



The essential daily brief on the Irish churches

Bethany Home to be investigated by the Government's Commission into mother-and-baby homes

Bethany Home Children

Interments in Mount Jerome Cemetery Harold's Cross Dublin

SB = stillborn, NC = No cause indicated, Heart F = Heart Failure, B = burial date
 Children usually buried day following death, except where otherwise stated in remarks
 Compiled by Niall Meehan, 29 Jun – 6 July 2010, checked by Mount Jerome, November 1913

Name	Died – Date	Age	Cause	Cemetery Plot	Attestant Sig. Remarks
Knight, Stillborn male of Sarah	16 Sep 22	SB	SB	AB 253	Wm E Farick, c/o I. C. Nichols, Lombard Ct, Dublin. B 18
Payne, Rita Evelyn	22 Dec 22	2 mts	Marasmus	A6 254	Lydia M Griffin (Matron), Bethany Home, 23 Blackhall pl. Dublin
1922 12 month total:	2				
Knott, Frederick	15 Jul 23	6 mts	Marasmus	A778 254	Lydia M Griffin, Matron, etc
Nelson, Stillborn female of Maria (DG. Mann)	35 Jul 23	SB	SB	A [missing]	B same day
McCutcheon, Sylvia	39 Jul 23	5 mts	Heart F	B 10A79 254	Lydia M Griffin, Matron, etc. B 1
Mason, William	6 Nov 23	10 mts	Cardiac F	A1 256	Lydia M Griffin, Matron, etc.
Digan, Henry	9 Nov 23	3 mts	Convulsions, Marasmus	A10 256	Mrs Ely L Digan, Bethany Home, Blackhall Place, Mother).
Holt, Violet	11 Nov 23	5 wks	Convulsions	A10 256	B 14
1923 12 month total:	6				
Rountree, Norah,	21 Jan 24	14 mts	Heart F	A3 257	Grant in Pep 16640. Miss Mary Jane Rountree, Bailibere, Co Cavan, Mother. B 23
Birney, Patricia	12 Aug 24	4½ mts	Convulsions	A1 260	Charlotte El(?), Bethany Home, etc, friend.
McWilliams, George	14 Aug 24	4 mts	NC	A1 260	George McWilliams, Durnore, Durnore, Mother.
Owens, Ronald	1 Sep 24	4 mts	Delicacy	A15 260	Charlotte E Luther, Bethany Home, assistant. B 3

“Cold, uncaring, uncivilised”: The mother-and-child home where 222 babies died

The Journal.ie - Babies died at the Bethany Home in Dublin's Rathgar [for a raft of reasons](#). Some, like Victory (1924) and Addison (1925), were stillborn.

Others, like Patricia Bass and Eleanor Allen, who died within a day of each other in February 1925, aged four months and five weeks respectively, died of ‘general debility’.

Evelyn Dixon was six weeks old when she died on 3 October 1926. The cause of death was marked as 'syphilis'.

Charles Heffernon was 18 months old when he died of German measles on 17 May 1924 at the home. In 1935, both Margaret McKnight (three months) and Helen Parker (two-and-a-half months) died of 'stomach trouble' on the same day: 15 November.

June Spence lived for just six weeks before she died of marasmus (malnutrition) in the Bethany Home.

Buried in unmarked graves

The list goes on. And on, and on. 222 names of children who died far too young at a home that was for Protestant mothers who had found themselves, in the parlance of the day, 'in trouble'.

Their children were sent for adoption to Northern Ireland, England, and the United States. Some of the women at the home weren't pregnant, but had been convicted of crimes or were sex workers.

The full list of the deaths was collated by Niall Meehan, head of the Journalism and Media Faculty at Griffith College, Dublin, who discovered them during his research into the home.

The children, who died between 1922 and 1949, were all buried in unmarked graves in Mount Jerome cemetery in Dublin's Harold's Cross area. In April of this year, on a grey and drizzly day, a memorial to these babies was unveiled in the cemetery.

Present were some of the children who were born at Bethany Home, and lived.

They survived, but their lives were not all full of health and happiness. Derek Leinster is one of the survivors, and has spent almost all of his time over the past number of years trying to get recognition for what he and his fellow Bethany children went through.

- **I'm a Bethany Home survivor** and, [at 74 years old, I'm finally happy](#)

What the survivors want

Leinster, Niall and the Bethany Survivors Campaign members wanted a memorial to the lost children not just to mark their deaths, but to show they had a family, a family who may not know they existed.

A family that might uncover their existence now.

The memorial was [paid for by the Government](#), after years of campaigning. It was part of an agreement by the government to fund a memorial and look into making records related to the home available to survivors.

What the Government did not agree to, and which the survivors are still looking for, is redress: financial compensation for what they went through at the home.

They were told by Alan Shatter, in his former position as Justice Minister, that “Government has decided that it is not appropriate that a scheme be put in place for Bethany Home”.

This caused grave disappointed to the survivors, but they continue to campaign for redress. “The fight isn’t over,” Leinster said last July, when the announcement was made.

Bethany Home was not included in the 2002 Residential Institutions Redress scheme as the women were said to be there voluntarily, and it was also not part of the recent Magdalene redress scheme.

It was one of almost 20 homes and institutions that were not deemed eligible for inclusion, such as the Bessborough home in Cork.

Earlier this week, the Children’s Minister Charlie Flanagan said that Bethany Home will be included in the Government’s Commission of Investigation into mother-and-baby homes in Ireland. More at -

http://www.thejournal.ie/bethany-homes-child-deaths-unmarked-graves-1513605-Jun2014/?utm_source=email

Methodist Conference – Tough Hands and a Happy Song

Friday was another busy day at Conference, starting with worship and another stimulating Bible Study led by Archbishop Richard Clarke, this time on the subject of ‘Wet Feet’, but not the wet feet of the Jordan, but the wet feet that Peter experienced when he first had his feet washed by Jesus and then later when he jumped into the Sea of Galilee to meet the risen Christ.

Methodist Newsletter - Conversation on the Work of God followed the pattern of the previous day with a mixture of video clips and verbal comments, this time by roving mike. Roman Catholic Archbishop of Dublin, Diarmuid Martin addressed the Conference on the subject of getting young people to read and understand the Bible.

Much of the middle part of the day was taken up with business – the new Board of Ministry, Edgehill

College, Local Preachers etc. Rev Brian Anderson from the Lisburn and Dromore Circuit was elected President Designate.



The Rev Dr Heather Morris (Home Mission Secretary), the Rev Des Bain (Home Mission Secretary 1998-2014) and President, the Rev Peter Murray

In the afternoon we had a further series of discussions across circuits on our reasons for existence as a church, our strengths and our fears for what lay ahead. In a rather beautiful gesture, new President Peter Murray asked us to cup our hands to hold our fears and then offer them to Jesus to deal with.

The theme was continued in the evening by our visiting speaker, John Middendorf, who asked us if we valued survival more than being faithful to our calling. If the former, he thought we would die anyway. If the latter, that might also happen, but that is nevertheless what we should do and in the end there was more chance of survival. After all we are in good company – Christ on the cross chose to be faithful to his Father, rather than trying to survive. John left us with the question, 'Would you rather be a chapter in God's book, or God be a chapter in yours?'

As in the previous day there was a time of prayer ministry at the end of the evening.

Conference was challenged on Saturday morning by various people and in various ways to develop the tough hands of the crucified Christ – ready to tear down the idols of our age – and the beautiful feet of those who bring the good news of Christ to others in new and original ways.

Dr Richard Clarke suggested that some of the idols of our age might include, in addition to house extensions (stone) and decking (wood), the idols of

faithlessness, materialism, the commodification of human life, relativism and even, he dared to suggest, our very Methodist identity. Kathryn Harte shared the story of how her hands have been hardened by developing new ways of fellowship and relationships. This has led to the formation of a 'missional community' now called 'the Kitchen' in Newcastle, and the Harte family and others meet regularly for all-age worship and fellowship there with those with whom they have built close ties of loving, caring friendship.

President Designate the Rev Brian Anderson then shared his principles of missional discipleship with the members of Conference and demonstrated how we must be prepared to step into sub-cultures outside our own in order to stand beside people where they are.

In the afternoon we heard from the Rev Des Bain about how the Methodist Church needs to change from thinking in terms of 'reaching out' from church buildings, with the attendant image of 'grabbing people and bringing them in', to 'stepping out' of our church buildings and taking our place alongside God who is already at work; we are to partner him in mission in the world.

After a very animated buzz group session where members discussed how and among whom they could reflect the goodness and beauty of God in their own communities, President the Rev Peter Murray warned us that we must be prepared to die to ourselves in order for the outworking of the God's story to be achieved. After a break for coffee and further animated 'buzzing', Conference reconvened for the less inspiring but nonetheless necessary business of receiving committee reports, electing committee members etc.

The Rev Dr Richard Clutterbuck had earlier reminded us that we needed both structure and movement in the Church. While the business took care of the structure, in the closing session of the day Secretary of Conference the Rev Donald Ker introduced movement to the proceedings by means of the Methodist Conference 'happy song' video which can now be viewed on the website. Great stuff!

St Gobhan's Seagoe celebrates 200 years

An exhibition which celebrates the bicentenary of the laying of the foundation stone of St Gobhan's and the two hundred year old history of the church, is taking place in Seagoe Parish Centre until Sunday 22 June.

Featured in the 'Seagoe 200' exhibition will be an old photograph with special connections to the parish.

The photograph of Baron Frederick Ludwig and Baroness Hester von Stieglitz (nee Blacker) was taken outside



Rebecca Richardson, People's Church Warden; Rev Canon Raj Rajkumar; Alan McDonald; John McNally, Proprietor of Sally McNally's; Luke Mathers, Rector's Church Warden with the presentation of a photograph Baron Frederick Ludwig and Baroness Hester von Stieglitz (nee Blacker) outside Carrickblacker House.

Carrickblacker House c 1859. Miss Hester Blacker was the daughter of Captain George Blacker and granddaughter of the Revd Stewart Blacker who was the Rector of Seagoe Parish 1810 to 1826.

The Baroness was the driving force behind the building of the new Chancel, roof and wing. She also donated £1400 towards the total cost of the work. The church archives also indicate that she purchased the organ and furniture. The Baroness laid the foundation stone on 11 April 1890. The Seagoe church minutes also record that a container was buried beside the foundation stone, which contained a silver trowel used by the Baroness, a copy of the Portadown News and other items. The Baron died in 1866 and the Baroness in 1899.

Mr Alan McDonald noticed the photograph when he was dining recently in Sally McNally's and approached Mr John McNally who immediately offered to donate the photograph to St Gobhan's. He presented the photograph to the Revd Canon Raj Rajkumar on 9 June.

The Seagoe 200 Exhibition will be open to the public daily from 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm and 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm.



Making connections in the Braniel Community

Braniel is a mission area that has been created within the parish of Orangefield. Braniel Community Church is lead by Susan McFarland and meets in St Brigid's Hall on the Lower Braniel Road.

“We’ve been up and running for 5 months now and as we try to establish a new Sunday congregation we’ve been encouraged by those that have come along from the local area, many of whom have no connection with church and are searching.

During this time we have also been working hard to try and engage with the local community. We’ve been in the schools each week with Scripture Union, working with other churches in the area, meeting with community groups and running various fun day events. Throughout the week we have started a Cafe



drop-in, two fitness classes, a youth club and we have plans to start a craft group in the morning.

The youth club has been a huge success. When we first started we had only 2 young people showing up and now we having 23 teenagers coming regularly.

The joy about this new church plant is that we can trial and test things, see what works and what doesn't work. The Cafe drop-in we feel has run its course for this season. This might be something we look at again in the future, but for now we feel it isn't really engaging with the community. However, it has been so worth running over these months, as we began to connect with a lady in the community who would drop in for coffee. Because of this she started to come to Cafe Church and recently she made a commitment to God. This is what it's about!"

PCI Stephen Anderson Commissioned for Service in Spain

Yesterday Sunday (15th June), Stephen Anderson was commissioned by South Belfast Presbytery for mission service in Spain.

Steve has been invited by the Spanish Evangelical Church to serve the congregation of [Torre del Mar Evangelical Church \(TDMEC\)](#), located in Torre del Mar on the southern coast of Spain near [Málaga](#).



He will be taking up the role of Community Development and Outreach Worker with the congregation and is due to depart for Spain in early July.

Steve was accepted as a Candidate for mission service by PCI's Board of Mission Overseas in March 2014.

Sunday's Commissioning Service was held in [Fitzroy Presbyterian Church, Belfast](#) - Steve's home congregation.

TDMEC is a special expression of churches working together. It was established some 25 years ago at the initiative of the Spanish Evangelical Church who invited the Presbyterian Church in Ireland to assist in developing

a place for Sunday worship for English-speaking people living in and around Málaga on the [Costa del Sol](#) in Southern Spain.

Jacki Hartsmith-Foy, who served as leader and then minister of TDMEC from 2002, retired at the end of December 2013. [Colin and Marjorie Dickson](#) have been serving in the congregation since early February to help the congregation transition to new leadership. They are due to return to Ireland in late July.

Relationship, reconciliation and renewal focus to Search magazine

So strong is the concern around the Church today with matters of reconciliation – between groups within the Church, between individuals, or between Churches – that every article contributed for the summer issue of SEARCH, a C of I magazine, has something to say on the matter.

David Hewlett, who in his five years teaching in Braemor Park must have taught nearly half our clergy to think theologically, kicks off this edition with the proposition that we learn most and change most transformatively when we listen to those who are most different from us. **William Olhausen** follows up by challenging us to think and speak in a logical and disciplined manner – even in the sexuality debate!

Stanley Gamble follows by asking us, as we approach July 12th perhaps with some anxiety, to take a new look at the Orange Order, and what it can do and has done to promote peace in Northern Ireland. And **David Godfrey**, a longstanding member of the Corrymeela Community, reflects on what Corrymeela has taught us about the incarnational aspect of our ‘face to face’ relationships with one another, as channels for Christ’s compassion and healing.

Healing is the theme of **Iva Beranek’s** article about another community that crosses divides in Northern Ireland – Restoration Ministries, founded by Ruth Patterson in 1988 and still offering a ministry of spiritual listening and healing to individuals and groups alike. It has taught her lessons that all our parishes could learn from in terms of allowing time to go deeper into past trauma so that painful scars can be erased in prayer. From another angle, **Ian W Ellis** looks at the potential for community reconciliation through shared education systems in Northern Ireland.

Lastly we come to healing of rifts between Churches, a topic of the moment now that mutual recognition of ministry has been agreed with the Methodist Church in Ireland. But this is nothing new! We have been in communion with the Lutheran Churches of the Nordic area for around two decades now, but few of us are aware of the depth of mutual recognition and cooperation between us. **Helene Steed**, originally from the Church of Sweden, and **Ása Björk Ólafsdóttir** from Iceland, have both been in parish ministry in the Church of Ireland for some time, and they offer respectively an outline of the developments and a personal story, to give us a sense of how such relationships proceed.

Readers will find some innovations in this issue in terms of layout. This is a preliminary to a planned re-launch of SEARCH in the autumn with further modifications to the design and the website. All comments welcome!

For further information on SEARCH visit: <http://www.searchjournal.ireland.anglican.org/>

Homeschooling clampdown in Northern Ireland

Parents who home school in Northern Ireland could be caught by “deeply alarming” and “intrusive” proposals, the largest home education group in the Province has warned.

Christian Institute - The Education and Library Boards in Northern Ireland have proposed a new [draft policy](#), which would give government officials sweeping powers, including to visit homes at least once a year.

Maria Hanley, of the [Home Education Northern Ireland](#) (HEDNI) group, said: “The proposals are alarming and intrusive, representing a serious assault on parental choice and introducing a fundamental change to the relationship between parents and the governing authorities.



“This draft policy has no basis in current Northern Ireland education law. Any change of this sort would require primary legislation by MLAs at Stormont, not by unelected officials.

“Under national and international law it is accepted that parents are the most appropriate judge for their child’s interests – these plans cut across the rights of parents to educate their children in the way they think is best.”

The boards are currently [consulting](#) on the draft policy, which would include a database to register and monitor homeschooling families.

[GET CNI HEADLINES ON TWITTER - link on CNI home page...](#)

[... Please commend CNI to your friends](#)