

**Making History
Talk in
Fermanagh**

**BBC
journalist
Martina Purdy
to enter
religious
order**

News Letter - One of Northern Ireland's most respected journalists has stunned colleagues by announcing that she is leaving journalism to enter a religious order.



Martina Purdy with David Trimble and Martin McGuinness in November 2005

Martina Purdy, one of BBC Northern Ireland's political correspondents, said that she was leaving journalism after more than 20 years to join a religious congregation.

Ms Purdy asked the media to respect her privacy and said that she did not intend to do interviews about the decision.

Writing on Twitter, veteran journalist Eamonn Mallie, who is a long-standing friend of Ms Purdy's, referred to her future life, saying succinctly: "[the] nuns gain and BBC loses".

The Ulster-born journalist, who brought a distinctive Canadian accent to the Province's airwaves, said: "I've been a journalist now for almost 25 years, 15 of them at the BBC.

“It has been an immensely rewarding profession and I’m very grateful for all the support I’ve had over many years from colleagues, family, contacts and friends.

“I am especially grateful to the BBC for the opportunities I’ve been given. The BBC has always been very supportive of my work. I want to wish all my colleagues all the very best both here and at Stormont, especially my friends in the political unit.”

Ms Purdy also said that she wished politicians well “in their future endeavours”.

She added: “I know many people will not understand this decision. It is a decision that I have not come to lightly, but it is one that I make with love and great joy. I ask for prayers as I embark on this path with all humility, faith and trust.”

Michael Kelly, editor of the Irish Catholic newspaper, said that it was a “life encompassing decision”.

More at -

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/bbc-journalist-martina-purdy-to-enter-religious-order-1-6352115>

Thomas Dineley Conference at Christ Church Cathedral

Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, will host a conference in its Chapter Room on Saturday 18 October 2014 on the subject of the English antiquary, Thomas Dineley (or Dingley) who visited Ireland in 1680–1.

His importance lies in the journal that he kept, now preserved as Ms 392 in the National Library of Ireland, in which he not only



comments on what he saw on his Irish travels, but also draws in some detail 'Monuments, Inscriptions, draughts of towns, Castles, etc.'

Chaired by Jane Fenlon and David Dickson, speakers will discuss Dineley's view of the cathedral of Christ Church in Dublin and the castle in Kilkenny, as well as his accuracy and attention to detail, particularly with regard to Dublin funerary monuments. Overviews will also be provided of his cultural world and his interest in Irish architecture and gardens.

The conference will be followed by choral evensong at 5pm with an appropriately late 17th-century selection of music, sung with instruments by Peregrine (<https://www.facebook.com/Peregrine>). A reception will follow in the crypt.

All are most welcome, and enquiries (to allow for numbers) should be directed to the organiser, Dr Amy Harris at thomasdineleyconf@gmail.com.

Series of events hosted by Chaplaincies at Queen's

A series of events are being hosted by the Chaplaincies at Queen's University, Belfast,

The first, on October 17, is an all day workshop on science and religion. It is free of charge and includes lunch.

Featuring a keynote address by Professor John Lennox, author of 'Has science buried God?' this workshop will include presentations on the relationship between faith and science in a wide range of areas – the classroom, contemporary culture, the history of the debate, the undergraduate mind...

All are welcome. The whole day is funded by the Templeton Foundation. Registration is essential so please email: s.chen@ulster.ac.uk

On October 22, the Chaplaincies at Queen's, in conjunction with the International Justice Mission, present 'It's Not Fair,' a play on the issue of human trafficking.

This exciting new theatre show is performed by the highly acclaimed UK based Rhema Theatre Company.

Search, the Church of Ireland Journal, will be relaunched on October 27, with Bishop Harold Miller of Down and Dromore, welcoming those who attend. See CNI Forward Look for further details



Friendship the Focus of Diocesan Schools Service

Hundreds of pupils from all over Dublin and Glendalough gathered in Christ Church Cathedral on Thursday October 9 for the annual Diocesan Service for Primary Schools and Junior Schools. The theme this year was friendship.

Archbishop Michael Jackson presided and the pupils and their teachers were welcomed to the cathedral by Dean Dermot Dunne.

The address was given by the Revd Nigel Mackey, chaplain to Wesley College, Dublin. Starting with a trust exercise involving volunteers plucked from the congregation, he observed that the four guys didn't know each other before the service but, through the exercise, they had done something that would have been impossible for them to do on their own.

He said this was a powerful image of friendship and pointed out that Jesus didn't try to save the world by himself, he chose to do it with friends, people who he loved dearly. Mr Mackey said that sometimes there were people in our lives who were hard to love, pointing to Judas who was an "awkward character" but Jesus loved him nonetheless. He added that it was important to go out of our way to be friends with people on the fringes...

Pupils from many schools took part in the service with prayers being read by Booterstown NS, Greenlanes NS, Delgany NS, Jonathan Swift NS in Dunlavin, Castleknock NS, St Saviour's in Rathdrum, Finglas NS and Old Boro NS. Readings were by Rathfarnham NS and Taney Parish NS.

More at -

<http://dublin.anglican.org/news/2014/10/Friendship-the-Focus-of-Diocesan-Schools-Service.php>

Archbishop of Armagh Joins in Bandon Celebrations



Pictured celebrating 400 years of Divine worship at St Peter's Church at Ballymodan, Bandon, Co Cork were the clergy and readers who attended the Service with from front left the David White, Curate, Cllr Alan Coleman MCC Mayor of Cork County, the Right Reverend Dr Paul Colton, Bishop of Cork Cloyne and Ross, the Archbishop of Armagh the Most Reverend Dr Richard Clarke and the Reverend Denis MacCarthy, Rector of Bandon. Photo: Denis Boyle

On Sunday, 5th October the parishioners of Bandon and the Bishop of Cork were joined by friends from around the Diocese, ecumenical guests, civic leaders and also the Archbishop of Armagh to celebrate 400 years of worship on the present Church of Ireland church site at Ballymodan in the town.

The Most Reverend Dr Richard Clarke, a former rector of the Parish, was invited by the Bishop of Cork, Dr Paul Colton and the Rector of Bandon, the Reverend Denis MacCarthy to return to preach on this occasion of celebration. The Bishop presided at the Eucharist. The congregation was joined by representatives of other churches in the town, by the Mayor of Cork County, Cllr Alan Coleman, County Councillors, local TDs, Deirdre

Clune, MEP, and representatives of *An Garda Síochána*, schools and voluntary groups. The liturgy included a broad repertoire of music for the occasion from the children's choir, the choir, and soloists conducted by Colin Nicholls with Antoinette Baker as organist. After the Service, hospitality was extended to everyone at Bandon Grammar School where the Archbishop was presented with a gift and asked to cut a cake.

BCM 125th Anniversary Tea Dance

This year the Methodist Church's Belfast Central Mission (BCM) celebrates its 125th Anniversary.

One of the events organised by BCM to celebrate this momentous year was a special 125th



Anniversary Tea Dance for older people. Recently the Grosvenor Hall was filled with over 100 people joining in the old time dances and enjoying each others' company.

The BCM holds regular Tea Dances in the Grosvenor Hall as part of its services for older people. The Tea Dances began in January 2005, are held eight times a year and are becoming increasingly popular as news of them spread via word of mouth. BCM volunteers prepare food, serve afternoon tea and clear the hall when the dance is over.

The Belfast Central Mission was founded in 1889 as part of the Methodist Church's response to the problems of inner-city life. BCM is involved with all sectors of the community, irrespective of religious or political affiliation. Their aim is to support those most in need in society and enable them to reach their full potential. They do this through diverse social care projects and cross-community programmes.

‘Ethics of War’ Lecture to Mark Centenary of Outbreak of First World War

To mark the Centenary of the outbreak of the First World War, the Church of Ireland Historical Centenaries Working Group presents the ‘Ethics of War’, a lecture by Professor Nigel Biggar with a response by Professor Keith Jeffery in the Music Room of Christ Church Cathedral on Wednesday November 19 at 7.30 pm.

Professor Nigel Biggar of the University of Oxford will speak on the theme based on his recent book *In Defence of War*, to which Professor Keith Jeffrey of Queen’s University, Belfast will respond referring to his recent historical research. The event will be chaired by Dr John Bowman who will open up debate and discussion to the audience.

This open event is organised by the Church of Ireland’s Historical Centenaries Working Group as a contribution to the commemoration of the one hundredth anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War, the event complements the ‘Lives Remembered’ exhibition and programme at St Patrick’s Cathedral, Dublin.

‘Making History Talk’ – Building a Pathway to Good Neighbourliness

Over 70 people attended an event in Enniskillen, organised by Co. Fermanagh Grand Orange Lodge as well as Churches in Fermanagh. ‘Making History Talk – Understanding World War I’ was designed to help people listen to different viewpoints on historical events that affected life on this island, namely World War I.

The success of the event lay in asking two speakers to help understanding of what may have been going on the minds of both the Protestant / unionist and Catholic / nationalist at the time of World War I, and how those communities now view these events. People from every part of the community in Fermanagh listened to speakers describe the significance of that crucial time in history from very different perspectives.

Describing himself as a ‘Bogside Catholic’, former BBC journalist Paul McFadden reflected on some of the competing emotions that marked how the nationalist community reflected on World War I, both then and now.

Prof Roddy, a retired Professor of Psychology (QUB), set the events of World War I in historical context to shed light on what was going on in the mind of the Protestant community at the time. He also helped the audience

understand the enduring significance of World War 1 in the Protestant psyche.



(L to R): Stuart Brooker (Grand Master of Co. Fermanagh Grand Orange Lodge), the Revd Doug Baker, Mr Paul McFadden, Bishop John McDowell, Prof Roddy Cowie

Following the presentations there was an opportunity for discussion and questions. This was facilitated by the Revd Doug Baker, originally from the USA but now living in Belfast.

The public event is part of a Making History Talk series planned to reflect on key historical events from 1912 to 1922. The initiative grew out of a desire among the organizers to do something for the whole community. They came up with the idea of holding public events where people could reflect on key events during the decade of historic commemorations, trying to understand how members of other communities might see them.

Bishop John McDowell, Church of Ireland Bishop of Clogher, describes the Making History Talk events as being about ‘helping each of us to try and understand what was going on in the mind not only of our own community but in the minds of the “other” during key moments of our history – an attempt for each of us to walk in the other person’s shoes for a moment’.

Grand Master of County Fermanagh Grand Orange Lodge Stuart Brooker said, ‘It is a mark of confidence to voice our own views of history. It is an even bigger mark of confidence to take time to hear another person’s viewpoint on the same events. It is not about agreeing or disagreeing but about increasing understanding – this is the pathway to good neighbourliness.’ ‘Making History Talk – Understanding World War 1’ arose out of dialogue that has taken place between County Fermanagh Grand Orange Lodge, the Church of Ireland diocese of Clogher, as well as Enniskillen Methodists and Presbyterians. The event took place on 30 September in the Westville Hotel, Enniskillen.

Christian Aid: Gaza needs more than money

ACNS - Christian Aid urges governments pledging to fund the reconstruction of Gaza also engage politically to help break the existing cycle of blockade, conflict and destruction.

Palestinian officials say the cost of reconstruction following the most recent Israeli military campaign - the longest, deadliest and most destructive to hit Gaza - will top \$5billion.



At a donor's conference in Cairo on Sunday they will call on governments worldwide for money to restore buildings, water systems and other infrastructure for the Strip's 1.8 million inhabitants.

It will be the third such appeal in the past five years, although this time the task is far greater, with some 18,000 homes destroyed in the recent conflict, and more than 60 hospitals and clinics damaged.

Christian Aid Policy and Advocacy Officer *William Bell* said today: "Christian Aid calls on all countries attending the donor conference to appreciate fully the gravity of the situation facing the people of Gaza.

"While generous funding pledges are hugely important for urgent humanitarian relief and starting reconstruction, political will and support for an end to the status quo will be critical in preventing a continuation of the cycle of construction / destruction.

"Without an end to the blockade and an opportunity for the private sector to invest in Gaza, then the aid dependency and despair that persist now will condemn generations to a future without hope."

Recurring Israeli incursions and aerial bombardments, along with Israel's blockade of the Strip and internal Palestinian conflict, have all contributed to the fact that 75 per cent of Gaza's population is now reliant on humanitarian aid for survival.

Mr Bell, who has just returned last week from Gaza, continued: "Many of the people we met pleaded for the international community not just to pledge more money, but to press Israel to allow the unfettered flow of imports and

exports in order for communities to help themselves, both physically and mentally.”

More at -

<http://www.anglicannews.org/news/2014/10/christian-aid-gaza-needs-more-than-money.aspx>