

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Recognition of service



Image of the day

Recognition of service

It was a very special day at Hillsborough Castle and Gardens this week when clergy and church members were recognised for their service to the community by the presentation of awards by His

Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for their home county.

Amongst those who were recognised was Canon Bill Adair of St Columba's, Portadown. He was accompanied by Mrs Adair. (Front page photo and above)

Archdeacon Roderic West and Mrs Joan West were presented with British Empire Medals for services to the community in County Down. Roderic is a former Archdeacon of Dromore and rector of BChurch, Banbridge & Seapatrick



Parish and Joan is a retired community nurse.(Photo above).

Trevor Douglas (Left) was presented with his British Empire Medal for services to peacebuilding and to the community in Northern Ireland.

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Trevor is a parishioner of St Saviour's Dollingstown, Magheralin Parish and is the General Manager at Belfast Cathedral.

News



Teaching New Testament studies at Bujumbura

Rev Dr Keith Scott of the C of I and CMSI is keeping busy at Bujumbura Christian University.

During his initial weeks he is teaching New Testament studies for 2nd year students and working hard to deliver

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lectures in French! He's also getting opportunities to be involved in the life of the local Church and did a spot of preaching last Sunday. Pray for Keith to have meaningful engagement with his students and good encounters with the Church family in Burundi.



Willowfield parishioner's 100th birthday

Congratulations to Agnes Burns, a parishioner of Willowfield Church who turned 100 years old on Friday 12 April.

Agnes is pictured here celebrating with Bishop David McClay of Down & Dromore and Revd Elaine Pentland who is Curate Assistant in the parish.



Heather Healy

Student deaconess



Cathy Smith

Student deaconess

Training in Ministry in PCI

Two trainee deaconesses, Heather Healy and Cathy Smith, are continuing their final year of study and placement. Pray for both women as they look forward, God willing, to the completion of their training.

Final service after 30 years plus as rector

After more than 30 years as rector of St Katharine's, Belfast, the Rev Canon William Taggart led his final service in the church on Easter Sunday.



Canon William is due to retire on April 30, and parishioners held a reception after the service where there were a number of speeches and Canon William was presented with gifts and his wife Tracey was given beautiful flowers.

Everyone enjoyed the fellowship after the service and the sandwiches, traybakes and of course the specially-baked cake!

The service was attended by parishioners, former parishioners, friends and representatives from the community in which Canon William has been working for more than 30 years – his service of institution in St Katharine's was held on July 18 1990.

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Canon. Taggart will continue in his role as Registrar for the Diocese of Connor.



Agents of change in the Solomon Islands

MU's Agents of Change growth in the Pacific

The global roll out of Agents of Change took another step forward recently as two new groups of participants were launched on the course in the Pacific.

In Papua New Guinea, clergy, Mothers' Union members, religious sisters and brothers, youth and others from the Diocese of Popondetta took part in six days of in-person training.

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In Honiara, in the Solomon Islands, twenty-four participants from diverse backgrounds including Franciscans, Melanesian Brothers and Sisters, clergy and Mothers' Union members, took part in the three-day training.

Elizabeth Perry, the Anglican Alliance's Programmes Director, said "It was a joy to see the participants engaging so deeply with the new leadership theology module – to see it come to life in their hands after all the careful work that went into it. Nothing beats face to face delivery of the Agents of Change course. In-person training allows for participatory learning through group activities, discussions and games."

Please join us in praying for all the participants in these courses as they continue studying the modules. 🙏

Read the full story here [➡️ https://bit.ly/3UcFG0A](https://bit.ly/3UcFG0A)

The advancement of Agents of Change is possible thanks to the generous support of the Trinity Church Wall Street Leadership Development Initiative.

Cries of humanity in focus at Focolare gathering in Dungarvan

Over three days, 120 people of all ages and many nationalities enjoyed outings together, workshops, moments of prayer and reflection and nightly family entertainment at the beautiful Gold Coast complex.

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The weather was not kind, but an atmosphere of joy and community helped participants rise above the rain.



The spring gathering's theme was 'We are called to love and..... go out into the world'. Saturday's programme focused on the 'Cries of Humanity', in particular those of the homeless and drug addicts. Since 2016 a partnership has been forged between Focolare and Merchant's Quay Ireland through a Christmas backpack appeal. Its CEO, Eddie Mullins, used the occasion to thank Focolare, before addressing the issues of homelessness, poverty and addiction. Poverty is a complex problem, he said. We have become a very judgemental and polarised society where people sometimes step over the bodies of those sleeping rough, "It is very important to acknowledge people on the street and show them they are not invisible." He appealed to those present to be "more open minded and less judgemental. Every life is valuable." In his eight months



as CEO of Merchant’s Quay, he was “taken aback by the level of need among the users of MQI.” On the drug problem, Mullins said it would take “a generation to fix” and simplistic as it might seem, the answer was to “break the cycle for the next generation through education”. His 32 years working in prisons showed him the intergenerational nature of crime and drug use. MQI can get people on the recovery journey, but “long term results has to be getting through to younger generations”.

Sunday’s focus was on ecumenism. Bishop Brendan Leahy and Dr. Joan Back reported on the 40th Ecumenical

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Conference of Bishops friends of the Focolare Movement which took place in the historic city of Augsburg in Germany last February. There were 60 participants from 26 nations, representing 29 Christian Churches. Five Bishops from

Irish Bishops with Mayor of Augsburg

Ireland attended: Church of Ireland Archbishop of Armagh – John McDowell, Catholic Bishop of Limerick – Brendan Leahy, Bishop of the Moravian Church – Sarah Groves, former Church of Ireland Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe – Trevor Williams and former Church of Ireland Archbishop of Armagh – Richard Clarke. Bishop Leahy commented on the way relationships of sincere affection develop between the participants, based on a pact of mutual love in which the Bishops commit to loving one another as Jesus did and to loving one another's diocese as their own, which means staying in touch, sharing joys and sorrows and praying for each other.

Sunday's programme also included a presentation on the 'Join the Dots Together' – a project bringing together 60 civil and religious organisations in Northern Ireland to share information about activities related to climate justice and by working collaboratively to make a greater impact on this grave and urgent issue.

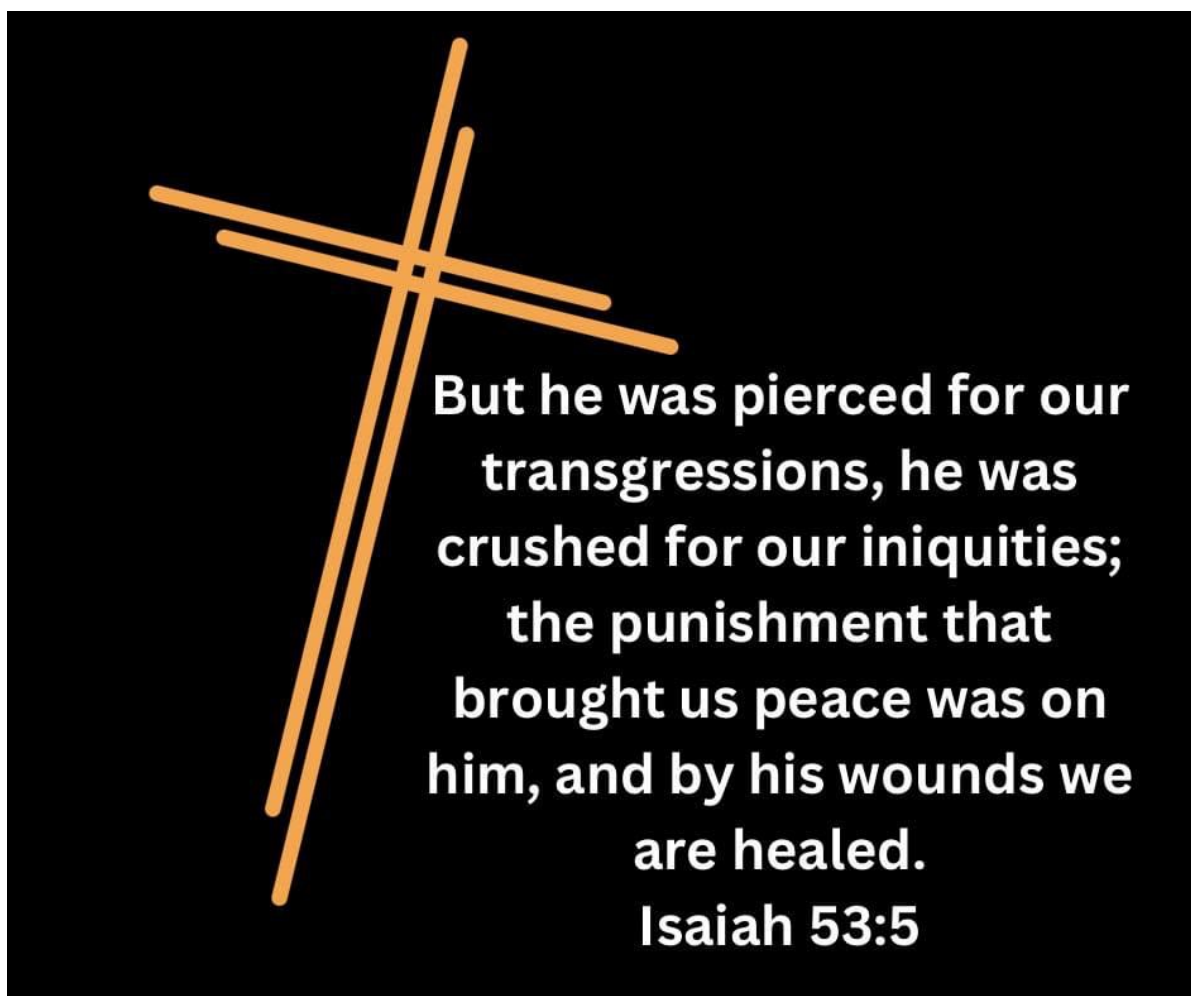
Its first significant event was a conference in Ulster University in January at which Dr. Lorna Gold, Chair of the Laudato Sì Movement gave the keynote address. Lorna commented that the representation at the meeting was a "testament to the vibrant civil society and faith groups in Northern Ireland" with people from the Inter-Faith forum, the

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Baha'i community, the GAA, the Mothers' Union and Trocaire as well as several non-faith groups such as Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful.

Juanita Majury, member of the Join the Dots Together Steering Group underlined the project's focus on raising awareness of the urgency of climate justice and the importance of working together saying, "Future plans include the launch of an online calendar to keep people in touch and informed as well as a seminar in Belfast on 21st September which is International Day of Peace".

Summing up the Spring Gathering event in Dungarvan, Paddy Daly from Athlone commented "Meeting everyone like this is like a piece of heaven opening up."





Cathedral Call

Installation underway at Salisbury Cathedral

“We’ve been installing our upcoming art exhibition, Our Earth. The exhibition opens later this week and focuses on the domestic impacts of climate change”.

Among the works is a major outdoor sculpture by artist Hilary Jack, titled Seaview. It will depict a large house precariously perched and sliding down a steep slope, reminding us of how coastal erosion and adverse weather are impacting the homes we live in. On one side of the sculpture there is an opening, so visitors can explore and interact with the house. Pictured here is Seaview being built. From 20 April – 6 October 2024. Read more: <https://bit.ly/43wnG4h>



Over 700 reported miracles at Canterbury

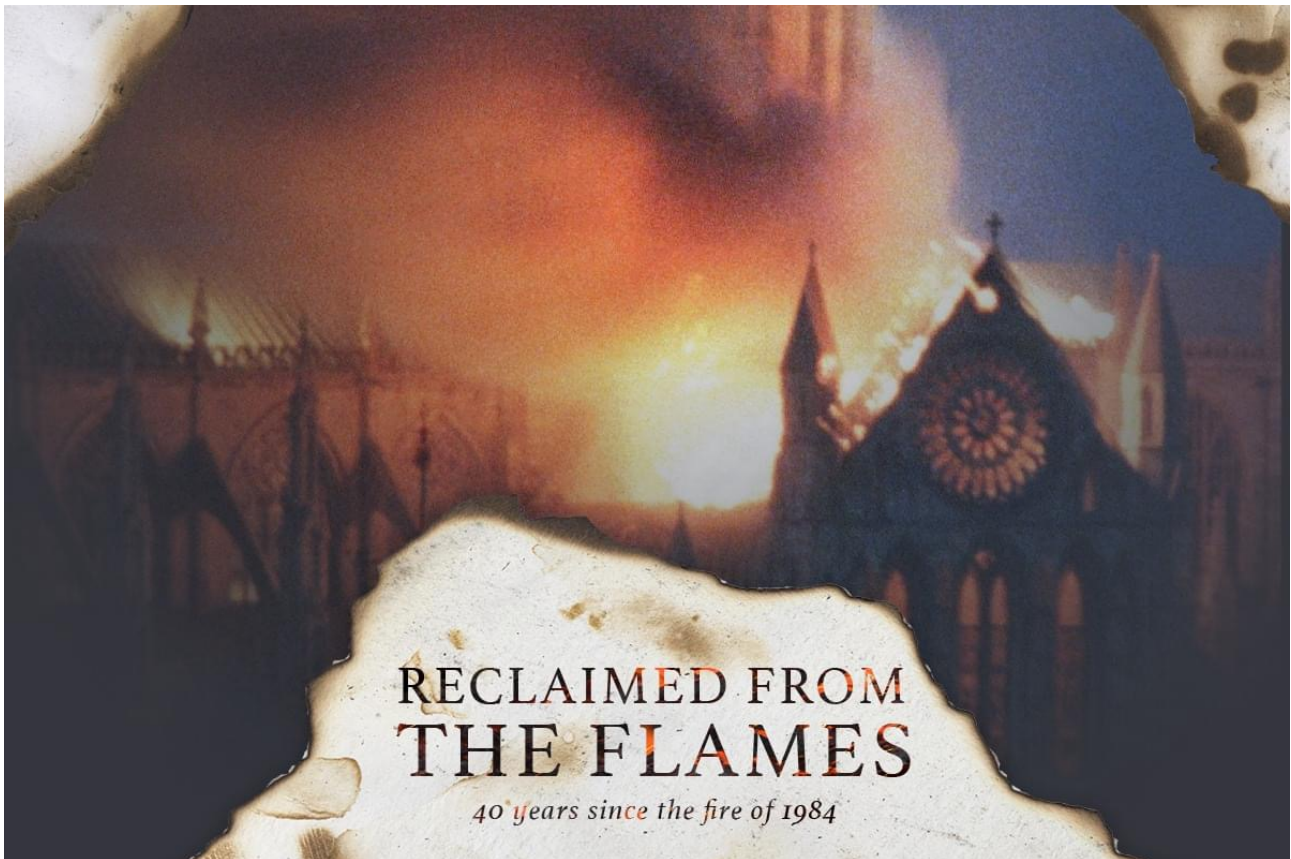
The Crypt at Canterbury has some of the earliest surviving parts of the Cathedral.

It was the site of St Thomas Becket's first tomb and a place of over 700 reported miracles.

You can join with us online for our weekly and special services:

<https://ow.ly/Ia4C50Rcs9e>

We greatly appreciate the continued support of both our local and global online congregations.



Reclaimed from the Flames - York Minster

In the early hours of Monday 9 July 1984, York Minster was struck by lightning and suffered one of the worst cathedral fires of modern times.

The damage done in just a few hours took over four years to be rebuilt and restored.

Join us as we remember the destruction, give thanks for the restoration, and continue our conservation of York's magnificent but fragile Minster through poignant acts of worship, brand-new sightseeing activities, and a bespoke light and sound projection.

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Find out more about Reclaimed from the Flames, York's commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the 1984 fire, here: yorkminster.org/fire/ Photos by M McDonald and B Grayson.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books





Explore faith with the children

Explore faith with the children in your family or community, with the Cheeky Pandas and The Jesus Storybook Bible.

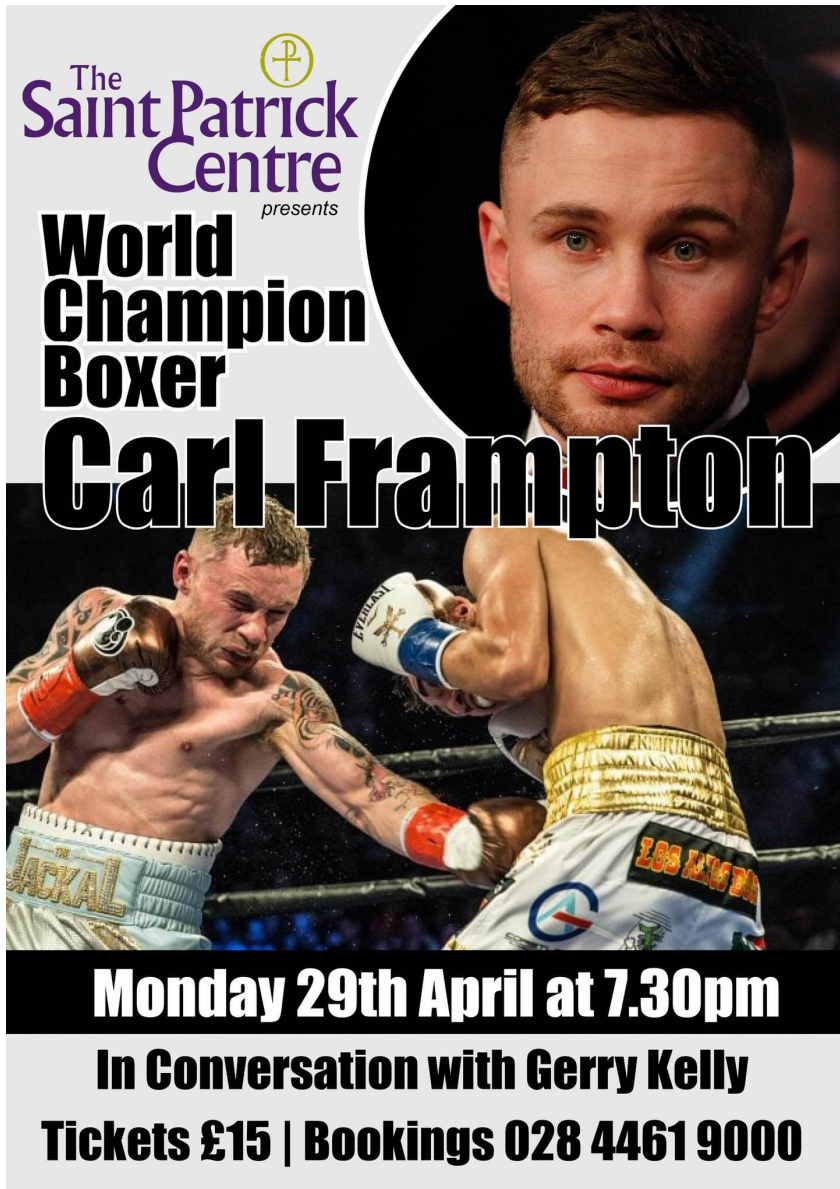
 Bible stories narrated by Bear Grylls, Mary Berry, the Archbishop of Canterbury and more

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 Activities and prayers

 Weekly email journey

Sign up for free at cofe.io/JSBBSubscribe.



The Saint Patrick Centre
presents
World Champion Boxer Carl Frampton

Monday 29th April at 7.30pm
In Conversation with Gerry Kelly
Tickets £15 | Bookings 028 4461 9000

World Champion boxer Carl Frampton In Conversation with Gerry Kelly

April 29th @ 7.30pm. Tickets £15 per person. Call 02844619000 to reserve your space

International Organ Day

Listen to The Organ Podcast to hear about this Saturday's International Organ Day from RCO chief executive Sir Andrew Parmley.

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Hear more about the College's outreach work and vision for the organ, and his own remarkable journey from accidental childhood organist to Lord Mayor of London.



Available now at

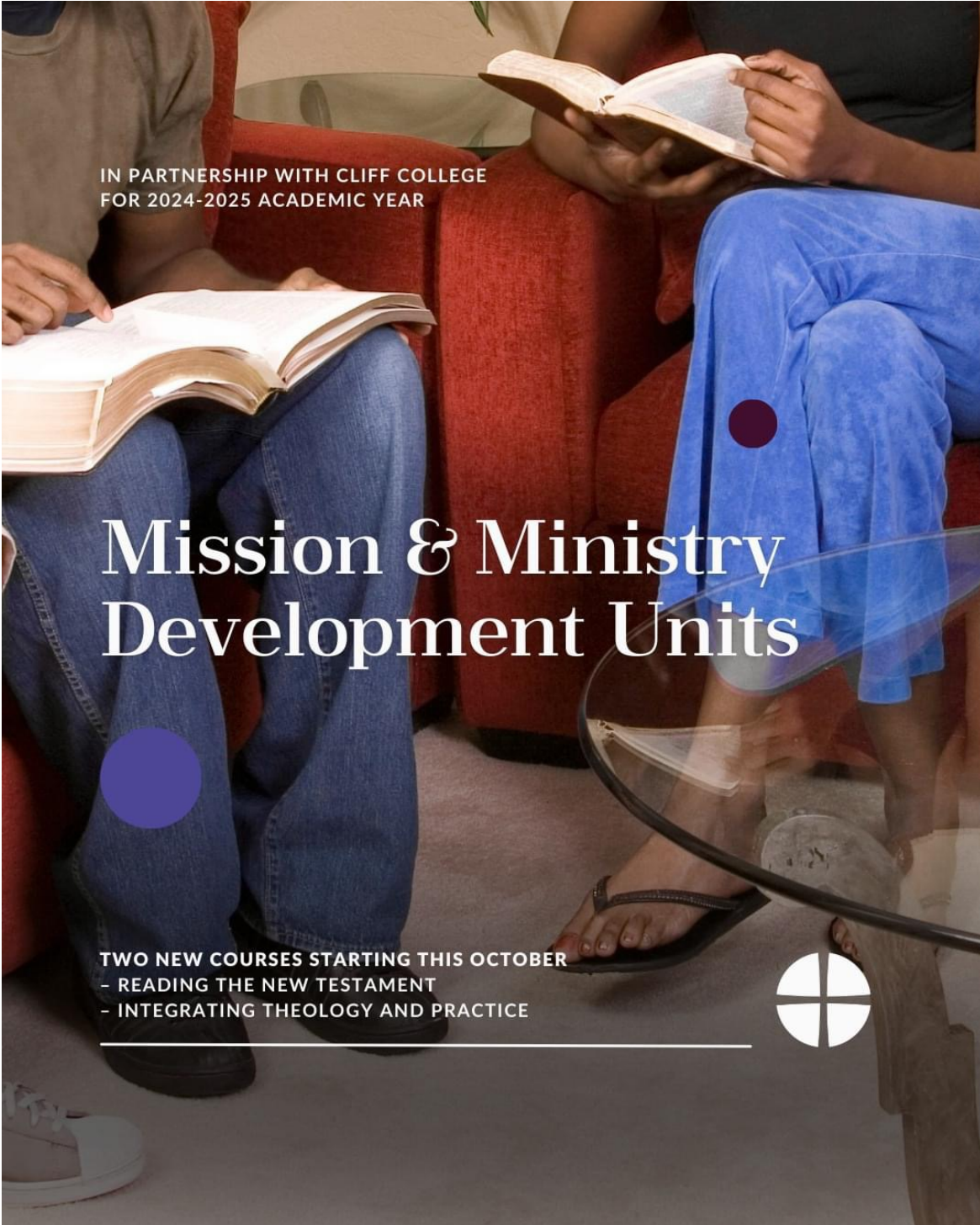
<https://>

theorganpodcast.buzzsprout.com/ or wherever you find your podcasts (and don't forget to subscribe so you never miss an episode).

MCI and Cliff College ministry development courses

The following units, delivered in conjunction with our partners at Cliff College, will be running during the 2024-2025 academic year.

- Reading the New Testament (apply by 2nd September 2024)
- Integrating Theology and Practice (apply by 2nd September 2024)



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CLIFF COLLEGE
FOR 2024-2025 ACADEMIC YEAR

Mission & Ministry Development Units

TWO NEW COURSES STARTING THIS OCTOBER
- READING THE NEW TESTAMENT
- INTEGRATING THEOLOGY AND PRACTICE

Decorative elements include a purple circle on the left, a dark purple circle on the right, and a white cross-in-circle logo in the bottom right corner.

To find out more about these courses and others available as part of MCI's partnership with Cliff College – please visit: irishmethodist.org/ministries-learning-development

A bursary is available to applicants from the Methodist Church in Ireland.

Email: ministries@irishmethodist.org for more information.

In the media

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The principal of a Co Antrim primary school has said she fears rural schools across Northern Ireland remain under

Perspective

Go

'Prove all things; hold fast that which is good' (1 Thessalonians 5:21)

Speaking to the soul

Go

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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The publication of Church News Ireland is overseen by Very Rev Dr Houston McKelvey OBE, QVRM, TD. He may be contacted at houstonmckelvey@mac.com
