



CNI



Self-care workshop for clergy and lay leaders

Time for Self-care, a one-day workshop for clergy and lay leaders will take place at Dromantine Retreat & Conference Centre on May 7.

The workshop is facilitated by the Irish Churches' Peace Project and the Flourish! Churches' Initiative on Suicide

The organisers say: "Churches provide crucial support for members of their community in times

of suffering and distress. In parts of Northern Ireland this need is particularly acute as a consequence of the legacy of decades of violent conflict. Too often, we don't give enough attention to our own self-care, but this is vital if we are to be able to give the best of ourselves to those who need our help."

This workshop will bring together the experiences of churches, statutory agencies and the community and voluntary sector, providing space to reflect on:

- Why self-care is important;
- The different forms self-care can take – including practical examples;
- The challenges that get in the way of self-care;
- The supports and resources available, both within churches and in the wider community.

The workshop runs from 10am to 3.30pm. Attendance is free, but please register with Mrs. Heather Carson by email: heather@icpp.info or telephone (028) 9266 0069.

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Book on Deans of St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin launched

A new book detailing the 74 deans of St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, has been launched recently. *Decani: The Deans of Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin*, has been researched and written by historian, cathedral board member and volunteer guide, Albert Fenton. His latest book was launched in the Deanery by Archbishop Michael Jackson.

Decani introduces readers to the personalities who have occupied the role of dean from the very first incumbent, William Fitzguido in 1220. Through his research, Albert Fenton shows that many of these people were very powerful and influential but others are barely known. While the 'colossus of English literature', Jonathan Swift, is to the forefront, there are others who deserve attention and the new book aims to remind readers of those who held the office and fill a gap in the history of St Patrick's Cathedral.

Launching the book the Archbishop paid tribute to Albert Fenton for undertaking the work. Through this and previous books he has contributed to the understanding of Irish life, he stated.

He suggested that the cathedral was shaped by the personality of its deans. “The tapestry of a place which changes little to the naked eye and yet is changing all the time organically is driven and sustained by its personalities and its characters and, in the case of our own cathedral this evening, is shaped by the personality of individual and successive deans. This diversity has gained a different resonance since Disestablishment and since both Partition and The Troubles. The Cathedral Chapter now seeks always and assiduously to be fair to the dioceses, priests and people of the four corners of Ireland and also to the specific contributions which Dublin-based clergy can and do make to the cathedral’s life,” he stated.

Archbishop Jackson highlighted characteristics which he said shaped the contributions of successive deans to the life of the cathedral. These included being expressive, responsive, provocative and liturgical.

Concern for the visitor and the tourist was a particular focus of cathedrals today in a time when it is recognised internationally that cathedrals are a point of contact with God for people who know nothing of conventional church. “There is an expectation that is fed here by those who visit St Patrick’s. It is an

expectation longing for fulfilment that God is present and that, in the movement of history, people have through the ages reacted and responded to this presence. The dean captures this mood by an unassuming wandering in the cathedral on a daily basis, by a passing 'Good morning' and by being waylaid for good reason. The dean sets the tone of response to un-programmed spirituality. The dean prepares the place for the stranger at the heart of God," he commented.

Decani: The Deans of Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin is available from the cathedral shop and other outlets.

East Belfast Mission's Social Enterprise Open Day

On Tuesday 14th April, East Belfast Mission's (EBM) social enterprise project The Hub held an Open Day where local people interested in and involved in social enterprises came together to network.

The event included several exhibitors and interactive sessions from local social enterprises. Speakers were the Rev Margaret Ferguson, Superintendent at EBM and local MLA Sammy



Wilson who has always been supportive of EBM's projects.

EBM has a successful track record in social enterprise including: a chain of 11 Restore charity shops; a Vintage shop with a bridal department in Belfast city; two Refresh Cafes (one serving meals on wheels 5 days per week in the local area); a childcare nursery called Bright Sparks; a Refurb project that reburishes furniture and a bicycle repair project called Recycle

Therefore, the EBM became the ideal choice for InvestNI's Social Enterprise Hub in East Belfast.

There are 9 Social Enterprise Hubs across Northern Ireland. Each works in their own area to
churchnewsireland@gmail.com

help local people back into employment by encouraging more social enterprises to start up or advance current businesses.

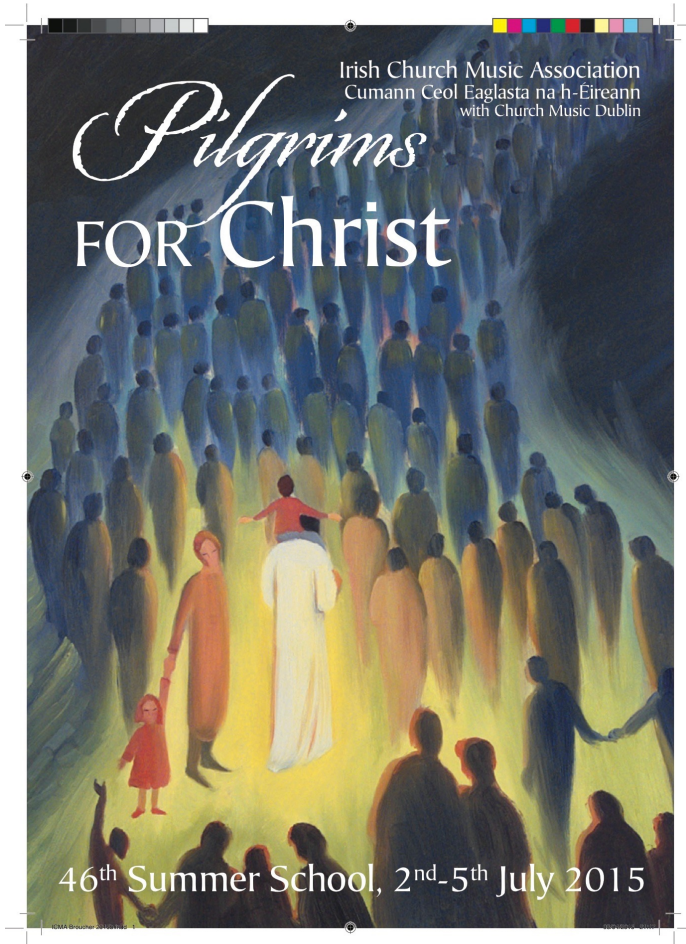
All of the East Belfast Social Enterprise Hub's services are free. Mentors are available to guide budding entrepreneurs through the business start up process - from the initial idea to the financial planning.

For more information on the East Belfast Social Enterprise Hub contact
Lesley.johnston@ebm.org.uk

Church Music Summer School for Parish Musicians

For many years, the Irish Church Music Association has held a summer school for parish musicians. In 2015, the summer school will be organised in association with Church Music Dublin. It takes place from Thursday July 2 to Sunday July 6 in St Patrick's College, Maynooth.

This year the theme is 'Pilgrims for Christ' and the repertoire will nourish all pilgrims at all stages of their journey through school and parish as active participants in Liturgy.



This summer school has been prepared with Church Music Dublin. The training needs and challenges are similar for musicians in both the Church of Ireland and Roman Catholic parishes. They look forward to learning from each other. Participants will celebrate Choral Evensong on

the Saturday evening and have an ecumenical prayer around the Cross on Friday night together.

The music direction team will include Andrew Reid, director of the Royal School of Church Music (Andrew will lead sessions on music with children, and Psalmody and Hymnody); Paul Kenny, a priest of the Archdiocese of Dublin and a member of the ICMA; Marion Gaynor, Director of Music in Carlow Cathedral; Ciaran Coll, a Secondary School teacher and conductor of a Youth Choir; and Ian Callanan, a composer, arranger, score editor and worship leader.

For further details please follow this link: <http://www.churchmusicdublin.org/files/summerschool/ICMA%20Brochure%202015.pdf>

Archbishop Eames - My path of healing

Archbishop Eames will be speaking at St Anne's Cathedral on Monday 11th May at 8pm – at the Monday evening healing service.

He will address the theme 'My Path of Healing'. The Archbishop has had a very demanding ministry and he will talk about how his path kept



Interdenominational
Divine Healing
Ministries



him strong and steady at times of great stress.

Prayer and anointing with oil will be available at this service.

(Please note that his visit by the Archbishop has been changed from May 18th to May 11th)

Dundee Church Hosts Nigerian Visitors To Commemorate Mary Slessor

On 12 April, more than 20 visitors from the Presbyterian Church of Nigeria joined the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland Rt Rev John Chalmers, his



The Mary Slessor memorial plaque was dedicated in Dundee April 12

wife Liz, Rev Robert Calvert and the congregation of the Steeple Church in Dundee to celebrate the life and work of Mary Slessor.

The legendary Dundee missionary, who died 100 years ago, is still revered in Nigeria where she left an enduring legacy of faith, education and justice. The Moderator travelled to Nigeria in January this year, visiting Mary Slessor's home and gravesite and preaching at a series of services commemorating the centenary of her death.

After a vibrant service of worship the congregation and visitors, who included people

from around Scotland with connections to Nigeria, gathered outside the church to dedicate a plaque to Mary Slessor and to lay wreaths.

While in Scotland on the anniversary of the kidnapping of more than 200 girls from Chibok, the visitors spoke about the difficulties of being a Christian in Northern Nigeria. The majority of the population in Northern Nigeria is Muslim and Boko Haram rebel groups have burned villages, abducted children and killed thousands of civilians.

Listen to a BBC radio interview with Mrs Ngozi Onwuka, from the Northern Synod of the PCN and the Church of Scotland's Twinning and Local Development Secretary and Acting Africa & Caribbean Secretary, Carol Finlay, here: <http://bbc.in/1OitpM0> (Starts at 19.20)

A postcard competition in Mary Slessor's honour drew more than 2600 cards painted by children across Scotland. The cards, now on display in the Verdant Works Gallery in Dundee, illustrate how her life story continues to inspire children to make a difference in the world. Find out more about the exhibit: <http://bit.ly/1D8z01n>

View an album of photos of the events on The Church of Scotland's Facebook page: <http://on.fb.me/1Dnsl6K>

Read more about the Moderator's visit to Nigeria: <http://bit.ly/1FYkKil>

Cleric says report on church growth belies the research

A rector in Chester diocese, the Revd Dr Mark Hart, has challenged the measures of church growth which are at the heart of the Church of England's "Reform and Renewal" programme.

Church Times - Dr Hart, Rector of Plemstall and Guilden Sutton, trained as a mathematician and engineer. He completed a paper last Saturday, *From Delusion to Reality*, which looks critically at *From Anecdote to Evidence*, the 2014 report that examines evidence for which factors cause churches to grow.

The findings in *From Anecdote to Evidence* are being used as the basis for a re-orientation of central church funding, under plans put forward by the task groups ([News, 16/23 January](#)). The report *Resourcing the Future* proposes that half the funds should go to projects that show "significant growth po-tential". Another report,

Intergenerational Equity, proposes spending Church Commissioners' capital - £100 million has been mentioned - to support diocesan growth plans.

In other words, Dr Hart says, "an awful lot is hanging on this single piece of research."

The trouble, he says, is that *From Anecdote to Evidence* "systematically misrepresents" the underlying research by Professor David Voas, Laura Watt, and a team from the University of Essex, "thereby exaggerating the usefulness of the findings for numerical growth".

For one thing, a distinction is made in the original research between objective measures of growth and self-reporting: the latter, Dr Hart says, tends to be consistently inflated, especially in parishes that have a mobile population. When the findings were reported in *From Anecdote to Evidence*, this distinction tended to be lost.

<http://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2015/17-april/news/uk/cleric-says-report-on-church-growth-belies-the-research>

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World Council of Churches

Church leaders in South Sudan unite to urge peace now

The World Council of Churches (WCC) in collaboration with the South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) convened church leaders for a special consultation on the South Sudan Peace Process, 14-15 April in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Twenty church leaders and representatives from South Sudan and Ethiopia met along with related agencies for two days to reflect on the tragic situation of conflict in South Sudan, now in its sixteenth month, the recent collapse of peace talks among the parties to the conflict, and fresh ways forward.

“The Church now undertakes to begin a peace process to address the mistrust of the parties and to bring them together to discuss the needs of the people and the future of the nation in a forum which is less polarized and less politically charged than other processes,” promised the



church leaders in their communiqué, issued in Addis Ababa on 15 April.

Taking note of the Easter season's promise of new life and resurrection, the statement chided the conflicting parties for a senseless conflict and pledged a broad-reaching advocacy effort with all segments of society in South Sudan.

“The people of South Sudan continue to suffer,” the statement continued. “The trauma of decades of conflict is being reinforced rather than healed. The rule of law is largely absent. In many parts of the country there is virtual anarchy, with no effective government. The

culture of revenge reigns supreme, and the longer the war continues, the more deeply this culture will be ingrained. There is insecurity and fear; people panic at the smallest alarm. Tribalism is on the increase. Fighting and forced recruitment continue.”

“It’s urgent to bring just peace to South Sudan. People are suffering,” said the WCC general secretary Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit in his opening remarks to consultation participants, noting, “the church leaders are playing a significant role to bring peace to South Sudan.”

Tveit continued, “The WCC has accompanied the churches in South Sudan for more than 40 years. We are gathered here to reflect on how God could lead your people to justice and peace. We have a very solid role to play as peace makers. The churches are representing the people and the civil society and could unite the country. ”

Rev. Peter Gai Lual, head of the Presbyterian Church from Malakal and chair of the South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC), said; “We, the church leaders, have consistently stated that there is no moral justification and no excuse to continue fighting and killing. The fighting must stop immediately, and only then can these

political matters be discussed in a meaningful way. We are ambassadors for peace and mandated by God to reconcile.”

“Peace must be sustained and it must be peace with justice. We are coming as people of faith and carrying a big hope to the world. We are pilgrims and we have to work, walk and pray together, ” said Dr Agnes Abuom, moderator of the WCC Central Committee.

The delegations were welcomed and hosted by Patriarch Abune Matthias of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church, Archbishop of Axum and Echegue of the See of St Teklehaimanot; Abune Berhaneyesus, Cardinal of the Ethiopian Catholic Church; and Rev. Dr Wakseyoum Idosa, President of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekaneyesus. The meeting was also addressed by Ambassador Seyoum Mesfin, chair of the East African Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) special envoys. The South Sudanese delegation also met with Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn.

The WCC will call for a special day of prayer for the South Sudan Peace Process in May.

Media digest

Guardian

Irish police colluded with IRA during Troubles, says former IRA member

http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/dec/03/irish-police-colluded-ira-troubles-book-kieran-conway?CMP=share_btn_fb

News Letter

Ford 'ignoring' public opinion over abortion changes

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/ford-ignoring-public-opinion-over-abortion-changes-1-6694823>

Ford abortion proposals attacked from both sides

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/ford-abortion-proposals-attacked-from-both-sides-1-6694915>

Unionist Executive parties did not respond to abortion consultation

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/unionist-executive-parties-did-not-respond-to-abortion-consultation-1-6694821>

Belfast Telegraph

Plea for reform of Northern Ireland's strict abortion laws

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/plea-for-reform-of-northern-irelands-strict-abortion-laws-31148662.html>

News Letter

NI peace process an inspiration: Vicar of Baghdad

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/ni-peace-process-an-inspiration-vicar-of-baghdad-1-6694576>

Irish history website 'brings heritage into home'

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/website-brings-heritage-into-home-1-6694296>

FT/Guard/ Times/City Am/Naturalgas Intel/ Professional Pensions

Reports that the Church of England's investment arm has successfully challenged oil giant BP to take more action over climate change, after it submitted a shareholder resolution last year. It states the Church Commissioners, which has a £9bn investment portfolio, said 98 per cent of shareholders approved its "Strategic Resilience for 2035 and Beyond" resolution, which was also supported by BP management. The approval means annual reporting at BP will be expanded to include more transparency around operational emissions management and other areas. See *blogs also*.

[http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/fe4af75c-](http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/fe4af75c-e451-11e4-9039-00144feab7de.html#axzz3XXLrfVNp)

[e451-11e4-9039-00144feab7de.html#axzz3XXLrfVNp](http://www.theguardian.com/business/2015/apr/16/bp-and-rio-tinto-face-protests-over-environmental-record)
[http://www.theguardian.com/business/2015/apr/16/bp-](http://www.theguardian.com/business/2015/apr/16/bp-and-rio-tinto-face-protests-over-environmental-record)
[and-rio-tinto-face-protests-over-environmental-record](http://www.theguardian.com/business/2015/apr/16/bp-and-rio-tinto-face-protests-over-environmental-record)

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<http://www.cityam.com/213865/church-england-wins-shareholder-resolution-against-bp>

<http://www.naturalgasintel.com/articles/102005-bp-pledges-more-accountability-for-its-role-in-climate-change>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/business/industries/naturalresources/article4413862.ece>

<http://www.professionalpensions.com/professional-pensions/news/2404425/bp-climate-change-resolution-gets-98-backing>

Mail

Article on the rising cost of funerals. It says numbers of deaths in Britain, which have been falling for 40 years, are predicted to rise by 20 per cent over the next two decades. Quoting a report by the International Longevity Centre-UK, and backed by insurance firm OneFamily, it says funeral firms are under growing costs pressures, because some families cannot or will not pay their bills, and the fees for a Church of England vicar to conduct the funeral went up in 2013 from £102 to £160.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-3042208/The-rising-cost-DEATH-Higher-cremation-charges-undertaker-fees-means-price-funerals-spiralled.html#ixzz3XXYBL6B6>

Mail

Story on man convicted of bigamy, which states Andrew O'Clee was sentenced to eight months

in prison for marrying his second wife Phillipa at St John the Baptist church in Kirdford, West Sussex, while he was still married to his first wife. The court heard how he forged divorce papers.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3041696/Wife-discovered-cheating-husband-s-secret-second-family-tagged-Facebook-doing-Ice-Bucket-Challenge.html#ixzz3XXaoGD79>

Guard

Article on how Queens Park Rangers captain, [Joey Barton](#) has become a member of the National Secular Society and said Britain should become a secular state. It states he called for the disestablishment of the Church of England.

<http://www.theguardian.com/football/2015/apr/16/joey-barton-member-national-secular-society>

Times

Preview of 'Sex and the Church' on BBC Two. It states Professor Diarmaid MacCulloch continues his series examining how the church influenced people's sex lives. He goes on to reveal how the Reformation launched a revolution, as sexuality became a key battleground between Protestants and Catholics.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/arts/tv-radio/reviews/article4406243.ece>

Ind

Article on Conservative MP, Anna Soubry's election campaign in Broxtowe, Nottingham. It mentions her part in a hustings at the parish church in Beeston, where it says around 400 voters attended with 'Bob the vicar' working the roving mike.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/generalelection/anna-soubry-interview-the-topsy-turvy-tory-turning-stereotypes-upside-down-10183081.html>

Guard

Article on the history of the Armenian genocide in Turkey in 1915 when 1.5 million people were killed.

<http://www.theguardian.com/news/2015/apr/16/the-armenian-genocide-the-guardian-briefing>