



TCD sells its only academic building in Belfast - Irish School of Ecumenics

Trinity College Dublin is selling its only academic building in Belfast - but has insisted it is not leaving the city, the Belfast Telegraph reports. TCD's Irish School of Ecumenics was based in a property on the Antrim Road, but operations

have ceased and the building has been put on the market.

Students studied an MPhil course in conflict resolution and reconciliation there until recently.

The property, which is believed to date to the 18th century, boasts an internal area of almost 600 square metres comprising offices, a dining area, kitchen, double garage and tea preparation area. Commercial estate agent Macfarlane and Smyth described it as being in "very good order" and well maintained by the current owners.

Some of the period features intact within the building, which is understood to have previously housed a religious order, include stained glass windows and ornate cornicing, and it is set on almost an acre of land. It is currently on the market for £600,000 and, according to Macfarlane and Smyth, has attracted a lot of interest.

A spokesman would not be drawn on whether there was a bidding war for the building, but said negotiations were currently ongoing.

TCD's move to sell up in Belfast comes shortly after it announced plans to make its courses more accessible for students from Northern Ireland.

Due to the difference between the Leaving Certificate examinations which students in the Republic of Ireland study, students from Northern Ireland had to sit four A-levels to stand a chance of a place at TCD, and the university admitted it had seen the number of students coming from Northern Ireland falling.

It announced a new initiative last summer aimed at tripling the number of incoming students from across the border.

North Belfast MLA Alban Maginness said he was sad to see TCD leaving the building. "The fact it has ceased operations in that building is quite sad because obviously it was a resource that could be used constructively and was used constructively in terms of recconciliation and scholarship," the SDLP man said. "It may have been that the building was not suitable for that use. But I wouldn't say it is a blow for north Belfast, if TCD is set to continue its work in the city.

"The important thing is that TCD continues in Belfast."

A spokeswoman for Trinity said it was planning to move to a new location in Belfast to "grow and develop" its work in the city.

"The Irish School of Ecumenics, Trinity College Dublin, confirms that the property on the Antrim Road which currently houses its MPhil in conflict resolution and reconciliation is being sold," she said.

"It aims to grow and develop its work in Belfast and will be moving to a new location in the city for that purpose."

Archbishop of Canterbury calls for Primates' Gathering

The Archbishop of Canterbury wrote this week to all 37 Primates inviting them to attend a special Primates' gathering in Canterbury to reflect and pray together concerning the future of the Communion.

The meeting, to be held in January 2016, would be an opportunity for Primates to discuss key issues face to face, including a review of the structures of the Anglican Communion and to decide together their approach to the next Lambeth Conference.

The agenda will be set by common agreement with all Primates encouraged to send in

contributions. It is likely to include the issues of religiously-motivated violence, the protection of children and vulnerable adults, the environment and human sexuality.

Archbishop Justin Welby said: “I have suggested to all Primates’ that we need to consider recent developments but also look afresh at our ways of working as a Communion and especially as Primates, paying proper attention to developments in the past.

“Our way forward must respect the decisions of Lambeth 1998, and of the various Anglican Consultative Council and Primates’ meetings since then. It must also be a way forward, guided by the absolute imperative for the church to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ, to make disciples and to worship and live in holiness, and recognising that the way in which proclamation happens and the pressures on us vary greatly between Provinces. We each live in a different context.

“The difference between our societies and cultures, as well as the speed of cultural change in much of the global north, tempts us to divide as Christians: when the command of scripture,

the prayer of Jesus, the tradition of the church and our theological understanding urges unity. A 21st-century Anglican family must have space for deep disagreement, and even mutual criticism, so long as we are faithful to the revelation of Jesus Christ, together.

“We have no Anglican Pope. Our authority as a church is dispersed, and is ultimately found in Scripture, properly interpreted. In that light I long for us to meet together under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and to seek to find a way of enabling ourselves to set a course which permits us to focus on serving and loving each other, and above all on the proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ.”

The proposed dates for the meeting are 11-16 January 2016. The Archbishop of Canterbury will also extend an invitation to Archbishop Foley or his representative to be present for part of the time.

C of I should share experience on marriage at Anglican Primates' meeting - Changing Attitude

The announcement by the Archbishop of Canterbury that the 38 Primates of the 80 million member Anglican Communion are to meet to discuss its future has been welcomed by the Chair of the Church of Ireland pro-gay group, Changing Attitude Ireland.

Dr Richard O'Leary of Changing Attitude Ireland responded "It is helpful that the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, recognises that Anglicans worldwide do not have an agreed position on sexuality". Archbishop Welby said: "A 21st-century Anglican family must have space for deep disagreement". Asked whether this represented, if not a divorce, a legal separation, a Lambeth Palace source said: "It's more like sleeping in separate bedrooms."

The worldwide Anglican Communion is divided on same sex marriage between inclusive Churches like the USA Episcopal Church which offers same sex blessings and conservative Church in Uganda which supports the criminalisation of homosexuality.

Archbishop Richard Clarke, the Primate of the Church of Ireland, and the other Primates have been invited by Archbishop Welby to submit contributions in advance of the meeting to be

held in January. Dr O'Leary said that he hopes “Archbishop Clarke will draw the attention of the other Anglican Primates to the recent Irish experience of the referendum when the people overwhelmingly endorsed same sex marriage”.

Dr O'Leary added “Archbishop Clarke could also tell the other Anglican leaders of the Church of Ireland's experience of managing successfully disagreement about the remarriage of divorcees. This could be a model for managing disagreement on same sex blessings ie permit those clergy who wish to conduct them while respecting the right of conservatives who do not”.

Bishop Chillingworth responds to Archbishop Welby's initiative

The Most Reverend David Chillingworth, Bishop of St Andrew's and Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church writes in his blog -

“I'm glad that the Archbishop of Canterbury has decided that it is time to call a Primates Meeting. A growing number of voices – mine among them – have been suggesting that it is time for this. I

look forward to being there and I hope that the other 37 will be there too.

“Why is it time? Because the Anglican Communion is a body without centralised authority. It therefore is very important that its life is sustained by constant contact, dialogue and prayer. The Primates Meeting is one of four Instruments of Communion – the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lambeth Conference, the Primates Meeting and the Anglican Consultative Council. As the Communique from the last Primates Meeting in Dublin in 2011 said, ‘By God’s grace we strive to express that unity in diversity which is the Spirit’s work among the Churches of the Communion and the community of Primates.’ Collegiality is what matters. Indeed in the Primates Meeting, the Archbishop of Canterbury is to the Primates as I am to our College of Bishops in Scotland – a Primus inter Pares or First among Equals.

“The Anglican Communion has, I believe, suffered from a lack of clarity about what Communion means for us. It’s not so long since people talked about the Communion as held together by ‘bonds of affection’. That was all very well in its time. But the massive missionary success of the Anglican Church means that we are now a church of the most extraordinary

diversity and vitality. For a global body of this kind, it is hard to see how the view that Communion means uniformity of practice in every context can be attainable.

“What the commentators today have mainly failed to see is that two things are happening at the same time. The invitation to Archbishop Foley Beach of the Anglican Church of North America is part of an attempt to make it possible for the full breadth of the Communion to be present at this meeting. It is a worthy attempt to encourage the attendance of those who might otherwise stay away and I hope it succeeds because I yearn to be part of a dialogue which involves the whole Communion. But there is another movement under way which makes it important that we try to shape our understanding of what communion means for us today. Many of the Provinces of what we often call the Global North – America, Canada, Scotland, Wales, New Zealand, etc – are now moving on the issue of same-sex marriage. Massive and rapid social change coupled with legislative change – together with the passionate conviction of some – create a context to which those Provinces find themselves ‘on the move’. That movement creates tensions within Provinces – as in Scotland. It will also increase tension within the Anglican Communion.

“This is the moment for the Primates Meeting – I look forward to it and pray for honest and respectful dialogue.”

Children's Ministry Network attends conference on family in Liverpool



Frances Boyd (Clogher), Carolyn Good (Cashel, Ferns & Ossory), Jill Hamilton (Children's Officer, Connor), Julie Currie (Children's Officer, Down & Dromore), Gillian Purser (Cashel, Ferns & Ossory), Dr Peter Hamill (Secretary, Board of Education, Northern Ireland) and Revd James Mulhall (Cashel, Ferns & Ossory).

Representatives from the Church of Ireland Children's Ministry Network recently attended the 'We are Family – The Changing face of family ministry' conference in Liverpool run by the Consultative Group on Ministry among Children.

The main speaker was Carrie Longton, co-founder of Mumsnet, and she spoke on the challenge of ministry to families today. The conference focussed on the challenge of how the definition of family is ever-changing and how we as Christians can reach out to families. The conference also launched the 'Core Skills for Family Ministry' training programme.

Dr Peter Hamill, Secretary of the Board of Education, said: 'There is a great challenge in how we look at the definition of family and what that means for us in today's society. It was heartening to meet with others who believed in loving others into the Kingdom and showing the care and compassion of Jesus.'

Dungannon church geared up for Rugby World Cup



One day to go! RWC begins today and matches will be shown at St Anne's. The invitation has been issued - Come along and we can shout at the TV together! Bring food, flags, beanbags, stress balls - whatever it takes to get you through! Three of Ireland's group matches are at 4.45pm on Sunday - finished just in time for Evening service, so yes, you can do both

'Gifted American Preacher' to Share Expertise with Derry and Raphoe Clergy and Parish Teams

Clergy and parish team members are looking forward to this weekend's arrival of one of the United States' foremost congregational development experts – the South Carolina minister the Very Rev Dr Charles 'Chuck' Owens.

As Rector of the Church of the Cross in Bluffton, South Carolina, Dr Owens has presided over phenomenal growth. Since his installation almost 20 years ago, the congregation has increased twenty fold. More than 70 lay-led ministries have been established to serve the parish and surrounding communities. Parishioners have founded their own school, serving around 500 pupils – ranging from toddlers through to eighth grade – and plans are well advanced to open a high school.

The husband, father and grandfather is described as “a gifted teacher and preacher of the Gospel”. He will carry out a number of engagements over a five-day period as part of the Diocese's Year of Prayer and Preparation. They include a series meetings with clergy in Tobermore, Donegal, Derry and Sion Mills, and sessions with parish team members in Raphoe, Newtonstewart and Limavady.

During his half century in the Anglican Church, the former teacher has served in various lay

leadership roles. For the past ten years he been Chairman of South Carolina Diocese's Congregational Development Committee.

Dr Owens travels extensively in South Carolina and beyond, facilitating leadership, discipleship and stewardship at both parish and diocesan levels. Recently he has established "ongoing relationships" with the Church of Ireland Diocese of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh and the Diocese of Fredericton in Canada. He has developed and conducted conferences aimed at strengthening small congregations; these conferences are now being offered on a continuing basis here in Ireland and elsewhere.

Dr Owens' first 'official' appearance will be in Raphoe, on Sunday, when he preaches at the Ordination Service of Rev Robbie Robinson in St Eunan's Cathedral.

Family scenario has changed - Dublin Mothers' Union members festival service

Mothers' Union members from all over Dublin and Glendalough filled Whitechurch Parish Church on Tuesday evening (September 15) for their annual Diocesan Festival Eucharist Service.

The service was celebrated by the Archbishop of Dublin, the Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson and the preacher was the Bishop of Limerick, the Right Revd Kenneth Kearon.



Bishop Ken Kearon, Archbishop Michael Jackson, Canon Horace McKinley, the Revd David Mungavin, Joy Gordon and Amy Hourie.

During the service two MU members were commissioned to new areas of responsibility on the Trustee Board. Amy Hourie was commissioned as Faith and Policy Unity Coordinator and Sandra Condell was

commissioned as Indoor Members Prayer Correspondent.

In his sermon, Bishop Kearon focused on the constant role of the mother in family life despite the rapid pace of change in society. He suggested that society had undergone a paradigm shift in the last 40 years, so much so that it was hard to remember what life was like just four decades ago. How did we live without mobile phones, he wondered adding that the way we engage with the world has changed.

This is even more true of families, he said. When we hear stories about a family in the Bible, we're probably hearing about a huge tribal gathering of people who are all related in some way. When we read that Joseph and his family went down to Egypt, it probably refers to a group of over 100 people, the Bishop explained.

Through the ages the family scenario has changed. "Today we talk about a family that is very complex. There are many ways of being family today and people cope with the different ways but they are still family. Families remain a centre of care and concern in the community... The role of the mother has been a constant figure in family life across the centuries. This is what we celebrate here tonight, the role of

families as a constant centre of care and concern and the role of the mother as a constant figure who keeps that family relationship together,” Bishop Kearon said.

The service was Joy Gordan’s last as Diocesan MU President. Her term comes to an end in December. Speaking after the service, she referred to the Prayer Vigil for the People of Syria which took place in Zion during which the Archbishop issued the challenge to people to welcome the refugees who come here.

“Mothers’ Union will be there. We have been engaging with other organisations and there is no better organisation than Mothers’ Union to put our faith into action,” she stated.

Joy added that MU would continue their commitment to projects worldwide and suggesting increasing their response to rising violence across the world. She highlighted the forthcoming Vigil in Christ Church Cathedral which Dublin and Glendalough Mothers’ Union is organising as part of the Sixteen Days Against Gender Violence campaign. It will take place on November 28 at 3.00 pm.

The evening marked the launch of a new book of knitting and sewing patterns by the MU and Joy praised the team who put such hard work into

bringing the project to fruition. The book is available from Mothers' Union for just €4.

Joy thanked all those who had supported her over the last six years during her office of President. "It has been a privilege to be entrusted with the leadership of Mothers' Union in this diocese. You've never left my side and I hope I have served you well," she said adding that she could not have done it without the tremendous support of her family.

Ten year high in Derry C of I ordinations

It may be an increasingly secular world, but the Church of Ireland in the Derry and Raphoe Diocese is experiencing the highest number of ordinations in 10 years, the Belfast Telegraph reports

Bishop Ken Good ordained four new deacons at the weekend - all of whom have previously held down other jobs.

They are Rev Elizabeth Fitzgerald who will serve as Deacon-Intern in Donaghadee; Rev Rhys Jones who is going to Castledawson; Rev Robert Wray who has been appointed to the

parish Christ Church, Culmore, Muff, and St Peter's and Rev Chris MacBruithin who will serve in St Augustine's, Londonderry.



Bishop Ken Good (centre) with the new deacons, Rev Rhys Jones, Rev Chris MacBruithin, Rev Elizabeth Fitzgerald and Rev Robert Wray

By contrast, the Catholic Diocese in Derry has so far only celebrated one ordination this year, down from four in 2013.

Bishop Good said: "Each of the four deacons have their own story about how their faith has been important to them. "While they have come from other occupations - one was a

physiotherapist, one a teacher and two from the civil service - they were all very active within their own parishes prior to their ordination.

Rev Chris MacBrithin, who quit his job as a teacher, is excited to start his new calling in St Augustine's within the city centre.

He said: "I think I was the last person to realise I had been called to the ministry because my wife, family and friends had all been suggesting that I consider it for quite some time.

"I did do a lot of work within the parish, working with young people and doing some preaching and previously I had done missionary work in Bolivia with an organisation called Latin Link.

"It wasn't until my own minister told me one day that he thought I was doing too much and asked me to pick one thing amongst them all that I could give up.

"I had a think about it and came to the conclusion that the one thing I could give up was my day job as a teacher.

"That really was a moment of realisation for me - much as I loved being a teacher I knew then that it was God's calling that mattered most.

"That was in 2013 and since then I have been studying and I am excited to begin work," he said.

Couldn't Run the Length of Myself

A short video outlining the work of [Bishops' Appeal](#), and the reason Rev'd Garth Bunting is running a half and a full marathon to raise vital funds.

Donate online at <http://christchurchcathedral.ie/donate/>

Tullamore bicentenary lecture

St Catherine's Church, Tullamore bicentenary lecture at Offaly History Centre Monday 21 September 2015 at 8pm, sharp. Michael Byrne, illustrated with pictures dating back to the 1870s and up to 2015. Tea and biscuits after the talk.

This lecture will review the history of the Church of Ireland in Tullamore from the early 1700s to recent times. Topics will include the first church in Church Street, St Catherine's, the memorials in the church, the cemeteries, Charleville School, rectors, the Bury family (the patrons) and population since the 1800s. Admission is €2 to members and €5 to non members.

Media digest

Irish News - Death threat Irish News journalist flooded with messages of support

<http://www.irishnews.com/news/northernirelandnews/2015/09/15/news/death-threat-irish-news-journalist-flooded-with-messages-of-support-262716/>

News Letter - Remembering Co Mayo's forgotten Orange heritage

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/remembering-co-mayo-s-forgotten-orange-heritage-1-6961014>

BBC News: Queen's University: Compulsory redundancies possible in bid to save money

Queen's University in Belfast warns staff it may have to make compulsory redundancies in an effort to save money, the BBC learns.

[w.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-34274665](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-34274665)

Belfast Telegraph - Arts Council of Northern Ireland to quit its Belfast HQ

As cutbacks bite, staff working at MacNeice House in the leafy suburbs of Belfast's Malone Road will be moving next month to purpose-built offices in Lisburn.

Louis MacNeice's father, John Frederick MacNeice, lived in the Malone Road house as Church of Ireland Bishop of Down, Connor and Dromore. MacNeice House - which was given its name by the Arts Council because of its links with the famous Belfast-born poet

Louis MacNeice - is now listed for sale for £3.5m via McKibben Property Consultants.

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/arts-council-of-northern-ireland-to-quit-its-belfast-hq-31533731.html>

Tel/Guard/C Times/Mail/Times/Ind/BBC/Pink News/Reuters

Reports on yesterday's announcement by the Archbishop of Canterbury (see *above*), that he has invited the 37 Anglican Primates to Canterbury this January (2016) to discuss key issues face to face. Articles refer to the differing views between conservatives and liberals across the Communion on sexuality issues and speculate on whether there will be another Lambeth Conference.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/sep/16/archbishop-of-canterbury-urges-breakup-of-divided-anglican-communion>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11869056/Archbishop-of-Canterburys-last->

churchnewsireland@gmail.com

[throw-of-the-dice-to-save-Anglican-church-from-split.html](#)
<http://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2015/18-september/news/uk/crunch-time-for-the-communion-as-welby-summons-primates-to-canterbury-summit>
http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3237718/Welby-launches-bid-tackle-deep-divisions-Church-writing-leaders-world-s-Anglican-churches-summon-talks.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490
<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/faith/article4559325.ece>
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/people/archbishop-of-canterbury-calls-for-anglican-church-to-abandon-idea-it-has-global-consensus-10504603.html>
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-34272303>
<http://www.pinknews.co.uk/2015/09/16/archbishop-of-canterbury-calls-crisis-talks-to-prevent-global-anglican-split-over-gay-rights/>
<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2015/09/16/uk-religion-britain-anglicans-idUKKCN0RG2PL20150916>

Times

Church at Bay, saying the Archbishop of Canterbury is offering the Anglican Communion a reality check.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/leaders/article4559119.ece>

Guard

Article on what is the Anglican Communion and why is it under threat?

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/sep/16/what-is-anglican-communion-why-is-it-under-threat>

BBC

The Revd Juliet Stephenson vicar at the Holy Nativity, Chapel House, Newcastle has been named Celebrant of the Year at the Good Funeral Awards (see [CofE comms blog](#)).

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-tyne-34272098>

Tel/Ind

Reports that burning incense might be banned under proposed legislation banning 'legal highs'. The Association of English Cathedrals and the Churches Legal Advisory Service (CLAS) have sent formal submissions to the Commons Select Committee warning of the potential oversight in the Psychoactive Substance Bill. Article notes the Home Office has signalled incense is unlikely to be covered in the Bill which specifies the intentional use of a substance.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11869843/Could-church-incense-be-banned-as-legal-high.html>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/clergy-warn-burning-incense-could-be-made-illegal-under-proposed-legislation-to-tackle-legal-highs-10504786.html>

Star

Reports that an Islamic girls school in Burnley has closed after four years because of a lack of students. The former Bishop of Burnley is quoted.

<http://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/latest-news/465088/School-Muslim-Eton-closes-no-students-signed-up-Mohuiddin>

BBC

Reports that the sculpture of a naked, bleeding man has been installed in Sheffield Cathedral, as part of a city wide art exhibition.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-34258771>

+ Are you a Twitter user?

Please click on TWITTER on home page to receive daily headlines from CNI

+ Facebook user?

September 18

Click on FACEBOOK on home page to receive daily headlines

+ Please share CNI with your friends