



Methodist Modern Art Collection Comes to NI for first time

The Methodist Modern Art Collection travels to Northern Ireland for the first time in its 55 year history. The Collection includes leading names from the British art world of the last 100 years, such as Edward Burra, Elisabeth Frink, Eric Gill, Patrick Heron and Graham Sutherland.

The Methodist Modern Art Collection comprises paintings, limited edition prints and reliefs. In the

early 1960s John Morel Gibbs, a Methodist layman and art collector – realising that many Non-conformists had little appreciation of the insights that contemporary artists could bring to the Christian story – decided to create a collection of prime examples of such work that could be toured around the country. This he did, with the help of Methodist minister, the Rev. Douglas Wollen.

The works they acquired became the core of the present Collection – described as “the best denominational collection of modern art outside the Vatican”.

The Collection includes leading names from the British art world of the last 100 years, such as Edward Burra, Elisabeth Frink, Eric Gill, Patrick Heron and Graham Sutherland.

The Braid Arts Centre, Ballymena, Co. Antrim will exhibit The Methodist Art Collection from 11th May – 18th June, 2015 (9am - 9pm daily. Admission Free. All ages).

This unique collection of Christian art includes more than 40 works by Graham Sutherland, Elisabeth Frink and many other renowned artists.

It has been seen and appreciated by thousands of people, and now people in Northern Ireland can also experience it in Ballymena.

The Methodist Art Collection is one of national importance and continues to expand to reflect the ideas of contemporary artists. This presentation of the collection provides a fantastic opportunity to experience very high quality work up close in familiar local spaces and local Churches in partnership with Ballymena Churches Forum & The Braid Arts Centre.

The project will also include an Arts Trail around the local churches, with a painting from the collection being exhibited in several Churches around the Ballymena Borough, turning local members of the congregation into arts ambassadors for their selected artwork.

[View the collection online](#)

<http://www.methodist.org.uk/static/artcollection/index.htm>

[Visit The Braid Arts Centre for more info](#)

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New App for St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin

Next Wednesday at 2pm the Minister of State at the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, Deputy Michael Ring, will be in [St Patrick's cathedral, Dublin](#) to launch a new digital facility which will make it easier for tourists to engage with the cathedral and its life.

St Patrick's is not only the National Cathedral for the Church of Ireland but also one of the busiest tourist sites in the country. Its footfall this year is expected to approach 500,000. Many visitors want to engage with the cathedral but have no mechanism to do so.

Over the past number of months staff have worked with a digital media company called AppyBeacons to create an app which utilizes a new technology called 'I Beacons'. This new facility will allow visitors with smart phones to learn more about the cathedral during their visit. The 'I Beacons' prompt smart phones to show particular content at different points throughout the building. The benefit of the system is that it requires no changes to the cathedral's ancient structure and St Patrick's will be the first heritage site in Ireland to use the innovative technology.

Moderator congratulates missionary Maud Kells on Belfast Telegraph 'Woman of the year' award

Congratulating Maud Kells on her woman of the year award Dr. Barry said, "Maud has worked tirelessly and selflessly in the Democratic Republic of the Congo for nearly half a century, getting on with what God has called her to do in that part of the world. And all of that time she has done so virtually unnoticed by the wider world, until a bandit changed all of that in January.

"The way in which she has conducted herself since she was shot, talking matter-of-factly about her ordeal and with passion about her faith in God on television, radio and the print media, all of which has inspired many, many people up and down the land.

"This award is well deserved, not only a testament to her bravery and the inspiration that she is, but as Maud will surely acknowledge herself, it honours and glorifies God," he said.

As well as taking the overall title, Maud was also the winner of the 'Inspiring Woman of the Year'. Gail Walker, Editor of the Belfast Telegraph said, "Maud is an outstanding winner. She showed great personal courage and she is such a lovely vibrant person. She is an inspiring lady and it was a unanimous decision to give her the overall title."

Adding her tribute to the WEC International missionary, Rev. Liz Hughes, Convener of the Church's Council of Global Mission said, "This is such a well-deserved award for an outstanding servant of God."

As a former missionary myself, I remember the hardships of missionary life and the difficulties of life overseas, especially being far from home, friends and loved ones. This special award is a credit to her and I hope that it will inspire people to serve others, both overseas and at home," Rev. Hughes said.

Walled Garden - church to community outreach in Maghera

Representatives of all the main political parties mingled with church and community figures, in splendid spring sunshine in the Sperrins, for the

official opening of Maghera Community Walled Garden.

For two men in particular, it was a moment to savour. The project – to restore and develop an old walled garden next to the Rectory in Maghera – was originally conceived by Archdeacon Ven Robert Miller, about a decade ago, while he was rector of the parish. His successor, the Revd Captain Isaac Hanna, has seen the idea through to near completion, in partnership with Magherafelt District Council and the North West Region Cross Border Group (NWRCBG).

Mr Hanna, who hails from the fishing village of Kilkeel, acknowledged the critical support of funders and the Council, and praised the efforts of his predecessor in the Rectory. “Without the funders, we would probably have presided over the demise of the old walled garden. But Robert ‘hooked’ them and I ‘landed’ the project.

“As a parish, this is our contribution to the Diocesan vision for ‘Transforming Community, Radiating Christ’. In partnership with the Council, we’re both trying to transform the community – working together on a project that is of mutual benefit and meets community needs. For a lot of people, the garden will be an

oasis where they can connect with God in a spiritual way, as they enjoy His creation.”

Mr Hanna says there is considerable evidence of the therapeutic effects of local community garden and allotment projects, which give people an opportunity to take responsibility for their own health and well being. The Maghera Community Walled Garden will have an area for producing fruit and vegetables (including for a food bank run by the Maghera Parish Caring Association), a plot for growing flowers and space for community art; but the Rector says the garden will evolve and grow. “It’s still a work in progress,” he points out. “You’re never finished with a garden. Now that the infrastructure is there, the challenge will be how to develop it further.”

The Maghera Walled Garden’s location, on land owned by the Church, should also help promote reconciliation in the area. “It’s a cross-community project,” Mr Hanna says, “sitting on an interface. I hope it’ll be a practical way of ‘creating community’ and getting people interacting with one another. It was encouraging to see all the main political parties represented at the official opening, and being so enthusiastic about the project.”

Archdeacon Miller is delighted to see the project coming to fruition. “The parish has taken a piece of land and transformed it to land on which to build peace. The original vision was for a green breathing space in Maghera – a space that would be at the heart of the community. As Christians we believe life began in a garden. Eden was where things perfectly reflected God’s purposes. My hope is that this community walled garden will help to do the same. I warmly welcome its opening and congratulate the Rector and his team in delivering it.”

The newly restored garden has been delivered under the NWRCBG’s North West Healthy Living, Community Gardens & Allotments Programme, which is funded under the European Union’s INTERREG IVA Cross-border programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body. The Programme tackles health inequalities in the North West region through an integrated healthy living intervention programme, which addresses the impact of social and economic disadvantage.

A busy and frenetic week in Cork

This is a busy and frenetic week in the United Dioceses of Cork, Cloyne and Ross. It will be



The new Ashton School building (left) with the restored Cork Grammar School (right) integral to the new school campus.

the final full week in office of the Diocesan Secretary, Wilfred Baker who, after almost an entire career – nearly forty-two years – will retire at the end of this month. As Diocesan Secretary he has been the lead administrative officer of the United Dioceses, providing essential support to the Bishop, Diocesan Council, parishes, clergy and people of the Diocese in their ministry and mission. As the Diocesan Office also administers many charities and trusts associated with the Diocese, Wilfred has been key to that work also.

Today, Monday, many of those charities and trusts have meetings: the City of Cork Church School Board (an education charity), the Victoria Trust (which owns the former Victoria Hospital

building in Cork, and, as a modern healthcare charity, supports the work today of the South Infirmary Victoria University Hospital), the Diocesan Board of Education, the St Stephen's Protestant Orphan Society (a combined charity which provides education support and other assistance to single parents, widows and widowers and their children, as well as orphans), and the Lapp's Charity (a housing charity). Wilfred Baker has administered all of these.

On Tuesday, in Mitchelstown, County Cork, the trustees of the Kingston Charity Trust will meet.

This charity, another housing charity, has been working in north Cork, Tipperary, Limerick and further afield for over 250 years. Together with successive Wardens and Chaplains to Kingston College, Wilfred has been manager of this complex of heritage Georgian houses (comprising also a community room and Chapel) and charity on behalf of the trustees.

On Wednesday, 25th March, the Feast of the Annunciation, the Bishop, Dr Paul Colton, will celebrate the sixteenth anniversary of this Consecration as bishop, and Canon George Salter will preside at a celebration of the Eucharist at 12 noon in Saint Fin Barre's Cathedral to mark the 65th anniversary of his ordination. Later that day the Diocesan Council

will meet: the last meeting at which Wilfred Baker will serve as Diocesan Secretary. After the meeting of the Council the Bishop and Mrs Colton will host a reception at the Bishop's Palace to mark the occasion.

Thursday 26th provides an interlude for Wilfred Baker. However, the Boards of Directors of Saint Luke's Home meet, and the AGM of the Cork Indigent Roomkeepers' Society will be held in St Fin Barre's Cathedral. In the evening, one of the schools in the Diocese, Midleton College, is holding a Fashion Show at 8 p.m. hosted by Celia Holman Lee in the Fota Island Resort Hotel.

Friday 27th will bring two momentous events. At 12 noon the Bishop, Dr Paul Colton, will dedicate the new school building of Ashton School, Blackrock Road, Cork of which he and the Cork Education and Training Board are co-patrons. The Minister for Education and Skills, Ms Jan O'Sullivan, T.D. will attend to open officially the school.

Also present will be two former Church of Ireland Bishops of Cork, Bishop Samuel Poyntz and Bishop Roy Warke. Ashton School, a comprehensive school, was founded in 1972 under the chairmanship of the late Bishop

Gordon Perdue, by amalgamating two Church of Ireland schools: Cork Grammar School (the building has been restored on the Ashton House site) and Rochelle School.

On Friday evening, Bishop Colton will again be joined by Bishop Poyntz and Bishop Warke, at Saint Luke's Church, Douglas at 8 p.m. for Evensong, led by the Archdeacon, the Venerable Adrian Wilkinson, and at which Wilfred Baker will give a farewell address. This will be the Diocesan Farewell and 'Thank You' to Wilfred Baker and will be followed by a reception in the Canon Packham Hall in Douglas.

The week doesn't end there. The next day, Saturday, Bishop and Mrs Colton will travel to University College Dublin to support the Cork Church of Ireland Men's Hockey Team (ICICYMA, Garryduff, of which the bishop is President) in their semi-final clash with Railway Union in the Irish Senior Cup . Later in the day they will also attend the final of the Railway Cup between Dublin University Hockey Club and Y.M.C.A.

By then everyone will be ready for the rigours of Palm Sunday and the start of Holy Week!

Children and Youth ministry training in Down and Dromore

Julie Currie and Tim Burns are on the road again to take essential training, skills and interactive workshops to a venue near you and all for FREE – we just need you!

4 venues 4 nights all from 7.30 – 9.30 pm.

Lurgan

Seagoe Parish Centre on Tuesday 24 March

Ballywalter

Ballywalter Parish Hall on Thursday 26 March

Belvoir

Belvoir Parish Centre on Tuesday 28 April

Crossgar

Inch Parish Church Hall on Thursday 30 April

Workshops on offer

- 1 Planning a youth night** – what that looks like and what should be included
- 2 Taking a Sunday school session** – modelling all the elements of a Sunday School class
- 3 Praying with young people and children** – interactive stations to promote & provoke prayer
- 4 Family faith** – how to take our faith into our families with simple ideas

On the night the children leaders and the youth leaders will have a separate workshops for the first 50 minutes and then come back together for workshop 3 & 4

Intern Programme at Holywood parish

The Internship Programme at Holywood Parish Church is particularly developed to allow school-leavers, graduates or those already in third-level education to gain experience in a dynamic and creative work environment. It not only serves the church and the community in Holywood but grows the leadership skills, maturity and faith of the interns.

The parish states - To encourage an environment of respect and to recognise the value of their contribution, we offer the interns a salary for the year.

We are looking for six interns this year, who will begin at the start of September, 20 hours per week. They must have a Christian faith and be able to commit to the full year (September 2015 – August 2016).

For more information and an application form please contact Josh Galbraith by email:
josh@holywoodparishchurch.co.uk

CITC Director installed as Canon of Christ Church

Yesterday afternoon, March 22, during Choral Evensong the Revd Dr Maurice Elliott was installed as a canon of Christ Church Cathedral.

Dr Elliott studied languages, linguistics and theology in St Andrews, and theology through both Dublin and Belfast. His academic interests include homiletics, the theory and practice of contemporary Christian leadership and Anglican Reformation ecclesiology.

Prior to taking up his current post as Director of the Church of Ireland Theological Institute in 2008, he spent 15 years in parochial ministry in Northern Ireland.

C of I Synod Officer appointed

Dr Catherine Smith has been appointed to the position of Synod Officer shortly to be vacated by Mr Garrett Casey, who is resigning to take forward his legal career.

Catherine is a graduate of the University of Cork and is currently lecturing in English at the University of Limerick. She will be joining the Synod Department in time to attend this year's General Synod and is looking forward to meeting the members of the General Synod at the Armagh City Hotel in May.

Bishops join Pope Francis in prayer for global respect of religious faith and conscience

Bishops of the Catholic Church in Ireland have joined with Pope Francis in his prayers for an end to violent conflict and the “brutal persecution” of minorities in the name of religion

Yesterday Irish bishops prayed for a renewed global commitment to respect freedom of conscience and religion. The Bishops hold that such action is necessary in order to protect young people from being attracted to organisations that seek to impose cultural supremacy by violence.

The Bishops stated: “Across the world the denial of the freedom of conscience and religion is closely connected to other human rights abuses.

The consequences include violent conflict, loss of life, forced displacement of populations, and the abduction and exploitation of women and children. This is a truly global crisis, but it is the poorest communities that remain most at risk. We have witnessed courageous examples of people willing to pay the ultimate price for their faith. The international community has a moral obligation to defend them, underpinned by the commitments made in the UN Declaration and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.”

In the aftermath of the Second World War, freedom of conscience and religion was recognised as a fundamental human right, enshrined in the UN Declaration of Human Rights (Article 18). Catholic Social Teaching underlines the importance of this right as “an inalienable requirement of the dignity of the human person” (Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, No. 1738).

A statement by the Bishops continued: “In Europe we can contribute to global peace-building efforts by ensuring that our domestic policy and international relations are models of best practice in their respect for freedom of conscience and religion. This requires an approach that goes beyond tolerance, actively

embracing the many ways in which religious diversity and multiculturalism enrich our societies.”

The Bishops join with Pope Francis in his prayers for an end to violent conflict and the “brutal persecution” of minorities in the name of religion.

The Bishops statement said: “We remember especially those who have been taken hostage, those who have been forced to flee their homes, and all families who have lost loved ones. We pray for an end to this suffering and a renewed global commitment to freedom of conscience and religion.”

Moderator promotes religious tolerance during Glasgow mosque visit

The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland promoted the importance of religious tolerance during a visit to Glasgow Central Mosque.

Rt Rev John Chalmers was a guest as part of **Islam Awareness Week (IAW)** where he met with Imam Habib ur Rahman, members of the Mosque management and members of IAW coordination committee.

Mr Chalmers said: "At a time when so many Christians across the world are being persecuted and brutalized it is important to foster good relations with the Muslim community in Scotland.

"The faith leaders of Scotland have to be united in their condemnation of violence and in their vigilance against the radicalization of impressionable young people."

Mr Chalmers took the opportunity to encourage tolerance and understanding across faiths. He referred to the fact that historically Scotland has been hospitable to people of other faiths and he set out the hope that welcome and acceptance should be the hallmark of every nation.

President of Glasgow Central Mosque, Dr Asid Khan, said: "It is always a pleasure to host The Church of Scotland. We hope to work together to bring about positive changes, both through grassroots projects and through informed voting in the elections in May 2015. The faith communities in Scotland are a true example of

how in religion, we all propagate respect and love for mankind. Our faith, practiced properly, will unite our communities."

Dr Aman Durrani, from Islam Awareness Week Scotland (IAWS), said: "We are delighted and honoured that Rt Rev John Chalmers joined us today to celebrate and support Islam Awareness Week Scotland. It is a week which highlights the common shared values the community of Scotland have, irrespective of faith.

"The theme of IAWS this year is 'Give a Little of Yourself' and is about raising awareness of the value of giving time to the community to help others. Whether this is by donating blood, registering as an organ donor or cleaning the streets of Glasgow to feeding the needy - the message is clear. Only by giving a little of yourself to nurture the community we live in can we provide a safe and secure society for us and for future generations to come."

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