

Dublin 2013 Walk of Light

Walk of Light – An Inter–Church Journey takes place this year on Sunday November 24 starting at 4.00 pm. It is sponsored by the Dublin Council of Churches. All are welcome to join this ecumenical journey.

As the churches prepare for a “new year” with the coming of Advent, the journey together is a simple sign of belonging

CNI
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IRELAND

2nd November 2013

ITINERARY

4.00pm: Welcome and Opening Prayer in



The spires of St Fin Barre's

together as Christians. They set out together to declare publicly, as Christmas approaches, that Christ is the light that has come into the world.

The motto for this year's journey is: Go in Peace to Love and Serve.

The theme will be explored as participants visit the three host churches along the way.

They will stay for a short act of worship in the style of the congregation visited and then walk to the next church.

St Bartholomew's Church Clyde Road,
4.30pm: Walk to St Mary's, Roman Catholic Church, Haddington Road (approx. arrival time: 5.00pm)
5.30pm: Walk to St Finian's Lutheran Church, Adelaide Road, (approx. arrival time: 6.00pm) Concluding prayer at St Finian's Followed by light refreshments at 6.30pm.

See www.walkoflight.org for more details.
Dublin Council of Churches comprises

representatives from the Antiochian Orthodox Church, Church of Ireland, Greek Orthodox Church, Indian Orthodox Church, Lutheran Church, Methodist Church, Presbyterian Church, Religious Society of Friends, Roman Catholic Church, Romanian Orthodox Church and Salvation Army.

Cookstown focus for Archive of the Month

The RCB Library's Archive of the Month returns to County Tyrone this month to the diocese of Armagh and to the parish of Derryloran, County Tyrone, which is centred on the town of Cookstown.

This highlights the excellent work of transcribing and indexing parish registers of baptism, marriage and burial conducted by Mark Williams for the Anglican Record Project.

For this parish no less than three combined registers and two baptismal registers have been transcribed to give a complete 100-year run of baptisms from 1796 (when the earliest register commences) to 1896 (when the second register of baptisms ends) together with lists of confirmations in 1843, 1846, 1849, 1852 and 1856, which are recorded in the first of the combined registers. The transcripts are enhanced by a comprehensive alphabetical index of names. The original volumes from which the information was transcribed remain in local custody, and microfilm copies are also available at the

churchnewsireland @gmail.com

Public Records Office of Northern Ireland.

The extensive run of parish baptismal registers coincides with the growth of the town of Cookstown, and to accommodate the growing numbers of parishioners a new parish church was built in 1822 of hewn freestone from a design by the famous London architect, John Nash. Previously Nash had set about redesigning and rebuilding Killymoon Castle for its owner William Stewart, and was subsequently commissioned to design the new parish church at the heart of the town. It is this church which continues to provide a striking ornament to the urban landscape today.

To view the transcripts and index to the baptismal and confirmation entries 1796–1896, see www.ireland.anglican.org/library/archive

Finnish youth group visits Cork

Cork diocese recently welcomed a Finnish youth group on a visit to Cork.

Eighteen young people, led by Pastor Tapio Hietalahti and Tiina Jokiperä, deacon and professional youth worker, are members of the Evangelical Lutheran



Church of Finland, from Keski-Pori parish in the Arch-diocese of Turku.

Their main purpose was to experience the Porvoo communion in real life and to explore ecumenism in an Irish context. To this end they enjoyed a packed programme of trips and events. These began with a trip to Gougane Barra and Ballyvourney exploring links to St. Fin Barre, and St. Gobnait. Arranged by the Revd. John Ardis, and kindly provided by the UCC Chaplaincy, the leader on the day was the Chaplaincy Methodist intern, Mr. Dudley Martin.

On Sunday, 20th October, Pastor Tapio assisted at the Choral Eucharist in St. Fin Barre's. In the afternoon the group met the Bishop, Dr Paul Colton, before enjoying the service of re-dedication of the Cathedral organ. On Wednesday 23rd October they enjoyed meeting the Revd. Daniel Nuzum in his capacity as Diocesan Ecumenical Officer. He spoke to them and led a discussion about ecumenism in Ireland. Of particular interest to them during their stay was the observance of the daily offices in St. Fin Barre's Cathedral, led by the Very Revd. Nigel Dunne, Dean of Cork. Subsequent days saw them enjoy tours of St. Fin Barre's Cathedral and St. Anne's, Shandon where they were warmly welcomed by the Revd. Brian O'Rourke; as well as visits to the holy sites of the Rock of Cashel and Holy Cross Abbey, Tipperary, and the Honan Chapel, UCC. Many of those who had the pleasure of meeting them were greeted and thanked with songs of Finnish praise, and already many of them are planning a return trip to our shores.

General Synod Ireland–wide Census

A General Synod Ireland–wide Census of the Church of Ireland will take place during November 2013.

Census cards will be distributed in parishes on three Sundays in the month – the 3rd, 17 and 24th. The cards are colour coded for each date.

Reminding clergy in Connor, Down and Dromore to participate in the census, Diocesan Secretary June Butler said: “The statistical data returned now, and triennially hereafter, will inform planning by the Representative Church Body for the future. Uniform statistical data across all the dioceses in Ireland is currently just not available and this is the beginning of the process to rectify that situation.”

Mrs Butler has written to all incumbents and clergy in charge giving them guidance on how to both organise the collection of data and to interpret the questions. Census results are to be collated on a summary sheet which each parish has been provided with, and these should be returned to Diocesan Office on later than Friday November 29.

‘Locked-in mentality’ of Church of Ireland members criticised

The mindset of Church of Ireland members in the Republic has been shaped by a “structural and cultural lock-in”, Philip McKinley, Dublin-based project officer of the church’s anti-sectarianism Hard Gospel Project, has said.

This was illustrated by “the still disproportionately low levels of engagement by southern Protestants in politics, the Garda and [Irish Army](#),” he said.

The Irish Times report continues - The Hard Gospel Project, which existed between 2006 and 2009, was set up to challenge sectarianism within the Church of [Ireland](#) following the Drumcree crisis.

Speaking in the context of recent remarks on sectarianism by [Archbishop of Dublin Michael Jackson](#), Mr McKinley said: “Any cursory glance at a secondary school pupil’s Irish history book will show that the last 500 years of national history have been plagued by sectarian religious division throughout the island.” As a result, “so much of Irish religious identity has been formed in opposition to the ‘other’,” he said. This was “even reflected today by some who say that they understand Protestant ‘ethos’ in education as simply meaning that the school is not Roman Catholic”.

Today also there were “Church of Ireland nursing homes, schools and graveyards”. It was also common “to hear someone in the Church of Ireland describe another person as ‘one of our own’, even if that person hasn’t been to church in 30 years”.

An area in which this mindset has been evident recently was in the response of the Church of Ireland to immigration, he said. Over the past 10 to 15 years large numbers of migrants who had come from religious backgrounds compatible with Anglicanism “have not found a home within the Church of Ireland”, he said.

He recalled that in the book *Migrant Activism and Integration From Below in Ireland*, sociologist Dr [Alessia Passarelli](#) wrote of “a decline of enthusiasm in the Church of Ireland in relation to welcoming the strangers and building an integrated church, resulting in many migrants opting for warmer and safer migrant-led churches where they can worship in more familiar settings”.

The growth of evangelical, charismatic and pentecostal churches suggested

“significant numbers of migrants from Anglican backgrounds, have joined other churches since coming to Ireland,” he said. “For example, since 1996, the Redeemed [Christian Church](#) has founded 116 new churches in Ireland.”

For the most part “the policy in local



Saul

parishes has been either one of apathy or assimilation”, whereby migrants can participate only if they adapt. This again is a reflection of the historical legacy of “structural and cultural lock-in”, he said.

Changing Attitude responds to Irish government same-sex marriage referendum

THE Government looks set to have another referendum – this time on same-sex marriage.

Irish Herald - Tanaiste Eamon Gilmore made a pledge that there would be a referendum to provide for civil marriage for lesbian and gay couples at a party meeting over the weekend, according to campaigners.

Kieran Rose, the chairman of the Gay and Lesbian Equality Network (GLEN), said: "We strongly welcome the commitment by the Tanaiste to hold a referendum in the lifetime of this Government.

"We believe the people of Ireland will continue their warm acceptance of lesbian and gay couples and families and that a 'yes' vote can be carried in a referendum that would provide access to civil marriage."

The Irish Constitutional Convention recently voted overwhelmingly to support access to civil marriage for lesbian and gay couples, thus providing full constitutional protection for lesbian and gay people and families, Mr Rose said.

The Convention has issued its report to the Government who are due to come back to the Dail with their response in November, he said.

"The overwhelming vote at the Constitutional Convention, the widespread celebration of civil partnerships all across the country and the growing public and political support for marriage mean that Ireland is now ready to move to the next step of providing access to civil marriage and full constitutional protection for lesbian and gay people and families," he said.

Mr Gilmore attended a Labour Youth Conference in Limerick at the weekend.

The development was also welcomed by a Church of Ireland group, Changing Attitude Ireland. Chair Dr Richard O'Leary said: "We hope that the churches will not campaign against the extension of civil marriage to Ireland's gay and lesbian minority, while we defend their right not to participate in same-sex marriage ceremonies."

Irish Mormon Church records surplus after €530k donations

The Irish Mormon Church swung out of the red last year after its members and parent church stumped up an additional €530,000 to support it.

New figures show that the Irish Association of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints last year recorded a surplus of €140,307 following a loss of €570,356 in 2011 — a positive swing of €710,663.

Irish Times - The church relies on members to keep it afloat financially and Mormon Church rules lay down that members should donate 10% of their income to the church through a tithe.

New accounts for the Irish branch of the Church show that tithing income last year totalled €803,073 — a 17% increase on the €687,112 generated through tithes in 2011.

The church was last year also supported up by a special donation of €414,018 by its parent church, the Corporation of the Presiding Bishop of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

In 2011, the Irish branch had provided its parent with a donation of €372,648.

According to the directors' report attached to the accounts, "church membership grows at a steady rate" and during last year, membership increased by 98 in Ireland, going from 2,915 to 3,013. Globally, the church's numbers total around 14 million, with its base in the US.

The tithe is voluntary and is made once a week, and last year the Irish church's income from all sources almost doubled on 2011's income, increasing from €782,140 to €1.35m.

The church's spend last year decreased by 10% from €1.35m to €1.21m.

Members are also not allowed to drink or smoke, and the best known Mormon is defeated US Republican presidential candidate, Mitt Romney.

The Irish church remains in robust financial health, with its reserves increasing from €7.44m to €7.58m last year. The church's cash last year increased almost six-fold, increasing from €84,056 to €494,090. The profit last year takes account of non-cash depreciation costs of €245,979.

The church has no paid ministry and local members fill leadership positions so that ecclesiastical functions in the various congregations are carried out by members on a voluntary basis.

Seven of the church's 13 properties are owned with a further six leased by the company — at year end, the church was divided into the Dublin Stake that has eight wards and the Limerick District that has five branches.

Events

Monkstown Lecture Series - On Tuesday November 5 in Knox Hall, Monkstown, at 7.30pm John Lonergan, former Governor of Mountjoy Prison, will give the second lecture in the Monkstown Lecture Series entitled 'The Importance of Community'. All welcome. Free admission. Retiring collection to defray expenses.

Lunchtime music at St Mary's Limerick - Wednesday 6th November
Michael Dooley (bassoon), Peter Barley (piano) - music by Mozart, Gliere, Cullivan, Elgar and Rossini. Everyone is welcome, admission is free, but there is a retiring collection in aid of the Companions of St. Mary's Cathedral Music. The concerts start at 1:15 p.m. and end at 2:00 p.m. so that those who need to can get back to work.

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Tribute

A tribute to Canon Tom McGonigle who died recently was carried by The Portadown Times which said he was a man who served all the town at the height of the troubles. See -

<http://www.portadowntimes.co.uk/news/your-community/clergyman-who-served-town-at-the-height-of-the-troubles-1-5621812>

Belfast Methodist Central Mission archive

The Belfast Central Mission (BCM) held a substantial collection of some 10,000 historical items, including both documentary and photographic materials dating from the late 1880's to around 1930.

The archive has been recognised by the Public Records Office for Northern Ireland as an important source for those interested in both the religious and social life of Belfast during the past 125 years.

Of particular significance is the collection of photographs taken by A.R Hogg, one of the two great photographers of Belfast in the early years of this century. He was commissioned by BCM to record its activities (largely for use in promotional and fundraising material.)

The collection is increasingly being accessed for research purposes and photographs from it have appeared in a number of recent books and television documentaries. Ultimately it is hoped that it will be possible to access it via the internet.

The history of BCM during its first 100 years (1889-1989) has already been published. "At Points of Need", was written by Dr R.D.E Gallagher, a former Superintendent of the Mission and was published by Blackstaff Press (1989). Next year BCM will produce an updated history of the Mission in which it is planned to include about 250 items / photographs from the archive.

To access the archives please contact: Wesley Weir
Email: irishmethodistgenealogy@hotmail.co.uk

GB News

Bolton priest raises concerns about victims of Peshawar attack

A priest of the Church of England who lost more than 25 members of his extended family in the terrorist attack on All Saints', Peshawar, last month, has raised the alarm about the plight of those injured in the blast.

Madeleine Davies in The Church Times writes - The Team Vicar of West Bolton, the Revd Fayaz Adman, was born in Peshawar, and was baptised, confirmed, and ordained at All Saints'. He visited the city in the days after what is believed to be one of the worst ever attacks on Pakistani Christians. After visiting graveyards, he estimated that at least 150 died in the attack, and that people were still dying "because of those fragments in their bodies".

He was alarmed by the situation of the many people still in need of hospital treatment. "It is sad to share with you that the local private hospitals are charging about 30,000 to 40,000 rupees [£300 to £400] a month," he said. "It is a fortune, there. So, after our discussion with the community members in Peshawar, we are encouraging families to go to the Taxila Mission Hospital, 60 miles away.

"The hospital is running in very good condition, and we are happy to take those families. We need funds. We are looking for those people to walk back and go into All Saints' Church and worship the Lord again."

Taxila Christian Hospital was established in 1922, founded by Dr John Gregory Martin of the United Presbyterian Mission. In 2002, its chapel was targeted by terrorists in an attack in which four nurses were killed.

Mr Adman has established Project Ummed - which means "hope" - to raise these funds. Money is also needed to restore the graves of those who died in the attack, he said. Mr Adman's wife, Ghazala, a registered nurse, plans to travel out to Taxila to oversee the project.

A fund-raising event was held last Friday at St Peter's, Halliwell, and was supported by the writer Adrian Plass.

All Saints' was reopened days after the attack took place, but Mr Adman said that the congregation was "still in trauma". He has fond memories of growing up there: "It is the only Anglican church in the city; so about 20 different colonies around this city wall come to worship here, and every Sunday more than 600 people come to worship together."

The attack had come as a shock, Mr Adman said, because relations between Christians and Muslims in Peshawar had been good. Although there had been some discrimination, most blasphemy cases had been registered in the Punjab and other provinces. "Christians and Muslims have been living together for ages."

In the wake of the attack, however, he echoed calls by the British Pakistani Christian Association for asylum to be given to Pakistani Christians.

Since his return from Peshawar, Mr Adman has met the Archbishop of Canterbury, who, he said, was supportive of his project. On Tuesday, Lambeth Palace confirmed that Archbishop Welby plans to visit Pakistan next year.

Donations to Project Ummed can be made by cheque, payable to "Manchester DBF", Church House, 90 Deansgate, Manchester M3 2GH.

"Peshawar" should be written on the back of the cheque.

C of E to investigate reasons for surge in food banks

[The Independent by Nigel Morris] The Church of England is investigating the reasons for the dramatic spread of food banks, and will examine the impact of benefits cuts on their use.

The move emerged as David Cameron was questioned in the Commons over the soaring numbers of families requesting emergency help from the banks.

The Independent reported this week that food bank use had more than tripled over the last year. Shrinking pay packets, as well as the benefits squeeze and the rising cost of basic groceries, have been cited as reasons for the increase.

About 80 per cent of churches are involved in food banks, either running them, or providing volunteers or donating food.

Church of Scotland announces Moderator Designate

The Reverend Dr Angus Morrison has been announced as the next Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Dr Morrison is current minister of Orwell and Portmoak Church in the Presbytery of Perth, and will take up the office at the

next General Assembly of the Church of Scotland when it takes place in May 2014.

He was born in Glencoe in 1953 and educated at the University of Glasgow and the University of Edinburgh, doing his PhD at New College before being ordained in the Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland in 1979.

He transferred to the Church of Scotland after ministries in Oban and Edinburgh, becoming the minister of St Columba's Old Parish Church in Stornoway and is now Minister at Orwell and Portmoak Parish Church.

During his time in the Church of Scotland he has served as a:

- Member of the Church and Nation Committee, latterly on the Europe Group
- Member and then Vice Convener of Panel and Doctrine
- Moderator of the Presbytery of Lewis
- Convener of the Mission and Discipleship Council
- Member of the Special Commission on Same-sex Relationships and the Ministry
- Chaplain in 2005 and 2006 to the Lord Mackay of Clashfern when he served as Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly
- Chaplain to the Queen

The most favourite hymns

In 2013 Songs of Praise conducted a nationwide survey. Tens of thousands of people voted for their favourite, from a list of one hundred hymns and these are the top 10:

1. How Great Thou Art
2. In Christ Alone
3. Be Still, For The Presence Of The Lord
4. Dear Lord And Father Of Mankind

5. Here I Am, Lord (I,
The Lord Of Sea And
Sky)

6. And Can It Be

7. Abide With Me

8. Guide Me, O Thou
Great Redeemer

9. Make Me A
Channel Of Your
Peace

10. The Day Thou
Gavest, Lord, Is Ended

The hymns featured in a special edition of the Songs of Praise Big Sing that was broadcast on Sunday 27 October 2013.

The results of the nationwide vote were sung by five thousand people at the Royal Albert Hall with guest stars Russell Watson, Michael Ball, Andrea Begley, Friar Alessandro and the newly-crowned Songs of Praise Gospel Choir of the Year.

Exert your influence UK Pakistanis told

**[Church Times by Madeleine Davies]
The Pakistani diaspora in the UK -
estimated to number more than one
million - was urged on Wednesday to
stand up for minorities in Pakistan, at
the launch of the Connecting
Communities project at Westminster
Abbey.**

In the wake of a series of acts of terrorism in Peshawar, including the suicide bombing of All Saints' Church, the organisers of the charity are urging people in the UK to use their influence to promote peace and reconciliation in Pakistan.



"Approximately thirty to seventy per cent of the diaspora community still have links where they call once a week to Pakistan," said Fiyaz Mughal, founder and director of Faith Matters, the umbrella organisation behind Connecting Communities, on Friday. "There is a strong link through telephony, money transfers, and going back to the country to take a summer break virtually every year. . . The Pakistani Government and people still look up, rightly or wrongly, to Britain as a nation that they are linked with umbilically. The link is still there.

Church facing divide over blessings for same-sex couples

The Church of England is facing a split over proposals to offer a formal blessing for gay couples.

Daily Telegraph reports - Dr Michael Nazir-Ali, the former bishop of Rochester, warned on Tuesday (*of this week*) that a move to celebrate same-sex relationships in church would be a "red line" for traditionalist parishes.

Clergy and lay members of the Church opposed to any relaxation of the rules

could reject the authority of any bishops who supported the move, he warned.

His intervention came amid mounting expectation that an official commission examining the Church's teaching on sexuality will recommend the introduction of a formal service for gay couples.

Dr Nazir-Ali said: "If there is an attempt to provide for blessing of same-sex unions that will be a red line for many people.

"Indeed it may be a red line for some bishops, dare I say."

Speaking after attending a gathering of more than 1,300 traditionalist Anglicans in Kenya earlier this month, Dr Nazir-Ali said the introduction of formal blessings for gay couples would amount to the Church's leadership failing people who want to "maintain orthodoxy in the faith".

Following this month's summit, organised by the influential Global Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans (FCA), a statement backed by 331 bishops urged parishes who believed the Church was undermining "biblical faithfulness" to consider withdrawing their funding.

It warned that "homosexual practice" was being promoted as "holy" despite being against traditional Church teaching. "We want to make clear that any civil partnership of a sexual nature does not receive the blessing of God," the statement added.

The intervention by the traditionalist leaders came as a commission examining the Church's approach to sexuality is due to report to the Church's house of bishops within weeks.

The review, chaired by Sir Joseph Pilling, a former mandarin, and including four bishops, has taken place amid growing tension over the Church's approach to gay worshippers and clergy.

The Church's leadership, including the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev Justin Welby, objected to the Government's introduction of same-sex marriage, on the basis that the move conflicted with traditional teaching. In response, campaigners warned that bishops would have to respond "more sensitively" to gay couples who could not get married in church.

Senior bishops have since questioned whether it was still tenable for the Church to deny a formal blessing to gay couples.

On Tuesday night the Rev Colin Coward, the director of Changing Attitude, a campaign group which represents more than 1,000 Anglicans, said it was apparent that bishops supported a change because many "tacitly" allowed informal blessings of gay couples to take place in their dioceses.

Another priest, the Rev Peter Ould, claimed on his blog that the final draft of the report was ready and "will propose that the Church of England introduce some form of liturgy that will bless same-sex relationships."

However, one senior figure in the Church said there would be opposition to new liturgy for same-sex couples.

Such a move would amount to a "major shift" in Church teaching, he said.

He voiced doubts that if the Pilling Commission does recommend a new service that the House of Bishops would adopt it, let alone the General Synod, the Church's parliament.

All of the five most senior clerics in the Church of England – the Archbishops of Canterbury and York and bishops of London, Durham and Winchester are from traditionalist wings of the church.

However, Archbishop Welby has spoken repeatedly about the need for the Church to face up to a "revolution" in attitudes to sexuality.

Last year the Church's leadership [lifted a blanket ban on anyone in a civil partnership becoming a bishop](#).

Colin Hart, head of the Christian Institute, a traditionalist group, said: "If the Church blesses same sex unions it will have abandoned core Christian teaching about marriage and human sexuality."

A Church of England spokesman said: "The final draft of the Pilling report has not yet been completed or signed off. It will be going to the House of Bishops in December."

Also on CNI web today at -

www.churchnewsireland.org

FEATURE - GAFCON

Two assessments -

**- It started as a split over gay clergy.
But now the Anglican Communion is dead**

- GAFCON to be 'an Anglican province' in all but name

Prayer for Today

Almighty God, look with loving mercy on your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given over to the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever and ever. Amen.