



All Saints Parish Church, Antrim

Global concern theme for Irish Presbyterian General Assembly

The forthcoming General Assembly runs from June 6th to June 10th in the Assembly Buildings, Belfast, and is the biggest annual event in the Presbyterian Church in Ireland's calendar.

This year's incoming Moderator, Rev Dr Frank Sellar, served as minister of Adelaide Road Presbyterian Church, Dublin, for 17 years, before moving to Belfast in 2007 to serve in his present charge, Bloomfield Presbyterian Church, in East Belfast.

This year's General Assembly theme is *A Community of Global Concern*. Dr Chris Wright will be the guest speaker at the Wednesday evening meeting organised by the Moderator. Dr Wright is currently the International Ministries Director of Langham Partnership International. He was the principal of All Nations Christian College, and is an honorary member of All Souls Church, Langham Place in London. In his book *The Mission of God*, Wright traces the narrative of the Bible as the story of God's mission. Thus all Christians are engaged in God's mission to the world.

This year's General Assembly will have a slightly different feel to it, in comparison with previous Assemblies. Along with the necessary reports presented by various internal Councils and Task Groups, more space is being given to discussion and debate at a strategic level. For the first time in several years, business will continue into a fourth day.

To those watching from the outside, the General Assembly's procedure may seem antiquated, even cumbersome. But as with many representative bodies in positions of leadership, it seems to be the most effective vehicle to serve the denomination as a whole. Ministers and elders are sent from each congregation throughout the island. What sets the General Assembly apart is, or its obviously intentional, Christian, input and Presbyterian ethos.

The General Assembly starts in the context of a worship service on Monday evening, when the new Moderator is installed. Meetings begin with prayer, and daily corporate worship is understood as an essential part of the proceedings. All Presbyterians are asked to pray for this year's Assembly. A short guide to inform prayer for the assembly which begins on June 6 is available at -

https://presbyterianireland.org/getmedia/e0534528-58b4-4c17-ba54-cb32e560a6db/GA_2016_PrayerCard_A5_Congregations.pdf.aspx

Nine seminarians ordained deacons in Maynooth

Bishop William Crean, Bishop of Cloyne, on Sunday ordained nine seminarians as deacons in the College Chapel of the national seminary in **Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth**. Bishop Crean was the chief celebrant and preached the homily, and all of the priests of the College community concelebrated this Ordination Mass. Family, friends and other priests also participated in this special celebration. The following are the ordinands from today's diaconate ceremony (respective diocese in brackets):

Michael Byrne (Dublin), William Caulfield (Ferns), Aidan Gallagher (Tuam), Sean Jones (Kerry), Declan Lohan (Galway), John Magner (Cloyne), Barry Matthews (Armagh), Evan O'Brien (Cork & Ross), David Vard (Kildare & Leighlin)

Following the Mass, Monsignor Hugh Connolly, the President of Saint Patrick's College,



Maynooth, said, “It is with great joy that we celebrate the ordination of nine men to the diaconate today – and especially so on the Feast of Corpus Christi. May these nine men now go forth to build up the ‘Body of Christ’ which is his Church. On behalf of all of us here in the formation and learning community which is Saint Patrick’s College Maynooth, I congratulate our nine ordinands and wish them every happiness and blessing in their forthcoming diaconal ministry. May each of them experience God’s grace anew in their lives so that they will courageously proclaim the Gospel in word and deed, and go out to serve the people of God in their various dioceses and religious congregations with care and compassion.”

At present there are 55 resident seminarians studying in Saint Patrick’s College, Maynooth, and there are an additional twenty who attend on a daily basis to pursue their studies for the priesthood. Saint Patrick’s College Maynooth

has been forming men for the priesthood since 1795. The Trustees of the College are the Governing Body of the College. The membership is defined by successive Acts of Parliament. The current Trustees are the four Archbishops of Ireland together with thirteen other senior bishops. The College comprises the seminary and the Pontifical University, which offers degrees in theology, philosophy and theology and arts.

Challenge to Cork of young adults disengaging from church

Cork Diocesan Youth Council held a series of meetings on Saturday, 28th May, led by Andrew Frame of the Church of Ireland Youth Department. He presented the challenge of recent research in which figures show that there are only 6-7% of 20-30's in church on a Sunday.

The question was put at the meetings, “Could this be the impetus we need to make changes that are long overdue - because if we get this right for this generation then possibly, just possibly the church might turn a corner and grow?”

On Saturday morning a number of clergy gathered to hear Andrew speak about the research on the disengagement and his own experience of setting up events to facilitate meetings for this age group.

On Saturday evening, over 40 people from all over Cork, Cloyne and Ross came together to discuss issues of relevance over a meal. The feedback from the event was very positive.

Cathedral, choral and musical

Choral Evensong on BBC Radio 3 this week - at 3.30 pm on June 1 is live from St Davids Cathedral Festival

Introit: O praise the Lord (Batten)

Responses: Leighton

Psalms 4, 5, 6 (Buck, Wesley, Battishill)

First Lesson: Genesis 42 vv.17-38

Canticles: Howells in B minor

Second Lesson: Matthew 18 vv.1-14

Anthem: To heaven's door (Geraint Lewis)

Festival commission, first performance

Hymn: How shall I sing that majesty (Coe Fen)

Organ Voluntary: Postlude de Fête 'Te Deum Laudamus', Op.21 (Léonce de Saint-Martin)

Organist and Master of the Choristers: Oliver Waterer

Assistant Director of Music: Simon Pearce.

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Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, Saturday Workshops. A series of fun Saturday Workshops is being held at Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, on the second Saturday of every month in the South Transept 2-4pm. All the workshops are inspired by the Cathedral's life, collections, building and history. Workshops are free and include all materials (normal cathedral admission will apply). Booking essential. Please email ruth@christchurch.ie to join in.

Saturday 9th July - Create your own **TUDOR ACCESSORIES** with costume designer Sorcha McClenaghan (formerly of the Gate and Abbey Wardrobe departments), inspired by the Tudor costumes on display in our crypt. Max 10 people. For 8-12 year olds.

Saturday 13th August - Make your own **CIRCULAR WEAVING** with knitwear designer Liadain Butler. Enjoy the cathedral's beautiful stained glass windows before translating their colours into a piece of hand-weaving. Max 12 people. For children 7 years old and upwards.

Saturday 10th September - Learn the art of **CALLIGRAPHY AND ILLUMINATION** with Kevin Honan of Peannairí, taking inspiration

from the Cathedral's collection of rare books and manuscripts. Max 15 people. For adults and children - 8 years old and upwards.

Saturday 8th October - Design your own **VIKING CHARACTER** with illustrator and children's book writer, Mark Wickham (author of 'Brian and the Vikings'), using Christ Church's long history as your starting point. Two one-hour sessions. Max 10 people in each. For 6-10 year olds.

Saturday 12th November - FELT YOUR OWN BIRD with artist Jamie Lewis of The Wool Felt Shop. Spot all the decorative birds around the Cathedral and then design and make your own felt fowl.
Max 15 people. For 8-15 year olds.

Saturday 10th December - BECOME A CHORISTER for the day with Christ Church's Director of Music Ian Keatley. Put on a robe and raise the roof of the cathedral with some of your favourite Christmas songs. No singing experience necessary. Max 20 people. For 8-16 year olds.

News briefs

Arklow Presbyterian Church has a new minister who was installed on Saturday May 28th. **Mr Nathan Duddy** and his wife, Ashley, have been part of the Legacurry congregation, just outside Lisburn, where Mr Duddy is the Assistant Minister. His ordination and induction service marks the next in a series of significant changes for the Arklow congregation. Last year, the congregation celebrated its 100th birthday. Less than five years ago, under the leadership of its previous minister, Rev Michael Anderson, a significant building project was completed. The congregation now has an excellent, fit for purpose facility; providing space for a flourishing Montessori School, as well as rooms offering significant outreach opportunities, such as the annual Holiday Bible Club. Mr Duddy joins a congregation that enjoys strong community relations in the town

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A former primary school teacher from County Down has been appointed Curate of the **United Parishes of Merville, Donagh, Culdaff and Cloncha** in County Donegal. The **Reverend Suzanne Cousins** will take up her new duties after she is ordained priest, on September 4th

2016. The Rev Cousins, who grew up near Comber, in County Down, has been Deacon Intern at St Mark's, Newtonards for the last eight months, while she completes her full-time training and formation for the priesthood. She lives in Newcastle with her husband Alan, who works as Irish Mobiliser for Africa Inland Mission. The couple have three grown-up children. Alan's previous job took the couple to South Africa, where Suzanne worked as a volunteer teacher in a Children's Village for AIDS-affected children. She has also held full- and part-time teaching posts in Northern Ireland and the Republic, and worked as a Special Needs classroom assistant. The County Down woman says she sees the mission of the Church as being about healing, wholeness and salvation, of individuals and communities. "I see strength in the vision for 'Small, strong churches' and that this is a helpful, positive and realistic vision for the Church in large parts of Ireland. I am inspired by the vision for 'Small things done with great love' (Mother Teresa)."

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The Rev'd Nigel Pierpoint who has been appointed Curate-Assistant of Taney Parish, Dundrum

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The inaugural **Annual Agherton Lecture** will be given in the parish church in Portstewart on Monday 13th June at 8pm by the Archbishop of Armagh, the **Most Rev. Dr Richard Clarke** and has as its title, 'Redeeming the Church'. Admission is £5 including a reception in the new porch area at 7.15pm. All are welcome.

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Last weekend St Michael's Church in Aghold (Diocese of Cashel) marked its 300th anniversary by holding a Bible Reading Marathon, the whole Bible was read aloud. The event started on Thursday.

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The Revd Canon Dr Phil Groves, who for the past 10 years has led the **Anglican Communion's Continuing Indaba** conflict transformation and reconciliation ministry, is to leave his post at the end of July to return to parish ministry. Dr Groves will become Associate Rector in the Wychert Vale Benefice in the Church of England's Diocese of Oxford.

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An updated version of the book “*Land of Promise?*” has been published to help people delve deeper into **Christian attitudes to the Holy Land and Zionism**. “*Land of Promise?*” was produced by NIFCON – the Anglican Communion Network for Inter Faith Concerns – in 2012 following discussions at ACC-14 three years earlier.

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

'More than a third of students leave Northern Ireland at 18; we cannot afford to lose such talent' - head of QUB

Belfast Telegraph

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/more-than-a-third-of-students-leave-northern-ireland-at-18-we-cannot-afford-to-lose-such-talent-but-theyll-only-return-if-there-are-opportunities-34756003.html>

Brain drain damaging Northern Ireland's economy, warns QUB chief

Belfast Telegraph

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/business/news/brain-drain-damaging-northern-irelands-economy-warns-qub-chief-34756573.html>

How major Drumcree talks offer was made – and kept secret

Belfast Newsletter

Mr Hewitt said that the priest suggested that the **Church of Ireland** primate be approached to provide a co-chair for the prospective talks. Mr Hewitt met ...

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/northern-ireland-news/how-major-drumcree-talks-offer-was-made-and-kept-secret-1-7405904>

Senior Church leaders - UK should stay in the EU

Christian Today

<http://www.christiantoday.com/article/senior.church.leaders.uk.should.stay.in.the.eu/87083.htm>

Church of Ireland's oldest clergyman was still writing at 102

The Irish News

<http://www.irishnews.com/notices/livesremembered/2016/05/28/news/church-of-ireland-s-oldest-clergyman-was-still-writing-at-102-532771/>

Obsv

Report that religious leaders from the UK's main faith communities, including CofE bishops, have joined forces to oppose Brexit, saying the EU is vital to preserving peace, fighting poverty and tackling the migration crisis. The list of signatories and the open letter, printed in today's *Observer*, include former Archbishop of Canterbury Dr Rowan Williams; Bishop of Liverpool, Paul Bayes; Bishop of Ely, Stephen Conway; Bishop of

Gibraltar in Europe, Robert Innes; and the Bishop of Worcester, John Inge.

<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2016/may/28/religious-leaders-oppose-brexit>

Tel

Report on criticism of the venue of the launch this week of the 2017 Gucci collection - in the Cloisters at Westminster Abbey. A spokesman said the Dean and Chapter were always prepared to consider “new and exciting innovations provided they do not disrupt the daily pattern of worship”. He added that the the response to the Gucci show had been overwhelmingly positive, and that the Abbey’s precincts have been used for receptions, dinners and garden parties for well over a decade.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/05/28/westminster-abbey-gucci-show-is-like-selling-our-soul-for-trous/>

Ind

Comment article that managing an ethical investment portfolio can be as hard as giving up smoking and includes ref to the CofE’s previous investments in both payday lenders and arms companies. <http://www.independent.co.uk/money/ethical-investing-made-simple-a7049821.html>

Mail

Agency report that the head of the Protestant Church in Germany has called for Islam to be taught in state schools across the country as a way to make young Muslims impervious to the “temptation of fundamentalists”. Bishop Heinrich Bedford-Strohm told the *Heilbronner Stimme* newspaper that teaching Islam in schools nationwide would give Muslim pupils a chance to take a critical approach to their own religion

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/reuters/article-3614145/German-Protestant-bishop-wants-Islam-classes-state-schools.html#ixzz4A1xMA1h9>

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