



a good life

Explored!

A conference exploring the life + faith of people with *intellectual disabilities* and their families.

Sat 12 October 2019 9.30AM-4.30PM
YWCA Coolnagreina, Greystones, Co. Wicklow

TiO Christianity
on
intellectual
disability

12 inspiring
sessions

6 passionate
presenters

4 streams
BELONGING
SPIRITUALITY
OPPORTUNITY
ACCESSIBILITY

FOR MORE INFORMATION and to BOOK: www.youevent.ie

PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

Each delegate can choose from 1 of the 4 streams for each session.

9.30am - 10.30am	A GOOD LIFE ... EXPLORED <i>Ian Dickson and Rachael Mackarel</i> - with accessible content How dignity, belonging, spirituality and opportunity shape the experience of 'a good life' for people with intellectual disabilities and their families - both now and in the future.	
10.30am - 11.15am	BREAK	
Belonging		Spirituality
11.15am - 12.15pm	Inclusive Church <i>Gillian Carlisle</i> How to welcome and include people with intellectual disabilities in the worship and community life of church.	Faith and Revelation <i>Jill Harshaw</i> Thinking about who God is and how God communicates with people who have profound disabilities.
12.15pm - 1.15pm	'Challenging Behaviour' at Home and at Church <i>Ivan Bankhead</i> Understanding and responding to behaviours that challenge us.	Mustard Seed <i>Donna Jennings</i> A journey beyond the boundaries of church life – a missional view – reflecting on faith and parenthood in a context of autism.
1.15pm - 2.15pm	LUNCH	
2.15pm - 3.15pm	Forming a Christian Response to Current Issues <i>Paul Coulter</i> Promoting human dignity faced with reproductive technologies and assisted dying.	Christian Pastoral Care <i>Jill Harshaw</i> How to support people with intellectual disabilities, their families and carers.
3.30pm - 4.30pm	CONNECTIONS – Panel Q&A – with accessible content	

BREAK

Opportunity

Our Story

Led by Kate Bowen Evans with guests
Stories of opportunity from differing personal and local church contexts.

Accessible Stream

Music

Marion Smith – Music Together
Spiritual songs and instrumentation.

Young Disciples

Ian Dickson and Guests

How to appropriately include teenagers with intellectual disabilities in your youth group.

Art

Sarah Jane O'Brian & Martin Flanagan
Bible stories through art.

LUNCH

Church in Progress

Jonathan Holland / Clem Hegarty

The story of one local church and its journey towards fuller inclusion.

Faith Stories

Rachel Mackarel & Friends

Reading, role play and drama.

ABOUT CORE PRESENTERS *(For more presenter biographies and more detailed biographies see yourevent.ie)*



Dr. Ian Dickson

Ian is a writer and speaker, with a background in pastoral ministry and theological education. He is a published author on Irish history, homiletics, spirituality and intellectual disability and a consultant on preaching and public speaking. Ian is married to Yvonne, a Special Education and Music Teacher and they have two children, Ross and Amy, who has Down syndrome. Ian is the founder and director of Tio Associates.



Rachael Mackarel

Rachael has been a support worker for adults with intellectual disabilities for 13 years. Rachael and her team of volunteers have been developing the Following God Together programme since 2012. This is accessible Bible study and fellowship for people with intellectual disabilities. Rachael trains others and develops accessible ministry for organisations including New Wine, Livability and L'Arche. Rachael is married to Thanael and they have two small boys.



Dr. Jill Harshaw

Jill is a published author and conference speaker in the field of disability theology. Her pioneer work, *God beyond Words* (Jessica Kingsley, 2016), offers fresh and intriguing perspectives on the ways in which God comes to us in loving relationship, regardless of our ability to understand language or theological ideas. Jill is married to William and in addition to their daughter Rebecca who has profound and complex intellectual disabilities, they have two sons, Ben and Alex.

ABOUT CORE PRESENTERS (cont.) *(For more presenter biographies and more detailed biographies see yourevent.ie)*



Donna Jennings

Donna has a MTh she has worked as a teacher and church planter in Bangladesh for OMF with her husband, Nathaniel. They are now based in Ireland and are parents to two beautiful and energetic children, Micah (11) has autism and a severe intellectual disability and Tabitha (8). Donna is much in demand as a speaker and advocate for families living in the context of disability particularly in church life.



Dr. Ivan Bankhead

Ivan retired from the UK Health Service in 2012, after almost 40 years as a Clinical Psychologist working with children and adults with an intellectual disability. He then completed his Master of Theology (QUB) on the history of intellectual disability and the Christian Church. Ivan teaches on the management of behavioural difficulties and issues of capacity and consent. In his own church in Ballymena, he leads a Bible group for adults with an intellectual disability. He is married to Barbara and they have two grown-up children and two grandchildren.



Gillian Carlisle

Gillian is a trained English and Drama teacher. She now serves on staff at Dromore Elim Church and also provides literacy and special needs support for children with additional needs in a local secondary school. Inspired by her son with autism, she completed her MA research on the spirituality of children with ASD and has published on this subject within the Journal of European Baptist Studies. Her church project 'The Bridge' is a support group for parents of children with additional needs. She is married to Stephen, a school Principal, and they have three children, Josh Zac, and Eve.

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A conference exploring the life + faith of people with *intellectual disabilities* and their families.

Be inspired by this thought provoking, experience based conference that will equip you with knowledge that is of practical use.

During the conference sessions you will learn from a wide variety of professionals about policy and practice around *ensuring a good life* for people with intellectual disabilities.

Who is it for? For parents and carers, churches and faith communities, teaching and care professionals, and anyone with a desire to learn more. For our delegates with intellectual disability we have a parallel accessible programme.

Where? YWCA Coolnagreina, Greystones, Co. Wicklow
Overnight B&B in this lovely comfortable venue from €35 pp sharing.

Programme? 9.30am - 4.30pm 4 concurrent streams to choose from (Registration from 8.30am)

Cost? **Fee: €50 (Early Bird Rate: €40)** (see online)
Includes Refreshments & Light Lunch

12 *inspiring sessions*

6 *passionate presenters*

4 *streams*
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