

Church Army reports a year of blessing

The Church Army's *Annual Report* for 2012/2013 is now available to read [online](#). It outlines its activities and achievements during the past year and how its DARE strategy is impacting lives; Doing, Advocating, Resourcing and Enabling evangelism.

It is also packed full of inspiring stories of how Church Army are reaching those with little or no connection with church as well as a full financial review.



In their introduction to the *Annual Report*,



Choristers of St Patrick's Dublin with the Choir's Christmas CD which was released this week.

Church Army Chair and Bishop of Chelmsford, **Stephen Cottrell**, and...

Prayer for Today

Eternal giver of life and light, this holy night shines with the radiance of the risen Christ. Renew your church with the Spirit given us in baptism, that we may worship you in sincerity and truth and may shine as a light in the world, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Church Army reports a year of blessing - continued

Church Army Chief Executive, **Mark Russell**, said: "During this year under review, one of our main focuses has been the implementation of our DARE strategy which we launched in 2011; doing evangelism, advocating evangelism, resourcing evangelism and enabling evangelism. Therefore, our staff and



evangelists have been working hard as they've endeavoured to convert this strategy into operational reality - particularly in relation to encouraging and challenging the wider church in evangelism.

"Yet, it is the individual lives changed that speak best of Church Army's impact during 2012/2013. It is their names and faces, along with the statistics and finances, which will give you a real insight into our work. People like Jenny, from The Amber Project in Cardiff, who has struggled during her teenage years with self-harm but thanks to our support has found hope. Or Dot who lives on the deprived Flaxley Road housing estate in Selby and has

come to faith through our Centre of Mission.

"We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to our thousands of supporters and volunteers who selflessly give their time, money and prayer to make our work possible." Here at Church Army, we believe in being open and accountable to our supporters. Therefore, we want you to know where and how we spend your money. We hope the *Annual Report* is an encouragement to you."

<http://www.churcharmy.org.uk/pub/aboutus/AnnualReview.aspx>

Ireland in Christmas Praise

New Irish Choir and Orchestra, featuring New Irish Youth and guest soloists, directed by Jonathan Rea in Belfast's Waterfront on 6 December 2013 at 7.45pm

Join in seasonal carols and enjoy great solo and choral performances in a Christmas spectacular from New Irish Arts. Now a popular annual fixture in many diaries, this vibrant concert contains a great selection of traditional and contemporary music to celebrate the birth of Christ.

Ticket prices: £24, £20, £16 Concessions
£2 off full price tickets

<http://www.waterfront.co.uk/whatson/performance/details.aspx?id=42387>

Stile Antico perform The Phoenix Rising

For one night only, Stile Antico perform The Phoenix Rising at Christ Church Cathedral Dublin tonight Friday 29

Stile Antico...

Described as 'one of the finest choral ensembles of our day' Stile Antico have received many prestigious awards including the 2009 Gramophone Award for Early Music and spent three weeks at number 1 on the BILLBOARD Classical



Chart for the massive hit, Song of Songs, which was also nominated for a Grammy Award.

The critically acclaimed group has also collaborated extensively with Sting, touring worldwide with his Songs from the Labyrinth tour and appear as guests on his new album If on a Winter's Night...

This very special concert will include a wealth of extraordinary music including masterworks by Taverner, Tallis, Gibbons and White. Crowning the program is the exquisite five-part Mass by William Byrd, whose modern reputation as the greatest composer of the English Renaissance was founded on this pioneering work. Don't miss this wonderful evening of enchanting choral music by this critically acclaimed ensemble. 'The Phoenix Rising' is supported by the Carnegie Trust

For more information welcome@cccdub.ie

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'More help needed in the Philippines'

Irish missionary tours the disaster zone - The Irish Columban missionary, Fr Shay Cullen has praised the resilience of Filipinos in the wake of super-typhoon Haiyan, but has stressed that much more need to be done to help people to recover from the disaster.

Following a trip with other members of his Preda Foundation to bring relief supplies into the disaster area, Fr Cullen issued a dispatch on the devastation he had witnessed along Haiyan's path.

"I have been through ferocious typhoons during my 44 years in the Philippines but have never seen or experienced anything like this for the sheer savagery of this destructive force of nature," Fr Cullen wrote. "The gigantic force of the wind churned and turned everything it could to flying debris, smashing and tearing at everything, ripping roofs apart and carrying



Fr Shay Cullen

the metal sheets, rafters and roofs into the sky with such force that even cinder block walls collapsed before the onslaught."

Fr Cullen went on to praise those he met for their strength in the face of the tragedy.

"We witnessed the resilience, courage and bravery of the many Filipinos that are

rising above the tragedy,” he reported while adding that help is still required and Preda is now working to register all orphans towards protecting them from exploitation in the wake of the typhoon.

“The relief work goes on,” Fr Cullen stated.
www.preda.org

Open Schools Worldwide Project

The Open Schools Worldwide (OSWW) project is a partner of the Methodist Church in Ireland’s World Development and Relief Committee (WDRC).

The OSWW project was founded by Irish Methodist mission partner Dr Alan McIlhenny. It operates largely in S Africa, Zimbabwe and Swaziland where local staff and volunteers provide education for children who do not attend school.

During 2012 – 2014 the WDRC will provide funding to help the OSWW project deliver its literacy and numeracy curriculum up to Grade3 level. The OSWW trains volunteers to deliver the lessons.

The OSWW not only develops children’s literacy and numeracy skills but it also

develops a questioning attitude that helps them challenge their circumstances.

About 1,500 volunteers have been trained over 10 years and 30,000 children have passed through classes that take place in their local communities.

For more information visit
www.openschoolsworldwide.org



No surprise Christians have embraced City of Culture: Bishop of Derry

The Bishop of Derry, Ken Good, says it’s no surprise Christians have embraced Londonderry UK City of Culture 2013 given the profound influence



faith has had on art, literature and music for the past 1,500 years.

Bishop Good said, “The [Churches](#) have thoroughly embraced the special celebration of culture in our city this year. This is not surprising given the rich intertwining roots of culture and faith. For fifteen hundred years Christian faith had a profound impact on culture. A great deal of art, literature and music had its roots in Christian spirituality. In fact the Church was one of the main patrons of culture for centuries. In this more secular age the impact of faith on culture is easily forgotten. This event will explore how culture and faith can still relate positively to one another”.

Medjugorje film hits Irish screens

A documentary film examining the global impact of Medjugorje is to be screened in a number of Irish cinemas from November 29.

In an agreement struck between Irish tour operator Marian Pilgrimages and the makers of The Triumph, the film will be screened at IMC and Omniplex screens nationwide, GCG screens in Sligo and Arklow, Cinema Killarney and the Eclipse

Cinemas in Lifford/Strabane and Bundoran, for a seven-day run.

Filmed primarily at the famous shrine in Bosnia-Herzegovina, The Triumph investigates the phenomena which have attracted some 40 million people to Medjugorje since 1981 and includes a portrait of Mirjana, one of the original children of Medjugorje.

More than 40,000 Irish people continue to travel to Medjugorje annually.

Belfast 1912 through the lens of Trinity College Mission

The C of I's RCB Library's final Archive of the Month for 2013 features a digital viewing of a rare set of images of the streets of Belfast and specifically the work of the Trinity College Mission in the heart of the industrial city which survive from the year of the Mission's foundation in 1912.

Preserved in a photographic album at the library, some 33 black and white images show this Mission in action, focusing on bringing practical support to people living in the densely-populated streets of Belfast

over 100 years ago.

We see children barefoot and playing swings on lampposts. We see workers clocking out of Ewarts linen mill for the breakfast break, in the streets adjacent to the Mission buildings. We also see pastoral interaction – there is football in the street, band practice, scouting activities,



trips to the picture house on the Shankill Road and the seaside – presumably treats that without the vision and financial support of its founders, the young participants would otherwise likely never have had the chance to enjoy.

The images are gummed into in a single album and appear to date from the single year of 1912 - judging by the annotation on the first page: 'May 1912 J.H [or E?] Browne, T.C.D.

Mission

Residence'.

Hopefully the collection will bear testimony to the vision of the founders of the Mission, and also provide more general interest to

those interested in the visual history of Belfast. Now digitized and online, they provide a rare insight to living conditions in the poorest part of the city, and the Church of Ireland's positive response in this context.

The Trinity College Mission in Belfast was established in St Mary's parish in 1912. By the early 20th century, the densely-populated area in the labyrinth of streets between the Shankill and Crumlin Road (where St Mary's church was located) had been identified as a district of particular need - housing as it did some of the poorest families in the city, with unemployment rife, properties derelict and health and sanitation needs high. In this context, the already stretched clergy of existing parishes, including St Mary's, appealed for assistance to make better provision for the spiritual and pastoral needs of working-class Belfast which, they stressed, was particularly badly staffed in terms of clergy numbers.

The response came from a group of concerned academics from Trinity College Dublin, led by the Revd Dr R.M. Gwynn, Lecturer in Divinity and a Tutor at the churchnewsireland@gmail.com

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College, who also became the University Chaplain in 1911, remaining so until 1919 (when he was appointed Senior Fellow). By 1912, Dublin University had well-established missions in China and North India – the latter having been the feature of a previous Archive of the Month see this link <http://ireland.anglican.org/about/135> so there was already a mindset to respond to 'the need for Christianity in a dense population and to link together men of

various occupations who are in danger of mutual estrangement' as a published report of the mission's progress put it in 1920.

A vacant large-roomed mansion and extensive gardens (spared from destruction to make way for the rows of red-bricked terraced houses that multiplied in tandem with Belfast's growth) were purchased by the University to serve as the new 'College Mission'. The Revd Arthur Barton (1881-1962) then curate-in-charge of Howth in Dublin (who would go on to have a distinguished career in the Church of Ireland, initially as rector of St Mark's Dundela - the subject of another Archive of the Month at www.ireland.anglican.org/about/158 - eventually ending up as Archbishop of Dublin in 1939) was despatched to Belfast as the first Head of Mission. Several of the images show Barton and colleagues including the first Deputy Head, Henry Gerald Studdart Kennedy (1888-1978) who went on to serve at the Dublin University Mission in India, interacting with young people as they promoted community development in this deprived part of the city on the eve of the First World War.

To view the images of Belfast in 1912 online: www.ireland.anglican.org/library/archive

Celebrating 300 years of St Colman's Ardboe

A terventenary service to celebrate 300 years of St Colman's Parish Church, Ardboe (Church of Ireland) will take place on Sunday (December 1) at 3pm.

Mid Ulster Mail - St Colman's Church continues to provide worship and communion with God on a weekly basis.



This service will reflect on times gone by as well as praying for the future well-being of the Parish.

Taking part in the service along with the present Rector, Rev Barry Paine, will be the Rev [Canon](#) Noel Moore who has had a long association with St Colman's and now resides in the Parish.

Previous rectors have kindly agreed to participate in this historic event - Rev Canon Desmond Sinnamon (Rector from 1975-1980) who will deliver the service's sermon, and the Rev Canon Harry Moore (rector from 1981-2008) who will give a short history on Ardboe Parish.

Organisers extend a warm welcome to past parishioners, friends and family.

A special collection will be taken on the day for the continued witness of St Colman's.

The Tercentenary Service will be held on Sunday at 3pm. For more [information](#) call Rev Barry Paine on 028 7941 8500.

Gay marriage in Scotland - disappointment from evangelicals

An evangelical group in the Church of Scotland has voiced disappointment after the Scottish Parliament agreed in principle with legalising same-sex marriage.

MSPs voted overwhelmingly in favour - with 98 votes to 15 - at stage one of a new bill that could lead to gay marriage becoming legal in Scotland by 2015.

Forward Together accused the Scottish Parliament of arrogance and said it was not convinced that there would be adequate legal protections for those who cannot in conscience support same-sex marriages.

"In making this decision, the Scottish Parliament has taken to itself the right to redefine marriage, which is a gift from God to human society for the well-being of men and women and for the upbringing of children," the group said.

"The Parliament has in effect said that God is wrong, that his gift is inadequate, and that the divine pattern of gender complementarity, seen to be God's will in both Old and New Testaments, is a mistake."

Forward in Faith questioned the speed at which the Scottish Parliament was pushing ahead with gay marriage.

"The implications of this legislation are of such magnitude that a much longer period of reflection and careful thought was called for," it said.

The group went on to accuse the Scottish Government of ignoring the wishes of the majority of Scots who expressed opposition in the public consultation.

Of the more than 77,000 Scots who responded, nearly two-thirds (64%) said they were opposed to the re-definition of marriage to include same-sex couples.

"In choosing to press on with this legislation, legislation for which the Scottish Government has no electoral mandate, the Scottish Parliament has chosen to ignore the wishes of a majority of those who responded to the public consultation, and has shown that the consultation was nothing more than a waste of time and public money," said Foward in Faith.

"Forward Together believes that most of our elected representatives are now leading the electorate into a wilderness of moral relativity in which not only marriage, as human society has always understood it, is emptied of meaningful content, but so are the very notions of what it is to be male or female. Same sex marriage brings confusion into these elemental distinctions."