



Peregryne, the small choral ensemble from Dublin s touring the West Country next week. Report below.

Irish Presbyterian focus on church planting

In conjunction with the Bangor Worldwide Missionary Convention, the Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI) is hosting 'Suburban Church, Urban Mission Field', a seminar on church planting in an urban context with Scottish Pastor Mez McConnell. It will take place at Assembly Buildings, Belfast, on 25th August at 10am and is open to all.

Mez McConnell, Senior Pastor of Niddrie Community Church in Edinburgh, will lead the seminar, and reflect on his experience of planting a community church in the Scottish capital's Niddrie Estate.

Looking forward to the event, Mark Welsh, the Presbyterian Church in Ireland's Mission Development Officer said, "When we think of 'mission' many think of missionaries serving overseas, like our own PCI missionaries who are working in 10 countries across four continents. Yet the need to bring God's Word to local communities and to those who don't have a relationship with God at home is vital too.

"We have a number of Irish Mission and Community Outreach Workers working across Ireland. What Mez will share with us is his thoughts on 'best practice' based on his experience of church planting in an urban

housing estate context; particularly within the economically poorest and most socially deprived areas. There will also be plenty of opportunity to consider how this might translate into our own contexts here in Ireland through table conversations and interactive Q & A sessions,” Mark said.

Mez McConnell has been involved in full-time pastoral ministry – both church planting and revitalisation – since 1999 and has worked in inner city areas in England, Scotland and Brazil. He is also the founder of *20schemes*, a ministry that seeks to plant churches among some of Scotland’s poorest communities.

In an interview for PCI’s *Reachout* magazine (which first appeared in the publication *Tabletalk*) Mez McConnell talked about what it takes to plant a church in an impoverished community, “You have to be prepared to engage in ministry for the long haul. There are no short-term solutions to the problems in these communities and we need to come in with realistic expectations of what it takes to plant or revitalize a church. We are talking decades rather than the usual three-to-five-year model.”

‘Suburban Church, Urban Mission Field’ will take place at Assembly Buildings, Belfast, 25th

August from 10am to 12.30pm. Registration is required via www.worldwidemission.org.

You can download the *Reachout* interview with Mez McConnell [here](#).

Mark Welsh will also be taking a seminar entitled 'Transforming Mission' at Hamilton Road Presbyterian Church, Bangor at 10am. To register see www.worldwidemission.org

Internment was nothing less than torture – alleges priest

A prominent Belfast priest has said that internment, which is commemorated by marches in the North this month, effectively marked the end of British rule in Northern Ireland because it facilitated torture.

Irish Catholic - Internment was a British army operation in the North in August 1971, when 342 Catholics suspected of being involved with the IRA were imprisoned without trial.

Fr Des Wilson told *The Irish Catholic* that internment could only be described as "torture". "People who arranged internment in Northern Ireland knew perfectly well that imprisonment

without trial would lead to torture and this marked the beginning of the end of British rule,” he said. “Whether you wanted it or not, or liked it or not, the fact is that the result of that kind of behaviour is you stop ruling.”

He said the revelations of what happened during internment, such as people being thrown from helicopters near ground level after being told they were high in the air, “appalled people” and was the “final nail in the coffin”.

“It was a horrible time where you had military vehicles on the streets and you knew that some of your neighbours were going to disappear, and this was accompanied by practices that frightened the life out of people. It led to greater instability and insecurity in the population,” he said.

Meanwhile, a book by civil rights campaigners Msgr Raymond Murray and Msgr Denis Faul, which revealed the full story of the ‘Hooded Men’, has been reprinted to mark the 40th anniversary of the death of one of the men. Sean McKenna, who died in 1974, was one of 14 Catholic men who claim they were tortured by the British government after the introduction of internment.

Their case was referred to the European Court of Human Rights last year.

The launch will take place at Teach Na nDaoine Family Resource Centre, Mullaghmatt, Monaghan on August 22 at 6.30pm.

Dublin chorale Peregryne on tour in the West Country

Next week Peregryne, the small choral ensemble specialising in rarely heard church music directed by Dr Stuart Kinsella will take up a residency in Bristol cathedral. Members of Peregryne (pictured), who regularly sing in churches in Dublin city centre and around the country, will assemble by air, land and sea in the city of Bristol to begin singing in the cathedral of the Holy and Undivided Trinity there for the week, beginning on Monday 24 August and culminating in a sung eucharist and evensong on Sunday 31 August.

The music takes a geographical theme with Franco–Flemish works by Willaert, Melchior Franck and Josquin on Monday, Irish works by Ní Dhubhghaill and Kellyk on Tuesday and Spanish works by Victoria and Guerrero on Wednesday. Friday is German including Bach

and Schütz, while Saturday collects a Jack Charlton Celtic fringe which includes Howells, Mathias and Cornysh. Sunday morning is for the modern Francophile with works by Frank Martin and Olivier Messiaen in the morning, while the afternoon is an English affair with works by Moore, Weelkes and Tallis.

Peregrine will also sing an informal lunchtime concert within 'the fairest, goodliest, and most famous parish church in England', Bristol cathedral's spacious rival, the medieval parish church of St Mary Redcliffe. On their 'dumb-day' on Thursday, they will venture forth to Bath abbey where they will sing a lunchtime concert, while on Saturday evening following evensong at Bristol cathedral, they will sing compline in nearby Clifton cathedral.

The music will be accompanied by a variety of organists from Bristol, Dublin, Exeter and Oxford, including Harry Meehan, former organ scholar of St Patrick's Cathedral Dublin (2010–12), Truro cathedral (2012–13) and currently, Queen's college, Oxford.

Come and Sing: Fauré Requiem

This regular 'Come and Sing' event will be held in the beautiful Saint Bartholomew's Church in

Dublin 4, on October 31 at 2.00pm. The event will be directed by Peter Parshall, formerly director of music at Saint Bartholomew's and previous RSCM coordinator for Ireland.

The rehearsal will start at 2pm (with registration from 1.30pm). Refreshments will be available and the performance will take place at 4pm. The event is open to all, affiliates and non-affiliates as usual. The cost is €10 (affiliates) or €12.50 (non-affiliate fee).

Please confirm your attendance by downloading and completing the booking form available [here](#).

<http://rscmireland.com/events/this-regular-come-and-sing/>

A new movement in music ministry

About 100 people over five days attended Music Ministry Together, a new five-day summer school held at the Cistercian College in Roscrea, Co. Tipperary for youth and adult leaders who have a passion for liturgical music and the desire to serve as ministers in their parishes, schools and communities.

76 year old MU member's sponsored fun run



Fun runners Wilma Reid, Margaret Nelson, Ray Moore, Diane Joss, Elsie Munn Susan Donaghy and Heidi Joss – the ambulance was not required!

Eight members of Magheragall Mothers' Union along with Alison Leckey, Lisburn Area Chairperson, took part in the Lisburn Fun Run earlier in the summer

They were well supported en route by people from the parish, and thanks to money raised through sponsorship along with funds the group was able to donate £500 to the Mothers' Union Mothers in May project.

This money will be put to use in projects in Northern and Southern Ireland but will also support a reading project in Ethiopia.

Special mention to Elise Munn who took part in the run on her 76th birthday!

Bishop's wife to cycle across Wales in a day – for Christian Aid

A bishop's wife is gearing up to cycle the length of Wales in a day to raise money for Christian Aid and mark its 70th anniversary.

Jo Davies, whose husband John is the Bishop of Swansea and Brecon, plans to pedal 190 miles from Caernarfon to Chepstow in just one day.

And Christian Aid is calling on all churches in the country to donate £70 each to support Jo – £1 for each year of the charity's life – to raise tens of thousands of pounds for its special year.



Jo, a specialist nurse in the NHS blood and transplant service, is an experienced long distance cyclist who has even cycled across Britain – from Land’s End to John O’Groats. But she is expecting the latest challenge to be the hardest of all. From Caernarfon in the north to Chepstow in the south, the ride, organised by **Open Cycling**, takes in the Llanberis and the Gospel Pass, climbing 4,500 metres.

“This is the toughest ride I’ve done to date,” admits Jo. “It’s a lot of miles and a lot of climbing in one day. I’ll be out from dawn to dusk, not even 24 hours.”

Spurring her on, however, will be the thought that her efforts will make a real difference to people in desperate need thanks to the work of Christian Aid.

Australian to be Dean of St George's College, Jerusalem

The Most Reverend Suheil Dawani, Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem and Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem is pleased to announce the appointment of the Reverend Dr Gregory Jenks as the Dean of St George's College, Jerusalem. He will begin his position in November 2015 upon Dean Graham Smith's retirement.

St George's College, Jerusalem is an Anglican community of education, hospitality, pilgrimage, and reconciliation. Through study, site visits, engaging with the local Christian community, prayer and reflection, lives are transformed and faith renewed.

Dr Jenks is an Australian born Anglican priest. Dr Jenks comes to the role of Dean at St George's College after serving as Academic Dean of St Francis Theological College in Brisbane since

2007. He is currently a Senior Lecturer in the School of Theology at Charles Sturt University.

During his time as Academic Dean at SFC, Dr Jenks has been especially responsible for academic administration relating to courses offered at the College through the Brisbane College of Theology and, more recently, CSU School of Theology. He led the development of an active research culture with the College, including membership of the Consortium for the Bethsaida Excavations Project in Israel.

His new role also includes an appointment as a Residential Canon of St George's Cathedral in Jerusalem.

Media digest

Tel

Article on new Cathedral attendance figures showing more than 10 million people visited cathedrals in England last year. It says they have learnt lessons from late night opening by shops and many are offering evening services drawing people in with the contemplative atmosphere and traditional music. Truro, Liverpool, Salisbury and Newcastle cathedrals are mentioned and

the Dean of Newcastle, Christopher Dalliston is quoted. (See podcast above for interview with the Dean)

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11813020/Cathedrals-booming-thanks-to-late-night-shopping-tactics.html>

Mail

Report on the court case involving a teacher at St Hild's Church of England VA Secondary School in Hartlepool who admitted stealing £16,000 by over-charging parents for class trips. It says Thomas Bisset over-stated the number of children going on the excursions. He is due to be sentenced next month.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3205030/Church-England-school-teacher-stole-16-000-charging-parents-school-trips.html#ixzz3jQ6ci8LW>

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Article discussing advancements and improvements in pupil exam grades in many state schools. It mentions the Prime Minister's daughter attending Grey Coat Hospital School in Westminster.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/11815212/Whats-happening-in-our-state-schools-is-little-short-of-a-miracle.html>

**Mail/Times/Mirror/Star/Guard/Ind/Tel/BBC/
Huff Post/Exp/ITV**

Reports on the funeral of Cilla Black at St Mary's Church in Woolton, Liverpool, yesterday. They state her funeral was attended by a long list of celebrities, with Sir Cliff Richard singing a moving tribute. Thousands of fans lined the route of the funeral procession.

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3204595/Cilla-Black-funeral-takes-places-Liverpool.html)

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<http://www.itv.com/thismorning/showbiz/share-your-tributes-to-cilla-black>

Obituaries

Tel

Obituary on a former Bishop of Portsmouth, Ronald Gordon, who died aged 88. After being the Bishop of Portsmouth from 1975 to 1984, it states he spent seven years as head of the Archbishop of Canterbury's staff at Lambeth, followed by five years as Canon and Sub-Dean of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/obituaries/11814605/The-Right-Reverend-Ronald-Gordon-obituary.html>

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