



Church Army Evangelists Stephen Whitten and Karen Webb, North Belfast Centre of Mission, outside Connect Base in Shankill Road.

Church Army's Connect Base opens for witness on the Shankill Road

The Diocese of Connor / Church Army North Belfast Centre of Mission now has a bricks and mortar presence on the Shankill Road.

Connect Base is open for witness and business in the Spectrum Centre and Church Army Evangelists Karen Webb and Stephen Whitten are welcoming the local community in for tea and a chat, and discussing other missional opportunities with parishes, schools and community groups in the area.

Connect Base – building on the Bishop of Connor's theme of Connections and the idea that this is very much a base for exciting new work in north Belfast – occupies two units offering a great space for the community.

There is a comfortable sitting area, with sofas and coffee tables, a multi-purpose space with a large table which can be used for meetings, homework clubs and round-table chats, a kitchen, office space, and a relaxing prayer room.

The paint is barely dry on the walls, but Connect Base is open and welcoming people in, with a formal launch planned for next year.

Lead Pioneer Evangelist Karen Webb said: "Between now and Christmas we will be engaging with parishes and local people to find out the best way to use the new centre. We have



Connect Base is located in the Spectrum Centre in Belfast's Shankill Road.

our own ideas, but we don't want to impose them on others, we want to listen to the community."

Parishes will be invited to visit Connect Base to share their visions and ideas for the centre, and it is hoped that people from these parishes will become involved with the Centre of Mission.

It is likely that Connect Base will operate a youth drop-in facility, something that is close to Stephen's heart, somewhere young people can chat, enjoy a cup of tea, perhaps play some pool in a friendly, relaxed and non-judgemental atmosphere.

Karen and Stephen have also identified a need for a homework club. "Other areas are well covered, such as pre-school provision, but there is very little homework provision," Karen said. "We will be working with Connor Children's Officer Jill Hamilton, who will spend part of her time in Connect Base, and her training, both as a teacher and in special needs education, will be invaluable."

The team will be visiting local schools in the next few months with a view to setting this up.

The drop-in facility will not be limited to young people – when Connect Base is open anyone passing by will be welcome to call in – indeed many local people have already stopped by to find out what it is all about.

The team has been working with Church of Ireland parishes within the Mid Belfast Rural Deanery, ensuring everyone has been kept informed as the project progressed. "The clergy came to visit and loved it and are very happy to support us," Karen said.

"We want them to feel a sense of ownership. This is not just our space, but their space too."

The team has also been working with other churches in the area, including the Methodist, Roman Catholic and Presbyterian Churches. On September 19, in celebration of International Peace Day on the 21st, Karen and Stephen will be joining representatives of the neighbouring churches at the Girdwood Community Hub in an interface area for a children's event, with the Centre of Mission team doing puppet shows and teaching the children the song 'My Lighthouse.'

Former Man Utd star among three Dominicans professed

Bro Philip Mulryne OP joined Manchester United under Alex Ferguson and was part of the famed class of '92 featuring the likes of Beckham, Scholes, Giggs, Butt and the Neville brothers.

The former Manchester United and Northern Ireland footballer, Philip Mulryne, was one of three men who made their Profession on Sunday in St Saviour's Church in Dublin.

The former soccer winger, who won 27 caps for Northern Ireland, swapped his football jersey for a Dominican habit in 2009.



On Sunday at 11am Mass he made his Solemn Profession.

While Bro Philip Mulryne OP made his Solemn Profession on Sunday Bros Matthew Farrell OP and Jesse Maingot OP renewed their Simple Profession during morning prayer in St Saviour's Dublin.

Br Philip Mulryne (38) is originally from St Oliver's Parish in Lenadoon in Belfast.

Philip Mulryne will be forever remembered for his strike in 2001 which secured Northern Ireland a 1-1 draw away to Denmark in a world cup qualifier and ended their six-match losing run.

Br Mulryne joined Manchester United under Alex Ferguson and was part of the famed class of '92 featuring the likes of Beckham, Scholes, Giggs, Butt and the Neville brothers.

The Northern Irish man struggled to get Alex Ferguson's attention with such competition in the first-team and made his international bow against Belgium in February 1997 before making his debut for United in the Coca-Cola Cup the following October.

He made his one and only Premier League appearance against Barnsley at the end of the 1997/98 season, one of three players to make his league debut with Ryan Giggs, Andy Cole, Teddy Sheringham and Nicky Butt also in the side.

In search of playing time, Mulryne joined Norwich City in March 1999, two months before the historic Treble was sealed for £500,000 and spent six years at Carrow Road.

Despite a broken leg, a Division One play-off final defeat and just a handful of Premier League appearances after the Canaries were promoted as champions in 2004, Mulryne was a fans' favourite and made 161 appearances at the club.

Spells at Cardiff City, Ipswich, Brighton, Legia Warsaw, Barnsley and Leyton Orient followed and in 2008, with 27 international appearances to his name, he called time on his playing career.

Mulryne had been involved in various charity activities post-retirement and it is believed that Bishop Noel Treanor of Down and Connor invited him to join the priesthood on foot of his volunteer work.

Separately, On Wednesday, the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, (14 September) five men received the Dominican habit in St Mary's Pope's Quay during the 11am Mass.

The new novices, four from Ireland and one from Trinidad, were clothed in the habit of the Dominican Order which marks their entry to the novitiate.

The Irish Dominican Province is dedicated to the Exultation of the Cross. Traditionally on this feast day the new novices receive their habits and enter into the Order.

In this jubilee year of the Order, the five new brothers are Gary Toman, Ruaidhri Grieve, Peter

O'Kane, Pasi Kukkanan and Ciaran Egan. They received the habit from Fr Gregory Carroll OP.

Yesterday, the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, two novices who have finished their novitiate year made their simple profession.

Following the reception of the five brothers into the novitiate and the two professions yesterday, the Irish Dominican friars will have 22 brothers in formation: six novices and sixteen brothers who are at various stages in their formation of whom two are already priests and three have already made their solemn profession.

See - Former football star continues journey to priesthood http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/former-football-star-continues-journey-to-priesthood-35046808.html?utm_source=ipad_share&utm_medium=ipad_app&utm_campaign=clickbacks

Parishes in Dublin and Glendalough unite for Come&Celebrate Sunday

Parishes in all parts of Dublin and Glendalough will be joining in one celebration on Sunday

September 18. Archbishop Michael Jackson has designated that date as Come&Celebrate Sunday, a celebration of Come&C and the launch of the Come&C 5 Marks Challenge.

The 5 Marks Challenge is a discipleship programme based on individuals completing activities or 'challenges' relating to one or more of the Five Marks of Mission of the Anglican Communion. It is an opportunity to highlight the Five Marks of Mission (outlined below) and show how easily they can be translated into and celebrated in everyday life. The Five Marks have been central to the dioceses' Come&C project.

On completion of a challenge, the participant is awarded with a ribbon pin from the Archbishop. The colour of the ribbon relates to each Mark. The Blue ribbon relates to the first Mark of Mission Tell – To Proclaim God's Kingdom. The Yellow ribbon is for the second Mark of Mission Teach – To Teach, Baptise and Nurture. The Red ribbon is Tend – To Respond to Human Need. The Purple ribbon is Transform – To Transform Unjust Structures and the final Green ribbon is Treasure – To Safeguard Creation.

Eleven participants from five parishes have been involved in the pilot programme and were

awarded the ribbon relating to their particular mark at a Service in Christ Church Cathedral and a video of some of their experiences is being made available for showing in each of the parishes as part of the Come&Celebrate Service.

Criteria for participation in this initiative and scriptural resources are available to view and download on the Diocesan website at <http://dublin.anglican.org/Come-and-C> and an Order of Service will be sent to the parishes in advance of the Service.

To find out more about the 5 Marks Challenge and to learn how to get involved email the coordinator Caoimhe Leppard at 5markschallenge@dublin.anglican.org .

All of those who have been involved in Come&C are delighted to have reached this point of Diocese-wide participation. Sunday September 18 is a shared opportunity to participate in this expression of Diocesan life.

“I am delighted that Come&C has developed in the life of the Dioceses in the ways in which it has,” Archbishop Jackson commented. “The response from so many individuals and parishes over the year past has in itself been a cause of

celebration. In thanking the many people who have made this possible, I should like to commend to every individual, parish and rector the Come&Celebrate Sunday in September. I hope that it will be a warm and welcoming way for all of us to connect afresh with God and the Church in September.”

Cork hikers walk to Sheep's Head for Christian Aid

This year's weather forecast prior to the Christian Aid Sheep's Head Hike 2016, on Saturday, 3rd September last, was not encouraging to both organisers and those who planned to take part. Heavy rain, winds, even thunder was forecasted and throughout the night and into the morning of the hike most of the south west experienced heavy rain .

Driving through the rain to Kilcrohane, the organisers didn't expect anyone to come to the hike other than perhaps a very small, dedicated, group of walkers (perhaps 30 or 40). On arrival at 9:30am it started to dry in Kilcrohane and on the Sheep's Head Way. The first hikers started to arrive at 10am and by 11am the number of



At the Sheep's Head Hike 2016 were l-r: the Reverend Denis MacCarthy, Canon Paul Willoughby, the Reverend Anne Skuse and the Reverend Stephen McCann.

participant hikers had significantly increased perhaps due to an encouraging post on Facebook .

By 11:30, prior to the beginning of the hike , close to 120 people had registered , down from 220 previous year but well above the early expectations. Ger Burke of the Sheep's Head Way Committee and Canon Paul Willoughby, Rector of Durrus and Bantry, welcomed all who were about to participate in the annual and biggest hiking, fundraising event on the peninsula and West Cork .

The leadership team of Sandra Dukelow (Kilmocomogue Union) Margaret Skuce, David Hayward (Ballydehob Union), Caroline Coleman (Bandon Union) Sean Coughlan (Sheep's Head Way Committee) , Ulla Zepperitz (Gourmet Grill) and Andrew Coleman (Christian Aid) were brilliant in the planning prior to and on the day of the hike. Quick work was necessary to change the route of the walk because of ground conditions and overflowing streams. Despite being downcast and foggy the weather improved during the hike with wonderful sun appearing as the main hikers reached the point of the Light House. Some people even got sun burned on their faces!

Many of the Cork, Cloyne and Ross clergy travelled with their parishioners and participated fully in the gruelling hike on the day. Huge appreciation was expressed for all the back up provided by the team of buses from Local link, the Red cross, catering provided by Ulla of the Gourmet Grill and the wonderful parishioners of Kilmocomogue Union.

Many who could not come on the day sent messages of encouragement and raised funds to

support the event. It is anticipated that the event will raise about €4000.

Finally, it is now fully established that the first Saturday in September in West Cork is the Christian Aid Sheep's Head Hike. Next year will be the ninth year of the event. So put it in your calendars, it will happen, no matter what the weather, on September 2, 2017. Looking forward to seeing you all there!

News briefs

+++ Kerygma Choir in concert - The Kerygma Choir is in concert in the Hillsborough Village Centre on Friday 16 September at 8.00 pm. Doors open at 7.30 pm. This is a fundraising event for St John's Dromara Church Hall kitchen refurbishment and they would welcome your support. Tickets: £12.50 (including light refreshments) Available from the Village Centre on 028 9268 3015, from Linda on 075 9792 0916 and from Olive on 077 3472 9728. You may also buy tickets online from Ticket Source [here](#). (Small booking fee applies)

+++ Clogher institution - Holy Trinity Parish Church in Dromore, County Tyrone, had a large audience for the institution of the Revd Andrew

Quill as incumbent on the evening of Friday 9th September 2016. Revd Quill was instituted by the Bishop of Clogher, the Rt. Revd John McDowell. The Archdeacon, the Ven. Helene T-Steed, presented The Revd Andrew Quill to the Bishop for Institution and the Revd John McClenaghan, acting for the diocesan registrar read the certificate of nomination.

+++ Archbishop Tutu home from hospital -

The Archbishop Emeritus of Cape Town, Desmond Tutu, has been discharged from hospital after undergoing what has been described as “a minor surgical procedure”. Archbishop Tutu was admitted to hospital three weeks ago for treatment for a recurring infection. Last week he underwent surgery “to address the cause of the infection,” the family said in a statement. Archbishop Tutu’s wife, Mrs Leah Tutu, said she was overjoyed to welcome her husband home, and promised she’d be doing everything within her power to nurture him back to full health. The 84-year-old was a key figure in the fight against Apartheid – a role he continued in post-Apartheid South Africa as chair of the country’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission. In 1984 his work was recognised by the award of the Nobel Peace Prize.

+++ Support for Day of Prayer. Brother Daid of Divine Healing Ministries comments, “We are all geared up for our big day of prayer in St Anne's Cathedral on Saturday, 17th September (9am-6pm). Pastor David Packie Hamilton is coming over from Manchester to join us for the day. David is a former long-term prisoner, who was converted in Crumlin Road Prison in January, 1980. He has been involved in full-time Christian work since his release in 1983. He will be speaking at both of our services on Monday, September 19th - in St George's at 1pm and St Anne's Cathedral at 8pm. David is a very good speaker.”

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

Campaigns against school worship gain momentum in Scotland and Northern Ireland

National Secular Society

Parental permission is currently required before pupils in Scotland can opt out of religious observance in schools.

The UN Committee on the Rights of ...

<http://www.secularism.org.uk/news/2016/09/campaigns-against-school-worship-gain-momentum-in-scotland-and-northern-ireland>

Irish parish ostracizes Catholic layman, wife for protesting 'married' lesbians in ministry role

Lifesite

"We didn't go at the weekend because we were told by one of the priests that it wouldn't be safe for us to go to Mass in the parish **church**," Murphy told ...

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/irish-parish-ostracizes-catholic-layman-wife-for-protesting-married-lesbian>

Priest wrongly accused of abuse calls Catholic Church to account

Irish Times

A parish priest falsely accused of child abuse has asked why Catholic **Church** authorities give any credence to anonymous allegations such as were ...

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/priest-wrongly-accused-of-abuse-calls-catholic-church-to-account-1.2789>

NI Victims Forum appointments

News Letter

The widow of UDA leader John Michael is one of 10 fresh appointments to the 25-strong Victims and Survivors Forum.

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/widow-of-murdered-uda-chief-joins-victims-and-survivors-body-1-7576002>

Christian Today/Premier

Reports that on the eve of London Fashion Week, [a film launched by the C of E](#) reveals the compassionate side of fashion, an industry whose ethics are often questioned.

Christians can help bring God into fashion and address some of the darker issues, such as eating disorders and zero-hours contracts. The Revd Peterson Feital, missionary to the creative industries for London Diocese is quoted.

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/Church-of-England-releases-video-for-London-Fashion-Week>

BBC/Tel/Christian Today/Premier

Reports that the Archbishop of Wales has said the Church's view on same-sex marriage must change. Earlier this year, Dr Morgan authorised prayers which can be said with same-sex couples following a celebration. He said he and his fellow bishops were accused of "ignoring Holy Scripture" by issuing the prayers. In his final address as president of the Church's Synod ahead of his retirement in early 2017, Dr Morgan said it was not possible to argue that there is one settled understanding of what the Bible says on sexuality.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-37365228>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/09/14/archbishop-nothing-improper-about-gay-sex/>

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/Archbishop-of-Wales-backs-gay-marriage>

BBC

Reports that one of the first black women to be ordained in the C of E has called for a national day of remembrance for slavery. Canon Eve Pitts of Holy Trinity Church, Birchfield, Birmingham, said she wrapped herself in chains and walked around her church to remind herself of her ancestors' suffering. She said slavery still had an "emotional and psychological impact" on the African and Caribbean communities. The service would highlight the

strength, courage and perseverance of their ancestors, she added.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-birmingham-37363959>

Christian Today

Further coverage of research which concludes that more than half of English secondary school pupils believe that people have souls. The majority of those questioned in the survey by Prof Berry Billingsley of Canterbury Christ Church University – 52 per cent – also said they agreed with the statement "I believe that life has an ultimate purpose". Equal numbers said they believed in God and that they disbelieved, at 45 per cent each.

Tel

Reports that the former Conservative chairman, Baroness Warsi, has said religion is still viewed in government circles as little more than a parade of “fairies, goblins and imaginary friends” despite claims that it would now “do God”. According to Britain’s former minister for faith, there is still misunderstanding and hostility towards religion in “ever secular” Whitehall circles, despite efforts to change the culture. Lady Warsi was speaking at a garden party organised by the think-tank British Future.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/09/14/government-treats-religion-as-just-fairies-goblins-and-imaginary/>

Spectator

Short diary item (scroll down) on the triangular T20 cricket tournament at Edgbaston today, with an Archbishop of Canterbury’s XI taking on a Vatican team and a side from Yorkshire made up of Muslims.

<http://www.spectator.co.uk/2016/09/are-the-new-all-blacks-the-greatest-rugby-side-ever/>

Comment

Int Business Times: Yasmin Alibhai-Brown writes Faith schools produce narrow-minded children – why does the state fund them?

<http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/faith-schools-produce-narrow-minded-children-why-does-state-fund-them-1581145#>

Clarification

In yesterday's digest we said that the C of E Foundation for Educational Leadership oversees Church schools. This is incorrect. The Church of England Education Office supports and advises dioceses and Church schools and has responsibility for the development of the Church's strategies and policies for education. The Foundation provides networks, programmes and research for leaders in education to equip them to achieve our vision for education.

For more information about the vision -https://www.churchofengland.org/media/2532968/gs_2039_-_church_of_england_vision_for_education.pdf

Schools Week profile of James Townsend, Director of the Foundation - <http://schoolsweek.co.uk/james-townsend-educational-foundation-for-leadership/>

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Blogs

Limping Chicken: Deaf news - priest wins award for making funerals more accessible

<http://limpingchicken.com/2016/09/14/deaf-news-priest-wins-award-for-making-funerals-more-accessible-to-deaf-people/>

Nick Baines: Promise, politics and law

<https://nickbaines.wordpress.com/2016/09/14/promise-politics-and-law/>

Archbishop Cranmer: Thy Kingdom Come

<http://archbishopcranmer.com/thy-kingdom-come-prayer-must-always-be-the-first-action-of-evangelism-and-witness/>

Psephizo: Food, culture and the gospel

<http://www.psephizo.com/life-ministry/food-culture-and-the-gospel/>

The Centre for Theology and Community: Introducing this year's buxtonians

<http://www.theology-centre.org.uk/introducing-this-years-buxtonians/>

Law and Religion UK: Standardisation of Churchyard regulations

<http://www.lawandreligionuk.com/2016/09/13/standardisation-of-churchyard-regulations/>

Think Theology: In praise of rules

http://thinktheology.co.uk/blog/article/in_praise_of_rules

Brightest Day: So much more to learn

<https://bengarry.wordpress.com/2016/09/13/so-much-more-to-learn/>

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