

Representative Church Body Library, Dublin

MS 1043/

Papers, correspondence, printed materials and
photographs relating to the setting up of, and
administration of, the Church of Ireland Divinity
Hostel

1839-1980

Introduction

The items in this collection came from the Church of Ireland Theological College and have been accessioned the RCB Library MS1043/.

The education of the clergy of the Church of Ireland has been a topic of contest perhaps even since the foundation of Trinity College by Queen Elizabeth I in 1591. But it was not until 1839 that the issue was formally addressed by Archbishop Whately who prepared a charter and bill to found a Divinity Hall independent of Trinity College. This idea did not progress far as it was blocked and thrown out by the Senior Fellows of Trinity College. But his ambitious plan ensured that the issue became part of the discussion of the Church and it would arise again upon the disestablishment of the Church in 1870. Initially at this time, the argument between the House of Bishops and the Board of the College focused on the governance of the college – the bishops laying claim to the entire college as a Church of Ireland institution. Very quickly, they dropped this claim and instead focused their energies on controlling the Divinity School alone. This began an argument that ultimately continued until the closure of the Divinity School in 1970, although it was settled to some extent in 1909-1911 when an agreement was made. At this point, a small group of opportunistic clergy saw the time was right to also establish a Hall of Residence for Divinity students who were training for ordination.

The Church of Ireland Divinity Hostel was founded in 1913 as a hostel for students in the Divinity School of Trinity College in Mountjoy Square. Between then and 1964, several generations of ordinands lived and were trained there while they pursued their academic studies in Trinity. By the 1960s, a need for more modernised accommodation emerged, and Fetherstonhaugh House in Churchtown (formerly the convalescent home of the Adelaide Hospital) was acquired for this purpose. The building was adapted and a new residential block added to designs of the architect Ian Roberts. The new facility was officially opened by the then Archbishop of Armagh, Dr James McCann, on 17 February 1964. The Archbishop of Dublin, Dr George Simms, dedicated the new chapel.

Following the retirement of Canon John Brown as Warden, in 1980, the Hostel was redefined as the Church of Ireland Theological College, and Canon Jim Hartin was appointed as its first principal. More recently, in 2008, the Theological College was transformed into the Church of Ireland Theological Institute with Revd Canon Dr Maurice Elliott as its first director.

Michael Lloyd Ferrar was born in Dublin in 1909, the son of Dr Benjamin B. Ferrar, the curator of the Dublin Zoological Gardens. He was educated at Trinity College, Dublin, and ordained for the curacy of Saint Mary's, Drogheda, in 1934. He was then curate of Rathmines before being appointed the warden of the Divinity Hostel in 1939, succeeding the Revd R.G.F. Jenkins, after the latter's appointment as incumbent of All Saints', Grangegorman. In his distinguished clerical and education career, Ferrar was also given the honorary role of Clerical Vicar at Christ Church Cathedral in 1952, and would remain in the post of warden of the Divinity Hostel until his premature and sudden death on 3 December 1960. Blind in one eye, Ferrar was attending an appointment for medical work on his other eye when he suffered a fatal heart attack.

Described by former students as ‘meticulous’ and ‘humorous’, but ‘rigid’, he enforced the wearing of cassocks in all public areas of the Hostel. The students nicknamed him ‘the bagman’ and liked to mimic him. He acted in the position of a college ‘grinder’ to the students at the hostel, helping them in their coursework as well as instructing them on the pastoral side of ministry. He was a member of various church committees, and active in youth work, as well as the Anglo-Catholic Guild of Saint Hilda and Saint Erik. Much of his correspondence related to the guild is addressed to ‘Father Michael’. The collection of his personal materials (10/ in this collection) is largely made up of what can be assumed to be the contents of his office upon his death. As well as hostel- and church-related documents, there are also many items relating to his personal life and that of his family, including his sisters Ella and Elizabeth with whom he lived outside of term at the family home in Anglesea Road. The collection here presents a picture of a man dedicated in his service to the church and the welfare of the students in his care.

Further information about Ferrar is available in *Addresses & Papers of Michael Lloyd Ferrar 1909-1960 : Edited, with a memoir, by the Most Reverend G.O. Simms, Archbishop of Dublin* (920 Fer in the RCB Library Catalogue).

John Simpson Brown was born in 1910. He was educated at Trinity College, Dublin and Cambridge University. He was ordained for the curacy of Coleraine in the diocese of Connor in 1947 before becoming Chaplain to Christ Church College, Cambridge, in 1950. He was Director of Education for the Church of Ireland from 1957-1961, from which role he was appointed warden of the Divinity Hostel following Ferrar’s sudden death. He remained in this position and as Professor of Pastoral Theology at Trinity College, Dublin, until 1980, whilst also holding the positions of canon and prebendary, treasurer, and latterly precentor of Saint Patrick’s Cathedral. He retired from ministry in 1980 and moved to Belfast, where he lived until his death in 1994. He is fondly remembered by several generations of clergy whom he influenced. The anecdotal stories about him, and quotes attributed to him have become legendary.

The College Theological Society was founded in 1830 as a student society in Trinity College, Dublin. Members gather weekly throughout the term to engage in debate and listen to guest speakers in the Graduates Memorial Building, where they are provided with a forum for the discussion of Philosophical Theology. Until recent years, ordinands were encouraged to take active membership in the society and very often made up a majority on the committee. The items in this collection cover the period between 1963 and 1965. Overall, the papers in this collection give a good insight into the level of discussion that was enjoyed by ordinands at the time.

Overall, the items in this collection provide an overarching insight into the evolutionary ideas for a self-controlled Divinity Hostel which developed between the nineteenth and twenty-first centuries. The process from a period when a divinity hostel was merely a topic of discussion to the advent of a theological college following the closure of the Divinity School at TCD is well documented in this collection and provides the researcher with a well-rounded view of the foundation, growth and evolution of the body that has become the Church of Ireland Theological Institute.

Sean Hanily is an ordinand at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute. During the summer of 2016 he worked in the Representative Church Body Library, where as well as cataloguing this collection he also worked on the Library's printed collection relating to the Church of Ireland's connection with Trinity College, Dublin.

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1/ Correspondence, hand-written papers and printed materials justifying the need for a Hostel or Training College for the Church of Ireland

1. Abstract of correspondence dealing with the proposal of Archbishop Whately to establish a new divinity hall in Dublin (which was in an envelope addressed to M.L. Ferrar – origin unknown)
1839
2. Correspondence, newspaper cuttings and notes relating to the setting up of a new divinity hall; largely comprising letters of the Bishop of Kilmore, A.G. Elliott and Revd Lewis-Crosby of Rutland Square
1909-1911
3. *The Supply and Training of Candidates for Holy Orders*. Report with notes and appendices. Church of England publication
1908, 1910
4. *The Supply and Training of Candidates for Holy Orders in the Church of Ireland. An appeal to members of the General Synod, and others interested in the welfare of the Church of Ireland by the Right Revd Henry S. O'Hara, D.D., Bishop of Cashel*.
1911
5. Document entitled: 'Some reason why the Church of Ireland needs a Hostel or Training College for her Clergy' (Hand-written paper, unsigned and undated)
Undated

2/ Minute Books of the Hostel

1. Minute Book of the Board of the Divinity Hostel, containing annual accounts where relevant, as well as other orders and surveys of the Board
1913-1962

3/ Postage Ledgers of the Hostel

1. Record of outgoing post of the Divinity Hostel
1913-1956

4/ Divinity Hostel Library

1. Catalogue detailing the content of the Common Room Library
1914

5/ Finance Committee Minute Books

1. Minute Book of the Finance Committee; also containing loose papers relating to same
1953-1969

6/ Miscellaneous Accounts

1. Income and Bank/Cash Lodgements Book
1937-1945
2. Record of Student Fees and Payments
1939-1942
3. Account Book
1939-1958
4. Record of Student Fees and Payments
1942-1961

7/ Miscellaneous Volumes

1. Divinity Hostel Address Book.
This is an A-Z book containing names and addresses of students, suppliers and other related parties
c.1940s-1960s
2. Record of Attendance at Services in the Divinity Hostel Chapel
1954-1957
3. Visitor Book
1955-1960
4. Telephone Book
Record of telephone users, price of each call and payment record
1957-1960

5. Chapel Diary
List of services and preachers at the Hostel Chapel
1962

8/ Miscellaneous Loose Materials

1. Trinity College Dublin Tercentenary Service Sheet entitled:
'Service sheet of the Special Service of Commemoration to mark three hundred years of Trinity College, Dublin; Saint Patrick's Cathedral, **5th July** 1892'; two copies
1892
2. Printed Letter from the Registrar of Trinity College Dublin, November 1908,
detailing the proposed resolution and agreement between the University Board and
the House of Bishops regarding the governance of the Divinity School at Trinity
College Dublin
1908
3. Printed letter from the Archbishop of Dublin to the Registrar of Trinity College
Dublin, December 1908. Further matters regarding the governance of the Divinity
School at Trinity College Dublin.
1908
4. Document entitled 'Suggestions Regarding the Establishment of a Council for the
Future Management of the Divinity School of Trinity College Dublin', signed
Thomas T. Gray
1909
5. Memorandum to the Bishops from the Revd R.M. Gwynn outlining the needs for a
Divinity Hostel
[1912?]
6. Memorandum relating to the proposed Divinity Hostel in Dublin
1913
7. Copy of 8/6 above
1913
8. Report of the Committee on Retrenchment and Reform, appointed by resolution of
the Representative Body
1919
9. 'Poor Parsons'
Reprint of article published in *The Irish Times*, 24 October 1919
1919

10. Miscellaneous Christmas Cards with Trinity College Arms from Mrs Gwynn and Mrs Gregg
1929
11. Pamphlet entitled: *Training College Hostels*
Building Bulletin No. 15; U.K. Ministry of Education Series
February 1957
12. *Report of Sub-Committee on Halls of Residence*, University Grants Committee, London;
1957
13. Newspaper Cuttings 1961-1975 as follows
'Memories of T.C.D.' by Arnold Harvey
'Further Memories of T.C.D.' by Arnold Harvey
'Did Newman Change his Mind' by John Cooney
1961 and 1975
14. 'The Church of Ireland Divinity Hostel'
Description/Advertisement leaflet
Undated
15. Document entitled 'The Divinity Hostel, A Justification of Reasons why Investment is Important'
Undated
16. Miscellaneous Postcards
Featuring Trinity College Dublin buildings and grounds as well as other connected institutions
Various Dates

9/ Examination Papers 1969-1972

1. Various examination papers bundled together under the following subject headings:
Christian Doctrine I, Christian Doctrine II, Christian Ethics, Christian Worship,
Church History I, Hebrew, New Testament I, New Testament II, New Testament
III, New Testament IV, Old Testament I, Old Testament II, Old Testament III
1962-1972

10/ Michael Lloyd Ferrar – Personal and Work-Related Documents

1. Hardback copy book with study notes and letters
Contains notes on Racine from Ferrar's study of Modern Literature at Trinity College Dublin, 1928. Also contains drafts and copies of letters from 1955
1928, 1955
[CLOSED]
2. Richard Hansen, *In the Day of Judgement: A Play in Two Parts Written in Commemoration of the Quatercentenary of the English Litany*. First performed at the Divinity Hostel, Dublin, in Trinity Term 1944. Produced by Lennox Robinson.
Includes a photograph of the student cast in costume as well as a list of cast members; and a card from Lennox Robinson reminiscing on the occasion.
1944
3. Hardback copy book containing notes on the B.D. course at Trinity College Dublin in two parts, by R.J.A. Lindsay
1948
4. Photographs of students and staff of the Divinity Hostel and individual portrait photos of Ferrar
c. 1949
5. Miscellaneous Personal Correspondence
1958-1959, 1960 and undated
6. Papers relating to properties in Limerick and Killaloe owned by the Ferrar family
1958-1960
[CLOSED]
7. The Form of Service to be used in the Chapel of St Stephen's College, Balla Balla, Southern Rhodesia, with an accompanying letter from the headmaster
1959
8. Agenda and minutes from various church committees which Ferrar was part of
1960
9. Correspondence and minutes relating to the Guild of St Hilda and St Erik, of which Ferrar was a member
June-September 1960
10. The Gloucester Church Enquiry Centre Instruction Course on the Christian Religion. Correspondence course in eight parts
Undated

11. Personal anniversary diary of Ferrar, containing memos of births, marriages and other personally important dates
Undated

11/ John Simpson Brown – Personal and Work-Related Documents

1. Copy book containing five sermons on the subject of humanity (Job 7: 17) and titled as follows: 1. What is Man; 2. On Man's Need; 3. On Man's Destiny; 4. On New Testament Estimate of Man; 5. On the Problem Today
1948
2. Copy book containing three sermons on 'The Way, the Truth and the Life', as follows: 1. The Way; 2. The Truth; 3. The Life.
[c.1950?]
3. Copy books containing numerous sermons delivered at Christ Church College, Cambridge (1952-1956), in Belfast Cathedral and elsewhere. The books also contain lecture notes and loose pages of correspondence from the period
1952-c.1960
3. Notes, minutes, agenda and other material relating to clergy recruitment and training, and the Central Advisory Council for the Ministry
1956-1963
5. Miscellaneous loose correspondence, agenda and minutes
1956-1964
6. Papers relating to the Church of Ireland Board of Education
Agenda, Minutes and Correspondence
1961-1966
7. Papers and correspondence relating to the Principals' Conference
1965-1980
8. Papers and manuals relating to church education and training
1971-1979

12/ Papers and Correspondence of the College Theological Society c.1963-1965

1. Three certificates awarded to James Hartin:
Instruction in Reading the Liturgy, 20 November 1953;
Lectures in Pastoral Theology, 17 June 1954;
College Theological Society Special Certificate for Composition, Undated
c.1953-1954

- 2/ Papers Presented at the Public Business of the Society
 1. 'The Missionary Enterprise of the Church Today'
25 November 1963
 2. 'The Religious Quest in Man; Donald W. McClatchie'
2 December 1963
 3. 'Existentialism and Paul Tillich – A Short Study of Terminology; David Woodworth'
25 January 1964
 4. 'Euthanasia'
8 November 1965
 5. 'Jesus Christ and Karl Marx'
Undated
 6. 'New Theology: No Where or Anywhere?; N. Cummins'
Undated
 7. 'The Religious Quest in Man'
Undated
 8. 'Mental Health'
Undated

3. *University of Dublin, Trinity College, Laws of the College Theological Society founded 1830. Dublin, January 1964*
Two copies and one draft copy of the report of the sub-committee on the proposed revision to the laws of the society
1964

4. Miscellaneous loose papers and correspondence relating to meetings and speakers of the College Theological Society
1964-1965