



CNI



The River Bush, Co. Antrim

C of I Priorities Fund to focus on training, education and innovation

The Church of Ireland Priorities Fund is reshaping its focus in 2017–18 in order to better support projects in the Church which provide training, education, outreach and innovative ministries.

“Each year, the Church of Ireland Priorities Fund has the privilege and responsibility of distributing over €500,000 to projects throughout the Church,” says Roy Totten, who chairs the Priorities Fund Committee. “This, in turn, reflects the generosity of all twelve dioceses and many parishes and individuals.” Since its foundation in 1980, the fund has provided over €17 million in resources for growth to fulfil the first priority of the Church – the spiritual welfare of people. It was set up following the publication of the 1979 First of All report, which encouraged the Church to view problems as opportunities for expansion and called for a willingness to question and change traditional methods. This report’s message is still highly relevant in today’s fast-changing context.

Around 90 per cent of grants support parishes and associated organisations and the remainder mainly support diocesan work with children and young people. Projects supported in 2016 included the new centre of mission in North Belfast, the setting up of a chaplaincy at Dublin Institute of Technology, and outreach by the Dioceses of Meath and Kildare at the National Ploughing Championships.

The fund’s criteria have changed over time to keep it relevant to the changing context of

Christian ministry in Ireland, and a set of new criteria is now in place for applications received in 2017–18. These cover four areas:

- Training;
- Christian education;
- Outreach initiatives; and
- Innovative ministry in a rural context.

The fund will be available to support post-ordination and clergy-in-service training as well as training for lay ministry and ministry with children, young people and students.

Christian education covers the development of RE in schools, youth and children's ministry, and adult education.

The last two criteria seek to encourage creative and innovative projects which reach out to the communities which our parishes serve (including church plants and missional areas), and also those which operate in sparsely populated areas or in rural and village settings.

The fund is not intended as a source of support for building projects but a list of grants for Church of Ireland properties is available at www.ireland.anglican.org/parish-resources

“The Priorities Fund Committee has a membership from across the island and committee members are available to discuss potential applications,” Mr Totten explains. “They also welcome opportunities to visit projects to see how the funding is being used on the ground. The committee would also encourage recipients to return the evaluation forms provided in order to better understand how funds have been used, and also to identify any lessons for the future; this is especially helpful when projects have been funded over two years.”

Application forms are available from the Organiser, Mrs Sylvia Simpson, who can be contacted at Church House, Dublin, on 01 4125 607 or via email at priorities@ireland.anglican.org. Once a form has been completed, the applicant is advised to check with the Organiser whether the application needs to be vetted before being submitted to the Priorities Fund Committee. Parish and diocesan projects must be vetted by the appropriate Diocesan Council, and projects involving youth work must be vetted by the Church of Ireland Youth Department.

The closing date for applications is 31st October. To find out more about how the fund may be

able to help in your ministry, please contact the Organiser or a committee member, visit our website (www.priorities.ireland.anglican.org) or come and meet us at our stand at General Synod and Diocesan Synods.

In conclusion, Mr Totten remarks: “In reshaping our continuing focus around training, education, outreach and innovative ministry, the Priorities Fund seeks help the Church to take steps of faith in reaching out to those beyond the walls of our churches, and to train lay and ordained people for innovative ministry in every context.”

This article was first published in The Church of Ireland Gazette. The fund is now open for applications. Forms can be downloaded at www.priorities.ireland.anglican.org and are also available by contacting Mrs Sylvia Simpson, Priorities Fund Office, Church of Ireland House, Church Avenue, Rathmines, Dublin 6, D06 CF47. Tel: 00 353 1 4125 607. Email: priorities@ireland.anglican.org

Cumann Gealach na hEaglaise welcomes new grant from the Priority Funds

A grant of E3,000 from the Priority Funds will go towards the publication in a bilingual format of the book, **“Irish in the Church of Ireland.”**

Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise (Irish Guild of the Church) states that Risteárd Giltrap, former principal of Coláiste Moibhí first penned this book in Irish and it was published by Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise in 1990. The Guild comments, “It is an incredibly useful book portraying the central role played by members of the Church of Ireland in the preservation and promotion of the language down through history. It is written in a lively, engaging style and easy to read (if you have Irish!). It is possible to dip in and out of the book as it contains many discrete stories with pictures and extracts from documents of historical record. There is no preachy tone in this book, and indeed it is only in the final chapter that the author shares his own thoughts on the future of the language in the Church.

“Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise has long recognised that this book is not accessible to everyone as it is written in Irish. We welcome the increased curiosity around the history of Irish in the Church and the growing support for our current activities. The Cumann hopes that the

bilingual version of this book will be available before the end of 2017. “

Dates of Guild events and services are at:
[http://mailchi.mp/a4e63f551095/me1ppjehrv?
e=c36a0db6bf](http://mailchi.mp/a4e63f551095/me1ppjehrv?e=c36a0db6bf)

Countdown to Presbyterian Women's Annual Meetings

Presbyterian Women, a part of women's ministry within the Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI), is holding its Annual Meetings this Thursday, 4th May 2017 when around 1,500 to 1,600 women from all over Ireland will come together in Belfast to worship and hear from God's Word.

Looking forward to the event, PCI's Women's Ministry and PW Development Officer, Pauline Kennedy, said that all women are welcome to attend the meeting on Thursday 4th May at 2pm, which continues with an Evening Celebration at 7.30pm in Assembly Buildings, Belfast. The events are free and there is no need to register.

“As we come together to worship and celebrate all that the Lord is doing throughout His church, we look forward to hearing what He has to say



Nicola Clarke, Youth Worker in Orangefield Presbyterian Church

to us through His Word as we focus our hearts on this year's theme, Grow and bear fruit, which is taken from Colossians 1:10 *'...bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God.'*

"Our guest speaker will be Nicola Clarke who is the Youth Worker in Orangefield Presbyterian Church. Nicola also serves on the Board of the Big House and is a Professional Practice Tutor for students studying Youth and Community Work at the Centre for Youth Ministry Ireland," Pauline Kennedy explained.

During the afternoon meeting, Nicola will give her first talk on the theme 'Grow and bear fruit.' The evening meeting will take the form of a celebration as she gives her second talk and further unpacks God's Word and what it means for us to grow and bear fruit for His Kingdom. Praise will be led by Erin McBride and Emma Smyth.

Presbyterian Women also looks forward to welcoming Elma Leeburn as their 2017/18 President. Speaking ahead of the meeting, the incoming president who is a member of Hillsborough Presbyterian Church said, "It is my heartfelt desire that no matter what age or stage in life we are at, that as women we would be equipped and inspired to live out our faith with boldness and to have a deep compassion that others may come to know Jesus personally."

As part of women's ministry within the Presbyterian Church, each of the 465 PW Groups across Ireland seeks to encourage women to become Christians, to live for Jesus and to actively reach out to others at home and overseas.

Pope Francis urges Egypt's imams to 'unmask violence' in God's name

Pope Francis has urged Egypt's leading imams yesterday to teach their students to reject violence in God's name and preach messages of peace and tolerance instead, forging ahead with a delicate visit to the Arab world's most populous country following a spate of deadly Islamic militant attacks against Christians.

Francis arrived to a subdued welcome and a heavy police presence at Cairo's international airport. But he brushed off security concerns by driving into town with his windows rolled down in a simple blue Fiat rather than an armoured vehicle.

Francis's first event was a landmark visit to Cairo's Al Azhar university, a 1,000-year-old seat of Sunni Islam learning that trains clerics and scholars from around the world.

There, he warmly embraced Sheikh Ahmed el-Tayeb, Al-Azhar's grand imam who hosted the Pope and other senior Muslim and Christian leaders at a peace conference.



Pope Francis embraces Sheik Ahmad el-Tayeb, grand imam of al-Azhar University, at a conference on international peace in Cairo

Speaking to the crowd, Francis recalled that Egypt's ancient civilisations valued the quest for knowledge and open-minded education, and that a similar commitment is required today to combat the "barbarity" of religious extremism among the young.

While Al-Azhar has strongly condemned Islamic fundamentalism, Egypt's pro-government media has accused its leadership of failing to do enough to reform the religious discourse in Islam and purge canonical books from outdated teachings and hatred for non-Muslims.

“As religious leaders, we are called to unmask violence that masquerades as purported sanctity,” Francis said to applause from the crowd. “Let us say once more a firm and clear ‘No’ to every form of violence, vengeance and hatred carried out in the name of religion or in the name of God.”

“To counter effectively the barbarity of those who foment hatred with violence, we need to accompany young people, helping them on the path to maturity and teaching them to respond to the incendiary logic of evil by patiently working for the growth of goodness,” he said.

El-Tayeb thanked Francis for what he called his “fair” comments against charges of terror and violence levelled against Muslims and Islam.

“We need to cleanse religions from wrong notions, false piety and fraudulent implementations which stoke conflicts and incite hatred and violence,” he said. “Islam is not a religion of terrorism because a minority from among its followers hijacked some of its texts” to shed blood and be provided by some with weapons and funds, he said to applause.

Francis too called for an end to the flow of weapons and money to militants, saying that

“only by bringing into the light of day the murky maneuverings that feed the cancer of war can its real causes be prevented.”

Francis has said he wanted to bring a message of peace to a country that has for years endured an increasingly emboldened insurgency led by a local affiliate of the extremist Islamic State group.

The Friday-Saturday visit is also meant to lift the spirits of Egypt’s large Christian community after three suicide bombings since December — including deadly twin Palm Sunday church attacks — killed at least 75 people. Egypt’s Islamic State affiliate claimed responsibility for the attacks.

Egypt’s Abdel-Fattah El-Sissi, a general-turned-president, declared a nationwide state of emergency following the Palm Sunday attacks in a bid to better deal with the insurgency through wider police powers and swift trials.

The visit to Al-Azhar marked a diplomatic breakthrough for the Vatican after el-Tayeb severed relations with Rome in 2011, after Pope Benedict XVI demanded Egypt better protect its Christian minority following a New Year’s Eve church bombing that killed more than 20 people.

Francis has spent the better part of his four-year papacy seeking to mend the ties, and last year hosted el-Tayeb at the Vatican. His visit on Friday cemented the renewed relationship.

Francis also visited the seat of the Coptic Orthodox Church, whose followers are the vast majority of Egypt's estimated nine million Christians, to meet its spiritual leader, Pope Tawadros II.

Francis and Tawadros presided over an ecumenical prayer service in St Peter's church, the central Cairo church hit by a suicide bombing in December that killed 30, most of them women. Together the two Christian leaders will pray for the victims of the attacks.

Francis has frequently spoken out about the present day's Christian martyrs and the "ecumenism of blood" that has united Catholic, Orthodox and other Christians targeted for their faith by Islamic militants.

Cork conference on relationships in residential care

The 5th Annual St Luke's Charity Conference was hosted by the Northridge House Education

and Research Centre within the charity at the Radisson Blu Hotel, Little island, Co. Cork,

The theme of this year's conference was: Residents – Staff – Family Relationships in the Residential Care Setting. The conference attracted more than 180 delegates from 76 different organisations, healthcare professionals from mainly residential nursing homes, in addition to some from the acute sector and several from the disability sector.

The Conference explored the challenging and complex relationships in the residential care setting and how best to achieve positive outcomes for families, staff and ultimately the residents, themselves. The opening address was given by the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Charity, Dr Paul Colton, Bishop of Cork.

The principal speaker was Dr. Michael Bauer from Australia, who is well researched and published in this area and St Luke's was honoured and delighted that he agreed to deliver the keynote address. Delegates described the day as thought provoking and informative and left with lots of tips and ideas on how to improve staff–family dynamics in their own organisations.

Religion, Reform, Identity: Ireland and the Age of Reformations

A day of lectures marking the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation will take place on 20th May 2017 at Christ Church Cathedral, Waterford.

Speakers will include Professor Tadhg O hAnnrachain (UCD), Dr Aine Hensey (Irish Association of Professional Historians), Professor John McCafferty, Professor Marc Caball and Dr Ivar McGrath (UCD), as well as Professor Salvador Ryan (Maynooth) and Professor Alan Ford (University of Nottingham).

This conference is curated by Dr Jeffrey Cox (UCD) and funded by The Priorities Fund of the Church of Ireland. Conference fee: €50.
Concessions: €30

Lindisfarne Celtic dimension at Clonmacnoise Summer School

Ray Simpson is Founding Guardian of the Community of Aidan and Hilda based in Lindisfarne, Northumberland. He is staying at An Cluain a cottage/ retreat / conference centre at Clonmacnoise from the 9th to the 11th of

May. Widely travelled as a coach and international lecturer on the Faith, he is spending a reflective period in Ireland.

At 2.00. pm on Thursday the 11th. there will be an open meeting with Ray for informal discussion at An Cluain.

Amongst his many books - details of which you will find on Publisher Kevin Mayhews site is- The Church of the Isles. An exploration of the Celtic dimension arising from the Belfast Agreement. Discussion will not be confined to this topic but it may be of particular interest in the Brexit discussions.

Ray has written extensively on the Celtic dimension exploring the common ground between the Celtic traditions in the British and Irish Isles. The Centre is at the rear of the main Clonmacnoise site - at the junction for the Nuns Church on the Cmac to Athlone Rd. There is no charge for the event.

Connect: Training for Youth Workers

The next Connect event will take place on Thursday, 18th May, between 9.30am and 1.30pm in Knock Methodist Centre, Belfast.



Patrick Regan and Naomi Allen (XLP Ministries) speaking on 'dying to belong' and 'soul keeping'. This is a training day for Methodist and Church of Ireland youth workers, and lunch is included.

Please register online or contact the Church of Ireland Youth Department office on 028 9082 8890 or by email at admin@ciyd.org

Ambassador of Israel visits Bishop of Cork

On Wednesday, 26th April, the Ambassador of Israel to Ireland, His Excellency Ze'ev Boker, made a courtesy visit in Cork to the Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, the Right Reverend Dr Paul Colton.



H.E. Ze'ev Boker, Ambassador of Israel, and the Right Reverend Dr Paul Colton, Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross

The Ambassador was welcomed to The Palace by Dr Colton and Mrs Susan Colton, and entertained to afternoon tea. A wide-ranging and interesting conversation took place about Ireland and Israel, direct flights between the two countries, the visits of Christians and Christian agencies to the Middle East, the closure of the Synagogue in Cork, and the vital importance of, and potential of, interfaith dialogue.

Today in Christian History, April 29

April 29, 1380: Italian mystic Catherine of Siena dies from exhaustion brought on by her efforts to bring unity to the church. Her visions, experienced since childhood, and her persistent pleading led Pope Gregory XI to return the papal seat to Rome from Avignon, France.

April 29, 1429: Joan of Arc, who had experienced mystical visions and voices since childhood, enters the besieged French city of Orleans to lead a victory over the English. The next Day , the English retreated, but, because it was a SunDay , Joan refused to allow any pursuit. On a sortie the next year, The English captured Joan and put her on trial for heresy.

April 29, 1607: English settlers establish the first Anglican church in the American colonies at Cape Henry, Virginia.

Today in Christian History, April 30

April 30, 304: The last and most punishing anti-Christian edict during Roman Emperor Diocletian's reign is published. The ensuing carnage was so horrific that it was said even the coliseum lions got tired. The man behind the edict, Augustus Galerius, finally issued an edict of toleration on April 30, 311 —just Days before

dying of a disease known as "being eaten with worms".

April 30, 418: Roman Emperor Honorius (395-423) issues a decree against Pelagianism, a heresy teaching that man can take the initial and fundamental steps towards salvation by his own efforts, apart from divine grace.

April 30, 1562: Two ships carrying 150 Huguenot (French Protestant) immigrants arrive off the coast of northeast Florida. The settlers established a colony at Parris Island, South Carolina, but abandoned it two years later due to a lack of supplies.

April 30, 1822: Hannibal Goodwin, rector of the Episcopal House of Prayer in Newark, New Jersey, is born in Taughannock, New York. Though his main passion was making the Bible "come to life" for the children in his church, he dreamed up 24 inventions during his life and received 15 patents. Today we remember him primarily as the father of celluloid film for photography.

See this week's events diary on CNI