

**The essential daily
brief on the Irish
churches**



Keela Davico and Rachel Linn at Christ Church Cathedral in Dublin for the launch of the Dublin Garden Festival

Cathedral in full bloom for festival of flowers

A cathedral is set to go green for its very own floral festival.

Irish Independent - The Dean of Christ Church Cathedral in Dublin, the Very Reverend Dermot Dunne, announced details of the inaugural Dublin Garden Festival yesterday, which is to be held in June.

It will see the cathedral being transformed into a "floral arcadia" from June 13-15.

He said he hoped that this event would build on the thousands of visitors who flock to the grounds of the city-centre cathedral every year.

"There will be a stunning display of creative and beautiful flower designs on show and a range of fun activities for all the family."

Throughout the three days, festival-goers will be able to view horticultural displays, craft demonstrations and sit in on talks from renowned gardening experts, including Gerry Daly and Helen Dillon.

Also appearing at the festival will be Dubliner and Chelsea Flower Show medallist Christopher White.

The festival will draw to a close on the Sunday evening to the strains of the cathedral's choir, as the public will be invited inside the doors of the ancient building "in all its floral splendour".

Irish Methodist team for Haiti 2014/15

Following an invitation of L'Eglise Methodiste D'Haiti, Rev Laurence Graham is planning a Methodist Missionary Society (Ireland) [MMS (I)] team to Haiti from 29 December 2014 - 14 January 2015.

The team will take part in several activities: helping at day clinics, facilitating children's holiday Bible clubs, delivering seminars to preachers and refurbishing an accommodation block that serves the church.

The cost is £1,800 plus project costs.

If you feel that you have the necessary skills or experience then contact MMS (I) for details

Closing Date 30 May 2014

[Download a leaflet](#)

<http://www.irishmethodist.org/sites/default/files/Haiti%20flyer%20LG-4.pdf>

Email: mms@irishmethodist.org

Remembering the past - Corrymeela

An invitation to explore our shared future at the Corrymeela Centre, Ballycastle on the weekend of 9–11 May 2014.

For details of programme and costs, please visit our website at www.corrymeela.org or phone our Belfast office on (028) 9050 8080.

Parenting Well workshop

The “Faith in Everyday Living series” is designed to encourage theological reflection, fellowship and discussion on “everyday” discipleship matters.

Parenting Well is a one day workshop exploring how to best “parent” teenagers. In partnership with Love for Life, Northern Ireland’s leading Christian Young People’s support agency.

Venue: Edgehill Theological College. Date: 10 May 2014 from 10.00 am to 3.30 pm Cost: £15.00 pp

Please register your interest [here](#)

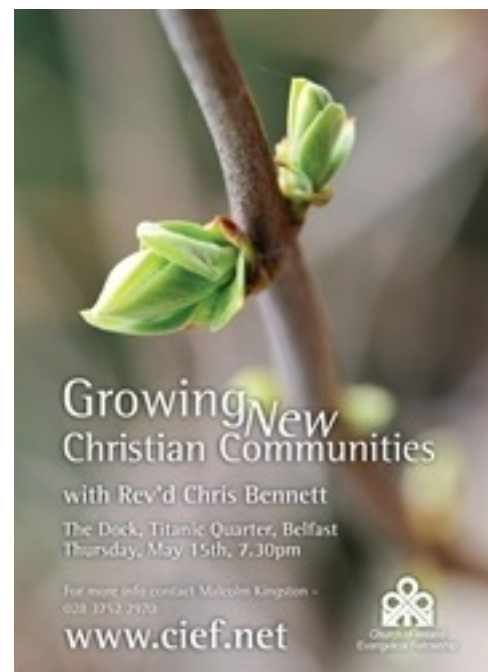
<http://www.edgehillcollege.org/event/faith-in-everyday-living-series-for-methodist-and-church-of-ireland-members-4/>

Growing New Christian Communities - At the Dock

The Church of Ireland Evangelical Fellowship continue their series of events on the theme of “Growing New Christian Communities” with an evening meeting on Thursday 15 May 2014 in The Dock Cafe, Titanic Quarter Belfast.

Church of Ireland Chaplain at The Dock, the Revd Chris Bennett will share the Vision behind the birth of “The Dock”.

All are welcome.



Church Music Summer School 2014

The National Centre for Liturgy and the Irish Church Music Association are hosting the 45th Annual Summer School.

The summer school begins on Thursday 3 July and ends on Sunday 6 July. This is to facilitate all those people who cannot take time off from the workplace. It is also an opportunity for choirs to take a free day from parish on the Sunday and come to Maynooth to celebrate in Word and Song the Lord's Day with great joy and festivity.

More information can be found on the website for the Irish Church Music Association at:
www.irishchurchmusicassociation.com

Create a Culture of Discipleship Seminar



‘Building a Discipling Culture’ will be the theme of a day long seminar which will take place in Christ Church Cathedral on Wednesday June 4 from 9.30 am to 4.30 pm.

The event is being organised by the Dublin and Diocesan Growth Team and will be addressed by church leaders from Sheffield, some of whom are making a return visit to the cathedral after a successful event in January.

June’s seminar is aimed at everyone, including clergy and members of the laity who are leading or facilitating ministry and mission in the parish. It will build on the Missional Discipleship Day which took place in January. There will be two streams so that those attending in January and the new arrivals can benefit equally. Topics to be addressed will include creating a culture of discipleship, discipleship that leads to mission, contextualising to a local setting and practical approaches.

Archbishop Michael Jackson received positive feedback from the January event and went to visit the church in Sheffield and meet its leaders earlier this spring. He also spoke to the Bishop of Sheffield to discuss his perspective on the church’s contribution to the mission of the Church of England in partnership with others in the city.

“On foot of these discussions I felt it would be helpful for them to come and share some of their experiences with us and build on the earlier event which

had been well received,” the Archbishop explained. “As we all know networking and building of relationships of capacity are essential components of contemporary life. The Church of Ireland is no exception to this.”



Andrew McNeile talking to Canon Paul Maconochie

The speakers on the day will include Canon Paul

Maconochie, leader of

Network Church Sheffield and its European Network; Rich Robinson, director of 3dm UK; and Nick and Marjorie Allan, leaders of St Thomas Church, Philadelphia in Sheffield. Archbishop Jackson will open the event.

The standard cost for the day will be €35 per person including lunch. However, thanks to a contribution from Diocesan Glebes and Finance funds, members of the clergy and laity of the United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough will be able to avail of a special reduced fee of just €10.

To book a place or for further information, email the Revd Stephen Farrell at zion@dublin.anglican.org by May 16.

Loanends vintage event to aid Parkinson’s charity

Loanends Presbyterian Church has announced details of its annual Vintage Tractor and [Classic Car](#) Road Run which takes place on Saturday, June 7.

News Letter - Proceeds from this year’s event will be donated to the Parkinson’s Disease Society.

The tractor cavalcade will complete a 15-mile drive around country roads, while the vintage and classic cars will cover a 25-mile scenic route.

Entry fee for tractors and cars is £10 each, which includes lunch for the driver.

Organiser Robert Wallace said: “We are looking forward to another successful event, which will include a summer fete in the church grounds. There will be various stalls and fun events for all members of the family.

“I am pleased to welcome a number of new sponsors, Noel Gibson of GNG Credit Ltd based at Lylehill Road, Belfast, and Richard Martin of Martin Supplies, Nutt’s Corner. Thanks also to the Eye Care Clinic based in Templepatrick, for its continued support of the vintage and [classic car](#) road run.”

Anyone interested in entering vintage tractors or stationary engines should contact Robert Wallace on tel: 028 9443 2753. Vintage and classic car enquiries should be directed to Norman White tel: 028 9443 2269.

From Hawaii to Enniskillen answering God’s call

Holy Week this year was certainly remembered by a special group of visitors to Enniskillen. For more than 20 theology students, it not only broadened their faith further but they saw a bustling county town where its people were welcoming.



The Rev. Rob Clements, Curate at St. Macartin’s Cathedral helping to lead Messy Church during Holy Week.

IMPARTIAL

REPORTER - The special Holy Week Mission was part of St. Macartin’s



Cathedral parish idea to bring out-reach to the community as well as having events organised for parishioners. They have been working with Dean Kenneth Hall and the Rev. Rob Clements in various activities including Messy Church for children.

Among those taking part were students at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute in Dublin, who are in varying stages of training for the full-time ministry.

Most of the students entering specialised training have had careers in public service, industry or commerce but admit to following the call of God to seek a new life as a Church of Ireland minister.

Second year student, Catherine Simpson from Portglenone was busy following her career as a vice-principal of a school when she decided to embark on her training. But she admits to having that encouragement as a teenager.

“When I was 18, I was pulled aside by my minister about working in the church. I was involved in Connor Youth Council. I did my degree in primary

teaching specialising in religious studies and put off my involvement in the church.

“I was six years into teaching when I felt I could no longer put it off. I think it was always going to happen.”

For Pete Smith, from Portadown, he was heavily involved in youth ministry. As a salesman, he continued in his job until the time came when he admits: “My job was getting in the way. You can no longer do your ordinary job and your heart is not fully in it.”

Raymond Kettle, from Virginia, Co. Cavan, said he delayed his training at Theological College for as long as possible.

“I had a stammer and I could not say my name. I decided to work on that first,” he admits.

Even when he was 18 or 19, he did not think it was for him and continued to pursue his training and qualification as a quantity surveyor. When he got his first job, he saw many of the problems associated with it and his thoughts of full-time ministry re-emerged. He decided it was time to follow his heart.

For another student, Abigail Sines, her approach was certainly not the norm.

From the U.S. State of Virginia, she studied international relations and Chinese, spending a year in China and a further year in Hawaii.

“I got a job but I felt God talking to me to leave Hawaii but did not know what I was going to do. She says she prayed hard about it and eventually travelled to Belfast where she enrolled on a theology course at Belfast Bible College and linked with a Church of Ireland parish in Dunmurry. After that I felt God was calling me.”

Firstly, all theology students in Dublin, have to complete a foundation course, lasting more than a year which they must complete and then they go before a selection conference. The full-time course lasts three years, two years in Dublin and the third year when they are ordained as a Deacon and spend it as an Intern Deacon in a parish, as well as completing their dissertation.

Over the past week, they said they have been welcomed everywhere by the people of Enniskillen and are excited about the future of the Church of Ireland.

“We have met a lot of students, doing out-reach work, attending school assemblies and visiting various housing estates.

Abigail said: "As someone from outside I feel incredibly positive about the Church of Ireland to further what God is doing."

Catherine said: "We are blessed to be with the Cathedral this week, with the young people and with the people of Enniskillen and how we were received. We've been made very welcome"

Hunger a 'brutal reality' in UK, says children's charity

Responding to the recent Trussell Trust report on food bank use and hunger, a leading children's charity says urgent action is needed.

Responding to the recent Trussell Trust report on food bank use and hunger, a leading children's charity says urgent action is needed.

The Children's Society, which has a church background but works with people of all beliefs and none, is particularly urging the UK government to reverse its decision to scrap funding for local welfare assistance schemes.

The Trussell Trust is a Christian charity which has played a major role in the development of foodbanks in response to the growing hunger problem among poorer families, and also advocates for tackling the root causes of the problem.

Lily Caprani, Director of Strategy and Policy at The Children's Society, commented: "Hunger is a brutal reality for vast numbers of families and children across the UK. It is shameful that, according to these new figures, hundreds of thousands of children in this country are now forced to depend on food banks.

"We know from our work with schools that nearly three-quarters of teachers are seeing children coming to school with no lunch and no way to pay for one.

"The government's massive changes to welfare and rising food, fuel and housing costs are making it impossible for many working and non-working parents to afford the basics. An estimated 400,000 households a month are being forced to take pay-day loans to pay for food and other essentials. This is a scandal in any developed country.

"The government needs to reverse its decision to scrap funding for local welfare assistance schemes – the last line of defence for vulnerable families

in need of crisis help. By withdrawing this vital support many more children and families will find themselves trapped in a relentless cycle of poverty, hunger and debt."

Government supporters essentially continue to deny that there is a hunger problem with disadvantaged and low income people in Britain.

Work and Pensions Secretary Iain Duncan Smith is among those who have attacked the integrity of Trussell Trust and others working and campaigning on the issue.

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