



Church of Ireland Youth Officer Simon Henry (left) and Youth Ministry Development Officer (Southern Region) Steve Grasham (right).

Two new C of I youth offices appointed

The Church of Ireland Youth Department (CIYD) has appointed two new members of staff, Mr Simon Henry and Mr Steve Grasham.

Simon Henry has been appointed to the newly created role of Church of Ireland Youth Officer. Having served as a Youth Ministry Co-ordinator in the parish of St John's, Moira, in the Diocese of Dromore, for almost ten years, Simon will bring a wealth of knowledge concerning youth engagement with the Church, as well as a practical understanding of parish and diocesan youth ministry opportunities. Simon is a graduate of the University of Ulster and also holds a Certificate in Christian Studies through St John's College, Nottingham. As Youth Officer, Simon will lead the CIYD team, encourage its strategic development, and be a resource to dioceses across the island.

Steve Grasham will serve as the new CIYD Youth Ministry Development Officer (Southern Region). Steve has been involved in youth and children's ministry since 1997. His most recent post has been serving as a Diocesan Children's and Young People's Adviser for five years in the Diocese of Leeds. His role is to support existing and new youth ministries in the Dioceses of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh; Meath and Kildare; Dublin and Glendalough; Cashel, Ferns and Ossory; Cork, Cloyne and Ross; Limerick and Killaloe; and Tuam, Killala and Achonry.

Speaking of both appointments, the CIYD President, The Most Revd Pat Storey, said: 'Both Simon and Steve bring much experience and enthusiasm to their respective positions. Aply supported by our Office Manager, Mrs Barbara Swann, we look forward to our new staff settling in and developing new initiatives and opportunities for the advancement of Christ's Kingdom together. We very much hope that dioceses across the Church will know that CIYD is a resource that seeks to serve and encourage youth ministry at all levels.'

More information about the work of the Church of Ireland Youth Department is available through its website: www.ciyd.org

City wellbeing focus of Moderator's Ulster University lecture

Presbyterian Moderator, Rt. Rev. Dr. Frank Sellar, will give the 2016 Ulster University Chaplaincy Lecture entitled '*A City of Hope, Leadership & Compassion*'

In his lecture Dr. Sellar will seek to counter to the negativity, traditionalism and isolationism that challenge Belfast's (and our human) wellbeing,

by putting forward the idea that cities can flourish when people discover themselves through being loved and in turn loving the infinite God and neighbours in God.

This event is co-hosted by the Ulster University, North Belfast Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and Ulster University Chaplains at Belfast and Jordanstown.

There will be an opportunity for discussion.
Venue - Ulster University Belfast campus, York Street, BT15 1ED, at 6.00 pm.

‘Reality’ magazine celebrates 80 years

The editor of the Redemptorist magazine, ‘Reality’, has called for a “robust religious press in Ireland” to “champion the Catholic perspective”.

Fr Brendan McConvery CSsR made his comments as he marked 80 years of publication of the magazine.

In a statement, the former lecturer in theology at St Patrick’s College Maynooth stressed the need



for a strong and diverse religious media in Ireland, and he regretted the closure of several religious publications and the pressures facing the religious press in the 21st century.

“It is abundantly clear that if ever we needed a robust religious press in Ireland, we need it now,” Fr McConvery said.

“We need a Catholic media to champion the Catholic perspective and to which Catholics can turn for support, information, and guidance. Reality magazine and Redemptorist Communications hope to be able to fulfil this role for many years to come.”

First published in November 1936 as ‘The Redemptorist Record’, Reality describes its mission as being to “inform, inspire, and challenge today’s Catholic.”

Fr McConvery commented on its evolution from a magazine which, in the 1950s, had a reputation for its stringent line on sexual matters to a publication which by the mid 1960s had become so 'dangerous' that Archbishop John Charles McQuaid felt it required three diocesan-appointed censors. "We have had a fantastic if, at times, colourful history," he said.

In 2012 it was revealed that the then editor of Reality, Fr Gerry Moloney, and columnist, Fr Tony Flannery, had both been censured by the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith over their liberal views on priesthood, married priests and women priests.

According to Fr McConvery, the magazine is particularly proud of the part it played in trying to bring the vision and promise of Vatican II to the Irish faithful, and of being a facility that allows people to reflect on the myriad issues facing the Church at home and abroad – "uncomfortable though some of these issues may be".

To celebrate its birthday, the November 2016 issue of Reality contains a mini edition of the first issue of the Redemptorist Record.

The first part of the November edition is devoted to how the good news of the Gospel can be promoted with the help of modern media.

Dr John Horgan, a Labour TD, member of the European Parliament and first Press Ombudsman, recalls his time as a young journalist in the Irish Times, when he covered the final session of the Second Vatican Council.

Fr Tom Rosica, a Canadian priest who worked for the Vatican Press Office and who is head of Salt and Light Communications – which uses radio and television as well as the print media – writes about the church and the media today.

Other articles describe the challenges and opportunities of Irish local radio and modern social media.

The second part of the November issue is an edited edition of the first number of the Redemptorist Record which eventually became Reality. Link to November issue: <http://issuu.com/redcoms/docs/realitynov16online>

See also -

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/catholic-magazine-reality-celebrates-its-80th-birthday-1.2858410>

Celebrations mark bi-centenary of CMS missionaries in India

The arrival of the Church Mission Society's Thomas Norton and other missionaries in the southern Indian town of Alleppey, Kerala, 200 years ago is being marked with a major celebration in the state's Nehru sports stadium in Kottayam. More than 50,000 people are expected to attend the celebration, which will include a presentation from the surviving grandchildren of the original missionaries.

Norton was the first of a number of CMS missionaries who arrived in Alleppey – a town now called Alappuzha, and known as the Venice of the East. He was followed by Bishop Speechly, Henry Baker and Benjamin Bailey. They set about establishing formal education for all, including women; and founded a number of schools and colleges.

The anniversary will be marked with a large procession and gathering of bishops ahead of the celebration in the sports stadium on Saturday (12 November). "Throughout the celebrations organisers have sought to continue the vision of



Where it all began: the Revd Sumod Cherian welcomes visitors to Christ Church Alleppey, where CMS missionary Thomas Norton first led a Christian community 200 years ago.

the original missionaries who recognised the importance of education and economic development to secure the future of the region,” a CMS spokesman said. “Therefore, the bicentenary celebrations have incorporated a number of community development and educational programmes, including one project to build new homes to house the homeless, another to provide scholarships to poor students, and

others aimed at agriculture, rural areas and church planting.

“A memorial for the Revd Thomas Norton, bicentenary stamp and a book that elaborates the work of missionaries will also be released as part of the celebrations.”

The CMS College in Kerala is the oldest college in India. Earlier this year the President of India, Pranab Mukherjee, visited the college and laid the foundation stone of a new bicentenary block.

“CMS college is a pioneer of modern education in Kerala,” President Mukherjee said. “It has been the source of strong currents of knowledge and critical inquiry that have moulded the scholastic and socio-cultural landscape of Kerala and propelled the State to the forefront of social development.”

The events in Kerala have been organised by the Church of South India, a united church which brings together Congregational, Presbyterian, Reformed, Methodist and Anglican Churches.

“Countless men and women of God have watered and cared for the seed that CMS missionary Thomas Norton planted 200 years

ago,” the executive leader of the Church Mission Society, Philip Mounstephen, said. “Today, the continuing presence of the Church in Kerala, and the socio-economic programmes in place, are testament to their vision, faith and tenacity.”

Search on for key Anglican post in Rome

The Archbishop of Canterbury’s representative to the Holy See and director of the Anglican Centre in Rome (ACR), Archbishop David Moxon, is to retire in June next year after for years in the post. Archbishop Justin Welby and the governors of the ACR have begun the search for an Anglican bishop to succeed him for the combined post, which has been dubbed “the Archbishop of Canterbury’s [Spymaster General](#).”

“We have indeed been fortunate to have Archbishop Sir David Moxon as director of the centre for the past four years, and concurrently as my representative to the Holy See,” Archbishop Justin Welby said. “David's experience as a Primate, and uniquely, in his case, as Anglican co-chair of ARCIC, has strengthened the centre’s standing and profile enormously.”



Archbishop David Moxon will retire in June 2017 after serving for four years as the Archbishop of Canterbury’s representative to the Holy See and director of the Anglican Centre in Rome. A search for an Anglican bishop to succeed him has begun.

“Building on the excellent work of his predecessor, David has pioneered joint work on practical social ethical issues. He has strengthened links with the Papal household through a number of events where he has accompanied the Holy Father in blessing the faithful of all churches. His work stands his successor in good stead to build further.”

A spokesperson for the ACR governors said that “replacing Archbishop David Moxon involves finding an Anglican bishop with the experience and stature required to represent the Archbishop of Canterbury at this opportune time in Anglican – Roman Catholic relationships.

“The post-holder acts as a two way ambassador between the Vatican and both the Archbishop of Canterbury and the wider Anglican Communion. The post-holder is also the director of the Anglican Centre in Rome and, as a consequence, the role is multi-layered, binding together ambassadorial, educational, pastoral and interpretive elements.

“The person needs to be theologically able with good linguistic ability. A knowledge of Italian is preferable and a willingness and ability to learn Italian is essential.”

News briefs

+++ RTE Service of Remembrance - A Service of Remembrance will be broadcast on Sunday, 13 November, from the RTÉ studios with the Chaplain of St Columba’s College, Dublin, the Revd Daniel Owen, and the Choir of the college.

The programme will be broadcast on RTÉ One at 11am.

+++ Jesus wasn't born in a stable - Belfast -

Organised by Corrymeela. A series of 4 evening discussions on the nativity texts of the gospels of Luke and Matthew - led by Pádraig in our Belfast Office from 7pm to 8.30pm on the following dates:

Thursday 24th November, 2016, Thursday 1st December, 2016, Thursday 8th December, 2016 Thursday 15th December, 2016. If you are coming along, please let Corrymeela know, either email belfast@corrymeela.org or call 028 9050 8080. More info. can be found on our website.

+++ Jesus wasn't born in a stable -

Ballycastle - Same dates as above, but the times are different: 9am Silent worship (Quaker Style), 9.30am Coffee in the Croi. 10am Advent talk finishes at 11.15am

Thursday 24th November, 2016, Thursday 1st December, 2016, Thursday 8th December, 2016 Thursday 15th December, 2016.

See also - <http://www.mailings.tc/t/r-A398BCEE39423DEA2540EF23F30FEDED>

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

Enniskillen Bomb: 'I still have nightmares ... I wake up and ask where my dad is and try to find him'

Belfast Telegraph

Some of us then go on to the **Church of Ireland** in Enniskillen for a ... My mum was helping out in the church that morning and after the bomb someone ...

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/enniskillen-bomb-i-still-have-nightmares-i-wake-up-and-ask-where-my-dad-is-and-try-to-find-him-35189008.html>

The Priests: Holy row averted over gig promotion mix-up

BBC News:

Religious music trio The Priests are erroneously promoted as a US punk band with a very similar name.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-37903318>

Christian Today/Premier

Reports that the Archbishop of Canterbury has appointed a new chaplain. The Revd Isabelle Hamley will oversee the development of the Archbishop's priority of prayer and the renewal of religious life, especially through the Community of St Anselm, in addition to her duties as chaplain. Originally from France, the Revd Hamley is currently a tutor in Biblical Studies at

St John's College, Nottingham and associate priest in the parish of Edwalton. She will take up her new role in January.

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/Archbishop-Justin-Welby-appoints-new-chaplain>

BBC/Premier/Yorks Post/ITV

Reports that [Hull's Holy Trinity Church](#) is to be given the status of Minster at a ceremony on 13 May next year, the Archbishop of York has announced (see above). Two years ago, Dr John Sentamu revealed it would become Hull Minster if a £4.5m revamp of the church "was successful". The interior is being restored and remodelled for large events in time for Hull's City of Culture year in 2017. Archbishop Sentamu announced the date while on a visit to see progress of the work. He said Holy Trinity was "doing great things to reach out to the local community".

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-humber-37895164>

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/Archbishop-of-York-announces-Hull-Minster-date>

<http://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/city-of-culture-date-for-church-renaming-1-8224283>

<http://www.itv.com/news/calendar/update/2016-11-07/dr-john-sentamu-to-make->

[announcement-about-future-of-historic-hull-church/](#)

ITV/Northern Echo

Reports on figures published today by the End Child Poverty Coalition showing more than three and a half million children are living in poverty ranging from one in 10 in some areas to 47% in others. Nearly a third of children in the North East are living in poverty, according to the ITV report. The Northern Echo quotes the Bishop of Durham, Paul Butler, saying that the 'particularly worrying' aspect of the figures was the fact that the majority of parents of children in poverty are in work. 'As a society, we owe these children more,' he said.

<http://www.itv.com/news/tyne-tees/2016-11-08/new-figures-reveal-nearly-a-third-of-north-east-children-are-living-in-poverty/>

http://www.thenorthernecho.co.uk/news/14873296.Report_highlights_child_poverty_crisis_in_the_region/

Times

Report that primary schools are ditching formal homework as more teachers question its value for younger children. Some heads are

encouraging teachers to replace homework with activities such as reading at home, or discussing an issue with their parents. The article notes Justin Reeve, head of Tockwith C of E primary school near York, who wrote to parents in September citing research that showed homework had a low impact on learning and saying that he would replace traditional exercises with “homework grids” each half term.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/primary-heads-encourage-pupils-not-to-do-homework-lqwj8htjx>

Letters

Times (letters scroll down) (Monday)

Letter signed by 70 signatories including Rabbi Jonathan Romain and Prof Ted Cantle urging that the proposal to abolish the current limit preventing faith-based free schools selecting more than 50 per cent of pupils on religious grounds is abandoned.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/engineering-to-build-a-better-future-for-the-uk-9nbgshkpt>