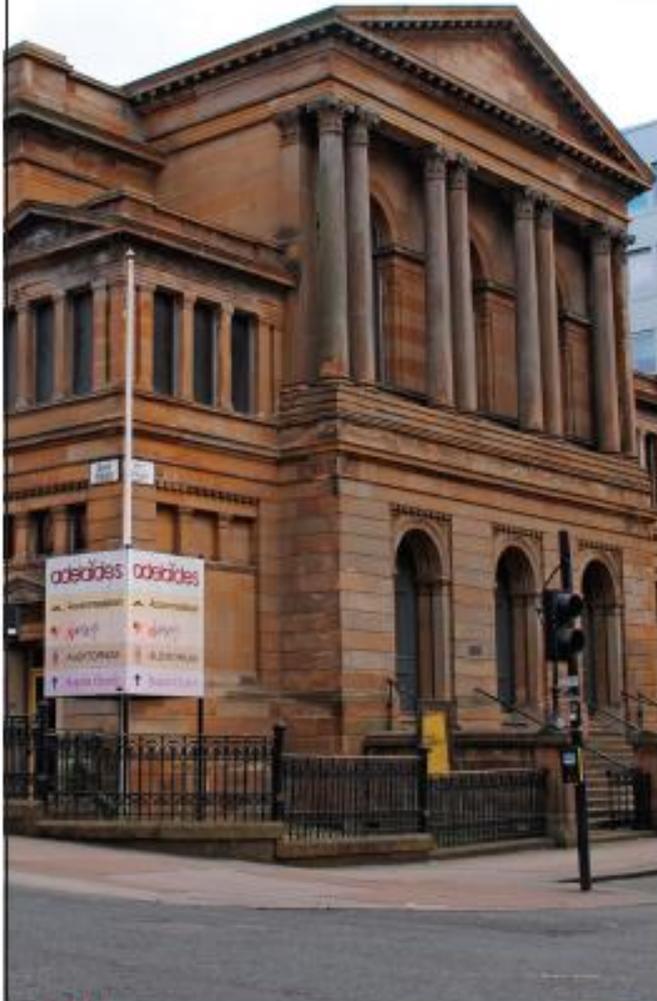


Open House conference 2019



NEW DIRECTIONS?

A conversation about being church in Scotland today

Pope Francis has called for a Catholic Church in which bishops, priests and lay people listen and learn from one another. What would such a church look like?

Bishop Brendan Leahy will open the conversation by describing what happened when he invited the people and priests of Limerick Diocese to come together to listen and learn from one another. Scottish parishioners will talk about initiatives which are changing their understanding of church.

Participants at the conference will be invited to join the conversation to explore possible new directions for the Church in Scotland.

Venue Adelaide's, 209 Bath St, Glasgow G2 4HZ.
On the corner of Bath St and Pitt St, a few minutes' walk from Charing Cross station and car park. Wheelchair access from Bath St entrance.

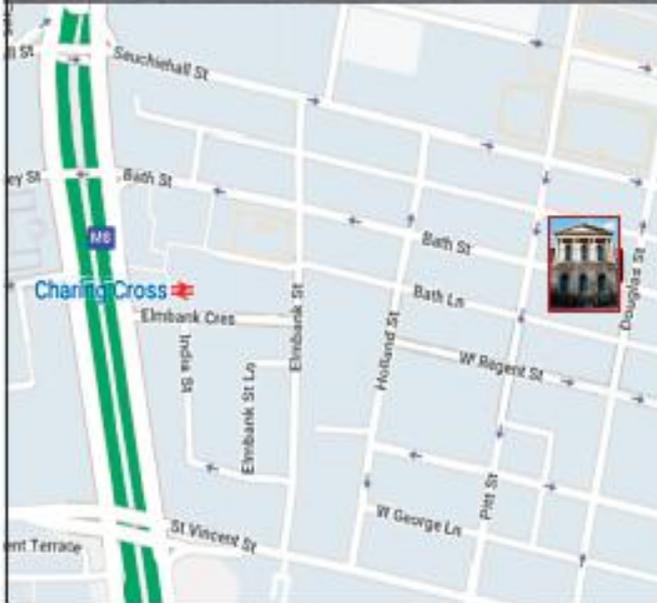
Date Saturday 1st June from 10.30am – 4.30pm.
Doors open for registration and coffee at 9.30am.

Cost £10 including lunch

Booking <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/new-directions-a-conversation-about-being-church-in-scotland-today-tickets-59578939211>

Or send a cheque for £10, together with your name and address, to Florence Boyle, 3 Dalnottar Terr, Old Kilpatrick, Dunbartonshire G60 5DE.

The conference has been organised by Open House (www.openhousescotland.co.uk) in association with the Newman Association. The Kinharvie Institute, Glasgow, will support Open House with the facilitation of the day.



To book your place on the conference [click here](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/new-directions-a-conversation-about-being-church-in-scotland-today-tickets-59578939211). For more information on the conference see below: -

At a recent meeting in Glasgow, Timothy Radcliffe OP was asked 'What is a synodal church'? An ancient form of church that was given new life at Vatican II, he replied, which Pope Francis sees as a way of bringing together the pope, bishops, theologians and all the baptised into a conversation that will draw on the distinctive contribution of each in order to shape the church of the third millennium.

The question is considered at some length by Jesuit theologian Gerry O'Hanlon, who has written a book about it. He was in Edinburgh in February to give a talk about a synodal church. For a summary of his talk [click here](#). Could this model of church be an appropriate one for today? Gerry O'Hanlon thinks so. He sees signs of hope amid the massive losses the church has experienced and hears new conversations about the future taking place in some Irish dioceses.

Could a synodal model help open up new directions for the Catholic Church in Scotland? That is the question which lies behind the Open House conference to be held in Glasgow on 1st June. It will take the form of a conversation about what it means to be church in Scotland today. Bishop Brendan Leahy will open the conversation by describing what happened when he invited people and priests of Limerick diocese to listen and learn from one another. Members of Scottish parishes will highlight local initiatives which are changing their understanding of church. All those who come along to the conference will be invited to join the conversation by responding to the questions that have been raised with the help of the Kinharvie Institute, which specialises in facilitating organisational change. A full report and pictures of the conference will appear in the next edition of Open House.

Book your ticket now (booking details on the back page). It promises to be a great day. As Gerry O'Hanlon says, we require a church which is fit for purpose in a changing world. He compares synodality to a three legged stool in which there is an ongoing conversation between bishops, theologians and the 'sense of the faithful', each with their distinctive and irreplaceable roles. We need them all. The key thing is to start the conversation: once things are named and discussed, he says, you are already on the way to change.