

## Us Ireland hosts trustee meeting on mission

**The Trustees of [Us](#) – the Anglican mission agency formerly known as USPG (the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel) – has been holding residential meeting in Dublin, this week. [Wednesday and Thursday, 6 and 7 November 2013].**

Patrick Comerford writes - This is the first time the trustees have met in Ireland, and the members of the boards of [Us Ireland](#) and Us Northern Ireland were invited to attend the meeting on Wednesday [6 November], when [Linda Chambers](#) made a presentation on the work of Us Ireland and the special links being developed with the Anglican Church in the Diocese of Swaziland.

This international meeting included trustees from Ghana and Barbados, as well as the Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory, the Right Revd Michael Burrows, is a trustee and also chairs the Irish boards.

There was an opportunity too to meet the London-based directors and staff of Us.

We all experienced the hospitality of Saint Patrick's Cathedral, when we were invited to Choral Evensong on Wednesday evening, and then to a reception in the Deanery hosted by the Dean of Saint Patrick's, the Very Revd Victor Stacey, beneath a life-size portrait of Dean Jonathan Swift.

Later, Bishop Michael brought some of the trustees on an hour-long walking tour of inner city Dublin, visiting the former Parliament buildings in College Green, Trinity College Dublin, and the Dail buildings in Kildare Street.



At the same time, I brought some of the trustees and board members on a guided tour of Christ Church Cathedral.

The two groups then joined each other for a dinner hosted by Us Ireland in the Chapter Room in Christ Church Cathedral, followed by an entertaining after-dinner speech by Bishop Michael, in which he looked at the history of relationships between the Church of Ireland and the Church of England.

US in Ireland was delighted to welcome the trustees to Ireland at this time of rebranding and refocusing, and as we prepare to celebrate 300 years since the establishment of the Irish SPG Auxiliary in 1714.

## Insight on rural Ireland

**In the current issue of the magazine of St Canice's Cathedral, Kilkenny, the Dean, Very Rev Katharine Poulton has commented, "A major conference, held in the Horse and Jockey and organised by our Diocesan Committee for rural communities in crisis was attended by some 80 people from across the diocese and beyond. A few people from our Parish attended and will have learned a great deal about the stresses faced by those involved in agriculture and living in rural Ireland.**

She continued, "Watch out for your neighbours and be kind to all was the overarching message from the various speakers. It is something we could all do well to follow. None of us knows the stresses our neighbour is after and we should at all times attempt to be kind to one another.

"We associate bullying with the playground, but it can happen in adulthood and in many ways. It can even happen in the church. We do not know the effect this can have on people when constant barrages of criticism are thrown around. Remember that if we criticise or bully someone because we don't like their approach to a particular matter, we should think of how we might do it, or indeed offer ourselves as a volunteer too."

Dean Poulton concluded, "One of the conference speakers talked about suicide awareness. It was not a conference for the fainthearted as it touched on so much reality. We need to be mindful of our tongues and our actions at all times and in all situations."

## Helping clergy communicate with children

**Communicating with children in church or school is a regular part of parish ministry and it can be a challenge to keep coming up with new ideas and ways of engaging children.**

This year the speaker at the Building Blocks Conference is John Hardwick who will also speak at a Clergy Lunch in Dublin on Friday November 22.

John is a singer, song writer, exciting interactive story teller, puppeteer, juggler and more. He is a Creative Christian Communicator whose aim is to present the Christian faith in an exciting and relevant [churchnewireland@gmail.com](mailto:churchnewireland@gmail.com)

way. He's written ten holiday club themes/ books, puppet books, hundreds of Christian children's songs and Bible Verse songs. He has produced CD's, DVD's and MP3 downloads of his songs! His latest venture is the 'Big Bible Verse Challenge!'

This lunchtime talk will help refresh and inspire clergy in their engagement with children. It takes place in the Church of Ireland Theological Institute, Braemor Park, Churchtown, on Friday November 22 from 12.30 pm to 2.00 pm. There will be lunch served at 12.30 pm *sharp* followed by the talk.

The lunchtime talk is free but due to catering arrangements names of those planning to attend need to be with Anne Taylor by Monday November 18.

For further information or booking contact – the Revd Anne Taylor Tel: 01-4905543 Email: [dublin@buildingblocks.ie](mailto:dublin@buildingblocks.ie)

### **'Building Blocks' Conference 2013**

There are still some places available for the Building Blocks Children's Ministry Conference on Saturday November 23 in All Hallows College, Drumcondra, Dublin 9.

See [www.buildingblocks.ie](http://www.buildingblocks.ie)

## Voice for Life Awards Service today

**Today, Saturday November 9, 2013 at 5.00 pm in St Bartholomew's Church, Dublin 4, those who were successful in the RSCM's Voice for Life Bronze, Silver and Gold awards this year will be recognised.**

The recognition will take place in the context of Choral Evensong sung by the award winners. All are welcome.

## New issue of Connor Connection

The latest issue of Connor Connections, the magazine for the Church of Ireland Diocese of Connor, is now available.

Featuring a photograph of former Archdeacon of Belfast Barry Dodds abseiling from the roof of the Europa Hotel on its front cover, the magazine contains a range of stories from across the diocese.

These include the work of Street Pastors in Belfast and Newtownabbey, restoration work in Duneane, Ballymena Parish's Nepalese visitor, a history of church planting in the diocese, an interview with Connor's new MU President, the Sunflower Mission in Ballintoy and reports and pictures of Connor Diocesan Synod.

There is also a message from the Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev Alan Abernethy, and more news and photographs reflecting life and events in the diocese.

## Charity concert with Belfast Community Gospel Choir

**An evening with Belfast Community Gospel Choir in Orangefield Presbyterian Church on Saturday 23 November will celebrate 15 years of the charity [Abaana](#). Doors open at 7.15 pm.**

Concert begins at 8.00 pm. Tickets: £15 and Concession £10

Tickets can be either ordered via telephone at 028 9145 1918 or online at [www.abaana.org/tickets](http://www.abaana.org/tickets).

## Specially Designed Scriptures

**The Bible Society Northern Ireland has been approached to help specific**

**groups in the creation of a New Testament, Gospel or Scripture Portion that is for a specific use.**

A partnership with FireFighters For Christ resulted in every FireFighter in Northern Ireland receiving a specially produced New Testament with a local image on the front cover. The Introduction was written by local people who would be known to the FireFighting community.

More recently a Gospel was designed and provided for use by the Chaplaincy at Jordanstown in outreach to a new intake of students. Again, this used a locally designed cover and BSNI were able to assist with printing and publishing arrangements - linking in as part of a larger print run being undertaken by publishers in Great Britain.

From time to time special products are created to be used by Bible Societies throughout the world. One such item is a great little booklet entitled 'On the road... A Journey through the Bible for Migrants'. As people move around the world in search for work, or better standards of living, our churches are finding new opportunities to connect with people from different backgrounds. This booklet is available in a number of languages to encourage people who find themselves far from home.

**The Bible Society in Northern Ireland** (BSNI) was founded in 1807. Today, it joins with other Bible Societies as the [United Bible Societies](#) to achieve the most effective translation, publication, and distribution of the Bible in all the languages spoken today.

The main objective of BSNI is to encourage churches and their members to support the United Bible Societies' extensive international programme of Bible translation and distribution. The need, identified more than 150 years ago, to place the Scriptures in the hands of the poor in countries around the world, remains a priority today.

Grants by BSNI help support the programmes of Bible Societies in other countries who are unable to generate sufficient funds locally. Translations are completed, Bibles are distributed and lives are changed because people here get prayerfully involved in taking the Word to the world.

At home, the Society also has a Children's ministry, communicating God's love through providing print and on-line publications for children and teenagers

<http://www.bsni.co.uk>

## New 'peace fence' at St Matthew's Church in east Belfast

**A new "peace fence" is to be built in east Belfast, BBC reported yesterday. It will be erected inside St Mathew's Catholic Church grounds. It will be made of wire netting designed to be retractable when not needed.**

***The new 'peace fence' will go up in the grounds of St Matthew's Church***

The Department of Justice (DoJ) has requisitioned church land on the Newtownards Road for the fence. The aim is to stop missiles being thrown between the mainly unionist Newtownards Road and two streets in the predominantly nationalist Short Strand.

The office of Justice Minister David Ford said the fence had been agreed with residents in the Short Strand.

Several other "peace walls" already exist in the immediate area. Parish worker Willie Ward from St Matthew's said the new fence would be welcomed on both sides of the interface separating the mainly nationalist and loyalist areas.

"Definitely, the people who live in Strand Walk and St Matthew's Court on our side have asked for it, and the people on the other side of the road say it's because stone throwing is coming from St Matthew's Court, that they want some sort of fence. The only place for it to go is in the church grounds.

"I think it will go a long way towards helping solve the problem," he said.

"It is unfortunate there are on-going attacks on the people in Strand Walk and

St Matthew's Court and they are the driving force behind this happening. They are pensioners. They live locally and we have to work with them. It will help people on both sides have some sort of peace."

The interface at the Short Strand-Lower Newtownards Road has been a flashpoint for opposing factions in Northern Ireland for many years. It was the scene of rioting in July.

"The fence can be made smaller or higher depending on what the need is at the time," said Mr Ward.

The DoJ, which is responsible for "peace walls" and interface fences, said it would work with the police and residents over when it would be deployed, in order "to minimise the impact on the community".

## Compline in Dublin today and tomorrow

**A 'schola peregrina' will sing the monastic Office of Compline in Dublin today in the Georgian splendour of St Werburgh's Church, off Christ Church Place at 5.30 pm.**

The office will include, as an introit, a sonorous setting of 'Benedicam Dominum' by the Franco-Flemish composer, Orlande de Lassus (c.1530-94), and will conclude

with one of the finest late medieval Marian antiphons in the Eton choirbook: 'Salve Regina' by William Cornysh, senior (c. 1430-1502), a former 'Informator choristarum' at St Peter's Abbey, Westminster in England.

And tomorrow on Sunday 10 November at 5.30 pm in the beautifully restored Lady Chapel of St Patrick's Cathedral.

## **Prayer for Today**

**O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**