



## Kilkeel youth programme's community impact

For the past 8 summers, young people from JIMS Youth Centre in Kilkeel have been making a positive impact on the community through Project 6:8.

This year 15 volunteers aged 15–25 have been meeting as a team since April and now they're taking the lead in a week of activities, games, gardening and trips organised for the children of Hillside Drive.

JIMS Youth Support Worker, Megan McIlveen, who is overseeing the project explains:

“Our volunteers are part of the *Step Up* programme at JIMS which is our heart to see young people grow in confidence and leadership skills. It's very much about them taking the lead so they're organising and delivering Project 6:8 this year.”

As a bonus, *Step Up* also feeds into the Millenium Volunteer programme which acknowledges and celebrates the volunteerism of those under the age of 25.

Between 10 and 12 each morning, the team have organised crafts and games and every afternoon there's a trip – including one to Dublin Zoo. Some of the leaders accompany the kids and the others do some gardening for householders in the area. The Hillside Drive area is a mixed community and includes foreign nationals who have settled in the town.

“This year a lot of the mums have taken part which is really good, so a lot of relationships have been built with parents which is really good to see,” says Megan.

“On Saturdays we used to host a fun day but now the community does it themselves so we come up and support and do the face painting for them. It’s been great to partner with them this summer.”

JIMS is a cross–community drop in centre for young people run by Kilkeel Parish Bridge Association Limited (KPBAL). The Project 6:8 team stay at the centre for the week and share devotions before the morning programme. The project gets its name from the Bible verse Micah 6:8.

## **The return of Anglican missionary society USPG**

The Anglican mission agency United Society is to resume using the more familiar name USPG by which it was known between 1956 and 2012. But the agency is not returning to its former full name of United Society for the Propagation of the



Gospel. The new full name will be the United Society Partners in the Gospel.

The agency has played a long and important role in the history of international Christian missionary activity and has played a significant part in the spread of Anglicanism across the globe.

The agency was formed by Royal Charter in 1701 as the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts (SPG). In 1965 the agency merged with the Universities' Mission to Central Africa to form the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (USPG).

It adopted its present name – United Society – in 2012 “with a reinvigorated desire to participate in God’s global mission”; but many people found the abbreviated form of their name – Us – confusing on a global stage where it ran the risk of confusion with the United States.

“During 2015, we undertook some research to discover how our new brand had been received,” the agency’s chief executive, Janette O’Neill, said. “We learned that, while our partners in Britain and Ireland and around the world greatly appreciated the energy, values and practical work embodied in the Us brand, many remained saddened that we were no longer referring to the gospel in our name.

“As well as reintroducing ‘gospel’ into our name, the new meaning of USPG emphasises our focus on working in partnership with the world church, while also encouraging the Anglican Churches of Britain and Ireland to participate more deeply in that partnership.”

The renewed USPG name will be launched alongside a new logo and branding at the Greenbelt Christian arts festival at the end of August.

## Coleraine priest bound for San Antonio

Popular Coleraine priest, Father Charlie Keaney is to leave his beloved St John's Parish this autumn to take on a 'sabbatical of renewal' in the United States.

Coleraine Times - His destination is the Oblate School of Theology, a Catholic graduate school for theological studies in San Antonio, which is run by the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate.

"I'll be 66 and while many people think of retirement at that age and putting their feet up, I'm not", reflected Fr Keaney this week.

"Instead, I'll be doing a sabbatical course in spirituality and theology in San Antonio - a renewal if you like.

"And when I come back home I will go wherever the Bishop sends me to be a curate for my remaining days."



Founded in 1849, The School's initial goal was to educate young men to serve as Oblate missionaries in Texas, New Mexico, Louisiana, Mexico and the Philippines.

Today, it prepares men for priesthood from many dioceses across the United States and a number of religious communities.

For Father Keaney it will represent a new chapter in his 41 years in the Catholic clergy. Saying goodbye to St John's where he went to school, will not be easy.

“I’ll finish in the parish at the end of August which means I’ll have been in St John’s for 12 years and seven months.

“It’s been a privilege to have been back in my home parish as parish priest and I have many very, very happy memories of here.”

Fr Keaney served in several churches across the north west over those four decades but he has had a lifelong connection with the west of the Bann and St John’s in particular.

He said: “I grew up in the Heights and lived in Churchlands Road and went to St John’s school.

“From there I went to St Columb’s College in Derry and then to St Patrick’s College in Maynooth.”

Following his ordination he spent five years from 1976 at St Eugene’s Cathedral - the Mother Church’ for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Derry, as well as the parish Church of the parish of Templemore.

He stayed in the city to serve a further eight years in Shantallow, followed by a year in Omagh, six years in Limavady and Ballykelly and



then six-and-a-half years in Buncrana before returning to Coleraine.

During his time as PP, Fr Keaney devoted himself to his parishioners but also sought to build positive cross-community links with other churches.

In doing so he struck up a close friendship with Rev Bert Ritchie of the Church of Christ in Coleraine.

“We built good relations with churches like Macosquin Church of Ireland and Articlave Presbyterian Church and that has been very good, rewarding and uplifting. We are all children under one God after all.”

He sought to develop and promote an inclusive ministry at St John's and in his homily during the funeral of Catholic father of four, Kevin McDaid, in June 2009, he spoke on behalf of Mr McDaid's widow, Evelyn, to plead for no retaliation and called on the community to “put aside the prejudices of the past”.

He also officiated at the funeral of monk Veder O'Kane, a member of the Order of Cistercians of the Strict Observance - also known as Trappists -

at a traditional monastic service in Dunboe Church, Castlerock in February 2013.

Fr Keaney also treasured his close links with local schools, chairing the Board of Governors at St John's Primary and also representing the Department of Education on Loreto College's Board of Governors.

And he was an enthusiastic supporter of Coleraine's Street Pastors scheme, founded by Coleraine SDLP councillor, Stephanie Quigley.

Speaking of his decision to leave St John's he added: "We have had a lot of changes not just in our own parish but in St Malachy's as well.

"It's time that a younger man comes along and takes charge of it. With all the pastoral duties running a parish is a big responsibility now.

"So I felt I needed a wee change, a rest and then when I come back from America, a lighter role as a curate

## **Practical theologians meet in Limerick**

Practitioners, teachers and researchers in practical theology converged on the Irish town of Limerick last week for the annual British and Irish Association of Practical Theology Conference.

The conference brought about 120 practical theologians together to examine how they can work and research out of their faith in contexts that range from parish ministry to chaplaincy and academia.



***Theologians Donal Dorr, Nicola Slee and Fainche Ryan were speakers at this year's BIAPT conference.***

The chair of BIAPT, Dr Clare Watkins said that the work of the work of the conference focused

on integrating theology and practice and this year linked it as a form of spiritual practice.

This year's conference had the theme of *Wrestling with Angels? - Practical Theology as Spiritual Practice*. Dr Watkins said that it has been some years since the conference was held in Ireland and it reflected the ecumenical nature of the association that is largely Protestant. Along with theologians from Britain and Ireland there were also delegates from Canada and New Zealand.

At the conference Sandro Dallas was awarded the annual MA dissertation prize for his work that explored whether the Gregorian *Notion of Consideration* as a framework for theological reflection could aid reflective practice in pastoral care.

## **Cork clergy at St George's House, Windsor**

Two clergy from the United Dioceses of Cork, Cloyne and Ross - the Reverend Elaine Murray, Incumbent of Carrigaline Union, and the Reverend Peter Rutherford, Incumbent of Kinsale

Union - were among a group of twenty-four clergy who gathered in St George's House, Windsor for a 10 day 'Consultation' entitled 'God: Some Conversations' from 4th to 14th July. Two clergy from Cashel, Ferns and Ossory also took part.

The theme was *God: Some Conversations – How Do You Speak About God?* The theme was explored in relation to a number of topics: poetry, church, health, sustainability, poverty, politics and the environment. Each day began in three groups of eight to tackle the topic of the day, beginning with Biblical study and a secular work of fiction or a film, with a member of the group leading the discussion. All then met together to listen to an eminent speaker on each topic, followed by further questions and discussion. After lunch and a short break the participants returned to the smaller groups for further reflection, followed by discussion of each individual's own essay contribution, submitted prior to the course and copied to all.

**Pope issues rules to help  
contemplative women be beacons  
for the world**

In an effort to help contemplative women religious renew their life and mission in the Church and the world, Pope Francis has issued a series of new rulings dealing with formation, assets, prayer life, authority and autonomy.

The new rulings include a mandate that “initially, all monasteries are to be part of a federation” based on “an affinity of spirit and traditions” with the aim of facilitating formation and meeting needs through sharing assets and exchanging members. Monasteries voting for an exception from joining a federation will need Vatican approval.

All institutes of contemplative women religious will need to revise or update their constitutions or rules so as to implement the new norms and have those changes approved by the Holy See.

Titled *Vultum Dei Quaerere* (“Seeking the face of God”), the document focuses on the life of contemplative women religious. Dated June 29, the feast of St Peter and Paul, it was released by the Vatican on July 22, the feast of St Mary Magdalene.

The 38-page document contains 14 new articles ruling on various aspects of life within

monasteries and their jurisdiction, including a regulation outlining the criteria needed for a monastery to retain juridical autonomy or else be absorbed by another entity or face closure.

The Vatican Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life is now charged with creating a new instruction to replace what had been the current – but now no longer in effect – Verbi Sponsa, the congregation's 1999 instruction on contemplative life and cloistered nuns.

## **Tributes to Robert Dunbar, champion of children's literature**

Irish Times - PJ Lynch, Eoin Colfer, Patrick Ness and others honour critic and lecturer, who reviewed children's literature for The Irish Times for more than 27 years

Robert Dunbar, the critic and editor who for decades championed Irish children's literature, died earlier this week after a long illness. He was 76.

As well as reviewing children's fiction for The Irish Times for more than 27 years, he was a founder member of the Children's Literature Association of Ireland, which merged with the Irish Children's Book Trust to become Children's Books Ireland. He was a lecturer in English and children's literature, presented a weekly radio programme on children's books and edited two anthologies, *Enchanted Journeys: Fifty Years of Irish Writing for Children* and *Skimming*, both published by O'Brien Press. He also edited *Inis* magazine, was a Bisto Book of the Year Awards judge and received a CBI Lifetime Achievement Award.

Jenny Murray, acting director of Children's Books Ireland, said: "It is with great sadness that Children's Books Ireland acknowledges the passing of our friend, patron and children's books champion, the irreplaceable Robert Dunbar. Robert was knowledgeable about many things, very wise and very, very funny - and of course enormously well-read. He was a pioneer in the study of children's books in Ireland and to most people, he simply was children's literature in Ireland."



PJ Lynch, the award-winning illustrator and author and current Laureate na nÓg, said: “Robert was a passionate advocate for quality in children’s books over many years. In his academic writing and lectures he was always erudite and reasoned, but he could be direct and very funny as well when he was sharing his love of a good story told in witty or beautiful language.”

Eoin Colfer, his predecessor, said: “Robert was the champion of children’s books. Without his support there are many of us who would never have managed to sustain a career. He was literate, supportive, always fair but never ever mean. It is common to say at such times that so and so was irreplaceable. But Robert was that rare individual who actually can never be replaced. Nor would we want to.”

Patrick Ness, bestselling author of A Monster Calls, said: “I’m sure this will only echo everyone else’s words about the glorious Robert Dunbar. The warmth of him, the curiosity, the sheer interest! He was right there at the very, very start of my career, reviewing the books with such brilliant emotional intelligence and sympathy. At the launch of A Monster Calls in Ireland, he gave

it a completely unexpected speech that took my breath away, not only just about the book, but about what he believed (a belief I share) that books for young readers could accomplish: making the world larger, safer, better. I'll miss him terribly."

A native of Dunseverick, Co Antrim, he attended Bushmills Grammar School, where he attained the highest mark in English A level in Northern Ireland, before studying the subject at Queen's University Belfast, where he was a contemporary of Seamus Heaney. After teaching at Coleraine Tech and Rainey Endowed School in Magherafelt, Co Derry, he was awarded an MA in English in Education at Ulster University. He lectured in children's literature at the Church of Ireland College of Education in Rathmines, Trinity College Dublin and St Patrick's College, Dublin. He was the first to offer a graduate diploma in children's literature.

He is survived by his wife Carole, children Dominic and Grainne, and by his grandchildren Jack, Matthew, Edie and Astrid. A celebration of his life will take place in the dining hall of Trinity College, Dublin, from 6-9pm on Wednesday, July

27th. Mourners who wish to may donate a book token to a local school library.

## Cathedral and choral



### ***Durham Cathedral***

**+++ Christ Church Cathedral, Waterford** -  
Sunday 24th July. Nineth Sunday after Trinity.  
8.30 Holy Communion. 10.00 Holy Communion.  
Celebrant The Rev'd Dr Christine ODowd-Smyth  
Hymns: 647, 8 (omit v5), 429, 373. Holy  
Communion Monday to Friday at 1.15pm

**+++ National Cathedral of Saint Patrick, Dublin** - 9.15 Eucharist said in the Lady Chapel.  
11.15 Choral Eucharist sung by Academia  
Musica Briggs: Truro Eucharist, Psalm: 85,

Bruckner: Christus factus est, Preacher: The Most Revd M.G.St.A. Jackson, M.A., Ph.D., D.Phil., Prebendary of Cualaun. 15.15 Choral Evensong sung by Academia Musica Response: Rose, Stanford in C, Psalm 119, Britten: Rejoice in the Lamb, Evensong is sung at 17.30 on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Evening Prayer is said at 17.30 on Wednesday. EUCHARIST is said at 11.05 on Wednesday and Saturday. For further information visit [www.stpatrickscathedral.ie](http://www.stpatrickscathedral.ie) or telephone 01 453 9472.

**+++ St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick Sunday**  
24th July: The Ninth Sunday after Trinity.  
11.15am: Matins (Rite One). Said with hymns and organ music: the cathedral choir is on vacation. Hymns: 336, 687, 509, 94, 662.  
Postlude: Symphony I, first movement Guilmant.  
4pm: Song Recital by Nicole Robinson. 1900 Evening Prayer.

**+++ 39 Cathedrals to benefit from WW1 Centenary Cathedral Repairs Fund** - Thirty-nine grants totalling £14.5 million have been announced by government for urgent repairs to Church of England and Catholic cathedrals in England. In his first week in post, Andrew Tremlett, Dean of Durham, says why a grant from the First World War Centenary Cathedral Repairs

Fund is so poignant for the Cathedral, how the work that flows from the grant will keep the stonemasons busy and how the £10m Open Treasures exhibition launched this week speaks of a place rooted in history and of living worship.

[Listen here](#)

## News briefs

**+++ New Horizon** - runs from 6-12th August in Coleraine. Scot McKnight from the US will be commenting on the Bible Readings. Gavin Calver , Evangelical Alliance London will be speaking alongside Trevor Morrow. Scot McKnight has also agreed to do a special session on the Wednesday afternoon of New Horizon chatting more about the kingdom and the church. If you would like more information contact **[p.lynas@eauk.org](mailto:p.lynas@eauk.org)**

**+++ 100 Days event: 'Healing, Honour & Hope, What Next?'** - This event follows on from Evangelical Alliance's 100 days project and is part of the Féile an Phobail. It's entitled 'Healing, Honour & Hope What Next?' and is happening on Monday 1st August at 7pm at the

Duncairn Cultural and Arts Centre, Antrim Road Belfast. Rev Heather Morris will chair the discussion between Sir Jeffrey Donaldson and Declan Kearney, the national chair of Sinn Féin. See **here for more details**.

**+++ Special day of prayer at Maze/Longkesh -** Interdenominational Divine Healing Ministries are holding '*a special day of prayer for our land*' at Balmoral Park, the former Maze/LongKesh prison site. It's on Saturday 17th September from 9am to 6pm and everyone is welcome. You can **find more details here**.

**+++ Church planting for Sydney's new million people area** -The area around the edge of the Sydney basin is becoming one of the city's fastest growing new suburbs, thanks for development by the New South Wales state government. And the Diocese of Sydney is determined to be a part of the new communities as they plant new churches to cater for up to one million new residents. Church planters for the first three of the Archbishop of Sydney's New Churches for New Communities (NCNC) program have met to discuss the vision for the new residential area will concentrate on

Stanhope Gardens, Marsden Park, and Leppington as key sites for the new churches.

**+++ Major changes in two US Episcopal seminaries** - Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts, will cease to grant degrees at the end of the upcoming academic year, the seminary's board of trustees decided July 21 on a 11-4 vote. During the next year, the board will explore options for EDS's future, some of which were suggested by a specially convened Futures Task Force to make plans for EDS's future. Episcopal Divinity School was formed in 1974 through the merger of the Cambridge-based Episcopal Theological School and the Philadelphia Divinity School. It is one of the smallest of the 10 accredited seminaries of the Episcopal Church. Effective July 25, Bexley Seabury, one of 10 accredited seminaries of the Episcopal Church, will consolidate under one roof at Chicago Theological Seminary. The move makes it easier for students of both schools to take advantage of long-standing cross-registration privileges for courses offered by member schools in the [Association of Chicago Theological Schools](#), of which Bexley Seabury and CTS are founding members,\*\* and opens

the door to the two seminaries collaborating on new course offerings and other initiatives. For the first academic term in its new location, fall 2016, Bexley Seabury will offer its Doctor of Ministry degree and Anglican Studies and Lifelong Learning programs. Pending state licensing approval, Bexley Seabury also plans to offer its Master of Divinity degree, like its other programs already accredited by the Association of Theological Schools. Bexley Seabury previously operated from two sites, one elsewhere in Chicago and in Columbus, Ohio.

## News links to reports on faith, politics and education

### Mike Pence's Journey: Catholic Democrat to Evangelical Republican

New York Times

The latest **news** and analysis of the candidates and issues shaping the ... in 1923 from **Ireland** and settled in Chicago, where he eventually became a bus driver. ... Friends say he wrestled with how to square his **religious** past and his ...

[http://www.nytimes.com/2016/07/21/us/politics/mike-pence-religion.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/07/21/us/politics/mike-pence-religion.html?_r=0)

### Int Business Times



Report that the Archbishop of Canterbury welcomed Muhammad Naqib ur Rehman to Lambeth Palace and includes comment from a spokesman: "The Archbishop of Canterbury was pleased to meet Shaykh Naqib ur Rehman, a leading Sufi Muslim leader from Pakistan, at Lambeth Palace. The Archbishop received a first-hand account of the situation in Pakistan, which is a highly significant country for faith relationships in the UK."  
<http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/pakistani-hate-preacher-who-glorifies-islamist-murder-welcomed-by-archbishop-canterbury-1571418>

## **Times**

Reports that the Goddard inquiry into Child Abuse will hold four days of preliminary hearings next week, including the Anglican Church stream. Article says it has a first-year budget of £17.9 million and lists the numbers of staff and offices but notes it is yet to hear any evidence and speculates that it will announce the specific inquiry into the alleged abuse by Lord Janner will be postponed by at least six months. Article includes comment from Phil Johnson of MACSAS (Minister and Clergy Sexual Abuse Survivors).  
<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/child-abuse-inquiry-costs-18m-but-has-yet-to-hear-evidence-9s5gl0hxx>

## Christian Today

Reports that supporters for women's ordination are calling on the C of E to silence an objector who has interrupted the last four consecrations of women bishops. *Women and the Church* [has written to the Archbishop of Canterbury](#), outlining why the objector's protest during the liturgy "undermine the women being consecrated" – and all women, and therefore the Church as a whole.

### Christian Today

Further coverage of a group of 16 Muslim asylum seekers who converted to Christianity when they were baptised at St. Mark's church in Stoke-on-Trent, focusing on the work of the vicar the Revd Sally Smith.

### **Investment & Pensions Europe**

Report on the publication of the Annual Report and Accounts of the Church of England Pensions Board (CEPB). Pierre Jameson, CIO of the CEPB pension funds is quoted.

<http://www.ipe.com/news/returns/real-estate-bolsters-church-pensions-board-returns-for-2015/10014401.article>

### **BBC/Guard/Even Stand**

Further coverage of a homophobic attack on a man set on fire and seriously injured; police have said the incident is "very concerning". The 20-year-old was confronted by four men who asked about his sexual orientation before one sprayed his legs with an aerosol and set them alight. It happened in the grounds of Holy Trinity church on Yarm Lane in Stockton on Wednesday. A spokesman for Cleveland Police said they were classing it as a "hate motivated crime".

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-tees-36859901>  
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/jul/21/police-treat-fire-attack-on-man-as-homophobic-hate>  
<http://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/man-set-on-fire-by-gang-of-thugs-in-gay-hate-attack-in-church-grounds-a3301601.html>

### **BBC**

Reports that a head teacher suspended after "financial irregularities" were discovered at a Birmingham school will not be returning. Heather Powell was suspended from St Barnabas C of E Primary in Erdington in September. The Diocese of Birmingham said she has now decided to step down permanently to deal with "a range of personal matters unrelated to the school".

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-birmingham-36858370>

### **Times**

Diary item recalls the first meeting between Lord Runcie and Richard Chartres at theological college.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/gove-has-one-last-wilde-act-9zphj8692>

### **Guard/ITV**

Reports that Durham Cathedral has opened its *Hidden Treasures* exhibition charting Christian history and culture in the north-east of England, this weekend. Next year, the coffin and cross of St Cuthbert, the 7th century monk who travelled through northern England, are due to be put on display in climate-controlled conditions under a vaulted stone roof that was once in the monastery's great kitchen. Cuthbert's remains are buried in the cathedral grounds. The Dean of Durham is quoted.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jul/21/durham-cathedral-opens-hidden-treasures-and-spaces-to-public>  
<http://www.itv.com/news/tyne-tees/2016-07-21/treasure-exhibition-to-open-at-durham-cathedral/>

### **BBC**

Report that ancient artefacts, including medieval daisy wheel "graffiti", have been found during an archaeological

survey at Lincoln Cathedral. Officials said the markings were probably carved by stonemasons as part of a protection ritual. The dig is part of a scheme to improve public areas around the historic cathedral.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-lincolnshire-36857607>

## **Guard**

“What its like to be a vicar’s kid”. Theresa May and Angela Merkel met on Wednesday to discuss Brexit; both are the daughters of religious ministers. The paper asked readers what it’s like to have a clergy connection.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jul/21/ive-learnt-to-be-compassionate-and-diplomatic-what-its-like-to-be-a-vicars-kid>

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