



## The essential daily brief on the Irish churches

### Presbyterian Women launch theme for 2014-15

Guest speaker Sheryl Haw will be looking at the character of God and what this means for us in our individual, family, church and community settings, and as a nation, particularly through the eyes of women.

Sheryl was born and grew up in Zimbabwe where her family still resides. She spent 20 years working within the aid sector in many countries around the world. This led Sheryl to spend time lecturing at All Nations Christian College before joining the Micah Network in April 2010 as International Director.



Micah Network seeks to bring different Christian initiatives together to learn, share, complement and support one another; to have an integrated and transformational approach and lifestyle; to live out Micah 6:8, "And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

Caroline Hawthorne, PW General Secretary, said "Sheryl has a wealth of experience in mission and bible teaching and is a gifted speaker. We trust

that women will benefit from the encouraging message she brings to our Annual Meetings, empowering us to become the women that God calls us to be.”

During the Annual Meeting, the incoming President, Anna Morison, and incoming Home Vice-President, Margaret Grayson will be introduced. Praise will be led by Susie Campbell. All women are welcome to attend where book and craft stalls will also be available.

For more information on the events go to [www.presbyterianireland.org/pw](http://www.presbyterianireland.org/pw) or call the PW Office on +44 (0)28 9032 2284.

## Celebrations in Tullow to Mark 150th Anniversary



**Tullow Church, Carrickmines, was packed to capacity on Sunday morning for a service marking the 150th anniversary of the church.**

***Alan Rhodes, the Revd John Tanner, Archbishop Michael Jackson, Canon Cecil Bryan, Canon Cecil Hyland and Canon Kenneth Kearon.***

The service was celebrated by Archbishop Michael Jackson, who also dedicated gifts which had been given to the parish, with the Rector, the Revd John Tanner. They were joined by former Rectors Canon Cecil Hyland, Canon Cecil Bryan and Canon Kenneth Kearon with Lay Reader, Alan Rhodes.

In his sermon Archbishop Jackson outline the history of the church. He said the original parish church dated back to the 12th century but was subsumed into Monkstown. The influx of new residents to the area in the mid 1800s, as a result of the Harcourt Street railway line, created a need for a new parish. "There were the houses; there were the inhabitants; there were the commuters; there was, therefore, the need of the new parish church. This duly came in 1864. It is the celebration of this event that gathers us here this morning to mark 150 years of parish life in this 'new church'," he said.

Archbishop Jackson said that parishes largely kept to themselves but his recent request for all parishes in the United Dioceses would help build a picture of the dioceses as they are and how parishes and the dioceses might look in the future.

He suggested three simple steps which could be added to the parochial time table as members looked to the next 150 years as people seek to discern and distil the grace of the following generations.

Firstly, the Archbishop spoke about Daytime Discipleship and said "it is not possible to over-estimate the importance of living day by day as a disciple of Jesus Christ. This can be at home, where we work and everywhere we have a chance to influence for good the lives that others live and to learn from them ways in which we too can share life more and live it better".



**the methodist centre**  
Sunday mornings @10.30

**Save the Date:**  
Summer Youth Camp  
Mon 14th-Fri 18th July  
10-12.30 each day  
Methodist Centre  
Tyrrrelstown




## Open Day

**Food, music, activities & information**  
Come and see this new community facility and worship space.  
Find out about planned activities and opportunities available.  
**Saturday 17th May 12:00-16:00**  
**Methodist Centre Tyrrrelstown**

All are welcome

**Minister**  
Rev Dr John Stephens  
john.stephens@dcmiss.ie

**Church Development Worker**  
Philip McKinley  
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**WEB:**  
www.blanchardstownmethodist.ie  
**FB:** 'Methodist Centre Tyrrrelstown'

**Methodist Centre, Tyrrrelstown Open Day**



The second step he outlined involved Sunday Services. He pointed out that now just one in seven people who called themselves members of the Church of Ireland in Dublin and Glendalough go to church on Sunday. He said that soon churchgoing itself would be seen as a witness of significance and urged people to go to church. "We are free to worship and free not to worship... We make choices in a democracy. We do so because we are free to do it and it is a gift of ourselves that we give back to God freely," he explained.

The third step is Community and Commitment. He said everyone had the opportunity to engage with their community with "heavenly generosity" every day "simply by radiating something of the presence of God in daily life". He added that world mission connected people with others who they may never see but it was an act of trust and faith as well as being an act of helpfulness and practicality.

A large number of gifts were dedicated during the service. These included hymn books, prayerbooks, a closed loop hearing system, an electric piano, video/sound link with the parish hall, chalice and patten, a wedding candle stand, floodlighting, pew kneelers, a brass rail at the chancel steps, alter kneelers and chairs and tables for the parish hall.

## Installation of Dean of Raphoe

**A large congregation gathered in St Eunan's Cathedral in Raphoe on Saturday 3rd May for the installation of the new Dean, Canon Arthur Barrett.**

Dean Barrett was joined by his wife Brigid, his family and many friends. As well as many from the diocese of Derry and Raphoe there was a strong representation from his former parish of

Rossory. People had also travelled from as far afield as Dublin for the service.

The preacher at the service was Archbishop David Chillingworth, Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church. Following the installation there were refreshments and speeches of welcome in the modern parish hall.



***Bishop Good, Dean Barrett & Archbishop David Chillingworth***

As well as being Dean of Raphoe Dean Barrett will be Rector of the parishes of Raphoe, Raymochy and Clonleigh.

Canon Barrett was formerly Rector of Rossory Parish, near Enniskillen, in Clogher diocese. Ordained in 1997 he began his ministry with a curacy in Seagoe Parish, Portadown. He has since serve as Rector in parishes in Dublin and Co Sligo.

Prior to ordination he spent 15 years in business, being Managing Director of a company before beginning his theological training. He is married to Brigid and they have three children, Charlie, Nathan and Lucy.

St Eunan's Cathedral (also known as Raphoe Cathedral) is one of two cathedral churches of the United dioceses pf Derry and Raphoe in the Church of Ireland. It is located in Raphoe, Co Donegal and is dedicated to Saint Eunan who was abbot of Iona (679–704). The other diocesan cathedral is St Columb's Cathedral in Londonderry.

## **Drumbeg Music in May for charities is underway**

**Drumbeg Parish Church annual Music in May concerts are underway each Sunday evening in May at 7.30pm.**

Ulster Star - The concerts follow immediately after a shortened Service of Evening Prayer.

The following artists will entertain for 45 minutes each evening: Sunday May 4 - The Three Sopranos; Sunday May 11 - Zoe Jackman (Soloist) and Dominic Yu (Pianist); Sunday May 18 - Schola Cantorum (St Peter's Cathedral) and Sunday May 25 - Wallace High School Honours Choir.

Tickets are not required but there is a retiring collection each evening in aid of a charity. This year the first concert funds will go to the Drumbeg Parish & Community Habitat for Humanity Ethiopia Project, with the remaining concerts going to the work of St Vincent de Paul in supporting vulnerable prisoners in Hydebank Prison. The Rector of Drumbeg Parish is the Church of Ireland Prison Chaplain at Hydebank Wood Prison and Young Offenders Centre.

## **Flower Festival, St Nicholas Church, Carrickfergus**

**Flower Festival, St Nicholas Church, Carrickfergus with the theme 'Lord, for the Years' from 15 to 18 May 2014.**

For catering please contact Jean, tel: 07776 154 956, email: [jean.stewart@live.co.uk](mailto:jean.stewart@live.co.uk).



*All them wimmin - Find Welby!*

## **20 years of women priests in C of E celebrated**

**On Sunday there was a procession from Westminster Abbey and a celebratory service at St Paul's Cathedral to mark the 20th anniversary of the ordination of women to the priesthood in the Church of England.**

Every woman ordained in 1994 was invited to take part in the events. They included at least two women now serving with the Church of Ireland.

The Reverend Claire Herbert, lecturer in inclusive theology at St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, was one of the first women to be ordained...

"For most of us it has completely changed our lives," she said.

"It's so fantastic to be surrounded by women because we usually don't see each other all that much.

"You also realise how many of us there are."

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, told those gathered at St Paul's the CofE still had a "long way to go".

His sermon is at: [Archbishop Justin's sermon at service to mark 20 years of women priests](#)

Press reports include these:

*Church Times* - <http://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2014/2-may/news/uk/sunshine-celebration-for-20-years-of-womens-priesthood#.U2ZW4xp72d4.twitter>

*The Telegraph* [Female priests have suffered, says Justin Welby](#)

*BBC* [March though London to mark 20 years of women priests](#)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-27265039>

*Huffington Post UK* [Justin Welby Says Church Of England 'Has Long Way To Go' Over Ordaining Women](#)

*Getty Images* has this marvellous photograph: [Women Priests Gather To Celebrate Twentieth Anniversary Of Ordination Of Women Priests](#)

## **Vatican statistics: Church growth remains steady worldwide**

**The number of Catholics in the world and the number of priests, permanent deacons and religious men all increased in 2012, while the number of women in religious orders continued to decline, according to Vatican statistics.**

Catholic Herald - The number of candidates for the priesthood also showed its first global downturn in recent years.

The statistics come from a recently published Statistical Yearbook of the Church, which reported worldwide Church figures as of December 31, 2012.

By the end of 2012, the worldwide Catholic population had reached 1.228 billion, an increase of 14 million or 1.14 per cent, slightly outpacing the global population growth rate, which, as of 2013, was estimated at 1.09 per cent.

Catholics as a percentage of the global population remained essentially unchanged from the previous year at around 17.5 per cent.

The latest Vatican statistical yearbook estimated that there were about 4.8 million Catholics that were not included in its survey because they were in



countries that could not provide an accurate report to the Vatican, mainly China and North Korea.

According to the yearbook, the percentage of Catholics as part of the general population is highest in the Americas where they make up 63.2 per cent of the continent's population. Asia has the lowest proportion, with 3.2 per cent.

During the 2012 calendar year, there were 16.4 million baptisms of both infants and adults, according to the statistical yearbook.

It said the number of bishops of the world stayed essentially the same at 5,133.

The total number of priests – diocesan and religious – around the world grew from 413,418 to 414,313, with a modest increase in Africa, a larger rise in Asia, and slight decreases in the Americas, Europe and Oceania. Asia saw a 13.7 per cent growth in the number of priests between 2007 and the end of 2012.

The number of permanent deacons reported – 42,104 – was an increase of more than 1,100 over the previous year and a 17 per cent increase since 2007. The vast majority – more than 97 per cent – of the world's permanent deacons live in the Americas or in Europe.

The number of religious brothers showed 0.4 per cent growth worldwide. The number of religious brothers totalled 55,314 at the end of 2012. Slight growth was seen everywhere except the Americas.

The number of women in religious orders continued its downward trend. The total of 702, 529 temporarily and permanently professed sisters and nuns in 2012 was a 1.5 per cent decrease from the previous year and a 5.9 per cent fall since 2007.

The number of candidates for the priesthood – both diocesan seminarians and members of religious orders – who had reached the level of philosophy and theology studies showed its first downturn since 2003. The number of candidates dropped slightly to 120,051 men at the end of 2012 as compared to 120,616 at end of 2011. Increases were reported in the traditionally vocations-rich continents of Africa and Asia, although the increases were modest; Africa reported 245 more candidates than in 2011 and Asia reported 179 more men in their final years of study for ordination.



## WCC general secretary: War in South Sudan must end now

**"The senseless war in South Sudan must end now," said the World Council of Churches (WCC) general secretary Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit, following the pastoral visit of a high-level ecumenical delegation to local churches in Juba, South Sudan on 2 May.**

"It is shocking to see how leaders in both parties involved in the conflict have led their own people to such pain and suffering," Tveit said. "From the stories I was told, it is impossible to comprehend the scale of killings and atrocities taking place."

Tveit stressed the need for leaders on both sides to use the negotiations resuming this week as an opportunity to agree and implement a ceasefire immediately. This will enable aid groups, including ACT Alliance, to respond effectively to the humanitarian crisis resulting from the violence.

The ecumenical delegation, led by the WCC Central Committee moderator Dr Agnes Abuom, included: the ACT Alliance general secretary John Nduna; general secretary of the World YWCA Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda; the WCC's former general secretary and ecumenical special envoy for South Sudan and Sudan, Rev. Dr Samuel Kobia, who also represented the All Africa Conference of Churches; and the WCC programme executive for advocacy for Africa, Dr Nigussu Legesse.

During their visit the group expressed solidarity with the local churches, advocated for a cease-fire, urged progress in the ongoing peace talks



***Nyanthem Mayol stares at photos of her relatives while her baby sleeps at her side in a temporary shelter near Ajoung Thok, South Sudan, to where they fled after fighting broke out in their home town of Bentieu in late 2013.***

and encouraged support to humanitarian initiatives in the country. They first met with the South Sudan vice-president, James Wani Igga, the UN representative to South Sudan, Hilde Frafjord Johnson and four political detainees from the opposition in Juba, released recently by the South Sudanese government.

Calling on South Sudan's president Salva Kiir and rebel commander Riek Machar to engage in peace talks, the group said the leaders must find a political solution to end the conflict, as enough damage has already been done.

Tveit said that thousands of people have been killed and many have been displaced. Unless people can plant their seeds in the coming months, "they will be faced with an acute threat of famine," he warned.

### **Standing in solidarity with South Sudanese churches**

One goal of the pastoral visit was to encourage the churches in Sudan to keep pressing for an end to the violence. The delegation also brought the message that there are churches around the world who stand in solidarity with them. "The people and the churches in South Sudan should know they are not left alone as they cry for peace and justice," Tveit said. "The world cannot leave South Sudan alone."

"As we have supported South Sudanese in their struggles for independence, we must support them in this time of crisis. The international community must address the risks of famine and hunger," Tveit added.

Tveit expressed his appreciation for humanitarian efforts by the United Nations and the ACT Alliance in South Sudan, saying that he hopes to see visible results from an upcoming meeting in May in Oslo aimed at providing an increase in humanitarian aid to the country.

Speaking about the South Sudanese churches, the delegation recognized that the churches there have "rich spiritual resources to help find a way towards peace".

"Churches in South Sudan have a significant role in national dialogue affirming unity and a sense of nation-building by strengthening a process of reconciliation," Tveit said. "In this process of reconciliation, youth and women must be empowered."

"We will pray and work with the churches in South Sudan, while they continue addressing these struggles in their pilgrimage for justice and peace," Tveit added.

Tveit also urged that justice be restored after peace is established. He said that there should be a justice mechanism both at the national and international levels which should investigate atrocities in South Sudan and pave the way for reconciliation.

The delegates also met with South Sudanese Bishop Michael Taban Toro, Rev. Mark Akec Cien, and representatives of the ACT Alliance, Finnish Church Aid, Caritas Internationalis and Norwegian Church Aid in Juba.

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[www.churchnewsireland.org](http://www.churchnewsireland.org)