

**CNI**  
CHURCH  
NEWS  
IRELAND

**Includes Pope's appeal for prayer for Ukraine; Bishop of London's encouragement of mission in Dublin; PCI Mission families**



## **DOWNPATRICK CHILDREN'S ART FEATURES ON ST PATRICK'S DAY**

**During the festivities marking St Patrick's Day Downpatrick Methodist congregation warmly invites you to call at their church in Scotch Street to have a cup of tea and to look at, and think about, pictures of St Patrick produced by the children of the town.**

Very often St Patrick's Day is celebrated without any reference to the man himself. This year the P7 classes of all the primary schools in Downpatrick and Saul have been invited to produce images of their idea of St Patrick and what he did in Ireland. This is intended to give an opportunity for children,

parents and teachers, and the rest, to reflect on Patrick's Christian mission and how it fares in Ireland today.

Opening times: St Patrick's Day 10.30 am–5.00 pm AND ALSO Thursday 13 March 10.30-12.00

Email: [ken.connor@irishmethodist.org](mailto:ken.connor@irishmethodist.org)

See more at: <http://www.irishmethodist.org/event/st-patricks-day-downpatrick-methodist#sthash.R0tDscpf.dpuf>



## CHARITIES BENEFIT FROM DUBLIN SITOUT

**It may have been cold and wet outside but there was a warm glow inside St Ann's Church, Dawson Street, last Sunday March 2 as almost €28,000 was distributed to charity.**

The money was the proceeds of the 2013 Black Santa Appeal which took place outside St Ann's Church in the days before Christmas when the vicar, the Revd David Gillespie, curate, the Revd Martin O'Connor, caretaker, Fred Deane and their team of volunteers braved the elements to man the collecting buckets backed by choirs from local schools. Yesterday's service was attended by representatives of the charities receiving funds from the appeal. Among them were Barnardos, PACT, Merchant's Quay Ireland, the Laura Lynn Foundation, the Samaritans, St Vincent de Paul, the Simon Community, the Solas Project, the Salvation Army, TRUST, Protestant Aid, and Bishops' Appeal.

The preacher was the Bishop of Meath and Kildare, the Most Revd Pat Storey, who reflected on the theme of generosity of spirit. She said the Black Santa Appeal was a good news story for the Church of Ireland, particularly at a time when so much bad news abounded in places like Ukraine, Syria, China and with austerity at home.

She posed the questions: What is money for? What is its purpose? And what is God's purpose for our money? She asked how could Christians and members of the Church of Ireland respond in these less affluent times and pointed out that the Church was not immune to the credit crunch.



### **TUAM DIOCESAN BIKE RIDE FOR MABWENI**

**The course wasn't arduous. Only 11kms to Newport and 11kms back to Westport. But for some who hadn't sat on a bike for quite a while, it was testing enough.**

The legs felt the strain for sure. But other body-parts were smarting too by the end of the course. a few dozen dedicated and committed TKAites ( including a few clergy) gathered at Holy Trinity Church, Westport to cycle in aid of the Diocesan Overseas Mission Link, Mabweni.

The Gathering, on 1 March, (Saint David's Day) was in the hall of Holy Trinity N.S. Sustenance in the form of hot tea and sandwiches, was provided by Su Minish and her band of fortifiers. They also provided the half-way revival food which was whisked off to Newport by The Dean and Professor Paul Ryan ( both non-cyclists owing to Anno Domini ) who waited there with other supporters and encouragers in a camper van to welcome the real heroes of the day and send them back refreshed.

All who started the course finished the course; 'some on planks, some on pieces of the ship' for sure (cf Acts 27:44). But none among the brethren was lost. In TKA we're like the Marines: we never leave a fallen comrade behind!

This effort and sweat was directed towards our on-going project to raise money for the Maasai Girl's School in the Kajiado region of Kenya. It was a sponsored cycle and while a full accounting of the funds raised are not yet to hand as we go to press, it is expected the final amount will be well over E2000.



### **COME AND SING STAINER'S CRUCIFIXION IN LIMERICK**

**The Association of Irish Choirs and RSCM invites you to join with the choir of St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick to come and sing "The Crucifixion" by Sir John Stainer under the direction of Peter**

## Barly.

This unique event is open to all singers, individuals and choirs, whether or not they are affiliated to the RSCM. A full performance will follow the rehearsals. You can find out more at the [RSCM Ireland website](#).

Saturday 5th April 2014. Registration At 1:30 p.m. Rehearsals start promptly at 2:00 p.m. In St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick.



## MAGAZINE FEATURES THREE PCI MISSION FAMILIES

The most recent edition of the Presbyterian Women's Wider World (March - May 2014) has three articles featuring PCI mission personnel:-

*"A Warm Welcome in Transylvania"*, by Elizabeth Moffett (PW President). Elizabeth reports on her visit several months ago, [Csaba and Ilona Veres](#) in north-west Romania to see the work they are involved in through the Reformed Church.

*"Let Us Not Become Weary in Doing Good"* by [Angelina Cowan](#). Angelina talks about her life and work in Tuum, a remote village in northern Kenya, where she has served, along with her husband Stephen, for almost 25 years.

*"A Family Church Away from Home - worshipping and serving with Kenyan diaspora in London"* by Caroline Wairia. Caroline is a member of the [Presbyterian Church of East Africa's UK Outreach congregation in East London](#), where [Edwin and Anne Kibathi](#) serve. She writes about how much the Church means to her and of the tremendous work that's being carried out.



For copies of the [Wider World](#) magazine, contact the [PW office](#), Assembly Buildings, tel: 028 9032 2284 or email: [pw@presbyterianireland.org](mailto:pw@presbyterianireland.org).



## **HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S ARMAGH PROGRAMME**

**The next meeting of the C of I Historical Society will be held in the Armagh Public Library (Robinson Library) on Saturday 5 April 2014.**

The library is located at the northwest entrance gate to the Church of Ireland Cathedral.

10.30 a.m. Coffee and registration

11.00 a.m. Professor Jacqueline Hill, 'Revd William Phelan FTCD and the historiography of the Church of Ireland'

12.00 p.m. Mr Ciarán McCabe, 'Suppressing street begging in pre-Famine Ireland: a case study in the use of parish vestry minute books' [Research Paper]

1.00 p.m. Lunch

2.00 p.m. Dr Brendan Scott, 'The 1622 royal visitation of the Church of Ireland in Ulster'

3.00 p.m. Dr Colin Reid, 'Stephen Gwynn's Irish Revolution'

Speakers:

- Prof. Jacqueline Hill has recently retired from the department of history at NUI Maynooth. She is a member of the Royal Irish Academy and is on the editorial team of Irish History Online, which provides bibliographic data on Irish historical writing. She has published extensively on eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Ireland and edited volume seven of *A New History of Ireland* (Oxford, 2003).
- Mr Ciarán McCabe holds a BA and H.Dip in Irish history from NUI Maynooth and an MA in social and cultural history of medicine from UCD. He is in the third year of an Irish Research Council postgraduate scholarship at NUI Maynooth. His doctoral thesis examines perceptions of, and responses to, street begging in early nineteenth-century Ireland.
- Dr Brendan Scott is manager of Monreagh Heritage and Education Centre having previously worked as research officer in the County Cavan Museum.

He is a sixteenth– and seventeenth–century Irish historian. Among his publications are Religion and Reformation in the Tudor diocese of Meath (Dublin, 2006) and, as editor, Culture and society in early modern Breifne/ Cavan (Dublin, 2009).

• Dr Colin Reid is senior lecturer in the department of history at Northumbria University. His research interests have focused on the mentalities at the heart of the nineteenth– and twentieth–century Anglo–Irish dilemma. These aspects were explored in his recent book The Lost Ireland of Stephen Gwynn: Irish Constitutional Nationalism and Cultural Politics, 1864–1950 (Manchester, 2011).

Registration:

You can register online at <http://churchofirelandhist.org/membership/>. If you wish to become a member the annual subscription was fixed last November at £35 or €40. This includes admission to our bi–annual conferences, lunch, book discounts, and exclusive access to the Society’s podcasts. Non–members are most welcome. They are asked to subscribe £7 or €10 to assist with conference expenses (lunch not included).

Queries may be either addressed to the honorary secretary, Dr Adrian Empey, by email at: [secretary.coihs@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.coihs@gmail.com) or visit the society’s website: <http://churchofirelandhist.org/>.

The Church of Ireland Historical Society meets twice a year: in the Public Library, Armagh, in April, and in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, in November. It exists to promote scholarly interest in the history of the Church, and to facilitate publication.



## **BISHOP OF LONDON INSPIRES DUBLIN CONFERENCE**

**“The journey may be difficult but there is great hope,” was the message from the Bishop of London to the clergy and laity of Dublin and Glendalough.**

The Rt Revd Richard Chartres addressed the clergy of the dioceses in the Church of Ireland College of Education and the laity in St Catherine’s Church, Thomas Street. His inspirational presentation outlined the voyage taken by the Diocese of London from a fractured community in decline to one which is united in pursuit of its goal.

Bishop Chartres highlighted the huge change that had taken place in the Diocese of London over the last 20 years. Parishes there were decimated in the 1960s and 1970s when the Church was deeply divided and confused by the cultural revolution. Many churches in the high street were deserted and sold off and by the 1990s, the Bishop said, “we were an exaggerated example of the decline of the Church of England”. The Diocese of London had a deficit of £1 million every year and each year they had to sell something else to balance the books.

Gradually communities began to grow in the desert. But he said: “There is no renewal with paperwork and planning. Renewal comes through reacquaintance with scripture and prayer”.

Their efforts began with the suggestion that every single parish should have a mission action plan. “This should involve looking prayerfully at the patch we are trying to serve and looking at our resources and identifying a response – something we could do as a community,” he explained.

A clear direction expressed in simple terms is required. But it is also important to be opportunistic while being informed by the direction of travel. He said there also had to be an emphasis on fun.

While mission action planning began in the parishes a parallel development took place in the diocese. The Bishop pointed out that the Church can absorb lay talent through a multitude of committees. They learnt that people wanted to be equipped as ambassadors of Jesus Christ where they worked and lived. “So alongside mission action planning went a vast bonfire of committees, boards and synods... a whole tier of synodical governance ... the Board of Mission, the Board of Ministry, which I chaired so I knew how useless it was. And no one has ever come to me and said ‘if only we had had a Board of Mission, we would have done some mission,’” Bishop Chartres stated. The remaining structures were answerable to three tests, he said: speed, simplicity and trust.

Reform of finance was also crucial, he said, pointing out that their old system punished growth by making parishes that increased their membership pay more. It also encouraged parishes to “squirrel away” what they had. They now send everyone a bill stating ‘this is what your ministry costs’ and asking them to try to meet these costs. They are urged to use any extra money in a mission minded way. “The deficit had convinced the lay people that the church was a shambles. Since we started eight years ago, hardly anything

has given more confidence. People can feel they are part of a Church which is going somewhere,” he explained.

The foundation of St Mellitus College in 2007 had also contributed to the change in fortunes of the diocese. The Bishop said they had created an institution which teaches theology that springs from prayer and stood for generous orthodoxy. He said the prayerful unity of the college meant that everyone, whatever their churchmanship, was represented and their identity respected. This also contributed to a greater sense of trust and respect for different strands of Anglicanism in the diocese.

Once mission action planning had begun and structures and finances had been reformed, it was time to face the reality of the situation. The next step the Diocese of London took was to start a collaborative approach. “One of the things that enfeebled us was that we were all living in independent silos. Good work was being done in the silos but there was a lot of duplication, reinventing the wheel. So we tried to give a collaborative approach to build on what we have together,” the Bishop explained.

Their first effort was called London Bridges and it “sank without a trace”. *London Challenge* came next and was more successful, achieving its goals. It focused on talking each other up and praising each others gifts “encouraging one another and looking over the wall to the next community”. Through this a measure of confidence grew. Electoral roles and revenues increased.

Then came *Capital Vision 2020* and Dubliner, Debbie Clinton, who has facilitated thousands of conversations in the Diocese of London. From these conversations she distilled three words which have become recognised throughout the diocese – Confident, Compassionate and Creative.

Confident – in speaking and living the Gospel. Compassionate – in serving communities with the love of God. Creative – in reaching new people and places with the Good News. The three themes shape *Capital Vision 2020*. The Bishop said this is a time of extraordinary change with fast growing Christian communities, particularly in China. But there is renewal throughout the world.

“I think this could be our moment as a Christian community. The political narrative is struggling to find plausible reasons for hope. When I was growing up things were getting better and better and better but it is getting difficult to give this as part of the picture going forward. In these circumstances the hope that is in Jesus Christ is enormous... Christian identity has a deeper now. And



without being distracted from the now we can have a deeper now and sense of our own responsibility and we can hold out the hope of a better good life... A better good life consists of a life of rich relationships and the more we go beyond ourselves the more our spiritual beauty is revealed. So I'm full of hope but its been quite a journey," Bishop Chartres concluded.



*Andrew McNeile of the Diocesan Growth Forum; the Bishop of London, the Rt Revd Richard Chartres; Scott Hayes of Ecclesiastical; and Geoffrey Perrin of the Diocesan Growth Forum are pictured in St Catherine's Church, Thomas*

*Street, where the Bishop addressed lay members of Dublin and Glendalough on developments in the Diocese of London.*



## **POPE ASKS FOR PRAYERS FOR UKRAINE**

**As uncertainty reigned in Ukraine and Russian troops appeared to have control of the Crimean peninsula, Pope Francis again asked the world's Christians to pray for Ukraine and urged the parties involved in the conflict to engage in dialogue.**

Catholic Herald - "I ask you again to pray for Ukraine, which is in a very delicate situation," Pope Francis told tens of thousands of people gathered in St Peter's Square for the midday recitation of the Angelus.

"While I hope that all sectors of the country will endeavor to overcome misunderstandings and build the future of the nation together," the Pope said,

“I make a heartfelt appeal to the international community to support every initiative in favor of dialogue and harmony.”

After Russian troops entered Crimea, Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk of Kiev-Halych, head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, issued a statement on March 1 saying, “Ukraine, unfortunately, has been pulled into a military conflict. So far no one is shooting, so far people are not dying, but it is obvious that military intervention has already begun.”

“Our people and our country are currently in danger,” the archbishop said. “We must stand up for our country, to be ready — if necessary — to sacrifice our lives in order to protect the sovereign, free, independent, and unified state,” he said in the statement distributed by the Catholic magazine Credo.

In Ukraine, March 2 was “Forgiveness Sunday” for Eastern Catholics and members of the Orthodox churches; Lent began March 3 for Catholics and Orthodox who follow the Byzantine tradition.

Addressing members of the church in a pastoral letter for Lent, Archbishop Shevchuk and members of the church’s permanent synod said Ukrainians “enter into the great fast this year with feelings of pain, fear, suffering and trembling hope.”

Months of protests sparked by a government decision to reverse a process of closer cooperation with Europe erupted in bloodshed in late February and led to the ouster of President Viktor Yanukovich. After an interim leader was appointed in Ukraine, the Russian government began what it called military exercises along the countries’ shared border and sent troops into Crimea.

In their Lenten letter, Archbishop Shevchuk and members of his synod called on Catholics to use the 40 days of Lent as a time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving to grow closer to God and to one’s neighbors. Lent, they said, is a time to convert from sin, suspicion and hatred and take responsibility together for the future of the country.

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2014/03/03/pope-asks-for-prayers-for-ukraine/>