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Anniversary celebrations for Methodist Dublin Central Mission

Methodist President, the Rev Brian Anderson, recently helped Dublin Central Mission celebrate two very special anniversaries in its provision of sheltered housing.

Margaretholme in Sandymount Village, South Dublin, was one of the first sheltered housing complexes in Ireland when it opened 50 years ago. Half a century later, residents continue to enjoy living independently but in a supported, caring environment, and a group of eight people, all of whom were present at the opening, were in attendance at the celebratory event.

The focus then moved to Ailt an Óir where residents and staff celebrated 25 years since the opening of the complex in Dun Laoghaire. Ailt an Óir offers community and security to residents who may not feel able to live at home but wish to retain their independence.

The theme for the celebrations was gratitude to God for the provision of such valued services and the commitment of staff and supporters past and present. Most of all, Mr Anderson gave thanks for

the blessing of the community that exists amongst the residents who call these complexes home.

SVP stands down committee over LGBT centre allocation

The St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) has stood down a [Galway](#) fund committee that last year allocated €45,000 to a resource centre for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community in Galway.

Patsy McGarry in Irish Times - The move follows a disagreement over governance arrangements between the SVP at national and local level.

Catholic Bishop of Galway [Martin Drennan](#) last year objected to the allocation, saying that homosexual activity was “morally wrong behaviour” and funding could not be put at the service of what was believed to be morally incorrect.

The bishop said that his problem with the allocation was “the moral judgment involved”, and that the reputation of the SVP “has been put in question by this grant”.

The centre in question, Amach! LGBT Galway, receives support from [Galway County Council](#), Galway City Partnership, Gort Resource Centre, [Loughrea Family Resource Centre](#), Galway & Roscommon ETB, West Training & Development and Youth Work [Ireland](#). The fund committee had administered a 2007 legacy of the late Maureen O'Connell, who left her pub on Eyre Square in Galway city to the SVP for spending on local projects.

A spokesman for the SVP told The Irish Times that a Maureen O'Connell Fund grant to Amach! had been approved by its national management council in May last year.

Last year, an SVP spokesman said the organisation had no formal association with the Catholic church or bishops but that "relationships at a local level were very strong".

Superb singers at annual carols from St Mark's, Portadown

Young soprano Lynda Barrett is the special guest at the annual charity 'Christmas Carols from St

Mark's' in Portadown on Friday, December 4 at 8pm.



Lynda Barrett.

Portadown Times - It's the occasion in the musical year when Portadown Male Voice and Ladies Choirs unite to present a Yuletide night of wonderful harmony, interspersed by popular carols from the packed audience at St Mark's Church of Ireland.

Lynda, a former pupil of Banbridge Academy and music teacher, has been making a real name for herself in the Northern Ireland cultural scene. Her

major breakthrough has come with her superb CD 'The Sublime Voice of Lynda Barrett'.

Neil Collier, who produced the CD for Priory Records, described her as having "the most beautiful natural voice you will ever hear".

The joining of the two choirs under conductor Gordon Speers is eagerly awaited every December and they will be singing a selection of carols, classical and popular, as well as excerpts from Handel's Messiah.

Richard Campbell will play the magnificent St Mark's organ – to accompany the choir, augment Lynda and do his own solo spot.

Programmes are £10 and can be had from choir members, or from Winnie's Newsagent in Woodhouse Street. They will also be available at the door on the night. Proceeds are for Christian Aid.

<http://www.portadowntimes.co.uk/news/features/annual-carols-from-st-mark-s-church-1-7075253#ixzz3s9t9yZx5>

Contemporary music fundraiser for Newtownabbey Methodist Mission

The Newtownabbey Methodist Mission is looking forward to a busy Christmas. To raise funds for its Christmas appeal it is holding an evening of contemporary Christian music, testimony and praise in the Mission premises at Rathcoole Drive. Praise will be led by the One Accord Choir. Under the title Celebrating Christmas Together, the event will begin at 7.30pm on Saturday, November 28th. Admission is free but there will be a retiring collection.

Marching for climate change with Christian Aid Ireland

Christian Aid Ireland are planning three climate marches to draw attention to the need for action now to bring about climate justice, community energy and a carbon free future.

All three marches will start at 2pm on Sunday, November 29th – the day before the start of the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris.

In Dublin, supporters are asked to assemble outside the Custom House; in Cork the venue is the library on Grand Parade; and in Belfast the park opposite St Anne's Cathedral.

Portadown GB Craft Fair

Thomas Street Methodist Girls Brigade are holding a Craft Fair on 27th November 7 - 10pm. Admission £2.50 (includes tasty treats and hot beverages). Proceeds are going towards [Charlene's Project](#). They may have tables available as well if anyone wants to contact Merlene Woods at 1stnigb@gmail.com. Thomas Street Methodist Church, 33 Thomas Street Portadown Co. Armagh BT62 3NU

Cabaret fundraiser for Leprosy Mission hospital

The Leprosy Mission is raising funds to replace the outpatients department at Karigiri Hospital in India. This treats about 120,000 patients each year. One of its fundraising events will take place at Newtownmountkenedy in the Parkview Hotel on Thursday, December 3rd.

It will take the form of a cabaret dinner at which Bob Drury will trace the career of Neil Diamond and perform some of the songs he composed. Tickets are €40 from leprosy.ie.

Carrigaline parishioner channels her 90th birthday gifts to charity

Joyce Loney, a parishioner of Carrigaline Union of Parishes in the Diocese of Cork recently celebrated her 90th birthday.



Joyce Loney (left) presents a cheque to the administrator of Cuanlee, with her rector, the Reverend Elaine Murray (right).

Joyce asked friends and family not to buy her anything for that milestone birthday but instead to donate to Cork's Cuanlee Refuge for Women and Children, a charity that is supported by Joyce's parish.

Joyce presented the Administrator of Cuanlee with a cheque for the amazing sum of €1,100. Well done to Joyce for such a worthwhile initiative and well done to her family and friends for being so generous!

Trócaire's impact in Kenya praised by Irish delegates

A delegation from the dioceses of Tuam and Galway have returned from their annual church mission trip with Trócaire which this year took them to the slum area of Nakuru in Kenya where HIV and gender-based violence is on the increase.

Kenya will be the focus of Trócaire's 2016 Lenten campaign and the nine delegates saw where the Catholic aid agency has been working to improve local lives.

The mission trip was led by Trócaire's country director for Kenya, Paul Healy, who has been working in the most poverty stricken areas of the east African country for almost a decade.

Among the delegates who took part in the visit were Fr Tom Brady and Maura Garrihy on behalf of the Diocese of Galway, Kilmacduagh and Kilfenora and Siobhán Bradley for the Archdiocese of Tuam.

Speaking about her visit, Maura Garrihy commented, "Poverty is something real in Kenya. It has a real smell and it has a real face. It exists on a very large scale."

"For many it looks like no shoes, no access to support, corruption in its leaders and institutions, no medical support, HIV, living conditions we can't even imagine in the 'developed' world, commercial sex just for 'survival', drought, no means of farming or vegetation, filthy water, no access to education, and much, much more."

Some projects and issues highlighted included the problems faced in the slum area of Kangemi in central Nairobi and a more rural slum in Nakuru.

Trócaire through its work with local partners has put in place programmes to address some of the issues.

One “very effective programme” the delegates visited is the Love and Hope Centre in Nakura which is run by Sr Patricia Speight from Belfast and her team. There they heard the stories of the young people availing of this life-saving service.

“Thank you Trócaire for not forgetting about me” were the words of one young bed-ridden mother of two.

They also visited to the family chosen as the focus of next year’s Lenten campaign, in Tharaka Nithi, a rural village three hours outside Nairobi.

There they met Teresina, a young mother of six whose husband had to leave home to look for work due to the serious consequences of climate change.

Their story echoes the lives of so many in this rural village as up to 80% of families in this region do not have enough food.

Siobhán Bradley recalled, “Here we saw the stark and cold reality of poverty at its highest as we met with children living in huts the size of our

bathrooms, who had no shoes, change of clothes, and with one child even wearing a Facebook t-shirt without an awareness of what this multi-million social media website is. The gap between their world and ours was certainly highlighted once more.”

“Trócaire could not carry out this invaluable work to support and empower these people without the generosity of the Irish people. As we approach this Year of Mercy (Trócar in Irish) let us all dedicate ourselves ever more intently to #jointhefightforjustice,” Siobhán Bradley urged.

For more information on Trócaire’s work see www.trocaire.org

Media digest

Same-sex couples crossing Border to get married - Irish Times

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/same-sex-couples-crossing-border-to-get-married-1.2438711>

Give Me a Crash Course In . . . Stormont’s Fresh Start - Irish Times

[http://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/give-me-a-crash-course-in-stormont-s-fresh-start-1.2438334?](http://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/give-me-a-crash-course-in-stormont-s-fresh-start-1.2438334?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter)
[utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter](http://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/give-me-a-crash-course-in-stormont-s-fresh-start-1.2438334?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter)

Irish neutrality won't be respected by the likes of ISIS, so why hold so dear to it? - Journal.ie

http://www.thejournal.ie/readme/irelands-neutrality-2457104-Nov2015/?utm_source=twitter_self

Despicable' cleric fined €500 after been caught speeding AGAIN

Irish Mirror

Last year, Church of Ireland rector Canon Hanna, 68, was banned for six months when a district court judge described Canon Hanna's conduct in ...

<http://www.irishmirror.ie/news/irish-news/despicable-cleric-fined-500-after-6870015>

Ireland to end exemptions which allow religious institutions to discriminate against gay teachers ...

Gay Star News

Religious-run institutions in Ireland including schools and hospitals will no longer be allowed to discriminate against gay teachers and other .

<http://www.gaystarnews.com/article/ireland-ends-exemptions-which-allow-religious-institutions-to-discriminate-against-gay-teachers-healthcare-workers/#gs.zmrW2Ql>

Group that promotes bleach as 'cure' for illness planning another meeting in Ireland

Irish Examiner

The Genesis II Church of Health and Healing will hold a weekend seminar in ... that MMS is not authorised as a medicine for sale or supply in Ireland.

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/ireland/group-that-promotes-bleach-as-cure-for-illness-planning-another-meeting-in-ireland-366198.html>

Global interest as Victorian rectory goes up for sale

Belfast Telegraph

It was built in 1869 for the **Church of Ireland** Canon John Grainger, Rector of Broughshane. By the time he died, it was so packed with antiquities, ...

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/global-interest-as-victorian-rectory-goes-up-for-sale-34218061.html>

Film screenings new addition to Whitehead Victorian Fair

Carrickfergus Times

... Mystery Theatre will be back to perform an adaptation of legendary Sherlock Holmes story The Hound of the Baskervilles at the Church of Ireland.

<http://www.carrickfergustimes.co.uk/news/local-news/film-screenings-new-addition-to-whitehead-victorian-fair-1-7072100>

BBC/Mail/S Tel

Reports on interview with Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, for yesterday's *Songs of Praise* where he says the Paris attacks did make him ask God why this had happened but believed that God was beside people in their suffering. Articles all note his comment "Two

injustices do not make justice. If we start randomly killing those who have not done wrong, that is not going to provide solutions. So governments have to be the means of justice."

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-34893039>

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3328938/I-doubted-God-Paris-attacks-Archbishop-Canterbury-Justin-Welby-says-left-asking-militant-jihadis-struck.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/bbc/12009813/Paris-attacks-made-me-doubt-presence-of-God-admits-Archbishop-of-Canterbury.html>

Mail/BBC

Report that Britain's biggest cinema chains have banned an ad featuring the Lord's Prayer. Mail includes [comment](#) from Archbishop of Canterbury, who features in the ad, saying the decision is extraordinary as billions of people across the world say the prayer everyday. (See [News from CofE](#) above).

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3328798/Archbishop-Welby-s-fury-cinema-ban-offensive-Lord-s-prayer.html?](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3328798/Archbishop-Welby-s-fury-cinema-ban-offensive-Lord-s-prayer.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

[ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-3328923/MAIL-SUNDAY-COMMENT-absurd-film-ban-overturned.html)

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-3328923/MAIL-SUNDAY-COMMENT-absurd-film-ban-overturned.html>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-34891928>

Bishop of Manchester, David Walker, discusses the issue on BBC Radio 4 *Sunday*

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b06psb50#play>

Obsv

Report on the CofE's Reform and Renewal programme which will be debated at General Synod this week.

Includes comment from Martyn Percy, Dean of Oxford, Pete Broadbent, Bishop of Willesden, John Spence chair of the Archbishops' Council's finance committee and Professor Linda Woodhead.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/nov/21/justin-welby-church-england-new-synod>

Mail

Report that members of General Synod, which meets tomorrow, are to call for the removal of the 800 year old tradition of the reading of wedding banns. Article says synod member Stephen Trott is to lodge a Private Members Motion, which will need 100 signatures before it can be heard.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3328848/Wedding-banns-face-axe-800-years.html>

S Times

Report that Education Secretary, Nicky Morgan has been accused of launching an attack on faith schools after drawing up new powers that allow her to take over failing schools and turn them into secular academies. Article notes that the education Bill currently going through Parliament is facing opposition from CofE bishops in the Lords. Colin Hopkins, Director of Education for Lichfield is quoted. (See [blog by CofE Chief Education Officer, Nigel Genders](#))

http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk_news/Education/article1635985.ece

S Exp/Mail

Report on memorial service today for the victims and all those affected by the Shoreham air crash three months

ago which killed 11 men. Article notes that Bishop of Chichester, Martin Warner, will lead the prayers.

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/621167/Shoreham-crash-West-Sussex-Lancing-College-Andrew-Hill>
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-3328828/Shoreham-air-crash-memorial-service-remember-11-victims.html>

Times

Business commentary on Sir Hector Sants, named in this week's report on the HBOS collapse, asking why the adviser to the Archbishop of Canterbury has not given up his gong?

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/business/columnists/alistairosborne/article4619827.ece>

Mail

Historian Tom Holland writes on the history of conflict between Islam and Christianity saying that for jihadis the issues are still the same today

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3328005/Shadow-bloody-past-centuries-Islam-Christianity-locked-brutal-conflict-forgotten-horror-historian-argues-jihadis-s-real-today-Middle-Ages.html>

Mail

Report on retired Anglican priest Jonathan Robinson who has been asked to return to India to answer allegations of assault against a 15 year old boy. He had previously ministered in both the CofE and Church in Wales.

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3327998/Church-England-vicar-accused-sexually-assaulting-15-year-old-boy-India-urged-return-face-trial.html?](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3327998/Church-England-vicar-accused-sexually-assaulting-15-year-old-boy-India-urged-return-face-trial.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

[ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3327998/Church-England-vicar-accused-sexually-assaulting-15-year-old-boy-India-urged-return-face-trial.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

Church Times

Report that Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe attended a Eucharist at Lambeth palace yesterday along with 80 police officers (*see above*).

<http://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2015/20-november/news/uk/police-chief-joins-archbishop-for-eucharist>

Christian Today

Report that seven Assyrian Christians who fled Islamic State in Iraq are among a number to have drowned this week while crossing the Mediterranean

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