



Belfast presentation of research into faith among young adults and young people in Ireland

A significant piece of research into faith among young adults and young people in Ireland will be presented on 9 February 2018 in Belfast Bible College.

Finding Faith in Ireland, commissioned by Christ In Youth and carried out by Barna Group, is one of the most detailed research projects to examine Irish teenagers and young adults, with a specific emphasis on their faith, worries and perceptions of Christianity.

This research has been presented extensively around the Republic of Ireland and, after many requests from leaders, is being presented for the first time in Northern Ireland.

Jasper Rutherford, Christ in Youth's Director of Europe, said: "We believe that *Finding Faith in Ireland* is a great tool and gift to the Church to help us better understand the mindsets of Irish teens and young adults today. In these findings and the accompanying report, parents, ministers and youth workers will find information and motivation to help the younger generations cultivate a faith that not only survives these formative years but endures into adulthood."

He continued: "Research really takes off when practitioners gather together and respond to the findings. At this gathering we would love for you to be a part of the discussions and the conversations."

The event is aimed at church leaders and those with a particular concern for young people and young adults and takes place from 11–1.00 pm on Friday 9 February.

If you would like to attend, please confirm your place by emailing Jasper at: jasper.rutherford@ciy.com to confirm your place.

#Jars4Journeys Lenten initiative supports communities affected by climate change

The Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal, Eco-Congregation Ireland and the Representative Church Body of the Church of Ireland (RCB) are joining forces to promote the Lenten initiative #Jars4Journeys

Bishops' Appeal Education Advisor Lydia Monds said: "We are inviting people to save an old jam jar or other recyclable container and every time they make a journey that is not by foot or by bike, they can donate to offset the impact of their carbon footprint. The money raised will go towards three conservation projects around the world that support and help build resilience in communities who are most affected by climate



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change. Bishops' Appeal and the RCB are match-funding the first €1,000/£1,000 raised. Join us this Lent in being mindful of the impact of our lifestyles on others and on all of creation."

Three projects will be supported:

- solar-powered ovens for Amazonian communities adversely affected by climate change in Bolivia (Christian Aid);
- conservation farming for self-help groups affected by drought in Ethiopia (Tearfund Ireland); and
- tree planting and water harvesting for communities affected by unpredictable rainfall, drought and deforestation in Kenya (Green Belt Movement).

Anyone can take part in #Jars4Journeys by downloading jam jar labels at www.bishopsappeal.ireland.anglican.org/campaigns/climate-change and donating every time a journey is taken by car, bus, tram, train or airplane.

Bishops' Appeal regularly funds projects that build resilience for communities who are most affected by climate change. Eco-Congregation Ireland has a vision to see churches throughout the island of Ireland adopt an eco-approach to worship, lifestyle, property and finance management, community outreach and contact with the developing world.

The RCB has undertaken a number of environmental initiatives including 'keep cups' for staff, beehives at the RCB offices and joining the Climate Action 100+ investment initiative.

More information on the projects supported by the initiative is available at www.bishopsappeal.ireland.anglican.org/campaigns/climate-change

Four Bible studies on the theme of care for creation have been published by Bishops' Appeal (available from www.bishopsappeal.ireland.anglican.org/pray)

and Eco–Congregation Ireland provides further practical and spiritual resources at www.ecocongregationireland.com/modules

The Parish Resources section on the Church of Ireland website includes information on helping parishes to improve their environmental sustainability: www.ireland.anglican.org/parish-resources

Methodist Church ALL IN mission conference

An opportunity for the whole Irish Methodist Connexion to be inspired and equipped to go forward in mission together as MCI will be held on Saturday, April 28 in the Canal Court Hotel, Newry, from 10:30 to 17:00.

ALL IN is organised by Council for Social Responsibility, Edgehill Theological College, Home Mission Department, IMYC, Methodist Women in Ireland World Development & Relief and World Mission Partnership.

The keynote speaker is Pete Greig. Pete is a best-selling author, pastor and bewildered instigator of the 24-7 Prayer movement which



has reached more than half the nations on earth. Pete's publications include '[Red Moon Rising](#)', '[God on Mute](#)', '[The Prayer Course](#)', and '[Dirty Glory](#)'." Pete is a friend of Irish Methodism.



Pete Greig.

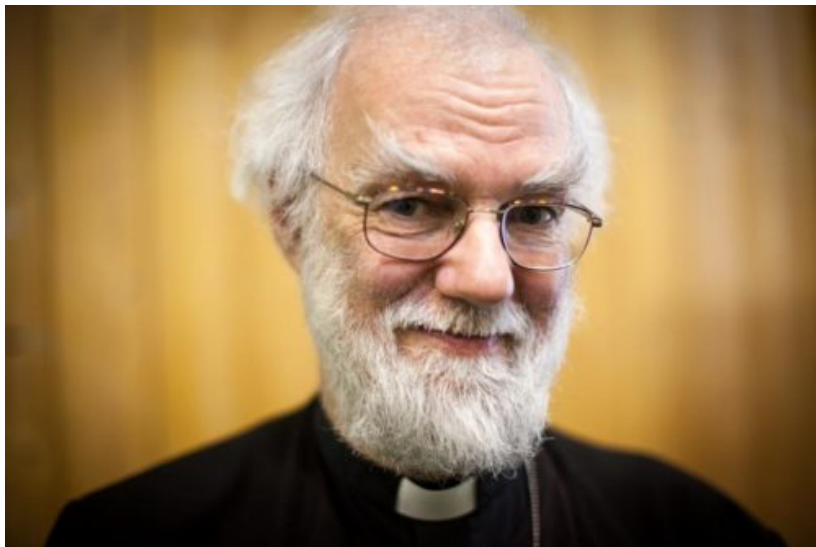
There will also be contributions from those whose time is spent connecting church (and God) with communities: Neil Hudson (London Institute for Contemporary Christianity), Sean Mullan (Founder of Third Space in Dublin) and Diane Holt (Director of Thrive Ireland). There will also be voices from other parts of the world church, sharing their learning around mission where they are. All attendees will leave with practical 'tools' to help church leaders and members go forward with outreach; both locally and globally.

For further information please click [here](#) or e-mail onemission@irishmethodist.org

Dr Rowan Williams sends strong message to leaders at WEF Davos summit

In a stark warning about inequality between the world's rich and poor, a former Archbishop of Canterbury has accused business and political figures of wrongly linking economic growth to better living standards.

In comments released as leading figures attend the World Economic Forum in the Swiss resort of



Rowan Williams: “We have stopped asking what wealth is for”

Davos this week, Dr Rowan Williams said there is "little or nothing" to suggest rising gross domestic product (GDP) eases poverty levels.

He was arguing that an increase in the value of goods and services an economy produces does not necessarily create benefits for the poorest in society.

Writing the foreword to a report by Christian Aid, of which he is a chair, Dr Rowan said: "We have stopped asking what wealth is for.



"Lacking a coherent picture of what a good human life looks like, we have filled the gap with quantified measures that tell us little or nothing about how far flesh-and-blood human beings are flourishing in all aspects of their experience.

"For Christians, in particular, this is a serious failure: we are in danger of not thinking about what is involved in our belief that we are made in God's image, made for creative engagement in the lives of others that will build them up as they build us up. Wealth is instrumental to this, never an end in itself."

Christian Aid's new report warns the world's elite that "obessing about GDP is not the answer to solving poverty", and it also encourages unhealthy debt levels and consumerism in wealthier countries.

An advisor for the charity, Sue Richardson told Premier: "Simply generating more money - either within an economy or even, in many cases, raising the level of income for people - does not actually address poverty in all of its complexities.

"We discovered that despite incomes growing in Ghana for instance, the northern part of the country is poorer than it was when we began working their."

Magheralin to celebrate major church refurbishment tomorrow

The parishioners of Magheralin are looking forward to a big celebration on Sunday evening as they reopen their church following a refurbishment.

Extensive work has been done to enhance the building and create a warm, bright and welcoming worship space with a lot more flexibility and scope to host events.



Earlier in the week, Bishop Harold and Mrs Liz Miller were shown around by the rector, Revd Simon Genoe and curate, Revd Carlton Baxter. They also met the architect, Des Cairns and glebe wardens, Peter Greenfield and Terry Nicholson.

Des explained that the refurbishment was initially prompted by the need to completely rewire the church and bring it into line with current health and safety requirements. The vestry, however, grabbed the opportunity to install new heating, lighting and audio-visual equipment and make major improvements to the fabric of the building.

At the main entrance a draft lobby has been added and off it, a disabled toilet with baby changing facilities. The lobby serves the double function of keeping the heat in and providing a means of escape if there is an emergency.

Those familiar with the church will immediately notice that the baptismal font has been moved to a more central position at the back, freeing up space for a coffee/tea station to one side of the lobby. The font (and baptisms) will now be more visible, particularly with the installation of an HD camera on one of the pillars.

Virtually all of the pews have been replaced by upholstered wood-framed chairs. “We retained some pews to preserve some of the story of the building,” explained Des. “In the chancel, for example, we’ve kept the back choir pews, along with the prayer desks, but the rest of the seating is moveable so that the whole space can be cleared.”

the right hand transept has been separated off with a striking full height double glazed glass wall. This space has its own heating and can be used as a meeting room. It also has an audio-visual feed – ideal for families with young children who might want to be part of the service but are wary of disturbing others.

The church has been completely redecorated and carpeted, apart from some of the original flooring at the back.

Do call in and enjoy this beautiful building.

Festival bilingual Choral Evensong on St Brigid's Day

Festival bilingual service of Choral Evensong, said and sung in Irish and English, at Christ Church Cathedral Thursday, 1st February, at 6pm.

The Cathedral Choir will sing 'S Beannaithe Thú, a Bhríd (Brigid, O Holy One) which describes the life of St Brigid, including some of her great miracles. The anthem was composed by Anne-Marie O'Farrell last year.

Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise: The Irish Guild of the Church was founded in 1914 to (1) promote all that tends to preserve within the Church of Ireland the spirit of the ancient Celtic Church and to provide a bond of union for all members of the Church of Ireland inspired with Irish ideals, (2) promote the use of the Irish language in the Church, (3) collect from Irish sources suitable

hymns and other devotional literature, (4) encourage the use of Irish art and music in the Church.

www.gaeleaglais.ie

Messy Church Christingle service in Ballymena



There was a fantastic turnout of families for a Messy Church Christingle service hosted by St Patrick's, Ballymena, in the parish hall on Sunday January 21.

Commonly celebrated during Advent, Christingle services can also be held around Epiphany.

www.churchnewsireland.org

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The service explored the origins of the Christingle before everyone had a chance to make their own, learning how Jesus is the light of the world and how his light can never be put out.

This was done in a relaxed and enjoyable way through song, crafts and play.

Well done to Ballymena Youth Workers Lucy and Alan and to the dedicated team of Sunday school teachers and helpers who prepared the room and assisted with the many craft activities and food.

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