



CNI



All Saints' Parish Church, Antrim



CHANGING ATTITUDE IRELAND

CAI's new logo reflects aims and aspirations

Changing Attitude Ireland has unveiled its new logo that was developed by its executive committee, in conjunction with our graphic designer and printers based in Co. Donegal.

In contemplating what should influence our choice the executive committee felt it important that the logo would reflect the core facets of CAI namely, the Christian faith represented by the stylised Celtic cross and the LGBT+ community denoted by the six colours of the rainbow, being the internationally recognised symbol of a mixed

LGBT community. The colours were determined to symbolize: **life** (red), **healing** (orange), **sunlight** (yellow), **nature** (green), **harmony** (blue), and the **spirit** (purple/violet).

A spokesperson for CAI said, “We hope that this new logo will be meaningful to all of us involved in CAI and in its work, reflecting our aims, aspirations and sense of community.”

Changing Attitude Ireland (C.A.I.) is a Church of Ireland organisation with ecumenical friends, heterosexual and gay, lay and ordained, working for the full affirmation of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) persons within the Churches in Ireland. C.A.I. is dedicated to celebrating and maintaining the traditional inclusivity and diversity of the Anglican Communion.

<http://changingattitudeireland.org/>

Relic of patron saint of Luxembourg to be housed in Carlow Cathedral

A relic of the Patron Saint of Luxembourg is to be given a new permanent home in Carlow Cathedral later this year.

St Willibrord studied and was ordained in Carlow in the 7th century, and this year for the first time a delegation from the county will go on a pilgrimage to his basilica in Echternach, Luxembourg.

Carlow County Museum will host an exhibition to the saint, and a group from Echternach will present a relic in the form of a piece of bone to the Carlow pilgrims.

St Willibrord is one of the most important saints in Europe and he has appeal across many Christian communities, particularly for Catholics, Anglicans and Old Catholics. Through the mists of time, his Carlow connection would for the most part have been forgotten, but academic research over the past 30 years has re-established the connection. In 2009 President Mary McAleese visited the town of Echternach as part of her state visit to Luxembourg and spoke of the connection.

Born in Northumbria in AD 658, the saint spent the years between the ages of 20 and 32 in the Abbey of Rath Melsigi in Carlow, which was a centre of European learning in the 7th century. He became the first Bishop of Utrecht and died at Echternach, Luxembourg in AD 739. He is



St Willibrord studied and was ordained in Carlow

buried in Echternach, and is the only saint buried in Luxembourg. His feast day is 7 November.

St Willibrord's signature is the oldest datable signature of an English person and the oldest datable use of Anno Domini (AD). Both are contained in a book that was written in Co. Carlow (now housed in the The Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Paris).

Speaking this week, Dermot Mulligan, curator of the museum, said that the relic would be kept in Carlow Cathedral after first spending time in St Laserian's Cathedral. Indeed, next summer will see a major celebration of St Willibrord's life in

Co. Carlow. From Sunday 4 June to Wednesday 7 June, Bishop Denis Nulty, Bishop of Kildare & Leighlin, and Bishop Michael Burrows, the Church of Ireland Bishop of Cashel, Waterford, Lismore, Ferns, Ossory and Leighlin, will lead a historic joint diocesan pilgrimage from Co. Carlow to Echternach.

On the Tuesday after Pentecost Sunday (Tuesday 6 June), there will be the UNESCO World Heritage Status annual 'hopping procession' in his honour in Echternach. This procession sees upwards of 30,000 people descend on the town to honour their patron saint. The joint diocesan pilgrimage from Carlow will be under way at that time.

In Echternach the group will be presented with the relic of St Willibrord for display in Carlow. The relic will be contained in a statue of St Willibrord holding a replica of the present day basilica in Echternach, which will stand on a piece of stone from his original abbey in Echternach.

In late June a group of 30 will travel from Echternach to Carlow. You can join them on Saturday 24 June and 'Walk with Willibrord' as the relic is carried in a public procession along the Barrow Way from St Laserian's Cathedral,

Old Leighlin to the Cathedral of the Assumption, Carlow, where it will be permanently housed.



Swapping stories round a campfire at the DRY Weekend

Almost 30 intrepid young people from seven different parishes headed off to Ballinaleck, near Enniskillen, recently for the DRY Weekend organised by Derry and Raphoe Youth (DRY).

The group based themselves at the Cleenish Centre where Kirsty Lynch – the diocesan children's officer and youth worker in Clooney – was the weekend's star speaker, guiding the young people through the Book of Ruth.

Sprinkling in some 'Kid President' and Baz Luhrmann's late 90s' hit 'Sunscreen' Kirsty managed to convey the importance of getting and giving good advice. Every young person was asked to write out some good advice they had been given and to stick it to a window. They were then asked to take one of those pieces of advice which caught their attention and carry it with them over the rest of the weekend.

There were plenty of fun activities for participants, from shopping in Enniskillen through to shooting each other with arrows (don't panic, these were foam-tipped!!!). Saturday night finished with the group gathered around a camp fire, sharing their favourite moments of the weekend, and tucking into doughnuts and marshmallows for supper!

The beds were voted 'comfiest ever', and no one could fault the quality of the catering, so all in all it was a hugely enjoyable and successful weekend.

Down & Dromore woman on Mothers' Union team at United Nations' Commission on the Status of Women



June Butler, Down & Dromore Diocesan President of the Mother's Union, is among a delegation of Mothers' Union representatives from across the world at the UN's Commission on the Status of Women in New York.

They will be calling for governments to prohibit any form of discrimination against women and enshrine in law equal rights in the workplace, including the right to employment, equal pay and



freedom from discrimination which prevents the appointment of women to senior positions.

June Butler has been posting daily updates from the event to the Mothers' Union Website. The following is an extract from her thoughts on Day Five.:

“The day started with the briefing and it was noticeable that there were so few of us compared with last week. A fact that was commented upon by the Chair who stated that most of the important negotiations were conducted in week two so it would be up to us to spearhead influencing the delegates in preparing the final agreed conclusions. No pressure then!

After we had established that the delegates had worked late into the night on the next draft,

which had not yet been issued (lots of frustration here as it is unusual for the process to move so slowly!), discussion focused on the key areas to advocate. Gradually a list emerged coming from many quarters and varying NGO interests. The principal areas were:

- how to translate high-minded ideals into local law to bring about change
- the need for higher priority to be given to data collection to provide empirical evidence to support arguments
- how women can be moved to entrepreneurship
- the need for better social protection for women and girls
- the need for clearer and better strategies for the employment of care workers – for those caring for both the young and the elderly
- the need for better flexible working arrangements for women
- the importance of working with local politicians so that each NGO's voice can be brought to many political tables
- The need for decent work for refugee women.

Two speakers from the stage particularly impressed me – a politician from New Zealand and a senior officer from the International Labour Organisation (ILO). The former asked that the focus in taking forward the draft agreement should be fivefold– human rights, women and girls with disabilities, the inclusion of girls in good quality education worldwide, the importance of equality for indigenous women, and the need for comprehensive and relevant data collection. There was also lots of discussion about the process of implementing the agreed conclusions and how they should set an agenda for each country to enable them to clarify the future direction of their policy. That session was an amazing start to the week and a great learning curve for me.”

For more information on the Mothers’ Union at the UN’s Commission on the Status of Women go to www.themothersunion.org/mu-uncsw

High Hopes Choir to perform at European Parliament

A choir made up of people affected by homelessness and the staff and volunteers who work with them is to perform outside of Ireland for the first time.

The High Hopes Choir is giving a concert at the European Parliament in Brussels this evening, ahead of a seminar tomorrow on homelessness in the EU.

The choir, which was formed in 2014 and featured in an RTÉ TV series, has previously performed for President Michael D Higgins in Áras an Uachtaráin and at Ireland's biggest music festival, Electric Picnic.

It includes members from Dublin, Waterford and Cork and aims to change the public perception of what it means to be homeless in Ireland today.

More than half of the 75 members of the choir travelling to Brussels needed to get passports for the trip.

"I was homeless for three years and hadn't had a passport since 2002," said Lisa McEnroe.

"A passport means an awful lot, coming from where I came from. It means I am not trapped. I can see the world."

The musical director of the choir's Dublin branch, Carmel Whelan, said that before it started, members had felt "invisible, voiceless and forgotten".

"Now they have this opportunity to represent themselves and others. And it just means so much to them." *Report by RTE News*

C of I Parishioner chosen as Grand Marshall of Fermoy's St Patrick's Day Parade



The Fermoy St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee honoured the

Cope Foundation residential and day care centre in Fermoy, County Cork by asking them to nominate a grand marshal for this year's parade in the town.

Cope's representative, Ian Fleming, Chairman of the COPE Fundraising Committee, accepted the honour and stepped up to the occasion. The Cope Foundation provides support in its many centres throughout County Cork for people with intellectual disabilities and autism.

Ian Fleming is a parishioner of Christ Church, Fermoy, County Cork who is very involved also as a Lay Liturgical Assistant (taking some Sunday Services), and serves on the Diocesan Safeguarding Trust panel. On St Patrick's Day, Ian used the opportunity to thank the local community for their strong and diverse support in their fund raising for a new, wheelchair adapted, replacement people carrier which will be delivered before Easter.

Christ Church, Bessbrook celebrates 150 years

A list of events are due to run from May 2017 through to September 2018, the exact time-



scale it took to build the church 150 years ago.

Some 12 different events have been planned to be held over the 17-month period, which include a Favourite Hymns Service, local garden tour, visits to Cathedrals in Armagh, Londonderry and Dublin, concerts, table quiz, a family fun day and a culminating weekend-long Flower Festival in September 2018.

For full list of events [click here](#)

The church has also produced a 2-year calendar, covering 2017 & 2018, at a cost of £10.00 which is still available to purchase.

For full Press Release [click here](#)

The programme of events will be officially launched at a special event on Saturday 25 March at 7.30 pm, in Bessbrook Parish Hall, when Archbishop Richard Clarke will lead the parishioners towards the beginning of one of the most anticipated projects in their recent history. Other participating clergy include the Archdeacon of Armagh, Venerable Terry Scott, Mullabrack Rural Dean, Rev Canon Neville Hughes and Rev William McCracken.

If anyone, especially past-parishioners, wishes to avail of further information on the 150th anniversary programme of Christ Church should visit the parish website at www.christchurchbessbrook.co.uk or contact the Select Vestry Hon. Secretary - Trevor Kinnin on (028) 30 839041

Statement by the Chapter of St Albans Cathedral

See report in yesterday's CNI News -



Dr. Jeffrey John at St Albans Cathedral, where he is currently Dean.

The Chapter's Statement : Dean Jeffrey is a highly respected and much loved leader of our flourishing and inclusive Cathedral, the oldest site of Christian worship in Britain.

We are aware that Jeffrey has been under consideration for the position of Bishop of

Llandaff. The fact that it appears Jeffrey's sexuality and civil partnership have been used against him in the selection process is wholly wrong and it is only right that the bishops in Wales review the process before making an appointment.

Our prayers are with the people of the Diocese of Llandaff, the bishops in Wales and with Jeffrey.

Footnote: This statement has been prepared and issued without the involvement of the Dean.

[The Very Reverend Dr Jeffrey John's open response to the Bishop of Swansea and Brecon.](#)

News briefs & Upcoming events

+++ Mothering Sunday Radio service - BBC Radio Ulster's Sunday Service on Mothering Sunday, March 26, will be broadcast from St Bartholomew's Parish, Stranmillis, Belfast. The service, which will be conducted by the Rector, the Rev Kevin Graham, will be a shortened form of Morning Prayer with a focus on the theme of Mothers. It will be broadcast at 10.15am.

+++ Armagh appointment - The Revd Graham Spence, currently Curate Assistant of Ballymore Parish, Tandragee has been appointed as Rector of Acton, Drumbanagher & Loughgilly. The date of the Service of Institution is still to be confirmed.

+++ Vintage Tea Party a hit on the Shankill Road - A great time was had by all the ladies and gents who attended a Vintage Tea Party organised by the Lower Shankill Ministry Team on March 13. The event, held in the recently repainted St Michael's Parish Hall, was organised by the Rev Canon Jim Carson and his team including Mrs Heather Carson, Parish Development Officer; Lay Associate Minister Janet Spence and Mr Gordon McDade, who provided the music for a very enjoyable singalong. The teas were served by Janet Spence, Allison Batchelor and Joan Spiers, who were beautifully attired in dresses – and mophats – appropriate to serving tea in a bygone era. There was an excellent turnout of parishioners for this first vintage tea organised by the ministry team. It was an opportunity for the team to ask their senior citizens what type of activities and support the church in Lower Shankill can provide.

+++ Italian night in Malahide - An Italian Night of music, laughter and song, accompanied by a freshly homecooked Italian meal, will take place in St Andrew's Parish Centre, Church Road, Malahide on Saturday March 25 from 7.00 pm to 10.00 pm.

The evening is in aid of the St Doulagh's Restoration Fund and all are very welcome to come along and join the fun. During the night there will be a bumper raffle and refreshments will be on sale. Tickets cost €20 per adult and children eat for free. During the evening a special raffle will be launched with the unique prize of the only available gold St Doulagh's Cross. Raffle tickets cost €25 each and will be limited to 400 tickets. The date for the draw will be announced at a later date.

The Italian Night is the latest fundraising event in St Doulagh's efforts to raise €300,000 for the restoration of the historic church in Balgriffin. It follows on from their successful concert with the Garda Band and Garda Ladies' Choir in Christ Church Cathedral last November. It promises to be a great night of fun and laughter. There are a number of transport options including the Dart to Malahide or Bus number 42 stops beside the centre. Parking is available close by also.

