



‘Handing on Faith – Crisis, Challenge and the Great Commission’ is theme for fifth Dublin Ecumenical Bible Week



As Ecumenical Bible Week enters its fifth year, the organisers have presented an apt topic for 2018. ‘Handing on Faith – Crisis, Challenge and the Great Commission’ is the theme for EBW 2018 which runs from May 20 to 27.

Ecumenical Bible Week is an exciting and successful venture which includes events around Dublin and surrounding areas. There will be debate, talks, music and lots of participation.

The launch event takes place on Pentecost, Sunday May 20, at 5pm in St Catherine’s Church on Meath Street, Dublin. The focus

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will be on Pentecost Prayer and the speaker will be Dr Dermot Lane, who is currently Pastor of Balally Parish in Dublin and formerly President of Mater Dei Institute of Education.

Among the other key events during the week will be a symposium which takes place in the Holy Cross Diocesan Centre, Clonliffe Road, Dublin 3, on Thursday May 24 from 2pm to 5pm. This will be chaired by Brenda Drumm and John Waters will speak on 'Taking Us Back to the Father'; Canon Ginnie Kennerley will address the topic 'The Family Today: Healing and Expansion in Christ'; and Nick Park will speak on the subject 'Modern Family – Ancient Problems'. Tickets for this event cost €12 and are available from



RMS TITANIC

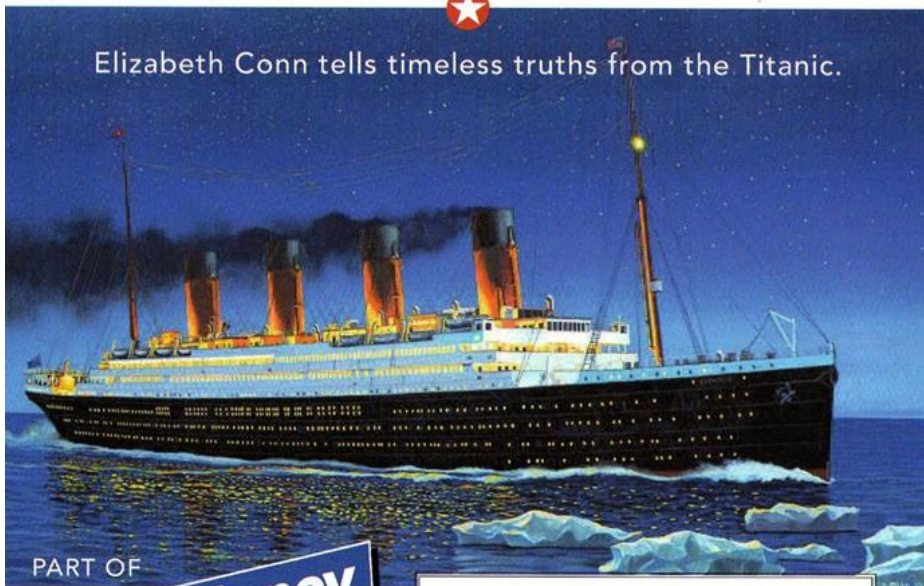
THE STORY BY ELIZABETH CONN

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Rev. Adrian Moffett, Rev. Andrew Gibson, Rev. Bryan Martin, Pastor Phil Seifert,
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the EBW website at www.bibleweek.ie/online-registration-form-symposium-2018/

Later on May 24 there will be a free panel discussion with audience participation in the Holy Cross Diocesan Centre at 7.30pm. The subject to be discussed is 'What have we from our personal experience discovered about living and passing on the faith?' The panel is made up of representatives of a number of churches and traditions including: Archbishop Michael Jackson, Church of Ireland Archbishop of Dublin; Archbishop Eamon Martin, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Armagh; Bernadette and Patrick Barcoe, a couple from Balinteer in Dublin; and Alan and Diane Morris, a Methodist couple with a heart for mission. The discussion will be chaired by DCU chaplain, Philip McKinley.

The Pentecost Schools Project takes place on Wednesday May 23 at 7.30pm in St Laurence's Church, Martin's Row, Chapelizod, Dublin 20. It will be chaired by Claire Devaney and Jane Mellett.

A family closing event takes place on Trinity Sunday, May 27, at 7.30pm. Holden Evening Prayer of Sung Lutheran Vespers with music by Marty Haugen and directed by Ian Callanan will take place in the Lutherhaus on Adelaide Road, Dublin 2. The speaker, the Revd Rob Jones, will address the topic 'Faith can only be understood backwards but must be lived forwards'.

During the week numerous events will take place in various locations. Speakers include: Greg Fromholz on Becoming Restorers of Hope and Trust; Cathy Burke on Bringing the Family to the Table; Alan Breen on Hands of Faith or Hands of Stone?; Jools Hamilton on Handing on more than you have received. Transferring ancient faith in a transforming age; Patricia Carroll on Will Adults have Faith? Rebuilding and Renovation; Jonny Sommerville on Pay it Forward; Frank Brown on Can we Share our Faith without being Annoying?; Donal Harrington on Our Special Way of Talking about God; Eileen Browne on Living in Chaos...Grounded in Stillness – Meeting the God of Hope; and Kieran O'Mahony on Written so You may Believe' – The role of the Bible in Handing on the Faith Today: Reflections on my Experience.

These events take place in Arklow, Baldoyle, Clondalkin, Clontarf, Greystones, Howth, Mulhuddart, Sandymount and Whitechurch. All churchnewsireland@gmail.org

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are welcome and details of times and locations are available on the EBW website at: www.bibleweek.ie/events/2018-05/

Loyalist paramilitary pledge to end criminality has widespread public support, former Moderator



Former Presbyterian moderator Rev Norman Hamilton addressing the press conference where loyalist paramilitaries vowed to end criminality

A clergymen who helped negotiate a loyalist paramilitary pledge to end criminality believes the initiative has widespread public support, the News Letter reports.

Rev Norman Hamilton said a joint statement from the UDA, UVF and Red Hand Commando, which was issued last week at a press conference in Belfast, will help “uplift” communities and should not be dismissed lightly. “I think scepticism is overstated,” he said.

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“I think people are cautious. The general reaction has been the proof of the pudding will be in the eating. I have detected caution, and that is absolutely fine and understandable, but there has been very little hostile reaction.”

The former Presbyterian moderator was one of three church leaders – along with Harold Good, a former Methodist president, and former Church of Ireland archbishop Alan Harper – who helped draft the statement that vowed to expel members of the three organisations who engaged in criminal activity.

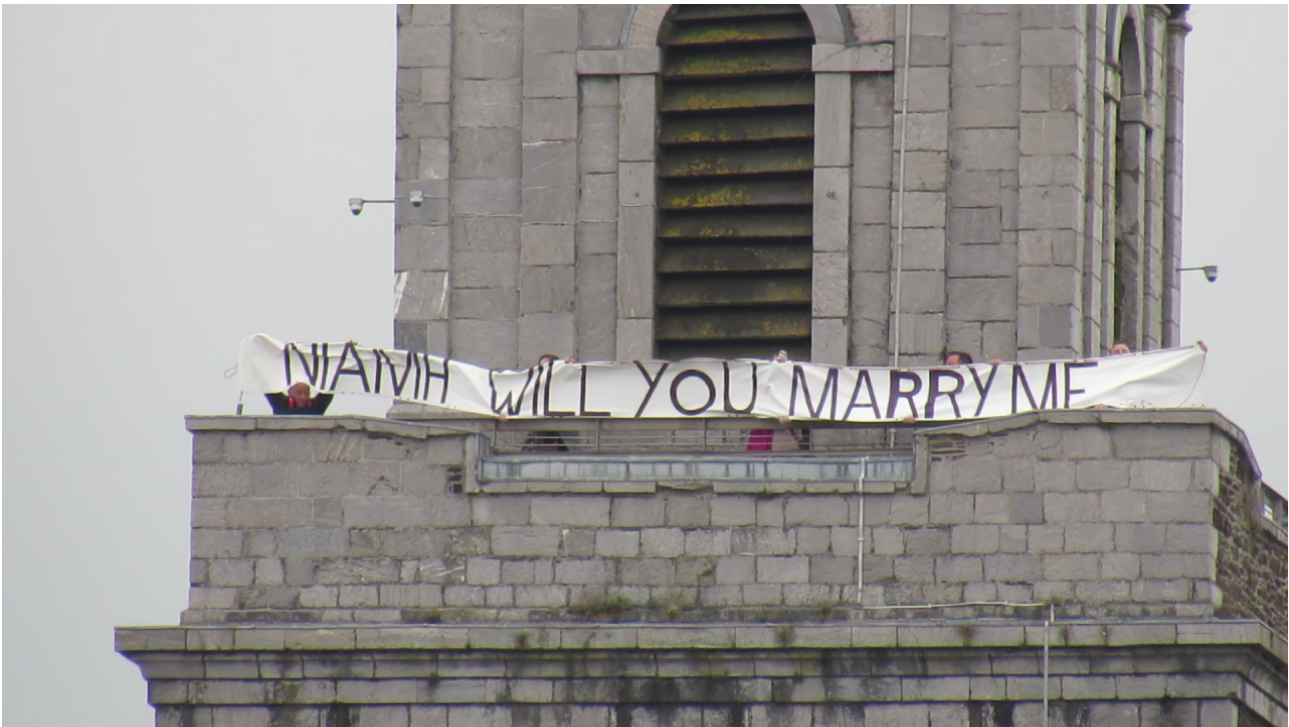
Loyalists associated with the paramilitary organisations have been involved in drug dealing, extortion and assaults since the 1994 ceasefires. Rev Hamilton said: “I’ve only had one negative reaction and the vast majority have been very affirming in saying this has to be done. Personally I have had a very good response.”

Rev Hamilton also rejected any suggestion the statement was linked to additional funding being made available for community organisations in loyalist areas.

Referring to his address at Monday’s press conference, he said: “I was very explicit in terms of investment in these communities – this was not about money. This is about uplifting the communities. If you are going to put money into it you have got to put money into it in the right way, so this is absolutely not about money.

“For me, the bottom line is that these communities need uplifting, and wider civic society needs to help that uplift. And I spelt that out in terms of the community partnership boards, the governors of schools, some of the big charities like Barnardos and CAB (Citizens Advice Bureau) is where the effort needs to go so that the needs of the community are met by wider civic society, and that these guys play their part in that.”

Asked if he had any concerns at being associated with paramilitary bosses, in light of the fierce criticism of Arlene Foster after she was photographed with alleged UDA commander Dee Stitt, Rev Hamilton said: “Dee Stitt was in the audience [on Monday], but our dealings were with the guys who were at the front table.”



A marriage proposal on the tower of Saint Anne's Church, Shandon, Cork

Iconic Cork Landmark – Saint Anne's, Shandon – plays key part in romantic marriage proposal

On Saturday 14th April, the world famous bells of St. Anne's, Shandon in Cork rang in celebration for the engagement of Ian Johnston and Niamh Murray. Ian had the very romantic idea of surprising his girlfriend with the words 'Niamh, will you marry me?' displayed on a banner held up by family and friends at the top of St. Anne's Tower. The church is visible from the couple's apartment in Lavitts Quay so at an agreed time Ian told Niamh to look over to the church with binoculars.

Niamh read the sign and looking back to Ian saw him down on one knee with the ring that he has carried around waiting for a glorious sunny day to propose. He thankfully got fed up waiting for the sun and so, as of Saturday 14th April, the happy couple are engaged.

The priest-in-charge of Saint Anne's, Shandon, the Reverend Sarah Marry, said:



The happy couple!

It was such a lovely idea we were delighted to facilitate them. The family were so excited if a little windswept! All of us in the parish wish them every blessing and send them hearty congratulations!

Archbishop of Canterbury urges Commonwealth to put words into action

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has said that the Commonwealth of Nations will last and be a blessing to the world – if it continues to put its word into action. His comments came in a sermon during a special evensong service at Westminster Abbey on Sunday in advance of this week's Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in London and Windsor. He told the congregation, which included government leaders, diplomats, officials, and an ecumenical group of church leaders, the Bible, "in the clearest terms", sets out the way people are to behave: "It is to raise up the poor, to bring freedom to the captives, to lighten the load of the suffering," he said.

“The Commonwealth will last, and will find its identity more and more deeply even than today. Its future will be a blessing to the world – rich and poor, secure and threatened – if it is a body that loves the poor, brings home the refugee, cares for the stranger,



Justin Welby preaches in advance of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting

eliminates unjust gain and corruption, guards the environment, and does so amidst diversity held together by a common humanity, and a vision of hope.

“Such a vision answers the needs of our time. Liberates the oppressed. It guards freedom of conscience and belief, and sets the names of its leaders before the history of the world.

“Mere talking will not do it, as Ruth knew, and as Abraham told the rich man. This is a time for action in love, for hope founded in faith, for humility of service that imitates the risen Christ we worship here today. Amen.”

His words were welcomed by the Commonwealth’s Secretary General, Baroness Patricia Scotland, who described it as “a very powerful sermon.” Speaking at a press conference at the start of a week of activities around the biennial CHOGM meeting, she said: “It was based on Lazarus, who was the poor man at the gate who

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was ignored by the rich man. And in the long term, Lazarus is the one who went to heaven and the rich man went somewhere else.

“What we are talking about is how we share what is really important to deliver opportunity to all of our people. And that is what the Commonwealth is absolutely determined to do.”

Today, four forums on the themes of youth, women, business and citizens began in venues around Westminster, London; bringing together a large number of people throughout the Commonwealth. On Wednesday, foreign ministers from the 53-member countries will meet ahead of the formal CHOGM meeting at Buckingham Palace on Thursday. On Friday the leaders will gather at Windsor Castle for a private retreat.

Kenyan Clinic celebrates upgrade to Health Centre

The Poor Servants of the Mother of God run a clinic in the remote area of Mutito, Kitui County, Kenya, where the nearest hospital is a 65km journey on a very rough dirt road. On Wednesday 24th January 2018 the Sisters received confirmation from the Ministry of Health that their health facility would be upgraded from a Health Clinic to a Health Centre.

This upgrade is a very strong endorsement from government agencies and helps to highlight the quality of their service, which is echoed by the positive feedback from service users. It is a very significant achievement for a facility that the Sisters have been gradually building up in a very disadvantaged area. This latest upgrade will require the employment of a Clinician at the facility, and increase the total number of staff to six (1 clinician, 2 nurses, 1 lab technician and 2 Sisters who are qualified in public health management, health care and pharmacy services).

The Kitui area has been badly affected by drought in recent years. In 2015 and 2016 Misesan Cara provided funding to the Sisters to build solar power and rain-water harvesting facilities. In 2017, the health facility didn't run out of water, despite an increase in the



Séamus O’Leary, Sr Catherine Murungi and Sr Catherine Makau.

numbers using the facility, and the solar power units provided a reliable backup when the mains supply was cut. Funding was also provided to extend the facility through the construction of a small maternity unit, and to purchase advanced laboratory equipment. The Maternal and Child Health section of the facility was opened in February 2016.

The government provides some capitation costs on a quarterly basis, as well as medicines and vaccines. Officials from the ministry monitor the health facility through regular monthly visits and also agree on annual targets for the services provided. These services also include the provision of the full vaccination programme to infants as well as growth monitoring.

“The care I get here is very personal and of good quality. I really appreciated that the Sisters even gave me a small gift upon the birth of my daughter. I will continue returning every month to ensure Fridah gets the full vaccination programme here”. Carol Mali, patient at the Clinic.

In 2017, 6,249 clients/service users were treated at this facility; this included the delivery of 94 babies. Unfortunately one baby did not

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survive as the family had left it too late to come to the centre, and even then had to travel a long distance via motorbike on a very rough road.

Raising awareness of the value of good quality health care is a key role of the Sisters, conducted largely through three outreach clinics each month and word-of-mouth recommendations from existing services users. Most births in the surrounding rural areas take place at home, some with traditional birth attendants (whose skill levels vary). The sisters also have a vehicle at the health facility to transport critical patients/emergency cases to the nearest hospital in Kitui town. In such cases the patient is always accompanied by a nurse from the facility.

Obit - Canon William (Billy) Moore

It is with sadness that we announce the death of Canon William (Billy) Moore.

Billy began his ministry in the Diocese of Connor with curacies in St Michael and All Saints, Belfast, and as incumbent of St Michael's for 10 years. In 1980 he moved to Down and Dromore as rector of Ballynafeigh (St Jude) where he stayed until his retirement into the diocese in 2003.

Paying tribute to Billy's ministry in Down and Dromore Bishop Harold Miller said:

"I was deeply saddened to hear today of the death of Canon Billy Moore, after a long illness. Billy served the first part of his ministry in the diocese of Connor, but his final 'port' was in St Jude's, Ballynafeigh in the Diocese of Down. He was a strong evangelical and one of several evangelical clergy of his day who married later in life. He was totally devoted to Marlene and she to him, and my last words to him were, 'You did well when you found Marlene!' Our prayers and sympathy are with all who knew and loved him, especially Marlene and the family. His secure trust was in the fact that he had been covered with the righteousness of Christ. Blessed assurance indeed!"

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Canon Moore's funeral service will take place on Thursday, 19 April in St Ignatius, Carryduff at a time to be announced.

