

Methodist fundraising trek to Everest 2014

October 2014 will mark the first ever Methodist Church in Ireland fundraising trek to Everest Base Camp.

They are looking for 20 enthusiastic and willing participants to join them on what will be a fabulous spirit-filled pilgrimage to the base camp of the worlds highest mountain.

This trip will entail overnight stays and sightseeing in the magical ancient city of Kathmandu and 14 days consecutive



hiking experience is required, all that's needed is a good level

FUNDRAISING TREK, EVEREST BASE CAMP, OCT 2014



trekking in the stunning surroundings of the Himalayas. No previous trekking or

of fitness, a sense of adventure and some determination!

Prayer for Today

O God, the King of Righteousness, lead us we pray, in the way of justice and of peace. Inspire us to break down all oppression and wrong, to gain for everyone their reward, and from every one their due service; that each may live for all, and all may care for each, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The trek is organised by the Methodist Church in Ireland and will have a considerable spiritual element, with each day containing devotion time, creative prayer and praise to the Creator.

All fundraised money will go towards specific projects identified by MCI's World Development and Relief Fund, Home Mission Department and Methodist Missionary Society in both Ireland and Nepal.

Download the [leaflet](#) and [brochure plus application form](#) for more information including costs.

Douglas art sale success

**Douglas Union of Parishes Art Sale say
A huge thank you to all who supported
the event earlier this month**

A spokesperson for the Cork parish said, "We kicked off on the Friday night – a great social occasion as we toasted the exhibition and our guest speaker Elmarie Mawe (from 96FM's The Art's House

programme). Elmarie very kindly opened the exhibition as well as giving us a plug on her show. We were delighted with the more than 140 paintings (embroidery, tapestry, mixed media etc., etc.!) submitted by over 40 talented artists and all who came commented on the quality and quantity of work on show. The exhibition was open all day Saturday and concluded on Sunday but not before the final raffle prizes were drawn! Children too had great fun at their competition prize giving with treats and slushies as well as admiring all the highly creative entries.

"All in all it was a great way to meet up with friends old and new and enjoy the fabulous paintings. We are also delighted to have raised €4,500 for parish funds.

"Many, many thanks to all who worked hard to make the exhibition happen, those that came along and of course to all our very talented artists!"



In conversation

The University of Ulster Magee campus in Derry is hosting an "In Conversation" event in The Great Hall with Archbishop Eames on 21 November.

Life Stories is a series of interviews with prominent University of Ulster graduates and honorary graduates who have excelled in their chosen sphere. Further information from c.mullan@ulster.ac.uk

Presbyterians launch updated Taking Care leaflets



Presbyterian Moderator Dr. Rob Craig (left) and Presbyterian Taking Care Coordinator Deborah Webster re-launching three new leaflets for children and young people, leaders and parents highlighting the Presbyterian Church's Child Protection Policy

The Presbyterian Church has re-launched a series of leaflets as part of its Taking Care Child Protection programme.

Three versions of the small leaflets are available for children and young people, leaders and parents and were launched by the Moderator Dr. Rob Craig and

Presbyterian Taking Care Coordinator Deborah Webster this week.

"Taking Care is all about creating a safe environment for children, young people, leaders and staff within the Presbyterian Church," explains Deborah Webster. "When children and young people are in our care then their safety is a priority but we also need to support and train our leaders to provide that safe environment and ensure that parents have confidence both in our leaders and the child protection arrangements we have in place."

The leaflet for children lets them know that the Church cares for them and gives the name and contact details of the key leader within the organisation they can speak to.

The leader's leaflet highlights the main do and don'ts concerning child protection based on the Taking Care policy of the Presbyterian Church that all leaders have received training in. The parents leaflet gives information about the Church's child protection policy and also highlights their responsibilities to let leaders know of any special circumstances about their children like allergies or medicines they might require and also the need to keep contact details up to date.

With over 30,000 leaders and 120,000 children and young people involved in its organisations, the Presbyterian Church is hugely committed to youth and children's programmes. That is mirrored by the training provided by the Taking Care programme and this year alone there have been 139 training events attended by over 4,000 leaders across the Church to keep them up to date in child protection policies and practice.

“As a church we have wonderfully committed leaders without whom our BB’s GB’s, Mums and Tots, Youth Fellowships, Sunday Schools and many more organisations simply would not happen, and I would thank them for all they do” added the Moderator.

“We have confidence in our leaders and in the training they receive concerning child protection which enables the Church to provide a safe environment for everyone and one that parents can have confidence in.”

Seeing pink in a Belfast Parish



The Parish of St Peter and St James, Belfast. saw pink on November 2 when it hosted a Pink Jazz Evening in aid of parish funds and Action Cancer.

The evening included a drinks reception, a family table quiz, dinner provided by local firm Prestige Catering, a ballot, auction, dancing and of course, jazz!

The evening drew a large crowd of all ages, and raised £387.50.

Dublin Walk of Light Changes

Organisers of the Walk of Light, which takes place this Sunday, November 24,

have announced changes to the venues and route previously advertised.

The alterations are designed to avoid the disruption expected from the rugby match in the nearby Aviva Stadium.

The walk will begin at the same time of 4.00 pm but at the new location of Christ Church Leeson Park. At 4.30 pm participants will walk to the second church, the Mary Immaculate, Refuge of Sinners in Rathmines where they expect to arrive at 5.00 pm. They will leave there at 5.30 pm for the final destination, St Finian’s Adelaide Road, which remains unchanged, arriving at 6.00 pm.

The route will be as follows: Exit Christ Church Leeson Park on to Leeson Park, turn right and continue to Dartmouth Road, turn left on Dartmouth Road and walk to Ranelagh Road. Turn left on Ranelagh Road and cross the road in sight of the Hill Pub and continue along Mountpleasant Square South, turn right into Mountpleasant Avenue and then left into Richmond Hill continue along Richmond Hill and turn right into Rathmines Road Lower. Mary Immaculate, Refuge of Sinners Church is on your right. After the liturgy in Rathmines exit the church and turn right on to Rathmines Road Lower, continue to the Grand Canal and cross over the bridge, turn right onto Charlemont Mall, continue on to Charlemont Place and turn left into Harcourt Terrace, turn right at the end of Harcourt Terrace on to Adelaide Road and the Lutherhaus is on your right immediately to the left of St Finian’s Church.

Dublin institution

The Revd Norman McCausland will be instituted as the new rector of the Parishes of Raheny and Coolock in All Saints’, Raheny, by Archbishop Michael Jackson on November 29 (eve of St Andrew’s Day) at 8.00 pm.

Parish boost for food bank

An evening of music and craic was hosted by St Cedma's Parish Church on Friday to raise funds for Larne Foodbank.

Larne Times - After a welcome to the church by the Rector, the Venerable Stephen Forde, Gaslight members Gillian Withers, Bobby Wright, Archy McNeill and Alan Beattie performed a variety of Victorian and Edwardian music accompanied by a wealth of stories and humour to a receptive audience who fully participated in singing many of the familiar choruses.

The light-hearted style of the talented musicians ensured that all had a most enjoyable evening full of laughter.

At the interval, Larne mayor Councillor Maureen Morrow launched Larne Foodbank as her official charity.

She spoke of the need for this charity in Larne, of which, since it opened at the end of March this year, has supplied some 380 persons with food.

All present at the event had been asked to bring a tin of food. The mayor remarked on the wonderful amount that was donated.

The event was organised by Patricia McNeill who thanked all those who had contributed to its success, paying special tribute to the talents of "Gaslight" who had given their services free for this charity and had given so many people so much enjoyment.

She presented Rev. Tommy Stevenson with a cheque for £1,300 for Larne Foodbank who thanked everyone for their contribution in making the evening a success and for helping those in need in the Larne community.



Installation of Archdeacon of Raphoe

A large congregation from across the diocese of Derry and Raphoe attended the installation of Rev David Huss as Archdeacon of Raphoe. The Service took place on the evening of Friday 15th November in Raphoe Cathedral.

His wife and members of his family joined the new Archdeacon at the service. Colleagues from across the diocese as well as many of his parishioners came to the Service to support him as he begins a new role within the diocese. David Huss is Rector of Donegal, Killymard, Lough Eske and Laghey and will continue in that post as well as working as Archdeacon.

The preacher at the Service was Rev Ian Linton, Rector of Drumcliffe in Co Sligo, who was a fellow student with David Huss at Theological College. David's wife read a Lesson at the Service. The evening finished with the congregation adjourning to the Cathedral Hall for supper.

At the time of his appointment Bishop Good said of his new Archdeacon, "He is a deeply committed pastor in his parishes. As a diocesan team we are looking forward to the contribution he is going to make in fulfilling our purpose, *Transforming Community Radiating Christ*".

Every diocese has an Archdeacon. The Church of Ireland describes this senior leadership role as “assisting the bishop in the bishop’s pastoral care and office” within their diocese.

Archdeacon Huss is a gifted academic with First Class Honours degrees from Oxford University in physics and theology. Prior to Ordination he taught for five years. His wife Beverly is a GP in Donegal and they have three young boys.



Archdeacon David Huss, Bishop Good, Canon Harry Gilmore, Canon David Crookes, Archdeacon of Derry Robert Miller and Canon Stuart Wright

Lisburn Cathedral – building a great community to build a great Church

The News Letter recently carried the following feature on Lisburn Cathedral which was written by Karen Bushby, the Connor Diocesan Communications Officer.

Lisburn Cathedral is in the heart of the city, situated on a hill where once stood the Church of St Thomas, built in 1623.

The parish church of Lisburn was constituted the Cathedral Church for the Diocese of Connor by Royal Charter of Charles II in 1662, and is now known as

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Christ Church. It replaced St Saviour’s, Connor, as the diocesan cathedral, but the Cathedral Chapter is still known as the Chapter of St Saviour.

The cathedral, town and castle were destroyed in a fire in April 1707, and the foundation stone for the new cathedral was laid in August 1708. Over the centuries the building has been reconstructed, reinforced and enlarged.

Further works have taken place in recent years, funded through the sale of the rectory and land. Phase one on the exterior was completed in 2010. The second phase on the interior included rewiring, new lighting, new seating, a coffee area, new audio visual provision, carpeting and redecoration.

On completion the Cathedral was reopened and rededicated in December 2012 and is now open seven days a week with everyone welcome in its cosy coffee bar. The rector, the Rev Canon Sam Wright, said the renovations had been carried out after consultation with local people and businesses as well as a census of worshippers. The work was underpinned by the words from Jeremiah 29:7 “Pray for the peace and prosperity of the city where God has sent you.”

“We had run out of space in the Cathedral Hall,” said Sam. “We needed more room for meetings and for the various organisations who regularly use our building, yet the Cathedral itself was basically closed from Sunday evening until Sunday morning.

“Feedback from the community was that people wanted the church to be open, so we set up a good quality coffee shop with the catchline ‘Coffee, cupcakes and Christ.’”

The coffee room is open from 10am-2pm every Tuesday to Saturday. “People are welcome to just pop in for coffee or lunch but if they do want to sit in the peace of the

Cathedral they are also very welcome,” said Sam.

The Cathedral building is now suited to 21st century ministry and its hall space is fully booked by a wide range of organisations including scouts, guides, MU, Men’s Fellowship, Ladies Fellowship and Parents and Toddlers.

The cathedral itself accommodates a variety of community events including concerts and conferences.

Youth and children

Lisburn Cathedral is blessed with a large number of young people. “We have been very strong on youth work and have an increasing number of older teenagers and young adults who play a role in the church,” said Sam.

A new youth discipleship and mentoring group called ‘Mettle’ recently got underway.

“Mettle is run by people in their 20s and 30s,” said the Rev Simon Genoe, Vicar. “It is high energy discipleship with lots of games and bursts of teaching. It has only been running for two months, and about 50 young people come along. One of our recent projects was ‘upcycling’ furniture to show how Jesus is perfecting us in the church. We are also planning a Dr Who night looking at what it is to be a hero in the faith.”

Children’s ministry is also strong under the leadership of Sister Karen Webb, who is in charge of Kidzone which runs on a Friday evening and Sunday morning. There are 140 children registered with Kidzone.

Karen and her colleague Captain John O’Neill are Church Army Officers. Lisburn Centre of Mission works in partnership with the Church Army to serve the Lisburn area, and both Karen and John are based at the cathedral.

John heads up Bible class and men’s ministry. He has organised a men’s breakfast for Saturday November 16 and guest speaker at this is a serving Army officer who will talk about what it is like to be a Christian on the front line.

Outreach

“Karen and John are also key to our outreach work and are very much part of the Big Church Serve which we are planning for next Easter,” Simon said.

“Our vision when we refurbished the Cathedral was not only to transform buildings but to transform people and to transform the city. Next year we plan to engage with places around us. One hundred people from the church will go



Canon Sam Wright and the Reverend Simon Genoe

into the community doing practical work of service in the name of Christ during Holy Week.”

The desire to serve was demonstrated during a recent week of community engagement. Sam returned to his childhood roots – his father ran a shop in Bangor and the young Sam often helped out – when he manned the tills in local food store Greens, while Cathedral members and staff delivered buns to local businesses.

“The message was that we simply want businesses to be blessed by God as they

strive to flourish in the current difficult economic environment,” said Sam.

The Cathedral has a permanent outreach in the Lighthouse in the Hillhall Estate. Led by commissioned ministers Billy Moore and Frank Bailie, the Lighthouse offers worship, bible study, prayer support, community barbecues and a recently formed Folk and Blues band!

Hillhall is also the venue for a food bank run by Lisburn Cathedral with donations from parishioners. Recognising the need in the community, the cathe



dral is also working with a wide group of churches in the greater Lisburn area with the aim of establishing a Christians Against Poverty (CAP) centre.

Parish weekend

In October the cathedral hosted a parish weekend. Some 80 people turned out each day to enjoy teaching, worship, fellowship and food. The main speaker was the Rev Andrew Sweeney, rector of St Patrick's, Ballymoney, who challenged all present to get fired up for mission.

The next big event on the calendar is a Christmas Tree Festival with the theme 'Journey to Bethlehem' running from December 5-10. "We want to open up the Cathedral to people from near and far," said Sam.

Simon, who is helping organise the festival, said: "We hope there will be a

forest of around 60 imaginatively decorated trees telling the story of Christmas here inside the Cathedral. The council and Lisburn City Centre Management are providing trees for outside as well as an ice sculpture, and lighting up our spire so it will be clearly seen from the motorway and beyond."

Worship

Sunday worship in the Cathedral begins at 9.30am with robed clergy and choir, hymns and the organ and traditional liturgy from the Prayer Book. A variety of informal services take place at 11am with a range of differing music styles and worship to suit all ages. Sam and Simon lead the preaching, but they also enjoy training and equipping others to lead worship – on November 17 and 24 James Price and Lucy Burden, two young people who are on the Church of Ireland Foundations course, will be the preachers.

On Sunday evenings there is Fellowship at 7pm when people of all ages gather around tables for coffee, teaching and discussion.

"A special service we are looking forward to is on Christmas Eve when the Bishop of our diocese, the Rt Rev Alan Abernethy, will preach and celebrate at our communion service," said Sam.

He added that the Prayer Group and Home Groups are 'the backbone' of the cathedral's ministry.

Other regular activities provided by the cathedral include the Cameo Club which provides lunches, fellowship, speakers and day trips for older people. The elderly are also supported by the Cathedral's pastoral visiting team.

Mission

The Diocese of Yei in South Sudan is close to the hearts of the members of Lisburn Cathedral. Former Church Mission

Society Ireland partners Billy and Jenny Smyth were parishioners before their work took them to Africa, and it was through Billy and Jenny a partnership was formed. Sam has been to Yei twice with diocesan teams, most recently in January this year. Simon also led a team of young adults to Yei in July 2011.

Lisburn Cathedral has also mission links with an orphanage in Romania and with Friends in Action which works in Africa.



Belfast Gospel Choir

Festival of Preaching

With its new buildings and its enthusiastic team, Lisburn Cathedral is not afraid of breaking new ground. This was demonstrated in March when the cathedral hosted its first ever Festival of Preaching with the support of the Dean of Connor and Chapter of St Saviour.

“The Festival was inspired by the former Archbishop of Armagh Alan Harper who in a sermon really set down a vision that a cathedral should be a centre for learning for the diocese to equip and inspire mission,” said Sam.

There are many ways to inspire, and Lisburn Cathedral likes to make things fun. Over Halloween parishioners came together, dressed as their favourite literary characters, for a Holy Ghost story night. Amidst this gathering which included Tarzan and Jane (Simon and Zara) and ‘Where’s Wally’ (Sam) people reflected on the disciples fears when Jesus walked towards them on the water.

Lisburn Cathedral will celebrate the 1st anniversary of its reopening and rededication with a concert featuring Lisburn Community Choir and Friends on December 16, an evening which will surely show that Lisburn Cathedral really is achieving its mission to transform buildings, people and the city.