



The Rev John Rutter, rector of Glenavy Parish, and Mrs Paddi Totten, Glenavy Open Door Club, help Jill Hamilton load the donations to Baby Basics Belfast into the car for transport to Connect Base.

Baby Basics Belfast: mission's new initiative to support new mothers

Connor Diocese's North Belfast Centre of Mission has launched a new initiative aimed at

supporting families in need by supplying essential items such as toiletries and clothing.

Working from the Connect Base in Shankill Road, Baby Basics Belfast is a volunteer-led project aiming to support new mothers and families who are struggling to meet the financial and practical burden of looking after a new baby.

It is the first in Ireland and is part of a growing network of Baby Basics centres across the UK.

Baby Basics Belfast started in January and is led by Diocesan Children's Project Officer Jill Hamilton and Lead Pioneer Evangelist in the Centre for Mission, Sister Karen Webb.

Jill said: "Baby Basics Belfast works alongside health professionals from local Sure Start and Health Centres who refer families in need. We are then able to support the families by providing them with essential equipment, clothing and toiletries."

Baby Basics Belfast works in partnership with local churches and relies on donations from congregations.

"We ask participating parishes to support us for a month at a time by highlighting Baby Basics during the Sunday Service and asking the

congregation to donate items that can be passed on to families in need,” Jill said.

“Participating churches can request someone to come along to their church service or church group to explain what Baby Basics is all about and will be provided with leaflets containing all the relevant information about what to donate.”

One of the first parishes to step up to the four-week Baby Basics challenge was Glenavy, and Jill went to pick up the donations on Tuesday March 21. There were so many items waiting at Glenavy church hall it took two car loads to bring everything to the Connect Base!

“The congregation was so generous and donated an amazing array of items from the ‘shopping list’ provided,” Jill said.

A presentation of all the donations took place at Glenavy Parish’s Open Door Club lunch. Open Door is a monthly senior citizens morning held for all the community and more than 80 ladies and gents come along each month.

Knitting and crocheting are among the many activities, and these nimble fingered ladies donate much of their work to good causes including Church Army Homeless shelters and

premature baby units in hospitals. Jill said they were delighted to knit for Baby Basics.

“We received two big bags full of blankets, hats, booties, cardigans, coats etc, all beautifully handmade with love and skill,” said Jill.

The rector, the Rev John Rutter presented the donations from the parish and Mrs Paddi Totten presented the knitted items from Open Door. Through Baby Basics, families receive a Moses basket or other container filled with essential items for mother and baby, and the project will also include items for dad and other siblings in the family if appropriate. Jill stressed: “The health professional who understands the needs of the family is an essential link in the chain to make sure families receive items that are useful to them.”

Any parish interested in being involved with Baby Basics is asked to contact Jill Hamilton at jill@connor.anglican.org or Karen Webb at kazwebb@ntlworld.com

The Priests album Alleluia to be re-released in time for Easter

Finaghy Parish Priest Fr David Delargy, who along with Fr Martin and Eugene O'Hagan make up 'The Priests,' will be re-releasing their album 'Alleluia' in time, for Easter.

'The Priests' were catapulted to fame when they signed with Sony BMG in 2008 and have since collected gold and platinum discs from Ireland, the UK, Sweden, Spain, Belgium, France, Norway, Canada, Australia and New Zealand for their many albums.

One minute they were making their way to isolated farms to meet members of their local community, the next they were being flown to St Peter's Basilica, to record at The Vatican.

A film based on their lives, provisionally called 'Raising the Roof,' is currently in pre-production in Hollywood and 'The Priests' even got to meet their idol Lady Gaga.

'The Priests' first album was released in more than 30 countries and set a record for the fastest-selling classical debut album. They have collected gold and platinum discs across three continents ever since.

David, now parish priest at Michael the Archangel Parish, Finaghy. said: "We were very busy the first couple of years, recording and



Singing Priests Fr. Eugene O'Hagan , Fr David Delargy and Fr. Martin O'Hagan.

releasing those albums. The albums were released internationally which meant there was a lot of travel, which took us around the world.

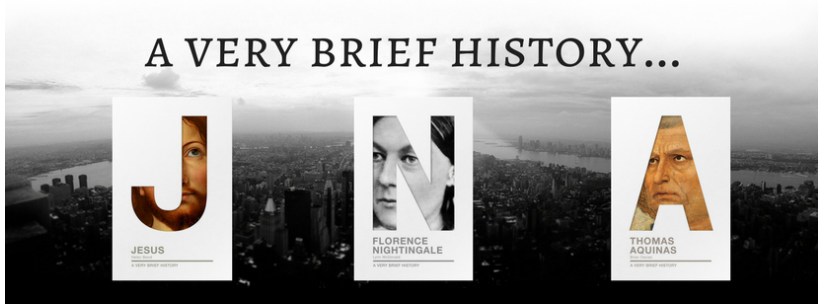
“It was all very exciting. Sony invested a lot of money in the project and they were giving us the full celebrity treatment with lots of nice hotels.

“It was very interesting and pleasant but very demanding and tiring as well. We were trying to make sure all our duties in the parish were covered. After three albums, we decided it was time to reduce our travelling and spend more time in our parishes.”

He said of the new album which will be re-released by Easter, “We are delighted that we have the opportunity to record a new album. The last one was 2010, so it’s been a while. “The whole process of trying to identify suitable music and get the creative juices flowing and arrange it so that it’s suitable for us is very stimulating. “It’s been very good fun to be back in the recording studio. We come to it now with a good bit of experience behind us. We are more relaxed about it, there’s not the same novelty, now we just enjoy it.” David said the fame has never gone to his head. He said: “We’ve tried to be ourselves and to be natural and I think maybe that has given people a different perception of religion than they might have been used to, and a positive one I hope. But we haven’t set out with an agenda to do that. “That wasn’t part of our thinking. If that’s happened, it’s good, but it’s not been part of our process.”

Jesus, Florence Nightingale and Thomas Aquinas feature in new titles by SPCK

In April 2017 SPCK April 2017 will publish three more titles in their Very Brief History series.



SPCK is excited about the momentum of, and interest shown in their Very Brief History Series which commenced with John Guy's [*Thomas More*](#) and Janina Ramirez' [*Julian of Norwich*](#)).

In April three titles will be published, engaging with some of the most influential characters of history .

From Professor Helen Bond, Professor in Christian Origins at the University of Edinburgh, comes [*Jesus: A Very Brief History*](#). Lynn McDonald, University Professor Emerita at the University of Guelph in Canada, and Director of the Collected works of Florence Nightingale, has written [*Florence Nightingale: A Very Brief History*](#). Thirdly, Brian Davies, Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at Fordham University, offers [*Thomas Aquinas: A Very Brief History*](#).



These beautifully produced books are written by world experts - examining their life and impact.

As well as this trio of Very Brief Histories there are other releases in April 2017. From the widely respected and prolific Anthony Thiselton comes a new textbook, [*Approaching Philosophy of Religion: An introduction to thinkers, concepts, methods and debates*](#). This comprehensive and accessible introduction offers a guide to students approaching these important areas of study, rooted in the authors decades of experience of teaching, and strong research and publication careers.

From Russell Stannard, Emeritus Professor of Physics at the Open University, comes [*The Divine Imprint: Finding God in the Human Mind*](#). This book engages with the intriguing thesis that the evolution of the human mind reveals something of the nature of God.

Finally, for the SPCK April 2017 releases, comes a gripping new travel narrative. [*Cycling out of the Comfort Zone: Two Boys, Two Bikes, One Unforgettable Mission*](#) by Charles Guilhamon is the engaging tale of two French teenagers who cycled around the world visiting persecuted Christian communities. Inspirational, humorous, and very timely, *Cycling out of the Comfort Zone* is a book our staff have found hard to put down!

News briefs & Upcoming events

+++ Bach's Saint John Passion at St Patrick's Dublin - The Choir of St Patrick's Cathedral is giving a liturgical performance of Bach's Saint John Passion on Passion Sunday (April 2) at 6.00pm. All are very welcome to attend. Bach's *St John Passion* is one of the towering achievements of western music, and tells in music the story of the arrest, trial and crucifixion of Jesus. Originally conceived as a liturgical piece in Lutheran Germany, it combines the narrative from St John's gospel with reflective solo arias, dramatic choruses and chorales (hymn tunes), the latter of which are sung by the entire congregation. In this performance directed by David Leigh, the Schola (senior girls) and men of the cathedral choir are joined by an orchestra drawn from Dublin's finest professional players.

All of the solos, including the evangelist, are

taken by members of the choir. Tickets are free, but [advance registration is recommended](#).

+++ Greek refugee experience - Next Monday the Revd Abigail Sines, Dean's Vicar in Christ Church cathedral, Dublin, will travel to Thessaloniki in Greece to visit friends, who have been working with refugee families, to gain some experience of their work. They have worked on a small scale befriending families, providing food and cooking equipment, and helping them with enquiries to track down separated relatives. Most recently they have been preparing packs of school supplies and conducting simple lessons for schoolchildren who, in the last two years, have fallen behind in their schooling. Their work can be supported by making a donation via <https://www.gofundme.com/SupplyRefugeeThess>

+++ Castleton Lanterns talk - Historian Faye Rice will give a talk about the lantern slides found in Alexandra Presbyterian Church in 2013 and of the men who served in World War 1 depicted in them. Wednesday March 29, at 2.30pm in Cregagh Library, 409-413 Cregagh Road, Belfast, BT6 0LF.

+++ Lenten music in Ballsbridge - The Gaudete Singers, conducted by David Leigh,

with tenor Warwick Harte and Tristan Russcher on the organ, gave a recital of Lenten music by Leighton, Finzi, Grier and Walton on Saturday in St Bartholomew's church, Dublin.

+++ Come and Sing Crucifixion - RSCM

Ireland are inviting singers of all abilities to take part in a "Come and Sing" performance of The Crucifixion, by Sir John Stainer on Monday 10th April 2017 in Saint Bartholomew's Church, Clyde Road, Dublin 4. Rehearsals will start at 5:30 pm with performance with the Saint Bartholomew's Choir at 8:00pm under the direction of Tristan Russcher and Andrew Johnstone (Organ).

Singers are requested to bring their own copies of the score where possible, limited copies will be available. The choir will be using the New Novello Edition of the score. Full Details can be found on www.rscmireland.com.

+++ Italian Night in Malahide - In St Andrew's Parish Centre, Church Road, Malahide on Saturday evening there was an Italian Night in aid of the St Doulagh's Restoration Fund which is seeking to raise €300,000 for the restoration of the historic church in Balgriffin.

+++ Sun Sea and Soil films conclude - The series of candle-lit film evenings on the theme of 'Sun Sea and Soil: Our Planet in the 21st

Century' concludes in the Music Room of Christ Church cathedral, Dublin, on Monday at 6.30pm. Atlantic is a 2016 award winning documentary which follows the struggles of three fishing communities. It will be introduced by the Minister for Communications, Climate Change and the Environment, Mr Denis Naughton, TD.

+++ Installation of Dean of Derry - On Tuesday evening the Bishop of Derry & Raphoe will preside at the institution and installation of Canon Raymond Stewart as Dean of Derry in succession to Dr William Morton who is now Dean of St Patrick's, Dublin. The new dean has been Rector of Tamlaght O'Crilly Upper since 2003 and Prebendary of Cumber on the cathedral chapter since 2005.

+++ Launch of new publication at CITI - The Church of Ireland Theological Institute in collaboration with Paternoster Publishing is hosting the launch of a new Theological Monograph "Joseph Ratzinger's Augustinianism and Evangelicalism – An Exploration in Ecumenical Rapprochement" by Revd Dr Patrick McGlinchey on Wednesday April 5 at 6pm in the Church of Ireland Theological Institute, Braemor Park, Churchtown, Dublin. The launch will be performed by the Revd Professor Stephen N. Williams, Union Theological College, Belfast. A

buffet meal will be served following the launch. Please confirm attendance by emailing daphnemetcalfe@theologicalinstitute.ie or phone 00353 (0)1 4923506.

+++ Emmaus House Edinburgh retreats

2017 - Emmaus House in Edinburgh are offering a range of retreats throughout 2017 . Details: [Emmaus Retreats poster 2017](#) or contact the Rev Andrew Bain at andrewbain99@hotmail.com

+++ Youth Ministry Development Officer

sought - The United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough are looking to recruit a Youth Ministry Development Officer, full time, three year contract. Working with Dublin and Glendalough Youth Council, this role involves the strategic development of work with young people of secondary school age in all parishes in the United Dioceses of Dublin & Glendalough, liaising with parishes, Rural Deaneries and relevant groups to encourage young people to grow in faith and develop their God-given gifts. This post holder will promote best practice in all work with young people.

The successful candidate will have:

- A committed, active Christian faith and an understanding of and empathy with the spectrum of Anglican traditions within the Church of Ireland.
- Ability to work with Church leadership to provide support, vision and training for local youth ministry.
- Relevant youth ministry experience.
- Leadership capabilities.
- Be a self-starter able to work effectively without close day-to-day supervision.

Closing date: 22nd April 2017

An application pack and job description are available to download below.

Completed application forms should be returned to: Dublin and Glendalough Youth Council, Diocesan Office, Church of Ireland House, Church Avenue, Rathmines, Dublin 6 by Friday, 22nd April 2017.

[Diocesan Youth Ministry Development Officer Application Pack](#)

[Diocesan Youth Ministry Development Officer Job Description](#)

+++ [Vacancy for a Rector, Stormont](#) - The Parish of Stormont, St Molua's Church seeks to appoint **a rector**. St. Molua's is a unique church situated opposite Parliament Buildings. It serves a diverse and interesting population, and its prominent position reflects a desire to be involved creatively in the life of the community. It values its choral tradition and also seeks to develop new models of ministry. For more information please contact: Tracey Taggart, Church of Ireland House, 61–67 Donegall Street, Belfast, BT1 2QH Email: ttaggart@diocoff-belfast.org
www.downanddromore.org Closing date, Friday 21st April, 2017

+++Theresa May: wrong to label London attacks as 'Islamic' terrorism

Following her statement in the House of Commons on Thursday morning Theresa May was asked by Conservative MP Michael Tomlinson whether she agreed that the term was inappropriate.

He asked her: "It is reported that what happened yesterday was an act of 'Islamic terror'. "Will the Prime Minister agree with me that what

happened was not Islamic, just as the murder of Airey Neave was not Christian, and that in fact both are perversions of religion?"

Ms May replied that she believed it was not right to use the term, suggesting that such ideology was "perversion".

+++London's Muslims raise £18,000 in one day for victims of terror attack

In a statement Muslims United for London said: "The British Muslim community stands with the community during these difficult times and extends their support in raising funds to help with the immediate, short-term needs of the families of Keith Palmer, the other victims and the families of the victims. "While no amount of money will bring back lives lost or take away from the pain the victims and their families are going through, we hope to lessen their burden in some way." - Telegraph

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