

Rotten to the Core!

Please Pray

For health needs and trauma pain in the staff team and wider family. Pray for healing and comfort for the affected, and for strength and capacity amongst their colleagues.

For the unfilled vacancy at Cloverley Hall.

That staff would get breaks and family time through the busy season approaching.

For group leaders who plan, promote & organise their breaks with us.

That God would be seen & glorified.

Give Thanks

For the continued encouragement of bookings and guest experience in our centres.

For the significant new bookings from evangelical churches in the Republic of Ireland.

For a milder winter and reducing electricity cost, which have combined to offset some of the income deficit we have experienced in the first quarter.

That we are no longer hiding behind a façade of works, but are covered by the robe of Christ's righteousness and have new life and purpose in Him. "The old has gone, the new is here!"

Those of you who have visited Cloverley will likely be familiar with the large beech tree beside the entrance to the swimming pool. It is actually a copice of 11 stems growing out of a tight base.



To the untrained eye (me!), it appears healthy enough: it has bark; it has leaves; it still points towards the sky!

However on a visit from Quinta, our resident arboriculturalist, Sarah Nurden, spotted a problem - a fungus growing on the side of the tree. The tree would need to come down.

The next question was about urgency. How quickly was intervention required? Ground conditions weren't great and it would be preferable to wait until

the Summer. Unfortunately the tree surgeon's advice was that we needed to act immediately.

The crew duly arrived and patiently and carefully removed the 11 trunks. Only then did the full significance of the disease come to light.

The largest of the stems - some 2 foot in diameter - was displaying rot from the core right out to within an inch of the edge of the tree. It was being held up by little more than the bark!



We are grateful to God for His keeping and for putting good advisers before us.

It is sad to see the old tree away, but I'm sure the base will be taken over by our many groups of young people and turned into a site for all sorts of imaginative activities. A new life.

The gospel parallels in this story are obvious:

It is good for each of us, no matter how high we may have risen in the eyes of others, to recognize that before Jesus intervened in our lives

we were rotten to the core, and dead in our sins.

The worst of lives can be hidden behind a thin façade of good acts; the best of lives will eventually reveal evidence of the disease prevalent within all.

The disease of sin is not suitable for self-medication - you must get the Surgeon in.

Treatment is urgent. Disaster is certain, but the timing is in the wind.

Even the most 'stripped back' life can have new purpose in Jesus.

The exciting thing for Centre Ministries is that every time a group stays in our centres, they are carrying out risk surveys and prompting surgery. As they open God's word with all ages, disease is revealed and the Surgeon is introduced.

**"Our sins they are many;
His mercy is more."
© Matt Papa**



I can only imagine...

Ever wonder what Heaven will be like?

Of all the benefits of working within Centre Ministries, the most amazing is the glimpse of Glory that we get.

Listening to musical worship - some traditional, some contemporary, some familiar, some culturally different - all voices raising the name of Jesus. *Holy, holy, holy.*

Watching as individuals respond to the call of the Spirit on their lives, for the first time, or for the next time. Lives being broken

and restored in the same moment. *Lord God Almighty.*

Hearing the stories from literally hundreds of people for whom Quinta, or Cloverley, or the Castle, sits firmly in their testimony. A place where they met with God on their journey to be with Him forever. *Who was, and is, and is to come.*

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us," (Hebrews 12:1)

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www.cloverleyhall.org
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Vacancy for Live-in Duty Support & Events Co-ord.

Full details available from
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Net Zeroes

The utilities bill for Centre Ministries is around £250,000 per annum - quite a lot of zeroes! Over the years we have attempted to marry stewardship of God's earth with stewardship of the funds He entrusts to us. It is a challenge.

Almost 15 years ago, we installed our first bio-mass heating system in Castlewellan (long before anyone had heard of RHI!) at a total cost of £250,000. It was followed by similar installations at Quinta and Cloverley.

In the intervening period, there have been snags and challenges with managing the system. We have tried to fight rising costs by investing in changes to our fuel capability (e.g. moving from wood pellet to chip at Quinta). Machinery servicing is exclusive and expensive. Supply chains are not as well established as fossil fuel and lack competition. Insurers set ever increasing compliance expectations.

The RHI enquiry and associated press coverage in NI vilified biomass users in general, many of whom were simply trying to do better. The decision was the decimation of the

subsidy scheme - the outcome has been installers, maintainers, growers & suppliers leaving the industry, and genuine environmentally-sensitive early adopters be left exposed and facing significant costs to return to fossil fuel.

An oft-used phrase in NI politics used to be, "Don't throw the baby out with the bathwater." But that certainly happened in relation to RHI!

Please pray for our teams as they continue to wrestle with the best way to provide basic comforts to our guests while looking after the wonderful blessings that God has given us.

And pray for God to raise up people in Government who can think strategically and not simply be swayed by the latest idea or pressure group. We need to support genuine and sustainable change in energy, instead of introducing unrealistic targets that will simply drive energy creation to countries who have no interest in global environmental health.

Despite all the energy that is released in our boilers and distribution boards, it is tiny compared to the energy that our managers and staff expend to ensure our guests have their needs met, while keeping the cost of a stay in our centres as affordable as possible. Every pound in our tariff negotiations is a prisoner!

Back to our Roots

In the 1960's John Rosser, then a young curate in the COE, led teams to the Republic of Ireland under the banner of Irish Evangelistic Treks, reaching out to the people of ROI with the gospel.

IET was the catalyst for what we now know as Centre Ministries. Initially secured as a training venue for the IET teams, Ogston Hall became the first centre to be operated as a Christian residential centre in our care. The group developed into owning other centres and, in 1974, those original Irish connections led John back to Northern Ireland and saw the Charity take on Castlewellan Castle.

Whilst there have been occasional groups from South of the border over the years, this year (our 50th on the Castlewellan site) has seen a significant uptake from evangelical churches in the Dublin area for summer breaks with us.

Holy Trinity Church Dublin group consists of 150 young adults mostly from a Romanian background. They stayed with us last year for 5 days and loved the location so much that they decided to come back again this year.

Youth Camp Ireland plan to stay from 8th-10th July. This group is run by Wale Agbebi and we are expecting in and around 160 to attend. These will mostly be people of Nigerian descent who are living and worshipping in Dublin and neighbouring cities in the Republic.

Word International is a group of Filipino churches that come together for their summer conference. They have churches in Dublin, Carrickmacross, Cavan and Kildare. They have been up to see the facilities and are very excited about their stay.

Solid Rock Church is a young adult church group with numbers expected to be between 100-150. Solid Rock is a multicultural Pentecostal church based in West Dublin.

All Nations Church plan to stay 5th-8th August. This is a truly multicultural church with over 40 nationalities represented within their church body. It will be their young adult group that will be staying with us, and have been up to see the facilities. Again we are expecting over 100 people to attend from this church.

Taking the gospel to Ireland continues, except that now it is possible to reach 40+ nationalities!

As Patrick prayed, so we pray that they may see Christ in us.

***"Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
Christ in breadth, Christ in length, Christ in height,
Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of every man who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me."***

