



CHURCHFIELD PROJECT CORK

The Churchfield Project began as a collaborative initiative of the Christian and Presentation Brothers and the Presentation Sisters in 1994. The founding community comprised of Sr. Trinita Laffan, Br. Hugh Sweeney and Br. Seamus Gill. After a number of years Eileen O'Brien was appointed director of the project and George Duncan (former principal of Deerpark CBS) became chairperson of the Board of Management. Eileen retired as director in January of this year but is still engaged on a part time basis as a consultant to the project. Paul O'Donnell, the deputy, was appointed director to replace Eileen. George retired in May of this year after 18 years as chairperson.

It would be impossible to describe adequately the contribution that Eileen and George have made to Churchfield project. The Annual Report, presented to the AGM of the Company, states the following:

Churchfield Community Trust is a community based organisation located on the Northside of Cork City. We work with individuals in the context of harm reduction regarding alcohol and substance misuse/addiction. Churchfield Community Trust engages with each person to address attitudes to offending behaviour and also to reduce recidivism. As an organisation we work collaboratively with local partners such as the Probation Service, HSE, Cork City Council, and the Northside Community Enterprises to promote re-integration of persons who are marginalised in society. The target group are people aged 18 to 35 years, ex-offenders, ex-prisoners, all having misuse and/or alcohol dependency/addictions, all affected by issues such as low self esteem, struggle for accommodation, unemployment, educational deficits.

The extract from the Annual Report gives some sense of the scope and the value of the project. It would be fair to say that much of the development of the project to its present healthy state can be attributed to Eileen and George. Our sincerest thanks and congratulations to Eileen and George.

Note: Churchfield Community Trust is a company in its own right, now independent of the three Congregations, but each Congregation has the right to nominate three members of the company. Jim Donovan, Con Higgins (retired principal of the North Mon primary school) and Sinead Corcoran BCL are the current nominees of the Christian Brothers.

CLUSTER GROUPS

The various cluster groups around the Province have drawn to a close for the academic year. Some of these groups include people other than Brothers. The groups are developing along different lines but some of the common features are the following: People appreciate the opportunity to gather and to engage in conversation that is organised; there is value in sharing different understandings of topics; small, tentative steps are being taken to open up to new understandings of God and of Jesus; there is a keener awareness of the gift of our brotherhood for ourselves and for others. The groups are organised under the auspices of the Province Spirituality Group (Chair: Br. Dominic Sassi).

Inequity Imperils Millions of Children - UNICEF Report

Despite progress in reducing child deaths, getting children into school and lifting millions out of poverty, more than 60 million primary-school aged children remain out of school, child marriage has not dropped in decades and millions of young children will die of mostly preventable deaths by 2030 if global poverty is not addressed, UNICEF says in its recently released [2016 report on the state of the world's children](#).

The report predicts that unless progress is accelerated, by 2030:

- almost 70 million children may die before reaching their fifth birthdays – 3.6 million in 2030 alone, the deadline year for the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Children in sub-Saharan Africa will be 10 times more likely to die before their fifth birthdays than children in high-income countries.
- nine out of 10 children living in extreme poverty will live in sub-Saharan Africa.
- More than 60 million primary school-aged children will be out of school – roughly the same number as are out of school today. More than half will be from sub-Saharan Africa.
- Some 750 million women will have been married as children – three quarters of a billion child brides

The report also called for stronger efforts to enable access to education, noting the link between education and poverty reduction (for each additional year of schooling completed on average by young adults, a nation's poverty rate drops nine per cent). Children born to educated mothers are also almost three times less likely to die and more likely to go to school, delay marriage and postpone child bearing, the report also noted.

This article has been sent in by Br. Kevin Mullan to update the Brothers on the work of ERI at the UN in Geneva

Holidaying in Westport

Eighteen Brothers and our nurse Doreen gathered together in the beautiful picturesque town of Westport on Sunday June 19th. The weather wasn't very promising but one would not get the impression in meeting the Brothers that it was affecting them unduly. We had excellent accommodation in the twin hotels **The Courtyard** and **The Plaza** for five nights. There was a very noticeable increase in weight on the Friday morning after being so well looked after during a very enjoyable week!!!

The hotels provided three outings during the week, a trip to Kylemore Abbey, a trip to Achill and a train trip around the town ending in a visit to Westport House. Those Brothers who went on the trips truly enjoyed the beautiful sights, the eye-catching scenery and got a good appreciation of how the rich and wealthy lived in a different age. While some Brothers went on the trips, others preferred to canter around the town, visit the many gift shops, walk by the river, take some rest and "do their own thing" .



Doreen took good care of us throughout the week and was ever ready to give advice and help. Brenda, our Province Nurse also joined us from Wednesday evening to Friday morning and was a welcome guest among us.

Three of the Brothers are celebrating their jubilees this year Felix Donnolly on his 75th Anniversary and Pat Hegarty and Seamas Gill both on their 70th. We honoured them with a social and get together on the final night. A token gift was given to each on our behalf. Many anecdotes were recalled in the various offerings. We were entertained with some terrific singing of a very high standard. There was no place for "the crows". A great night and holiday was had by all.



Submitted by Br. David Ryan

David Gibson has recently published a book entitled, ***Check-in with Your Soul*** which consists of 100 examples of material that can be used by communities who wish to share their lives at a deeper level. Each of the check-ins comprises a passage from a variety of sources together with a set of questions for community discussion. The book is available on Amazon.co.uk.

Check-in with Your Soul



David Gibson cfc

Prayers please for the repose of the soul of



Brother Willie Morgan who died in Ennistymon Community Hospital on 15th June 2016

Peter McGrath, brother of Br. Alfie McGrath (Ennis) who died on 20th June in New York.

Kevin Shelley (former Brother) who died in June.

Peadar O'Brien, brother of Br. Micheal O'Brien (North Richmond Street Community) who died in England in June.

Patrick Tobin, brother of Br. Maurice Tobin (St. Patrick's Baldoyle) who died in June.

Brother John L O'Sullivan who died on 26th July 2016 in Cowper St. Patrick's Care Centre, Baldoyle, Dublin.