

Dublin Seminar on Missional Discipleship

The Dublin and Glendalough Diocesan Growth Team has announced details of an event taking place in the new year aimed at exploring the challenges and practicalities of creating a missional discipleship culture. 'Missional Discipleship in Ireland Today' will take place in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, on January 8 and 9 2014.

The first session of the event is aimed at everyone – from church leaders to church planters and lay leaders. Topics covered will include empowering lay leaders, personal growth and development, creating a culture of discipleship and discipleship that leads to mission. The session will also hear from PJ Booth, leader of Open Arms Christian Fellowship and national leader of the AGI; Andy Carroll, minister of Donabate Presbyterian Church; and Ross and Lucy Hill, leaders of Hope Community Church, Ringsend.

The second session will be more interactive and practical and is aimed more specifically at church planters – those who are currently or have recently planted a church or those who are planning something new in their community.

The main speaker at this event will be Paul Maconochie who runs a network of church based on St Thomas Crooke's in Sheffield. Paul also oversees the European network of churches that have an affiliation with St



The Reverend Steve McCann, Chaplain to Lay Ministers in Cork, Cloyne and Ross, with the Bishop.

Thomas'. He will share his experience. This event will be run in Christ Church Cathedral but is overseen by an interdenominational group so there will be people from a variety of denominations there. It is hoped that the event might be a helpful way to continue the conversation started at the Diocesan Growth Forum last year and will stimulate further ideas to find new ways of engaging with local communities in an effective way. Spaces for the event will be limited so to secure a

Prayer for Today

Almighty Lord and everlasting God, we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern both our hearts and bodies in the ways of your laws and the works of your commandments; that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Common Worship*

place please email
Andrew McNeile at amcneile@eircom.net
by the end of November.
More details are available at
www.irishchurchplanting.org.

New Chaplain to Lay Ministers

On Sunday, 17th November, prior to the Licensing of four new Readers in the Diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, the Bishop, Dr Paul Colton, also commissioned the Reverend Steve McCann, Rector of Ballydehob as the new Chaplain to Lay Ministers in the Diocese.

The Chaplain to Lay Ministers has responsibility for the care of Readers, Lay Pastoral Assistants and Lay Liturgical Assistants in the Diocese. He is also Chairperson of the Diocesan Healing and Pastoral Care Committee.

Skainos Team win Belfast award

The Skainos team won Best Belfast Brand award at the Aisling Awards recently at the Europa Hotel in Belfast.

The Aisling Awards honours those who make Belfast City a better place in which to live.

Skainos is an urban regeneration project in inner East Belfast based on the Newtownards Road, building on the work



churchnewsireland@gmail.com

of East Belfast Mission and providing shared space for community transformation and renewal.

Skainos' aims are to transform and renew the East Belfast community. It brings together strategic partnerships, such as the East Belfast Mission, AgeNI, NIAMH, Replay Theatre, New Life Counselling and Tearfund.

Christmas Cards that help support Wycliffe Bible Translators

You can donate to Wycliffe Bible Translators at the same time as providing work in some of the world's poorest communities and making your friends smile.

If you buy your Christmas cards from [Just Cards](http://JustCards.com), you will:

1. Get beautiful greetings for friends and family
2. Support the generous work that supports the women who make the cards in Rwanda, Kenya and South Africa, *and*
3. Automatically, donate 10% of the cost towards Bible translation.*

Just Cards sell handmade cards from South Africa, Rwanda and Kenya and printed cards from around the world. As well as supporting card makers facing incredibly difficult circumstances, they also support a variety of [UK charities](http://UKcharities.com).

You can even buy beautiful Scripture-reminder gifts at their website this year. Christmas shopping **done**. Visit justcardsdirect.com.

Obviously, the biggest part of the year for buying cards is **Christmas**, but, Just Cards also produce cards for other events. Take a look at their [online store](http://onlinestore.com) and see if

there's something for you. Of course, if you could encourage your friends to do the same thing that would be really appreciated.

C S Lewis joins Poet's Corner in Westminster Abbey



Belfast-born writer and scholar CS Lewis was officially inducted into Poet's Corner in Westminster Abbey on Friday 22 November.

A memorial stone to The Chronicles of Narnia creator was unveiled to mark the 50th anniversary of his death – the first Belfast writer to receive such an honour. Former Archbishop of Canterbury Dr Rowan Williams – an admirer of his work – gave the main address at the ceremony. A prayer was read by the Revd Adrian Dorrian, the rector of St Marks' church, Dundela, in Belfast, where the writer's grandfather was the first rector.

CS Lewis's memorial stone is set in the floor of Poets' Corner – though he was not known for poetry – and is inscribed with lines from one of his theological lectures : "I believe in Christianity as I believe the sun has risen. Not only because I can see it but because by it I can see everything else."

Lewis joins such greats as Charles Dickens, Oscar Wilde, John Keats, William

Blake and TS Eliot in a tradition going back 600 years.

Lichfield delighted with first Messy Church confirmation

October 2013 marked the first confirmation service in a Messy Church congregation in the Diocese of Lichfield.

Messy Church originated out of the Fresh Expression movement, which was established by the Church of England and the Methodist Church to pioneer new congregations that appeal to those who might not normally attend a 'regular' or traditional church.

Now, however, Messy Church is a movement in its own right, though still within the umbrella of Fresh Expressions. It aims to provide a space for families to experience and take part in worship in a new way, incorporating creativity, celebration and hospitality.

Messy Churches have become extremely popular in recent years. There are 126 Messy congregations in the Diocese of Lichfield alone, which translates to approximately one in every three parishes, and involves over 7,000 people each month.

Some have expressed reservations about the movement, however, asking whether it is really just a craft club, rather than a church.

Bishop Mark of Shrewsbury, who led the confirmation service, has rebutted these claims, however, saying: "It's got all the elements of Church. There is gathering together, fellowship together, worshipping God and we learn together what it is to be a Christian."

Cerys Hughes, Messy Church Advisor in Lichfield Diocese, added: "If Messy Church is church, we need to explore ways of

developing it so that people are able to take the natural steps of belonging to a church and so baptism and confirmation within Messy Church are absolutely the right thing to do."

Last month saw Canon Phil Potter appointed as the Archbishop's Missioner and new team leader of Fresh Expressions. He will succeed Bishop Graham Cray, who is retiring from full time ministry after being in the position since 2009.

Canon Potter said: "As well as being a dynamic and effective ecumenical partnership encompassing many denominations and traditions, Fresh Expressions is a movement that is transforming the missional life of so many churches in this country and around the world.

"It is also transforming individual lives by reaching many people who wouldn't normally be reached with the good news of Jesus."

Church leader criticises 'insidious' poverty

The Auxiliary Archbishop of Westminster has called upon those in government to take inspiration from the Pope and his desire to meet the needs of the poor and destitute.

Speaking to over 35 MPs and representatives from 26 leading Catholic Charities at CSAN's annual parliamentary reception, Bishop John Arnold said that "Poverty is a challenge to the whole sense of justice, to the very fabric of our society."

Bishop Arnold, a trustee of Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN), went on to say that the success and civilisation of a society should be measured by the care given to the most vulnerable and in need.

The bishop praised Pope Francis for the "freshness he brings not only to our Church but as a voice in our

world...because of the priority he places always on the defeat of that insidious thing called poverty".

Just last week, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales released a statement that served as a reminder of the Pope's challenge to "remember the poor; to recognise the dignity and gifts of each person; to resist stigmatising the poor; to persevere in creating the common good by actively engaging in our local communities to alleviate poverty and address social injustices".

The Church of England has also weighed in on the debate. An address by the Archbishop of York, John Sentamu, at last week's General Synod focussed heavily on the poor economic situation in the UK and of both the Church's and the Government's need to respond to the plight of what he called "the working poor".

He revealed that an estimated 4,000 people were reported to be experiencing food poverty in North Yorkshire over the past six months, and food banks all over the country were experiencing an increase in demand for emergency food aid. Earlier this year, the Trussell Trust, which runs 400 food banks across the UK, reported a 170% rise in numbers turning to food banks in the past 12 months; close to triple the number helped in 2011-12.

The trust says rising living costs and stagnant wages are forcing more people to live on a "financial knife edge".

Executive Chairman Chris Mould has called the level of poverty in the UK unacceptable, saying: "It's scandalous, and it is causing deep distress to thousands of people."

Chief Executive of CSAN, Helen O'Brien, supported these claims, saying that the challenges Catholic charities are facing in the fight against poverty have increased.

"We are seeing record numbers of people queuing at food banks, unprecedented

levels of in-work poverty and explosion in demand for support services," she says.

But she added that the Pope's call to action, echoed by Bishop Arnold, is inspiring Catholic communities to "focus on the poor and marginalised in our communities and parishes".

"We are definitely witnessing the 'Pope Francis effect'," she said.



Aberdeen grants Honorary Degree to Archbishop of York

The Archbishop of York is among those being honoured by the University of Aberdeen at its Winter Graduations taking place this week.

Local North-east and national charity stalwart Juliette Paton will also receive an honour receive an honorary degrees at the graduation ceremonies, as will Aberdeen graduate, adventurer and Paralympian Karen Darke.

Professor Sir Ian Diamond, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Aberdeen, said: "We are delighted that the Archbishop of York, Juliette Paton, who has tirelessly done so much for so long, for charity, and the inspirational Karen Darke, who has triumphed over so much adversity, are all joining the University family."

The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Dr John Sentamu, who became Archbishop of York in 2005, will be given the degree Doctor of Divinity on Thursday morning. Archbishop Sentamu will preach at Choral Evensong in King's College Chapel on Thursday, 28 November at 5.15pm, to which all are welcome.

The Archbishop's visit to the city is particularly exciting for the University's Chaplaincy Team, led by the Rev Dr Easter Smart, who are launching their fund-raising campaign for a new multi-faith centre to serve the changing needs of the University community. Assistant Chaplain, Rev David Hutchison said: "The Chaplaincy's aim is always to provide care and support to people of all faith persuasions, and we are extremely pleased to have, in Dr Sentamu, one of the world's most eloquent and persuasive Christian voices and personalities coming to receive his degree and share his vision with us."

Churches ditch a traditional Christmas: Hymns books are shelved for karaoke-style carols

Instead they are installing giant screens in the nave using an iTunes app to guide the congregation through the words.

Trendy vicars claim that the new-tech approach makes people sing louder. The Rev David Green, a vicar in West Malling, Kent, said: "Screens get people's heads

up, they are singing up and out and not looking down. The volume is noticeably much louder.

“But it has to be done properly. I’ve seen very cringe-worthy services where people did not know what they were doing. There are pitfalls – such as words being out of sync with the organ.”

At least a fifth of all churches have followed Mr Green’s example by adopting the screens.

And Thomas Allain-Chapman, publishing manager for the Church of England, believes it could be one in three.

He said: “It’s happening everywhere, even in some traditional rural churches.”

Liane Kolirin | Read the full story on [express.co.uk](http://www.express.co.uk)

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/444943/Churches-ditch-a-traditional-Christmas-Hymns-books-are-shelved-for-karaoke-style-carols>

The death of Tory Anglicanism

This week the General Synod edged one step closer towards permitting the ordination of female bishops.

The final outcome is likely to be some kind of compromise to appease traditionalists similar to that in 1992 when the ordination of female priests was passed. But unlike that occasion, one crucial voice will not be heard nor probably venture an opinion — the Conservative party, which has distanced itself from ecclesiastical affairs over the past 20 years.

This was not the case back in 1992 when a band of Conservative MPs joined Anglican traditionalists in opposing female

churchnewsireland@gmail.com

ordination. Enoch Powell considered it a ‘blasphemous pantomime’, Ann Widdecombe spoke of her ‘utter grief and anger’, while John Gummer judged that it undermined the ‘whole basis of the Elizabethan settlement’. In the end, many followed clergy and laity out of the Church of England to Rome.

No such protest is likely to greet a parliamentary measure on female bishops. The Conservative party, once the defender of Anglican interests, now looks upon the General Synod with bemusement or worse, uninterest. This distancing from the church reflects the party’s distancing from its Christian roots and, indeed, its secularisation.

This is a relatively recent phenomenon. It may have been a long time since the church could be called the ‘Tory party at prayer’ but it was not that long ago — the 1980s in fact — when Conservatives still perceived themselves to be the ‘Church party’. These were the days when MPs were elected on to the Synod, parliamentary ecclesiastical debates were well attended, and when Anglicanism and Toryism were considered to be complementary and intertwining allegiances.

In the 19th century, the party had acted as protector of the established church. In the late 20th century, Conservatives saw their role slightly differently, protecting the church against itself: defending the ‘ordinary man in the pew’ against the ecclesiastical leadership and its concessions to secular humanism, permissiveness and left-wing politics.

Eliza Filby | Read the full article on [spectator.co.uk](http://www.spectator.co.uk)

<http://www.spectator.co.uk/features/9081451/beyond-belief-7/>