

Bible Comes to Life exhibition coming to Enniskillen



The Clogher Diocesan Board of Mission will be hosting 'The Bible Comes to Life' exhibition in Enniskillen in March, the only one of its kind in Ireland during 2018. This unique exhibition returns again after 25 years to the Cathedral Hall, Enniskillen, from Thursday, 8th March to Sunday, 11th March 2018.

The exhibition introduces an understanding of Biblical Jewish life, culture and religion and helps in understanding the roots of Christianity. A significant collection of historic artefacts is used as part of this educational work.

By working closely with local churches, schools, children's workers and youth leaders the team can bring a taste of the Biblical Middle East within the framework of local teaching programmes or curriculum.

The emphasis can either be on exploring Judaism—referencing Biblical Festivals, worship ritual, and the Bible narrative of the Jewish people—or on talking about early Christianity and its links to Judaism. On the basis that an audio–visual experience helps people to remember teaching more effectively than just talking about a subject, the exhibition provides effective illustration, especially through a spectacular 3 metre x 2 metre model of

the Jewish Temple in the time of Jesus; LED lighting helps to explain the various sections and a smoking altar adds to the effect.

The Temple Model is a 2 metre x 1 metre scale model of the Desert Tabernacle with illustrative coverings, ritual furniture and animals. They also have “Jewish life” artefacts such as Sabbath candlesticks and bread, Jewish prayer shawls, phylacteries, a Passover plate, mezuzah (door post blessings), Illustrating Jewish Life and a unique Middle Eastern clothing collection with some garments dating back 150 years.

Some of the clothing is used to add character or costume themed Bible talks (e.g. The Shepherd, The Tribal Leader, The Middle Eastern Bride). Where practical, children are encouraged to try on the costumes.

All the artefacts have a fact sheet of explanatory notes and by using a multi-

sensory approach they aim to give exhibition visitors an insight into the Biblical world. All talks and materials can be adapted to suit either school curriculum requirements or the church's educational needs. The exhibition is staffed by The Church's Ministry Among Jewish People (CMJ), an Anglican Church mission society that has been active since 1809. The team is led by Paul and Janey Hames who have lived in Jerusalem for 25 years and have considerable experience working with churches, prayer groups, as well as students and young people.

All Ireland C of I Youth Forum in north Dublin

The Church of Ireland Youth Department's Youth Forum will bring young people from all 12 Dioceses together to discuss issues affecting them, and their role in the church, and to support their faith journey. The event takes place from 10am to 4pm, on Saturday 20 January 2018, in the City North Hotel, Dublin



Captain Canon Nic Sheppard (Church Army) served for many years as Diocesan Youth Officer in the Diocese of Ripon and Leeds, Yorkshire. Nic co-wrote the book *Employing Youth and Children's Workers* (2008), published by Church House Publishing, and was involved in establishing the Church of England Youth Council. He has vast experience working alongside young people and their leaders. Nic will bring creativity and energy to our Youth Forum and we look forward to welcoming him and his wife Sally.

We will also be joined by Archbishop of Armagh & Primate of All Ireland, the Most

Revd Dr Richard Clarke, to help us launch the Youth Forum and also launch CIYD's new resource for Lent for young people, FUEL.

The overall aims and objectives of the forum are:

- debating issues affecting all young people;
- encouraging and supporting youth participation;
- facilitating change and taking action; and
- supporting young people on their spiritual journey.

New Assistant Organist in Belfast cathedral

Dr Ed Jones who has joined the Music Department of St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast as Assistant Organist.

Ed comes to Belfast from Exeter Cathedral, where he was Organ Scholar. Born and bred in Aberdeen, Ed began playing the organ when he was at Aberdeen University where he did a Music



Degree followed by a PhD in Choral Composition.

While he was studying, Ed played in a parish church where both the organ and choir were small, but it was here he learned much about Anglican Liturgy.

He graduated with a Bachelor of Music degree with First Class Honours from the University of Aberdeen in 2011. During his time as an undergraduate, he was awarded the Ogston Music Making Award, the Chris Cadwur James Composition Award and he is the only music student ever to be awarded the Aberdeen City Quincentenary Prize.

Ed finished his studies for a PhD in Musical Composition at the University of Aberdeen in 2015 where his research and compositions focused on vocal works.

He was appointed Assistant Organist to The Cathedral Church of St Andrew in Aberdeen where he enjoyed the capabilities of the larger organ and choir and the larger building. In 2014 he moved to Blackburn Cathedral as Organ Scholar.

This was a full time post and as well as working with more choirs and playing at more services, Ed was also involved in an outreach project in local schools, something he really enjoyed.

After a year at Blackburn Ed moved to Exeter Cathedral as Organ Scholar.

As a conductor, he has worked with a wide variety of groups from the choir at St Andrew's Cathedral in Aberdeen and Con Anima Chamber Choir, and has been musical director to fully staged operas within the University of Aberdeen.

Ed said he was very excited to be at Belfast Cathedral.

“I am looking forward to working here. It is nice to come to a place where things are vibrant and busy and very much on the up. In a lot of places this is not the case in terms of choral music.”

He has been discussing plans for the future with Master of the Choristers David Stevens and Organ scholar Jack Wilson. As well as being the Cathedral’s Principal Organist – his first services are on January 7 – Ed will be responsible for the junior girls’ choir.

“I would like to establish a link with the University and would also like to set up a voluntary choir made up of students and others who cannot commit to a full schedule, and I will also be dealing with visiting choirs,” he said.

Ed succeeds Organist Ian Barber and Assistant Master of the Choristers Thérèse Woodfield who left the Cathedral at the end of 2017. His role is an amalgamation of the two.

David Stevens said: “Ed has a wide range of experience which will enable him to continue and build on the excellent work done by Ian and Thérèse, and I’m sure he’ll quickly become a valued member of the St Anne’s team.”

New rector of Dunboyne

The Reverend Eugene Griffin has been appointed to Dunboyne. Dublin born Eugene has been a curate-assistant in the parishes of Castleknock and Mulhuddart with Clonsilla since September 2014.

Prior to being ordained to the diaconate in 2013, he was an accountant in the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, Dublin and an auditor in the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General in Dublin Castle.

Music has always played a big part in his life and it is through choral singing that Eugene met his wife Joanna. They will be celebrating 25 years of married life later this year.

Eugene came to faith when he was a Lay Vicar Choral in St Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin, where he currently holds the position of Treasurer's Vicar.

Children's ministry is very important to him. Over the term of his curacy, he founded The Dublin and Glendalough Schools Choir Competition as a new diocesan initiative. He also had the pleasure of co-ordinating and leading the annual Primary Schools Service for the last two years.

On a parish level, he enormously enjoys engaging with children, their parents and people of all ages. Ecumenically, he has brought churches of various denominations together in Castleknock to celebrate the start of Advent and a walk of witness on Good Friday.

Relationships are at the core of his ministry. He says: "Our relationships with one another form the basis of any faith community. Underpinning all these relationships is our own relationship with God who is the anchor upon which we build everything in life. Jesus asks us all, as his disciples to 'get out of the boat' just as Peter did. I am very glad that the Holy Spirit gives me the courage to follow the examples of countless men and women down through the centuries and to put my trust and hope in God's divine purpose."

Eugene says that both Joanna and he are "delighted to be given the opportunity to put down roots in the Dunboyne and Rathmolyon Group of Parishes. to live, work and worship among you and they are really looking forward to getting to know its people and places over the coming years, especially all the best places to bring our dog Jessie for her walks."

Dungiven congregation has UK's 'only bomb-proof Sunday School'

A Presbyterian congregation in Dungiven, County Londonderry, is claiming a first for the UK, BBC NI News reports

They believe they have the only bomb-proof Sunday School in the country, after taking over a former police station.

The Church bought the three-storey fortified structure, complete with cell, for £175,000 last year.

The congregation planned to use it as a car park, but then decided to keep the police station for Church activities.

The children are now taught in a room which was once used for interrogation.

"This was a real fortress, up in the roof there is six inches of reinforced concrete to protect against mortar attacks," explained church committee member Ian Buchanan.

"The walls are three foot thick with reinforced concrete, everything is reinforced to the highest degree to make it totally bomb-proof."



Dungiven's Presbyterian congregation has a unique new church premises

He added: "I think I can safely say we have the only bomb-proof Sunday School in the whole of the UK."

The Church has spent more than £200,000 transforming the building and much of the work was carried out by members of the congregation.

It includes a new kitchen, elevator, crèche facilities, gym space and meeting rooms.

With a congregation of about 90 families, the Church has been involved in a massive fundraising campaign to pay for the work.

Church member Gladys Carmichael said it was a real team effort.

"When I saw the condition of the building at first, I thought it could never be used for Church activities but the transformation is remarkable and it now feels so homely," she said.

"There are lots of rooms now for the Sunday School children and the older groups to meet and play games and if any of the kids misbehave we can also put them in the cell to cool off."

The former Dungiven PSNI station is one of 80 police bases which have been sold off over the past 10 years, raising about £26m for the public purse.

Most have been demolished and the sites used for other purposes such as housing.

But that was never an option for the congregation in Dungiven.

"When we discovered what it was going to cost to demolish the building it was an easy decision to retain it" explained the church's Minister, the Rev Clive Glass.

"When we discovered what it was going to cost to demolish the building it was an easy decision

to retain it" said the church's minister, the Rev Clive Glass.

"We also decided to keep many of the trappings inside.

"It is good to have some of the original aspects of the building there too, just to remind the children and young people who maybe have never been to the station before in their lives, just what this was originally," he added.

The new church building has been called "the Station" and will be opened officially later this month.

CNI

Help CNI grow...

... Please commend
CNI daily news to your
friends
www.churchnewsireland.org

CNI