



C of I ploughing an important furrow



The Church of Ireland will be hosting an exhibition stand and offering a warm welcome to everyone at Europe's largest Outdoor Exhibition and Agricultural Trade Show later this month when The National Ploughing Championships are held in Screggan, Tullamore, Co Offaly from September 18 - 20.

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As the event takes place within the diocesan boundary of Meath and Kildare the dioceses will organise the stand.

Rector of Tullamore, Revd Isaac Delamere, said: “You can be assured of a warm welcome at the Church of Ireland stand, which provides a valuable space in the midst of the busyness of the event to rest and have a cup of tea and a chat. For those who wish to pray there will be a member of the clergy available or you may place your prayer requests on the prayer tree. It’s also an opportunity to discover more about the Church of Ireland. There will also be a ‘kids corner’, where children can play.”

The statistics for the National Ploughing Championships are impressive. In previous years, it has had 1700 exhibitors occupying almost 2 million feet of trade space, and 291,500 visitors. This very important event is attended by people the length and breadth of the island of Ireland, and beyond. Last year visitors to the Championships spent just under €36.5 million during the three days of the event.

Bishop Pat Storey of Meath and Kildare said: “This is a wonderful opportunity to welcome people. The event is a significant part of the fabric of the wider community. As well as hospitality, we can share who we are and what we believe, as the Church of Ireland. We offer a warm welcome to every visitor.” The Church of Ireland tent can be found in row 10, number 230.

Legacy of St Patrick series in Downpatrick

The Saint Patrick Centre is launching an series of monthly talks and events with leading writers, academics, historians,

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politicians and archaeologists celebrating the history and legacy of Saint Patrick at home and abroad. The series will run from September 2018 until May 2019.

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The Autumn programme is called 'Legacy' and will focus on how Patrick h

as influenced the Modern World. It will launch on Friday 7 September at 7.30pm in the Saint Patrick Centre with a talk entitled 'Saint Patrick – the Welsh Connection' by Pontypridd MP and former Labour Shadow Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Owen Smith.

'We are looking forward to welcoming Owen Smith to Downpatrick and hearing about Patrick's origins in Wales, his connection with Saint David and how he is celebrated there today.' said Centre Director Dr Tim Campbell. 'Owen is an excellent speaker and no doubt will draw on his own experiences and views which has become well known on the national stage.'

The series will continue on Friday the 5 October with a talk by Archbishop Robin Eames entitled *Saint Patrick, Armagh and the search for Common Ground*. All events are free of charge but the Saint Patrick Centre recommends reserving seats by calling 02844619000 or emailing conference@saintpatrickcentre.com.

Christian Aid exhibition at Belfast Cathedral

Christian Aid's 'Uprooted and Overlooked' exhibition which is touring the country to raise awareness of the 40 million internally displaced people around the world can now be viewed in Belfast Cathedral.

Because those displaced inside their own country have not crossed a border, they often lack international recognition

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and support.

A Christian Aid Ireland spokesperson said: “The exhibition will give you the chance to hear displaced people tell their own stories.

Through a series of powerful images and individual accounts, you will learn more about the global crisis of displacement, its consequences and the challenges displaced people face.

“The exhibition will also give you the opportunity to involve yourself in the campaign further.”

Stories on display include those forced to flee from their homes due to conflict in Iraq and Nigeria and drought in Kenya. These stories also inspire with examples of how host communities and individuals have extended generosity and hospitality.

The exhibition, which continues until September 21, can be

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found in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit adjacent to the Cathedral Welcome Desk. More information is available [here](#).

Lurgan launch of 'Let's Talk' film

In partnership with Kettle of Fish productions, the Jethro Centre, Lurgan, would like to invite you to: An afternoon/evening event on 19th Sept. 3pm until 9pm: The Launch of a film 'Let's Talk'

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The organisers state the launch will provide an opportunity as well as a safe space to explore together, "how we can in the midst of a political vacuum in NI, address the issue of 'Building a healthy social democracy' ".



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The event is open to those from all sectors in our society who would like to explore this theme further. Registration by 29th August is necessary.

The guest speaker will be Prof Pete Shirlow from Dept of Irish Studies Liverpool University. Pete is well known for his passion around having conversations together and has hosted many conversations around this theme.

Registration to olivehobson@btinternet.com Or text by mobile 07779597647

Refreshments will be served and for those who wish to talk together after the event a meal will be served at 8pm. 6 Flush Place Lurgan BT66 7DT. <https://jethrocentre.weebly.com/>

'We were as close as brothers': Presbyterian minister's book about Martin McGuinness friendship

A Presbyterian minister is to publish a book about his deep friendship with Martin McGuinness.

Rev David Latimer will detail his relationship with the Sinn Féin politician from its beginnings when he approached the Bogside man following the paint-bombing of his First Derry Presbyterian church.

He said A Leap of Faith, to be launched later this year, would cover every aspect of a friendship that developed

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over 10 years, including the backlash he suffered from within his own community.

It is being published with the support of the McGuinness family and it is understood the former deputy first minister's widow Bernie has written a foreword.

While the friendship developed behind the scenes, it became known to the wider public when – along with Derry priest Fr Michael Canny - Rev Latimer publicly endorsed Mr McGuinness's presidential candidature seven years ago.

The closeness of the bond was also evident when he delivered a eulogy at his funeral in March last year.

He told The Irish News: “I still totally miss him as a friend. We were as close as brothers.”

Rev Latimer said he wrote the book so that people would know “the truth about the relationship”.

He said he had expected a backlash from his own community when their bond became public but nothing prepared him for the depth of the onslaught.

This included graffiti and a police warning that loyalists intended vandalising his home.

Rev Latimer said some families also left his First Derry Presbyterian church, while loyal orders stopped using the building on Derry's walls as a venue for parades.

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He was also either overtly shunned or “politely ignored” by some fellow members of the Protestant faiths.

Despite this, Rev Latimer said he never regretted allowing the friendship to develop.

“The book will help people understand that we have to do things; to take risks and this was the result. It will include some lovely facets of a remarkable relationship.” All proceeds from the book will go to research into Amyloidosis, the illness from which Mr McGuinness died.

Millions of people 'receiving less than their fair share', Archbishop Justin Welby warns

The Archbishop of Canterbury says the UK economy has not functioned properly for "decades", leaving millions of people worse off.

Mostt Rev Justin Welby also warned of a "widening gulf between rich and poor" as he called for fairness to be put "at the heart of the economy".

His comments accompany a new report which calls for radical changes, including a higher minimum wage.

Archbishop Justin said: "For decades, the UK economy has not worked as it should, with millions of people and many parts of the country receiving less than their fair share.

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"The widening gulf between rich and poor, and fears about the future among young people and their parents, have damaged our nation's sense of itself.

"Our report shows that it doesn't have to be like this."

The document, published by a commission created two years ago by the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR), urges a new ten-year reform plan which includes higher levels of public investment.

Among the more than 70 recommendations, it also suggests raising corporation tax, a new National Investment Bank, and having workers join company boards.

Archbishop Justin added: "By putting fairness at the heart of the economy, we can make it perform better, improving the lives of millions of people.

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"Achieving prosperity and justice together is not only a moral imperative - it is an economic one."

The document, which is also backed by the TUC union and economists, warns that living standards have stagnated for tens of millions of people during the ten years since the financial crisis, while younger people have seen their life chances deteriorate.

It says that economic power in the UK should be "re-balanced", away from Westminster to regions, and away from corporate management to unions and employees.

IPPR director Tom Kibasi said: "The commission has reached a remarkable agreement on a new direction for the UK economy.

"Our proposals are unashamedly ambitious. Taken together, they offer the prospect of the most significant change in economic policy in a generation.

A Government spokesman said: "Through the Government's modern Industrial Strategy, we have already made significant progress on our radical agenda of reforms, including proposals to ensure workers benefit from enhanced rights and protections, and upgrading our world-leading corporate governance.

"We are also working with local leaders and businesses to develop tailored local industrial strategies, driving future economic growth in regions to provide highly skilled and well paid jobs."

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News briefs

+++Non-Subscribing Presbyterian minister retires - The Rev Norman Hutton conducted his last service as full-time Minister of Banbridge Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church on Sunday, August 26. He was also Minister of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Churches in Newry and Warrenpoint. Mr Hutton will remain as Minister-in-Charge in Banbridge for six months, so the congregation will welcome him into the pulpit once a month during this period. During almost two decades as Minister in Banbridge, Mr Hutton has been Moderator of the General Synod, Clerk of the General Synod, Moderator of the Presbytery of Bangor and Moderator of the Presbytery of Bangor. He has also held many other positions within the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland. Speaking from the pulpit on the Sunday morning, he said it was an emotional day, adding that it had been a 'great honour' to have served the church for almost 20 years. At the end of the service, Clerk of Session Mr Jim Russell presented Mr Hutton with a gift from the Church, and Hon Sec Mrs Carol McAlister presented Mrs Doris Hutton with a bouquet of flowers.

+++Scottish Episcopal Institute Lecture 2018 - This year's Lecture will be held on Thursday 11 October at 5.30pm in Parliament Hall, South Street, St Andrews. Professor Elaine Graham, Grosvenor Research Professor of Practical Theology, University of Chester and Canon Theologian of Chester Cathedral, will deliver a paper entitled 'Liberating the Laity: a Theology for a Learning Church'. The Lecture, sponsored by the School of Divinity

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at St Andrews University, is open to all free of charge, and is followed by a reception.

+++East Cork Messiah - East Cork Choral Society's 40th Anniversary performance of Handel's "Messiah" in Ballymaloe Grainstore on December 29th will sell out quickly. Make sure to get your tickets from Ballymaloe at 021 4757200. This performance is dedicated to the memory of Mrs. Myrtle Allen.

+++Irish Jesuits Mission annual report - The Annual Report 2017 was released last week with details of the impact made on nearly 640,000 people last year through programmes for refugees and other forcibly displaced people in 52 countries across the world. [http://en.jrs.net/news_detail?TN=NEWS-20180823025136 ...](http://en.jrs.net/news_detail?TN=NEWS-20180823025136...)

