

CNI Evening Post June 1

C of E cleric is keynote speaker at Presbyterian Assembly

The Wednesday evening of General Assembly week is always much anticipated, and this year is no exception.

This year it takes place on June 7 and will focus on the theme 'Everyday Disciples'. The well-known author and speaker, Vaughan Roberts, Rector of St. Ebbe's Church, Oxford will give the keynote address.

The incoming Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI), Rev. Dr. Noble McNeely, will host the evening, with many others also taking part.

The programme for the celebration will include a presentation on how the Church relates to those who have a learning disability, whether they are

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young or old – a subject close to the heart of Dr. McNeely and which will play a key role in his year as Moderator. Full report in tomorrow's CNI News bulletin.

Ginchy Cross coming to Tomás Ó Fiaich library in Armagh

The original Ginchy Cross, an historic relic and memorial to men who died during the Battle of the Somme, is destined for Armagh City. As part of the “Decade of Centenaries” Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council and the Royal British Legion have worked to bring the wooden Celtic cross to Armagh. It had been made from oak by the 16th (Irish) Division and had originally been erected during the war in a field between villages of Guillemont and Ginchy. The cross was then relocated to the Irish National War Memorial Gardens in Dublin and has been loaned by the Trustees of the INWVG and the Commissioners of the Office of Public Works (OPW) Ireland. Full report in tomorrow's CNI News bulletin.

Major study finds only one quarter of young Irish people get out of homelessness

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Research covering a two-year period has shown that only one quarter of young people get out of homelessness. The other three-quarters remain homeless, staying in B&Bs, sleeping rough or living in inadequate, insecure accommodation.

Earlier research in 2008 and 2011 reported that a far higher proportion (57 per cent) had exited homelessness after just one year.

Former President Mary McAleese launched the research, *Living in Limbo – Homeless Young People's Paths to Housing*, in Trinity College Dublin on Monday, May 29. *At the launch, she said that homeless young people have a "shambolic existence". Full report in tomorrow's CNI News bulletin.*

Tributes to Archbishop Donald Caird of Dublin

The death has taken place of Bishop Donald Cair, former Archbishop of Dublin. The present **Archbishop, Most Rev Dr Michael Jackson** in a tribute said, " Dr Caird remained throughout his life a friend of all who knew him and of all he came to know. His affection for the people of Ireland and the Church of Ireland was unsurpassed. He loved the Irish language, was committed to it and excelled in it. In recent years

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he enjoyed the community of Brabazon House and was loved and cared for by its staff and residents and its chaplain Canon Adrian Empey with whom he shared a friendship since he was chaplain of Portora Royal School, Enniskillen.

“He engaged personally, pastorally and intellectually with his environment and with its priorities. This commitment extended into all parts of his interaction with church and society, cultural and political life. His personality was characterized by a radiance of engagement that gave him great delight in other people throughout a long and cherished life. He will always be remembered for his contribution to the field of education and to critical understanding of everyday issues and to his championing of the Irish language as part of the weave of the Church of Ireland and of national life.”

The Most Revd Dr Richard Clarke, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, said ‘So many will be saddened by the news of the death of Bishop Donald Caird, who all will recognise gave wonderful service to the Church of Ireland in so many ways over very many years.

‘Donald was loved and respected in equal measure and I wish to extend the sympathies of

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the Church of Ireland to Nancy and his family. May they know God's comfort at this time of loss.' Full report in tomorrow's CNI News bulletin.

Major ecumenical conference on Luther 500

To mark the 500th anniversary of the year that Martin Luther famously nailed his 95 Theses to the church door in Wittenberg, sparking the Protestant Reformation, a major ecumenical conference will be held in Clontarf on Saturday June 24 from 10am to 4pm. The event takes place in the Church of St John the Baptist, Seafield Road, Clontarf. The conference will feature renowned theologians and ecumenists and allow plenty of time for discussion/questions from the floor in a bid to understand how we got to where we currently are on our ecumenical journey, and how we can all work together on the road to greater unity. The facilitator for the day will be Philip McKinley, Full report in tomorrow's CNI News bulletin.

First hearing of the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry held in Edinburgh

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The inquiry was launched by the Scottish Government to raise public awareness of the scale and impact of abuse affecting children in residential care between 1930 and 2014. The Church of Scotland is one of the largest providers of social care to the people of Scotland and representatives of CrossReach, the Social Care Council of the Church, took part in the proceedings.

Bill Steele, convener of the Social Care Council, said: “The Church of Scotland welcomes the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry. We recognise this as an important day for those who have experienced abuse whilst in residential care, giving them the chance to be heard and to seek accountability. We acknowledge we have failed to fully protect some of the children entrusted into our care.

“The Church has offered and will continue to offer support for survivors through its safeguarding listening service.

Leap of Faith from Forth Bridge raises £26,000 for church social care

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The Leap of Faith fundraiser has raised a remarkable £26,000 to support the work of CrossReach, the Church's social care council. Billed as 'The Three Formers' a trio of daredevils, who are now retiring from senior posts in the Kirk, joined 15 other brave CrossReach supporters to abseil 165ft down the Forth Rail Bridge to raise money to support Crossreach's work with children and families. Very Rev Dr John Chalmers, who is retiring from the role of Principal Clerk, joined former Moderator Very Rev Dr Russell Barr and former CrossReach chief executive Peter Bailey to brave the descent from the iconic bridge with just a rope between them and the ground.

Mother who has never preached before up for sermon of the year

A mother who has never preached before could become the winner of a national competition that seeks to find the best sermon of the year. Carole Hodgkins, a retired sixth form teacher, living in Essex was announced as one of four finalists in the London School of Theology (LST) and Preach magazine competition.

She was short-listed after completing the first-round of the contest having been tasked to write

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a sermon on the subject 'God in the dark'. Hodgkins who is divorced with three daughters said she has never attempted to write a sermon prior to entering the competition. She added: "I felt I would like to give it a try!

"I believe God guided me to write this sermon. When I talk or write about God, His presence is very powerful." If Hodgkins wins she will be given a year's free tuition at LST, worth £6,000, while one runner up will be offered a 50 per cent discount.

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