

Glengormley garden party to support parish Nepal mission team



The CMSI Nepal Team: Peter Kirch, Nevin Kidd, Annie Kidd, Philip and Lesley Burton, and the Rev Roger Thompson (CMSI).

A garden party has been organised to support a team from St Brigid's, Glengormley, who will travel to Nepal with CMS Ireland later this year.

The garden party will be hosted by Dennis and Molly Grattan at 38 Twinburn, Monkstown, and the event is organised by Nevin Kidd, Annie Kidd and Peter Kirch, three members of the St Brigid's mission team.

It will take place on Saturday July 29 from 11am until late evening. Light refreshments will be served all day (suggested donation £5).

The team will be travelling to Kathmandu with CMSI from November 9-25. They will be visiting and helping out at a number of local churches and community projects, and will be hosted by SD Church – an amazing Nepali-led organisation which has a special ministry reaching out to people with disabilities.

Offering practical care to anyone in need, SD Church assists visitors to the city who are undergoing treatment in local hospitals, as well as people affected by leprosy. After the devastating earthquakes in 2015 SD Church also set up a Rehabilitation Centre for children with disabilities which currently cares for 14 residents.

This visit forms part of a long-term partnership between St Brigid's and SD Church which (with help from CMSI) has seen a number of teams

going out to Nepal, and visitors from Nepal coming to Glengormley over the last 12 years.

Nevin, who will be helping to lead this year's team, said: "The love and compassion being shown to those most in need in Nepal is a joy to witness. The team will be going to join them for a short while and wants to be as supportive as possible.

Mothers Union celebrates 125 years in Ballycastle

Ramoan (Ballycastle) branch of Mothers' Union was founded 125 years, ago, just five years after Mothers' Union began in Ireland. Ramoan the oldest branch in the Diocese of Connor.

Ramoan Mothers' Union was formed in 1892 by Mrs McNeill. The meetings were held in her home in Quay Road. Her uncle was a former Dean of Ripon. In 1969 Ramoan joined with its sister church Culfeightrin. The rector's wife Mrs Perrin was Diocesan Overseas rep for 12 years. During that time two Overseas Workers from Korea and Sudan stayed in the Rectory.

Romoan and Culfeightrin hosted the diocesan celebration for the Mothers' Union Way in Ballycastle, in May, when the Worldwide

President, Lynne Tembey and All Ireland President Phyllis Grothier visited the diocese as part of the 130 year celebrations. The celebrations included a Prayer Walk and a Church service.

At the service of thanksgiving for 125 years of Mothers' Union in Ballycastle, conducted by the Rector, the Rev David Ferguson, the oldest member, Mrs Gina Wisner cut the cake.

Dublin seminar on issues of mental health

Over 30 clergy and other church leaders from the Church of Ireland, Roman Catholic Church, Methodist Church, Presbyterian Church, Quakers and Salvation Army attended a seminar on issues surrounding mental health, hosted by the Church of Ireland's Church and Society Commission (CASC) in the Church of Ireland Theological Institute, Dublin, on Thursday 15th June. The morning seminar had contributions from three speakers focusing on different aspects of mental health.

The first speaker was Professor Eilis Hennessy, senior lecturer in developmental psychology in UCD's School of Psychology, who spoke on

‘challenging stigma to improve young people’s mental health’. We learned that young people are particularly vulnerable to mental health problems and young people with mental health problems are stigmatised. However, lower levels of stigma are related to higher levels of help-seeking. Education can reduce stigma and increase a person’s intentions to seek help. Adolescents who are taught about mental health problems and who meet someone with a mental health problem generally have more positive attitudes as a result.

The second speaker was Dr Regina McQuillan, palliative medicine consultant in St Francis Hospice and Beaumont Hospital, who spoke on ‘supporting the mental health of people living with a life-limiting illness’. Dr McQuillan spoke about how living with a life-limiting illness can affect the emotional and mental well-being of the person with the illness and those close to them and also considered how people with pre-existing mental health problems may be affected. She emphasised the importance of minding your mental health by maintaining good practices, maintaining links with support services, managing medication, informing new healthcare teams of previous diagnoses, being alert to your own warning signs, and using information technology wisely.

The third speaker was the Revd James Mulhall, a social worker, career guidance counsellor and Church of Ireland curate in the Lismore Union of Parishes, as well as being the Safeguarding Trust Child Protection Officer for the Cashel, Ferns and Ossory Dioceses. Mr Mulhall spoke on 'faith and mental health'. He described how in his work with people, conversations would never start about God but with hidden feelings, loneliness, anxiety, family conflict or bereavement. However, by listening, being attentive and attending to the person, they would both unearth 'hidden treasure', the good news behind the bad.

The seminar was opened by the Archbishop of Dublin, the Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson, who said: "We need to speak of people and of humanity at the heart of mental care matters. Our instinct within the Church is to say: 'What can I do to help?' We need to ask: 'What can I do to listen and what can I do to learn?'"

The Revd Martin O'Connor, a member of CASC, closed the meeting. He said that the seminar was very informative and thought-provoking and would help those engaged in the pastoral care of people living with mental health issues. He thanked the speakers for their contributions.

Archbishop Eamon Martin longs for a New Pentecost in Ireland

Archbishop Eamon Martin says he longs for “a New Pentecost in Ireland”, a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit to transform and renew the faith in this country.

The Archbishop was speaking at the Summit '17 Conference in Croke Park, organised by FOCUS, the Fellowship of Catholic University Students, founded as a pilot programme at a Benedictine College in Kansas in 1998 and now active in more than 110 university campuses across 36 states in the US.

As part of its mission, FOCUS trains graduates and undergraduates in Church teaching, prayer, scripture, evangelisation and discipleship, and then asks them to work as missionaries at third level institutions, usually serving for a two-year period.

In the US, FOCUS has more than 450 students working alongside university chaplains, more than 7,000 students attend its conferences each year, and currently it is sending 1,000 young Americans on overseas missions to spread the Good News.



Speaking to the Dublin conference, Archbishop Martin said that the Day of Pentecost some 2,000 years ago was not “a once-off”; rather, he said: “The Holy Spirit has remained as the driving force of the Church’s missionary outreach down the centuries. But the power of the Spirit can sometimes lie dormant within us, awaiting the spark that will trigger the explosion of ‘a new Pentecost’, ‘a new springtime’ for faith and friendship with Jesus.

“I have already noticed the shoots of this new springtime in so many people and places across Ireland – quiet faith initiatives, sometimes small and sporadic, with more and more people

finding within themselves the courage to say 'Yes' to God's will for them."

The Archbishop said there was nothing new about his call for "a new Pentecost"— Pope Saint John XXIII prophesied a new Pentecost at the Second Vatican Council: "He saw it as the fruit of the Council, a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit like a great tsunami of divine love!"

Addressing the young men and women before him, Dr Martin said: "Brothers and sisters, it is easy to point to forces today that may be hostile to faith; some go so far as to say the Church in Ireland is near to collapse. Like many believers in the Western world, we have to contend with a society where Gospel values are often under threat or even attack. At times we can feel a little like those in Ephesus who did not even realise there was a Holy Spirit, alive and active, pouring out His gifts, driving forward the Church's mission.

"I am convinced that the Spirit is actively at work in Ireland today preparing us for a new springtime of growth and abundance in faith. But this will only flourish if we are alert and open to the Spirit's calling and gifting of many people for the service of the Gospel in this time and in this place.

“The mission and challenge that we share as lay faithful, religious and priests, is to speak faith, hope and love into a world that is darkened by violence, war, greed and despair; a world that is divided more than ever into those who have and those who have not. Into this world the Spirit anoints us, gifts us, sends us out to renew the face of Earth.”

Thriving Fife church aiming to expand

A thriving church in Fife has gone from meetings in a garage to packed-out services in a state-of-the-art kirk which has plans for an extension to meet demand.

Dunfermline East Church began as an informal group in 2003, meeting at the house of its then minister Rev Alan Childs.

For nine years gatherings were held at locations around the East Expansion of the town until a home for the congregation was built in 2012.

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In the charge since 2010 is Rev Andrew Morrice, who descends from a long line of respected Church of Scotland ministers.

Explaining the popularity of the church, which sold out its children's summer camp in under 12 hours and attracted 500 people for Christmas services last year, the married father-of-three said: "We seek to make our worship services relevant and accessible to people from all walks of life and situations.

“We have a contemporary style of worship and have a group of musicians who lead. Our services are relatively relaxed and informal and have the constant background chatter of little ones.

“I try to apply the Bible’s teaching to ordinary life and also encourage folk to open the Bible for themselves and look at what is in there.

“We don’t aim to attract new members as such.

“We find that the current generation is reluctant to commit to membership in the way in which perhaps older generations do.

“We are just seeking to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ ourselves, taking our relationship with Him seriously in our lives and taking every opportunity to share our faith with friends, family and neighbours. We see a number of people coming to real faith through coming along, perhaps through friends, to church or to groups within the church and then to church or to Alpha or Christianity Explored courses.”

The church recently celebrated being granted ‘full status’ by the Kirk, a prestigious seal of approval by the national body.

Mr Morrice said: “We haven’t looked at it as an ‘end goal’ but rather an opportunity to look back with enormous thanksgiving for all that God has done over the past 15 years and to purposefully recommit ourselves to serving Jesus Christ and making him known in our community.”

[Visit the Dunfermline East website.](#)

First wedding for Antarctic chapel

A couple from Staffordshire have got married at a chapel in the British Antarctic, marking the first official wedding on the territory.

Polar field guides Tom Sylvester and Julie Baum were joined by 20 fellow researchers for the two-day celebration on Adelaide Island, west of the Antarctic Peninsula.

Ms Baum, from Yoxall, said: "Over the last ten years, Tom and I have been working and travelling around the world. Getting married in Antarctica feels like it was meant to be.

"There is no better place really. I love snowy mountains and spending time in amazing places with awesome people."



The couple tied the knot at the chapel of the Rothera Research Station in a service presided over by British Antarctic Territory (BAT) Magistrate Paul Samways.

Mr Sylvester said: "Antarctica is an incredibly beautiful place and we have made such great friends here.

"We have always wanted to have a small personal wedding, but never imagined we'd be able to get married in one of the most remote places on earth."



The couple, who have been together for eleven years, were chosen last year to work at the Rothera station as researchers with the British Antarctic Survey.

The marriage, which is valid in the UK, is the first to take place since the BAT marriage law was change last year, making it easier for services to be organised on the remote territory.

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