



Irish Methodist Haiti Visit a Spiritual and Practical Success

In early 2015 a team of thirteen people from across Ireland travelled to Haiti for 3 weeks to help local Methodists set up and maintain education and health organisations. The trip was organised by Irish Methodist Minister Rev Laurence Graham.

The team was based in Freres which is just outside Port-au-Prince and where the Methodist church in Haiti has its HQ, schools and health clinics.

While in Freres the team took part in several activities: helping at day clinics, facilitation children's holiday Bible clubs, delivering seminars and refurbishing an accommodation block for the teachers at the schools.

Money for the buildings and other projects was raised by the team prior to their visit. They raised US\$55,000 for the refurbishment work and for the Methodist Children's Home in Port-au-Prince.

The Methodist Church in Haiti is growing and the team also learned about the outreach and mission activities employed by the church.

The visit with its sharing of skills and mutual learning is part of the Methodist Church in Ireland's desire to forge deeper friendships with a few of its world church partners, one being the Methodist Church in Haiti.

Dee Kelly, from Dublin said, *"...while Ireland is a wealthy and prosperous country, it is not rich in the life-giving way that Haiti is. We have a lot to learn from these people..."*

Battle to save Drogheda church intensifies as petition goes to Rome



A delegation representing the ‘Save our Dominican church’ campaign in Drogheda will present a petition of 22,000 signatures to the international headquarters of the Dominican order in Rome next month.

Irish Catholic - Irish Dominican authorities announced in September that they were planning to withdraw from five communities across Ireland because of falling numbers and the ageing profile of members. This sparked a passionate protest campaign by parishioners in Drogheda, including a hunger strike by sacristan Declan Hanratty, and the Dominican friars in the

Drogheda priory have refused to be removed from the town.

Co. Louth senator Mary Moran has written to Fr Bruno Cadoré, Master General of the Dominican Order and Ambassador to the Holy See, Emma Madigan, asking for a meeting. Senator Moran will travel to Rome next month with Drogheda Mayor Kevin Callan, Declan Hanratty and Fr Jim Donleavy and other members of the campaign to make an appeal for an intervention into their case.

Writing in response on behalf of Fr Cadoré, Fr Vivian Boland said: “Naturally the order would not want to withdraw from such a historical location and from a town with so many pastoral and other needs without very good reason.” He suggested that the campaigners speak directly with the Irish provincial. Ms Madigan has not responded to the meeting request as yet.

Fr Gregory Carroll, prior provincial for the order, said in a statement that while he appreciated that the decision to leave parishes was “painful” for the friars and people in those communities, it was “unavoidable” with the falling number of members.

March 6

A gospel music concert is being held in the Dominican church in Drogheda on March 8 at 8pm to raise funds for the campaign.

Derry and Donegal Presbytery review past year of ministry



Rev Mark Shaw, candidate for 2015-1016 as Moderator of the General Assembly

In the search for the next Moderator of the General Assembly for the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, the candidate for the Presbytery of Derry and Donegal is from Strabane.

Londonderry Sentinel - The Presbytery had put through Rev Elizabeth Hughes to be the Moderator of the General Assembly 2015, however, Rev. Ian McNie received more votes from the Presbyteries and is the new Moderator Designate.

The Presbytery nominated Rev Mark Shaw, Minister of Strabane congregation as their Moderator for the year 2015-2016.

The Clerk, Rev Robert Buick, reported there was an attempt to gain access to both Montgomery Hall and the Old School Hall of the former Strand Presbyterian Church during the last two weeks of January. Slight damage to the door locking mechanisms was done. He said consideration was being given as to what to do with the former Strand Manse which is now vacant.

Rev Knox Jones informed Presbytery that he had received Mission Plans from four congregations in the South Eastern Presbytery area. He encouraged the remaining congregations to submit their Mission Plans soon. He encouraged all other congregations within Presbytery to submit their up-to-date Mission Plans by March 31.

Rev Lindsay Blair reported that a day conference for ministers of Presbytery looking at the issue of churchnewsireland@gmail.com

Young People and Communion had been held with Dr .Graeme Thompson as speaker. He reminded members of the forthcoming Closer to Home Conference in Belfast and indicated that if there was sufficient interest it might be possible to re-run this in the North West.

Rev. Dr. Brian Brown informed Presbytery that Raphoe Central National School have made two appointments. They were Paul Dillon for an adoptive leave post and Lorraine McDaid for a maternity leave post.

Rev M Russell reported that following interviews by the Board of Christian Training, two candidates were accepted for training for the Accredited Preacher scheme. They were Audrey Neill, from Ballykelly and Harold Kerr, from Strabane. He said courses for Elders Training were being run twice a year in the Presbytery towards the end of January and the end of October and congregations should take this into consideration when deciding to elect New Elders.

Referring to the forthcoming Referendum on same sex marriage, Rev Tommy Bruce informed the meeting that in May 2015, the people of southern Ireland will be asked to vote on a referendum, which will change the constitution

to the following: 'Marriage may be contracted in accordance with law by two persons without distinction as to their sex.'

"Ultimately it is for the people of Ireland to decide," he said, continuing: "But I hope we can have a constructive and respectful debate which will help to inform and engage citizens on this important issue. I would encourage everyone entitled to vote in these referendums to participate fully in our democracy by ensuring that they are registered to vote and to go to the polls in May.

"I am concerned at the legal implications of a yes vote in this referendum, with regard to the church performing weddings and with the spiritual and moral state of a society and about the lack of biblical understanding amongst many within our church, who appear to have received more of their understanding regarding biblical family from Dot Cotton, Sophie Webster, and Aaron Dingle, than the letters of Paul and the words of Jesus."

The Presbytery decided to set aside a Sunday to pray about this issue, all teaching elders would consider addressing what the bible teaches regarding marriage and family and invite Rev Norman Hamilton from the Church in Society

council, to speak on the area of defining family and the implications to society of the proposed changes.

New Dean Of Kilmore - Revd Nigel Crossey

The Revd Nigel Crossey, Chaplain, St Columba's College, to be Rector of Kilmore Group of Parishes and Dean of Kilmore, Diocese of Kilmore.

Revd Nigel Crossey, Chaplain to St Columba's College in Dublin, has been appointed Rector of the Kilmore Group of parishes and Dean of Kilmore. A native of Belfast, Nigel read Classics at Christ's College, Cambridge before studying for ordination at the Church of Ireland Theological College in Dublin. Nigel subsequently completed his Master of Theology degree in Cardiff University.

Nigel was ordained for Drumglass Parish, Dungannon, in 1984 before becoming Rector of Magheraculmoney Parish, Kesh, in Clogher Diocese. Since 1993, Nigel has served in chaplaincy roles in the UK and Europe, most

recently as Chaplain to St Columba's College since 2009.

Nigel is married to Yvonne (currently an Assistant Housemistress in the College) and they have four children in their twenties.

Nigel will take up his appointment in September, after the end of the current academic year.

Speaking of his appointment, Nigel said that he was delighted to be appointed to this new chapter in ministry and that he and his wife were looking forward to their move to Cavan:

'My wife Yvonne and I both look back with great fondness to our time in rural ministry in Fermanagh. It is equally clear that there are many opportunities and possibilities to be explored with the people of Kilmore and Ballintemple, and in the wider Diocese. We look forward as Christ leads his people and us in faith together.'

Belfast recital by Westminster Abbey organist James O'Donnell

James O'Donnell is Organist and Master of the Choristers of Westminster Abbey. Internationally recognised as a conductor and organ recitalist,

he has given concerts all over the world, including the United States, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, and throughout Europe, and appeared as organ soloist in the BBC Proms and at many other festivals.

His responsibilities have recently included directing the music for the Wedding of The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge in April 2011 and the recent memorial services for Nelson Mandela and Sir John Tavener.

Recital Venue: St Brigid's Church, Windsor Avenue, Belfast

Date: Friday 20 March 2015 at 7.30 pm **All**

Welcome. (*There will be a retiring collection*)

Programme

J S Bach

Prelude and fugue in D major BWV 532

G F Handel

Organ concerto Op 4 no 5

Larghetto ~ Allegro ~ Alla Siciliana ~ Presto

M Dupré

Four versets on the hymn *Ave maris stella*

R Vaughan Williams

Prelude on the Welsh hymn tune *Rhosymedre*

L Boëllmann

Two movements from *Suite Gothique*:

Prière de Notre Dame

Toccata

M Duruflé

Variations on *Veni creator Spiritus*

L Vierne

Two *Pièces de Fantaisie*:

Impromptu

Carillon de Westminster

Down & Dromore Mothers' Union Festival Service

The Down & Dromore Mothers' Union Festival Service will be held in Shankill Parish Lurgan, on Wednesday 25 March 2015 at 8.00 pm. The address will be given by the Bishop of Meath and Kildare, The Most Revd Pat Storey.

Cardiff vicar recognised by Prime Minister for 'Making Music Changing Lives' project

A vicar who is transforming the lives of children through a ground-breaking orchestral music project has been given a prestigious award for

her work by David Cameron.



Jan Gould receiving her award from David Cameron, with Welsh Secretary Stephen Crabb

The Revd Jan Gould, of the Church of Resurrection in Ely, was the latest recipient of a Point of Light award from the Prime Minister, David Cameron, during a reception at 10 Downing Street to celebrate St David's Day.

She was presented with the award for her work with the 'Making Music Changing Lives' project, which she set up six years ago to give children on a city estate hope and ambition for the future through the opportunity of being able to learn a musical instrument.

The Points of Light award recognises outstanding individual volunteers, people who are making a change in their community and inspiring others. Each day, someone, somewhere in the country is selected to receive the award to celebrate their remarkable achievements.

Jan, a professional viola player before she trained for the priesthood, has amassed an army of volunteers from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and professional musicians, to teach music to over 70 children from primary schools in her church hall each week. The programme also caters for two high schools.

Jan, was inspired to start 'Making Music Changing Lives' after seeing a similar programme in Venezuela first-hand. The El Sistema scheme began by giving violin lessons to street children. Jan felt that if it could work in Venezuela, then it could work in Ely too.

Prime Minister David Cameron said: "Through 'Making Music Changing Lives', Revd Jan Gould has given Cardiff school children the opportunity to learn a music instrument and is creating a lasting legacy in her community. Her passion for the scheme is infectious and I'm pleased to present her with this Points of Light award."

Jan said: “I see this award as a recognition of the important contribution that ‘Making Music Changing Lives’ makes to transforming young lives through the power of music. This work would not be possible without a whole lot of people, teachers and volunteers, who share my belief in the importance of accessible music education for all. On behalf of all those people, and the children we work with, I am delighted to receive this award.

“I feel as though I do not really deserve this award as I am just doing something that I love but I welcome anything that helps to raise the profile of the project.”

The Archbishop of Wales, Dr Barry Morgan, who is also Bishop of Llandaff said, “This award is well deserved and recognises all the great work carried out by the Revd Jan Gould and her volunteers at ‘Making Music Changing Lives’. This is a fantastic project which is making a real difference to the lives of so many children.”

Jan has also started pre-school music classes for children aged two and over, giving them a first introduction to live music. Additionally, Jan has introduced ‘Feel Good Fridays’, for 120

children to enjoy a 30 minute concert of live music at least once a month.

‘Making Music Changing Lives’ currently runs in Ely and Caerau, Cardiff and includes students from Hywel Dda, Herbert Thompson, St Francis, St Fagans , Windsor Clive, Millbank and Coed Y Gof primary schools. The children who take part can choose from a variety of instruments to learn and two classes now run every week for brass, strings and woodwind. Such is the success of the groups that some of the children were chosen to perform their music on the BBC’s Songs of Praise last year. Jan is keen to encourage as many children as possible to learn a musical instrument and has plans for ‘Making Music Changing Lives’ to expand across Wales.

‘Learn’ resource for elders is a game changer for the Kirk

The Church of Scotland has launched a new publication which seems to have more in common with cool style magazines such as Vogue and Wallpaper than traditional Kirk manuals.

"Learn" which features contemporary photography of many young people, their

The aim of this fresh approach to religious publishing is to inspire many of the 32,000 elders serving in over 1300 congregations across Scotland and beyond.

A pilot run of 1100 copies of the aspirational publication sold out before they had returned from the printers. Now there are over 4,000 advance copies for the final version of Learn released this week.

The 74 pages showcase the work of a wide range of people including world-class academics such as Professor John Swinton and Professor Paul Nimmo, both University of Aberdeen.

Colin Sinclair convener of the Church's Mission and Discipleship Council which commissioned the publication said: "We have been delighted at the response to Learn – it has transformed how we resource elders within the Kirk. This is just the beginning- we have exciting plans to resource congregations for the task before all of us."

Editor of Learn, David Plews, said: "Learn has exceeded all our expectations. This new format in publications has been unquestionably welcomed by Church members – bringing

together bold design with excellent content from a rich selection of authors in the Kirk"

Pope Francis approves legal framework for Vatican financial reform

Pope Francis approved detailed new plans to reform Vatican finances on Tuesday, giving the Australian cardinal leading the changes sweeping powers to monitor Vatican departments and ensure budgets conform to international accounting standards.

The statutes had been keenly awaited for signs of how much power would fall to Cardinal George Pell – an outsider Francis brought in to oversee often muddled finances and who, according to Italian media, is viewed skeptically by detractors in the Vatican bureaucracy who feel he has amassed too much power.

The changes were one of the clearest indications to date that Francis is committed to the mandate given him by cardinals who elected him in 2013 to clean up after a series of financial scandals.

The most important of three new norms is one that governs the Secretariat for the Economy,

which Pell has headed since it was set up last year. The norms give Pell wide powers, including the monitoring of other Vatican departments, ensuring their budgets conform to international accounting standards and are reviewed by external auditors.

Pell's Italian critics in the Vatican bureaucracy had asked the pope to name an additional committee of cardinals to oversee his department because they feared he was accumulating too much power, according to Italian media reports.

“Most observers are likely to see the result as a basic win for Pell and his team,” wrote John Allen, author and Vatican analyst for the U.S. Catholic website Crux. Allen noted that the only thing Pell's department appears to have lost was administration of Vatican-owned real estate in Italy.

Last week Pell was in the news after a leading Italian magazine ran a report about a power struggle in the Vatican over the reforms and alleged excessive expenditure by his department..

The leaking of internal documents to the magazine was seen as an attempt by those opposed to reform to discredit him. The Vatican

condemned the leaks, said the department was running under budget and that parts of the report were “fiction”.

Media digest

News Letter

O'Dowd silent on Irish education costs after 1,500 education jobs blow

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/o-dowd-silent-on-irish-costs-after-1-500-jobs-blow-1-6614884>

BBC News

Teachers Union INTO says vote clears the way for industrial action in NI

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-31737683>

BBC News/Irish Examiner

Troubles 'linked to half mental health cases in Northern Ireland'

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-31736737>

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/breakingnews/ireland/half-of-severe-mental-health-issues-in-north-attributed-to-the-troubles-664841.html>

Irish News

Calls For Plaque At Belfast Birthplace Of Ex-Israeli President To Be Displayed

<http://www.irishnews.com/business/calls-for-plaque-at-belfast-birthplace-of-ex-israeli-president-to-be-d-1416869>

News Letter

Islamic State are religious perverts, just like IRA: Catholic cardinal

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/islamic-state-are-religious-perverts-just-like-ira-catholic-cardinal-1-6614826>

Irish Times

Ireland one of least Muslim-friendly countries

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/breakingnews/ireland/half-of-severe-mental-health-issues-in-north-attributed-to-the-troubles-664841.html>

Guardian

'Jihadi brides' aren't oppressed. They join Isis for the same reasons men do | Anne Aly | Comment is free

www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/mar/04/jihadi-brides-arent-oppressed-they-join-isis-for-the-same-reasons-men-do

Times/Mail/Star/Tel/Guard

Reports on the murder of Becky Watts, the 16-year-old Bristol girl whose dismembered body was found on Monday, stating her stepbrother, Nathan Matthews, was charged last night with her murder. The Bishop of Bristol, Mike Hill, is

quoted and it says churches in the area were open for people to light candles in the teenager's memory. The Revd Martin Gainsborough of St Luke's Church in Barton Hill and the Reverend David James are mentioned. Reports state a book of condolence was set up next to a candle and flowers at St Ambrose Church in Whitehall, Bristol.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/crime/article4372481.ece>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2979263/First-picture-couple-held-Becky-s-murder-Teenager-s-stepbrother-girlfriend-seven-arrested-police-discover-body-parts-rundown-house.html#ixzz3TUOe3HL1>

<http://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/latest-news/428817/becky-watts-murder-bristol-nathan-matthews-shauna-phillips>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/11449556/Becky-Watts-murder-suspect-rushed-to-hospital-after-being-taken-ill-in-custody.html>

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/mar/04/becky-watts-police-release-or-charge-stepbrother-girlfriend>

BBC

Article on Blue Labour - a Labour Party pressure group that "aims to put relationships and responsibility at the heart of British politics". It says it styles itself as an attempt to blend a "progressive commitment to greater economic equality with a more 'conservative' disposition

emphasising personal loyalty, family, community and locality". It quotes an introduction by the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-31729729>

Third Sector

Report on the Charity Finance Groups, says an ambitious change programme brought appointment and accounting difficulties, but its leaders remain optimistic. It quotes Ian Theodoreson, chief finance officer at the Church of England, who is chair of the trustees. He says he is sanguine about the accounting changes and the depth of the raid on reserves, saying one year's accounts have taken a hit and the effect will "reverse out" in the coming year.

<http://www.thirdsector.co.uk/interesting-times-finance-group/finance/article/1335094>

Express/Mail/Star

Reports that Bleasdale Church of England Primary near Preston, Lancs, has become one of the smallest in England after a population dip sent pupil numbers down to 13. Ian Cookson, headteacher, who is also head of another small school, is quoted saying the school is like a family where you can be open about personal faith.

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/561889/Bleasdale-Church-England-Primary-smallest-school-ever-13-pupils>
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2979167/England-s-smallest-school-just-13-pupils-home-cooked-meals.html>
<http://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/latest-news/428861/Britain-school-13-pupils-students>

Tel

Article introducing embroidery pioneer, Alice Archer says in 2011 she embroidered a picture of Lambeth Palace's magnolia tree for the Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams to give as a wedding present to the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/luxury/womens-style/62892/introducing-alice-archer-embroidery-pioneer.html>

Mail

Report on a traveller funeral when more than 1,200 mourners attended St Mary the Virgin Church at Aldermaston in Berkshire. It states a cortege consisting of six stretched limousines, three horse-drawn carriages and five flatbed trucks covered in flowers arrived at the church.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2979833/The-moment-1-200-travellers-arrive-funeral-quiet-village-complete-six-limousines-three-horse-drawn-carriages-five-flatbed-trucks-covered-flowers.html#ixzz3TUTe00Kh>

BBC

Report on restoration work costing £50,000 has begun on a mural by a Pre-Raphaelite influenced painter on the walls of church in the West Midlands. It states the murals, in the Church of St Michael the Archangel, Rushall, Walsall, were painted by E Reginald Frampton in 1905/6.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-birmingham-31733417>

Times

Article on new publishing venture called 'Learn' from the Church of Scotland.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/faith/article4372756.ece>

Times

Article on Lawyer of the week: Michael Skrein, says his most most memorable experience as a lawyer was on the Pyramid Stage with Johnny Cash when he headlined Glastonbury, which was an amazing thank you for a legal intervention relating to his comeback album, *American Recordings*. He states he was with the Bishop of Bath and Wells and me, and a daughter each, with Johnny, his band and the crew.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/law/article4372032.ece>

Blogs

Archbishop Cranmer

churchnewsireland@gmail.com

March 6

Gillan Scott - 'Giles Fraser: Would Jesus vote?
Yes, but absolutely not Conservative'

<http://archbishopcranmer.com/giles-fraser-would-jesus-vote-yes-but-absolutely-not-conservative/>

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