

Irish Women Builders wanted

The scale of poverty in India is immense and there is a dire need for good housing in poor communities. Women are often socially and economically oppressed in these communities after generations of discrimination.

Habitat Ireland have an interesting

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initiative - **Women Build: Women building, investing & advocating for simple, decent housing.**

Women Build brings together women from all over the world to work beside vulnerable women in India. Between **28th February and 9th March** you can work beside local women's self help groups and learn about the impact of poverty housing first hand. As you build homes you will build relationships which help change how the world works.

Register online at habitatireland.ie. Email mary@habitatireland.ie or call 01 531 0033 for more information.

Fitzroy Presbyterian celebrates 200 years

'Jesus; the way, the truth and the life' is the theme for celebrations to mark 200 years of Christian witness at Fitzroy Presbyterian Church in south Belfast.



The month long series of events begin last Sunday, 10th November when Presbyterian Moderator Dr. Rob Craig joined with the congregation at their evening service, to launch 'Fitzroy 200', a series of services and concerts continuing until November 24th.

"There is a lot to give thanks for and a lot to look forward to," explains the congregation's minister Rev. Steve Stockman. "However, in all we do we want to give the glory to God and use the opportunity to present our faith in a lively, exciting and relevant manner which is why we have chosen the theme of 'Jesus; the way, the truth and the life'. That has been the foundation for our last 200 years of ministry and will continue to be our foundation for the years ahead."

The congregation began life in 1813 when some local people applied to the Presbytery of Down for the 'supply of preaching.' A congregation was formed and for its first sixty years worshipped at various locations including Henrietta Street, now Ormeau Avenue, Donegall Street and Donegall Square. In 1874 the present church was built and took its name from its location, Fitzroy Avenue, which was eventually changed to Fitzroy following its union with the Donegall Pass congregation in 1973.

The centerpiece of the *Fitzroy200* celebrations will take place over the weekend of 15th to 17th November. Rev. Steve Stockman will address the topic of 'Jesus is the way' on Friday evening at 7.30pm, Queen's Professor David

Livingstone will talk about 'Jesus as the truth' on Saturday evening also at 7.30 and on Sunday morning at 11.00am Fitzroy's senior minister and former Moderator Dr. Ken Newell will talk about 'Jesus is the life'.

The celebrations finish on Sunday, November 24th at 11.00 am when *Fitzroy200* goes global with its 'Across the world' event with visiting speaker Rev. Whitney Wilkinson from the USA and what the publicity material for the event describes as a 'cast of thousands.'

Another highlight of the celebrations will be a special showing of the BBC documentary, *14 Days*, on Wednesday, 20th November at 7.30pm. This programme documents a fortnight that has described as the worst of the troubles through the eyes of Fr. Gerry Reynolds and Dr. Ken Newell who founded the Fitzroy/Clonard Fellowship, a cross community group involving Fitzroy Presbyterian and Clonard Monastery. The fellowship has been internationally recognized for its work in creating better understanding between the two communities in Northern Ireland and is credited for playing a significant part in the peace process that led to the ceasefires of the nineties.

<http://www.fitzroy.org.uk/>

TinyLife Celebrate 25Th Anniversary

TinyLife, Northern Ireland's premature and sick baby charity will be holding a

Thanksgiving Service in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast on Sunday 24 November 2013 at 3.30 p.m. to celebrate 25 years of supporting the families of premature and sick babies born in Northern Ireland.

The service will also remember babies who are no longer with us.

Dean of Belfast, Very Rev John Mann said, "There are few things that reflect more clearly the frailty of human life than a premature baby, whilst parents who for days, or even weeks, may not be able to hold their young infant, lack the very comforting touch of parenthood. As Tinylife supports such families in sorrow and in joy, we give our thanks in St Anne's on 24th November, at a Silver Jubilee Tinylife Service, for the gift of life itself, the wonders of medical science, and the skills and dedication of staff, that allow many babies born before full term to survive."

The service will also feature Irish folk singer and TinyLife patron, Cara Dillon who will sing several songs from her recent album.

All denominations are very welcome and should RSVP to Samara on rsvp@tinylife.org.uk

Dublin & Glendalough youth survey

A review of Dublin and Glendalough Diocesan Ministry to young people is currently underway and the diocesan team would value the input of anyone from the dioceses who has an interest in this area.

These include young people themselves, parents, rectors, chaplains, youth workers, select vestry and diocesan council members and anyone who would like to give their opinion.

A questionnaire can be downloaded by clicking [here](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SYYFBZ2).
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SYYFBZ2>



Please respond to this survey by 22 November 2013 (Friday).

Even though 3 Rock currently has no paid staff, the work of diocesan youth ministry continues. The oversight team with the support of many of the diocesan youth workers are planning to run a post confirmation weekend at the end of November in Ovoca Manor.

Invitations to the Post-Confirmation Weekend and forms will be sent to those who have been confirmed between May 2011 and mid 2012. A later date will be arranged for those confirmed since summer 2012.

In addition to this weekend, the Oversight Team provide support for the Youth Workers of the Diocese, please make contact with Rev. Cliff Jeffers on 087-2390849 or cliff4b@gmail.com for further details.

Concerts in St Canice's

A number of concerts are being held in St Canice's Cathedral, Kilkenny.

Saturday 30th November - Allegro
Kilkenny Chamber Orchestra

Friday 06th December - RTE Symphony Orchestra with Fergus Sheil with TASMIN LITTLE On Tour

JOHN ADAMS The Chairman Dances
BRUCH Scottish Fantasy MÁRQUEZ
Danzón No. 2
STRAVINSKY L'oiseau de feu (The Firebird) Suite (1919)

TASMIN LITTLE violin
FERGUS SHEIL conductor
Tickets €16/14 available at Watergate Theatre Kilkenny 056 776 1674

Thursday 12th December 7.30pm - Annual Lions Club Schools Concert

Friday 13th December 8.00 pm - Josh Ritter -



JOSH RITTER

Josh Ritter an American singer-songwriter, guitarist and author who performs and records with The Royal City Band. Ritter is known for his distinctive Americana style and narrative lyrics

Saturday 14th December 7.30pm Dun Laoghaire Choral Society and The Kilkenny Choir performing Messiah

Sunday 22nd 5pm Cathedral Carol Service

BCGC new studio album

Belfast Community Gospel Choir says it is delighted to announce the release of

their second studio album which is now available to pre-order from bcgc.biz!

BCGC says, “Packed full of power and passion, AIN'T NO STOPPING US NOW brilliantly demonstrates the sheer joy and excitement exuded by BCGC and, as the title track implies, the choir's desire to take their message of joy to the world.

“Foot-stomping songs sit comfortably alongside powerful ballads such as MAKE YOU FEEL MY LOVE and YOU ARE SO BEAUTIFUL and iconic gospel anthems including OH HAPPY DAY.

“The album also features NEARER MY GOD TO THEE; BCGC's own moving tribute to the Titanic Centenary commemoration.

“Released in time for Christmas, AIN'T NO STOPPING US NOW is the perfect addition to any music collection. It will be available at all BCGC performances and iTunes from the 14th December 2013. Pre-order your copy today and see that there really ain't no stopping Belfast Community Gospel Choir.”

Care for the Family's one hour session for new parents

One hour session for new parents

Family breakdown is most common during the early years of parenthood, but with early intervention and small changes in a couple's behaviour, it is avoidable.

In the excitement and utter exhaustion of becoming new parents, the first thing that a couple can overlook is their own relationship. And that's why 'Let's Stick Together' has been developed and is being run by Care for the Family in Northern Ireland. It is a powerful **one-hour session** for new mums and dads that focuses on strengthening their

relationship.



The session can be held in a church, coffee shop, charity shop – anywhere where new parents can gather (or any parents with children under 3 years old). The group can be any size so even Mums and Tots and playgroups are a possibility. Even if only one of the parents comes along (sometimes Dads can be reluctant) the session can prove helpful.

There is so much that's great about 'Let's Stick Together' – it is simple, it is flexible and it can help couples no matter what their faith, class or status. Although it is based completely on Christian principles, there are no biblical references within the material and although many of the trained presenters will be Christian there will be no references made to God or the Bible during each session.

The resource is based on sound research into what makes a happy, healthy relationship, helping to strengthen families, improve relationship quality, reduce conflict and reduce family breakdown.

'I am amazed at the massive effect such small changes in behaviour can have on a

relationship and am excited to see how Let's Stick Together will make a difference to couples here in Northern Ireland.' says Sonya Pascoe, Let's Stick Together Co-ordinator.

The project is funded by the Department of Social Development here in Northern Ireland, and will be piloted over the next two years in North Belfast, Lagan Valley, West Belfast, South Down, North Antrim and Fermanagh and South Tyrone.

If you work with new parents in these areas and would like to organise a session for your group, or would like to find out more about free training to become a presenter contact Sonya Pascoe at Care for the Family on 028 9262 8050 or by email sonya.pascoe@cff.org.uk



Newtownabbey Methodist Carers Project

This year Newtownabbey Methodist Mission secured funding from the Department for Social Development for a carers' project entitled 'Sharing the Care' which started in April 2013 and will run to March 2014.

The project is supported by the Rathcoole Neighbourhood Partnership.

To date, eight Training Workshops have been delivered in the Dunanney Centre, Rathcoole; seven Singing for Mental Health Workshops held in Newtownabbey Methodist Mission, and the 'recording' of the CD to be launched this November.

The main aim of the project is to decrease the isolation of carers within the Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Area. This is being achieved through the provision of valuable training workshops, social activities, information events, support groups, carers' retreat days, the production of a CD and the formation of a Carers' Community Forum.

All of this will enable carers to become less isolated by empowering and equipping them with the necessary skills to help them cope with daily life. The training workshops are designed for carers, families, friends, volunteers, and caring professionals within the community. Training participants receive a training pack, certificates and literature relevant to the training provided.

The Mission will engage with professional organisations to provide further relevant training and up to date information and guidance to carers and their families.

The project is focussing on three key Neighbourhood Renewal themes: Education, Community and Social. It supports the delivery of services identified as thematic priorities in the Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plans, and enables people to come together with others to share similar experiences within an informal setting.

December will see the delivery of various social activities, the setting up of a Support Group and two Carers' Retreat Days at Drumalis, Larne.

The project endeavours to promote, recruit and train volunteers to create an 'understanding caring community' where

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people know 'where to turn' and become more 'confident' in their caring journey.

If you would like to know more about the project or if you know of someone who would benefit from the project or could become a befriender/volunteer please contact Newtownabbey Methodist Mission at office@newtownabbeymethodist.org.uk or 028 90852546.

Winter Warmers - great deals for groups and churches!

Are you involved in a committee or community group? Do you want to spend the day beside a lovely log fire?

Come and spend the day at Corrymeela Ballycastle for as little as £8 per person with lunch provided. Call 028 2076 2626 or email shonabell@corrymeela.org for details.

Corrymeela Christmas Open Day

The Corrymeela Community invites folk to join them for their Annual Christmas Open Day at Corrymeela Ballycastle on Sunday 15th December from 2.30 - 5pm.

There will be delicious snacks, carol singing, christmas stalls and a very special guest for the children. No need to book, just come along.