,000 leaflets. He stressed that SPUC is non-denominational and that “the aim of the flyer is not to ask the reader to vote for specific candidates but to consider that support for abortion should disqualify someone from receiving a vote regardless of their position on economic or constitutional matters”.

Last year a pro-life group claimed that it had cost Michelle Gildernew her Westminster seat. Although Sinn Fein has repeatedly said that it is “pro-life” but supports some relaxation of the law, the leaflet says: “Sinn Féin consistently promotes a radical pro-abortion agenda”. The leaflet also criticises Alliance, saying that although the party takes no stance on abortion “its politicians are amongst the leading advocates of liberal abortion here” and describes the Green Party as “radically pro-abortion”. It urges voters to phone the UUP to find out their candidates’ positions but gives a ‘green light’ to the stances of the DUP, SDLP and TUV.

Cathedrals and choral

The Most Revd Dr Richard Clarke, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, will preach at a service in **St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin**, on Sunday, 24th April, at 3.15pm, to mark the **centenary of the events of Easter 1916**.

Seán Mac Erlaine and Eivind Aarset are in concert in Christ Church, Dublin on April 24 at 8.30pm. Seán Mac Erlaine is a Dublin-based woodwind instrumentalist, composer and music producer, recognised as one of Ireland's most forward-thinking creative musicians. Seán's works intersects folk, free improvisation, jazz and traditional music. He also collaborates with a range of non-musical artists particularly in theatre and radio.

Eivind Aarset is a guitarist with a unique musical vision that absorbs and reflects all manner of music while retaining an enviable individualism and high quality craftsmanship that can span from quiet intimacy to searing intensity.

His debut as a bandleader on Jazzland Recordings was described by the New York Times as "One of the best post-Miles electric jazz albums," setting a high benchmark that Aarset has consistently met and exceeded, both in the studio and in live performance.

Please note that the Music Room is only accessible by stairs. Tickets available [here](#).

The Parish of St John the Evangelist, Orangefield, Belfast, seeks to appoint an Organist/Choirmaster (part-time)

- to accompany the choir on the organ at our traditional services; and
- to lead, develop and grow this robed choir

Looking for:

- a Christian who is enthusiastic about developing traditional worship within a local church setting
- an accomplished organ-player and musician experienced in leading worship alongside a choir
- a well organised communicator and team player

Hours and salary

12–16 hours per week including two services every Sunday, plus one evening's choir practice each week. Salary is negotiable but based on the Royal School of Church Music recommended rates. range details available on request.

For further information please contact:

office@stjohnsorangefield.org or tel: 028 9070 4493.

News briefs

Wilfred Baker of Cork, a C of I representative at the **Anglican Consultative Council** reported, “Today, in groups, the ACC members visited parishes in and around Lusaka. My group went to the parish of Kafue, which is one hour's drive from the city. It was very nice to get out into a rural setting and to see an ordinary parish and talk to people there. Parochial life is obviously very vibrant and there were around 400 people at the service, which was a united one, and comprised the three congregations in the parish. As always here, the welcome which we received was warm and genuine and the hospitality of the parishioners in providing lunch was lavish. The sight of young children queuing to enter the church in order to receive a blessing during the service was particularly impressive and touching.”

“Connecting in Christ”, the **annual report of the Irish Council of Churches**, is now available online at -

<http://www.irishchurches.org/cmsfiles/ICCAAnnReport15web.pdf>

The Church of Ireland representatives at meetings of other Churches: Bishop Harold Miller and Mrs Helen McClenaghan will attend the Annual Methodist Conference in Portadown from 15th to 19th June, and Archdeacon George Davison and Mrs Hilary McClay will attend the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland to be held in Belfast from 6th to 10th June

Jonathan Hull from Armagh diocese has raised £6,500 for the C of I Bishops' Appeal by completing '**Le Tour de Church**' a 435 mile cycle.

Clogher events:

Thursday 28th April – '**Living With Cancer**' **Evening** in St Macartin's Cathedral Hall, Enniskillen at 7.30pm. Organised by Clogher Diocesan Board of Social Theology in Action and Clogher Diocesan Ministry of Healing. This event is aimed at highlighting services available for those living with cancer with speakers from various local service providers.

Institution of Revd Canon David Skuce as rector of Inishmacsaint Parish will be held at 7.30pm on Friday 22nd April.

Annual Friends Service in Clabby Parish Church at 3.00pm on Sunday 24th April.
Preacher: Rt. Revd Ken Clarke. Soloist: Miss Jessica Given.

Commissioning Service for Admission of Parish Readers in Kilskeery Parish Church at 7.30pm on Sunday 24th April.

Exodus has two opportunities with its full time staff team. The agency states - We are looking for two passionate, talented and committed individuals to join us in delivering disciple making youth ministry in Ireland. They will join the team in inspiring and developing a new generation of Christian influencers, leaders and mentors as we serve the Church.

The two roles are Lisburn Area Leader and Coleraine Youth Ministry Developer. They are both full-time, permanent posts.

The application deadline is midnight on Friday 6 May with the successful candidates starting in the summer.

Full information available via the links below:

[Exodus Lisburn – Area Leader](#)

[Exodus Coleraine – Youth Ministry Developer](#)

Bishops ask Catholics to pray for the Queen to mark 90th birthday

The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has requested that at all Masses on June 11-12 each parish prays for Her Majesty the Queen to mark her 90th birthday.

The bishops have asked that such an intention be included in the Bidding Prayers and that congregations recite a Prayer for the Queen at the end of Mass.

The Queen turns 90 on April 21, with her official birthday on June 11.

Prayer for the Queen

V. O Lord, save Elizabeth, our Queen.

R. And hear us on the day we call upon you.

V. O Lord, hear my prayer.

R. And let my cry come before you.

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

Almighty God, we pray,
that your servant Elizabeth, our Queen,
who, by your providence has received the
governance of this realm,
may continue to grow in every virtue,
that, imbued with your heavenly grace,

she may be preserved from all that is harmful
and evil
and, being blessed with your favour
may, with her consort and the royal family,
come at last into your presence,
through Christ who is the way, the truth and the
life
and who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen

English and Welsh bishops schedule first National Eucharistic Congress in more than a decade

England and Wales is to have its first National Eucharistic Congress in more than a dozen years.

At the bishops' conference's spring meeting in Leeds this week the bishops resolved to hold a National Eucharistic Congress for England and Wales in 2018. The last one was held in Birmingham in 2005.

Eucharistic congresses are gatherings of clergy, religious and laity to promote an awareness of

the central place of the Eucharist in the life and mission of the Church, bearing witness to the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

At their spring conference the bishops received a report from Bishop Robert Byrne, auxiliary bishop of Birmingham about the 51st International Eucharistic Congress held this January in Cebu in the Philippines.

At the 2005 Eucharistic Congress in Birmingham Archbishop Vincent Nichols, then of Birmingham, celebrated the opening Mass. Speakers included the preacher to the papal household, Fr Raniero Cantalamessa, Jesuit writer Fr John Edwards and Bishop McMahon OP of Nottingham. Archbishop Nichols described the congress as “a highlight of the summer”. St Pope John Paul II declared 2005 the Year of the Eucharist, and granted a plenary indulgence to Catholics who venerated the Sacrament in that year.

[News links to reports on faith, politics and education](#)

Times/[Christian Today](#)

Continuing coverage of the private meeting between the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Zimbabwean President

Robert Mugabe. Archbishop Justin was accompanied by several Anglican bishops when he met Mr Mugabe at the State House in Harare on Sunday afternoon. Lambeth Palace said, "This visit, made at the request of the Bishop of Harare, was in support of the church in Zimbabwe. It lasted less than an hour."

http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/world/africa/article4735143.ece?CMP=OTH-gnws-standard-2016_04_18

Schools Week

Report that the Government has published Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) setting out how CofE and Catholic schools and their dioceses will work under the new academy system with their regional school commissioners and the government. According to the article the MOUs state that the Church will have a final say on whether schools convert to academy status. The MOU also addresses the issue of underperforming schools.

<http://schoolsweek.co.uk/church-agrees-new-academies-plan-with-government/>

Premier

Reports that faith leaders are uniting with a new letter to the President of the UN General Assembly calling on him to take more and faster action on climate change.

Meteorological reports suggest the first three months of 2016 were the hottest on record. Nicholas Holtam, Bishop of Salisbury, and CofE's lead bishop on the environment said, "The Paris Agreement marked a major step in the whole planet uniting to deal with climate change - a threat to every country in the world. Paris

provided us with a framework. It is vital that concrete steps follow, and follow soon."

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/Bishop-signs-new-UN-petition-on-climate-change>

Tel/Guard/Ind/Mail/Times

Reports of the funeral of Ronnie Corbett, which was attended by family and friends, was held on Monday at the St John the Evangelist church near his home in Shirley, Croydon, south London. Four candles burned at the back of the altar.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/04/18/ronnie-corbetts-funeral-celebrities-to-say-final-farewell-to-two/>

<http://www.theguardian.com/culture/2016/apr/18/ronnie-corbetts-funeral-attended-by-stars-of-british-tvs-golden-age>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/people/ronnie-corbett-funeral-david-walliams-jimmy-tarback-a6989506.html>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3545364/Ronnie-Corbett-s-sick-widow-Anne-join-stars-TV-s-golden-age-pay-tribute-comic-laid-rest.html>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/stars-and-four-candles-bid-ronnie-goodnight-rrlzkqr35>

Premier

Reports that the Alpha course has been revamped to offer an alternative way for people to think about faith. A series of documentary style talks have been filmed which are being offered to churches as an alternative to the traditional Alpha talks. The Alpha film series was funded by donations from all over the globe are presented by Church of England clergyman Toby Flint and CBBC TV presenter Gemma Hunt. The 16 films included questions

about who is Jesus, how can people have faith and what prayer means.

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/World/Alpha-course-revamped-for-the-digital-age>

Ind/Guard/Times

Reports that the shadow justice minister, Jo Stevens, and shadow foreign minister, Diana Johnson, have written to parliament's joint committee on human rights, urging action on the prosecution of women in Northern Ireland for having abortions.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/westminster-human-rights-committee-urged-to-act-on-northern-irish-abortion-ban-a6990231.html>

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/apr/18/northern-ireland-abortion-prosecutions-uk-parliament>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/mps-call-for-reform-of-abortion-law-in-north-7h92trw9s>

Comment

New Statesman: As the Trussell Trust reveals that food bank usage is at record levels one user writes a first hand account of her experiences using one.

<http://www.newstatesman.com/politics/welfare/2016/04/more-people-ever-use-food-banks-britain-today-and-im-one-them>

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