

NEWS

Presbyterians Urge Government To Work With Utmost Urgency On Mutual Society Resolution

The Presbyterian Church has urged the Prime Minister's Working Group on the Presbyterian Mutual Society to proceed "with the utmost urgency" to make their report.

The call came from the Church's General Board at its meeting this morning, Thursday 15 October, in Church House Belfast.

The Board expressed its appreciation for the hard work that is being done by the Group and particularly the Northern Ireland Executive Ministers involved but also highlighted the "intolerable strain" that is being suffered by savers who are anxious for a resolution.

Commenting on the situation Presbyterian Moderator Dr Stafford Carson said, "I am encouraged that the Prime Minister's Group met in London this week and the reported comments of the First Minister that the pros and cons of various options had been looked at and his hope that there

"The Church's position is that we want savers to have all their money returned to them as soon as possible and are asking the group to work with the utmost urgency to achieve this."

The Board also heard a report from the Presbyterian Church's own group established last February to co-ordinate the Church's response to the crisis at the Presbyterian Mutual Society which

the Prime Minister's Group were urged to consider the acute plight in which those

who put money into the Presbyterian

The submission also implored the Government to proceed as it has in the case

In addition to its submission the Presbyterian Group also made it clear that it continued to be in contact by letter and through meetings with the Secretary of State, the First and Deputy First Minister, the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, the Minister of Finance and Personnel and the PMS Administrator.

"We appreciate all the hard work that is being done to resolve this matter which we realise is very complex," added Dr Carson. "But while appreciating that it is import to reach the best solution and not the quickest, the sooner a resolution is reached the better for the savers who have and continue to show great patience.

"I would also ask that Presbyterians continue to pray for a resolution to the matter. While we are actively engaged in practical activity to bring about a solution, prayer is also vitally important particularly for those that are continuing to experience

access to their money and those who have to make important decisions.

The Moderator will continue to press the case for a resolution to the matter in a meeting with the minister of Finance and Personnel this afternoon, Thursday 15th October.

The following resolutions were agreed:

Prime Minister's Working Group on the Presbyterian Mutual Society, which was to have reported in September 2009, to work with the utmost urgency to provide a full and comprehensive solution for the savers who have been suffering intolerable strain since the freezing of their funds in the PMS in October 2008.

extensive lobbying and work which the Panel has undertaken and encourages the Panel to continue to be proactive and purposeful in its engagement with government and others to reach a satisfactory solution for the savers in PMS.

The Moderator intends to send a letter about the Presbyterian Mutual Society to all ministers early next week to enable them to keep their congregations informed about recent developments.

In this Newsletter ...

- › *Guysmere Redevelopment*
- › *Vetting and Barring Scheme*
- › *Darwin Lecture at Union*

Guysmere Redevelopment

As a result of the recent review of residential centres, the General Assembly agreed that one residential centre was to be retained by PCI and the location was eqp t t o g f " cu" v j g" ukvg" qh" v j g" I w { u o g t g" Youth Centre in Castlerock. The Board of Youth and Children's Ministry are committed to the redevelopment of Guysmere and the provision of a modern purpose built centre which will provide first class facilities for all those using kv0" kp" q t f g t" v q" r t g x g p v" h w t v j g t" t p c p e k c n" losses and ensure redevelopment can move forward in the future, the Board of Youth and Children's Ministry took the decision to close Guysmere pending the redevelopment. This will protect the financial assets of the Board and help secure the provision of a centre for residential ministry in Castlerock for future generations.

Deaconesses

Mrs. Elizabeth Warnock was Commissioned and Inducted by North Belfast Presbytery to serve as Deaconess alongside Rev. John Seawright, in Abbey, Monkstown on 6th September 2009.

Miss Rosemary Spiers received a Call from the Board on 13th October 2009 to serve as a Deaconess in 1st Antrim alongside the Rev. Bill Parker.

Miss Sheila Suitor is retiring, on health grounds, from Kells, Ballymena at the end of October 2009.

The following Student Deaconesses commenced two year training at UTC on 29th September 2009:

Eileen Black (Orritor), **Joanne McCourt** (Loanends), **Tracey Nicholl** (First Dunboe) and **Hazel Reid** (Buckna).

Amy Johnston (Trinity Ballymoney) commenced a one year training course

Darwin and the Presbyterians

A public lecture will be given on "Darwin and the Presbyterians" by Dr. David Livingstone, Professor of Geography and Intellectual History at Queen's University, in Union Theological College, Belfast, on Monday, 23rd November 2009 at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Mission Overseas

Celebration of Global Mission

The Board of Mission Overseas would encourage as many people as possible to come to one of the Celebration of Global Mission evenings being held at the end of this month. The theme for the evenings is 'Moving Out – Moving On'.

Thursday, 22nd October in Ardstraw Presbyterian Church, near Omagh (7.45 pm – 9.30 pm)

Speakers: Gary & Mary Reid (KENYA); Heather Lennox (JAMAICA); Moderator, Rt Rev Dr Stafford Carson (on his recent visit to ETHIOPIA); and Naomi Keefe (BRAZIL)

Tuesday, 27th October in Church House, Belfast (7.30 pm – 9.30 pm)

Speakers: David Steele (MALAWI); Moderator, Rt Rev Dr Stafford Carson (on his recent visit to ETHIOPIA); Mervyn & Raing McCullagh (INDONESIA); and Naomi Keefe (BRAZIL).

The offering on both evenings will be going towards **Jivandwar Mission in Gujarat (India)**, which provides a home and support to children who have been abandoned or eq o g" h t q o" f k h t e w n v" j q o g" u k v w c v k p p u. " c p f" r g q r n g" y k v j" n g r t q u { 0" " K v u" o k u u k q p" k u" v q" r t q x k f g" for their educational, medical and spiritual needs.

Publicity posters and directions can be obtained from the BMO website by going to www.pcimissionoverseas.org/events/

PLEASE ENSURE THAT THESE EVENINGS ARE ADVERTISED IN YOUR CONGREGATION

New Mission Overseas website well received!

Response to the new 'Presbyterian Mission Overseas' website, which was launched on 1st September, has been very positive with many very encouraging and complimentary comments received from a wide spectrum of members throughout PCI.

The site, which can be found at www.pcimissionoverseas.org, has been developed primarily as a resource for members of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland; to help inform them about the nature and scope of our Church's involvement in mission overseas; and to enthuse, envision and equip individuals of all ages, as well as groups, congregations and presbyteries, for active engagement in God's mission to the world.

A wide range of information is provided covering PCI's mission partners and personnel serving overseas; the countries in which PCI operates; how to get involved; news and events; as well as resources and useful links.

If you haven't seen the site yet - have a look. If you have already seen it, spread the news and encourage members of your congregation to see what it has to offer.

World Development Appeal

V j k u" { g c t i u" c r r g c n. " y j k e j" k u" v j g" t t u v" k p" c" v y q / { g c t" u g t k g u" q h" Y q t n f" F g x g n q r o g p v" c r r g c n u" under the title *Credit Where Credit's Due*, is being launched on Tuesday 20th October. V j g" h q e w u" k u" v j c v" y j g p" v j g" r q q t" c t g" c d n g" v q" u g e w t g" c e e g u u" v q" x g t { " o q f g u v" t p c p e k c n" u w r r q t v" through micro-credit schemes and "start-up" grants they are able to transform their lives in a sustainable way. The projects being highlighted are in Ethiopia (Tearfund), India (Christian Aid), Cambodia (Tearfund) and Mali (Christian Aid).

The appeal last year raised over £635,800. Hopefully we can do even better this year, making the *Credit Where Credit's Due* appeal even more of a success! Information on the appeal is being distributed to congregations over the next few weeks. From next Tuesday, it will also be available on our website at www.pcimissionoverseas.org/world-development/

Overseas Teams 2009

The Board of Mission Overseas is planning to send two teams overseas next summer, a team to **Ukraine** and a team to **Malawi**.

The team to Ukraine will go for around two weeks in July 2010 to help run an English-Teaching camp for local young people from Transcarpathia. Team members will have opportunities to share their faith in creative ways through music, drama and discussion groups.

The team to Malawi will go for around two weeks in July 2010, to the CCAP Synod of Blantyre to see and learn about the work of the church there, so that on their return home they can share this with and envision the wider church.

Details of the team(s) will be available in early November from www.pcimissionoverseas.org cpf"htq o "v j g" Okuukqp" Qxgtugcu" Qh f eg" kp" E j wte j" J qwug" *Vgn<" 24 : " ; 254" 44 : 6" qt" email: overseas@presbyterianireland.org

Applicants must be members of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and aged 18 or over *v j g t g u u" p q" w r r g t" c i g" n k o k v # 0" V j g { " c n u q" p g g f" v q" d g" r j { u k e c m n { " f v" c p f" c d n g" v q" v c m g" r c t v" k p" c" busy schedule of activities; as well as being prepared to meet with the team on a number of occasions before going – for prayer, preparation, orientation, training, etc.

Partner Personnel Studying in UK

In September, the *Board of Mission Overseas* (BMO) welcomed two ethnic Hungarians to Belfast for the start of a year of study at Union Theological College (UTC) aimed at helping each of them in their personal development for future ministry and leadership within the Hungarian Reformed Church.

Rózsa Drabik is a student for the ordained ministry in the Hungarian Reformed Church (HRC). When she returns to Hungary next summer, Rózsa expects to take up an Cuukuvcpvu jkr" kp" c" n q e c n" J T E" e q p i t g i c v k q p" c p f. " c h v g t" c" f p c n" u g v" q h" g z c o k p c v k q p u. " j q r g u" to be ordained in June 2011.

Rev Zoltan Les, a minister of the Reformed Church in Transylvania in Romania, comes y k v j" f x g" { g c t u i" g z r g t k p e g" q h" r c t k u j" o k p k v t { " k p" c" o k p k p i" v q y p" y k v j" j k i j" w p g o r n q { o g p v" His year of study at UTC will focus primarily on Pastoral Theology, as he undertakes further research for a dissertation on Contextual Therapy in Christian Counselling.

It is hoped that there will be opportunities during the next nine months for both Rózsa and Zoltan to make wider connections with the PCI family, and for our members to hear something about the life and witness of the Reformed Church in Hungary and Transylvania, and the challenges facing the Christian communities in both regions.

“Help Me! I’ve Got Staff”

A limited number of places are available on a “pilot” one-day training course for ministers who supervise additional staff e.g. Assistants, Deaconesses, Pastoral Visitors, Youth or Family Workers.

This is being organised by the Board of Christian Training under the auspices of the Ministerial Development Fund. The course is free of charge and ministers should note that their normal in-service training entitlement will not be affected by attendance at this event.

When? From 9.30am to 4.30pm on Monday, 25th January: coffee and lunch provided

Where? Union Theological College, Belfast

Who? H c e k n k v c v q t" o" O t u" C p i g n c" D k n n. " c" o g o d g t" q h" U c k p v f g n f" T q c f" R t g u d { v g t k c p" Church and part of the Learning & Practice Development Team of the South Eastern Trust.

To book a place, please contact:

Rev. Ronnie Hetherington, Director of Ministerial Studies

Tel. (028) 9020 5088; Email: dms@union.ac.uk

by Friday, 30th October 2009.

Presbyterian Historical Society

Owing to the building work in Church House the library of the Presbyterian Historical Society will be closed for the foreseeable future. Urgent inquiries are best made by email - librarian@presbyterianhistoryireland.com - or letter c/o Church House.

The Society has recently appointed Miss Valerie Adams, presently of the Public T g e q t f" Q h f e g" q h" P q t v j g t p" k t g n c p f. " c u" p g y" Librarian and she will take up post from 1st January 2010.

Approximately 100 pew hymnbooks, Third Edition, in good condition and several music editions available free of charge. Tel: (028) 9185 3226.

PCI Family Holiday 2010, Share Centre, Lisnaskea

The Committee for the above is seeking young people aged 18 and over who would be willing to serve on the Youth Team for the Family Holiday at Easter 2010. Anyone interested should contact Mavis Cunningham (028) 9263 8898, email: mavis_cunningham940@hotmail.co.uk

Pulpit Supply

Student ministers at Union Theological College, Belfast, are available to assist conveners of vacant congregations with pulpit supply. For further details contact John Stanbridge msc.union@btinternet.com

Health and Safety Seminar

This seminar is planned to give a useful insight for congregations into their responsibilities in the areas of health and safety and risk assessment. Organised by the Church House Health and Safety panel it's planned for Thursday, 26th November at 7.30pm in Dungannon Presbyterian Church. Further information is available from the Financial Secretary's Office, Church House.

Email Addresses For Church House

Below are some of the email addresses for contacting the various departments in Church House.

Engtmou"QhLeg
clerk@presbyterianireland.org

Hkpcpeg"QhLeg
Lpcpeg B rtgud{vgtkcpktgncpf0qtg

[qvwj"cpf"Ejknftgpou"QhLeg
yac@presbyterianireland.org

Okuukqp"Qxgtugcu"QhLeg
overseas@presbyterianireland.org

Uqekcn"Ykvpguu"QhLeg
bsw@presbyterianireland.org

Presbyterian Women
pw@presbyterianireland.org

Okuukqp"kp"Ktgnpcf"QhLeg
bmi@presbyterianireland.org

Presbyterian Herald
herald@presbyterianireland.org

Kphqt o cvkqp"QhLeg
info@presbyterianireland.org

Vcmkpi"Ectg"QhLeg
takingcare@presbyterianireland.org

Rgceg o cmkpi"QhLeg
lcoulter@presbyterianireland.org

Fax Numbers For Church House

I gpgtcn"Ugetgvct {ou"QhLeg" ;263"9523

Hkpcpekcn"Ugetgvct {ou"QhLeg" ;263"9524

Uqekcn"Ykvpguu" ;263"9525

Rgtuqppgn" ;263"9526

Okuukqp"kp"Ktgnpcf" ;263"9527

Okuukqp"Qxgtugcu" ;263"9528

Eq o o wpkcvkqpu" ;263"9529

[qvwj"cpf"Ejknftgpou" ;263"945;

Other Contacts

Orphan and Children's Society
Vgn<" ;254"5959
p.gray@btconnect.com

Belfast City Mission
Vgn<" ;254"2779
bcm@presbyterianireland.org

Improved Safeguarding Arrangements Go Live

The new Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS), which extends across Northern Ireland, England and Wales was launched on the 12th October.

A new Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) will be central to the VBS and AccessNI will be key to the delivery of the scheme in Northern Ireland when it is fully operational next year.

The new VBS was created following the Bichard Inquiry into the Soham murders, which recommended a number of key improvements to the system that bars unsuitable individuals from working with children or vulnerable adults. It introduces stricter controls, which will begin to replace existing arrangements for assessing suitability to work with children and vulnerable adults in Northern Ireland, England and Wales. Parallel arrangements are being put in place in Scotland.

The following increased safeguards will be introduced from today, further enhancing protection of children and vulnerable adults.

It is now a criminal offence for barred individuals to apply to work with children or vulnerable adults in a wider range of posts. Employers also face criminal sanctions for employing a barred individual across a wider range of work.

The three current barring lists will be replaced by the creation of two new barred lists administered by the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) rather than several government departments. From now on checks of these two lists can be made as part of an Enhanced Disclosure check through AccessNI.

Additional jobs and voluntary positions will be covered by the barring arrangements, including moderators of children's internet chat rooms, voluntary work in the faith sector and large numbers of staff working in the health and social care sectors, including primary care.

Employers, employment businesses and agencies, social services and professional regulators have a duty to refer information to the ISA in circumstances where they stopped or considered stopping an individual from working with vulnerable groups on the grounds that they have caused harm or posed a risk of harm.

Designated Persons in all congregations have been informed of the pending changes. If in doubt consult the Taking Care website takingcare@presbyterianireland.org or ring vjg"Vcmkpi"Ectg"QhLeg"24:" ;263"944 ;"

Advance Notice

Breakfast Roadshow - Supporting Families

Full English Breakfast! and

Resources for Families in Your Congregation!

Saturday 6th March 2010 - Beechlaw Hotel, Belfast

Saturday 13th March 2010 - Lodge Hotel, Coleraine

9.30am - 11.30am

Cost £7 per person

For information or to book please contact
Julie Sykes (028) 9032 2284 or jsykes@pcinet.org



DROMORE

Rev John McCaughan Minister Emeritus of Legacurry
Address: 8 Ballywatt Road, Coleraine, BT52 2LT
CHANGE

IVEAGH

Rev Raymond McKibbin Minister Glascar; Donoughmore
Address: 55 Ballynafarn Road, Ballynaskeagh, Banbridge, BT32 5BW
ADD

Rev. W.J.R. Robinson Stated Supply of Katesbridge
Address: 43 Marguerite Park, Newcastle, BT33 0PE
Tel: 028 4372 4757

MONAGHAN

Rev R.S. Agnew Minister First Monaghan; Smithborough
Address: The Manse, Coolshannagh, Monaghan.
Telephone: 00353 47 71607
ADD

OMAGH

Very Rev Dr. J.A. Matthews Minister Emeritus of Sixmilecross
Address: 175 Mussenden Road, Castlerock, BT51 4TX
Telephone: 028 7084 9418
CHANGE

Rev Ian McClean Minister Emeritus of Ballygawley; Ballyreagh
Address: 10 Mussenden Crescent, Articlave, BT51 4XY
Telephone: 028 7084 9286
CHANGE

ROUTE

Rev Kenneth Henderson Minister Ballyweaney
Telephone: 028 2764 1012
ADD

TYRONE

Rev J.M. Gracey Minister of Ballygoney; Coagh & Salterland
Telephone: 028 8673 5582
CHANGE

UNDER THE CARE OF PRESBYTERY

Rev K.A. Drury Windyridge, 99 Belfast Road, Newtownards, BT23 4TS
Address:
ADD

LICENTIATES

Mr Raymond McKibbin	Licentiate Legacurry
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DELETE

Mr Ronald Agnew	Licentiate Maze
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DELETE

Mr Jonathan Alexander McKay	Licentiate Rathcoole
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DECEASED

Mrs. Janice Browne	Licentiate Newcastle
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DELETE

Mr Neil Bingham	Licentiate Kilbride
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DELETE
